



**our  
redeemer's**  
LUTHERAN • BALLARD

# The Visitor

Get Ready for  
**Kickoff Sunday  
& Ministry Fair!**  
September 11  
Pages 5

Page 4

Page 11



## A Community in the Model of Christ

## From the Pastor...

*Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful. – Joel 2:13*

Happy fall, dear people of Our Redeemer's! I hope and pray that your summer was refreshing, filled with warmth, connection, and a chance to breathe deeply and appreciate the glory of God's creation we find all around us, from the beaches to the backyards.

I have had the wonderful chance over the last few years to truly develop my appreciation and knowledge of the wonders of the low tide of the Salish Sea. From sea stars and anemones to nudibranchs and urchins, I find that the many creatures are mysterious and wonderful – albeit sometimes a little slimy. The key to seeking out these creatures is knowing when, where and how to look. A negative low tide, knowing which rock to flip, and learning how to adjust your eyes to see on a tiny scale are all it takes to find wonders that are amazing. But when I first came to the beach as a midwestern transplant, it all seemed very monochrome grey and overwhelming. I didn't even know where to begin.

As we return to fall and our "regularly scheduled programming" here at church, our feelings about re-engaging are all over the map. Dealing with an ongoing (never-ending?) pandemic can seem like finding your place may not happen or may not be worth the energy. In some ways it can very much look like the beach – grey and full of rocks and sand and seaweed detritus and not much else. I hope that we can start to look closer, and on a smaller scale, for treasures that may be hidden from view at first glance.

Meanwhile, here are some things you can be assured of:

**1. We are dedicated to maintaining our online worship and adult education programming, as well as having fulfilling live in-person worship and education.** We will be streaming the 11 AM service every Sunday (a shift from streaming both 9 & 11), and continue to find online options for adult education, such as the LIVE classes offered through our synod – see Pastor David's article for more information on page 6. We hope everyone can stay involved, connected, and edified through participation at Our Redeemer's.

**2. We are dedicated to our children and youth, offering creative fun and education opportunities for them to learn, sing, and develop intergenerational relationships as part of their ongoing faith formation.** Our team is passionate about kids and their love of God and each other!

**3. We are dedicated to helping everyone find your way back into ministry (and the building) at the pace you are comfortable with given physical and mental health concerns, and your ability to participate.** Please reach out if there is something we could do to help you feel more connected.

**4. We are dedicated to prayer and support through our Caring Community Team, our Prayer Team, and our worshiping community.** We are so blessed to have so many folks who care for those around them.

We hope that you will find engagement with your faith community to be a gift not only to God, and to those you serve, but to your own soul.



*Gabeleen Hestey*





# This Month at Our Redeemer's

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

2 FROM THE PASTOR

4 WORSHIP & MUSIC

5 FAITH FORMATION

7 SOCIAL JUSTICE

8 COMMUNITY

## OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor  
pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net
- David Hahn, Transition Facilitator  
pastordavid@ourredeemers.net  
(651)587-4417
- Phillipa Dugaw, Volunteer Coordinator  
volunteer@ourredeemers.net
- Jordan Holt, Nursery Attendant
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship & Music Director  
karen@ourredeemers.net
- Debbie Lematta, Communications  
communications@ourredeemers.net
- Mandy Neill, Welcome Minister  
welcome@ourredeemers.net
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator  
administrator@ourredeemers.net

