



idings

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Walking by Faith

NEWS BLASTS · MONEY MATTERS
NEIGHBORHOOD MAPPING · MUSIC
JOHN GARDNER INTERVIEW





FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

One Sunday morning, I looked out at the pews and I saw . . . people taking notes! FFAR (Faith Foundations at Redeemer), the brainchild of Council President Ericka Jones, has enlivened our worship this year and generated a lot of interest in our Christian and Lutheran faith.

Together, we have studied topics related to the Bible, faith practices, and how the church works. For some, it was like a refresher Confirmation course. For others it was a brand new look, with a few “a-ha” moments along the way.

The time has come to CELEBRATE with a big Affirmation of Baptism, folded into our worship service on Sunday, May 17th at 10am. Pastor Lisa will contact those who qualify (through their regular attendance) to wear a white robe and red carnation on the Big Day. A potluck lunch will follow.

FFAR—what a joyful way we’ve learned together this year! And more to come.

Rev. Dr. Lisa Bates-Froiland

Pastor Lisa



Coming Soon!
BEE REDEEMED Honey
from Redeemer’s own
rooftop beehive!

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CONTACT US

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Office: M, W, F 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

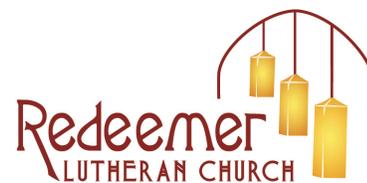
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FOLLOW US

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-  twitter.com/RedeemerMKE
- www.redeemermilwaukee.org



News Blasts

Pastor Lisa,
We would like to thank you for hosting our Alternative Service Break trip for the week, along with all of the food donations. Everyone in the Redeemer community was so welcoming to us and made our trip very enjoyable.
Thank you!
Boston ASB Students



Avenues West Association selects Pr. Lisa Bates-Froiland and Redeemer Lutheran as the 2015 recipient of its Impact Award! This award is presented to an individual or company “whose activities have resulted in a substantial positive impact on the Avenues West area.” Pr. Lisa and the congregation will be recognized at the Avenues West 20th Annual “Together We Can...” Awards Luncheon fundraiser on Thursday, May 21, 2015. The event, which attracts approximately 200 attendees, is held in the Marquette University Alumni Memorial Union’s Monaghan Ballroom from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Summer Sermon Series

The inside cover of every worship bulletin at Redeemer contains the words “Different People; Same Jesus.” Our congregation’s diversity is one of its greatest strengths, and we celebrate it every week. During

the summer months (May 31 through August 30), Pastor Lisa’s sermons will unpack what our human differences mean for our unity in Christ and this Redeemer faith community. Race, gender, giftedness, and personality differences are just a few examples of the topics sermons will touch on this summer.

What’s Next? Small Groups at Redeemer

Redeemer’s Discipleship Team and Council are thinking through possibilities for starting small group ministry at Redeemer. Would you be interested in adding small group activity to your faith life? What would you like to see in a small group offering? Email Mary Campbell (mbc48@earthlink.net) or talk with Pastor Lisa or any council member with your ideas, interest, and what time/day would work for you.

Music Ministry

Meredith playing the organ on Easter.



The summer is soon upon us. We are hoping to see some new, as well as some returning faces in the choir within the next month! Welcome back to those who are returning, and welcome to those that are joining us for the first time.

I am reaching out to you as a multi-talented congregation. If you are a singer, an

instrumentalist, a reader, a writer, or have other talents that you would like to share, we need your help! I would love to see you contributing to our special music during our Sunday morning services. Please find me before or after church, and let me know how you can be a part of our music program this summer.

Blessings to you. May the warm sunshine fill your hearts with peace and newness!

~ Meredith Sipe, Director of Music

Bryon Johnson,
Redeemer's newest
Council Member



REDEEMER'S NEIGHBORHOOD MAPPING 2.0

We're going to do it again!! During the summer and fall of 2011-2012, Pastor Lisa and 33 other people, both members of Redeemer and others, in teams ranging from 2 to up to 4 people, walked each of the 68 blocks that make up the Redeemer's neighborhood.

