

FAITH MATTERS

A monthly publication of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota

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FROM THE PASTOR Kelly Chatman

Max Lucado talks about how Clovis Chappell, a minister from a century back, used to tell a story of two paddleboats. They left Memphis about the same time, traveling down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. As they traveled side by side, sailors from one vessel made a few remarks about the snail's pace of the other. Words were exchanged. Challenges were made. And the race began. Competition became vicious as the two boats roared through the Deep South.

One boat began falling behind. Not enough fuel. There had been plenty of coal for the trip, but not enough for a race. As the boat dropped back, an enterprising young sailor took some of the ship's cargo and tossed it into the ovens. When the sailors saw that the supplies burned as well as the coal, they fueled their boat with the material they had been assigned to transport. They ended up winning the race, but burned their cargo.

I have been thinking about Black Lives Matter lately. Actually, I have been thinking about this for a long time. It's the reason I have remained as pastor at Redeemer all these years. All my life, I experienced how life is set up to be a race where people and places like North Minneapolis lose the race, and Black and Brown lives are viewed to be less valuable. I have experienced how businesses and institutions divest in places and people who are non-White, poor, young, gay and transgendered. I have sometimes been one of those people, I must admit. I remain at Redeemer because in many ways I feel like it is here that I get to participate in my own salvation. Oh, I get it — that the price for salvation has already been paid fully through Jesus death on the cross and resurrection from the grave. But at Redeemer, I get to make a stand, to stand with God against the forces that would deny God. I am not speaking about a punk character, like a Donald Trump. I'm talking about forces of racism, sexism, greed, and White privilege. All of these are blinders that prevent us from valuing the gifted people God has set before us. We can't recognize them because they don't look or think like us. God did not send them here to follow our rules.

Why is this a big deal? Ask the people in Flint, Michigan. Ask the mothers and fathers whose children's bodies are now polluted with lead. Ask the parents of every Brown person whose blood pressure rises when they see flashing lights in the rear view mirror. Ask the person in the cubical next to yours why aren't there any Black, Brown or gay people on your staff team, in your church, or family. Why aren't there any Black or Brown people nominated this year for an Oscar or serving on church council? These are all instances where important cargo was sacrificed in order to, hopefully, win a race.



COMMUNITY UPDATES



FROM THE INTERN Louis Tillman

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” – Isaiah 40:31

Renewing What Seems Lost

This is a time in the year where my heart, mind, body, and soul is challenged. Each year, I choose to challenge myself in the season of Lent. I remember that as a child, candy was the main thing I would give up for Lent. Then, as I got older, I ventured off and began to give up soda. The older I became, the more challenging it was for me to give up materialistic things. There was a time in my late teens when I was a freshman in college that my parents challenged me to look at Lent in a new way. My parents asked me, “Why haven’t you added something to your personal life during Lent, rather than taking it away?” I was perplexed by the notion they were putting on the table. I’ve never thought about Lent as a season where you add something to do, but rather a time where you sacrifice something to understand what Jesus went through in the Luke 4:2.

As I grew older and wiser, I took on this concept for Lent. I chose to add something to my life rather than sacrificing it during the season of Lent. I would add new practices such as: morning devotionals, reading the scripture of God more, performing a random act of kindness each day, or complimenting my neighbors. I found God speaking through me during each Lent season. The words of the prophet Isaiah resonate with me as I’m humbly reminded that Lent isn’t a season of replacing what was once lost but rather a season of renewing the spiritual gifts in us that are now found.

As people of God, we are granted the gift of grace. During the Lent season the gift of grace is what renews our minds, bodies, and souls each day that we breathe on God’s earth. As I walk around the Northside of Minneapolis, I resonate with communities that I interact with and find myself grappling with questions. Are there people in this area who feel that the Lent season is an everyday occurrence in their lives? What does spiritual renewal look like? How can these disciples learn from their despair? How can communities know that God has never left them?

