



## from pastor Kelly Chatman //

*"To his friend and follower, Philip, Jesus says, "Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?" John 6:1-14*

To those followers of Jesus this must have seemed like an impossible task, don't you think?

A pastor was making a home visit to one of the younger families in the neighborhood surrounding the congregation. A five-year-old boy answered the front door and told the pastor his mother would be there shortly. To make conversation, the pastor asked the little boy what he would like to be when he grows up. The boy immediately answered, "I'd like to be possible." "What do you mean by that?" the puzzled pastor asked. "Well, you see," the boy replied, "just about every day my mother tells me I'm impossible!"

Last month, realizing that many from our congregation planned to attend the March for Our Lives, our office administrator Amy suggested that we rent a bus to take us to and from the capitol. My response was that this was not possible – how would we afford such an arrangement? But we researched the cost and decided to make the impossible possible. The result was a bus full of people whom Babette sent off with a wonderful prayer, and an opportunity to participate in March for Our Lives *and* share the spirit of community throughout the day. Every day at Redeemer, in our homes, and in the places where we work, study, and play, we are to be God's Easter people who dare to make the impossible possible.

I find it inspiring to witness young people from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL who, rather than being defined by tragedy, model what it can look like to make the impossible possible. One of my favorite speakers from the podium in Washington, DC was the youth who was so nervous she "lost her lunch" at the beginning of her speech. She regained her composure and inspired us all.

When is the last time you were so nervous or scared that you lost your lunch? When was the last time that in spite of fear, you said or did what you needed to anyway?

This is the message of Easter: God did it anyway. God made the impossible possible. God came back from the dead. Easter calls us to be bold in making impossible things possible. Where others see division, separation, and segregation, we see opportunity for hope and restoration. To be God's Easter people is to see rejected and stigmatized people as opportunities to make the impossible possible.

There might seem to be a lot of things that are impossible in our lives these days. We might have difficult tasks ahead of us in our work and personal lives. With all we have been hearing and reading about Facebook, rigged elections, and in the political world, or even as we look out on our weary world today, you may be prompted to ask, "Who is going to accomplish all the things that seem so impossible in our

# from vicar Matt Canniff-Kesecker //

**Blessed to be a Witness** // The empty tomb of Easter illuminates the central truth of our faith: God's grace is a free gift to us. There is nothing we have done to deserve it, nothing we *can* do to earn it. We didn't even ask for it. But God loves us and that's that.

The disciples learned this truth on Easter morning, when they were grief-stricken and hidden away and suddenly the women burst in to proclaim the impossible: Christ is risen! We experience this truth in the community of church, when we come as we are, saints but still sinners, and receive grace upon grace from worship, from relationships, and from service with others.

I was taught this truth again on March 21, the second day of spring, when my family experienced the miracle of new life in the coming of our daughter Ada Jane. It is a profound experience to spend a day in a hospital delivery room doing *nothing*. Sure, I tried to be supportive and keep Aubrey company, holding her hand when pain came and providing small comforts where I could. But I pretty much had no job on that day. I couldn't *do* anything to make the baby come, or to take away the pain my wife was experiencing. And I certainly didn't do anything to deserve the privilege of being present in those indescribably holy moments, or to deserve the beautiful, healthy baby girl we received. She is a gift. She isn't something I did, she is something that happened to me, by God's grace.



Musician Ben Harper sings, "I am blessed to be a witness," and his words were in my head when my daughter was born. I had no job on that day except to witness a miracle. That's what the women at the tomb and the disciples did on Easter morning. That's what we do when we gather as the community of the church. That is our only job as Christians in the world, to witness to God's undeserved gift of grace and daily miracles we receive in Christ. His mercies are made new each morning. I could go on, but these pictures of our little miracle will say this far better than I can. We are blessed to be witnesses of God's love for us. Happy Easter to you all!



# March for Our Lives

On Saturday, March 24th, Redeemer gathered a group of nearly 50 congregants and community members of all ages who piled onto a bus and rode to the state capitol to join nearly 18,000 Minnesotans and millions more across the nation in the March for Our Lives.

Despite the blistering cold, we were encouraged and inspired by the young speakers from the Twin Cities and from Parkland, FL, who shared their own harrowing stories of how gun violence has impacted their lives in myriad scenarios from street violence to school shootings.

As a church living out the mission of God in an urban area wracked with gun violence, Redeemer uniquely understands that the scourge of gun violence goes deeper and farther than highly publicized mass shootings. It is the daily lived reality of so many of our neighbors and school children, a reality we are committed to changing. The March for Our Lives is one piece in a movement for whole, healthy, equitable living. Through our work with Redeemer Center for Life and with our church partners, we are empowering our community to break cycles of violence and poverty, and write new stories for themselves and their families.



Photos courtesy of Sara Huelle



## in review & coming soon //



At **March's H-Cubed** Season of Renewal event, Powerhouse singer-songwriter Mayyada brought to the stage her unparalleled blend of soulful folk rock at The Living Room, and charmed us with odes

to Minneapolis and to the power of being a black woman in the modern age.



