

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 113, No. 1

January, 2018



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor

285 North Dale Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

651-227-8295

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Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

Jonathan Campbell, Music Director

Katie Thompson, Organist

A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear Friends,

As you read this, the celebrations of Christmas will be over, and most will have packed away the Christmas tree and decorations. Although the feasting and celebration in worship and in homes is ending, a new year has begun, and we are called to carry the spirit of peace, joy, and love into the world around us.

On the first Sunday after Christmas, at the close of the worship service, I shared the following poem by African-American preacher and theologian, Howard Thurman, called "The Work of Christmas":

*"When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart."*

So as we begin the New Year, we have no need for New Year's Resolutions except to re-commit ourselves to this work, which is the same work that Jesus was called to do on this earth. We are called to follow Christ, as disciples, and imitate him in the compassionate love, mercy and care he has shown to us and to the world. 2017 was a difficult year for many, and 2018 will bring its own challenges. But we have a clear mission, and we rejoice in the good news of Christmas that carries over into this new year: that the birth of Jesus has changed everything! God is present with us today in Christ Jesus, and goes before us, wherever we go.

I leave you with the prayer of the day for New Year's Eve:
Eternal Father, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in this new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event which gives us joy forever – the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor James Erlandson

January 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

4th	6:00 pm	ISIAIAH Caucus Training
6th	10:00 am	Girl Scouts
8th	6:00 pm	ISIAIAH Caucus Training
9th	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
10th	10:00 am	Protect MN Move-In Day
11th	6:00 pm	ISIAIAH Caucus Training
15th	6:00 pm	ISIAIAH Caucus Training
18th	9:30 am	ISIAIAH Press Conference and Trainings
	6:00 pm	ISIAIAH Caucus Training
20th	10:00 am	Girl Scouts
	10:00 am	Protect MN Board Meeting
22nd	6:00 pm	ISIAIAH Caucus Training
25th	6:00 pm	ISIAIAH Caucus Training
	7:00 pm	Core Team Meeting
28th	11:30 am	Annual Meeting
29th	6:00 pm	ISIAIAH Caucus Training



The Women's Guild will meet Thursday, January 4th at 11:00am. Hostesses Mary Lou Knipe and Ruth Belmonte will serve coffee and dessert.

Bring a sandwich or salad and join us.

January 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.

Jan. 7	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Tammy Cownie	Joel Michael	Ray Hayes	David Tannen	Phoenix Mason
Jan. 14	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>2 Epiphany</i>	Michelle Geschwill	DeAnne Hilgers	Arlene Satrom	Ray Hayes	Jack Sprung
Jan. 21	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>3 Epiphany</i>	Joel Michael	Tammy Cownie	David Dufresne	Ali Michael	Neal Caerwyn
Jan. 28	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>4 Epiphany</i>	Bob Paddock	Leilani Drake	Elizabeth Currie	Todd-Allen Hamilton	Jared Geschwill

JANUARY 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
Jan 7 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Gen 1:1-5	Ps 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Jan 14 <i>2 Epiphany</i>	1 Sam 3:1-10 [11-20]	Ps 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Cor 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Jan 21 <i>3 Epiphany</i>	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Ps 62:5-12	1 Cor 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Jan 28 <i>4 Epiphany</i>	Deut 18:15-20	Ps 111	1 Cor 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28



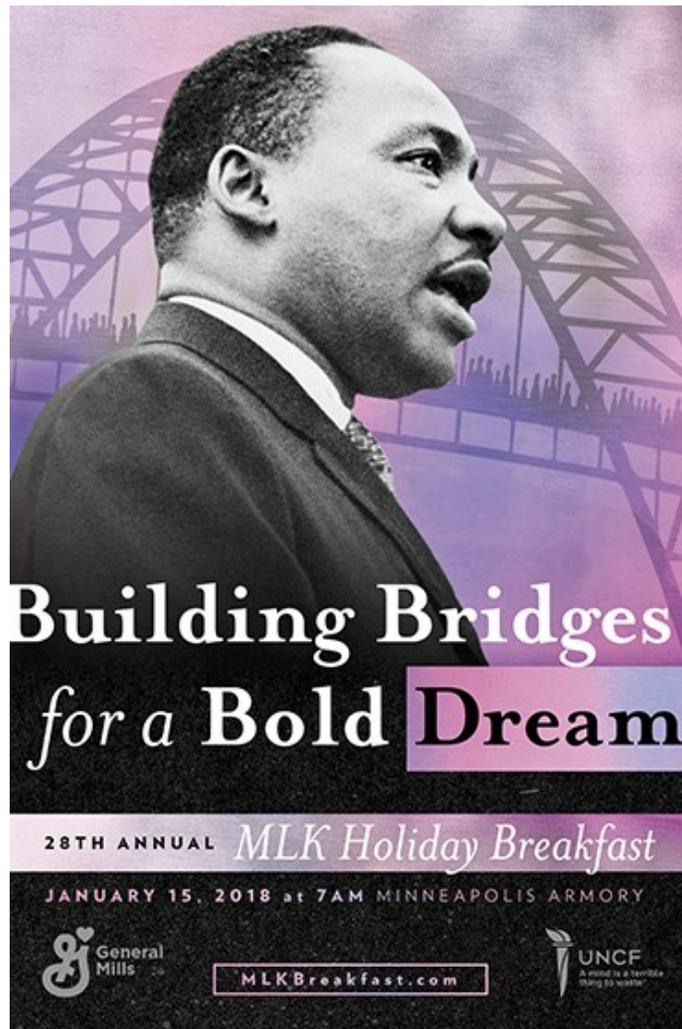
The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is set for **Sunday, January 28th at 11:30 am** in the church undercroft, immediately following the worship service. We will receive copies of the church annual report, approve the church budget for 2018, and elect 2 Vestry at-large representatives. Any confirmed member of Redeemer is eligible to serve.

