

Redeemer Record



A NEW FACE AT THE KEYBOARD

Meet our new Interim Music
Director, Jim Molina

Page 13

VBS

VBS will take us on a journey of hope.
God is with us on the go!
Register now for June 9-13

Read More on Page 4

Senior Pastor's Column

BY PASTOR KATIE HINES-SHAH



And Jesus came and said to the disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28: 18-20

I've always loved the German term for the Ascension, "Himmelfahrt," which literally means "Journey to Heaven," but sounds much funnier. It's good to interject some humor on a day that can seem a little overwhelming and intimidating. Ascension is the day that Jesus leaves his disciples behind to start doing the work of the church on their own. Well, not entirely on their own. Jesus does promise his disciples that he will be "with them always," and promises to send the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to be their help and guide. But anyone who's ever left home or family behind can understand the disciples' anxiety. A real change is coming; it's a new era. The disciples need to get ready and get going. And it's a lot to take on.

In other words, the disciples are just like us.

The disciples worry about change. And we worry about hiring a new Music Director. The disciples are overwhelmed about embracing new challenges. And we struggle with being the church in the modern world. The disciples are tempted to "stand there" hoping that God will take care of things. And we are tempted to hold back, thinking that someone else should step forward who is more qualified / has more time / is better equipped. But the angels don't allow for excuses. On Ascension, the angels tell the disciples to stop standing there, just looking up at heaven. They send the disciples out into the world. They send us out too. I like to imagine the angels do so with confidence and joy.

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?"

Acts 1:11



They know, a great journey is in store.

This summer's Vacation Bible School and Wednesday Night Worship theme is Journeys of Hope. Through the summer we'll be sharing stories of the journeys of people in the Bible and of people in the church. Some of these journeys are literal. Some of these stories will be spiritual. But all of them will be inspiring. These journeys have their challenges – God's people aren't guaranteed an easy life. Yet the stories we'll share include the abiding presence of God, a vision of hope, and the ultimate destination of heaven.

In other words, every faith journey is a Himmelfahrt of its own.

In these post-Easter days, we remember that we have places to go, as a church and as individuals. God has equipped us, giving us the authority to make new disciples, to share the good news, and to invite newcomers to the life of faith. While the journey won't be easy, it is one that is filled with hope.

I'm glad to be making this journey with all of you.



Journeys of Hope

BY PASTOR KELSEY JOHNSON



“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9

A few months ago, I preached a sermon about Flat Jesus, encouraging you all to create your own flat Jesus and send me pictures of travels and where you encounter God in the world.

The responses were so varied!

Flat Jesus went to the public market in Seattle, London England, the shores of Florida, the Circus World Museum in Wisconsin, the public library, a couple of plays, small groups, and special events... the list goes on, as is the list of places where God is with us. Because God is always with us.

One Flat Jesus picture I received (and didn't share widely) was from the recovery room of the hospital. I was moved to tears and full of gratitude that prayers had been answered and this particular surgery had been successful. God is with us. Even in the more difficult parts of life. Even in the depths of uncertainty, grief, anger, loss, frustration, addiction, mental illness struggles, and broken relationships. These are journeys where God is with us, too, reminding us of the everlasting presence and assurance of Christ who walks alongside us. This is inherently hopeful, even in life's challenges.

This summer, we are invited to consider all of our journeys: places, experiences, ups, downs, and in-betweens where God is present and pointing us towards hope.

I hope you will join us for Vacation Bible School, Wednesday night worship, and a few special get togethers throughout the summer.

“Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble.”

