

THE REDEEMER RECORD

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March, 2018



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor

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Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

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A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear friends,

As most of you know, Kim and I just returned from traveling to China for almost three weeks, February 11-28. We left on Transfiguration Sunday and returned this past Wednesday evening. Along with Kim's father, three of her sisters and their husbands and one niece, we visited Hainan province, an island of five million Chinese in the South China Sea, just east of Vietnam. Our purpose was to visit Kim's extended family (cousins and second cousins) who live mostly in the rural area near Wenchang, and some in the city of Haikou – and to celebrate the Lunar New Year/Spring Festival, which lasts 15 days. It's the annual celebration which, for the Chinese, is Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Easter and All Saints all rolled into one.

It's also the greatest migration of Chinese on the planet, as millions return home to their families to celebrate. And they all seemed to be at the airport on the same day as us!

Because of the crowds, we missed our connecting flight to Haikou. But on our unplanned two-day layover in Shanghai, guided by Shunxiang Wang (Luke Wang's father), we saw a major city decorated with red lanterns and bright lights, busy with families buying gifts, candy and food to bring home (much like our own commercialized Christmas). Then we arrived in Hainan, where for over two weeks I was privileged to observe and participate New Years with the Tann family ("Chen" in Mandarin) in a rural celebration on the family farm of their ancestors.

Although it is a very different celebration from Western Christian observances of Christmas and Easter, there are common elements. In the Church, we burn palm branches to make ashes for Ash Wednesday – to remember that "we came from dust, and to dust we shall return. In China, families burn paper money for their deceased relatives, to make life in "heaven" more comfortable. In the Church we burn incense in thuribles to bless the altar and worshipers, sending our prayers up to heaven. In China, incense is burned on sticks, and placed on home altars (tables) along with candles, food, rice and drink, as prayer offerings to their deceased ancestors. Each adult family member offered their prayers, candles and incense, much as we do on the Feast of All Saints.

The only thing missing for me was the singing, when we celebrate in Christian worship. But the Chinese have.....*firecrackers!* On New Year's Day, the whole village gathered together before a public altar, where hundreds of people brought rice and cooked chickens to be blessed by an elder. Incense sticks were burned, and prayers were said. Each family also brought a string of firecrackers, which were all connected into several long strings. Then all the fireworks were set off at once, making a powerful noise for several minutes. And at midnight, every family in the village set off fireworks at home, and they went off all night long, like they may in some American neighborhoods on the Fourth of July. But beyond the noise, the foods, the games and the gifts, Chinese New Year showed me the strength of family in China, their reverence for their ancestors who have died, and in rural China, how families are linked together in community.

Sometimes we need to experience another culture before we can understand our own, because we practice our observational and evaluative skills. In the Church we do a lot that is similar to the Chinese on our holidays – we gather with family, remember those who have died, share food and traditions that bind us together in celebration of family and community. As Christians, we do this in the context of the Biblical story of God's love for us all, who gave us life, and through the teachings, life and death of Jesus Christ. This is the major difference: our faith in God's mercy, and in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, which gives us all the promise of life forever even as we die. During this season of Lent, we reflect on such things, as we look forward to the Easter celebration. Thanks be to God for this promise and this time.

God bless you all,
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
 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		PROJECT HOME MOVE IN DAY
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Planning Team
3rd	10:00 am	Girl Scouts
	8:30 am	Domestic Violence Taskforce
	7:00 pm	WolfGang Concert
7th	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lent Service
8th	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Network Meeting
11th	10:00am	Girl Scout Sunday
14th	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lent Service
15th	10:00 am	ISAIAH Clergy Regional Meeting
17th	10:00 am	Girl Scouts
	1:00 pm	ISAIAH District Training
25th	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service
21st	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lent Service
29th	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
30th	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service
31st	7:00 pm	Easter Vigil Service



The Women's Guild will NOT meet this month.

HOLY WEEK AT REDEEMER - 2018

March 25th - April 1st



Palm Sunday - March 25th, 10:00 am

The season of Lent ends, and Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (also observed as *Passion Sunday*), March 20th. We will start with the Blessing & Procession with Palms in the Learning Center at 10 am, then process into the church sanctuary. Our custom is to hear the Reading of the Passion (According to St. Matthew, this year) in place of the sermon.

