

SUMMER 2024



# The Visitor

**Saturday, July 27**  
**Installation of**  
**Pastor Voelp**  
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*Extra-Ordinary*  
*Time*

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**A Community in the Model of Christ**

### Extra-Ordinary Time

“For such a time as this.” One of the better-known verses, it is a Hebraism, whose counterpart in Greek is known as “kairos.” Compared with other verses—“to everything there is a season” (turn, turn, turn), or even “now is the time” or “now is the day”—the implication is that time is tied to events and intentions. Not so much that “all things happen for a reason,” but that the movements of God are ordered, or even patterned; they are intended not for us to make meaning of the things we call good or bad in our lives, but to convey who God is and what God is doing in our lives, and life together. Still, life according to the Holy Spirit moves us out of the patterns and away from the expected—the Son of God born in the most unlikely and undesirable places, the people of God are not the powerful and majestic, the humble and mundane become the places where our expectations of God, and the patterns we’ve known, are upturned and the chaos of life is given order through the charisma of the Holy Spirit. When it was the right time, God acted out of the ordinary.

**As Jesus says in the Gospel of John about the blind man given sight, the man was not blind to cause shame or hinder him, or punish the man or his family; instead, he was made by God blind so that “God’s works might be revealed in him.”** We often take that to mean that the healing itself was the work for which the man was born—in other words, that his destiny in this world was to be healed. However, this may be an oversimplification. And it leaves us with questions whether or not blindness or ways of being, or even ailments and illnesses need healing in order for God to be at work. To heal the man would be to name him as an extraordinary person—either because he was especially blessed, or specially punished. Instead, the real revelation comes when the man goes on his way to tell the great things Jesus had done for him. God’s works make our ordinary lives extraordinary, and the things that we have together—whether they be common experiences, or perspectives born out of the features that differentiate one person’s experiences from another—are revealed to be extraordinary.

**The hardest thing sometimes for us to imagine is how ordinary life is in fact, where God is working.** We more often than not imagine only the miraculous—only in the things we can see or touch or sense are extraordinary—are the circumstances when God is at work. Only vacations and special projects are more worthy than mundane, daily life. But this suggests that God is at work some of the time and only with worthy subjects or worthy circumstances. But the truth of the gospel is the revelation that God not only appeared in the ordinary, but reclaimed ordinary time from our sense that some times are better than others, or some less banal, or even that some are worse.

God called ordinary people, in ordinary circumstances, to extraordinary lives in the life of the Spirit. That makes every time and every life extraordinary. In John’s gospel, Nathaniel remarks, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” which tells us that Jesus was born into this ordinary life in the most ordinary of places. And even the ordinary woman Mary, when Gabriel tells her “nothing is impossible for God,” all childbirth is highlighted as anything but ordinary. Life in the Spirit takes life and takes us out of the ordinary.

**The days extending between Pentecost and Christ the King Sundays have for a long time been referred to sometimes as “ordinary time.”** It is when the church calendar has come almost full-circle and the life of the church focuses on God’s actions through the apostles. Time after Pentecost, having once been called the season of Trinity, starting on Trinity Sunday, is a time when Sunday readings from Scripture point to the culmination of the stories that name God as Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus has been raised by the Father, and ascends into heaven, but not before the Father and Son send the Holy Spirit as Jesus promised. So the question is what, now? Well, now is the acceptable time. Now is the worthy time. Now is the day. For such a time as this, we are told that all things culminate to serve the purpose or the mission of God. A particular time or season is not established only so we may have reference points to measure time, but it shows that God is working at all times, and, all times are worthy—any time is good enough for God to be working. And in this time after Pentecost—after our commemoration and celebration of the God pouring out the Holy Spirit—we are reminded that even in the most banal God shows up. The promise of God’s presence in the Holy Spirit is that the extraordinary shows up in our ordinary lives.

**As Our Redeemer’s takes this summer, and many are working, taking vacations, classes, and our choir is out, nevertheless the Spirit is flowing.** The order of our lives in summer can take on out-of-the-ordinary characteristics. We travel to places that are out of the way. We treat ourselves to the unexpected sunlight that has decided finally, to stay for a bit. And as we discern how the Spirit is calling us to reform, and re-organize for the Fall, all we can say is that this is no ordinary life. Thanks to God, now is the time for the extraordinary.

