



## **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

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

## **The Monthly Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**August 2016**

### **See inside for**

- **Intern Info**
- **Food Program Update**
- **VBS**
- **God's Work Our Hands**
- **OWLS Event**



**Food Insecurity** - this might be a new term to many but it is a reality both locally and nationally. Food Insecurity is US Department of Agriculture's measure of a lack of access at times to enough food for an active healthy life for all household members. We know Food Insecurity exists in every county and congressional district in the nation.

We see this as real in our own neighborhood as over 95% of the families at Frost Lake Elementary School (2 blocks SE) and over 75% of the families at Weaver Elementary (7 blocks N) qualify for free/reduced lunch as their household income is very limited (ie a family of four would have a household income of under \$44,600). We know there is food insecurity locally after we took the youth to serve at the Woodland Hills food shelf site this summer and heard about the deep increase in people coming to get food.

Part of the way we are trying to assist with the known need is to provide an avenue for free meals, and thus our beginning this summer to open our doors on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for a free meal and also the ability to pack a bag lunch - the SUNNY program. With over 700 meals being served so far through the third week in July we know we are meeting a need, and we are doing it with a great base of volunteers who are seeing to it that this program runs well. We receive most of our food from Loaves and Fishes as free food from their storage facility.

This partnership with Loaves and Fishes is now getting ready for another level of meal serving. They have asked us to continue serving meals this fall and to do so on Wednesday nights, as there are other local sites serving on other nights. The current team is in full support of us continuing so we are making plans to serve Wednesday night meals to anyone who wants to come. These will begin on September 7 and run from 5:30-6:30pm. These meals are open to whoever wants to come (including our own members) and we are aiming to add some other programming options during these nights too - nursery care and hopefully an elementary program along with some adult workshops and studies. Watch for more information to come participate or to help volunteer.

One other way we will address Food Insecurity is to open our doors to a food packing event on Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11. We will be working with Meals From The Heart (an organization similar to Feed My Starving Children) and partnering with folks from the other local East Side Lutheran Churches, Presentation Catholic Church, and the Maplewood Assalam Mosque. People will be invited to sign up for a 2 hour shift to help on a packing line that can include people of all ages. All of this takes place right at Our Redeemer and will provide meals for local food shelves and even some for our own serving. See inside for some more details on this special event and way to make a real difference in the fight against hunger.

Food Insecurity - it is real and addressing it is one way Our Redeemer is seeking to serve the neighbor.

*Pastor Karsten*



Because I knew you  
I have been changed...  
For good.

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

It has been an immense joy to serve as your intern pastor this past year. Together Christ has walked with us through a year of outreach events, worship, funerals, baptisms, youth events, Creation Stations, special services, holy conversations, Confirmation, hospital visits, home visits, and of course meetings! All good things – but what I will cherish the most will be the holy conversations I have had with you. The tender moments of grace, love and mercy that you have shared with me has left a remarkable impression on my calling that I will never ever forget. I have indeed been changed from my first months with you when I was still “new” in many ways not only to you, but to the position of intern pastor; to these last few weeks when I have felt a great tug at my heart knowing that I will soon be sent from this place.

I have not only been changed, I have been changed for the better. Thank you for being authentically you and for giving beautiful witness to the Triune God who works in and through each to bring love, forgiveness, mercy and grace into this imperfect world. I find myself in these days of gratitude wishing I could somehow express my heartfelt thanks to each of you. Perhaps the apostle Paul said it best when he said, “I thank my God every time I remember you,” Philippians 1:3. For example, I will no longer be able to confess and pray the Lord’s Prayer without hearing your voices singing it. When I close my eyes I will hear the voice of the congregation as it is carried in song by Darleen Klemm and I will remember your faces, your smiles and tears, and remarkable lives of faith.

