

SEPTEMBER 2021



*The*Visitor

Sunday, September 12th

9 AM - Informal Worship

10 AM - Building Dedication

11 AM - Traditional Worship

**4 PM - Community Open House &
"Welcome All Y'all"**

Celebration in our Front Yard!



**Coming Back
Together!**

**For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.**

Matthew 18:20

This Month at Our Redeemer's (re-opening events in red)

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OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Katherine Hawks, Pastor
kathyh@ourredeemers.net
- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor
pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net
- Elizabeth Dickinson, Social Justice Coordinator
outreach@ourredeemers.net
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director
karen@ourredeemers.net
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator
administrator@ourredeemers.net
- Debbie Lematta, Communications Coordinator
communications@ourredeemers.net
- Katlin Dickinson-Laurence, Office Coordinator/Welcoming Minister
office@ourredeemers.net

Church Mailing Address:

2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117

Call to leave a message for any staff member: 206-783-7900

General email: office@ourredeemers.net

Website: www.ourredeemers.net

Facebook.com/OurRedeemers

Instagram: ourredeemersballard



September 1, Wednesday

10 AM - 3 PM - Quiet Time in the Sanctuary
Office Closed for Staff Development
7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir

September 2, Thursday

10 AM - 3 PM - Quiet Time in the Sanctuary
3:45 PM Staff Meeting

September 3, Friday

10 AM - 3 PM - Quiet Time in the Sanctuary

September 5, Sunday

11 AM - Sunday Worship (pre-recorded on [YouTube](#))

September 6, Monday

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY / OFFICE CLOSED

September 7, Tuesday

11 AM - Road to Housing Meeting
7 PM - Executive Council Team Meeting
7 PM - Liturgical Arts Team Meeting

September 8, Wednesday

1 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir | in-person

September 9, Thursday

3 PM - Community Engagement Task Force

September 11, Saturday

10 AM - Informational Church Tour
11:15 AM - 9/11 20th Anniversary Commemoration
11:30-noon - Quiet Time in the Sanctuary

September 12, Sunday
Re-Opening/Dedication
& "Welcome All Y'all"
Celebration

9 AM - Informal Worship | Our Redeemer's
10:10 AM - Building Dedication
11 AM - Traditional Worship | Our Redeemer's
4 PM - Open House & "Welcome All Y'all" Celebration

September 13, Monday

7 PM - Faith Formation Team Meeting
7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates | Zoom

September 15, Wednesday

10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study | Zoom
1 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir | in-person

September 19, Sunday
"O-Rock" Kick-Off Sunday
(see page 7)

9 AM - Informal Worship | Our Redeemer's
10 AM - Backpack Blessing & Bible Exchange (outside)
10 AM - LWR School Kit Packing (outside)
11 AM - Traditional Worship | Our Redeemer's
2:30 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard First Lutheran
4 PM - Madonna's Book Group | Zoom

September 21, Tuesday

7:30 PM - Council Meeting

September 22, Wednesday

10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study | Zoom
1 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir | in-person

September 23, Thursday

3 PM - Community Engagement Task Force

September 26, Sunday
Youth Faith Formation
Classes Begin!

9 AM - Sprouts Class | Zoom
9 AM - Informal Worship | Our Redeemer's
10 AM - Youth Classes | Zoom or in-person
10 AM - Congregational Meeting
11 AM - Traditional Worship | Our Redeemer's

September 27, Monday

7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates | Zoom

September 28, Tuesday

7 PM - Theology on Tap

September 29, Wednesday

10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study | Zoom
1 PM - Staff Meeting
7 PM - Adult and Youth Choir | in-person

From the Pastor...

I can't wait to see all of you!

And yet, concerns persist.

I write this from Holden Village. Half-way up Lake Chelan; up 3,000 feet of Cascade switchbacks by school bus. Holden has been a spirit home for 3+ generations of Lutherans and others.

This year we are limited to half the usual number of guests. We are all fully vaccinated. Children were tested as they entered the Village. We mask indoors. Sanitizer is in plentiful supply. As a result, Holden hasn't had any cases of COVID!

