

FAITH MATTERS

A monthly publication of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota

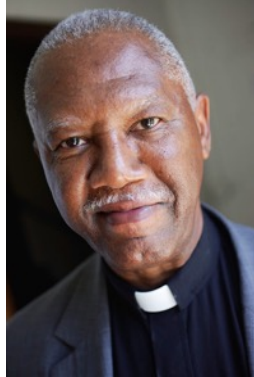
In This Issue

ADVENTure	2
Election Response	3
Soul Food Dinner	4
Calendar of Events	7



Wood from Theo Wirth Park processed, chopped, and loaded into multiple semis to be shipped to the Standing Rock Reservation.

FROM THE PASTOR Kelly Chatman



By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Luke 1:78 -79

Have you ever heard the saying: "Getting into my Kool-Aid?"

This is in reference to those last few cups of Kool-Aid where all the sugar that didn't get mixed into the solution settles to the bottom of the pitcher. At that point, to regain Kool-Aid's trademark sweetness, you must get back into it with a spoon and stir it up. Are you feeling a little less sweet than normal these days? Well the church calendar has a remedy for this sickness. The

season of Advent is here, and brings an opportunity for us to invite God into our lives and stir us up. The season of Advent is an invitation to break away from consumerism and our culture of "being busy." It is an invitation to slow down and taste the fullness and sweetness of God's love breaking into the world.

Advent is the beginning of the new church calendar, and includes the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. During the days of Advent, our lives will be consumed with many activities. Some of us will be busy shopping, preparing for exams, working overtime, cooking, and traveling to be with family and friends. The list goes on and on. Advent is our chance to take the time to be stirred by the story of God. To take the time to understand and act out the true meaning of this season. Take time to be stirred in worship as we sit, sing, and light candles. Take time to witness the Christmas Store, where local children enter the doors of Redeemer to experience love. They extend four quarters, and purchase four gifts for their family, wrap gifts with volunteers, and sing songs. Advent is the season when we take the time to open our hearts and celebrate our Christmas Pageant, as Sunday school children retell the story of Jesus.

During this season of Advent, I hope you can take time to be stirred by the reality of God loving the world so much he entered the world to die as one of us. God did not need to enter the world this way, but he came to stir us up. God humbled himself by being born into a social network of poverty. God did not come clothed in riches, protected by walls, perched in a tower, distant and unapproachable. God came to us on the ground, in a manger, accessible and vulnerable.

Take time out this Advent season to be stirred, and to experience the presence of God. When we light the Advent wreath and enter worship, allow God's Spirit to stir you. Allow the hymns to be prayers, and let them stir you. As you drive through neighborhoods of houses adorned with lights, allow those lights to enter your consciousness, say a prayer, and be stirred. Advent is a time to remember, God comes into the world to stir us up, and remind us that his love is accessible and abundant, and that given love is for the entire world.

My prayer is that the story of God coming into the world to a virgin teenage mother will stir you and your family. My prayer is that these days of Advent will stir within each of us, so that we will carry God with us and into our social networks. May God get into our Kool-Aid!

COMMUNITY UPDATES



FROM THE INTERN **Alissa Kretzmann**

Dear Redeemer friends,

Our country is facing a time of intense division and tension. With all this fear, it might be easy to start thinking that we are all better off just staying in our own corner, distancing ourselves from others.

But I've been reflecting...and I think that God invites us into a different way of being.

Scripture indicates that God is in the business of inviting us into community. I'm humbled when I think about the way that God has modeled this commitment by inviting even us into

God's own work! All throughout scripture we see how God called and used ordinary people to lead, teach, love and care for God's people and creation. Surely God could have figured out a way to work in the world without needing humans. And let's be honest, it probably could have gone a lot more smoothly if God hadn't entrusted so much to our care! But nonetheless, God has been consistently inviting people like you and me to share in the work. God is in the business of relentlessly inviting us to share our lives and ministry together with God and with one another.

Several Lutheran Northside churches started thinking about what this could mean for ministry on the Northside of Minneapolis. For a while now, Salem, Christ English, River of Life and Redeemer Lutheran churches have agreed that we are better together. We have entered into a formal partnership with these churches with the belief that we can do more ministry together than any of our individual churches could do on our own.

I've had the privilege of getting to know the pastors from these Northside Lutheran churches. In conversation we decided that it would be fun to celebrate this amazing partnership that we share. On December 4th we'll be gathering with the good folks of Salem, Christ English and River of Life to celebrate Advent together. We're calling the event **ADVENTure 2016** and we hope you can make it! Together we'll celebrate the season of Advent with music, food and fellowship. Perhaps most importantly, our celebration will be an opportunity to proclaim that we are better together!

It's sometimes tempting to want to do things on our own; to distance ourselves from the inevitable messiness that comes from being in community. But I think it is worth remembering, especially in a time like this, that God invites us into the messy and rewarding work of being in community; of doing the work together.

With prayers and love,

Alissa



Redeemer After School Program Giving Tree

The RAP kids, with help from Katherine, have made a giving tree! Please visit the giving tree in the entry area of the church and explore the donations and gifts that RAP needs.

