

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 110, No. 6

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 in Christ,

Question: WHO IS WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE?

This year the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, through our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, has invited all ELCA congregations to hold discussions regarding how we extend our invitation to baptism and to holy communion. In response, we held an adult forum and two discussions in April regarding "*Who is welcome at the font and table?*" We have found that practices vary throughout the Church. In our conversations, we discussed our Affirmation of Welcome, by which we welcome all persons to be part of our worship and faith community. People also shared how they felt welcome, and unwelcome, in worship at other churches. Most of us have had an experience when we have been "uninvited" from holy communion, when we visit some churches of different denominations or other Lutherans (not ELCA). To be "unwelcome" at our Lord's Table has been an awkward, unpleasant experience for those of us who are baptized Christians. The truth is, we have all felt unwelcome somewhere. We can't afford to let this happen.

For years our invitation to receive the eucharist has been to "*all baptized persons who believe that the body and blood of Jesus Christ are truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.*" But what if you don't understand, or believe this? After these discussions within the congregation and among the Board of Elders, we are experimenting with new wording, to be consistent with our Statement of Welcome. You will notice in our Sunday service sheet that we have added to our welcome to visitors statement an invitation to speak with a pastor if they are interested in baptism. We have also changed the invitation to communion. It now reads: "*We believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. All are welcome to receive the sacrament here, at the Lord's Table.*"

For this is Christ's table, and Jesus is our host. We wish to remove any obstacle that would stand in the way of a person seeking a relationship with Jesus Christ and to explore the Christian faith. Often holy communion can be the way a person hears the invitation from our Lord, and has an experience of faith, which then can lead to deeper exploration and baptism. We want to clearly invite people to explore the Christian faith, and to be baptized, and it may be that the invitation to the eucharist is how some first may hear Christ's call. It's just that the order of invitation (holy eucharist, then baptism) may be reversed for some.

In this present generation, when many adults have not been baptized, we do not know (and cannot assume) that everyone in worship has been baptized. In the Great Commission, Jesus said "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matt. 28:19-20)*" So, an open invitation to the Lord's Table requires us to be more attentive to our invitation to the font of holy baptism, for adults as well as children. This may help us better live out Christ's call.

This is the beginning of a discussion we will have amongst ourselves and with the whole Church. We are open to more discussion, and other suggestions for how to word our invitations to baptism and communion. As a ministry of Word and Sacrament, this congregation will always be guided by God's Word, and the gospel of Jesus Christ, by which we all freely receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Jim Erlandson

June/July 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
 Sun. 11:15 am ~ Handbells Rehearsal

Other Events

JUNE

2nd 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting
 9th 6:30 pm Elders Meeting
 13th 11:30 am Girl Scout Ceremony

JULY

12th **YOUTH LEAVE FOR ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN DETROIT**
 19th **YOUTH RETURN FROM ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN DETROIT**
 18th 1:00 pm Happy Seniors Birthday Party
 22nd 6:00 pm Music on the Blacktop
 7:00 pm Songs of Hope Performance

SUMMER WORSHIP JULY-AUGUST

This July and August we will once again worship in the Learning Center, which offers us a view of the church courtyard garden, cross ventilation, and a more intimate worship setting. Please join us at 10 am each Sunday as we worship God throughout the summer season. ***If you would like to sing or play special music this summer at a Sunday service, please contact Kay Sandeen.*** There is a sign up sheet on the music office door.

Women's Guild

will enjoy their annual Luncheon Out on Thursday, June 4th at 11:00 am at the House of Wong, on Larpenteur west of Lexington. Please contact Mary Lou Knipe at 651-644-5493 by June 1st with questions and reservations.

Thank you to the Women's Guild for providing cake for the celebration of the Learning Center on May 24th

June/July 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.

June

June 7	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Acolyte
	Sybil Harris	Bob Paddock	Kay Sandeen	Neal Caerwyn
June 14	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Acolyte
	Joel Michael	Joann Conroy	Jon Olson	Jared Geschwill
June 21	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Acolyte
	Diana Rankin	DeAnne Hilgers	Diana Jacobson	Layla Harris
June 28	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Acolyte
	Arline Satrom	Colleen Danner	Leilani Drake	Leah Harris

July

July 5	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
	Tammy Cownie	Stevie McMillian	Mary Lou Knipe
July 12	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
	Michelle Geschwill	Bob Paddock	Myrna Nelson
July 19	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
	Sybil Harris	Joann Conroy	Irene Markley
July 26	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
	Joel Michael	Leilani Drake	Leilani Drake



SUMMER 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
Jun 7 Lectio 10	Gen 3:8-15	Ps 130	2 Cor 4:13—5:1	Mark 3:20-35
Jun 14 Lectio 11	Ezek 17:22-24	Ps 92:1-4, 12-15	2 Cor 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17	Mark 4:26-34
Jun 21 Lectio 12	Job 38:1-11	Ps 107:1-3, 23-32	2 Cor 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
Jun 28 Lectio 13	Lam 3:22-33	Ps 30	2 Cor 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43
Jul 5 Lectio 14	Ezek 2:1-5	Ps 123	2 Cor 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
Jul 12 Lectio 15	Amos 7:7-15	Ps 85:8-13	Eph 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
Jul 19 Lectio 16	Jer 23:1-6	Ps 23	Eph 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Jul 26 Lectio 17	2 Kings 4:42-44	Ps 145:10-18	Eph 3:14-21	John 6:1-21

