

THE REDEEMER RECORD

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June, 2017



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

Dr. Jonathan Campbell, Music Director

Katie Thompson, Organist

A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear friends,

Just this morning I came upon this "news flash" in *The Guardian*:

"Robot priest unveiled in Germany to mark 500 years since Reformation."

A robot priest that delivers blessings in five languages and beams light from its hands has been unveiled as part of an exhibition to mark the anniversary of the start of the Reformation...The robot, called BlessU-2, is intended to trigger debate about the future of the church and the potential of artificial intelligence....It has a touchscreen chest, two arms and a head...offers blessings in a choice of German, English, French, Spanish or Polish. Worshippers can choose between a male or female voice....The robot raises its arms, flashes lights, recites a biblical verse and says: 'God bless and protect you. May God's face shine upon you and show you mercy. May God turn his face toward you and grant you peace...Go in peace, and may God bless you. Would you like to print out another blessing? Thank you for your visit. Goodbye.'



Perhaps I should be threatened regarding job security. The underlying message could be: *any job can be replaced by automation*. On the other hand, if you are like me, hearing an automated voice give a standard greeting is annoying. I usually hang up when I hear an automated voice on the phone. There's nothing like hearing a real human voice on the phone – or better yet, in person!

So I guess we should be relieved – the nature of the Church being that what we do cannot be replaced by a robot. BlessU-2 the robot is just meant to spark discussion – just like Martin Luther did by posting his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg in 1517, and using the printing press to spread debate in the Reformation. We use modern technology to print service sheets digitally, send messages by email, social media or advertise on our church website. We even leave messages on the church voice mail, or sent text messages to communicate (I personally don't send messages on Twitter, but some pastors do).

Our essential communication in the Church, however, is person-to-person. The presider gives a public blessing facing the people at the close of the eucharist. We hear "*this is my body, the Body of Christ, given for you*" from a real person. We greet people personally by sharing the peace. We sit down together to talk over coffee. We sit with our pastor in an office or study, to speak confidentially. We kneel before the altar to confess our sins and receive absolution, or receive a blessing or the rite of healing – *in person, with a human's touch!*

This is how the Church functions – because human beings are not robots, and the work of the Church cannot be done by robots. Sure, computers are crucial today, and we need some automation for efficiency and speed. But in the end, prayers are said by human beings and blessings are given to one another in relationship, in the name of God. *For we are the Body of Christ.* So if you ever want to talk to a pastor about faith, or a troubling question or concern about life, *you can talk to me personally, or another brother or sister in Christ.* The responses will NOT be "programmed!" Thanks be to God.

Pastor Jim Erlandson

June 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.	7:00 pm ~ Minnesota Renaissance Choir Rehearsal
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

1st	11:00 am	Women's Guild Luncheon @ House of Wong
3rd	10:30 am	Rhynda Landt Memorial
4th	10:00 am	Feast of Pentecost
6th	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
8th	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Network Meeting
10th	10:00 am	Last Girl Scout Meeting of the Year
13th	7:00 pm	Elders Meeting
17th	5:00 pm	Edith's House Fundraiser
18th	5:00 pm	Edith's House Fundraiser

June 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.

June 4	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
	Tammy Cownie	Lelani Drake	Irene Markley
	<u>Thurifer</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Torchbearers</u>
	Bob Paddock	Benjamin Cretsinger	Trudy Cretsinger & Catalina Cretsinger
	<u>Bannerbearer</u>	Todd-Allen Hamilton	
June 11	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
	Joel Micheal	Joann Conroy	Lance Harris
	<u>Crucifer</u>	Ali Michael	
June 18	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
	Bob Paddock	Diana Rankin	Hilary Ziols
June 25	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Subdeacon</u>	<u>Reader</u>
	Michelle Geschwill		Benjamin Cretsinger

JUNE 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
June 4 <i>Pentecost</i>	Acts 2:1-21	Ps 104:24-34, 35b	1 Cor 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
June 11 <i>Holy Trinity</i>	Gen 1:1—2:4a	Ps 8	2 Cor 13:11-13	Matt 28:16-20
June 18 <i>Lectionary 11</i>	Exod 19:2-8a	Ps 100	Rom 5:1-8	Matt 9:35—10:8 [9-23]
June 25 <i>Lectionary 12</i>	Jer 20:7-13	Ps 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18	Rom 6:1b-11	Matt 10:24-39

ADULT FORUMS

On **June 25, 2017** Prof. Diane Jacobson will be giving a brief report after church about the Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly attended by our voting members (Diane and Paul Jacobson), Joann Conroy and Pastor Jim

Adult Forums will resume Sept. 10, 2017 with our intergenerational event--
"God's Work Our Hands."

