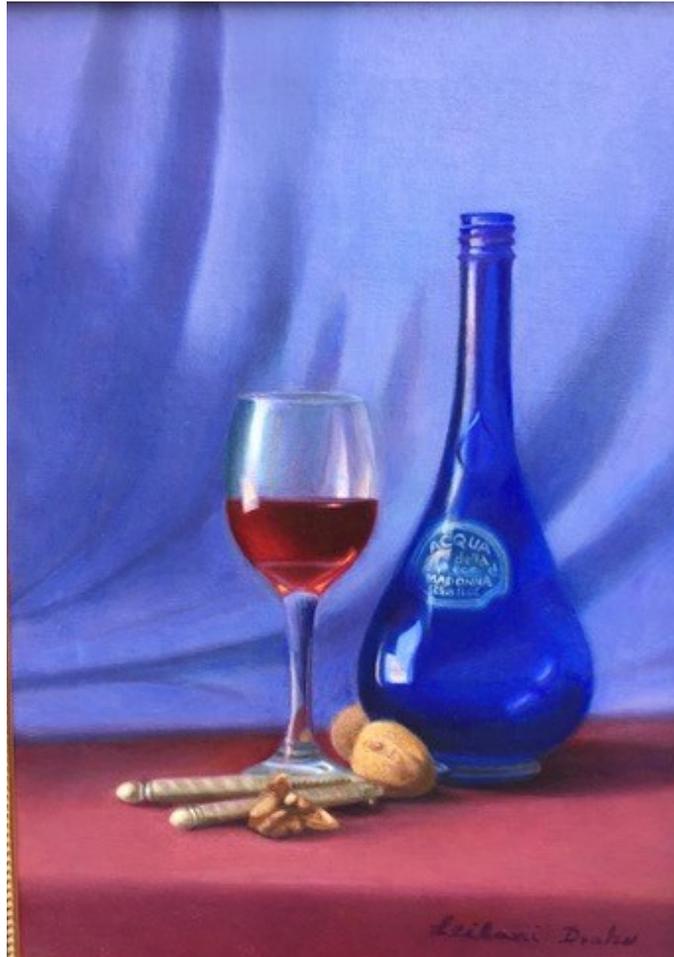


# THE REDEEMER RECORD

Vol. 113, No. 8

September, 2018



**"Water and Wine" John 2: 1-11**

Painted by Leilani Drake

## **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**

**Rev. James Erlandson, Pastor**

285 North Dale Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

651-227-8295

[www.redeemerstpaul.org](http://www.redeemerstpaul.org)

Tahnea Brown, Office Manager

Isaac C. Lovdahl, Music Director

Katie Thompson, Organist

## A Letter From Pastor Erlandson

Dear Friends in Christ,

We all know in life that friends and loved ones, fellow students and people that we work with come and go. We meet new friends in school, then move on to a new school. The same happens with people we work with, and friends and neighbors. They last for a time, and then we say good-bye. So we must treasure the time we have with those people and friends. With family, it is different - those bonds are for a lifetime, but even then there are times when we must say goodbye. Only with God is our relationship eternal - never-ending, because God's love is infinite and unconditional. And Jesus has promised to be with us, to the end of the age.

Earlier this year we said farewell and Godspeed to our Music Director, Jon Campbell. And now, this September, we will say farewell and Godspeed to our organist and friend *Katie Thompson* - who has been with us for FIFTEEN years - serving first as choir accompanist in the Fall of 2003, then more recently as Redeemer's organist. Katie's daytime vocation for the Hennepin County Court system has increased in responsibilities and workload, so she is stepping back from the weekly music responsibilities she has had at Redeemer for all these years.

**Katie's final Sunday will be September 23.** We are thankful for the gifts and cheerful professionalism she has brought to the organ, accompanying on piano, singing, assisting with handbells, or playing accordion in worship and congregation fellowship events. She will be greatly missed!