In Christ there are no good-byes, only see you soon’s. So I say to you friends, thank you. Thank you for loving my family as your own and for caring for me with honesty, compassion and Christ-centered love. As you send me onward I too send you into the care of your next intern pastor Carol Strand. As my favorite book in the Bible (Jeremiah) puts it, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

I know and trust that this congregation was meant to change me for the better in accordance with God’s plan for my call as a pastor in the Church and for the life of this congregation. May you come to fully trust the

plans that the Lord still has in store for this place, for your family, for your faith, and for the diverse community that surrounds you all. Keep your hearts open and know that you are worth it.

Forever grateful for you,  
Intern Pastor #8 – Anne Jackson



Greetings and peace to you at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. My name is Carol Strand and I am looking forward being your newest, but definitely not your youngest, intern. My husband and I have lived in Rochester for 34 years. We have two sons and two wonderful daughters-in-law. Our older son, Jamey and his wife, Sam, live in Brooklyn Center. Our younger son, Kyle and wife Britt live in Fargo, ND. Kyle and Britt have two girls, ages five and two. Those granddaughters are blessings we never expected, so we cherish those little ones dearly.

I am currently in my fourth year at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, and have just a few credits and internship yet to complete my degree. When I started seminary, I truly thought I was crazy because I am older than average. But who I am to argue with God when you receive God’s call to ministry. So here I am, excited to start my next year with you at Our Redeemer. For this experience, I feel so blessed and am more than excited.

My passion in ministry is outreach and the loving of our neighbors, no matter who that neighbor is. From what I have read about Our Redeemer, I feel blessed to be part of your ministry for the next year. It seems you as a congregation, focus much of your time and effort on making this world a better place for others, and I am looking forward to sharing those experiences with you in the next year.

When I have a bit of free time, I love to spend it by water. I love lake life and grew up spending summers at Ottertail Lake and West Battle Lake in Minnesota. I receive a sense of peace from the water and often hear the Holy Spirit speaking to me in such places. I also like to paint, but not walls. I find relaxation in painting artwork. I am far from a Michelangelo, but I do enjoy spending time with a paintbrush in hand.

In a few short weeks I will be blessed by being in your presence. I look forward to getting to know you and working with you. May you enjoy the rest of your summer and find blessings in creation.

Peace be with you,

*Carol*

### Intern support Team

We are about to begin our ninth year with an intern at Our Redeemer. Part of their experience is having a group of folks who walks with them more closely. This internship support team is made up of 5-8 people who meet monthly with the intern (our new intern will be Carol Strand) to give support and feedback and provide care for the person and their family. We try getting a mix of people both younger and older, newer to the church and established, having never served in this capacity and some with history.

If you are interested in being a part of this group this next year, beginning in September, please contact Pastor Karsten or Judy Koza for more information or to answer questions.



### FAREWELL BRUNCH for Intern Pastor Anne Jackson on 8/21!

You are all invited to a Potluck Salad/Fruit Brunch for Intern Pastor Anne on Sunday, August 21 (her last day at ORLC) in the Fellowship Hall directly after the church service. Please bring a salad (any kind) and/or fruit to share. Our church will provide croissants, beverages, and dessert.

There will be a program after the meal. There will be a basket at the brunch if you wish to give Intern Pastor a card/note. Please also be sure to sign the large framed photo of ORLC (in narthex on Aug. 14 and 21) that will be presented to Pastor Anne at the brunch.

Hope you can come to say good-bye to Intern Pastor Anne and her family and wish them God's blessings!



### Lord's Prayer Sermon Series

Join us during the end of summer as we take a deeper walk into the marvelous prayer that Christ taught – see Luke 2:2-4. We will each week delve more into each of the significant lines and help us to understand the richness of the words and the fullness of our praise and prayer and request in this most prayed prayer.

As worship is the heartbeat for all Christians we encourage you to be with us regularly, and you won't want to miss these special weeks.

**Please keep in your prayers:** Darleen Klemm who is recovering from a broken femur, for Judy Kirsch Andiambo who is fighting a spinal infection, and for Kent Weispfenning who is overcoming a difficult infection. Pray for good options for youth and family ministry staffing. Pray for a strong response with our food packing event and the upcoming continuation of meal serving for the community. Pray for Anne Jackson as she ends internship and for Carol Strand as she begins serving with us.