If you'd like to donate an item, just take a leaf home, purchase the item and bring the item back to church!

ADVENTure: December 4th

Join with the Northside Lutheran Churches for ADVENTure, December 4th from 3:00-5:00pm at River of Life Lutheran Church. The celebration will be a chance for members from Redeemer, Salem, Christ English and River of Life Lutheran Churches to get to know one another better and to celebrate the Advent season together! There will be live entertainment from our congregations, Christmas caroling, games for kids and free food!

ARTICLES & NEWS

Election Response *Pastor Kelly*

Dear Redeemer and partners in ministry,

I feel I have been too silent in the aftermath of the latest national elections. Part of the reason I have been quiet is because I have had few platforms to express my sentiments. The other, and more honest reason, is I have felt the need to first sort out my own thoughts and feelings to ensure I am speaking as pastor of the congregation, and not speaking out of my own pain and disappointment. I have come to realize that this tightrope I am navigating is the same path many of us walk, and will continue to travel as we adjust to the new president and administration. So now, it is time I share a few comments.

My first and unequivocal statement is one of appreciation for President Obama and the admirable job he has done as president. President Obama and First Lady, Michelle, have served us well, and I am thankful to God for their distinguished leadership. In addition to serving us well, I marvel at the way they remained focused during the frequent episodes of racism and racist vitriol that they endured from our “elected” leaders.

I will not allow, and I ask that all of you join me in not allowing, the negative and dehumanizing statements made during the election process to set the course for our country’s future. There were many shocking statements documented during this election—they would be shocking to hear from anyone, let alone from an elected president. Yet, I implore you to not allow those comments to so much as enter the conversations we will have when we gather around coffee pots, in barbershops and hair salons, and around Thanksgiving tables in the coming days. I never want to allow negative framing, such as we have heard during the past year and a half, to limit how we as women, people of color, immigrants, children, or anyone else talk about ourselves, and plan for our future. Every moment we spend reacting to those words and comments is valuable time taken away from what we should be doing: building hope and confirming the trust and commitment we share toward bringing the beloved kingdom of God into reality, which he promises for all people.

On some levels this election feels like a tragedy. However, I feel that the bigger tragedy is that, in the aftermath, our cultural conversation continues to be framed by a language and vision of false-scarcity that is rooted in white privilege. I do not want to waste my time arguing with white people. What we all need now are allies committed to the vision of a beloved community.

Brothers and sisters, we have work to do. It is not what we stand against that unites us, but what we stand for! So, let’s get busy re-building a welcoming community of trust, and re-confirming our commitment to love one another. Let’s get busy showing immigrants we serve a God who welcomes everyone. Let’s get busy reaffirming to our daughters, sisters, and mothers that we stand with them and their right to control their bodies. Let’s get busy in our support of women leading men in every area of life, in full equality.



Redeemer Annual Christmas Store

Saturday, December 10, 2016
9:15AM-12:00PM

Children ages 5-12 are invited to come experience the joy of giving this Christmas season. Children can purchase up to 4 gifts at the price of 25 cents per gift (a maximum of \$1 can be spent).

There will be entertainment for the whole family, including cookie decorating, singing, dancing, and even an appearance by Santa.

If you would like to volunteer for the event, contact Sarah at 612-374-4139 or admin@redeemermpls.org.

ARTICLES & NEWS



Food for the Soul *Tom Fiebiger*

At the Soul Food Dinner on October 30, 2016, the people were fed. Souls were fed. In a packed basement we did what Lutherans often do—share meals and conversation.

Ah, but the Redeemer soul food dinner. No hot dish or jello at our church. Soul food that was lovingly made, delicious and comforting for stomachs and souls. Thanks to all who lovingly prepared and served this feast.

Before sharing the soul-filled meal, we had our hearts filled with soulful music, led enthusiastically by Trai and the Redeemer singers. We had new members intentionally say “yes” to joining our Redeemer family. Our Redeemer family warmly received them and asked God to help and guide us. Amen.

We also listened, as part of worship, to an audio of various scenarios that lifted up the way white privilege and systemic racism permeate our everyday life—from our work, to our schools, to our social interactions. How it is present both in ways that are readily apparent, and in ways much more subtle but no less disturbing. There were some technical difficulties that prevented the video from being projected in our Redeemer basement. Yet, that did not seem to matter at all. During the audio presentation, you could have heard a pin drop. Folks were clearly engaged.

That engagement continued as Pastor Kelly invited us to share honest and real conversations at our round tables about what we had just heard. More importantly, he encouraged us not to intellectualize what we heard, but to speak from our emotional self. To speak from our hearts, not our heads. How did what we heard make us feel?

People jumped in at my table and, from what I heard, other tables as well. Truth telling of painful, racist and white privilege experiences were generously shared in a safe, Redeemer family setting. People allowed themselves to be seen, to be vulnerable and human. People listened. What a gift to be able to share in such moments where God is truly present among us.

People shared with the whole group the words they would use to describe the topics they tackled at their respective tables. People used terms like “racism,” “white privilege,” “soul filled,” and “relationships.”

