



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

The Monthly Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

June 2016

See inside for

- **Summer Lunch Program**
- **Rummage Sale**
- **Children's & Youth News**



Relationships

The very foundation of the gospel news is that God entered the world through Jesus Christ in order to be in relationship with us. Being in relationship with us is important to God. We value what it means to know our Lord and have our Lord know us. And building on that relationship through worship, prayer, devotion, and serving is so helpful and good for us. May this summer provide a beautiful change of season when your relationship with your triune God may blossom and grow.

We know from scripture that we are also created to be in relationship with others. It is difficult to live in isolation and most of us have a variety of connections with people who are important for us – family, neighbors, friends, coworkers, other organizations and within the church. I hope that you might take a few moments to give thanks in prayer for those relationships that you most value. Go ahead and pause for a few minutes right now..... But don't stop in the thanking – make some plans or connections so that this summer will be a time of developing some beautiful new relationships and building on those old ones; with phone calls, meals, visits, special outings, and shared activities.

I think about a variety of ways the life around here at Our Redeemer continues to create and foster space for building relationships. We will be moving to our summer worship schedule of 9:30am worship followed by fellowship, from May 29 - September 4. Help this to be a summer of getting to know a few more in your church family and building the friendship you already have here. We are offering again this summer a weekday evening worship opportunity for those with schedule conflicts or just looking for something different – 6:00pm worship in the Fellowship Hall with some game options at 5:30 and a treat following worship. On the Last Wednesday of each month we are joining with a group of Maplewood area churches who will be worshipping at Bruentrup Heritage Farm 2170 County Road D East, Maplewood (just east of Maplewood Mall) – dinner and activities at 5:30 if you want, and worship at 6:30.

We are building relationships with people beyond our walls this summer too. We have welcomed another group of immigrants from Bhutan and Nepal who are filling our back gardens with vegetables (see inside for a picture and some more news) and soon will begin a summer meal program to serve a number of folks in the community (see more news inside about this 'Sunny' program). Both of these avenues of outreach have a relational base to them as we seek to get to know these folks better.

Relationships are important, valuable, life giving and just plain good for us. Work on your relationships this summer - I will certainly be doing this as well.

Pastor Karsten Nelson



When was the last time you had to worry about where your next meal would come from? Have you ever skipped a meal so that there would be enough food to feed your children? Do you know someone personally who has been faced with the difficult decision of whether or not to pay their rent late so that they can simply go to the grocery store? The reality is that food needs in our surrounding community are indeed great, especially during the summer months when children are out of school and more of the food demands fall on financially-stressed families.

This summer ORLC is excited to partner with Loaves & Fishes in launching S.U.N.N.Y (Serving Up Nutrition Now to Youth) to provide a nutritional hot-lunch meal twice a week on Tuesdays & Thursdays in Fellowship Hall starting June 9th from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Children, youth and individuals are welcome following the meal to pack a nutritional cold bag lunch to take home. S.U.N.N.Y meals will run through the summer until Tuesday August 30.

Partnerships are important and make for great ministry as the Spirit guides us in reaching out to our community! It is our hope the community members (city, police, fire department) and local restaurant establishments will help serve and contribute to helping feed children in our neighborhood. Even our very own ORLC community gardeners will be contributing some fresh produce for our meals! This summer is an exciting time to be church together and I hope you share in the excitement!



We are also partnering with Frost Lake Elementary administration and staff in intentionally extending an invitation to the children and families of Frost Lake Elementary which is right in our backyard. We encourage members of ORLC to come participate not only in volunteering this summer – but in participating in eating a meal with the community! Meals are better enjoyed when people are gathered together and research has shown that overall health improves when people eat a meal with others. So come this summer to not only help feed others – but to be fed nutritionally and spiritually by caring for our neighbors as the community of Christ! To help: hold the ministry in prayer, come eat at S.U.N.N. Y, sign-up for a shift (10:30 am – 12 pm and/or 12 pm – 1:30 pm) on the S.U.N.N.Y bulletin board, donate food items needed and consider joining the leadership team by contacting me! Thrivent Member? We could use Thrivent Choice Dollars to purchase milk and meal supplies for the summer! Please prayerfully consider supporting this outreach and ministry in at least one of the numerous avenues.

Here are a few food items we will begin collecting now—they can be brought in to the church office:

Individualized or snack sizes of:

- Trail mix
- Mixed nuts
- Gold fish
- Apple sauce
- Fruit cups (packed in water or light syrup)
- Raisins or Craisins
- Granola bars
- Belvita Breakfast Biscuits

May you be blessed to be a blessing this summer & always,

Intern Pastor Anne



ORLC's Semi Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 26 at 10:45am. Please join us to learn about the important business of our church.

OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS)



Watch for further details about these upcoming events:

- June 16: Anderson Iris Gardens in Forest Lake
See acres of Iris plants all in bloom at the same time!
Stop for lunch in Scandia with a visit to the beautiful Elim Lutheran Church.
- July 24: Take me out to the ballgame! Back by popular demand, we're headed out to a St. Paul Saints Game at CHS Field in downtown St. Paul. Game time is at 5:05pm. Watch for more information!
-

Pictorial Directory

Thank you to all who stopped in to have their pictures taken or who delivered photos to be included. We are in the process of putting together the inside pages of photos (send some to the church if you have good ones) and visiting some homebound folks who could not make it here. We plan to get these new directories in the fall. If you did not get your picture taken it is not too late to turn in a photo of your choice from home. We really are trying to get as many photos of people as these directories are helpful for learning names and making contact. Also we hope you plan to join us for worship on Sunday, June 5th as we will take a congregational photo out in our front yard after worship – about 10:30am.

We have received address and phone updates from those who got pictures. If you have had an address change, a phone number change or have a new email address, please contact the church office right away with that information.

Vegetable Gardens – Once again we are partnering with Hmong American Partnership (HAP) to provide space for various immigrants they work with to have space for growing food. This year again the 13 10x4 plots we have on the south side of our building are being used by a number of folks from Bhutan and a few others from Nepal. What a joy it was to work alongside of them in May to prepare the gardens. These are folks used to farming when they were back home but have limited space and area to grow food. We had a great day on May 14 of cleaning out the beds and getting them planted. Here is a picture of most of the group along with some ORLC helpers.

We are also adding three more vegetable gardens plots so that Our Redeemer growers will now be tending to 8 beds and donating the produce weekly to the food shelf – we anticipate this will be more than 500 pounds! Two of our new growers are African women and a few of our youth are taking responsibility for a plot. What a great way to do good work, build some relationships, and care for our community.

Keep an eye out for the opportunity to buy into a CSA (Community Service Agriculture) program being developed at Our Redeemer along with HAP that will bring bags of fresh produce directly to the church for those who want to buy into receiving a share. More details about participating will come out next month.



Creation Stations is now on break for the summer. We'll see everyone back on Rally Sunday for some more fun and learning! See our picture below from our fun year end scavenger hunt and check out the VBS information as well.



Mark your calendars for VBS 2016:

Cave Quest - Following Jesus, the Light of the World!

August 8th-11th

6:00-8:00pm

Ages 3 years through entering 5th grade

FREE!!!



Thank you everyone who supported the first annual youth plant sale fundraiser. Proceeds of \$1047 will be applied to youth activities and scholarships.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled summer of activities. If you have youth at Our Redeemer and have not received communications regarding upcoming events, please contact the office and we will get you connected!



Seeking responsible drivers: Our Summer Stretch program is Wednesdays (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. but drivers needed until 5pm) starting June 15, ending July 27. We are in need of responsible drivers who can commit to a full or half day. If you are interested in supporting this program by driving and chaperoning youth, please contact the office for more information.

We are in process of defining the scope and vision for our youth/family ministry staff position. If you are interested in providing inputs to this process, please contact the office or Carmen Snaza.

Synod Gathering Update

The annual ELCA St. Paul Synod meeting was held May 20-21 2016. Pastor Karsten, Rita During and Cathryn Heimerdinger attended the events as representatives of Our Redeemer. It was a faithful time of worship, decision making and education of further opportunities available for the church, as well as an opportunity to connect and network with other parishioners in our synod. We heard wonderful Keynote addresses about what it is to be bold and hopeful Lutherans. We heard from the two main partner ministries of the synod, Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG) and Bega Kwa Bega. ILAG is a Lutheran ministry in Guatemala that is helping to develop local pastors and ministry leaders. They also provide support for women's ministry and skill development, children's education and youth ministry, and clean water for the people in their communities. Bega Kwa Bega is a Lutheran ministry in Tanzania who partnering congregations provide clean water and ministry support to the people in that country. We also passed resolutions dealing with gun violence, building Christian-Muslim relations, and addressing the 'Doctrine of Discovery' and its harmful effects on the Native nations in this country.



Knitting & Crocheting

God's Hands Knitting & Crocheting meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00. We have adopted Caribou Coffee on White Bear Avenue and County Road D, (by Maplewood Mall), as our current gathering place. Most of the work is done elsewhere but it is great fun to see the current projects. We share patterns, ideas and sometimes, we share yarn. Nine Prayer Shawls were given last year, as needs were made known. We recently completed a service project with Jack's Basket by donating 10 pairs of baby booties and 23 infant hats for newborns. Besides the donated items, we work on various personal projects. We bring our works "in progress" and enjoy good conversation. Please consider joining us on June 16, July 21, August 18 and September 15.