Please submit annual report articles NO LATER than Thursday, 18th.



We welcome Protect Minnesota, a non-profit organization which will rent new office space at Redeemer starting Wednesday, January 10. Protect Minnesota works to promote the health and safety of all Minnesotans by preventing gun violence through effective laws, policies and community education. They will occupy the office on the east (Dale Street) side of the church undercroft, and the choir library/robe room returns to the Learning Center Choir Room. Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director, is an ordained ELCA pastor, so she will be available to assist us with preaching and presiding at Redeemer. *Welcome, Protect Minnesota!*

We welcome Nancy Nord Bence and Kenneth Bence as members of Redeemer on Sunday, January 7th!



MLK Community Breakfasts Monday, January 15, 2018 7 - 9:30 a.m.

Plan now to celebrate the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday at one of our uplifting community breakfasts. Enjoy a tasty, hot breakfast and watch a live broadcast of the General Mills breakfast event in downtown Minneapolis. The keynote speaker will be David Oyelowo, lead actor in the 2014 film Selma. Everyone is invited to attend. Space for the breakfast is limited, so reservations are required.

The Summit-University community breakfast will be held at Mount Olivet Baptist Church (451 W Central Ave.)

Watch the MLK Breakfast LIVE on TPT - Twin Cities PBS at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 15, 2018 or stream it online at TPT.org

Tickets Adult \$5 | Ages 12 & under FREE
Register: interfaithaction.org/mlk

Usher/Greeter Schedule at Redeemer



January, 2018

Greeter at Parking Lot Door: Myrna Nelson

PLEASE REMEMBER: ONE USHER AT THE ELEVATOR ENTRANCE EACH SUNDAY

Sunday, January 7th

Sam Rankin (captain)
Lyle Nelson
Carla Johnson
Joann Conroy & Phoenix Mason

Sunday, January 15th

Sam Rankin (captain)
Charlene Dickerson
Eric & Sherri Chiquist
Bob Hausman

Sunday, January 21st

Sam Rankin (captain)
Carla Johnson
Joe & Ruth Belmonte

Sunday, January 28th

Joel Michael (captain)
Charlene Dickerson
Eric & Sherri Chiquist

*Claude Mikkelson will serve as needed (if we are short an usher)

ADULT FORUM

Jan. 7, 2018 11:30 A. M. **"Our Redeemer Property-What Do We Need to Do?"** Presented by David Tannen. Your input is vital as we plan the future.

Jan. 14, 2018 11:30 A. M. **"Isaiah's Faith Agenda."** Presented by Rev. Trudy Cretsinger and Isaiah core team members. This will be an update as it relates to the legislative session.

Jan. 21, 2018 11:30 A. M. **"Explaining Redeemer's Budget."** Presented by David Tannen. This is your opportunity to ask for more detailed information about the budget in preparation for next week's annual.

Jan. 28, 2018 11:30 A. M. Annual Meeting No Adult Forum.

There will be an Adult Forum Planning Committee on Thurs. Jan. 4, 2018 at 10:00 A. M. in the church library. You are invited to attend. For information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266.

Dale Street Bridge Project

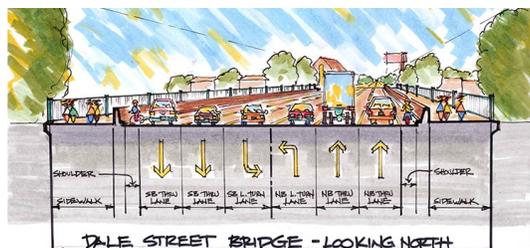
About 2- 1/2 years ago MN Dot in partnership with Ramsey County started plans for replacing bridges across Interstate 94 The bridge was constructed in 1961 and then upgraded in 1983. In 2019 construction season the bridge will be replaced. The other parts of the upgrade that approach the bridge will run from University Ave to Igelhart Ave. Meetings around this project have been held periodically since the project was announced. One thing you may have notice is the empty filling station on the north east corner of bridge has been purchased by the government at a very reasonable amount. The building is now gone and the areas will be a walking way down the hill.

