



## **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

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

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

**January 2017**

### **See inside for:**

- ♦ **Annual Meeting Info**
- ♦ **OWLS Event**
- ♦ **Crafting Event**
- ♦ **Children's & Youth**

## **Friendship Sunday on January 22: Come with you and another one or two -**



I have been paying attention lately to times when I see people with friends. At the airport, it's fun to see welcome-home embraces or groups traveling together. At sporting venues people are cheering together. These days there are groups of people out shopping together. And of course I see people connecting with friends throughout the week at church.

Friends are wonderful to have. Some are longer-term friends; other friendships might have started recently. They might be people we know very well or maybe just enjoy being around. They might live next to us or a long ways away. Some of us prefer few and closer friends while other are more drawn to a multitude of friendships. We can laugh with friends, play with friends, talk with friends, study with friends, hang out with friends, work with friends, and even worship with friends.

On **Friendship Sunday** (January 22) we are encouraging all the people from Our Redeemer to invite one or two of your friends to join you this Sunday morning. You might be inviting someone who is already connected well to a church home of their own - what a nice way for them to know you better, and you might even visit their church another time. You might invite someone who is not connected to a church or their faith. You can invite someone whom you know nothing about their faith life. Who is that neighbor or coworker or teammate or coffee drinker or classmate you could invite?

Come bring them for a day with a special focus on friendship within the worship. We will also have a special brunch served between services (think egg bakes, French toast and fruit along with the donuts) with a few fun little prizes to hand out to various friends and a special guest.

Friendship Sunday is a chance for you to show a person or two a place of importance to you. This is a Sunday to have them connect with you in a special way. This is a day to let them meet some of the other fine people at Our Redeemer. And frankly, it is a day that stirs us to talk to those around us about our own faith and church.

We hope you will think and pray and then reach out to bring someone along. Help us mark this special day with many others in the pews, with lots of introductions and conversation, and with celebrating God's good gift of friends.

*Pastor Karsten Nelson*



*For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. (Malachi 3:6 NRSV)*

In the modern world, there's an old saying: "The only thing constant is change."

In the world of our faith, change may often happen, but there is only one constant, and that's our Lord Jesus Christ.

Each day we live in our faith, there's cause for renewal and hope. Each day we are allowed to strengthen our resolve and make the same resolution, to live in the love, and follow the example of Jesus.

It's not a resolution that must wait for the secular calendar to show us it's a New Year. Our resolve happens on a daily basis, and our church calendar begins in early winter; it is the church which is open to us every day of the year, no matter which calendar we measure it by. It isn't a date or a time that marks our journey of faith as constant. It's God, the one true Holy Father.

Perhaps that's the best reminder we gave give ourselves in the New Year ahead of us, one that will offer changes, both within Our Redeemer, and in the world outside its walls.

Staffing may change, programming may change, but God is always with us.

So, too, when we venture out into His world. God the Father remains unchanged, and that is – at its heart – the reason we, his children, are able to sustain the difficulty and uncertainty that comes with change.

Out of that change, growth is possible; growth within ourselves, and growth in our love for the Lord.

As we progress, let's then make the one, true New Year's resolution that has meaning: We will follow God. We will trust His guidance and endurance when so much around us changes. Perhaps it's best to see His grace, once again, with new eyes as 2017 comes more clearly into focus. God will be there, as He always is, to reveal himself to us anew.

He will never change. And it is on his strong shoulders, the muscle of that compassionate strength, that all of us have the will and resolution to carry on. It's a comfort to know, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, that the more things change, the more God will stay the same. May peace accompany His strength as we progress.

Peace and blessings to you all in 2017,  
Intern Pastor Carol Strand

# ANNUAL MEETING



## Annual Meeting

Please join us immediately following our 10:00am worship on Sunday January 29th for our annual meeting. We will be reviewing this past year, looking ahead to our life and work in 2017, approving a budget and electing some new leadership.

## Constitution Changes

At the last ELCA Convention this past summer there were some Constitutional changes that were made and congregations are being asked to include those in changes into our official documents. We will seek to do this with a vote at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29th. If you want to see these exact changes being proposed they are available for pick up in the church office.

### A Change in Worship Leadership

Following some time away over these last weeks, we have recently received notice from both Ellie Peterson and Andy Peterson that they have resigned from worship leadership here at Our Redeemer. We have deeply appreciated the gifts they have brought and the dedication they offered to the worship life of Our Redeemer over so many years. They have been important gifts and blessings to us.

Going into the beginning of this New Year we are glad to have Bonnie Blystone stepping in for traditional worship leadership, and Scott Strand (Intern Pastor Carol's husband and worship leader during their time in Rochester MN) providing the main coordination for the contemporary service.

The Human Resources Committee is reviewing the job descriptions for these positions and will work with the Worship and Music Team to review the needs and direction of our music program and seek new staff. We will keep you updated.