Proverbs 3:23

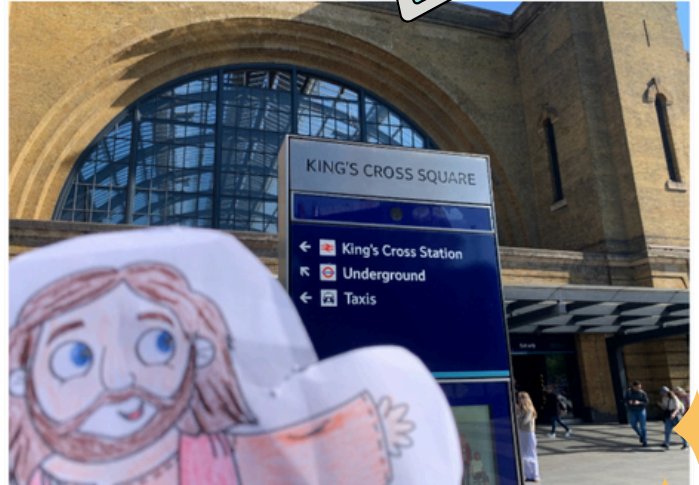


The theme of this year's VBS programming for adults and children is ‘journeys of hope: on the go with God.’ We will explore stories of God with people in the old testament, new testament, and through Jesus’ life and ministry. We will also explore how God is with all sorts of people all over the world, and that God is always with us too.

The Adventures of Flat Jesus

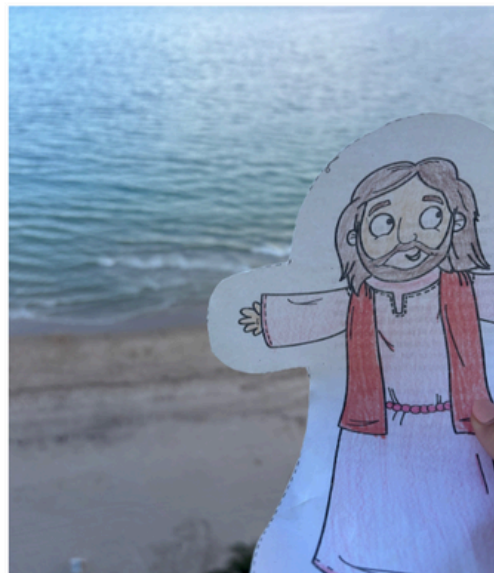


Adventure
BEGINS



LET'S GO

ADVENTURE



Journeys of Hope: on the go with God

Free VBS!

Programming for
Kids & Adults

June 9-13, 5:30-7:30pm

Dinner Provided

 **Redeemer**
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Scan to register:


139 E. 1st St. Hinsdale, IL



• • • • • tear this page out, cut in half, and invite 2 friends! • • • • •


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Music & Worship

BY GRAEME SHIELDS



Reflecting on this year's Lenten season, I feel glad that we took some creative chances on coupling Bonhoeffer readings with a focus on our senses (five senses, five weeks in Lent). I came away with a few learning experiences (we could not get those excitable adults to settle down with their musical instruments the first week) and it was a meaningful opportunity to attempting the intertwining of two seemingly disparate themes into one.



Holy Week included a procession outside the church on Palm Sunday with bells and accordion to lead us into the sanctuary. Redeemer's youth led a moving passion reading and Aria Greenwald provided some beautiful and fitting oboe music for the service. Maundy Thursday included the usual foot washing but had fuller musical presence this year featuring Festival Choir accompanied by Nancy Hagen and Kyle Bakhshi on oboe and flute. Our Good Friday service this year included singing the entirety of Psalm 22 and a cantata that appears to be a new favourite for this congregation: Hope in the Shadows. We were fortunate to have Joe Cisar (piano), Lara Ward (horn), and Aria back again to play oboe.





The Easter Vigil service this year was another successful collaboration with Grace Episcopal, this year hosted in Grace’s sanctuary. I’m so proud of Redeemer members who comprised of readers, percussion, section leaders from Festival Choir, and keepers of the new fire from which we lit the Paschal candle. What a service!

Easter Sunday comprised our typical festival setting of the liturgy featuring Festival Choir, Gargoyle Brass, and timpani. To pull back the curtain a little but, this year’s Holy Week and Easter Sunday were full of near-disasters. A coupler in the organ that controls the volume of certain stops broke after Palm Sunday but was fixed the morning of Maundy Thursday. Good Friday choir members will tell you that the dress rehearsal before the service felt scarily unprepared (I heard the expression “divine intervention” at least once). And yet, the organ sang *and* whispered on Maundy Thursday, the cantata moved our hearts on Good Friday, and on Easter Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

So far, the Easter season has included the shaking of tambourines and maracas, the joining together of Alleluia Ringers and Union Bells, one last Children’s Choir anthem before the end of the season, solo flute music from McKenna Workman, bagpipe imitation sounds from the choir, and at the time of writing we’re only a few weeks into the season! I’m giddy thinking about the excitements that await you this summer.



