

# The Good Newsletter

*The Monthly Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church*

**Transforming Lives and Building Community by Loving God and Serving Others**

**December**

**2014**



**A Change of Seasons.** There is little doubt that there is a big change from a month ago when we were seeing beautiful orange and yellow and red leaves fall from the trees instead of looking out at a white blanket. We were also focused on Reformation and Confirmation instead of Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas. And yes, we were living in the final blast of wonderful (deep sigh) election ads, which now has moved into wondering if these big kids will ever get along (big groan).

Inside of Our Redeemer there was certainly a change as we rolled out new mission language that will provide grounding for how we understand our work, and vision for what will stretch us into more ministry for the weeks and months and years ahead. We hope by now that you are close to remembering the new mission statement: Our Redeemer – Transforming Lives and Building Community by Loving God and Serving Others.

By laying out this new mission statement in banners, a new temporary front sign, the mission cubes and our preaching we hope you have a richer understanding of what these words call us to do and be as the church and lead us toward as individuals. We will keep talking about and lifting up this mission language so that it soaks into our life together. We believe God is using this to call us into deeper mission and to guide us as a community.

There is another change of seasons that you will see and experience inside of Our Redeemer as we decorate and focus our worship on the Advent season. While much of the music and language will be about Christmas, for those of us in the church these holy days before December 25 are Advent – a time of waiting and preparation, with a focus not so much on the birth of Christ, but on the waiting and wondering we undertake around Christ's return.

We hope you will join us for worship throughout December for the larger Sunday times to celebrate God's love, and promise of a return by Christ. Take note of the special Christmas Eve worship on December 24 (4:30 will be a Blessing of the Family service, and 10:30 is Candlelight and Communion), and then a single service on Sunday, December 28 (Lessons and Carols). We will also have Wednesday Advent services at 6:30, following a meal (free will offering) served from 5:30-6:15. And come hear a special presentation on December 14<sup>th</sup> about the intriguing scientific nature of the Star of Bethlehem.

The seasons do change and they provide us a good chance to keep seeing and experiencing God in fresh and inviting ways. Let's see how the changes inside of this place help us keep growing in faith and wonder and praise for lives grounded with God.

Pastor Karsten

## **December special gatherings**

December 3, 10, & 17 Wednesday nights 5:30pm Advent Meal, 6:30pm Advent worship

December 6<sup>th</sup> Cookie Shop 8:30am-12pm (or when sold out))

December 7<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Children's Christmas Program

December 14<sup>th</sup> 9:50 Star of Bethlehem Presentation

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Worship at 4:30pm and 10:30pm

December 28<sup>th</sup> One Service with Lessons and Carols worship at 10:00am

“The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."  
(Mark 12:31)

When you search ‘neighbors helping/ loving neighbors’ I was intrigued and delighted to see the many local and global organizations who strive to make a difference in the world by living into God’s command and call for their lives.

There are non-profits who collect donations from people in the area, to in turn give back to those who need it. There are organizations whose mission is to help mentor and guide people into finding a job. There are even organizations who reach out globally, whenever disaster strikes. Our Redeemer already partners with some of these organizations to be God’s hands and feet in the world: Dorothy Day, Second Harvest, Operation Christmas Child and Feed My Starving Children.

What about our neighbors at the church? Just like any family, each member needs to be cared for too. Caring for one another can take on many forms. Such as, visitation for those homebound or sick, creating meals, childcare, participating in a small group or bible study, or simply lending your time and talents for everyday tasks. There are ways we are called into helping those around us.

Personally, we all at times feel left out, lonely, overburdened, stressed or all of the above. Maybe there aren’t enough hours in the day to get everything done and you have to be the super hero that saves the day or maybe you are transitioning into a new season of life that is uncharted territory. Not only are we called to help one another, but there is something amazing when we can name that we need help. As we build community, trust also grows. We can lean on one another; we don’t have to do it all alone.

What if, we shared in all the tasks that need to get done? What if, we were neighbors loving neighbors in new and unexpected ways?

