

# THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 116, No. 9

September 2021



## God's Work, Our Hands 2019

### LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor

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Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

## Pastor's Letter from Home

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has come, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is a common greeting that goes: "What's new with you?" Kim and I have three granddaughters now (since August, 2019), and are expecting a fourth grandchild in January. That is quite a change from just over two years ago, when we were not yet grandparents. Now I am called "Grandude" by my family. So how about you? What's new?

We begin the Fall at Redeemer with much that is unknown (like, what will be the effects of Covid-19 variants), some that is old (we are back to in-person worship), and much that is new (new technology, new people, new challenges). So what's new? What's old and familiar? What's exciting or challenging? What's new is that now we are on livestream, filming our worship live on YouTube. What's old? We are back to in-person worship now (since the end of June), but what's new is that we are back to wearing face masks (that's old!) to be safe. We will be open for worship in the sanctuary, but we want everyone to be safe, so everyone eligible **must be vaccinated**, and we strongly encourage **everyone to be masked in worship, so that we can sing our hymns safely**. Young children can not yet be vaccinated, so we must keep our children and families safe.

So, what else is new? We have a new Director of Music and the Choir: Erik Krogh, whom we welcome this month. We welcome back Ellen Hacker, our Organist and Choir Accompanist, who completed her graduate studies the past two years. We will be looking at new ways for the choir to lead our worship this September, safely spaced and masked, using the large space we have between the transepts. We have re-opened the church to our N.A. support groups that have been meeting for much of 2021, and have begun to hold funerals, weddings, and concerts, slowly and safely. What other new ministries will begin in 2022?

Thanks be to God, we have come through the pandemic year safely, which was our primary goal. For not only has God guided us through this pandemic, God is always creating, and re-creating us new each day and year. So we look forward to what God will bring to us in coming months and years. Just as we are grateful for what is old and familiar, which gives us comfort and peace. Peace be to you.

Pastor Jim Erlandson

*"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, or crying, or mourning, or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." The one who is seated upon the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new!"*



### **LIVE IN-PERSON WORSHIP RETURNS!**

Live, in-person worship returned to Redeemer on Thursday, June 24. We now worship every Sunday upstairs in the church Sanctuary. We wear masks but are able to sing hymns and do the full worship service, including receive bread and wine (in plastic, recyclable cups).

***We assume that everyone coming to worship (except children) is vaccinated. Please wear a face mask in worship even if you have been vaccinated, for the safety of children who have not. Please do not come to worship if you feel sick, continue to wash your hands often, and refrain from touching.***

***Please bring your mask and wear it to worship as we gather. We will announce when/if it is safe to remove masks. Worship leaders may remove their masks in the chancel (at the lectern, pulpit and altar).***

### **WE LIVESTREAM WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE**

On Sunday, June 27 we began to livestream our worship service. You can find every worship service recorded since March 22, 2020 on YouTube videos. You can find our page at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Search for **Lutheran Church of the Redeemer St. Paul MN ELCA**. Please subscribe to that page and you can always find us. You can also find the link to livestream videos on our church website:

**[redeemerstpaul.org](https://redeemerstpaul.org)**

Go to this Youtube page every Sunday at 10 am if you want to watch the livestream at home. We have also set up an ongoing Zoom meeting for coffee hour conversation every Sunday at 11 am, so that those who aren't at live in-person worship can also have conversation. A laptop is set up in the elevator lounge so people can also join the Zoom conversation from church.

**SEPTEMBER 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.

<b>September 5</b>	Lyle Nelson
<b>September 12</b>	Stephanie Stoessel
<b>September 19</b>	Dave Dufresne
<b>September 26</b>	Benjamin Cretsinger

	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>September 5</b> <i>Pentecost 15</i>	Isa 35:4-7a	Ps 146	James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
<b>September 12</b> <i>Pentecost 16</i>	Isa 50:4-9a	Ps 116:1-9	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
<b>September 19</b> <i>Pentecost 17</i>	Jer 11:18-20	Ps 54	James 3:13— 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
<b>September 26</b> <i>Pentecost 18</i>	Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	Ps 19:7-14	James 5:13- 20	Mark 9:38-50

**ADULT FORUM**

Sept. 5, 2021 **Labor Day** **No Adult Forum**

Sept. 12, 2021 **God's Work-Our Hands** Congregation hosts event for Dale Street Place residents. **No Adult Forum**

Sept. 19, 2021 **"Rent Stabilization Effort at the State Legislature."** Update by Redeemer's ISIAH members. We will be voting on this issue which will be on the Saint Paul ballot this November.

