

SEPTEMBER 2020

our  
redeemer's  
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

# *The*Visitor



On the Cusp of Our Renovation

SEE "FROM THE PASTOR" - PAGE 3

A Community in the Model of Christ

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*Below: Our Redeemer's held a Buy Nothing "Yard Sale" on August 8th attracted a large (but socially distanced) crowd of people looking for free treasures.*

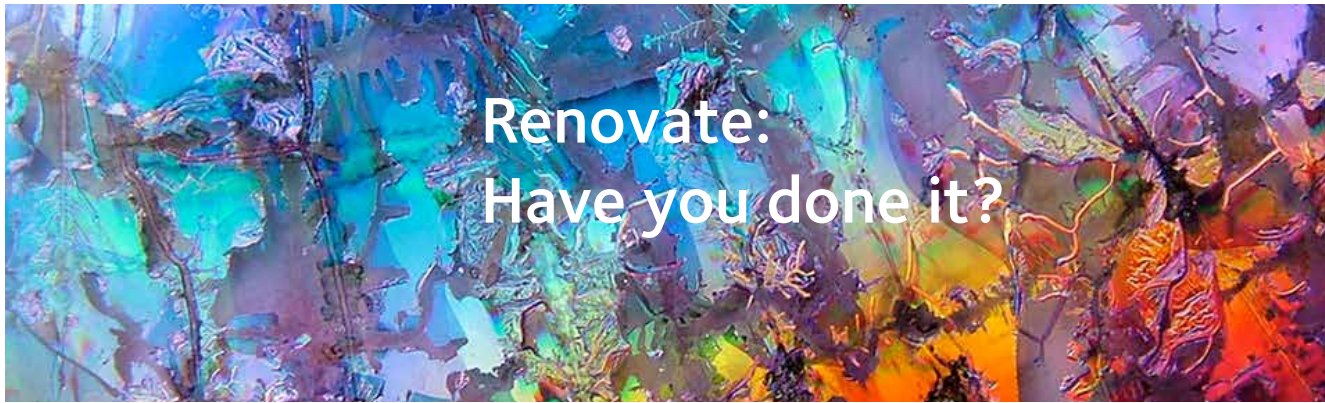


- Katherine Hawks, Pastor [kathyh@](mailto:kathyh@)
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor [pastor.gretchen@](mailto:pastor.gretchen@)
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator [administrator@](mailto:administrator@)
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director [karen@](mailto:karen@)
- Social Justice Coordinator [outreach@](mailto:outreach@)
- Debbie Lematta, Communications Coordinator [communications@](mailto:communications@)
- Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Office Coord. & Co-Welcome Minister [office@](mailto:office@)
- Amy Hammett, Co-Welcome Minister [welcome@](mailto:welcome@)
- Hannah Wetter, Nursery Care Provider

2400 NW 85th St. • Seattle, WA 98117 • 206-783-7900 • [www.ourredeemers.net](http://www.ourredeemers.net) • [office@ourredeemers.net](mailto:office@ourredeemers.net)



## From the Pastor...



In my little cul de sac, not one of the 7 houses has been left untouched in the 16 years I've lived here. And as much as I've complained about summer mornings when I'm roused from sleep by a buzzing saw, the results are, like the word "renovate" implies, Refreshing! Renewing! Reinvigorating. For my neighbors and for me.

Here at Our Redeemer's, we've arrived at a plan for a vision-aligned renovation of our building that will help us share our facility with our community, and share God's grace and love through our faith community. It's exciting to finally be on the cusp of the renovation!

But, as I've said before, if our building is the only thing we renew, then we will not fulfill our God-given vision — not by a long shot. We have an amazing opportunity to renovate more than our building this year.

### What else is there? Our faith.

After all, the word "renovation" originally came from the Middle French word *renovacyoun*, which meant "spiritual rebirth". Pretty cool, huh?

Just as our building will be stripped down to its bare bones, shorn of much decoration and even operating systems, we, the congregation, are also being stripped of a lot of programs and operating habits we've taken for granted. It started in March, as we began to worship virtually, and learned how to reach out to each other even when we can't do it in person.

Now we have a chance to focus on faith basics in a way that will make a difference, we'll do fewer activities. We want to keep the main things the main things, so God can use this time to "re (again) + novus (new) = re-new" us.

