



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

The Monthly Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

November 2016

See inside for:

- ⇒ **New youth opportunities**
- ⇒ **Thanksgiving Worship**
- ⇒ **Project Home**
- ⇒ **Cookie Shop**

It is the Stewardship time of year...

Actually there is never a time when it is not stewardship time. We seek to be good stewards when the offering plate passes. We desire to be caring stewards of our finances when disasters or troubles strike our friends or strangers across the world. We aim to be good stewards when it comes to buying our food at good prices. We try to be good stewards of our creation. We live into our strengths and gifts as we seek to be stewards with the uniqueness of our God blessed lives. We are likely challenged to be the stewards we want to be, and we celebrate when others step up big in their serving or loving or giving and are great stewards.



There is hardly a day that goes by when I am not called to ponder or wonder how I am being an intentional steward of my life in what I spend, how much I give away, and how I use my strengths. I hope that same kind of reflection floods into your days too as this helps us keep seeking to be good stewards.

In November we will again be lifting up stewardship in the church as we invite people to make a commitment to our general budget, and help us carry our good ministry in these walls and through our lives by using our gifts/strengths. Look for a letter to come out soon asking you to complete a Gifts Bank Form as well as a General Fund Commitment Card and then return those to worship or the office after November 6.

The 2017 Gift Bank Form will help you to engage in the ministry life of Our Redeemer - we need you, and we believe that the many places for engagement can be very good for you too. Look for the familiar places and consider something new. One thing we are adding to this call to engage in ministry is the opportunity to better understand your strengths by taking the Strength Finders inventory (see a special note inside about this opportunity).

You will also get a Commitment Card for your 2017 General Fund giving and we ask you to fill this out and return it. Please remember we have a Mission Appeal Drive that most people committed to which covers the remodeling and other upgrades we are doing to the building - we are half way through that 3 year campaign. The 2017 General Fund giving will help us cover Ministry Team resources, pay for staff salaries, cover the gifts we give to the St Paul Area Synod and other ministries, pay our bills, and support our programs that reach out in care and invitation to the community.

Being financially secure helps to carry out our good ministry and keeps us from unwanted focus on difficult finance concerns. Please help us be fiscally stable and forward thinking by being generous in your financial giving to Our Redeemer.

As the leaves turn colors and the temperatures keep dropping, our commitments to being good stewards will be part of the season ahead, but that really continues throughout the whole year.

In Christ,

Pastor Karsten



GET ENERGIZED



I love fall with the leaves turning scarlet and gold and sparkling frost forming on nature's floors, but that also means temperatures turn colder and the nights get longer. Unfortunately, that marks a time of higher energy costs and bigger utility charges for each of us for the next several months.

Fall is a great time to get your home or apartment ready for winter. The City of Maplewood has begun a program, in partnership with Xcel Energy, to help make our homes more energy efficient, to be kinder to our environment, and to save us energy costs.

The Home Energy Squad will come to your home and do an evaluation and upgrade some items associated with energy use for you. These items include: weather stripping, water saving showerheads and faucet aerators, a programmable thermostat, a water heater blanket, and CFL light bulbs. They will provide this service for \$35. If you are unable to pay that amount, you may qualify for a free visit, see the income guidelines below. Those who visit your home have had background checks to ensure your safety.

If you have more questions, you can talk to me. To schedule an Energy Squad visit you can call 651-328-6220 or sign up online at www.homeenergysquad.net. This sounds like great opportunity.

| PERSONS IN FAMILY | ANNUAL INCOME | INCOME LAST 3 MONTHS |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1 | \$23,354 | \$5,838 |
| 2 | \$30,540 | \$7,635 |
| 3 | \$37,726 | \$9,431 |
| 4 | \$44,912 | \$11,228 |
| 5 | \$52,098 | \$13,024 |
| 6 | \$59,284 | \$14,821 |
| 7 | \$60,631 | \$15,157 |
| 8 | \$61,979 | \$15,494 |

So why is this important for us?

