



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Good Newsletter, January 2019



A Message from Pastor Karsten: Almost Happy New Year

The days of a new year will soon be upon us. With it, comes tasks such as remembering to date our checks with a new year, making and keeping helpful resolutions, and enduring the real days of Minnesota winter.

A new year also comes with the task of addressing other responsibilities. These responsibilities arise at the top of each year and are often scattered somewhere throughout. I'm talking about our the three year end goals we crafted from 2018-2020. These were shared at the annual meeting and we have written about them in a scattered fashion throughout the year. As we walk into this New Year, we want these goals to be clear to all, because we need all of us engaged to be able to make change.

Take a look over these goals. Some may seem reachable, some have more stretch, and no doubt some have more or less appeal than others. If each one of us, commits to help with at least one of the goals, we will be a better church, you will be a more engaged member, and God's work through us will be stronger.

Read these over a few times. Post them on your fridge or inside a kitchen cupboard. Tuck them inside of your Bible or prayer journal. Go ahead and try to memorize them (that would be difficult). But then after reflecting and praying, maybe even having some conversation, find one you would be committed to this year. There might not be a clear path to how you will work on this – but pick one and use it as a challenge, an incentive, as a spiritual discipline to help you add your gifts to the work of The Redeemer and Our Redeemer.

Ask God how you can help out, then act or look for how others are working on this. And let me know if you want to be part of a team that is doing wider work in these areas.

2020 Goals for Our Redeemer

Worship

- ◇ Increase weekly worship attendance by at least 20 people per service

Engagement

- ◇ 20 new leaders for both ministry teams and for other roles

Missions

- ◇ Increase our Missions distribution by 20% and involve 20 new people in mission projects

Connections

- ◇ Cultivate members having 20 faith conversations with others
- ◇ Increase participants in small group studies by 20%

Children, Youth, Y.A. & Family Ministry

- ◇ Increase Sunday School participants to at least 20 students a week
- ◇ Engage 20 families/individuals with regular interactions and connections

Giving

- ◇ Increase our General Fund giving by 20%

Membership

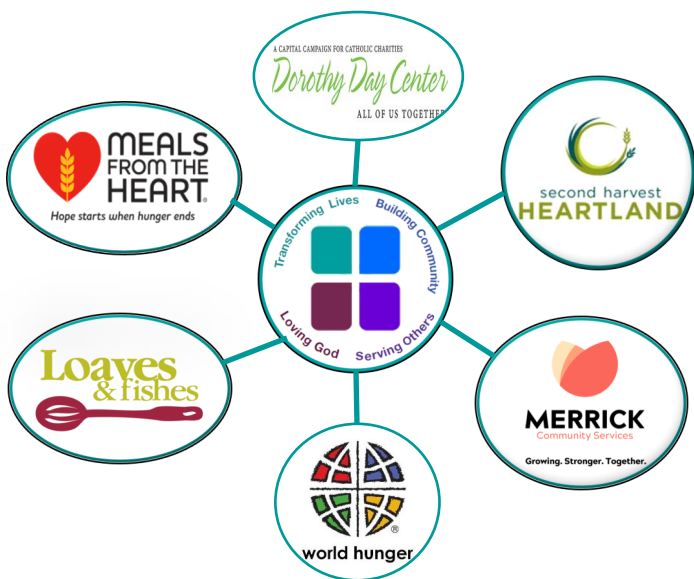
- ◇ Add at least 20 new households as members

2018—A Year of Deep Hunger Engagement

Hunger issues, both locally and globally are important avenues of care for the church to be engaged in. Spurred on by a grant this past year from ELCA Hunger Appeal, Our Redeemer sought to strengthen and expand how we address hunger needs. We have **six** different ways we invite people to participate in hunger relief and each program has had many participants.

We wanted to get a sense of how many folks from our congregation chose to be involved in hunger related work to serve our neighbors both near and far. We placed a form in our bulletins, asking you to fill it out and return it, telling us what kind of hunger related work you have participated in, in the past year. We received forms back from 92 different people participating in some form of hunger relief. The exciting part was that most of the people, were involved in two or three (or more) areas.

We use hunger as a means of stirring our hearts to action and are pleased that this represents over 30% of our congregation. Let's keep finding ways that our care for others through hunger related activities is a part of our life as a congregation that reaches and cares. Below you will see the avenues we took in order to alleviate hunger and how many members participated. Please be aware these numbers reflect those who took the time to fill out our Hunger Participation Survey.



1. **Dorothy Day Center**, is where we serve once every other month, cooking and serving dinner to about 275 people living on the streets of St Paul or facing other hardships.

