

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 117, No. 5

May 2022



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

Erik Krohg, Music Director

Ellen Hacker, Organist/Pianist

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

As a fairly new grandparent in recent years, I have quickly become accustomed to seeing plush, cute animal toys take over the house when our grandchildren come by. Not only in the children's bedroom, but in the living room, on the floor, on the furniture, and underfoot. Mostly teddy bears, puppies, bunnies and lambs. Especially now, at Easter, bunnies and lambs are popular gifts. And as our 4-month-old grandson Daniel was baptized on the second Sunday of Easter, he received plenty of plush bunnies and lambs as baptism gifts. Ah, how precious!

But then I began to think of how lambs and sheep are a different image in scripture, both in the Old and New Testament. The cute little plush lamb gift for a baby is quite a departure from how the image is used biblically. Because Old Testament people were sheep and goat herders, shepherds caring for their sheep is a very common image. "The Lord is my shepherd" from the 23rd Psalm is beloved by all Jewish and Christian people of faith. But then there is the "scapegoat" image of a goat being sacrificed every year to take on the "sins of the people". There is also the image of the "sacrificial lamb", used in the book of Isaiah to describe the "suffering servant" who, like a lamb, *"was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, upon him was the punishment that made us whole."* For *"all we like sheep have gone astray...so like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent..."* (Isaiah 53)

We heard this passage on Good Friday, read just before the Passion according to John was read about Jesus' suffering and death. The connection that Christians make between the Suffering Servant/Sacrificial Lamb and the crucified Jesus is unavoidable and clear. In fact, early in John's gospel, John the Baptist introduces Jesus by saying *"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world," a preview to the ultimate purpose and glory of Jesus' mission, to give his life for the sake of the whole world. So the meaning behind the Lamb of God suddenly gets deeper, and more disturbing, which we don't share easily with little babies in the nursery. Little lamb plush toys are much more appealing.*



In these weeks following Easter's good news, the joyful surprise that Jesus' has risen from the dead (joyful, yet also disturbing), also includes such images of sheep and shepherd. We will read the passage from John 10 during May, when Jesus says, *"My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me."* Also, during the Sundays after Easter we read passages from the book of Revelation, like chapter 5, which we often sing on Sunday mornings in worship: *"Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen."*

Such passages from Revelation not only give us insights into the early Church's worship, and the words to early hymns. They reveal that the religion of the empire is a fraud, which must be resisted. They also fit into the Church's proclamation that it is God, not the Roman Emperor, who is the ruler of this world, and the Lord of all Creation. Jesus, who was humiliated and crucified by the Romans, who was *lynched by the Empire with our consent, is innocent. He is the Lamb of God who has been raised, in victory over death. So instead of glorifying emperors, dictators, and the power that crushes people with violence even today, we praise the power of self-giving love, serving others with compassion, loving our enemies and raising broken people up to new life! It's a scandal! But this is the power of God, based on love and revealed in humility, vulnerability and weakness, who receives our praise! For Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!*

Pastor Jim Erlandson



MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Now the Feast and Celebration, a setting of Holy Communion by Marty Haugen, will be sung on Sundays in May, through the remainder of the Easter Season. Led by the Redeemer Choir, directed by Erik Krohg, and organist/pianist Ellen Hacker.

We celebrate these festivals on Sundays at Redeemer:

- ◇ **Blessing of All Women, Sunday, May 8 at 10 am**
- ◇ **The Ascension of Our Lord, Sunday, May 29 at 10 am**
- ◇ **The Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, June 5 at 10 am**

MAY SCRIPTURES & READERS

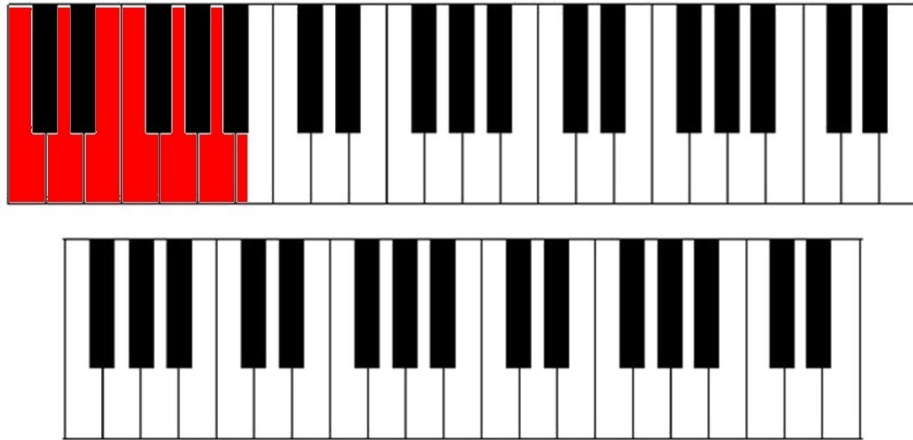
We invite members and friends of Redeemer to read the appointed scriptures for each Sunday. This is a meaningful way to prepare for worship. It also binds us to our homebound sisters and brothers who we also encourage to read the same scriptures weekly.

