

# THE REDEEMER RECORD

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January 2022



## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

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## Pastor's Letter from Home

*The old year now away has fled,  
The new year it is entered,  
Then let us now our sins duntread  
And joyfully all appear:  
Let's merry be this day,  
And let us now both sport and play;  
Hang grief, cast care away!  
God send you a Happy New Year!  
(Tune: GREENSLEEVES, 1642)*

Dear friends,

Like this traditional English carol suggests, entering a new year gives us a chance to set behind us all that has happened to us, and begin anew again, with the slate "scrubbed clean". If only it were that easy to let go of the chains that have kept us bound, or held us back. If only we could shed all the pain and sorrow that this Covid pandemic has infected us with, and move on like it had never happened! But no matter that we vaccinated and did all the right things, got our boosters, wear a mask and never got sick, we still cannot deny the fact that we have all been affected by what COVID has done in our world. And we are still not free.

But then, we have tried to close our eyes and enjoy the Christmas holidays with our families and friends, even when it may be more limited than ever. There have been some joys, as we were able to return to in-person worship and even sing carols this year (though masked - this is much better than last year's experience). But we know that many people close to us are experiencing the pain and grief of loss this year, and may wonder if they will ever feel true joy again. We pray that with faith, their pain and grief will turn to hope once again, because even though such pain is real, *God is still with us.*

In fact, the overall message of Christmas is just this: in all the pain and suffering that we humans may experience, *God is with us.* *The hope of the prophets and the message of the angels was that God has sent God's Son, whose name is Jesus (translated "Savior"), who is also called Emmanuel (which means God is with us).* *This message first came to a young woman named Mary, then to shepherds out in their fields watching their sheep, and now it has come to us, through the gospels, through hymns and carols, and through the words and living witness- es of those who have found trust and hope in this one named Jesus.*

Throughout this month of January we will see the identity of Jesus revealed to us in the story of scripture read each Sunday. We will hear of the Epiphany of our Lord - meaning the "manifestation, or revealing" of Jesus as the divine Son of God, to Wise Men coming from the East, then as God's Son, the Beloved at his baptism by John in the Jordan River. We will hear of Jesus' first miracle of changing water into wine at a wedding in Cana. Then, in his first sermon ever, Jesus told the people of his hometown synagogue that the scriptures were fulfilled in him! That he had come to bring good news to the poor, freedom to captives, and sight to the blind. At first the people were greatly impressed, but because no prophet is accepted in his hometown, they drove Jesus out. So Jesus left on his mission to seek disciples among fishermen in Galilee, to whom he promised they would now be catching people instead of fish!

And so we shall see Jesus revealed, God's Son living among us on earth, teaching, inviting, challenging and sending his disciples to be witnesses to others of God's love, that God is with us through Jesus Christ. He has come to change each of our lives, to empower us with the good news of God, to challenge us and even change the Church (which he called his very own body)! So here is what's coming in the gospel this January, the Season of Epiphany:

- Matthew 2:1-12 - *Three Wise Men come bearing gifts for Jesus*
- Luke 3:15-22 - *Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist*
- John 2:1-11 *Jesus changes water into wine at a wedding in Cana*
- Luke 4:14-21 - *Jesus preaches good news to the poor*
- Luke 4:22-30 - *Jesus is rejected by his own hometown*

So here's a question for the season: what do each of these stories reveal about Jesus? What do they reveal about us? How will Jesus being God Son affect you and me? How will it change us? Challenge us? Comfort us? The purpose is all of these things, but the main point is to give us all hope that God is with us, in Jesus.

Have a blessed New Year. May it bring you good news!

Peace in Christ,  
*Pastor Jim Erlandson*

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## **WORSHIP IN JANUARY**



- Sunday, January 2nd 10am **The Epiphany of Our Lord**
- Sunday, January 9th 10am **The Baptism of Our Lord**
- Sunday, January 16th 10am **Commemoration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**
- Sunday, January 30th 11:30am **Congregation Annual Meeting**

## JANUARY SCRIPTURES & READERS

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>Jan. 2</b>	Ruth Belmonte
<b>Jan. 9</b>	Joan Foreman
<b>Jan. 16</b>	Lance Harris
<b>Jan. 23</b>	Ben Cretsinger
<b>Jan. 30</b>	Sybil Harris

	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>Jan. 2</b> <i>Epiphany /Christmas 2</i>	Isa 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7, 10-14	Eph 3:1-12	Matt 2:1-12
<b>Jan. 9</b> <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Isa 43:1-7	Ps 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
<b>Jan. 16</b> <i>Epiphany 2</i>	Isa 62:1-5	Ps 36:5-10	1 Cor 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
<b>Jan. 23</b> <i>Epiphany 3</i>	Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Ps 19	1 Cor 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
<b>Jan. 30</b> <i>Epiphany 4</i>	Jer 1:4-10	Ps 71:1-6	1 Cor 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