This Lent season, I encourage you to not only give up something near and dear to you, but to add on something in the process. If you give up sweets, then try to add on sending a positive note of encouragement to someone in the congregation every day. Our prayer life and faith in God is what Lent is all about. The Lord is never looking for perfection, but the Lord is looking for progress. How will the season of Lent help you in progressing your relationship with God and your relationship with others? How will the season of Lent help you be the light in dark times for others? How will the season of Lent help you to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God? How will the season of Lent be a time when you can set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth? How will you use the season of Lent to ensure that best of your todays be the worst of your tomorrows?

CONTINUED FROM THE PASTOR

God has entrusted to us a congregation with a mission to serve as a beacon of hope in our community. We are blessed with a congregation made up of children, adults and families from different racial, social and economic backgrounds. We are blessed with a non-profit, Redeemer Center for Life, providing housing, youth programs and the bike and coffee shop. Our job is to do our part in seeing that this cargo reaches its destination. Yet, when the program takes priority over people, people often suffer. How many people never reach the destination because of the aggressiveness of a competitive captain? How much cargo do we sacrifice in order to achieve the number one slot?

ARTICLES & NEWS

Thank You For Support

Greetings church,
Thank you so much for all your support over the past year! It is always an honor to be able to create a space for people to worship and be fed by the spirit. It is something I take very seriously and much pride in. The sanctuary being the area of the church that people often view first, I take great care in creating a place where not only are all welcome, but welcomed. With your help this year, we were able to fill the sanctuary with flowers and decorations for Christmas and Easter. We also were able to create and display unique art endeavors from Katherine Parent, Helen Collins, and the youth to enhance worship and the feel of each season. We are continually blessed with our outstanding praise and worship team, and have many opportunities to highlight our talents from the congregation and those of outside performers. We have also had many opportunities to host conferences, guest speakers, and many other events. In conclusion, I am always looking for volunteers to be a part of the worship service or share their gifts, talent, or opinions on how to make worship and Redeemer a better place. Please let me know how I can better serve you.

In his grace,
Michael Murray



Namibia Nine Showing at Redeemer

On Sunday, February 28th at 4:00 PM, Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) alumni will be hosting a screening of the documentary "Namibia Nine." The documentary is about a group of Namibian students who came to PLU in the early 90s, just as apartheid was ending in Namibia, and with their education became leaders in Namibia.

PLU was one of number of Lutheran schools that welcomed Namibian students that year and a number of Lutheran churches sponsored students.

Redeemer community is invited to join for the screening in the fellowship hall. Youth are especially invited, as the film speaks on the power of education, as a means of promoting justice.

You can find more details about the event and a trailer for the documentary here: <http://goo.gl/forms/BOhVuWvRuu>

Here's a story about the documentary from the PLU alumni magazine: <http://www.plu.edu/resolute/winter-2015/namibia-nine/>

Come and Enjoy Lenten Season with Meal, Holden Worship, Uncommon Table Conversations



The season of Lent begins February 10th this year. Lent is the opportunity to join with the Redeemer community for a time of food, conversation and worship around tables in the fellowship hall. Each Wednesday during the six weeks in Lent leading up to Easter Sunday, we will share time breaking bread, while participating in rich conversation and meaningful worship.

Each Wednesday - the meal begins at 6:00pm but arrive when you can get there. At 7:00pm - we will sing, pray and participate in uncommon table conversation. This year we will continue the

discussion: How do we as people of faith live out the commitment to Black Lives Matters? Why is it that we say Black Lives Matter and not All Lives Matter?

Lent is a great opportunity to invite friends and family to share the Lenten experience as we deepen our faith and look to the promise Easter resurrection.

ARTICLES & NEWS

Poem About Redeemer

My friend, Dave, was initially intrigued by what drew me to Redeemer. After a couple of visits, he told me that he could sense the joyous community and dedicated purpose that seemed to radiate from the Pastor out to a vibrant congregation.

Perhaps poets have a heightened sensibility, but Dave was so impressed with Redeemer that he wrote a poem to express his experience.