Phone: 206-783-7900

Email: office@ourredeemers.net

**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.



September 2, Friday	Church Office Closed
September 3, Saturday	9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team
<b>September 4, Sunday</b>	<b>10 AM - Summer Worship   Our Redeemer's</b> <b>7 PM - Holden Evening Prayer   Sanctuary</b>
September 5, Monday	Labor Day - Church Closed
September 6, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting 7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates
<b>September 11, Sunday</b> <b>KICKOFF SUNDAY</b>	<b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b> 10 AM - Faith Formation Kick-Off / Open House 10 AM - Noon - Ministry Fair <b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b> 12:30 PM - Confirmation Orientation
September 12, Monday	9 AM - Quilters   Fellowship Hall
September 13, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting
September 14, Wed.	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
September 16, Friday	Council Retreat
September 17, Saturday	Council Retreat
<b>September 18, Sunday</b> <b>OPENING DOORS</b>	<b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b> Sprouts: 9 AM   In-Person 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes   Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation   Library 10 AM - Adult Forum   Fellowship Hall <b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b> 2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner 4 PM - Madonna's Book Group
September 19, Monday	9 AM - Quilters   Fellowship Hall
September 20, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting 7 PM - Council Meeting 7:15 PM - Racial Justice Advocates
September 21, Wed.	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
September 24, Saturday <b>FAITH FORMATION</b> <b>FAMILY BBQ</b>	5:30 - 8 PM - Faith Formation Family BBQ   Blue Ridge Park Beach Park
<b>September 25, Sunday</b>	<b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b> Sprouts: 9 AM   In-Person 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes   Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation   Library 10 AM - Adult Forum   Fellowship Hall <b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b>
September 26, Monday	9 AM - Quilters   Fellowship Hall
September 27, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting
September 28, Wed.	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir 7 PM - Choir Rehearsal



# Worship and Music



## What is a Ministry Fair?

During our Kickoff on the 11th, tables will be set up at the church to highlight Our Redeemer's various ministries/groups/teams. It's a chance to get a little more information about what we do to keep our church vibrant and give an opportunity to share, connect, and answer your questions. Visit the tables any time between 10:00 am and 12:30 pm on September 11.

## "RETURN" to Fall Worship! by Karen Lee

**Kickoff Sunday – September 11**

**9:00 am – Informal Worship**

**10:00 am – 12:30 pm – Ministry Fair**

**11:00 am – Traditional Worship**

Pastor Gretchen and I enjoyed a great discussion in early summer about Fall theme ideas. We focused on Fall being a time to "return." Traditionally, this has meant a return to routines – school, work, church programming, etc. And while those returns are still true, we as a society are managing life during a two-and-a-half-year pandemic. This means we're also navigating a return to Community. And Our Redeemer's is a beautiful community worth returning to.

Pastor Gretchen and I "re"alized there are so many "re" words that express how God's spirit moves among us. I wrote a theme song for the Fall, inviting all of us to "Return:"

*"Fall is returning; we are re-learning how to be God's people here  
Even through challenges God re-imagines us to live in love and not fear.  
Let us restore and regrow since God is the refuge we know.  
So from this place, reveal God's grace.  
Return, remember, renew."*



## Choir Returns! Kids' Choir, Too! by Karen Lee

**Where can you laugh, make friends, be encouraged, and experience the joy of creating harmonies that lift your spirits and fill your soul?**

YOU are invited to be part of something special. Our Redeemer's Choirs begin rehearsals again on Wednesday, September 14. **And we are so happy to welcome our children back for the return of Kids' Choir!** (We are mindful of masks and distancing.) If you like to sing or want to give it a try, you (and/or your kids) are warmly welcomed to join in!

Here's the schedule for **Wednesdays, beginning September 14:**

- **Kids' Choir – 6:30 – 7:00 pm (ages 5 – 12)**  
Karen Lee and Marie Nordquist-Lessard, Co-Directors
- **Choir – 7:00 – 8:30 pm (teens and adults)**  
(and Sundays at 10:30 am to sing during the 11:00 am service)  
Karen Lee, Director

In the words of the Psalms, *"O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise...!"*

*Karen Lee is Our Redeemer's Traditional Worship and Music Director.  
She can be reached at [karen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:karen@ourredeemers.net).*





# Faith Formation



**Classroom Open House**  
10 AM Sunday, Sept. 11th

**Faith Formation  
Classes Begin!**  
Sunday, Sept. 18th  
*Sprouts, O-Rock, Confirmation,  
and Adult Forums*

**Faith Formation Fall BBQ**  
5:30 PM Saturday, Sept. 24  
*Blue Ridge Beach Park*



2021 Confirmand, Skylar Perry and family:  
L to R: Max Perry, Kim Smith, Skylar and  
Craig Perry.

## What are the takeaways we hope for from confirmation?

*Kids have so many questions about life, God, and faith. We want to put in their hands the tools so they'll have the resources they need to dig into their questions through learning about our tradition, but also through trust and relationships built up with each other.*

*Planned faith visits to churches and temples of other religions and denominations, learning about the 'why' of social justice, and why we worship the way we do are all part of the updated program.*

Contact Pastor Gretchen to RSVP for an orientation on Sept. 11, 12:30 pm.

