

# The Good Newsletter

*The Monthly Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church*

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

**February**

**2015**



## **The great season of Lent is coming**

In the middle of February we will again step into that special time of the Christian calendar called Lent – the season leading up to Easter when disciplines are developed, when we focus on the intentional journey toward the cross that Jesus traveled, when we invite participation in a special cause, and when we gather on Wednesdays for soup meals and special opportunities for worship and study.

This is always a special time of the year for seeking transformation, for gathering as community, for focusing on God's love and for serving others. You can expect all of that this Lent - get ready to join us for a special time together. Lent this year begins on Ash Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> with worship at 11:00am or 6:30pm and a meal that is served at 5:30pm.

Here is part of what you can expect to hear and learn and experience:

1. We will invite people to take on a six week devotional discipline
2. We will encourage you to consider your own water usage while supporting water outreach
3. We will be eating on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:15 before our 6:30 worship
4. We will have small group book study options for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights
5. We will hear lay members share about their lives and faith based on our new Mission Statement

The other thing that will be happening in the middle of the Lenten season isn't so much about disciplines and worship as it is about devotion and dreams. During Lent the congregation will be receiving more detailed information about the upcoming ***Transforming Lives and Building Community 2015-2018 Mission Appeal*** and asking you to consider your participation. There have been various groups tending to a lot of discerning work for the life and ministry and future of this congregation and we are now at a place to take the bold and faithful step of seeking financial commitments to bring important renovations to our building and invest more deeply in some significant ministry directions. The dreams of what God is calling us toward can only be met as we become more devoted in our financial stewardship to this place. This Mission Appeal will help lead us to a stronger future and we look for the Spirit to continue to stir and excite people for participating in this holy work we share.

See you this Lent,  
Pastor Karsten



Wednesday, February 18—Worship at 11:30am & 6:30pm.  
Dinner at 5:30pm.

Lent services continue Wednesday, February 25 with dinner at 5:30pm and worship at 6:30pm



**Intern Pastor Jen Collins**

### **Running the Race**

I have a good friend who loves running, it is a passion of hers. Her husband on the other hand... well I remember hearing this story from him. He started by saying, "Why, oh why, did I ever want to run this race? I was hot, my feet hurt, and people all around me were dropping out of the race. The thing that kept me going was the thought of the "prize"—my wife waiting for me at the finish line, not to mention that I would be accomplishing a goal of running a marathon. Keeping my eye on the prize was what motivated me to complete the race."

My friend's husband has kept up his exercise and his health has improved because of it. One could compare the running with that of one's spiritual race which God has set before us. Having a discipline or goal helps to improve our spiritual health. Both physical and spiritual exercise make you feel better.

In January we've been talking a lot about **Devotions** and why they matter. A devotion is a spiritual discipline or practice, it is a time set aside for God. Miriam Dictionary states that devotions are: religious exercise or practice other than the regular worship of a congregation.

**Devotions** are another way we make time to be in relationship with God. Whether it is through using a specific book, utilizing music, delving into scripture and then reflecting on it. There are many creative ways to create that additional time spent with God outside of worship.

However, no matter how much you enjoy the exercise, there are going to be some days you just don't feel like doing it. What should you do when that happens? You should always be striving to find ways to spend time with God. Maybe it is time to find a different and new Devotion or some other discipline (Bible Study, Small Groups, etc.).

Of course, there are times when you'll legitimately have issues that may make it difficult for you to do your normal spiritual routine. You may be sick, or may have company, or may be traveling or perhaps you overslept.

You must persevere. One thing I've found helpful is to have a "minimum daily requirement" that I can do on even the hardest days. For me, that is reading one page in my *Jesus is Calling* devotional. Even if I'm not feeling well, I know that it is short and I can do it lying in bed. If I'm running late for work, I can bring it with me. Perhaps that isn't ideal, but it keeps me on track with spending time in God's Word daily which is certainly preferable to skipping time in the Word altogether.

Setting a Daily Routine, as in the story at the beginning. This is like running a race. You don't just go run a marathon if you've never done one before. You must practice and train, before you run the race.

It is the same for our spiritual health, setting a goal will help you determine your routine. Pick something you enjoy, and do it daily, even when you don't feel like it. On days when there is more time, try adding in additional spiritual disciplines such as Bible study and more extended time in prayer and journaling.

Let's learn to run the race the Lord has set before us.



### **Transforming Lives and Building Community – the 2015-2018 Mission Appeal**

The preparations have been made, a lot of planning is being tended to and soon you will be getting a special mailing detailing the upcoming Mission Appeal. We are excited about what God is doing with us and looking forward to this appeal which will help us make important renovations and repairs to our building while at the same time moving us toward more ministry with families and older adults while reaching out for more visitors and members. This will be a big year for Our Redeemer and we are looking for everyone to be involved so keep your eyes open.

