



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Transforming Lives and Building Community by Loving God and Serving Others



December 2018



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARSTEN NELSON:

Advent is Upon Us



I am not sure if there are many people who like to wait. The other day I went to fill up my car at the gas station only to see that all twelve spots were taken. I paused for a moment but then drove off to come back later. I imagine if I waited a short time

there would be a spot for me, and the couple of others who were looking for an opening.

But I didn't want to wait. We get used to having things right when we want them. We want food that is quick and easy to prepare and serve. We want our buses, Ubers or carpools to not keep us waiting. We want to be able to get answers to our questions with a quick ask to Siri. We want our fast food served fast. We hate the slowdowns in traffic that seem to come at the worst times. And no one likes to be put on hold during telephone calls.

Maybe from this crazy world where we hate to wait, the season of Advent (which begins **December 2**) can actually be a huge gift. While waiting seems to go against our grain, this Advent of waiting and preparing stands out as something special, significant and holy.

Week by week we hear a little bit more about the long wait we had until the birth of Jesus. God had certainly been active, but this promised Messiah seemed slow in the coming. But waiting well helps us not just to anticipate, but also to appreciate.

During this Advent we will let the story of the birth of Jesus slowly unfold. We will hear old words of prophecy that remind us of God's long awaited savior. We will be reminded that we are still in a waiting time for the return of Christ. And just maybe during our gatherings of worship, our decorating of our homes, or the devotions that carry us into the days, we can find the great gift of waiting with and for our God.

Join us during this Advent season for some Wednesday nights of waiting with God as we gather for song and scripture and some silence from **6:30-7:00**. There is also a free meal between **5:30-6:30**. We will have our regular Sunday morning worship at **8:45** and **10:45** for the first three weeks of **December** but then will have a single **10:00am** worship on both **December 23** and **30**. Christmas Eve worship will take place with the Blessing of the Families at **4:30** and a Candlelight Communion service at **10:30**. We hope to see you there. For a condensed schedule, please see page 6.

A MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR, JENNIFER SCHNEIER: "HARK THE GLAD SOUND!" AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians. During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. Some ways we can prepare for and anticipate Christ are through the use of advent calendars, wreaths, or devotional practices. If you are interested in using an Advent devotional, there are copies of Luther Seminary's 2018 Advent devotional, "Hark, the Glad Sound!" available at the welcome desk. It is also available by email. You can subscribe here: <https://www.luthersem.edu/advent/>



A MESSAGE FROM TIM THAO, YOUNG ADULT INNOVATION COACH:

The going has been tough for our Innovation project. The initiative is struggling to move forward as the herd of young adults in our area seems to be very thin. I have had a number of meetings with people in St. Paul around the climate of our shared community. In general, there is a need for the engagement of young people in our city. We have had a difficult time making contact with these young folk. Despite this setback, we are continuing to explore different avenues of engagement within the community of young adults. Rather than set our eyes solely on the young people who have previously been connected to Our Redeemer, we are beginning to broaden the scope of our work to include other congregations in the East Side area. With the established collaboration between ORLC and the other churches of the East Side Eight, we hope to finally gather a small band of young people to continue the work that we have started. Your continued prayers for the work ahead of us is incredibly important to us and greatly appreciated!

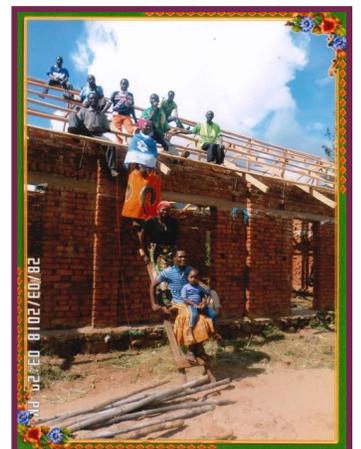


YOUTH MISSION TRIP MEETING

In the summer of 2019, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church youth will have the opportunity to participate in an amazing faith-building adventure along with youth from Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. We will be heading out to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota for a week of experiential learning and service (and site-seeing). Please attend a brief meeting on **Sunday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m.** in the youth room. **PARENTS AND KIDS SHOULD ATTEND THIS MEETING.** We will discuss the trip details, costs, fundraising, deadlines for registration, etc. Please let Jennifer (jennifer@orlcmn.org) know if you have any questions and if you are planning to attend.