60 ORLC members volunteered

2. **Meals from the Heart**, gave us the opportunity to pack meals as part of the East Side Churches, God's Work Our Hands. These meals were given to those who would most benefit

56 ORLC members volunteered

3. **Second Harvest Heartland**, provides direct meal support but mainly is a provider to local food shelves. We had volunteers coming together for six different nights of filling boxes that were to be distributed to area families in need.

22 ORLC members volunteered

4. **Loaves and Fishes**, is a local program that has over 20 sites in the Twin Cities. We serve a free meal on Wednesday nights throughout the year and all of our volunteers worked hard to make this a regular outreach and practice of Our Redeemer

20 ORLC members volunteered

5. **Merrick Community Services**, continues to be a long and lasting partnership. Last year we grew food in our garden and we also collected other food to be donated towards Merrick's hunger relief efforts. Members helped and showed support by giving financially, delivering food and donating food.

19 ORLC members volunteered

6. **ELCA World Hunger Appeal**, is a great partnership that allows for our efforts to alleviate hunger to stretch further than our own backyard. We raise money and give the gifts on animals to families or individuals in need. Others have participated through hunger box donations.

17 ORLC members participated (and counting)

A MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR, JENNIFER SCHNEIDER: Happy Epiphany!



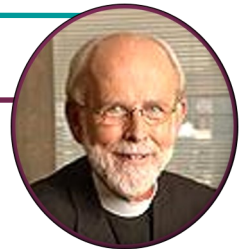
Epiphany is defined as a moment of sudden and striking realization or a moment of revelation. We celebrate the season of Epiphany during January, beginning on the 6th. During this time, we remember two important revelations in our faith history. First, when the three kings visit Jesus at the manger, Jesus is revealed to them as savior. Second, when John the Baptist baptizes Jesus, the heavens open and proclaim, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." My prayer for you in this new year is that Christ's deep and wide love would be revealed to you and through you. May your heart be lightened knowing that Christ was born for us, to walk with us, to wash away our sins, and teach us to be light and love for all people. May you continue to celebrate the wonder and hope of the birth of Christ our Lord during this season of revelation and light!
In the Light of Christ, Deacon Jennifer

A MESSAGE FROM YOUNG ADULT COACH, TIM THAO: Young Adult Dinner Party



The Innovation Team is kicking off 2019 with an array of different activities! As we continue to pursue a greater sense of collaboration, we have planned for a DINNER PARTY on **January 13 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. At this event, we'll be gathering like-minded people to dialogue about the potential for an ongoing, young adult collaboration in our East Side area. We will be inviting friends from several different churches for a meal, made by our very own Matt Kuhn, and a night of future-oriented thinking. We will also be beginning to seek the greater involvement from our entire congregation. Throughout the month of January, I will be getting together with a focus group to dialogue about a variety of church things. This focus group will allow me to get a greater sense of where we are as a church and what sort of things we're ready for. A brief survey will be going out very soon to gauge interest so be on the lookout for that.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY: The Winter 2018 Centered Life Series



In **February**, Rev. Mark Hanson will be giving three lessons on A Personal Third-Chapter Challenge: "Discovering call amidst memory loss in the context of cultural and religious diversity for the sake of the neighbor". Classes are at Luther Seminary, Olson Center, Room 10 from **12-1:15 p.m.** Lunch available for purchase in Cafeteria or bring your own. **Cost: \$15.00 /session or \$45.00 for all.** For more info and to register, go online www.augsburg.edu/centeredlife or register at door.

Wednesday, February 13, 2019:

Session One "God's call to serve when memory fades and love endures."

Wednesday, February 20, 2019:

Session Two "Our shared baptismal calling in a polarized culture."

Wednesday, February 27, 2019:

Session Three "Our shared vocation in a world of religious pluralism."

ISAIAH GATHERING Claiming Our Voices 2019!



ISAIAH is a collaboration of many faith communities and also our ministry partner. Through our collective work, we have helped create a mandate for bold leadership towards creating a caring economy and democracy that honors every person's dignity. On **Saturday, January 19 from 11am-3pm** at the Minneapolis Convention Center, (1301 2nd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55403), trainings are held to prepare ourselves to be moral protagonists in our struggle to make progress on our agenda for Minnesota through the 2019 session and beyond: Radical civic inclusion by getting driver's licenses for all and restoring the vote to our disenfranchised residents; Creating a caring economy with quality and affordable childcare and eldercare and paid family leave and sick time; Climate justice and right stewardship of the planet we've been entrusted with; and quality, affordable and accessible Healthcare for all. All are welcome to attend this **FREE** event. You can find more information online:
<https://secure.everyaction.com/QEBzwP3pzEuncczLj5tlow2>

End of Year Missions Recap

Our Redeemer has given generously of their time & finances to support our missions work this year. As a congregation, we have supported and responded to a number of hunger issues both locally and nationally. Our congregation is locally involved in our six hunger relief partners and internationally, we supported our Tanzania Partnership, provided a school scholarship for Fray Luis at Doulos school and given a donation for Donald & Josephine Bessman's ministry in Sierra Leone. Additionally we have had many willing volunteers that make it possible to support local projects such as collecting school supplies for 2 local schools, preparing & serving our Wednesday night meals, hosting for Project Home and helping with packing events at Second Harvest Heartland. This is only a partial list of what we have accomplished this past year.

