



**Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church**

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

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**The Monthly
Newsletter of
Our Redeemer**

May 2015

The hills are clothed with gladness, the meadows are covered with flocks, and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing. Shout with joy to God all the earth! Psalm 65:12-13



It's Gardening Time! - Our Redeemer is blessed to have four beautiful areas of gardening - the front drive area of flowers, the courtyard with flowering bushes, the rain garden off the west parking lot, and the back side vegetable gardens. They provide beauty and function as well produce, and are appreciated by those who admire from afar and those who get to enjoy seeing them up close or eating what is grown. We hear from many how they love seeing the colors and variety of the flowers - how it is striking and artistic and creates peaceful spaces on our property. We know that we are caring for creation and providing items that bees and butterflies need. We also hear many thanks from the food shelf for the vegetables we donate that comes from the four garden boxes we tend to.

How blessed we are to have folks both willing and interested to carry on this shape of ministry, and all of these are areas where other people with either skills or simple interest can get involved. If you are interested in tending to a section of flowers in front talk to Carol Rodriguez, or visit with Dennis Paulson about the rain garden, or Betty Goodale about the courtyard, and if you want to help out with the vegetable garden talk to Bruce Ring. You can also let one of the pastors hear about your interest too.

We are again working with the Hmong American Partnership (HAP) and adding another six raised vegetable gardens along the education wing on the south side of our property on May 16th - feel free to come by from 9-12 to help build these beds, haul in the new dirt, and build some relationships. This will increase the number of our garden boxes to 18 for a total of 720 square feet which makes this really good stewardship of our land, and this all began as an internship project two years ago with Peter Weston Miller. We are currently one of five St. Paul congregations partnering with Hmong American Partnership using land for a garden ministry.

While we raise vegetables in four of these beds and donate that food to Merrick Food Shelf HAP finds various neighbors who want to learn more about farming both to help feed their families or to provide food for sale, thus providing some income. This is a program that helps local families learn some skills, or for many Hmong immigrants who used to farm before coming to the US, allowing them space to tend to that work. The folks selected care for the beds and this year there is a larger group of individuals who will be using the space and we look forward to working alongside them. We do get some money from HAP to help with water usage and this year we also received some special financial support from Thrivent to provide tools and materials. We look forward to what this partnership produces.

Look around the facility and see all the good growth and gardening that is going on - praise God!

In Christ,
Pastor Karsten





Community through Communion

By Intern Pastor Jen Collins

Some of you may have noticed the different type of bread offered during communion on Maundy Thursday, Easter or in April. It is a version of bread inspired from the Passover story. In the book of Exodus we read about Moses leading the Israelites to freedom, but there was not much time to pack and prepare everything for the trip. One of the items that had to be adapted was bread; there was not time to let it rise. So, the Israelites quickly mixed simple ingredients together and made a flatbread that would sustain them on their long journey to the promise land.

This bread which you tasted during communion was made by the hands of various members here at Our Redeemer. Not only is it bread that represents the history founded in the Exodus story but it also has us remember Jesus. Knowing what Jesus did for all of us, draws us deeper into community.

When we speak of "community" in our churches, we're typically talking about some new program or a new set of small groups. The Bible, though, says little or nothing about small groups or programs. The focus of community is instead more often around the table, around a common meal.

The family meal might seem cute and outdated in a mobile, crazy-busy current age, but there's something of importance here. A family meal creates a connection. As Christians, we ought to know this, from what we experience as we gather around for the Lord's meal. It is personal, "for you" but it is communal at the same time, being "for all people."

I want to invite, maybe challenge you to be a part of this family meal. To take on the task to help serve this meal as a communion assistant or maybe you'd like to prepare the meal and bake the bread. If you are interested in either of these roles please talk to Pastor Karsten or myself.

Gardening Matters



Date: May 17th

As a part of the Educational Series that has happened each month, you are invited to participate in *Gardening Matters*. On May 17th between the services in the Fellowship hall, join us for a short presentation around the ministries of gardening here at Our Redeemer and some spiritual insights for your own personal pruning.