Maundy Thursday - March 29th, 7:00 pm

Today we hear Jesus' commandment (*mandatum*) to love one another. We remember Christ's sacrifice of love at the Lord's Table, and how he washed his disciples feet, followed by the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday - March 30th, 7:00 pm

We hear the story of Jesus' Passion on the cross in John's gospel, with hymns led by Redeemer's choir and the Adoration of the Cross.

Easter Vigil - March 31st, 7:00 pm

We gather in vigil to light the Paschal candle, hear the ancient stories of faith, affirm our baptisms and celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

(with St. Paul Reformation Lutheran here at Redeemer)

Easter Sunday - April 1st, 10:00 am

We celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with a festival Eucharist.

Easter Breakfast at 8:30 am

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 4	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
<i>3 Lent</i>	Tammy Cownie	Leilani Drake	Joe Rittman
March 11	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
<i>4 Lent</i>	Joel Michael	Rev. Joann Conroy	Stephanie Stoessel
March 18	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
<i>5 Lent</i>	Tammy Cownie	Bob Paddock	Ray Hayes
March 25	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	Bob Paddock	Joel Michael	Irene Markley

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	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
March 4 <i>3 Lent</i>	Exod 20:1-17	Ps 19	1 Cor 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
March 11 <i>4 Lent</i>	Num 21:4-9	Ps 107:1-3, 17-22	Eph 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
March 18 <i>5 Lent</i>	Jer 31:31-34	Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16	Heb 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
March 25 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Isa 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Mark 14:1—15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]
March 29 <i>Mauandy Thursday</i>	Exod 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
March 30 <i>Good Friday</i>	Isa 52:13—53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1—19:42
March 31 <i>Easter Vigil</i>			Rom 6:3-11	John 20:1-18

Usher/Greeter Schedule at Redeemer



March, 2018

Greeter at Parking Lot Door: Myrna Nelson

PLEASE REMEMBER: ONE USHER AT THE ELEVATOR ENTRANCE EACH SUNDAY

Sunday, March 4th

Joel Michael (captain)
Lyle Nelson
Joann Conroy & Phoenix Mason

Sunday, March 11th

Eric Chinquist (captain)
Sherri Chinquist
Charlene Dickerson
Bob Hausman

Sunday, March 18th

Joel Michael (captain)
Lyle Nelson
Joe & Ruth Belmonte

Sunday, March 25th (PALM SUNDAY)

Eric Chinquist (captain)
Sherri Chinquist
Charlene Dickerson
Carla Johnson

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

*****Volunteer ushers are also needed for evening
Holy Week Services.*****

Maundy Thursday - March 29th

Good Friday - March 30th

Easter Vigil - March 31st



Project Home Information

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 hosted at two different area faith communities each month and provides 20 emergency shelter beds at each host site.

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 is available digitally and a hardcopy of the sign up will be available in the church Undercroft.

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

**For more information about Project Home and what they do, please visit:
<http://www.interfaithaction.org/projecthome>**

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

7:00 pm

Wednesday evenings during Lent, Redeemer will hold services of evening prayer in the sanctuary. The scripture readings are drawn from some of the Easter Vigil readings, including Genesis (Creation and Flood), Exodus (Deliverance at the Red Sea), Isaiah (Salvation Freely Offered to All) and Daniel (Deliverance from the Fiery Furnaces). We will sing evening hymns and evening Psalms.

Please join us on Wednesdays, March 7th, 14th, and 21st.



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.

ADULT FORUM

March 4, 2018 11:30 A. M.

"Properties-What We Need to Do-Our Priorities"

Presented by David Tannen. Your input is valuable.

March 11, 2018 11:30 A. M.

"ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice"

Presented by Pastor Trudy Cretsinger. This is our opportunity to review the Social Statement and provide our input to the ELCA.

March 18, 2018 11:30 A. M.

"Poverty Issues"

Presented by the Isaiah Core Team. How Isaiah's agenda strives to address these issues with elected officials.

March 25, 2018 11:30 A. M.

