

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 116, No. 11

November 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

Erik Krohg, Music Director

Ellen Hacker, Organist/Pianist

Pastor's Letter from Home

*Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours is the promise, the blessing, the birth.
Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame; ours the thanksgiving to your holy
name. Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done; yours be the glory, O
God, yours alone. **All Creation Sings**, Holy Communion, Setting 12, by J.
Bert Carlson*

Dear Friends,

As we begin the month of November this All Saints Sunday, we remember all those who have died, especially our loved ones in 2020-2021. We are well aware of the suffering and pain of so many over the past 18 months during the global Covid-19 pandemic. We could each make a list of regrets, things and people we have missed, and what we have lost. We see and hear it every day.

On the other hand, we are also people of faith, who can see God's work in the world, leading us to care for others, giving us hope. Especially now that we are in a much better place regarding the pandemic (i.e. vaccinations, face masks), and are back to worship in person (with precautions), there is much that brings us joy.

SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY NOW, THIS YEAR? As you think about that, I will share what brings me joy:

- *Our three grandchildren (and one on his way) born since 2019!
- *Being back in worship in person every Sunday morning.
- *Back to singing hymns with the choir (even wearing a mask)!
- *Having wonderful new musicians (Erik and Ellen) on staff leading music.
- *Celebrating the beloved festivals of the Reformation, All Saints together!
- *Decorating the church for worship with symbols of faith.
- *Hearing my friend, guitarist Randall Ferguson in concert "live" again.
- *Recording our worship services on livestream - *did you know that over 30 people view each of our livestream videos on YouTube during the week? This almost doubles our Sunday worship attendance totals!*
- *We share coffee and conversation in person every Sunday after worship.
- *We are reconnecting with our community - as the congregations who worship here and the Narcotics Anonymous support groups come every evening.
- *Repairs and upgrades to our church roof, heat and lights are being made.

*Reconnecting with you all in person or by phone, day by day.
So, these are some of my joys these days. Are you surprised there are this many? How about you? What brings YOU joy today? Please share those joys with each other on Sunday mornings over coffee, or when you see one another during the week! Have peace in Christ. Love your neighbor. Keep the faith!

Pastor Jim Erlandson

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

(Every Sunday at 10 am)

Feast of All Saints, Sunday, November 7 at 10 am with Holy Communion. We will light candles for those who died in 2020-2021.
Indigenous Peoples Celebration, Sunday, November 21 at 10 am with Holy Communion. Scripture from Day of Thanksgiving (transferred) instead of Christ the King, on the last Sunday of the church year.

THERE WILL BE NO THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

First Sunday in Advent, Sunday, November 28, at 10 am with Holy Communion. We begin the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming and birth of Jesus.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP DATES IN DECEMBER

Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 at 7:00 pm

Lessons and Carols on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 10 am *Followed by Christmas treats in the church undercroft.*

Candlelight Eucharist on Christmas Eve, December 24, AT 9:00 PM

THERE WILL BE NO CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP AT REDEEMER *We will announce the times of Christmas Day worship at local Lutheran churches.*

First Sunday of Christmas, December 26 at 10 am - Carols with Eucharist

Randall Ferguson Concert Sunday, October 24th, 2021



NOVEMBER 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.

November 7	Lyle Nelson
November 14	Renee Nunn
November 21	Mary Lou Knipe
November 28	David Dufresne

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Nov 7 <i>All Saints Sunday</i>	Isa 25:6-9	Ps 24	Rev 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
Nov 14 <i>Lectionary 33 (Pent 25)</i>	Dan 12:1-3	Ps 16	Heb 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25	Mark 13:1-8
Nov 21 <i>Day of Thanksgiving</i>	Joel 2:21-27	Ps 126	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Matthew 6:25-33
Nov 28 <i>1 Advent</i>	Jer 33:14-16	Ps 25:1-10	1 Thess 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36

ADULT FORUM

Nov. 7, 2021 11:30 A. M. **"Remembering Saints in Our Lives."** Bring a picture of your loved one for the display table and share memories of your loved one. You may also bring pictures of a favorite pet that enriched your life.

Nov. 14 and 21, 11:30 A. M. **"Stewardship 2021-22"** We give thanks and show love for God and neighbor by sharing our gifts with others. We can also learn about the gifts, assets, and challenges faced by those in the community around Redeemer and respond with generosity and welcome. Presented by Pastor Jim Erlandson and Dr. Joe Rittman, with resources from *Datastory*.

Nov. 28, 2021 No class. Thanksgiving weekend.

There will be an Adult Forum Planning meeting on Wednesday Nov. 17, 2021 at 10:00 A. M. in the church. You are invited 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 October 12, 2021 on Zoom with prayer. Advent and Christmas worship is being planned with the Elders and Music Team. The Vestry appreciates with gratitude that the LCR worshipping community complies with covid prevention measures, including vaccination, masks and distancing, especially during coffee hour with only four persons per table.

There will be no Thanksgiving eve service this year. Midweek Advent services before choir practice are being planned. There will be a Lesson and Carols on the 4th Sunday (Dec 19). Details on Christmas services will be announced soon.

