



# MAY 2019

## “The Good Newsletter” Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



### **The Early Easter Church – and the Church Today** by Pastor Karsten

What the church looks like is always the same, and always different. It is the same in that Christ is the center, the message about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is core, and that the church is the gathering of people who are forming their faith and seeking to be faithful. For generations, the church has been both a place people gather and the people living out their lives. And since the first Easter, the church has been a place to find direction about loving God and loving our neighbors. All of this has continued for over 2000 years.

The church is different in that whereas people in the early church gathered primarily in homes we mainly have congregations where we gather as community. The church today has a wee bit more technology than that early church – things like lights, furnace, soundboard, projectors and Wi-Fi. The church also is now a place people travel to by car often traveling many miles versus walking for long periods of time.

My guess is that you might be able to list another dozen or more ways that the church is similar to the early church and quite different (go ahead and try to think of a few right now....). It can probably be said that throughout these decades people have valued what the church has done, what it stands for, and how it has been an important part of our lives. We continue to believe this is true and are grateful for so many ways that Our Redeemer seeks to be a meaningful place both for worship and for our work in the world.

One of the things we value is the work done by the folks who first heard the Easter news and became followers of Jesus. They gathered to worship. They gathered to share their belongings. They gathered to learn more. These things are true for us today as well.

One of the other special things they did was to have faith conversations with the people around them – family, friends, and strangers. That is the main way the church has taken shape and developed over these years. During the weeks after Easter, our preaching texts show how the early followers found ways to talk about their faith, and how the Holy Spirit used those conversations to stir faith and faithfulness in others. Being ready and willing to have conversations about faith is the main way the church continues to gain strength and how people help shape the church today. Join us for some meaningful worship in these Spring weeks as we explore the early church and learn lessons for the church today.



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## A MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE MINISTER, JENNIFER SCHNEIDER

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Alleluia! Christ is Risen! I have been with you for one year – worshipping, connecting, dialoging, and watching God work in and through you. It has been a joy learning and growing in faith with you. Over this past year, we have grown in our understanding of outreach through the Understanding Our Neighbor dinner discussion in the Fall, participating in the Waking Up White workshop at Gustavus Adolphus and subsequent book study, and by accompanying our neighbors through the Augsburg Innovation Hub project.

We have tried several new things: updated worship space for young children, Church on the Move Sundays during the summer, canvassing our neighbors for Wednesday dinners, young adult meal and outings, involving more young people in worship leadership.

I look forward to the coming days and weeks as we continue to stretch ourselves in our understanding of evangelism and outreach to our neighbors and community. Our grant application to continue the young adult initiative through Augsburg Innovation Hub will be submitted this month. We are collaborating with several area churches to cast our nets more widely and create a sustainable program. Please pray for this important work. As we journey into the weeks after Easter, we will learn about evangelism and outreach in the early church. I pray that this time of learning and growing, through story and service, we would each be stretched to being used by God in new ways to share our faith and touch lives with good news of Christ our redeemer.



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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUNG ADULT COACH, TIM THAO

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The young adult group that we started a few months ago has started hosting monthly dinners where we're making dinner, building relationships, and having conversation all at the same time. In April, we gathered here at Our Redeemer for a taco night and in May the group will gather across the lake at Gustavus Adolphus. As we build this community of young adults, we hope that we'll be able to engage with the neighboring churches more. If you know of anyone who would like to join us, please connect them with us!

It's also time to be writing up the next part of the grant application for Augsburg University and the Riverside Innovation Hub. Deacon Jennifer and I will be working up to the due date of May 10 to build a framework for how the work we are doing with young adults will continue over the next two years. We hope to be able to receive upwards of \$27,000 to help us develop the young adult collaboration and feed back into the church in a general sense.



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## FAIRWELL *and* GODSPEED TO TIM THAO

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Our faithful coach through the Augsburg Riverside Innovation Hub, **Tim Thao**, will finish his time with us at the end of May, and we will hold a coffee-hour reception on **Sunday, May 26**, following our worship service. It has been a joy and a blessing having him in our midst as we explored ministry with young adults. Tim brought many gifts and talents to the table as he graciously led us these past nine months. His gentle and humble spirit has encouraged and stimulated us to work through the four art forms of the public church framework (accompaniment, interpretation, discernment, and proclamation). We will continue to have conversations around these art forms and continue our partnership with other East Side congregations led by young adults. Our young adult initiative will continue to grow and shift as we learn and discern where God is leading us.

