



## **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

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

**June 2018**

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### **Church on the Move!**

We had a great outing last month with people doing 30 minutes of exercise together and connecting both with each other and some people along the path. We had 30 people participating and we finished off the time with some good cookies and lemonade. Consider joining us for the next "leisurely walk/bike/run" on Sunday June 17.



## From the Associate Minister



### "Are You a Good Witness?"

Eight years ago when we bought our first house together as a married couple, we were eager to meet our neighbors. I yearned for the community feeling that I grew up with and wanted to establish that for my family. I made a point of visiting with my neighbors when they were outside and striking up conversations whenever I could. It was nice to know who lived next door - it made me feel safe, like we were looking out for each other. It had benefits too, of course. When we needed to borrow a wheel barrow or a pole saw, the neighbors always came through. Likewise, when the neighbor had a problem starting the car, we could offer a jump start. Then National Night Out came and I was eager to get everyone together. Somehow over the years of organizing the party, I became the block captain for our neighborhood. With this role, I receive periodic correspondence and safety notices from our police department that I pass on to my neighbors. Recently, I received an email titled, "Are You a Good Witness?" How appropriate to our faith! The article talks about the "Bystander Effect" which basically means that people do nothing because one of 3 reasons: they think someone else will intervene, they are afraid, or pluralistic ignorance (this is the idea that since no one else is reacting to the situation, it doesn't require action).

**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8.**

What does it mean to be a witness for Christ? Firstly, being a witness means verifying the truth of what is heard and seen. Specifically, as Christians we are called to tell people that Christ died for our sins, that God loves all people, and that we receive eternal life through Christ.

So back to that bystander effect. If we are too afraid or think someone else should do it, we need to remember that God wants all people to know about His love. Singer Matthew West's song, "Do Something" says "If not me, then who?" Our faith in God is lived out in our daily life. We witness to others often without even knowing it – letting a mom with a crying baby ahead of us in the check-out lane, offering a kind word to your coworker who has been fretting all week about an impending deadline, bowing your head to say a quick prayer before you eat in a restaurant. When we take time to listen to our relative or classmate and let them know we are praying for them in their difficulties, we are witnessing to God's mercy and forgiveness. When we make time to give our neighbor a ride to church or a doctor appointment, we are witnessing to God's grace and love. When we tell our friend we cannot stay for another round on Saturday night because we want to get to church the next morning, we are witnessing to the importance of our faith and the power of God in our lives.

Praise be to God for His tender mercies and abundant grace!

*Jennifer Schneider, Associate Minister*



Thank you to all the workers in the garden who came out and helped clean up the gardens and make them more manageable by decreasing the size and planting an extra layer of sod. And thank you also to all those who did all the extra yard work this past month.

We are so thankful for all the volunteers at Our Redeemer who consistently work to keep our grounds in great shape!



Summer will provide the chance for us to again gather for worship as a single body of Christ. We return to the summer time of 9:30 am worship which has been our time for the past four years. Join us regularly for your sake and for the rest of us.

We will also have a great Wednesday night option as we are collaborating with seven other local Lutheran congregations for this weekly worship at Bruentrup Farm just east of Maplewood mall on Country Road D. Dinner is served beginning at 5:30pm with worship at 6:30pm.

One special worship you will hear more about later is a combined East Side Collaboration Worship on Sunday July 22 at the Lake Phalen pavilion at 9:30am followed by a pot luck picnic. Come join us for enjoyable summer worship of our Lord.

### Semi Annual Meeting

Please keep Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am on your calendar for our semi-annual meeting. We will have an update about our financial status, a visual review of reasons for us to be thankful to others, and a formal vote to move from hiring Jennifer Schneider as our Associate Minister to formally issuing a Call for that position. We will meet with good treats and drinks at tables in the Fellowship Hall.

## Worship on the Farm

Our Redeemer is working with six other Lutheran congregations (Redeemer, Christ the King, Lakeview, House of Prayer, Gustavus Adolphus and St. Mark's to present Worship on the Farm this summer. We will have food, fun and worship at the Maplewood Historical Society's Bruentrup Heritage Farm at 2170 County Road D. East, Maplewood.

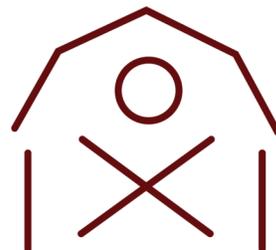
**The details:** Each Wednesday evening from June 6 through August 29 (excluding July 4), a picnic dinner will be served at 5:30pm, followed by games, family activities, and a short, laid-back worship service in the farm's barn at 6:30pm. The picnic dinner will be provided by Historical Society volunteers as a fundraiser, charging \$7 for adults and free for kids with a paying adult.

