The Good Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Transforming Lives and Building Community by Loving God and Serving Others

January 2015

Here comes the New Year – what will it mean for you?

A new year is always a chance for looking back and looking ahead. We review what we did, celebrate some nice highlights and reflect on ways we could have been better to ourselves and the world. And then we look into the possibilities for the New Year and prepare to attempt some new disciplines, some new shape to our lives, and begin the process again of becoming more the person who we hope to be.

As you think into this New Year let me encourage you in a few ways:

Here is a good passage for reflection that prepares us for the New Year - "No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven." Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)

Join us for a congregational challenge as we seek to be better about the personal devotional lives we live. Our recent congregational survey showed that this was an area we were different from many other congregations. We hope to help strengthen our individual faith by being better about our personal devotional life. Throughout the year we will be lifting up various resources and opportunities for helping you read and reflect on God's word and your faith. Join us for the challenge and give God more space to work in your life. Add your mark to our growing list of those who take on the 5x/week discipline which will be posted by drinking fountain.

Use this year to help your engagement in our ministry. One of the key marks of any church is how much people are engaged in it's ministry life and our hope is that all members will be involved in one area of ministry beyond their regular worship. Help us (and yourself) make this a year of great participation. At the same time we hope that you will engage in the upcoming Mission Appeal that will seek additional financial support to help renovate parts of our building and invest in new ministry. You will hear more about this in March, but our hope is that you will see Our Redeemer like a home that needs regular updates and remodeling and that you will be ready to invest in this 'second home' of yours.

A fun way to begin the New Year and live into some of our mission of 'building community' will be to come and celebrate with one of the other congregations we host here at Our Redeemer as Savior Alliance invites us to their Hmong New Year celebration. Marked with a program from 10am-12pm and then a meal until 2pm this is a day to build new relationships, learn about these neighbors and their world, and enjoy some of their great food.

May God bless you in the beginning of the New Year, and throughout the year.

Pastor Karsten

Last month I shared about what it could look like if we lifted up God's command for us to "love our neighbor as ourselves."

January brings us into the New Year with energy and excitement for what's ahead. One ministry that will premiere in 2015 is **Caring Connections.**

The *Care Team* at Our Redeemer is rolling out this ministry as a way of transforming and starting anew. This ministry will help us live strongly into mission: Transforming Lives and Building Community by Love God and Serve Others.

Caring Connections
At Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

You will hear a lot about this ministry and be asked to participate in **Caring Connections.** January 4th will launch this ministry for Our Redeemer.

So, what is Caring Connections?

This is a ministry opportunity for members to help other members at Our Redeemer. Caring Connections is about living into our greatest commands from God, to love God and others. God has called each of us to reach out to those in need by building community and serving one another. God's calling for our lives is centered on being faithful servants for Christ, being God's hands and feet in the world.

What is Caring Connections Goal?

The goal of this ministry is simple. It is to be a bridge connecting people with needs to those who have specific gifts, talents and a passion to help.

How does this work?

This ministry is for anyone. There is a variety of ways to help and a variety of needs that can be answered. The Care Connection ministry has provided a binder that will remain in the church office during week days & out on a designated podium for Sundays. The binder will be available for people to submit their forms.

There are two types of forms:

Care Recipient Form (Blue)- this form is for those submitting a need.

Care Volunteer Form (Yellow)- this form is for those seeking to volunteer and fulfill a need for someone.

For this ministry to work there is a great deal of commitment needed from both the Care recipients and volunteers. Once a form is submitted, they will remain in the binder. It is then the responsibility of volunteers to search through the binder, locate a need that fits with their gifts/skills or passion.

After selecting the Care Recipient, make a copy of their form, the original is to remain in the binder. Then the Care Volunteer will contact the Care Recipient to setup a date and time.

You will find a copy of both these forms back to back in this newsletter on the following page.

