

THE REDEEMER RECORD

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"Clergy are arm in arm in prayer facing
an armed militia who just arrived.
Those men with the assault weapons are not police."

(Photo Credit: Kate Bishop Shaner August 12th, 2017)

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

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A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

"We have met the enemy and he is us" - Pogo

So wrote Walt Kelly in a famous cartoon he drew for the first Earth Day observance in 1970, attributing the words to the animal comic strip character Pogo looking out into a forest scene spoiled with garbage left by humans. Since then this phrase has been used in a number of situations that point out the personal responsibility we have for injustice and wrong done by humans.

On the weekend of August 11-13 the world witnessed the repugnant scene of white men carrying torches, Nazi and Confederate battle flags, violently demonstrating their values of white supremacy, racism, and hatred for people of color. The public march they organized on Saturday had the tragic outcome of three deaths, as one white male drove his car into a crowd of counter-protesters, and a police helicopter crashed. The result is a nation in turmoil, forcing us white Americans to examine ourselves, and how our tolerance of systemic racism has benefited us and continues to make those who aren't white suffer. But we cannot pin all the evil on misguided neo-Nazis and white supremacists in Virginia.

We have met the enemy, and he is us.



Christian theologians over the centuries have debated and taught the doctrine of *original sin* - that our very nature has caused us to disobey God by doing as we see fit, from the beginning (the sin of Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis). The consequences for original sin are the harm we do to ourselves, our neighbor, our relationship with God, and ultimately, death.

Christian author Jim Wallis names America's original sin as the Sin of Racism and White Privilege, embedded in our institutions and culture, from the very beginning of our nation. It is embedded in our Constitution, in our government, in our laws, in our religion, in our language and even how we think.

The time has long past for us to reflect, name, and repent of this sin of racism in our nation and in ourselves. But the events in Charlottesville this past week have focused our attention once again on our sin. There have been countless events which show the extent to which racism in words and deeds have inflicted pain and suffering on human beings in America - committed by white Americans. Not only "out there" in society by violent extremists, but in countless ways by each one of us - even in our own congregation, in thought, word and deed.

It is time for reflection, repentance, and action. It is time for us to be honest with ourselves about our sins, confess our sins, repent and walk in a new direction. It is time for us to state what we believe, and act on what Jesus teaches us. We believe that God has created us and all that exists, and has created every human being out of love - and calls us to love one another as God loves us. The Church of Jesus Christ rejects racism as a sin against God and neighbor.

White supremacy is a heresy against all that we believe about God and creation, which must be challenged, exposed as a lie, and expunged from our institutions. We are in a moment of *status confessionis* in the Church, a critical time of confessing what we really believe in our Lutheran Church about God, faith, and love for our neighbors (and who we are as the Church).

For we say that we believe the scripture: *"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)*

We will continue to devote ourselves as the Church to reflect, confess, and repent of this sin of racism in our words and actions from this moment on. Not only in ourselves and how racism affects this congregation, but also how it affects our neighbors, our community, state, nation and world.

This is a call from God for action, before it is too late, and the people of our community and nation become irrevocably divided. God's loving mercy and grace still reign, as long as we live by faith in God's mercy, forgiveness and love. For we have seen the enemy, and named the sin - it is racism in ourselves and society. Now we are called to wake up, and act upon it.

In the name of Christ,
Pastor Jim Erlandson

Come Together Twin Cities Peace Gathering And Prayer Walk



The faith leaders of Come Together Twin Cities invite everyone to a service of music, readings, prayer, reflection and conversation on **Sunday, September 17 at 4:00 pm** here at Redeemer. Music and community song will be led by local musicians. The focus for the service will be resisting racism and hate, and ending the violence that hurts and divides us. At the close of the service we will do a Prayer Walk outside in the Rondo Community, still recovering from the divisions brought by the construction of Interstate 94. Refreshments and fellowship follow the Walk. Come Together is a coalition of churches and faith-based organizations committed to monthly prayer services and walks begun after the death of Philando Castille