Get ready for a Farmers Market

Many of you likely stop at Aldrich arena on Wednesday or visit the downtown farmers market, or stop at a little tent you may see to pick up fresh produce. But this year we are excited to announce that we will be host to a farmers market right here in our parking lot every Sunday from 11am-2pm from the middle of June till the middle of October.

The plan, in partnership with the Hmong American Partnership (HAP) is to have up to five different booths in our large east lot. These are local farmers who are using their gardening skills to help earn an income and learn business skills by providing a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. Please consider using them for your purchases. We will have signs up in our yard and will make contact with other churches so that this becomes a community farmers market.

Transforming Lives & BUILDING COMMUNITY

2015-2018 Mission Appeal

Mission Appeal Celebration

Praise The Lord as we members at Our Redeemer have responded to the call and invitation in our Transforming Lives and Building Community Mission Appeal.

After presenting the challenge and opportunity to this community you have responded so far with commitments of \$322,460 over these next three years.

This is great news and a deep sign of your generosity and desire for more renewal in our life and ministry. We will keep you updated as we expect there to be other commitments that come in. We will also keep you informed about how these dollars will be used and look for ways you will be involved in our shared work as a congregation.

Building Committee Update

The Building Committee has recently provided posters of the intended bathroom upgrades. We have selected Kipp Goodwiler as our preferred contractor to complete the bathroom upgrades. We are currently in contract negotiations with Kipp and are hoping to have a signed contract in the next week or so. Once we have a signed contract, we plan on our contractor needing 2-4 weeks to obtain all the necessary permits with the city of St. Paul. We anticipate the loan company giving us permission to begin construction prior to closing on the loan, which means we will soon begin work on the bathrooms.

Shared worship with Spring of Eternal Life and Savior: May 31st at 3:30pm

What a great opportunity to gather with the folks from the Hispanic and Hmong congregations that worship here at Our Redeemer. They wanted to find a time that we could worship together, then enjoy some good fellowship over a grand meal. This special worship and meal will take place on Sunday afternoon May 31st at 3:30 with a great meal following. Come build some community, enjoy worshipping God (primarily in English) and experience a taste of these fine congregations.



Outdoor worship this summer

We will again be planning on having worship outdoors in our front drive through area during the summer. The first outdoor worship will be on Sunday, May 31 so come and join us on this fifth Sunday at 10:00am (then come back at 3:30 for the shared worship!).

Take A Survey -

We are going to be seeing feedback about our worship services as we continue to explore what we can do to provide the best worship experiences for those who gather at Our Redeemer. We will invite people to fill these out on Sunday, May 3 in worship, but you can also go to survey monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KF959M3> and complete this for us. Thanks in advance for your feedback.



Transforming Lives and Building Community by
Loving God and Serving Others

Home Mission Appeal Calendar Good Newsletter Get Involved! Worship With Us Sermons
Gallery Leadership Team Contact Us



Our Redeemer Website - www.orlcmn.org

Have you checked out our website site lately? This is a place to get a wide understanding of what is going here at our Redeemer. You can find recent newsletters to read, sermons for times you miss Sunday or want to hear it again, pictures of recent events, and videos about our new Mission Statement or the Mission Appeal. It is also a good way to see how you might fit in to some area of ministry.



Last month our Older Adult Group had a great time visiting the BCA and going to lunch at Keller Golf Course.

Join us for Trivia night (for all ages) on Friday, May 1 from 6-8pm in the FH and for the Saints game in June!

Our Redeemer at the Saints!

Date: Sunday, June 7th

Game Time: 5pm

Group Rate: \$14.00 per ticket, only 30 available



Take me out to the ball game...The **Older Adults Ministry** is sponsoring this fun opportunity to be at the NEW Saints stadium. Sign up will be available in the Church Narthex. All the seats are together spanning 3 rows. It will be a great summer evening to enjoy some baseball and community. Carpooling may be available depending on need.

*Special Note: This is Canine Night, so people are invited to bring their dogs along to the baseball game. Your furry companion will be with you in your row, there is no special "Canine" area. Be aware if you have any allergies.

