

FAITH MATTERS

A monthly publication of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota

In This Issue

Urban VBS	4
Summer Programing	5
Calendar of Events	7



FROM THE PASTOR Kelly Chatman

One of the highlights that inspires me each Sunday in worship is the time we call the “Children’s Sermon”. No, believe me it is not because it is the easiest part of the service - it is not. It is a highlight to me because when I see the children coming up at this time, it tells me it is working. The children, in the fear and apprehension, excitement and curiosity, experience that they are a part of the community of faith.

Yesterday, I was in a meeting when a colleague stated that one of the driving desires in her life is to see that her grandchildren have faith. Her statement caused me to remember similar statement I heard many years ago wishing that “our faith might have children”. However, we might say that one of our greatest desires as people of faith is to support the faith and development of the next generation. I am thankful for the many ways I have seen and continue to see this desire lived out in this faith community we call Redeemer.

If you know my wife, Cheryl, you know we do not have to look far to witness a disciple who takes serious the role of passing on faith to the next generation. While Cheryl and I never experienced the blessing of giving birth to our own children, this has not impaired Cheryl’s desire or ability to infect faith development in young people. At church, in her work as college Vice President and Dean for Diversity, Cheryl displays the commitment that her faith has children.

T. Williams is another example of this commitment. When I arrived at Redeemer, I experienced the loving care of a grandfather who faithfully brought his grandsons to church. T’s grandson Marcell was five years old and Beanie was still in diapers (maybe he still is?) T faithfully brought Marcell and Beanie to church and they have grown to become young men of faith. Though we may not have seen Marcell in church recently, I assure you that doesn’t mean the church is not in him.

Another example is Jackie Beck. Jackie was a youth who grew up in the neighborhood and became involved through the Peace Palace youth outreach. Jackie was tough as a girl growing up in a neighborhood dominated by boys. Today, Jackie is a mother two beautiful girls and is committed to giving back to children in the neighborhood. Jackie has been doing research and teaming up with another mom in the neighborhood to engage young people through the use of double-dutch exercise. Redeemer inspired in Jackie the faith to want to give back, that her faith might have children.



Redeemer staff planning for all of the youth and community activities this summer at Redeemer

COMMUNITY UPDATES



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Because of You...

I can **Smile** in my Storms

I can **Pray** in my Persecution

I can be **Gracious** in my Grief

I can **Dance** in my Depression

I can **Praise** in my Prison

I can **Sing** in my Sickness

I can **Clap** while I bear my Cross

I can **Worship** in my Weakness

Because of You, O God, who strengthens me, I can do **All** things.

What does your personal prayer life with God look like? If you could change it, would you? What are some of the things that you like about it? What are some of your desires? Would you like to build a stronger relationship with God?

In this season of Pentecost, we all witness the power of the Holy Spirit moving and allowing room for growth and new opportunities. This is a season in which many exciting things are occurring. Things like graduation, weddings, new transitions, championship games, and ceremonies. The Holy Spirit moves in miraculous ways during these times, inviting God into the midst of it all.

This is a bittersweet time for me in my Pastoral Internship at Redeemer Lutheran Church. I will be transitioning back to Chicago to complete my Senior year of my Master of Divinity program in pursuit of ordination in the ELCA. My last day at Redeemer will be on Sunday, July 24th.

I have had the privilege to embrace new opportunities within the state of Minnesota and to learn from a unique culture such as Redeemer. This community has allowed me to develop my leadership skills and take risk in attempt to effectively build the Kingdom of God. I have witnessed the Holy Spirit move in a plethora of ways. Powerful things from the occupation of the 4th Precinct, to witnessing 5 members being admitted into Luther Seminary in the Fall, to H-Cubed (Harrison, Healing, and Harmony) grow from 46 disciples to 149 disciples in only six months, to testing 18 individuals in the Harrison Community for HIV, to having 14 bold men host a prayer breakfast on a Saturday, to doing college career readiness programs with 30 inner city at-risk youth males through the Minneapolis College Prep system. God has allowed for my gifts, time, and talents to not only foster but to be a catalyst for the overall mission of the congregation.

I often look back over my last 10 months and smile. Coming from the Southside of Chicago to the Northside of Minneapolis was a significant milestone in my life. Minnesota is now the 3th Midwest state that I have lived in within 7 years. I never would have imaged God calling me to do ministry in this state. I looked over my first few *Faith Matters* articles and noticed doubt, anxiety, and levels of fear in my writing. I also noticed hope, desire, and a hunger to continue in building God's Kingdom. This was a challenging year for me, as I have talked about race and my call to ministry as a young black male more in the Minneapolis Area Synod than anywhere else in my 25 years on God's green Earth.