Before I came, I wondered if all these precautions would diminish the joy I've always found here. Not at ALL, thank God! The classes are as thought-provoking as ever, and the worship just as replenishing. There is the same easy conversation with interesting people you haven't met until now. Beauty surrounds all, beckoning us to hike...or nap in a hammock by the river.

Drinking all this in over the week together makes me even more aware how famished for community our souls have become in this long COVID time. We've tried to adapt to being without it—but we can't. God has created us for caring in-person community. That's where and how we thrive: together.

Being without one another has severely depleted our inner resources for faith and life. It's been a kind wilderness time, don't you think?

SO. What a joy to be able to look forward to our first worship in person after 18 long months! And to the dedication and wider community celebrations! Woohoo! Alleluia! Praise God!

And yet. What a bummer being together has to be dampened by COVID precautions.

Being here at Holden, though, I'm reassured. Masks and sanitizer and safe distance don't take away the delight

of being in community. In fact, maybe it's even more powerful now, because every mask demonstrates our care for one another.

I'm also reassured because Our Redeemer's' community in the model of Christ is built on the foundation that has weathered and will weather every challenge.

As scripture says: "Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow." Our renovation is built on that foundation. Our future is built on it, too.

We can trust Christ's promise of grace and we can and will answer his call to love our neighbor as ourselves.

As we return to in-person community, we can take care and take heart. We take to care for each other, and we take heart in God's utterly faithful presence in the midst of all uncertainty.

We have so many reasons to celebrate! So many blessings to praise God for! So much love and grace and hope to share!



See you on September 12!*

Pastor Kathy

**I'm grateful that those unable to be vaccinated or to attend in person will be able to join gathered worship beginning September 12 via Zoom, thanks to a new camera and sound system. Thank you, Our Redeemer's, for your generosity, which makes this expanded reach possible!*

**Congregational Retreat:
Holden Village Summer 2022**

www.holdenvillage.org

Save the Date! July 31 – August 6



Worship and Music

Join Us For Worship - September

September 5, Sunday **11 AM - Sunday Worship** (pre-recorded) | [YouTube](#)

September 12, Sunday **FIRST SUNDAY FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES**
9 AM - Informal Worship | Our Redeemer's*
11 AM - Traditional Worship | Our Redeemer's*

September 19, Sunday **9 AM - Informal Worship** | Our Redeemer's*
11 AM - Traditional Worship | Our Redeemer's*

September 26, Sunday **9 AM - Informal Worship** | Our Redeemer's*
11 AM - Traditional Worship | Our Redeemer's*

In-person worship will continue to be broadcast on Zoom and Facebook Live.

Go to the link below for instructions on how to connect remotely:

<https://ourredeemers.net/virtual-worship>.

“Life Together Hour” - September Sundays

Come between services: 10:10 to 10:55 AM

September 12, Sunday **DEDICATION OF OUR NEWLY RENOVATED BUILDING
TO GOD'S WORK** led by Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee and
Assistant to the Bishop Andy Yee

September 19, Sunday **PREPARING LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS
to enable children around the world to attend school**

September 26, Sunday **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & CONVERSATION**
- Updates on finances and our renovation completion
- Council updates on “Open Questions” for
congregational engagement in 2021-2022
and what's in process
- Your questions & input



Coming Back Together



Pandemic Transition Team Safety Update

It seems like every day there's changing information about the pandemic – the Delta variant, vaccine boosters, masking requirements, and everything else. Adapting is exhausting to say the least, and as much as we dream this pandemic could be over, it clearly is not. As we have been and will continue to do, this team stays on the safe side of responding to what is required of churches and public places in Seattle and advising the church council. As of this writing, on August 18, 2021, the following precautions are strongly recommended:

We are very aware that one of the most affected populations right now are children under the age of 12, and as such, are adjusting our programs accordingly as we go. As of right now, we will be offering hybrid faith formation classes starting September 26th. Our nursery will be available as long as it is safe to do so. If we decide it must be closed, that information will be shared by email as soon as possible.