–Pastor Thomas Voelp





# What's Happening in July & August

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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## OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Thomas Voelp, Pastor  
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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.



July 14-21

Holden Village | Glacier Peak Wilderness Area

**July 14, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**  
3 PM - Madonna's Book Group

July 16, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting

**July 21, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship**  
2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner

July 23, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting

July 26, Friday

7 PM - Choir Rehearsal for Installation Service

July 27, Saturday  
**INSTALLATION SERVICE**

**4 PM - Installation Service of Rev. Thomas Voelp**

**July 28, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**

July 29, Monday

9 AM - Monthly Grounds Crew | Our Redeemer's

August 3, Saturday

9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team | Our Redeemer's  
10 AM - 5 PM - Art in the Garden | Ballard P-Patch

**August 4, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**

August 5, Monday

5 PM - A Women's Gathering | Old Stone Gardens

August 6, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting

**August 11, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**

August 13, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

**August 18, Sunday**  
**WELCOMING WISDOM**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**  
11 AM - Welcoming Wisdom Brunch  
2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner

August 20, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

**August 25, Sunday**

**10 AM - Summer Worship | Our Redeemer's**

August 26, Monday

9 AM - Monthly Grounds Crew | Our Redeemer's

August 27, Tuesday

1:30 PM - Staff Meeting



# Worship and Music

## Ongoing Worship Assistant Training

Worship is a large part of our life together as a church. We best represent that life in our worship services with the many gifts shared through prayer, reading, greeting, welcoming, guiding, and sharing of the sacraments. Our [Sign-Up Genius online](#) allows you to get involved as you feel moved—signing up for one or more roles helps our sharing of God’s works to and through us!



It is sometimes intimidating to serve; and often it is fraught with questions:

- “Am I holding the plate right?”
- “Am I pronouncing that word OK?”
- “Will I come up at the right time?”
- “How do I present this reverently?”

If you have served, or have a desire to serve at worship, and need a refresher or some direction, **Pastor Thomas is glad to help you feel confident in your role.** Would you like to write prayers of the people? Would you like to both serve at the table and read the scriptures? Would you like to embolden the drama of the liturgy and learn to embody reverence and grace? All these things are possible and more.

Contact [Pastor Thomas](#) if you are interested or use the QR Code here to sign up online. Thank you for what you do!



## Summer Offerings

On Sundays while we are in the round, offerings can be left in the brass plate on the way in or out of the sanctuary. This will help with the collecting process while we are in this energizing and intimate, but sometimes directionally-challenging set up. Ushers will continue to bring up a symbolic gift for the table at the offering, as we give thanks for gifts God gives us to share with our community. Thank you for helping us live into the creativity the Spirit offers us in changing perspectives at different times of the church year.

## Celebrating July Birthdays!

- |                     |                           |                        |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Bob Carlson       | 15 Elizabeth Rallo        | 25 Amy Borgmeyer       |
| 2 Sharon Longaker   | 17 Harold Laurence        | 25 Frank Peters        |
| 3 Jerri Harden      | 18 Riley Hammett          | 25 Charlotte Wallstrom |
| 6 Ryan Mertes       | 18 Sandy Haug             | 27 Rainer Germann      |
| 9 Steve Cromwell    | 18 Griffin Kukowski       | 27 Leslie Wander       |
| 9 Joanna Elizondo   | 18 Betsy McGregor         | 27 Margaret Wetter     |
| 10 Mike Hlastala    | 19 David McBride          | 27 Janet Woodfield     |
| 10 Ainsley Tung     | 21 Sally Parker-Henderson | 28 Kay Sterner         |
| 11 Trevor Leffler   | 22 Sandy Box              | 29 Emily Forssen       |
| 13 Anika Michaelson | 22 America Mejia          | 30 Sam Hendricks       |



# Worship and Music



## Installation Update

Saturday, July 27, 4 PM | Our Redeemer's

On Saturday, July 27th, at 4:00 pm, Pastor Thomas will be installed! This ceremony concludes the call process and makes official the call to the position of Minister of Word and Sacrament of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. Come sing, listen, and hear the Word of God in scripture and song. Celebrate Chief Seattle and hear the choir sing his meditations. Come join in this opportunity for our community and Synod to celebrate this new relationship God has brought together!