## **New Members**

If you have been worshipping with us for a longer or shorter time and desire to become official members of Our Redeemer we would invite you to our next New Member class being held on Thursday, January 19th for a time of presentation and conversation. We will meet from 6:00-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will cover some Christian foundations, more understanding of the Lutheran identity, and a wider picture of Our Redeemer. Please contact Pastor Karsten or the office so we can prepare materials, or if you have any questions .

New Members will be received on Sunday, January 29th at our 10:00 worship, which is a fifth Sunday and also the date of our annual meeting.

## **Planned Giving**

Year end gifts are also welcome in order to sustain and strengthen the financial base of Our Redeemer for our continued ministry. Any special gifts can be brought to the church or if you are interested in making a stock donation please talk to Lisa Diez, our Office Administrator. This is also a time we remind people that as you consider your end of life planning one thing a number of people have done is to include Our Redeemer in their wills. Of ten our deaths are the time when we are most able to be generous, not just with our family but with other organizations and ministries. Please coordinate your planned gifts and consider including Our Redeemer.



second harvest  
**HEARTLAND**

## **Second Harvest Sign up for 2017**

Come join us on January 17th, 2017 from 5:30-7:30 and Second Harvest Heartland. Registration is due by January 8th. Please let Amy Krohn know you are interested early at 651-779-7945 or [ajkrohn@hotmail.com](mailto:ajkrohn@hotmail.com).

Sign up sheets will be at the info desk also. I encourage those who have participated before to ask a friend to join them. Bring the family, kids 11 and older are welcome. It's a fun night of serving others. We need at least 15 spots filled.



## **Wednesday Dinners**

All are welcome for our Wednesday night dinners from 5:30-6:30pm. Loaves and Fishes provides the food so there is no cost for the meal. Plan to join us before our services or before you head to one of your Wed eve activities.

## **Coming in February**



I Love to Read Month! In February ORLC will have its own free book exchange. Just bring any books that you wish to share to ORLC. Place them in the shelves in the entryway. Leave one, ( or 2), or take one, (or 2), read and return. Fiction or Non-Fiction, any book of interest is eligible! Gardening? History? Inspiration? You decide. At the end of the month, any books remaining will be donated to the Goodwill. If you want a book return to you, just put your name inside the front cover. Any questions, call Dianne Derks.



We are going to be hosting a blood drive here in our Fellowship Hall on Thursday, February 2 from 1pm-6pm. In January, look for more information on ways to sign up to donate. Their goal is to get 30 people donating blood. Please keep this on your calendar!



## **Upcoming OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS) Events – EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**

### **January Lunch and Game Time**

Live up those hard January days with your friends at church! Meet at church for lunch @ 11:30 a.m. and stay for an afternoon of game fun. Games will be provided or you can bring your favorite one to play. Stay as long as you want. Event is free. Please note that the time for this event has been changed from previous notices.

### **Other Tour Opportunities**

Jan 12 hop on the bus to go to Faribault and tour the famous Woolen Mill. We'll see how they make the warm blankets and more. Some bargain shopping can be done then we'll have lunch and visit the Cheese Cave. We learn about how Bleu Cheese was developed and lots of interesting facts about the Caves. We'll drive by a few spots of interest like the oldest Cathedral in MN, the nationally recognized Shattuck-St. Mary's School and more. Fee is \$57 and includes the bus, tour and lunch. This is sponsored by Lyngblomsten. Pickup at Gustavus Adolphus. Leave 9:45 to around 5 pm return. For more info contact Kathi Kirchoff at 651-770-3514

Watch for February and March exciting plans or call Kathi Kirchoff for information about the upcoming tours.

## **Crafting STAY retreat is happening again**

Come have a LOT of fun and make progress on your craft. A two-day event is planned for Friday, January 20th and Saturday, January 21st. Bring your own craft projects to work on. This can be anything from sewing, knitting, to scrapbooking. All are welcome.

To sign up please see or contact Amy Krohn (779-7945 or [ajkrohn@hotmail.com](mailto:ajkrohn@hotmail.com)) or sign up at the information desk.

Fellowship Hall Our Redeemer Luther Church  
(1390 East Larpentuer Ave)

Friday January 20: 5pm - midnight

Saturday January 21: 9am - midnight

Meals/Beverages on your own

Suggested: \$5-10 free will offering to the church  
Bring a snack to share if you want. 1/2 of a round table space available. Let me know if you need electricity.

Please feel free to bring a friend, just make sure you let me know their name so that we can save a spot. (If you can only make it to the Friday night or can only come on Saturday, please let me know that also.) Space will be limited so please sign up.

Even if you don't have your own craft, a portion of the day may be for you too this time. Watch the information booth since we potentially have a mini card class and watercolor painting class option for a small fee. More details to come.

### **Knitting & Crocheting:**

God's Hands Knitting & Crocheting Group meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 until 8:00 P.M. at the Caribou Coffee on White Bear Avenue and County Road D, (by Maplewood Mall). We bring our works "in progress", be they a dishcloth, scarf, prayer shawl, or a pattern that we might need some help in following. Most of the handiwork is done elsewhere but it is fun to see current projects. We share conversation, patterns, ideas, and sometimes, we share yarn.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues at ORLC with five prayer shawls being given in 2015. Since this ministry's inception in 2008, almost 60 prayer shawls have been given! If you know of someone who would benefit from this ministry, please let the office know. Hope to see you on January 19, February 16, March 16 and April 20 for fun and good conversation!