God is the title holder for the earth. God has created and gives us everything we have. We are called to be good stewards of the earth and its resources. If we take a small step toward improving our energy usage, then we are caring well for what is God's alone.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. Psalm 24:1 NRS

Carol Strand, Intern Pastor



Luther Seminary is offering their lay school of theology classes at Luther Seminary and St. Andrew Eden Prairie. These classes are for anyone who has interest. Cost is around \$60 per class (\$35 for your first class) and you can register online at luthersem.edu or by calling 651-641-3416.



Advent begins in November

The season of Advent begins the last week of November with the lean into the great stories and songs that focus on the coming birth of Jesus. Come join us again for our special Wednesday evening gatherings (beginning November 30) for worship at 6:30, and even better will be coming for the meal being served from 5:30-6:30. These Advent services are always enjoyable times for helping in our holy preparations for the season, being able to sing some grand music, and turning our eyes to the manager.



Ecumenical Worship at Thanksgiving

Join us for the annual shared worship service with various congregations in the area. This year we will be having this special worship on Wednesday, November 23rd, 7:00pm at St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church (located at 1757 Conway – on White Bear Ave, 5 blocks north of #94).

Come join with 7 area congregations for this night of good worship, and treats with fellowship. There will be a joint choir so if you care to sing come practice for that with our choir.

Strength Finders

Not just finding those strengths but putting them to good use is the purpose of this program. Lately at worship you may have seen some of the 30 folks who have discovered more about themselves through this inventory and are finding ways to celebrate and use those strengths in their church, home, and work.

This fall we are aiming for 20 more people to better understand your strengths by taking a Strength Finders inventory (we have work books with a code and helpful information to make more sense of your results).

It is great to understand ourselves better and this information helps us live into our strengths. The inventory takes about 30 minutes to complete in your home and we think there is so much value in this Our Redeemer is covering 1/2 of the cost. \$10 will get you the book and access code. You will also be invited to a special workshop night on November 17th 6:00-8:00pm to make even more sense out of your news. Books can be picked up on Sunday mornings in early November or during the week in the office.



OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS)

**Thursday, November 10th –
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 500th 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. Carpool from church.

If you aren't available on this date to attend, know that this exhibit will run through January 15. You can buy your own individual tickets by calling 612-871-3000 or online at artsmia.org/luther.



Meet our Interim CYF Worker!

All the way from North Dakota via MN, WI and Delaware, I'm Kirsten Fisher, a Child, Youth and Family Ministry Professional with InterServe Ministries.

Having worked with youth over 20 years in churches, at the Boys & Girls Club and during my time with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, I now feel blessed to walk alongside people using their God given gifts at Our Redeemer.

My first awareness of a connection with ORLC came through Vacation Bible School, and the creative, giving energy of Holly Forsberg. Just recently I found out that Pastor Janel Kuester, at the church I had been serving in Stillwater was your first intern at ORLC. So we really are church family!

Other hours are filled with my full-time job in accounts payable and my free time with 16 yr old niece and nephews (there are 4), my home renovations & estate sales.

Feel free to visit when you see the light on in my office or contact me through email youth@orlcmn.org

Sunday School Children, Youth and Families Joy to the World!

Tentative plans are being made for a Children's and Youth play for December 18.

Come together to be a part of this worshipful experience as the voices of Children and Adults draw us closer to Jesus through the simple telling of the Christmas Story.

Sunday School participants will be practicing Sundays December 4th & 11th and Saturday morning December 17th 9-11:30 a craft & snack break included.

Contact Kirsten Fisher at youth@orlcmn.org or the church office if you have a student (youth or young adult) who is interested in a speaking or singing part or you know of a student who would like to play a musical piece before the service starts. (They don't have to be attending Sunday School to participate)



Cookie Shop Sale!

Saturday, December 3rd
8:30am to noon or til they're gone!
\$5/dozen

We could use volunteers to both help set-up and plate the cookies on Friday evening as well as help us with the sale on Saturday morning. If you would like to help, please let Lisa or any member of the Children's ministry team know.