**VBS 2016: Cave Quest -  
Following Jesus, the Light of the World!  
August 8th-11th from 6:00-8:00pm  
Ages 3 years through entering 5th grade  
FREE!!!**

A light supper will be served for participants, their families and all volunteers at 5:30 each evening.

Sign up online - <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/orlcmn/gpgs/home.aspx>

We need volunteers! There are several volunteer positions available. Whether helping us set-up before hand, leading a crew, manning a station, helping with clean-up, etc. WE NEED YOU!!! Please follow the sign-up link above to volunteer. Thanks in advance!



### School Supply Drive

We will once again be collecting school supplies on the first 2 Sundays in August. This will be shared between Merrick Food Shelf and Frost Lake school.

Suggested items are backpacks, #2 pencils, pens, markers, 24 pack Crayola crayons, colored pencils, erasers (flat pink type), Elmers brand glue sticks, lined paper (both college and wide line), spiral note books (single subject), solid color pocket folders, scissors both rounded & pointed tips, highlighters and clear plastic rulers.

This is by no means the only supplies needed, but it gives a good idea of what a student uses during the school year.

### School Supply Help

If you or someone you know needs help getting school supplies, they can get a free back pack, school supplies, books and haircut on Saturday, August 20 from 10am-2pm at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church at 1669 Arcade St (right by Phalen Lake). You have to register though! Call Val at 651-771-9339. This is sponsored by Merrick.

### Youth Trip to Pastor Karsten's cabin

The annual chance to get away for some good water and boating fun, hanging with friends, faithful conversations and lots of games is coming up on Sunday, August 14 (leaving right after worship) and returning on Monday night August 15. This is open to all middle and high school youth. Cost will be \$20 but scholarship money is available. Please sign up with Pastor Karsten.

Our Summer Stretch youth picked over 50 lbs of food and brought it to the food shelf last month!



# Loaves & fishes



As of the writing of this article - 948 meals have been served thus far to our community out of Our Redeemer's kitchen! WOW! By the end of the summer we will have served over 1,500 meals!

It has been through the hands of Christ, and the heart of this church that individuals and families have been transformed by just a single meal. From the life-giving joy of celebrating Gloria Hanson's 96th birthday at SUNNY to helping a woman and her four children find safe housing after living in her vehicle for three weeks. God's goodness has been on the menu weekly!

Individuals have encountered good food, kind people and a loving God every time they have walked in our Fellowship Hall for a meal. Many thanks to all who have taken time to stop up to help serve, who have donated much needed items, and who have given financial support to this important ministry. Your gifts and prayers have produced good fruit as the ministry is growing!

Our partners, Frost Lake Elementary, Loaves & Fishes and Second Harvest Heartland, are delighted and impressed by what this church has done this summer and they are eager to help us do even more together!

Starting this Fall, on September 7 we will continue to offer our community a dinner each Wednesday from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. It will be a time to stop up to church - to serve, to build community - to transform lives - to love God. Sound familiar? It should! The mission of Our Redeemer is beautifully being lived out through this meal ministry right here in our very own community and church. The church is becoming a community for the community!

If you haven't been able to come for a SUNNY meal this summer - then do come and join your church Wednesday nights for what will be a good and hardy Loaves & Fishes meal. There are plans to continue SUNNY next summer. We have strengthened our relationship with Frost Lake Elementary as over twenty teachers have helped us serve meals already and are looking forward to helping us serve families this fall.

The Good News folks is people are being fed through the love of Jesus Christ and people are talking about this church. People are coming back for not only another meal - but to be in relationship! As SUNNY prepares to transition to a Loaves & Fishes dinner this fall please keep the ministry in your prayers, continue to lend your support and remember "many hands make light work."