May 1	Dave Dufresne
May 8	Stephanie Stoessel
May 15	Lance Harris
May 22	Mary Lou Knipe
May 29	Bonnie Hughes

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
May 1 <i>3 Easter</i>	Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]	Ps 30	Rev 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
May 8 <i>4 Easter</i>	Acts 9:36-43	Ps 23	Rev 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
May 15 <i>5 Easter</i>	Acts 11:1-18	Ps 148	Rev 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
May 22 <i>6 Easter</i>	Acts 16:9-15	Ps 67	Rev 21:10, 22—22:5	John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
May 26 <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i>	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
May 29 <i>7 Easter</i>	Acts 16:16-34	Ps 97	Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26

Brodmann Piano Fundraiser

OUR GOAL: \$10,225
Can we "complete the scale"?



\$115 buys one "key" but any size donation is gratefully received!

Please write checks to "Lutheran Church of the Redeemer" and "Piano Fund" in the memo line.



PROJECT HOME DONATIONS



From Interfaith Action Saint Paul "A BIG SHOUT OUT to our friends Lutheran Church of the Redeemer! With the help of Thrivent along with generous donations from church members, several families will receive a wonderful array of needed items to help them as they move into their new homes. We have three families (a total of 15 guests) moving out in the next couple of weeks. #LiveGenerously"

Shout out to Ruth Belmonte, Joe Belmonte and Tracey Gennrich as well as the faithful people of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, St. Paul, for bringing the congregation's donations to Project Home families today! Have a blessed Easter.



Our April Church Vestry meeting was opened at 703pm by Sybil on April 12, 2022 on Zoom with prayer. The Vestry was pleased by the Saint Paul Area Synod grant for Redeemer and Walker West Music Academy for our partnership and future for connecting to our community through our music ministry, which is also blessed by our new piano.

The Vestry invites all to continue to mask to help protect the vulnerable. Redeemer will no longer invite masking as soon as it has knowledge that vulnerable persons are no longer protected by masking. The Vestry thanked Ruth and Joe Belmonte for their renovation of the women's restroom.

The Treasury at the end of March had an overall balance of \$85300 with \$62200 remaining due on our mortgage and \$13300 due Langer for our roof repairs. Giving during March exceeded expenses. Rental receipts totaled \$2100 from about 12 groups who are meeting at Redeemer throughout the month.

The Vestry looks forward to discussing how to build Redeemer's connection with its community in the Adult Forum on May 1. The 18 months SPAS grant for a partnership of Redeemer and Walker/West music academy is a special opportunity for us to meet and grow our relationships, too.

Sybil adjourned the meeting at 755p.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on May 10, 2022 on Zoom.



Join Us May 17th for Steps to Success

It will be a program packed with stories to entertain, enlighten, and uplift you. Like our in-person events, the evening will have what you love most – interesting speakers, compelling narratives, meaningful connections!

We are so pleased to welcome back actor, vocalist, arts educator, and community contributor T. Mychael Rambo as master of ceremonies. A Twin Cities entertainment icon known for his baritone voice, T. Mychael laces together spirited storytelling, insightful observations, humor, and song for a thought-provoking, transformative event.

The Details

Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Happy Half-Hour: 6:30 p.m. CDT

Live, Virtual Program: 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. CDT

Place: Online...in the comfort of your own home!

Times listed are Central Daylight Time. If you're in another zone event begins at a different time, e.g., in the Eastern Time zone Happy Half-Hour is 7:30 p.m.

FREE – But Must Register by May 13th

The day before the event, those registered will be emailed a link to enjoy the broadcast on any web-enabled device. Just click and view!
Follow this link to register: <https://rb.gy/6axtzy>

Just a Few More Highlights!

The Happy Half-Hour celebrates with a musical performance by former interns, violinist Maya Lehmann and cellist Teiana Nakano, both St. Olaf grads. During the Program you'll meet some of our DW community, including Ojulu who journeyed from Ethiopia, to the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, to Minnesota; Ojulu is also featured in our May newsletter.

Not sure you can make it May 17th? Your donation makes a difference at any time. Easily give online at our secure page: <https://rb.gy/mco1gy>
Proceeds support Daily Work's employment services that connect folks with meaningful, good-paying positions. We are grateful to our volunteers and generous funders who support job seekers in finding work that provides them with the means to live a healthy life.