Finance Meeting on January 22 at 10am!  
For more information about our budget, join us this day to learn more.





### **Cookie Shop**

A big thank you goes out to all of the cookie bakers. Again you outdid yourselves and all of your goodies were appreciated by the community. We were able to raise almost \$2000.

The money raised will significantly support youth programming this summer and you were all a part of that.

### **Christmas Program**

Over twenty five children, youth and adults participated in the Path to Bethlehem Christmas program service this year.

Thank you Holly Forsberg, Carmen Snaza, Cherie Kilbride, and Maria Bartlett for using your gifts and talents. From practice and decor to music, from inviting others to participate to plugging in the star at just the right time. It was a labor of love for the children and the congregation. And thank you to all the children, confirmands and teens for sharing with all of us the Christmas story in a touching way.

Another special thank you goes out to Lisa Diez in the office, Pastor Karsten and Intern Pastor Carol.

### **Sunday School News!**

January 8th Sunday school resumes, friends are welcome to join us in this new year!

### **Youth Outing!**

January 21 and 22 are part of the Friendship weekend.

Saturday, January 21st, 6th grade through high school and young adults are invited to bring friends to a bowling night at 4 o'clock. Afterwards we will make homemade pizzas at the church, and talk about a possible summer mission trip.

Don't forget to invite a friend and bring your favorite topping for pizza.

January 22nd is friendship Sunday bring a friend to church and we will have special gifts for them!



## Worship Assistants

Date	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29 10am
<b>Worship Host</b>	Amy Krohn	Dennis Peterson	Roger Svendsen	Claire Sexton Judy Moe	Doreen Winter
<b>Gift Cards</b>	Vicki Anderson		Mary Forsberg		
<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	Virginia Kettleson Florence Senske	Joyce Abrahamson Judy Moe	Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson
<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>	Dianne Derks	Lana Larsen	Kathi Kirchoff	TBD	Amy Krohn
<b>11:00am Lector</b>	Frank Carlosn	Jane Koza	Holly Forsberg	Jim Krohn	
<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	Larry & Sandy Pruden Mike Welte Mike Kahrau	Dick & Sharon Peterson Claire Sexton
<b>11:00am Ushers</b>	Claire Sexton Caitlyn Edwall Matt Kilbride Scott Torvi	Vicki Anderson Brett Rediske Randy & Jane Koza Jennifer Houge	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 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!

Mobile Users Scan Here



### Finances through the month of November, 2016

<b>2016 Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$28,296</b>
<b>Member Giving</b>	<b>\$259,900</b>
<b><u>Supplemental Income</u></b>	<b><u>\$41,002</u></b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$329,198</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>\$315,334</u></b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$13,864</b>

# 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday Food Shelf, Blood Pressure Check, Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b>	2 Office Closed 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	3 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b>	4 9:30am Bible Study, 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir 7:30-8:30pm Wed Night Youth	5 6:45am Men's Study 6:00pm Children's Ministry Mtg	6	7 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b>
8 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b> 5:00pm Staff/Board Party	9 6:00pm Joy Circle, Congregational Growth	10 11:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b> , Church Board (F), Hope Circle	11 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir 7:30-8:30pm Wed Night Youth	12 6:45am Men's Study 10:00am Kitchen Table Mystics	13	14 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b>
15 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> 3:00pm <b>SEL Fellowship</b>	16 10:00am Missions Mtg 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	17 11:30am Staff Meeting 5:30-7:30pm Second Harvest 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b>	18 9:30am Bible Study 11:30am OWLS Event 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:30-8:30pm Wed Night Youth	19 6:45am Men's Study 6:30pm Knitting & Crochet Group Caribou 6-8pm New Member Class	20 5:00pm –12am Craft Day	21 9am-12am Craft Day 4:00pm Youth Bowling/ Pizza 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b>
22 <b>Friendship Sunday</b> 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Friendship Breakfast, Budget Mtg. 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b>	23	24 11:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b>	25 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:30-8:30pm Wed Night Youth	26 6:45am Men's Study	27	28 1-4pm Isaiah Mtg 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b>
29 10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual Meeting 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b>	30	31 11:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b>				

— Our Redeemer

— Spring of Eternal Life

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

### Our Redeemer Staff

**Rev. Karsten Nelson**, Pastor  
651-772-2445 x102  
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**Carol Strand**, Pastoral Intern  
651-772-2445 x 103  
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**Fisher, Kirsten**, Children's, Youth & Family  
651-772-2445 x 106  
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**Lisa Diez**, Office Administrator  
651-772-2445 x101  
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**Madeline Veenker**, Choir & Bell Director  
651-308-8968  
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**Dave Parenteau**, Custodian

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#### Worship Schedule

**8:45am Traditional**

**11:00am Contemporary**

**5th Sunday 10:00am**



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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
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