Thank you all so much for your continued patience with these shifting sands, and we pray for everyone's health and safety, as we meet together to praise God with joy this fall.

1. At Our Redeemer's, masks are always required indoors.
2. To participate in person at Our Redeemer's, we assume you are fully vaccinated (if you are able to receive it). If you have chosen not to be vaccinated, we ask you join us virtually, and to refrain from participating in in-person events and services.
3. We will have daily contact tracing logs in the narthex for everyone who enters the building to sign in – name and phone number. In the event of a reported COVID case, we will contact everyone who was in the building on that day. These logs are not shared with anyone and are considered due diligence during this pandemic for our congregation. We are researching an expedited online sign-in process to be implemented as soon as we have it in hand.

These guidelines will be enacted on August 31, when the building opens to the public.

Your Pandemic Transition Team: Pastor Gretchen Mertes, Sam Altenberger, Kim Ward Barowicz, Heather Cook, Barb Dougherty, Michael Hammett, Karie Stearns, and Julie Vannoy

CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Lucas Miller	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	Richie Neill
8	Lucy Watkins	21	Isaac Dovich	29	Holly Mangold
12	Genny Arredondo	21	Phillipa Dugaw	30	*Anna Freyberg
13	Linda Hintz	21	Steve Ege	30	Jon Hanson
14	Gretchen Mertes	21	Eric Olson		

***A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY BLESSING TO ANNA FREYBERG WHO IS CELEBRATING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH!**



Community

At the P-Patch “Art in the Garden” Event



Caring Community Team will have their next meeting on Saturday, November 6th at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be at the home of Sandy Box. Contact [Linda Carbone](mailto:lindac19@comcast.net) (lindac19@comcast.net) for more information or if you want to take part.



Faith Formation

Kickoff Sunday Happenings:

Children will lead end of 9 AM service blessing – all children are invited to lead the end of service blessing with Pastor Gretchen.

10-10:10 AM

Blessing of the Backpacks, and Bible Blessing

Bring your backpack with your bible in it. You can exchange your bible for an upgrade if you choose.

10:15–10:40 AM

Parent Orientation

Learn about O-Rock classes and how to register your child for classes through our new church app.

September 26:

Classes Start!

9 AM Sprouts

10 AM Grades 1-10

(see individual groups at right)



Backpack Blessing & Bible Exchange Kickoff Sunday, 10 AM – Church Front Yard

We're rolling out our new children's program at Our Redeemer's! On September 19, parents will have an opportunity to learn how our classes will work, what they will include and how to register children for the program. COVID has thrown some kinks into the mix, but we've adapted by offering both in-person and virtual programming for our youngest members.

Faith Formation Fall Offerings for Kids

O-Rock! = Our Redeemer's Outstanding Church Kids...is what we're calling this new offering. O-Rock classes will be presented in the following age groups.:

9 AM 3 years old - Kindergarten (in person and Zoom)

10 AM Grades 1-5 - Elementary (in person and Zoom)

10 AM Grades 6-7 - Middle School "Hang Out" (in person)

10 AM Grades 9-10 - Confirmation Class (in person)

(Masks will be required for all kids, teachers, and teacher assistants.)

Wednesday Bible Study This Fall by Carolyn Swanson

We have just completed 24 wonderful weeks of study using the course, The History and Archeology of the Bible. What's next? Here's what is in my mind and heart so far, and I ask you to be in prayer as to what the Holy Spirit has in its mind and heart.

As of now, we will be doing a study on the heroic figures in the Bible like Moses, Jeremiah, Jacob, and others not so well defined. We will use movies, YouTube, videos and, of course, the written Word. We will use the facts we think we know and also use the possibilities of these stories that we don't know. It will be worthwhile to see Scripture through various lenses.

One of the important parts of our study each Wednesday is the opening segment of prayer. We ask for prayer requests and then we pray them. During this COVID-19 time, many of our prayers ask for patience and healing. Anyone is eligible to lead those prayers, but I would be remiss in not thanking Stephanie Running for spearheading this action. Alan Storey, one of our/my most beloved persons, a Methodist pastor in South Africa, puts it this way: "What can we do? We can fast and pray."

