

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 111, No. 8

September, 2016



Music on the Blacktop ft. Songs of Hope
July 28th, 2016

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor

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Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

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Katie Thompson, Organist

A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear Friends,

Summer is soon coming to an end, and it sure went fast! We have celebrated Songs of Hope at Music on the Blacktop with our community once again, in mid-July. My daughter Amy has been to Italy and back for language, music and culture studies. Most of you have taken some time with friends or family at a lake, the pool, on vacation or just relaxing on vacation. Now September is here, and though the weather may remain warm and pleasant, we all switch gears to return to school, work, and our responsibilities. This also means that we have things to look forward to this fall, with school activities, fall celebrations and all those things we enjoy in September and on.

But the summer was not just vacations and time off from work. Many significant things have happened in our lives and in our world. On the local scene, Philando Castille was killed in a traffic stop by police; resulting gatherings for prayer, repentance, and public demonstrations all happened in our own neighborhood. Just a mile away demonstrators occupied the sidewalks and street in front of the Governor's Mansion on Summit Avenue during July. Our own ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preached at a service of repentance and healing at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church (our closest neighbor) and she also spoke to the crowd at the demonstration on Summit. Interstate 94 was shut down on one night of protest and tension, bringing back memories of when the Rondo community was removed and paved over by freeway construction.

The ELCA held a churchwide convention in New Orleans in August, where our own Joann Conroy attended as a congregation observer. She witnessed the passage of a memorial resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery of 1493, with pledges to work to improve relations with Native American people in our land. Today we have the opportunity to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe opposing the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota, where the pipeline potentially threatens groundwater for people throughout the Missouri River basin.

At Redeemer, our own Isaiah Core Team and many members have supported a St. Paul city ordinance for Earned Sick and Safe Time for everyone who works in St. Paul (especially those without health insurance). Passage of this ordinance looks promising. We welcomed our community to Rondo Days in July by hosting parking in our lot in July, meeting our neighbors and raising funds for summer outreach. We welcomed back the Songs of Hope children and youth who performed their annual music program on our parking lot July 28. We watched the Kab Npauj Healing Garden grow sweet corn, Hmong corn, and other produce throughout the summer, tended by our Hmong gardeners.

Now we begin a fall season of worship and community outreach. I invite you to join us for our ELCA Day of Service on Sunday, September 11 as we worship God, our choir leads us in song, and we welcome our neighbors to eat with us following worship as we celebrate *God's Work, Our Hands Sunday*.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Jim Erlandson

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 ~ 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

2nd 10:00 am Urban Partnership Luncheon
7th 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal Begins
8th 10:00 am Happy Seniors (Undercroft)
11:00 am Women's Guild (Library)
11th 11:30 am God's Work Our Hands
16th 10:00 am Restore the Vote Meeting
17th 10:00 am Girls Scouts Begins

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will meet Thursday, September 8th at 11:00 am in the Library. Bring a salad or sandwich. Hostesses Jean Tretsvén and Kathy Moffat will serve coffee and dessert.

A NOTE FROM JON OLSON

Thanks for your friendship in the Gospel while I have been with you as a member of Redeemer. I have moved back to my home town and will be remembering the congregation and its ministry in my prayers. Please give me a call or stop in when you are at or near Milaca on your way "up North."

Feel free contact me:

Jon Olson
1050-4th Ave NW
Milaca, MN
56353

(320) 982-1198

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.

