



## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

## The Monthly Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

**May 2017**

### See inside for:

- Summer Worship
- Staff News
- Rummage Sale
- Plant Sale

## What is coming?

The spring starts showing signs with the grass growing into this vibrant green carpet, the flowers beginning to add color to the landscape, and far more outside noise from kids and birds. It is always enjoyable to see new things coming to life.



It is springtime at the church too as we are planning and preparing well for another season of our life at Our Redeemer. Back in January at our annual meeting we decided to discontinue our participation in the internship program after nine years and focus on hiring another staff person who would provide more continuity over the years and help us in our growth and ministry. Leadership was charged with exploring options and coming back to the congregation with staffing recommendations and any necessary fundraising appeal.

In February we had a retreat day with the Board and other leaders to take a deeper look into the life and ministry of Our Redeemer, gain a greater understanding of the culture and community around us, and seek consensus around what we feel we need to do to both build and be the church God wants us to be.

A Staffing Team grew out of these days and has met a half dozen times now to begin this process of calling a new minister while at the same time coordinating the hire of a new music director. We have gotten to the point of creating and revising a job description, are getting a handle on anticipated costs, and having conversations about how we share the hope and need to the wider congregation.

This is an exciting time and we truly believe God is leading us well and preparing us for a good future. We have begun interviewing a few very talented folks to step in and help lead both our traditional and contemporary worship services and are quite hopeful to find a good fit. This staffing team will finalize the associate minister job description in early May then begin working more closely with the Synod while also looking for possible qualified candidates in other places.

The staffing team will keep using the newsletter to bring you updates and you can soon expect to have a more detailed letter coming out to the congregation in June, ahead of our of June 25th Semi-annual meeting, to further lay out our plans and hopes. If you have questions or care to hear more, feel free to talk to any of the Staffing Team members - Dean Ersfeld, Hilary Hinrichs, Tina Gray, Michele Heimerdinger, Vicki Anderson, Pastor Karsten and Intern Pastor Carol.

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Karsten*

## Life Around Our Redeemer





*"But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." (John 4:14 NLT)*



Each day when I drive to Our Redeemer, I drive by Lake Phalen. It was exciting for me to watch the changes as the lake froze gradually as the days got shorter and colder. One morning in early December, the sun was shining brightly and the thin ice glistened as if thousands of tiny diamonds were placed with precision all over the surface of the then still lake. I have never seen such a beautiful sight.

As I drive by the lake this spring, it has been just as beautiful watching the ice slowly disappear, growing from white to gray to a slightly transparent cover, slowly giving way to nothing but water. When the sun is shining, there's a vibrant blue hue that beckons summer to come quickly. It is beautiful.

If you haven't noticed before, I'd like to confess that I am a lover of water – lakes, rivers, ponds, oceans. In water, I'm reminded that God is creator of this earth. He has given us this glorious planet with all its variation from end to end and every square inch that covers our home. There is also a reminder of my baptism by this very water. In our baptisms, we have been washed by the water and the Word which forgives all our sins. We are washed clean daily as we begin a new day. We are blessed by the water and Word which is poured over us.

As the frozen waters of winter have changed to the flowing waters of spring and summer, may you know the love of Christ. May you know how we've been washed in our baptisms and continue to receive the blessed gifts of forgiveness that stream over us.

Peace be with you,

*Intern Pastor Carol Strand*



### **Keep talking - Keep inviting**

As we move beyond Easter the lessons we will focus on until June are stories about the formation and foundations of the early church. It speaks of how the Spirit moved and how the followers spread the news of Jesus and drew others to this faith and life. The book study through Lent (Unbinding the Gospel) led us to be more mindful and practicing the Christian discipline of sharing our faith and making invitations to others. We hope people will use Sunday May 7th (Friendship Sunday) as another special day to invite others to join us for worship. Between services there will be some enjoyable mixers and little games along with light breakfast food to add to the day. The church depends on us being both welcomers and inviters - try putting these practices into play on this May 7th Friendship Day.



**Reminder! Sunday, May 28 begins our summer worship time change.**

**We will have one service at 9:30am!**



### **Summer Worship on the Farm - for you, and a neighbor too**

This summer a number of Maplewood and White Bear Lake churches are collaborating together to provide a special summer worship gathering. Every Wednesday night at Bruentrup Farm (located just 2 blocks east of Maplewood Mall on Co Rd D) beginning June 7, there will be food along with games at 5:30 then a 6:30 worship in a large barn. This is a great setting to be casual and friendly, gather with others for song and prayer, and have a great faith experience. We also hope this provides an easy way to reach out to a friend or neighbor inviting them into a good faith experience. Come check this out over the summer for you - and make it even better as you use it to invite another who might be seeking or longing for good Christian community.

