

The Good Newsletter

A Publication of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

May 2013



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Sunday Schedule

Traditional Worship: 8:45am
Creation Stations: 10:00am
Contemporary Worship: 11:00am
5th Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Our Mission is "To be a life-changing Christian community where people meet, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ."



Gardens Galore at Our Redeemer!

When this snow finally gives way to some warmer weather and allows the ground a chance to thaw out the garden work will

begin again. We get many comments about the beautiful garden area in the drive through with the many kinds and sizes and colors of flowers that make for a great bright entrance. The garden team separates that area into different sections and various folks tend to the planting, weeding and care throughout these next months. Last year a new sprinkler system was installed so we are anticipating a wonderful area this summer.

But the gardening is going to continue in two new ways this spring. Led by an Eagle Scout at Our Redeemer (Mitchell Morgan) and with lots of partnership with the Lake Phalen Watershed District (which holds their meetings at Our Redeemer and is covering 75% of the costs) we will be installing a Rain Garden on our west parking lot. This special garden is meant to absorb and store much of the parking lot run off during rains, to use it for the self sustaining garden and thereby limit what goes through the storm drains. This is one way for us to be better stewards of creation. During the last two weeks of April there was a chance for people to help purchase some plants that were bought and being planted very soon.

A special thanks to the ORLC Garden Team for their large gift and for the Care For Creation Team for their gift toward this project.

One other garden that is going to get a start this Spring is a vegetable garden that will be planted on the south side of the building. With the help of a number of people who wanted to do something to reach out in more care for our local community and neighborhood we are going to build three raised bed garden plots. We hope to plant and tend to two of the lots and make the other bed available to neighbors who could use garden space. The confirmation youth spent time planting starter plants that will be ready soon. We will bring the produce to the food shelves when it is ready, as well as hand it out at the National Night Out gathering in August. In a time when there is more demand for food from our neighbors, and as we look at constructive ways to use our facility, this has been one place the Spirit has been stirring and we look forward to what it will produce.

If you are interested in helping in any one of these garden areas please contact Claire Sexton, Carol Rodriguez, Rita Durning, or Intern Pastor Peter Weston Miller.

In Christ,
Pastor Karsten Nelson

- ⇒ *Potluck on May 5*
- ⇒ *New Member Class*
- ⇒ *Volunteer Luncheon*
- ⇒ *Mother's Day Pie Sale*
- ⇒ *Tangled Blue Concert*

In This Issue



From the Intern's Desk...

"Violence and God's Justice: Deliver us from evil"

"But I say to you listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you" (Luke 6:27-29)

Many of us have been following the gut-wrenching events as they unfold in Boston. We have also grieved and prayed for the families of Newtown, Connecticut, Aurora, Colorado and the thousands of others who have been killed by revenge and hatred. And we have felt this pain and the terror hit home on a Monday night when a little boy was shot in a Rainbow parking lot in Oakdale. But it is not only the pain that we feel for others, but also the reality that we have celebrated Easter and yet are still immersed in the violence of a Good Friday world.

In these moments when we reflect, when we wonder and try to explain away the causes or symptoms, when we cry out to God, when we hug our loved ones a little closer, when we face our own vulnerability, or load our weapons, we might also ask whether our response to evil and enemies is the right way. Do the tough non-violent teachings of Jesus apply to us now? "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."

Or is Jesus naive to violence, to terror by the Romans, to people arming themselves for protection? Think of Peter raising his blade in the Garden of Gethsemane. Might that have been a time to resort to violence in order to protect our Savior? Is there ever a time in Jesus' mission and ministry that he advocates or uses violence as a response to violence?

I don't think it would be a difficult argument to make that we are immersed in a culture that is desensitized to violence and revenge as means of justice. It's just the way things are. From online first-person shooter video games and movies, to the endless years of war and terror, to domestic violence in homes and bullies in schools. Our answer to evil has consistently been violent retribution.

