



## **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

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

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

**October 2016**

### **See inside for**

- ◆ **Loaves & Fishes Meals and More**
- ◆ **Project Home**
- ◆ **Trunk or Treat**
- ◆ **Craft Show**

## **Partners in Ministry**

Ministry happens very often as we join together and partner with other groups and ministries. We see that when 11 faith communities packed almost 84,000 meals at our site last month, or when we work with Loaves and Fishes to provide a free community meal every Wednesday night this fall, or when we give financial support to Donald and Josephine Bessman – missionaries at a Bible school in Sierra Leone West Africa, or sponsor kids with Doulos Discovery School in the Dominican Republic, or work with Project Home (see inside for more information) as we open our doors to homeless families during November.



We choose to partner with other organizations and ministry because they need help and it provides ways for us to care for and serve people throughout the world and right here in our own neighborhood. You hear about our engagement with these programs throughout the year and this October we will have a nice focus on LSS.

Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of Minnesota is an amazing outreach arm of our Lutheran church in Minnesota. Statewide, 2,300 employees and 8,000 volunteers touch the lives of one in 65 Minnesotans through adoption, financial counseling, emergency shelter for youth, foster care, housing for families, mental health counseling, support for people with disabilities, and senior companions—to name just a few of its 23 services.

We will learn more about these ministries on a special LSS Sunday- October 9! We're delighted that Mons Teig, who has served in a variety of roles on the Luther Seminary faculty, will be our guest preacher. Between services, join us for an Adult Forum (LSS Matters) in the Fellowship Hall where we'll hear about social trends in Minnesota and how LSS is meeting emerging needs locally and across our state, to include a special focus on family homelessness from Dawn Horgan, an LSS housing expert. It will be a fascinating discussion! Come with your questions and learn more about the breadth and depth of LSS and how we are making a difference in Minnesota.

Through October 9, Our Redeemer will be collecting Welcome Basket supplies for families experiencing homelessness who are served through LSS. These Welcome Baskets will include supplies families need when they move into a safe and stable apartment after staying in a shelter. We'll be buying laundry baskets with funds provided by a Thrivent Action Team Grant and filling them with supplies donated by the congregation. If you would like to contribute, please drop off your donations in the Narthex. Thank you for helping our neighbors in transition get off to a good start in their new apartments.

### **Help Fill A Laundry Basket For A Family!**

*Supplies Needed: Cleaning bucket, rags, sponges, rubber gloves, dish soap, window cleaner, toilet paper, paper towels, toilet brush, toilet bowl cleaner, all-purpose cleanser, bleach, laundry detergent, plunger, box of tissue, flashlight and batteries, broom, dust pan, mop.*

In Christ,

*Pastor Karsten*



Hello Our Redeemer Family!

As I write this article for October's newsletter, I feel a sense of autumn setting in. The brilliant red and orange of the changing leaves, the days are getting shorter, and in our backyard at home, I've noticed the birds are gathering in large flocks, preparing to fly south for the winter. Fall is here.

I have been at Our Redeemer for a month. In a recent meeting, I mentioned that I have fallen in "love at first sight" two times: 1) the time I first met my husband, Scott, and 2) when I first walked into Our Redeemer. This place welcomes and adopts like no other place I've been. I truly feel part of this family after such a short time, and my heart is full of thanks to all of you for this warm and gracious welcome.

Getting to know you better is high on my priority list. Some of you I've met and remembered your names. Others, I have to admit, I have forgotten your names. I apologize for that. Hopefully, I will have your names and faces put together – soon!

There is something that I feel I should share with you - I have a gluten intolerance and need to eat gluten free foods. So if you notice that I am not eating something that you bring, it is not because I don't want to eat what you've prepared or what's being served. It's because I can't. Thank you for understanding.

In Philippians 2:29a, Paul is writing to the Philippians telling them to welcome his letter carrier, Epaphroditus. He will be delivering the letter to the Philippians. Paul tells them to "Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy." I am blessed that you have heard Paul's message. You have welcomed me, and I have become part of your family, the Our Redeemer family.