### **Sunday Forum – The Mission Appeal Matters**

Join us on Sunday February 8th for a deeper look into the process and hopes and plans that lay ahead with this Mission Appeal. We will share more details about the bathroom changes, talk over the kitchen renovation being considered, and better understand how this is a significant undertaking to help us be strong for the future. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00.



### **Lenten Study:**

Watch for more information on a Lenten Study offering. Groups will meet Sunday between services or on Wednesday evenings after the Lenten service. Take the time of Lent to add in a new discipline. Join the study or do a daily devotion. We will have sign ups and resources in the Narthex. Build onto the 2015 Devotional Challenge momentum and add your name to our goal tracking board. Help ORLC reach 50% of our members being involved in a devotional opportunity in 2015.

### **New Small Group for Young Adults and Young Families (College age and up)**

We are meeting for the 3rd time and want to invite you, your spouse, significant other, friends and family to be a part of this great group. We are currently meeting **once a month on Friday or Saturday evenings**. We typically gather for a meal and fellowship. Starting this month we will begin reading a book and having conversation each time we get together. We hope that you will join us as we continue to build community. If this sounds like something you want to be a part of just contact Intern Pastor Jen Collins to get added to the email list.

This group will begin reading and discussing, *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. You can find this book at half price book for about \$5-6. If you have trouble finding the book, we will have a copy available to check out. We will be starting with book 1, pages 1-28, then discuss when we meet at our next gathering (Details below).

### **UPCOMING GATHERING...**

Gathering: **Saturday, February 28th**

- **Meet @ 5:30 pm** Dinner & Conversation at Applebee's
- 14400 Weaver Lake Road, Osseo, MN 55311
- 30 Min without traffic from church
- **7:30 pm "Little Women" the Musical**, at Cross Winds United Methodist Church
- 15051 Weaver Lake Road, Maple Grove, MN 55311
- 3 min. drive from Applebee's
- Cost: \$14 General / \$11 Students

**IF we get 15 people signed up by 2/25 (Wed.) then I can purchase tickets all together at a discount rate of \$11. Let Intern Pastor Jen Collins know if you are going, friends welcome!**

If you need transportation, we are working on arranging a few carpools. Hope to see you there!





### What's up Our Redeemer!

I just wanted to fill you in on some new changes and events that will be happening for the 6-12th graders at ORLC for February.

Starting on the 27th of January and continuing into February, the high school youth group will start meeting every Tuesday at 8:00pm. All 9th-12th graders are welcome, and hopefully most can make it! I also wanted to make it known that there will be a middle school group that meets on Sundays in between services, so plan for that if you are in 6th-8th grade.

As for February events, we will be having a youth retreat at Karsten's cabin, from the 20th-22nd. We will be leaving together on Friday and coming back Sunday. More details for times for departure and arrival will be announced at a later date. On Saturday, February 7th, due to popular demand, we will be having a Snow Extravaganza with the youth. This will involve sledding, snow ball fights, and possible igloo building. Location will be Hazelwood Park in Maplewood, and plan to meet at the church at 2 pm. Both of these events are for 6th-12th grade, and more information will be emailed out to parents.

Also this month the confirmation will be beginning learning about the lords prayer as well as moving into mentoring during lent. If there is any adults interested in mentoring for the confirmation students, please email me at [eric@orlcmn.org](mailto:eric@orlcmn.org) or leave me message at 651-772-2445 x 106.

Stay Blessed,  
Eric

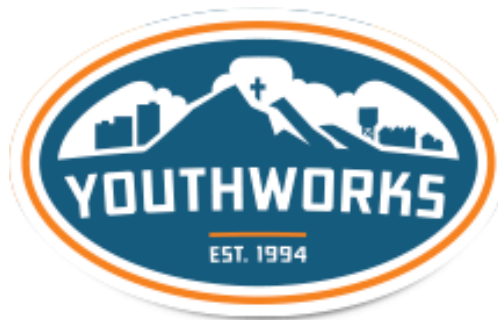


Our popular annual service project is back, the Pajama Party is February 15. We will collect new pajamas and bedtime story books for a good cause, The Pajama Program, which gives these items to kids in transition (loss of home due to fire, financial issues, etc). Kids learn about serving others and get to wear their favorite comfy pjs on this Sunday, along with their teachers.

### February Children's ministry meeting:

Thursday, February 5 at 6 pm.