My last Sunday with Redeemer was on May 25th. We celebrated our time together with a Hymn Sing service at 10am that included Gargoyle Brass, Festival Choir, and Alleluia Ringers, and we sang portions of the Centennial Mass I wrote for Redeemer's 100th anniversary. I so enjoyed the chance to make music with you once more before I moved.

This summer, we will follow the path of Vacation Bible School with the theme Journeys of Hope: on the Go with God. Look forward to liturgy and music that makes references to difficult journeys, unfamiliar places, and how God is with us always, near and far.

I'm incredibly proud of the hard work that Festival Choir, Alleluia Ringers, Children's Choir, and indeed all of our musicians have shared this season. How blessed this congregation is to have so many with such gifts; our cup overfloweth!

Musically Yours,
Graeme

Wednesday Worship at 7pm begins June 11th



Farewell Redeemer

BY GRAEME SHIELDS



As my time at Redeemer draws to a close, I cannot believe how much has changed in my 4 short years here. When I began, we were still holding services online. Cindy Cimo was in the office, Tyler Parks was running our Youth and Adult Programming, and Pastor Aneel was our vicar that summer.

I remember rolling out the grand piano with Aneel and Tyler from the sanctuary into the narthex every Wednesday night because none of us knew about the mobile amplification system in the closet downstairs. We were connecting the speakers and microphones to the sanctuary's sound system in the balcony!

I remember Children's Percussion group. I remember the Christmas Pageant that year involved the kinds using coloured ceramic bells to ring the chords and melodies of our favourite Christmas and Advent hymns because singing was still not feasible. I remember rehearsing with

Festival Choir in the sanctuary because it was the biggest, and therefore safest, space for rehearsals. I remember setting up and taking down bell tables every week because Alleluia Ringers didn't yet have their own dedicated rehearsal space.



I remember starting Bach Around the Block with you. It's grown to rotate through different churches and organists, but is also loved by each church enough to find ways to lift up gifts from their own communities. Andrew Fredel used it as an opportunity for a youth in Grace's congregation to share his gifts at the piano. Union Church made use of both of their organs at this event last year. I brought my mom to play last fall.

I remember sharing a concert with Heike and Jared for Redeemer's 100th anniversary. I was so excited to be at Redeemer, I fondly remember bringing Found Sound New Music, Peter Douglas, and Brenda Portman to the church because I was proud to share our organ with them and excited for them to share their gifts with Redeemer.

I remember so much talking happening in choir rehearsals one fall that I needed to institute a system where, if there were enough tangents in rehearsal, we needed to hold a potluck so that we could get all of our stories out with one another. What a blessing it has been to shepherd volunteer musicians who so enjoy each other's company that at least one potluck was needed because rehearsal time spent together was not enough.

I look back on all of these changes, but what most strikes me are the consistencies. Musicians have come and gone, but the laughter and hard work in rehearsals is always plentiful. Liturgy has changed, but the commitment to doing our best and a desire for strong music-making is ever present. I know these values will live on in this community and this will attract a strong music director with whom you can continue to grow together. You, the congregation, are the music makers and like in Psalm 98, it is time to "sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things."

Thank you for "staying tuned" all these years.
(Always) Musically Yours,
Graeme



Thank You & Farewell

BY ERIN MATONTE



My time at Redeemer has been more than just a church job; it has been a family. Over the past 12 years as the soprano section leader, I have found musical, spiritual, and social fulfillment. Some of my most cherished moments include my son's baptism, singing for Sal and Will's wedding, and witnessing Redeemer become an RIC church. It is rare for a professional musician to experience such profound connections.

The music directors I have worked with at Redeemer have strengthened me as a musician and formed bonds that have lasted beyond their time as directors. Again, many musicians seldom develop such beautiful relationships while serving as a section leader.

The decision to move on from Redeemer has been bittersweet. My choice to leave is solely based on changes in my family—Michael began a demanding full-time position, and Jonny is entering middle school. It is now time for me to devote more of my time to being a wife and mother.

