



# FEBRUARY 2019

“The Good Newsletter” Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARSTEN Planning Well for Ending Well

Imagine someone who has thought through questions about the kind of medical care they want in different situations and then put that in writing, instead of allowing medical staffs to always do the fullest procedures possible. Imagine someone who has taken good legal steps about directing how their assets would be shared in case of death instead of leaving the courts or family to wrestle through the process and distribution. And imagine someone who has planned out some elements of their funeral preparations so others don't have to try guessing what their hopes were.

There are important things we can do around preparing for our deaths or the death of someone close to us which can be helpful both to us and to loved ones around us. And by taking some steps we can save a lot of money, provide some peace to us, avert struggles within our families, and take steps toward being generous.

Come and join us on **Sunday, February 10** from **12:00-2:00 p.m.** for a free lunch and a workshop that will feature a doctor talking about important medical decisions that can be made ahead of death, a lawyer who will lay out reasons and steps to take around wills and family conversations, and a funeral director who will share about the process and planning that can make a funeral be easier for all.

There will be time at the end of the session to visit directly with these people. You must sign up so we know numbers for food and seating so add your name to the list at the welcome table or call the office.

## What May Have Happened at our Annual Meeting?

This edition of the newsletter will come out ahead of the annual meeting we will have on Sunday, January 27 so we will not know all of what the decisions/ votes will be. But assuming that what is presented does get support we will have two new people accepting three year terms to the Church Board - Cheri Kilbride and Julie Peterson. Both have been around Our Redeemer for a long time and have been involved as engaged leaders with a strong care for the church. We would also be accepting a 2019 budget that after expected income and expenses for the year would be about \$3,600 short. We will look to cover that by being careful with our expenses while also hoping that there might be some new or strong giving. One upcoming option, as people often wish that they had more to give, is considering using any extra tax return savings as a means of supporting the church. We will share more details about the actions of the annual meeting in our March newsletter.





"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

I attended several holiday gatherings in the past month, some with family and friends, some with colleagues. I also hosted a one event for some old friends. Hospitality – a topic we maybe think of more around the holidays – both in the showing hospitality and receiving it. Did you go to a fantastic holiday party? What made it great? Were you warmly received? Were you given gifts and treated with extra kindness and love? Or were you the host? Did you go out of your way to make a new family member feel welcomed and accepted? Did you shower your guest with attention and praise?

Hospitality was of key importance in the birth narrative as Mary and Joseph received shepherd and magi hoping to see the new born king. It again comes into play during the escape to Egypt by Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. After receiving fear-inducing warning from an angel, Joseph and Mary flee with baby Jesus to Egypt, a foreign land, another culture and religion not like their own. As refugees, how were they welcomed into a new land and culture? Were they warmly received because that was the culturally appropriate response? Or were they ignored, or worse yet, shunned and pushed aside? We don't know. The Bible doesn't tell us. We hope they were welcomed and treated with kindness in the same way God welcomes and draws us in as his own beloved children, regardless of the sin and baggage we carry. As Christians, we are embraced by God's gracious love and our natural response is to live a life of hospitality: opening our lives up to others, listening to their story, sharing God's love, that their life too, may be changed.



We have a unique opportunity to show hospitality in the coming months. The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) chose ORLC as a placement site. SCSEP is federally funded 55+ program that subsidizes low income seniors to develop skills and experience to facilitate their transition to unsubsidized employment. We will host **Jim Vansell**, in this program to serve as the assistant custodian. He will help Dave and the property team take care of our facilities. Jim grew up in St. Paul. He has previous experience working in event set up and custodial roles. Jim currently lives in St. Paul with his dog, Hector. He enjoys biking during the summer. When you see him, please stop and introduce yourself! Get to know him. Welcome, Jim, to our community. *Jim is pictured on the left.*

