

THE REDEEMER RECORD

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor

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Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

Jonathan Campbell, Music Director

Katie Thompson, Organist

A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Throughout the season of Easter we have heard both stories of Jesus' resurrection appearances, and Jesus' final words to his disciples – both from the Last Supper and before his ascension into heaven. On recent Sundays we have heard Jesus' words from John 15, sometimes called his "farewell discourse" to the disciples. It takes place in the upper room at Passover, before Jesus' arrest.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has great love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you, [because] I do not call you servants any longer...but I have called you friends...I am giving you these commands, so that you may love one another." (John 15:12-17)

In the Church, we often call ourselves brothers and sisters in Christ (related because of our baptism), but we also call each other "friends in Christ". We should use this term more often, and speak it out loud – because the words we speak out loud can strongly impact our feelings and actions toward each other. When we call each other brothers and sisters, or friends in Christ, we may find it more natural to "love one another", or treat one another with loving kindness.

Jesus no longer calls us servants (which is hierarchical and distant), but "friends" – to capture the essence of our life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, and the deep mutuality intended for our relationship – with God, with Christ, with one another – into which Jesus invites us. The depth of the relationship between friends was celebrated by the ancient Greeks, who believed that true friends are willing to die for one another. This is the "ideal friendship" which Jesus made real in his life and in his death.

We all seek friends in our lives, and know the joy that mutuality and common experiences can bring to us. Unlike family and our relatives, friends can come and go – although some friends last forever, which is a special joy! When friends leave, or move away, it brings sadness – but also the joy of remembering special times and experiences we have shared.

We are losing a good friend in Jonathan Campbell, our director of music, who is moving to California this month to take a new church position in Claremont. We are sad to see him go, but it is too good an opportunity to pass up, and so we rejoice with him! We will always remember the faithfulness and care that he brought to his musical vocation, preparing the choir and instrumentalists to lead worship every Sunday, and the creativity and joy he brought to music! Please join me, and the choir, in bidding farewell and Godspeed to Jon this Sunday, May 5th at worship, and in the reception which follows worship in the church undercroft.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Jim Erlandson

FROM THE DESK OF JONATHAN CAMPBELL . . .

Dear Redeemer,

This is a diary-like letter to you, and a “thanks” for three amazing years. I came to Redeemer shortly after finishing my terminal degree in choral conducting and I was hopeful about new prospects for my life. Instead my marriage ended and I found myself in a very precarious situation, indeed. It was through the help and support of Redeemer and other friends and family that I have been able to keep the wheels from falling off the bus. Or maybe the wheels fell off, but I was able to keep going. I don’t know... analogies fail me.



Anyway, I began graduate school in 2012 with the intention of finding full-time work. Now—six years later—I finally have found a job. So, this May I am moving to Claremont, California to begin a new chapter in my life. But—like a good book—the stories of our lives continue like a thread from chapter to chapter. In other words, I will continue to value the friendships and community of Redeemer Lutheran and I will eagerly stay in touch. Redeemer has been a sanctuary and joy for me in an otherwise relatively dark time.

I want to thank you for welcoming me and my kids. I want to thank you for letting me try some radical things with worship and music. I want to thank Katie Thompson for being the most fun, dexterous, and cheeky organist I’ve worked with. And sincere thanks to both Jim and Tahnea for being great staff members.

I pray that Redeemer continues to thrive and be that “voice in the wilderness.” Best wishes to everyone and God’s blessing.

Jon Campbell



Note: Dr. Jonathan Campbell leaves May 7 to take a Director of Music and Fine Arts position at the United Church of Christ in Claremont, California.



May Calendar

Recurring Weekly Events

Sun. 10:00 am ~ Worship
 11:15 am ~ Coffee Fellowship
 12:00 pm ~ Universal Life Church of God
 12:00 pm ~ Praise Covenant Church

Wed. 7:00 pm ~ Choir Rehearsal
 8:00 pm ~ Courage to Change N.A.

Fri. 8:00 pm ~ Words into Action N.A.

Sat. 8:00 am ~ Siloé Church

Other Events

1st	6:00 pm	Faith in MN Phone Bank
	7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
2nd	6:00 pm	Faith in MN Phone Bank
3rd	11:00 am	Women's Guild Meeting
5th	10:00 am	Faith in MN Phone Bank
7th	6:30 pm	ISIAIAH Central Leadership Meeting
8th	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
10th	10:30 am	Happy Seniors
	6:30 pm	ISIAIAH Sanctuary Network
12th	10:00 am	Girl Scouts
	1:30 pm	Affordable Housing Taskforce
22nd	7:00 pm	ISIAIAH Core Team Meeting
24th	6:00 pm	ISIAIAH Meeting
26th	10:00 am	Girl Scouts
		YOUTHWORKS STAFF MOVE IN DAY
28th	6:30 pm	Faith in MN Floor Captains Training



CONGRATULATIONS TO JARED GESCHWILL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT!

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges.