NEWS FROM KIDEWA, TANZANIA

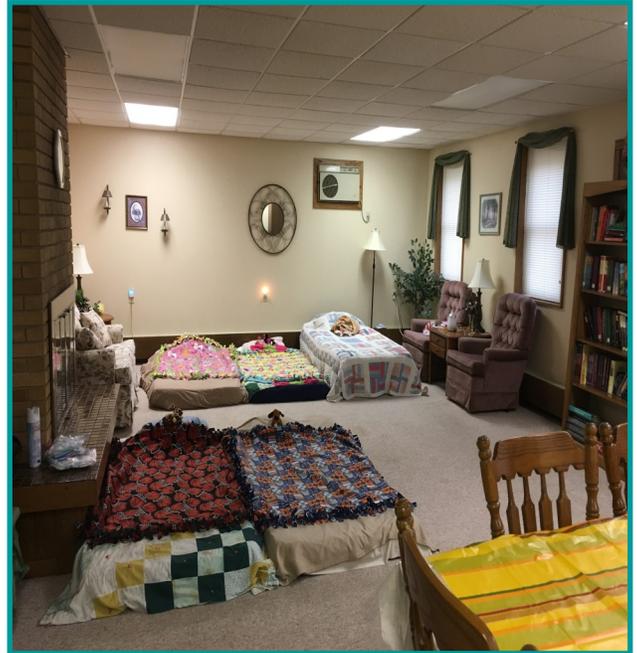
We have received nice updates from our sister congregation in Tanzania. The main project they had requested financial help for during our initial trip in July of 2017 was to complete the building of the church at one of their preaching sites. Here are pictures from Mpera where we helped to cover the cost of a new roof. Previously, the building had no roof. They are delighted to have this beautiful, covered space to gather. This is one of five 'preaching sites' connected to the Kidewa parish. They recently added another preaching site and have hopes and plans to build some smaller churches at some of these sites, so they value our financial support. Our Missions Team has allocated more money for this partnership and recent fundraisers with the rummage sale provided more money for student scholarships. It is good to know that our touch and care and commitment extends around the world as well as around the neighborhood.



UPDATES FROM THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:

PROJECT HOME

Project Home is wrapping up their time being housed here at Our Redeemer for a fourth year for the month of November. This year we had 4 to 5 families stay every night with 10-15 kids. This was a space of comfort, safety, and good care from volunteers. They were appreciative of the space and the privacy that our individual rooms provided them every night – sometimes the families are all housed in a fellowship hall with cardboard dividers separating them. On the path to finding more stability for their lives this temporary housing setting is a real blessing. The group will be leaving on **November 30** and transition over to Gloria Dei Lutheran, 5 miles SW of St Paul on Snelling Avenue for December. Last month, the crafters group had a special project of buying materials and working with the kids to make individual fleece tie blankets for their beds. Also, our quilters donated quilts so that when families find more permanent housing the parents will have a special bed covering for themselves.



STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU

November is a time both when we talk more about the importance of stewardship for the sake of the church and the sake of our lives. God calls us to be strong stewards of our life and there are few things Jesus talked about more than finances and serving. This is also the time when we ask people to make commitments of your talents/interests and financial gifts to help us carry out strong ministry through Our Redeemer. Thank you to the 50 who have so far turned in a Commitment Card or the Serve and Engage form. If yours is still in your hands please get those back to the church as soon as you can so we can begin planning the coming year.

NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRITUALITY



On Monday, November 5, Our Redeemer hosted a presentation in our Sanctuary on “Native American Spirituality and Culture”. The presentation was given by Professor Lawrence Martin, who teaches and directs the American Indian Studied Program at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. We had around 50 people come to the presentation. Here they learned the common features of American Indian Spirituality another thing discussed was the values represented by the Wigwam (a dome-shaped shelter, covered in bark or hides). These values were honesty, sharing, kindness and strength. Thank you to everyone who came out in the desire to educate yourselves about the culture and spirituality of the Native Americans especially during the Thanksgiving season.



BAKERS WANTED

Saturday December 8 is The Children's Ministry Cookie Shop from **8:30am — 12:00pm**. Please bake a batch of homemade cookies to bring in to be sold and raise money for The Children's Ministry. Drop off your cookies on **Friday December 7** between **10:00am — 7:00pm**.

BUY GIFT CARDS FOR EASY HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

Come by the gift card table to pick up gift cards that we have on hand OR special order others from a list of hundreds of retailers. Cards are sold on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Special orders must be placed and paid for by **December 2** to be received for Christmas. This year, we will not order any additional cards that we normally have on hand. To guarantee you have the cards you want, please special order them by **December 2**. Remember that the "Bucks for Our Building" program receives a percentage of the card value for each card that you buy. The more you buy, the more we earn!

COUPLES MINISTRY

We are excited to have a team helping to plan and brainstorm ideas for us to build relationships beyond seeing each other on Sundays in the 2019 year. We look forward to an event each month. Some months will be a social focus and then we will do a service month. Come on the months that you can or for what interests you. The dates will vary by month depending on what the event is. Ideas include: going to a restaurant, going to a fish fry during Lent, doing a fall train ride, bonfire night, game night, serving at Feed My Starving Children and the list goes on. Check it out at our first get together **Sunday**

January 6! We are doing a couples, social pot luck at Mark and Doreen Winter's home: 1224 E. Skillman Avenue, Maplewood MN. They will be providing the main dish. However, we ask that each couple bring a side dish of salad, hors d'oeuvres, or dessert to share. Sign up for January's Event at the info booth. Questions this month: Contact Amy Krohn or the Winter's.