(continued on page 3)

ARTICLES & NEWS

From the Intern continued

In the poem at the beginning of my article, you can notice a strong pattern. As you read line by line, you will notice a prolific paradigm where God is turning pain into praise. God is the common denominator that helps during these transitions. When I was lost, God helped me become found. When I had doubt, God helped me to gain blessed assurance. When I dealt with microaggressions, God allowed me to see it as ministry. When I faced countless challenges, God let me see them as necessary changes. When I saw victims in North Minneapolis, God said that I would be given the strength to help them on over to victory. When I felt that I wasn't good enough to fit into special cliques like the Ivy League, God secured my faith and strength to continue His work in the Urban League. When I felt as if I was in a constant state of Good Friday, God fulfilled His ultimate promise and carried me through to see a Resurrection Sunday. God's grace and mercy have been fleshed out and covering the entire Redeemer Community through thick and thin during my time here. I am blessed to have served this community to the best of my ability. As I transition to the next path that God has in store for me, I will look back on my experiences this year and remember how God used me and what I have learned. I know that God has a call on everyone's life and allows for the Holy Spirit to work in a variety of ways. As I go into these final two months, I see a strong vision for our congregation: Powerful people persistently perpetuating positive paradigms per population.

Grace & Peace!

From the Pastor continued

This brief article is about more than how great T, Cheryl and Jackie are, or even the result that Marcell and Beanie have grown to become faithful and talented young adults. Redeemer and partners compose a faith community rooted in the desire that faith might have children. Whether in worship, in homes, bike shop, marching for Black Lives Matter, college campus or on a basketball court, we pass on that faith that someone instilled in us. One of the things I appreciate about Redeemer is over the years this congregation has had a 'whatever is necessary' approach to ministry. When the youth outside our walls spoke hip hop, we incorporated the language of hip hop. David Scherer and Intern Steve Jerbi had the children translate their favorite bible verse into hip hop. When congregation leaders noticed that a squirrely preadolescent youth had a gift for technology, they put him in charge of the sound system.

I don't know if the question is "will our faith have children" or "will our children have faith"? If the result is a Beanie or a Marcell, a beautiful and diverse assembly of children at the Children's Sermon, training more than twelve pastoral interns, fourteen Lutheran Volunteers, fifteen Northside Leaders living in intentional community and employment for twenty-six high school youth last summer.

Will your children have faith or will faith have children? What do you think?

H-Cubed (Healing, Harmony, Harrison) Open Mic

The next H-Cubed will take place on Friday, June 17, 2016 at Venture North Bike Shop with the theme "JUNETEENTH". The featured artist will be The Jones Sisters from American Idol. The featured visual artist will Felix Hampton Brown. The event is free and open to the public. Please come out and show your support!



ARTICLES & NEWS

Urban VBS & Redeemer VBS - Updated Information!

This month, Redeemer youth are invited to engage with theological themes through fun activities during two Vacation Bible Schools! On June 14-15, middle and high school youth will stay overnight in dormitories and engage in activities that allow them to explore and experience life on a college campus during Urban VBS at Augsburg College. The theme for this year's VBS is "#RealTalk: Rebirth, Redeem, Release," focusing on how young people can live out the "Great Commission" found in Matthew 28 and examining the ways that we are made disciples by God's redeeming love.

Redeemer will also be hosting a Vacation Bible School for children ages 4-10 on June 16, 17, & 18. This 3-day daytime program will run from 1-4pm and will use music, visual art, story and games to engage our youngest members in big questions about what it means to follow Jesus. Parents of participants are asked to volunteer one day or provide one meal during the week. Registration forms are available in the church office and must be returned by Sunday, June 12. If you are interested in registering your child or you have any questions about the program, please contact Helen at helen@redeemercenter.org or 612-374-4139.

"Change Matters" at Venture North



This June, when you shop at Wedge Community Co-op, you can round up your total at check-out to benefit Venture North Bike & Coffee Shop. Customers may also donate a larger dollar amount by asking the cashier to add it to their total. All donations appear on

the itemized receipt and are tax-deductible. Your change will help Venture North to continue to offer quality programs like Earn-a-Bike and further our mission to build leadership and community around biking in North Minneapolis. You can also see our mechanics doing safety tune-ups and sharing information about Venture North programs in the parking lot of the Wedge later this month. Please spread the word to family and friends about this exciting opportunity. For more information about the Wedge and Change Matters, go to www.wedge.coop/community/change-matters.

Summer Camp Meals Needed

This **summer** we are excited for all the opportunities to engage with our young people, and we want to invite you to be apart of it!

Please visit the link below where you will find out more of ways to share your **time, talent, and treasures** with our **Vacation Bible School at Augsburg and Summer Camp**.