Katie has brought to Redeemer more than her professional and musical skills. She has brought her ready smile and sense of humor - making the choir laugh with her puns and jokes at choir rehearsal. Katie has volunteered her artistic skills in preparing the colorful mural at our parking lot/office entrance, which captures the seasons, the church, community and its people - and graciously invited children and adults from Redeemer to help paint "within the lines". Katie has also been very willing and accommodating to assist in special community worship services - whether for fundraisers for sanctuary families, or prayers for peace and justice.

Personally, I have greatly appreciated Katie's friendship and her willingness to bring her accordion to musical events I have "dreamed up" over the years - from our Sunday Celebrations, the 60 Something Band, or Beer and Hymns at Reformation time. Please join me and the choir on **Sunday, September 23 at 10 am** to say Farewell and Godspeed to Katie, and to celebrate her music ministry with us in a reception honoring her following worship.

Peace in Christ,

*Pastor Jim*

*On Sunday, September 9 we welcome Isaac Lovdahl as Director of Music and Choir Director at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Read more about Isaac elsewhere in the Redeemer Record.*



**From choir accompanist to organist and so much more, we are thankful for Katie Thompson and her FIFTEEN years of service here at Redeemer!**

**Join us September 23rd following worship to celebrate Katie's service here at Redeemer.**



# September Calendar

<u>Recurring Weekly Events</u>		
Sun.	10:00 am ~	Worship
	11:15 am ~	Coffee Fellowship
	12:00 pm ~	Universal Life Church of God
	12:00 pm ~	Praise Covenant Church
Wed.	7:00 pm ~	Choir Rehearsal
	8:00 pm ~	Courage to Change N.A.
Fri.	8:00 pm ~	Words into Action N.A.
Sat.	8:00 am ~	Siloé Church
<u>Other Events</u>		
4th	6:00pm	Elders Meeting
8th	10:00am	ISAIAH Housing Meeting
<b>9th</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday</b>
11th	7:00pm	Vestry Meeting
13th	6:30pm	Sanctuary Network Meeting
22nd		A.A. Intergroup Ice Cream Social
<b>23rd</b>	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Farewell &amp; Godspeed for KT Thompson</b>

## ADULT FORUM

Sept. 2, 2018 No Adult Forum

Sept. 9, 2018 11:30 A. M. **"God's Work-Our Hands"** Picnic at Dale Street Place With Our Neighbors.

Sept 16, 2018 11:30 A. M. **Isaiah Core Team Report presented by Isaiah core team members.** Isaiah core team members will give an update on issues pertinent to the upcoming midterm election on Nov. 6, 2018. Be prepared! Know the issues before going to the polls.

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There will be an Adult Forum Planning meeting on Thurs. Sept. 6, 2018 at 10:00 A. M. in the church library. You are invited to attend. For more information contact Joan Foreman at 651-699-0266

### September Altar Servers

If you are unable to serve, please contact an elder or the church office no later than the Tuesday of the week you are signed up to serve so that a replacement can be found.

|                |                        |                         |                      |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
|                | <b><u>Deacon</u></b>   | <b><u>Subdeacon</u></b> | <b><u>Reader</u></b> |
| <b>Sept 2</b>  | Bob Paddock            | Sybil Harris            | Mary Lou Knipe       |
|                | <b><u>Deacon</u></b>   | <b><u>Subdeacon</u></b> | <b><u>Reader</u></b> |
| <b>Sept 9</b>  | Joel Michael           | Tammy Cownie            | Leilani Drake        |
|                | <b><u>Crucifer</u></b> | Ray Hayes               |                      |
|                | <b><u>Deacon</u></b>   | <b><u>Subdeacon</u></b> | <b><u>Reader</u></b> |
| <b>Sept 16</b> | Tammy Cownie           | Trudy Cretsinger        | Irene Markley        |
|                | <b><u>Crucifer</u></b> | Michael Muzkoli         |                      |
|                | <b><u>Deacon</u></b>   | <b><u>Subdeacon</u></b> | <b><u>Reader</u></b> |
| <b>Sept 23</b> | Michelle Geschwill     | Leilani Drake           | Lance Harris         |
|                | <b><u>Crucifer</u></b> | David Tannen            |                      |
|                | <b><u>Deacon</u></b>   | <b><u>Subdeacon</u></b> | <b><u>Reader</u></b> |
| <b>Sept 30</b> | Trudy Cretsinger       | Joel Michael            | Diana Rankin         |
|                | <b><u>Crucifer</u></b> | Ali Michael             |                      |

### WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild will meet Thursday, September 6th at 11:00 am for a business meeting. Hostesses Jean Tretsvan and Kathy Moffat will provide Dessert. Bring a salad or sandwich.