**Exciting and fun events!** The season will begin on June 6 with a humorous and insightful presentation by the "Fools for Christ" drama group, and close with a "barn bash" on August 29 with a live band. In between, there will be a few surprises, including hayrides, farm tours, service projects and much more. A full schedule of events will be posted at [www.worshiponthefarm.org](http://www.worshiponthefarm.org).

**Be sure to invite friends, neighbors, and family!** Since this worship is located at the farm, and is very short, casual, fun, it is designed to make it easy to invite others.

**Be sure to "like" our Facebook page and share our postings!** Check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/worshiponthefarmmn>.

**Meaningful worship theme:** The theme for this summer is based on the Biblical "fruits of the spirit" – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This is what Christian living is all about: letting the Spirit work in us for the good of all, producing these fruits in abundance. Farms are all about growing, too, so the farm setting is ideal!



WORSHIP ON THE FARM

## Big News with Grants for Our Redeemer

Over the last months Our Redeemer has applied for a few grants to help us carry out more ministry here for the sake of the community. We found out recently that we were approved for an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant to help us carry out more hunger related work in this community and beyond. The \$4,000 we received will help us pay for some of the Dorothy Day expenses when we serve a meal downtown St. Paul to about 275 people every other month. Some will help us purchase more equipment to assist with the meal work here on our weekly free Wednesday meal. Some will help an upcoming meal pack event this fall. And we are looking into using some for a more targeted young adult outreach, and possibly a deeper link to the local elementary school with weekend food supplies for kids. We are being honored and valued by the ELCA with this gift and encouraged to keep up this Hunger work.

We also just got word last week that Our Redeemer was invited to participate in the Track 1 program through the Augsburg Innovation Hub and Augsburg College to be more intentional with our ministry toward Young Adults. We are quite sure that they appreciated our collaborative work with area congregations and trying to work with them on this project. They no doubt also valued that we have invested in a new staff person (Jennifer) with some of her time focused in this area. The good news for us is that this grant will help with around \$20,000 of additional funding over the next three and a half years to cover programmatic as well as personnel costs. We will share more in the months ahead about this program and the directions we will take in reaching into the world of member and local area young adults.

You can see our video that we submitted for this grant on our website at <http://www.orlcmn.org/gallery-items/our-redeemer-video/>

## Synod Assembly

This year over May 18-19 Pastor Karsten, Jennifer Schneider and Dianne Derks represented Our Redeemer at the annual Synod Assembly. Again this year, pastors and lay leaders from the area 119 congregations and related ministries spent time together for worship, speakers and business matters. There is a focus this year on young adults in the church and our work overall to be inviting them and going out to meet them in their spaces. More details will be shared soon.

## East Side Collaboration

Representatives from congregations of the Eastside Collaborative (formally East Side 8) met this past April 22nd at Our Redeemer to discuss opportunities to worship and serve together. Pastor Karsten began the gathering by posing a question: "What does it mean for us to be in community as a collaborative?" The discussion that followed gave several possible paths for our churches to work together on and for the East Side of St. Paul.

We first discussed the success of HealthEast and the Eastside Health and Well-being Collaborative event, a gathering of non-profits in the community providing good work in many areas. Most of our congregations were present at that meeting, and we hope to connect and partner with these organizations as our Collaborative grows and defines its mission.

We also discussed shared opportunities for ministry and service within our own Collaborative. A summer worship service at 9:30 is planned for July 22 at Lake Phalen with a pot luck lunch to follow, with further opportunities to worship together in the future. In the area of youth ministry, Christ on Capitol Hill will do their KICKS program again this year the second week of June (kids 1-8 grade are invited!), and other churches are doing Summer Stretch for Middle and High School. All congregations are invited to save the date for a service opportunity with God's Work, Our Hands on the weekend of September 15-16 as we will be packing food with Meals From The Heart at Gustavus Adolphus church.

We also considered the idea of Pastoral staff, Property Teams, Administrators and Janitorial staff meeting around Building Needs (sharing equipment or loaning chairs and tables as needed, for example) with a future date to be set.

Finally, we discussed the need for better communication and coordination amongst members of the Collaborative, including a strong need for lay leadership around specific projects. We also hope to find a stronger name for the Collaborative, something not so tied to our location and number. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 18th, 2018 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106. Please contact your Pastor if you are interested in getting involved, or if you have suggestions for a new name!

## Summer Stretch

Youth from Our Redeemer will be joining together with folks from almost another 60 churches for summer days of service mixed with social outings. We are partnering again with Grace and Gustavus Adolphus and having Lakeview Lutheran join us for these days together. We will be doing gardening work, making and feeding meals, working with Habitat For Humanity and Merrick Community Services, and visiting a local senior residence. The social side will get us to a Saints baseball game, heading to a state park and getting ice cream, going to a water park, and taking in an Escape room experience. Bring on the summer!!

If you are interested in Summer Stretch, the dates are Wednesdays, 9am-4:30pm on June 13, and 20 and July 11 and 18. On July 25 the time will be 12-7:30pm.



