

Mark 4:1-20

The Parable of the Sower

4 Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. 5 He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 6 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. 7 And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 8 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. 9 And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. 10 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. 11 Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' 12 And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

The Purpose of the Parables

10 When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11 And he said to them, 'To you has been given the secret* of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; 12 in order that "they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven."' 13 And he said to them, 'Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. 17 But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.* 18 And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. 20 And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.'

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| Worship Host | Roger Svendsen |
| Ushers | Jessica Morgan, Kari Keating, Dick & Sharon Peterson |
| Greeters | Nora Smeed, Jessica Ryden |
| Lector | Holly Forsberg |
| Gift Cards | Barb Maynard |
| Kitchen Help | Dick & Sharon Peterson |

Finances through December 31, 2015

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| 2015 Beginning Balance | \$40,737 |
| Member Giving | \$306,735 |
| Supplemental Income | \$46,387 |
| Total Income | \$353,122 |
| Expenses | \$365,563 |
| Difference | \$28,296 |



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

1390 Larpenteur Avenue E

St. Paul, MN 55109

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**Sunday, January 17, 2015
11:00am**

Sunday, January 17 BFOB

8:45am Traditional Worship
10:00am Creation Stations, Middle School SS,
11:00am Contemporary Worship
1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church
3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms
4:30pm Savior Church

Monday, January 18

7:00am MLK Breakfast
6:30pm Islam Study (FH)
6:45pm Lives Worth Living

Tuesday, January 19

1:00pm Staff Meeting
7:00pm SEL (S)

Wednesday, January 20

9:30am Bible Study
6:00pm Confirmation, Bell choir
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir

Welcome to worship! If you are visiting, thank you so much for joining us in worship! If this is your first time here or if you have been here before and would like to know more about this church, please fill out a Visitor Information Card (located in the card racks in front of you on the pew) and place it in the offering plate. Please feel free to join us after service for conversation and fellowship. Thank you for visiting and experiencing the power of God and hearing the promise of His Word with us!

Holy Communion This morning we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. All baptized believers who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are welcome to participate. To accommodate those participating in communion that would prefer to have a gluten-free wafer (instead of bread), they are available for you to take in the silver bowl on the baptismal font. There is also white grape juice (instead of wine) available from the inner circle of the communion tray. Please fill out a communion participation card and hand it to the usher as you come forward.

Thursday, January 21

6:45am Men's Bible Study
6:00pm Savior (F), Girl Scouts
6:30pm Knitting & Crochet Group

Friday, January 22

6-8:00pm Savior (S)

Saturday, January 23

10am-12pm Savior Practice (S)
5-9pm SEL (S)

Sunday, January 24

8:45am Traditional Worship
10:00am Creation Stations, Middle School SS,
Budget Meeting
11:00am Contemporary Worship
1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church
3:00pm Savior-Fireside, Classrooms
4:30pm Savior Church

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Worship Songs

Children's Message

Lesson of the Day

 Mark 4:1-20

P: Word of God, Word of life

C: Thanks be to God

Message

 Pastor Karsten Nelson

Response Song/Offering

Prayers

Communion/Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Sending Song

Sending

P: Go in peace to serve the Lord by loving God. **C: Thanks be to God**

Upcoming Readings

January 24: Jairus' Daughter Healed—Mark 5:21-43

January 31: Death of John the Baptist—Mark 6:1-29

Mission Statement

The language of our sending is being changed to help lift up our mission statement and to live this out in our daily life. Each week the sending line will incorporate part of our Mission Statement which is 'Our Redeemer - transforming lives and building community by loving God and serving others'.

Budget Forum

As is our custom there will be a budget forum between services on Sunday, January 24th to understand the 2016 proposed budget and address concerns or questions people may have. Please join us in the fireside room for the information and good conversation.

Annual Meeting

Sunday January 31st following our combined 5th Sunday worship at 10:00am. We will have a time of reviewing 2015, looking ahead into 2016 plans, approve a budget and formally elect a few new Board members. The nominating team is in the midst of visiting with potential new Board members – if you might be interested, or if you think of someone to nominate please contact Pastor Karsten, Holly Forsberg, Jessica Morgan or Dean Ersfeld.

Missions Update

A recent deposit of the Hunger boxes and jars was made in the amount of \$148.00. Thank you to all who continue to support this wonderful way to help stop world hunger. Look for empty boxes or jars to fill with change in the large basket in the Narthex. When full, return to church and it will be added to our next hunger deposit.

We have received a wonderful letter from Frayluis, the student ORLC supports at Doulos Discovery School in the Dominican Republic. He is currently in the 6th grade and our congregation has been supporting his schooling since he was in preschool. Please stop by the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the Sunday School rooms to read his letter.

January Study of Islam Offered

We will meet in Fellowship Hall on four consecutive Mondays that began on January 11th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The last session will be on February 1, 2016. Please contact Joan Paulson at 651-777-0490 or Kathi Kirchoff at 651-770-3514 for further information or to sign up for the study.

Past Intern News

Congratulations to Pastor Ben Mandrick who was ordained this last weekend in Florida. Ben was called to Faith Lutheran Church in Somerset PA. The church of about 600 is located 75 minutes east of Pittsburg. If you care to send a card the address of the church is at 6567 Glades Pike Somerset PA 15501. Ben and Andi and their two kids are looking forward to serving at this church. Ben will be moving shortly and Andi and kids joining him in March.

Contribution Statements

Your 2015 statements are available in the Narthex. Thank you for your donations to Our Redeemer.

Knitting & Crocheting

God's Hands Knitting & Crocheting meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 P.M. until 8:00. This month, we will be meeting at Caribou Coffee on White Bear Avenue and County Road D, (by Maplewood Mall). We bring our works "in progress", be they a scarf, prayer shawl, or a pattern that we might need some help in following. Most of the handiwork is done elsewhere but it is great fun to see current projects. Besides donated items, we work on various personal projects. We share patterns, ideas and sometimes we also share yarn. The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues at ORLC as needs are made known. A number of baby blankets and hats were given to Solid Ground. A number of hats and scarves were donated to ORLC's Giving Tree this fall. Some of us have a non-profit organization that has touched our hearts. Bundles of Love, Alley Shoppe 109, St. John's Hospital Infant Unit, and Global Health Ministries are a few of these. Jack's Basket, (based in Shoreview), has received 14 knit hats and 5 pairs of knit booties for newborns. Please consider joining us for fun and good conversation. Hope to see you on January 21, February 18, March 17, April 21 and May 19.