

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 116, No. 8

August 2021



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor

285 North Dale Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

651-227-8295

www.redeemerstpaul.org

Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

Pastor's Letter from Home

Jesus said: *"No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins [and so both are preserved]."* Mark 2:22, Math. 9:17

Dear Friends,

We have just gone through a year during the COVID-19 pandemic which brought so many changes to society, and the Church. While we were shut down, we weren't able to do so much that we were so accustomed to doing: most importantly, meeting in person. No worship in-person, no coffee hour, no Bible studies, no concerts, no prayer groups, no special events. The "wine" of the church's ministry had to be poured into new wineskins: such as online "Zoom" worship, virtual communion, Bible studies, classes, webinars and coffee hours, without personal contact. So much has changed and now it all changes again.

Many people have said they look forward to "getting back to normal". But what is "normal"? For many, "normal" wasn't very good, and brought a lot of stress. Most people want to see some improvements in our world, as there are many things that we can do better. We also find this true in the Church.

Now that we have begun to gather again for worship in-person at Redeemer, I think that the goal is not to recreate "normal". Normal was a "fallen world", with all of our imperfections and failures, as well as beautiful moments and some successes. So "normal" is not an aspiration. However, I do like Jesus' analogy about the good news - that just as no one puts new wine into old wineskins, but rather in new wineskins, so the good news of Jesus Christ that we proclaim in this new time needs new "forms", new languages and strategies.

As we gather for worship in August, we see a new Dale Street, new sidewalks and street lights as we approach the church. This fall we will see new LED lighting inside and outside the church building, replacing the old. We have new additional hymn and worship resources. The choir will sing again for worship (hooray!), but with some new faces and singers. We now can "livestream" our worship to the worldwide web and meet on Zoom. We invite additional readers and worship leaders to lead portions of Sunday liturgy. What other "new wineskins" can you envision for the ministry of the gospel at Redeemer? Some changes may be hard, but not all changes are bad! Some are needed, and give life to the Church.

For we have this treasure, the gospel of Jesus, who gives us new life, through faith, and offers us new ways to be in a community of love for others. What new surprises are in store for us when we follow Jesus? Thanks be to God!

Pastor Jim Erlandson

LIVE IN-PERSON WORSHIP RETURNS!

Live, in-person worship returned to Redeemer on Thursday, June 24 with an outdoor collaborative worship service in our church courtyard garden with St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran. We commemorated the Nativity of St. John the Baptist and celebrated eucharist outside, without masks, seated on lawn chairs and enjoying singing and refreshments.

Then, on Sunday, June 27, we celebrated our first service of holy communion indoors and in person in the church sanctuary since March 8, 2020! We wore masks but were able to sing hymns and do the full worship service, including receive bread and wine (in plastic, recyclable cups).

This month of July (and other hot Sundays in the summer) we will continue to worship live, in-person **downstairs in the church undercroft**. We will sing hymns to an electronic keyboard and receive communion in plastic cups.

Please wear a face mask if you have not been vaccinated. If you have been vaccinated, a mask is discretionary - but we know some still wish to be careful to wear their mask even after being vaccinated. Please do not come to worship if you feel sick, continue to wash your hands often, and refrain from touching.

Please bring your mask and wear it to worship as we gather. We will announce when/if it is safe to remove masks (Minnesota hasn't reached the 70% vaccination goal yet.

WE LIVESTREAM WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE

On Sunday, June 27 we began to livestream our worship service. You can find every worship service recorded since March 22, 2020 on YouTube videos. You can find our page at **[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)**. Search for **Lutheran Church of the Redeemer St. Paul MN ELCA**. Please subscribe to that page and you can always find us. You can also find the link to livestream videos on our church website:

redeemerstpaul.org

Go to this Youtube page every Sunday at 10 am if you want to watch the livestream at home. We have also set up an ongoing Zoom meeting for coffee hour conversation every Sunday at 11 am, so that those who aren't at live in-person worship can also have conversation. We will have a laptop set up in the elevator lounge so people can also join the Zoom conversation from church. The Zoom invite link was sent out by email on June 25. See you all live, on Zoom!

AUGUST SCRIPTURES & READERS

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.

August 1	Ruth Belmonte
August 8	Diana Rankin
August 15	Sybil Harris
August 22	Elizabeth Currie
August 29	Ray Hayes

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
August 1 <i>Pentecost 10</i>	Exod 16:2-4, 9-15	Ps 78:23-29	Eph 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
August 8 <i>Pentecost 11</i>	1 Kings 19:4-8	Ps 34:1-8	Eph 4:25—5:2	John 6:35, 41-51
August 15 <i>Pentecost 12</i>	Prov 9:1-6	Ps 34:9-14	Eph 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
August 22 <i>Pentecost 13</i>	Josh 24:1-2a, 14-18	Ps 34:15-22	Eph 6:10-20	John 6:56-69
August 29 <i>Pentecost 14</i>	Deut 4:1-2, 6-9	Ps 15	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

ADULT FORUM

There will be an Adult Forum Planning meeting August 18, 2021 at 10:00 A. M. in the church library. We will be planning the fall programs. You are welcome to attend. For more information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266 or foremanjoan3@gmail.com.



Our Church Vestry meeting was opened by Sybil on July 13, 2021 on Zoom with prayer and all members present.

Redeemer has held three live worships inside again with as many as 35 participating as well as an estimated 10 others who participated online. All of Redeemer's services for the past year can be seen on Youtube. The third outdoor joint service was held July 22 at St Paul Reformation with Bethlehem Lutheran on Snelling.

The Vestry was pleased by the Congregation meeting on July 18 to discuss the cost and expense for the LED lighting cost shaving upgrade. In addition, the Vestry was informed of the need to repair the roof to stop leaks above the music room and in the bell tower as well as at other roof points. During the coming five years, Redeemer will also need to bring the elevator up to code.

Bob screen shared the June treasurer's report. Offering received to end of June is over 50% of pledged and expenses are also 50% of budget. Cash balance is \$136000 and the mortgage due is \$76594 plus interest.

The Vestry discussed how Redeemer could take a lesson on God's house and the prophet Nathan in the Book of Samuel. How does Redeemer offer God's house as "open tent and tabernacle" to the people of God in our community? Can we hold more open air services and events to announce our welcome to those around us?

Or via our support for the Interfaith drive for school tools for St Paul children until August 3 More information can be seen here: <https://interfaithaction.org/portfolio-item/school-tools-drive/>

Sybil adjourned the meeting at 820p and **the next meeting will be August 10 on Zoom.**



WELCOME ERIK KROHG!

This September we welcome the newest member of our music ministry staff, our new Music/Choir Director: **Erik Krohg**. Erik is a native Minnesotan from Bloomington, a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead (where he sang in the Concordia Choir) and the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, with a Masters in Vocal Performance.

Erik has performed as baritone soloist in various concerts (Faure *Requiem*, Brahms *Requiem*, Handel *Messiah* for example), and is an accomplished pianist. He sings baritone with *Vocal Essences* and other local Twin Cities ensembles. Please welcome Erik Krohg to Redeemer!

Redeemer choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:00 pm.

DEACON KARI OLSEN TO PREACH

We welcome Deacon Kari Olsen to Redeemer on Sunday, August 15. Deacon Olsen will preach at the 10:00 am worship service, and lead an adult forum at 11:15 am. She is the Mission Developer for *Shobi's Table* food truck ministry with the Saint Paul Area Synod and the Kitchen Coordinator for *Christ on Capitol Hill* Lutheran Church in St. Paul. She will tell us the story of how *Shobi's Table* food truck ministry developed, describe the mission, where food is served, and how we can participate. It is fitting that the gospel text that Sunday is John 6:51, when Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever."





A Pay-As-You-Can-Café

3 Locations, 3 Days a Week

Tuesdays from 12:00-1:00 PM
Christ on Capitol Hill **105 University Ave W**

Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 PM
Faith Lutheran on **499 Charles Ave**

Fridays from 12:00-1:00 PM
Bethlehem in the Midway at **436 Roy St N**

All of us, from volunteers and employees to guests at the table, are all the foundations of this table based community.

shobistable.org



DALE STREET REPAVING PROJECT

The Dale Street repaving project is almost complete this first week in August. Dale Street was closed south of the bridge, between Carroll and Iglehart Avenues, while the street was repaved, new sidewalks and street lamps installed, with new sewer and water. As of August 2, all that remains is a small bit of curb and concrete to be laid, and re-seeding grass on the boulevard. The project will have taken less than two months, since June 14. We are happy to see a re-opening of Dale Street coming soon, with brand new sidewalks and lamps on our side of Dale. It has been interesting to see the project from beginning to end, but we're glad that it will soon be done. So, come and worship with us on Sunday, as we have opened for live, in-person worship in the sanctuary or undercroft.



ISAIAH CORE TEAM NEWS



It has been a hot summer! And our work to bring social justice to all continues! The Redeemer Core Team is currently working on a referendum that will appear on the St. Paul election ballot this November. The referendum will cap rent raises to 3% per year unless the landlord can claim extra hardship. This referendum is titled "Rent Stabilization" and is NOT rent control. It provides renters, who are in the majority in the city, of reasonable increases in their rent. To many times renters are hit with a large increase and this often puts them at financial risk. The Core Team is looking for people who are renters who have a significant story to share or know someone who is a renter with a story about how a significant increase caused them financial harm.



ISAIAH St Paul is hosting trainings in August to inform leaders about the issue and launch our campaign to educate and get out the vote this November. We would like you to join us! You do not need to be a resident in St. Paul to help out. The training dates are: August 14 at 9:30 to Noon, August 17, 19 and 31 at 6:30. Please contact Pr. Jim, Myrna Nelson or me, Stephanie Stoessel if you know someone with a rent story and/or would like to help us bring this housing issue to the voters of St. Paul.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



“**God’s work. Our hands.**” Sunday is Sunday, September 12, 2021. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

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.

We are making plans at Redeemer to serve a lunch outdoors to residents of Dale Street Place, 313 No. Dale St., after worship on Sunday, September 12, at 11:30 am.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday Hymn

A hymn titled “God’s Work, Our Hands,” written by Wayne Wold, was selected as the winning entry in the ELCA’s “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday hymn contest in 2019. More than 120 entries were submitted to be considered as a hymn for the ELCA’s annual dedicated day of service. The selected hymn represents the official tagline of the ELCA and expresses how the people of this church live in service for the life of the world. We offer our thanks to all who submitted original compositions — the large number of entries gives witness to the enthusiasm that “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday has inspired throughout this church and in our communities. The selected hymn includes music to a familiar tune as well as music to an original composition. The hymn is available as a year-round worship resource.

Wold is a professor and chair of the music department at Hood College in Frederick, Md., where he also serves as concert manager and college organist. He is also the director of music ministry at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, Md.

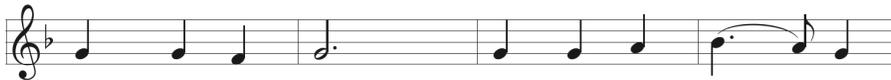
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Music: GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS, Wayne L. Wold

Text and music © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Permission is granted to reproduce this composition for local, non-sale use in synods, congregations, and other ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Other uses prohibited without securing permission or reporting usage under a valid copyright license.

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/WkUINcJ3KXA>

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