Talk to one of the Caring Connections Coordinators for more information or visit the website under the *Get Involved* tab if you have a need or are interested in becoming a Volunteer.

For more information contact any of the following people…

Pastor Karsten Nelson, karstenn@comcast.net
Intern Pastor Jen Collins, jen@orlcmn.org

Parish Care Team Members:
Barb Maynard & Mary Forsberg

Date Submitted: _____

Caring Connections
At Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Care Recipient Form

What is Caring Connections?

This new opportunity is centered around members helping members in the Our Redeemer Family. Living into God's calling for us to reach out to those in need, building community and serving one another.

How does this Care Recipient Form work?

1. Share a need you have by filling out this form.
2. Once your need has been submitted it will stay in our Caring Connection binder.
3. When one of the *Care Volunteers* select your need, they will contact you to set up a date and time to help fulfill that need.

Name (First and Last): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail (optional): _____

Address: _____

_____

Please check the box below & describe need in space provided...

- ☐ ***Transportation:*** _____
- ☐ ***Meals:*** _____
- ☐ ***Moving:*** _____
- ☐ ***Home Maintenance:*** _____
- ☐ ***Home Repairs:*** _____
- ☐ ***Other (please share in details about the need you have):***

_____

_____

_____

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This form will remain in the Caring Connections Binder, this is dependent upon someone else to contact you about your need. The Care Volunteer will set up a date and time that will work for both parties.

Date Submitted: _____

Caring Connections
At Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Care Volunteer Form

What is Caring Connections?
This is a new program centered around people becoming faithful servants for Christ. It is about living into our greatest commands from God, to love Him and others. The goal of Caring Connections is about bringing people together by serving others. Start by filling our this form and allowing your gifts and skills to be used for God's work in the world.

Name (First and Last): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail (optional): _____

Address: _____

_____.

I am able/ willing to help someone with a need in the following areas:

(*Please check the box(es) below)*

☐ ***Transportation***– *giving a member a ride, i.e. church, to grocery store*

☐ ***Meals–*** *baking or cooking a meal to help someone in certain situations*

☐ ***Moving–*** *in times of transition aide in moving into a new home/care center*

Home Maintenance– *tasks to maintain house, one time or regular basis*

☐ *Yard Work* ☐ *House Keeping (dusting, vacuuming, etc.)* ☐ *Organizing*

Home Repairs– *handy work, to help home to function & prevent damage*

☐ *Electrical* ☐ *Carpentry* ☐ *Plumbing* ☐ *Other:* _____

☐ ***Caring Conversations***– *follow up visits with a member, once a month commitment with a single member. Parish Care Team will assign.*

☐ ***Other (please share or list your other gifts/skills):*** _____

_____.

Thank you for becoming a Care Volunteer.
This form will remain in the Care Connections binder in order for both parties (Care Volunteer & Care Recipients) to seek each other out to get the need/task accomplished.
It is <u>your</u> responsibility to find a care recipient and setup a date and time to fulfill that need.

Savior Alliance and Spring of Eternal Life
The two congregations that are renting space from us wanted to send their thanks for allowing them to meet and worship here.

Spring of Eternal Life (a Hispanic Nazarene faith community) gathers on Saturday night and Sunday afternoons for worship as well as Tuesday nights for study. They have felt warmly received and have been very good in caring for the space. They continue to add members to their community and are worshipping about 50 people.

Savior (a Hmong Alliance community) just began using space here on November 1 but are already feeling welcomed and are grateful for a larger space to call home. They worship on Sunday nights (with about 60 people) and also meet here Thursday nights for prayer and Friday nights for a youth service. They are inviting the congregation to join them for a special **New Year's Day celebration**. From 10-12 will be a program with some history of the Hmong community and time of worship, then a meal from 12-2. Come help build a good relationship with these new neighbors.

