

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 110, No. 7

August, 2015



Main stage of ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit
Summer 2015

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

Kay Sandeen, Music Director

Katie Thompson, Organist

A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear Friends,

It has been an amazing summer at Redeemer. This issue of the *Redeemer Record – the Summer Issue* is filled with photo highlights of our summer ministry.

It started with our recognition of graduates on May 31st – as we blessed six high school graduates, most of whom graduated in the first week of June. One of them was my daughter, Lori, the youngest of our four children. Like many of our graduates, she will be off to college this fall. It is amazing how fast children grow into adulthood, but we have all been blessed at Redeemer to be parents, mentors and friends to such fine young people.

On June 10 we did an all-congregation service project – people of all ages worked for an evening at the *Feed My Starving Children* warehouse to pack meals for children around the world. It was fun and inspiring to be part of a large, inter-generational group which assembled thousands of meals in one night!

Many of the highlights this summer at Redeemer has been through our children and youth, which should be no surprise. I think summers are made for children (or children made for summer!). First, the dream of a community garden became a reality right before our eyes, as *Kab Npauj Healing Garden* was planted. By the end of July the garden was producing bushel baskets of vegetables. All thanks to some Hmong elders who took the time to teach children and youth how to plant and tend a vegetable garden. Now several families are able to supplement their diets with produce grown in their own gardens!

Our high school youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering completed their fundraising efforts with a spaghetti dinner after worship on June 28, when they were commissioned with prayer. Then, on July 11, five of our youth and two adults traveled to Detroit in a coach bus with youth from Messiah Lutheran and the Swahili Church in Minneapolis. You can read Catalina Cretsinger's complete description of our week at MYLE and the Youth Gathering later in this issue. I must tell you how impressed I was with the people in Detroit. Despite the economic hardships that so many have faced as mortgages were foreclosed, homes and businesses failed and were torn down, the people we met loved their city, were determined to rebuild, and appreciated all the work we were able to accomplish.

No sooner had our youth returned than we celebrated Music on the Blacktop with *Songs of Hope* – a youth ensemble made up of youth from around the world. They have performed every summer outside at Redeemer for more than 10 years, and have helped us to reach out to our neighbors. This year a food truck equipped by the Loaves and Fishes organization provided free food for everyone.

So enjoy the photos displayed in this issue, and think about how you can be a part of our continued ministry of worship, fellowship and service .

*Peace in Christ,
Pastor Jim Erlandson*

August Calendar

Recurring Weekly Events

Sun. 10:00 am ~ Worship
 11:15 am ~ Coffee Fellowship
 12:00 pm ~ Universal Life Church of God
 Wed. 7:40 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

13th	10:30 am	Happy Seniors
15th	9:00 am	Friendship and Flowers
19th	7:00 pm	NAMI
21st	5:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
22nd	12:00 pm	Wedding
25th	7:00 pm	ISAIAH Meeting



September 13th

ELCA Day of Service/Jazz Eucharist

On this day we will be doing special projects for the community after worship. The service will be our Jazz Eucharist which will again feature the Mill City Hot Club Jazz Ensemble. In addition, Bishop Mark Hanson will preach.

October 25th

Reformation Festival/125th Anniversary Celebration

Come and join us as we celebrate our 125th Anniversary on Reformation Sunday. The first worship service ever held for this congregation happened on Reformation Sunday in 1890!

August 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.

August 2	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
	Diana Rankin	Colleen Danner	Mary Lou Knipe
August 9	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
	Arline Satrom	Stevie McMillian	Myrna Nelson
August 16	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
	Tammy Cownie	Bob Paddock	Ruth Belmonte
August 23	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
	Michelle Geschwill	Joann Conroy	Irene Markley
August 30	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
	Joel Michael	Leilani Drake	Leilani Drake



