

RedeemerReview



ALL WILL BE WELL

Picture a mother with her tiny child held against her chest. Though the baby's physical needs have been met – she's fed and dry – still she's agitated and crying. So her mother holds her a little tighter and says over and over in her most soothing voice, "It's OK. It's OK."

In her book *Motherhood and God*, British author Margaret Hebblethwaite says that, when mothers reassure their children in this way, they're making a theological statement and a statement of faith. They're echoing the medieval Christian mystic Julian of Norwich, who wrote, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

Now, we might notice that neither the mom nor Julian of Norwich specifies just *when* or in *what way* all is going to be OK. If "It's OK" is a statement of faith, that's because even a loving mom can't, on her own, guarantee OK-ness for her child into the future. If she's promising that, she's relying on God to back her up.

More than at any other time during my ministry, I've been having conversations with people who are distressed by the world around them – political and moral divisiveness in our

country, open racism, mass murders on top of a steady stream of gun violence, financial mixed signals, wars and other miseries around the world, and, beneath all that, grave concerns about the long-term habitability of our planet.

For anyone with personal challenges or grief, all this is an additional difficult undercurrent. For anyone whose life is sailing smoothly along, this is a constant conscious or unconscious drag on their peace of mind.

And yet, people tell me that their faith is proving a strong foundation. That, because they know that this world is ultimately in God's hands, they are protected from despair. Because they know that God is the Lord of history, they can take a longer view. Because

they know about the resurrection from the dead, they have confidence in their own futures and the victorious future that God has in store.

Yes, all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

I've been reading in the Old Testament, the long history of the kings



On September 8, we'll kick off the new year of teaching and learning at Redeemer and enjoy lunch together. See page 3 for more info.

Fall
2019

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of Israel and Judah as successive rulers either follow or fail to follow in God's way (more don't than do). In my reading this week, Jerusalem is conquered by Babylon and the people are carted off into exile.

Like their Israelite ancestors in Egypt, they'll live long years, even generations, in a foreign land. God asked them to continue to believe and trust in his goodness and faithfulness even in those grievous circumstances, with no rescue on the horizon.

Like their Israelite ancestors wandering in the wilderness, they were tested by the course of their lives and the course of their history. Will they hold fast to their faith and trust in this God who's rescued them before and called them his own people? Will they trust when it's truly faith and not sight that undergirds their trust?

And what about us, when those same questions are asked of us? Will we trust by faith and not by sight?

Challenging times are a good time to hang out in Scripture. It gives perspective, but it's also full of ringing words of promise, like these words that Isaiah spoke to the exiles:

Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert (Is. 43:18-19).

Ringing words of promise like these from Revelation that echo Isaiah:

God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.
And the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new" (Rev. 21:3-5).

All shall be well because, no matter what we see right in front of us, God can always, always do a new thing.

Didn't Jesus' first disciples see a glimpse of that when he calmed the wind and waves with the power of his words? This Lord has power over the elements of the earth he created.

Didn't they see it as he healed the sick, taught with a new authority, and forgave sinful pasts, granting new futures?

Didn't they see that God can always do a new thing when their Lord, whose lifeless body they'd seen placed in a tomb, showed up alive again – alive with a new and unending life?

We believers, we're the ones with the knowledge and the confidence to say to an agitated world, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

For the sake of the world, let's stay in touch with the source of our hope. Let's encourage one another to carry a spirit of peace and confidence when we go out into the world.

For the sake of the world, let's stay in Scripture and stay in touch with one another. Let our faith be the foundation for our positive action in the world.

Let's remind ourselves, each other, and the world around us that we know it's going to be OK – all shall be well – because the God of love is in charge of it all.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Those are Jesus' words to his disciples then and now. May you live fully in that peace.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Carol

FALL KICKOFF IS COMING

Fall Kickoff is Sunday, September 8! We'll worship all together at 10:00am. After worship, we'll hear about plans for Sunday school, youth group, and adult discipleship. Kids will have a chance to meet their teachers and leaders. Then we'll enjoy a picnic together in front of the church, with great food, great fellowship, and a bounce house for the little ones. If you can, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. This is also a great opportunity to bring a friend!