The Eagle Scout must demonstrate Scout Spirit, an ideal attitude based upon the Scout Oath and Law, service, and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. Eagle Scouts are presented with a medal and a badge that visibly recognizes the accomplishments of the Scout.

Usher/Greeter Schedule at Redeemer



May, 2018

Greeter at Parking Lot Door: Myrna Nelson

Sunday, May 6

Joel Michael (captain)
Sam Rankin
Lyle Nelson
Obang Agwa

Sunday, May 13 (Ascension)

Eric Chiquist (captain)
Sherri Chiquist
Charlene Dickerson
Carla Johnson

Sunday, May 20 (Pentecost)

Sam Rankin (captain)
Ruth Belmonte
Joe Belmonte

Sunday, May 27 (Memorial Day Weekend - The Holy Trinity)

Eric Chiquist (captain)
Sherri Chiquist
Charlene Dickerson
Bob Hausman*

*Bob Hausman is recovering from knee replacement surgery on April 30, so we will see when he is ready and able to usher again

Claude Mikkelson will serve as needed.

The Women's Guild will meet Thursday, May 3rd at 11:00am. Hostess Elizabeth Currie will serve coffee and dessert. Bring a sandwich or salad and join us.

OCTOBER 32, 2017: Always Being Made New
A Monthly/Seasonal Invitation to On-Going Reformation
Rev. Trudy Cretsinger, Theologian in Residence

The April issue of *Living Lutheran* featured an article focused on the words **evangelical** and **evangelism** and what these words might mean for us in the ELCA, given that **Evangelical** is the first word in our name. This article was also the basis of the Forum led by Joe Ritman on April 8th, pondering the question of what it might mean to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in both actions and words in our current context, both locally and internationally. As was pointed out during the forum, the original Greek words at the root of **evangel** are *good* and *news*. The term *gospel* or *good news* had long been used by the Caesars for public announcements about military conquests and other achievements. But the gospel writers took the term and repurposed it to refer to their announcements, intended for public hearing, of what God had accomplished in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, who is called the Christ.

Words matter. Early Christian writers like Paul and the gospel writers took words in common usage at the time and gave them new shades of meaning. Centuries later, Luther and the other protestant reformers had the advantage of doing scripture translation and theological writing in vernacular languages that were just moving into written form. Their words could mean what these early writers said that they did. But languages continue to shift and move. That's why we occasionally make changes to words in common texts like the Creeds and the Lord's Prayer. The original forms in ancient Greek and Latin don't change because no one actively uses those languages any more. But the language we do use shifts and changes. So we have to occasionally assess whether the English versions we use for the ancient words are still the best for expressing those concepts for the modern speaker.

Maybe it's time to take a similar approach to words like *evangelical* or maybe even *Christian*. We know what we mean by these words. However, to many of the people around us, the word *evangelical* means Christians who constantly press everyone they encounter about a personal relationship with Jesus... talk about how those who don't believe as they do will be in hell for eternity... and see it as their personal mission to stamp out public sins (especially in others, not themselves) ... often through political means with hoped-for support from one particular party. None of this fits well with the doctrinal statements of the ELCA, but none of that matters to most people outside our particular church doors. We can insist the popular definition is wrong as much as we want, but we will never get a hearing because that term is so off-putting to many, especially those who are not really connected to any church. Words *evangelical* or *Christian* may not really mean what those outside of any church think they do. But we have no way of challenging the definitions that have developed through common public usage.

What other words might we use? God is always making things new, even us – even our words. Give it some thought and let me know... Write your words down and hand them to me at church ... email me as tkcretsinger@gmail.com ... chat with me over coffee.

May 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.

May 6	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
	Bob Paddock	Leilani Drake	Joe Rittman
May 13	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
<i>Ascension</i>	Joel Michael	DeAnne Hilgers	Elizabeth Currie
	Thurifer	Torchbearer	Crucifer
	Michael Mulokozi	Allie & Laura Michael	Ray Hayes
	Bannerbearer		
	Hilary Ziols		
May 20	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
<i>Pentecost</i>	Michelle Geschwill	Bob Paddock	Latham Lupeke
	Thurifer	Torchbearer	Crucifer
	David Tannen	Bonnie Hughes & Tammy Davis Cownie	Todd-Allen Hamilton
	Bannerbearer		
	Benjamin Cretsinger		
May 27	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
<i>Holy Trinity</i>	Tammy Davis Cownie	Trudy Cretsinger	Irene Markley

MAY 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	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
May 6 <i>6 Easter</i>	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 13 <i>Ascension</i>	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or Ps 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
May 20 <i>Pentecost</i>	Acts 2:1-21 <i>or</i> Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 104:24-34,	Romans 8:22-27 <i>or</i> Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 27 <i>Holy Trinity</i>	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

ADULT FORUM

May 6, 2018 11:30 A. M. No Adult Forum
Farewell Reception for Jon Campbell, Music Director.