In the midst of evil and enemies, Martin Luther King, Jr. was known for advocating for nonviolence. He turned to Jesus for the way out. He turned to Jesus for a different trajectory.

Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction. So, when Jesus says, 'Love your enemies,' he is setting forth a profound and ultimately inescapable admonition. Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies—or else? The chain reaction of evil—hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars—must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation. (Strength To Love, 53)

Does our system of justice actually encourage a more loving people or does it perpetuate further violence and hatred? As Jesus' admonition and King's words remind us, God's justice does not equate to our justice and we, as well as the perpetrators, must remember that and respond differently. Maybe I am naive, but my hope and my prayer is that God's loving justice delivers us from such evil and that we challenge each other to live without violence.

In Christ,

Intern Pastor Peter Weston Miller

A meal to meet others -

Come and join in on a shared meal with the folks from Spring of Eternal Life congregation on May 5th at 12:15.

This Hispanic congregation has been meeting at Our Redeemer on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evening for a year and a half. They participated with us in the National Night Out and helped to serve at Dorothy Day Center. This day will be a chance to meet and visit with these fine, faithful folks. Many speak both Spanish and English but we will also have translators at each table to assist with the conversation. This will be a pot luck meal - bring what you would like - a salad, more of a main dish, or a dessert. Come show your hospitality, build some bridges, and enjoy a great time of fellowship.

New Member Class

We had to postpone our recent new member class because of the bad weather (snow) but will be having a new class on Thursday, May 2nd from 6:15-8:15. Please call the office if you would like to be part of this group.

Youth Mission Trip

This July, 13 youth and 4 adults from Our Redeemer will be going to New Orleans, LA on a mission to serve that community with the love of Christ. While there, we will be working on rebuilding homes, replanting wetlands and serving the homeless and hungry. We will also grow in our own faith, hear the stories of the people that we meet and build a greater understanding for the different cultures and people in the United States. In the next few weeks and months, there will be many opportunities to financially support the youth on their journey. Your support will go directly to paying for train tickets, food and to help cover the cost of housing and projects while we are in New Orleans. The cost of this trip for the youth is over \$700 each. Our goal is to raise \$500 per youth to help defray their expenses. More importantly though, please pray for the youth and adults going on this trip. Pray that we will be safe, that we will grow in our faith and that God might use us as instruments of love and peace.

Hire a Missionary

Spring is upon us and the snow is melting! Do you have some yard projects, some hauling, cleaning or other work that you could use some help with? Please consider hiring the youth who are going on the mission trip to New Orleans to help you out. They'd be glad to help you with your Spring projects for a donation to the church for their mission trip fund. If you'd like to hire a missionary, please email Aimee at: aimee@orlcmn.org and she will help you with the details of finding help for your project!



Mother's Day Pie Sale!

The youth who are going on the mission trip to New Orleans will be selling pies for Mother's Day! We will be selling three different types of delicious, fresh home made pies. We will have order forms available for you to fill out to let us know that you want an apple pie, a white chocolate pie, a key lime pie, or all three! The pies will be selling for \$16.00 a piece (that adds up to \$2.00 per slice) of course, if you'd like to donate more to support the youth on their trip, none of them would object!



Second Annual Concert

Tangled Blue (Joel and Aimee Pakan) will be playing a concert at Our Redeemer on May 31st in the evening. This concert will be part of a fun and family friendly evening which will include an auction, excellent desserts, good music and lots of laughter! Come out for a night of fun, music and fundraising for the youth mission trip.



Children's Ministry Update, May 2013

May Children's Ministry Committee meeting: May 2nd at 6 pm

Another year of Creation Stations is coming to a close. A year-end celebration and recognition of volunteers will occur on May 19, with activities for the kids from 10-10:50 a.m. outdoors if weather permits.

