

THE REDEEMER RECORD

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April 2022



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

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Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

Erik Krohg, Music Director

Ellen Hacker, Organist/Pianist

Pastor's Letter

Dear friends,

Despite the colder-than-usual temperatures we have felt in recent weeks, we have been seeing several signs of spring, lately. The snow has melted on our streets and lawns, and the church parking lot is now ice free (though local lakes still have ice). I have seen robins hopping in the grass, and watched hawks and eagles soar in the sky over my house. On those days when the sun actually emerges from behind the clouds, we can feel its warmth and just imagine the warm spring and hot summer days to come in May or June.

One sure sign of spring was the box of palm branches that arrived at the church this week. It is a sign that Holy Week is just around the corner, and sure enough, we observe Palm Sunday on April 10, and celebrate Easter on April 17.

Hallelujah! The earth rejoices! Spring is here, life returns to the earth long dormant in winter's cold, and we sing with joy that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!

We have more reasons to rejoice than this. We have not observed Holy Week or celebrated Easter together in person at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer since *Easter Sunday on April 21, 2019. That was three years ago! In 2020 and in 2021 we celebrated Easter on Zoom over the internet, singing hymns pre-recorded before worship by our faithful musicians. In fact, last year on Easter Sunday I was in Providence, Rhode Island for a family funeral, and joined our worship from there on Zoom. So it has been far too long since we last sang Easter hymns together, live and in-person as a congregation. Just like every other Christian church in America, and throughout the world.*

So it will be so good to celebrate together once again! We have been practicing for this day every Sunday since last July, when we first gathered in the church undercroft for in-person worship. Our choir has re-formed, with a new music director, Erik Krohg, and our organist from 2019 (Ellen Hacker) has returned to the bench, rehearsing our songs of praise every week since September. The palm branches have been received for Palm Sunday, and Easter lilies have been ordered for our Easter garden. Each Sunday another person comes to worship after a long absence, and new people visit. We no longer take our worship together for granted! It is a privilege, it is a gift, it is a joy to praise God together, on our knees in prayer, or on our feet in worship and praise! Thanks be to God!

*Day of delight and beauty unbounded, tell the good news, the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor, praise Christ risen from the dead!
Sing of the sun from darkness appearing; sing of the seed from barren earth
greening; Sing of creation, alleluia! (In Dir Ist Freude, All Creation Sings)*

Pastor Jim

HOLY WEEK/EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



April 10, Palm/Passion Sunday, 10 am

As Holy Week begins, we gather for the Procession with Palms (outside, weather permitting) and enter the Church singing *All Glory, Laud and Honor*. We will read the *Passion of Our Lord according to Luke*, and celebrate *Holy Eucharist*.



April 14, Maundy Thursday, 7 pm

On this night we begin for the Sacred Three Days of Holy Week. We hear how Jesus gathered for the Last Supper and washed his disciples' feet. We will offer to wash each other's hands or feet, as we remember Jesus' commandment to *love one another*. *On the night that Jesus was betrayed, we receive the Lord's Supper, and then strip the altar to the words of Psalm 22.*



April 15, Good Friday, "The Way of the Cross", 7 pm

We begin by reading the prophet Isaiah's vision of the Suffering Servant. We will hear the *Passion of Our Lord according to John*, interspersed with Good Friday hymns and spirituals. Then the Bidding Prayer for Good Friday, followed by the Procession of the Cross.



April 16, Holy Saturday, The Great Vigil of Easter, 7 pm

We gather at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, 100 No.

Oxford St. this year for a Vigil which includes: the Lighting of the Pascal Candle and Easter Proclamation, readings from the Old and New Testament, and the First Eucharist of Easter. This is the most ancient of all Christian festivals; please join us.



April 17, Easter Sunday, Easter Breakfast at 8:30 am, Festival Eucharist on the Resurrection of Our Lord at 10 am

We rejoice with songs of praise, scripture and the proclamation of the good news of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus, according to Luke, and Holy Eucharist.

For Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

APRIL 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.

