

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 112, No. 5

May, 2017



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor

285 North Dale Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

651-227-8295

www.redeemerstpaul.org

Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

Dr. Jonathan Campbell, Music Director

Katie Thompson, Organist

A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Dear friends,

For the past few Sundays of Easter, I have had a conversation with our children during the "children's message" time in worship. On Easter Sunday I introduced the question: *"Where is Jesus?"* I asked the children whether Jesus was in the Easter eggs they would find in their Easter egg hunt. No, Jesus wasn't there. In fact, the plastic eggs in the basket beneath the cross were empty. One had a written message inside: HE IS NOT HERE. HE IS RISEN.

So we have continued to look for Jesus' presence in the sanctuary (our church's worship space). I brought a large flashlight and a magnifying glass to help in the search. Is Jesus in the Good Shepherd stained glass window? No, that is only his image, a picture of Jesus. Is Jesus on the cross next to the pulpit? Not anymore. We went to the baptismal font. Is Jesus in the water of the font? No, not now. But if you look real close, you can see your own reflection in it. Is Jesus in the Paschal Candle next to the font? No, but we say "Jesus is the light of the world" - and receive a lighted candle ourselves when we are baptized. This is getting interesting.

Then we found a large Bible at the foot of the cross. Is Jesus in the Bible? Well, not physically, but *Jesus' words* are in the Bible, and we also say "Jesus is the Word of God." So yes, Jesus IS in the Word. We can hear his voice when we read or hear his words spoken, taught, or preached on Sunday, or any day of the week.

And finally, there is the altar - the table of our Lord. Is Jesus there in that cup (which we call a *chalice*), or on that plate (called a *paten*)? We teach that Jesus is in the bread and the wine that we eat and drink at Holy Eucharist. Is Jesus *really present* in the bread and wine that we share? Now THAT's a mystery! Only through faith, we say that Jesus is here, because Jesus said to his disciples, *"This is my body, given for you. This is my blood, shed for you."* We believe that Jesus is here, because this is what he promised in his Word. And finally, Jesus said,
"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

People throughout time have said they are searching for God - when in truth, God is always present in Creation, within us and around us. People say that we are searching for Jesus, when Jesus is already present with us - in his Word and in the Sacraments (in the water, in the bread and wine). What are the signs? When we worship we see them in the water, the Word, the bread and wine of communion, and also in our prayers, in our songs of praise. You can't find Jesus with a magnifying glass, or with a flashlight, because he is present with us in all of these things - water, bread, wine and Word - but most of all, *Jesus is in your heart, through faith.*



So how do we see Jesus' presence when he is in the heart of faith? We see him when we act according to his Word, when we follow his commandment to *"Love your neighbor. Love one another as I have loved you. Even love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."*

This Easter season, as in every season, we look for God's presence in the world, and so discover anew Jesus' promise to always be present with us. When we welcome the stranger, show hospitality to immigrants and refugees, care for the sick, visit the prisoner (or set free those unjustly bound), feed the hungry, and love our enemies. This is how we see Jesus present with us, and it all starts with faith. For CHRIST IS RISEN! Christ is risen indeed.

Pastor Jim Erlandson

May Calendar

Recurring Weekly Events

Sun.	10:00 am ~ Worship
	11:15 am ~ Coffee Fellowship
	12:00 pm ~ Universal Life Church of God
	12:00 pm ~ Praise Covenant Church
Mon.	7:00 pm ~ Minnesota Renaissance Choir Rehearsal
Wed.	7:00 pm ~ Senior Choir
	8:00 pm ~ Courage to Change N.A.
Thur.	6:30 am ~ Prayer & Meditation A.A.
Fri.	8:00 pm ~ Words into Action N.A.
Sat.	8:00 am ~ Siloé Church

Other Events

2nd	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
4th	11:00 am	Women's Guild
6th	10:20 am	Lynn Schibonski Memorial Service
	2:30 pm	Girl Scout Showcase
8th	6:30 pm	ISAIAH Meeting
9th	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
11th	12:00 am	Happy Seniors
	6:30 pm	ISAIAH Meeting
17th	6:00 pm	Family Movie Night!
19th	7:30 pm	Randall Ferguson in Concert
21st	4:00 pm	MN Sanctuary Network Benefit Concert
23rd	7:00 pm	ISAIAH Core Team

May 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.

May 7	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>4 Easter</i>	Bob Paddock	Michelle Geschwill	Phoenix Mason	Jared Geschwill
May 14	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>5 Easter</i>	Trudy Cretsinger	DeAnne Hilgers	Ali Michael	Jack Sprung
May 21	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>6 Easter</i>	Tammy Cownie	Leilani Drake	Elizabeth Currie	Neal Caerwyn
May 28	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>Ascension</i>	Joel Michael		Bonnie Hughes	

MAY 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	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
May 7 <i>4 Easter</i>	Acts 2:42-47	Ps 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
May 14 <i>5 Easter</i>	Acts 7:55-60	Ps 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
May 21 <i>6 Easter</i>	Acts 17:22-31	Ps 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 25 <i>Ascension</i>	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
May 28 <i>7 Easter</i>	Acts 1:6-14	Ps 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11

ADULT FORUMS

May 7, 2017 **"Youthworks"** Presented by Emilee DeAngelis. Learn about how we are partnering with this youth ministry. The youth will be housed at Redeemer this summer as they work on various projects in Saint Paul.