As heavy and uncomfortable as the year ahead is almost certain to be, it will be one of the best years of our lives if we use it to develop the basics of faith. Just like certain plain beams bear most of the load in a building, faith basics aren't very whiz bang, but they sure are excellent at what they do for us and in us:

*Scripture* (heard, pondered, memorized);

*Prayer* (sung, read, chanted);

and

*Generosity* (of heart, pocketbook, and service).

These things uphold and renovate our spirits, our faith, and our lives.

I've heard a lot of people say, "This pandemic is making me question everything!" I feel that, too. It's pushing me deeper. Add our construction, and you have life turned pretty upside down from the norm. But what a great chance for God to transform us, right?

To keep our focus, RENOVA TE will be our theme for this whole year. I'm excited to see how God will renovate US! I hope you'll help find out.



In peace and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Katherine H. Hawk". The script is fluid and cursive.

Pastor Kathy

# WORSHIP AND MUSIC

## “How Can I Keep from Singing?”

by Karen Lee, Our Redeemer’s Traditional Worship and Music Director

This September is not like any we’ve experienced before. This newsletter article would normally be about announcing the return of Choir rehearsals and the excitement that entails as we begin our fall season at Our Redeemer’s.

But, we’re not able to gather together in person, nor is it yet advisable to sing together in groups. So, what can we do? Actually, plenty! We need to – all of us – find ways to let music help us through these times. Whether we’re listening to the radio or Spotify or YouTube or any myriad of sources available to us, we still can be inspired by music.

I’ve always found music to be a spiritual pathway to God, and to each other. Even though we can’t sing together in person right now, we can help lead singing, or simply sing along – in worship online on Sunday mornings. And we can sing and/or listen to music in times when we’re alone. We can choose music that helps lift our mood, as well as music that has a way of reaching and understanding us in the times when we’re down.



*Our Redeemer’s Adult Choir recorded “If Ye Love Me” by Thomas Tallis for the August 16th worship service. You can listen to it by going to [Our Redeemer’s YouTube channel](#).*

And we can continue to connect with each other. Our Adult Choir has been “Zooming” each Wednesday evening at 7pm, our regular Choir rehearsal time. While we’re mostly socializing instead of practicing music, it’s still a time to be of support for each other. And just like I include an invitation in every September newsletter, if you have interest in being a part of any of our choirs or ensembles or want to offer vocal or instrumental music during online worship, please let me or Pastor Gretchen know.

And we still have plans to sing! Some members of our Adult Choir and our Junior Choir experimented with the Acapella app this spring to join together in virtual choir music. We learned a lot, had fun, and some in the Adult Choir just agreed in our latest Zoom meeting that we want to continue this – we’re grateful for any chance to sing together, and grateful that technology can help us do that.

So, for everyone – please remember the gift of music and how it can be a true source of blessing for you. And then, you can live by the well-known hymn, “How Can I Keep from Singing?”, and lift your voice in song.

# **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

## **Sanctuary Time - September 8, 9 & 10**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

With so many changes happening at church, and with our inability to gather for worship due to Covid-19, it seems that it would be a gift to many of us to get some time to just “be” in the sanctuary. A chance to pray and remember all the comfort and grace we have found in this space. A chance to reminisce, and a chance to pray for the future.

There will be a book for us to log our prayers of thanksgiving for the space as it was, and our prayers of hope for the new space. As it is renovated, we get to pray it into a new form. People are invited to sign up for a time – 6 per session – where we will be safely distanced amongst the pews, and between visits the high-touch areas will be wiped down. It is so difficult to not be able to be together, and so hopefully this “sanctuary time” will be a gift to many. Peace to you. – *Pastor Gretchen*

Sign up for sanctuary time [HERE](https://rb.gy/97kjga).  
(<https://rb.gy/97kjga>)



## **Service of Thanksgiving & Hope - September 27**

Sunday, September 27

On Sunday, September 27th, we will be premiering a special worship service that will have been taped in the current sanctuary space.