I know fasting and praying sounds like religious escapism, and of course it can be, but it can also be just the opposite. To fast and pray can be radical engagement with the world. Not least because we are part of this world. If we are attentive, we will see that what is happening outside in the street is taking place inside the corridors of our own heart. To clean the one is to make a difference to the other. Therefore, any healing and liberation within us is healing and liberation of the world.

We will begin the fall sessions on Wednesday, September 15. The time is 10:30 a.m. until noon. It will continue to be a Zoom session. Anyone interested should contact me, Carolyn Swanson, cdkswan@gmail.com or 206-390-7732.

Vision Aligned Building (VAB) Update

AUGUST 7, 2021: LZL Construction reached “Substantial Completion” of the work in early August. This is a contract term defined by the owner’s ability to use the space for its intended purpose. This means the City of Seattle inspections are complete and the work left in the general contractor’s scope is minor.

If you’ve driven by the church recently, you would have noticed the fencing is gone, new grass (sod) has been placed, plants are planted, the sprinklers are on, furniture is being delivered, and Church staff is busy moving things in and up from where things were stored in the basement.

During the full month of August, and into early September, A/V systems will be installed, work will begin on the organ installation, the new electronic access system will be activated, LZL will continue to complete punch list items, and numerous trainings will occur for staff. We hope you will stop by to take a peak at the new spaces.



Fred from LZL and Rene from Marceau Pipe Organs working on the details of the new installation.

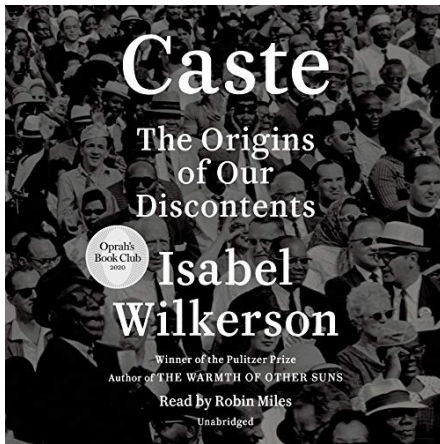
**BUILDING RENOVATION DETAILS
ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:**
[https://ourredeemers.net/about/
build-the-vision/](https://ourredeemers.net/about/build-the-vision/)



Guy Michaelsen working with landscape crew on planting day.



Social Justice



Racial Justice All-Church Read

"[*Caste*] should be at the top of every American's reading list." —Jennifer Day, Chicago Tribune

Racial Justice Advocates invites you to read or listen to the "brilliant" book **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson. This book examines "caste" systems in India, Nazi Germany, and the United States, and how they hurt the lives of everyone involved. **Then join us for discussion on October 10 at 2 PM**, however far you have gotten. (Hint: Elizabeth thinks the second half of the book is an easier read than the first.) The Secret Garden has copies discounted for Our Redeemer's.



School Kits: Shop Those School Sales!

Let's help children around the world go to school! Girls, especially, are less likely to go to school if money is short. UNICEF notes that educating girls has a "multiplier effect." Girls who go to and stay in school are less likely to marry very young, more able to contribute to family income, and prioritize nutrition, health care and education. Their decisions impact the community by escaping the spiral of chronic poverty.

We'd love at least 100 each of the following supplies by September 19:

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

Monday 9/13/21
**Racial Justice Advocates
Meeting**
Zoom, 7:15-8:30 pm

Sunday 9/19/21
School Kit Packing
10-11 AM

Sunday 9/19/21
Ballard Sunday Dinner
2:30-6:30 PM

Monday 9/27/21
**Racial Justice Advocates
Meeting**
Zoom, 7:15-8:30 pm

- ☐ FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
- ☐ ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a 12" ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ☐ ONE pencil sharpener
- ☐ ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ☐ FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- ☐ FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ☐ ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ☐ ONE 2 1/2" eraser





Social Justice



LIRS



Lutherans in Action Around the World

As Haitians contend with a presidential assassination, a 7.2 earthquake, and heavy rains from tropical storm Grace, Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health have together committed an initial \$100,000 to an emergency response. This money will likely provide support for essential health services, such as medicines, surgeries and clean water. International organizations are working with the Haitian government to coordinate relief for the Haitian people.