Sept. 26, 2021 **"Where is the Joy in the World of Troubled Times?"** This will be a panel discussion by Adult Forum and your discussion. Many people have experienced hard times during the Pandemic. Some have experienced depression. How have you survived these months with many disruptions to your "normal life-including church life?"

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There will be an Adult Forum Planning meeting Weds. Sept. 22, 2021 at 10:00 A. M. at the church. You are invited to attend. For more information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266 or [foremanjoan3@gmail.com](mailto:foremanjoan3@gmail.com).



Our Church Vestry meeting was opened by Ruth on August 10, 2021 on Zoom with prayer and two members unable to join. Pastor Jim confirmed that Mr. Erik Krogh would begin service as music director on September 1 for the season. And the Vestry endorsed the recommendation of the Elders that Redeemer engage Mrs. Ellen Hacker as organist from Sept 5. While the cost of church staff in 2021 is covered in this year's budget, the budget for staff will need to be increased for 2022.

Pastor Jim highlighted an invitation to Shobi's Table food ministry to share at Redeemer on September 8. This food ministry is conducted by Deacon Kari Olsen from Christ Lutheran on Capitol Hill with at diverse congregations in the area. This will be an opportunity to invite the neighborhood and to register cars for winter parking. Support for costs will be received by application to Thrivent Action program.

The expense for roof repairs and slate repairs were presented to a Congregation meeting on August 22. And discussion on bringing the elevator up to code is ongoing. The Vestry discussed involvement of Daily Work for daily maintenance and cleaning of the church premises now that the church is being used on a daily basis. Until a long term solution is determined, the Vestry thanks volunteers who take on this task.

The July treasurer's report showed a total of \$136443 on account, with revenues received at 55% and expenses paid at 58% at the end of July when 58% of the year has past. The mortgage remaining is \$75342 plus interest. Bob noted that income in July exceeded expenditures in July.

Pastor Trudy announced how the Vestry's actions call attention to the Congregation's faith, trust, focus, and willingness to tackle what needs to be done in the full knowledge that God will provide.

**The next meeting will be held on September 14 on Zoom.**

Ruth adjourned the meeting at 836p.



### **WELCOME ERIK KROHG!**

Hello Redeemer! My name is Erik Krohg and I am happy to be joining you as the Director of Music/Choir Director. I have a lifelong passion for music and I am looking forward to sharing it with you. I grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota where I was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church. I earned a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. At Concordia, I sang in the Concordia Choir under René Clausen for three years and also with the FargoMoorhead Opera chorus. During the summer of 2013, I was privileged to be an associate fellow at Tanglewood Music Center. I went on to earn my Master of Music in Voice at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, performing there in several operas and oratorios. While at Indiana University, I served as an Associate Instructor of Voice. Though my degrees are in performance, I have long had an interest in conducting, studying both instrumental and choral conducting throughout my undergraduate and graduate studies. In addition to my studies in vocal music and conducting, I am also a pianist, having studied and played piano since I was five years old. Currently, I sing with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, with this upcoming season being my sixth with the group. I also sing in a variety of other settings around the Twin Cities, including with First Readings Project and as a soloist in oratorio work (at least pre-pandemic). I have also worked as a substitute church pianist at several area churches, primarily Westminster Presbyterian in downtown Minneapolis. Outside of music, I am an enthusiastic baker, a hobby especially picked up during the pandemic, and an avid reader. I am looking forward to meeting you as we head into the new season.

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### **WELCOME BACK ELLEN HACKER!**