A reception will follow the service, with refreshments provided by members of the Call Committee. If you can help make vafer, or lend a Norwegian waffle-maker, please let Kari Guddal know. Thank you to all those who are helping make this celebration a joy-filled and memorable one!



## Special Music for Summer Worship!

Sundays thru September 15th

It's summer at Our Redeemer's! You are invited to sing and/or play an instrument for Special Music during the Offering time for our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Some have already volunteered - thank you! - and we have room for more!

**If you have interest in singing or playing an instrument as a soloist or in a small group, please let Karen Lee and/or Gianfranco Foddai know.** We'll be happy to welcome you and the gifts you offer!

*Note: two services resume on September 22nd.*

## Celebrating August Birthdays!

- |                    |                     |                      |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Betty Goble      | 14 Niels Running    | 23 Audrey Gundacker  |
| 3 Theresa Forssen  | 18 Lee Cayton       | 26 Chris Glover      |
| 4 Meagan Minus     | 18 Carl Christenson | 26 Sue Johnson       |
| 4 Shirley Smith    | 18 Keith Hanson     | 28 Alice Jancola     |
| 6 Nora Hendricks   | 20 Amy Hammett      | 29 Cindy Ege         |
| 6 Sue Schoolcraft  | 20 Julie Josund     | 29 Stephanie Running |
| 7 Jennifer Gleeson | 20 John Somm        | 30 John Wilson       |
| 8 Matt Neill       | 21 Holly Gundacker  |                      |
| 9 Judah Kukowski   | 22 Leif Loklingholm |                      |



# Faith Formation

## Kick Off Sunday – September 22

On September 22nd we kick-off the return to our two services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. That day our children, youth, and adult faith formation programming starts up. The Journey also first meets that evening!



Whether or not a person decides to become a member of Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church at the end of The Journey, it’s a wonderful way to become more fully aware and engaged in the life of this congregation. If you are a member or have been attending Our Redeemer’s a long time and you have never gone through The Journey, you are invited and encouraged to participate. You will love it!

## The Journey Starts in September

Sundays, September 22 – October 20, 4-6 PM

The Journey is a class and a conversation, a chance to ask questions and learn more about what being Lutheran means. Normally held in the Spring, welcoming a new minister and other transitions prompted us to postpone offering The Journey course. So those planning to attend The Journey do not need to wait until the following Spring, classes will be held this Fall, on Sunday evenings between September 22nd and October 20th. Participants meet in large and small group settings on five Sunday evenings, and then are invited to become official members of Our Redeemer’s on All Saints’ Sunday (November 3rd), as the participants feel called by the Holy Spirit.

Each week, we focus on a different area of ministry, theology, and growth as people of faith. From the basics of how Lutherans interpret scripture and why we worship the way we do, to an introspective look at our individual faith stories, this experience presents an opportunity to explore our community from the ground up. We also invite members currently representing different areas of ministry of the congregation to share what they do, what excites them about their lay ministry, and how you can participate.

For further details, please contact Pastor Thomas [pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net) or Mandy Neill [welcome@ourredeemers.net](mailto:welcome@ourredeemers.net).

## Faith Formation BBQ is September 15th: Save the Date!

Our Redeemer’s 3rd Annual Church BBQ will be on Sunday, September 15th starting 11:30 am. What could be better than fellowship outdoors, food and drinks (provided), s’mores, and breakout groups to talk about Faith Formation plans for the year for children, youth and adults?

Come to hear what’s offered in the year ahead. Here’s a chance to take part in this conversation with our teams, volunteers, and staff as we consider the vision for intergenerational learning. We’ll gather outside for a meal, with fun activities for kids of ALL ages - even your teenagers! This is also a chance for you to weigh in on the future of faith formation programs. More details to come! Location TBD. All are welcome!

## VBS and Faith Formation Update

Due to low sign-ups this year, we have decided to cancel our Vacation Bible School plans for this Summer. With some lessons and reflections to help prepare us, we look forward to organizing and offering VBS next Summer, 2025. Thank you to all who signed up as volunteers and considered participating this summer! We look forward to drawing together those with perspectives and gifts that help us build, develop, and implement our Faith Formation programs and ministries for children, youths, confirmands, and families. Our Faith Formation team will be looking at opportunities to enable service hours for those needing them, and also dates, when events that grow and celebrate Faith Formation ministries.