Ordination Celebration

People from Redeemer Park Ridge and North Ave. gathered with friends, family, synod pastors, and other supporters to celebrate the ordinations of Dan Quest and Fanya Berry to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Bishop Wayne Miller preached and presided. Many Redeemer members took roles in the service. It was a wonderful occasion.

Next up is Pastor Dan's installation at Redeemer on Sunday, September 22, at 10:00am.



Karen Katamay to Begin Internship



Wow! If someone had told me several years ago that I would go to seminary and study to become a Deacon, I am sure I would have told them that they were mistaken. And yet, here I am, done with classes and preparing to start a six-month internship at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Downers Grove, Illinois, on October 1st!

As an intern, I am going to learn all about leadership and the many ways the church serves the community above and beyond Sunday worship. There are the familiar ministries like education for children, youth, and adults; food ministries; Bible studies; and home visitation, where I will be working with and learning from church staff. There are also many areas I want to learn and grow in, like spiritual coaching and helping people discern their spiritual gifts, church outreach to the community, and ecumenical partnerships.

I have come a long way already, but there is still so much for me to learn. I am grateful for all I have learned already through the pastors and other wonderful people at Redeemer. Now I want to continue to learn and to grow through my internship and see where God is going to lead me for the future.

I want to say thank you to all of you for your support and encouragement through all of this. It has been a challenge attending seminary while still working full time, and I couldn't have done it without the love and support of my Redeemer family. I hope you will continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers over the next six months, and all of you will be in mine!

Thank you for everything and for the encouragement you give all those who feel called by God to serve the church. God's blessings to all!

~Karen Katamay

A Firm Foundation



After many decades of relentless pressure on the foundation of the parsonage and increasing damage from groundwater, we made a major and long-anticipated investment by doing some significant foundation repair. For those of you who like to hear the details: *We had specialists install nine steel I-beams from the bottom of the foundation and bolt them to the joists above to halt the inward movement of the south wall of the foundation. We also had them dig and install a new floor tile system and new sump pit and pump, to effectively direct away any seepage that we might get in the future.* The workmen did a great job, and we're grateful and relieved to think that we're exercising good stewardship of the wonderful resources that God has entrusted to us.

Meanwhile, since Pastors Carol and Fred had to vacate the parsonage while the foundation work was being done (the sewage pipes had to be cut and slightly relocated), we also took the opportunity to do some work upstairs and replace the well-worn kitchen counters with new granite countertops. New kitchen flooring is scheduled to be installed soon, and Pastor Dan and Rachel will include photos of the redecorated kitchen in an upcoming newsletter.



MEET OUR ELECTED LEADERS

Officers and at-large Vision & Strategy Team (VST) members



Alysen Terretta



Shannon Gonzales



Aneel Trivedi (VP)



Angela Williams Duea



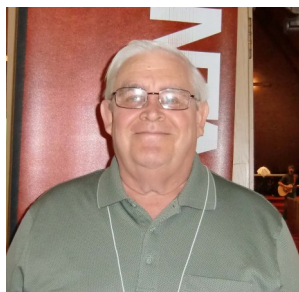
Conni Brown (Pres.)



Larry Sampson



Dan Glowen (Treasurer)



Dick Buchholtz



FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

As you may have heard, we will be saying farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Fred and Pastor Carol as they will be ending their time at Redeemer and moving to Tucson, Arizona, in October of this year. On Sunday, October 27, after a combined worship service at 10:00am, we will have a special lunch to celebrate their time with Redeemer. We hope you can join us!



Focus on Evangelism



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIRD PLACE

This summer, we decided to make a shift in our ministry efforts around Portage Park. This decision was difficult and included some disappointment, but we also feel a renewed excitement about the possibilities for effective ministry in that area.