## September Faith Formation Kickoff

This fall is starting off with three big events for faith formation for kids aged 3-15 and their families.

### 1. Classroom Open House | September 11

On Sunday, **September 11th**, between services, families are invited to come and check out their classrooms, meet their teachers, register for Sprouts, O-Rock, and Confirmation, and sign up to volunteer to help once a month. It will be a great chance to see the spaces and get to know everybody. **This is also when kids can pick up their FREE Our Redeemer's "You Are Loved" T-shirts! (Grown ups too!)**

### 2. Faith Formation Classes Begin! | September 18

On Sunday, **September 18th**, all faith formation classes (Sprouts, O-Rock, Confirmation, and Adult Forums) begin! Make sure to be there and sign up to help out in one of the groups – it takes all of us to form the faith of the little ones, and the big ones!

### 3. Faith Formation Fall BBQ | Saturday, September 24th 5:30 – 8:00 pm | Blue Ridge Beach Park

Your family is invited to celebrate Our Redeemer's Faith Formation program and see what's offered in the year ahead. We'll gather outside for a catered barbecue, with fun activities for kids of ALL ages – even your teenagers! All are welcome to enjoy:

- A (free) delicious family BBQ dinner (no cooking or dishes to do!)
- **The chance for you to weigh in on the future of faith formation programs through intentional, facilitated discussions about what you'd like to see in our faith formation programs in the coming years**
- Community-building in a beautiful setting outside
- Fun activities/ entertainment for your kids of all ages, and...
- **S'mores around the fire! What could be better?!**

## Confirmation Startup & Changes!

Confirmation begins this fall. All students in 7th, 8th, or 9th grades are invited to participate!

**We have made some significant changes!** It will be a one-year program, with confirmation happening on Sunday, May 28th, 2023 – Pentecost Sunday. This is a change from previous years, but it will be a much more doable schedule than the 2.5-year program we've had in the past.

We are inviting all students in 7th, 8th, or 9th grade to participate. If they started and stopped, or they didn't feel like being in it, or if the pandemic screwed up their schedule, or if they're just super ready to go, they are invited!

**We're hoping to make confirmation as accessible and fun and achievable as possible. Every kid has their own path in faith and growth, and we want to make it feel like this is an essential part of their growing up!**

**Orientation is September 11, 2022 at 12:30 pm.** We hope that you and your student will be able to attend a 1.5-hour orientation with a full calendar for the year, and ask all your questions and concerns of the teachers, and get to know everyone else in the class. **Contact Pastor Gretchen to RSVP.**



# Faith Formation

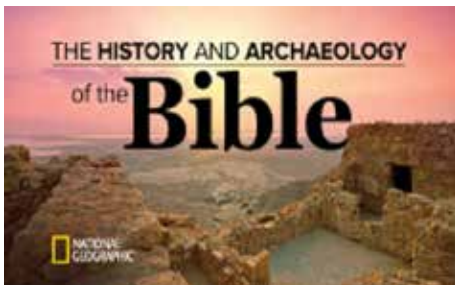


## THE LiVE PROJECT

living into vocational engagement

**The LiVE Project is:** a networked lay learning community discerning God's call; theologically thoughtful, culturally responsive, and communally engaged; connecting churches and forming Christian public leaders; a flexible, hybrid model of learning: zoom and face to face.

Carolyn says: *"I hope you can catch the tone of excitement I have in bringing this course to us. Called The History and Archaeology of the Bible, taught by a man of faith, we will experience over and over the miraculous event of Jesus entering our world and the work of the Holy Spirit continuing in us to this very moment."*



*Revealed will be eye-opening perspectives on Biblical narratives such as: the flood, the ark, the spiritual meaning of towers; the Kingship of David, evidence supporting the story of Samuel; Israel under the Assyrians. Also included are the New Testament stories of Jesus, his birth, his early life, and the Roman world in which he lived. Continuing, this study examines the world of the Gospels, the Passover Events in Jerusalem, and the rise of Christianity."*

## The LiVE Project: Living Into Vocational Engagement

The LiVE Project is a new initiative of the NW WA Synod, and offers some great adult faith formation opportunities for us throughout the year. Its emphasis is to support lay leaders who wish to deepen their sense of call in daily life, and as congregational leaders.

