

THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 112, No. 9

October, 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

Reformation 2017 - Celebration or Commemoration?

If you are a Lutheran, unless you have been hiding out in a cave, you have already heard that 2017 is the 500th year of the Reformation initiated in 1517 by Martin Luther. If you have forgotten, you will be reminded by the bright red banner hanging in the chancel at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer the whole month of October. With such an auspicious number as a 500 year anniversary, it is tempting for us to merely celebrate what happened on October 31, 1517 when Luther challenged *95 Theses: Or Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* sent to Pope Leo X, which set off a firestorm of debate. Sometimes our celebration ends there, with Lutheran pastors dressed up like Luther with a hammer, nailing his 95 Theses on the church door, sing *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* and call it a day. But this is like celebrating the American Revolution with a re-enactment of the skirmish with the British at Lexington and Concord. We'd be leaving a whole lot out!

Or we could treat this year as a *Commemoration* - of what led up to this Reformation era, what has happened since over the last 500 years, AND considering what being a "reforming Church" means for our future. Not only OUR future as Lutherans - but also the Roman Catholic Church, other protestant churches, evangelicals, even other faiths - such as Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and all those people who are "spiritual, but not religious" in our world!

At this time last year, this year of commemoration was kicked off by Pope Francis and leaders of the Lutheran Federation at the Cathedral in Lund, Sweden in a joint Lutheran-Catholic prayer service, on October 31, 2016. On that day a joint statement by our churches was presented, which read in part:

"In joyful gratitude to God, we are gathered today to encourage one another in the ministry of reconciliation to which Christ has called us...while the past cannot be changed, we rejoice in the healing of memories we have already seen, and we ask God's guidance toward a transformed future, renewed in our relations to one another and in our witness to the world."

Despite the differences which remain between our churches, the ultimate goal is to share at the table together. The pain of separation is becoming more and more a lived reality, and we long to reconcile and witness to our unity in Christ.

In that joint service in 2016, five commitments were made as five candles were lit. They are:

- *That Catholics and Lutherans think from the perspective of unity;
- *That Lutherans and Catholics let ourselves continuously be transformed;
- *That we seek visible unity in concrete steps;
- *That we should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time;
- *That Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

These are great words, worthy commitments for Christians to make. They are true both to our churches' heritage and traditions, and are aspirations we can commonly hold to. The challenge is to make them real, in words and actions.

This past summer I had a conversation with Father Warren Suzzama from our neighbor St. Thomas More Catholic Church on Lexington & Summit. We agreed about the importance of these five commitments, and the new relationships we have as Lutherans and Catholics. We also agreed that we have little desire to keep talking about our past differences. What is exciting to us are the new ways for us to be witnesses to Christ's compassion to the world around us, and work together as well as worship together.

Over the past twenty years, St. Thomas More and Redeemer lay leaders and clergy have worked together ecumenically as part of ISAIAH. We have worked to address Domestic Violence; hold Mayoral Forums, pass Earned Sick and Safe Time in St. Paul. Redeemer and St. Thomas More are both sanctuary congregations, along with other Lutherans, Catholics, Protestants, Unitarians, UCC congregations, Quakers, and Jewish Synagogues. Our joint service is a powerful witness to the world - and it has gone beyond Lutheran -Roman Catholic dialogue to include interfaith conversations and witness to our common humanity.

If the Reformation which Martin Luther started made us think about what God is calling us all to do as people of faith, then our future reforming must include how we include others rather than exclude them. We are beginning to learn how to listen to one another - and to other faiths - to seek what faith values we hold in common.

In a world and nation which seems sometimes to be coming apart at the seams, it is crucial for people of faith to find others who share our values of reconciliation, forgiveness, hope and love for others. Bearing witness to the God of grace and mercy is our task as Christians. Martin Luther pointed to this God of grace 500 years ago. Sharing God's mercy and love with others will always be our task as the Church, today and in the future. Perhaps for another 500 years!

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Jim Erlandson

We celebrate the Feast of the Reformation on Sunday, October 29, at 10 am with a Festival Eucharist at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.