Some have asked whether I am leaving and never returning to Redeemer, but that couldn't be further from the truth! I will continue to be a member and attend services from time to time. You are my church family, and I love you all. **Thank you for your unwavering support throughout these fulfilling 12 years!** I am eternally grateful to have been part of a church body that welcomes and loves everyone who walks through its doors.

I wish you blessings in the coming church year—thank you for being my home, Redeemer!

Goodbye, With Fondness & Gratitude

BY SAL GARZA



Over the past 11 years, Redeemer has been my musical and spiritual home. The embrace of this congregation has helped to shape my view of embodied Christian welcome. Through my own baptism, my marriage to Will, the RIC process, and countless meaningful musical experiences, I have felt the unconditional love of God reflected in the Redeemer community. It has been a privilege to be musically and spiritually accompanied by three amazing music directors and harmoniously connected to Erin and members of Redeemer's choir.

Having recently completed my Masters in Mental Health Counseling, I am embarking on the next chapter of my career as an Expressive Arts Therapist with openness to receive what God has in store for me in this new phase of my life. While this means stepping away from the consistent role of tenor section leader, Will and I will remain in Chicago, with continued family roots in Hinsdale, and we look forward to returning on occasion for worship and music-making.

The growth I have experienced personally, musically, spiritually, and vocationally, would not have been possible without the support Redeemer and Pastor Katie have provided, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Music Director Search Update

BY THE MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE



Music Director Search Committee is Hard at Work

Redeemer has been richly blessed these past four years with the leadership of Graeme Shields, our Director of Music Ministries. As Graeme prepares to follow his partner and seek a new opportunity in Minnesota, we give thanks for his ministry and begin the important work of seeking his successor—someone who will inspire and lead our congregation, pastors, lay leaders, and music ensembles in worship.

LOOKING AHEAD

Graeme has graciously helped us prepare for the early summer transition.

- Guest musicians will lead worship on Sundays, June 1 and 8.
- A camp musician will lead Vacation Bible School June 9–13.

MEET THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Music Director Search Committee is chaired by Rodney Holmes and includes:

Pastor Katie, Karen Burns, Clark Neuharth, Jacquie Ravnic, Chris Rusthoven, and Joel Simpson.

Their first task was hiring a part-time interim music director to lead worship music on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings from mid-June through August. They have succeeded, and our new Interim Music Director, Jim Molina, will begin leading us in Worship Sunday, June 15. You can read more about him on the following page.

THE ROAD TO A NEW DIRECTOR

Our goal is to have a permanent Director of Music Ministries in place by late August or early September. The committee will:

- Update the current job description
- Advertise the position
- Screen applicants
- Conduct interviews and auditions
- Extend an offer to an exceptional and gifted leader to join our ministry

WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

Your input is essential in this process. Please take a moment to complete our online survey [here](https://forms.gle/kVSNcCQKotF3mj4PA): <https://forms.gle/kVSNcCQKotF3mj4PA>.

We want to know:

- What qualities matter most in a music director
- How you participate in worship and music groups
- What musical elements help deepen your worship experience

You'll also have a chance to recommend a musician and share ideas about how music can grow our church's engagement and outreach.

Introducing Our Interim Music Director

BY JIM MOLINA



A Note From the Interim Music Director

Dear Redeemer Lutheran Church Family,

I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Interim Music Director this summer. It is a true blessing to be part of a faith community where music and worship are so deeply cherished. I look forward to celebrating worship with all of you and getting to know the members of this wonderful congregation in the weeks ahead.

One of the things I am most excited about is connecting with the choir, instrumentalists, and anyone who feels called to contribute to our music ministry – whether it's on Sunday mornings or during Wednesday evening services. All are welcome, and I truly believe we each have unique gifts to share!

I'd love to meet informally with anyone interested in participating in music ministry this summer. Please join me after the Wednesday evening worship service on June 18 for a brief meet-and-greet. It'll be a relaxed time to connect, share ideas, and talk about ways we can make music together.

I'll also be planning a couple of Sundays where the choir will be invited to sing. Please keep an eye out for announcements and updates in the bulletin.

I'm looking forward to a meaningful and musical summer together!