# Faith Formation

## Welcome Aaron Duke!



*On June 23rd, Aaron William Duke was confirmed, and welcomed as an official member of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. Aaron and Jodi Duke have been encouraged to follow The Journey this coming Fall, as they, and others gathered here, share our faith and make commitments to God in their membership in the Body of Christ in the world. Aaron's statement of faith that follows shows how our stories are caught up in the story of God and our salvation.*

**It wasn't supposed to happen.** It was a straightforward surgery that had been performed numerous times before. Yes, there were risks, but we met and read the statements from those who underwent the procedure before, and they were all fine.

**My wife Jodi's sister adopted an infant girl, Bella,** who was super cute and amazing, but we noticed she was starting to look more and more orange. After lots of testing, we found out she had biliary atresia and needed a liver transplant. Jodi felt that God was talking to her and calling her to help Bella, and I heard the call to support Jodi in this. Jodi got tested and found out she was a perfect match to donate a piece of her liver to this adopted child. *Proverbs 3:27 states 'do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act'.*

**Our family didn't think twice about it** – we had a sense of calm, understood that God put Bella with our family knowing Jodi was a match, and leaned into God's calling to help. Jodi was doing a great deed, she felt that calling and we just knew it was the right thing to do. She was responding faithfully to God's call.

**I had always been taught to believe in God and to listen for his guidance.** From my baptism in Flint, Michigan as an infant through my high school baccalaureate ceremony in Kitsap County, I was raised in faith. We went to church every week, I attended Sunday school, and even attended the world's longest Easter vigil service ever (at least according to our priest). I learned how act in the world, how to help others, and to live as Jesus taught us to. I never went through confirmation but also never wavered in my faith.

**Faith is a gift from God and the means of our salvation.** *In Ephesians 2:8 it is stated 'for it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God.'* To me faith is more than just believing in God but trusting that he calls us to service and guides us along the proper path.

**My faith, plus the love of little Bella, was the foundation of my unwavering support of Jodi in her decision to be a liver donor.** I was not prepared for what would happen – it's still not clear to any of us how the accident occurred – but after Jodi's vagus nerve was severed during the surgery, things were

different. I honestly struggled to understand what was going on. We were acting on faith—why was it turning out this way, if God had called us to help Bella? How could Jodi be hurt in the process? Were we wrong; what was the point to her suffering?

**Our kids were very young, we were trying to keep up,** but Jodi and I would often be at appointments or in the ER, so we were struggling. Struggling with getting good meals on the table, struggling with projects around the house, and just feeling lost. I am not someone who asks for help or accepts help easily (even to this day), so the love, caring and support that our family was blessed with was overwhelming. Our family needed help through this, and God sent people to help us through this tough time.

**In faith, we see that the love of God is shared.** God gives us each other to share our struggles and help each other when times are tough. We are called to support each other and help those who are struggling or suffering. *In Galatians Chapter 6, Verse 2, Paul wrote "carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."* We witnessed this love firsthand, from one of my son's best friends' dad climbing around a tub to replace bad caulking with extreme detail, to another mom hemming and ironing new curtains, to their 2nd grade teacher blessing us by drawing a chalk painting in our garage. It showed me that faith is not just about understanding or seeing the world in a different light. Faith is tied to actions—God's will is not just something to understand—it's not just something we say or think, but something God does through us. It's in things we do for our friends and family, do for strangers, or anyone in need. It can be as simple as support through prayer, to researching the risks of treatment for a loved one. From chalking a work of art to inspire, to giving part of our bodies so another may live.

**I was raised in faith, but it wasn't until I witnessed the numerous acts of selflessness and love that I really understood what it means to be a servant of God.** I stopped struggling as much to understand the why of the accident and focused more on how God was trying to transform my relationship with him and my relationship with the concept of giving support. God showed me that things aren't always convenient, despite his actions in our lives. Just like they weren't convenient in the parable of the Good Samaritan, they weren't convenient for Jodi, they weren't convenient for the dad contorted in the bathtub digging out old caulk, and they wouldn't always be for me either. Having faith in God doesn't mean life will be easy, but it does mean that the ways we feel called do matter—the ways God moves us to love and help each other aren't diminished by the struggles we face in life.