The *Care Team* at Our Redeemer is transforming into ***Caring Connections***. This new program will aide us in our mission: Transforming Lives and Building Community by Loving God and Serving Others. It is about being faithful servants of Christ, God’s work - but our hands.



***Caring Connections*** forms and information will be located at the Bulletin Board in the Church Narthex (Across from the water fountain).

### **How do you receive help?**

1. Enter your information on the BLUE form and share the need you have. Once your form has been submitted it will stay in the *Caring Connections* Binder.
2. If someone selects your need out of the binder, they will be the one responsible for contacting you to set up a date and time to help fulfill that need.

### **How can you help others?**

Each volunteer will become a *Caring Connector*. By volunteering your time and talents, you are connecting with your neighbor to build community by loving God and serving.

1. Fill out a YELLOW *Caring Connector* interest form. Your form will then be available for people to see what gifts and talents you are offering.
2. To help fulfill someone’s need, browse the binder and select a need (BLUE forms). Make a copy of the form so you can contact that person in your own time to fulfill the need.

Let giving and serving transform us and the church.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Intern Jen Collins





A mini Mission Language review from this past four week preaching series: **Transforming Lives** is the work of God through the Holy Spirit, but something we can be seeking in ourselves and helping to stir in others. **Building Community** is something we are called to do both within these walls and outside in our daily lives, and thus carry on God's work of being in relationship with the whole world. **Loving God** is our intentional journey of building our relationship with God, based on God's already established love for us through Jesus. **Serving Others** is a command with life, to keep reaching out to others with servant hearts and the gospel news.



## Advent Wednesday Worship

Join us on three Wednesday nights in December (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>) as we sing and learn more about the beautiful music that fills our ears during the Advent/Christmas season. The words and messages of hymns and songs are such a delight and we will share in raising our voices and seeking more understanding. This song and prayer service will take place in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a community meal being served from 5:30-6:15, then worship from 6:30-7:00.

## Children's Ministries

The Christmas Season is almost upon us. Our annual Christmas program will be presented between services on Sunday, December 7. Final dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 6, from 1 -3 pm so please mark your calendars for these important dates.

December schedule:

Date	Event
Dec 5	Cookie donation drop-off all day until 7 pm
Dec 6	Cookie Shop Fundraiser Saturday morning 8 a.m – noon or until they are gone
Dec 6	Christmas program Dress rehearsal in sanctuary Saturday (1 pm-3pm)
Dec 7	Christmas program Sunday between services
Dec 14	Birthday party for Jesus
Dec 21, 28	No Creation Stations, Merry Christmas!
Jan 4	Happy New Year! Creation Stations resumes

Children's ministry monthly meeting:

Friday, December 5 at 7pm.

Also mark your calendars for the annual Cookie Shop, which will be held Saturday morning, December 6. This is our one and only annual fundraiser for Children's ministries. We have always had a great turnout of cookie donations, volunteers, and customers. Let's keep this tradition of success going! Contact anyone in Children's Ministries or the office for more information.



**Join us on Saturday, December 6 from 8:30-noon (or sold out) for our annual cookie shop! Funds raised help support Children's Ministry.**

## Daily Devotional Challenge:

Plan ahead for the New Year! Accept the ORLC Daily Devotional Challenge in 2015. Watch for it coming in January. Start flexing those muscles so you are ready. Find a buddy to take along on the journey! From our church assessment Tool (CAT), one of the drivers of satisfaction at a church was opportunities for education and another for education that spans all ages. One activity that people reported they do to nourish their faith is daily devotions. Walking in the Word daily, helps to guide our lives and show our **love** for God. Don't think of it as a New Year's resolution, think of it as a congregational 'resolution' that fits with our **new mission statement**.

While some members are already doing daily devotions, the CAT results showed that ORLC was ranked lower than many other churches that participated in the survey tool. Let's use the challenge to change that! It can be as easy as offering up a couple minutes per day. We will provide some easy ways start like suggestions for email devotions, books, mission cubes, booklets etc... How many Facebook posts do you check per day or how many emails do you read? Can you take 2 minutes at least 5 days/week to read for yourself? Watch how God uses this time to **transform** you.