Over the past couple years, we tried worship in three different ways in Portage Park (and, to be technical, Old Irving and Jefferson Park). First, we gathered together monthly at Old Irving Brewing. Then, in addition to the monthly gatherings at OIB, we gathered twice a month for Cell Worship at Joe and Angela Duea's home. Finally, we moved our worship from OIB to our ministry center at Third Place Chicago.

There were really good things going on in all three spaces: people supporting and encouraging each other, people being reminded of God's good news for them. But the reality is that we didn't see new people coming into the community directly through worship. So we're looking honestly at where we are and doing a kind of reset.

The folks who have been meeting for worship in Portage Park are being invited to participate in the worshipping community in Park Ridge. We think we have some gifts to bring back to the larger Redeemer community, and we're excited to feel like we're together again. At the same time, we're not giving up at all on making disciples on the Northwest Side. We think we have an opportunity to focus on meeting people where they are with relationships, programs, and events that help people to find better life by living the way Jesus taught. We're hoping to do ministry out of Third Place Chicago that we can do better there than we could from out Park Ridge. We think this is a tremendous opportunity for us to focus on where the energy and possibility are, both in Park Ridge and around Third Place Chicago.

As always, this is both a work in progress (a series of experiments to find what's actually effective) and, at its heart, spiritual work. So I'm asking, once again, for your prayers that God's will would be done more fully through our work together. The possibilities of the gospel are endless, and we're blessed to be a part of this.

~Pastor Peter

Inside Out Network: What's Next?

For over twelve years, Redeemer has had a meaningful and impactful ministry with those who are incarcerated and those leaving prison. Think about it: We've prayed with thousands and thousands of inmates, given away over 7,000 Bibles, created and given away over 50,000 Spiritual Survival Guide for Prison and Beyond, created and given away nearly 10,000 copies of RED Chicago (a ReEntry Directory), written hundreds and hundreds of pen pal letters, and created a revolutionary website to connect returning citizens with service providers (the Inside Out Network). It's been a constantly evolving ministry that's been dependent on God's timing, available resources, our leadership capacity, and new opportunities and challenges that God has sent our way.

True to form, things are about change again. Since my physical presence and leadership in this particular ministry has been a constant during these years, our move to Arizona at the end of October will have an unavoidable impact on the shape of Redeemer's ministry. As I contemplate where God may be directing things next, two things come to mind.

First, I'm going to try to make a major push to scale up the Inside Out Network website as a tool to help people around the country network and connect more effectively. I hope to be able to focus my time, energy, and imagination on expanding the network in Arizona, but also in other areas where people are ready for change. For example, I'm currently working with networks in Milwaukee, Greenville in South Carolina, and Chester County in Pennsylvania (suburban Philadelphia), as well as with new contacts right here in Chicago.

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As these efforts ramp up, it seems that the wisest course is to shift this work away from being a ministry under the Redeemer umbrella and make it its own independent non-profit organization, what's called a 501(c)3. I plan to do that in the first half 2020.

At the same time, our prison and reentry ministry has never been a one-man show. So many of you have been involved over the years as financial supporters, in-prison volunteers, letter-writers, phone callers, data entry helpers, small group facilitators, and more! Because it's coming from your own passion for serving in this way, much of this wonderful ministry can and should continue in my absence.

Aneel Trivedi will continue to help lead and coordinate certain aspects of our work. He is still patiently pursuing clearance from the Department of Corrections to be classified as a "volunteer chaplain," which would allow him authorized access to Stateville Prison and to bring along volunteers. Going forward, Aneel will be Redeemer's go-to person to help you find your spot as a Stateville volunteer, pen pal, data entry helper, and so on. It's his desire to work collaboratively, so connect with him by talking to him at church or by sending him an email at aneel@insideoutnetwork.net.