**Easter at Redeemer** was a wonderful celebration despite the snow! Congregants gathered in the vestibule at 7am for Easter Sunrise worship, and the men of Redeemer prepared and served a wonderful breakfast afterward. And our 10am worship service was full to the brim of neighbors and congregants celebrating Christ's resurrection, Eli Koopman's baptism, and Easter communion!

On March 25th, **Redeemer's Youth** went as a group to enjoy a community musical at North High school, returning afterward to Redeemer to do "minute to win it" games and indoor dodgeball, and closed the day serving up smoothies and ice cream floats!



More youth events are coming soon – Stay tuned!

### **COMING IN MAY // PROPHETIC: Amplifying Queer & Colorful Voices with Jennifer Knapp**

Redeemer, in partnership with Grace Northeast, Westwood, Edina Community and St. Michael's Lutheran Churches & Reconciling Works, is proud to present **PROPHETIC 2018: Amplifying Queer & Colorful Voices.**

We invite you to join us **May 18-19, 2018** us for three main events Friday night and Saturday featuring renowned Queer Christian singer-songwriter & activist Jennifer Knapp, Pastor Jen Nagel, acoustic soul/ punk singer-songwriter Taylor Seaberg, Spoken Word Poet Jibreel Khumas, and more as we explore through art & community what it means for Redeemer to live fully and faithfully at the intersections of Racial and LGBTQIA+ justice and equity.

Think of this as Redeemer's official "coming out" as a LGBTQIA-affirming congregation. Learn more at [redeemermpls.org/prophetic2018](http://redeemermpls.org/prophetic2018)



# church updates //

**financial update from Mike Tarras //** *"By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you."* 2 Tim 1:14 ESV

Following the flurry of activity to end 2017 and all the business that needs to take place to close out the year in full, including the current tax season, we have been very busy even though you haven't heard from us in over a month. We are also back to being two months behind on reporting due to the business of officially closing out a month. So we have information on January for you now.

The good news is that we have engaged with Bremer Bank to discuss the terms of our current loan who now have all the information that they need from us, and we had a very strong start to the year with both regular and partner giving up. This means we had two months in a row in the black. A great way to start 2018 which we hope to keep going!

One additional technical note: The average monthly tithes and average monthly partner giving are now going to be averaged over the last 12 calendar months.

As always, if you have any feedback or questions, you can contact me via phone: 612.231.8323 or email: [mtarras@gmail.com](mailto:mtarras@gmail.com)

giving update //	actual:	budgeted:
revenue	\$50,902.20	\$49,902.60
expenses	\$36,721.40	\$41,410.60
monthly tithes	\$16,711.98	\$15,300.00
monthly partner giving	\$2,675.07	\$17,250.00

## executive council members //

president: Jeff Felton  
 vice president: Sarah Stadie  
 secretary: Rachel Birkedal  
 treasurer: Mike Terras

## council members //

Helen Collins (education), Geoff Meyer (evangelism + outreach), Siri Fiebiger (service + advocacy), Stuart Munk (Property), Linnae Nelson-Seys (stewardship), Paul Koopman (worship, arts, & music), Cora Iverson (youth)

## church staff //

<b>senior pastor</b>	Kelly Chatman
<b>associate pastor</b>	Babette Chatman
<b>pastoral intern</b>	Matt Canniff-Keseckeer
<b>office administrator &amp; communications</b>	Amy Koopman
<b>bookkeeper</b>	Laurie Beckman Yetzer
<b>music ministry</b>	Kent Goodroad Alyssa Schwitzer Traiveon Dunlap Emander Deward
<b>sunday school coordinator</b>	Helen Collins
<b>children and youth</b>	Seth Wynands Romario Smith
<b>lutheran volunteer corps</b>	Bitta Gordon
<b>maintenance staff</b>	Tyrone Wade

## every week at redeemer //

<b>sun //</b>	<b>prayer+praise</b> 10am / sanctuary	<b>worship+liturgy</b> 1020am / sanctuary	
<b>mon //</b>	<b>health commons @ the living room /</b> 3-6pm	<b>narcotics anonymous</b> 6pm / fellowship hall	
<b>tue //</b>	<b>busy fingers crafting fellowship</b> 9am-12pm / sewing room	<b>health commons @ the living room /</b> 3-6pm	
<b>wed //</b>	<b>\$1 coffee @ venture north</b> 11am-7pm		
<b>thu //</b>	<b>zumba / 6-7pm</b> living room		
<b>fri //</b>	<b>church office closes /</b> 12pm	<b>health commons yoga / 6-7pm</b> living room	<b>narcotics anonymous</b> 6pm / fellowship hall
<b>sat //</b>	<b>men's group</b> 10am-12pm / upstairs		

# redeemer

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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#### JOIN US SUNDAYS:

Prayers & Praise:  
10am

Worship: 10:30am

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday: 9am-4pm

Friday: 9am-12pm