

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 113, No. 2

February, 2018



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor

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Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

Jonathan Campbell, Music Director

Katie Thompson, Organist

A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear friends,

For the first time in my ministry, in over 38 years, I will miss Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The reason is that my wife Kim and I are traveling to China from February 11 to 28 to bring her father to celebrate Lunar New Year with his family. We will spend three weeks on the island of Hainan, which is south of Hong Kong and east of Vietnam, located in the South China Sea. This is where Chao Lieng Tann's parents were born, where cousins, nieces and nephews live in a rural village in the province of Wenchang. We will be traveling with Kim's father, four sisters, three brothers-in-law and one niece. We will arrive just as Chinese New Year celebrations are getting into high gear.

The last time Kim and I were there was 2002. We took our children there to visit in 2000 when they were small – Lori was only 3, then – and conditions were very primitive (no running water). Conditions have improved, and there are roads to the village, so it won't be so primitive. But it will still be an adventure! The extended family lives in a compound of six homes, surrounded by rice paddies and ponds, where they raise chickens, rice, fish, vegetables and fruit. They speak a dialect in Hainan which is different than Mandarin, but they do learn Mandarin in school. My daughters Lisa and Lori visited last February, so they were able to communicate in Mandarin with the younger children, their cousins.

Interesting fact – in order to receive a travel visa from China, I had to go to the China consulate in Chicago, be fingerprinted and sign a statement promising not to do any church work in China. I had to assure them that I am going as a tourist, and not as a pastor. Which, of course, is the truth!

It will truly be odd not to be leading public worship on the Feast of the Transfiguration (though I will be up "in the clouds"!), or on Ash Wednesday. Our festival activities in Hainan will be public fireworks celebrations, feasting and remembering our ancestors in prayer (as we do at home). My Lenten discipline in China will be personal prayer and devotions.

Kim and I will remember you in prayer as we are gone, and ask that you remember us also for our safety in travel. We will return the beginning of March to observe Lent and Holy Week with you, and prepare to celebrate the Feast of Easter. May God bless you all in the coming weeks.
Chai chen!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Jim Erlandson

February 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

3rd	10:00 am	Girl Scouts
4th	11:30 am	Souper Bowl Sunday
5th	6:30 pm	ISAIAH Central Leadership Meeting
6th		CAUCUS NIGHT
8th	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Network
10th	12:00 pm	NA Valentines Dance
13th	6:00 pm	Elder's Meeting
	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
14th	10:00 am	Ash Wednesday Service
	7:00 om	Ash Wednesday Service
17th	10:00 am	Girl Scouts
	12:00 pm	Wedding (Jenny Donovan/Tim Olson)
21st	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lent Service
22nd		Protect Minnesota Lobby Day
24th	12:00pm	Central-University Service Unit
		Girl Scout World Thinking Day Event
27th	7:00 pm	ISAIAH Core Team Meeting
28th	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lent Service



The Women's Guild will meet
 Thursday, February 1st at 11:00am.
 Hostess Bette Steglich
 will serve coffee and dessert.
 Bring a sandwich or salad and join us.

February 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.

Feb. 4	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>5 Epiphany</i>	Bob Paddock	Leilani Drake	Keshon Hughes	Ray Hayes	Leilani Drake
Feb. 11	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
<i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	Joel Michael	Leilani Drake	Lance Harris	Michael Mulokozi	Bob Paddock
	<u>Thurifer</u>	<u>Torchbearer</u>	<u>Torchbearer</u>	<u>Bannerbearer</u>	
	David Tannen	Tammy Cownie	Michelle Geschwill	Todd-Allen Hamilton	
Feb. 18	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	
<i>1 Lent</i>	Michelle Geschwill	Bob Paddock	Renee Nunn	Neal Caerwyn	
Feb. 25	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	
<i>2 Lent</i>	DeAnne Hilgers	Joel Michael	Bonnie Hughes	Jack Sprung	

FEBRUARY 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
Feb. 4 <i>5 Epiphany</i>	Isa 40:21-31	Ps 147:1-11, 20c	1 Cor 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
Feb. 11 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	Gen 9:8-17	Ps 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
Feb. 18 <i>1 Lent</i>	Gen 9:8-17	Ps 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
Feb. 25 <i>2 Lent</i>	Gen 17:1-7, 15-16	Ps 22:23-31	Rom 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

Usher/Greeter Schedule at Redeemer



February, 2018

Greeter at Parking Lot Door: Myrna Nelson

PLEASE REMEMBER: ONE USHER AT THE ELEVATOR ENTRANCE EACH SUNDAY

Sunday, February 4th

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

Sunday, February 11th

Eric Chiquist (captain)
Sherri Chiquist
Charlene Dickerson
Bob Hausman

Sunday, February 18th

Joel Michael (captain)
Lyle Nelson
Joe & Ruth Belmonte

Sunday, February 25th

Eric Chiquist (captain)
Sherri Chiquist
Charlene Dickerson
Carla Johnson

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

February Worship

The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Sunday, February 11th - 10 am

In this festival eucharist we sing "Alleluia" for the last time until Easter, remove the alleluia banner from the sanctuary and "bury" it on the altar in the small chapel.