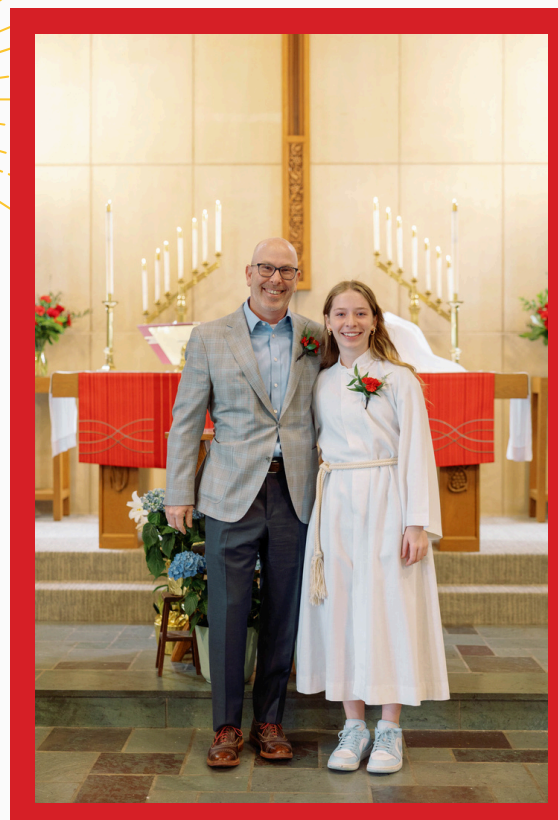
Peace,
Jim Molina
Interim Music Director





Confirmation Sunday

Congratulations to our confirmands, Ethan Grieve and Grace Hudson, who were confirmed May 4th.





Church & Community Recycling

Hosting a tour of Bronzeville on March 22 with Sherman “Dilla” Thomas was wonderful, fun, and informative for 18 Redeemerites. At one stop, we visited a church which has had many famous speakers, including Martin Luther King Jr. We saw where Emmett Till was buried, where Louis Armstrong lived, as well as MLK, and finished up with ice cream.

Church and Community has had in-depth discussions on how to navigate the tough topics of LSSI being called a “money laundering operation”. 20 people from Redeemer attended the MLK community breakfast where speakers and choirs were dynamic. Many of us went to a reception at Pastor Shannon’s church after. The idea of Solar panels for Redeemer has been explored, as well as a pollinator garden.

We finished up the year with the 4th annual community recycling event on May 17th, which was a great success. With help of the Unitarian Church, Union Church volunteers, and SCARCE, more than twenty bikes were donated, which will go to countries overseas after they are refurbished for use as transportation to jobs etc. A huge donation of quilting fabric as well as sheets were given for Redeemer quilters, the shred truck said they had more volume than in years past, which included 9 boxes of culled Redeemer files, as well, as more medical equipment which included wheelchairs, and S.C.A.R.C.E. filled up two vans. Also, two people asked about Redeemer, and when services were! Thanks for the support of Redeemer Volunteers, Bruce Forbush, Pat Quast, Jo Changelian and Dirk and Mary Landis!



Church News and Updates



Youth Fundraising

Sharing God's love in an ever-changing world isn't just something we claim on our website, it is a mission we share and put into practice in our community near and far. The youth group will be embarking on their own 'journey to bring hope' this summer... volunteering through Lutheran Disaster Response to address the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in the community of Asheville, North Carolina. Freed through Christ, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus for a world that deeply longs for hope. Please pray for our group of volunteers: youth, young adults, and chaperones, and the community of Asheville as they continue to recover.

Thank you to all who have generously supported the fundraising efforts for this endeavor. Financial giving supports the hands-on work that will be done by this group of volunteers, and is also a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus from afar.

**Our fundraising goal is \$9,000
and so far we have raised \$6,000**



Church News and Updates



Walking the Walk for Mental Health



Thank you to all who walked the walk for mental health, raising awareness and funds for mental health resources for The Community House. We enjoyed the 1 mile chalk walk on the morning of May 18th.

The Community House is an important local resource that provides mental health support on a sliding scale, making care accessible for all who desire it.



