

## **Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church Calvary Campus SHARE Shelter to Close**

*Seattle, WA – November 6, 2009* – With disappointment, Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church announces that they were not able to reach an agreement with SHARE on a revised entry screening protocol for the Calvary campus shelter located at 7002 NW 23rd Ave. in Seattle. As a result of the impasse, Our Redeemer's and SHARE reluctantly terminate their agreement to provide a warm and safe environment for up to 20 homeless men. The Calvary campus shelter will close. No date has been set.

Discussions between SHARE and Our Redeemer's began in September after it was discovered that a level 3 sexual offender had circumvented the entry screening protocol and resided at the Calvary campus shelter for three weeks. When the resident sexual offender was discovered, he was immediately escorted out of the shelter and neighborhood. Our Redeemer's and SHARE agreed that no new residents would be admitted to the shelter until a more effective entry protocol was established. The Calvary campus shelter community has since dwindled to six members.

Providing safe shelter for people without homes is a fundamental value for both SHARE and Our Redeemer's. Therefore, representatives from each organization devoted significant time and energy seeking a revised entry protocol for the Calvary campus shelter. Our Redeemer's Church Council has requested that SHARE take responsibility for mandatory level 3 sexual offender checks for applicants to the Calvary shelter. SHARE has stated their inability/unwillingness to do so, because they believe the revised entry protocol they propose, in combination with their community-based peer supervision, provide due diligence without compromising their values and principles. Community-based peer supervision is widely recognized as an effective tool in keeping a community safe. It is an approach used by many organizations who know that any screening strategy has significant limitations.

Our Redeemer's is deeply saddened that the process of seeking a more effective entry protocol has at times led to neighbors, church members, and homeless people taking apparently opposite sides, when in fact we are partners in creating safe, compassionate community for all. Most of us want a safe place for people who are homeless to sleep. Reasonable people may disagree on how to reach that goal. Our Redeemer's asks that all of us involved in discussions about the Calvary campus shelter extend the presumption of good faith to one another and treat each other with respect.

At the conclusion of this process, the people most impacted by this decision are the homeless men in the Calvary campus shelter who must now seek a new, safe place to sleep.

Contact: Steve Grumm, Pastor of Church and Community,  
Our Redeemers' Lutheran Church  
2400 NW 85<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA, 98117  
206-783-7900 x103, [steve@ourredeemers.net](mailto:steve@ourredeemers.net)