October 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

2nd 6:30 pm ISIAH Central Leadership Meeting
3rd 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting
10th 6:00 pm Girl Scout Recruitment Night
6:30 pm Elders Meeting
6:30 pm Mayoral Candidate Forum Rehearsal
12th 6:30 pm Mayoral Candidate Forum Rehearsal
14th 10:00 am Blessing of the Animals
15th 4:00 pm ISIAH Mayor's Forum
27th 6:00 pm Beer and Hymns
28th 7:00 pm NA Halloween Dance
29th 10:00 am Feast of the Reformation

Usher/Greeter Schedule at Redeemer



October, 2017

Greeter at Parking Lot Door: Myrna Nelson

PLEASE REMEMBER: ONE USHER AT THE ELEVATOR ENTRANCE EACH SUNDAY

Sunday, October 1

Joel Michael (captain)
Sam Rankin
Lyle Nelson
Carla Johnson

Sunday, October 8

Sam Rankin
Charlene Dickerson
Lyle Nelson
Bob Hausman

Sunday, October 15

Sam Rankin (captain)
Joe Belmonte
Ruth Belmonte
Joann Conroy & Phoenix Mason

Sunday, October 22

Joel Michael (captain)
Charlene Dickerson
Lyle Nelson
Carla Johnson

Sunday, October 29 (Feast of the Reformation)

Sam Rankin (captain)
Bob Hausman
Joe Belmonte
Ruth Belmonte

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

October 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.

October 1	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Crucifer	Acolyte
	Bob Paddock	Lelani Drake	Reva Rasmussen	Todd-Allen Hamilton	
October 8	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Crucifer	Acolyte
	DeAnne Hilgers	Tammy Cownie	Joe Rittman	David Tannen	Jack Sprung
October 15	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Crucifer	Acolyte
	Joel Michael	Michelle Geschwill	Bonnie Hughes	Ali Michael	Jared Geschwill
October 22	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Crucifer	Acolyte
	Tammy Cownie	Bob Paddock	Ray Hayes	Todd-Allen Hamilton	Neal Caerwyn
October 29	Deacon	Subdeacon	Reader	Crucifer	Acolyte
<i>Reformation</i>	Trudy Cretsinger	Joel Michael	Elizabeth Currie	Ray Hayes	Jared Geschwill
	Thurifer	Torchbearer	Torchbearer	Bannerbearer	Bannerbearer
	David Tannen	Tammy Cownie	Michelle Geschwill	Obang Agwa	

OCTOBER 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
Oct. 1 <i>Lectionary 26</i>	Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32	Ps 25:1-9	Phil 2:1-13	Matt 21:23-32
Oct. 8 <i>Lectionary 27</i>	Isa 5:1-7	Ps 80:7-15	Phil 3:4b-14	Matt 21:33-46
Oct. 15 <i>Lectionary 28</i>	Isa 25:1-9	Ps 23	Phil 4:1-9	Matt 22:1-14
Oct. 22 <i>Lectionary 29</i>	Isa 45:1-7	Ps 96:1-9 [10-13]	1 Thess 1:1-10	Matt 22:15-22
Oct. 29 <i>Reformation</i>	Jer 31:31-34	Ps 46	Rom 3:19-28	John 8:31-36

ADULT FORUM

Oct. 1, 11:30 A.M. video, Rick Steve's **"Luther and the Reformation."** This comprehensive video has been provided to Lutheran congregations courtesy of Rick Steve's in "commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation." Rick Steve's travels in the footsteps of Martin Luther telling the story of the brave monk, chaos of the Reformation, and the larger political, economic, and theological context.

Oct. 8, 11:30 A. M. **"Charlottesville and Hate--What to do?!"** led by Irene Markley, Pastor Erlandson and others from redeemer's Anti-Racism Team. Based on Ten Ways to Fight Hate by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Oct. 15, 11:30 A. M. **"Our Faith, Our Hands"** led by Adult Forum members. This will be an opportunity for members to discuss their walk of faith or other issues.

Oct. 22, 11:30 A. M. **"Congregation Conversations"** Our ISAI-AH Core Team will lead another session of conversations, similar to those held in August. These conversations are an opportunity to share out stories of struggles in small group and see how we are not alone.

Oct. 29, 11:30 A. M. **Reformation Celebration.** We celebrate 500 years of the Reformation (1517-2017) and look to the future.