April 3	Diana Rankin
April 10	Jonah Hacker
April 17	Joan Foreman
April 24	Benjamin Cretsinger

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
April 3	Isa 43:16-21	Ps 126	Phil 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
April 10	Isa 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
April 17	Acts 10:34-43 or Isa 65:17-25	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Cor 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	Luke 24:1-12 or John 20:1-18
April 24	Acts 5:27-32	Ps 118:14-29 or Ps 150	Rev 1:4-8	John 20:19-31



Our last month Church Vestry meeting was opened at 700pm by Sybil on March 8, 2022 on Zoom with prayer for peace. The Vestry thanked Pastor Jim for his 35 years of ministry on his anniversary day of March 8. The Vestry requests all worshippers to continue to wear masks, even after the City, County and State have eased masking

mandates. In due course, we look for when we will no longer mask. The Vestry also requests volunteers to assist with live streaming. Please contact Pastor Jim for training and scheduling.

Lenten Soup will be served on Sunday following worship, while there will be Lenten evening worship on Wednesday. Easter Vigil will be hosted by St Paul Reformation as a joint service.

The Treasury at the end of February had an overall balance of \$82330 with mortgage due of \$63933 plus interest due to payments of about \$10000 each for heating upgrades and a replacement piano. Giving remained steady. The piano search committee did not want to miss the chance to order a \$17000 piano for just \$10000 to replace the piano which is no longer adequate for our music performance programs. The replacement piano will be delivered by Easter. Restoration of the Women's Restroom was completed by mid March, thanks to volunteer services.

Sybil adjourned the meeting at 820p.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on April 12, 2022 on Zoom.

GIFTS SOUGHT FOR NEW PIANO

The congregation met to approve the purchase of a new sanctuary piano, a new Brodmann CE 175 Baby Grand piano, to replace the aged piano in the sanctuary.

Please see the notes about the meeting held on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

We are very excited to receive this excellent new instrument, which is on its way.

We invite Redeemer members to give gifts toward the piano, to recoup the funds spent to purchase at such a reasonable cost (\$10,225). Gifts of any amount are welcome! Fundraisers and recitals will also be held to help reach this goal. Please write your check to Redeemer, and write *Sanctuary Piano in the memo line*.

Thank you for your support! You will love hearing the new piano!

The Brodmann CE 175 fulfills the needs of any home or smaller institution that need a full-bodied sound within budget. With precise musical specifications in mind, this model has been designed to satisfy even the most discriminating player.

- Brodmann Viennese scale design
- Soundboard: solid Alaskan Sitka Spruce
- Ribs: Alaskan Sitka Spruce
- Foundry sand cast plate
- Strings: Röslau
- Hammers: Ambic natural wool under felt with Wurzen natural wool hammer felt molded on North American Maple
- Keyframe: European Spruce and beech
- Scaling: duplex scale
- Fallboard: Slow close system
- Bench included
- Available in ebony polish
- 88 keys
- l: 5' 9"
- w: 59"
- weight: 690 lb



PLANS FOR A NEW GARDEN ALONG DALE STREET

The east side of our church building is highly visible for anyone exiting the I-94 ramps or making their way north or south on Dale Street. Last summer we saw the completion of the new Dale Street bridge and Dale Street itself, right past Redeemer. The east side of our building now has new pavement, a new sidewalk, and new lighting and utilities. Last year we also installed new lighting on the bell tower, making it very visible as drivers approach the Dale Street bridge from the north or the south.

There is just one problem. The lawn between the sidewalk and building is an eyesore. Field bindweed – a non-native noxious weed -- has taken over the planting areas and the window wells. The stems wrap around other plants for support, choking the iris, other perennials, and a hydrangea planted there. It also creeps along the ground to form large mats. What little grass remained along the sidewalk has now been replaced by bindweed.

A group of Redeemer members decided something had to be done. We contacted Metro Blooms, a Twin Cities non-profit organization committed to creating resilient landscapes and fostering clean watersheds. We requested an on-site consultation and in January this year the Vestry approved a contract to provide a Native Planting Design. We have since had a second consultation via Zoom and Metro Blooms is now preparing the design and a workplan. It will include grading the area between the window wells and sidewalk and mechanically removing the current weedy cover. The design will feature a new garden of low-maintenance native flowering plants, 1-3 small flowering trees, and sedges as a groundcover. There will be no lawn to mow, only minimal maintenance after the first year or two, and a beautiful garden to be enjoyed by pollinators and people who walk or drive by.

Earth Day is April 22nd and on Sunday, April 24th the Adult Forum is your chance to learn more about the project, see the design plan, and talk about volunteer opportunities for friends, neighbors, and ourselves.



