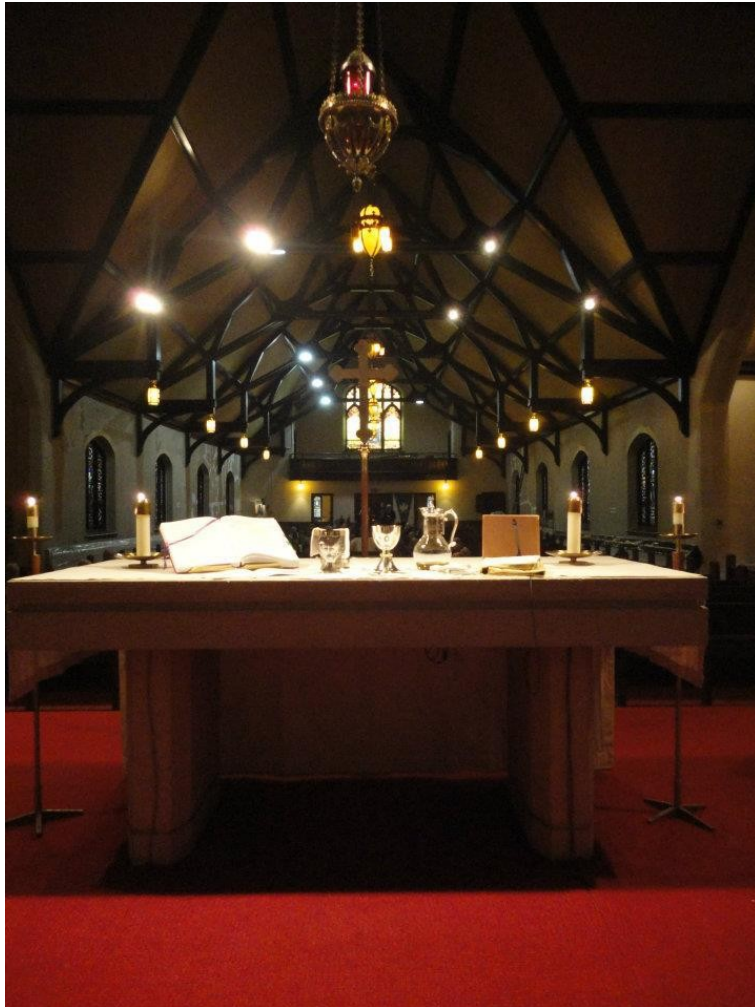


THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 107, No. 2

February, 2012



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

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A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear Friends in Christ,

This past month of January I taught a class from Luther Seminary called "Church Based Community Organizing in St. Paul." The class met many visiting speakers (pastors and lay leaders) and made several site visits to see the breadth of ministry being done by churches in St. Paul, and ISAIAH's work of social justice. The prevailing question throughout the course was "*What is the work of the Church?*" They found it goes even beyond traditional Word and Sacrament ministry: preaching, teaching, worship, youth and family ministry, counseling and visitation (though it certainly does include these things!).

When we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, which drives us out into the community to listen to people, we find that the work of the Church also includes: building relationships with our neighbors, responding to urgent needs (like food and shelter), and addressing community issues like mortgage foreclosures, racism, poverty, education of our children, domestic violence, safety and crime. Scripture reminds us that social justice is also the work of the Church.

So we find this coming month that the work of the Church gives us a variety of new possibilities. We have the opportunity to raise funds for our local foodshelf (Hallie Q. Brown) on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5th. We find ourselves meeting with Minnesota's Governor Mark Dayton and the Metropolitan Council about state-wide issues and racial equity, in a public meeting organized by ISAIAH. And this month we will have new opportunities to tutor children in reading at Benjamin Mays Elementary School.

Towards the end of February, we begin the season of Lent (on Feb. 22), a more traditional and familiar portion of the Church's work, as we gather for worship, and receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign of repentance for our sins. Then we embark on this annual 40-day season of repentance and renewal. Over these forty days we will all have the opportunity to participate in creating artwork for the church which illustrates the many ways in which scripture guides us in our spiritual renewal.

So what is the work of the Church? It is whatever the Spirit of God drives us, the baptized Body of Christ to do, when our eyes and ears are open to the scriptures and to our neighbor's need. So let's keep our eyes and ears open to the Spirit, and to our neighbors. Thanks be to God for all the possibilities!