September 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

5th	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
7th	10:00 am	Adult Forum Planning Meeting
	11:00 am	Women's Guild
9th	2:00 pm	Synod Safe Child Policy Meeting
10th	10:00 am	God's Work, Our Hands Sunday
	11:30 am	Community Meal & Service Projects
11th	6:30 pm	ISAIAH Central Leadership Meeting
12th	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
13th	2:30 pm	Dale Street Bridge Project Meeting
17th	4:00 pm	Come Together Twin Cities
		Peace Gathering And Prayer Walk
26th	7:00 pm	Isaiah Core Team Meeting
30th	2:00 pm	Luepke/Randolph WEDDING

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will meet Thursday, September 7th at 11:00 am for a business meeting. Hostesses Jean Tretsvén and Kathy Moffat will provide Dessert. Bring a salad or sandwich.

September 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.

	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
Sept 3	Tammy Cownie	Bob Paddock	Bob Hausman
	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
Sept 10	Joel Michael	Joann Conroy	Ruth Belmonte
	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
Sept 17	Michelle Geschwill	DeAnne Hilgers	Joan Foreman
	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
Sept 24	Bob Paddock	Trudy Cretsinger	Lance Harris

SEPTEMBER 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
Sept. 3 <i>Lectionary 22</i>	Jer 15:15-21	Ps 26:1-8	Rom 12:9-21	Matt 16:21-28
Sept. 10 <i>Lectionary 23</i>	Ezek 33:7-11	Ps 119:33-40	Rom 13:8-14	Matt 18:15-20
Sept. 17 <i>Lectionary 24</i>	Gen 50:15-21	Ps 103:[1-7] 8-13	Rom 14:1-12	Matt 18:21-35
Sept. 24 <i>Lectionary 25</i>	Jonah 3:10— 4:11	Ps 145:1-8	Phil 1:21-30	Matt 20:1-16

**Usher/Greeter Schedule at Redeemer
September, 2017**

Greeter at Parking Lot Door: Myrna Nelson

Sunday, September 3 (Labor Day weekend in Learning Center)

Joel Michael (captain)
Sam Rankin

**Sunday, September 10 (upstairs in Sanctuary) God's Work, Our Hands
Sunday**

Eric Chinguist
Sherri Chinguist
Lyle Nelson
Charlene Dickerson
Ruth Belmonte - Greeter at Front Sanctuary Door? (also is Reader of 1st Lesson)

Sunday, September 17

Sam Rankin (captain)
Joel Michael
Carla Johnson
Bob Hausman

Sunday, September 24

Eric Chinguist (captain)
Sherri Chinguist
Charlene Dickerson
Lyle Nelson

Immigration 101: How did we get to where we are now?

Presented by Michelle McKenzie, attorney, and deputy director/director of advocacy at The Advocates for Human Rights located in MN which committed to standards of international human rights through research, education and advocacy.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

6:40-7pm In-gathering music
7- 8:30pm Immigration 101

UNITY CHURCH UNITARIAN
733 Portland Ave, St Paul

Music by Ahmed Anzaldua, pianist, conductor, teacher and co-founder of the Justice Choir and founder of Border CrossSing.

Free and open to the public

Join us for

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday September 10, 2017

A dedicated day of
service in our community.