--Shelby Andress, Redeemer member

ATOASTTO REDEEMER

Let's raise a communion glass
In holy praise of fellowship
In century old Bryn Mawr church
In today's Harrison northside
neighborhood.

Let's touch glasses over pews
To share the ageless "good news"
With big smiles and bigger hugs:

May peace be with you, my friends.

Let's toast Pastor Kelly sitting
On the altar steps to welcome
Children racing up and down the aisles,
For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Let's raise a glass in harmony
To traditional and spiritual hymns,
To the guy tooting the horn
And the guys giving the beat on the drums.

Let's toast Redeemer's outreach,
A sanctuary of community involvement,
Creating a safe house and bike shop,
A church that walks the neighborhood.

Let's toast all its youth programs,
With space for out-of-school activities,
With easy access to adult mentoring,
And an expanded sense of themselves.

Let's toast a church of all ages and races,
In gatherings that search for answers,
With loving attention to the youngest among us
As we joyfully toast our Beloved Community in
MLK POTLUCKS AND SOUL FOOD SUNDAYS

David Litsey



ARTICLES & NEWS

Redeemer celebrates the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration at Redeemer was once again an opportunity to share praise, food and music as we acknowledged the accomplishments of this great figure in American history. Following worship on Sunday, January 17th, congregation and community members alike were invited to break bread together at an extensive potluck dinner that included fried chicken, goose, green

beans, several different salads and a whole table of desserts. After all had eaten their fill, the event continued with a program of performances organized by the music ministry team, as well as readings from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s most famous speeches. The program included several young performers, including 16-year-old Emander Deward and the Money Squad. There was even a presentation by the Northside Collaborative Confirmation class, returning from a weekend retreat. Other performances included Alyssa Schwitzer, Joe Davis and the Poetic Diaspora, Helen Collins, Katherine Parent and a volunteer choir of congregation members performing "Break Every Chain."

On Monday, Redeemer presence was strong at the Luther Seminary's Lift Every Voice event, which gathered people of faith to examine King's legacy, as well as the role of faith leaders in continuing to challenge systems of oppression in our context. Naomi Hanson and Cheryl Chatman introduced the keynote speaker, Nekima Levy-Pounds, President of the NAACP Minneapolis Chapter. Presiding Bishop Meritus Mark Hanson and Kendrick Hall were included in a panel discussion addressing the question of how can we ensure that every person's voice, regardless of race, class or gender, can be heard and valued. Redeemer members also served as table facilitators during guided discussions over lunch. These events served as a testament to how Redeemer continues to find new ways to live out its commitment to dismantle racism and act as a leader for positive change to the synod and the Church as a whole.



ARTICLES & NEWS

H-Cubed Highlights: Liberation

H-Cubed (Harrison, Healing, Harmony) is a fun, family-friendly open mic community space where we share art, poetry, music, and conversation around systemic issues impacting the Harrison Neighborhood in North Minneapolis. January 22, 2016, was the third H-Cubed event. It



was a tremendous success! The event took place at Venture North Bike Walk & Coffee shop. There was a total of 93 people in attendance, the largest event turn-out so far! The featured artist was the amazing Jayanthi Kyle, a talented vocalist who performs with five bands in Minneapolis, including Gospel Machine and Black Audience. The theme for this month was "Liberation." The emcees for the night encouraged individuals in the audience to share what liberation means to them, while the featured artist centered her performance around her work as an activist and her personal journey of liberation, allowing for community dialogue and courageous conversations to take place.



There was an array of talent displayed at this event. Music performances ranged in genre from folk to funk, from rap to R&B. There was also a live visual artist in the building who created an original painting during the event. Best of all, Thrivent Financial funded the entire event with food and drinks for the evening!