Carol Swenson of Summit University is the host of this project and has been in contract with all the churches and businesses along this section of Dale Street. I have attended some of the meetings and I would highly recommend go to both of these web sites to learn more about this project. Those of us who use the Dale Street bridge to come to church will have to change our route in 2019.

Irene Markley

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transit/.../dale-street-reconstruction>

<http://www.dalestreetbridge.com/>



CORE TEAM NEWS



On **Sunday, January 7th**, a worship and witness event calling us to see everyone as God's Children will take place at the **Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis**, beginning at **1:00pm**. for a one-hour interfaith service embracing immigrants and refugees. Through testimony, prayer, and music, we will recognize our common bond and dignity as beloved children of God. We will celebrate a year of sanctuary; repent for the times we've failed to see each other as God's children; and - moving into the 2018 Minnesota Legislative Session and election campaign - pledge to see and talk about each other as the family that we are in both our political conversations and public discourse. A bus will be transporting people from Redeemer and two other Saint Paul churches. The bus leaves at noon and we will be back before 3:00pm. ***If you are interested in riding the bus, please contact Stephanie Stoessel ASAP to see if seats are available.*** Passengers will have an opportunity to contribute to the cost of the bus.

The following **Sunday, January 14th**, members of the **Core Team will host the Adult Forum**. We'll be discussing the contours of the Faith Agenda that is being developed to address the concerns raised during our house meetings. To support the agenda, we are also recruiting faith delegates to the caucuses. These delegates will be committed to the Faith Agenda, not specific candidates. The goal is to make the voice of our faith communities heard at the statewide level and call upon candidates to work for the vision we hold of what life can be like – where all are included and can thrive ... like we hear of in our scriptures.

Caucus events will take place in early February. If you might be interested in serving as a faith delegate, or if you want more information on how to support the faith delegates at your caucus, please speak with any Core Team member or **come to our next meeting, Thursday, January 25th at 7:00pm**

#LIVEGENEROUSLY

By Diana M. Rankin

In October and November I finally got around to using both of the \$250 Thrivent Live Generously grants for which I was eligible in 2017. One of them paid for the food at our Reformation Beer & Hymns event which raised \$1,400 for ELCA Disaster Response Hurricane Recovery. The other, matched by nearly \$300 from Redeemer members and friends, helped the Daisy Scouts purchase \$865 worth of Christmas gifts for The Family Place's holiday store.

Live Generously is the theme of Thrivent Financials' contributions program. Every Thrivent member is entitled to two \$250 grants in a calendar year. These grants are then used for projects that put our faith into action.

Each year at Redeemer we go through the annual stewardship/pledge process where we commit a certain amount of our financial wealth to the church for its budgetary needs. Many of us also make written commitment of our time to various ministries and roles in the congregation. While this should be a thoughtful process, it has also become routine.



What really enlivens our stewardship is the extravagant generosity – the generous living -- we practice during the year in ways we didn't anticipate back in November when we submitted our commitments of money and time. Martin Luther said, "There are three conversions necessary in the Christian life: the conversion of the heart, the mind, and the purse." Extravagant generosity and living generously require that we experience all three conversions. If I use automatic withdrawal to send \$25 a month to my local foodshelf, that is good. But my heart must do it out of compassion for the poor rather than a tax deduction. That is conversion of the heart. Conversion of the mind means that I understand why there are hungry children in Minnesota and then act with others to bring about economic justice.

Do you see a need in our own congregation, our neighborhood, St. Paul, or anywhere in the world that moves you to act? If you are a Thrivent member, consider applying for a \$250 grant. Talk with Pastor Jim and others about your project idea. If it seems this is something that fits Thrivent's requirements and would inspire others to respond with time and/or contributions, put together an Action Team to help you implement the project and apply for \$250. Tahnea or I would be happy to help you complete the easy application. You can learn more about the program at www.livegenerously.com

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

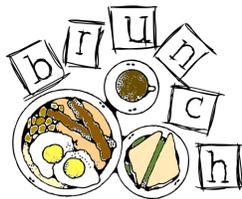
2018 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING
JUNE 27 - JULY 1

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. This years event will happen June 27th - July 1st and be held in Houston, TX where a hurricane in 2017 caused so much damage.

A group of 6 (3 adults and 3 youth) will be going from Redeemer. Jared Geschwill, Keshon Hughes, Phoenix Mason, Pastor Joann Conroy, Pastor Jim Erlandson and Michelle Geschwill.