Peace be with you,

*Carol Strand*



## **Loaves & Fishes: Meals and More – Let's Talk Personal Wellness This Fall!**

When it comes to our own personal Wellness, what really works? We're going to talk about this on Wednesday evenings in October and November!

We're doing something special at ORLC on Wednesday nights this fall that includes a meal together and guest speaker. In September, we invited local community leaders (Police Chief, Mayor of Maplewood and Frost Lake Principal) to join us and share what's happening in our community from their unique perspectives.

In October and November, we will be focusing on faith and personal wellness by lifting up the book, **What Really Works – Blending the 7 F's**. Special guests will be on hand to talk about how we can improve wellbeing in several areas of our lives including our Family, Finances, Faith and Fitness and others.

Some of our guest speakers will include members from our own congregation who are experts in these areas! We'll also take the 7 F's wheel exercise to see how we are doing in all of these important areas of our lives.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a meal together between 5:30—6:30p.m. and then a special presentation at 6:30 p.m. This is going to be a wonderful opportunity to take stock of where we are now and how we can live a richer, healthier and more purposeful life of faith in all areas of our lives.

# Food Packing—Side By Side

Thanks for your help in making this Side By Side Meal packing event with Meals From The Heart such a fine day of service and being together! We had **283 people** participate in the packing shifts, packed **83,736 meals**, and raised about **\$10,000**. Thank you for your participation!

See some pictures of the event here:



**YOU** Make a Difference



### **A Reflection from a volunteer on SUNNY and looking forward to Loaves & Fishes—Meals & More**

Here at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church we have had a wonderful kitchen installed in our church. With this new kitchen we knew it would open so many wonderful doors for not only our church community but the community around our church. With our new kitchen we decided a great way to help our church members and also the community is to be a part of this great program called SUNNY (Serving Up Nutrition Now for Youth).

Starting from June until August we had these amazing meals. Every Tuesday and Thursday we prepared a nutritious hot meal to eat at the church but also we provided a sandwich meal to take home with you. During this time we had wonderful help in the kitchen and it was a great summer getting to know the good people in our community. We ended up serving over 1,300 meals to our community!

Once we knew our SUNNY program was coming to an end we didn't want to stop there until next summer. We had all built great connections with everyone and we were all so blessed God gave our church this opportunity that we wanted to continue this winter.

We knew this was a fantastic opportunity to continue the ministry we started with Loaves and Fishes. We are now prepping hot meals being served Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30 pm with wonderful speakers starting at 6:30 sharing their stories.

God has blessed our church with so many wonderful gifts to help our members and our community. I am very blessed to say I have the opportunity serve.

—*Katelyn Syring*

### **Project Home**

Many of you can remember last November when Our Redeemer hosted homeless families overnight through “Project Home” – a ministry of Interfaith Action.

This program works through area churches to provide shelter for families year round by having individual congregations host 4-6 families for a month, by providing space for them to gather in the evenings and to sleep. They arrive about 6pm to have a snack, then hang out or work on school work before heading to bed and rising to get their 6:30am bus that brings them to day programs.

Programs like these are vital to our community and help get these families transition into a stable home environment that will be permanent rather than temporary. Homelessness has increased in the Twin Cities and despite the images that media can tend to provide, anyone can be homeless; all it takes is loss of a job, family struggles, a health issue or inability to find affordable housing.

We are planning to provide shelter at Our Redeemer again this year, during November. We will need volunteers to make this run smoothly – both to be here for an evening shift or overnight stays. Look for more information and sign up during October. Please consider helping out and encourage others to help, as this is an important program and families should not be left on the streets.

We believe that Our Redeemer is God's house and all are welcome in God's house - we are just stewards and recognize it is important that we extend a welcome to our homeless brethren in their time of need. If you have interest in helping to make this happen, or if you have suggestions or concerns from last year, please contact our Project home leadership team - Deb Camasta, Jessica Morgan, Allen Heimerdinger or Intern Pastor Carol Strand. Please help us help Project Home.

