

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 111, No. 1

January, 2016



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor

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A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear friends in Christ,

So we have come to the close of another year, and another feast of Christmas. We end our celebration of Redeemer's 125th anniversary as a congregation, which has been full of events, commemorations, worship, ministry, and service to God and our surrounding community. As we say goodbye to 2015, we greet the new year of 2016 with new hope and expectation.

For we have been revitalized by looking back at the hopes and dreams of this congregation from the beginning – to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the language of our children, to praise God for God's goodness and mercy, and to reach out to the community and world around us that is always changing. We have seen that this congregation's leaders and its people have always been looking forward to the future, to do ministry that is innovative and reaches out to all people with the compassion of Christ. So we find that some of the "ways" of doing ministry have changed, though the mission and goal remains.

So we enter the season of Epiphany, which is the time when our scriptures reveal Jesus' identity as the Son of God – and when the Church brings the good news of Christ to all nations. Today, when the "world has come to us" in St. Paul, when over 70 languages are spoken in our public schools, and people of many faiths are our neighbors (Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, animist, and many more), reaching out with the gospel now means treating our neighbors with respect and love, in the name of Christ. Today we host a community garden for Hmong neighbors, sponsor interfaith worship to address gun violence, and work with other people of faith through Isaiah to seek racial equity in a society where systemic racism affects too many people in our community. We do this because this is what we believe Christ would have us do, as witnesses to God's love in the world.

So even though the celebrations of Christmas and our 125th anniversary year have ended, the work of ministry has only begun. On Christmas day I ended my sermon with this poem, ***The Work of Christmas***, by the Reverend Howard Thurman, which I share with you below:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins;
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the people,
To make music in the heart.*

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Jim Erlandson

January 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
 Mon. 4:00 pm ~ Shakespearean Youth Theatre
 Tues. 4:00 pm ~ Shakespearean Youth Theatre
 Wed. 7:00 pm ~ Senior Choir
 8:00 pm ~ Courage to Change N.A.
 Thur. 6:30 am ~ Prayer & Meditation A.A.
 4:00 pm ~ Shakespearean Youth Theatre
 Fri. 4:00 pm ~ Shakespearean Youth Theatre
 8:00 pm ~ Words into Action N.A.
 Sat. 8:00 am ~ Siloé Church
 1:00 pm ~ Shakespearean Youth Theatre

Other Events

5th 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting
 7th 11:30 am Womens Guild
 12th 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
 14th 10:00 am Happy Seniors
 7:00 pm Webcast on Racism w/ELCA Bishop Eaton
 18th **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day.**
(OFFICE CLOSED)

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is set for **Sunday, January 31st at 11:30 am** in the church undercroft, immediately following the worship service. We will receive copies of the church annual report, approve the church budget for 2015, and elect a Vestry at-large representative. Any confirmed member of Redeemer is eligible to serve. If you would be willing to serve on the Vestry this year, please contact Ray Hayes (President), Bob Paddock (Vice President), Pastor Erlandson or any other Vestry member.

Please submit annual report articles NO LATER than Thursday January 21st.

January 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>	<u>Thurifer</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>
Jan. 3	Tammy Cownie	Bob Paddock	Sybil Harris	Dave Tannen	Ray Hayes
	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Torchbearers</u>			
	Jack Sprung	DeAnne Hilgers	Mike Sprung		
Jan. 10	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
	DeAnne Hilgers	Joel Michael	Mary Lou Knipe	Ali Michael	Jack Sprung
Jan. 17	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
	Michelle Geschwill	Bob Paddock	Myrna Nelson	Quinn Caerwyn	Jared Geschwill
Jan. 24	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
	Joel Michael	Leilani Drake	Lana Spencer	Ray Hayes	Neal Caerwyn
Jan. 31	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
	Tammy Cownie	Michelle Geschwill	Trudy Cretsinger	Ali Michael	Jared Geschwill

JANUARY 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	Psalms	Second Reading	Gospel
January 3 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
January 10 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Isaiah 43:1-7	Ps 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 17 <i>2 Epiphany</i>	Isaiah 62:1-5	Ps 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
January 24 <i>3 Epiphany</i>	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Ps 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
January 31 <i>4 Epiphany</i>	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Ps 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

