

SEPTEMBER 2023



# The Visitor

## *Shameless Grace*

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**2nd Annual  
Our Redeemer's BBQ**

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Opportunities**

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Sunday  
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**A Community in the Model of Christ**

## From the Pastor...

In the last year and a half, it has been astounding to watch folks come out of the woodwork to get involved at church. From facilities to endowment to the auction to retreat planning to faith formation to Ballard Sunday Dinner, the willingness of our community to step up has been amazing to watch. Way to go!

This September we are having a “ministry fair” on Kickoff Sunday, September 10th. So many of you have gotten involved, and we are so grateful! As you walk through the opportunities to serve or be a minister in this community, I invite you to remember the words Paul wrote to the Romans:

**For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.** *Romans 12:5*

Try one new thing. If you’ve always done financial things, try Altar Care. If you’ve only done feeding ministries, try being a worship assistant. If you’ve only been comfortable doing faith formation, try helping plan a retreat for this year. The more involved each member is, the more buy-in to the ministries we get, the stronger the fiber of our faith becomes. Church only happens if all the members of the body are present and invested! From my knothole, I’m going to see if I can’t get myself more involved in a new way too – maybe gardening!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Golden Moberg".

## 2023-24 Our Redeemer’s Council Members

### Council Executive Team



*President*  
**Stephanie Fowler**  
stephanief@outlook.com



*Vice President*  
**David McBride**  
mcbride.david.j@gmail.com

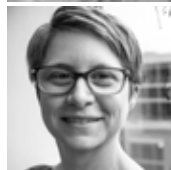


*Secretary*  
**Diana Myers**  
dm3myers@gmail.com

### Treasurers



**Carolyn Davis**  
ckd98117@hotmail.com



**Emilie Purvine**  
emiliepurvine@gmail.com

### Council At-Large Members



**Scott Chrisman**



**Erika Prentice**



**Ben Kalina**



**Jan Ward**



**Betsy McGregor**

*Our Redeemer’s Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month.*



# September at Our Redeemer's

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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4 LIVING GENEROUSLY

5 WORSHIP & MUSIC

6 FAITH FORMATION

8 SOCIAL JUSTICE

9 COMMUNITY

## OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor  
pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net
- David Hahn, Transition Facilitator  
pastordavid@ourredeemers.net  
(651)587-4417
- 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

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10am-3pm

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.



<b>September 3, Sunday</b>	<b>10 AM - Summer Worship   Our Redeemer's</b>
September 4, Monday	Labor Day - Church Closed
<b>September 10, Sunday</b>	<b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b>
<b>KICKOFF SUNDAY</b>	10 AM - Faith Formation Kick-Off / Open House
	10 AM - Ministry Fair
	<b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b>
September 11, Monday	5 PM - A Woman's Gathering   Reuben's Brews Ballard
September 12, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting
	6:30 PM - Executive Team Meeting
September 13, Wed.	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir
	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
September 15 & 16	Council Retreat
<b>September 17, 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>
	2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner   Ballard First Lutheran
	4 PM - Madonna's Book Group   Our Redeemer's
September 19, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting
	7 PM - Church Council Meeting
September 20, Wed.	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir
	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
September 23, Saturday	9 AM - 4 PM - <i>LiVE Project</i> : Chosen, A Study in God's People-Creating Project   Our Savior's, Everett, WA
	10 AM - Tulip Planting Party   Our Redeemer's
	5:30 - 8 PM - 2nd Annual Our Redeemer's BBQ   Blue Ridge Park Beach Park
<b>September 24, 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, Tuesday	12:30 PM - Staff Meeting
September 27, Wed.	6:30 PM - Kid's Choir
	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal
September 30, Saturday	10 AM-2 PM - Neighborhood Recycling Roundup
<b>RECYCLING</b>	Our Redeemer's Parking Lot



# Living Generously

## Our Redeemer's Mission Budget

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 -Thru 7-31-23

(8.3% thru the fiscal year)