### CHOIR REHEARSAL

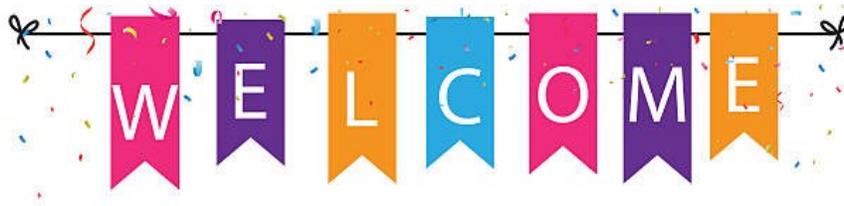
Choir rehearsal for the fall will begin Wednesday, September 12th. The choir will continue to rehearse at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays and 9:15 AM on Sundays in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in singing with the choir, you are more than welcome to come to rehearsal any time you would like. The only prerequisite for joining the choir is that you need to love singing! Feel free to reach out to Isaac with any questions you may have. (isaacL\_13@hotmail.com)



## **Isaac C. Lovdahl**

*Director of Music/Choir Director*

Isaac C. Lovdahl (b. 1993) graduated 'magna cum laude' from Concordia College in May 2015—receiving a B.M. in Vocal Music Education. Currently, he is employed as the choir director at Cretin-Derham Hall High School in St. Paul, MN. During his time at Concordia, several student ensembles performed Lovdahl's music, and he served as the bass section leader of The Concordia Choir during his junior and senior years. Lovdahl is an avid composer, and has music available through Santa Barbara Music Publishing, MusicSpoke, and JW Pepper. He works as a for-hire ensemble singer and soloist, and also sings with the Twin Cities based professional choir "The Singers- Minnesota Choral Artists". Lovdahl hopes to pursue graduate work in 'choral conducting' some time in the coming years, and would like to incorporate his passion for composing into his career as a conductor/educator. When he's not composing, conducting, singing, or teaching, Lovdahl enjoys hiking, reading, and playing basketball.



## **Ellen Hacker**

*Organist*

Ellen Hacker is a freelance musician & educator in the Twin Cities Metro area where she performs regularly on organ, piano, violin, & viola. She is a founding member of the Watercress Trio, serves as Music Director of the Cannon Valley Youth Orchestras, and teaches violin & viola out of her home studio. A graduate of St. Olaf College, she studied violin, viola, & piano and received a Bachelor of Music degree in Instrumental Music Education. Ellen studied organ while growing up in Massachusetts and has continued her studies in the Twin Cities. Coming from a Lutheran congregation in Plymouth, she is excited to build new fellowship through music with the welcoming community of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Ellen is an animal lover and lives with her sheltie, Leo; grumpy cat, Rummy; and husband, Jonah.

## Usher/Greeter Schedule at Redeemer



### September 2018

**Greeter at Parking Lot Door:** Myrna Nelson

**Sunday, September 2**

Joel Michael (captain)  
Sam Rankin  
Carla Johnson  
Obang Agwa

**Sunday, September 23**

Eric Chiquist (captain)  
Sherri Chiquist  
Carla Johnson  
Bob Hausman

**Sunday, September 9**

Eric Chiquist (captain)  
Sherri Chiquist  
Carla Johnson  
Lyle Nelson

**Sunday, September 30**

Ray Hayes  
Lyle Nelson  
Joe Belmonte  
Ruth Belmonte

**Sunday, September 16**

Ray Hayes (captain)  
Sam Rankin  
Ruth Belmonte  
Joe Belmonte

*Claude Mikkelson will serve as needed.*



It's that time of year again! Please check the "current" list we have of information we have for you in the church Undercroft or feel free to send Tahnea your most updated contact information in the church office. We are looking for the following:

- ~ Home Phone Number
- ~ Cell Phone Number
- ~ Up to Date Home Mailing Addresses
- ~ Email Addresses for all Family Members

Feel free to send this information via email to:

**redeemerstpaul@gmail.com**

## Next HMS Sacred Sites Tours Set for Sept. 1, Sept. 29 and Oct. 20



*Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs leading a Sacred Sites Tour.*

The next Healing Minnesota Stories Sacred Site Tours are set for Saturdays, Sept. 1, Sept. 29, and Oct. 30. Tours typically start at 10 a.m. and last four hours. To reserve a spot, email Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs at [jimbear.jacobs@mchurches.org](mailto:jimbear.jacobs@mchurches.org).

Tours are led by Jacobs (Mohican) and Bob Klanderud (Dakota). The tours offer an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing Dakota sacred sites in silence/meditation/reflection. Over the past two years, more than 500 participants have taken the tour.

We visit sites located around confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, what the Dakota refer to as Bdote, or "meeting place of rivers," including:

- Fort Snelling State Park
- Dakota Internment Camp following the The Dakota-U.S. War
- Pilot Knob Hill, a traditional burial ground

There is no cost for the tour, but a free will offering is appreciated. Contributions for individuals are invited in the range of \$30-\$50. Donations support Healing Minnesota Stories programs and events. Space is limited to 40 people.

Tours are appropriate for adults and older youth. Tour groups meet at a location in Mendota near the sites and auto caravan to the sites. Car pooling usually occurs so those not preferring or unable to drive can ride with others. Address, directions, and map will be sent prior to tour. Dress for the weather with sturdy footwear rather than sandals. If weather is severe we will reschedule.

*"We encourage Redeemer members and friends to participate in a Sacred Site tour on **Saturday, September 29, from 10am to 4 pm**. Please register directly on the link above. If you cannot attend September 29, you can sign up for Sept. 1 or October 30 instead. You can meet at the gathering spot and carpool from there on the tour."*

*Join us for*

**“God’s work. Our hands.”**

A dedicated day of  
service in our community.

**Sunday, September 9th, 2018**



This year Redeemer’s service projects will include our annual meal with the residents of Dale Street Place and new this year, collecting items to be packed into Welcome Baskets for a ministry called LifeHaven run by Lutheran Social Services.

LifeHaven provides housing and support to 16- and 17-year-old mothers and expecting mothers and their children, who are experiencing homelessness transitioning to housing stability, work towards achieving their goals, and creating lasting change in their lives and communities.

All moms living at LifeHaven attend high school full time during the day and receive supportive services from Life Haven staff before and after school and on weekends. They also receive education and support as they work to strengthen their parenting skills.

Mothers and children often arrive at LifeHaven with few or no belongings. Welcome Baskets are an important way of helping young mothers feel comfortable in their new home while providing essential supplies they will need as they transition out of survival mode and into stability.



**Our goal is to get enough donations to  
create 5 sets of mother/baby baskets to  
donate.**

**We will do this through physical  
and monetary donations.**

Diana Rankin has graciously taken the lead on these service projects and will be applying for a Thrivent Action Team card to purchase supplies and food.

**Please only include new and full-size items  
in Welcome Baskets.**

**Items needed for mothers:**

- 1 twin sheet set
- 1 pillow
- 1 bath towel
- 1 hand towel
- 2 wash cloths
- 1 container of bath soap or body wash
- 1 container of body lotion
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 tube of toothpaste
- 1 container of dental floss
- 1 container of deodorant
- 1 box of tampons or pads
- 1 razor
- 1 container of shaving cream
- 1 container of SheaMoisture brand shampoo
- 1 container of SheaMoisture brand conditioner
- 1 container of coconut or argan oil styling gel
- 1 wide tooth or rat tail comb
- 1 soft bristle brush
- 1 satin bonnet or scarf
- 1 pajama set, any size
- 1 pair of socks and/or slippers
- 1 \$10 gift card to Cub Foods