Creation Stations Schedule remaining 2013

April 28, May 5, 12	Forgiveness (We Heal Ourselves, We Heal Each Other)
April 28	Large Group-(Garden) All
May 5	Small Groups
May 12	Small Groups
May 19	Year-end celebration



Bonnie Blystone is Retiring

After fifteen years of leading the Choir and working with the Bells, Bonnie has decided it is time to retire. She will be giving up the musical leadership and taking on other endeavors, like hospital visiting to pray for others. Bonnie has had a long presence with us and has been dedicated to selecting appropriate music, working with whatever size choir was on hand, and assisting with others areas of worship leadership. We will miss Bonnie, and while she will be worshipping elsewhere we are glad she has offered to keep being available for funerals, weddings or other times of filling in on the organ. A special thank you for Bonnie will take place between services on Sunday, May 19 - please come join us for a fond farewell.

Calling past choir members! If you would like to be part of the choir for one week on Bonnie's last day, please plan on coming to the one practice on Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00pm.



Summer Worship Hours begin on Sunday, May 26. Service times throughout the summer will be 8:45am & 10:30am.

Funeral Kitchen Volunteers Luncheon

Calling all funeral volunteer staff! We want to thank you for all that you do to help provide a wonderful service to the grieving at ORLC.

If you are a kitchen helper, make food, or help out in anyway, please join us for this luncheon in your honor on Saturday, May 25th at 10:30 in the ORLC Fellowship Hall. Transportation provided if necessary. RSVP required to Kathi Kirchoff. Call 651-770-3514 to leave a message and reserve.



Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings in the name of our Redeemer and great Physician! May is a month full of activities and celebrations. There are Confirmations, First Communions, graduations, Mother's Day and National Nurses Week. During

this very busy month, I would like to share some thoughts with you on the Healing Ministry of the Church.

What Does the Word "Healing" Really Mean?

Healing refers to much more than the treating of disease and disability. Actually the root of the word "heal" means wholeness. As Christians we believe that wholeness has our relationship with God as the center and it involves harmony or balance among all dimensions of our life. Healing actions are characterized by 1) reflecting Jesus' ministry 2) promoting wholeness and peace 3) relating between the person helping and the person hurting 4) sharing of self, and 5) attending to specific human needs.

What is the Healing Ministry of the Church?

In the Old Testament we read about God's healing actions, "But He was pierced for our transgression, He was crushed for our iniquities; punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds are we healed" (Isaiah 53:5) During His life, Jesus devoted much of His time to healing physical, emotional and spiritual brokenness. In addition, His charge to the New Testament Church included Preaching, Teaching and

Healing (Matthew 10: 7, 8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:18). The ministry of health and healing is central to the life of the church. Many traditional church activities are rooted in the ministry of healing. God has given us Baptism, Communion, His Word and Liturgy, and Christian Fellowship as gifts of healing! In addition, all Christians are called to live lives of peace, mercy and healing (James 1:27).

How Can We Lead Healing Lives?

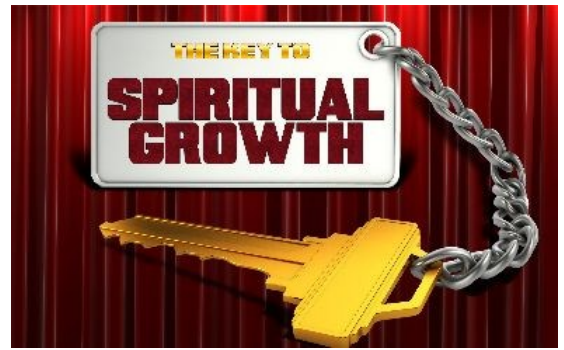
In order to live healing lives, we must first be grounded in a living relationship with Jesus Christ and be responsive to our own spiritual needs. Second, we must grow in sensitivity to the struggles and sufferings of others. God enables us to live a life of kindness, compassion, gentleness and patience (Colossians 3:12). Third, we can make ourselves present to people who are suffering. Fourth, we can try to help others find meaning and peace in their suffering.