Jesus said:

I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me a room,  
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,  
I was sick and you stopped to visit,  
I was in prison and you came to me.

Matthew 25:35-36 The Message



## Trunk or Treat

Volunteers are needed to help coordinate and help host our 2nd Annual Trunk-or-Treat event in the church parking lot. Volunteers simply bring a couple bags of candy and park their vehicle in the parking lot with their “trunk” of the vehicle decorated for fall (no scary decorations)!

Trunk-or-Treat provides a safe and friendly community event for children to trick-or-treat. This friendly “daytime” event is perfect for young children, children with disabilities, and seniors who enjoy being able to participate in handing out candy.

To learn more about decorating ideas check out: <http://trunkortreat.homestead.com/> To sign-up to help contact Intern Pastor Carol Strand or Holly Forsberg and look for sign ups in October!

## New help for Children Youth and Family Ministry

The Church Board voted at its September 20th meeting to contract with InterServe Ministries who does interim youth ministry work. Members of the Children's Ministry Team and the Youth Ministry Team met with the director as well as one potential staff person. We were excited to hear about their work and the chance we could have to work with them right now. We have been without any youth staff since the beginning of 2016 with various ministries taking place through our staff and volunteers.

In October we will welcome Kirsten Fisher as the short term associate for now into early 2017. She comes with 20 years of youth and family ministry experience having just worked at St Paul's in Stillwater. She will help lead our confirmation program, provide leadership for our Sunday morning ministry with both children and the middle school, and work with leadership teams to make more permanent staffing decisions for Our Redeemer. Please welcome Kirsten.



## Congratulations to our Confirmands!

Michael Snaza, Sam Meyer and Bryan Ose will be confirmed at the end of this month. Keep them in your prayers.

## Craft Sale

We need your baked goods! Our Craft Sale is on Saturday, October 22 and we are in need of donated baked goods for the sale. If you are willing to donate, please drop off your baked goods on Friday after 5:30pm or on Saturday morning before 9am. We greatly appreciate your help!

Also, don't forget to come shop at the Craft Sale. We have many different types of things available with many returning people from past years. We will also be selling lunch that day. The sale runs from 9am-3pm.

We are always in need of volunteers to help this sale run smoothly. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Claire Sexton or Sharon Peterson.



# Reformation



**INTERFAITH  
ACTION** OF GREATER  
SAINT PAUL

## It is a Reformation year –

This year, beginning with Reformation Sunday on October 30<sup>th</sup>, will mark a yearlong celebration of the 500 anniversary of the Lutheran Church. You can anticipate that throughout this year we will have various studies, special events, and outings that lift up our heritage and celebrate this milestone year. For us this kicks off with a special Reformation Worship on Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> (10:00am as a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday). This is also Confirmation Sunday and our three Confirmands will be Michael Snaza, Sam Meyer and Bryan Ose. Congratulations to them.

Another very special opportunity comes on Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup> with a visit to the Minneapolis Institute of Art display of Lutheran history and artifacts. This is the only place in the US this is taking place. Sign up for the \$10 tickets during October. The Owls group is going November 10; see more about that trip on page 5. Throughout the year you will see and hear things that help celebrate this big anniversary.

## Widening Our Welcome

This year as we prepare to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reformation, we are reminded that the church has been reforming since its birth and continues to grow and change even now. How is God calling us to grow and change? How is God calling you to grow and change? These are sometimes both hard and good questions. Sometimes it takes those good and hard questions to be drawn deeper into relationship with God and our community.

The Church board has decided to invite a small team of individuals at Our Redeemer to ask those good and hard questions around becoming a more welcoming church. This team will walk through a planned process to see how Our Redeemer might become a more welcoming church to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Through this process there will be a commitment to listen deeply, to find common ground, to journey together in respect, and to seek God in every step. The process may take a few years and has no set outcome. If you are interested in being a part of this group that will ask good and hard questions without any definite answers and who will listen deeply to God and our family here at Our Redeemer, please ask a board member for more information. Everyone can look for future communication from this group about how the process is going and invitations to grow together.