The following are comments made by attendees of the event:

"This was the BEST night of my life! I will be back at the next one. Keep 'em coming!" – Daniel Maddox

"I've lived here for years and never stepped foot in here until tonight. I hope this event continues." - Brettina Pantera Davis

"Phenomenal performances. The food was excellent. Just a great time!" – Maggie Chandler

"Y'all gave me LIFE!" – Joe Davis

"I'd say this event was a beautiful success on Friday. I had a blast creating art in such an inspiring atmosphere!!" – Alicia Holder-Lumpkins

"If you make room, if you create the space, if you breathe in love, if you welcome creativity, if you invite authentic selves and give them the space to witness, if you put food on the table, if you model what it can be, if you radically trust... That was one of the realest experiences of beloved community that I've ever had. Thank you. Lots of people are hungry for just this. For God to be free from the box. I wonder what leaders like this and the communities that surround and support us get to create together. Things are getting fleshy and real. This is what the church should look like!" – Rev. Mike Rusert

"This event is changing lives!" – Rev. Randy Romsdahl

"Was such a great date nite." – Sara Huelle

"This has been missing from the Northside for too long!" – Angela Davis

"H-Cubed continues to blow my mind. Every month it just gets better and better. I can't wait for next month." – Darrow Jones

"This was well worth the drive from Columbia Heights. Best Friday night of my life! Our church will be back to continue our support for the Northside." – Laura Newby

"We look forward to partnering with H-Cubed for the long run. This is the holy ground that our neighborhood needs at a time like this." – Gerard Klass

"My leadership skills and gifts were identified and affirmed at H-Cubed. The power of God was in this place tonight. I loved it! Can't wait to speak at the next one in February!" – Rumen Hulmequist

The next H-Cubed event will take place on at 6:00p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at Venture North Bike Walk & Coffee Shop (1830 Glenwood Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55405). The theme will be "What's Love Got to Do with It?" Please come by and show your support to this neighborhood initiative as it strives to change the narrative of North Minneapolis.



ARTICLES & NEWS

Meet Beatrice Kanake



Beatrice Kanake joined the youth ministry team at Redeemer this fall. She is a PhD candidate at Luther Seminary and the proud mother of three children - her youngest a sophomore in college. Beatrice was born in Kenya to farming parents, one of nine siblings. She received her Bachelor's degree in education from Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya. She taught business education and accounting in high schools for many years before coming to the United States. In 2005 she received her Master's in education with a focus on instructional media. "I've been a teacher throughout my life," she says with a humble laugh.

Beatrice moved to Minnesota in 2005. In 2008, she began a Masters specialized program in youth and family ministry and later joined the PhD program in pastoral care and counseling with a focus on young people in 2010. While studying at Luther, she served as Director of Children and Youth Ministry at Christ Lutheran Church as part of her contextual learning. Among her responsibilities were developing curriculum, leading bible study, sourcing volunteers and assisting minister during worship. Her passion for youth pulled her to work as a camp counselor at Wapo Bible Camp, OX-Lake in the summer of 2014. She was introduced to Pastor Kelly Chatman while both she and Pastor Kelly were attending AUS Memorial Lecture at Luther. "I was looking for a church that is truly missional and incarnational," she says. "Someone told me Redeemer was a great place." In October 2015, she joined Redeemer's youth and family ministry team.

Since joining the staff at Redeemer, Beatrice's main role has been organizing the Northside Collaborative Confirmation, working with other leaders to create curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate and helps to develop youth leadership and teamwork. In collaboration with the youth ministry team, Beatrice plans content and facilitates group discussions and activities that engage the young people in difficult faith questions. She says one of the goals of the ministries is to "create place and space for youth as listening communities." "I'm focusing on listening to the youth so, through listening, we can know these young people and serve their needs better." She acknowledges that the young people in confirmation often come from different backgrounds and contexts that inform how she teaches the material.

Beatrice says she is grateful for the opportunity to get to know the youth and watch them gain confidence and leadership skills. The high school and confirmation youth groups have participated in a number of service-learning experiences, including caroling for the elderly during Advent. In January, Beatrice and the youth ministry team planned and led a weekend retreat with the middle school/collaborative confirmation class. The theme of the retreat was "Love and Liberation" and focused on the different types of love, particularly agape, or "God's love". The conversations and activities led by the youth leaders challenged the young people to show compassion and love even to their enemies.