We came by this opportunity because pastor David, our Transition Facilitator, is heading this up. What this means is that **anybody, and any teams in our congregation, can join at any time during the all of the course offerings.** The courses are on Zoom as well as in-person. See the 2022-2023 course catalog for details. Additional information can be found at the synod website, and by joining the Facebook group for the Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA. If you have any questions feel free to contact pastor David at [pastordavid@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastordavid@ourredeemers.net).

To learn more and download the course offering pdf, go to <https://www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project>. Fall courses begin on September 21st.

## Take a New Eye-Opening Look at the Bible

by Carolyn Swanson

**WHEN:** Each Wednesday at 10:30 am until noon beginning September 14.

**WHAT:** The History and Archaeology of the Bible. We will delve into the iconic stories of the Bible through the eyes of historians and archeologists and discover how their findings bring fascinating and revealing perspectives to the world-shaping texts of Scripture.

**WHY: The Bible has impacted our culture perhaps more than any other written work.** Whether we know it or not, its influence on our religious, spiritual, and philosophical conceptions; our notions of morality and social justice; and on Western art, literature, and history would be hard to exaggerate. Of course, the Bible is not a history book. It's a book of faith, and, above all its writings have religious and spiritual intent. Yet, each of its stories originated in a particular place and time, and many of them intersect meaningfully with what we know about the ancient world.

**HOW: By Zoom. Wherever you are in this world, you can receive the link to this study.** It is a rare opportunity to open up the work of historians and archaeologists as they bring their methods and insights to bear on the beloved narratives of the Bible. Throughout, the lessons are enriched with 3D models, hundreds of vibrant images, and many of the greatest works of Western art.

**WHO: Taught by Jean-Pierre Isbouts, a National Geographic contributor, eminent biblical historian and award-winning filmmaker,** these 24 detailed lessons include 47 video sequences, bringing alive key narratives of the Bible and their historical settings, and taking us to ancient places such as: the spot on Mt. Sinai where tradition says God spoke to Moses; the renowned Roman trade crossroads of Petra; the Roman Scythopolis; and the Mount of Beatitudes, held to be the spot where Jesus delivered his great sermon.

**Let Carolyn know if you are interested in Zooming in!** Call her at 206-390-7732 or [cdkswan@gmail.com](mailto:cdkswan@gmail.com).





# Social Justice

## Save the Date!

Our next Community  
**E-Cycle/Recycle Event** is  
Saturday October 15,  
10 AM - 2 PM! Start  
collecting your Styrofoam,  
electronics, and gently  
used clothing now!



### Ballard Sunday Dinners Needs Your Commitment to Help Out

LINK: <https://rb.gy/tuavk>

We'd like to fill up ALL opportunities to help feed our hungry neighbors for the next six months, with a particular emphasis on finding NEW team members.

Find a friend, sign up on Our Redeemer's Volunteer Sign-Up Genius in the tab called "Ballard Sunday Dinner" (<https://rb.gy/tuavk>) and we will mentor you (if you want) in planning a meal for 35, shopping, and leading in cooking. **We'd also be delighted to get 15 NEW people to cook or clean in these next 6 months.** Try it—it's fun and rewarding!

### Interested in Racial Justice? Attend an Advocates Meeting

Join the Racial Justice Advocates meetings and help plan opportunities to act for racial justice. Many ideas are being formed by the group - including creating a library collection of youth and children's books on justice. You are invited to join in! The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays on Zoom, 7:15-8:30 pm. September meetings are on: Tuesdays, September 6 & September 20, 7:15 pm. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://rb.gy/z9n9xf>. All are welcome!

## It's Time to Talk Quilting Again!

by Sharon Longaker

We have been so blessed to have three wonderful ladies join our quilting group this summer, **Joanna Elizondo, Nancy Hiraoka, and Barbara Moen**. Our regulars include **Nancy Parks, Nancy Crouse-Paulson, Anne Lewis, America Mejia, and Sharon Longaker**. **Joanne Gibson**, our quiltmaker extraordinaire, has retired from her duties, and is dearly missed. Sharon and America will be working full time again starting in September, but will be available to coach you in this creative opportunity. **If you can sew, we need you!** We are known far and wide for our amazing coffee breaks at 10:30...! Please join us!