Thank You – Together We Give People a Leg Up!

ADULT FORUM

May 1, 2022 11:30 A. M. **"Metro Bloom's Design for Redeemer's East Side-Dale Street."** Presented by Diana Rankin, Redeemer's gardening expert. Metro Blooms is a local nonprofit organization that helps design plans for sustainable, attractive landscaping that is easy to maintain, environmentally friendly, preserves the watershed, promotes practices that conserves water, uses native plants including those that are pollinators attracting bees and butterflies, and suggest options for grass for lawns and grass mowing.

May 8, 2022 11:30 A. M. **"Looking to Redeemer's Future: Our Synod "Gleaning the Harvest" Grant initiative with Walker/West Music Academy."** How this pilot project with Walker/West and our Children of Rondo Walker/West Scholarship Fund" can help us build relationships with children, youth and families in this community through music. Led by Pastor Jim, Diana Rankin, Bonnie Hughes and Tammy Cownie.

May 15, 2022 11:30 A. M. **"Lyngblomston Sunday."** A brief overview of the senior ministry of Lyngblomston and Redeemer's Role. Speaker to be announced. Arrangements by Redeemer's corporate congregation representatives, Mary Lou Knipe and Carla Johnson.

May 22, 2022 11:30 A. M. **"St. Paul Area Synod Report."** Reported by Redeemer's delegates Michelle Geschwill and Bob Paddock.

May 29, 2022 **No Adult Forum--Memorial Day Weekend.**

Adult Forums resume Sept. 18
after "God's Work, Our Hands,"
Sept. 11, 2022

WALKER|WEST
GROW THROUGH MUSIC

**Walker-West Music Academy invites all
Redeemer members and friends to:**

**A Student Recital
(Strings, piano, and other instruments)
Saturday, May 14, 6:00 pm
at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
in the church sanctuary**

(Redeemer is the host for Walker-West student recitals this year, so we are all welcome to attend!)

Please come and support these local student musicians!

HOPING FOR HOPE: A Reflection by Diana M. Rankin
April 2022

Having hope is challenging for me. When facing big questions like "How can we save the planet?" or "How much longer can Redeemer continue to exist?" my tendency toward pessimism takes over. I go through the hopeless mental recitation of all the reasons I've accumulated for lacking hope.

I have been reading Dr. Jane Goodall's newest publication, *The Book of Hope*. I have never been a big fan of Dr. Goodall, but I'm reading it for the Ramsey County Master Gardeners' book club. It is written as a dialogue between Dr. Goodall and author Douglas Abrams with the assistance of Gail Hudson.

What first caught my attention was Dr. Goodall's definition of hope. Hope, she says, "is what enables us to keep going in the face of adversity. It is what we desire to happen, but we must be prepared to work hard to make it so."

Abrams recalled that Desmond Tutu had once told him that he was not optimistic, but a "prisoner of hope" and able to see the light despite all the darkness. Dr. Goodall responded that "Hope does not deny all the difficulty and all the danger that exists, but it is not stopped by them. There is a lot of darkness, but our actions [my emphasis] create the light." She went on to say

It is important to take action and realize that we can make a difference, and this will encourage others to take action, and then we realize we are not alone and our cumulative actions truly make an even greater difference. That is how we spread the light. And this, of course, makes us all ever more hopeful.

Therefore, hope leads to action which leads to more hope. It's a lovely symbiotic, mutually beneficial relationship.

When we consider Redeemer's future, we certainly hope to still be a viable congregation a decade from now. But hope alone won't make it happen. Hope has led us to explore new ways to be church in our community. Our sanctuary space is ideal for music performances, so we took the action of purchasing a new Brodmann baby grand piano. We hope it will strengthen our relationship with Walker West and draw more concerts to our space. That won't happen by itself. More action is needed to strengthen our relationship with Walker West. We must spread the word about our space and book those performances so that we are evermore hopeful of being able to survive financially.

What is your hope for Redeemer?
What action could this hope lead to?



Redeemer in Review . . .





THE BAROQUE AND THE SPIRITUAL

A vocal chamber concert with the pairing of baroque music
and Early African American Music, the Spiritual.

Angel Refusé, vocals
Marco Real-d'Arbelles, violin
Jordan Buchholtz, piano

Saturday, May 28, 2022
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
285 Dale Street N, Saint Paul

7:30 pm

General Admission \$15
Students \$5



For tickets, scan code.
Also available at the door.



MINNESOTA
BACH  festival

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota
through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council,
thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and
cultural heritage fund.

metro
regional
arts
council



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