You are invited to pack food at



...but ***YOU*** can
make a difference by
volunteering at Feed
My Starving Children.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY LOCATION:

990 Lone Oak Rd, Suite 136, Eagan, MN 55121

DATE: Wednesday, June 10th TIME: 6:00—7:30 pm

SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS: In the Undercroft or contact Tammy Cownie

Turn Hunger into Hope with Your Own Two Hands

VOLUNTEER | DONATE | LEARN MORE | 763.504.2919 | FMSC.ORG

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.*



DAILY WORK LUNCHEON

On May 13 seven Redeemer members attended the Daily Work "Steps to Success" fundraising lunch in St. Paul. This is a 501(c) 3 ministry we helped start over 15 years ago, which is a collaboration of congregations, businesses, and individuals to assist job seekers find employment. We heard inspiring stories from individuals who had difficult challenges and obstacles to employment, and how Daily Work helped them discover their vocation or find a job which pays a living wage. We learned that 200 persons were assisted by Daily Work this past year in finding employment. This is a ministry which makes a difference. There are offices at Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill in St. Paul, and at Christ the King in New Brighton. You are invited to help support Daily Work with your financial donations, your prayers, and with employment opportunities or connections.

ISAIAH CORE TEAM NEWS

ISAIAH made a strong showing throughout the 2015 Legislative Session that is now all but over. However, despite our frequent visits and rallies, press conferences and discussions with legislators, there have been no major accomplishments for this session.

We had hoped some serious action would be taken on the issue of transportation throughout the state with spending for improvements to roads and bridges as well as expansion of transit services. However, in the end, no significant transportation improvements were authorized.

We had hoped to have voting rights restored to felons once they had served their time in a correctional facility rather than waiting for many more years until they are "off paper" (completely finished with parole and probation). The bill to restore voting rights became linked to legislation permitting the sale of noise suppression devices for firearms. In the end, the suppression devices passed and the restoration of voting rights did not.

We had hoped that the documentation requirements for driver's licenses would be restored to what they were in 2003. This was presented as a common-sense safety issue, something we would all benefit from. Despite enough support going into the session for this legislation to pass, pushback from anti-immigration groups stopped the legislation from passing.

We had hoped to develop a statewide fund for paid family leave (funded like unemployment through employee and employer contributions) so all workers could afford to take their family leave time. We had also hoped to pass legislation that would require all employers to allow their employees to earn sick time in proportion to hours worked so that they could afford to stay home and recover when they are sick (or care for sick children). Both of these measures have wide-spread public support from all Minnesotans. However, these proposals were met with stiff opposition from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and the Minnesota Retailers Association and never made it out of committee.

As we go forward from this, we will be asking hard questions, such as "*Are immigrants truly human beings, children of God, the same as the rest of us?*" and "*To whom are our elected representatives ultimately accountable – the voters or the wealthy campaign contributors?*" This is why personal involvement is so critical. Elected officials assume that the reason people voted for them is because of the money spent on their campaigns. They need to hear from the people who cast the votes why they voted and what results they want. It's not enough just to vote. We all need to speak up and show up, calling forth the vision we have of a community shaped by the ways of God's reign.

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But there is always hope! The moneyed special interests were unable to have "local interference" legislation passed that would prevent municipalities or counties from enacting their own minimum wage laws or other requirements on employers. This makes our work going forward toward this fall's elections for Saint Paul City Council and School Board all that more important and exciting. We have a chance to raise up leaders who share our vision of a society where all are welcome, all are included, all can thrive and become all that God intended them to be. This is the vision that the gospel teaches us, the vision that Christ calls and empowers us to work for in our world.

Watch for more information on events, meetings, candidate forums ... maybe even a "Prophetic Picnic" or something in the weeks and months ahead. It may be summer and living may be easy ... but for God's people, there's no time to be lazy (not even in the hazy days of summer).



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE

Five youth and two adult leaders from Redeemer are attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit on July 15-19. We will represent the Saint Paul Area Synod at the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) from July 12 to 15, and reside at Wayne State University. We plan to leave on Saturday, July 11, and return late night July 19. We have raised \$4461 so far, and still have \$1400 for the charter bus transportation to raise. Thank you to everyone who has donated gifts thus far! If you would like to help sponsor our youth or give a donation, there are sponsorship forms at the church (or just write a check to Redeemer with "Youth Gathering" on the check memo line. There will be another fundraiser event on Sunday morning, June 28th after worship.

MUSIC NOTES

SUMMER MUSIC - Now is the time to sign up to sing or play an instrument for worship over the summer. We need someone starting June 14th. There is a sign-up sheet on the Music Office door. Pick the date of your choice and let me and Katie know what you plan to do. If you need help finding selections just let me know. Then you can coordinate with Katie to work out rehearsal/warm-up times. Thanks.

THANK YOU to all the fine volunteers who have generously shared their time and talents to enhance our worship during this past season - the Senior Choir & supplemental singers, Handbell ringers, Celebration Band and Easter Orchestra. Your gifts have been greatly appreciated.

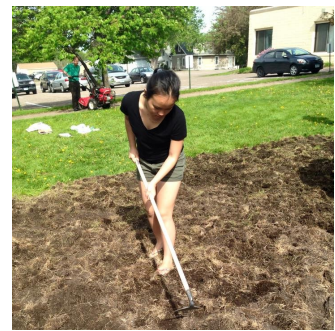
In Christ,

Kay

KAB NPAUJ HEALING GARDEN

We blessed the *Kab Npauj Healing Garden* on Sunday, May 17, the Feast of the Ascension, after the worship service. Over 100 people participated, from Redeemer and from the community. We prayed over the furrows of the garden plot on our south lawn, that there will be sufficient rain, that the soil will bear fruit, and the people who till this ground will be blessed. We heard from the Hmong elders who will teach children traditional gardening techniques, and celebrated with food and music. This community garden will grow vegetables for the families who are tending the garden. There will be times for us to meet our Hmong neighbors as they work the ground. As the summer goes on, there will be opportunities to learn more about the garden, and help make this ministry grow.





Songs of Hope

Wednesday, July 25th
7:00 pm

Refreshments @ 6:00 pm



with a special salute
to the music of New Orleans

MUSIC ON THE BLACKTOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

This year Songs of Hope will again be at Music on the Blacktop which will be held Wednesday, July 25th.

We need volunteers for:

9:00am set up tents and tables

5:00pm set up chairs and food prep

6:00pm to 8:30 pm food serving, children's games/activities and hospitality

8:30pm clean up

Please sign up in the undercroft.

If you are unavailable to volunteer, we are also welcome financial contributions to cover the cost of providing food for our neighbors and also to cover the Songs of Hope fee.

LYNGBLOMSTEN MID-SUMMER FESTIVAL



Saturday, July 11, 2015
11 AM–6 PM on the Lyngblomsten campus
at 1415 Almond Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

It's Summer Festival time! There will be artist, music and entertainment food and arts activities & games for all ages. Redeemer volunteers are needed again. See poster and sign up sheet in the Undercroft. Direct questions to Mary Lou

REDEEMER'S EDUCATION LEGACY, by Diana M. Rankin

I am taking a break from chronicling Redeemer's history and have decided to use this month's column to share my reflections on Redeemer's 125-year Christian education legacy. This decision was spurred by our celebration of the Learning Center's dedication 40 years ago on May 25, 1975.

In 1975 the congregation was but a "remnant," according to Pastor Reuben Langhans, of its former self. Membership had dwindled from 1300 in 1954 to 615 souls. Nonetheless, between 1960 and 1972 the congregation carried out a long-range plan that built Redeemer's Arms and a new parsonage, purchased and razed 10 homes west of the church, renovated the church exterior and interior, rebuilt the altar area, gutted and rebuilt the undercroft, and engaged an architect for the planned Learning Center. All of these projects, with the exception of Redeemer's Arms, were paid for with no remaining debt when work began on the Learning Center and new administrative offices, entryway, courtyard, and parking lot in July 1974.

One of the reasons my family joined Redeemer in 1977 was the strong education program. The Learning Center was only 2 years old then and Redeemer had a full-time Director of Christian Education (Glenn Geffert). Sunday School and Weekday School enrollment in 1975 was 170 children and there were 26 teachers. Youth choirs, the youth group, Vacation Bible School, and Confirmation classes were all part of the program. Most importantly, children and youth were welcomed in worship and as participating members of the congregation well before their Confirmation.

Things are no longer as they were in 1977. A new building, targeted community outreach, and dedicated pastoral leadership did not reverse the downward trend in church membership. When Glenn Geffert retired about 25 years ago, economic pressures forced us to eliminate the Director of Christian Education position. Today we no longer have a Sunday School, Weekday School, or children's choir, but our mission statement says that we are "renewed and nurtured through ... Christian education." How can this be with not even a Sunday School? (It must be noted that our Adult Education program remains strong and continues to provide excellent Sunday adult forums and occasional Bible studies.)

I contend that we are still providing Christian education for children – just in different ways – and that the traditional Sunday School is a vestige of a long-gone past. Is it possible that each Sunday's Children's Message, regular participation in worship, and informal (even one-on-one) First Communion and Confirmation instruction are today's Christian education models for urban congregations? How about cross-cultural exchanges through healing gardens? Intergenerational God's Work Our Hands neighborhood outreach events? Songs of Hope concerts in the Learning Center or on the church lawn? Volunteering with Project Home? Joining other Lutheran teens at ELCA youth gatherings?

Let's not mourn what we have lost from the past but make the most of what we do have. Let's be sure our children learn how to love and serve God and neighbor through our example and many and varied opportunities to form a faith that will carry them into adulthood.



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