Another opportunity to show hospitality is in the welcoming our new worship leader, **Amy Lindquist**. We are pleased to welcome, Amy, as she provides music leadership to our contemporary worship and praise service during these winter weeks. Amy comes to Our Redeemer as a friend of mine, through previous work connections. Amy has been a servant of the church with prior worship leading and service work. She currently homeschools her two young children and is excited to come and share her gifts through worship. Get to know, Amy and welcome her to our community. *Amy is pictured on the right.*



In the Light of Christ,

*Deacon Jennifer*



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUNG ADULT COACH, TIM THAO

In January, we hosted a dinner in which we invited friends from our shared St. Paul community to imagine what a young adult collaboration could look like. With over 30 people in attendance and dinner provided by our very own, Matt Kuhn, we discussed the phenomenon of young adults and their disappearance from our churches. In our discussions, a revitalizing energy emerged as these young people, who care deeply about faith, were given a space and an opportunity to begin a dialogue that has been long overdue. They spoke on topics such as why they could see that young people are leaving, why they think the church ought to care, and what we should do as next steps. As the evening wrapped up, we received responses from nearly 20 people who want to be further engaged in this work. With renewed energy and enthusiasm behind the project, I truly believe that we'll finally be able to begin the work of re-engaging young adults in the church.

Throughout this upcoming months, I plan to hold a few more focus group discussions. I have had the opportunity to meet with a few folks in January and I would really love continuing to involve more of our congregation with the work that the Innovation team is doing. If I have not reached out to you and you would like to participate in some of these focus group discussions in February, please e-mail me at [thaot1@augsborg.edu](mailto:thaot1@augsborg.edu) or else give me a call or leave me a message at (763) 286-5462.



## ANNUAL EPIPHANY PARTY

Every year Karsten and Jackie put together a night of some good food and a few crazy games for the Staff, Board and some selected ministry leaders - this year those who lead our Hunger ministries. This year featured more good soups, various team games (including a blowing ping pong balls with a straw over the other team's line, pictured below), and the white elephant gift exchange - someone even got an electronic ear cleaner this year. We are grateful for a really good staff, a very capable Board, and for all of the dedicated people leading our Hunger engagements.



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## 2019 UPDATES FOR THRIVENT MEMBERS

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Thrivent Financial added more Choice Dollars already for 2019. Please check your Thrivent Financial accounts and direct your accumulated Choice Dollars. You may direct them to Our Redeemer or to a charity of your choosing. Your participation in Choice Dollars helps Our Redeemer financially, and also helps Thrivent distribute these charitable funds effectively. "Thank you Thrivent" and "Thank you Members!"  
[www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or Member Care Services 1-800-847-4836

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## A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR REDEEMER New Lights in the Sanctuary

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If you haven't already noticed, the Sanctuary has been looking a whole lot brighter these days. We want to give a huge thank you to the lighting project team for the sanctuary lighting upgrade from halogen to LED bulbs and improved lighting over the altar. Team: Dennis Paulsen, Randy Koza, Dick Peterson, Rob Barrett, Owen Holzbauer, Paul and Jason Snaza, and Steven Keating



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## CONFIRMATION OUTING

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On January 12, we had a confirmation retreat day at Augsburg University. This was part of our monthly combining with other area churches. Being at a Lutheran College is a nice chance for youth to get a better sense of college life by visiting the buildings and hearing about what takes place on campus. The main focus of our time was leaning into the Apostle's Creed and especially looking at the first article about God. There were some games to explore various names and roles we identify with God, a word scramble to line up to spell out the meaning of the creed, and then a special speaker who helped us to think about the great creative work of God and the gift God gives us to help solve problems to make God's kingdom on earth a better place. We did some experiments with candles and parachutes to help draw out the need to try solving problems and to encourage our own creativity. Seven area Lutheran churches participated in the day.