At this time we are VERY much in need of people able to create quilt tops, 60" x 80", in any design, or even simply a beautiful sheet or piece of fabric. This can be done at home, as **Janet Woodfield** and **Pamela Hunter** so generously have done, or in the fellowship of other quilters on Monday mornings from 9 am - noon in the Fellowship Hall. We also need flat sheets, new or used, in darker colors for the quilt backs. They measure 66" x 86" when cut. We're looking for a volunteer to be in charge of finding and cutting the backs to the correct size, ironing, and then placing in the cupboard to match up with our beautiful quilt tops. Can you sew the edges around the tied and pinned quilts? We need you! Do you have extra thread to donate? Yes please!

As you can see, it takes a village to make things work, but it truly is fun, and so very rewarding. Feel free to contact me with any questions: [slongaker@msn.com](mailto:slongaker@msn.com), or 206-393-2881. Thank you!

*Below: Fellowship and fun at this year's Holden Village trip. Stay tuned for an announcement about when we're planning next summer's adventure!*





# Community

## It's Not a Gargoyle! by Kristine Leander, Ph.D. (Member of Our Redeemer's since 1982)

It's not a gargoyle. It's not even scary, once you know its meaning.



**"The Musician" is the statue currently hanging on the south wall at Our Redeemer's, looking toward the front door.** It's a replica of a sculpture that has hung in Norway's national cathedral in Trondheim probably since the 14th Century. Hundreds of years ago, when countries such as France, Germany, Sweden and Norway were building cathedrals, itinerant craftsmen traveled around and lent their skills to the process. The actual completion could take several centuries, and incorporated the work of scads of unknown craftsmen. That's why no one knows exactly who created the original Musician or where the sculptor came from.

It is known that during that era, musicians were looked down upon. They were considered lower class—so low, in fact, that they were not allowed near the sacred altar of the cathedral. Perhaps the sculptor himself was also a musician? By creating the Musician and placing it inside the chancel of the Cathedral, near the altar, he was saying, "All belong at the altar of God, no matter what others think of you, what you look like or what you do."

**Our Redeemer's came to own the replica thanks to a gift from a Norwegian couple, Ola Kai and Marit Ledang, in 1984.** They lived in Ballard for a year and knew that joining a church was the best way to get involved in a community. They brought the Musician to give to whatever church they joined. Warmly welcomed by members of Our Redeemer's, they soon joined and Ola Kai sang in the choir.

After various placements around the church, around 2000 a committee was formed and a consultant hired to find the best place for the Musician. It was hung on the north side of the sanctuary, not inside the chancel but at least looking in toward the altar. The Dean of Trondheim Cathedral, the Rev. Knut Andresen, accepted our invitation to come in 2001 and bless the sculpture in its new location. Airline tickets were purchased, plans were made, but 9/11 happened and no one felt safe traveling. Plans were abandoned.

**The Musician's message—"All are welcome at the altar of God"—reflects the work that Our Redeemer's has done to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation, our work on behalf of unhoused people, our Sunday dinners, etc.** It's time for Our Redeemer's to form another committee, hire a consultant—if that's what it takes—and find the very best place for the Musician to announce his message, "All are welcome at the altar of God." Hey, maybe we can get the current vicar from Trondheim to come for a blessing too! I'm willing to help work on it.

## Celebrating September Birthdays!

1 Lucas Miller	15 Linda Ellingboe	21 Eric Olson
4 Marilyn Schulze	15 Judy Wright	24 Lisa Glover
5 Indio Abdullah	17 Chris Lowe	25 Lindsay Rindler
5 Lisa Thompson	20 Eric Brady	28 Richie Neill
8 Lucy Watkins	20 Tim Hunter	29 Holly Mangold
12 Genny Arredondo	21 Isaac Dovich	30 *Anna Freyberg
13 Linda Hintz	21 Phillipa Dugaw	30 Jon Hanson
14 Gretchen Mertes	21 Steve Ege	

\*Birthday blessings to **Anna Freyberg** who is celebrating her 90+ birthday in September!

*We give thanks for the life of Marcia Weller Weinhold.  
We pray that God will bring comfort to those who grieve.*





# Community



**The first Adult Forum opportunities in September, on the 18th and 25th,** will involve an updated report from the current listening that the team has been doing with the congregation during August and September.

