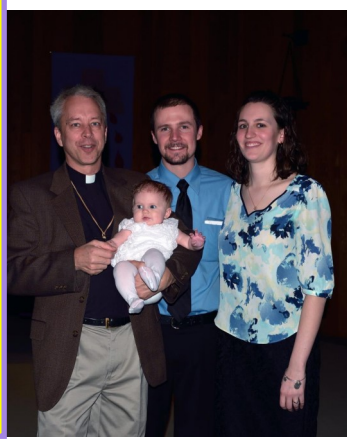
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Transforming Lives and Building Community by Loving God and Serving Others

June 2017

See inside for:

- ⇒ **Summer Worship Information**
- ⇒ **Semi-Annual Meeting**
- ⇒ **Tanzania Partnership**
- ⇒ **Stewardship**
- ⇒ **Upcoming Owls Events**



Summer Worship – A time of praise, a place of rest

Worship is the lifeblood of a Christian. Gathering with others, hearing the word, celebrating communion and being sent into the world helps feed our spiritual lives.

This summer join us for some enjoyable mornings for worship. There is something special about allowing summer to be a season of relaxing and renewal and we intended to help our worship be a place to help meet those needs by resting in the good news about God in Christ, and having worship renew us for weekly life.

We invite you to join us this summer for the chance again for us to be a combined congregation worship-ping at a single time (9:30am). We are looking forward to a couple of really good and interesting sermon series (see more in this newsletter), having time to worship and visit with both those familiar to us and connecting with folks you don't really know, and allowing worship to be the heartbeat of our faith.

The services will each have a touch of traditional and contemporary elements with a heavier focus on traditional flow the 1st and 3rd Sundays and the 2nd and 4th being more contemporary – we hope you will join us every week you are available.

Keep in mind the Wednesday night worship option throughout the summer that we are sharing with five other local congregations in the wider Maplewood area – these take place at Bruentrupp Farm (2 blocks east of Maplewood Mall on Co Rd D). Food and fun games/ activities at 5:30 with worship at 6:30. June 7th begins with a special Blessing Of The Animals – so bring your pets. What a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor.

We will have a special worship this summer on Sunday, July 23 that will again draw folks from the East Side 8 congregations together. We will worship at the amphitheater at Lake Phalen at 9:30 (an indoor service here at Our Redeemer will also happen that day) and then join together for a nice brunch in the adjacent pavilion. Come celebrate together in a great park setting and be ready for some good fellowship and a few good games.

Let summer worship be refreshing and renewing for you.

Blessings,

Pastor Karsten

Staffing Update

There has been good work on interviewing a few folks who have interest and skills to be our Music Director. We hope to have some final news soon about a new staff person in this area. In the meantime we continue to be grateful for the work and leadership both Bonnie Blystone and Scott Strand are providing for us.

We have also begun talking with synod about the next steps in working with them in the process of trying to find a great fit for a new assistant minister. We have worked on a job description, heard feedback from the congregation about our direction, and are in the midst of coming up with the necessary special funding appeal to make new staffing additions happen.

More of this news will be shared at our Semi Annual meeting on June 25 but if you have questions/feedback you can contact Pastor Karsten or Intern Pastor Carol, Dean Ersfeld, Michele Heimerdinger, Vicki Andrson, Hilary Hinrichs, or Tina Gray.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL®
Connecting faith & finances for good.™

ACTION TEAM

Thrivent Members – we can help you use your action team money

Every Thrivent member can apply for 2 Action team grants a year – each one for $250. We would be happy to help you access these dollars as a ways to support various ministry here at Our Redeemer. We can help you write up a request to support Summer Worship on the Farm, Summer Stretch youth service projects, building our partnership with Tanzania, helping with resources for the Loaves and Fishes meals or serving at Dorothy Day or any way you are interested in using these funds. Call the office for more information.

Greetings Our Redeemer Family,

Looking back and looking ahead…

When we reflect upon our histories, we can see joy and sometimes we see pain. In the midst of all the experiences of our lives, we might even be able to see growth in our own selves. For me, I have recently been reflecting on the grace and mercy of God in the darkest valleys of my life. When I have climbed out of the depths and am able to look back, I can see that I was never alone in my strife. God has always been with me, never leaving me to venture in the darkness of night with my own fears.

The joys are much easier to handle, for obvious reasons. However, I have discovered that we sometimes forget that God is as much as part of our rejoicing as well as our pain. It is easier to praise when things are going well, but it is also easy to forget to say thank you in times of joy.

And so it is with some of the Psalms. There are lament Psalms, where we bring to God our fears and our doubts, but at the end of these laments, we arrive at praise – praise to God for what God will do. And often in the praise Psalms, we see there are elements of fear as well, only to be relieved by the praise and thanksgiving to God for mercy and grace.