Income	2023-2024 Approved Budget	Year to Date Income as of 7.31.23	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
Envelope & Loose Offerings	511,100	36,243	7.1	(6,348)
Church Use	88,506	9,995	11.3	2,620
Fundraising (Auction)	38,000	0	0	(3,167)
Interest	1,000	22	2.2	(61)
Special/One-Time Gifts	-	31,000	-	31,000
Total Regular Income (without Special Giving)	638,606	46,260	7.2	(10,117)
<b>**TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$638,606</b>	<b>77,261</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>24,044</b>
Expenses	2023-2024 Approved Budget	Year to Date Expenses as off 7.31.23	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget
Social Justice/Outreach	74,549	6,724	9.0	512
Pastoral Staff	172,820	12,120	7.0	(2,281)
Worship & Music	38,382	2,940	7.7	(258)
Fellowship & Caring	2,750	634	23.1	405
Faith Formation	22,517	1,828	8.1	(48)
Stewardship	11,419	541	4.7	(410)
Communications	55,667	3,887	7.0	(752)
Facilities	108,978	8,762	8.0	(319)
Administration	150,615	9,462	6.3	(3,089)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$637,697</b>	<b>46,900</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>(6,241)</b>

\* *Special Giving* denotes a one-time gift that is outside of regularly giving.

-Regular giving is below budget by \$6,348.

-Removing the special one-time gift, the church's expenses and income show a negative net loss of \$640.

-Auction is scheduled to occur in February.

**To view a July 2023 Financial Snapshot spreadsheet for Our Redeemer's visit this [LINK \(https://rb.gy/5tpoh\)](https://rb.gy/5tpoh).**

If you have questions or concerns about Our Redeemer's financial status, contact Karie Stearns, [administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net).





# Worship and Music

9/10

Matthew 18:15-20

**Reconciliation - Where two or three are gathered**

9/17

Matthew 18:21-35

**Forgiveness – 70x7**

9/24

Matthew 20:1-16

**Vineyard Workers – the last will be first**

10/1

Matthew 21:23-32

**Religious v. Faithful**

10/8

Matthew 21:33-46

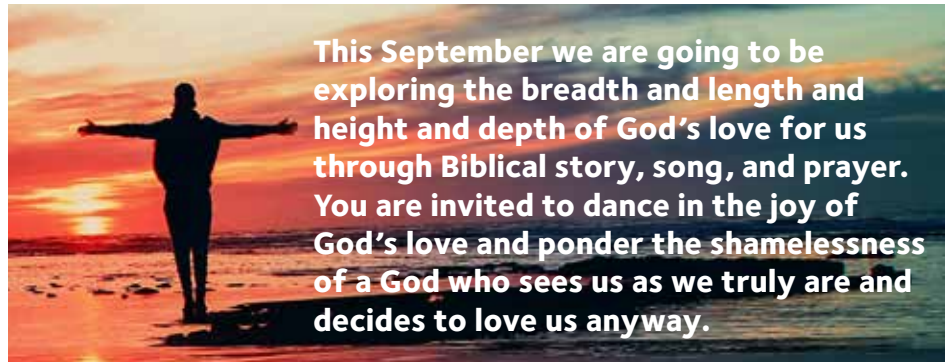
**“The Stone the Builders Rejected has Become the Cornerstone.”**

**Remember that on September 10th we see the return of two Sunday services at 9:00 and 11:00 am.**

## Fall Worship: “Shameless Grace”

*“I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.” – Timothy, Chapter 1*

**Have you ever thought to yourself, “I don’t deserve God’s love. I’m not good enough. I don’t understand why God loves me when I’m such a worthless slug.”** No? Well, Timothy did. And yet God’s grace was more than sufficient for even his most egregious behavior. God is willing to love and forgive and accept just about anyone – surely way more than any of us would be comfortable doing. It’s almost shameless, how God covers our brokenness with love.



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

## Choirs Return Mid-September!

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

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 13.

If you like to sing or want to give it a try, you (and/or your kids) are warmly welcome to join in by coming to a Wednesday rehearsal!

### Here’s the schedule for Wednesdays, beginning September 13:

- **Kids’ Choir** 6:30–7:00 PM – elementary and middle school (*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*)



# Faith Formation



## Come to the Ministry Fair!

Sunday, September 10, 10 AM

During our Kickoff on Sept 10th, tables will be set up to highlight Our Redeemer's various ministries. **We're encouraging everyone to try one NEW thing this year in the weeks following the Ministry Fair.** However, the Ministry Fair is a low-pressure chance to learn more about all that we do to keep our church vibrant by chatting with representatives from each ministry. Once educated about all the options, you'll be better able to make a decision regarding that one NEW involvement later in the fall. Visit the tables any time between 10:00 and 11:00 am on September 10th.