# THANK YOU!



### Doulos Discovery School—Fray Luis

Many of you know the church has been sponsoring Fray Luis at the Doulos School in the Dominican Republic each year. We just received a picture and a note of thanks from him. It is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. See his note below:

*Dear Our Redeemer Parish,*

*Thank you so much because you have been sponsoring me from the beginning. Thank you for helping me study at Doulos.*

*My favorite Bible verse is, "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16*

*You can be praying for me and my grades and also for my family. Lastly for my relationship with God.*

*Fray Luis*



Thank you to all who made our church rummage sale such a success! It was many hours of gathering, pricing, selling and clean up that occurred last month. We are so thankful for all those who came out and helped with this big undertaking! We sold almost \$3000 worth of donated items that will benefit our mission partners, our extra snow plow bill this year, and get our carpets cleaned in the Fellowship Hall.

## Worship Assistants

Date	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24
<b>Worship Host</b>	Bruce Ring Rita During	Claire Sexton Judy Moe	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Doreen Winter
<b>Gift Cards</b>	Jill Rodriguez		Vicki Anderson	
<b>Kitchen Help</b>	Darlene Harwood Larry & Sandy Pruden	Dennis & Jan Peterson Judy Moe	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter, Jessica Morgan
<b>Greeters</b>	Barb Birchem Judy Triplett	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald	Florence Senske Oliviene Hefta	Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson Judy Moe
<b>Lector</b>	Kathi Kirchoff	Amy Krohn	Jim Krohn	Darleen Klemm
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Kahrau Rob Klemm	Roger Svendsen Roger Ollila	Claire Sexton Jim Riemenschneider	Mark & Doreen Winter



### Are you looking to join Our Redeemer?

We are having a new member class on June 14 at 6:00pm. If you are interested in becoming a member of ORLC, talk to Pastor Karsten or contact the church office at [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org) or 651-772-2445 to let us know you are coming!

### Online Giving Opportunities

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

Mobile Users Scan Here



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


# JUNE 2018

<p>3 Bucks for our Building 6am-2pm <b>ROH Prayer (SS)</b> 9:30am Summer Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b> 5:00pm <b>Rock of Horeb Church</b></p>	<p>4 6-8:00pm TOPS 6:30pm Facilities Team 6:45pm Lives Worth Living Group</p>	<p>5 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>	<p>6 9:30am Bible Study 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Loaves &amp; Fishes</p>	<p>7 6:45am Men's Study</p>	<p>8 7-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>	<p>9 5:30-9pm <b>ROH (S)</b> 8pm-10pm <b>ROH (FH)</b></p>
<p>10 9:30am Summer Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b> 3:00pm <b>SEL Fellowship</b> 5:00pm <b>Rock of Horeb Church</b></p>	<p>11 9:30am Quilting 6-8:00pm TOPS</p>	<p>12 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>	<p>13 9am-4:30pm Summer Stretch 9:30am Bible Study 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Loaves &amp; Fishes</p>	<p>14 6:45am Men's Study 10:00am Kitchen Table Mystics</p>	<p>15 7-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>	<p>16 6am-2pm <b>ROH (SS)</b> 9a.-3pm Scrapbooking 5:30-9pm <b>ROH (S)</b> 8pm-10pm <b>ROH (FH)</b></p>
<p>17 Bucks for our Building 9:30am Summer Worship 10:30am Church on the Move, Pulled Pork Picnic 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b> 5:00pm <b>Rock of Horeb Church</b></p>	<p>18 6:00pm East Side Collaboration First Lutheran 6-8:00pm TOPS 6:45pm Lives Worth Living Group</p>	<p>19 6:00pm Congregational Growth 7:00pm Church Board (F), <b>SEL (S)</b></p>	<p>20 9am-4:30pm Summer Stretch 9:30am Bible Study 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Loaves &amp; Fishes</p>	<p>21 6:45am Men's Study 6:30pm Knitting &amp; Crochet Group Caribou</p>	<p>22 7-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>	<p>23 5:30-9pm <b>ROH (S)</b> 8pm-10pm <b>ROH (FH)</b></p>
<p>24 9:30am Summer Worship 10:30am Semi-Annual Meeting 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b> 3:00pm <b>SEL Fellowship</b> 5:00pm <b>Rock of Horeb Church</b></p>	<p>25 Dorothy Day 9:30am Quilting 6-8:00pm TOPS</p>	<p>26 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>	<p>27 9:30am Bible Study 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Loaves &amp; Fishes</p>	<p>28 6:45am Men's Study</p>	<p>29 7-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b></p>	<p>30 5:30-9pm <b>ROH (S)</b> 8pm-10pm <b>ROH (FH)</b></p>

Youth Cabin Retreat

**Our Redeemer Staff**

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**Sunday Worship at 9:30am**  
**Wednesday Worship on the Farm**  
**5:30pm dinner, 6:30pm worship**



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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
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