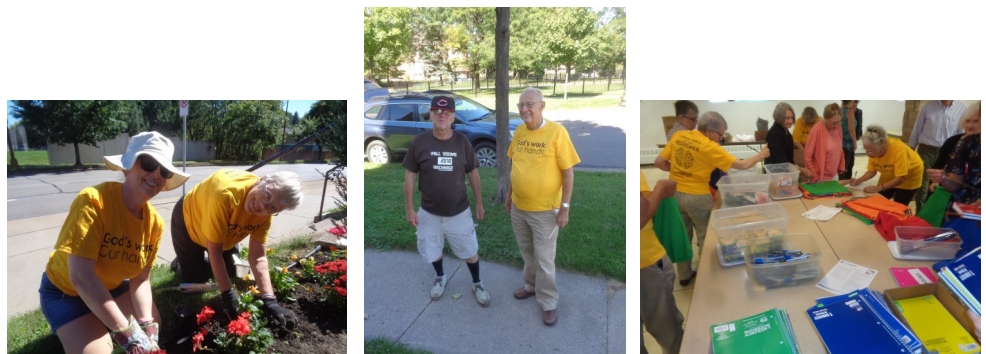


As we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are reminded of the gospel’s promise that we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. In “The Freedom of a Christian,” Martin Luther wrote: “A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything; a Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.”

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

This years projects will include:

- ~ **Community Beautification**
(including the church garden & neighborhood clean up)
- ~ **Serving a Community Meal** at 11:30 am
- ~ **Collecting School Supplies for Obama Elementary**



You Want My Kindergartener to Bring How Many Boxes of Crayons???

By Diana M. Rankin

Going-back-to-school time in the 21st century is consumerism run amok. Instead of this being a happy time for children, parents, and teachers, it is a stressful time bringing nearly as much financial anxiety as Christmas.

Schools distribute lists of school supplies they expect children to bring with them on the first day. Reading the lists for the Mora and Ogilvie school districts here in Kanabec County where I live brought back memories for my husband Sam and me. Both of our families were poor and purchasing a box of crayons, a pencil, a pen, 3-ring note paper, and a ruler strained already scarce resources. I remember shopping with my mother in the "dime store." I couldn't get any of the cool new stuff and Mom definitely could not afford a 3-ring, zippered binder. (I finally got one in 8th grade as a prize for some school thing my teacher entered in the county fair. It was white leather and had a boy & girl dancing on the front. I was ecstatic!)

I was shocked to see what parents of a Kindergartener in Mora are expected to provide for their child. Using the special sales prices in the ShopKo ad, I calculated the cost -- a jaw-dropping \$115.50. A parent working for the minimum wage of \$9.50 per hour would have to work 12 hours, before taxes, to spend this much.

This is consumerism gone wild. Why is each Kindergartener asked to bring four 24-count boxes of Crayola crayons and eight Elmer's glue sticks? (Brand names are specified; generic and other brands are considered inferior.) If each of 20 Kindergarteners brings these specified amounts, that's 80 boxes of crayons and 160 glue sticks!

I understand the funding strain on most school districts. However, school administrators, the teachers themselves, and school board members evidently don't understand that families' budgets are also strained. Do they know that Kanabec County has the 7th highest unemployment rate in the state and that 11.7% of the population lives in poverty? Do they know that nearly 40% of the Mora students are eligible for the National School Lunch Program (free- or reduced-price lunch) and that nearly half of the students in Ogilvie actually participate in the program?

This is, I believe, an egregious and unjust expectation as well as excessive consumerism.

We have an opportunity at Redeemer to make back-to-school time less stressful for a few families. One of our "God's Work Our Hands" projects is to gather classroom supplies for Barack and Michelle Obama Elementary School at 707 Holly Avenue in St. Paul. Most of the "young scholars," as the school calls their students, are in low income families.

Obama School children are asked to bring a small, yet pricey, list of things to school -- a backpack, Ziploc bags, boxes of tissue, Clorox wipes, headphones, and a stylus -- and to wear modest school uniforms. You can purchase supplies, including uniforms, for individual students or for the classrooms. We will organize them on September 10th, in preparation for delivery to Obama Elementary School.

This is God's work in a consumerism-crazy world -- God's work with our hands.

Obama Elementary School has requested that anything you purchase NOT include any cartoon characters or fancy designs.

You are also welcome to make a monetary donation towards the purchase of school supplies or uniforms.