Adult Forum Planning Meeting October 5th, 2017 10:00 A. M. Church Library



You are invited to attend.
For more information
contact Joan Foreman
at 651-699-0266.

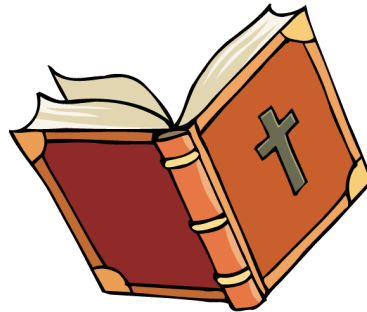


WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will meet Thursday, October 5th at 11:00am. Hostesses Bette Steglich and Sharon Scott will serve coffee and dessert. Bring a salad or sandwich and join us.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Midweek Bible Study will resume on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017 at 2:00 P. M. led by the Rev. Robert Hausman. We will study Galatians focusing on "Law and Gospel." You are invited to attend. For further information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266.



After contacting the city regarding them no longer taking our recycling, there has been no response. Because of this, **we are asking congregation members to help out by volunteering to come to church once a week and collecting the church's recycling to take to their homes to be recycled.** You can sign up for one week or commit to a whole month. There is a sign up sheet in the church Undercroft. If you have any questions, you can contact Irene Markley at 651-646-0818



\$15 an Hour NOW!

Too many workers in St. Paul work for wages which are far too low to live on. Too many people have to work multiple jobs to make ends meet, like the mother who works two jobs and doesn't have time to help her children after school, the father who works night shifts in a factory and cleans on weekends, and the teenager who has to work a part-time job to help support the family, but falls asleep at school or falls behind in homework. These workers prepare and serve the food in our restaurants and grocery stores, clean our hotels, work in hospitals, industries and schools, build our homes and roof our houses. They do much of the work that people and businesses need in order for our city to function.

People in our faith communities do this work, and we all benefit from it. We value the work that all the children of God do – that is, the work of all human beings. Our scriptures teach us to value the work of the laborer and worker as much as the landowner and those who own businesses. In 1Timothy 5:18 we read that *"The laborer deserves their wages."* And in Romans 4:4, *"Now to those who work, their wages are not counted as a gift but are their due."*

The scriptures also warn us not to exploit, defraud, or cheat the poor and the laborer from their just wages:

The prophet Jeremiah said, *"Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and does not give him his wages...(Jeremiah 22:13). And,*

Deuteronomy says, "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns. You shall give them their wages on the same day...lest you be guilty of sin." (Deut. 24:14-15)

We believe that all children of God deserve to live with dignity. The future and the health of our city today depend upon including everyone in the promise of abundance, including our most vulnerable and those who now live in the margins.

Unfortunately, our present economy seldom honors these values. Too many people in St. Paul work double shifts making fast food for a minimum wage, too low to care for themselves and their families. The consequences of low wages also affect their health, their housing, and education opportunities. Poverty is bad for business. All our people need a \$15 an hour LIVABLE wage. Because when all people thrive, it's also good for business!

We have avoided the inequities of low wages and poverty for far too long. Ignoring this has left St. Paul and Minneapolis with one of the greatest racial disparities in the nation. This is a critical issue for the coming election for mayor in St. Paul. We call on our current Mayor Coleman, and the future mayor of St. Paul – and all city council members – to support \$15 an hour for a minimum wage in St. Paul. We need to raise wages so that all people in St. Paul can make a living wage and live with dignity in the present, with hope for the future.

~ **Pastor James Erlandson** at a “Raise the Minimum Wage” Press Conference in front of St. Paul’s City Hall on Tuesday, September 26th, 2017



REDEEMER TO HOST MAYORAL FORUM

October 15th
4:00pm-6:30pm

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you ... and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare, you will find your welfare.