## Confirmation Classes Begin September 17

Sunday, September 17, 10 AM

**Calling all 7th, 8th, and 9th graders! Have you wanted to know more about what faith is really all about? Do you have questions about God? Would you like to visit a bunch of different kinds of churches and temples to see what makes being Lutheran so special? Then you are ready to participate in Our Redeemer's Confirmation program.**

Please let Pastor Gretchen (pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net) know if you are interested participating this fall!

Confirmation is the age-old tradition of studying our faith and practices in anticipation of the rite of Affirmation of Baptism. Join other students on Sundays at 10:00 am with our teachers, **Stephanie Fowler** and **Michael Hammett** to explore the mysteries of Lutheranism, and learn about why faith matters in our rapidly changing society. Our focus is on scripture, social justice, and the small catechism by Martin Luther.



## Plan on More Middle School Youth Events

Calling all middle school students! We're excited to announce a fall slate of youth events for middle school students! We're planning on meeting once a month this fall. We hope you can join us for all the fun activities we'll have planned for you. **Students and parents alike are welcome to meet with Andrew Shimer during the Fall Kickoff on September 10th for a full reveal of all the youth events through November!** We look forward to seeing you there!



## Exchange Your Old Bibles for New!

Sunday, September 10, 10 AM - 12:30 PM

Do you have a Bible that doesn't quite meet your needs? Has your child outgrown their preschool Bible? **Bring those old bibles to church on Sunday September 10 and exchange them for a new one!** Our church uses the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the bible for our scripture readings, but there are a lot of faithful variations for kids, and a great narrative translation called "The Message" by Eugene Peterson which is a great companion to the NRSV. Check your bible at home, and see if an upgrade might be in order! *Donations will be accepted for the cost of the bibles for those who have the means to do so. Thank you!*



# Faith Formation



## Sunday Adult Forums are Back

Sunday, September 17, 10:10 AM | Fellowship Hall

This fall our Sunday Adult forums start September 17th at the 10:00 am hour:

**Parables: Hunting for Hidden Truth** – Three Sundays a month we’ll engage in a deeper discussion, facilitated by a variety of teachers, around the Parables of Jesus. So often we try to apply an Aesop’s fable-type moral to these puzzling stories of Jesus. In reality, they’re more like a Buddhist Koan – something to be wrestled with and teased apart until a hidden truth emerges. **Join us on this weekly treasure hunt into the stories you thought you knew!** Kickoff is on September 17th in the Fellowship Hall.

**Experiential Church** – One Sunday a month we’re experimenting with a way of getting out of our Lutheran tendency towards heady faith and experiencing it instead through creativity, nature, and embodiment. Each month we’ll have a different facilitator bringing new ways of engaging our faith through things like art, nature walks, breath prayers, etc. **This will also have an intergenerational component as well; O-Rock will have a similar focus for the same week, and youth are more than welcome to join the adults.** Starts September 24th, then the 2nd Sunday of the month after that.



## LiVE Project Goes Live!

LiVE (rhymes with “give”) is an acronym for *Living into Vocational Engagement*. **LiVE is a ministry of our synod that offers education opportunities for lay people, with the goal of forming Christian leaders able to make sense of God’s world and our place in it.** See the NEW 2023-24 Course Catalog at this URL: <https://rb.gy/sv8rb>.

LiVE’s first event of the year is a one day retreat:

You can find the 2023-2024 LiVE Course Catalog by **CLICKING HERE** (<https://rb.gy/sv8rb>).

**Chosen Retreat: A Study in God’s People-Creating Project**  
Saturday, September 23, 9 AM – 4 PM | Our Saviors Lutheran, Everett  
Taught by Dr. Michael Chan, Concordia College

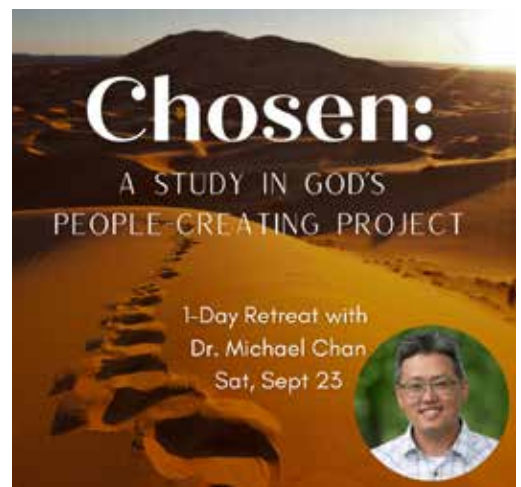
You can also learn more about the LiVE Project at <https://www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project>.