In Christ,

Pastor Jim Erlandson

I will be participating in a 12-week Anti-Racism Dialog Circle every Thursday evening from February 2 through April 26 at First Lutheran Church in St. Paul, as part of the Saint Paul Area Synod's strategy to look at ways to address racism and increase diversity in our churches. This will be my continuing education this year, part of the commitment I have made through the synod assembly resolution Redeemer wrote in 2010 "Becoming a Multi-cultural Church".

February Calendar

Recurring Weekly Events

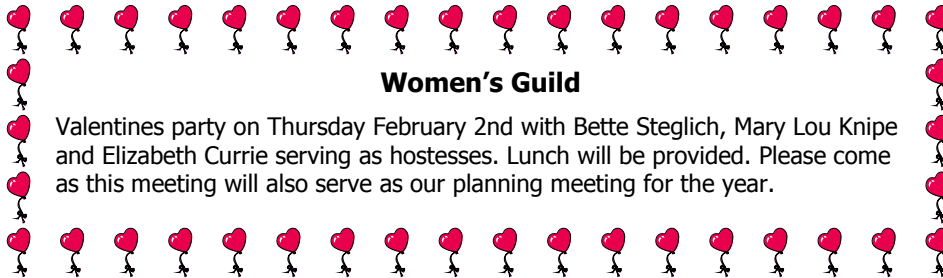
- Sun. 9:00 am ~ Adult Forum
10:00 am ~ Worship
11:15 am ~ Coffee Fellowship
12:00 pm ~ Universal Life Church of God
2:00 pm ~ Word of Faith Church
- Wed. 7:00 pm ~ Holden Evening Prayer
7:20 pm ~ Senior Choir
8:00 pm ~ Courage to Change N.A.
- Thur. 6:00 am ~ Prayer & Meditation A.A.
7:00 pm ~ Word of Faith Bible Study
- Fri. 8:00 pm ~ Words into Action N.A.

Other Events

- 2nd 10:00am Women's Guild Valentines Party
4th 8:00am ~ ISAIAH DVTF
7th 7:00pm ~ Vestry Meeting
9th 10:30am ~ Happy Seniors Meeting
14th 7:00pm ~ Elders Meeting
17th 7:00pm ~ Coffee House/Guitar Concert
18th 9:00am ~ Fare For All
10:00am ~ Justice For All
19th 10:00am ~ Transfiguration Sunday
4:00pm ~ Compline Concert: Mary Louise Knutson
22nd 10:00am ~ Ash Wednesday Service
7:00pm ~ Ash Wednesday Service
28th 6:00pm ~ NAMI Event
29th 6:00pm ~ Lenten Soup Supper

Welcome!

To the Happy Seniors, a group of seniors from the surrounding community who gather monthly for fellowship, will be sharing our space the second Thursday of every month.



Women's Guild

Valentines party on Thursday February 2nd with Bette Steglich, Mary Lou Knipe and Elizabeth Currie serving as hostesses. Lunch will be provided. Please come as this meeting will also serve as our planning meeting for the year.

February Worship at Redeemer

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

We will continue to gather for Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm throughout Epiphany (the month of February). We are still seeking scripture readers, cantors, and acolytes to serve on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 8, and 15th. Following Evening Prayer, we will serve coffee, tea and treats in the church undercroft, where there will be Table Talk discussions on Christian faith issues. If you would like to share your faith story or ministry, or would like to suggest a faith issue for our Table Talk discussions, please contact Pastor Jim. Friends from the community are welcome to come, so please invite others.



ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEB. 22

The Lenten season begins on Wednesday, February 22 this year. So we begin this season of repentance and renewal with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday at 10 am and 7 pm. Please join us for this traditional rite which symbolizes penitence and mourning as we reflect on our human condition of brokenness and sin. Though fasting is not an "obligation" or expectation in the Lutheran Church, fasting for a day (or from sunup to sundown) can be a helpful spiritual practice, making us more aware of God's gift of food to nourish our bodies. Whether you fast or not, worship, prayer, repentance and almsgiving are Christian disciplines that help us to live out our lives of faith day to day

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

We will continue our weekly Wednesday evening worship with Evening Prayer during the season of Lent – starting on February 29 and continuing every Wednesday in March. We will begin with Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm, with Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. We receive a free will offering for the soup, which helps defray the cost. This is a great time for fellowship and conversation that includes a healthy and tasty meal! *If you would like to volunteer to make soup (and bread, crackers and veggies/dip) one Wednesday, or to help with clean up or serving, please sign up in the church kitchen.*

Redeemer Embarks on a Lenten Water Journey

On Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, we Redeemerites will embark on a journey through water: the waters of creation, the waters of the Nile and the Jordan, the waters of Galilee and Jerusalem, the waters of our baptism, and the river that flows by the throne of God. We will be using a daily devotional booklet from Augsburg Fortress Press entitled *Water Marks: a Book of Faith Lenten Journey* by fellow Redeemer member Diane Jacobson. This will be a scriptural journey which will turn our focus through worship and Bible study to Biblical passages about water in our life of faith.