May you see the God of love in all you do. May you know the God of safety all your days. May you grow from that which causes you pain, and may you rejoice in all that has been done for you. You are never alone. Praise be to God.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

(Psalm 139: 7-10)

Peace and blessings,

Intern Pastor Carol Strand

Special Summer Worship focus will stir our hearts and faith

Good Stewardship – Our Time, Our Money, Our Possessions

During June our worship services will focus on the idea and implementation of good stewardship through our lives. One of the greatest calls of scripture and faith is that we would be wise and wild and wonderful when it comes to being stewards of our life and gifts and treasures. This activity is a gift to us and to the world. Hearing God's hopes and reflecting on how we are currently acting as stewards can lead to more fullness in our life. Join us for how God will use these weeks to teach and equip us.

GOD USES WATER…

Are you looking for life? Are hoping to be refreshed? Are you waiting for the promise? Water is a necessity for life. The theme for Sunday worship throughout the month of July will be **God Uses Water.** Discover different ways how God uses water for our benefit. Come and see, hear, feel, and taste the Water of Life.

Please join us following worship on Sunday June 25 for a time of tending to the business of the church. We will have a report on our financial status, hear more about the staffing hopes and plans for Our Redeemer as we move into the rest of 2017 and beyond, visit about the financial needs for staffing needs, and see how summer programming is going. Please plan to join us for this special meeting.

Planting our Garden

Opening our Doors – Our Redeemer is trying to be a good neighbor by opening our doors in various ways to help the community. In late April the Metro Transit used our space for a community meeting on the proposed Rush line that brought in about 100 people.

Recently we were approached by Merrick Community Services to see if we would be a food distribution site once a month. The Missions Team felt this was a good way to use our building and even let others know of us. This happens the last Saturday of the month from 9am -11am. There are no qualifications necessary to receive a food pack, so our congregation is welcome to participate .

Gathering Together For Friendship Sunday

Loaves & fishes

Come and Join Us for Lunch This Summer!

Beginning Monday, June 12, at ORLC, we are beginning a summer free lunch program for everyone. Lunches will be served every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from noon to 1:00. It is sponsored by Loaves and Fishes. This is not only about the meal, which is good, but it is also about conversation and fellowship. We will still be serving our Wednesday night dinners as well, year round.

We will have an intern coordinating and a few nutrition students providing leadership, but there are volunteer opportunities to serve one or more times. Watch for sign-up information. This is a great chance to love your neighbor. Please consider this good work.

Reminder!
Summer worship is one service at 9:30am!

Tanzania – the Partnership is building

This July, Pastor Karsten and his daughter Elizabeth will travel with a group from Prince of Peace in Burnsville to Iringa Tanzania to begin the 'presence' part of this new endeavor. Our main focus will be building relationships with the small community of Kidewa while getting a larger sense of this great synod program. We will now be one of over 60 churches with a direct relationship. The Missions Team has allocated $1000 to be an initial gift for future work, and ½ of the proceeds from the recent rummage sale will go to special projects or supplies in that city. We are in conversation now to find out what kinds of resources we can bring on the trip and how they might want to use our gifts to provide the best assistance. Please keep this trip and this community and ministry in your prayers that we may learn from each other and begin something that will make a difference for years to come.

Rummage Sale Thank You

A huge thank you to all who worked to make this year's rummage sale a huge success. We made over $2,500. Thank you to the faithful workers, to the people who donated their treasures, and those who came and supported the sale. A huge thank you to the Open Arms Native Missions for collecting our unsold items to be distributed to Red Lake reservation. One half of the money raised will support partnership in Tanzania.

Youth Thank You

Many thanks for your support of the youth through the Plant and Pie sales this past month. They were both great successes and between the 2 fundraisers we brought in over $1000 for 6 youth going to Wapogassett Bible Camp in Amery WI and 3 youth going to Christikon Bible camp in Montana! This money will be used directly for camps and mission trips for our youth this summer. Look for updates from the kids in future newsletters.

Funeral Volunteer Thank You

A huge thank you to all the people that have been
helping for funerals by either bringing a food item or setting up or cleaning up. This is a very emotional time for family and friends of the deceased so as God's servants we can help to bring peace to them. You may be called to see if you can help in some way but not everyone is called each time. If you prefer to help each time please call and let us know. We thank our God for you.

Stewardship

What do you think of when you hear the word "Stewardship"? November is the first word that comes to my mind. November is when we traditionally reach out to the congregation requesting a commitment of time, talent, and treasure for the new year. The ORLC board will be working a wider approach to Stewardship this year by keeping lessons around good stewardship in the forefront of our thinking throughout the year.