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 Thursday May 5th from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm. Please arrive about 10 minutes early. 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 2nd Harvest Heartland location in Maplewood on Gervias Ave. Our March crew really ROCKED! We hit the record of 15 pallets packed out with the new packing configuration. Everyone did a great job working hard and having fun. This time we had 4 kids join us and they did awesome. 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 or older (contact me if interested if younger) are welcome with a parent or an adult who will be responsible for them. It is great to see multiple generations working together.

Creation Station May Schedule

May 10	Mother's Day
May 17	Year End Celebration

The Creation Stations Year End Celebration will be held on Sunday, May 17th. All 5th graders will be "graduating" and receiving a special gift on this day. If you have a 5th grader who will not be able to attend on this Sunday, please let somebody from the Children's Ministry team know so that we can get them their gift. They will also have the opportunity to meet with our Youth Leadership to find out what exciting opportunities lie ahead for 6th grade and beyond.



Mark your calendars for VBS 2015 - **Bible Blast to the Past!** Evenings, August 10th - 14th for preschool through 5th grade.

Planning is underway and we are very excited for a new partnership this year with St. Andrew's. If you are interested in helping with any aspect of planning VBS, including designing, building or painting sets, etc., please let a member of the Children's team know.

Stay tuned for more summer programming announcements coming soon...



A great time was had by all at our Easter Egg Hunt! Jessica, Greta & August Rust enjoying craft time!



Hi there!

For the month of May, there will not be a whole lot going on with the youth, however, we will be having a few events.

Confirmation will be ending April 29th, and will not be starting up again until September.

In May though, we will start a new thing that will run all summer long inviting all 6th-12th graders to come and hang out at the church from 6-8pm every Wednesday, starting May 6th.

This is not mandatory, but it can be a time where the youth can still have something consistent, considering Sunday School and Confirmation will have ended. It will be a nice time of growing relationships, hanging out, and being able to keep up the Wednesday tradition that has continued time and time again to be a great time.

The other event will be a Youth Movie Night at the church. This will be on May 22nd at 7pm until 1030pm, and will be a time when we can watch a movie on the projector, have popcorn and other movie style treats, and have a good time hanging out.

Peace!

Eric Klein, Director of Youth Ministries



Youth (Completed Grades 6-12) Sign up today for a DAY AT CAMP! You have the chance to venture to Amery, WI for the day. You will get to be a part of the camp experience, including games, crafts, bible study and campfire. This is a place where faith and fun collide! Cost: \$20 per Youth, includes lunch and dinner.

Date: July 14, Time: 8:00 am (leave church) - 11:00 pm pick up at church. Sign up with Eric Klein or Intern Pastor Jen.

DEVOTIONAL CHALLENGE

How are you doing on your Devotional daily readings? The Challenge is still on! We've had a good response to the challenge. Many of us have done well engaging in developing a devotional habit during the last few months, especially during the Lenten season. The challenge is to continue, or if you have not joined in, to start.

Thank you to our members who contributed to writing a devotion for the Mission Appeal devotional booklet. This has been very well received, and intriguing and thought-provoking for people to read. Well done.

Check the information desk for current devotionals. Remember, being in a daily devotion is a great way to show our Love for God, build community, and watch as our daily lives are transformed.

GROUP LIFE

Building community is an on-going call for us and part of our Mission Statement. Small group life continues to be a vital part of our congregation. It is a good way to develop some genuine and trusting relationships, as well as learning to Love God on a deeper level.

Please contact group leaders if interested in finding out more about these groups:

Group Name	Leader(s)
Lives Worth Living 1 st & 3 rd Mondays at 6:45 pm	Vicki Anderson
Caffeinated for Christ 1 st & 3 rd Mondays at 6:30 pm	Kathi Kirchoff
Wednesday Evening Meeting times vary	Amy Krohn
Men's Thursday Weekly at 6:45 am	Dennis Peterson
Scrapbook Group 3 rd Saturday at 9:00 am	Barb Maynard/Michele H.
Hope, & Joy Circles Once per month	Judy Koza/Sharon Peterson
Wednesday Morning Bible Study (9:30 am)	Pastor Karsten

Come Crafters, one and all:



Come join the crafters and have a fun day working on your own projects. The group meets monthly every third Saturday in the Fellowship Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Any and all crafting project is welcome. Contact Barb Maynard for additional information. We occasionally have a Friday/Saturday event. Our next two day event will be sometime in October.

We just finished a fun Friday /Saturday 'stay retreat' two day craft event in April. We had 13 people for Friday evening and 26 folks on Saturday. Everyone had a great time and got a lot of things done, maybe learned a new skill, and had great conversation. There was at least one person working on sewing, knitting, crocheting, drawing, card making, scrapbooking, rug hooking, wool hooking, cross-stitching, organizing photos, and setting up some photo shots just to name a few.

Thank You

Thank you to all for the support, prayers and friendship through this past week and also over the last couple of years as Gary's health was declining. I appreciate it more than anyone can know. A special thank you to the kitchen crew for putting on a wonderful luncheon for us. Also for those that visited Gary, thank you. He may not have been able to tell you but he appreciated those times. I thank God often for the supportive community we have here at Our Redeemer. Thank you all, Judy Moe

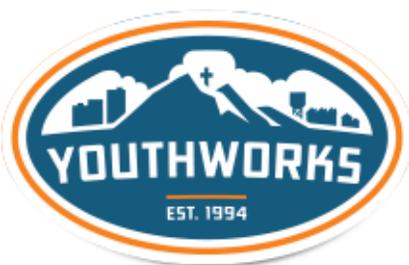
From our Missionaries...

Wonderful greetings to you and all the congregation at ORLC. It is always a joy to write and give you an update on what has been going on with us and the ministry. We are excited about what the Lord has been doing through us.

The Ebola situation is being brought under control slowly and we are thankful to The Lord. The bible schools remain closed because the Ebola virus has not been totally contained. We are believing God for our nation to be Ebola free in the next couple of months. Please continue to join us in prayer for this manifestation.

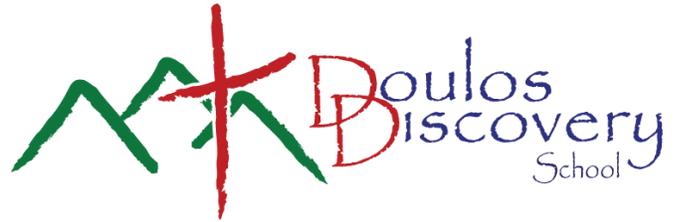
Josephine continues to minister to thousands of people on the radio and through the ABOP prayer line. God has been confirming His Word with notable signs, wonders and miracles. In the month of February and March she prayed for 2,106 people through the prayer line. She received calls for prayer from people living in Ghana, Nigeria, Guinea, The Gambia, France, Germany, UK and 7 different States in the US. She now sends the ABOP text messages to 4,860 people in Sierra Leone and 279 people in other Nations. To God be the glory!

Donald and Josephine Bessman



Family Mission Trip

We will be heading for a 4 day 3 night trip on July 9-12 to Fargo. \$129 per person is all food, lodging and programming. We will be doing some food/hunger related work, visiting nursing homes and maybe some day camp work. We have four families from ORLC coming! If you are interested see Pastor Karsten for more information.



Doulos Summer Celebration

Come join us at Prince of Peace Church in Burnsville for an evening of outdoor ice cream, visiting with others who have been touched by this ministry, and hear updates from the Director, Mike Zweber and meet one of the students who has been studying in Ohio. There will be chances for you to bid on a variety of gift baskets (cabin retreats, apparel, special outings, Doulos items, dinners and more) and hear about upcoming trips planned when you could visit on a mission trip. The night will run from 6:30-8:15pm on Monday June 15th. Contact Pastor Karsten for more information.