Watch for more information late in December. So come one, come all, young or old to the 2015 Daily Devotional Challenge. So be thinking of those who you want to challenge to do the devotional reading with you! Let's have some fun, grow, and **build community**. For those of you who want to get started, here is a link to an Advent devotional created by the Luther Seminary.

<http://www.luthersem.edu/advent/>

## ◀ CRAFT HAPPY ▶

### February Craft 'Stay' Retreat

Like crafting? Well have we got something fun for you! Plan ahead and save the dates of Friday, February 20th and Saturday February 21st.

Bring your craft project and plan to craft the days away. We will have the fellowship hall set up so you can get 1/2 of a table to work on your project of choice. Come share in the fun and fellowship and work on that project you've been wanting to work on. Come Friday if you want and then return on Saturday morning to continue your progress! Meals will be on your own.

Sign up at the info booth. If you've already mentioned you will be attending, please still stop at the info booth to provide some additional information. Sign up early. Spots are filling up. It looks like we will be having a lot of fun. Please contact Amy Krohn (651-779-7945) with any questions. You are welcome to bring friends, just sign them up on the list to save them a spot!

Time: Friday 5pm until the last person wants to leave with me.

Saturday 9am until the last person wants to leave with me.

Cost: Free



### Come, hear this amazing story!

A story about the world's most famous Star. Charlie Cowman, a former member of ORLC, will be presenting findings of indisputable astronomical facts and events at Christ's birth, surrounding the Star of Bethlehem. Learn about scientific evidence of the Biblical story and hear more about what and who the Magi were searching for. Be prepared for a very informative and revealing presentation.

JOIN US on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> between services in the Fellowship Hall. Presentation will begin at 9:50 a.m. Invite your friends and family.



### Second Harvest Grocery Packing Line:

Sign up at church at the info booth or call Amy (651-779-7945) to help the crew pack out at the grocery line on Tuesday January 13th from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm. Please arrive about 10 minutes early. **We are an all ORLC crew this month so we really need the help. There are 20 slots to fill so sign up early to secure your place!** If you haven't joined us before, it's a fun activity that really helps others. We take bulk food and each person on the conveyor line adds their food item into a box. We then label and seal the case and load it on the pallet.

This is at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Heartland location in Maplewood on Gervias Ave. Congratulations to the past crew in November! The crew packed 14 pallets which is 700 boxes of food. That is 20,720 pounds or >10 tons of food. That's a lot of good that we as a team can do! With that we helped provide food for 17,266 meals.

Someone asked how much have we packed in total. I was able to pull data from the last 18 months. Can you believe our ORLC crews have packed 93 pallets which is over 150,770 lbs of food. That equates to over 131,474 meals! What a way to make a difference.

Friends are always welcome join us or work side by side with your family. Just make sure their names is on the list. Children 11 and older are welcome with a parent. It is great to see multiple generations working together.

Come join us in January and make a difference in Minnesota and have fun serving!

If you have any questions please contact Amy Krohn, [ajkrohn@hotmail.com](mailto:ajkrohn@hotmail.com)

**Here are additional times to pencil in on your calendars.**

- ⇒ March 5th 5:30-7:30 (20 people)
- ⇒ May 5th 5:30-7:30 (20 people)

### Serving in the church

As the year draws to a close the Nominating Team (Holly Forsberg, Dean Ersfeld, Kathi Kirchoff and Jane Koza) are searching out people to serve on the Church Board. Please consider their invitations, or if you have interest in being considered contact one of them. We also encourage everyone to complete the Ministry Opportunity form as a way of indicating areas of ministry engagement for you this next year and return a completed form (extras are in the office area) on November 30<sup>th</sup> at our 10:00 worship.

Greeters Needed: There are openings for regular Sunday services, as well as for both Christmas Eve services. Please contact Lana Larsen 651-777-3874 if you would like to become a regular greeter and/or greet on Dec. 24. "Thanks" to all greeters who serve so faithfully.



### CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Thank you to all who participated in the Christmas Child Shoebox drive this year. 60 boxes were delivered to the drop off point and we also had a bag of extra supplies and a large box of items that Spring of Eternal Life Church donated (many thanks to them!). Please pray for the children that will be receiving these gifts. Thank you all for your generosity and for sharing the spirit of Christmas with others. If those that are tracking their boxes on line will let Judy Moe know, we will share where those shoeboxes end up in a future bulletin.

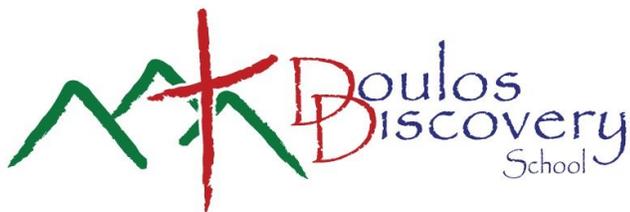


## Stewardship –Let our Giving and Serving Transform the Church

You should have received a letter from the Stewardship Team along with a 2015 Commitment Card and a Ministry Opportunity Form. Please be prayerful as you consider your giving and serving for this next year. Our goal is to have 100 of these turned in on Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> so please help us by your participation. It also helps us prepare for good ministry this next year. If you need extra copies of these items there are extras at the church.



**Great news!** We have learned we qualify for an interest rate reduction on our church mortgage loan that will save us almost \$20,000 a year. We also learned we've been pre-approved to increase our mortgage up to \$750,000. The congregation will vote in January on any changes to the mortgage. Stay tuned for more details!



### Extend some personal care to a child

There are a number of sponsorship opportunities at Doulos Discovery School in the Dominican Republic. A number of members already sponsor a child and have visited this school on mission trips. Information about sponsoring a child or supporting a grade can be found at [doulosdiscovery.org](http://doulosdiscovery.org).

**Planning Ahead** – We just had two recent funerals in November where there had been some good conversation and planning around end of life matters. We are now making more copies of our ‘What To Do When I Die Packet’ that we have handed out the last four years. This is a helpful guide to talk through hopes and plans around funeral plans and other end of life special instructions. Completing this is a great gift to the family that is left. If you would like a copy call the church office.

**Mark the dates** – Our Annual Meeting where we will seek to approve a budget, talk about ministry plans, and address capital campaign and mortgage refinancing plans will take place on Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:50am (between services) in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a special open forum around finances the previous Sunday at 9:50 in the Fireside Room.



ORLC is excited to welcome Eric Klein as part-time youth minister. Eric hails from Wauwatosa, WI and currently resides in Minneapolis. Eric graduated from Luther in Iowa and has experience as a camp counselor and was very active in his own church youth group. Please welcome him to ORLC!



The church office will be closed on December 24, 25, 26, 31, and January 1. During the week of December 29, hours will be limited to 9am-12pm. Please call ahead prior to coming over to be sure you can enter the building. If you have last minute contributions to ORLC, you may either mail them (postmarked by December 31) or drop them off. If the building is closed, you can leave your envelope in the locked mailbox outside by opening the slot and dropping into the lower box. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*welcome*  
*to our newest members!*



Jillian Anderson



Brian Odyssey



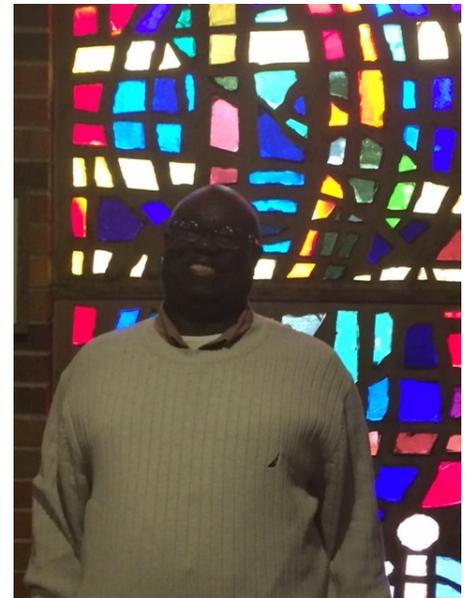
Troy Magnuson



Don and Rachel Trimble



Ed Hook



Larry Holloman Jr.