Diane: "I remember the first time I visited the holy land and learned to read the Bible as a neighborhood book, written in real places. The water-marked places stood out the most: the Jordan River, the Dead Sea, the great Mediterranean, the Gihon spring, and the Sea of Galilee. These reached out and reminded me of my own recent baptism, joining my two sons, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in New Rochelle, NY. I understood then and my understanding continues to deepen that the written word of Scripture is incarnational not only in its center in Christ but also in the way it speaks to us through new words and experiences in every time and place. Our hope is that by swimming deeply in the water passages of Scripture you too may connect these stories, prophecies, and songs to your own ongoing lives of baptismal faith."

On-line worship helps, written by Redeemer member Paul Jacobson (available through the Augsburg Fortress website) will help to form our midweek worship from Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent. One facet of these guidelines is an art gallery entitled "Forty Images for Our Lenten Pilgrimage". Forty individuals, families, or groups from our congregation – adults and children – will be preparing 40 small works of art (photos, shadow-boxes, water-colors, banners, needlework, or most any artistic endeavor), one for each day and for each biblical passage from *Water Marks*. This art gallery will grow during our 40-day Lenten journey and will be hung on the walls of Redeemer's undercroft. **YOU** can be one of those artists. Talk to Paul.

Paul: "I have written a new canticle for Lent, also included in the *Water Marks* Worship Helps, which will take us on a musical passage through our Lenten water marks. This canticle was inspired by Smetana's "The Moldau", a beautiful symphony depicting a river running through the Hungarian country-side. The canticle has a refrain and 7 verses – one for each week of our journey. Kay Sandeen and our choir will lead us on this musical journey."

You may order copies of *Water Marks* through Redeemer for \$8.00. A limited number of copies will be available free. Check in the office for one of these or to order a copy.

On **Sunday, February 12th**, immediately after services, Diane and Paul will present an adult forum in the undercroft for everyone, describing in more detail the nature of our Lenten pilgrimage through water and the Word. We hope you will join us.





SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH HOPE
PUBLIC GATHERING

Sunday, February 12, 2012
3:00 - 5:00 pm
Progressive Baptist Church
1505 Burns Avenue, Saint Paul

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar today and join us for this public gathering as we work together to create a racially and economically just Minnesota.

Invited guests include Governor Dayton and members of his Administration including Commissioners and Metropolitan Council Members, and other public officials.



Governor Mark Dayton and Met Council Member Sue Haigh have confirmed their attendance at this meeting.

The monthly meeting of ISIAIAH's Ending Violence Task Force will be held at Redeemer on Saturday February 4th from 9am - 11am

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Project Home~ Redeemer will host the Project Home Emergency Family Shelter every night during the month of March, in response to a growing community need. Did you know that every month there are over 120 children and their parents who are in need of emergency shelter in Ramsey County? There are 55 beds at the Ramsey County Family Shelter, and three congregations in the county open their doors to the additional families that need temporary shelter, with 22 beds per church. We will take our turn this year during March.

You can help make this critical ministry happen by serving as an evening hosts or overnight host. We need two hosts to serve every evening from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, and two overnight hosts to stay at the church from 8 pm to 7:30 am. Evening hosts welcome guests, assist the Site Coordinator in distributing bedding, prepare and serve an evening snack, and engage children and adults in conversation. Overnight hosts make sure the doors are locked and the facility is safe and secure, and serve a light breakfast in the morning.

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Adult Forum Schedule

Feb. 5th 9:00am "ISAIAH: Shaping the Future with Hope"

Presented by Myrna Nelson and ISAIAH core team members from Redeemer. This will be an update on ISAIAH's Feb. 12th public meeting and our "Prophetic Voices" campaign.

Feb. 12th 11:30am **(NOT 9am)** "Book of Faith Lenten Journey"

Presented by Diane & Paul Jacobson. This specially developed program will assist you in your own preparation for the Lenten Season. It will employ a variety of resources including artistic expression to enhance your Lenten experience. The adult forum planning group will lead a series using this resource.