## Interfaith Action Breakfast

A celebrating and fundraising breakfast lies ahead on Thursday, October 27 for anyone interested. Our Redeemer partners with Interfaith Action both in our Vegetable Garden program (that allows a dozen individuals to farm on our property) and Project Home (which provides families without housing a safe place to stay in our building during November). If you care to join Pastor Karsten and Intern Pastor Carol and learn about Interfaith Action's wide work in this community please contact the office by October 12.

## Be Inviters

Our Redeemer sent out postcards to many area neighbors inviting them to come for a Wednesday night meal and to check out Our Redeemer, but the work of inviting is something that needs to fall on each of us as members of this church. And inviting starts with conversation. Consider using some of these questions to start a faith conversation and maybe it will allow you to invite others here if they are not actively involved elsewhere:

- We don't talk much about religion, but can you tell be more about your faith life?
- What is your concept of God – do you view God negatively or positively?
- When do you find faith or spiritual values guiding you?
- Do you go to church – why or why not?





## OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) Events

**Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> –**

### **Fall FunFest at Gladstone Senior Center**

Enjoy a delicious lunch and music event right in our own neighborhood! The chicken parmesan lunch will be catered by The Little Oven and entertainment will be provided by The Golden Tones. Cost is \$10. Event is from 11:30 am - 1 pm. Carpool from church leaving @ 11:10. Signup and payment deadline is October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> –**

### **Martin Luther Art and the Reformation Exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts**

Let the celebration begin! This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity marking next year's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Protestant Reformation. You'll be able to view many of Luther's personal possessions as well as recent archaeological finds from his childhood and adult homes. This is a guided tour from 2:30 – 3:30 pm. Cost is \$10. Signup and payment deadline is October 16<sup>th</sup>. Carpool from church.

## **Additional Senior Trips**

In cooperation with Lyngblomsten Housing, healthcare & services, their Social Club, 5-5-1, has planned several Senior Trips to watch for.

November 2 we're going to Cabin Ridge in WI for a short hayride to a lodge where we'll have a hearty lunch and entertaining music. Then we'll be off to a dairy down the road for a cheese stop before coming home. Coach Pickups at Gustavus Adolphus. All details will be available in October.

December 7 we'll be going to the wonderful St. James Hotel in Red Wing for a delicious lunch amidst the Holiday décor then we'll get to see the potters in action at their workplaces at Red Wing pottery. There'll be a chance to visit the salesroom. Details to follow.

Keep the dates. Transportation by comfortable coaches. For more information contact Kathi Kirchoff.



## **Our Redeemer Quilting Group**

We are a long established service group that currently meets in the Fellowship Hall at Our Redeemer. Thousands of quilts have been donated over the years, beginning in the 1970's with a number of quilts sent to Africa for use at refugee camps. Quilts were donated to the Gustavus Adolphus Retreat Center when it was formed. More quilts were delivered after the St. Peter tornado. Perhaps someone in your family has a treasured quilt. Another quilt will be donated to the Annual Fine Arts and Craft Sale at ORLC on October 22 for their raffle.

Most of the fabric for the quilt squares is donated. The backing sheets, thread, yarn and batting are purchased. Some years we have had a quilt raffle to raise funds for these purchases. We received some funds from the Thrivent Action Team this past year to support some of these purchases.

We meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month. On those days, we tie yarn to the assembled quilt tops to ready them for hemming. The only skills you need are to be able to hold a needle and tie a knot! The cutting of quilt squares, piecing, and sewing of the quilt squares is done by some of the members at their homes. You don't need to bring any supplies...we have enough to share!

