

# Redeemer Happenings

## July 2021



### Reflections on a Return to Church and gratitude for our Church Community...

It is a time of new beginnings and end of chapters for our family. It has been such a joy to get back to church in the physical sense. All things considered we Felstroms had adapted rather well to digital church. Church was spent in our family room, sprawled on the couch under blankets, often with a coffee in hand and our cat snuggled up with us.

Trent's preferred spot is always his recliner and this was true for church as well. With the audio turned on we listened to the good news each Sunday. We took advantage of the flexibility and tried church at different times of the day, morning or late evening depending on the work commitments of our girls. One of our favourite things to do was play 'guess the reader' with Trent clarifying our responses. Regardless of the venue, worship is worship and it was a good reminder to celebrate the promises and hope we know in Jesus. The good news of the gospel remains a constant in our lives.

For the girls and I this time of work-from-home has made Trent's job as a pastor more visible and understood. We have enjoyed taking part in this ministry as well - assuming the role of sermon editors, readers, communion hosts and special music. Your check-in phone calls, surprise gifts of baking, emails, texts and Zoom meetings made us feel well-connected during a time of social distancing. Our Redeemer church feels more and more like family as we continue to get to know you better and navigate the joys and challenges in our lives over time. We are so thankful for your support and care.

And on the note of gratitude, I must say how much Trent and I both appreciated your thoughts, prayers and messages to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a joy to open his inbox and hear the ping of text messages all week long. It was a birthday that kept on giving. I know he felt recognized and well loved. We know we are so blessed to call Trent - husband and Dad, and it was a beautiful reminder of how you see him as pastor and friend.

Well, summer is officially here and it feels great! School and the sun are both out in full force and the pace of life is about to get a little bit more relaxed. We, like many of you are looking forward to a time of rest, rejuvenation and time re-connecting with friends and family with more ease inside and outdoors. Our family looks forward to seeing many of you at church, Camp Kinasao or out and about in Saskatoon. We remember God's provision for us and His call for us to connect, find rest and keep our eyes and lives focused on Him.

Blessings to you, with joy and gratitude for our Redeemer family  
Kari



Over the past few weeks our nation has been shaken by the discovery of unmarked graves in Kamloops and now on the Cowessess First Nation. Sadly, there is every indication that this is only the tip of the iceberg. One can only imagine the depth of pain experienced by many of our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

It is difficult to know what to say, and what to do, in the face of such human suffering. My deepest hope is that we will not repeat the mistakes of the past by simply burying this inconvenient and heart-wrenching truth. I pray that God will give us the courage we need to sit in the pain of our hurting world and the strength to lean in and to listen.

Pray for those who have been touched by this tragedy most directly, that they will feel peace amidst the storm. Pray for our nation that we will face the suffering with care and a willingness to be accountable. Pray that we, as a community of faith, will find authentic and meaningful ways to extend love and support ourselves. Pray that God will touch our hearts and enlighten our minds, so that we might be ready to risk and to sacrifice for the sake of others.



How good it is to see the doors at Redeemer wide open on Sunday morning. It is a joy to see the pews filling up more and more with each passing week. When I reflect upon the past 15 months, my heart is filled with thankfulness for the patience, resilience and caring amongst our people. You have stepped up in trying times and kept our community connected in so many meaningful ways. What a gift it is to have a family of faith to love and support us in all circumstances.

It may still be too early to see how these past few months have truly impacted us, but I know God has been at work both in and through us. Having been through the fire of a pandemic we will certainly find ourselves refined; made stronger in the process.

As the season of summer begins to unfold, it is my prayer that many of you will find time and opportunity to be refreshed and renewed. We may not always realize the real impact of our journey through the pandemic, but it has undoubtedly taken a toll on all of us. I am hopeful that summer will bring needed rest; but I am also aware that many will be overcome by the exhaustion that has been building for some time.

And so, I encourage all of you to watch over your brothers and sisters at Redeemer as we slowly climb out of our Covid caves. Allow each other the space needed to re-adjust to life without restriction. Be mindful of others who may struggle to shake off the impact of this pandemic. Watch over each other constantly. Listen to each other carefully. And support each other graciously as we move forward together in hope.

Blessings,

Pastor Trent

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**We are now open to 100 registered worshipers on Sundays** For those that are needing some more time before finding your place in the pew, we will be livestreaming our service via YouTube. Just click the following link, and you will be connected.

[Redeemer Lutheran Saskatoon - YouTube](#)

**This link is also available on the homepage of our website [redeemersaskatoon.ca](http://redeemersaskatoon.ca) at any time.**

You can also go to this same link at any time afterwards to view the service if you are unable to join at 10am. We encourage you to hit 'subscribe' on our YouTube page, so that all future worship services will be highlighted for you. If you have any questions or need assistance in connecting to our YouTube site, just give us a call and we will be glad to help you out.

**If you plan to attend in-person worship, we ask that you pre-register through the church office by noon each Friday.**



## Treasurer's Message

For the month of May 2021, we had a surplus of \$10,605.47 before the fund account revenues and expenses. For the year to date, our deficit was wiped out and we now have a small surplus of \$1,253.63. The envelope giving for

May 2021 was significantly higher than the envelope giving for May 2020 and, for the year to date in 2021, it is just slightly higher than it had been to the end of May last year.

The revenue for the house is slightly more than the expenses for the year to date. The included financial statement shows the income and expense comparisons to the budgeted line items.

Now that in-person church services have resumed, a basket will be located at the top of the stairs in the sanctuary for you to drop off your envelope donation as you enter or exit. In addition, the following options are still available for you to make a donation:

### 1. Mail a cheque to the church

You can mail a cheque directly to the church office. Mailing address: 812 Preston Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 2V2.

### 2. Drop a cheque off at the church

You can drop off a cheque in the mailbox at the front of the church. It is right next to the door going into the entrance near the kitchen (between the fellowship hall and the fireside lounge).

### 3. Interac E-Transfer using online banking

We are now set up for automatic deposit. If you use online banking, you July make a payment to Redeemer Lutheran Church by:

- i. Logging into your personal banking account, add Redeemer Lutheran Church as a recipient using the email address [redemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net](mailto:redemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net)
- ii. Enter the desired amount and click send. Instructions on how to send and receive an e-transfer are found on Interac's website: <https://www.interac.ca/en/consumers/products/interac-e-transfer/>
- iii. You will need to follow up with an email to Becky at [redemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net](mailto:redemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net) advising her of your donation.

### 4. Secure Online Credit Card option through the ELCIC National Office for one-time credit card contribution

To use this option at <https://secure.elcic.ca/>

- i. Select the ELCIC General Fund; and
- ii. In the "Personal Message", include our congregation's name (Redeemer Lutheran Church) and our address (812 Preston Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 2V2). The ELCIC National Office will assume all processing costs and pass on 100% of the money received for Redeemer Lutheran Church. **The ELCIC National Office will issue a charitable donation tax receipt to you.**

Ron Litzenberger  
Treasurer

## Redeemer Lutheran Church

812 Preston Avenue  
Saskatoon SK  
S7H 2V2

Phone: 306-374-7585

E-mail:

[redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net](mailto:redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net)

## A Community of Life & Love, Hope & Healing



We're on the web!  
[redeemersaskatoon.ca](http://redeemersaskatoon.ca)



With freedom comes  
responsibilities, and I dare not  
linger, for my long walk has not  
ended yet.

— Nelson Mandela —

AZ QUOTES