Email [welcome@ourredeemers.net](mailto:welcome@ourredeemers.net) if you have questions about registering for classes or retreats.

**CLASSES ARE FREE** TO OUR REDEEMER’S CONGREGANTS IF YOU **USE OUR “LIVEBUNDLE2023”** CODE WHEN REGISTERING.

From the time of Abraham and Sarah, God has been creating and fashioning a people with an important purpose in this world. **Born out of barrenness and liberation, the people of God have been on a long journey marked by promise, peril, and tragedy.** Whether you are new to Scripture or a seasoned Bible reader, this event invites you to consider how God’s ongoing work to shape a people continues in our own lives and ministry contexts.

**LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:**  
<https://rb.gy/ih0ys>.  
USE CODE **“LIVEBUNDLE2023”**.







# Social Justice



## Ballard Sunday Dinner - Updating our Email Group; Sign Ups Open Through 2023

Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD) is one of our ministries in which we partner with other local churches to feed our hungry neighbors on the third Sunday of each month. We're updating our email contact list so:

- **If you've volunteered in the last year**, you should still be on our list! However, if you're interested but haven't heard from our SignUp Genius or Amy Borgmeyer, please reach out to Amy and confirm your interest and that she has the correct email address for you.
- **If it's been a while since you've volunteered**, please reach out to Amy if you would like to receive ongoing communications.

Reach out to Amy Borgmeyer ([amy.borgmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:amy.borgmeyer@gmail.com)) if you have any questions. Thank you for all that you do!

As we get into the busy school year, we also want to make sure we have volunteers lined up to help. All the roles have lots of availability - we'll partner up with you until you're comfortable. Please consider signing up using this link: <https://rb.gy/ea817>.

## Back-to-School School Kits Update

We're so close to being able to put together 100 complete school kits for Lutheran World Relief that will go to school children around the world. Your help is still needed to purchase a few more needed items. Please drop off items at the church (the box is by the front door).

### Shopping List

— Pairs of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

— Black or blue ballpoint pens - NO gel ink



Thank you to those who have already donated! **We need volunteers to help load the trucks on November 3rd!** Contact Sharon Longaker if you can help out! [slongaker@msn.com](mailto:slongaker@msn.com).







# Community

## Don't Miss Kickoff Sunday on September 10th!

Sunday, September 10, 9 AM - 12:30 PM

Make sure to be at church on Sunday, September 10th for the return of two Sunday services at 9:00 and 11:00 am! We also have an open house for Sprouts, O-Rock, and Middle School events!



At 10:00 am between services join us for:

- A **Ministry Fair** where all the different ministries will be on display: music, social justice, faith formation, building and facility, office support, and more! This is a chance to learn more about what we do to keep our church vibrant and share, connect, and answer your questions.
- Our **Faith Formation Open House** where teachers and their classrooms will be open and accepting registration for classes.
- A rundown of upcoming **Middle School Fun Nights** by Andrew Shimer.
- Teachers who will be on hand to meet all kids in 7th-9th grades who want to **Explore Confirmation**.
- A **Bible Exchange!** Check your bible at home, and see if an upgrade might be in order!

## Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 1, 12:15 PM

Honoring the legacy of Francis of Assisi, we hold an annual pet blessing on the first Sunday in October. **Bring in your furry, feathered, or fishy friends for a blessing, and receive a St. Francis tag for your pet's collar!** Our pets are wonderful companions in this life and are truly a gift from God. On this Sunday, pets are invited to be a part of worship, and the blessing will be held on the front patio at 12:15 pm. **All God's critters and their owners are welcome!**

## Candidate Applications Being Received!

by Andrew Shimer



As reported at the July Congregational meeting the MSP was posted and has been officially receiving applications! It's been a little over a month since we posted and we will be meeting with the Assistant to the Bishop to review some potential candidates shortly. Should we find that these candidates fit with the vision that the Congregation has outlined, we hope to start initial interviews.

We are thrilled to take the next step in this journey as we explore God's vision for Our Redeemer's in these candidates!