More information will be coming this fall from the team that is coordinating this meal with ways you can serve and support the ministry. May you prayerfully consider ways in which you can be involved in Loaves & Fishes right here in our community as together we are an agent of love that transforms hearts and lives in Christ Jesus!





# God's work. Our hands.

## God's Work Our Hands

The ELCA invites congregations into a day of service as the new fall season begins and this year we have a great opportunity. Our Redeemer will be hosting a food packing event (similar to Feed My Starving Children) on Saturday **September 10** and **Sunday, September 11**.

During these days we invite members and friends to sign up for 2 hour shifts to come and be part of a packing team. Stationed at a line of tables some will open special bags which then are filled with rice, a nutrient mixture, and flavoring. These bags then are inspected for correct weight by another person who fills or removes some of the rice. They hand it down the line to one who then seals the bag and gives it to the box packer. Some others are muscle workers to take away completed boxes and refill the stations with items. There are jobs for all ages and this is a fun and meaningful experience.

We will have partners from the other 7 East Side ELCA Lutheran congregations signing up for spots as well as Muslim neighbors from the local mosque and friends from Presentation Catholic church. Our goal, in working with Meals From The Heart, will be to pack between 50,000-75,000 meals. As there is a cost to preparing all these meals we encourage people to bring a \$10 donation. You will be able to sign up either at a table at the church or by going online – that information will come out in mid-August. Some of these meals will be used by the church to help feed the community. Come be a part of another great thing happening here at Our Redeemer. If you want to help with fundraising or organizing this special event contact Pastor Karsten or come to a meeting here on Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:30.



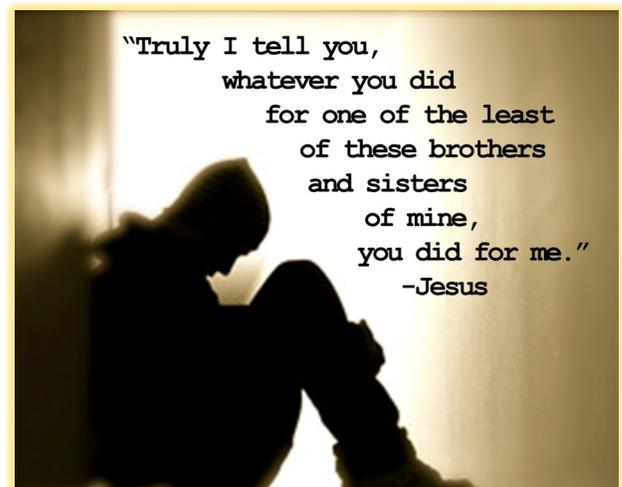
## God's Work Our Hands Shirts

If you are interested in ordering a gold T shirt that says God's Work Our Hands on the front and names 'Our Redeemer' along with other East Side congregations please place your order at the Gift Card table. These shirts will cost \$8 and orders are due by August 7.



## Meals made from our vegetable gardens –

Stay tuned for an option to come on Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> for a chance to eat special foods prepared by the Bhutanese and Nepalese farmers who are growing food in our vegetable gardens. Other host sites with gardens are also being invited to a night of meeting the gardeners and trying some good dishes. Look for more details in the upcoming Sunday bulletins.





### **Dorothy Day Meal June 27**

Huge "thanks" to 25 volunteers from Our Redeemer, Spring of Eternal Life and Presentation Catholic Churches who planned, purchased the food, prepared and served the evening meal to 270 homeless and disadvantaged persons at Dorothy Day.

The menu included barbecued chicken, southern fried potato with mixed peppers and onions, baked beans, lettuce salad with cucumbers and tomato, bread, tropical fruit mix and choice of milk or flavored tea.

The food cost of \$461.91 was almost covered with donations given in the Noisy Offering at ORLC (\$159.99) and the Thrivent Financial Action Team grant (\$250).

Thank you, Our Redeemer contributors!  
Thank you, Thrivent!