"The Passion Story-- Mark's Gospel"

Presented by the Rev. Robert Hausman.

Adult Forum Planning Meeting March 1, 2018 at 1:00 P. M. in the library.

*****PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE*****



Beyond DACA Actions, March 5-8

March 5-8, ISAIAH, Navigate MN and Immigrant Movement for Justice Call on YOU to Join Us in Our Beyond DACA Actions—Demanding Permanent Protection for All

What, Who, When and Where:

We are mobilizing for a series of escalating actions that lift up the stories of our families and bring us to the doorsteps of the “key holder” elected officials to hold them accountable for playing politics with the lives of millions of immigrants, including Dreamers, TPS and DED holders/beneficiaries, and the larger immigrant community.

Monday, March 5, 5-7 PM

Rally at Amy Klobuchar’s office for her failure to support and pass a clean DREAM Act and to demand that she STOP saying in public that she supports the immigrant community when her actions say otherwise. 1200 Washington Ave south, Minneapolis, MN 55415

Tuesday, March 6, ALL DAY (and through March 8th)

Tweets, Facebook posts, calls and letters that bombard Representatives Erik Paulsen and Jason Lewis for their failure to support and pass a clean DREAM Act.

Wednesday, March 7

We will invite the MN Candidates for Governor to join us in our action on March 8th and to release a public statement declaring how they will work to represent ALL of our undocumented families, whether or not they become Minnesota’s next governor.

Thursday March 8, 3:00 PM

Public actions at the offices of Representatives Jason Lewis and Erik Paulsen. More details coming soon.

Why:

ICE agents have been unleashed on the streets of our communities--ripping families apart and leaving a path of destruction behind them. US born children and youth are left without papa or mama or both, terrorized, traumatized, scrambling for answers, left alone without a provider, and under the care of friends and relatives.

We demand that elected officials take a stand for fair and just legislation that results in permanent status for millions of our brothers and sisters, including Dreamers, TPS and DED holders. We demand an immediate stop to the practices of arbitrary detention and deportation that are terrorizing and separating immigrant families and our communities.

For more information visit our Facebook page <https://tinyurl.com/Beyond-DACA-FB-Action>

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

At the annual meeting in January, I mentioned the recent conversation Keri Miller had hosted on MPR with a number of Millennials (young adults born around the recent turn of the millennium). The conversation took place in the aftermath of a study, commissioned by Saint Mary's Press in Winona, to look into why Millennials who had been raised as Catholics no longer identified as Catholic. The March 3rd edition of the *Star Tribune* carried an article about this same study, "Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics." Although the focus was on young adults who had been raised in the Catholic Church, many of the insights transcend denominational and even religious distinctions. (Indeed, Ms. Miller's conversation included a couple of young adult Muslims as well.)



So, why do they leave? There are a number of reasons, none of which fully account for the disaffiliation. Probably for the most of the disaffiliated, it isn't any one reason; it's several. Among the reasons for leaving, the mysterious category of "other" had one of the highest levels of responses. But negative family experience (like being refused sacraments due to non-compliance with church polity), conversion to a different denomination (or other faith), and loss of faith in God and/or religion were also among the most frequently cited reasons. Of course, changing to a different denomination or faith is not so much a cause for disaffiliation as it is a form of disaffiliation; people make these kinds of changes for reasons.

But one of the most striking findings in the report is that disaffiliation, the point at which the person started to no longer consider him/herself as Catholic starts between ages 10 and 20 – the teen years. Now the Catholic church has a much-storied history in the previous century of not doing faith formation particularly well, at least for the laity. Whereas Protestant congregations widely embraced the Sunday School movement, the Catholics eventually developed their own CCD program ... which was similar, but different. Instead of learning Bible stories as in Protestant Sunday Schools, the children were taught doctrines – do this because ...; don't do that because ... Nonetheless, given similar patterns of disaffiliation in non-Catholic churches (and apparently even in American Islamic congregations), we're all in much the same spot ... parents who disaffiliated as young adults lead to fewer families with young children in congregations, and then a number of those we do have become disaffiliated at a fairly young age. While these kids may still attend (because they are young and their parents can compel them), their hearts are definitely not in it.

Interestingly, about half of the respondents indicated they were searching for spiritual practices in tune with their beliefs. One of the young people in the conversation with Keri Miller said, "If you're talking about the importance of, the value of families, and you're not doing anything to improve the economic situation of families, I'm not interested." They want to see – and be a part of – a community actively living out the beliefs they profess.

This could actually be some good news for us here at Redeemer. Yes, we practice that good old high church liturgy and we do it well. The question is often raised if this is out of date or something of a turn-off. Because of my observations here, I don't think that's necessarily true. It took a while to come up with a good way to describe our worship before arriving at the descriptor "joyfully reverent." Our worship is reverent, but it is also done with a sense of joy and genuine celebration ... and that allows the fullness of the liturgy to do what it was intended to do: help us see the Reign and Realm of God in all its fullness, experience a bit of it with our senses, give us a clearer picture of how God intends life to be – all so we can go out and try to live and work in a way that moves things a little closer to that picture. That's what we do here – in our building and beyond it in our community. Now we just need to find a way to connect this with the people who are looking for just such a faith community.

CORE TEAM NEWS

We want to thank all who participated in the caucuses last month. Thanks to the efforts of all those involved, 23 faith delegates along with four potential alternates and five supporters will be participating at the next level in the process. All totaled, 32 people involved are members of Redeemer or have been brought into this effort by members of Redeemer. This is the fruit of the seven house meetings that various members had (beyond the two that were held at the church). These meetings involved a total of 38 people. Together we are touching lives and making a difference in our community as we work for the Faith Agenda.

What exactly is the Faith Agenda? It is not a proposal for specific pieces of legislation. Instead, it casts a vision of changes we want to see in our community, a picture of what we want to accomplish. Perhaps it is best summed up in the words of the prophet Zechariah:

Thus says the LORD of Hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets.

Here is a picture of a thriving community: men and woman live to a great age because they have enjoyed good health, safety, and all the basics needed to thrive; children are playing in the streets, under the watchful eyes of their elders, because they are safe and supported and free to play and grow and develop. This is what God desires for human community. This is what we strive for in our city and in our state in partnerships with people of faith throughout Minnesota.

Many of you have been to ISIAAH meetings in which political leaders have been asked to commit to certain objectives and policies. Almost every time, the leaders say they support these requests, that they will work for them. Sometimes they do ... but oftentimes they do not. Part of that is because, as a 501c3 organization, ISIAAH cannot make any kind of report to the public about whether or not political leaders kept the commitments made at our meetings. Because of that, like many other similar organizations, ISIAAH has started **Faith in MN** as a 501c4 organization. These c4 organizations can engage in direct lobbying, report on how legislators voted, and even endorse candidates. Faith in MN does not plan on endorsing any candidates; however, it will serve as a means of holding elected leaders accountable to their commitments. If you would like to find out more about Faith in MN, how to support this endeavor, or more information about the next steps in the caucus process, please talk to Stephanie Stoessel.

The legislature is back in session and there is a flurry of activity at both the local and national levels. Proposed legislation intended to reduce gun violence is being introduced at both the state and national levels in the aftermath of the latest school tragedy in Florida. There are actions about the Dreamers taking place both locally and nationally. However, the primary focus for this legislative session is the bonding bill, and with a projected surplus, there will be lots of ideas on what to do with the money. We want to see it spent in ways that help the common good, especially for people who need extra help ... people who depend on caregivers for daily tasks, who need help with transportation and housing and child care. In this compressed legislative session, there will be lots of opportunities to be present for actions at the capitol, but there may not be much notice. If you would like to be informed of such events, please let Myrna Nelson know how to contact you and if there are any specific issues you want to be notified for actions.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement and participation as we live out our faith values in a very public way for our city and our state. A number of events will be announced in the coming weeks. Keep an eye on the bulleting for more information. ***The next Core Team meeting is March 27th at 7:00pm.***

THANK YOU!
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer's 2018 Collection
raised:
\$116, 15 food items and 25 lbs. of food

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING
souperbowl.org

February 4, 2018

Clara B. Cooper
Clara Cooper
President and CEO
Souper Bowl of Caring

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
285 N. Dale St.
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