I want to take this opportunity to thank so many of you for opening your hearts over these years to those in prison and those struggling with the challenge of reentering society. You've courageously stepped onto unknown terrain again and again, and our Lord has stretched and blessed and grown your faith and love. *Keep it going!*

~Pastor Fred

Website and Postcards to Get the Word Out

Over the next few months we will be rolling out a redesigned website and sending out a postcard mailing for both the church and our community center, Third Place Chicago.

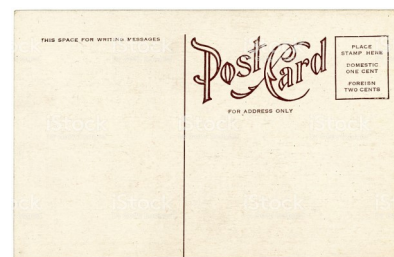
The last time we completely redesigned the website was in 2012 when we were in the early stages of planting the North avenue location. While we've done a good job keeping the site current, it can be difficult to maintain (photos quickly become dated, individuals step into and out of different leadership roles, biographies change, etc.). Additionally, due to our weekly emails and encouraged use of church community builder, our website is no longer the spot where members and regular attenders gather information about what's happening in the community.

Because of all this, we've decided to significantly pare back the amount of content on our site. Similar to our Third Place Chicago website, our new church website will load faster and put the most important information right in front of the eyes of first-time visitors.

As we have done in the past, we'll send out over 10,000 postcards to the area around us. The specific content will be slightly different at the two locations, but both will focus on our offering of coaching for personal growth. We've already seen individuals within our own community experience great growth through this focus on one-on-one coaching, and we believe that it's something that will resonate with people looking to make some kind of change in their life.

I'm excited to see who God will add to the community in the weeks and months ahead.

~Pastor Dan



Focus on Worship

Message Series for Fall: On Purpose

This fall, we'll be exploring what it means to live in a world full of purpose. God has a purpose, humanity has a purpose, Christians have a collective purpose, and each one of us is called to live with purpose. But how does it all fit together? And how do we discover and actually live out our individual and collective purposes? Finally, how do we do all this purposeful, intentional living while still being real and authentic? Over four weeks, we'll explore what the Apostle Paul had to say about all of this in his letter to early Christians living in the city of Ephesus. Be sure to join in this discussion – and discovery – of purpose.

Focus on Fellowship



COMING SOON: ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

The date is fast approaching for our annual Women's Retreat, to be held again this year at the lovely and peaceful Portiuncula Center for Prayer in Frankfort, Illinois. We'll gather with women from both Park Ridge and North Ave. on Friday, October 4. The retreat draws to a close the evening of Saturday, October 5, though women have the option to stay over until the 6th.

Focus on Discipleship

MORE COACHES BEING TRAINED

Our focus on spiritual growth coaching requires plenty of coaches. One evening in August, coaches gathered for a training workshop led by Pastor Fred.



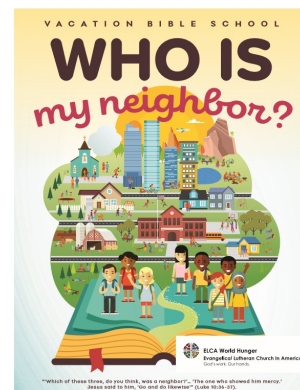
MINI VBS SET FOR SEPTEMBER 7

On Saturday, September 7, kids through 5th grade are invited to participate in a mini-Vacation Bible School at Redeemer's community center, Third Place Chicago. Parents are invited to stay for any or all parts of the day (we do ask that parents of children who aren't yet potty-trained plan to definitely stick around).

Our theme this year is "Who is My Neighbor?" Designed by ELCA World Hunger, our day of VBS will invite kids to learn about some of the people who are our neighbors in the kingdom of God.

As always, leaders and helpers are what make events like this a success, and we're building our volunteer team now. There is plenty to do before and during mini-VBS, so we can find something you'll enjoy. If you're interested in knowing more about registering or volunteering, please contact Sara Trivedi in the church office (office@redeemerchicago.com).