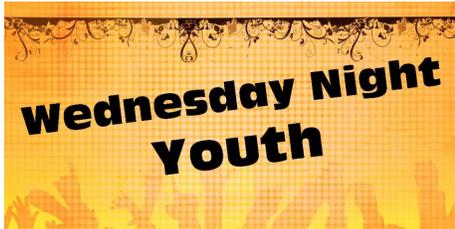


Baker's Wanted!

Please bake 1 dozen (or 10 dozen!) cookies for the annual Cookie Shop fundraiser, benefitting Children's Ministry Program! Drop off cookies on Friday, December 2nd from 10am-7pm.

Share Your Holiday Baking Skills

Would you like to pass along a special or classic holiday recipe to the next generation? We would like to try a new intergenerational activity this year, partially to support Cookie Shop, mainly to have fun. If you are interested in setting aside an evening or weekend afternoon to teach a special baking skill to youth or any others who may be interested, please contact Holly or Carmen, or the ORLC office so we can make arrangements.



Wednesday Night Youth Time 7:30-8:30

WEDS NIGHT ALL YOUTH CHALLENGE:
BEGINNING Wednesday, Oct 26

7:30-8:00: I challenge any one to ping pong, foosball or "spoons". YOU could gain ultimate champion bragging rights, an awesome trophy I found in the office and snack of your choice.

8:00-8:30: BE a Teen Leader share ideas for upcoming Lock-in, and Mission Trip next summer.

Wednesday's (or Fridays) 7:30pm in November I invite all teens and families to church to play games with the kids from Project Home who will be staying overnight in the church as a shelter for 30 days. You can come any evening during the month, but I will be here Wed & Fri with games/activities.

Upcoming Opportunity:

VIBeworks is sponsoring the Christian Rapper-
"AGAPE"

The "Reformation Remix Tour"

First Lutheran in St. Paul

Sunday Night October 30th - 5:30 meet at ORLC

He's worth checking out! Plus First Lutheran has a new wood fired pizza oven! Cost is \$5, but bring a friend and get in free. We also need parent drivers! Need a ride? Text Kirsten 651-808-7672

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Confirmation Retreat

Friday, November 11 5:45pm to Saturday, November 12, 6:00pm (pick up and drop off at First Lutheran, 463 Maria Ave, St. Paul)

BAYLAKE CAMP with other churches.
Confirm by responding to Kirsten at youth@orlcmn.org or 651-808-7672. COST is \$80. Scholarships available.

Weekly Wednesday Night Confirmation Times 6:15-7:30

This will include activity time, so we make sure to have a full hour of class

East Side Lutheran Churches Complete Our Summer Visitation Initiative

Stronger Together: You're invited to participate as we explore the possibilities of collaboration!

For the past year, the eight East Side area congregations of the St. Paul Area Synod have been meeting to learn more about each other and to expand opportunities to worship and work together. As part of the process, this past summer congregations agreed to participate in a Summer Visitation Initiative in which a few selected members from each congregation volunteered to visit the other congregations on designated Sunday mornings. The plan was for these members to visit another East Side congregation, attend their worship and then also participate in any post-worship social or discussion opportunities as provided. Then, on August 28, 2016, a group of participants in this initiative met at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for a de-briefing conversation about the summer experience, what was learned and possible opportunities for collaboration in ministry and congregational management.

This discussion was an enthusiastic one, revealing how much our congregations have in common and how energized we all are about continuing the conversation and working together to find ways to become stronger together through collaboration.

As a result, a "Conclusions and Next Steps" report was prepared to capture the details and the energy of this discussion. This report is brief, but it contains a lot of interesting ideas. At their last meeting, the pastors of our East Side area congregations agreed that this report can be a springboard for further discussion and focusing our interest in working together.

You're Invited!

In that spirit, the East Side area pastors agreed that now is the time to invite interested members of our congregations to come together again to review the report that resulted from the Summer Visitation Initiative and also to talk about specific next steps--- what could and should we be doing together to support each other and to expand the effectiveness of our many ministries?