## Celebrating September Birthdays!

- |                    |                    |                   |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Lucas Miller     | 15 Linda Ellingboe | 21 Steve Ege      |
| 4 Marilyn Schulze  | 15 Judy Wright     | 21 Eric Olson     |
| 5 Indio Abdullah   | 17 Chris Lowe      | 24 Lisa Glover    |
| 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 |
| 14 Gretchen Mertes | 21 Phillipa Dugaw  | 30 Jon Hanson     |

**\*Birthday Blessings To Anna Freyberg Who Is Celebrating her 90+ Birthday in September!**

*If you or someone else needs to be added to the birthday list please let us know by calling the church: 206.783.7900.*



# Community

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Tanzania – the Soul of Africa. I have this exciting opportunity to attend a trip with my sister, who is a Lutheran pastor in Dakota City, Nebraska, and Lutherans from the Nebraska Synod. I will embark on a two week Vision Trip from January 21 to February 6, 2024. The primary goal of a Vision Trip is to learn about the culture of Tanzania and the ministries of the Northern Diocese. Vision Trips are structured around the ELCA Accompaniment Model. Accompaniment – which literally means “walking together side by side,” is a mutual relationship between companion churches that walk together in service in God’s mission.



This is a Vision trip, not a mission trip. We don’t go to “do” but to see and learn from our Tanzania leaders of the Northern Diocese that serve as our hosts, showing us the diverse ministries of the Diocese: schools, hospitals, parishes, clinics, orphanages, services for the poor and those disabled, it is primarily about relationships. We go to pray and worship with them, and bring encouragement, support, and love. We will walk in the shoes of our Tanzania brothers and sisters and learn of the hardships and joys that come with that walk.

We will also experience a fabulous safari to the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti National Park. While on this safari we will be seeing the glory of God’s creation such as can be experience nowhere else on earth.

As Christians, we are not fully one holy and catholic church without a global perspective. Our companion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania enlarges our world view. Global connections help us see the world’s challenges in a new way and examine our own problems and joys through new eyes. These connections also strengthen God’s mission in the world.



I ask for your prayers and support as I see and learn from our Tanzania brothers and sisters and the ELCA Accompaniment model for global missions. Any money donations for this Vision trip would be appreciated.

Sister In Christ,

Sonja Braasch



## FAITH & FAMILY DAY



## Welcoming Wisdom







# Community

## A Women's Gathering

Monday, September 11, 5 PM |  
Reuben's Brews - 5010 14th Ave NW

Come hang out with amazing Our Redeemer's women at 5:00 pm at Reuben's Brews, 5010 14th Ave NW. It is chance to enjoy each other's company and build community. Beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages plus on-site food are available to purchase. All who identify as a women are welcome to this monthly gathering!

## Madonna's Book Group

Sunday, September 17, 4 PM | Our Redeemer's

On the 17th the group will be talking about the books we have independently read that might be a good for general discussion in the next 10 months. It's a great time to join in! All are welcome.

*Madonna's Book Group meets to review books, support each other, and share personal journeys. Contact Lynne at [buckomcneill@yahoo.com](mailto:buckomcneill@yahoo.com) for more information.*



## Tulip Planting Party!

Saturday, September 23, 10 AM

Come plant tulip bulbs to brighten our Easter 2024 garden beds! Planting locations will be marked and Guy Michaelsen will provide some planting tips. We will meet Saturday, September 23 at 10:00 am at the church. Don't forget to bring your favorite trowel. Questions? Contact Connie Sandstrom at 206-375-5449.



5:30 - 8 PM  
BLUE RIDGE BEACH PARK  
2448 Blue Ridge Drive

Everyone is invited for fellowship and to celebrate Our Redeemer's Faith Formation programs 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 delicious catered family BBQ dinner
- Breakout groups to talk and get feedback about Faith Formation plans for the year (children and adults)
- Fellowship in a beautiful setting outside
- Fun, supervised activities/entertainment for your kids of all ages,
- S'mores around the fire!



## Thanksgiving dinner planning help needed!

We are seeking a leadership team to start planning and organizing this important community outreach event starting in October! Contact Pastor Gretchen if you can help out ([pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net)). Thank you!





2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117

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

**return service requested**

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

### SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP

9/3/23: 10 AM Summer Service

Starting 9/10/23:

9 AM Informal Worship

11 AM Traditional Worship

Stream Online (11 AM only)

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

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

### Church office hours:

Monday–Thursday

10 AM - 3PM

**FALL  
KICK-OFF  
SUNDAY**

**ALL ARE INVITED!  
SEPTEMBER 10th**

**9 AM  
Informal Worship**

**10 AM  
Ministry Fair  
Faith Formation  
Open House  
Bible Exchange**

**11 AM  
Traditional Worship**

Find more information on page 9



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