Thrivent Member Reminder

It's time again to check your Thrivent Financial accounts and direct your accumulated Choice Dollars from 2018. You may direct them to Our Redeemer or to a charity of your choosing. Your participation in Choice Dollars helps Our Redeemer financially, and helps Thrivent distribute these charitable funds effectively. "Thank you Thrivent" and "Thank you Members!" www.thrivent.com or Member Care Services 1-800-847-4836

Year End Giving

As you prepare for your year end charitable giving we would welcome your extra gifts for the work and ministry in Christ's name that happens through Our Redeemer. Your generous support helps us be a strong and helpful presence in the lives of our members, the wider community, and across the world. Gifts given will help us end the year well and prepare for strong ministry in 2019.

An Update Letter From Our Missionary Friends in Sierra Leone, West Africa

Joyful Christmas greetings to you and all at ORLC, as we commemorate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

We want to give you an update on the Bible schools. It's always exciting when we teach people the word of God! To the glory of God the Bible schools in Sierra Leone registered a total of 258 students who are being taught, trained and disciplined to fulfill God's plan for their lives. We want to express our special thanks and appreciation to you and the congregation of ORLC for helping us accomplish the following VICTORIES in 2018:

- 210 students Graduated from the bible schools
- 178 Healing and deliverance Miracles
- 990 church leaders attended the Pastor's Empowerment Revivals
- Over 4,250 people attended the Prayer Revivals
- Listeners reached through the ABOP weekly Radio program.

We are very thankful to the Lord for His grace which has been sufficient for us in 2018. You are indeed a vital part of all the above victories! Your timely sacrificial financial support has helped us to make all these victories possible. As we celebrate Christmas, we also celebrate our friendship with you as we look forward with excitement to GREATER VICTORIES in 2019!!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Your Missionary Friends,

Donald & Josephine



UPDATES:

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting is near. It is at this time that we have the time to plan well and prepare for a successful new year. Here, we will hold an election for things such as new Board members, the passing of an adequate budget, a ministry review and other planning and delegation as we look into the 2019 year. Mark your calendar, the meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 27 at 9:45 a.m.**

CHANGE IN GIFT CARD SALES

Due to declining sales, we are making a change to gift card sales this year in 2019. Starting in January, gift cards will be sold on the second Sunday, January 13. From then on, from February to October, gift cards will be sold **only the first Sunday of the month.** During November and December of 2019, gift cards will again be sold on **both the first and the third Sundays of the month** for Christmas shopping. If you would like to purchase a gift card at any other time, please contact Barb Maynard @ 651-779-6673 or send an email to bezmo09@comcast.net

NEW MEMBER CLASS

We will be having a new member class this January for those people interested in understanding more about Our Redeemer and desiring to become members of this faith community. The classes are focused on building relationships with each other, reviewing basic elements of the Lutheran faith, and getting a fuller idea of the breadth of ministry and where you fit. Please join us on **Thursday January 17 and 24 from 6:00-7:30pm.** Please call the office or talk to Pastor Karsten so we can prepare materials for you.

THE SENIOR CHEF

Join a fun cooking class offered through St. Paul Park's and Rec right here at ORLC! **Friday, January 18 from 10:30am-12pm.** Learn and prepare a new recipe. Plan for leftovers to take home after you have enjoyed eating your meal along with your fellow chefs! You might not become a master chef, but we are sure you will enjoy it! **Cost: \$14.** Register by calling Hayden Heights Rec Center at (651) 298-5716.

COOKIE SHOP THANK YOU

Last month was our annual, Cookie Shop. Thanks to bakers for the delicious assortment--we can't do it without YOU! Thank you to volunteers for your continued help and thank you to shoppers! With your help, we raised **\$2,029.50** that will be used for children and youth ministry!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PHOTO DEC '18



WHATS MY STORY?

We hear children asking, "Tell me a story," or "Read me a story." We read happy and sad stories. There are make believe stories and true stories. And there is the story of God – the Bible. Deacon Jennifer Schneider will be leading a 4-week series to uncover our own personal narrative. What is my story? How has God shaped my life? This will be a time of personal reflection, guided discussion and writing exercises to help us put into words our own faith story. Why should I do this? Reflecting on our own life stories help us to feel more comfortable talking about our faith. Classes are Tuesday nights from **6-7:30pm** in the Blue Room (**January 22, 29, February 5, 12**). Come for all or part. Sign up at the Info Desk by the office.

BEGINNING WELL TO END WELL

Part of what can be helpful for us and for any family we have, is to prepare well for our end of life. This includes tending to health directives, setting up financial matters with wills and beneficiary designations, and considering ones funeral planning. In 2019 to help with this important work we will be having both a 'Ending Well Matters' forum on **Sunday, January 13 at 10:00** and a longer session with speakers and a lunch on **Sunday, February 10 from 12:00 pm–2:00pm** on Planning Well. This seminar, will have guests from a medical perspective, a legal consultant, and guests from a local funeral home. They will bring wisdom and experience, to help us prepare well for our own deaths or for those we are for. As we need to have a number for the meal, we ask you to **call the church** or **sign up at the Welcome table.**

Worship Assistants and Readings — January 2019



	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Worship Host	Bruce Ring Rita During	Dick Peterson Sharon Peterson	Judy Moe Claire Sexton	Dean Ersfeld
Gift Cards				
Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood Larry & Sandy Pruden	Dennis & Jan Peterson	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter Jessica Morgan
Lector	8:45 a.m. Darlene Klemm 10:45 a.m. Amy Krohn	8:45 a.m. Lana Larsen 10:45 a.m. Jim Krohn	8:45 a.m. Dianne Derks 10:45 a.m. Kathi Kirchoff	8:45 a.m. Carol Rodriguez 10:45 a.m. TBD
Ushers	8:45 a.m. Rob Klemm Dennis Paulson Roger Svendsen 10:45 a.m. Matt Kilbride Carla Roper Scott Torvi	8:45 a.m. Baryogar Johnson Roger Ollila Dennis Peterson 10:45 a.m. Vicki Anderson Tina Gray Randy Koza Jane Koza	8:45 a.m. Dan Fitzgerald Bill Maynard Jim Riemenschneider 10:45 a.m. Kari Keating Jessica Morgan	8:45 a.m. Mike Kahrau Larry Pruden Sandy Pruden 10:45 a.m. Mark Winter Doreen 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	
Reading	Matthew 2: 1-23	Matthew 3: 1-17	Matthew 4: 1-17	Matthew 5: 1-20



Finances through November 30, 2018


2018 Starting Balance	\$39,345
Member Giving	\$199,447
Supplemental Income	\$75,597
Total	\$314,389

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!

Mobile Users Scan Here



January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1  7:00 p.m. SEL (CR)	2 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	3 6:45 a.m. Men's Study 3:45 p.m. Spiritual Growth Team 6:00 p.m. Children Youth & Family Meeting	4 9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)	5 9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)
6 6:00 a.m. ROH (SS) 8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance 4:00 p.m. ROH Church	7 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:45 p.m. Lives Worth Living (F)	8 9:30 a.m. Property Group 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Hope Circle 7:00 p.m. SEL (CR)	9 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	10 6:45 a.m. Men's Study 10:00 a.m. Kitchen Table Mystics 5:30 p.m. Worship & Music	11 6:30 p.m. Couples Gathering at the Winter's	12 9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Retreat 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)
13 8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Beginning Well to End Well Class 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance 4:00 p.m. ROH Church	14 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:00 p.m. Joy Circle	15 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 3:15 p.m. Spiritual Growth 6:00 p.m. Congregational Growth 7:00 p.m. Church Board 7:00 p.m. SEL (CR)	16 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	17 6:45 a.m. Men's Study 6:30 p.m. Knitting & Crochet Group—Caribou 6:00 p.m. New Member Class	18 10:30 a.m. Cooking Class at ORLC	19 6:00 a.m. ROH Prayer (SS) 9:00 a.m. Scrapbooking 9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 11:00 a.m. ISAIAH Gathering at the Mlps Convention Center 5:30 p.m. ROH (S)
20 8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Budget Forum 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance 4:00 p.m. ROH Church	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:45 p.m. Lives Worth Living	22 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. My Story Class (Blue Room) 7:00 p.m. SEL (CR)	23 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	24 6:45 a.m. Men's Study 6:00 p.m. New Member Class	25	26 9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)
27 8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:45 a.m. Annual Meeting 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance 4:00 p.m. ROH Church	28 6:00 p.m. TOPS	29 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. SEL (CR) 6:00 Missions 6:00 p.m. My Story Class (Blue Room)	30 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	31 6:45 a.m. Men's Study		

Our Redeemer Staff

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship:
8:45 Traditional Service
10: 45 a.m. Worship & Praise



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DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY

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