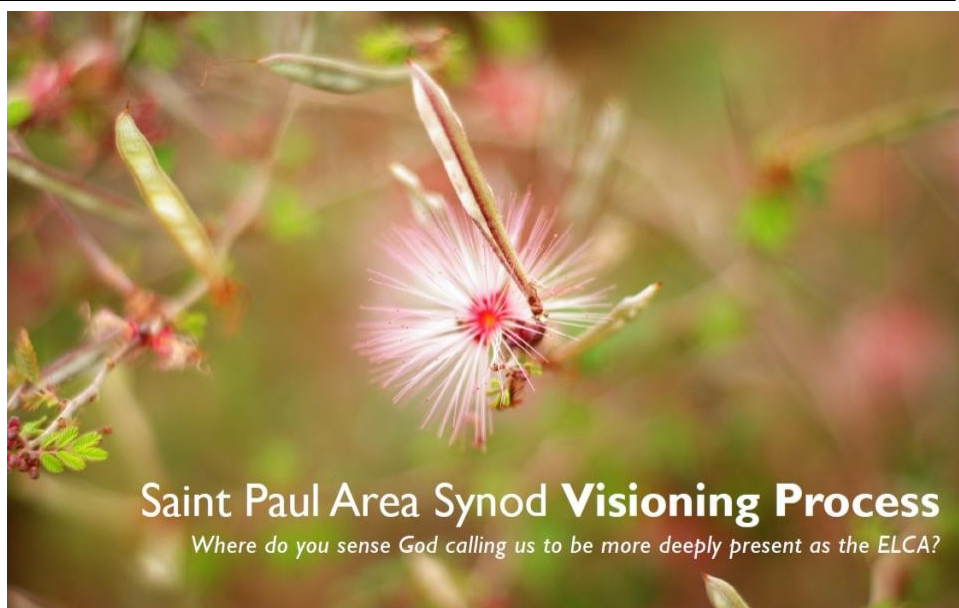
AUGUST SCRIPTURES

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
August 2 <i>Lectionary 18</i>	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	78:23-29	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
August 9 <i>Lectionary 19</i>	1 Kings 19:4-8	34:1-8	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
August 16 <i>Lectionary 20</i>	Proverbs 9:1-6	34:9-14	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
August 23 <i>Lectionary 21</i>	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	34:1-22	Ephesians 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
August 30 <i>Lectionary 22</i>	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	15	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

PRAYER LABYRINTH

What happened to the Prayer Labyrinth? It hasn't gone away - it has just been delayed as we have put in place the healing garden project, which will take up most of the south lawn. So we have decided to move the Prayer Labyrinth to the courtyard garden on the north side of the church building, where it is quiet and peaceful. Initial plans are to construct it out of stones, and use old slate tiles from the roof as markers for bible passages or prayers. We will begin this project in June. *If you have stones that are flat and 12 inches in diameter, please bring them to the church courtyard, and we can start building. Please see Joann Conroy with your ideas or contributions to the prayer labyrinth.*



[Join us for a visioning process event](#)

Throughout the summer, the Saint Paul Area Synod invites you to join a visioning process to reflect on the question, *Where do you sense God calling us to be more deeply present as the ELCA?*

Locations

Thursday, August 13, 6:30-9:00 p.m. | Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Roseville

Thursday, August 20, 6:30-9:00 p.m. | Arlington Hills Lutheran, Saint Paul

All members of Saint Paul Area Synod, ELCA congregations are invited and encouraged to join one of these conversations. No registration is necessary.

MUSIC NOTES

Thanks to all the fine musicians how have shared or will share their gifts with us to brighten up our summer worship: Joanne Conroy, Jack Sprung, Gretchen Vanderlinden-Wang, Diana Rankin, Grant Johnson, Catalina Cretsinger, Jared Geschwill, David Tannen & friends, Paul Jacobson, Colleen Danner and Kymarra Hughes. For those who have yet to play or sing, you need to know that I will be on vacation from Aug. 11th to the end of the month at which time my position as Music Director will end and my work as a staff member will end with it. So it will be up to you to coordinate with Katie for rehearsal and get your accompaniments to her, and also to get your titles to Tahnea early in the week you will be playing or singing.

JAZZ EUCHARIST - The Mill City Hot Club Jazz Ensemble will be back with us on Sun., Sept. 13th. Mark your calendars and bring your friends and family for this most enjoyable event.

125th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE Oct. 25th, Reformation Sunday - Pr. Jim and I have been hard at work figuring out the music for this service. We hope to have a brass ensemble and would like the bell choir to play, and of course the choir will be doing a special anthem. So this is a heads-up to all ringers and Occasional Singers that you will be needed that day. I will be contacting the ringers later to find out who is available and to work out when we can rehearse. But we wanted all of you to be aware that this very special festival day is coming so that you can mark the date and set aside the time to be a part of it.

In Christ,

Kay

ISAIAH CORE TEAM NEWS

The Core Team has been busy over the summer months, digging into issues and concerns for the up-coming city elections this fall. Towards that end, we will be presenting at the **Adult Forum on September 20th**. This fall, for the first time, **Saint Paul will be using a ranked-choice voting process. We'll be explaining how the process works** as well as discussing key concerns for the **City Council** and **School Board** elections. We are working toward policies that guarantee all employees in the city Earned Sick & Safe Time as well as furthering equity policies in the schools.

We are also planning for another series of conversation events similar to what was done last year. Watch for further news on these events in bulletins and next month's newsletter. Those who participated last time had a good experience and we hope to see even more this time. Our next meeting will be August 25th at 7:00pm. You are always welcome to come.

Music on the Blacktop 2015 ft Sings of Hope

This years event was another success with our usual face painting, concert and fellowship. New this year we had a food truck giving away free tacos! This was through partnership with Loaves & Fishes and also the trucks maiden voyage.



