

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 112, No. 3

March, 2017



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor

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Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

Dr. Jon Campbell, Music Director

Katie Thompson, Organist

A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear friends,

The season of Lent begins with a call from the prophet Joel, to *"return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."*

The word *"lent"* is an old English word which means "spring". The season of spring means to us a new beginning to life, a rising up out of the cold death of winter. It's a season we all look forward to, for the possibilities which spring's renewed life bring.

So you and I are given an invitation by God, through Jesus and the prophets, to return to the loving embrace of our Creator, whom Jesus called "Our Father in Heaven". Return from our wanderings, our distractions, our neglect, and come home to the one who loves us with the unconditional love of a mother or father.

On Ash Wednesday, the prayer of the day stated the whole aim of Lent: *Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son.*

In order to return to the Lord, we first have to "turn around". This is the meaning of the word "repent". Repent means to turn around and walk in a new direction. So the invitation of Jesus, John the Baptist, and all the prophets, is to repent, turn around, and walk in the direction in which God is leading us. We are invited to "walk in God's ways".

Don't know the way? God's Word lays out a path, by following Jesus, and the invitations of the prophets. The prophet Isaiah laid out a path of justice, a new kind of Lenten "fast". It is *"to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin."*

Jesus says to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself." In fact, Jesus went further, "to love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." This is a difficult path, for it makes us walk in a direction we wouldn't choose for ourselves, and to face the sin within ourselves that we have left too long unchallenged.

Lent is a unique time of the year, a season in which we are invited to walk in a new path which leads to Easter, and new life, by taking a road in which we look at ourselves, our community, our church, and the world around us honestly, through the eyes of faith. We even face our own mortality and sin. It is almost always painful to see, but it is the only path worth taking. For by this path Jesus offers you and me the way to God's kingdom, a new realm of possibilities, through faith, love, and hope in the loving kindness of our God.

Another version of the Ash Wednesday prayer is this: *Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Jim Erlandson

March 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
Mon.	7:00 pm ~ Minnesota Renaissance Choir Rehearsal
Wed.	7:00 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

Other Events

1st	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
4th	10:00 am	Girl Scouts
7th	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
8th	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
9th	6:30 pm	ISAIAH Sanctuary Meeting
12th	10:00 am	Girl Scout Sunday
14th	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
15th	6:00 pm	NAMI Meeting
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
18th	10:00 am	Girl Scouts
22nd	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
29th	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service

Women's Guild

will meet Thursday, March 2nd at 11:00 AM. Bring a sandwich or salad. Coffee and dessert will be served by hostess Myrna Nelson. Bring a sandwich or salad.

March 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.

March 1	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Tammy Cownie	Joann Conroy		
March 5	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>Lent 1</i>	Michelle Geschwill	Leilani Drake		Jared Geschwill
March 12	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>Lent 2</i>	Tammy Cownie	DeAnne Hilgers		Neal Caerwyn
March 19	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>Lent 3</i>	Joel Michael	Trudy Cretsinger		Phoenix Mason
March 26	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>Lent 4</i>	Bob Paddock	Joel Michael		Jack Sprung

MARCH 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
March 5 <i>Lent 1</i>	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalms 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
March 12 <i>Lent 2</i>	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalms 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
March 19 <i>Lent 3</i>	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalms 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
March 26 <i>Lent 4</i>	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalms 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41

Lent



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

7:00 pm

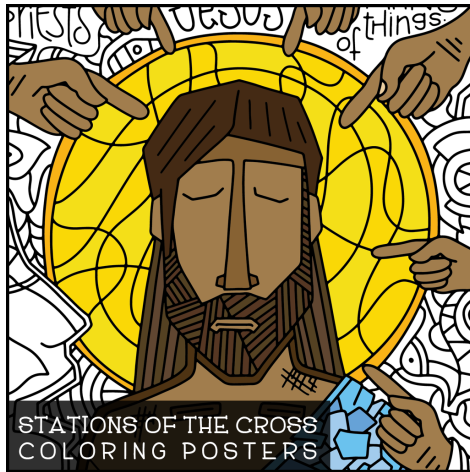
"Psalms of Penitence-Prayers of Faith"

Wednesday evenings during Lent, Redeemer will hold services of reflective prayer in the sanctuary. Every service will be unique, prepared and led by a different worship leader., but each will include confession, scripture and prayer and one of the Penitence Psalms (32, 102, 143, 38, 6 & 130), and of course Lenten prayers.