The Narrative Lectionary continues
We have chosen to stay in the Narrative Lectionary structure of lessons for worship this school year and that means that during the fall we walked through a core set of lessons from the Old Testament (from Creation to Abraham to the Prophets), and now will move into a long journey of walking through one gospel (this year it is Matthew), before the Spring Sundays of having New Testament readings (this year from Acts and Romans).

Matthew is a beautiful book full of great details about the birth of Jesus and seven chapters devoted to the final week of Jesus' life. Matthew stresses the truth that God's grace is complete and universal, and was written about 70 AD. Come allow this beautiful gospel to speak to us about Jesus being our Messiah and provide direction for our life and faith.

Please make plans to join us on Sunday, January 25 at 9:50 for our annual meeting where we will approve a new budget, elect new leadership, review a strong year of ministry and look into 2015 with special attention about the upcoming Mission Appeal Drive.

The week before the Annual meeting on January 18 we are having a finance meeting to give you information around the budget. Please join us on this day at 10am.

Older Adult Outings

We are trying to line up monthly gatherings for our older adult members (think 60-80 or more with others welcome) and are coordinating a mix of things that happen here at the church and out in the local area. Consider these as a chance to gather for building community, having fun, and learning something new. Friends are always welcome.

⇒ January 14th – Light Rail trip and lunch at the Daily Diner, 10:45am-1:30pm
⇒ February 13th – Special dinner with live music, 6:30-8:30pm at the church

Join us on Wednesday, January 14th for chance to carpool down to University Avenue where we will take a ride on the new light rail train heading into St Paul. After a short ride we will return for lunch at the Daily Diner – a place with special purpose and special food. Sign up at the Information Center. Cost will be $2.00 plus buy your own lunch.

We are saving a spot for YOU!

Woman's Retreat on January 9-11, 2015 at Wapogasset (WAPO) Lutheran Bible Camp, Amery, WI.

This years theme is Drawn into the Word with Guest Presenter Paul Oman. Experience the Word scripturally, musically and artistically as the stories of the Bible come to life. Arrive for retreat at 7pm on Friday and depart by 11 on Sunday. Cost: $80 for early registration (by Dec.31st); $85 per person (after Dec. 31st) Contact Jen Collins for more details, sign up at Information Desk.

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!

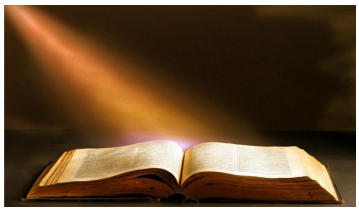
Time: Friday 5pm until the last person wants to leave with me.—Saturday 9am until the last person wants to leave with me.
Cost: Free

A great time was had by a group of ORLC carolers who went out after our Wednesday Advent worship December 10.

Our Annual Cookie Shop was a great success thanks to you! We appreciate all the bakers and helpers who made this sale a success. We earned over $1600 to help support Children's Ministry this year.

January 4 Creation Stations lesson is on the Wisemen. Still teaching opportunities available. Contact Carmen Snaza for more information.

Children's ministry team meeting is January 8, 6 pm.



Bible Exploration Workshop

January 11th @ 10am in the Fireside Room. Instead of Creation Station Sunday school that day attend this workshop opportunity. For kids grades 3-5 and their parents, grandparents and godparents. We will spend 45 min. jumping into Bible basics. Bring your bibles and excitement! Hosted by Intern Pastor Jen Collins.

Thank you to all the children on their hard work for the Christmas Program. The kids did a great job and we are very proud of them. Thank you to all the volunteers for helping make this program possible.

Hello to all!

This is your Youth Director talking, and I just wanted to say hello and thank you for everything the congregation has done in terms of welcoming me to Our Redeemer.

As for now there isn't a whole lot to be spoken of in terms of 'youth news' but I did want to reiterate to everyone how excited I am to be here and that I honestly can't wait to get the youth program moving!