**Because of faith, I continue to seek ways to help others.** I am no longer afraid of a bad outcome or letting an uncomfortable situation stop me from offering the aid that is needed. I know I will continue to be in God's care and receive his grace, even if things don't go according to plan.



# Community



## Monthly Grounds Crew Work Parties

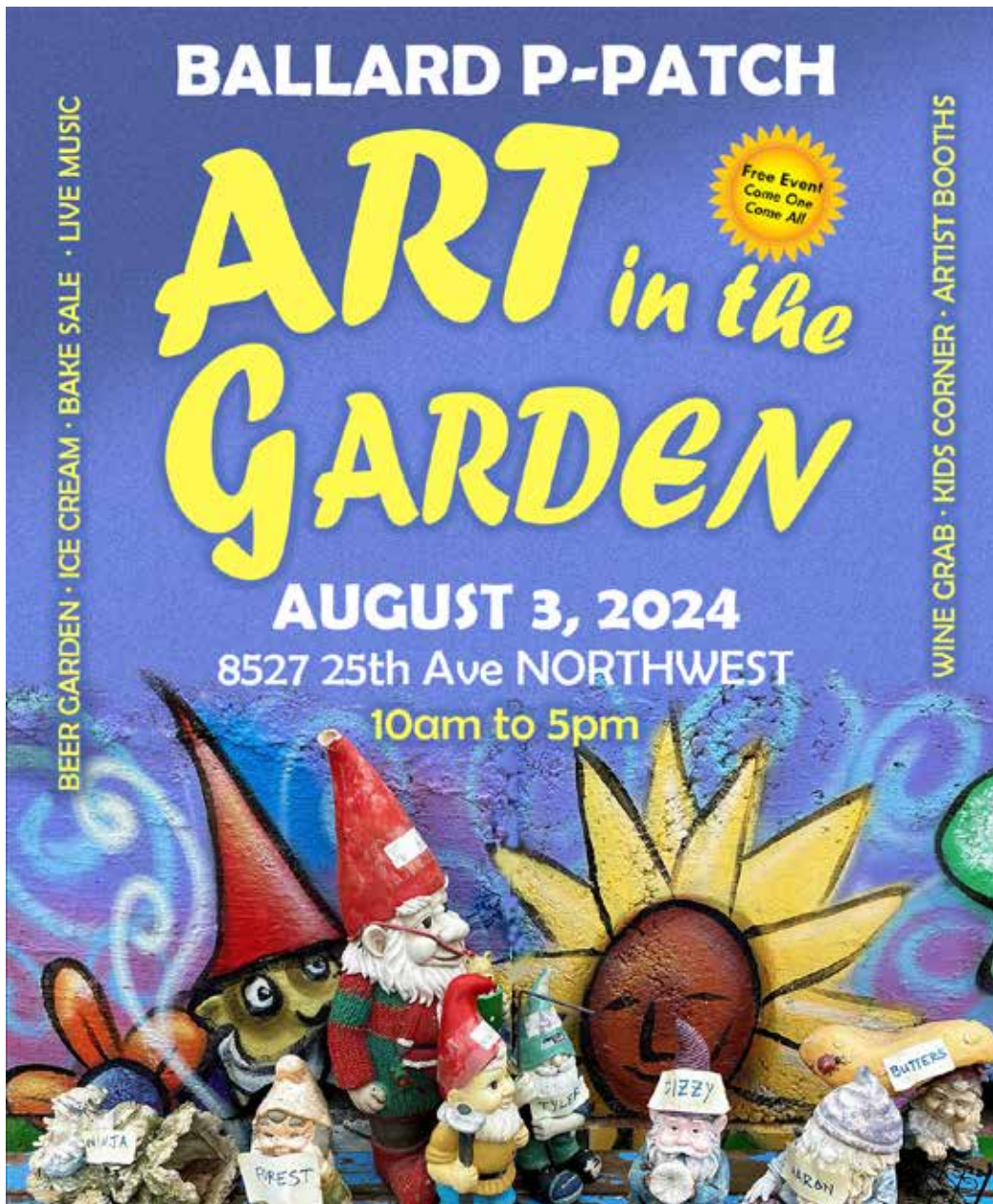
Help steward the earth as we tend to our church garden beds. Weeding and pruning encourages healthy plant growth which supports birds and bugs! Bring your favorite tools, if you'd like but not necessary.