Mark your calendar for special events coming up. And see the chart below for a schedule for Creation Stations. We have teaching opportunities still available, too. Please contact the Children's ministry team if you are interested in helping out.



### Family Mission Trip?

We are seeking to start a new tradition by providing a short, meaningful, family based mission trip experience this summer. Youthworks is a local ministry that has coordinated mission opportunities for decades. This is a chance for families/individuals from babies to grandparents to get away for some good work, good community building, good faith discussion and good fun. These trips are from Sunday eve to Wednesday morn, or Thursday eve to Sunday morn and cost \$129 which covers food, lodging and supplies. We are looking to go to either Duluth or Fargo and right now many options are open for dates in June, July or August. Initial dates ideas are for July 12-15 or August 6-9. Work can be with food ministries, gardening, and area senior or children's programs. If you are interested or want more information please talk to Pastor Karsten. Many families choose to stay longer for a time of vacation in that area.

Jan 25, Feb 1, 8	Elijah-Follow the King
Jan 25	Large Group-(Garden) All
Feb 1	Small Groups
Feb 8	Small Groups
Feb 15	Service Project (PJ party)
Feb 22, Mar 1, 8	Esther- Be brave for the King
Feb 22	Large Group-(Garden) All
Mar 1	Small Groups



Last month our older adult outing on the light rail and to the Daily Diner was a lot of fun. Enjoy some of the pictures of this event!

See the announcement below for our next scheduled gathering.



### **Older Adult Fellowship**

The trio called Grace Notes will be bringing their style of music and humor for the evening, February 13 to the Fellowship Hall.

A light dinner will be held before the entertainment gets started so plan on joining us and bringing a friend to enjoy the evening.

This event is sponsored by the Older Adults Ministry and cost is \$15.

Dinner 6pm, Entertainment 7pm. Sign up in the Narthex at the Info Desk.





### Feed the Hungry by packing food

Join Our Redeemer for a trip to Burnsville to pack food with Feed My Starving Children on Tuesday, February 10th. A special warehouse setting will gather hundreds at a time to serve on the lines for the largest food pack in their history. Volunteering will be about a 2 hour shift where you will help on an assembly table to fill bags with premixed food. A morning group will leave at 11:45 and return at 3:00 while an evening group will leave at 5:00 and return at 9:00. Come along for the fun, the sense of accomplishment, and the knowledge that you are helping to address world hunger. Sign up pages are at the Welcome Desk.



Sign Up for some of the last spots - -

### February Craft 'Stay' retreat.

Like crafting? Well we got something fun for you! Sign up at the information booth for Friday February 20th and Saturday February 21st.

Bring your own 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. Meals and beverages will be on your own. Bring a snack to share if you want.

Friday 20th : 5pm until the last person leaves

Return Saturday 21st: 9am until the last person leaves

Cost: Free

### Second Harvest Grocery Packing Line:

Sign up at church at the info booth or call me (651-779-7945) to help the crew pack out at the grocery line on Thursday March 5th from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm. Please arrive about 10 minutes early. **We are an all ORLC crew this month so I 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 January. We really enjoyed having the Monday night small group join us as a service project! We learned that hunger affects 1 out of 10 people. The crew packed 14 pallets which is 700 boxes of food. That is 21,720 pounds or 11 tons of food. With that we helped provide food for 18,083 meals. I think everyone was having too much fun to even take that water break that was given! Way to go team in helping fight hunger in our community!!!!

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 March 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)

### Thank you, Faithful Shoppers!



A huge thank you goes to all who buy gift cards throughout the year as a means to raise money for Our Redeemer.

We earned \$2,100 in 2014 from just a short stop at the gift card table. Join our Faithful Shopper group at the gift card table between services and after the late service on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month. We're hoping to sell even more cards this year. Every small purchase adds up to a big difference!



## Dorothy Day Update:



In December ORLC prepared and served 263 meals for the poor and homeless at Dorothy Day. We serve again Monday Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> so please help us if you can.

About 1 year ago Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Presentation Catholic Church joined in an effort to fight homelessness in St Paul. In doing so we presented a video and a post card campaign at each church. Maybe you remember watching a video during the Sunday Offertory featuring a homeless man named Karl. Karl told us how it feels to sleep on a mat at the Dorothy Day Center along with over 200 homeless men. Maybe you remember Karl choking up as he said every person at Dorothy Day would love to have a job and a place they could call their own. The 60 year old Karl has slept on a mat at Dorothy Day most nights for many years. In the fall of 2014 Karl moved into a one bedroom apartment in a CommonBond Community building in downtown St. Paul. Through Catholic Charities' Housing First program, Karl is off the shelter mats and in his own bed.

