

# THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 113, No. 4

April, 2018



## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

**Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor**

285 North Dale Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

651-227-8295

[www.redeemerstpaul.org](http://www.redeemerstpaul.org)

Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

Jonathan Campbell, Music Director

Katie Thompson, Organist

## **A Letter From Pastor Erlandson**

*"Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised, he is not here."*

Dear friends in Christ,

On Sunday, April 1 we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and begin the season of Easter. Once we get over the feasting and celebration, it is truly a challenging message we carry this season. The Easter story in Mark centers on the fear and amazement felt by the women who came early in the morning to Jesus' grave: Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. They had come with spices to anoint his dead body. They had talked among themselves of who they could get to roll away the stone for them. But on that morning, they found the tomb empty, with the stone already rolled away. Once inside, they found a young man, dressed in a white robe, seated there. He told them not to be afraid, he knew they were looking for Jesus, who had been crucified, He was not there. But they should go to Peter and the disciples to go meet Jesus in Galilee. *"So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."*

We are used to Easter celebrations where everyone is happy to celebrate that Jesus is risen from the dead, without doubt and fear getting in the way. Mark is too honest for that! He told the true story of the disciples' fear and terror in finding the tomb empty, He reminds us that Jesus had often told his disciples to be silent, and not share yet who they believed Jesus was – the Messiah. But now that he has risen from the dead, now it was time to share with others the good news of Jesus.

But now they were afraid to say a word – and it wasn't until Pentecost, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, that the disciples would be empowered to come out of hiding and speak out with the truth of the gospel.

It's a lesson for all of us today. We can be very bold to shout out the words "Christ is risen" in worship on Easter Sunday. But we can be afraid to say that we believe this out in the world. When we are together we can be sure of our faith; alone we can be too shy to speak. This is human nature, and common for Christians. The reason we come together as the Church is to worship God as one, hear God's Word, to learn and gain strength in our faith to live the life Jesus calls us to live – and to not to be afraid to speak the truth of God. We are challenged and invited to speak truth to each other, and to the world, how we are called to love God, and our neighbor. Today you and I are called to not be afraid, and to be bold enough to speak truth to power (as well as to one another). This is critical if we are to live in a world where all God's children can live in peace, with justice for all. For Christ is risen, and present among us!

*Pastor Jim Erlandson*

# March 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

<b>1st</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Easter Brunch</b>
	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
3rd	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
5th		60 Something Band Rehearsal
<b>6th</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>60 Something Band/Birthday Party</b>
7th	9:00 am	Birthday Party
10th	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
14th	10:00 am	Girl Scout Meeting
17th	6:00 pm	Springboard for the Arts Meeting
19th	1:00 pm	ISAIAH Clergy Meeting
21st	10:00 am	Rittman Missionary Brunch
26th	6:30 pm	ISAIAH Meeting
28th	9:00 am	AA Leadership Meeting



The Women's Guild will meet  
Thursday, April 5th at 11:00am.  
Hostesses Kathy Moffat & Jean Tretsven  
will serve coffee and dessert.  
Bring a sandwich or salad and join us.

# *Easter Breakfast*

**Join us Sunday, April 1st at 8:30 am for a  
delicious Easter Breakfast!**

***\*\*\*Proceeds go to the ELCA Youth Gathering Fund\*\*\****



**We celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with a  
festival Eucharist at 10:00 am**

## Usher/Greeter Schedule at Redeemer



**April, 2018**

Greeter at Parking Lot Door: Myrna Nelson  
Sound System: Claude Mikkelson

PLEASE REMEMBER: ONE USHER AT THE ELEVATOR ENTRANCE EACH SUNDAY

### **Easter Sunday, April 1**

Joel Michael (captain)  
Sam Rankin  
Eric Chinquist  
Sherri Chinquist

### **Sunday, April 8 (Baptisms that day!)**

Eric Chinquist (captain)  
Sherri Chinquist  
Charlene Dickerson  
Carla Johnson

### **Sunday, April 15**

Joel Michael (captain)  
Lyle Nelson  
Joe & Ruth Belmonte

### **Sunday, April 22**

Eric Chinquist (captain)  
Sherri Chinquist  
Charlene Dickerson  
Lyle Nelson

### **Sunday, April 29**

Ray Hayes (captain)  
Sam Rankin  
Carla Johnson  
Joan Conroy & Phoenix Mason

Robert Hausman will fill in as needed and available.