**You are invited to attend each of these 10:00 am sessions** in the Fellowship Hall as the team works to generate an initial profile of the congregation. Your partnership and presence are deeply important to this process, and we would greatly appreciate your attendance and continued feedback as we move forward.



*Don't get "volun-told", find the right fit, and give your time and talent because it's something that YOU want to do!*

**SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Get details and schedules by clicking [here](#) or using the QR code at right. Once on the volunteer page you can toggle between the various needs using the tabs at the top of the page.

Not sure where or how to volunteer at Our Redeemers, [click here](#).

For more questions, comments, suggestions: Contact Phillipa at [volunteer@ourredeemers.net](mailto:volunteer@ourredeemers.net).

## Transition Team Update by Pastor David Hahn

We celebrated the installation of the Transition Team during the August 7 worship. First and foremost, we invite you to keep the team members in your prayers as they begin the important transitional work on behalf of all of us at Our Redeemer's: Bob Carlson, Kari Guddal, Michael Hammett, Lars Svenholm Hanson, and Meagan Minus.

**The team is currently in the first phase of the listening work.** This process involves requesting feedback from the congregation to give some initial self-awareness of who we are as a community of faith, and the kind of leadership we believe God is calling us to invite to walk with us into a new future. The responses will help to develop the Ministry Site Profile (MSP).

**The MSP is a two-part snapshot:** Step 1) How we see ourselves as a congregation (the work of the Transition Team) and Step 2) What we are looking for in rostered/pastoral leadership (the work of the Call Committee). The MSP will be shared with the potential candidates as part of the search process.

**The clearer we are about ourselves and the more accurately we can describe ourselves as a congregation (warts and all) the more effective the search process will be.** The Call Committee will not be formed until the MSP, Snapshot No. 1 is completed.

If you have any questions about the process you are welcome to contact any of the Transition Team members, or contact pastor David Hahn, the transition facilitator, directly at [pastordavid@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastordavid@ourredeemers.net).

## September 2022- I'm Signed Up for What? by Phillipa Dugaw, Volunteer Coordinator

**Have you heard the word "volun-told" before?** It's usually something that your spouse or best friend might do to you. "Hey I've signed you up to help at the photo booth for the school event" or "The church needs some IT help, I told them you can do it". For many of the people we do this to, they probably don't mind. But there are so many other ways or reasons to get involved and get connected!

Volunteering is an act where you freely give of your time, talent, and labor for community service to an organization or group that you would like to form a connection with. **Volunteers want to be excited to be a part of the team, eager to help make a change.**

**There are so many good reasons why we volunteer, here are just a few...**

1. A personal tie to the cause
2. Looks good on your resume
3. It sets a good example for others
4. You get to meet like-minded, motivated, positive people
5. It provides unique and exciting opportunities
6. "Doing Good" is important and feels right
7. Volunteering creates empowerment
8. It can help you get or stay healthy (charity runs/ walk-a-thons)
9. It gives greater perspective and self-awareness
10. It's good for you!



# Community



## Art in The Garden Reaches a Milestone

by Chris Stearns

On the warm, sunny Saturday of August 6, the Ballard P-Patch held their Art in the Garden community event. With dahlias in full bloom and garden vegetables reaching for the skies, it was a perfect day to showcase the space. It was a milestone event, being the 20th time the fundraiser has been held. This was a return to full-strength festivities after last year's reduced event due to COVID.



The wine grab was a popular booth for adults where a \$15 dollar donation got you a wrapped bottle of wine. Some people walked away with some premier bottles!

**Also joining with booths were Groundswell who advocate for and sponsor parks, open space, and habitat projects, and the Ballard Food Bank who also collected hygiene items for their clients.** To support the food bank, the P-Patch dedicates numerous plots to the growth, harvesting, and donation of many vegetables towards their effort. Funds from the event will support garden projects such as implementing a south retaining wall, and rehabilitation of the central patio.



**The event could not happen without the support and aid of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church who graciously allowed use of their kitchen space and numerous tables and chairs for event use.** The P-Patch crew is looking forward to doing it all again next year!