## #FAMILYMATTERS

Overindulgence is giving your child too much of anything; money, space, time, energy, or attention — that can delay their

development. Parents and caregivers overindulge children from a “good heart,” but it doesn't help children or families in the long run. Please join us for a mini seminar/discussion on **Sunday, February 10 at 9:50 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Presenter Lisa Krause will talk about overindulgence and offer some practical and easy parenting tools that you can use. Lisa Krause, M.A. is a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) and Parenting Coach and is an adjunct professor at Concordia, where she teaches family science and parent coaching.

## PJs AND BOOKS FOR KIDS



February is pajama month! We will be collecting NEW pajamas and books for the entire month to donate to the Pajama Program: MN Chapter.

The Pajama Program gives pajamas and books to vulnerable children in transition, so they have nightly bedtime rituals that offer a consistent, reassuring “comfort zone” at the end of each day. Please help us collect these wonderful gifts to help children have a good night — preparing them for a good day that leads to a better life. Also, JOIN US on **Sunday, February 10** and wear your pajamas to church! And during Sunday School (**on Feb. 10**), kids will get to watch a movie and eat popcorn in their jammies.

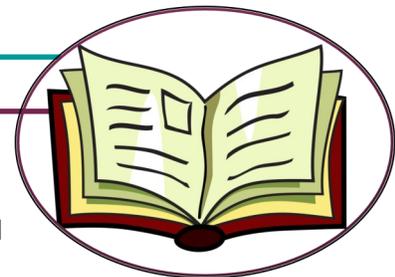


## WAKING UP WHITE

Come join the Saint Paul Area Synod in welcoming Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White*. On **Sunday, February 17 from**

**3:00—6:00 p.m.** Irving will be speaking and leading us in an interactive workshop at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Paul. We will focus our time on, *Leveling the Playing Field: Interrupting Patterns of Power and Privilege*; this is an interactive workshop involving mapping power, patterns, and interventions. Recommended reading: *Waking Up White*. A study guide for the book is available. If you are interested in attending the workshop, getting the study guide or reading/discussing the book, please contact Jennifer Schneider. Funds are available to cover your registration fee and the book.

## WHAT'S MY STORY?



We hear children asking, “Tell me a story,” or “Read me a story.” We read happy and sad stories. There are make believe stories and true stories. And there is the story of God – the Bible. Deacon Jennifer Schneider will be leading a 4-week series to uncover our own personal narrative. What is my story? How has God shaped my life? This will be a time of personal reflection, guided discussion and writing exercises to help us put into words our own faith story. Why should I do this? Reflecting on our own life stories help us to feel more comfortable talking about our faith. Classes are Tuesday nights from **6-7:30pm** in the Blue Room (**January 22, 29, February 5, 12**). Come for all or part. Sign up at the Info Desk by the office.

## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO OUR REDEEMER

On Sunday, January 27th we received new members to Our Redeemer - some have been attending here for a long time, others come with family ties here, some have experienced Our Redeemer through children's ministry. They all have good faith stories and good life stories - try to sit down with them sometime. We will have pictures and some bio info in our next newsletter so you can see the faces and learn something about them. We welcome: Collison, VarVee, and Collison Jr Acquoi, Bob Conover, Matt Kuhn and Michelle Rebholz and their children Everett and Avery, Barb Muchow, Vanessa Paradise, Roy and Janelle Wong.

## PLANNING IS UNDERWAY FOR A VISIT TO TANZANIA

In trying to build on our partnership with the great folks at Kidewa, Tanzania and provide a time for people to meet them and stay in their community for a short time, while also exploring much more of TZ, a trip for summer 2020 is being planned. This would be a two week trip shared with folks from Gustavus who will visit their partner site, but provide for travel time together as well as shared visits in the main city (Iringa) and a safari experience. If you are interested in more information talk to Pastor Karsten regarding costs and itinerary. We will have an introductory/exploratory meeting of interested folks later this Spring. Space will be limited to 13 people