May 14, 2017 **"Refugee Resettlement"** Presented by Diana Rankin. Diana will discuss refugee resettlement issues in MN and the USA including refugees from various ethnic groups around the world including Syrians, Somalians and other African countries, South and Latin American , and Asian countries.

May 21, 2017 **To Be Announced**

May 28, 2017 **Memorial Day Weekend --no class.**

Adult Forum Planning meeting Thurs. May 11, 2017 at 10:00 A. M. in the Library. You are invited to attend. Questions-contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266.

PASSAGES

CONGRATULATIONS to Obang and Ariet Agwa, whose son Christian Obang Agwa was born on April 23, 2017, at Mayo Clinic in Rochester!

Coltrane James Kaip, son of Michael Kaip and Joanna Failingner, was baptized on Sunday, April 23. Sponsors are Krissy Plasch and Laura Failingner.

Latham Luepke and Tychanza Randolph were received by affirmation of faith as members of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer on Sunday, April 23. They will be married on September 30, 2017 at Redeemer.

Lynn Schibonski died in the Lord on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. A memorial eucharist worship service will be held on Saturday, May 6, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer at 10:30 am, with one hour visitation at 9:30 am.

GIFTS RECEIVED

A gift of \$49,329.46 was received from the Gloria Fuchs Family estate on March 20, 2017.

A gift of \$5,000 was received from the Dorothea Heumann Family estate on April 23, 2017.

We praise God for both of these faithful women, Gloria and Dorothea, and remember them with love. We receive these gifts to the glory of God for the ministry and mission of this Church with thanksgiving and humility. Please consider Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in your will, as part of your legacy of faith that lives on in Christian ministry in this community. These undesignated gifts will be deposited in the church's Vanguard Fund reserves, an interest-earning account used for "rainy day" emergency funds and for special projects.

CORE TEAM NEWS

Our **100 Days of Prophetic Resistance** continue as the Minnesota Legislature heads into the final weeks of the session. Bills addressing three areas of concern are still being negotiated and finalized to be sent to Governor Dayton:

Pre-Emption of Local Employment Ordinances -- Bills giving the state sole authority over labor standards have been passed in both the House and the Senate. Once the conference committee resolves the differences, the bill will be sent to Governor Dayton. If he signs it, this will undo the Earned Sick and Safe Time Ordinance that is to take effect in Saint Paul this July.

Real ID -- Bills to bringing Minnesota drivers licensing requirements into compliance with Federal standards are being worked on in both the House and the Senate. Some of the proposed elements would bar any possibility of undocumented residents obtaining a non-compliant driver's license. Civil libertarians are also uncomfortable with the amount of documentation the federal standards require. Allowing for a non-compliant alternate license for driving purposes only could address both these concerns. Minnesota Driver's Licenses do need to be brought into compliance with Federal identification standards; however, using this necessary action to punish others is contrary to our vision of a community in which all are welcome.

MinnesotaCare -- Some efforts have been made to reduce funding for the MinnesotaCare program. Even before the Affordable Care Act, MinnesotaCare has been covering the gap between residents who do not qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford health insurance premiums. Given the struggles over MNSure and the uncertain future of the ACA, it is important to maintain this program that helps people throughout the state to access health care.

As the session nears a close, things happen very quickly. There may not be much advance notice when people are needed to show up at the capitol to make their desires known by their presence. If you would like to be part of a ready-response team to turn out on short notice, please let a member of the Core Team know. Core Team members include Gretchen Vanderlinden-Wang, Stephanie Stoessel, Myrna and Lyle Nelson, Irene Markley, Trudy Cretsinger, and Joann Conroy.

This summer, we will be turning our attention to candidate forums around the Saint Paul City Elections at which we can share our vision, shaped by God's dream we hear of in scripture, of a community where all are welcomed and valued as creations of God and have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 23rd at 7:00pm. All are welcome!

Women's Guild

will meet Thursday, March 2nd at 11:00 AM. Bring a sandwich or salad. Coffee and dessert will be served by hostess Elizabeth Currie. Bring a sandwich or salad.

GARDENS TRANSFORM OUR SURROUNDINGS AND US by Diana M. Rankin

We have several gardens at Redeemer that help us celebrate God's seasonal transformation of nature and our annual Easter declaration of new life in both nature and our own lives. Have you seen the "river of squill" in the courtyard? Mrs. Kunze's bleeding heart has emerged and will soon be in bloom. Kim Tann's roses survived the winter and Paul Toftness' native garden along the walk from the Learning Center to the church door is showing lots of new growth. Daffodils and shooting stars are blooming in the Learning Center entrance garden and it won't be long before the 'Miss Kim' lilac shares its sweet fragrance.