Space is limited, so be sure to register today by visiting redeemerchicago.com.



Youth Group Plans in Place

Greetings! We're looking forward to a fun year with the youth (6th through 12th grade) at Redeemer. Youth activities will have two areas of focus: Sunday morning learning hour (10am at Redeemer) and large group multi-church activities.

Sunday mornings

Based on feedback from the youth last year, we'll be focused on content that allows the youth to explore their own faith and ask questions about the Bible, the Apostles' Creed, Jesus, and how faith intersects with topics that are relevant to us today. We'll be using a curriculum from Sparkhouse called "re:Form" as a foundation for these discussions. This curriculum on Sunday mornings can also take the form of confirmation preparation for youth or families who are interested. Please talk to Aneel Trivedi or one of the pastors if that's something you'd like to pursue.

Large Group Multi-Church activities

Building on the success of these events last year, we plan to continue bringing the youth together with three other local Lutheran churches: Edison Park, Messiah, and St. Luke's. Events rotate through each of the four churches and give the youth a chance to connect and build relationships with a larger group. The first event of the fall will take place on Sunday, September 8, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Messiah Lutheran.

Aneel will be coordinating much of the content and activities this year, but there are three things we need from *you* to make this time a meaningful experience for our youth:

- 1) We need your help on Sunday mornings. We'd love to have additional voices from the congregation during the 10 am learning hour. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry on a regular or semi-regular basis, please let Aneel know (aneeltrivedi@gmail.com).
- 2) We need adult participation during large group multi-church events in the form of drivers or volunteer chaperones. We'll keep you posted about the dates of these events via Church Community Builder. Remember, the first is coming up soon on Sunday, September 8.
- 3) We need parents to encourage youth to participate, and we need everyone's prayers for the youth in our congregation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPT 15

After a refreshing summer break, we look forward to welcoming the children of Redeemer back to an exciting year of learning what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Our curriculum this year focuses on *Living the Word*.

Beginning September 15, during learning hour, all kids are welcome to join our Sunday School team for a fun, interactive introduction to the day's Bible lesson. After that, childcare is available for younger children, and those in preschool through 5th grade are invited to participate in activities and crafts, giving them the opportunity to dig deeper into the theme, talk about their faith, ask questions, and get to know others.

Sunday School will meet in the Family Room each Sunday, 10:00-10:45am. If you'd like to know more about Redeemer's children's ministry, or if you'd like to get involved, contact Rachel Quest (rachel@redeemerchicago.com).

Focus on Service



Niles/Park Ridge CROP Walk

Every year, people from Redeemer Park Ridge walk with the Niles/Park Ridge CROP Walk to raise money to fight hunger locally and around the world. This year's walk is the afternoon of Sunday, October 20.

Walkers line up sponsors who contribute to CROP Walk either in a lump sum or by offering a certain amount per mile. The walk itself is 5 km (3.1 miles), and we walk with people from many different Park Ridge and Niles churches.

In addition, this year, Redeemer will be the *only* rest stop for walkers along the way. Watch for information about how you can help – either by walking, by sponsoring a walker, or by helping provide hospitality for walkers at our rest stop.

FAITH IN ACTION 2019



Calendar of Events

September 3	Senior Luncheon
September 7	VBS (Third Place Chicago)
September 8	Fall Kick-off
September 22	Installation of Pastor Dan Quest
October 1	Senior Luncheon
October 4-5	Women's Retreat
October 20	CROP Walk
October 27	Farewell Sendoff for Pastor Fred and Pastor Carol
November 5	Senior Luncheon
December 3	Senior Luncheon



Transitions

Max Szafraniec, son of Julie and Pete Szafraniec, was baptized on April 22.

Liam Glowne, son of Mandi and Dan Glowne, was baptized on May 26.

Aryl Charlton was baptized on July 7.