**Items needed for infants and children:**

- 1 crib sheet
- 2 baby bath towels
- 1 set of baby washcloths
- 1 package of diapers, sizes 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6
- 1 package of baby wipes
- 1 baby bathtub
- 1 container of baby shampoo
- 1 container of baby lotion
- 1 baby fingernail clipper
- 2 sippy cups or bottles
- 2 pajama sets, sizes NB to 3T
- 1 outfit, sizes NB to 3T
- 1 teething ring or toy
- 2 books, for birth through age 3
- Stuffed animal



**OCTOBER 32, 2017: Always Being Made New**  
***A Monthly/Seasonal Invitation to On-Going Reformation***  
*Rev. Trudy Cretsinger, Theologian in Residence*

A few weeks ago, on a Sunday in August, the *Star Tribune* newspaper published a front-page article about the changing workloads for professional clergy. The article focused on a female seminarian who is taking classes, working a regular job, and pastoring a small congregation. This balancing act is necessitated because smaller congregations (mostly in rural areas) cannot afford to support a full-time salary for a pastor. The article explored some of the same dynamics as one in July that focused on the closure of congregations in small, rural communities. Both articles explored some of the shared ministry arrangements that are becoming commonplace in rural areas. On the Sunday after the second article, a letter from a reader suggested that it's only main-line congregations (such as the Catholic and ELCA ones described in the article) that are having these struggles. The writer asserted that these congregations are declining because Christians are leaving them to attend "churches that teach the Bible without compromise," which are growing even as these are declining.



*Michele Jenson, who is still in seminary, talked to congregants after Sunday service at Hoff Lutheran Church in Rustad, Minn.*

**"TEST OF FAITH: THE UNCHURCHING OF AMERICA**  
**FEWER MINISTERS, HEAVIER BURDEN**

As churches close and budgets shrink, the new ministers who hear the call to serve must adopt new roles in changing communities."

The second in an occasional series written by Jean Hopfensperger • Photos by Leila Navidi • Star Tribune

This really isn't as true as the writer wants to believe. Yes, many people joining the types churches he favors do come from other congregations; they are not new to the Christian faith. Even Baptist congregations in which people are baptized upon a conversion experience have been reporting more deaths of members than baptisms of new believers for over a decade. The gain of a few members that have been subtracted from a different congregation does not represent an increase in the total number of Christians. It's just rearranging current membership.

The reality is that churches of all types did not keep the majority of the children of the 1960s and 1970s and 1980s coming as adults. When these children became adults, many of them drifted away and did not come back. Maybe they came around for their weddings. Maybe they brought their babies to be baptized, but that was only because the new grandma wanted it. Their children were raised with little to no regular church contact. These children of decades ago are now adults themselves, marrying and having children... now having grandchildren. Given their own lack of connectedness to a faith community, they are not bringing their children for baptism (no matter how much great-grandma wants it) nor do they see any need to come themselves. These are the "nones", people who choose the term *none* from a list of religious affiliations. This is the fastest growing religious affiliation in our country. For years (even before they were called "nones") congregations were trying to figure out what would attract them ... programming, worship styles, coffee-shop environments ... you name it.

All the churches want them to come, but they really don't recognize any reason to be here. They just aren't interested and have no basis for figuring out the difference between Catholics and Episcopalians, Lutherans and Baptists, Presbyterians and Methodists ... let alone whatever terms like *Evangelical* or *Non-Denominational* mean. Because they don't see the differences, when the Catholic church is the center of a sexual abuse and cover-up discovery, they see that as happening to any and all churches. When certain political activities or politicians are associated with "Evangelical Christians", to the nones, this means all Christians. If they weren't much interested in churches before developments like these, they are even less interested afterward.

So maybe we've been going about things the wrong way by trying to figure out attractive features and programs. A better approach might be to focus on the basics among those who are already members. What does it mean to be a Christian? What does it mean to live in community with other Christians – and what does it mean to follow the example of Jesus in daily life? What does it mean to live out "heaven" as the Reign and Realm of God in the here and now rather than some hoped-for promise that can't be known or experienced until after death in a purely spiritual afterlife? Martin Luther was a spark that ignited the Protestant Reformation from a build up of distortions of Christian faith and practice as he sought to get back to the basics of Christian faith and practice. Maybe it's time once more to clear out the distortions and get back to basics.