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

### April 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.

<b>April 1</b>	<b><u>Deacon</u></b>	<b><u>Subdeacon</u></b>	<b><u>Reader</u></b>
<i>Easter</i>	Tammy Cownie	Michelle Geschwill	Mary Lou Knipe
<b>April 8</b>	<b><u>Deacon</u></b>	<b><u>Subdeacon</u></b>	<b><u>Reader</u></b>
<i>Easter 2</i>	DeAnne Hilgers	Joel Michael	Stephanie Stoessel
<b>April 15</b>	<b><u>Deacon</u></b>	<b><u>Subdeacon</u></b>	<b><u>Reader</u></b>
<i>Easter 3</i>	Bob Paddock	Leilani Drake	Latham Luepke
<b>April 22</b>	<b><u>Deacon</u></b>	<b><u>Subdeacon</u></b>	<b><u>Reader</u></b>
<i>Easter 4</i>	Tammy Cownie	Trudy Cretsinger	Anna Bohlinger
<b>April 29</b>	<b><u>Deacon</u></b>	<b><u>Subdeacon</u></b>	<b><u>Reader</u></b>
<i>Easter 5</i>	Joel Michael	Michelle Geschwill	Hilary Ziols

### **APRIL 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.

	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>April 1</b> <i>Easter Day</i>	Acts 10:34-43 <i>or</i> Isa 25:6-9	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Cor 15:1-11 <i>or</i> Acts 10:34-43	Mark 16:1-8 <i>or</i> John 20:1-18
<b>April 8</b> <i>2 Easter</i>	Acts 4:32-35	Ps 133	1 John 1:1—2:2	John 20:19-31
<b>April 15</b> <i>3 Easter</i>	Acts 3:12-19	Ps 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
<b>April 22</b> <i>4 Easter</i>	Acts 4:5-12	Ps 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
<b>April 29</b> <i>5 Easter</i>	Acts 8:26-40	Ps 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8

## ADULT FORUM



April 1, 2018 **Happy Easter! No Adult Forum today.**

April 8, 2018 11:30 A. M. **"Mission at Redeemer"**  
led by Dr. Joe Rittman. This will be an introduction to a series followed by two Thursday afternoon classes. At the introduction we will look at how each of the different Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, describe mission and how we at Redeemer and the ELCA look at mission today. At the two afternoon classes, we will explore "The Purpose of Mission and Cultural Relativism" on April 12 and "Operationalizing Mission at Redeemer" on April 19, 2018. The afternoon classes begin at 2:00 P. M. in the library and are also led by Dr. Joe Rittman.

April 15, 2018 11:30 A. M.  
**"Comments on the ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice"**  
led by the Reverend Trudy Cretsinger. This is your chance to make your comments, listen to comments of other Redeemerites and have an opportunity to submit comments on the Social Statement to the ELCA.

April 22, 2018, 11:30 A. M. **"Restorative Justice"**  
presented by Tina Sigel, Community Coordinator of Restorative Justice Community Action. She will discuss this process and the impact it can have on reducing the Pipeline to Prison problem.

April 29, 2018 11:30 A. M. **"Too Busy for Sabbath"**  
presented by Dr. Diane Jacobson. So much has encroached upon our day of worship and day of rest. Hear Diane's comments on this dilemma.

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There will be an Adult Forum Planning meeting Thursday, May 10, 2018, 2:00 P. M. in the library. You are invited to attend. For information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266.

**There will be no April meeting.**

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

No wonder the liturgical patterns of the Church spend seven whole weeks – fifty days! – pondering Easter. It's so overwhelming and confusing and astounding. After all, Easter means that death does not have the final word. God has the final word and that word is **life** ... life for all, life forever, life energized with love and light.

However, to get a resurrection, there does have to be a death. To get to Easter joy, we have to face the worst ... the devastation of Maundy Thursday, the cross of Good Friday – through it all, we face the worst: death in all its awfulness and totality.

We often think of death as the worse thing that could happen – and, in many ways, it is. But consider what Paul writes in the Letter to the Romans: *Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk with him in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.* In our baptism, we died with Christ and were sealed in that tomb with him. And then, like him, we were raised up in his resurrected life.

What would you do if you **knew** the worst thing that could happen to you had already happened?

What would it mean for our life together, as Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, to see ourselves as gathered together in this resurrection ... delivered out of death and into the new life of Christ ... as we gather around the sacraments, which Christ directed us to do "in remembrance of me?"