**A service of Thanksgiving and Hope for what has been,  
and what is yet to be in the life of our congregation.**

Members are invited to send photos, and stories to be included in this video. It will also be a service with the organ, and with communion celebrated. It will be shown on Zoom and Facebook live, and we hope that it captures some of our feelings during this time, of rejoicing, excitement, gratitude, and most of all, hope for the future we have in God’s love. Please send your stories and photos from the sanctuary to Pastor Gretchen at [pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net). If you are interested in telling a story on camera for the video, we would LOVE to have that as well. We are working to create a socially-distanced safe recording environment as well.





# LIVING GENEROUSLY

## DON'T FORGET YOUR CHURCH!

Needs and expenses continue, even when we're connecting at a distance.

### Ways to Give:

#### Mail a Check

Write a check out to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. Mail the check to the church's address at 2400 NW 85th Street Seattle, WA 98117.

#### Texting Using Your Cell Phone

Enter: 206-717-8465 and the amount you wish to donate and press send.

Learn all the ways you can give at [this LINK](#).

THANK YOU FOR GENEROUSLY  
SHARING FROM WHAT GOD  
HAS PLACED IN YOUR HANDS.

## Online/Phone Worship Instructions

*We gather each Sunday online at 11:00am. There are three ways to connect.*

**By Facebook Live.** Go to [www.facebook.com/ourredeemers](https://www.facebook.com/ourredeemers). You don't have to have a Facebook account – it's a public channel.

**By Phone.** Call 1 206 337 9723, and then enter this number when prompted: 822 691 346. This method only lets you listen, but it works well, and is less technologically fraught.

**By Zoom.** Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>. The link works from 10:45am – 12:15pm every Sunday.

[Katlin](#), our Welcome Minister, will be monitoring the chat and make sure that our worship leaders know what questions you have. The bulletin each Sunday will be available on our website for download at [www.ourredeemers.net/virtual-worship/](https://www.ourredeemers.net/virtual-worship/).

### Share Your Talents and Abilities

We would love to have your talents and abilities through our online services! If you would like to read scripture, pray the prayers, or sing a song of special music, you can totally do that! And it would be a gift to our community. Simply contact Pastor Gretchen ([pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net)) or Karen Lee ([karen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:karen@ourredeemers.net)) with your ideas or desires to help.



## FAITH FORMATION

### NEW! Faith Formation Classes Scheduled (Volunteers Needed!)

Faith formation classes will begin on September 20th online for kids ages 3 – 8th grade!

#### We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Co-teachers for each class.
- Bible story readers, and people to teach the children prayers
- A volunteer coordinator to help people feel connected, and make sure volunteers are supported.

We will have monthly family meetings for parents and guardians, so that we can stay connected and be in-tune with the lessons our children are learning. There will be materials that families can do together as well, so that even in our time away from each other, we can grow and stay connected to God. The classes we will offer are as follows:

#### Every Sunday:

- **9:30 – 10:00am**  
**Sprouts Class (3 & 4 year-olds)**
- **Sunday @ 10:00-10:30am**  
**Exploring Faith – Kindergarten-2nd Grade**
- **Sunday @ 10:00-10:30am**  
**Elevate! – 3rd & 4th Grade**
- **Sunday @ 10:00-10:30am**  
**Connect Class – 5th and 6th Grade**
- **Sunday @ 1:00-2:00pm (every other week)**  
**Confirmation – 7th and 8th Grade**

#### Wednesdays:

- **7:00 – 8:00pm**  
**Youth Group – 9th-12th grade**



Thank you for volunteering to help our youngest folks find their place in our faith, our congregation, and our hearts! You all matter so much in these kids' lives. Honoring our baptismal promises to them to teach them the faith, and show them what generosity, service, and passion for God looks like is of the utmost importance! To volunteer in a specific way, please email Pastor Gretchen at [pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net) and let her know what you're interested in. Thank you again!



## FAITH FORMATION

### Kickoff Sunday! Sunday, September 13th at 1pm

Join us on Zoom for a Kickoff Sunday Event! Families and students of all ages are invited to our Kickoff Zoom party. Here's what we're going to do!

- **Blessing of the Devices** – Bring your tablet, laptop, phone, computer and whatever device you have, and we will have a blessing to start the school year. Just because we're not using backpacks doesn't mean we can't have a blessing!
- **You Are Loved** – We will have stickers and hearts to color that say "You Are Loved" for children to keep in their school workspaces as a reminder that they are precious children of God! We will color them together. There will be gift bags at church for you to stop by and grab the week before the 13th. We can also drop them off for folks if that works better!
- **Dance Party** – Get ready for an awesome dance party, where kids will be spotlighted, showing their great moves, and having a great time. God is joyful when we dance!