As your Parish Nurse, I would very much like to share a ministry of health and healing with you. If there is anything I can do or the Parish Health Team can do to assist you, please call me. I pray that we may all be comforted with these words of promise. "...I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security" (Jeremiah33:6).

Carol Watnemo, RN
Parish Nurse 651-776-2592

Spiritual Growth and Discipleship

Nourishment – For any kind of growth, nourishment is essential. Our bodies need nourishment, our minds need nourishment, and our souls need nourishment. We cannot grow spiritually without feeding on God’s Word. 2 Peter 3:18 says: “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”.



Some of what Spiritual Growth includes is:

- Increasing our knowledge and understanding of God’s Word;
- Increasing our faith and trust in God;
- Decreasing our frequency and severity of sin;
- Increasing our practice of Christ-like qualities.

Spiritual growth can be likened to the process of becoming more and more like Jesus Christ. Learning how to grow spiritually is a life-long journey. Much of this growth occurs as we read and apply God’s Word to our lives. God desires for us to grow spiritually, and He has given us all we need to experience spiritual growth. It is helpful to understand that spiritual growth *is* a journey. None of us is perfect, nor are we expected to achieve instant spiritual maturity. God works in different ways in different people. Some people grow rapidly, while others grow slowly, but steadily. We should not compare ourselves with others, but focus on God’s work in our own lives. *(information used from allaboutgod.com/spiritual growth)*

Nourishment for spiritual growth is important. One way to feed and nourish our spiritual growth is to be in relationship with other believers. God works for our good through others in community. Remember our ‘40 Days of Community’ study, where we learned we are definitely “Better Together”. Spiritual growth small groups provide that opportunity. Group members connect with each other, support each other, encourage each other, confess to each other, and pray for each other. All of these produce growth, healing and change. Let one of our small groups help in your spiritual growth journey. See below for **current group opportunities**. Contact one of the leaders for further information.

Group Name	Leader(s)	Meeting Time
Lives Worth Living	Doug Watnemo/Vicki Anderson	Every other Monday Evening at 6:45 pm
Caffeinated for Christ	Kathi Kirchoff	1 st & 3 rd Monday Evenings at 6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening	Amy Krohn	Every other Wednesday Evening at 6:30 pm
Men’s Thursday	Dennis Peterson	Thursday weekly at 6:45 am
Thursday Evening	Carol Watnemo	Thursday evenings twice/month at 6:30 pm
Scrapbook Group	Barb Maynard/Michele H.	3 rd Saturday each month 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Hope, & Joy Circles	Judy Koza/Sharon Peterson	Once per month – contact leaders
Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Pastor Karsten	Every Wednesday at 9:30-10:30 am

Looking at Our Facility Needs

We will soon be working with Miller Architects and Builders to walk through a review of our current facility in terms of maintenance and equipment, exploring possible remodeling options, and maybe even considering some new construction. We want to make sure our building continues to help us carry out the ministry we are called to do. The process of working with Miller will include visits with large and small groups within the church and other interviews, to help us consider the importance, readiness, and priority of any changes. If you would like to be a part of this working group (from Mid May to Mid August) please contact Pastor Karsten or Dick Peterson.