## Worship Assistants

Date	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28 One Service at 10am
<b>Worship Host</b>	Amy Krohn	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Bruce Ring & Rita During	Roger Svendsen
<b>Gift Cards</b>	Mary Forsberg		Barb Maynard	
<b>Kitchen Help</b>	Darlene Harwood	Dave Mennen	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Dennis & Jan Peterson
<b>Greeters 8:45</b>	Judy Triplett Joan Paulson	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald	Virginia Kettleson Florence Senske	
<b>Greeters 11:00</b>	Helen Wallace	Cindy Crooks Shirley Keating	Nora Smeed Jessica Ryden	Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson Joyce Abrahamson
<b>Lector 8:45</b>	Anna Miller	Allen Heimerdinger	Kathi Kirchoff	
<b>Lectors 11:00</b>	Jim Krohn	Cherie Kilbride	Holly Forsberg	Dianne Derks
<b>Ushers 8:45</b>	Dennis Paulson Rob Klemm Kent Weispfenning Roger Sparks	Roger Ollila Baryogar Johnson Roger Svendsen Dennis Peterson	Dan Fitzgerald Bill Maynard Bill Fredine Dave Mennen	Larry & Sandy Pruden Mike Welte Mike Kahrau
<b>Ushers 11:00</b>	Claire Sexton Tina Gray Cheri Edwall	Rick Brovitch Clint Crooks Johan Madrigal Jennifer Houge	Randy & Jane Koza Dick & Sharon Peterson	Bruce Ring Mark & Doreen Winter Courtney Magnuson

### Financial Information as of October 31, 2014

Thank you for your continued giving to the mission and ministry of ORLC. These income numbers are for member giving including general, festival & plate cash and do not include supplemental giving. Thank you for your continued support of ORLC.

**Budgeted Income**                 **\$199,551**  
**Actual Income**                   **\$228,570**

**Budgeted Expense**               **\$309,026**  
**Actual Expense**                   **\$286,903**

### **Christmas Eve Worship Assistants**

4:30   Worship Host: Bruce Ring & Rita  
           During, Lector: Chris Reeves

10:30   Lector: Amy Krohn



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>6:30pm Caffeinated for Christ 6:45pm Lives Worth Living</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Yoga (FH) 7:00pm SEL (S)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Advent Supper 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:45am Men's Study 6:00pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9am-7pm Cookie drop off 6-8pm Savior (S) 7:00pm Children's Ministry Mtg</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30am-noon Cookie Shop-FH 10am-12pm Savior (S) 1:00pm Children's Practice (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>Can Day, First Sunday Food Shelf, Blood Pressure Check, Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Children's Christmas Program 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms 4:30pm Savior Church</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00pm Joy Circle</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30am Men's Property Group 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Yoga (FH) 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm SEL (S), Hope Circle-F</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Advent Supper 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:45am Men's Study 10:00am Kitchen Table Mystics Group- Fireside 5:30pm Worship &amp; Music Mtg 6:00pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6-8pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am B-day Party for Jesus, Star of Bethlehem Presentation 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm SEL Fellowship in FH, Savior-Fireside, Classrooms 4:30pm Savior Church</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30pm Caffeinated for Christ 6:45pm Lives Worth Living</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm SEL (S), Church Board (F)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Advent Supper 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:45am Men's Study 5:00pm Intern Mtg 6:00pm Savior (S) 6:30pm Knitting &amp; Crochet Group at Hometown Creamery</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6-8pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am-3pm Scrapbooking 10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms 4:30pm Savior Church</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm SEL (S)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office Closed 4:30pm Christmas Worship 10:30pm Christmas Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed Christmas Day FH Rented 6:00pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed 6-8pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Lessons &amp; Carols Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms 4-8pm Fellowship Hall Rental—Kirchoff 4:30pm Savior Church</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm SEL (S)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Office Closed New Years Eve</p>			

**Our Redeemer Staff**

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**Ellie Peterson**, Contemporary  
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**Madeline Veenker**, Choir & Bell Director  
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**Dave Parenteau**, Custodian

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

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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**



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DATED MATERIAL**

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