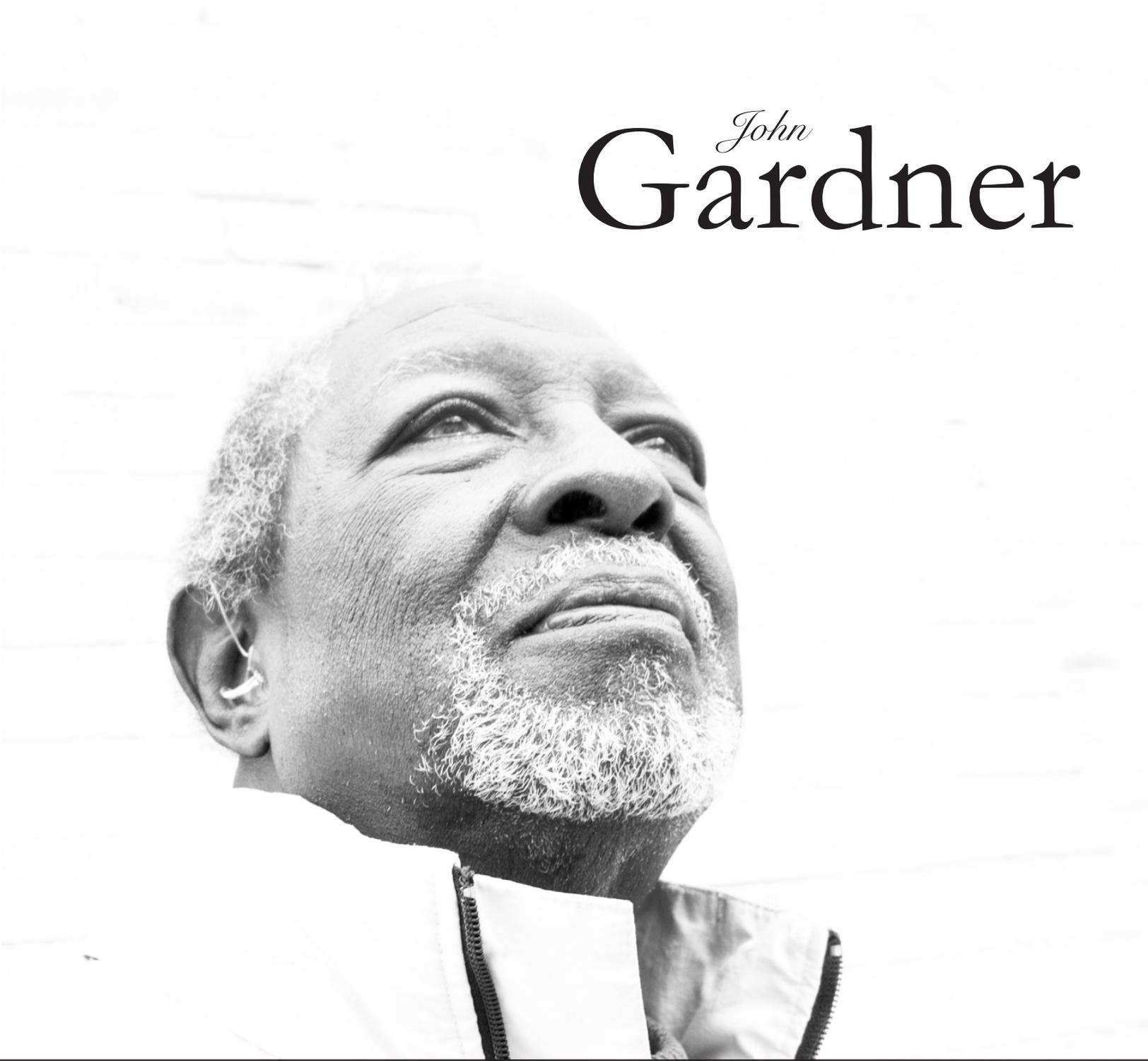
Here is your chance to participate! Neighborhood mapping is about hearing the stories of lace and beginning relationships with Wpeople who live, work and serve in this very diverse neighborhood. It is the next step in deeper engagement with our neighbors as we work to help create abundant community by discovering the hopes, dreams and gifts of the people and organizations in our very diverse neighborhood.

Too often churches and other institutions look to bring people in to them by creating programs within their own walls by creating programs that attempt to respond to the needs, either perceived or real, in the community. Not Redeemer! We get out there, meet people where they are and form relationships.

Sounds scary? Talk to those of us who have done it and you will discover that it is really incredible. Each time, I marvel at how much I've learned and been inspired by the stories people have so willingly shared with us. We learned last time that many of the assumptions that we consistently maintained as a church, about this neighborhood were wrong and discovered a richness that has blessed us through the people, businesses, and organizations in our neighborhood.

As a typical Lutheran, I never could see myself knocking on doors - and we don't - but we do go into all open doors, talk to people on the streets and make new relationships with Redeemer's neighbors. I can't wait! Join us!