Each of our gardens has a specific purpose. The courtyard garden is intended as a place for lighting the new Paschal candle at the Easter Vigil, Easter egg hunts, and quiet reflection. The garden on the Dale Street side of our building is meant to beautify that space for anyone driving on or walking along Dale Street. The Learning Center entrance garden serves as a welcome mat for the people who enter our building. The new garden area taking shape on Carroll & Dale will brighten up the church's rather forbidding exterior. Finally, there is the *Kab Npauj* Healing Garden in the front lawn, providing intergenerational learning for Hmong families, healing herbs, and beautiful vegetables. Each of these gardens also tells visitors and passers-by that our congregation is **alive** and that we care for God's creation on Dale Street between Iglehart and Carroll.

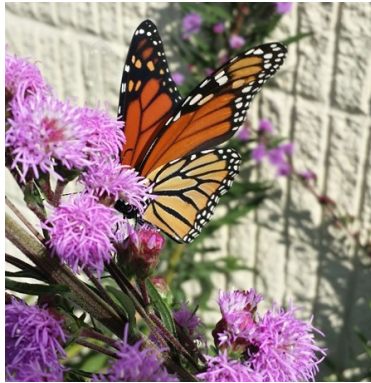
Our gardens also transform us, if we let them. Working together to keep them well-tended builds relationships – and it's good therapy! (I always do my best thinking while weeding.) We can find joy and personal satisfaction in watching what we plant grow and flower. We can also regard our gardening as more than planting, weeding, and watering. Indeed, we can become co-creators with God as we garden, making our church grounds beautiful and inviting outdoor spaces.

It is even possible to worship in the gardens! One possibility is to have periodic worship services with communion on Sunday evenings in the courtyard. This is one way we might achieve our goal of building relationships with non-members through alternative forms of worship.

I encourage you to pause whenever you are at Redeemer. Walk around the building and through the courtyard to enjoy our different gardens. You are also welcome to pull a weed or two! If you would like to take an active role in tending and planting, let Paul Toftness or Diana Rankin know.

*Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees.
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden, that it may not pass away!*

- Rudyard Kipling



Monarch butterflies are
attracted to liatris



Bumble bees gather pollen
on purple prairie clover



Kim Tann rescues unwanted
Easter lilies and gets them to
rebloom



New England aster blooms in the fall
garden

APRIL PHOTO RECAP

Adult Forum on Global Warming

4.23.17



Baptism

4.23.17

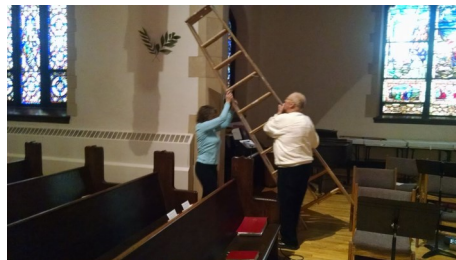




Augsburg Masterworks Concert

4.21.17

Holy Week 2017



Choral Benefit Concert for The Minnesota Sanctuary Network

Come enjoy an evening of wonderful music for a good cause.

Sunday, May 21st

4:00 pm

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

285 N Dale St., Saint Paul, MN 55103

Choirs will include:

Resurrection Lutheran Church

House of Hope Lutheran

Church of All Nations

Calvary Lutheran Church

Macalester Plymouth United Church

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer





Join us for a **FREE** showing of Disney's Moana!

Bring a camping chair, blanket, pillows or whatever will make you cozy during the show. Come promptly at 6 to find a good spot!
(We will be showing the movie indoors)

Doors open at 6:00 and the movie will start at 6:30.
The movie runs 1h 53m



Popcorn will be provided!



THANK YOU FROM HALLIE Q. BROWN

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$100 to HQB Campaign against Hunger. Thanks to donors like you we were able to raise over 51,000 pounds and dollars.

We'd like you to know that your thoughtfulness is truly making a difference here at the Center.

In the words of one of our clients who regularly receive food from Hallie Q. brown, "These items have kept me alive physically and mentally."

Thank you for supporting the wellbeing of all members of our community through your contribution.

Sincerely,

Dawn L. Selle

Manager of External Affairs and Development

Guitarist Randall Ferguson

Classical Guitar ~ Flamenco Guitar ~ Renaissance Lute
Banjo ~ Mandolin ~ Ukulele



Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

285 Dale Street North, St. Paul

Friday, May 19th 7:30 pm

Classical and flamenco guitarist Randall Ferguson will present a program on the history of the guitar, from the stately court music of Renaissance Europe to the exciting syncopated dance rhythms of Spanish Flamenco. He will be playing 15 antique and modern instruments dating from 1785, 1830, 1850, 1900, and 1917 to present that include classical, flamenco, and acoustic guitars, Renaissance lute, Baroque lute, banjo, mandolin, and ukulele. Please join us for a wonderful evening of string music!



No admission charge!

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
285 N. Dale St.
St. Paul, MN 55103-2486