The first Wednesday, March 8th, will include the Rite of Healing & Laying on of Hands, Please join us on Wednesdays, March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and April 5th.



Soup will be served each Wednesday during Lent at 6:00 pm in the church Undercroft. Please sign up on the list in the kitchen if you would like to prepare and serve soup.



This Lenten Season we will be doing an intergenerational art project! The Stations of the Cross Coloring Posters and Sheets were created by artist Adam Walker Cleaveland and were launched by Illustrated Children's Ministry for Lent 2017. Given that the Illustrated Children's Ministry community comes from over 30 different denominations around the world, some of whom may not be familiar with the Stations of the Cross, the Illustrated Children's Ministry decided to create illustrations based on the fourteen

scriptural Stations of the Cross, which Pope John Paul II introduced on Good Friday in 1991. The stations are listed below, along with their accompanying scriptural reference. You'll notice that there is also a 15th Station included, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

- Station 1: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-41)
- Station 2: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested (Mark 14:43-46)
- Station 3: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin (Luke 22:66-71)
- Station 4: Jesus is Denied by Peter (Matthew 26:69-75)
- Station 5: Jesus is Judged by Pilate (Mark 15:1-5, 15)
- Station 6: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns (John 19:1-3)
- Station 7: Jesus Bears the Cross (John 19:6, 15-17)
- Station 8: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross (Mark 15:21)
- Station 9: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem (Luke 23:27-31)
- Station 10: Jesus is Crucified (Luke 23:33-34)
- Station 11: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief (Luke 23:39-43)
- Station 12: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciples (John 19:25-27)
- Station 13: Jesus Dies on the Cross (Luke 23:44-46)
- Station 14: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb (Matthew 27:57-60)
- Station 15: The Resurrection of Jesus (Mark 16:1-6)

There will be Devotionals and Discussions to go with each coloring poster as well as smaller version you can take home every Wednesday and Sunday through lent.

REDEEMER IN THE NEWS: SANCTUARY MOVEMENT



Wednesday, March 1st, Channel 5 showcased a segment about Redeemer and their role and stance in the fast growing Sanctuary Movement. Visit the following link so see the full segment:
<https://goo.gl/XJW9vL>

ADULT FORUMS

March 5, 11:30 A.M. **"Facing Violence in the Scriptures"**

Presented by Prof. Diane Jacobson. How the Old Testament Deals with both Divine and Human Violence.

March 12, 11:30 A. M. **"Lutheran and Catholic Dialogue"**

Presented by Pastor Jim Erlandson. Our dialogue continues in this 500th year commemorating the Reformation. Church leaders have made considerable progress in our march toward greater unity.

March 19, 11:30 A. M. **"Dementia Friends"**

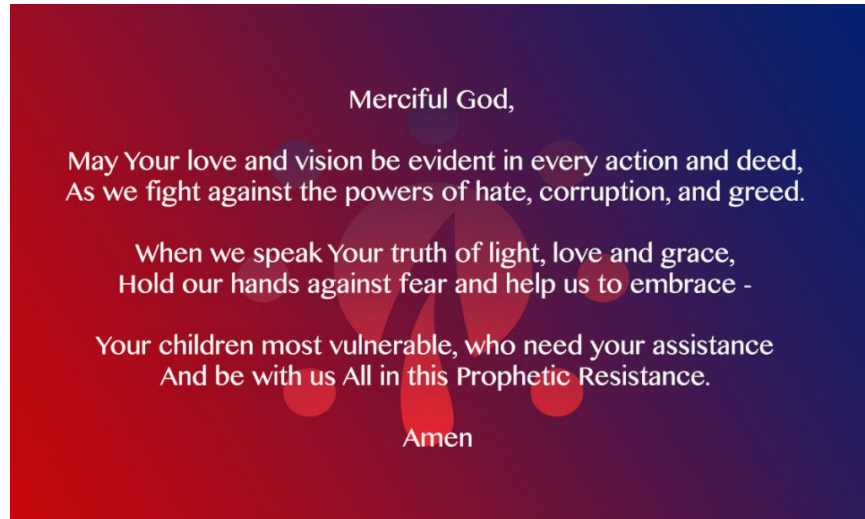
Presented by Julie Hunt from Wilder Foundation and Mary Lou Knipe. Wilder's Community Center for Aging offers education to families and caretakers of individuals with dementia problems. As our population continues to age the numbers of our elderly with dementia continues to rise.