### **ADULT FORUM**

- Jan. 2, 2022    **No Adult Forum**
- Jan. 9, 2022    **"Rediscovering Your Why - Purpose, Vision, Values"**
- Jan. 16, 2022    **"Commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr."**
- Jan. 23, 2022    **No Adult Forum**    Congregational meeting preparation
- Jan. 30, 2022    **No Adult Forum**    Congregational meeting

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There will be an Adult Forum Planning meeting on Weds. Jan. 19, 2022 at 10:00 A. M. You are invited to attend. For more information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266 or [foremanjoan3@gmail.com](mailto:foremanjoan3@gmail.com).



Our Church Vestry meeting was opened at 7pm by Ruth on December 14, 2021 on Zoom with prayer. Pastor Jim finalized the needs for the Christmas season services and said that we will continue to hold regular live worship on Sundays. On January 30, 2022, the Congregation will hold its Annual meeting to approve the annual budget.

The Treasury has an overall balance of \$98200 with mortgage due of \$68862 plus interest and \$12000 to be paid over time to Langer Construction without interest. The Vestry appreciated the dedication of Congregation members to improve lighting, upgrading heating, and replace ceiling tiles.

The Vestry discussed its commitment to be an attractive ministry for our neighbors into the future. Members of the Vestry will participate in Saint Paul Area Synod training meeting in January on our purpose, vision, and values for the future.

Ruth adjourned the meeting at 8:17pm.

**The next Vestry meeting will be held on January 11, 2022 on Zoom.**

## TOOLS FOR THE CHURCH IN AN UNCERTAIN TIME

### REDISCOVERING YOUR WHY - PURPOSE, VISION, VALUES

Saturday, January 8, 2022 | 9 a.m.-12 noon  
Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church - 1669 Arcade Street North, St. Paul

Does your congregation know who it is...really? What we know is this: vital congregations have a clear sense of their "why" and an understanding of who it is they are called to be today. This is often articulated in a set of values and perhaps a mission and/or vision statement. Those values and statements are only good if they are honest and used to guide the mission of the congregation. Otherwise they simply take up space on the website and a wall in the church.

So does your congregation have values? Vision? Mission? If so, do they correctly articulate the reality today? This interactive workshop introduces and utilizes tools to help you hone in on your true identity and will help you move forward from that for the sake of mission.

**Who Should Attend:** Congregations should send a pastor and a small group of lay leaders from outreach/evangelism committees or church council (max of 6-8 people). Vaccinated, mask-wearing participants are welcome! No food/beverages will be served.

**Registration:** There's no cost to attend, but please register so we know who to expect! When possible, have one person from your team register all participants from your congregation.

**REGISTER AT:** <https://bit.ly/rediscoveringyourwhy>

Mark your calendar for another session on March 26 focused on Evangelism & Outreach!

Brought to you by the Saint Paul Area Synod's Vitality Team: Pastors Liz Eide, John Hieringer, Peter Weston-Miller, Julie Wright, Justin Grimm; Rolf Lowenberg-DeBaer  
Questions? Call 651-224-4313 or email [justin.grimm@elca.org](mailto:justin.grimm@elca.org).

#### What is Congregational Vitality?

Congregational vitality refers to congregations whose faith shines in their relationships with God, each other and their community.

Vital congregations:

- Strengthen their relationship with God
- Nurture relationships
- Have a strong presence in their community

Learn more at [elca.org/future-directions/congitality](https://elca.org/future-directions/congitality).



## **Remembering the Children - A Worship Service of Lamentation for the Feast of the Holy Innocents**

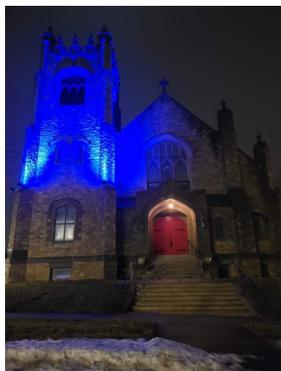
In July of 2021 the American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association (AIANLA) asked the whole ELCA to remember and lament the children who died in Indian boarding schools in the United States and residential schools in Canada. As the church prepares to observe the Feast of the Holy Innocents, the Saint Paul Area Synod, the Minneapolis Area Synod, and the Advocates for Racial Equity offer this service of prayer and lament for use by individuals and congregations.

We encourage further learning and activism in support of reparative justice for the violence perpetrated in the name of colonialism and the Christian faith. Be sure to explore resources provided by organizations such as the [National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition \(NABS\)](#) and the [AIANLA](#).

May this resource be a catalyst to future action for the sake of God's beloved children.

You can view the video at the following link:  
<https://redirect.is/guw1xen>

# Redeemer in Review . . .



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