As for recent events coming up, I just wanted to say that if any youth are interested, 6th grade – 12th grade, we are going to have a get together the week after Christmas, on Monday the 29th at 7 pm. Depending on how many people come we can play games, just hang out, watch movies, or maybe some other activities.

We also are hoping to have a parent/youth meeting at the beginning of January, in which I will meet with the parents and youth and go over everything that I hope to achieve as your Youth Director as well as some preliminary summer trip discussion. This meeting is not set yet, however I do want there to be an expectation that it will happen, as well as a rough timeline of when it can be expected. That is all for now.

Stay Blessed,

Eric

Reminders & Update Texts from ORLC

Would you like to receive Text Updates/Reminders from Our Redeemer? Beginning 2015, we are going to start utilizing some reminders or announcements on occasion via group text message. The app we will use is called "Remind" so when you sign up you will see this name.

You will not be automatically added for this service. You have to sign up to receive these messages! Your phone number will not be visible to others.

If you are interested in being added for this feature, send a text message to 81010. Text this message: @380041—then hit send. This will sign you up. Your normal text message rates will apply.

Thank you to all who helped support the Youth Mission Trip by purchasing a pie for Thanksgiving. And thanks to all the youth and adult helpers who worked hard to make this fundraiser a success! The youth earned $406.

Star of Bethlehem presentation

Thank you to all who attended the Star of Bethlehem presentation last month, and a big "Thank You" to the presenter, Charlie Cowman. We had over 70 people come to hear this amazing story about the world's most famous Star! Most people found this to be a very informative and revealing session and enjoyed the presentation. It was interesting to hear about the astronomical facts and scientific evidence relating to the Biblical story. Being a former member of ORLC, Charlie felt right at home and had many people to visit with after his presentation. If you missed this, it was videotaped, and is available to watch on our website. The link is: www.orlcmn.org/multimedia-archive/star-bethlehem-presentation/

Refinancing Update:

Our Redeemer was **pre-approved** for refinancing our current mortgage combined with a construction loan to make available to us up to $450,000 at a lower interest rate of 4.25%!

We would use this loan for upcoming building projects. The church board recommends and fully supports finalizing this refinancing option and construction loan. Something that makes this loan appealing to Our Redeemer is that we can finalize the loan in early 2015 and have 18 months afterward to determine the full amount we would borrow based on the scope and cost of the construction projects in conjunction with an upcoming Mission Appeal.

As we all are called to be good stewards of Our Redeemer's resources we invite you to consider this financing option. We will vote at the annual meeting on January 25th on these possible changes to the mortgage. A letter will be mailed in early January to review all the facts about this financing option.

As a building update, Our Redeemer's Building Team has been hard at work for the last 4 months determining affordable bathroom remodeling options and have a floor plan for renovations at a significant reduction from earlier estimates.

Stay tuned for more details to come...

Our Redeemer
Six Week Devotional Challenge

Are you getting prepared? Are you ready for a good discipline for 2015? One congregational challenge for 2015 is to get more members engaged in a devotional life. While some have this discipline we know from our recent church assessment tool and from written comments on new mission statement that this is an area we can improve. Our hope this year is to have at least 50% of the congregation take on this habit – and we hope you are one of them. Our plan is to provide various kinds of resources throughout the year to help our church grow in this area.

To participate in the challenge we would ask you to have the discipline of doing devotions for at least five days for six weeks – this is a commitment for 30 days. And as you find space for this in your life and watch God use this time we know that the discipline might continue into more days. Come sign up and challenge a friend to come along on this journey with you. We will have a table out on December 28th and January 4th with more information to hear about fun and exciting ways to get started, and sign up as participating.

During these first six weeks (from January until Lent, which begin February 18th) we invite you to 1) sign up for the daily devotions from Luther Seminary by going to communic@luthersem.edu, 2) pick up a copy of the Christ In Our Home devotional book from the church, or 3) use any devotion option you may already be using. Throughout the year we will share other resources and ideas.