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There will be an Adult Forum Planning meeting on Thurs. June 29, 2017 at 10:00am. You are invited to attend. For information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266.

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## SPECIAL SUMMER SERVICES

Oh, those summer nights! This summer, on **July 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>** we will be taking our primary Sunday service into **the courtyard** (*weather permitting, of course*) and into **the evening**, starting at **7:00pm**. The service will be *Come, Unfailing Light* by Susan Briehl and Marty Haugen (who composed the Holden Evening Prayer service). This is an Evening Prayer liturgy with communion included. We will preview the service music ahead of time during the regular Sunday morning services in June and/or July.

For those unable to attend an evening service or for whom the courtyard terrain presents a physical challenge, **we will still be having Sunday morning services** on those dates. The service will be primarily spoken and will include communion.

We are having this series of evening services as an experiment, primarily to see if an evening service has the potential to attract people from the community who do not attend Sunday morning services. To be attractive, it's also important to have a significant group of people present. For that reason, we are encouraging Redeemer members (who are able to do so) to attend the evening services in July and August.

**Interested in ways you can support this new endeavor?** The possibility of using paving stones (or stepping stones) to create a path from the main sidewalk along Carroll to the courtyard is being explored. We are also planning to string some mini paper-lantern type lights across the courtyard as well as use solar-powered light stakes along the entry to the courtyard down to the lower level. (The lights won't be needed in order to see; the intention is to create a festive atmosphere that says "*Something's happening here.*") We also would like to put up an A-frame type sign at the corner of Carroll and Dale to call attention to the service and direct people toward the courtyard. If you can help with sign construction or paving stone installation or light set-up/take down, please let Jon Campbell or Trudy Cretsinger or Pastor Jim know. Donations of needed items or financial contributions to off-set the costs are appreciated.

## CORE TEAM NEWS

The 100 Days of Prophetic resistance have reached an end with the conclusion of the 2017 Legislative Session. **Thank you to all who prayed and contacted our elected officials (whether by email phone or letters). A very special thanks to those who traveled to the capitol, often on short notice, for events. Your actions made a difference!** Thank you for your efforts to guide our state leaders towards policies that are in keeping with the values our faith.

As the Redeemer Record is being finalized and readied for email and printing, Governor Dayton is reading through the bills that were passed during the extra days of the session late last week and making his decisions about vetoes. Many of the bills passed have troublesome aspects to them. Although the legislature did pass a Real ID bill that covered only official identification standards to bring Minnesota Driver's Licenses into compliance with Federal Regulations, the anti-immigrant provisions that had been part of the earlier versions of the Real ID bills have been moved to the Public Safety bill that is waiting for the governor's signature or veto. He is expected to veto legislation that would undo the Earned Sick and Safe Time ordinance enacted in Saint Paul last year and a similar set of ordinances in Minneapolis. There are also concerns regarding the budget allocations for Health and Human Services and if that will be sufficient for the agencies that serve vulnerable people in our community to do this vital work.

If the governor vetoes the bills, there will be a special session. Should that come to pass, members of the Core Team will try to keep people informed of what is happening and steps we can take to work toward a Minnesota in which all people are valued and no one is left out.

In the meantime, we are still working with our partner congregations in Saint Paul toward the city elections this fall. Tentative plans have been made a candidate forums and leadership training events this month. Later, there will be a series of town hall forum events for community members around the issues of particular concern to us as people of faith.

Finally, **thank you to all who helped make the choir concert fundraiser for the Sanctuary Movement are success!** The music was wonderful. The turnout by choirs and audience members was great. The generosity was outstanding. (Over \$2,000 raised!) Thank you again to those who sang, those who came, and all who contributed hospitality and treasure to this endeavor.

*The Core Team meets on the Fourth Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be **June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**. All are welcome!*

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**Mark your calendar for our annual Music on the Blacktop ft.  
Songs of Hope. Wednesday, July 26th. Food @ 6:00 pm.  
Concert @ 7:00 pm.**



**We would like to congratulate the following gradates!**

**Grace Danner Lehman**  
Roseville Area High School

**Ann Lehman**  
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Illustration)  
Minneapolis College of Art & Design

**Amy Tann Erlandson**  
BM Music Education  
St. Olaf College

**Kirsten Cownie**  
Masters of Social Work  
Our Lady of the Lake University  
(San Antonio, TX)

**Kevin Cownie**  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Air Academy  
(Oklahoma City, OK)

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#### **PASSAGES**

Lucille Belmonte died in the Lord May 3rd, 2017. A memorial eucharist was held at Redeemer on May 13th.

A memorial service for Rhynda Landt on Saturday, June 3rd.

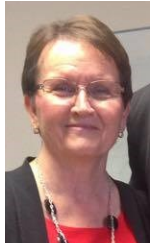
Christian Oang Agwa, son of Obang Agwa & Ariet Oman, was baptized on Sunday, June 4th. Sponsor: Michelle Geschwill.



## **2017 Vestry Members**

### **President**

Sybil Harris



### **Vice President**

Ruth Belmonte



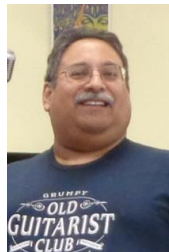
### **Secretary**

Carla Johnson



### **Treasurer**

David Tannen



### **Elders Representative**

Tammy Davis Cownie



### **At-Large Members**

Eric Chiquist



Reva Rassmussen



Pastor Joann Conroy



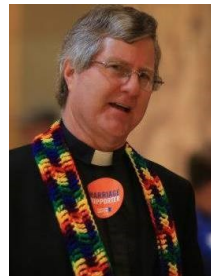
### **Theologian in Residence**

Pastor Trudy Cretsinger



### **Pastor**

Pastor James Erlandson



## **A NOTE FROM YOUTHWORKS**



*YouthWorks Staff (L to R): Brenda, Matt, Alexis, Betsy (site director)*

Hello! We are so excited to be apart of your church community this summer. Thank you for letting us call this place home for the next two months. Starting Sunday evening, June 11th, youth will arrive and begin serving this community and engaging with the people of Saint Paul. We are very expectant about what the Lord is going to do in our hearts as well as the community.

We want to get to know you and want to invite you to engage with us and the youth every Thursday evening beginning Thursday, June 15th. We will have dinner at 5:30 in the undercroft and would love for you to join us!

The Youthworks staff is very thankful for you opening your church to us and we couldn't provide a life-changing, Christ centered mission trip for youth without generous communities like you letting us share your space.

## **THANK YOU!**

Betsy Reiff [Site Director]  
Alexis Beed  
Matt Hoffman  
Brenda Whitten

## **YOUTH TAKE OVER REDEEMER FOR THE SUMMER!**

This summer, youth groups from churches throughout the Midwest will be living at Redeemer, one week at a time, to do service projects in the St. Paul community, June 11 - August 5. The YouthWorks staff has arrived at Redeemer, and have set up staff sleeping quarters for the summer. Betsy Reif is site director. The other adult youth are: Brenda Whitten, Alexis Beed, and Matthew Hoffman

The three women are sleeping in the Learning Center choir room - this will be locked/secured space for them. When high school youth come to sleep Sundays through Thursday nights, the females will be on the carpet behind the curtain in the Learning Center. The one male adult staff will sleep up in the Chapel upstairs above the Nursery/Urban Partnership office. This frees up the Elevator Lounge for meeting use. The high school boys will sleep on the floor in the Undercroft. They will be accompanied by adult chaperones from their congregations. The library will serve as the YouthWorks office.

The first high school group will come to sleep on **Sunday evening, June 11-Friday morning, June 16 (they depart first thing in the morning)**. The youth will be out and about Monday-Thursdays 9:00-3:00 in various community settings. They will do a thorough cleaning of all their spaces before they depart each Friday morning.

Thursday evenings they will cook a community meal for Redeemer people - 5:30-6:30 pm with program following. This is when we can meet with them for stories, etc.

The Kitchen has received a thorough cleaning this past week - thanks to the YouthWorks staff and Redeemer volunteers. Michelle Geschwill is our congregation contact with YouthWorks (in addition to Tahnea Brown and Pastor Jim).

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### **Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival**

2-8 PM-Friday-July 21-2017

Invite your family, friends and neighbors! Admission is FREE, and creative activities, food, and games are priced for affordable fun.

Come experience a vast array of:

- Make-and-take visual arts activities
- Music, dance, and Theatre acts
- Games and recreational activities
- Artwork in the arts showcase
- Food and Ice cream

On the Lyngblomsten Campus at: 1415 Almond Avenue, St. Paul

Redeemer is a partner congregation and YOU are needed as a volunteer. See "opportunities" list in the Undercroft and sign up by June 12th. See Mary Lou or [www.celebratemsf.com](http://www.celebratemsf.com)

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

