

THE REDEEMER RECORD

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

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A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:9-12)

Dear Friends,

As we gather in late October to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of this congregation, we thank God for the faith and love which binds us together. We are also thankful for the faithfulness and resilience that has brought this congregation through many challenges over the years. What has struck me when reading our history back to the 1890s, the struggles and financial challenges have always been there – and this congregation has continued to face them with hope and faith.

So we may ask what have been the values that have guided us and held us together over the years? As a Lutheran congregation, we have long been guided by the Reformation principle of justification by faith, in which we believe that *we are justified by God's grace through faith, and not by works*. This is still our belief.

So, what is it that the Church and this congregation are called to today? There are several passages from scripture which have guided us. One is Jesus' commandment to love. In the passage quoted above, the "new commandment" in John's gospel that Jesus gave to his disciples is *to love one another as I have loved you*. Some look to the passages from the prophet Isaiah, in which faith in God means *"to loss the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke. Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house, when you see the naked, to cover them?... Then your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt, you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairers of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in."* (Isaiah 58:6-7, 12)

We have many challenges these days – including our small numbers, rising costs and financial challenges – which we share with the whole Church. As we celebrate the many years of ministry accomplished by the Redeemer congregation, we also seek clarity and guidance from God for our future ministry. In the coming months we will be taking several opportunities to do this, in worship, in prayer, in the study of scripture, and in faithful conversations. I invite you to join me as we seek to follow Christ into the future, sharing God's love with new generations.

*Peace in Christ,
Pastor Jim Erlandson*

October Calendar

<u>Recurring Weekly Events</u>		
Sun.	10:00 am ~	Worship
	11:15 am ~	Coffee Fellowship
	12:00 pm ~	Universal Life Church of God
	12:00 pm ~	Praise Covenant Ministries
	3:00 pm ~	Grace Harvest Church
Wed.	7:00 pm ~	Choir Rehearsal
	8:00 pm ~	Courage to Change N.A.
Thur.	6:30 am ~	Prayer & Meditation A.A.
	2:00 pm ~	Midweek Bible Study
Fri.	8:00 pm ~	Words into Action N.A.
Sat.	8:00 am ~	Siloé Church
<u>Other Events</u>		
1st	11:00 am	Women's Guild
3rd	8:30 am	ISAIAH Meeting
	1:00 pm	Blessing of the Animals
5th	7:00 pm	MN Renaissance Chamber Choir Rehearsal
8th	10:00 am	Happy Seniors
11th	2:00 pm	Faith in St. Paul's Future @ St. Paul Ref.
14th	7:00 pm	Confirmation
19th	7:00 pm	MN Renaissance Chamber Choir Rehearsal
21st	10:00 am	Restore the Vote Coalition Meeting
24th	2:00 pm	Oktoberfest
25th	10:00 am	Reformation Festival/Eucharist
	11:30 am	125th Anniversary Celebration
28th	6:00 pm	Movie Night: Luther
	7:00 pm	Confirmation
30th	5:00pm	Halloween Party
31st	1:00 pm	NA Halloween Party

125th ANNIVERSARY ON REFORMATION SUNDAY

On **October 25** the Redeemer congregation will celebrate our 125th Anniversary! Reformation Sunday was the occasion for our first worship service in 1890, so we will celebrate our continued ministry and proclamation of the good news of God's love here in St. Paul! We invite all of Redeemer's membership, family and friends, to join us in the celebration. We will celebrate a Festival Eucharist with liturgy and music led by the choir, handbells and brass instruments under the direction of Dr. Jon Strommen Campbell, and our organist, Katie Thompson. Pastor Erlandson will preach and preside at Eucharist. Following worship there will be a reception with dessert and coffee in the church undercroft **at 11:30 am**, including a short program, photo displays, and a time for fellowship and conversation.

Please join us for worship, and invite family and friends to celebrate with us!

October 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.