Please join our East Side area congregations as we all explore new opportunities to be stronger together!

Stronger Together: Next Steps Discussion

Saturday, November 19th

9:00 am -1:00 pm (lunch provided)

First Lutheran Church/463 Maria Avenue

Please contact Pastor Karsten if you are interested so we can coordinate food and table plans.

Project Home

November is fast approaching, bringing with it much colder weather. With the arrival of colder weather, those without a place to call home are in critical need of warm shelter.

Every November, Our Redeemer hosts Project Home, a program of Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul. <http://interfaithaction.org/> During this month, we provide emergency shelter space and volunteer support for families facing homelessness in Ramsey County. Project Home is hosted at two different area faith communities each month and provides up to 20 emergency shelter beds at each host site.

Project Home is almost completely run by volunteers. We encourage you to sign up and serve as Evening or Overnight Host to provide hospitality to these families in need. Sign up to Volunteer online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054aaeaa2fa5f94-project1> or a sign up board is found in the narthex area of the church.

Evening Shelter Host:

Volunteer from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Main responsibilities include greeting shelter guests, serving a healthy evening snack, playing and reading with teens and children, conversing with guests, and orienting the overnight shelter hosts.

Overnight Shelter Host:

Volunteer from 8pm to 7:30am on weekdays and until 9:30am on weekends. Main responsibilities include playing and reading with teens and children, conversing with guests, securing the facility before bedtime, waking up guests, serving a light breakfast, and securing the facility after guests have left for the day.

Donate to Project Home:

Donations of simple items help us meet the most basic needs of the families staying at Project Home. For donation item ideas, view Project Home's Donation Wish List at <http://interfaithaction.org/donationswishlist> and bring thee to the church.

Monetary donations are always welcome. Make checks payable to Our Redeemer with "Project Home" in the memo line.

For more information, contact:
David Bradee 612-386-7475



second harvest
HEARTLAND

Second Harvest Grocery Packing Line

Sign up at church at the info booth, talk to Amy Krohn (651-779-7945) to help the crew pack out at the grocery line on Tuesday November 8th 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 from cases and each person on the conveyor line adds their food item into a box that gets distributed. We then label and seal the case and load it on the pallet.

This is at the 2nd Harvest Heartland location in Maplewood on 1140 Gervais Ave. Join our team in helping fight hunger in our community!

Reminder! Church Directories are available at Our Redeemer, please call us if you have not gotten one yet.

Also, you can download the directory onto your mobile phone or computer. Contact the church office for the attachment and directions!



The following is a thank you letter from Lutheran Social Services we received:



**Lutheran
Social Service**
of Minnesota

Dear Our Redeemer Friends of LSS,

We want to share our deep gratitude to you for hosting an LSS Sunday on October 9 at Our Redeemer! Our Redeemer has been a longtime contributor to Lutheran Social Service, working with us to express the love of Christ for all people through service that inspires hope, change lives and build community. We are so grateful for your support.

This year, the members of Our Redeemer contributed an annual gift of \$500, took up a freewill offering on October 9 and also contributed three laundry baskets full of cleaning supplies for families who were homeless and are now moving into new apartments with help from LSS. These gifts are stretching even further with a generous Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 that will be used to buy additional supplies for families. Your generous support and compassion makes a direct difference, not only by defraying expensive living costs for families, but also by letting families know that they are not alone in their struggle.

On October 9 at an Adult Forum, we were so pleased to share how LSS is meeting emerging needs around the state and touching the lives of one in 65 Minnesotans:

- **Youth and Families:** LSS is providing emergency shelter, meals and direction for youth (some with children) experiencing homelessness in seven communities statewide. Right now, LSS is working to create technology solutions to connect youth in Greater Minnesota to safe housing, such as host homes, when LSS services are not nearby. Regarding homelessness among families, there are 1,787 individuals homeless in Ramsey County on any given night, with 263 living on the street. To create greater efficiency, there is now a common entry point in each county to support these families. For Ramsey County, families who need help should call 651.215.2262 for assistance.
- **Older Adults:** With increasing numbers of aging Minnesotans, LSS recently launched a new and lower-cost service called Neighbor to Neighbor Companions to support older adults who want to remain in their homes by matching them with Neighbor Companions who provide weekly support to help them get to medical appointments, shop for groceries and run errands. The service is patterned after Senior Companions that has been around for over 40 years and is now offered to anyone on a fee-for-service basis.
- **People With Disabilities:** Decades ago, people with developmental disabilities lived in institutional care. In the 1970s, they moved into group home settings in the community. Today, they are designing the lives they wish for themselves that include new options for housing, employment and community involvement. At LSS, 43% of people with disabilities we served lived in group homes in 2005. Today, that number is 23%.

We are so grateful for the well-being and stability you help foster with your support. We are also thankful also for our volunteer preachers at LSS, including Mons Tieg, who so graciously offered to share a sermon message in our worship service on October 9. Over 8,000 volunteers work with LSS statewide to extend our mission of service! If you are interested in learning more about LSS, please visit our website at www.lssmn.org

Thank you, again, for loving the neighbor!

Sincerely,

Dawn Horgan, LSS Director—Housing and Family Services
Jackie Nelson, LSS Senior Manager—Marketing and Communications

Worship Assistants

| Date | November 6 | November 13 | November 20 | November 27 |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Worship Host | Bruce Ring & Rita During | Dennis Peterson | Judy Moe | Doreen Winter |
| Gift Cards | Mary Forsberg | | Barb Maynard | |
| Kitchen Help | Darlene Harwood Florence Senske | Dennis & Jan Peterson | Dick & Sharon Peterson | Mark & Doreen Winter, Jessica Morgan |
| 8:45am Greeters | Barb Birchem Judy Triplett | Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald | Virginia Kettleson Florence Senske | Judy Moe Deb Camasta |
| 11:00am Greeters | Shirley Keating Helen Wallace | Sherry Pasket Katie Syring | Nora Smeed Jessica Ryden | Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson |
| 8:45 Lector | Anna Miller | Scott Torvi | Dave Bradee | Deb Camasta |
| 11:00am Lector | Jane Koza | Cherie Kilbride | Jim Krohn | Holly Forsberg |
| 8:45am Ushers | Dennis Paulson Rob Klemm Kent Weispfenning Roger Sparks | Roger Ollila Baryogar Johnson Roger Svendsen Dennis Peterson | Dan Fitzgerald Bill Maynard Bill Fredine | Larry & Sandy Pruden Mike Welte Mike Kahrau |
| 11:00am Ushers | Claire Sexton Caitlyn Edwall Matt Kilbride Scott Torvi | Vicki Anderson Brett Rediske Randy & Jane Koza | Jessica Morgan Kari Keating Dick & Sharon Peterson | Mark & Doreen Winter Troy & Courtney Magnuson |

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 September 2016

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 2016 Beginning Balance | \$28,296 |
| Member Giving | \$220,658 |
| Supplemental Income | \$34,271 |
| Total Income | \$283,225 |
| Expenses | \$260,880 |
| Difference | \$22,345 |

Mobile Users Scan Here



Our Redeemer Staff

Rev. Karsten Nelson, Pastor
651-772-2445 x102
Email: karsten@orlcmn.org

Carol Strand, Pastoral Intern
651-772-2445 x 103
Email: carol@orlcmn.org

Fisher, Kirsten, Children's, Youth & Family
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Lisa Diez, Office Administrator
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Andy Peterson, Organist
651-247-2742
Email: andrewjpeterson@gmail.com

Ellie Peterson, Contemporary
Worship Leader
651-815-9650
Email: elliepetersonphotography@gmail.com

Madeline Veenker, Choir & Bell Director
651-308-8968
Email: mveenker@gmail.com

Dave Parenteau, Custodian

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

1390 Larpenteur Avenue East, St. Paul, MN 55109

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

Web: www.orlcmn.org
Email: office@orlcmn.org

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



<https://www.facebook.com/orlcmn>



<https://twitter.com/orlcmn>

Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY

