



March 2020

"The Good Newsletter" of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



A Message from Pastor Karsten:

Choose your paths

There are a couple of deer who have learned that coming through my backyard gives them a good path into the neighborhood, and so during the winter I can see their walking steps in the snow. Once this winter I actually saw one of them crossing the yard. They repeatedly take this same path in the winter and in the summer to visit and take some tomatoes (ugh). They have learned a path that is helpful and fruitful (literally).

We have the season of Lent upon us and this is a great time to be intentional about some new or old paths that we travel in our walk of faith. Lent has traditionally been a time when people take on various disciplines/paths to live into sacrifice, to try new pathways for their spiritual life, and to open themselves up to God's good work in them and touch through them.

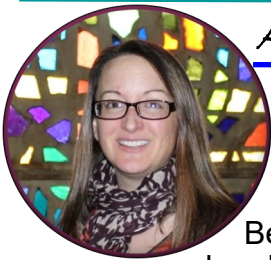
One path we are encouraging people to travel again this Lent is to consider a spiritual discipline (or two). At the Sunday forum February 9, we talked about how disciplines matter and also about some different pathways we would like to suggest you might try: reading through scripture (Mark or Colossians, or the New Testament), more time for devotions and prayer, abstaining from some food (and giving the saved money to charity), times for deeper personal reflection and repentance, being still, or tending to works of love/service. Please consider something that can be good for you, for your faith, and for the world, and travel that path from now until Easter, on April 12.

Three special opportunities are going to be happening at Our Redeemer which you are encouraged to consider. With our theme of "What are you Hungry for?," we invite you to come to the weekly Sunday morning study group that will meet between services in the Blue Room off the Fellowship Hall. There is a weekly reading for the discussion along with a calendar of daily thoughts, scripture or ideas related to the issue of world hunger.

You can partake in the special offering challenge from the Missions Team to participate in the discipline of giving \$2 a day for hunger relief. Members will get a label (40 Days of Giving) to put on an envelope or can or jar at home, and then we ask that you to bring those back during Holy Week with all proceeds going to ELCA World Hunger Appeal (with 100% being used for direct aid).

The other congregational opportunity is to join together on Wednesday nights at 6:30 for worship. We will have a short 30-minute service that will include music, prayer and a reflection message from various members to address, "What are you hungry for?" as they speak about something that is motivating or challenging them, and share why that is important and what they are doing about it. Come join us for these good evenings of worship. We will be serving our Wednesday evening Loaves and Fishes free dinner so you are welcome to eat between 5:30—6:30 p.m.

Get ready to travel a good path this Lent.



A Message from Deacon Jennifer Schneider: The Outsider and the Giraffe

Occasionally, I have a Sunday off from ORLC. I know you think I am playing hooky! I am sure you are thinking I lounge around in my fuzzy pajamas reading the paper on those days. Nope!

Believe it or not, I like to pretend I am a secret shopper! I visit other churches - to experience other styles of worship, look for other ways people are "doing" or "being" church, and generally gain perspective on what it feels like to be an outsider. It helps me think about ways we as a congregation can be more attuned to the experience a visitor has at ORLC.



I have recently visited 2 churches in Minneapolis. When I arrived at Church A, there was no where to park and I couldn't find the main entrance of the church. Awkward! When I did find my way to the sanctuary, (5 minutes into worship), there wasn't an open spot to be found - well maybe right in the front. The end of each pew was capped off by 1-2 people. There simply wasn't a good way to get into the middle part of each pew where there was actually seating.

At Church B, there was plenty of parking, but when I walked into the sprawling gathering space, I had no idea which way to go. Hundreds of people were chit-chatting with each other over coffee and event registration tables, but no one noticed me, the visitor who was obviously lost.

At both churches, there was uplifting music, contemplative liturgy, and thought-provoking preaching. There were tasty donuts and fresh coffee, registration tables with lots of activities, and lots of people milling about. But, at neither church was I welcomed or engaged in conversation by members or staff. In fact, I doubt anyone noticed me. Being an outsider really sucked. I felt lost. In a sea of Christians worshipping the same God, I felt lonely and isolated.

How do we at ORLC do welcome? How do we respond when a visitor comes through the door? Do you remember the name of the last visitor you met? Did you engage them in conversation or make room for them in your pew? Did you tell them about Wednesday night dinners or invite them to participate in a service project?

Being on the outside is tough. When you go to a new place, you are already sticking your neck out of your comfort zone. As Christians and members of a faith community, it is our job to invite, welcome, and make people feel at home in God's house. As the giraffe mascot at my daughters' school says, "Stick your neck out." In welcoming a visitor, you might be the encouragement a person needed to join the church, you might make a new friend, and you might be the only glimpse of Jesus that person may experience. In any of these, you are living out our call to love our neighbor. Now go stick your neck out!

Our Redeemer Lenten & Easter Services and Shared Services

Lenten Wednesday Worship Services:

March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8 @ 6:30 p.m. at Our Redeemer

Good Friday Worship Service:

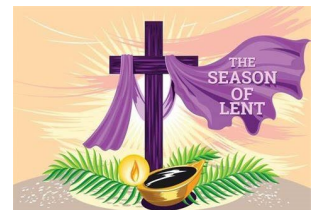
April 10 @ 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 1730 Old Hudson Rd, St. Paul

Good Friday Kids' Event:

April 10 @ 10:30 a.m.—Noon at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 Arcade Street, St. Paul. *(Register with Deacon Jennifer by April 5.)*

Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 11 @ 4:30 at Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill. 105 University Avenue West, St. Paul *(Mini feast to follow worship.)*

Easter Worship Services: Sunday, April 12 @ 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. at Our Redeemer



Consider a Lenten Discipline

Lent is one particular time in the church when many people will take on a deeper spiritual discipline in order to strengthen their faith. Bible reading, daily devotions, volunteer service, regular prayer, weekly worship, or sacrificial giving to organizations are some suggestions. Attention to these disciplines gives space for God to work and for our faith life to be stretched.

Quilting—We're Back!

Our Quilting group's "winter hiatus" is almost over, and we're looking forward to another great season of quilting at ORLC! This long-established service group meets on the **second and fourth Mondays** of the month in the Fellowship Hall from **9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** We tie yarn to quilt tops where the only skills needed are the abilities to hold a needle and stitch a knot. This readies the quilt tops for hemming. The cutting of the fabric squares, piecing and sewing of the squares is done by some of the members in their homes. You don't need to bring any supplies as we have enough to share. When we wrap up at the end of each session, we share in enjoying refreshments and conversation.



Most of the yarn and fabric for the quilts are donated. The backing sheets, thread and batting are purchased. In some years, we have had a raffle to raise funds for these purchases. We have also received funds from the *Thrivent Action Team* to support this service opportunity. Some of the 2019 recipients were *Alley Shoppe 109*, *Project Home*, recent baptisms & graduations along with donations for *National Night Out* and *ORLC's Twelfth Annual Fine Arts & Craft Sale*.



Please consider being a part of this legacy by joining the fun and good conversation on March 23, April 13 & 27, May 11 (no meeting on Memorial Day), June 8 & 22, etc. Come and check us out at any or all of the sessions! You are welcome to bring friends, family, and coworkers.



Thank you! Good nights, Pajamas, and Books...oh my!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Pajama Day on Sunday, February 26, and brought donations for the Pajama Program, MN Chapter during the month of February. The Sunday School collected and delivered 41 pajamas and 51 books. This wonderful program gives pajamas and books to vulnerable children in transition, so they have nightly bedtime rituals that offer a consistent, reassuring "comfort zone" at the end of each day.

Donations and volunteers needed for the Easter Egg Hunt

The Children, Youth, and Family sponsored Easter Egg Hunt and Petting Zoo will be held on Saturday, April 4 from 10:00am-Noon at ORLC. Rain or shine! Register your kids online at <http://bit.ly/easteregg2020>. What to expect: Egg hunt, petting zoo, cookies, coffee, bingo, crafts!

Donations for Egg fillers: rolls of coins (quarters, nickels, dimes), candy that is small enough to fit into eggs - (no suckers!). Give donations to Deacon Jennifer.

Volunteers are needed on the day of the event. Please sign up at the welcome desk or talk to Deacon Jennifer about the following opportunities:

- *Registration Table Attendant to check in kids and distribute program and wristband/nametag*
- *Parking Lot Attendant to greet people outside and assist with parking/directions/etc*
- *Kitchen Crew to serve refreshments*
- *Bingo/Craft Stations attendants to run Bingo and help kids with crafts*
- *Egg Hunt Runners/Hiders to hide eggs and perform crowd control between hunts*
- *Greeters to answer questions, direct indoor traffic, chat with visitors*