May 13, 2018 11:30 A. M.
"Healing with Minnesota Tribal Communities."

Report of April retreat attended by Pastor Jim Erlandson, Myrna Nelson, Rev. Joann Conroy, and Carla Johnson. This event for religious leaders focused on the Doctrine of Discovery, History and a Sacred Sites tour. Our fall Adult Forum schedule will include a fuller agenda on these topics.

May 20, 2018 11:30 A. M.
 Follow-up on the **"ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice"** led by Rev. Trudy Cretsinger. This is your chance to share your comments, listen to comments of other Redeemerites and have an opportunity to submit comments on the Social Statement to the ELCA.

May 27, 2018 **Memorial Day weekend. No class.**

**Adult Forums will resume Sept. 9, 2018
 with "God's Work-Our Hands."**

 There will be an Adult Forum Planning meeting Thurs. May 10, 2018 at 10:00 A. M. in the church library. You are invited to attend. For questions contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266.

CORE TEAM NEWS

All kinds of things are happening as we continue to work toward a vision of a society in which all are included, basic needs are met for all people, and everyone is valued as a precious creation of God. Senate district caucuses have concluded, and several Redeemer members were elected as delegates or alternates to the statewide caucus. Our Faith Delegates are committed to the Faith Agenda rather than to a candidate. This Faith Agenda was developed out of the concerns that were raised at house meetings last year and early this year. A copy of the agenda is displayed on the ISAI AH bulletin board in the Undercroft.

Other exciting things are happening. Stephanie Stoessel was recently elected chair of the Saint Paul Caucus following the resignation of another Redeemer member, Gretchen Vanderlinden-Wang. Their leadership continues to show the commitment of our congregation in living out and working toward the vision God has for the world and human life in this world.

Several Redeemer members are active on the newly formed Affordable Housing Task Force. Various Task Force members have started a series of research visits to better understand the context of the affordable housing problem in Saint Paul. The city council recently received a study detailing the current affordable housing situation and suggesting next steps. It is important to note that civic leaders did not decide to tackle this problem because of their own observations and concerns. They did so because of a fair housing complaint filed several years ago. Due to the ugly weather of the last few weeks, several meetings had to be cancelled. ***The next meeting of the Affordable Housing Task Force has been scheduled for May 12th. For more information on the Task Force, please speak with Myrna Nelson, Gretchen Vanderlinden-Wang or Stephanie Stoessel.***

Mayor Carter's first State of the City Summit also had to be canceled due to the April blizzard. The event has been rescheduled for **Saturday, May 19th at 9:00am**. As planned, the event will still be held at **Johnson Senior High School, 1349 Arcade Street**. Residents of Saint Paul are welcome to attend, as are all members of Redeemer. As a congregation in this city, we have a house in the neighborhood and share many of our neighbors' concerns for the welfare of our city. The summit will feature a "state of the city" style address by the mayor as well as discussion group meetings with the city council members and people from their wards. Redeemer is located in Ward 1; non-resident members who attend the summit will be welcome to chat with Ward 1 Council Member Dai Thao.

This year, ISAI AH raised two additional concerns to the overall agenda: gun violence and creation care. Reducing gun violence has been an important cause for several members of Redeemer; that concern makes our church building a very appropriate location for the offices of Protect Minnesota. A recently weekly email update from ISAI AH prominently featured Pastor Jim Erlandson in a picture from the Protect Minnesota rally at the capitol.

As for creation care, managing the recyclable materials at Redeemer has been a struggle since the city changed the collection process for recyclables to be residential only. A **Bucket Brigade** has now been formed (and equipped) to transfer our recyclable materials to the home carts of willing members. A number of yellow cat litter buckets have been provided for this purpose. Each week, each of the Bucket Brigadiers will take a bucket of recyclables home ... and bring back an empty bucket in exchange for a fuller one. The buckets make the loads easily transportable and the Brigadiers can accommodate the additional material in their own curbside carts for pick-up. We do have sufficient volunteer Brigadiers at this time. However, please do not discard any of the cat litter buckets.

*The next **Core Team Meeting** will be **Tuesday, May 21st** at 7:00pm; all are welcome to join us!*

BARBARY COAST DIXIELAND SHOWBAND

Will be performing on Sunday, June 10th during our worship service. Please invite your friends and family to join us for worship that day!



The band is made up of six talented musicians who play 18 instruments. Led by left-handed banjo/guitar player **Dick Petersen**, the band includes **Tom Andrews** on drums, clarinet, and vocals; **Jim ten Bensel** on trombone, cornet, drums, and vocals; **Russ Peterson** on trumpet, trombone, sax, clarinet, flute, bass, and vocals; **Steve Pikal** on bass, trombone, and piano; and, finally, **Fred Richardson** on clarinet, bass, and vocals. This group of versatile musicians, who occasionally swap instruments on stage without missing a note, will have your feet tappin' from their very first set!

(This is also the band that played at Tammy Cownie's fathers funeral)

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