

FAITH MATTERS

A monthly publication of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Artist In-Residence, Katherine Parent, created live art H-Cubed on Earth Day. The painting included community members performing at H-Cubed



FROM THE PASTOR Kelly Chatman

For every caterpillar, the time comes when the urge to eat and grow subsides and it begins instinctively to form a cocoon around itself. The cocoon hardens and you'd think for the entire world that the caterpillar is dead.

But one spring morning, the life inside the chrysalis begins to take shape, the top cracks open, and a beautifully-formed butterfly emerges. For hours, it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down, up and down. And then, before you know it, the butterfly breaks out, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, floating onto flower after gorgeous flower, as if to show off its vivid colors to the bright blossoms. Somehow, the miracle of the butterfly never loses its fascination. The butterfly reminds us of the promise of resurrection. In many ways, Redeemer is also a resurrection story about how God continues to invite us to come out from those places where we find ourselves closed in. The resurrection story for us is the story of how God never gives up on us and as people of faith, we are rooted in God's story to never give up.

Last weekend, the church was filled with activity. On Friday, the bike shop hosted another wonderful open mic night, known as H-Cubed, where more than a 140 people gathered. On Saturday, upstairs in the church building, partners from Immanuel in Eden Prairie held a daylong retreat. In the library, men had their weekly meeting and in the Living Room, the leadership team was gathered for the upcoming residency of the Carnival de Resistance in September. Along the avenue, Heather Nissen led a team of volunteers pulling weeds while Katherine Parent provided instruction at the community bread oven. I imagine that in addition to the work being done around the church, people were also busy at work, at home and around the neighborhoods as well.

The goal for each Sunday when we gather is to give birth to a myriad of activity. Worship inspires us to imagine ourselves giving birth to church where we give ourselves away to make a difference in the world. The church is truly like a cocoon.

Jesus resurrection from the dead opens to us a new world of possibilities. As we break out of our cocoons, the reality of Jesus resurrection liberates and inspires us to experience beloved community.

COMMUNITY UPDATES



FROM THE INTERN **Louis Tillman**

“But, as it is written,
“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”
-1 Corinthians 2:9-

This year is flying by! There were times where I thought that I would blink and felt as if I missed a few days. The Lord has blessed Redeemer in an immense amount of ways throughout this year. However, I still look at the future and wonder about fear. The fear of the unknown. The fear of what may or may not come our way. The fear of decisions that will take place in the near future. The fear of taking those steps of faith in the direction if which the spirit is leading us. What is this fear? What are the emotions driving us to have fear in our decisions? Why does fear sometimes take over our minds, bodies, and souls when we are battling life’s everyday demands?

I would like to propose that fear is nothing other than **False Evidence Absent of Reality**. When I was in High School growing up in Atlanta, Ga I always had excited about what new chapters God was going to write in my book. I always felt that God was leading me to higher aspirations and training me to understand why my community had great expectations of me to come back and build. This excitement would often mix with anxiety and produce fear upon my pathway.

I’ve often sensed that God helps to deliver us from fear. Many times he have fear of what we may become or obstacle that we may overturn. There’s certainly a fear of failure but also a strong fear of success. How can we overcome our fears? How can we turn fear into cheer? How can provide hope and sustainability in those times in which we do have fear? Where do we sense the presence of God in those times of fear?

As we enter into this season of Pentecost, this is particularly a duration in our lives where a plethora amount of changes can occur. Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. From a historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started. Pentecost is the church’s birthday. Pentecost is also the longest liturgical season of the year, with 33 weeks of celebration.

In this upcoming season of Pentecost, I feel that God will continue to cultivate the soil in which Redeemer works and continues to grow on. I feel that the Harrison Neighborhood will go through many changes that may feel uncomfortable, but will overall be for the greater beneficence of the Northside of Minneapolis. Redeemer is always going to be a beacon of hope in the Harrison Neighborhood, and God will continue to challenge and love our church every step of the way. When we keep the faith the evidence is surely to follow.

God is asking us to simply come out of fear to simply build the kingdom. The phrase “Do not be afraid” is written 365 times in the Bible for a reason. God is giving us a simple command each and every day. I pray that as a community of faith that we may continue to uplift one another to grow and serve as disciples of God. In a time like this, where black lives seem to not matter in cases of police brutality and systemic issues of racial oppression, it can tend to make us want to lose our faith and develop fear. In times like this, it can be helpful to look into how we can build the kingdom and show others how that hard work will provide for others who sew in the kingdom. I’m a firm believer of what 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, when it states “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.” None of us on God’s green Earth can predict or even image what is in store for the common good of the overall creation. Only God can take our test and turn them into testimonies of power and triumph. And when we decide to unite and work together to create kingdom building paradigms all over our community and synod, then we can sense what the kingdom of God would feel and look like. For in 1 Corinthians 4:20 it is says “For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God’s power.” I pray that we face our fears and take actions as we move forward, allowing the grace and mercy of God to protect us every step of the way as we move forward in building God’s kingdom and God’s church for humanity.