National Night Out is Tuesday, August 2 from 5-8:00pm. We hope you will join us for this fun community event. We will have free food, games, and fellowship! If you would like to help for this event, talk to Claire Sexton. If you are able, please donate something to our cake walk. See you there!

Thrivent Financial is supporting the ORLC National Night Out event with Action Team funding. Thank you, Thrivent, and thank you, volunteers!



### **Everyone Welcome to the Upcoming OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) sponsored events:**

Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>: Wildlife Science Center,  
Forest Lake

Learn about the care, handling, breeding and the ecological significance of wolves. Home to Minnesota's largest wolf pack

Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children 4-12, free for 3 and under. Tour starts at 11 am lasting approximately 1:15 hrs. Lunch afterwards to be determined. Involves walking outside on uneven ground. Carpool from church.

September: Osceola Train Ride along the St. Croix River

October: Taylors Falls Scenic Boat Tour

November: Martin Luther Art and the Reformation Exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts

## Worship Assistants

Date	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
<b>Worship Host</b>	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Claire Sexton	Amy Krohn	Doreen Winter
<b>Gift Cards</b>	Chris Reeves		Mary Forsberg	
<b>Kitchen Help</b>	Darlene Harwood Florence Senske	Dennis & Jan Peterson	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter, Jessica Morgan
<b>Greeters</b>	Judy Triplett Shirley Keating Helen Wallace	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald	Virginia Kettleon Darlene Harwood	Judy Moe Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson
<b>Lector</b>	Frank Carlson	Deb Camasta	Dave Bradee	Cherie Kilbride
<b>Ushers</b>	Dennis Paulson Rob Klemm Kent Weispfenning 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

### Financial Information as of June 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!

### Finances through the month of June

<b>2016 Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$28,296</b>
<b>Member Giving</b>	<b>\$152,388</b>
<b>Supplemental Income</b>	<b>\$23,705</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$204,389</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$176,149</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$28,240</b>

Mobile Users Scan Here



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

<p>1 6:45pm Lives Worth Living</p>	<p>2 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5-8:00pm NNO 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>	<p>3 9:30am Bible Study</p>	<p>4 6:45am Men's Study 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 11:30am God's Work Mtg 5:00pm Worship &amp; Music 6:00pm Children's Ministry Team Mtg</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>
<p>7 First Sunday Food Shelf, Blood Pressure Check, Bucks for our Building 9:30am Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b> 1:30pm Shores Worship</p>	<p>8 9:00am Quilting 5:30pm VBS Supper 6-8:00pm VBS</p>	<p>10 8:30am-4:30pm Summer Stretch 9:30am Property Group, Bible Study 5:30pm VBS Supper 6-8:00pm VBS</p>	<p>11 6:45am Men's Study 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 10:00am Kitchen Table Mystics (F) 5:30pm VBS Supper 6-8:00pm VBS</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>
<p>14 CSA Pickup 9:30am Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b> 3:00pm <b>SEL Fellowship Hall</b></p>	<p>16 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b>, Church Board (F)</p>	<p>17 9:30am Bible Study</p>	<p>18 6:45am Men's Study 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 6:30pm Knitting &amp; Crochet Group Caribou</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 9am-3pm Scrapbooking 5-9pm <b>SEL (S) (FH)</b> Garden Potluck</p>
<p>21 9:30am Worship 10:30am Farewell Salad Potluck for Intern Pastor Anne 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b>  Youth Cabin Trip</p>	<p>23 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Congregational Growth Team 6:30pm Youth Ministry Team 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>	<p>24 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Gathering w/Games at Bruentrap Farm 6:30pm Summer Worship at Bruentrap Farm</p>	<p>25 6:45am Men's Study 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b> 11:00am OWLS Event</p>
<p>28 CSA Pickup Bucks for our Building 9:30am Worship Outside 10:30am Eastside 8 Lunch 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b></p>	<p>30 11:30-12:30 SUNNY (FH) 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>				

**Our Redeemer Staff**

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**Summer Worship  
Sunday at 9:30am**



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Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL  
DO NOT DELAY