~ Mary Campbell



John Gardner

We caught up with **John Gardner** at *Elsa's on the Park* to talk about his life, his passion for communicating, and his diverse experiences working in radio, television, the military, as a disc jockey, and his current work as a poet.

Life at Redeemer Lutheran Church

I've had some bad experiences with other churches. Whereas my former church had a culture of exclusion, Redeemer includes people. I've been at Redeemer ever since. I've been attending for 4 years now and they've enlisted me in all kinds of activities.

Speaking of activities, you have a commanding voice, and are often asked to read Scripture on Sunday mornings:

One day I was asked in church, "would you like to be God?" and I didn't know what they meant! Would you like to read the part of God. Someone once told me in a neighboring pew, "Wow! You sound like James Earl Ray!" And I said, "You must mean James Earl Jones." When he realized his mistake, I thought he was going to die with embarrassment.

People used to assume that my parents were well educated, but both my parents had an 8th grade education. I've always been asked,

“How in the world did you learn to speak the King’s English? Where did you learn to speak like that?” and I have to say, “Where did you learn to speak like that?” I was a self-directed learner and I loved school. Growing up during WWII, I had a great Aunt who lived upstairs and subscribed to Look Magazine which covered a great deal of the war. She let me sit in her home for hours and hours and read.

Now I’m 77 and can see 80 out of the corner of my eye. I’m the last one in my immediate family and it feels lonely. My mother died of cancer in 1981, the same day my son was born. My son was born at 8:59a in the morning and I called to let them know they had a grandson and they called me back at 11:00a and told me that my mother had died. She found out she had a grandson right before she died. The Lord chose my highest moment to take my mother, which enabled me to weather that. That’s how I look at it.

Broadcasting, Communication, and Systematic Racism

I had an internship at WTMJ and the announcing supervisor, Dave Adams, was my tutor and friend. He was a great announcer, the best I’ve ever seen. After about 60 days into a 90 day internship, I saw him in the hallway and he looked white as a sheet. And I said, Dave, what’s wrong? And he says, “Well they told me if I keep helping you I’m going to be out on the street with you.” A week or two later, I was called into the program manager’s office and he said, “Well, John. We’re going to have to let you go because you’re too ambitious.” This is 1968. During my first internship was Channel 4, the news director gave me a nickel tour of the place and the first day I was there he turned to me and said, “You know, society is not ready for a black face on television.” I said to myself, I’m going to make a liar out of you. Every single station I worked with it was made known to me that I was intruding on their territory. That it was an Ol’ [White] Boys kind of thing. This kind of systematic racism still exists today.

But despite it all, I believed in myself. I seemed to be destined to work in broadcasting and I knew I was capable of performing and I just refused to let them make me believe that I could not succeed. I loved the idea of being the middle man between what was going on out there and viewers and listeners. There was a wide gap in communication between the public and the media. I wrote a couple papers on the need for there to be more black journalists. I thought it was unfair to take a white student that had grown up in a white neighborhood and send them out into the black neighborhood and expect them to have the same kind of access. I thought it was unfair to the reporter and to the residents. It wasn’t so much a racial issue as it was a communication issue. And this was 1972. My professor didn’t like that at all. He thought I was an extremist! I got a B in the class, but I wasn’t a B student. I was an A student.

In the end, I love communicating. As a kid, I saw how kids were so misunderstood. This was around the 1940s, where the motto for kids was “Seen and not heard.” This was very frustrating for me because I loved to talk. As I grew up, I internalized this need to be understood and to listen. Many wars could be avoided if people learned to communicate better.

On Being a Poet

After 25 years in broadcasting, at the age of 63, I decided to back to campus and get a degree in creative writing, in poetry. I had been writing poetry maybe 20 years, but it was just a hobby. Even when I was working in broadcasting, writing poetry and essays was very relaxing for me. At UWM, I was always older than all my instructors. But the veteran instructors complimented me on being an inspiration in class and encouraging debate. One of my professors told me, “I could give you an A just for participating in discussions! You inspire these other students.”

Any final piece of advice for aspiring writers?

I would suggest to a younger writer to read as much as possible. If you want to really learn how to write, Write! Don’t think about it, do it! You can’t edit a blank page. I’ve got piles and piles of stuff that I’ve written that I don’t like. But I don’t throw it away. Put something down on paper and if you don’t like it, change it. If you want to write, you must pursue it wholeheartedly.



GROWING

I have grown tired
growing older.
So many battles
won and lost.

I hear less
with these ears,
yet can do more
with what I hear.

My eyes
cannot focus as well,
so I reach further
hoping to touch more.