## Worship Assistants and Readings — February 2019

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
<b>Worship Host</b>	Dean Ersfeld	Dennis Peterson	Amy Krohn	Dick Peterson Sharon Peterson
<b>Gift Cards</b>				
<b>Kitchen Help</b>	Darlene Harwood Larry & Sandy Pruden	Dennis & Jan Peterson	Matt Kuhn and Michelle Rebholz	Mark & Doreen Winter Jessica Morgan
<b>Lector</b>	8:45 a.m. Kathi Kirchoff 10:45 a.m. Holly Forsberg	8:45 a.m. Dianne Derks 10:45 a.m. Hilary Hinrichs	8:45 a.m. Scott Torvi 10:45 a.m. Cherie Kilbride	8:45 a.m. Jim Burke 10:45 a.m. Cailleigh Kilbride
<b>Ushers</b>	8:45 a.m. Rob Klemm Dennis Paulson Roger Svendsen  10:45 a.m. Matt Kilbride Carla Shipstad Scott Torvi	8:45 a.m. Baryogar Johnson Roger Ollila Dennis Peterson  10:45 a.m. Vicki Anderson Tina Gray Randy Koza 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 Pruden Sandy Pruden  10:45 a.m. Mark Winter Doreen Winter
<b>Communion Servers</b>	8:45 a.m. Judy Triplett Avery Kuhn Everett Kuhn  10:45 a.m. Amy Krohn Olivia Schneider Hannah Schneider		8:45 a.m. Cliff Pearson Saysha Pruden Layla Pruden  10:45 a.m. Claire Sexton Collison Jr Acquoi VarVee Acquoi	
<b>Reading</b>	Matthew 6: 7-21 [25-24]	Matthew 7: 1-14 [24-29]	Matthew 13: 24-43	Matthew 14: 13-33

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



**Mobile Users  
Scan Here**

# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
6:00 a.m. ROH (SS) 8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance 4:00 p.m. ROH Church	6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:45 p.m. Lives Worth Living (F)	1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. My Story Class (FR)	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	6:45 a.m. Men's Study	10:30 a.m. Park and Rec Cooking Class 7:00 p.m. ROH Church	9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. #FamilyMatters Class 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise 12:00 p.m. Ending Well Class 1:00 Confirmation Reformation 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance 4:00 p.m. ROH Church	6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:00 p.m. Joy Circle	9:30 a.m. Property Group 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. Spiritual Growth 6:00 p.m. My Story Class (FR) 7:00 p.m. Hope Circle	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	 6:45 a.m. Men's Study 10:00 a.m. Kitchen Table Mystics	7:00 p.m. ROH Church	6:00 a.m. ROH Prayer (SS) 9:00 a.m. Scrapbooking 9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance 4:00 p.m. ROH Church	6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:00 p.m. Joy Circle	9:30 a.m. Property Group 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 4:00 p.m. Spiritual Growth 6:00 p.m. My Story Class (FR) 7:00 p.m. Hope Circle	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	 6:45 a.m. Men's Study 10:00 a.m. Kitchen Table Mystics	7:00 p.m. ROH Church	6:00 a.m. ROH Prayer (SS) 9:00 a.m. Scrapbooking 9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:45 a.m. Trad. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance 4:00 p.m. ROH Church	<b>Presidents Day</b> 6:00 p.m. TOPS 6:45 p.m. Lives Worth Living	1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Cong. Growth 7:00 p.m. Church Board	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	6:45 a.m. Men's Study 6:15 p.m. Knitting and Crotchet Group (Caribou Coffee)	7:00 p.m. ROH Church	9:00 a.m. Savior Alliance 5:30 p.m. ROH (S) 8:00 p.m. ROH (FH)
24	25	26	27	28		
8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45a.m. Worship & Praise 1:00 p.m. Savior Alliance 4:00 p.m. ROH Church	Dorothy Day 6:00 p.m. TOPS	1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes 6:15 p.m. Confirmation	6:45 a.m. Men's Study		

## Our Redeemer Staff

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



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