JANUARY WORSHIP AT REDEEMER

Sunday, January 3, 10 am – The Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday, January 10, 10 am – The Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday, January 17, 10 am – The Wedding at Cana/Jesus turns water to wine
Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with multicultural music and hymns
Sunday, January 24, 10 am – Jesus' first sermon in Nazareth
Sunday, January 31, 10 am – Jesus' sermon is received with rage

Confronting Racism: A Holy Yearning

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and William B. Horne II, an ELCA member from Clearwater, Fla., will continue their conversation on ***racism*** – a violation of God's intention for humanity – in another live webcast **Jan. 14, 2016, at 8 p.m. (CST)**. Eaton and Horne will be joined by other ELCA members who bring various perspectives on the U.S. criminal justice system. As with the previous webcast, this one will be grounded by two commitments. One is this church's proclamation of Christ and the confidence this good news brings to set us free from the captivity of racism. The second is this church's enduring commitment to address the complexity of racism and end discrimination.

The link to the live webcast is <http://www.elca.org/webcast>

A live stream also will be available at www.Facebook.com/Lutherans

Twitter hashtag is **#ELCAConfrontRacism**.

***You are invited to view the webcast at Redeemer ,
beginning at 7:00 pm, followed by a discussion***

Women's Guild ~ will meet Thursday, January 7th at 11:00 AM. Bring a sandwich or salad. Coffee and dessert will be served by hostesses Ruth Belmonte and Mary Lou Knipe. Bring a sandwich or salad.



Confirmation class will be held on:

Wednesday January 6th at 6:30 pm
&
Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00 pm

ADULT FORUMS

Jan. 3, 2016 No 9:00 A. M. class

11:30 A.M. "Three Kings Celebration" Presented by Myrna Nelson and Adult Forum members

Jan. 10, 2016 No 9:00 A.M. class

11:30 A. M. " Sex Trafficking" Presented by David Pinto, an Attorney in the Ramsey County Attorney General's office . Speaker to be announced. Learn about this growing problem in our community.

Jan. 17, 2016 9:00 A. M. "World View- How the Spiritual and Physical Relate." Presented by the Rev. Trudy Cretsinger. As we celebrate the season of the Incarnation of our Lord we need to examine how the physical and spiritual relate in our lives.

Jan. 24, 2016 No 9:00 A.M. class

11:30 A.M "Story Matters." Presented by Prof. Diane Jacobson. We continue the discussion about "Naming, Claiming, and Living Our Biblical Identity." How can we tell our own congregation's stories through the Bible?

Jan. 31, 2016 9:00 A. M. "Understanding the Budget" Presented by vestry members. This will be a preview of the budget prior to the annual meeting today.

AN ENCHANTED EPIPHANY

Come celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with a special showing of *Enchanted*, Disney's delirious spoof of its various fairy tale movies. A young lost royal ... a threatening ruler ... strangers in a strange land seeking some sort of destiny ... We just might have some Epiphanies of our own about how the good news of great joy could be running loose in our world. Future Oscar nominee and winner Amy Adams had her breakthrough role as Gisele, the princess-to-be. Susan Sarandon chews the scenery with delight as the evil queen. Other notables include Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Timothy Spall, the voices of several Disney princesses and princess-to-be Idina Menzel (Elsa in *Frozen*). The movie starts at **6:30pm on Wednesday, January 6th** and a brief discussion will follow. Popcorn & Pop will be provided.



MUSIC NOTES

I thoroughly enjoyed my first "semester" at Redeemer this past fall. This is a beautiful church filled with beautiful people. I want to do whatever I can to help share the joy of this church with more people in the community. We have room in choir for more choir members. Please consider joining us!

This spring I am also going to be leading a Worship and Music Visioning Team. We will discuss and implement program ideas to help grow and vitalize worship at Redeemer, as well as make use of gifts we currently have. Among my ideas: a more regular rehearsing hand bell choir; a children's music ensemble; special community worship events; a renovated music room; a summer hand bell camp for children; hosting more concert events, especially Lutheran college choirs.

If you have ideas on how we can help get Redeemer more engaged and active in the community through worship and music, please share them with me!

Sincerely - Jon Strommen Campbell





Monday, January 18, 2016

7 - 9:30 a.m.

Each year, the General Mills Foundation and UNCF present an annual MLK Holiday Breakfast at the Minneapolis Convention Center to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With the help of countless volunteers, Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul hosts breakfasts at nine neighborhood locations, featuring a live broadcast of the General Mills event as well as a hot breakfast and local programming. This year's key note speaker will be, **Deval Patrick**, U.S. Governor of Massachusetts.