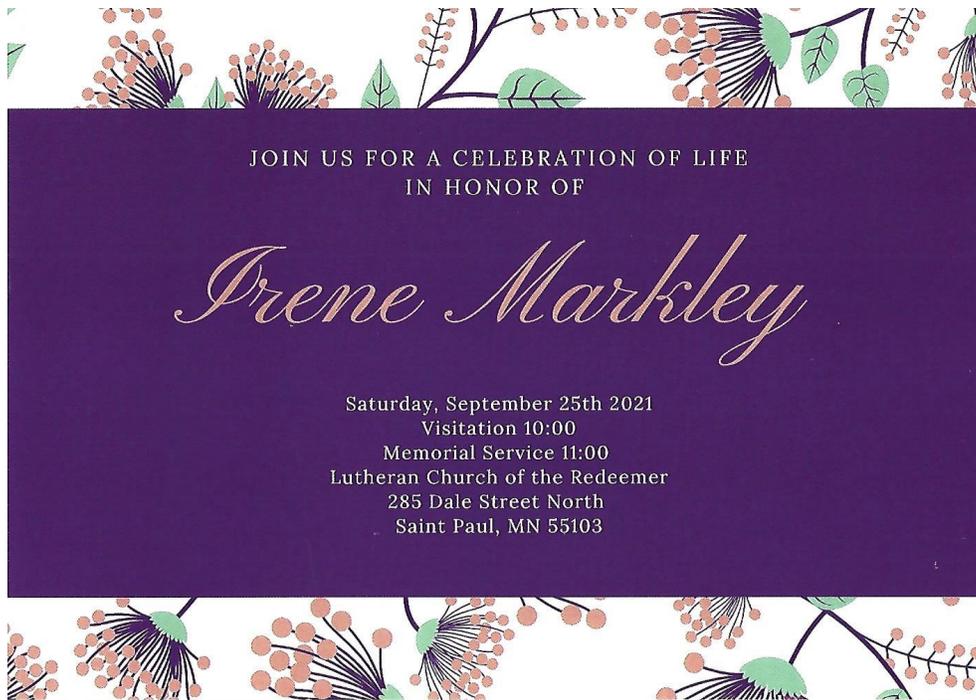
Hello, Redeemer members! I'm thrilled to be back. Since June 2019, Jonah and I moved to Milwaukee, WI so I could pursue a Master's of Music in String Pedagogy & Violin Performance. In June 2021, I received my degree, we sold our house in Milwaukee, and we moved back to Minnesota. This past weekend, we moved into our new house in St. Paul. After two moves in six weeks, we are really looking forward to settling in and getting to know our new neighborhood. I am so pleased to be back at Redeemer after a brief two-year hiatus, and I look forward to making new musical memories with everyone!



**Choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 8th at 7:00pm**  
**Bring your mask and vaccination card.**



**A Memorial Service for Samuel W. Rankin** will be held on Sunday, September 5, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 North Dale Street, St. Paul, MN 55103. We will gather at the church between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. for a light lunch and an opportunity to share our memories and stories and to rejoice in having had Sam in our lives.



**The cross in the chancel is draped with an orange cloth in memory of the First Nation Children who were taken from their homes and those who died in Native Boarding Schools in the U.S. and Canada this past century.**

## ISAIAH CORE TEAM NEWS



### ***Saint Paul Rent Stabilization Campaign Overview***

#### ***Our Current Situation***

Saint Paul is a working class, majority minority city. In Saint Paul, 40% people are in poverty; 50% are people of color. More than 50 percent of residents identify as renters totaling 57,621 households, according to St. Paul officials. They report 83 percent of African American households rent, compared to 41 percent of white households ([source](#)).

We have an affordable housing crisis in our whole region but especially in our city. Approximately 6% of the majority BIPOC student population in St. Paul have experienced homelessness during the school year. Over half of Saint Paul residents are renters and around 60% of households of color rent (vs only 40% of white households) so issues that impact renters are absolutely a racial justice concern.

Right now, it is perfectly legal for a landlord to increase rent multiple times a year by as much as they want - even several hundred dollars. Some landlords are doing this to purposely displace people and start over with higher income tenants. This practice disrupts families and whole communities, especially when finding new housing on short notice is so difficult. This also fuels a politics of economic exploitation and greed.

#### ***What is Rent Stabilization?***

Rent stabilization would make this kind of price gouging illegal and would allow landlords to raise rent by up to 3% in a 12 month period, with certain exceptions for changes to property taxes and major improvements. This would prohibit price gouging and exploitation of some renters who sometimes see 5-10% increases or more in their rent. This is compared to the median rent increase average of between 2.3%-2.7% in the metro area. Our rent stabilization policy still allows for moderate increases to keep up with the cost of living and pay for repairs & upkeep BUT would make those multi-hundred dollar increases illegal.

For too long, renters have had little power to ensure a stable, affordable, and dignified home. This ballot initiative helps rebalance that power between renters and landlords. It also teaches political lessons to our elected officials/decision makers about who in our city should be at the decision making table and whose interests should be taken into consideration and advanced in our politics.