Church News & Updates



The **Redeemer Jazz Brunch** at LaGrange Country Club took place in celebration of Mardi Gras and the approaching Lenten Season. Over 103 Redeemer members and guests enjoyed the music of Andy Tecson and the Varady/Miller/Negus Trio. (Directly following a Jazz Mass at Redeemer.) A good time was had by all and information about the LSSI Foster Care Program was provided to our guests by Terry Gens from LSSI and an accompanying pamphlet. Along with a wonderful raffle, Women's Connection was also able to donate to the **LSSI Foster Care Program!**

Women's Connection programming for the fall of 2025 is being discussed. **A summer gathering** at the home of Marge Chapello is scheduled to take place on Thursday, July 10 from 7-8:30 pm. We are committed to expanding our group and diversifying our programming, as well as keeping our favorites. The summer get together will give us the opportunity to socialize and talk about the fall/winter WC activities.

Very important! A **Women's Connection Survey** is being sent out to Redeemer members and available on the Redeemer Website. Please fill it out so we can see what activities are important to you (new and old) and how we can move forward during the coming years. Contact the Redeemer Office if you need a paper copy.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, October 4, 2025 will be the highly anticipated, greatly loved Progressive Dinner sponsored by Women's Connection. Everyone is welcome and there will be more details to come. If you are interested in hosting a dinner or providing your home for cocktails or dessert, please call Marge Chapello Kathy Selcke or Marilyn Lindberg. Mark your calendars please!