The Treasury has an overall balance of \$128500 with mortgage due of \$72119 plus interest. In September, building and grounds expenses for asphaltting and tax assessments were double the income. The Langer \$49500 roofing bill will be paid by withdrawal from our Vanguard fund, payment from restricted funds, and a \$12000 one-year installment payment plan by Langer. Efficiency upgrade for lighting started on Monday, Oct 19 and the Congregation was asked to approve expense for efficiency upgrade for heating at the Oct 17 Congregation meeting.

The proposal of the Women's Guild to continue as a core group to maintain a roster for hospitality ministry for our congregation and to cease monthly meetings.

Organizations seeking to rent the office space attached to the undercroft are being sought and interviewed.

Sybil adjourned the meeting at 8:44p.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on November 9 on Zoom.

NOVEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

This week every Redeemer household should have received your annual Stewardship Letter invitation to make your Financial Commitment (pledge) to God and the Church for 2022. Please prayerfully consider your commitment to our mission together at Redeemer, not only to worship and maintain the facility, but also to reach out to others in the community with the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope to receive all pledges in November.

In the stewardship letter, we said we would include a summary of the expenditures for Building Restoration (repairs and needed upgrades) that have already been approved by the congregation or discussed by the Vestry. Some have been completed this fall, some are in the process of being done, and some are planned for coming months. So we are hoping that you can make an additional gift to the church for Building Restoration this year (2021) or in 2022 to help us maintain the facility.

Building Restoration Summary

The **LED Lighting upgrade** project approved was \$22,303.90 – after rebates our total is **\$16,972.80**. We received a 4-year interest free loan to assist in paying for this.

The new heating (**boiler upgrades**) cost was \$11,000 total – but after rebates is **\$7500**. We have not sought financing – bank loan would be around 4% interest. Would rather pay with donations, if possible.

The **roof repairs project** was completed in September. The total cost was **\$49,500**. We are paying \$37,500 up front. The balance of \$12,000 is payable as we are able, at no interest. We are asking for individuals to assist with gifts to roof repair (and several of you have given significant gifts).

New ceiling tiles in the Undercroft and elevator lounge will cost **\$5100** – which includes dumpster and scaffolding, provided by Langer Construction. We will do the labor ourselves (if you'd like to help, contact Tammy Cownie). We are able to pay this in installments as we are able, again, with no interest charged..

Asphalt repair in the parking lot cost **\$6500**, and was done in September, also. This repaired some holes in the asphalt, which we paved in 1995. We paid this with cash on hand (an unanticipated, unbudgeted repair).

There have also been some assessments by the city for work on Carroll and Iglehart streets done last summer (not included in this total, but which we have paid).

The grand total for building repairs/upgrades in 2021 is \$85,373.

We have made a transfer of funds from Vanguard (our "rainy day" fund) to help pay for the roof repair project. With additional gifts we can avoid taking more out of Vanguard as we pay for these building restoration projects. Thank you for any gifts you can give!

The Redeemer Finance Committee

The Art I Loved at 15 : A Reflection by Diana M Rankin

"When you're 15, or thereabouts, you love the art you love more passionately than you'll ever love art again." This is the first line in a *New York Times* article from December 4, 2018. The author, Jonah Weiner, was reminiscing about his favorite band at age 15, a rap-rock group called Rage Against the Machine. Don't ask me why I was attracted to the article, but somehow Facebook knew it would interest me.

I know exactly what art I was most passionate about when I was 15. It all really began in 1958 when a 23-year-old American named Van Cliburn won the inaugural International Tchaikovsky Competition with a performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. I was fortunate to have a music teacher who exposed us to classical music. She made a big deal of this Cold War event and played Van Cliburn's recording for us. In 1960, my parents purchased a "hi-fi" and several LPs. One, of course, was Van Cliburn's Grammy-winning recording of the concerto. The other was of Handel's *Messiah*, probably the 1958 Mormon Tabernacle Choir recording with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra. I still love this art passionately, but have eagerly expanded my palate beyond Tchaikovsky and Handel.

There is a field of psychology devoted to the study of music preference or musical taste. Supposedly it is possible, at least in American culture, to predict someone's personality traits by the music they prefer. For example, someone who is open to experience prefers complex music such as classical and jazz as well as eclectic genres. Persons who are agreeable are said to prefer upbeat and conventional music.

When looking for a church, either as a member or as a paid musician, I have always gravitated toward those that placed a high value on classical music. This was true of the Unitarian church in Springfield, Massachusetts where I was organist, as well as Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Lutheran congregations I served or belonged to.

Redeemer's musical experience has extended way beyond what most of us grew up with. Our palates, however, have accepted unfamiliar musical expressions of faith. Dixieland band? Why not. Jazz ensemble? Sure. Black gospel? Of course. White gospel? Yep. African, Native American, Hispanic, and Asian music? Definitely. Praise bands? Not yet.

Van Cliburn and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir are now out of fashion, but classical music is still my passion. When I worship, however, I want to experience the musical expressions of other Christians, especially those who are not white like me. I want to sing their songs so I can better weep with those who weep, dance with those who dance, and shout with those who shout. I want to be ready for the cacophony of alleluias that I know await all God's saints.

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