Ash Wednesday: Imposition of Ashes Wednesday, February 14th - 10 am and 7 pm

We begin the season of Lent with our confession of sin and the imposition of ashes, scripture, prayer, and holy communion. The morning worship is a simple devotional service - a spoken liturgy without music. In the evening, liturgy and hymns are led by the organ and choir.

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, February 21st, 28th, 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

Feb. 4, 2018 11:30 A. M.

"Caucus Orientation" presented by Isaiah Core team members. This is an opportunity to strategize planning for caucus night Feb. 6, 2018.

Feb. 11, 2018 11:30 A. M.

"The Influence of Black Music in the ELW." Presented by Dr. Jon Campbell. Jon will be leading us in an informal hymn sing of African American music in the undercroft. He will be explaining the differences between genres of African and African American spiritual songs including spiritual, gospel, "freedom" songs, and Jazz. We will sing an example of each. It will be fun. You don't want to miss it. Katie Thompson will accompany us.

Feb. 18, 2018 11:30 A. M.

"Black History Month" Presented by Carl Rogan who will speak to us about his grandfather, Bullet Joe Rogan. Bullet Joe Rogan, a super star pitcher and hitter, led the Kansas City Monarchs to four Negro National League titles. In 1998 Bullet Joe Rogan was inducted to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Feb. 25, 2018 11:30 A. M.

"Restorative Justice - Community Action" Presented by Tina Sigel. We will look at Restorative Justice and how it impacts this justice issue.

There will be an Adult Forum Planning Committee on February 1st, 2018 at 10:00 A. M. in the church library. You are invited to attend. For information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266.



THE GREAT LENTEN PURGE!!!

Starting **Monday February 19th**, Tahnea will be doing a major cleaning/purge of the church office workroom. If you have anything there, please claim it before then or it will be tossed/donated. If you would like to help with this project, please give Tahnea a call or send her an email at [redeemerstpaul@gmail.com](mailto:redemerstpaul@gmail.com)

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

For some time now, it's been clear that the model we've been given for what congregations are supposed to look like isn't working very well. That model is clear enough: a fine, well-appointed building used exclusively for religious purposes ... full pews on Sunday morning ... a structured Sunday school program with kids at every grade level ... paid staff positions for pastors, musicians, office staff, and maybe more. Just like in the Reformation five hundred years ago, there have been stirrings and rumblings and questions regarding this model for a while now. How well is it working? Where is it working well (if anywhere)? If it isn't working, then what? There are no clear or easy answers.

We all have our own ideas what a congregation should look like ... be like ... how it should go about doing what it does in worship, education, service, etc. But the real question is: What is GOD calling us to be ... to do ... what does God want our church to look like?

Each Sunday, in the Prayers of the Church, we pray for a number of things, asking God to do things in the world ... for the health of creation, for the leaders and peoples of nations, for specific people who are suffering. We pray for these things, but do we imagine God is actually, actively working on them? Can we imagine that God is asking us to help make our prayers a reality?

One of the first steps in discerning where God is calling us as a congregation is to expect that God is at work – that God is active and present, doing things in our world right now, and that God has parts for all of us in that work. What is God doing? Where do you see God at work?

This is an on-going conversation. Discernment takes time, active listening, reflection, sitting with things for a while. I welcome your thoughts on these questions. Feel free to chat with me on Sunday mornings or email your thoughts to me at tkcretsinger@gmail.com.



CORE TEAM NEWS



We encourage all those affiliated with any political party to attend their local caucuses on **Tuesday, February 6th**. A number of people of faith in the area have been preparing to serve as “faith delegates” in this year’s nomination process. Even if you are not a faith delegate, the local faith delegates in your area need your support. We hope to have a number of faith delegates at the senate-level caucuses and be advanced from the senate districts to the state-wide caucus meetings in August. The ***Faith Delegates*** will not be committing themselves to particular candidates until the state-wide caucus meetings. Rather than supporting any candidate, the Faith Delegates are committed to an agenda of inclusion and care for all. The agenda touches on concerns about wages and paid time off, access to health care, education, the school-to-prison pipeline along with the lasting negative impacts of incarceration, and the needs of our immigrant neighbors. This agenda was shaped by concerns that were brought up in house meetings here at Redeemer and other faith communities around Minnesota. To gain the support of the Faith Delegates, a candidate will have to commit her/himself to that faith agenda.

As we continue these efforts, we also want the conversations and house meetings to continue. These conversations have been appreciated by a number of participants here at Redeemer and with members and their neighbors. More details on how we will continue these conversations will be announced in the coming weeks.

A conversation with young people about their involvement – and resistance to involvement – with organized religion was recently aired on a local radio station. During that conversation, one young woman stated that if churches talk about the importance of families, but aren’t actively doing things to improve the economic well-being of families, she (and her peers) have no interest in such a church. They want to see people living out, acting on the values of the faith they profess. Going public with our faith, declaring the good news that there is a better way than what we have known, taking actions to move the world around us even a bit closer to what God always dreamed it would be (a dream we act out in our worship) is a significant part of how we live out our calling to be followers of Jesus in the world today.

**PROTECT
MINNESOTA**
working together to prevent gun violence

Reviving
SISTERHOOD

NCJSMN
National Council of Jewish Women MINNESOTA

Welcome Back to the Capitol Day
Thursday, February 22, 2018
Visits to Legislators – 10am to 1pm
Rally in the Rotunda to Prevent Gun Violence – 2pm

Join **PROTECT MINNESOTA** and our allies on February 22 as we welcome law makers back to the Capitol and let them know that the people of Minnesota won't accept any weakening of state gun laws. Help us send the message—loud and clear—that **WE STAND AGAINST STAND YOUR GROUND!**
WE WON'T PERMIT PERMITLESS CARRY!

10am-1pm	Visits with legislators <i>Register by February 18 and we'll arrange your visits.</i>
2pm	Rally in the Rotunda to Prevent Gun Violence <i>After the Rally, we'll visit the Governor's office.</i>

Go to www.protectmn.org and click on events.

1. Register to visit your legislators.
2. Register to be a Lobby Day Team Leader by recruiting four friends to attend with you.
3. Register to attend the Rally in the Rotunda.

Many thanks to our allies:

National Council of Jewish Women-Minnesota
Muslim Jewish Women of Minnesota
Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment (RISE)

More lobby day allies are welcome!

Contact Rev. Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director, at 763-639-5941 or nancy@protectmn.org to learn more.

Protect Minnesota is the only independent, state-based gun violence prevention organization in Minnesota. For 26 years we've promoted the health and safety of all Minnesotans by preventing gun violence through effective laws, policies, and education. We believe gun violence is a public health problem that can be solved, and invite you to be part of the solution.

Protect Minnesota's 2018 Legislative Agenda

Blocking —

dangerous bills that would weaken gun laws in Minnesota, which may include:

- Stand Your Ground
- Permitless Carry
- Lifetime Permit to Carry
- Campus Carry
- Repeal of Gun-Free School Zones

Introducing —

bills that would allow for public health research about and the prevention of gun violence by:

- repealing prohibitions in current state law against the collection of gun-related data; and
- making funding available for the treatment of gun-related trauma

Continuing to support —

gun violence prevention bills introduced in 2017:

- Universal Criminal Background Checks
- Gun Violence Protection Orders
- Taylor Hayden Gun Violence Prevention Act

Be there: 2-22@2

Go to: www.protectmn.org

Thank you to Nancy Bence, Executive Director of Protect Minnesota for organizing this action. Protect Minnesota's office is here at LCR - our newest partner!



Winter 2018

Resource paper for leaders of ELCA congregations

ELCA.org

The ELCA Youth Gathering: A ministry with youth and resource for congregations

What is the ELCA Youth Gathering? "A monumental experience that just belongs on your faith journey," explained Meredith Massey from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for a week of faith formation – the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, the hope is that every young person grows in faith and is challenged and inspired to live their faith in daily life. For most, this goal comes to life back home, in their congregations and in the world.

A time of discovery and inspiration

For some, the Gathering helps reveal something new about themselves. "The Gathering sparked something inside me I didn't know I had; it made me feel part of something bigger. The Gathering enabled me to grow in my faith, leadership and service, along with providing me with the ways to do so," said Zoe Clark from Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, Pa.

For others, it reconnects them to their faith. Jake Putala from Mission United Lutheran Church in Pelkie, Mich., said, "Being in a sports stadium with 30,000 other Lutherans was quite possibly the most incredible experience of my life. Singing hymns, listening to inspiring speakers and seeing how energetic the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America could be created a whole new appreciation for my faith and, more importantly, for Jesus Christ."

As young people desire and struggle to find someone to become, somewhere to belong and something to do, the Gathering seeks to be a ministry that helps define some of that or at least open pathways of discovery. Ultimately, the ELCA Youth Gathering wants youth to understand the fierce love God has for them – just as they are – and that by grace, through faith, they have been saved. When young people, or people of any age, claim this reality, it changes everything.

So, why have a Gathering? Allison Tice of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Hickory, N.C., replied with clarity and enthusiasm, "To simply be: Be the church, be the light in the world and be like Jesus with and among God's people." For information and resources for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston June 27-July 1, go to **ELCA.org/Gathering**.

Redeemer is sending three youth, two adult leaders and one pastor to the Gathering and Multicultural Youth Leadership Event. Thank you for supporting and sponsoring our youth!



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>**

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

2018 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING
JUNE 27 - JULY 1

SOUP FUNDRAISER

1.28.18

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our soup fundraiser. We raised over \$200!





LET'S
#TACKLE
HUNGER

BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Let's Tackle Hunger! Together we can turn the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of giving.

DATE/TIME: Sunday, February 4th, 2018

LOCATION: LCR Undercroft

COLLECTING FOR: Hallie Q. Brown Foodshelf



Learn more at
superbowl.org or [@superbowl](https://twitter.com/superbowl)

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