Rummage Sale

We are holding our rummage sale on May 8th and 9th from 9am-5pm. Please consider donating items to this sale. We will accept household goods, clothing etc (no large furniture) starting Sunday, May 3. All proceeds benefit the intern program! And come shop for your treasure, and purchase lunch



Worship Assistants

Date	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Worship Host	Roger Svendsen	Claire Sexton	Allen Heimerdinger	Dean Ersfeld	Doreen Winter
Gift Cards	Chris Reeves		Mary Forsberg		Barb Maynard
Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood	Dave Mennen	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Dennis & Jan Peterson	Kathi Kirchoff
Greeters 8:45	Judy Triplett Joyce Pederson	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald	Virginia Kettleon Florence Senske	Joyce Abrahamson Judy Moe	
Greeters 11:00	Helen Wallace	Shirley Keating Cindy Crooks	Nora Smeed Jessica Ryden	Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson	Carole Erickson Oliviene Hefta
Lector 8:45	Lana Larsen	Dave Mennen	Amy Krohn	Dianne Derks	
Lectors 11:00	Jane Koza	Alissa Krohn	Holly Forsberg	Natalie Forsberg	Anna Miller
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 Cheri Edwall Matt Kilbride	Rick Brovitch Johan Madrigal Jennifer Houge	Randy & Jane Koza Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter Troy & Courtney Magnuson	Claire Sexton Dick & Sharon Peterson

Financial Information as of March 31

Thank you for your support of Our Redeemer. We appreciate all of the contributions you donate to help our ministry here at ORLC.

Budgeted Income \$49,375
Actual Income \$60,264

Budgeted Expense \$94,483
Actual Expense \$94,383

Oil Spots

We are noticing more oil spots or other leaking from cars, especially along the front sidewalk area. If you know you have a car with some leaking fluid (oil, radiator, transmission fluid) the best thing is to get that fixed. But we would also ask that you do not park in our front drive through as we want that area to look nice and be clean for all the foot traffic that comes across those areas.



Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

2015

3 Can Day, First Sunday Food Shelf, Blood Pressure Check, Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Creation Stations, Garden Mtg, Rummage Sale Mtg 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms	4 6:30pm Caffeinated for Christ 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	5 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30-7:30pm Second Harvest 6:30pm Yoga (FH) 7:00pm SEL (S)	6 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Worship & Music Mtg 6:00pm Bell Choir 6-8pm Youth Group 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	7 6:45am Men's Study 5:30pm Worship & Music Mtg 6:00pm Savior (F), Children's Ministry Mtg 6:30pm Girl Scouts	8 9am-5pm Rummage Sale 6-8pm Savior (S)	9 9am-5pm Rummage Sale 10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)
10 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Creation Stations 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm SEL Fellowship in FH, Savior- Fireside, Classrooms 4:30pm Savior Church	11 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm Joy Circle, MALT	12 9:30am Property Group 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Yoga (FH) 7:00pm SEL (S), Hope Circle (F)	13 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Choir 6-8pm Youth Group 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	14 6:45am Men's Study 10:00am Kitchen Table Mystics (F) 6:00pm Savior (F) 6:30pm Knitting & Crochet Group at Hometown Creamery	15 6-8pm Savior (S)	16 9am-12pm Garden Day 9am-3pm Crafting Group 9am-4pm Savior (S), (F), (SS) 5-9pm SEL (S)
17 Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Creation Stations Year End Celebration, Gardening Matters 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms 4:30pm Savior Church	18 6:30pm Caffeinated for Christ 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	19 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm SEL (S), Church Board	20 9:30am Bible Study 3:30pm Spiritual Growth 6:00pm Bell Choir 6-8pm Youth Group 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	21 6:45am Men's Study 5:00pm Intern Mtg 6:00pm Savior (F) 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Knitting & Crochet Group at Hometown Creamery	22 6-8pm Savior (S) 7-10:30pm Youth Movie Night	23 10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S)
24 8:45am Traditional Worship 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms 4:30pm Savior Church	25 9:00am Quilting	26 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm SEL (S), Youth Ministry Team Mtg	27 9:30am Bible Study 6-8pm Youth Group	28 6:45am Men's Study 6:00pm Savior (F)	29 6-8pm Savior (S)	30 10am-12pm Savior (S) 5-9pm SEL (S) 7pm-12am FH Rented – SEL
31 10:00am ORLC Outdoor Worship 3:30pm Shared Worship Service 4:30pm Shared Meal/Potluck	"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." – <i>Jeremiah 29:11</i>					

Our Redeemer Staff

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

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



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Address Service Requested

**DO NOT DELAY
DATED MATERIAL**

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