September 4	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
<i>Pentecost 16</i>	Diana Rankin	Tammy Cownie	Mary Lou Knipe
September 11	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
<i>Pentecost 17</i>	DeAnne Hilgers	Leilani Drake	Ray Hayes
September 18	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
<i>Pentecost 18</i>	Joel Michael	Michelle Geschwill	Myrna Nelson
September 25	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader
<i>Pentecost 19</i>	Tammy Cownie	Bob Paddock	Leilani Drake

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
Lectionary 23 <i>Pentecost 16</i>	Deut 30:15-20	Ps 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Lectionary 24 <i>Pentecost 17</i>	Exod 32:7-14	Ps 51:1-10	1 Tim 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
Lectionary 25 <i>Pentecost 18</i>	Amos 8:4-7	Ps 113	1 Tim 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
Lectionary 26 <i>Pentecost 19</i>	Amos 6:1a, 4-7	Ps 146	1 Tim 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

ADULT FORUM

Sept. 11, 2016 11:30 A.M. "God's Work--Our Hands." Intergenerational event. This is our annual special volunteer opportunity. Among various activities will be the assembling of school bags filled with essential school supplies to be given to needy school children.

Sept. 18, 2016 11:30 A. M. "Planned Visions for Music and Worship at Redeemer" presented by Music Director, Jon Strommen Campbell. This is an opportunity to explore how music and choir are integral to our liturgical worship.

Sept. 25, 2016 11:30 A.M. Report by Joe Rittman who attended the Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly in May. The theme was "We are Lutheran, Bold and Hopeful." Other issues discussed included race, identity and social justice.

There will be an Adult Forum Planning meeting Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. You are invited to attend. For more information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266.

VISIONS FROM THE SUMMER

Thank you, all who came to any of the monthly sessions this summer! A lot of great ideas were surfaced in the process. Important points are being passed along to property, worship, and other groups. We have good insights about being welcoming as a congregation in more intentional ways. Watch for tip sheets, brief training, and other efforts in the months ahead.

At the August meeting, we started to make plans to carry out some of the ideas we surfaced. Plans are taking shape to build on some of the shared activities we've already done with other congregations (like the choir concert/fundraiser for Ujamaa Place). This time the goal is to involve the other congregations that use our building, make space for fellowship between people from the different congregations, and may be even branch out to creating a worship space on Grand Avenue for Grand Old Days next year.

Other plans are setting up ways to deepen our connection with and care for one another. These ideas are expanding to the possibility of interring remains in our garden – and extending that opportunity to the community as a low-cost burial option.

There is also some on-going exploration of the service opportunities we've already engaged in. We host Project HOME annually. We've done Feed My Starving Children. Can we engage these opportunities more regularly? What else might we do?

These initial plans will be brought to the Vestry this month and we'll proceed from there. Stay tuned to the usual channels of communications for updates, next steps, and new opportunities!

Let's J.A.M.!



Over the years, ministry with children has changed in the church. Years ago, we had Sunday School every Sunday morning (September - May) at 9:00 am and during December the children performed a Christmas Pageant (telling the Christmas story in drama and song).

In the past 5-10 years we had "Jesus Time" most Sundays after worship, from 11:30-12:00 noon, when children played an organized game, had a snack, did crafts and/or heard the lesson for the day - presented by a team of parents.

In an effort to bring back more child/youth based activities, we're introducing **J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)**. This will be very similar to Jesus time and will follow the Liturgical calendar.

We'll do a test run on Sunday, September 18th and Sunday, September, 25th. If this is successful, we will be in need of volunteers to lead once a month.

Each volunteer will be required to sign up for either 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th Sunday and be willing to commit to that Sunday until May of 2017.

Tahnea will be writing curriculum based on the weekly readings and have everything volunteers will need to lead the lessons prepared ahead of time so all that is required is showing up and leading.

Please contact Tahnea ASAP if you are willing to help with our pilot run in September and lead on either the 18th or 25th.

*****You don't have to have kids to volunteer to lead!*****

THANK YOU!

We thank our volunteers who have worked hard in recent weeks to sand and re-finish the hardwood floor of our sanctuary. Carpeting in the front and aisles was removed to improve acoustics for music and public speaking in our sanctuary. In coming months we will consider how we can make our sanctuary more flexible for worship, concerts, drama and other events. In the meantime, we thank Dave Dufresne, Emmanuel Hughes, Lyle Nelson and Dave Peterson for their work moving pews, sanding floors, sweeping and staining, to make our wood floors more beautiful, to the glory of God! You will hear and see the difference!