### ***So Why a Ballot Initiative (Rather than a Vote By Mayor and/or City Council)?***

A few decades ago the state legislature (lobbied by landlords and including many landlords as legislators) took away a city's authority to pass rent stabilization/control without expressed permission from voters. Just this year, MN Senate Republicans moved a bill in 2021 to make sure cities couldn't advance rent stabilization/control AT ALL. Fortunately, that recent bill never moved forward. Therefore, it's still in the hands of voters to enact policies like rent stabilization in their own city!

If more than 50% of Saint Paul voters vote in support of rent stabilization in Nov, rent stabilization will be enacted city wide May 2022! We will be the first city in the state to have rent stabilization. We can lead Minneapolis to see that people on the other side of the river want this policy, fought for it and won!

There is work to do to win this campaign. [In 2013 only 16% of voting age citizens voted, in 2017 30% did.](#) Together, we have an opportunity to challenge minority rule and reset the balance of power we need to create the multi-racial democracy and caring economy we all need to thrive. This will be made by all of us having the courage to do the messy, rewarding hard work of engaging each other and taking responsibility together for our city.



**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** is Sunday, September 12, 2021.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

**We are making plans at Redeemer to serve a lunch outdoors to residents of Dale Street Place, 313 No. Dale St., after worship on Sunday, September 12, at 11:30 am.**



## ROOF REPAIR BEGINS

The Redeemer congregation approved bids by Langer Construction to do roof repairs on the East Dale Street roof flashing, bell tower, front entry caulking, and flat roof above the music office annex, as well as slate roof replacement around the chimney repair project done last summer. The total cost of repairs will be \$49,500, unless new slate needs to be purchased. (We saved some used slate shingles from the previous roof in 2001, which we hope can be used.) The work begins the first week in September, by Central Roofing as subcontractor.

The congregation approved using Vanguard Funds (our "rainy day fund" reserves) towards payment of \$37,500 in cash at the completion of the work, and \$12,000 financed for one year at 3% interest by Langer Construction.

**We are requesting that Redeemer members offer donations to help pay for the initial payment (so that we don't draw down our reserves so drastically). If each household gave a gift (over and above our annual pledges), whether it's \$100 or \$1000, we can substantially reduce the draw down from our reserves. We are all invited to make a one-time gift now, in September, or make a commitment toward the monthly payments in 2022.**

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## CITY OF BELLS ON SEPTEMBER 11

Redeemer is joining the churches in the Twin Cities that will ring tower bells on September 11 in the morning to commemorate 20 years since the destruction of that day. We invite volunteers to ring our tower bells that morning for one minute, at 7:46 am, 8:03 am, 8:37 am, and 9:03 am to remember those who died that day. We also ring for all those who died in the war in Afghanistan these past 20 years.



Shobi's  
Table

pay-as-you-can cafe

&



Lutheran Church  
of the Redeemer

are having a

**PARKING LOT**



**BLOCK PARTY**

Wednesday, September 8th, 2021  
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Come spend time with your  
neighbors and share a meal from  
Shobi's Table.

285 N. Dale St.  
Saint Paul, MN 55103

After Covid-19 shutdown March 15, 2020 and only recently reopening for Sunday worship, the congregation is planning this event to welcome the neighborhood to meet the congregation and learn more about us and some of the community services available. We plan to invite the neighborhood with flyers distributed door to door. We will also invite participants in the Narcotics Anonymous support groups who use Redeemer and those who worship with Praise Covenant (African National) and Kingdom of God (Hmong) congregations who share our facility.

We plan for refreshments, tables with information about congregational ministries, worship schedule, our participation in ISAIAH and other local justice ministries. There will also be information on voting/voter registration in preparation for the St. Paul city election in November. Children's activities include face painting and games for children.

We will have our tent set up on the lawn with tables and chairs for refreshments and conversation - in case of rain we can move inside. We will also begin the process of registering neighbors' vehicles to park in the church lot during snow emergencies.

Our key goal is meeting people in the neighborhood after 18 months of not being connected (i.e. no ministries happening in the building) The benefit is to improve people's lives by helping people build relationships in the community and let the community know we are here and are interested in them and their lives. In addition to worship, we want to help with city and local issues that affect them (rent stabilization, employment, children's education, community safety)

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