## Scouts BSA + Our Redeemer's: A Great Fit

by Morgan Fowler

**Our Redeemer's relationship with the Boy Scouts of America, now Scouts BSA, is long standing.** We are the chartered organization for the oldest cub scout pack in Ballard! During the pandemic, and observing all related safety protocols, Cub Scout Pack 100 has continued to welcome new scouts into the ranks, served the community, and carried on with beloved traditions such as the annual Pinewood derby race, and this year's Syttende Mai Parade.



**Inclusion, and service to the community are just two of Pack 100's values that make it such a great fit for Our Redeemer's.** As fall begins, and new and continuing ministries develop at Our Redeemer's, please keep this group of enthusiastic, caring, and inquisitive youth on your minds and in your prayers.

**Adults with gifts and time to share, kids grades kindergarten - 5th who are interested in joining, and families who want to know more about Scouts BSA and Pack 100,** feel free to contact Morgan Fowler, Chartered Organization Representative: [morgan@eagleiv.com](mailto:morgan@eagleiv.com) or [join@pack100ballard.com](mailto:join@pack100ballard.com). (Photos: above left - Rank Ceremony, Discovery Park, June 2022; above right - tree planting to help reforest Discovery Park, April 2022.





# Community



One of our biggest strengths as a congregation is to make people from very diverse religious, social and economic backgrounds feel like they belong to the Our Redeemers Community once they've started attending semi-regularly.

## Madonna's Book Group

Madonna's Book Group meets to review books, support each other, and share personal journeys. The group is meeting next on Sunday, Sept. 18, 4 PM. The book the group will be discussing is THE HOUSE WE GREW UP IN, by Lisa Jewel.

Interested? Contact [buckomcneill@yahoo.com](mailto:buckomcneill@yahoo.com).

## Becoming a More Welcoming Community

by Mandy Neill

**Did you know we've had a steady trickle of new visitors coming to check out Our Redeemers lately?** Visitors often come looking for spiritual encouragement, but also a welcoming community in which to belong. So, this year we're going to be particularly focused on fostering a more welcoming atmosphere at Our Redeemer's by making people feel especially welcomed on their first few visits – so that they become semi-regular attenders.

**Research says that for visitors to feel welcome, it's optimal that they're greeted by 3 people in the course of their visit.** Obviously, a first point of welcome is usually our greeters/ushers, but that leaves 2 more points of contact once they enter the sanctuary. **This is where you come in!**

1. Can I challenge you to make a special effort to **seek out new faces before or after the service, or during the "passing of the peace", and introduce yourself?** If trying to drum up conversation with a perfect stranger pushes you way out of your comfort zone, **here are some easy in-roads to conversation:** "I don't think I've met you before, I'm \_\_\_\_\_. Have you been attending here long?"; "Do you live close by?"; or "What made you decide to check out this church?"

2. **Then, make a special effort to introduce them to someone else in the congregation.** This might be a pastor after the service, or someone with whom they might share an affinity, live by, have similar age children, etc.

**What do you think? Can we all make this our personal goal for Sunday mornings this fall?!** And if you do meet new visitors, would you let me know ([welcome@ourredeemers.net](mailto:welcome@ourredeemers.net)) so that I can track who's new and make sure they're getting plugged in? Thanks!



We joined together on August 21st to enjoy music, food, and community during Welcoming Wisdom, a celebration of those 80+! Thank you to the Caring Community Team for planning this joyous annual event!





2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117

[www.ourredeemers.net](http://www.ourredeemers.net)  
206-783-7900

**return service requested**

**SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

9/4/22 - 10 AM Service

9/11/22 on - 9 AM & 11 AM Services

In-Person or Online (11 AM only)

Facebook: [facebook.com/OurRedeemers](https://facebook.com/OurRedeemers)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>



RSVP by September 18th  
[welcome@ourredeemers.net](mailto:welcome@ourredeemers.net)

## Faith Formation Fall BBQ

Saturday, September 24

5:30 - 8 PM | Blue Ridge Beach Park

Your family is invited to celebrate Our Redeemer's Faith Formation program and be a part of a discussion about what you want to see offered in the year ahead.

- Family BBQ dinner (free: no cooking or dishes to do!)
- Weigh in on the future of faith formation programs at Our Redeemer's
- Community-building at a beautiful beach
- Fun activities/ entertainment for your kids of all ages, and...
- S'mores around the fire! What could be better?!



Follow Us on Instagram!



Like Us on Facebook!



View Our YouTube Channel