ARTICLES & NEWS

Urban VBS & Redeemer VBS

Redeemer youth are invited to engage with theological themes through fun activities during two Vacation Bible Schools this summer. Young people who have completed grades 4 - 8 are encouraged to apply to participate in the Urban VBS at Augsburg College from Tuesday, June 14 to Wednesday, June 15. Participants stay overnight in college dormitories and engage in activities that allow them to explore and experience life on a college campus. High school youth plan and lead activities that encourage younger youth to think about God's plan for their lives. If you are interested in registering for Urban VBS, please fill-out a registration form and return it to the Babette or Alison in the church office by Sunday, May 22nd.

Redeemer will be hosting a Vacation Bible School for children ages 4-10 on June 8, 9, & 10. This 3-day daytime program will run from 10am-1pm and will use music, visual art and story to engage our youngest members in big questions. Parents of participants are asked to volunteer one day or provide one meal during the week. If you are interested in registering your child, or if you would like to volunteer your time for this fun program, please contact Helen at helen@redeemercenter.org or 612-374-4139.



Dear my Redeemer Family!

It is with great excitement that I announce that I am engaged to God's blessing and miracle, Orsuré Francis (soon to be Francis-Siburg). We are getting married September 10, 2016, at my childhood home church of First Lutheran Church, in Poulsbo, Washington. Orsuré currently lives south of Seattle and as such, I feel I am being called to

move back to the Seattle area. I have been truly blessed to call Redeemer my home the past several years, and ever so blessed to be on staff this past year. God works miracles – I was healed when I didn't know I needed healing. You all are my family, and I can't express how much I am going to miss Redeemer. You all have equipped me for many roads ahead. I love you all so incredibly much!! (Also, for those who haven't seen my haircut, the image on the left is of my head a lot lighter!)

My last day on staff with Redeemer will be Tuesday, May 31st, and I will move back to WA shortly thereafter.

Peace, Love, & Blessings

Your brother in Christ,

Thomas Siburg (soon to be Francis-Siburg)

Collaborative Northside Youth Ministry Kick-off - Angela Bonfiglio

Over the past three years, the Northside Churches (Redeemer, River of Life, Salem and Christ English) have been dreaming of what it would be like to do ministry together. This past year we began to actually try to do some ministry together. We had some successes in trying out High School and Middle School youth ministry in attempt to do more together.

For example, on April 15, we attended Moonlight Madness with 22 6th-9th graders, 13 of which have never participated in a collaborative ministry event this year.

On May 10th from 6 to 8pm, we will gather as churches to begin to build relationships, leadership, imagination and vision for the 2016-2017 school year together. I am recruiting pastors, lay leaders, council leaders, parish council leaders, parents and youth to join us for this experience. Please let me know if you will be able to make it and if you have any food allergies by May 4th. Contact me at angela@redeemermpls.org.

ARTICLES & NEWS

H-Cubed in May

H-Cubed (Harrison, Healing, Harmony) Open Mic will be taking place on Friday, May 27th, 6-9pm at Venture North Bike & Coffee Shop. This month's theme will be "Where do we go from here?" in honor of this year's graduates. The featured artist will be Dave Scherer aka Agape and Pacha Galaviz will be the featured visual artist. Visit the shop during the week before the event to sign up to perform. Free food and refreshments will be provided. Come join a fun, family-friendly open mic community space where we will share art, poetry, music, and conversation around issues impacting the Harrison Neighborhood in North Minneapolis. For more information, please visit and like the H-Cubed page on Facebook!

Free, Confidential HIV Testing

Guess What?

Redeemer Center for Life is hosting a day of free and confidential HIV testing. The Aliveness Project and the Health Commons are joining forces to bring this incredible service to the community on May 10th, 1-7pm.

Why Get Tested?

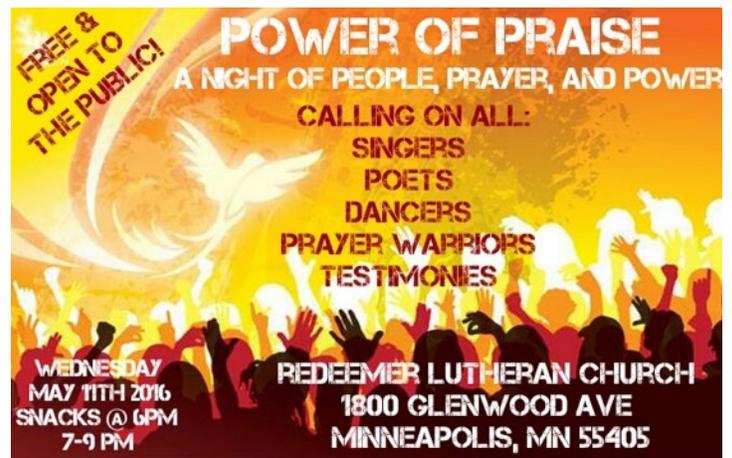
North Minneapolis has the highest concentration of people who are HIV positive in the state of Minnesota.