## Staffing News

We have been blessed by the leadership and gifts of Madeline Veenker over these past three years. As she begins a new life with husband John on the far west side of the metro area (Mound) it has become hard to do this job with a 80 mile commute. We received this letter from Madeline about her resignation. Please join us on Sunday, May 21 for a reception between services. We will be seeking a new director for the bells and sanctuary choir over the summer.



It has been a pleasure to serve as your choir and handbell director for the past three years; however, I will be resigning from my position at the end of this year. My last Sunday will be May 21, 2017.

As John and I have settled in Mound with the majority of both of our professional commitments on the west side of Minneapolis, it is simply too far to continue to make the commute to the east side of St. Paul on a regular basis. I have enjoyed my time at Our Redeemer and feel grateful for the opportunity to work with such wonderful people. Thank you especially to the Handbell and Sanctuary Choirs for their dedication, flexibility, and commitment to service and musical excellence. It has been such a joy and encouragement to watch these groups grow over the past three years. John and I wish you all the best, and we will miss you!



Many of you at Our Redeemer know that I have been working on a Masters degree. I have completed a Master of Theological Studies degree and will be graduating May 13. I am taking an inactive status for six months while I decide if I want to continue for the Master of

Divinity degree. I have been licensed as a minister and will be seeking ordination soon.

I also have accepted a part time position as a Mission Ministry Director at North Presbyterian Church in North St. Paul. I will be planning hands on missions events for the congregation each month and seeking to educate about community, state & global needs.

So, what does this mean for Our Redeemer? Well, I plan to continue working at ORLC and have not made plans to leave. Many have asked me about this, and my response will be the same. I'm here as long as God has me here.

Thank you to everyone for your support and your well wishes. I appreciate it.



## Come and Join Us for Lunch This Summer!

Beginning Monday, June 12, at ORLC, we are beginning a summer free lunch program for everyone. Lunches will be served every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from noon to 1:00. It is sponsored by Loaves and Fishes. This is not only about the meal, which is good, but it is also about conversation and fellowship. We will still be serving our Wednesday night dinners as well, year round.

We will have an intern coordinating and a few nutrition students providing leadership, but there are volunteer opportunities to serve one or more times. Watch for sign-up information. This is a great chance to love your neighbor. Please consider this good work.



Merrick Food Shelf is doing a mobile food distribution at Our Redeemer the last Saturday of the month from 9am - 11am. What a fine way to use our facility for the sake of the community. There are no qualifications necessary to receive a food pack, so our congregation is welcome to participate .

**Thursday May 18, 2017**  
**JUST PEOPLE presentation**  
**Welcoming the Refugee: What We Need to Know**

What do we need to know to become effective advocates for refugees? How are we called to respond? What can "welcoming the stranger" look like in our communities? All are welcome to join the Office for Social Justice for an ecumenical discussion on May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-8:30PM at Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1725 Kennard St., Maplewood.

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**A Touch of Tanzania**

Our Redeemer is preparing to be one more congregation in the St Paul Area Synod with a direct relationship to a specific church community in the Iringa area of Tanzania (there are 65 churches already partnered over the past 30 years). While this relationship will have more shape and form when Pastor Karsten and his daughter Elizabeth visit in July there are other ways we are preparing for this new collaboration. On May 12-13 with the Rummage Sale much of the proceeds will be going to help establish this partnership, likely paying for the construction of a church building - so donate or come buy. Then on Sunday, May 14th, Pastor Peter Harrits (who coordinates this large program) will be with us both to preach and then do more sharing at the 'Tanzania Matters' forum between services. Come learn more about what is happening in this part of the world, how God is stirring people to faith and action, and how this new partnership is shaped through Prayer, Presence, and Projects.

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**Holy Land Trip???**

Interested in a trip to the Holy Land next year in late April-early May? Want to see biblical sites to have the biblical stories come alive and have wonderful/experienced tour guides? Care to travel with a group of folks from this general area? A few local Pastors are coordinating this trip and opening it to others. If you want more information talk to Pastor Karsten.