Field bindweed leaves and stems

Photo courtesy of Minnesota Wildflowers



Pennsylvania sedge groundcover

Photo courtesy of Minnesota Wildflowers



Wouldn't you love to see this along Dale Street?

THE CHILDREN OF RONDO WALKER|WEST MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND



In mid-February, Redeemer submitted a proposal to the Saint Paul Area Synod for a Gleaning from the Harvest Ministry Grant Award. Good news -- we received \$5,000, the amount requested. Our desire to do things we have never done before while having genuine, reciprocal relationships working toward racial justice drive this initiative. It is very possible that this initiative will prevent (or at least delay) closing our doors.

We are calling this initiative the Children of Rondo Walker|West Music Scholarship Fund and we will implement it in partnership with Walker|West Music Academy. If successful, the initiative will

- Contribute to racial equity in access to quality music instruction.
- Honor Redeemer's historical commitment to quality music and the arts in all their forms and genres.
- Restore our historical commitment to summer programs for neighborhood children.
- Increase our visibility in the community and open doors to other relationships and financial stability.
- Add new (to us) musical expressions to our worship, especially jazz and Gospel music, and a non-white voice to the African American spirituals and modern jazz liturgical music in our hymnals.
- Honor and say "Thank You" to the African American elders and families who have claimed Redeemer as their church home and continue to be faithful and skilled leaders.

Walker|West and Redeemer are setting up the scholarship fund. In early summer 2 beginning students from low income families will each receive a \$450 scholarship to attend the 3-week Summer Camp. Tuition for the camp is \$450 and Walker|West will select the recipients. Then, in the fall, the fund will provide \$3,400 to Walker|West in scholarship assistance so that promising students can continue their private lessons. The intent is to continue offering scholarships beyond the 2022.

The grant also allows us to invite Walker|West faculty and students to share their musicianship with Redeemer. We will invite them to perform during worship services in June, July, and August. We will also sponsor 2 free musical events for Walker|West and neighborhood families. Possibilities include Songs of Hope, jazz, and Black spoken word/RAP concerts. Tours of the building and garden areas and complimentary food will be included. We will continue renting the sanctuary and Learning Center to Walker|West for their regular student and faculty concerts.

This is a hefty agenda and you can be part of it. We will need at least 2 Thrivent Gift Cards to help with expenses and Redeemer members and their friends and families to offer hospitality to our guests. Finally, we will need your financial contributions for ensure that the scholarship fund continues and grows.

ADULT FORUM

April 3, 2022 11:30 A. M. **"Living in the Midst of Orthodox Christianity and Orthodox Islam."** Presented by Dr. Joe Rittmann. Joe will share with us his first hand experience as he and Marty visit family in Istanbul, Turkey, a land where Christianity is a minority religion. There were schisms in the early church followed by the rise of Islam and the Ottoman Empire.

April 10, 2022. 11:30 A. M. **"Saint Paul Area Synod Planting Hope Campaign"** Presented by Pastor Jim Erlandson, and Ruth Belmonte. One of the four initiatives of the Planting Hope Campaign is to invest in a transformative project on Saint Paul's East Side, an area with a long history of challenges. The initiative plans to raise \$1,000,000 over a three year period in partnership with agencies and groups. This investment will provide life transforming resources and stability to 1000 persons.

April 17, 2022 **Happy Easter!** No Adult Forum today.

April 24, 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.

COMING IN MAY

"Looking to Redeemer's Future and Present" Presented by Pastor Jim, Diana Rankin, Bonnie Hughes, and Tammy Cownie. As we explore options to have multi uses for our Sanctuary and other spaces Redeemer has developed a relationship with Walker/West Music Academy which has found our Sanctuary as a great concert space. We will continue to build relationships through music with the Rondo community and other music groups such as the Bach Society of Minnesota, Songs of Hope Jazz festivals and more. SPAS (St. Paul Area Synod) through a Gleaning from the Harvest grant provides resources through grants to assist with these developments

Help Our Families As They Move Out of Shelter

Looking for a way to help? Here's a contact-less option to provide much-needed items for our families as they move out of shelter into more permanent housing. Prices on this list range from \$5-89.