<http://goo.gl/forms/gycOce5ebP>

If you have any questions, please follow up with Alison - alison@redeemercenter.org.

Thank you for all the ways you continue to support our youth!

Angela, Alison, Alexis, Trai & Imani

ARTICLES & NEWS

Digging the Redeemer Gardening Club!

Gardeners and community members alike are invited to participate in the new Garden Club this season! The group will gather at the Redeemer Community Garden Sundays 1-3pm and Mondays 4-6pm to get to know each other and participate in activities like planting, weeding, cooking and preserving food. Please bring a snack to share! Whether you're a seasoned gardener or you're just learning to grow food, all are welcome, especially if you like playing in the dirt! Please contact Alison at alison@redeemercenter.org or 612-377-4476 for more information.

Remember Redeemer this Summer!!!

“One thing about Minnesotans you have to realize, Steve is that when the summer comes they take every advantage to be outside, because the winters can be so harsh... and the summers can be so short.” A friend of mine shared that wisdom with me 20 years ago, when he thought about the place he calls home. I reflect on it now and my first full summer back in Minnesota in many years.

Every church I've been a part of since becoming ordained into the ELCA in 1998, (including the one I'm now serving) has worried about the attendance dropping, and the summer giving *or the lack thereof*.

The bills keep coming and have to be paid. But more importantly the ministry keeps happening (as you would want it to). Would you think about that this summer, wherever you are? Think about the amazing ministry that happens through Redeemer, and how we “pastor” the neighborhood in countless ways.

You are an active part of that amazing ministry when you give of your time and efforts, your prayer and your resources. A couple of weeks ago, I got a new job, an interim pastoral call in Rogers, MN. As a way of saying thank you to God, I'm committing to increasing my giving at Redeemer and keeping it strong throughout the summer. I invite you to please join me.

Oh, and I have another agenda in writing this: I want our leaders to be surprised by our giving. I want this to be one of the best summers for giving on record. And deep down, I want our leaders to be more focused on the vision God is giving them, than worried about the budget and making ends meet.

I'll be thinking of you this summer and praying too. Wherever you are, I hope and pray this finds you blessed.

Remember Redeemer this Summer!!!

Your brother and partner in Christ,
Steve Pannkuk, member of Stewardship team



“Friday Fire” Fish Bake and Fundraiser in honor of Fathers!

This month's Friday Fire at the community oven will take place on June 17. In honor of Father's Day and in celebration of all of the new graduates, we will be baking fish caught and donated by community and congregation members! All participants are asked to make a donation of \$5 to support continuing oven events this summer. A group will be fishing during the first two weekends of June to prepare for the event. If you are interested in providing fish for the meal, please contact Helen at helen@redeemercenter.org or 612-374-4139. Come out to celebrate with your neighbors!

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
Greeter	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway
Reader	Rachel Birkedal	Alyssa Hanson	Chris Iverson	Stuart Munk
Usher	Michael Simmons Nellie Moses	Michael Simmons Tyrik Thompson	Tyrik Thompson Michael Simmons	Michael Simmons
Communion	Michael Murray Kristi Murray		Michael Murray Lonna Field	

LEADERSHIP & CONTACT

REDEEMER STAFF

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612.374.4139 x23/ angela@redeermpls.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

Babette Chatman — Director of Properties and Housing/
612.374.4139x16

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Helen Collins — Communications Program Staff/ 612.377.4476

Katherine Parent — Arts and Community Outreach/ 612.377.4476

Venture North Bike Shop/ 612.377.3029

Casey Pavek, Shop Manager

Derek Otte, Service Manager

Kendrick Hall, Assistant Manager

REDEEMER JUNE CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
		9-12pm: Busy Fingers 3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room		6:00-7:00p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room 6:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group 11:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Breakfast Club
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9-10a.m. Adult Gathering 10:00 a.m. Worship & Praise 10:30a.m. Worship Liturgy	3:00-6:00p.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		6:00-7:00p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room 6:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group 11:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Breakfast Club
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9-10a.m. Adult Gathering 10:00 a.m. Worship & Praise 10:30a.m. Worship Liturgy	3:00-6:00p.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		6:00-7:00p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room 6:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group 11:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Breakfast Club
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9-10a.m. Adult Gathering 10:00 a.m. Worship & Praise 10:30a.m. Worship Liturgy	3:00-6:00p.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		6:00-7:00p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room 6:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group 11:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Breakfast Club
26	27	28	29	30		
9-10a.m. Adult Gathering 10:00 a.m. Worship & Praise 10:30a.m. Worship Liturgy	3:00-6:00p.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		6:00-7:00p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall		

redeemer

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IN THIS ISSUE:

VBS OPPORTUNITIES
SUMMER ACTIVITIES

& 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.