Baptisms



Reese Maren,
Baptized May 11, 2025



Angie and Nani,
Baptized May 18, 2025



Upcoming Events

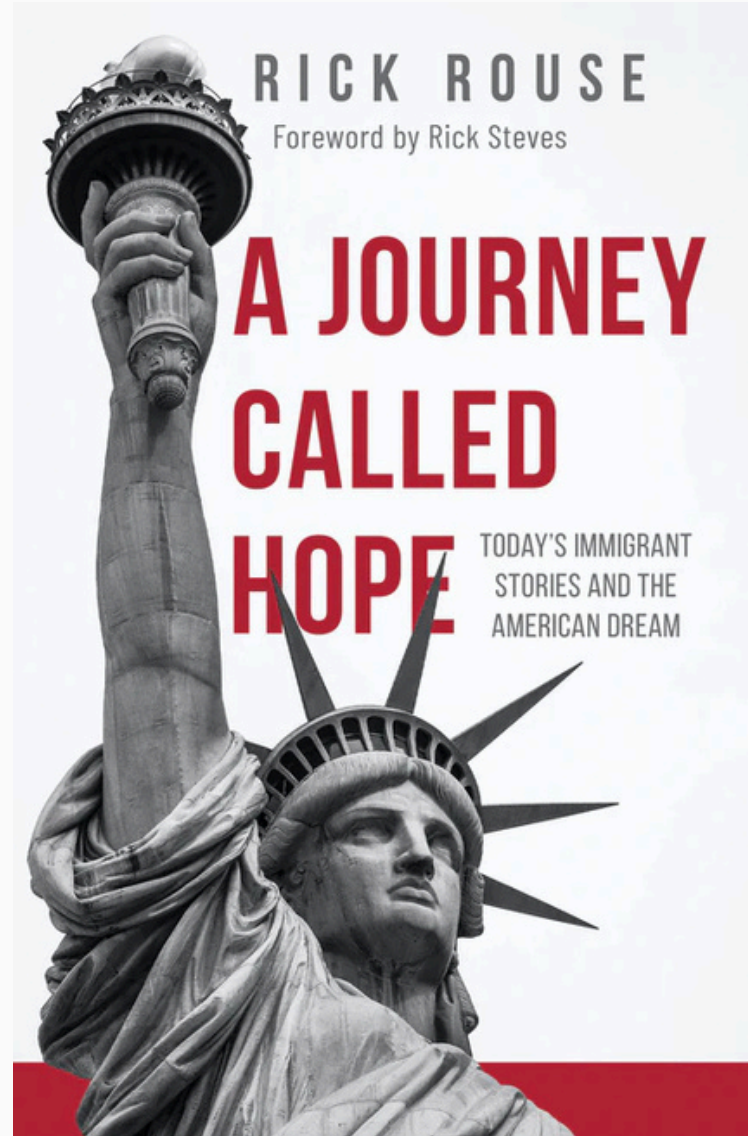


Summer Book Study

Join members of Redeemer's Mission Team as we read the new book *A Journey Called Hope: Today's Immigrant Stories and the American Dream* by ELCA Pastor Rick Rouse. Our first meeting will be at Redeemer on **June 18**. Our second meeting will be **July 23**. And our final meeting with Rick Rouse (over Zoom) will be on **August 27**. All meetings will be on **Wednesdays** from **6:15-7:15PM**. Folks can join in person or over Zoom. Watch your email blasts and bulletin announcements for more details.

From the Publisher: *In A Journey Called Hope, author Rick Rouse shares the stories of immigrants from around the world to America – their successes, hopes, challenges, and dreams. He explores how we can share our planet with the understanding that it is a matter of human dignity for all people to have a safe place to call home. In sharing these inspiring stories and hope-filled futures, Rouse assures us the United States is still a nation of promise made richer by its diversity.*

Redeemer will be ordering books the first week of June. If you would like to reserve a copy for the discounted price of \$10, please sign up on the clipboard under the announcement slides near the West Entrance by Monday, June 9.





Wednesday Summer Preachers Wanted!

Midweek Summer worship starts June 11th and we are looking for preachers! Could one of them be you?

Our summer theme this year is Journey of Hope. This summer we are celebrating the fact that “God will be with us where ever we go” (Joshua 1:9) and you get to help!

During our midweek worship from **7-7:30 Wednesday nights** we want to share stories of encountering God during vacation. You are invited to think about a vacation memory and to give a **short (5-7 minute) sermon** about your experience. As an added enticement to the congregation, we’d like you to **submit a photo** to the church office the week prior to your preaching. We’ve thought of a bunch of vacation themes and have found scripture that might help you tell your story.

Ready to sign up? Here’s what to do:

1. Choose a theme.
2. Choose a date
3. Contact one of the pastors
4. Send in a photo a week ahead of your preaching deadline
5. Preach your sermon on the Wednesday night you have chosen!



That’s it! If you have ideas for additional themes or different scriptures they are welcome! If you would like help crafting your sermon (or are unsure what 5-7 minutes of preaching looks like) please let Pr. Kelsey or Pr. Katie know.

Thank you for telling your story and joining Redeemer in our Journey of Hope this summer!

We can’t wait to hear what you have to tell us!

This Year's Graduates



Olivia Corcoran

Illinois State University
She will be attending grad school
in the fall to become a licensed
clinical professional counselor



Jax Rosland

Luther College
Bachelor's of Liberal Arts in
Communication



Abby Antinossi

Rice University
In the fall she will start a PhD in
Anthropology at Washington State



Ethan Greenwald

University of Illinois Champaign
Urbana,
Computer Engineering
This summer he will be moving to
Austin, Texas to work for Rivos.

This Year's Graduates



Sal Garza

Lesley University, MA in Mental Health Counseling- Expressive Arts Therapy
Has accepted a position as an Expressive Arts Therapist at InTouch & Motion, Chicago



Pierce Wittnebel

Hinsdale Transition Center



Juliana Gregio-Gary

Associate in Arts, Harper College
She will be starting undergrad in Psychology during fall 2025 at NIU and learn more towards a career in animal-assisted therapy

Joe Schwab

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,
Master of Science in Accountancy and a
Master of Business Administration
Joe will remain SVP, Corporate Controller
at KeHE Distributors (Naperville).

Matthew Schwab

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and Information Systems
He will start work at Deloitte (Chicago) in audit this fall.





Mission and Outreach

Mission Outreach Committee Update

Thank you all who contributed and participated in our Spring Refugee Month. There was great attendance at both the Exodus Celebration of Hope dinner and Welcoming the Stranger community conversation. Refugee One also held a letter writing workshop on how to write letters to legislators. AND, a huge thank you to all who donated household items for three refugee families in DuPage County. They will be delivered early June.

Coming this summer.....Refugee One donations in conjunction with VBS, LOVE, Inc. back to school shoes and LWR school kits.