March 26, 11:30 A. M. **"Youthworks"**

Presented by Youthworks staff. This organization provides life-changing Christ-centered mission trips for over 30,000 students and adult leaders to over 70 communities in North America.

CORE TEAM NEWS

ISAIAH's 100 Days of Prophetic Resistance: January 28 – May 7



Pledge to do something each day to help create a more just and loving world where everyone is treated with dignity and has an opportunity to thrive. Collectively, these thousands of actions – both big and small – will bring us closer to realizing our vision of a healthy and just community.

To see a list of suggested ways to make a difference, visit. www.isaiahmn.org and follow the link that says "Download a list of suggested actions."



**A few Daisy Scouts from troop 55386 (housed here at Redeemer)
picking up litter from around the garden area and boulevard!**

PROJECT HOME IS HERE!

Every March, the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer hosts Project Home, a program of Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul. During this month, we provide emergency shelter space and volunteer support for families facing homelessness in Ramsey County.

Project Home is almost completely run by volunteers. We encourage you to sign up and serve as Evening or Overnight Host to provide hospitality to these families in need.

Evening Shelter Host:

Volunteer from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Main responsibilities include greeting shelter guests, serving a healthy evening snack, playing and reading with teens and children, conversing with guests, and orienting the overnight shelter hosts.

Overnight Shelter Host:

Volunteer from 8pm to 7:30am on weekdays and until 9:30am on weekends. Main responsibilities include playing and reading with teens and children, conversing with guests, securing the facility before bedtime, waking up guests, serving a light breakfast, and securing the facility after guests have left for the day.

Sign up to Volunteer:

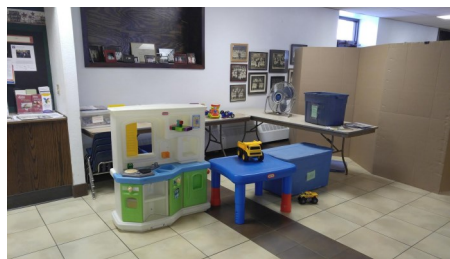
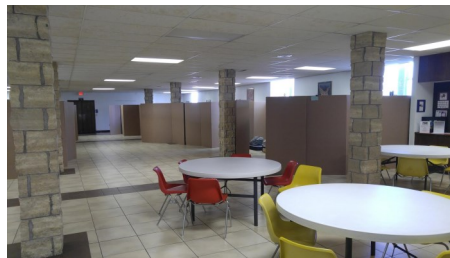
The link will be posted soon as I have the sign-up sheet published later this week.

Donate to Project Home:

Donations of simple items help us meet the most basic needs of the families staying at Project Home. For donation item ideas, view Project Home's Donation Wish List. Monetary donations are always welcome. Make checks payable to Interfaith Action with "Project Home" in the memo line. When making a donation online, please designate "Project Home" in the text field.

For more information, contact:

Ruth Belmonte: rbelmonte@q.com
OR sign up outside of the church office!



Redeemer Is Having a Reformation 500 Bookstore!



The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching! Do you want to learn more about Martin Luther, his writings, and their impact on Christianity? Do you want to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Reformation today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles.

You will find the bookstore in ***the west transept of the Sanctuary***. They will be on display beginning Sunday, March 5th and can be purchased ***after worship on Sundays in March and before or after Lenten worship services on Wednesdays in March. The last day for accepting orders is Wednesday, March 29th.***

The books that you see on display will be placed in the church library in April.

Our Bookstore is sponsored by Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. The books will include bestselling biographies like *Luther the Reformer* as well as an atlas of the European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers, and primary sources from The Annotated Luther series.

Questions? Ask Diana Rankin (dmrankin3031@gmail.com or 612-390-0729).

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