O.W.L.S Outing

Join the Our Redeemer *O.W.L.S.* (Older Wiser LutheranS) on **Thursday, March 19, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.** for a tour of *Len Busch Roses* in Plymouth, followed by lunch at EMBERS in Fridley! The company is a wholesale flower operation, producing over 7 million stems and potted plans a year. We will depart the church at 9:00 a.m., returning at approximately 2:00 p.m. The tour is free, and you pay for your lunch—they have great burgers! Sign up at the form located at the Welcome Desk. Even if you're not an O.W.L., you are still welcome to join in on their events because, as with all Our Redeemer groups, **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Our Redeemer Goes to Doulos

Pastor Karsten, Jessica Morgan, Carter Morgan and Jim Ramberg will be headed down to Doulos from March 27 to April 3 for a week engaging in work at the school and serving in the local community. They will be helping to build a house, all the while learning more about this local community, the great work happening at the school, and the mission of Doulos to educate and equip servant leaders through Christian disciples to impact the Dominican Republic. *Pray for their good work, their good learning, and the ways God will seek to use them and transform them. They will come back with stories to share and personal insights to this ministry partner of Our Redeemer.*

A New School Year Under a New Roof

Thanks to all who contributed to the BKB 'Raise the Roof' campaign, students at Mtera Secondary School will begin the 2020 school year in a brand new multi-purpose building, with a brand new roof. Together with the Iringa Diocese, the Scholarship and Education Working Group of the Iringa Committee determined that we would work together to complete the roof for the building at Mtera Secondary School before the rainy season, which began in November. With help from 15 congregations (Our Redeemer was one of these - this was where our Lent offerings went last year) in the Saint Paul Area Synod and several individuals, the roof was completed in November at a cost of \$26,000. This project was so important because Mtera is one of the schools situated farthest from Iringa Town. Mtera, which is also the location of a major hydroelectric dam, is 77 miles north of Iringa.



A note of "Thanks" to ORLC

Precious New Year greetings to you and all at ORLC. We trust that you are all doing fine. We're excited about what the Lord is doing in the lives of the people whom He has called us to reach. Be blessed with the following good report from the work of the ministry in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

THE ABOP PRAYER REVIVALS

These prayer revivals create a platform for people to come and have a personal encounter with Lord and the people always come with expectant hearts because they are always blessed when we have these gatherings. During these revival meetings the power of God is always present to heal the sick, deliver the demon possessed and set the captives free. In the months of October and November 2019, we ministered to over 1,200 people.



THE BIBLE SCHOOLS

In the Bible Schools we teach, train and disciple our students to discover their destiny in order to fulfill the plan of God for their lives. We have 165 students who are very much excited about what the Lord is doing in their lives and the transformation which they have experienced since they started attending the Bible School in September 2019. Here is a student testimony:

Coming to the bible school restored hope in my life. As a result of the teachings which I have received in the Bible School I have traveled on mission trips to preach the word which I have never done before. Thanks to the bible school!



PASTOR'S EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCES

The pastor's and leaders empowerment conferences was well attended in October and November 2019, with a total attendance of 250 pastors and leaders who came from different churches. 75% of these pastors and leaders are graduates of the bible schools. Donald ministered the word and these leaders were very grateful for the opportunity to have such a conference that helps to refill them with the word of God. Several of them testified with gratitude about the huge impact which these conferences are making in their lives and ministry.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to you and all at ORLC for your continual financial support which is helping us extensively to teach and preach the word of God in Nations. Thank you for your partnership which we cherish very much! We cease not to give thanks to the Father for you always!

With much love and blessings from your missionary friends, *Donald & Josephine*

Thank You

5th Sunday Shared Worship and Potluck Meal

Join us on **Sunday, March 29**, at **10:00 a.m.** for another chance to worship alongside of the other two congregations that share our space - *Savior Alliance* (Hmong community) and *Mensajes de Poder* (Messages of Power, Hispanic community). We will begin in the Sanctuary with special music from each of these congregations, enjoy a good gospel message, and then gather for a great luncheon potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar and be ready to meet some new people. Come celebrate the world that is within our walls and the Lord who is over us all. We invite you to bring any kind of dish you might like to share (salad, main dish or dessert.) If you can, sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Photo Sessions for New Church Directory

Dates are scheduled for **March 27 & 28** to have your photo taken for our new church directory. Available slots are **Friday 2-9 p.m.** and **Saturday 10 a.m.—5 p.m.** Go online to reserve your preferred time, or sign up with Sally after each service. Here's the link: <http://bit.ly/ORLCpicture>



ORLC Serving at Dorothy Day

On Monday, February 24, the Our Redeemer *Hunger Team* prepared and served a delicious meal to 330 people who are experiencing homelessness and poverty. The experience is a gift to us as they are so thankful for the food we provide. Since opening of the new St. Paul Opportunity Center and Dorothy Day Residence, there has been an increase. We couldn't do this ministry without the great volunteers, and those who donate to the noisy offering to help fund this important program. As always, a special thanks to *Thrivent Financial* for making grants possible to help offset the costs. Mark your calendar for our next volunteering opportunity at Dorothy Day on **Monday, April 27!**



Second Harvest Heartland Volunteers

Come join our FUN team "Kingdom Assignment Ministry" on **Tuesday, March 3, 5:30—7:30 p.m.** by volunteering at *Second Harvest Heartland*! We have spots to fill—bring your family and friends, but remember to sign them up at the Welcome Desk.

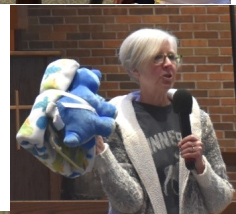
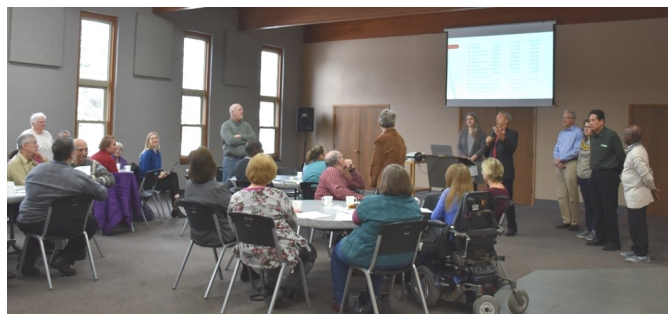
Kids' Lego Team – Wednesdays during Lent

Calling all Lego aficionados! Everett Kuhn will be leading a *Lego* team on **Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.** Dates are **March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8.** Kids ages 6 and up are invited to attend. Lego Team will meet in the Sunday School wing.

Young Adult Collab

Join others in their 20s-30s-40s for fun, free food, and conversation on the fourth Thursday of each month. Next event is **March 26**, at **6:00 p.m.** at Our Redeemer.

Our Redeemer...sharing God's blessings through celebrations, worshiping, and planning for more!



March 2020 - Worship Assistants and Readings

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Worship Hosts	Rita During & Bruce Ring	Claire Sexton & Judy Moe	Dean Ersfeld	Amy Krohn	Doreen Winter
Gift Card Representative	Vicki Anderson				
Hospitality/Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood Sandy & Larry Pruden	Jan & Dennis Peterson	Michelle Rebholz & Matt Kuhn	Jessica Morgan Doreen & Mark Winter	Sharon & Dick Peterson
Lectors	8:45 a.m. Darleen Klemm 10:45 a.m. Holly Forsberg	8:45 a.m. Scott Torvi 10:45 a.m. Cherie Kilbride	8:45 a.m. Carol Rodriguez 10:45 a.m. TBD	8:45 a.m. Michele Rebholz 10:45 a.m. Hilary Hinrichs	10:00 a.m. Kathi Kirchoff
Ushers	8:45 a.m. Rob Klemm Dennis Paulson 10:45 a.m. Matt Kilbride Carla Shipstad Scott Torvi	8:45 a.m. Baryogar Johnson Roger Ollila Dennis Peterson 10:45 a.m. Vicki Anderson	8:45 a.m. Bill Maynard Jim Riemenschneider Bruce Ring 10:45 a.m. Jessica Morgan & Kari Keating	8:45 a.m. Mike Kahrau Sandy & Larry Pruden 10:45 a.m. Doreen & Mark Winter	10:00 a.m. Mike Kahrau Sandy & Larry Pruden <i>or</i> Doreen & Mark Winter
Communion Servers	8:45 a.m. Judy Triplett 10:45 a.m. Amy Krohn		8:45 a.m. Cliff Pearson 10:45 a.m. Claire Sexton		10:00 a.m. Cliff Pearson <i>or</i> Claire Sexton
Weekly Readings	Mark 10:17-31 "First Last and Last First"	Mark 10:32-52 "Bartimaeus Healed"	Mark 12:1-12, [13-17] "Parable of the Tenants [Taxes to Caesar]"	Mark 12:28-44 "Great Commandment"	Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 "End of the Age"



Thrivent Choice Dollars

A reminder for those of you who are Thrivent members—your Choice Dollars from 2019 expire on March 31, so designate them as you choose, or lose them! Thanks!

Thank you for your support of Our Redeemer!

Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed once using your card. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much needed donation consistency to our congregation. We appreciate your gifts! Email lisa@orlcmn.org for further information.



Mobile Users
Scan Here

Financial Update

We are so thankful for all of you at Our Redeemer who continue to support all of the ministries that occur from this church. God is the continual provider of all of our needs. With your continued faithfulness, we will be able to continue to do His work. As you think about your pledge and your offering, we ask you to give with continued dedication.

Shutterfly Shoppers—8% of your purchases goes to ORLC

Another new way to help bring money to Our Redeemer is ordering through *Shutterfly*—the church will receive **8 percent** of all sales from anyone who places orders through our special *Shutterfly* storefront only by using our following designated link: <http://orlcmn.shutterflystorefront.com/>. Share it on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest asking your family, friends, and coworkers to shop through it as well!

GIFT CARDS!

A reminder to purchase gift cards on the first Sundays of every month! We have several on hand OR you may special order others from a list of hundreds of retailers. (Check with our gift card representatives or the office for a full list.) Remember that the **Bucks for Our Building** program provides our church with a percentage of the gift card value. The more you buy, the more we earn!



March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45 am Traditional Service ^(com) 9:45 am Gift Cards for Purchase 9:45 am Lenten Study—40 Days 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Praise ^(com) 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm Mensajes de Poder	2 6:00 pm TOPS 6:30 pm Long-Range Planning Team 6:45 pm Lives Worth Living Group (offsite)	3 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Second Harvest	4 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 3:45 pm Spiritual Growth 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Lent Worship 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (offsite) 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR)	6 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 7:00 pm MDP Practice (S)	7 6:00 am MDP Prayer (SS) 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30—8 pm MDP (S)
8 8:45 am Traditional Service 9:45 am Adult Forum—Pastor Jen 9:45 am Lenten Study—40 Days 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Praise 1:00 pm Deep Dive Confirmation 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm Mensajes de Poder	9 6:00 pm TOPS 6:30 pm Long-Range Planning Team	10 9:30 am Building Team 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Hope Circle	11 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 3:45 pm Spiritual Growth 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Lent Worship 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 10:00 am Kitchen Table Mystics (FR) 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (offsite) 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR)	13 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 7:00 pm MDP Practice (S)	14 9:00 am Savior Alliance 10:00 am Celebrate Communion 10 am—2 pm Private Event (FH) 5:30—8 pm MDP (S)
15 8:45 am Traditional Service ^(com) 9:45 am Lenten Study—40 Days 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Praise ^(com) 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm Mensajes de Poder	16 6:00 pm TOPS	17 9:30 am Property Team 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Congregational Growth 7:00 pm Board Meeting	18 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Lent Worship 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (offsite) 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR)	20 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 7:00 pm MDP Practice (S)	21 9:00 am Savior Alliance 9 am—3 pm Scrapbooking/Crafts (FH) 5:30—8 pm MDP (S)
22 8:45 am Traditional Service 9:45 am Lenten Study—40 Days 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Praise 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm Mensajes de Poder	23 6:00 pm TOPS	24 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 3:45 pm Spiritual Growth	25 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 4:30 pm Missions Team 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Lent Worship 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	26 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (offsite) 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 6:00 pm Young Adult Collab 6:30 pm Knitting & Crochet Group (Caribou Coffee)	27 2-9 pm Church Directory Photo Sessions 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 7:00 pm MDP Practice (S)	28 10 am—5 pm Church Directory Photo Sessions 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30—8 pm MDP (S)
29 9:00 am Lenten Study—40 Days 9:30 am One Worship Service 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm Mensajes de Poder	30 6:00 pm TOPS	31 1:00 pm Staff Meeting				Abbreviation Key: <i>Com</i> = Communion <i>CR</i> = Cassee's Room <i>FH</i> = Fellowship Hall <i>FR</i> = Fireside Room <i>MDP</i> = Mensajes de Poder <i>S</i> = Sanctuary <i>SS</i> = Sunday School Room

Our Redeemer Staff

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Sunday Services and School

- Traditional Worship **8:45** AM
- Sunday School **9:45** AM
- Worship & Praise **10:45** AM
- Fifth Sunday in a month ONE service **10:00** AM

Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY

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