Feb. 19th 9:00am "The Meaning of Shrove Tuesday"

Presented by Bob Hausman. What is the history of Shrove Tuesday? How does this special day prepare us for our Lenten journey?

Feb. 26th 9:00am "Book of Faith Lenten Journey"

Presented by Adult Forum planning group. Using the "Book Faith Lenten Journey" as a resource the adult forum leaders will explore the use of these materials with class members.

11:30am "Making Our Liturgical Banners"

Presented by Dave Dufrense. No doubt you have admired new banners and liturgical art used to enhance our worship. Many of these have been made by Redeemer's own artists. Dave Dufrense has made our most recent new banner dedicated during Advent. He will describe his approach to banner making from his own original design, selection of materials and the actual creation of the new banner.



WELCOME BACK, TAHNEA

After surgery and a brief hospitalization, Tahnea Brown is back in the church office. It's great to have Tahnea (and her baby daughter, Lyric) back at her position as office manager. Tahnea creates and prints our Sunday service sheets and Redeemer Record, schedules events, keeps up the church calendar and the data base, is responsible for office correspondence and welcomes visitors to the Church. Welcome back, Tahnea!

February Altar Servers

If you are unable to serve, please contact an elder or the church office no later than the Tuesday of the week you are signed up to serve so that a replacement can be found.

Elder of the Month ~ Joel Michael

February 5

Deacon ~ Arline Satrom
Subdeacon ~ Tammy Cownie
Reader ~ Bruce Gaard
Acolyte ~ Jared Geschwill
Crucifer ~ Anna Bohlinger

February 12

Deacon ~ Michelle Geschwill
Subdeacon ~ Rachel Geschwill
Reader ~ Jon Olson
Crucifer ~ Benjamin Cretsinger
Acolyte ~ Catalina Cretsinger

February 19 ~ Transfiguration

Deacon ~ Tammy Cownie
Subdeacon ~ Trudy Cretsinger
Reader ~ Lorance Wills
Crucifer ~ Shanita Eaves
Acolyte ~ Jared Geshwill
Thurifer ~ Nathan Parsons
Torchbearers ~
Anne Lehman & Grace Lehman
Bannerbearers ~
Kymarra Hughes & Keshon Hughes

February 22 ~ Ash Wednesday

Deacon ~
(10am) Rev. Art Gaard
(7pm) Tammy Cownie
Subdeacon ~
(10am)
(7pm)
Reader ~
(10am)
(7pm)
Acolyte ~
(10am) Rachel Geschwill
(7pm) Catalina Cretsinger

February 26

Deacon ~ Joel Michael
Subdeacon ~ Michelle Geshwill
Reader ~ Irene Markley
Acolyte ~ Lori Erlandson

FEBRUARY SCRIPTURES

We invite members and friends of Redeemer to read the appointed scriptures for each Sunday. This is a meaningful way to prepare for worship. It also binds us to our homebound sisters and brothers who we also encourage to read the same scriptures weekly.

	First Reading	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
February 5 <i>Fifth Epiphany</i>	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalms 147:11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
February 12 <i>Sixth Epiphany</i>	2 Kings 5:1-14	Psalms 30	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Mark 1:40-45
February 19 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalms 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
Feb 26 <i>1 Lent</i>	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalms 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15

MUSIC NOTES

SENIOR CHOIR attended the National Lutheran Choir Tune-up on Jan. 22nd. Although only a few of us were able to attend, it was a very worthwhile experience and we learned a lot. We will continue to rehearse following Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings. We will sing for the evening Ash Wednesday service with warm-up at 6:40 PM. there will be no further rehearsal that evening, however we will meet at 9 AM on Sun., Feb. 26th to complete preparations for the day. During Lent we will continue to rehearse following Evening Prayer.

HANDBELL CHOIR remains on hiatus until late March.

In Christ,
Kay



Compline and Concerts



Sunday, February 19, 2012 4:00 p.m.

Award-winning jazz pianist-composer Mary Louise Knutson will perform her compositions and other works. Knutson has been called "*one of the most exciting and innovative artists to happen to jazz piano in quite some time.*" Her new jazz trio CD, *In the Bubble*, was released in October 2011 and is currently in the Top 10 on the national JazzWeek chart.