	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Worship Host	Roger Svendsen	Claire Sexton	Allen Heimerdinger	Tom Wallace
8:45 Ushers	Dennis Paulson Rob Klemm Kent Weispfenning Dennis Peterson	Roger Ollila Doug Watnemo Baryogar Johnson Roger Svendsen	Dan Fitzgerald Bill Maynard Bill Fredine Dave Mennen	Larry & Sandy Pruden Mike Welte Mike Kahrau
8:45 Greeters	Judy Triplett Joyce Pederson	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald	Florence Senske Virginia Kattleson	Judy Moe Joyce Abrahamson
8:45 Lector	Carol Watnemo	Dave Mennen	Bonnie Blystone	Anna Miller
11:00 Ushers	Claire Sexton Tom Wallace Reed Schrankler Cheri Edwall	Rick Brovitch Ben Schrankler Clint Crooks Aaron Mennen	Randy & Jane Koza Dick & Sharon Peterson	Bruce Ring Mark, Doreen, Courtney Winter
11:00 Greeters	Sherry Pasket Helen Wallace	Shirley Torgerson Cindy Crooks	Nora Smeed Jessica Ryden	Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson
11:00 Lectors	Jane Koza	Holly Forsberg	Kathi Kirchoff	Cherie Kilbride
Bucks for our Building Worker	Jill Rodriguez		Vicki Anderson	
Coffee and Donut Prep/Serve	Shirley Sheehan Marie Mohrlant Darlene Harwood	Dave Mennen	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Dennis & Jan Peterson
Counter	Barb Maynard Helen Wallace	Dennis Peterson Shirley Torgerson	Allen Heimerdinger Clint & Cindy Crooks	Don & Lana Larsen Roger Truen

Aluminum Can Sales

"Thank you!" to our faithful contributors, especially Jennifer and AJ, who collected throughout the winter, and to Larry Pruden for continuing to provide transportation to the metals recycler. We thank you for donating your cans each 1st Sunday of the month.

Financial Information as of March 31.

We finished the first quarter of 2013 with a strong financial start even though we had many Sundays that were bitterly cold and snowy! Thank you for your continued support of the ministries at Our Redeemer. It is your continued giving that allows us to embark on this journey together.

Below you will find our year to date income information which consists of General, Festival & Plate Cash giving. This amount does not include extras such as rent or cell tower.

Budgeted Income	\$68,150
<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>\$73,135</u>
Difference	\$4,985

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<p style="text-align: center;">2013</p>	<p>1 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am Missions Mtg 6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Wed Eve Study</p>	<p>2 6:45am Men's Study 6:00pm Children's Committee Mtg 6:15pm New Member Class 6:30pm Phalen Stewards Mtg, Thursday Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 5-7pm SEL Practice 7-9 SEL Youth Service</p>
<p>5 Can Day, First Sun Food Shelf, Blood Pressure Check, BFOB 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Worship 12:15pm ORLC Potluck with SEL 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church</p>	<p>6 6:30pm Girl Scouts Caffeinated for Christ</p>		<p>7 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm SEL 8:00pm SR High at Caribou</p>	<p>8 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation</p>	<p>9 6:45am Men's Study 5:30pm Worship & Music</p>	<p>10 Youth Pie Making - Kitchen</p>
<p>12 Mother's Day! - Pie Sale 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm SEL Fellowship in FH</p>	<p>13 9:00am Quilting 6:45pm Lives Worth Living 7:00pm Joy Circle</p>	<p>14 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm SEL, Hope Circle 8:00pm SR High at Caribou</p>	<p>15 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Wed Eve Study 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>16 6:45am Men's Bible Study 5:30pm Intern Support Mtg 6:30pm Knitting & Crocheting Group at Hometown Creamery, Thursday Eve Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9am-3pm Scrapbooking 5-7pm SEL Practice 7-9 SEL Youth Service</p>
<p>19 Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School Celebration, Bonnie Retirement Farewell 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church</p>	<p>20 6:30pm Girl Scouts, Caffeinated for Christ</p>	<p>21 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm SEL, Church Board 8:00pm SR High at Caribou</p>	<p>22 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation Year End</p>	<p>23 6:45am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 11am-3pm Volunteer Lunch 5-7pm SEL Practice 7-9 SEL Youth Service</p>
<p>26 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:30am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church</p>	<p>27 Memorial Day Office Closed 9:00am Quilting 6:45pm Lives Worth Living 7:00pm Parish Health Mtg</p>	<p>28 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm SEL 8:00pm SR High at Caribou</p>	<p>29 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Wed Eve Study</p>	<p>30 6:45am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>31 Tangled Blue Concert in FH</p>	

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

Address Service Requested

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
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