Following the video you may have been one of many people filling out a postcard to governor Dayton asking for budget funding for the Dorothy Day Revision program. With your help funding for homeless housing named Higher Ground Saint Paul has been fully funded.

Higher Ground St. Paul, the first phase of Dorothy Day's overhaul is a \$40 million replacement of the existing facility with emergency shelter and housing. It is fully funded and construction will begin this summer. Modeled after the Catholic Charities' Higher Ground building that opened in Minneapolis in 2012, the five-level St. Paul facility will offer 278 overnight and pay-for-stay shelter beds, as well as apartments providing 193 units of transitional and permanent housing. The goal is to move shelter visitors gradually into more stable housing and eventually out on their own.

Following this successful campaign by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Presentation Catholic Church a new social justice group has evolved. It is called "Just People" and the group meets each month educating, discussing and advocating for various justice issues. We welcome your participation in "Just People". Please consider joining us and watch for bulletin announcements for meeting location, date and time.

Thank you for your support for the poor and homeless.



### Water....Wonderful Water

Water is often taken for granted in the United States. In other parts of the world, billions of people drink water that comes from contaminated sources every day. If you haven't decided on giving up something for Lent yet, the Mission Team is challenging you to give up using the disposable water bottles and drink tap water only this Lenten season. You will also have the opportunity to help those billions of people around the world to have clean water for drinking, sanitation, hygiene, and agriculture – starting during lent. Don't miss out on this fun (or funny) chance to contribute.

### Thrivent Choice Dollars Reminder:

Thrivent Financial policyholders, please designate any Choice Dollars which are available in your accounts from year-end 2014. Our Redeemer benefits greatly from this Thrivent charitable giving program, having received \$3867 in 2014. Thank you, Thrivent Financial! Thank you, ORLC members who choose ORLC (church #7608) for your Choice Dollars!

[www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or 1-800-847-4836.

Questions: Lana and Don Larsen, 651-777-3874



### Greeters Needed:

Additional Sunday greeters are needed for both services, as well as for special services.

Individuals, families, or couples may serve once per

month on a regular basis, or serve occasionally.

GREETING IS EASY AND FUN! More information:

Lana Larsen, 651-777-3874

## Worship Assistants

Date	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
<b>Worship Host</b>	Dean Ersfeld	Bruce Ring & Rita During	Amy Krohn	Allen Heimerdinger
<b>Gift Cards</b>	Vicki Anderson		Chris Reeves	
<b>Kitchen Help</b>	Darlene Harwood	Dave Mennen	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Dennis & Jan Peterson
<b>Greeters 8:45</b>	Judy Triplett Joyce Pederson	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald	Virginia Kettleson Barb Blrchem	Joyce Abrahamson Judy Moe Oliviene Hefta
<b>Greeters 11:00</b>	Helen Wallace Katie Nelson	Cindy Crooks Shirley Keating	Nora Smeed Jessica Ryden	Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson
<b>Lector 8:45</b>	Dave Mennen	Lana Larsen	Kathi Kirchoff	Allen Heimerdinger
<b>Lectors 11:00</b>	Jim Krohn	Hilary Hinrichs	Amy Krohn	Alissa Krohn
<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 Matt Kilbride	Rick Brovitch Clint Crooks Johan Madrigal Jennifer Houge	Randy & Jane Koza Dick & Sharon Peterson	Bruce Ring Mark & Doreen Winter Courtney Magnuson

### Benefit for Jeff Pasket

#### Financial Information as of December 31

Thank you for your support of Our Redeemer. We are pleased to have ended 2014 meeting all of our expenses and are able to enter 2015 on a strong financial note.

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$28,068</b>
<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>\$365,371</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$393,439</b>
<b>Actual Expense</b>	<b>\$352,702</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$40,737</b>

Jeff Pasket, one of ORLC's members, was severely burned in a gasoline fire a few months ago. He has undergone several surgeries and extensive therapy.

There is a benefit being held for Jeff on Saturday, February 7 from 2-5:00pm at The Sherwood Lounge (1418 White Bear Avenue, St. Paul). \$15 donation. Free food and drinks as well as a silent auction and raffles.

Please come and support Jeff and Sherry and help them during this time.