We are starting the communication this month, which coincides with the semi-annual meeting. You may have heard, or been involved in various conversations regarding new staffing at ORLC which will focus in the areas of community outreach and youth/children's ministry. As we deliberate the possibility of new staff, we are exploring our finances to determine its impact on our budget and what we might need as additional financial gifts to live into a stronger future. You have been good stewards to care for Our Redeemer well and we are focusing toward more renewal and growth.

Stay tuned for more communications on Stewardship as we walk through this journey together.

Carmen Snaza
(Our Redeemer President)

My dear ORLC Family,

I wanted to express my gratitude for all you do. You are truly God's servants. Thank you for how you bless the world and how you bless me. Thank you for the congratulations, support, and gifts you have given me at graduation time. I was so surprised by your outpouring of wishes and love at this very special time for me. Thank you so much and God bless each and every one of this precious family.

Love,
Carol

Older Adult Event

Elder Cafe Luncheon Event at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul, on June 8th from Noon – 2 p.m.:

This event will feature Certified Genealogist, Jay Fronkert, who will present a five-step plan to get started on creating a family tree. Lunch is free for seniors 60 and better and others are welcome to make a $10 donation. Lunch will be a variety of taste-size servings of foods from different cultures—Swedish meatballs, egg rolls, and more will be on the menu!

This event is on your own. Call 651-683-2326 to make a reservation. Transportation will not be provided.

Upcoming OWLs (Older Wiser LutheranS) Events:

July – Lake Harriet Rose Gardens/Lakewood Cemetery Memorial Chapel
August – National Night Out
September – Taylors Falls Scenic Boat Trip
October/November – Thrivent Financial Collection of Religious Art

Additional Tour Opportunities

A chance to see *Alive and Kickin* at the Bloomington Theater. This show is about older people— their Stories, their music and lots of laughs. Tickets for the Champagne opening night June 9 available through Kathi Kirchoff for $40. Car Pooling available.

Confirmation Students service projects

Our Redeemer Lutheran church partners with Arlington Hills Lutheran church, adding their 1 student to our Confirmation classes. Arlington Hills invited the Confirmation class over for a service project where they reordered the sanctuary pew information. Back at Our Redeemer, the students added some painting accents to the ORLC youth room. Come down the hall and check it out!

Summer Camp at Lake Wapogassett Bible Camp

3 young teens are signed up for Wapogassett Bible Camp Aug 13-18, and there is still room for more! Sign up at http://campwapo.org/pages/registration Create a log in and password. Deposit is $100 and fundraisers will help with the rest!

Some 4th graders will also be attending the "Seeds" weekend camp July 21-23. There might be a few spots left. Go online and attempt to register!! If not there are weekends open in August.

Pulled Pork Party on Father's Day Sunday, June 18

Everyone is invited to honor the men in their who have been mentors and father figures. Donations will be accepted toward youth summer camps.

All fundraiser proceeds will go to the youth of Our Redeemer for mission trips, camps and retreats.

3 teens are ready to go to Christikon in Big Timber, Montana, where surrounded by mountains and wildlife work on a trail service project. There are 3-4 Youth spots left for middle school to high school to make this happen.

Also, any adult leaders who might be interested in joining July 2-10, let Pastor Karsten or Kirsten know soon, email www.youth@orlcmn.org or call the church! Share with your friends and relatives. Cost is about $450 but we hope to fund raise for this experience.

SUMMER STRETCH

Summer Stretch begins June 15 Thursday! Half day service project, bring lunch and half day FUN!!!! for Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers as student leaders from 3 different churches.

Get your Registration form from church or request it to be emailed to you www.youth@orlcmn.org

June 15, 22, 29 July 13, 20, 27 Meet at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran - 1669 Arcade Street

Worship Assistants

Date	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
Worship Host	Roger Svendsen	Amy Krohn	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Doreen Winter
Gift Cards	Vicki Anderson		Barb Maynard	
Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood	Dennis & Jan Peterson Judy Moe	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter, Jessica Morgan
Greeters	Barb Birchem Judy Triplett Shirley Keating	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald Sherry Pasket	Oliviene Hefta Florence Senske Jessica Ryden Nora Smeed	Joyce Abrahamson Judy Moe Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson
Lector	Frank Carlson	Amy Krohn	Kathi Kirchoff	Jim Krohn
Ushers	Dennis Paulson Rob Klemm Kent Weispfenning Roger Sparks Claire Sexton Caitlyn Edwall Matt Kilbride Scott Torvi	Roger Ollila Baryogar Johnson Roger Svendsen Dennis Peterson Vicki Anderson Brett Rediske Randy & Jane Koza Jennifer Houge	Dan Fitzgerald Bill Maynard Bill Fredine Jessica Morgan Kari Keating Dick & Sharon Peterson	Larry & Sandy Pruden Mike Welte Mike Kahrau Mark & Doreen Winter Troy & Courtney Magnuson

Online Giving Opportunities

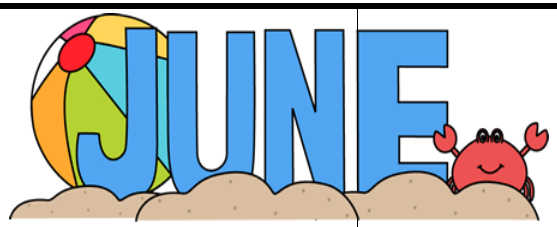
Thank you for your support of Our Redeemer. We appreciate all of the contributions you donate to help our ministry here at ORLC.

Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. We appreciate your gifts!

Mobile Users Scan Here

Finances through the month of April

2017 Beginning Balance	**$30,539**
Member Giving	**$95,511**
Supplemental Income	**$14,523**
Total	**$140,573**
Expenses	**$122,294**
Difference	**$18,279**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Our Redeemer Spring of Eternal Life Rock of Horeb Church S=Sanctuary, F=Fireside, FH=Fellowship Hall, SS=Sunday School Room		1 6:45am Men's Study 5:30pm Worship & Music Mtg 6:00pm Children's Ministry Mtg	2 6-8pm SEL (S)	3 2-4:00pm SEL (S) 5:30-9pm ROH (S) 8pm-10pm ROH (FH)
4 Bucks for our Building 6am-2pm ROH Prayer (SS) 9:30am Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 5:00pm Rock of Horeb Church	5 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	6 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:45pm Staffing Team Mtg	7 9:30am Bible Study 3:45pm Spiritual Growth 5:30pm Meals and More 6:30pm Worship on the Farm	8 6:45am Men's Study 10:00am Kitchen Table Mystics 12pm Genealogy at First Lutheran	9 6-8pm SEL (S)	10 2-4:00pm SEL (S) 5:30-9pm ROH (S) 8pm-10pm ROH (FH)
11 9:30am Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 1:30pm FH Rented—Roper 3:00pm SEL Fellowship 5:00pm Rock of Horeb Church	12 9:00am Quilting Group 12:00pm Loaves & Fishes 6:00pm Joy Circle	13 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:45pm Staffing Team Mtg	14 9:30am Bible Study, Property Group 12:00pm Loaves & Fishes 5:30pm Meals and More 6:30pm Worship on the Farm	15 6:45am Men's Study 9am-5pm Summer Stretch 6:30pm Knitting & Crochet Group Caribou	16 12:00pm Loaves & Fishes 6-8pm SEL (S)	17 6am-2pm ROH (SS) 9am-3pm Scrapbooking 2-4:00pm SEL (S) 5:30-9pm ROH (S) 8pm-10pm ROH (FH)
18 Bucks for our Building, Pulled Pork Picnic 9:30am Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 5:00pm Rock of Horeb Church Youth At Karsten's Cabin	19 12:00pm Loaves & Fishes 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	20 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Church Board (F)	21 9:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Loaves & Fishes 5:30pm Meals and More 6:30pm Worship on the Farm	22 6:45am Men's Study 9am-5pm Summer Stretch	23 12:00pm Loaves & Fishes 6-8pm SEL (S)	24 9am-11:30am Merrick Mobile Food Distribution 2-4:00pm SEL (S) 5:30-9pm ROH (S) 8pm-10pm ROH (FH)
25 9:30am Worship 10:40am Sem-Annual Meeting 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm SEL Fellowship 5:00pm Rock of Horeb Church	26 9:00am Quilting Group 12:00pm Loaves & Fishes	27 11:30am Staff Meeting	28 9:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Loaves & Fishes 5:30pm Meals and More 6:30pm Worship on the Farm	29 6:45am Men's Study 9am-5pm Summer Stretch 6:30pm Eastside 8 Arlington Hills	30 12:00pm Loaves & Fishes 6-8pm SEL (S)	2017

Our Redeemer Staff

Rev. Karsten Nelson, Pastor
651-772-2445 x102
Email: karsten@orlcmn.org

Carol Strand, Pastoral Intern
651-772-2445 x 103
Email: carol@orlcmn.org

Fisher, Kirsten, Children's, Youth & Family
651-772-2445 x 106
Email: youth@orlcmn.org

Lisa Diez, Office Administrator
651-772-2445 x101
Email: lisa@orlcmn.org

Madeline Veenker, Choir & Bell Director
651-308-8968
Email: mveenker@gmail.com

Dave Parenteau, Custodian

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
1390 Larpenteur Avenue East, St. Paul, MN 55109
Phone: 651-772-2445 Fax: 651-771-4548
Web: www.orlcmn.org
Email: office@orlcmn.org

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

Like Us On facebook https://www.facebook.com/orlcmn

Follow us on twitter https://twitter.com/orlcmn

DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY

Address Service Requested

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
1390 East Larpenteur Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55109