PROJECT HOME WISHLIST

- Twin and full size Blankets
- Sheets for a Twin or Full size Bed
- Toilet Paper Dishes
- Air Beds (Intex Dura Classic Airbed) \$34.90
- Electric Air Pump Inflator BOMPOW \$12.99
- Pillows
- Shower Curtain Rings
- Pot and Pans
- Towels
- Soft Soap
- Puzzles for Kids and other toys
- Dove Antiperspirant
- Antibacterial all purpose Cleaner
- Plastic Lunch and Breakfast dishes (kids)
- Broom and Dust Pan

LINK TO WISHLIST: <https://redirect.is/f399y3t>

Please bring donations April 3rd to be packed on the 10th

Sacred Sites Tour

The Sacred Sites Tours are offered as part of Saint Paul and Minneapolis Area Synods' efforts to create understanding, learning and dialogue between Native and non-Native peoples, we gather to immerse ourselves in Minnesota History from a Native perspective as we experience Dakota history, culture and sacred sites through storytelling and are present to one another through silence/meditation/reflection and sharing.



Our time together aims to create greater awareness and understanding of the Dakota people, the original people of this area, who too often are invisible in their homeland.

There are three options for dates to take the tour (choose one):

- Thursday, May 5 - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Friday, May 6 - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Sunday, June 12 - 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Facilitator: The Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs

A member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation of central Wisconsin, Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs is a cultural facilitator who works to raise the public's awareness of American Indian causes and injustices, founder of Healing Minnesota Stories and Co-Director of Racial Justice for Minnesota Council of Churches.

More Details

All attendees must register before the event; there is room for 35 participants on each tour. Dress for an extended walk on uneven terrain. People who may have difficulty standing for storytelling may want to bring lawn chairs. While there is no time set aside for lunch during the tour, participants are welcome to bring snacks as needed.

Because of COVID safety, participants drive themselves from site to site (carpools encouraged) and there is a small entry fee to enter Ft. Snelling State Park without a parks permit. Part of the registration fee will go toward parking. Please indicate on your registration if you will be driving a car or riding with someone else so we can get an accurate car count. Registration cost: \$40 per person.

All tours meet at Church of St. Peter, **1405 Sibley Memorial Highway, St. Paul, MN 55120.**

*If you identify as Indigenous / Native or as youth or young adult (13-35), we want to strive to make this affordable and accessible. We have 35 full scholarships available. Please use the coupon code **SCHOLARSHIP** if this applies to you.*

Contact Pastor Jen Collins with questions, prjencollins@gmail.com.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 21

Register at: <https://mplsareasynod.regfox.com/sacred-sites-tours>



ECOFAITH SUMMIT

NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES:
STORYTELLING FOR THE HEALING OF CREATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH 9-12:30PM

[HTTP://BIT.LY/ECOFAITHSUMMIT21](http://bit.ly/ecofaithsummit21)

EcoFaith Network
Minneapolis Area Synod
of the ELCA

Lutherans
Restoring Creation

Minnesota
INTERFAITH
POWER & LIGHT

Saint Paul
Area Synod
Care of
Creation
Work Group

Lutheran Advocacy -
Minnesota

Nineteen Ministry Grants Awarded!

Nineteen synodically recognized and affiliated organizations have been selected to receive funding from the synod's Gleaning From the Harvest Ministry Grant program. A total of \$113,000 was awarded for exploration and experimentation in the areas of evangelism, racial justice, "we never did that before" and worship training/technology. With 74 applications submitted, the selection committee had their work cut out for them to evaluate the submissions.

Many of the awards represent multi-congregation partnerships or collaborations with educational institutions or other community organizations. Some initiatives focus on justice issues and racial equity work; others on community outreach, food programs or technology improvements. Congratulations to these organizations on receiving ministry grants:



- St. Luke, Cottage Grove
- Prince of Peace, Burnsville
- Racial Justice Ministry Team - Trinity, Stillwater
- Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities
- Lakeview, Maplewood
- Community Sharing- Our Redeemer, St. Paul
- Bethlehem and House of Mercy, St. Paul
- Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Roseville
- Humble Walk, St. Paul
- Grace, Shepherd of the Valley, Christus Victor (Apple Valley) + All Saints, Mount Calvary, Easter (Eagan)
- Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, St. Paul
- Newport, Newport
- Cross, Maplewood
- Christ, Marine on St. Croix
- Amazing Grace, Inver Grove Heights
- St. Philip's, Hastings
- St. Timothy, St. Paul
- Hmong Central, St. Paul
- Fish Lake, Stark

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