An important part of the Gathering's ministry are the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), a faith formation and leadership development event primarily for youth of color, and the tAble, a gathering that gathers, blesses and empowers youth with disabilities. Our group will be attending the MYLE event.

To help cover the registration for the Redeemer youth and adults who will be attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, we will be holding a series of fundraisers (which all include food!).



Sunday, January, 7th



Spaghetti
Dinner

Sunday, January 21st



Sunday, January 28th

Be on the lookout for more specifics as these dates approach!



MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT OF THE ELCA

The Multicultural Youth Leadership Event is a pre-event to the Gathering. It empowers young people of color and those whose primary language is other than English to claim their story as a part of God's story. MYLE 2018 will be held June 24–27, 2018.

MYLE's core values include:

- **Culture is explored.** Participants will experience an inclusive community that seeks to build understanding and appreciation of the various cultures and ethnicities that are a part of this church.
- **Leaders are formed.** Youth and adults will learn about the issues in their communities and how to effect change.
- **Identity is claimed.** Participants will be encouraged to uncover their story and live out their God-given calling in the world.
- **Faith is deepened.** Youth and adults will explore the intersection of faith and life and how our faith calls us to act justly in the world.

Friends are made. Participants will connect with peers who are looking to build relationships and have a good time.

The theme for MYLE 2018 is "ONE" based in the scripture of Ephesians 2:14-19,

"For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God"

In God's eternal plan and wisdom there is a way to remove these barriers. This new humanity would no longer be many, but ONE believer in Christ. In other words, this was God's plan for the unity of many into ONE new people in Christ.

Each day of MYLE program pieces will focus around a sub-theme:

- ⇒ One body, many parts (1Corinthians 12:14-26)
- ⇒ One mission, many gifts (1Corinthians 12: 4-11)
- ⇒ One household, many rooms (John 14:2)
- ⇒ ONE in CHRIST (Ephesians 2:14-19)

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

Back in December, at an Adult Forum, we looked at how Christian communities and the surrounding culture have interacted at key points between the first days of the Jesus movement and our current era. At first, back in the 100s, Christianity was regarded as a superstition, rather than a proper religion, by the Roman government. At various times, Christians were persecuted for their beliefs until the Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity in about 300AD.

As the imperial center moved east to Constantinople, the City of Rome was left increasingly vulnerable. In about 500AD, the Bishop of Rome, Pope Gregory, guided the Church into taking on more and more of the functions of civic governance just to keep things functioning. This combination of church and civic leadership continued and was firmly established on Christmas Day in 800AD when Pope Leo crowned Charlemagne Holy Roman Emperor.

This combination was not necessarily a good thing for either the Church or the State and reform movements cropped up now and then, some more successful than others. However, Martin Luther's efforts succeeded where ones a century before had failed for two reasons. First, the printing press allowed his writings to be reproduced and disseminated more quickly than hand-copying ever could. Second, powerful regional princes saw an opportunity for more political independence through giving support to the reformers.

One of the unintended consequences of the Reformation movement was that Christianity fragmented into many regional variations and those variations were closely linked to a sense of national identity. When people from a country immigrated to the Americas, they brought their particular form of Christianity with them ... and the congregations they established in their new home became ways to remember and reconnect with the old country they had left behind. This cultural preservation was an essential function of the church as much as the practice of the Christian faith.

After the experiences of the World Wars, people in the United States came to see themselves as Americans rather than in terms of the national identifications of their immigrant ancestors. With the on-set of the cold war, civic society (and the government) turned to the churches to help defend the US from the atheistic threat of communism. We knew a lot about cultural preservation, and we were able to re-apply those skills to preserving the US culture of the 1950s.

Time has passed. A lot of things have changed. But many churches are still focused on preserving that culture from over 50 years ago. We no longer have the social support and encouragement around us that once brought people to our doors as we once did. This is a different time, but some things have not changed. The real purpose of the church is to announce and model the good news of life in the ways of God, the way of life we see lived out in Jesus.

It's a new year ... a time for fresh resolve and an openness to possibilities. As we move into 2018, what new things do you see stirring? Where do we, as a congregation, seem caught up in trying to preserve things that have long passed? Where do you see our congregation living out the good news of new life in Christ Jesus? Feel free to chat with me on Sunday mornings or email your thoughts to me as tkcretsinger@gmail.com.

Black Faith Agenda Launch: Exercising Faith through Black Political Power




**CLAIMING
OUR VOICES**



What: Community gathering of Black folks ready to Claim Our Voice in the political arena.

When: Sunday, January 14, 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Where: Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church
585 Fuller Ave, St Paul, MN 55103

Why YOU Should Be There: We will present the political priorities for the Black Community and our strategy to build and wield power for our families, children and community during this Legislative Session and with the future Governor of MN. We will lean on both ancestral and historical leaders as well as prophetically lead us to accomplish more and declare what's possible together!

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