KAB NPAUJ HEALING GARDEN



Church Picnic Potluck 7.26.15



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING RECAP - Catalina Cretsinger

As we pulled into Detroit late on Saturday night having little clue where the dorm building was, no signs to direct us and many buildings were not clearly labeled. Throw into this mess the fact that we needed to turn onto a wide expanse of pavement that was not marked as a road and was not a road, everyone was confused and for good reason. Once we found the building, it was a simple process to check in and once people did they headed to their rooms.

Our first day in Detroit had a late start, since most people slept in, but once everyone was awake we headed as the whole group to Motown. A tour of the two houses that made up the museum gave the group an amazing understanding of the people and music that made up Motown. We got back to Wayne State University in time for the adults to go register for the MYLE (Multicultural Youth Leadership Event) and the Gathering.



After a few hours it was time for the MYLE to begin. It started with an opening service and then the youth got separated into small groups. Once in these groups everyone was paired with a person they did not know to learn about each other and then we had to present the info we had learned. Then the leader, a volunteer, asked some questions. These questions had to do with how we had seen love and God so far. The theme for MYLE was "Love Does" with a smaller theme each day. Sunday's smaller theme was Bind and so the purpose of the small groups was to bind us together. After that was the talent show which showcased so many amazing talents done by the youth participating in the event.

Monday's first main activity was called GLOCAL, which was talking about how we as the church need to do helpful actions both Globally and Locally. There was some discussion about how when things happen globally, the image is that it's always lighter skinned people helping people of a darker skin color. Before we broke for lunch the presenters started talking about how our personal story connects to the story of people around us and how both of these stories connect to God's story. During lunch we were back in our small groups and we answered some more questions. When we went back in the building we stayed in our small groups and talked about who we were. As a big group we came up with a list of desirable traits in the U.S. society and their undesirable counterpart. Then in our small groups we picked a trait from each list that applied to us and talk about how that trait makes us feel. This day's smaller theme was Celebrate and so the day's activities were designed to celebrate our differences. That evening there was a time for everyone to go into groups based on their self identified ethnic groups. After that there was a concert, but before the concert a spoken word/poet performed for about half an hour. What she had to say was incredibly moving and many people wanted her to stay longer. The main artist was very interesting, since his instrument of choice was a harpsichord.



Tuesday our church went to Alkebulan Village, which is a local organization dedicated to helping the youth in Detroit. Part of their program is providing a safe place for young kids to hang out after school while learning important skills. Whether getting more help with different subjects, learning how to dance, arts and crafts, entrepreneurial skills and the most popular one is self defense. They work with the court system to give kids that are sus-

pended a second chance. When a kid in their program doesn't get a good grade in school they are removed from the self defense program and all competitions. Some of us, mostly the women, got taught self defense moves and the others used the weight lifting equipment they have there. We had some time before we left so many of us learned some dance moves. Tuesday's theme was Call and so we were sent out into the community to learn about different programs that have been set up to help the people of Detroit. That evening we had a boat cruise with the DAYLE (Definitely Abled Youth Leadership Event) participants. There was a nice dinner, ice cream, karaoke, photo booths and dance floors.

Wednesday marked the end of MYLE and the saying goodbye to many of the friends made during those days. It ended with a joint worship of MYLE and DAYLE. The theme was Rise, which tied into the theme of the gathering, Rise Up Together. Since our church was stuck downtown until the end of the evening we decided to walk along the river and found a café to eat lunch at. We then continued until we got to the lighthouse that we had seen walking down the river. By the time we got back to where most of the activities were being held in time to begin to head to Ford Field. To get close to Ford Field we decided to ride the Detroit People Mover, a monorail that goes around much of downtown Detroit. The first night of the gathering all MYLE participants are given the ability to sit on the floor. The first speaker Wednesday



was the presiding bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. She gave the welcoming speech. The next speaker was a young woman who talked about the questions she gets asked, especially about the gathering, and how she doesn't know how to answer them. The third speaker was Mikka McCracken who currently is the program director for ELCA World Hunger who talked about how hunger in the world is not caused by scarcity, but by inequality. The last speaker was Dr. Luke Powry who talked about the ending of Mark's gospel. Wednesday's theme for the Gathering was Rise Up.

CONTINUED . . .