# February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Can Day, First Sunday Food Shelf, Blood Pressure Check, Bucks for our Building</p> <p>8:45am Traditional Worship</p> <p>10:00am Creation Stations</p> <p>11:00am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church</p> <p>1:30pm Shores Worship</p> <p>3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms</p> <p>4:30pm Savior Church</p>	<p>2 6:30pm Caffeinated for Christ</p> <p>6:45pm Lives Worth Living</p>	<p>3 1:00pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm Yoga (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm SEL (S)</p> <p>8:00pm High School Youth Group</p>	<p>4 9:30am Bible Study</p> <p>6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir</p> <p>7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>5 6:45am Men's Study</p> <p>6:00pm Children's Ministry Mtg, Savior (F), MALT</p> <p>6:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>6 6-8pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>7 10am-12pm Savior (S)</p> <p>2pm Youth Sledding</p> <p>5-9pm SEL (S)</p>
<p>8 8:45am Traditional Worship</p> <p>10:00am Creation Stations, The Capital Appeal Matters</p> <p>11:00am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church</p> <p>3:00pm SEL Fellowship in FH, Savior-Fireside, Classrooms</p> <p>4:30pm Savior Church</p>	<p>9 6:00pm Joy Circle</p>	<p>10 9:30am Property Group</p> <p>11:45am FMSC</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:00pm FBSC</p> <p>6:00pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm Yoga (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm SEL (S), Hope Circle (F)</p> <p>8:00pm High School Youth Group</p>	<p>11 9:30am Bible Study</p> <p>6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir</p> <p>7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>12 6:45am Men's Study</p> <p>5:30pm Worship &amp; Music Mtg</p> <p>6:00pm Savior (F)</p>	<p>13 6:00pm Older Adult Supper &amp; Entertainment</p> <p>6-8pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>14 10am-12pm Savior (S)</p> <p>5-9pm SEL (S)</p>
<p>15 Bucks for our Building</p> <p>8:45am Traditional Worship</p> <p>10:00am Creation Stations</p> <p>11:00am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church</p> <p>3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms</p> <p>4:30pm Savior Church</p>	<p>16 6:30pm Caffeinated for Christ</p> <p>6:45pm Lives Worth Living</p>	<p>17 10:00am Older Adult Team Mtg</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm Yoga (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm SEL (S), Church Board</p> <p>8:00pm High School Youth Group</p>	<p>18 11:00am Ash Wednesday</p> <p>5:30pm Soup &amp; Sandwich</p> <p>6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30pm Ash Wednesday</p> <p>7:30pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>19 6:45am Men's Study</p> <p>10am-2pm Defensive Driving</p> <p>5:00pm Intern Mtg</p> <p>6:00pm Savior (F)</p> <p>6:30pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm Knitting &amp; Crochet Group at Hometown Creamery</p>	<p>20 Youth Retreat De-parts</p> <p>5:00pm Craft Retreat</p> <p>6-8pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>21 9am-12pm Toolkit (St. Mark's)</p> <p>9am Craft Retreat</p> <p>10am-12pm Savior (S)</p> <p>5-9pm SEL (S)</p>
<p>22 Youth Retreat Returns</p> <p>8:45am Traditional Worship</p> <p>10:00am Creation Stations, Lent Study</p> <p>11:00am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church</p> <p>2:00pm FH Rented</p> <p>3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms</p> <p>4:30pm Savior Church</p>	<p>23 Dorothy Day</p>	<p>24 1:00pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:00pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm Yoga (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm SEL (S)</p> <p>8:00pm High School Youth Group</p>	<p>25 9:30am Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm Soup &amp; Sandwich</p> <p>6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30pm Lent Worship (FH)</p> <p>7:00pm Sanctuary Choir, Lent Study</p>	<p>26 6:45am Men's Study</p> <p>6:00pm Savior (F)</p>	<p>27 6-8pm Savior (S)</p>	<p>28 10am-12pm Savior (S)</p> <p>5-9pm SEL (S)</p> <p>5:30pm Young Adult Mtg</p>

### Our Redeemer Staff

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

**Jenifer Collins**, Pastoral Intern  
651-772-2445 x 103  
Email: jen@orlcmn.org

**Eric Klein**, Youth Minister  
651-772-2445 x 106  
Email: eric@orlcmn.org

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

**Andy Peterson**, Organist  
651-247-2742  
Email: andrewjpeterson@gmail.com

**Ellie Peterson**, Contemporary  
Worship Leader  
651-815-9650  
Email: elliepetersonphotography@gmail.com

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

**Dave Parenteau**, Custodian

### Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

1390 Larpenteur Avenue East, St. Paul, MN 55109

Phone: 651-772-2445 Fax: 651-771-4548

Web: [www.orlcmn.org](http://www.orlcmn.org)  
Email: [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org)

#### Worship Schedule

**8:45am Traditional**

**11:00am Contemporary**

**5th Sunday 10:00am**



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Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL  
DO NOT DELAY

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