Let's start the school year off right! [Here's the link.](#)  
Meeting ID: 977 8354 1168. Passcode: 028142.

**Phishing/Scam Reminder:** No one from Our Redeemer's will ever send an email or text to you with an urgent message or asking for a favor, money or gift cards! If you DO receive such an email or text and want to make sure it's legit or not, please email [administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net) or Pastor Kathy [kathyh@ourredeemers.net](mailto:kathyh@ourredeemers.net), and/or report the phishing/imposter scam to this government run reporting [LINK](#). Also make sure that the pastors' information is in your contacts list to verify validity.





## FAITH FORMATION

### Paul's Relationship with the Philippian Church: A Bible Study

Taught by Pastor Kathy Hawks

Sundays, starting September 20 at 9:30am

[via Zoom](#)

Just four chapters...but full of love, wisdom, and insight about life, being community, and living faithfully. Paul wrote it to a congregation he helped start, and quite possibly the congregation he loved most.

We'll spend at least four weeks listening for what we can learn.

**Join in!**

No Bible knowledge or experience needed.



### Theology on Tap: September 22nd [via Zoom](#)

Theology on Tap online is a blast! You are invited to Zoom in to Theology on Tap with your favorite beverage for a great time of discussion around theology and life in these most unusual times. For September, in honor of school starting back up, we will be talking about Wisdom.

- What \*is\* the biblical concept of wisdom, how do we get it, and what does it look like?
- How does wisdom inform how we move through our days in a global pandemic?



Here are the books of the bible considered to be "Wisdom Literature." There are seven of these books, namely the books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Songs (Song of Solomon), the Book of Wisdom and Sirach (Ecclesiasticus). Not all the Psalms are usually regarded as belonging to the Wisdom tradition.

Feel free to do some reading/digging before we meet on September 22, 7pm. Join us [on Zoom](#). All are welcome to this event, so invite a friend! Questions? Email Betsy McGregor: [bemac7309@gmail.com](mailto:bemac7309@gmail.com).

# BUILD THE VISION... SHARE THE VISION

## Vision-Aligned Building Update

Stay informed about our church renovation! There are various ways to get updates as construction moves forward in the coming months:

- Each weekly “e-blast” email sent Wednesdays will include any significant changes from the prior week, and significant milestones expected in the coming week. A link to the Vision-Aligned Building Renovation web page (<https://ourredeemers.net/about/build-the-vision>) will always be included.
- Close to the 15th and 30th of each month, look on the website page for a brief report with photos of what’s been happening.
- Approximately once a month, Pastor Gretchen and/or Brandy Fox, our construction project manager, will do a brief video tour of the construction process. There may also be times when we can videotape things as they happen. For example: “Check this out! The organ pipes are being removed to be shipped and stored....” These videos will also be linked to the email and posted on Facebook and on the website.
- High level budget and cash flow updates will be provided at the end of each month, and included on the website page. (More detailed reports will be provided to the Finance Team and Council.)
- Every monthly church newsletter will include a synopsis of the above reports, pictures and information.



GOD'S CALL | OUR VISION

## Here's what has happened during August

**A whole lot of stuff got cleaned out** of the church, given away or dumped (see photos on page 2)! How many Lutherans does it take to clean out a church? You haven't heard that joke?! It's because it is NO joke!! Probably 30+ people spent weeks going through cupboards, closets, costumes, furniture, office supplies (we found staples from the 70's – no kidding!) communion wafers, books, unusable technology, and plenty of things people probably dropped off at the church because, “maybe THEY can use it!”

The Saturday “Buy Nothing Sale” drew a lot of folks who picked up free items for re-use, but we still filled nearly two of the largest dumpsters with unwanted items, and will be filling our large recycle dumpster for weeks to come before it is all gone.

Thanks to the AMAZING and UPBEAT volunteers who made it all happen, and to Debbie Lematta, our Communications Coordinator, who helped organize volunteers on the day of the sale, it and made sure everyone stayed safe. SUCH a great job was done by all!