PREPARING WELL FOR END OF LIFE NEEDS -

Part of what can be helpful for us and for any family we have is to prepare well for our end of life. This is certainly true for those who are in their 80's or 90's but it is true for all of us. This includes tending to health directives, setting up financial matters with wills and beneficiary designations, and considering ones funeral planning. In 2019 to help with this important work we will be having both a 'Ending Well Matters' forum on **Sunday, January 9** at **10:00** and a longer session with speakers and a lunch on **Sunday, February 10**. Mark these on your calendar and look for more information coming out closer to these dates.

"GREETINGS FROM THE HEART" CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please join us for a special worship service and celebration of Holy Communion on **Sunday, December 16** at **10:45am** as the children and youth share a special message through scripture and song. After worship, please stay for cookies and cider in the Fellowship Hall. Parents/Grandparents: 1. Dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, **December 15** from **10am-12pm** in the sanctuary. 2. Please have your child arrive on Sunday at 9:45am to prepare for worship and get into costume.

GIVING TO THE WORLD

During Advent this year we will again have a special tree set up in the Narthex that will hold both ornaments that come from our homes (bring one and place it on the tree any Sunday) as well as ornaments of animals that you can take off to give to another or place on your tree. These ELCA Good Gifts Ornaments are opportunities to give a gift in care for the world during this Advent season. Pick a Cow or Pig or Goat or Bees and then send that certain amount either to Our Redeemer (we will then forward all gifts) or directly to ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Mafiyasi Lipenya from Malawi knows firsthand what a difference these gifts make. "When I sell the offspring I am able to use the proceeds to send my children to school". Let's let our love of the world and our care for those who live with just the basics make a difference.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

SERVING ON THE CHURCH BOARD

We are looking for people to serve on the Church Board for a one to three year term. If you are interested please talk to Pastor Karsten or Carmen Snaza. The Board meets on the third **Tuesday** at **7:00** and helps plan ahead, address concerns, and make decisions that guide and affect our life and ministry.

USHER COORDINATOR

A volunteer is needed to coordinate the usher's schedules and arrange an annual meeting for the Ushers. This position does not need to perform the duties of an usher. This position will be available on **January 1, 2019**.

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND

We are asking for the help of you, your family and your friends to work for hunger relief (children over ten are welcome to come and help out). Meet at Second Harvest Heartland E 1140 Gervais Ave Maplewood, 55109 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm Our group name is ORLC Kingdom Assignment. There are opportunities on **January 8** and **March 5 2019**. Please consider volunteering! If you are interested contact Amy Krohn. 651-779-7945, ajkrohn@hotmail.com or sign up at the church info booth.

DORTHY DAY

ORLC will be serving a meal at Dorothy Day on **December 24**. This may be a difficult day to volunteer but what a great chance for a family to give back to people in real need. Please help us! Volunteers will be done by **5:30**. We need 6 volunteers to prepare the meal and 14 Volunteers to serve the meal at Dorothy Day Mary Hall. Preparers please carpool at ORLC at **12:30 pm** or arrive at the Catholic Charities Distribution Center, located at 341 Chester Street in St Paul, at 1:00 PM. Servers can car pool at ORLC at 3:00 pm or meet at Mary Hall, 438 Dorothy Day Place (Formerly Main Street) St. Paul, MN 55102, at **3:30 pm**. Maps are located at the sign up desk. Families and friends are welcome and no experience is needed.

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES:

DECORATING FOR ADVENT SEASON

Come and help out on **Saturday, December 1** between **9-12** as we pull out and set up the trees, lights and wreaths that help us live into the Advent season. The following **Wednesday, December 5** we will again hold our **Wednesday** evening service from **6:30-7:30pm** every week in December. We hope to see you there.

ADVENT STUDY

Come join Bruce and Rita on Sunday mornings for a time to focus on the Advent Season. We will start **Sunday, December 2** and go through **December 23** for the 4 Sundays of Advent. We will meet at **9:50am-10:45am** in the room off of the Fellowship Hall. As we prepare and wait for the birth of the Christ child, let's take the time to focus on an interesting study from the ELCA World Hunger Organization. Let's discover together what Advent and meals mean to each of us and our walk as Christians.