Moving into real and honest dialogue about white privilege and racism in the safety of our church family and loving God, in whose image we are all created, is both challenging and necessary as we continue our journey to become a truly beloved community.

Oh, in case you were wondering, the desserts were my favorite.



ARTICLES & NEWS



Christmas Pageant *Helen Collins*

The Sunday school class and nursery will be presenting the annual Christmas pageant during service on Sunday, December 11. This is an opportunity for Redeemer's youngest members to share the meaning of the season through songs and story. If you know a young person who is interested in performing, if you are a parent of a Redeemer child, or if you just enjoy working with our beautiful young people, please consider volunteering to help us prepare for the performance.

Rehearsals for the pageant will take place during Sunday school and nursery November 27th and December 4, with a final rehearsal on Saturday, December 10, after the Christmas store. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Helen Collins at helen@redeemercenter.org.

Thank you!

To everyone who supported Redeemer Center for Life through GiveMN (Nov. 17), thank you!

GiveMN was a great kick-off to year-end giving. Approximately \$6,286 has been donated to date towards the \$11,200 dollar for dollar matching funds provided by a group of dedicated past and current directors. We still need \$4,914 before we reach the match total!

There's never been a better time to give. Donate online or send your check to Redeemer Center for Life, 1800 Glenwood Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55405. Again, thank you!



Redeemer Women's Retreat

On November 4-6, about thirty female members and friends of Redeemer gathered at Bay Lake camp for a retreat. The annual retreat is a set-apart time for women to enjoy rest, prayer and conversation together. This year's retreat was centered around prayer and spiritual gifts. Here's what a few Redeemer women had to say about it:

"I liked being up at Bay Lake for the weekend and meeting new people. I enjoyed the conversation and food!" -LuVene Jackson

"The retreat was like a vacation, I didn't have to cook! I enjoyed all of the storytelling, sharing and the late night dancing!" -Joan Dion



"It was amazing coming over the camp on the boat and seeing all of the stars. Looking at the stars was like going to a planetarium!"
-Claudia Runnel



DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	December 4th	December 11th	December 18th	December 24th	December 25th
Greeter	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	
Reader	Sarah Kretzmann	Lonna Field	Nathan Johnson		Cheryl Branch
Usher	Mike Simmons	Michael Simmons	Michael Simmons		Michael Simmons Charles Larson
Communion	Mike Murray Kristi Murray		Mike Murray Kristi Murray		

LEADERSHIP & CONTACT

REDEEMER STAFF

Kelly Chatman — Senior Pastor
612.374.4139 x 13 / 651.490.0888(h) /
pastor@redeermpls.org

Sarah Stadie — Office Administrator
612.374.4139 / admin@redeermpls.org

Laurie Beckman Yetzer — Bookkeeper
612.374.4139 x21 / bookkeeper@redeermpls.org

Angela Bonfiglio — Youth Organizer and Project Coordinator
612.374.4139 x23 / angela@redeermpls.org

Erica Seltzer-Schultz — Communications
612.964.3646 / erica@redeemercenter.org

Kent Goodroad, Alyssa Schwitzer
Music Ministry Team / x 23 / musicteam@redeermpls.org

REDEEMER COUNCIL

President — Jeff Felton
Vice President — Phillip Hussong
Secretary — Yordanos Martin
Treasurer — Alyssa Hanson
Education — Christine Belfry Johnson
Evangelism/Outreach — Kristen Gilbert
Fellowship — Kendrick Dwight
Service/Advocacy — Heather Nissen
Property — Mike Simmons
Stewardship — Amy Brandt
Worship, Arts & Music — Mike Murray
Youth — Mario Locust

REDEEMER CENTER FOR LIFE STAFF

Kelly Chatman — Executive Director
612.374.4139 x13 / pastor@redeermpls.org

Babette Chatman — Director of Properties and Housing
612.374.4139x16 / bchatman@redeemercent.org/

Laurie Beckman Yetzer — Financial Director
612.377.4476 / finace@redeemercenter.org

Khadejia Norman — Lutheran Volunteer Corps
612.377.4476 / khadejia@redeermpls.org

Shae Turner — Lutheran Volunteer Corps
612.377.4476 / shae@redeemercenter.org

Katherine Parent — Arts and Community Outreach
612.377.4476 / kparent@redeemercenter.org

VENTURE NORTH BIKE and COFFEE SHOP

Casey Pavek, Shop Manager
612.377.3029 / casey@venturenorthbwc.org

Darrow Jones, Service Manager
612.377.3029 / darrow@venturenorthbwc.org

Derek Otte, Mechanic
612.377.3029 / derek@venturenorthbwc.org

Helen Collins, Coffee Bar Manager
612.377.3029 / helen@redeemercenter.org

redeemer

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1800 Glenwood Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Phone: 612-374-4139

Fax: 612-374-4312

E-mail: admin@redeemermpls.org

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IN THIS ISSUE:

SOUL FOOD DINNER

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

& MORE!



JOIN US!

SUNDAYS:

Adult Bible Study: 9:00 A.M.

Prayers & Praise: 10:00 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M.

* Sunday School

* Nursery

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 9:00-4:00 P.M.

Friday: 9:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.