Let's all take the New Year as an opportunity to partake in a healthy habit. Being in a daily devotion is a way to show our **love** for God, **build community**, and watch as our daily lives are **transformed**. Come and check it out on December 28th and January 4th at the sign up table. If you miss those days to join in the challenge, please just start where ever you are and whenever you can, and know there will be more information about this challenge throughout the coming year! If you have any questions, please contact Amy Krohn (ajkrohn@hotmail.com or 651-779-7945), Pastor Karsten, or Intern Pastor Jen

Blessings from your Spiritual Growth Team

Worship Assistants

Date	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Worship Host	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Claire Sexton	Dennis Peterson	Doreen Winter
Gift Cards	Sharon Peterson		Jill Rodriguez	
Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood	Dave Mennen	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Dennis & Jan Peterson
Greeters 8:45	Judy Triplett Joan Paulson	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald	Virginia Kettleson Florence Senske Barb BIrchem	Joyce Abrahamson Judy Moe
Greeters 11:00	Helen Wallace	Cindy Crooks Shirley Keating	Nora Smeed Jessica Ryden	Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson
Lector 8:45	Darleen Klemm	Chris Reeves	TBD	Lana Larsen
Lectors 11:00	Jane Koza	Holly Forsberg	Cherie Kilbride	Hilary Hinrichs
Ushers 8:45	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
Ushers 11:00	Claire Sexton Tina Gray Cheri Edwall Matt Kilbride	Rick Brovitch Clint Crooks Johan Madrigal Jennifer Houge	Randy & Jane Koza Dick & Sharon Peterson	Bruce Ring Mark & Doreen Winter Courtney Mag-nuson

Financial Information as of November 30

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 $218,640
Actual Income $252,006

Budgeted Expense $337,342
Actual Expense $317,492

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day- Office Closed 6:45am Men's Study 10am-2pm Savior New Year Celebration (S) (FH)	2 6-8pm Savior (S)	3 10am-2pm FH Rented 10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)
4 Can Day, First Sunday Food Shelf, Blood Pressure Check, Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Creation Stations 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms 4:30pm Savior Church	5 6:30pm Caffeinated for Christ 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	6 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Yoga (FH) 7:00pm SEL (S)	7 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	8 6:45am Men's Study 10:00am Kitchen Table Mystics Group– Fireside 5:30pm Worship & Music Mtg 6:00pm Children's Ministry Mtg, Savior (S) 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm MALT	9 6-8pm Savior (S) 7pm Women's Retreat Begins	10 10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)
11 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Creation Stations, Bible Workshop 11:00am Contemporary Worship, Women's Retreat Ends 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm SEL Fellowship in FH, Savior-Fireside, Classrooms	12 6:00pm Joy Circle	13 9:30am Men's Property Group 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Second Harvest 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Yoga (FH) 7:00pm SEL (S), Hope Circle-F, Church Board	14 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Older Adult Light Rail Trip & Lunch 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	15 6:45am Men's Study 6:00pm Intern Mtg 6:00pm Savior (S) 6:30pm Knitting & Crochet Group at Hometown Creamery, Mission Language Team	16 6-8pm Savior (S)	17 9am-3pm Scrapbooking 10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)
18 Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Creation Stations, Finance Mtg 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms 4:30pm Savior Church	19 6:30pm Caffeinated for Christ 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	20 10:00am Older Adult Mtg 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Yoga (FH) 7:00pm SEL (S)	21 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	22 6:45am Men's Study 6:00pm Savior (S) 6:30pm Girl Scouts	23 6-8pm Savior (S)	24 10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)
25 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Creation Stations, Annual Mtg 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms 4:30pm Savior Church	26	27 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Yoga (FH) 7:00pm SEL (S)	28 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	29 6:45am Men's Study 6:00pm Savior (S)	30 6-8pm Savior (S)	31 10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)

Our Redeemer Staff

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

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

DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY

Address Service Requested

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
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