## Worship Assistants

Date	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30 One service 10am
<b>Worship Host</b>	Dean Ersfeld	Claire Sexton	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Amy Krohn	Roger Svendsen
<b>Gift Cards</b>	Jill Rodriguez		Vicki Anderson		Barb Maynard
<b>Kitchen Help</b>	Darlene Harwood Florence Senske	Dennis & Jan Peterson	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter, Jessica Morgan	TBD
<b>8:45am Greeters</b>	Barb Birchem Judy Triplett	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald Joyce Pederson	Virginia Kettleston Florence Senske	Judy Moe Deb Camasta	Jim Riemenschneider Florence Senske
<b>11:00am Greeters</b>	Shirley Keating Helen Wallace	Sherry Pasket Katie Syring	Nora Smeed Jessica Ryden	Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson	
<b>8:45 Lector</b>	Kathi Kirchoff	Lana Larsen	Deb Camasta	Anna Miller	Confirmands
<b>11:00am Lector</b>	Holly Forsberg	Hilary Hinrichs	Frank Carlson	Cherie Kilbride	
<b>8:45am Ushers</b>	Dennis Paulson Rob Klemm Kent Weispfenning Roger Sparks	Roger Ollila Baryogar Johnson Roger Svendsen Dennis Peterson	Dan Fitzgerald Bill Maynard Bill Fredine Johan/Katie Madrigal	Larry & Sandy Pruden Mike Welte Mike Kahrau	
<b>11:00am Ushers</b>	Claire Sexton Cheri Edwall Caitlyn Edwall Matt Kilbride	Agnes Baysahwala Jennifer Houge Randy & Jane Koza	Jessica Morgan Kari Keating Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter Troy & Courtney Magnuson	Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson Dick Peterson

### 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.

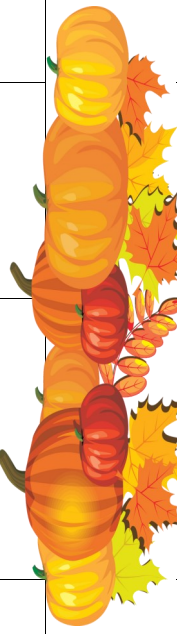
Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. We appreciate your gifts!

### Finances through the month of August

<b>2016 Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$28,296</b>
<b>Member Giving</b>	<b>\$199,190</b>
<b>Supplemental Income</b>	<b>\$27,542</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$255,028</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$227,473</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$27,555</b>

Mobile Users Scan Here



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 First Sunday Food Shelf, Blood Pressure Check, Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b>	3 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	4 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b>	5 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 6:30pm Speaker 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	6 6:45am Men's Study 6:00pm Children's Ministry Team Mtg	7	8 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b>
9 CSA 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School, Lutheran Social Services Matter 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b>	10 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm Joy Circle	11 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b> , Hope Circle (F)	12 9:30am Bible Study, Property Work Day 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 6:30pm Speaker 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	13 6:45am Men's Study 10:00am Kitchen Table Mystics (F)	14	15 9am-3pm Scrapbooking 5-9pm <b>SEL (S) (FH)</b>
16 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b> 3:00pm <b>SEL Fellowship (FH)</b>	17 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	18 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b> , Church Board (F)	19 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 6:30pm Speaker 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	20 6:45am Men's Study 1:00pm Missions 5:30pm Worship & Music 6:30pm Knitting & Crochet Group Caribou	21 Confirmation Retreat Day	22 9am-3pm Craft Sale 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b>
23 <i>Bucks for our Building, CSA Delivery</i> 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Creation Stations 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b>	24 9:00am Quilting <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Intern Cluster</div>	25 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Strength Finder Team 7:00 Youth Ministry Team 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b>	26 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 6:30pm Speaker 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	27 6:45am Men's Study 7:30am Interfaith Action Breakfast 11:30am OWLS Gladstone	28	29 2-4pm Trunk or Treat
30 10:00am Confirmation Sunday Worship	 <h1 style="color: orange; font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">October 2016</h1>					

— Our Redeemer  
— Spring of Eternal Life

S=Sanctuary, F=Fireside, FH=Fellowship Hall

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**Worship Schedule**

**8:45am Traditional**

**11:00am Contemporary**

**5th Sunday 10:00am**



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Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL  
DO NOT DELAY