Communion Invitation Language

The Church Board and our Worship and Music Team have been in conversation for a number of months exploring the language of invitation we share (both written in the bulletin and spoken during Communion) regarding who is welcome at Holy Communion. There are conversations happening in many congregations, including Our Redeemer, about seeking to ensure there is a deep welcome for those who come to worship to join us for Communion. Through a questionnaire we had at our May 15th worship services we found response supportive of this overall direction, some with concerns related to serving people of no faith or being non-Christian, and a few comments with suggestions related to order and flow. We will continue to be engaged in dialogue as leaders and will be trying out a few options for our intentional welcome to Communion during these next months. We will share more about this at our Semi Annual meeting on June 26 and will use the newsletter in future months to keep sharing more news and information.



We are having a church rummage sale on Friday, June 3 from 9am-5pm and on Saturday, June 4 from 9am-3pm.

Please bring all donations of clothing, household items, toys, games, sporting goods etc to church from Sunday, May 29—Wednesday June 1 in the Fellowship Hall. No large furniture, but if you have something of this kind, contact the office to see if we may be able to take it.

And don't forget to come shop! We will be selling lunch as well.

Volunteers are needed to make this sale a success. Talk to Claire Sexton about how you can help.

Financial Information as of April 30 and online giving opportunities

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

Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. We appreciate your gifts!

Please note that if you use your credit card, ORLC is charged a 2% fee so we will receive less than you donate. Consider using your checking account instead if you are able.

Finances through the month of April

2016 Beginning Balance	\$28,296
Member Giving	\$111,561
Supplemental Income	\$14,952
Total Income	\$154,809
Expenses	\$107,642
Difference	\$47,185

Mobile Users Scan Here



Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday at 9:30am

Wednesday at 6:00pm (with games and fun at 5:30)

Worship Assistants

Date	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
Worship Host	Amy Krohn	Claire Sexton	Allen Heimerdinger	Roger Svendsen
Gift Cards	Mary Forsberg		Barb Maynard	
Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood Florence Senske	Mark & Doreen Winter, Jessica Morgan	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Dennis & Jan Peterson
Greeters	Judy Triplett Shirley Keating Helen Wallace	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald Sherry Pasket Katie Syring	Virginia Kettleton Darlene Harwood Jennifer Kubitschek	Judy Moe Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson
Lector	Amy Krohn	Dianne Derks	Holly Forsberg	Deb Camasta
Ushers	Dennis Paulson Rob Klemm Kent Weispenning Roger Sparks Claire Sexton Cheri Edwall Caitlyn Edwall Matt Kilbride	Roger Ollila Baryogar Johnson Roger Svendsen Dennis Peterson Agnes Baysahwala Jennifer Houge Randy & Jane Koza	Dan Fitzgerald Bill Maynard Bill Fredine Johan/Katie Madrigal Jessica Morgan Kari Keating Dick & Sharon Peterson	Larry & Sandy Pruden Mike Welte Mike Kahrau Mark & Doreen Winter Troy & Courtney Magnuson

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


June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 First Sunday Food Shelf, Blood Pressure Check, Bucks for our Building 9:30am Worship 10:30am Congregational Photo 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church	6 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	7 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts (FH) 7:00pm SEL (S)	8 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Gathering w/Games 6:00pm Simple Summer Worship 7:00pm Strength Finders Study	9 6:45am Men's Study 10:00am Kitchen Table Mystics (F) 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH)	10 9am-5pm Rummage Sale	11 5-9pm SEL (S)
12 9:30am Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm SEL Fellowship Hall	13 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm JOY Circle-offsite	14 9:30am Property Group 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm SEL (S)	15 8am-4:30pm Summer Stretch 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Gathering w/Games 6:00pm Simple Summer Worship 7:00pm Strength Finders Study	16 OWLS Event 6:45am Men's Study 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 6:30pm Knitting & Crochet Group offsite	17	18 9am-3pm Scrapbooking 5-9pm SEL (S)
19 <i>Bucks for our Building</i> 9:30am Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church	20 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	21 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm SEL (S) , Church Board (F)	22 8am-4:30pm Summer Stretch 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Gathering w/Games 6:00pm Simple Summer Worship 7:00pm Strength Finders Study	23 6:45am Men's Study 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH)	24	25 5-9pm SEL (S) (FH)
26 9:30am Worship—Outdoors 10:45am Semi-Annual Meeting 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church	27 Dorothy Day Prep & Serve 9:00am Quilting	28 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Youth Ministry Team 7:00pm SEL (S)	29 8am-4:30pm Summer Stretch 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Gathering w/Games at Bruentrap Farm 6:30pm Simple Summer Worship at Bruentrap Farm 7:00pm Strength Finders Study	30 6:45am Men's Study 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH)		

Our Redeemer Staff

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Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday at 9:30am

**Wednesday at 6:00pm (with
games and fun at 5:30)**



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