Since the opposite of *remember* is *dismember*, when we share the sacrament, we are (in a very real sense) being put back together as the Body of Christ for this time and place. What could it mean for our community to see ourselves as part of this risen Body of Christ, alive and active in our world today?

As always, I welcome your thoughts and ideas. Feel free to talk to me on Sundays or email me as [tkretsinger@gmail.com](mailto:tkretsinger@gmail.com)

## CORE TEAM NEWS

A few weeks ago, the Core Team hosted a forum to talk about issues of poverty, particularly the problem of affordable housing. The discussion generated considerable interest – both around the various facets of the problem and what might be something we could do to address the problem.

There are many elements to the situation we call poverty. One area in which those elements come together is in the ability – or lack of ability – to afford housing. In answer to a recent headline in the paper ... yes, we do have a crisis in affordable housing. That much is clear. What to do about it is less clear because of the many factors involved:

- The average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the cities is over \$1,000 per month
- At 40 hours a week on a minimum wage (which is close to \$10 per hour right now), the monthly gross income is \$1,600 a month – before FICA and other taxes are withheld
- Housing is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the monthly income; a full-time worker at minimum wage can only afford a monthly rent of approximately \$500... which is too little for even a one bedroom or studio unit
- The current vacancy rates for rental units in the metro area is around 3% ... that means landlords and management companies can be choosy – and they are; applicants with poor credit or past evictions are automatically rejected
- At present, the only way a past eviction can be removed from a person's public record is to prove that the eviction did not follow the proper process; this is very hard to do long after the event
- To move into rental housing, the renter must pay first month's rent, last month's rent, and a deposit (usually close to a month's rent) – all upfront (although some landlords will permit the renter to pay the total over the first three months of the lease)
- Households paying more than 30% of the monthly income for housing (and most households in poverty are paying closer to 50% or more) are at high risk of eviction; a major car repair, a reduction in work hours, missing work due to illness (in the absence of paid sick leave) ... any of these can put a household at risk of falling behind on rent
- Most emergency assistance programs will not help households if the monthly rent is more than 30% of the household income ... which means there is little assistance available to a household to cover a gap created by one these kinds of events
- The waiting lists for all Section 8 programs in the metro area are closed, which means no new applicants are being accepted; occasionally the lists are "opened" for a lottery program in which a fraction of those who apply will be added to the wait list – and the waiting period will be several years



Redeemer recently hosted Project HOME, the emergency overflow shelter program for families in Ramsey County. The family shelter system is at capacity and running a waiting list. Until they can get into the shelters, homeless families double up with others (often in violation of leases ... putting everyone at risk of eviction) ... or living in their cars until space opens in the shelter. Most of the parents are employed (or could be employed if they had a place to get adequate rest and cleaned up so they can make it to work). But something happened ... hours cut back, job loss, major car repair, had to take time off without pay ... and the family was no longer able to afford housing. Then they were evicted (or threatened with eviction). Unable to get back into housing, they lived with other family members or friends (and maybe wore out their welcome in one way or another). Once in the shelter program, the family has to secure sustainable housing ... which leads back to not enough income to afford rent, needing help with the funds required at move-in, finding a place willing to rent to a tenant who has been evicted.

There are many aspects to such situations, and so, the issue of affordable housing (and poverty in general) will need to be addressed from many angles. But first, a deeper understanding is needed. A number of research visits are being planned – to agencies working to improve housing affordability, to civic leaders who are shaping policies – to find out more about what is known, what’s being done, what possible solutions could help. The efforts to raise the minimum wage in the City of Saint Paul is also one of the angles in addressing the problems of poverty and affordable housing. This information will be used to build strategies for increasing access for affordable housing.

CONTINUED . . .

There were also suggestions about more direct steps ... a small lending programs to front the money for move-in costs (with the expectation the money would be repaid and then used to assist another family) ... assisting family in purchasing a home to increase stability ... partnering with Habitat for Humanity or other agencies creating affordable housing

We are grateful for the energy and attention that people brought to the forum on March 18<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be part of the upcoming research visits or help in other ways, please speak to any Core Team member. Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings; the next one is Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

***Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
You shall raise up the foundation of many generations;  
You shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
The restorer of streets to live in.  
~ Isaiah 58:12***

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## **Toiletries Drive**

Project Home is currently low on toiletries! During the month of April, we will be collecting travel size/personal size of the following items to be donated to the families Project Home Serves.