Why Get Tested Now?

It's better to know. It's normal to feel worried about HIV. But why let yourself fear the unknown? Testing early for HIV can help put your mind at ease and reduce the anxiety of not knowing.

How Do I Get Tested?

Testing will be on a walk-in basis and take place in the Redeemer Center for Life office, 350 Logan Ave. N Suite #201. Just ring the buzzer for #201 at the door of the building to be let in. Volunteers will be present with signs to help participants find their way. Food and seating will be available in the waiting room. You do NOT need insurance to be tested. Whether your result is negative, or positive, it's always better to know so that you can move on with your life, or start treatment if necessary. And remember, your result may not be what you expect. So come out and get tested on May 10th!



Calling all cycle enthusiasts and folks that are eager to get back on the saddle!

Join us throughout the summer for our #SundayFundayRides starting at Venture North Bike and Coffee Shop, located 1830 Glenwood Ave North in Minneapolis.

Venture North and the North Minneapolis Bicycle Advocacy Council will host relaxed-paced, family fun rides with friends every Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

Meet at Venture North Bike & Coffee at 3:00PM. Ride out at 3:15 PM. Hope to see you all there!

For more info, please contact Alexis Pennie at [612-998-2382](tel:612-998-2382), or email at alexispennie@gmail.com or alexis@redeemercenter.org

ARTICLES & NEWS

Friday Fire in May!

The next Friday Fire pizza event at the Community Bread Oven will take place on May 20, 6-8pm. If you would like a tutorial on how to safely light the oven or would like to volunteer to help make pizza dough, contact Helen at 612-374-4139 or helen@redeemercenter.org. We hope you will come out to share pizza with your neighbors!

Digging the Redeemer Gardening Club!

Community gardeners at the Redeemer Community Garden met for the first time this season on Sunday, April 17th to talk about ideas for planting and harvesting this year. Some really fun and interesting ideas came out of this get together and all agreed that gardening is more fun when you work together with others. This summer, gardeners and community members are invited to meet weekly to plant, weed, imagine and get to know each other. The Gardening Club will begin meeting on Sunday afternoons after church, with additional times on weather and availability. 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! Contact Alison at alison@redeemercenter.org for more info.

Redeemer Fashionistas Fashion Show



On Sunday, April 24 The Redeemer Fashionistas hosted a fashion show during fellowship hour. The group of girls and their families helped serve a meal, then showed off the clothes and products that they made throughout the school year. They were very excited to model, sing and dance while showing off their hard-work.



MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Greeter	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway	Stephanie Holloway
Reader	Alyssa Hanson	Sarah Kretzmann	Nathan Johnson	Rachel Birkedal	Loren Woodman
Usher	Michael Simmons Nellie Moses	Michael Simmons Tyrik Thompson	Tyrik Thompson Michael Simmons	Michael Simmons	Michael Simmons
Communion	Michael Murray Kristi Murray		Michael Murray Lonna Field		

LEADERSHIP & CONTACT

REDEEMER STAFF

Kelly Chatman — Senior Pastor

612.374.4139 x 13/ 651.490.0888(h)/

pastor@redeermpls.org

Sarah Stadie — Office Administrator/Communications

612.374.4139/ admin@redeermpls.org

Helen Collins — Program Staff/ Communications

612.374.4139 x24/ helen@redeemercenter.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

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

Laurie Beckman Yetzer — Financial Director/ 612.377.4476

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 MAY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		9-12pm: Busy Fingers 3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room		6:00-7:00p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall	3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room 6:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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 1:00-7:00p.m. HIV Testing, RCFL Offices 3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room	Power of Praise: 6:00p.m. Snacks 7:00-9:00p.m. Service	8:30a.m.-5:00p.m. Adult Mental Health First Aid Training 6:00-7:00p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall	3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room 6:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	8:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Amazing gRace 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Daylight Savings 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		6:00-7:00p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall	3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room 6:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program 6:00-8:00p.m. Oven Firing Event	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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		6:00-7:00p.m. Zumba, Fellowship Hall	3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room 6:00-7:00p.m. Yoga, Living Room 6:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Men's Group
29	30	31				
9-10a.m. Adult Gathering 10:00 a.m. Worship & Praise 10:30a.m. Worship Liturgy	Memorial Day: Offices Closed 7:00p.m. Open 12 Step Program	9-12pm: Busy Fingers 3:00-7:00p.m. Harrison Health Commons, Living Room				
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redeemer

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1800 Glenwood Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Phone: 612-374-4139

Fax: 612-374-4312

E-mail: redemermpls@gmail.com

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IN THIS ISSUE:

VBS REGISTRATION

FASHIONISTAS FASHION SHOW

COMMUNITY GARDEN

& 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.