Obama Elementary School Supply List

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

- ◇ Packs of White Copy Paper
- ◇ Thin **WASHABLE** Markers
- ◇ Wide **WASHABLE** Markers
- ◇ Dry Erase Markers
- ◇ Watercolor Paint Set
- ◇ Boxes of 24 Crayons
- ◇ Colored Pencils (12 & 24 ct.)
- ◇ Glue Sticks
- ◇ #2 Pencils
- ◇ **WIDE** Ruled Spiral Notebooks
- ◇ Kid Sized Scissors
- ◇ Adult Sized Scissors
- ◇ Large Pink Erasers
- ◇ **PLAIN** 2 Pocket Folders (NO DESIGNS)
- ◇ Black Composition Notebooks
- ◇ Hand Held Pencil Sharpener
- ◇ Black/Blue Pens
- ◇ **WIDE** Ruled Loose-leaf Paper
- ◇ Highlighters

OTHER SUPPLIES

- ◇ Backpack w/ NO wheels
- ◇ Gallon Ziploc Bags
- ◇ Sandwich Ziploc Bags
- ◇ Boxes of Tissue
- ◇ Clorox Wipes
- ◇ Headphones (For iPads)
- ◇ Stylus (For iPads)

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

We are **always** in need of uniforms in **ALL** sizes to fit our Scholars from Pre-k all the way up to our 5th Graders!

- ◇ Plain Polo Shirts
 - ~ **Red**
 - ~ **White**
 - ~ **Light Blue**
 - ~ **Navy Blue**
- ◇ **Navy** or **Khaki** Bottoms
 - ~ Shorts
 - ~ Skirts
 - ~ Pants
- ◇ **Navy** or **Khaki** Jumpers
- ◇ Plain Tennis Shoes (No Characters)

ADULT FORUM

Sept. 10 11:30am **"God' Work, Our Hands"** Intergenerational event. Watch for volunteer opportunities both for the church and the community.

Sept. 17 11:30am **"Femicide Report of 2016"** Presented by a member of MN Coalition for Battered Women. The report will include people (both women and men) who have been killed by domestic violence.

Sept. 24 11:30am **"Night Ministry"** Presented by Rev. Lyle Beckman. This ministry was organized in San Francisco and uses ordained ministers to offer middle of the night counseling and conversation on the streets and in coffee shops, bars, transportation centers, hotel lobbies, etc. The night ministry offers non judgmental pastoral care, counseling, referral, and crisis intervention.

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There will be an Adult Forum planning meeting on Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017 at 10:00 A. M. in the library. You are invited to attend. For more information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266.

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## CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir rehearsal for the fall will begin Wednesday, September 6th. The choir meets in the sanctuary every Wednesday at 7:00 pm. All are welcome and we encourage you to invite a friend or two!





LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
ST. PAUL

**2017 Mayoral Candidate Forums**

Candidates include:

**Melvin Carter, Elizabeth Dickenson, Tom Goldstein, Pat Harris,  
Tim Holden and Dai Thao**

Wednesday, September 27th  
7:00 - 8:30  
Hallie Q Brown Community Center  
270 N. Kent St  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Wednesday, October 11th  
7:00 - 8:30  
Highland Park Sr. High School  
1015 Snelling Ave S.  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Tuesday, October 10th  
7:00 - 8:30  
The Wellstone Center  
179 Robie St.  
Saint Paul, MN 551027

Tuesday, October 17th  
7:00 - 8:30  
Minnesota Humanities Center  
987 Ivy Ave. E  
Saint Paul, MN 55106

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## CORE TEAM NEWS

Thank you to all who participated in our conversation events on August 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had nearly 40 members participate in these conversations, which were open and authentic. Most of us are carrying struggles that we don't often speak openly about and may not be readily apparent, whether concerns for our health and care (or for a family member), financial struggles (recent or past), powerful messages telling us that we don't count or don't matter or aren't as valued as others might be. We looked at where these messages come from, how they've reached us, and the hurt we've experienced. In many ways, we are more alike than we might have imagined. But beyond this, the good news of the gospel assures us that every single one of us (inside our congregation and around us in the community) is beloved by God and cherished as a unique child, a precious creation. The gospel calls to imagine a different world, a way of life closer to God's dream in which everyone is included, no one is left out ... where the abundance God provides is recognized and shared so that all have enough.