Beatrice says she is also excited for the opportunities this program has created for collaborating with other church leaders. In the future, she hopes to organize and lead a community event focusing on addressing grief work in community, especially supporting young people experiencing grief. "I feel like Redeemer is a part of me," she says. She appreciates Redeemer's "missional vision" and its drive to serve the community. "I'm very passionate about being here." And we at Redeemer would like to express our gratitude for Beatrice sharing her passion and talents to engage youth in Harrison neighborhood!

Open forum on Black identity

In celebration of Black History Month, Redeemer invites community and congregation members to participate in the Black Identity Project, a four-week community discussions series held on Wednesdays in the Living Room. The project will create a safe space for youth and young adult leaders to come together and discuss concerns, issues, celebrations, and hopes for 2016 as people of African descent within the Lutheran Church. This series, a continuation of a project created by artist/activist Farrington Llewellyn, a member of the Northside Leadership Project, is designed to combat the prevailing negative images of black young adults by allowing the members of that group—and those who love and understand them—to redefine what it means to be black and young. Discussions will revolve around video presentations and interviews, and will examine topics such as: misogyny in the Black community, media biases, "people of color only" spaces, and advice and wisdom to share with young people. We hope that this event will create opportunities for listening and learning, as well as help us create a path for change moving forward in our congregation and communities.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	February 7	February 10 Ash Wednesday	February 14	February 21	February 28
Greeter	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway
Reader	Tootie Martin	Loren Woodman	Yolanda Lehman	Chris Iverson	Nathan Johnson
Usher	Michael Simmons	Michael Simmons Tyrik Thompson	Michael Simmons Tyrik Thompson	Michael Simmons Tyrik Thompson	Michael Simmons Alexis Pennie
Communion	Michael Murray Kristi Murray Beatrice Munk			Michael Murray Lonna Field Nko	

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Vice President—Kristi Murray

Secretary — Beth Heinly-Munk

Treasurer— Alyssa Hanson

Education— Christine Belfry Johnson

Evangelism/Outreach— Babette Chatman

Fellowship— Sara Huelle & Erskine Morrison

Service/Advocacy— Heather Nissen

Property— Mike Simmons

Stewardship— Amy Brandt

Worship, Arts & Music— Mike Murray

Youth— Lonna Field, Tyrik Thompson, Mario Locust

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Venture North Bike Shop/ 612.377.3029

Casey Pavek, Shop Manager

Derek Otte, Service Manager

Kendrick Hall, Youth Programming

REDEEMER FEBRUARY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 7:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	9-12pm: Busy Fingers 3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room	6:00p.m. Black Identify Project, Living Room		3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group 11:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Breakfast Club
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9-10a.m. Adult Gathering 10:00 a.m. Worship & Praise 10:30a.m. Worship Liturgy	3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 7:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	9-12pm: Busy Fingers 3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room	7:00p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 6:00p.m. Black Identify Project, Living Room		3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group 11:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Breakfast Club
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Valentine's Day 9-10a.m. Adult Gathering 10:00 a.m. Worship & Praise 10:30a.m. Worship Liturgy	President's Day 3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 7:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	9-12pm: Busy Fingers 3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room	6:00p.m. Lenten Soup Supper 6:00p.m. Black Identify Project, Living Room	6:00p.m. H- Cubed, Venture North	3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group 11:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Breakfast Club
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9-10a.m. Adult Gathering 10:00 a.m. Worship & Praise 10:30a.m. Worship Liturgy	3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 7:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	9-12pm: Busy Fingers 3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room	6:00p.m. Lenten Soup Supper 6:00p.m. Black Identify Project, Living Room		3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group 11:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Breakfast Club
28	29					
9-10a.m. Adult Gathering 10:00 a.m. Worship & Praise 10:30a.m. Worship Liturgy 4:00p.m. PLU Alumni Event: Namibia Nine Documentary Showing	3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 7:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program					

redeemer

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IN THIS ISSUE:

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
CELEBRATION

H-CUBED SUCCESS

& 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.