- |                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| ~ Feminine Hygiene Products | ~ Washcloths |
| ~ Disposable Razors         | ~ Toothpaste |
| ~ Toothbrush                | ~ Shampoo    |
| ~ Conditioner               | ~ Body Wash  |
| ~ Bar soap                  | ~ Lotion     |

Donations may be dropped off in the church office or collection bin in the church Undercroft.

# The 60 Something Band



**Friday April, 6th  
6:00 - 10:00 pm**

**Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
285 N Dale St.  
Saint Paul, MN 55103**

Join the 60 Something Band as we celebrate James Erlandson's 64th birthday with an evening of music, food, and dancing, Food is served at 6:00, and the music begins at 7:00. The band will feature music from the Beatles' hit film "A Hard Day's Night" from 1964, starting with its powerful opening chord, to the wistful "When I'm Sixty-Four" from Sgt. Pepper. Also included will be homage to the late Tom Petty and the Traveling Wilburys. A delightful time will be had by all. Free admission.. Donations requested for Redeemer youth attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering and Multicultural Youth Leadership Event in Houston this July.



**Seeing Potential.  
Building Prosperity.**

## *Please Join Us*

### **Daily Work's 6th Annual Steps to Success Benefit Luncheon**

Daily Work mentors at-risk job seekers and guides them to life-changing employment opportunities. Professional development that leads to permanent, sustainable wage jobs can lift families out of poverty forever. Join us for a one-hour celebration of how we can see potential and build prosperity together.

**Wednesday, May 2, 2018** *Free to attend*

**Midpointe Event Center** *Free parking*

415 Pascal St. N. *Just north of I-94 between Snelling & Hamline • St. Paul*

#### **Schedule of Events**

11:15 Gather and Register

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch & Program

RSVPs and pre-luncheon donations can be made at <https://dwluncheon.eventbrite.com>

For questions or sponsorship opportunities, contact Daily Work Executive Director Julie Hoff at [julie@daily-work.org](mailto:julie@daily-work.org) or 651.204.3043

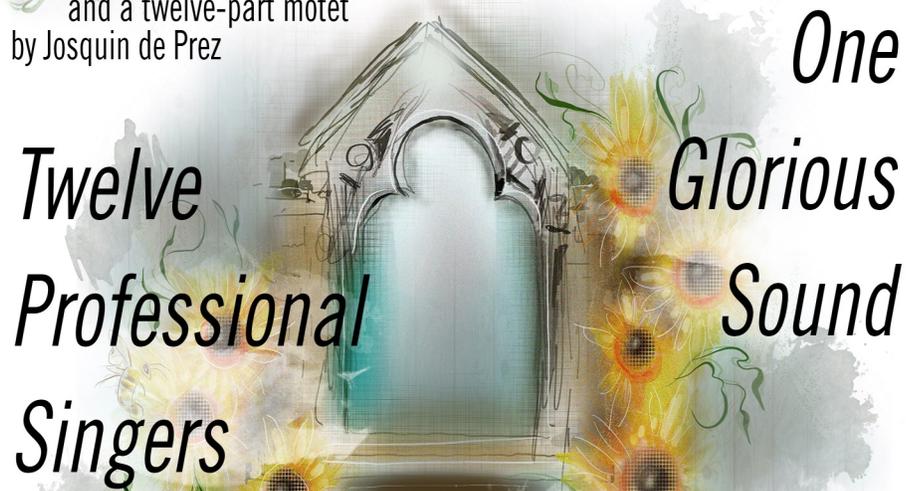
**Daily  Work**

**Redeemer will be hosting a table again this year. Please contact Pastor Jim to reserve your spot at the LCR table.**

# The Minnesota Renaissance Choir *Spring Concert*

Featuring works by Lassus, Gesualdo, Bartlet, Warlock, Laurisden,  
and a twelve-part motet  
by Josquin de Prez

*Twelve*  
*Professional*  
*Singers*



*One*  
*Glorious*  
*Sound*

Discount Tickets available at  
[brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)

**April 28th, 7PM**

*St. Clement's Episcopal Church*  
*901 Portland Ave, St. Paul, MN*

*\$25 Adult, \$20 Senior and*  
*\$5 Student tickets*  
*available at the door*

Artistic Director: Jonathan Campbell  
Website: [www.mnrenchoir.org](http://www.mnrenchoir.org)

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