At least one person felt that the connection between the gospel explored through the sermon during worship and the conversation afterward on Sunday was very insightful. Several members have suggested that we do something like this more often. And guess what? We'd like to do just that!

Intentional conversations after worship services may become a regular occasional event. However, we are also looking for people who would be willing to host a conversational gathering, like those we've had at church, in their homes ... with their friends ... or neighbors... or maybe even some of our members who weren't able to make it to either event in August. The core team is looking for hosts who are willing to open their homes, invite people to be there, provide some light refreshments. We can supply the conversation leadership to get the sharing started and to keep it moving; you supply the rest.

If you would like to explore the possibility of hosting a conversation gathering in your home, please contact any of the following core team members: Gretchen Vanderlinden-Wang, Stephanie Stoessel, Myrna or Lyle Nelson, Irene Markley, Michelle Geschwill, Trudy Cretsinger, Joann Conroy, or Pastor Jim. The team meets the fourth Tuesday of the month; you are always welcome to join us.





Martin Luther triggered a seismic upheaval that rocked the western world in the 1500s—with an impact that continues to reverberate to this day. This film tells the great adventure story of his life. At the same time, it examines his quest for truth—questions we all must face—including "Who am I?" "What is my purpose" and "How do I get right with God?"

This movie will be shown locally the following dates and times on TPT 2:

Tuesday, Sep 12 at 7pm  
 Wednesday, Sep 13 at 1am  
 Sunday, Sep 17 at 12pm

**Run Time:** 1 hr 56 mins

## Local Mission Celebration

*on the way together*

Join the Saint Paul Area Synod to learn more about local mission in our synod! Pastor Peter Hanson of Christ the King and Mission Developer Ana Becerra of Cristo Rey will be our keynote speakers for the evening. They will share about the mutual partnership between Christ the King, an established congregation, and Cristo Rey, one of the synod's most recent mission developments. Worship together, enjoy food from around the world, and get to know more about the local mission and partnership happening outside of your church doors!



Saturday, September 23 ■ 4:00 - 7:00 pm  
 Christ the King Lutheran (1900 7th St NW, New Brighton, MN 55112)



## OH, THOSE SUMMER NIGHTS ...

**...And Days! THANK YOU** to all who participated in our summer worship experiences and experiments. Thank you to Diane Rankin and Paul Toftness, our chief gardeners, and the many volunteers who assisted them in preparing the courtyard garden for use as a worship space. Thank you to Tammy Cownie, Bob Paddock and Leilani Drake who set up the spaces for worship before each of the services and cleaned up afterwards. Thank you to Katie Thompson and the musicians who shared their musical gifts and supported the congregation in song, especially Gretchen Vanderlinden-Wang, who re-wrote the words to the prayer litany on short notice the last night to focus our concern on the distressing events in Charlottesville. Thank you to the deacons, subdeacons, readers and other worship assistants who did double duty to help cover the different services; your willingness to serve over the four-week period is extremely appreciated. Thank you, wonderful people of Redeemer, for engaging the new service and for accepting the experiments this summer. The feedback we have received so far has been very helpful as we consider possible next steps. **If you've not yet had an opportunity to provide feedback on the summer experiences, forms will again be available on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.** You can also reach out to Trudy directly in person or by email ([tkcretsinger@gmail.com](mailto:tkcretsinger@gmail.com)).

***Thank you all for making the wonderful experiences that we had possible!***

*Pastor Jim, Jon & Trudy*





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