The heart is growing fonder
as life grows older and shorter:
there is less time to waste,
because there *is* less time.

Drinking sips of life,
as opposed to
unbridled consumption:

Savoring...
has become a saving,
graceful way
of maintaining what remains
of a glass now half full of life
and half emptied of angst.

Financial Giving for Redeemer's Mission

Redeemer Family,

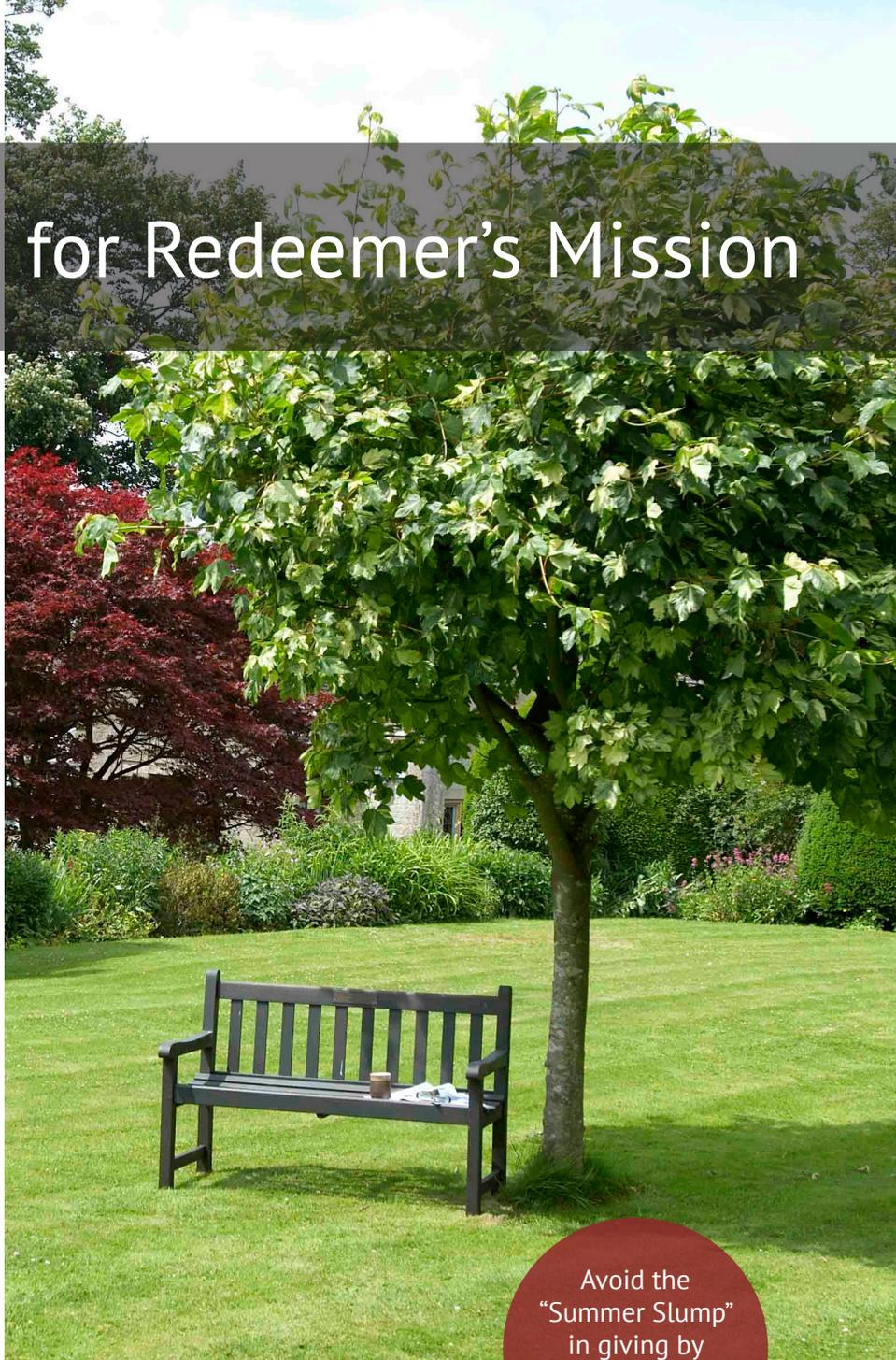
I hope you've seen the Time and Talents sheets in the bulletin the last few weeks and have filled it out and put it in the collection plate. It's important to communicate how you'd like to give a portion of your gifts to the kingdom work we are trying to do together here at Redeemer. Gifts of time, and of your particular talents/abilities, enrich our ministry at Redeemer and beyond Redeemer.