The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has been working for several months to welcome and resettle Afghans who worked with the U.S. over the past two decades of our military presence there. These are interpreters, translators, cultural advisors, and drivers, as well as So women's rights activists, journalists, academics, non-governmental organization workers and other civil society leaders. Currently, they are also advocating to evacuate as many Afghans as possible who will face a threat of retaliation from the Taliban.

Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president of the LIRS, spoke with NPR about resettling refugees on August 17. **They are asking for help in Seattle, among other places, to set up apartments, bring a meal, or welcome refugees in other ways. You can sign up on the LIRS website under "[Afghan Allies](#)."**



Honoring the Duwamish People

As we reopen and celebrate our building, let's also give gratitude for the Duwamish People who have lived here "since time immemorial" (they have stories originating from the last Ice Age) and who have stewarded and continue to care for this beautiful and abundant land.

There were about 50 traditional village sites in the Puget Sound area when the Denny party arrived. In 1855, the Treaty of Point Elliott/Mukilteo between the US territorial government and 82 Coast Salish tribes (including the Duwamish) guaranteed hunting and fishing rights as well as reservations to all nations represented by the signers. In return, tribes ceded specified land areas; the Duwamish Tribe gave over 54,000 acres of their homeland to what is now Seattle, Renton, Tukwila, Bellevue, and Mercer Island. In 1865, the Seattle Board of Trustees passed a law banning Native Americans from living in Seattle. The next year, non-native residents blocked a federal proposal for a Duwamish reservation. In 1895, settlers burned down one of their largest villages in Seattle where the longhouse stands today. The Duwamish tribe still has not received a reservation of their own—although the Muckleshoot tribe includes some Duwamish descendants—and are currently seeking federal recognition. About 700 people consider themselves Duwamish, and live on Duwamish aboriginal territory. The tribe governs by a 1925 constitution and its bylaws. Learn more about the history of the tribe and where they stand now at www.duwamishtribe.org.





Living Generously

Open the Door to Something...

Look at the picture at right. What do you want to see on the other side of the door? Who do you want to meet there?

Use words or illustrations or both using the space below or use your own choice of media.

Take time to imagine. As you consider stepping over the threshold, honor your feelings about changing from outside to inside...or inside to outside.

Let God create something through you.



Opening Doors

OPENING DOORS Small Group Bible Studies

Circle of Connections groups will continue, using Scripture and Discussion topics related to our special events in October. If you would like to be part of a Zoom Bible Study for the four weeks of October, please contact Pastor Gretchen (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net). She will connect you with an existing group to fit your schedule.

There will also be an opportunity to participate in the same Bible Study IN-PERSON on Tuesdays in October. We will plan to meet at 1:00 PM in a new classroom at Our Redeemers. Please bring a mask to wear.

Contact Stephanie Running (206-706-2764) or the church office for details.



2400 NW 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98117

www.ourredeemers.net
206-783-7900

return service requested

OUR VISION: In the model of Christ and for the life of the world, we are an inclusive, devoted, caring, and spiritual community that accepts challenges, takes risks, and grows.

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 AM - Informal
11 AM - Traditional

In-Person:
Starting September 12

Virtually:
On Facebook:
[facebook.com ourredeemers](https://www.facebook.com/ourredeemers) and
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>

Coming in October

Opening Doors is a month for us to lean into the joy of generosity for the sake of God's mission of grace, justice and hope, both in the coming year and for generations to come.

This is a time full of the world's deep needs, and a time full of new and renewed possibilities for Our Redeemer's.

Take out your calendar, and plan to participate in special worship and learning each Sunday in October!



Opening Doors

A Campaign for the Mission & Future of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

II Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.'"



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