This year our own Pastor James Erlandson will be the MC for the Summit-University site which will be at Mount Zion Temple (1300 Summit Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105)

To register at the Summit-U location, visit: <http://goo.gl/uMp5Cp>

Adults are \$5 and children 12 and under are free.

Other locations are:

- East Side/Downtown St. Paul

First Covenant Church: 1280 Arcade St, St. Paul, MN 55106

- West Side/West St. Paul

Faith United Methodist Church: 1530 Oakdale Ave, West St. Paul, MN 55118

- Northeast Suburbs

White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church: 328 Maple St, Mahtomedi, MN 55115

- North Minneapolis/Northern Suburbs

Brooklyn United Methodist Church: 7200 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

- Duluth

Holy Family Catholic Church: 2430 W 3rd St, Duluth, MN 55806

- River Falls, Wisconsin

Saint Bridget Catholic Church: 211 E Division St, River Falls, WI 54022

- United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

McMillan Building: 3000 5th St NW, New Brighton, MN 55112

- Macalester College

Kagin Commons: 1600 Grand Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105

CHRISTMAS 2015





MARKING TIME AT REDEEMER – 1951-1960, by Diana Rankin

This is the 11th in a series of articles about Redeemer's history gleaned from *The Redeemer Record* archives and placed in the context of what else was happening in the world, the nation, and Minnesota.

During the 1950s Redeemer fell into a comfortable routine of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. on Sundays and Sunday School at 9:45, weekday Christian education, and organizational activities. Published weekly, *The Record* reported on girls and boys basketball, softball, and volleyball teams; Women's Guild, Ushers Club, Young Married People's Society, Mary Martha Guild, Lutheran Laymen's League, and Jr. and Sr. Walther League meetings and special events; choir rehearsals and concerts; and monthly voters' meetings. Redeemer was also active in the Valparaiso Guild, St. John's Hospital Association, Central Lutheran School, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Lutheran Children's Friend Society, and the St. Paul Circuit of the English District of the Missouri Synod.

Several of today's members were baptized or confirmed during this time and many families, including African American, joined the congregation. But there were also signs of change that would disrupt what had become familiar in both the neighborhood and the congregation.

1951

- The Korean War continued despite peace talks. The peace treaty with Japan was finally signed by 49 nations. Libya gained its independence from Italy.
- The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting the number of terms a president may serve.
- Minnesota produced 82% of the nation's iron ore.
- ***Oswald Volz was installed as Redeemer's assistant pastor on May 20th.***
- ***Redeemer's membership continued to increase. The official report included 1,978 souls and 412 children in Sunday School. Average Sunday attendance in worship was 679.***

1952

- Elizabeth II became Queen of the United Kingdom. West Germany had 8 million refugees inside its borders.
- Jonas E. Salk developed the first experimentally safe polio vaccine. Dwight D. Eisenhower defeated Adlai Stevenson in the presidential election and C. Elmer Anderson defeated Orville Freeman in the race for Minnesota governor.
- ***Oswald Volz was installed as Redeemer's pastor on April 27th.***

1953

- The Korean War ended and the armistice was signed on July 27th. Moscow announced explosion of a hydrogen bomb and the U.S. began testing its own bomb.
- Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted of spying for the U.S.S.R., were executed.
- The red (Norway) pine was named Minnesota's state tree.
- ***In the February issue of The Record, Pastor Volz wrote about the state capitol, the legislative session, and lobbyists and urged members to visit the Capitol. "That large domed building on University Avenue belongs to you and me. ... We have learned from the 4th Commandment and from the Table of Duties that it is our Christian duty to take an interest in our government. And it is worthwhile, even if we must take time off from work, to attend sessions of both the House and the Senate, to read and study the many pamphlets distributed at the Capitol giving information on how the legislature operates, how citizens may work effectively with the legislature. ... Why not 'get up a party' to go to the capitol." Pastor Volz updated the congregation weekly on happenings at the Capitol.***
- ***In September George Baumgartner was installed as Assistant Pastor.***
- ***Redeemer contributed \$15,000 to establishing the new St. John's Hospital.***
- ***The Women's Guild began making dressings (called "cancer pads") for the Cancer Society. This activity continued for several years.***