God is always making things new, even us – even the big-C Church and the congregations of all kinds of sizes within it. Give it some thought and let me know... Write your thoughts down and hand them to me at church ... email me as [tkcretsinger@gmail.com](mailto:tkcretsinger@gmail.com) ... chat with me over coffee. As we enter into the second year of the next 500, what might reformation look like today?

## CORE TEAM NEWS

*If the kingdom of heaven isn't God's alternative yet viable vision for human society inaugurated by and built around Jesus Christ, then it's just pie-in-the-sky amorphous religious-jargon nothingness.*

*~ Brian Zahnd – Pastor, Word of Life Church, Estes Park, CO*

What is the point of our faith – just the after life ... or is it very much in this life? What does it mean to be people shaped by this story of what God is up to in this world, the story by which we order our worship and our living? Those are big questions ... with a lot of possible answers ... and we may feel like we can never fully answer them. However, that shouldn't stop us from rolling up our sleeves, knowing that God is working – doing something out there in our world, and preparing to jump in and help when the Spirit moves or calls.

It can be tough to know what to do, when we are called upon to act, and even if we are being called at all. Perhaps it's encouraging to know that Jesus struggled with this, too. This month we hear the story of a non-Jewish woman who comes to Jesus (despite his best efforts to escape anyone's notice!) and asks him to heal her daughter. Jesus' response isn't what we normally expect – or want to see – from Jesus. It's not one of Jesus' finer moments, but it's right there in the gospel.

Jesus' struggle gives us some insight into our own struggles ... as well as a way forward through them. First, know your *why*: Why are you engaging in this in this way (or not)? What's at stake here? Why does this matter? For Jesus, figuring out the *why* meant looking deep into his purpose in coming among humanity. That's the second part: Recognize your humanity. No one person can be everything to everybody; even Jesus couldn't (which is why he was trying to hide out for a while). Recognizing our humanity also means recognizing that others around us are human beings, too ... with the same needs, similar dreams, equally charged with hope, potential, and aspiration. It also takes some "getting over yourself." Jesus had to get over his own ethnic and cultural preferences to fully see and engage the other; we may have to do some of that, too.

Ultimately, the story of Jesus and this woman shows that God's agenda includes everyone – and *everyone* means everyone. Healing and hope for the world mean healing and hope for everyone in it. Since this is God's agenda, it should be ours as well ... shaping how we see things, guiding how we think about things, directing our actions – what we do, how we do it, why we do it.

Think deeply about your values ... and what we see in the good news of Jesus. Are things off a bit? Perhaps it's time for an adjustment to move into better alignment with God's activity in the world. Get ready. In coming weeks, the Core Team will be inviting you to take steps into the challenge of working for God's ways in our world.

## LCR's ISAIAH Core Team

The 2018 Statewide election on November 6<sup>th</sup> is fast approaching. As voters, we have an opportunity to vote for candidates based on our values. What is important to us? What kind of Minnesota do we want our state to be? LCR's ISAIAH Core Team will be calling members of Redeemer the week of Sept 3rd with a phone bank event on the 5<sup>th</sup> to find out. We want to know what you think is important in this upcoming election.



Stephanie Stoessel, Core Team Chair

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### St. Paul Caucus of ISAIAH – Affordable Housing Task Group

Mission – To understand and facilitate opportunities for all people in the City of St. Paul to have an affordable, stable home.

One of the issues that came out of the House Meetings that were held several months ago at Redeemer was the lack of affordable housing for many living and working in St. Paul. A task group of members of several St. Paul congregations was formed to do research and take action to resolve this issue.

Issue groups are researching the following areas: 1. More money, 2. Zoning Regulation, 3. Non Market Housing (NMH) and Municipal Land Trusts (MLT).

On Wednesday, September 12 at 3:30 p.m. the St. Paul City Council will be voting to adopt a resolution on Assessor Dwelling Units (ADU's). Members of Redeemer and other congregations are encouraged to attend this important meeting to show our support of this issue.