*Summer Grounds Crew dates are:*

**Monday, July 29, 9- noon**

**Monday, August 26, 9- noon**

All seasoned and newbie gardeners are welcome! Questions? Contact Connie Sandstrom at [conniesandstrom05@gmail.com](mailto:conniesandstrom05@gmail.com).







# Community



## Church Lady Beer Night

### A Women's Gathering: New Name and Venue!

Monday, August 5, 5 PM | Old Stove Gardens, 1550 NW 49th St.

Join us on August 5th at 5:00 pm for an evening of great conversation with Our Redeemer's church ladies!



At the June get together we chose a new memorable name, we're excited to announce a change of venue. Our new spot is Old Stove Gardens Brewery, offering a variety of beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, a great menu, and outdoor seating with convenient on-site parking.

Join us at 1550 NW 49th St, near the Ballard Bridge. Learn more about the venue at [www.oldstove.com/gardens](http://www.oldstove.com/gardens).

Whether you've never attended before or join us regularly, all who identify as women are warmly welcome.

Have questions or need a ride? Contact Connie Sandstrom at [conniesandstrom05@gmail.com](mailto:conniesandstrom05@gmail.com) or Kari Guddal at [kari\\_guddal@outlook.com](mailto:kari_guddal@outlook.com). We look forward to seeing you there!



## Our Redeemer's at the Pride Parade





# Community



## Life Celebrations

**Announcing the marriage of Anne Halloin and Samuel Altenberger**

May 25, 2024

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN

Sam is Tamara Anderson's son. He was baptized, confirmed and grew up at Our Redeemer's. Tamara has been a member since 1996.

*If you are a member and have a life event to celebrate, please email [communications@ourredeemers.net](mailto:communications@ourredeemers.net) with your information including any photos. Please note that submissions are subject to review and may not be published.*



# Social Justice



## Ballard Sunday Dinner Attendance is Up...

**Now more than ever, we need your help!** We're calling for volunteers to join us in making a difference! Each month on the third Sunday, we gather to cook, serve, and clean up at Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD). We're looking to expand our team and would love your help in these key roles:

- **Early Lead:** Coordinate meal planning and guide volunteers in cooking and plating.
- **Late Lead:** Ensure smooth service and oversee cleanup of the kitchen and hall.
- **No experience necessary** – we'll pair you with a mentor until you feel confident. Join us for rewarding fellowship and service!

BSD is hosted at Ballard First Lutheran Church. Sign up today or inquire about how you can get involved!

**Sign Up (<https://rb.gy/ea817>) for July 21, or August 18. 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!**



# Social Justice



## Shop Back-to-School Sales for Neighbors Around the World!

We're collecting school supplies to put together 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief this summer and early fall! A basket will be available at church starting in August for you to bring in school supplies. Then in September we will assemble them to share with children around the world! Note: the best back to school item sales happen late July and early August. Target or Fred Meyer have the best sales! Thank you for what you can contribute.

Many of these school kits go to children who are refugees or are internally displaced.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees, among refugees around the world, HALF are under the age of 18.



### Back-to-School Shopping List

- 70-sheet notebooks of wide-or college-ruled paper, approximately 8x10½"; no loose leaf paper. (This is our TOP priority item, as four go into each kit, a total of 400 total.)
- 30-centimeter rulers, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Pencil sharpeners
- Pairs of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- UNsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Black or blue ballpoint pens - no gel ink
- Boxes of 24 crayons
- 2½" erasers



## Our Redeemers Involvement Fair, God's Work, Our Hands Sunday September 8th, 11am

On September 8th, as we join in the **God's Work, Our Hands** celebrations and projects across our nation, we will have a chance to see how our congregation engages in ministry both and home and in our neighborhood.

After worship, visit the **Involvement Fair** and see the places where your hands can be instrumental for God's work as the church.

Celebrate, Reflect, Take Heart and Take Part in the ministries of this, the Body of Christ.

**God's work.  
Our hands.**





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**return service requested**

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM Informal Worship  
11 AM Traditional Worship



10 AM Summer Worship  
until 9/22, Kickoff Sunday

Stream Online (11 AM)

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

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

### Church office hours:

Monday-Thursday

10 AM - 3PM



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