1954

- Vietnam was divided at the 17th parallel and Dien Bien Phu, the French military outpost, fell to the Viet Minh army.
- In *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*, the U.S. Supreme Court banned racial segregation in public schools.
- Coya Knutson began her 4 years as Minnesota's first Congresswoman.
- ***Redeemer's membership was beginning to decline as the congregation released 124 more members than it gained. Enrollment of children in Sunday School fell to 365.***

1955

- West Germany was recognized as a sovereign country and joined NATO. President Eisenhower sent the first U.S. advisors to Vietnam and on November 1st war broke out between South Vietnam and North Vietnam.
- The U.S. minimum wage was raised from 75 cents to \$1.00.
- Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American boy, was lynched in Mississippi because he allegedly flirted with a white woman.
- On December 1st, Rosa Parks refused to sit at the back of the bus.

- ***In April, Pastor Volz was granted a release and the vacancy was filled by Pastor Reuben Langhans. In December the congregation issued a call to Pastor Langhans.***

1956

- Pakistan became the first Islamic republic. Israel, France, and the United Kingdom invaded Egypt in an attempt to regain Western control of the Suez Canal; the U.S., the Soviet Union, and the United Nations forced them to withdraw.
- President Eisenhower signed legislation creating the Interstate Highway System and a joint resolution of Congress authorizing "In God We Trust" as the national motto.
- Orville Freeman defeated Anchor Nelson in the Minnesota gubernatorial election.
- ***Reuben Langhans was installed as Redeemer's pastor on January 8th.***
- ***Individual cups for Holy Communion were used at one service each month.***

1957

- Russia launched Sputnik on October 4th.
- Governor Orval Faubus of Arkansas called out the National Guard to prevent African-American students from enrolling in Little Rock Central High School.
- C. Walton Lillehie and Earl Bakk (US) invented the internal pacemaker.
- ***On March 17th, the congregation resolved to purchase a new organ console and electric relay system for \$5,000.***

1958

- Khrushchev became Premier of the Soviet Union and General Charles de Gaulle Premier of France.
- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Little Rock schools must integrate.
- Orville Freeman was re-elected Governor of Minnesota.
- Prince Rogers Nelson was born on June 7th in Minneapolis.
- ***On the evening of Pentecost Sunday, Redeemer's adult choir sang a choral Eucharist with Dr. Armin Grams conducting. According to The Record, "This service will attempt to recapture the historic and traditional Christian atmosphere in terms of music, liturgy and Eucharistic vestments."***
- ***In June the congregation began considering "woman suffrage" for Redeemer's female members. The Record noted that 350 of Redeemer's 750 families were "not represented by a voice in the congregation's affairs."***

1959

- Fidel Castro assumed power in Cuba.
- The United States was among 12 countries that signed a treaty setting aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve.
- Alaska and Hawaii became states.
- The St. Lawrence Seaway opened, allowing oceangoing ships to reach Duluth.
- Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died on February 3rd when their plane crashed after takeoff from Mason City on a flight to Moorhead.
- ***Average attendance on Sundays at Redeemer fell to about 400.***
- ***Gordon Vogt was ordained and installed as assistant pastor on June 7th.***
- ***On July 8th Redeemer celebrated the 50th anniversary of Mr. Diesing's ministry of music and teaching. He spent 18 of those years at Redeemer.***
- ***In the September 27th Record, Pastor Langhans wrote the following: "What are Redeemer's chances in its present location? Is it really true that Redeemer's days are numbered? ... Does the densely populated, interracial, run-down, and blighted neighborhood present a soil in which our church cannot operate successfully? ... these are our most blessed and most cherished assets."***

1960

- There were 900 U.S. military advisers in Vietnam. John F. Kennedy defeated Richard Nixon in the U.S. presidential race.
- Hubert H. Humphrey was unsuccessful in his run for President in the Democratic primary election.
- ***Redeemer's membership had now declined from 1,978 souls in 1951 to 1,453 and Sunday School child enrollment from 412 to 292.***
- ***A special congregational meeting was held on June 28th in the Central High School Auditorium to consider the Building Committee's plan. "This meeting may well be the most decisive meeting in Redeemer's history, involving decisions that should set the compass for our parish for decades to come." We now know that this plan resulted in the building of Redeemer's Arms (Dale Street Place) as housing for seniors and the Learning Center to further Christian education. The third priority – an auditorium/gymnasium for "Christian recreation" – was never realized.***



Christmas 1953



Confirmation 1958

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
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