October 4	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Crucifer
	Joel Michael	Tammy Cownie	Leilani Drake	Shanita Eaves
October 11	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Crucifer
	Tammy Cownie	Joann Conroy	Irene Markley	Ray Hayes
October 18	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Crucifer
	DeAnne Hilgers	Leilani Drake	Mary Lou Knipe	Ali Michael
October 25	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Crucifer
	Michelle Geschwill	Diane Jacobson	Ray Hayes	Todd Allen Hamilton
	Acolyte	Thurifer	Torchbearers	Bannerbearers
	Jared Geschwill	David Tannen	Kymarra Hughes & Tammy Cownie	Bob Paddock & Hilary Ziols

OCTOBER 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
October 4 <i>Lectionary 27</i>	Genesis 2:18-24	Ps 8	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
October 11 <i>Lectionary 28</i>	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	Ps 90:12-17	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
October 18 <i>Lectionary 29</i>	Isaiah 53:4-12	Ps 91:9-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
October 25 <i>Reformation/125th</i>	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Ps 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36

WE ARE L-C-R!
Continuing the Conversation ...

At the end of September, many of us watched the movie *We Are Marshall* and started talking about ways in which rebuilding a college football program is kind of like finding our way forward into Redeemer's next 125 years. In case you missed it (or you've forgotten your "homework"), we'll be continuing to collect insights from the discussion of the movie throughout October.

The movie takes its title from a cheer the student body yells at athletic events: "We are Marshall." However, this cheer was not used until some 20 years after the events of the movie. The screenwriters cast this cheer back in time as a means to convey the sense of purpose among the students who rallied to keep the football program going in the aftermath of the 1970 plane crash. At a pivotal moment in the movie, the cheer communicates that having the "Thundering Herd" football team on the field is an important part of the identity of Marshall University.

Likewise, you are invited to come up with six to eight words that communicate what Lutheran Church of the Redeemer is to you ... What's our identity here? What's our purpose? It can be a complete sentence or just a phrase or even a collection of words. Cards are available on the table by the serving window in the Undercroft. Pick one up, write your thoughts, and drop it in the basket.

Don't neglect the backside of the card! The other part of our discussion concerned whether or not the football team was a success that first season after the plane crash when the team had two wins against eight losses. If success means having a winning record, then the team wasn't successful. However, if the goal was simply to keep the football team going, then they did succeed. They kept the faith.

Likewise, a lot of us have some concept in our minds as to what a "successful" congregation looks like. But God does not call us to be successful; God calls us to be faithful. So what does a faithful congregation look like? How would you define a faithful congregation? Write your thoughts on the backside of the card before you drop it in the basket.

You're welcome to take the card home to think about it. Just drop it in the basket by the end of October. Your thoughts and insights are an important part of the conversation as we venture forward into the next chapter for Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

THEOLOGIAN-IN-RESIDENCE

Our 125th Anniversary is not only about celebrating the past, or even the present. It is an opportunity for us to consider the future ministry to which God is calling us. **Pastor Trudy Cretsinger** has been invited by the Vestry to serve as a Theologian in Residence to help us focus our conversation about where God is calling us in the future. This process has already begun with the film viewing and discussion of *We Are Marshall* in late September. There will be more film discussions to come (including the film *Luther!* on October 28). The purpose of these discussions is to find themes that ring true to our experience, help us to clarify our identity as a congregation, and who we are becoming as "the Church". Pastor Trudy is also suggesting daily spiritual practices and inviting us to select "prayer partners" - because deepening our faith and our relationships with one another is vital to discerning God's call in our lives.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of you at LCR for the wonderful reception in honor of the 10th Anniversary of my ordination. The cake was beautiful and delicious. The cards and the messages truly touched my heart. And the gift of *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber was a delightful surprise. As I said at the reception, the support and encouragement that I have received from all of you in this community has meant so very much to me these past four years since I came back. I cannot thank you enough for keeping my sense of call alive and assuring me that God is with me in this part of my journey. May God bless you all as you have blessed me! ~ Trudy

MOVIE NIGHT: LUTHER

On **Wednesday, October 28th**, The congregation is invited to join the confirmands and their families for a showing of *Luther*, the 2003 dramatization of Martin Luther's role in sparking the Protestant Reformation starring Joseph Finnes as Luther. When lists of the top 100 events of the second millennium were being collected in the late 1990s, Martin Luther's 95 Theses made that list. If you've forgotten church history from your confirmation lessons -- or if you never had confirmation classes, here's a great opportunity to catch up. It's also a great time to revisit our Lutheran heritage as we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer on October 25th and the 498th Anniversary of the posting of those 95 Theses on October 31st. A brief discussion will follow the movie. There will definitely be popcorn and pop ... maybe even dinner. ***We will start gathering at 6:00pm and the two-hour movie will start at 6:30pm.***

NEW EMERGENCY EXIT SIGNS

New emergency exit signs have been installed at Redeemer, as ordered by the fire marshal inspector. Thank you to everyone who donated to this un-planned for, but necessary project. \$6,000 was raised in less than three weeks! We are almost there! Two additional lights are needed (for the SW & SE staircases) so an additional \$2,000 is required.