As your Treasurer, it's my responsibility to keep an eye on how the congregation's financial gifts are flowing into the church. We can't pay the bills (keep the lights on, compensate the staff, make necessary repairs, send kids to camp, feed our hungry neighbors, etc.) without a portion of the financial gifts God first gave you. Thank you very much for every financial gift you make to Redeemer.

As of 3/31/15 total tithes/offerings (this includes In-kind donations) is \$25,900.50 which is 24.6% of the yearly goal. Tithes and giving is pretty much right on target!

We are being met with some expense challenges, specifically surrounding building maintenance. I know with your continued support (both talents and treasures), we will be able to overcome this challenge. Please continue to pray for the council's as we manage through these challenges.

With Love in Christ,
Solomon Tesfai
Treasurer



Avoid the
"Summer Slump"
in giving by
automating your
gift to Redeemer!



The Great Outdoors: Lutherdale!

Redeemer Lutheran Church is sending kids to Lutherdale Bible Camp again this year.

Lutherdale is located in Elkhorn, WI. Start thinking now about a break from the city and a time to reconnect in a new way to God's creation. Redeemer asks for a \$25 deposit

per family and Redeemer will offer scholarships for the rest of the cost for one week of camp. Registration forms are available in the Narthex!

Check out www.lutherdale.org for more information about the camp!

CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER



Redeemer is excited to have Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran in Harland become a "partner congregation" earlier this year. Our Savior's is about "doing life deeply together" and making friends with all we encounter. We love partnerships so to do ministry together, to learn from one another, and to expand the kingdom of God. We have a heart of serving with the poor and poor in spirit. Therefore, we reach out to care for those in need locally, in Appalachia, Africa, and in the city. Our worship is eclectic from full band, to folk ensembles, to organ, to bluegrass.

Pastor Tom's a guitar-playing, husband of 22 years, father of four, pastor of 20 years, and sports enthusiast (whatever it takes to play with children, youth, or adults, he'll do it).



Partner Spotlight

CIVIC MINISTRY



Frank Zeidler
Center for
Public Discussion

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE Frank Zeidler Center for Public Discussion, A UNIQUE CIVIC MINISTRY OF REDEEMER!

ATTEND A ZEIDLER COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Every last Thursday of the month, we host a facilitated conversation in the Redeemer dining room. 7:00p-8:30p. Past topics have included "Supporting prisoner re-entry in the community," and "Milwaukee's segregation." Check out our website for the topic of the month!

BECOME A SPONSOR: We are looking for individuals who will regularly support the Zeidler Center's local and international programs with financial gifts as we work toward peace and reconciliation through civil dialogue. Checks can be made out to Zeidler Center for Public Discussion and placed in the offering or church office, or mailed to the church. 631 N. 19th St. Milwaukee, WI 53233.

COMPLETE THE FACILITATOR TRAINING: At the beginning of each month we hold a facilitator training (5:30p-8:30p at Redeemer). Check our website for the next date! Learn about the method, and have an opportunity to lead others in civil dialogue. \$90 registration. Scholarship are available. Full Scholarships available for Redeemer members!

More information and registration at www.zeidlercenter.org, or call the Zeidler Center at (414) 446-1502.

calendar

2ND Monday

Outreach training, 6:30p

Thursdays

Senior Center 10 a.m - 1 p.m.; Celebrate Recovery Meetings 6:30 p.m.

4TH & 5TH Saturdays

Human Concerns Urban Ministry shares food, clothing, and prayer in Redeemer's dining hall.

Wednesdays JUNE-SEPT

1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Redeemer Neighborhood Mapping with Pr. Lisa. Show up at 1p in Redeemer's Dining Hall to participate!

Sundays MAY-SEPT

Redeemer hosts Noon Run Meal for our neighbors. Volunteers needed to serve from 11:45-1:15p in Redeemer's Dining Hall. Call office and leave a message 414-933-7004 or sign up on chart in Narthex!

May5

Zeidler Center's facilitator training, 5:30-8:30p in Redeemer's Dining Hall. Full Scholarships for Redeemer members! Sign up @ (414) 446-1502.

May17

Affirmation of Baptism Service and PARTY!

May24

Joint Pentecost Service with Our Savior's Lutheran, 10 a.m. Lunch to follow!

May29-30

Synod Assembly (Pr. Lisa, Micah R. and Jaquel J. will represent Redeemer).

May31-Aug30

Pr. Lisa's Summer Preaching Series: "Thriving with Difference in One Christian Community"

July7-14

El Salvador Mission Exploration Trip with Pr. Lisa