**GROW and the Ballard P-Patch** have secured their bridge loan financing, allowing them to close on the purchase of the Ballard P-Patch property at the end of August. This milestone ensures that the property will continue to be used as a community garden and allows Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church to fund much needed safety and functional upgrades to better serve the community.

**Save the date for project “groundbreaking” event!** Although it's unlikely ground will be literally broken, construction will commence on Sunday afternoon, October 4. We're hoping to be able to have an outside “groundbreaking” event to kickoff construction. Stay tuned for details! Construction is expected to take about 10-months to complete.



## COMMUNITY

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4	Paul Campbell	14	Gretchen Mertes	21	Eric Olson
4	Olivia Evidon	15	Linda Ellingboe	24	Lisa Glover
4	Marilyn Schulze	15	Judy Wright	25	Lindsay Rindler
5	Indio Abdullah	17	Chris Lowe	28	Maryanne Dixon
5	Lisa Thompson	20	Tim Hunter	28	Ritchie Neill
8	Phyllis Ellis	21	Isaac Dovinh	29	Holly Mangold
8	Lucy Watkins	21	Phillipa Dugaw	30	Anna Freyberg
12	Genny Arredondo	21	Stephen Ege	30	Jon Hanson

## Life Masters Looks at How We Respond When We Disagree

Wednesday, September 16, 12pm

Zoom: <https://zoom.us> | Meeting #965 7272 6373 | Password: 564308 | Phone in: 1 206 337 9723

Set aside noon to 1pm on the third Wednesday of every month to Zoom in with other folks 50 and older. This month we'll discuss conversations we have had where we strongly disagreed with another's perspective. How did we approach the topic? Did we show compassion, good listening skills and understanding? Or did we close our mind in anger and the need to win the argument? What does this tell us about ourselves and our Christian values? How can we move closer to love in hard conversation? If time permits we may also discuss miracles we have experienced. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have questions about "Zooming", please contact Katlin at [office@ourredeemers.net](mailto:office@ourredeemers.net).

## Support the P-Patch.



Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church urges you to support Ballard P-Patch in their ongoing fundraising efforts.

Donate today:

[saveballardppatch.org](http://saveballardppatch.org)





## OWNING OUR STORY

### Owning Our Story: White Privilege and Racial Justice An Ongoing Conversation

Sundays at 9:30am thru 9/13

[\(Zoom Link\)](#)



We've had fantastic, far-ranging conversations about all kinds of aspects of this topic. All present have been interested in learning both the historical roots of current inequalities, and also the ways we unconsciously perpetuate those inequalities.

We look for more opportunities to discuss, learn and become more self-aware in the future as we explore these realities as a congregation.





## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Ballard Sunday Dinner

*Sunday, September 20th, Ballard First Lutheran Church*

During the pandemic, our meal is simplified with shorter shifts and options for smaller tasks during the week. We are trying to make every meal delicious and nutritious for a to go container. Do you enjoy making desserts? Why not sign up to make cookie bars for our hungry neighbors one month. Do you have time to shop for the meal but cannot serve? Maybe you have another idea or would you like to donate food or money? Contact your lead for a month that works for you! Join in and help out!

**SIGN UP HERE** (<https://rb.gy/5km343>)



#### **Upcoming Ballard Sunday Dinner Leads:**

September 20 – Meal lead: Sue Schoolcraft; Late lead: Tom Bernard

October 18 – Meal leads: Ronda & Jerry Andrews; Late Lead: Tom Bernard

November 15 – Meal leads: Emilie Purvine & Sue Schoolcraft; Late lead: Tom Bernard

### **Our Redeemer's is Seeking Candidates for Social Justice Coordinator Position**

*Application Date Extended*

Our Redeemer's has an open position for a Social Justice Coordinator. If you or someone you know is a fit for what we're looking for, see the job advertisement at this link: [SOCIAL COORDINATOR JOB.](#)

## Social Justice Contacts

While we are in the process of hiring a Social Justice Coordinator people have volunteered to be resource people for areas of focus or need. As much as possible, please touch base with them and not staff if you have questions or social justice needs. Each area of focus has a staff person resource. For the next couple of months here are the leads:

- Road to Housing – Tom Bernard
- Ballard Sunday Dinner – Emilie Purvine & Tom Bernard
- EarthCare – Margaret Wetter & Tricia Kloth
- Racial Justice – Marie Brissette & Pamela Altman
- Immigration – Dinah Coble & Eric Running
- Lutheran World Relief – Sharon Longaker
- Advocacy – Joshua Liljenstolpe
- Thanksgiving Dinner – Carolyn Davis & Margaret Wetter

# Thank You

to Kathy, Mike, Kristen, Guy, Jim and Don,  
Wishing you the very best on your  
upcoming vote for your new  
addition / renovation at ORC.  
I came across this set of keys -  
they are yours. Very happy to see  
you all thriving and moving forward  
in these tumultuous times  
with gratitude and blessings, Lucy Jones  
July 2020

Dear Friends at Our Redeemers Lutheran,  
Thank you so much for your  
generous donation to Edible Hope Kitchen.  
During times like this we depend  
upon our neighbors to keep our program  
going strong. We so appreciate your  
continued support and encouragement  
as we build the Beloved Community.  
Thanks for helping bring a little  
Edible Hope to our vulnerable neighbors.  
Jana Bates & the Edible Hope Team

June 30  
Thank you to the church staff and  
volunteers for all you do to keep  
us sane and focused on what's  
important.  
Judy & Dana Wright

*Amazing work in mission and care.  
One of several faith communities that is about  
co-creating God's new future.*


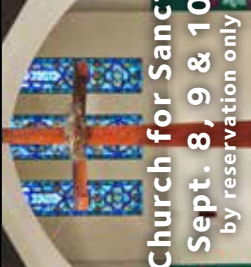
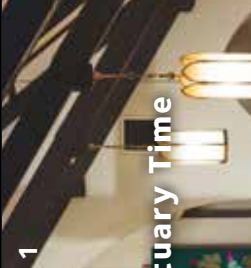







*- Jim McEachran*



Note: The events on this calendar are not in-person meetings; all groups may choose to meet online. Check with your group leader or email office@ourredeemers.net for Zoom info.

# SEPTEMBER 2020

ourredeemers.net/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>Visit the Church for Sanctuary Time</b> <b>Sept. 8, 9 &amp; 10</b> by reservation only	 <b>7 Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>7:30pm How to Be an Anti-Racist</b>	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> Office Closed# 7pm Adult Choir (Online)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30am Owning Our Story  <b>11am Worship Service</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>7:30pm How to Be an Anti-Racist</b>	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 KICKOFF SUNDAY!</b>  9:30am Owning Our Story <b>11am Worship Service</b> 1pm Kickoff (for Kids!)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 1pm Road to Housing Meeting 7pm Executive Team Meeting  7pm Council Meeting	<b>16</b> 12pm Life Masters Lunch 7pm Adult Choir (Online)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> October Newsletter Content Deadline	<b>19</b>
<b>20 Faith Formation Classes Start</b> 9:30am Bible Study <b>11am Worship Service</b> 2-7pm Ballard Sunday Dinner	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7pm 	<b>23</b> 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir (Online)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27 SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING &amp; HOPE</b> 9:30am Bible Study Faith Formation Classes <b>11am Worship Service</b>	<b>28</b> 7PM Social Justice Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir (Online)			

#Staff devotes the first Wednesday of each month to professional development and planning.



2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117  
[www.ourredeemers.net](http://www.ourredeemers.net)  
206-783-7900

**return service requested**

Join us every Sunday at 11am for  
worship service.

- Facebook: [facebook.com.ourredeemers](https://www.facebook.com/ourredeemers)
- By Phone. Call 1 206 337 9723;  
enter 822 691 346 when prompted
- By Zoom. <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>

# Kickoff Sunday!

September 13, 1pm

Blessing of  
the Devices

Gift Bags

“You Are Loved”  
Activities

Dance Party!

Families and students of  
all ages are invited!

Join in  
on [Zoom!](#)



Follow Us on Instagram!

We are on Instagram! Follow us and see what exciting things  
are happening around the church. @ourredeemersballard



Like Us on Facebook!

DO YOU LIKE OUR REDEEMER'S? THEN [LIKE](#) OUR REDEEMER'S  
FACEBOOK PAGE! An easy way to invite and engage your friends.