**It is Gardening time - do you want to be a part?**

As the spring ground readies for flowers and vegetables there are ways you can participate at Our Redeemer. The beautiful flowers in the front entry area actually small sections cared for by different individuals. If you want to take over care for one section (and provide your own special touch and ideas) please talk to Sharon Peterson 777-9182.

We also have six garden plots for vegetables on the back side of the church which are used to grow food for the food shelf. If you want to work your green thumb there please talk to Bruce Ring at 774-8124. There will be a planting day on Saturday, May 13th from 12-2 with the other Bhutanese gardeners who will fill up the other 13 beds - come and say hello.



**Church Rummage Sale May 12 & 13**

Start saving your items for our church rummage sale in May. All donations can be brought in the week of May 7. This sale will benefit our partnership with a congregation in Tanzania as well as the church garden fund. Much help is always needed sorting, pricing and working the sale so please contact Sharon Peterson or Claire Sexton for more information about how to be involved.

**Other Tour Opportunities**

Lyngblomsten Community Center (5-5-1 Club) has some tour opportunities. Each month besides activities around the metro we do a coach tour for the day. Pick up at Gustavus Adolphus. For more info and details contact Kathi Kirchoff.

May 10 we experience the State School Orphanage in Owatonna and hear the stories of this historical place that was home to so many children. With an included buffet and a stop at The Russell Stover Candy Outlet, the cost is \$56.

June 14 we go to the Munsinger Gardens & maybe a little glance at God's handiwork in the flowers and fountains that we can walk thru. Lunch is at Anton's on the river before visiting the Grasshopper Chapel on our way home. \$57

Tours are in a comfortable coach with a restroom. Accommodation for walkers and wheelchairs.

## Summer Camp at Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp

3 young teens are signed up for Wapogasset Bible Camp Aug 13-18, and there is still room for more! Sign up at <http://campwapo.org/pages/registration> Create a log in and password. Deposit is \$100 and fundraisers will help with the rest!

Some 4th graders will also be attending the "Seeds" weekend camp July 21-23. There might be a few spots left. Go online and attempt to register!! If not there are weekends open in August.



3 teens are ready to go to Christikon in Big Timber, Montana, where surrounded by mountains and wildlife work on a trail service project. There are 3-4 Youth spots left for middle school to high school to make this happen.

Also, any adult leaders who might be interested in joining July 2-10, let Pastor Karsten or Kirsten know soon, email [www.youth@orlcmn.org](mailto:www.youth@orlcmn.org) or call the church! Share with your friends and relatives. Cost is about \$450 but we hope to fund raise for this experience.

## SUMMER STRETCH

Summer Stretch begins June 15 Thursday! Half day service project, bring lunch and half day FUN!!!! for Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers as student leaders from 3 different churches.

Get your Registration form from church or request it to be emailed to you [www.youth@orlcmn.org](mailto:www.youth@orlcmn.org)

June 15, 22, 29 July 13, 20, 27 Meet at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran - 1669 Arcade Street

## CONFIRMATION

Other adults of faith getting to know our valuable teens was well received during Lent's Confirmation Mentoring experience.

You might have seen teens meeting all over the church on Wednesday's during Lent, as well as attending the service.

## Upcoming Confirmation Dates

- Weds. May 3,10,17
- Sat. May 6 from 10:00am -12pm, service project at Arlington Hills Alley Shop
- May 24 Final party/activity- final touch with paint in the Youth Room

## FUNDRAISERS FOR YOUTH EVENTS

### ⇒ Mother's Day Pie Sale

Get your spring pies or cake just in time for Mother's Day!

#### Choose from:

Banana Cream or Strawberry Chiffon for \$18

Lemon Meringue or Carrot Cake for \$20

Pre-order only for pick up on **Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Fill out an order form at the information desk soon as the **order deadline is May 7<sup>th</sup>**

### ⇒ Plant Sale

Thank you for your orders from our youth plant sale! Forgot to order plants? Come on by and see what extra plants we ordered.

Plants will be available for pickup at church:

Friday Noon - 6 PM May 12

Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM May 13

Sunday 10 AM - 12 noon May 14

### ⇒ Pulled Pork Party on Father's Day Sunday, June 18

Everyone is invited to honor the men in their who have been mentors and father figures. Donations will be accepted toward youth summer camps.

*All fundraiser proceeds will go to the youth of Our Redeemer for mission trips, camps and retreats.*

## Children's Ministry

Our last SS day will be May 21st with an end-of-year party!