PRAYER PARTNERS COMING IN OCTOBER!

As part of our journey into the future that God has for us at Redeemer, the Vestry and the Board of Elders are forming prayer partnerships and engaging in some intentional devotional practices beginning this month. The partners will check-in with each other once a week and pray for each other on a daily basis. Along with praying for one another, partners will also be praying for those on the prayer list in the weekly bulletin, reconnecting with our worship, and reflecting on our Pitch Pipe Passage (chosen by Pastor Jim) on a daily basis. Our confirmation students and their families are also participating in this activity. **All participants in the Redeemer community are invited to join as well.**

If you would like to be a prayer partner with another member of the community, fill out a simple slip with your name and contact information (phone number/email address) and drop it in the basket in the sanctuary on any of the first three Sundays in September. Partners will be drawn from the basket two-by-two after the service on Sunday, October 18th. Further information on the simple spiritual practices that the Vestry and Elders are engaging in will also be available that day.

If you want to participate, but aren't able to be at the services, please contact Trudy Cretsinger by phone at 651-280-8152 or email as tkcretsinger@gmail.com. Questions? You can ask Trudy about those as well.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation is a ministry in which young persons of middle school age explore the importance of baptism in our daily lives, what it means to be part of the Church today, as well as other questions of faith. Redeemer's Confirmation class meets two evenings per month- **on Wednesday, October 14 & 28 at 7:00 pm**. Parents are always encouraged to come and be part of the discussion! **On October 28** we will explore the movie *Luther!*, a 2003 film version of Martin Luther's life and the faith issues he faced in the 16th century. Parents and friends from the Redeemer congregation are all invited to enjoy the film with us.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Join us **Friday, October 30th at 6:00 pm** for our annual Halloween party! Admission is ONE canned or boxed item for the foodshelf and tickets are 25¢ each and each activity costs between 1 and 5 tickets.

Want to volunteer for set up, running games or clean up?

Contact Tammy Cownie:
tammycownie@msn.com



ADULT FORUM

Oct. 4, 2015 9:00 AM. "The Reformation and Art--Media Revolution", a power point presentation by Arline Satrom. We continue to celebrate The Lutheran decade as we mark the countdown to 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's historic nailing of his 95 theses to the Castle church door in Wittenberg.

Oct. 11, 2015 9:00 A.M. Story Matters: Naming, Claiming and Living Our Biblical Identity" led by Dr. Diane Jacobson. What biblical story best captures our own stories of who we are and who God is calling us to be? How might our biblical story gather us together and help to form us as a community of disciples? How is God calling us through our biblical story into mission in God's world? Join a discussion that centers on the biblical story that we, as a congregation, can identify as our defining story. Introduced at 9:00 a.m., and continued following worship.

Oct. 18, 2015 9:00 A.M. "The Theology of Healing." We have the opportunity to frequently attend the Healing Service here at Redeemer. What does healing encompass? Does healing mean more than healing of the body?

Oct. 25, 2015 9:00 A.M. "An Overview of Martin Luther" presented by the Reverend Robert Hausman. How much do you actually know about Martin Luther? What is the historical backdrop to his bold move to nailing his 95 theses to the Castle church door in Wittenberg?

11:30 A.M. Discussion on Redeemer saints.

There will be an Adult Forum Planning meeting on Thurs. Oct. 8, 2015 at 10:15 A.M. in the library. You are invited to attend. For more information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266.

Midweek Bible Study

Midweek Bible study continues weekly on Thursdays at 2:00 P.M. in the church library and led by the Reverend Robert Hausman. The theme of the series is "Looking for the Source of Wisdom" and will cover Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes.

The course outline is as follows:

~ Proverbs: The beginning of wisdom is: a) not acting the fool; b) rejoicing in God's discipline; c) the fear of the Lord; d) all of the above.

~ Job: Patience vs. Rebellion or "How do I know my Redeemer liveth anyway?"

~ Ecclesiastes: "Is anyone in charge here?" or "All is vanity and a striving after the wind."

MUSIC NOTES

As I begin my second month at LCR I want to say THANK YOU to those who have welcomed me like a family member. I am very enthusiastic about this church and I love the worship. I look forward to improving the music program however I can. If you have ideas for how to do this, please share. If you are interested in joining choir, ringing handbells, or playing a musical instrument, please let me know. It is a blessing to have this time together.

Jon Strommen Campbell

WELCOME NEW CONGREGATIONS!

In September we welcomed a new congregation, Praise Covenant Church, which has now begun worship at Redeemer. Their pastor is Rebecca Makayi. They worship in the Learning Center each Sunday at noon.

On October 4 another new congregation begins worship services here: Grace Harvest Church. Their pastor is Eng Herr. They will worship at 3:00 pm on Sundays, also in the Learning Center.

So now there are five congregations worshipping in this building, including Redeemer. *Soli Deo Gloria!* (To God alone be the glory!)

VISITING OUR SENIOR MEMBERS/HOME COMMUNION VISITORS

Some of our senior members are no longer able to worship regularly due to health reasons or advanced age and truly miss weekly worship and Eucharist, as well as fellowship with their many friends in Christ. Would you be willing to serve on a team of lay persons who visit some of our homebound members once a month? If you feel that this is a ministry you would like to be part of, please contact Pastor Erlandson.

Our first training will be Tuesday, October 6th at 1:00 pm

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Saturday, October 3, at 1:00 pm we will hold our annual Blessing of the Animals in the church courtyard garden. There will be a brief worship service with prayers, scripture and song, followed by the blessing rite for animals. After the service you are invited to take pictures with your pet with St. Francis (the statue is located in the courtyard garden). Please bring your dog, cat or other pet as we ask for God's blessings for all creatures. You may invite your neighbors and friends, as the whole community is invited.

ISAIAH CORE TEAM NEWS

Everyone is invited to a special event on **Sunday, October 11th – *Faith in Saint Paul's Future*** at **St. Paul – Reformation Lutheran Church** (100 N. Oxford Street) from **2:00pm-4:00pm**. This forum will feature the **City Council Candidates** from **Wards 1 and 2** along with **all candidates** for the **Saint Paul Board of Education**. Redeemerites Pastor Jim Erlandson, Gretchen Vanderlinden-Wang, Myrna and Lyle Nelson have specific roles at this event. People of Saint Paul will share stories about the need for Earned Sick & Safe Time for all employees within the city. Then the candidates for city council will have a chance to respond to this need and offer their support for Earned Sick & Safe Time. Likewise, others from Saint Paul will discuss the problems with racial equity in our schools along with proposed solutions. The candidates for the school board will then respond with their ideas for improving equity for all our students and offering their commitment for universal pre-kindergarten instructions of all four year-olds in Saint Paul.

Earned Sick & Safe Time policies would allow all employees to earn paid time off based on hours worked. The time off could be used when the employee is sick so he or she can visit a health care provider or simply stay home to rest and recover. This time can also be used to care for a dependent who is ill. Domestic violence victims would also have access to paid time off so they can access court services or collect the necessary documents for themselves and their children in order to go into shelters. Right now over 160,000 workers in Saint Paul do not have access to this very basic benefit. If they are unable to work, then they must make do without that day's pay. For people in low-paying work, this impacts their daily life, forcing choices between working sick or having enough money for food.

All of the candidates for school board have been sent a questionnaire that presents specific questions about the problems with racial equity in the schools and about their ideas for addressing these problems. Their responses will be available at the October 11th event. A call for universal access to pre-kindergarten for four year-olds is being presented as a step toward overcoming these equity gaps in the future. However, we know more direct actions are needed for students who are in our schools now. Responses from the candidates at the forum and in the questionnaire will help identify those who share our concerns for equity in the schools. All of God's children are precious and every one of them deserves the opportunity to grow into the people God created them to be.

Join us on October 11th for this important event!

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