Jeremiah 29:7

In our worship each Sunday, we are given a vision of life as God intends for it to be ... then we are sent into the world to live and work in ways that help bring that vision into our reality.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer is the host congregation for ISAIAH's Mayoral Forum and Community Leadership event on **Sunday, October 15th beginning at 4:00pm** (after the Vikings-Packers game has ended). The afternoon will start with the candidates running for Mayor in Saint Paul explaining what actions they would take to advance concerns such as closing the equity gaps in the city, ending mass incarceration, protecting the human dignity of immigrants and refugees, and securing livable wages in the City of Saint Paul. All city residents and concerned voters are invited to attend the event. LCR members who reside in Saint Paul are encouraged to invited friends and neighbors to come with them to this event.

Following the mayoral forum, the candidates will leave. Attendees will spend the next hour in conversation about the struggles we are facing and steps we can take to better address those concerns. We'll be taking a hard look at the stories we have been told about how things are "supposed to be" for us and our city ... and where those stories fail to describe what we know to be true from our experiences. Participants will then plan how to extend these conversations throughout our city to build a current of public interest in actions and policies that move our city more in the direction toward which our faith points us – to a community where all are welcome, everyone has enough, and no one is left out.

The Core Team is planning to host at least one more conversation event at the church, especially for those who were not able to attend one of the events in August. Watch for more details on this in the Sunday bulletins. Several people have indicated an interest in hosting conversation events in their homes; these meetings will be taking place in the coming weeks and months. If you found the congregation conversation event to be an experience you would like to repeat with friends and neighbors, please consider hosting a meeting. Members of the Core Team are available to facilitate the conversations if you are willing to open your home and invite some people to join you. For more information, please speak to any member of the Core Team. ***Our next team meeting will be Tuesday, October 24th at 7:00pm; anyone with interest is always welcome to join us.***

ISAIAH Saint Paul

Mayoral Form & Summit



Sunday, October 15th, 2017

4:00 to 6:30 pm

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Sanctuary

(285 N Dale St., Saint Paul, MN 55103)

We will have a conversation with mayoral candidates about their stance on racial and economic justice issues such as \$15 minimum wage, mass incarceration and sanctuary/immigration. We will also prepare ourselves to lead a faith movement around our agenda for Saint Paul through February of 2018.

All Candidates have been invited

Remember to VOTE on November 7th!

Your VOTE is your VOICE



Blessing of the Animals

It is a tradition in many Christian churches to remember Saint Francis of Assisi by blessing animals and pets in worship. For St. Francis loved all God's creation, and its creatures, and wrote the beloved hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King*.

**Saturday, October 14th, at 10:00 am we will hold our
Blessing of the Animals at Redeemer!**

We will gather in the church courtyard for a brief worship service of scripture readings and prayers, followed by a blessing of animals and pets.

Families, neighbors and friends are all invited to come, and bring their pet (dogs, cats, birds, hamsters, even fish!) to be blessed. You can even take your pet's picture with Saint Francis!

Afterwards we'll have some snacks for people and their pets. So please come, and invite your friends!





LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
ST. PAUL

2017 Mayoral Candidate Forums

Candidates include:

**Melvin Carter, Elizabeth Dickenson, Tom Goldstein, Pat Harris,
Tim Holden and Dai Thao**

Wednesday, October 11th
7:00 - 8:30
Highland Park Sr. High School
1015 Snelling Ave S.
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Tuesday, October 10th
7:00 - 8:30
The Wellstone Center
179 Robie St.
Saint Paul, MN 551027

Tuesday, October 17th
7:00 - 8:30
Minnesota Humanities Center
987 Ivy Ave. E
Saint Paul, MN 55106



Paul Jacobson, Katie Thompson, and Pastor James Erlandson playing for the Come Together Twin Cities prayer gathering at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer on Sunday, September 17.

LUTHER, BEER, AND HOSPITALITY

By Diana M. Rankin

I don't drink beer and neither did my parents or siblings. In my ascetic Nebraska German Lutheran world, beer drinking was generally considered a vice and a waste of money, even if you didn't drink to excess. I doubt that anyone knew Martin Luther lauded the benefits and pleasures of beer. What we knew was that habitual, excessive beer drinking in the local beer halls led to family violence and losing the farm. As an adult, I realized that many of the men I knew who struggled with alcoholism were trying to drown out the horrors they experienced in WWII.