On Thursday, our church had Proclaim Justice day which was our service project. We, along with some other churches got on a bus to head into a neighborhood. There we helped to clean up two alleyways in the area. In the alleyway our church was working on we found a bike, some old mattresses and a broken window. We cleared out many garbage bags of trash and small yard wastes. By the time we were done there was a huge pile of bags, yard waste and other trash taken



from the alleyway. There seemed to have been some unspoken idea for a good chunk of the gathering participants to go to Greektown for dinner on Thursday night, or else everyone was craving Greek food, regardless there were a lot of Lutherans there and all restaurants were full or very close to being full. That night the theme was Bear Burdens. The spoken word artist talked about how Detroit isn't dead and that it doesn't want to be another city, just Detroit. The sec-

ond spoken word artist talked about not always paying attention to people around her that need help and how she feels guilty about it. The first speaker, Karis Aila-bouni, who talked about her year as a volunteer in Madagascar and how her experiences with money led to a disconnect between her and the people in Madagascar. The next speaker, Eric Barreto, who talked about his experience in Puerto Rico and dealing with two different worlds-English in school and Spanish at home. When his family moved to the US mainland he gave up his Puerto Rican traditions, until he realized that he was losing a part of himself. The last speaker was Alexia Salvatierra who talked about our immigration system. To quote something she said that really spoke to me, "Most people know that it's ineffective. If you get a step closer you know that it's illogical. If you get a step closer than that you know it's inhumane."

Friday was our group's Proclaim Story day. On that day the churches of various synods would gather in their own rooms at various places and talk about our individual stories and how they relate to God's story and God's plan for us. It ends with a worship service led by the bishop of the synod. Friday's theme was Build Bridges. The first speaker talked about building bridges out of Legos and how they were best built with other people and working towards the middle from both sides. The next speaker was Rani Abdulmasih who talked about how he works to build a bridge between his Arabic speaking Lutheran church and the Muslim community in his city. The third speaker was Sarah Funkhouser who talked about teaching English to blind students who only spoke Arabic and she taught them English by teaching them yoga. Next up was Emily Scott who talked about what she saw after Superstorm Sandy in her neighborhood in New York City and how she volunteered to make sure that the elderly and handicapped got food, water and medicine because they couldn't get those supplies themselves. The last speaker was Steve Jerbi who talked about a kid that went to his church whose mom moved the family to a safer neighborhood, but they were right next to a racist with a gun who shot the kid when the kid was taking out the trash.

Saturday was Proclaim Community day for us. A convention center had different booths and activities set up for the youth and adults to do. In there was a booth called "Mark: The Never Ending Story" which Diane Jacobson had helped to set up. We painted some boards that were going to be put up to board up windows. Also, we visited the Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention booth and helped back small bags to be given to victims of human trafficking. Another place we visited was the Walk for Water booth where we all took a jug of water and experienced just a taste of what people need to do to get fresh water. We also went to the room with a labyrinth and we experienced a quiet, relaxing time doing the labyrinth at our own pace. Saturday's theme was Break Chains. The first speaker talked about the dog he had as a kid and the dog got very used to how long the leash was. When the speaker and his family took the dog to his grandparent's house and took the dog off the leash, but the dog wouldn't go any farther than the length of the leash. Next up was Rozella White who talked about going through depression and how it brought her closer to her faith. The third speaker was Kyle Larson who talked about how camp is part of the church experience and how what happens at church camps should be what the world is like. Veronika Scott was up next and talked about growing up with meth addicts. She went to college and in a class they were challenged to make something useful, so she set out to make a coat for the homeless people that would also dual as a sleeping bag. The workers are all current or former homeless people and it helped them make money to get out of their homeless situation. The last speaker was Marian Wright Edelman who talked about ending poverty, something she had been working on with Martin Luther King Jr., before his death.

Sunday was closing worship led by the presiding bishop. The theme was Bring Hope. At the end they had arranged for the location of the next gathering to be revealed through a wave. Throughout the gathering there were many types of music performed by various artists through during the evenings. The styles ranged from folk to rap, acoustic to rock and even some Motown artists (live and in person) needless to say there was a musical style for everyone. If anyone wants to hear the above mentioned speakers in their entirety check out this YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLD2BE6D47D7169CB5> which has the whole program each day at Ford Field.





NADIA BOLZ-WEBER

New York Times Bestselling Author: *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint*

First Official Twin Cities Release Event **September 15, 7 p.m.**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
700 Snelling Avenue, St. Paul



Accidental Saints is a triumph in faithful storytelling. In just a few lines of description and dialog, Nadia Bolz-Weber manages to capture all that is beautiful and maddening and frightening about our shared humanity, including her own inconsistencies and struggles as a Jesus-loving sinner-saint. This is one of those rare books that will make you simultaneously wince with recognition and sigh with relief.

Advance copies of the book (**recommended**) can be ordered at www.gloriadeistpaul.org/NadiaBW for pick-up on the day of the event. Please bring receipt. A book purchase is not required to attend. However \$3.50 of each book purchase will be used to support the outreach mission of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Pastor Bolz-Weber will be available to sign books after her talk. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.



MAGERS & QUINN
BOOKSELLERS

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