Thank you,
Mission Outreach



Healthy Spiritual Journey

BY LANNY WILSON

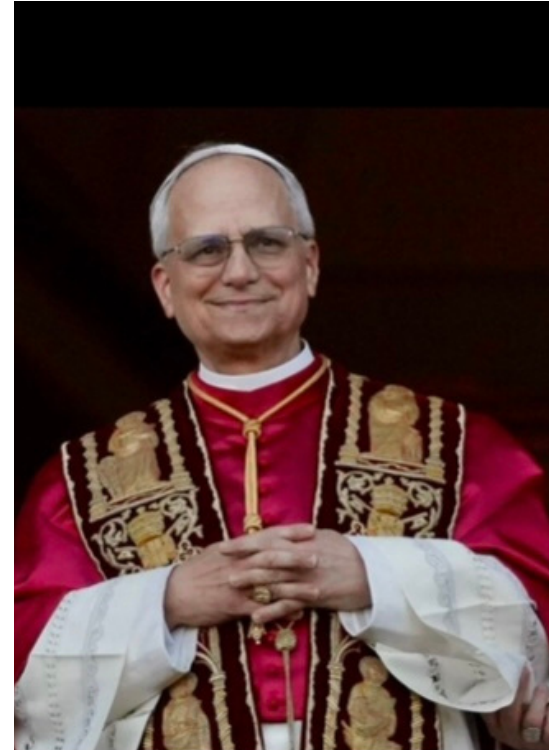


Papa Leo

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”
- Matthew 6:9

Father’s Day is just around the corner. I am related to several fathers (or papas) named Leo and we have a new Pope named Leo. Travel this healthy spiritual journey with me as we weave those threads of information into a tapestry of thoughts.

Father’s Day is celebrated in more than 112 countries around the globe to honor fathers and fatherhood. In many European countries, it is celebrated on March 19th, Saint Joseph’s Day. However, in the United States, the third Sunday of June has been set aside for the occasion. On June 15, 2025, we’ll have the opportunity to remember the fathers in our midst and the fathers who have gone to heaven. In English, we call our fathers by many names, including: father, dad, daddy, pap, pa, pops, papi, and papa. In my Wilson family, I would like to introduce you to three Papa Leos - Robert Leo, Joseph Leo, and Ronald Leo.



Robert Leo was my great-grandfather, the only one of the three who was called by the name Leo. He is the patriarch for hundreds of offspring. The son of a farmer, five generations of farmers have followed in his footsteps. My father, Joseph Leo was called Joe by most everyone. His seven children called him Daddy when we were young, Dad as we grew older, and Pap (not quite Papa) by at least a couple of us as we grew older still. We treated Papa Joseph Leo with love and respect.



He loved our mother, provided a good living on the farm, taught us right from wrong, shared his deep and abiding faith in God, and expected us to work hard, be responsible, and become leaders whenever the opportunity arose. Dad proudly wore his middle name Leo and might have been called by that name except that his greatly respected grandfather, Robert Leo, was the Leo of the family at that time. One of my brothers is Ronald Leo. He is the other Leo closest to me. Ronald Leo Wilson is a retired Internal Medicine specialist who was admired by his patients. His children love him and his grandchildren dote on him.

The words father and papa are not just exclusive to lay family life, several Christian denominations address their clergy as “Father”. This includes many Orthodox and Anglican Churches in addition to the Roman Catholic Church. In fact, my wife, a Lutheran Minister, was called ‘Father’ Linnea one day by a Greek Orthodox patient in the hospital during her seminary’s Clinical Pastoral Education internship. She was simply making rounds in the hospital to give communion to inpatients and the patient called her “Father” out of respect for her position.

Many refer to the Pope as the Holy Father to acknowledge the sacred nature of his role as spiritual leader. Interestingly, the word “Pope” comes from the Latin word “Papa”, which means “Father”. All of the Papa Leos I know (Robert Leo, Joseph Leo, Ronald Leo, and Pope Leo XIV) have been spiritual leaders who encourage their followers to walk together towards that homeland that God has prepared for us.



In God’s love,
Lanny F. Wilson, MD

“So may we all walk together towards that homeland that God has prepared for us.”
- Pope Leo XIV

*May we all walk
together...*