ADVENT OPPORTUNITY

From the Oakdale Review " Songs of Advent: The Season of Waiting: **Tuesday, December 4** from **7-9pm**. Cost \$25. Explore how the sacred hymns, prayers, and blessings of this season express the mystery of the coming of Christ at the end of history and the mystery of His coming into history. This session will be led by Father Michael Joncas, a composer of Catholic music, a professor at the University of St. Thomas and a priest of the St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese." Location: Benedictine Center on 2675 Benet Road in Maplewood. Call 651-777-7251



Worship Assistants and Readings — December 2018

	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 24	December 30
Worship Host	Judy Moe Claire Sexton	Dean Ersfeld	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Amy Krohn		Doreen Winter
Gift Cards	Mary Forsberg		Barb Maynard			
Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood Larry & Sandy Pruden	Dennis & Jan Peterson	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter Jessica Morgan		
Lector	8:45 a.m. Dianne Derks 10:45 a.m. Jane Koza	8:45 a.m. Kathi Kirchoff 10:45 a.m. Hilary Hinrichs	8:45 a.m. Darlene Klemm 10:45 a.m. Jim Krohn	8:45 a.m. Carol Rodriguez 10:45 a.m. Amy Krohn	4:30 p.m. TBD 10:30 Kathi Kirchoff	10:00 a.m. Scott Torvi, Cherie Kilbride, Caileigh Kilbride, Lana Larsen, TBD
Ushers	8:45 a.m. Rob Klemm Dennis Paulson Roger Svendsen Claire Sexton 10:45 a.m. Matt Kilbride Carla Roper Scott Torvi	8:45 a.m. Baryogar Johnson Roger Ollila Dennis Peterson 10:45 a.m. Vicki Anderson Tina Gray Randy & Jane Koza	8:45 a.m. Dan Fitzgerald Bill Maynard Jim Riemenschneider 10:45 a.m. Kari Keating Jessica Morgan	8:45 a.m. Mike Kahrau Larry & Sandy Pruden 10:45 a.m. Mark & Doreen Winter	4:30 p.m. TBD 10:30 p.m. TBD	10:00 a.m. Bill Maynard Bruce Ring Rob Klemm
Communion Servers	8:45 a.m. Judy Triplett Saysha Lee Layla Lee 10:45 a.m. Amy Krohn Caileigh Killbride		8:45 a.m. Cliff Pearson Judy Moe Brady Moe 10:45 a.m. Claire Sexton Collison Acquoi Jr. Agnes Baysahwala		10:30 p.m. TBD	
Reading	Habakkuk 1: 1-7; 2: 1-4 3: [3b-6], 17-19	Esther 4: 1-17	Isaiah 42: 1-9	Matthew 1: 18-25	Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20]	Matthew 1: 1-17

Advent Worship Schedule

Sundays December 2, 9, 16 – 8:45 and 10:45 AM
Sundays December 23 & 30 – 10:00 AM single service
Wednesdays December 5, 12, 19 – Advent in The Fellowship Hall from 6:30-7:00 PM
Christmas Eve Worship – 4:30 PM Blessing of Families

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 →



December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
6:00 a.m. ROH 8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise	6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:45 p.m. Lives Worth Living (F)	7:00 p.m. SEL (CR)	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:30 p.m. Worship Service	6:45 a.m. Men's Study		9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance	6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:45 p.m. Joy Circle	9:30 a.m. Property Group 7:00 p.m. Hope Circle 7:00 p.m. SEL (CR)	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:30 p.m. Worship Service	6:45 a.m. Men's Study 10:00 a.m. Kitchen Table Mystics (FR) 5:30 p.m. Worship & Music		9:00 a.m. Cookie Shop 9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 12:00 p.m. (FH) Reserved for Private Event
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance	6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:00 p.m. Joy Circle	9:30 a.m. Property Group 7:00 p.m. Hope Circle 7:00 p.m. SEL (CR)	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:30 p.m. Worship Service	6:45 a.m. Men's Study 10:00 a.m. Kitchen Table Mystics (FR) 5:30 p.m. Worship & Music		6:00 a.m. ROH Prayer (SS) 9:00 a.m. Scrapbooking 9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise presented by the Children 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance 4:00 p.m. ROH Church	6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:45 p.m. Lives Worth Living	3:15 p.m. Spiritual Growth Team 6:00 p.m. Congregational Growth Team 7:00 p.m. Church Board	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:30 p.m. Worship Service	6:45 a.m. Men's Study 6:30 p.m. Knitting and Crocheting group—Caribou Coffee		9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance	Dorothy Day 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 10:30 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve	 (FH) Reserved for Private Event	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:30 p.m. Worship Service	6:45 a.m. Men's Study 6:45 a.m. Men's Study		9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)
30	31					
10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols Worship Service 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance	New Years Eve 6:00 p.m. TOPS		9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes	6:45 a.m. Men's Study		9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)

Our Redeemer Staff

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship:
8:45 Traditional Service
10: 45 a.m. Worship & Praise



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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
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St. Paul, MN 55109