I also recall, however, beer flowing freely at my brother's wedding reception in a local ballroom. In the 1950s this was how parents showed hospitality to wedding guests. It is exactly what Martin Luther would have done 400 years earlier. By 1966, when I was married, respectable Lutheran families celebrated a wedding in the church social hall – no beer or other alcohol allowed. Hospitality had been reduced to a small glass of fruit-flavored punch. Wedding receptions today feature a cash bar with maybe one free drink.

Martin Luther celebrated his wedding with *Einbecker*, the most famous beer in the Middle Ages which closely resembles today's Bock beers. Martin praised Katie Luther's home brew and they shared it freely with guests as a sign of hospitality. This short essay by Martin Lohmann, a German Roman Catholic writer and journalist, describes why Luther urged people to drink beer while cautioning them against the sin of drunkenness.

Historical Essay on Martin Luther and Beer, in the Style of a Folk Song

By Martin Lohrmann

CHORUS:

Martin Luther drank the beer that Katie Luther brewed
Tastes alright and helped him fight his indigestion, too
Table talk around the clock with a gospel-loving dude
Martin Luther drank the beer that Katie Luther brewed

1.

In Germany of that time the water was not clean
People emptied their chamber pots into the nearest stream
So if you really wanted to take care of your health
Drinking beer was a proven way to detoxify yourself

2.

Making beer was something everyone was doing
Nearly 200 homes in Wittenberg were licensed for homebrewing
In addition to the salary that he made each year
Luther was paid in bushels of malt to use for brewing beer.

CHORUS

3.

Katie Luther's beer had a decent reputation
But circumstances might impose some limitations
One bummer of a summer there wasn't enough grain
They had no beer for 40 days and, yes, Martin complained¹

4.

Luther knew that life ain't always smooth and level
Sometimes a Christian ends up in fights against the devil
The devil wants to get us down, so Luther recommends
Go and have some fun hanging out with your friends²

CHORUS

5.

The drunkenness of Noah came up as a preaching text
So Luther said that he would work to preach from experience³
Yet Luther also knew alcohol was a problem for his Germans
He preached the blessings of sobriety in many of his sermons,
(For instance, his 1539 Sermon on Moderation and Soberness
in Luther's Works, volume 51)⁴

6.

Luther said that drinking beer helped him get his rest
And that kept him from sinning and that helped him to stay blessed
In that way his sleep served him as a kind of fasting
That's how beer can lead us to life everlasting⁵

CHORUS

NOTES

1

For verses 1-3, see Martin Treu, Katherine von Bora, Luther's Wife, 48;
and Martin Brecht, Martin Luther: The
Preservation of the Church, 1532-1546 (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993),
17-18 and 240-243.

2

LW 54:17-18.

3

LW 54:207.

4

LW 51:291-299.

5 Martin Brecht, Martin Luther: Shaping and Defining the Reformation,
1521-1532 (Fortress, 1990), 431

In our homes, like Luther, we offer guests something to drink. It might be a cold beer on a hot day, a cup of hot chocolate on a very cold day, or a glass of wine before dinner. At Redeemer we show hospitality with a cup of coffee after worship or at a meeting. We also show hospitality in sharing the Eucharist with all believers. We've had celebrations, such as Pastor Jim's installation, where we served wine or champagne to our guests. Outside our walls we offer hospitality with a bottle of cold water for people walking down the street. And, on October 27th we'll have beer and non-alcoholic beverages for anyone wanting to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Prost! Skol! Salud! Afya! Santé! Ganbei! Cheers!



"Luther Making Music in the Circle of His Family" Gustav Adolph Spangenberg (1875) Notice Melancthon sitting at the table with a stein, probably filled with Katie Luther's home-brewed beer.

Reformation Beer & Hymns!



Friday, October 27 at 6 PM - 10 PM

Come for Reformation Beer and Hymns on Friday, October 27, between 6:00 and 10:00 pm at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 No. Dale St, St. Paul. We will gather in the church undercroft for the singing of German chorale, songs and hymns from a variety of genres. We will include songs of justice and peace as well as global songs. Accompanied by guitars, accordion, percussion and other instruments. Singers and instrumentalists are all invited to join in! Bratwurst, sauerkraut, pretzels and popcorn provided, plus beer (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), ginger beer, cider and coffee. Free admission, with donations accepted for refreshments.

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