Schedule:

May 7	Phillip & the Ethiopian
May 14	Council at Jerusalem
May 21	Living by Faith/ End of the Year Party



## Vacation Bible School evenings in August!

Maker Fun factory!! All Grade Schoolers welcome! Watch for details!

## Worship Assistants

Date	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28 One Service 9:30
<b>Worship Host</b>	Claire Sexton/ Judy Moe	Dennis Peterson	Bruce Ring & Rita During	Dean Ersfeld
<b>Gift Cards</b>	Sharon Peterson		Jill Rodriguez	
<b>Kitchen Help</b>	Darlene Harwood	Dennis & Jan Peterson Judy Moe	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter, Jessica Morgan
<b>8:45am Greeters</b>	Barb Birchem Judy Triplett	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald	Oliviene Hefta Florence Senske	Joyce Abrahamson Judy Moe Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson
<b>11:00am Greeters</b>	Shirley Keating	Sherry Pasket	Nora Smeed Jessica Ryden	
<b>8:45 Lector</b>	David Bradee	Deb Camasta	Kathi Kirchoff	Dianne Derks
<b>11:00am Lector</b>	Scott Torvi	Jim Krohn	Hilary Hinrichs	
<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 John Cayton	Larry & Sandy Pruden Mike Welte Mike Kahrau Mark & Doreen Winter Troy & Courtney Magnuson
<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	

### 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 March

<b>2017 Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$30,539</b>
<b>Member Giving</b>	<b>\$70,391</b>
<b>Supplemental Income</b>	<b>\$8,663</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$109,593</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$92,943</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$16,650</b>

**Sun**

**Mon**


**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

<p>1 6:45pm Lives Worth Living</p> 	<p>2 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm Staffing Team</p>	<p>3 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>4 6:45am Men's Study 2:00pm Farm Worship Planning 5:30pm Worship &amp; Music Mtg 6:00pm Children's Ministry Mtg</p>	<p>5 6-8pm SEL (S)</p>	<p>6 10am-12pm Confirmation Service Project at Arlington Hills Alley Shop 2-4:00pm SEL (S) 5:30-9pm ROH (S) 8pm-10pm ROH (FH)</p>
<p>7 Friendship Sunday, Bucks for our Building 6am-2pm ROH Prayer (SS) 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School, Friendship Breakfast 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 5:00pm Rock of Horeb Church</p>	<p>9 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Missions Mtg 6:45pm Staffing Team 7:00pm Hope Circle (F)</p>	<p>10 Lyngblomsten Outing to State School Orphanage 9:30am Bible Study 3-4:5pm Spiritual Growth 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>11 6:45am Men's Study 10:00am Kitchen Table Mystics</p>	<p>12 9am-5pm Rummage Sale 12-6pm Plant Pickup 6-8pm SEL (S)</p>	<p>13 9am-3pm Rummage Sale 10am-12pm Plant Pickup 12-2pm Garden Planting 2-4:00pm SEL (S) 5:30-9pm ROH (S) 8pm-10pm ROH (FH)</p>
<p>14 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School, Tanzania Matters, Plant Pickup, hearts for Homebound 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm SEL Fellowship 5:00pm Rock of Horeb Church</p>	<p>16 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Church Board (F)</p>	<p>17 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>18 6:45am Men's Study 6:30pm Knitting &amp; Crochet Group Caribou 7:00pm Just People at Presentation</p>	<p>19 6-8pm SEL (S)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Synod Assembly</p>	<p>20 6am-2pm ROH (SS) 9am-3pm Scrapbooking 2-4:00pm SEL (S) 5:30-9pm ROH (S) 8pm-10pm ROH (FH)</p>
<p>21 Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School Party 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church, Luther Seminary Graduation 5:00pm Rock of Horeb Church</p>	<p>23 11:30am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>24 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation Painting Party,</p>	<p>25 6:45am Men's Study</p>	<p>26 6-8pm SEL (S)</p>	<p>27 9am-11:30am Merrick Mobile Food Distribution 2-4:00pm SEL (S) 5:30-9pm ROH (S) 8pm-10pm ROH (FH)</p>
<p>28 9:30am Worship 1:00pm Spring of Eternal Life Church 3:00pm SEL Fellowship 5:00pm Rock of Horeb Church</p>	<p>30 11:30am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>31 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More</p>	<p>Our Redeemer Spring of Eternal Life Rock of Horeb Church</p>	<p>S=Sanctuary, F=Firewise, FH=Fellowship Hall, SS=Sunday School Room</p>	

**Our Redeemer Staff**

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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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