Lutheran World Relief



Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer here in Saint Paul, Minnesota. We affirm God's love for all people and work to end poverty, injustice and human suffering around the world.



This year for our God's Work Our Hand's Sunday we are working on a Lutheran World Relief Project for school children.

This project is a simple backpack with basic supplies. Even if families can afford tuition for school they may not be able to afford supplies. Included in the packs are pens, pencils, a pencil sharpener, a ruler, crayons, an eraser, a scissors and 4 notebooks. After we have assembled the packs we will deliver to a LWR warehouse in South Saint Paul. We also can track where are School Kits are sent, so we are excited to see where in the World they go. Many Thanks to all who have donated supplies, time or money to make our goal of 50 bags.

In Christ Irene Markley



In addition to the backpacks, our congregation will be sharing a meal with the community and our neighbors at Dale Street Place as well as doing some planting around the building and collecting of litter from around the neighborhood.

ISAIAH CORE TEAM NEWS

The City of Saint Paul is on the verge of passing one of the strongest Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) ordinances in the country! As the Redeemer Record goes to press, the Saint Paul City Council is scheduled to vote for passage of the ESST ordinance at the next meeting on Wednesday, September 7th. The meeting will take place at 3:30pm. The majority of the council members are supportive of the ordinance. The public hearings have been held. Final clarification of language for one of the amendments should be complete by this meeting so the vote can be taken. In the meantime, please contact your city council member to thank him (or her) and encourage continued support for the ESST ordinance at the vote on September 7th.

Thank you, all of you who have come to any of the council meetings during August. Your visible presence in the chambers has made an impact on the leaders of our city. Because of your support, thousands of workers in our city are about to gain the benefit of paid time off when they are ill or are needed to care for their dependents. This policy also provides paid time off for victims of domestic violence to access the legal and shelter services they need to secure their safety (and often, the safety of their children as well). In the memorable words of Judge Mary Lou Klass, this ordinance is homicide prevention. Thank you for helping to make this happen.

Following the meeting (and the vote!) on September 7th, we will be gathering to celebrate at Lake Monster Brewery, 550 Vandalia Street in Saint Paul. If you have been part of the efforts, you are welcome to celebrate with us.

Thank you for the support you have given to this effort ... whether you attended forums at the church, the public meetings in the wards, the regular city council meetings. Please know as well that you have the gratitude of many in our community who will have access to this significant benefit in the new year. What we have done together is making a huge difference in our city.

From the Office of the Choir Director

After a busy summer, I am preparing to begin a busy Fall. This year at Redeemer we welcome Kristina Rodel, and an occasional addition to our soprano section. Kristina majored in vocal performance at Luther College and currently works for Lutheran Summer Music. We are happy to have her on board! I want to thank all our choir members in advance for their continued work together to make good music happen at Redeemer in an environment that is both safe and supportive of singers, no matter their skill.

sincerely,
Jon Campbell

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A 'WELCOMING' CONGREGATION?

By Diana M. Rankin

It has almost become a cliché to say that "All are welcome." Do we know what these three words mean? What do we think we are saying? How do we say it and how do we show it?

Sam and I have visited many congregations and experienced genuinely warm welcomes, lukewarm welcomes, and outright coldness. This summer we visited two congregations at opposite ends of the "welcomeness" spectrum.

The people at Grace Lutheran in Sandstone, MN – a very small congregation – demonstrated hospitality in many little ways, even after discovering that we were not church shopping. They also had two gifts for us: (1) a Grace coffee cup holding a Divine Fairtrade chocolate bar and their newsletter and (2) an invitation to come back whenever we were not able to make our weekly trip to St. Paul.

Our experience at House for All Sinners and Saints, an ELCA congregation of about 250 people in Denver, was the exact opposite. Because of what I had heard about this congregation and its pastor, I had been wanting to attend worship there for several years. In July Sam and I finally had an opportunity. Their website says that they "are committed to welcoming the stranger," but, as strangers in a room where everyone seemed to know each other, we felt left out. While a few people shared the peace with us, not one person introduced themselves. There was a supper after the service and no one invited us to stay. Finally, as we left the church, the pastor, who was standing at the door, ignored us until I stretched out my hand and I initiated introductions.

Which congregation do you think we will visit again?

Two recent articles in *Living Lutheran* (February 25 and June 22, 2016) challenge what it means to say "All are welcome." I think that we at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer "get it." What is troubling to me, however, is that we don't know why visitors don't come back.

Did we overwhelm them with our welcome during the sharing of the peace or at coffee hour? Did the huge, largely empty sanctuary scare them? Did they sense desperation for new members? Was the worship style too formal for them? Were they put off by the preaching? Did they find us too liberal in addressing social justice issues? Did the music not fit their taste?

If they were searching for a new church home, did we take the time to ask them what they were looking for? Did we invite them to "like" our Facebook page or check out our website? Did we give them an opportunity to share their contact information and then follow up with them the next day?

Obviously, we cannot be all things to all people and not every visitor can be expected to return, let alone become a member, no matter how much they feel welcomed. After all, some people are just visiting! And even though we can point to all the ways we say and show that "All are welcome," we shouldn't take hospitality for granted. We have talked about this during our visioning activity, led by Trudy Cretsinger, but I believe we need to hear from the people who visit on Sunday morning, live in the neighborhood, regularly share our space, find safe shelter in March, attend meetings or special services, or otherwise walk through the door. I hope we can find a way to do this, prayerfully and open to new possibilities.

**THE CONCERT
ACROSS AMERICA™
TO END GUN VIOLENCE**

9.25.16



THE CONCERT ACROSS AMERICA TO END GUN VIOLENCE

Sunday, September 25, 2016

National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims

3pm–7pm

International Market Square

275 Market Street, Minneapolis. Free parking!

Hosted by Protect Minnesota

Produced by JD Steele

Featured Bands:

**The R Factor - New Sound Underground
JD Steele**

Plus:

Capri Glee—Immanuel House Choir

McPhail Community Youth Choir

Voter Registration and Partner Recognition

Children's Activity Corner

Tickets: \$15 each — kids and students free!

Go to www.protectmn.org

- On Sunday, September 25, 2016, Protect Minnesota will join independent gun violence prevention organizations in every state sponsoring *The Concert Across America to End Gun Violence*.
- September 25th has been designated by congress as the Day of Remembrance of Murder Victims. This date was chosen to remind our elected officials of the 12,000 Americans who are murdered by a firearm each year, and the other 20,000 who die from gun suicides and accidental shootings.
- The family-friendly Minnesota event will include performances by three popular regional bands—The R Factor, New Sound Underground, and JD Steele—performing a wide range of popular dance music between 4-7pm.
- Two Community choirs directed by JD Steele, The Capri Glee Club and the MacPhail Youth Choir, will perform from 3-4pm. Church and community choirs and individual singers are invited to sing along during this time.
- Between sets, Protect Minnesota will recognize key leaders and organizational partners in the fight against gun violence. There will also be children's activities, voter registration, and information tables from sponsoring groups.
- Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about gun violence and how it can be prevented, but there will be no campaign-related political organizing sponsored by Protect Minnesota.
- Tickets are \$15 each; kids and students get in FREE. Tickets may be purchased on-line at www.protectmn.org. Individuals and groups are encouraged to promote the Concert and help sell tickets.
- Individual Sponsorships are \$100. That includes two tickets and listing in the event program. \$70 of each Individual Sponsorship is tax deductible.
- Organizations may sponsor the event for \$250 (includes 5 tickets and listing in the event program; \$175 of the sponsorship is tax deductible) and \$500 (includes 10 tickets, listing in the event program, and exhibit space at the event; \$350 of the sponsorship is tax deductible.)
- Food and beverages will be available from D'Amico & Sons Catering for purchase; . Free parking in the International Market Square lots.

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