A signup sheet will be posted at the table during coffee hour for carpooling to this meeting. Can we count on you?



# Summer 2018 in Review . . .



# 2018 Meal-Packing Event

*Did you know that 200,000 MN children live in food insecurity?*

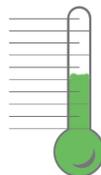
St. Clement's Episcopal Church is proud to partner with Harvest Pack and other local organizations to battle local hunger. We'll be packing 15,000+ breakfast meals to be distributed by Sheridan's Story to St. Paul students and their families.

*Saturday, September 29th from 10:00 to Noon*



## HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

15,000 meals cost \$3500  
(So far, \$2000 raised)



## JOIN US

By banding together with other organizations, we can collectively make a larger impact in our community.

INFO: Dave Berry at:  
[davideberry@aol.com](mailto:davideberry@aol.com)  
651-698-4269

SIGN-UP:



## Why Can't We Get This Right?

By Diana M. Rankin

It's been more than 6 decades, folks, since *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* was decided by the U. S. Supreme Court and we are still litigating access to equal education. Why can't we get this right?

It's a troubling question, especially for those of us who grew up watching the evening news in the 1950s and '60s. We sat in front of our black-and-white TVs and watched footage of African Americans attempting to integrate public schools. There were no African Americans in my school and only a few of the kids I grew up with saw the justice of their cause. By the time I reached high school, I was the lone person in my debate class who argued for integration. I think most of my 55 classmates simply had no opinion or were afraid to speak out. My position was not a popular one.

The litigation about equal access to a quality education continues in 2018 right here in Minnesota. Alejandro Cruz-Guzman, an immigrant from Mexico, is the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the state. It says that the state knowingly allowed cities and towns to draw lines and implement policies that have led to segregated schools. The plaintiffs argue that this has resulted in low test scores and graduation rates for low-income and nonwhite children.

In July, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that the suit could move forward. This decision has been recognized across the U.S. as an important one. *The New York Times* even began an August 21<sup>st</sup> article on schools and litigation with this court decision (<https://nyti.ms/2nTk6hH>).



*Alejandro Cruz-Guzman is the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit seeking to force Minnesota to desegregate its schools. The state's Supreme Court recently allowed the case to move toward trial.*

Credit: Tim Gruber for The New York Times

Mr. Cruz-Guzman says that his 5 children received a good education from public schools in St. Paul. The issue is that he and his wife had to fight for their children to be allowed to attend fully integrated schools in the district. He told *The Times*, "I wanted to have my kids exposed to different cultures and learn from different people." Now 2 of the children take a 30-minute bus ride each way to attend Murray Middle School. Here the population is about one-third white, one-third black, 16 percent Asian, and 9 percent Latino.

This lawsuit is also being watched closely by advocates for public charter schools, especially those that are focused on one race or ethnicity. Mr. Cruz-Guzman told *The New York Times* that they had tried a nearly 100 percent Latino charter school, but soon realized that such schools limit students to one community. There is also active debate in the state about whether or not low-income and nonwhite children do better in race- and ethnicity-focused charter schools than they do in the regular school setting.

This congregation should pay attention to Cruz-Guzman vs. Minnesota. St. Paul worked hard in the 1970s to desegregate its schools, primarily through a combination of magnet schools and busing. Do we need to look again at busing nonwhite students to majority white schools or vice versa?

Justice Natalie E. Hudson wrote the majority opinion for the Supreme Court that allows the suit to go to trial. She wrote, "It is self-evident that a segregated system of public schools is not 'general,' 'uniform,' 'thorough' or 'efficient'" as required in the state Constitution. Going on, she wrote, "We will not shy away from our proper role to provide remedies for violations of fundamental rights merely because education is a complex area."

Complicated it is. But so are lots of other things, like livable wages, health care, and affordable housing. That hasn't stopped us from trying to remedy injustice. In fact, these 3 things, plus education and a host of other issues, will determine whether we as a society can eliminate disparities so that nonwhite and low-income people are treated as equal under the law.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
285 N. Dale St.  
St. Paul, MN 55103-2486