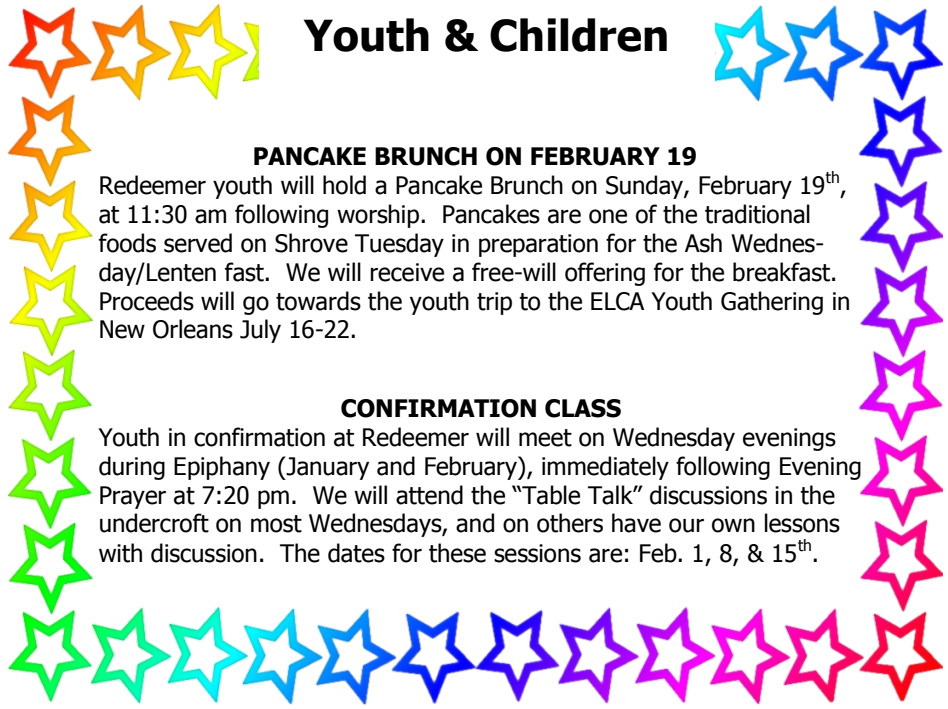
The concert will be followed by the service of compline and refreshments.

A freewill offering will be received.

COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT FEB. 17TH FEATURING LEJING WANG

Redeemer will be hosting a Coffeehouse Concert in the Learning Center on Friday, Feb. 17th from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. We will serve hot beverages (coffee, tea, cappuccino and hot chocolate) plus home-baked cookies, bars and banana bread on our new round tables. We will begin with an "open mike" on the Learning Center stage at 7:00 pm. Our featured performance will be Lejing (Luke) Wang and Brandon Nelson (aka *Step In Clouds*), playing an acoustic guitar set of original compositions at 8:00 pm. (Luke is Gretchen Vanderlinden-Wang's husband.) If you would like to play a set, or sing a song to open our stage, please contact Pastor Jim. This event is FREE and open to the community (there is no cover charge or ticket). Donations for the musicians will be accepted. Please invite friends, family, or neighbors.





Youth & Children

PANCAKE BRUNCH ON FEBRUARY 19

Redeemer youth will hold a Pancake Brunch on Sunday, February 19th, at 11:30 am following worship. Pancakes are one of the traditional foods served on Shrove Tuesday in preparation for the Ash Wednesday/Lenten fast. We will receive a free-will offering for the breakfast. Proceeds will go towards the youth trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 16-22.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Youth in confirmation at Redeemer will meet on Wednesday evenings during Epiphany (January and February), immediately following Evening Prayer at 7:20 pm. We will attend the "Table Talk" discussions in the undercroft on most Wednesdays, and on others have our own lessons with discussion. The dates for these sessions are: Feb. 1, 8, & 15th.

INTRODUCING CLAUDE MIKKELSON

You may have noticed a new person at Redeemer, Claude Mikkelson, who is serving as a volunteer Facility Setup Coordinator at Redeemer. After growing up in an institution, Claude now lives independently at Redeemer's Arms Apartments (now called Dale Street Place), and volunteered last fall to help at the Church. He is a member at Woodland Hills Church in Maplewood, and also does volunteer work with persons seeking to overcome drug or alcohol addiction at the New Hope Center, a Christian ministry in Minneapolis. At Redeemer, Claude will assist Pastor Jim with set up for events, help with the sound system at worship, building security and maintenance. This is an unpaid, volunteer position. If you have any questions about Claude's work at Redeemer, please see Pastor Jim.



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