After completing his term with Augsburg, Tim will focus on completing his MDiv at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul and working part-time as a worship leader at his home congregation in Brooklyn Park. We wish our dear brother in Christ peace for the journey and courage for his next chapter in ministry. Again, please join us on Sunday, May 26, after worship for a special coffee-hour reception and sending.



### SHARED WORSHIP *and* POTLUCK FEAST!

Sunday, March 31, we had the pleasure of gathering with the other two congregations that worship under our roof—Rock of Horeb and Savior Alliance—for a special opportunity to worship our Lord Jesus all together. The combination of talented musicians was enjoyable, and the skilled cooks providing the delicious “feast” afterwards made for a memorable day. They truly appreciate being able to worship in our building on a regular basis, and they were excited to share with us their Hmong and Hispanic cultures through music and food, while many of us at Our Redeemer shared our American favorites such as the “tater-tot hotdish” and “orange fluff Jello.” Remember to spread the good word about all three congregation choices to worship our Lord Jesus in our one location!



### “RAISE THE ROOF” UPDATE

Lent was a special opportunity for Our Redeemer to give financial support to the *Raise the Roof* fundraising project, along with other congregations, which will help build a roof for the Mtera School in Tanzania where there are about 300 high school students—including one of the students we sponsor from Kidewa. The large space where they gather to study and worship has no roof, and with the large rainfall about half the days of the year, it sadly does not provide for a sustainable environment for the students. A special “thank you” to everyone at Our Redeemer who contributed to this project in which we raised **\$1,191!**

### EASTER BLESSINGS WERE PLENTIFUL!

Easter and all its blessings that come with the season’s celebrations have created exciting experiences where we truly believe God is leading us well and preparing us for a good future in our community. As we move beyond Easter, the lessons we will focus on next are stories about the formation and foundations of the early church. They will explain how the followers spread the news of Jesus and drew others to this faith and life. Easter allowed us to spread the news and collaborate with many good people, churches, and groups as you can see from some of the photos in this newsletter.



*Alleluia!*  
*Christ is risen!*

## SABBATICAL FOR PASTOR KARSTEN

The Church Board has granted a sabbatical request for Pastor Karsten that will last for eleven weeks this summer. It is suggested that every Lutheran church grant this kind of rest/renewal for rostered staff every six years. It was seven years ago that he had a mini-sabbatical of seven weeks, so we felt this was an important step for us to take. This will provide good time for him to be renewed and then return to serve us with a fresh spirit.

This sabbatical will begin on June 4 and continue through August 20. During this time, there are a few additional hours for our Associate Minister Jennifer as some extra work will fall to her. But in addition, we will welcome back Pastor Chris Becker as a part-time staff person for worship leadership, some visitation, and handling various counseling and general pastoral leadership needs. Pastor Chris, a good friend of Pastor Karsten, was here two years ago for a few weeks during Lent so many people will remember him. Pastor Chris is recently retired after serving for over 30 years in various congregations in Chicago and the Twin Cities.

During his sabbatical, Pastor Karsten is taking time for personal as well as professional reading. He will have more time to be with family as well as take in one continuing education event focused on worship for the changing church. He has also committed to being an Ambassador for the Synod Tanzania partnership and will be spending three weeks there visiting various preaching sites after first connecting with their partner congregations here in MN that have not had personal contact for some time. We look forward to how he will be used during these weeks, how God will strengthen him, and how he will return to us for more good leadership.

## TANZANIA MATTERS

Come join Pastor Karsten for a second Sunday forum on May 12 between services where he will be sharing more details about our partnership with the folks at Kidewa Tanzania. There is such beauty in these people, a real living faith, and a rich appreciation for our connection with them. Come see pictures taken recently of the new church we helped complete. Come know more about the various projects the local churches are working on. Come get some news about a trip being planned for June of 2020 with various other area congregations. And come hear about special ways we as a church can provide extra support before Pastor Karsten leaves and visits them this summer.



## OPENING TO SERVE ON ST. PAUL SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The St. Paul Synod Assembly has an opening for someone to serve as an ORLC representative. The Synod Assembly is meeting May 17-18 at St. Andrews in Mahtomedi. Further details can be found at: <https://www.spas-elca.org/events/synod-assembly/>. Let Pastor Karsten know if you have an interest in serving.

## HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY—MEMORIAL DAY & ARMED FORCES DAY

This month includes both Armed Forces Day on May 18 and Memorial Day on May 27. We want to take this opportunity to honor and remember our ORLC family members who lost their lives serving the United States, and express our appreciation to all who have served, or are currently serving our country. [Tidbit: Armed Forces Day is the day that celebrates (and thanks) those who are *currently* serving in the military. Memorial Day remembers the people who died while serving in the Armed Forces. Veterans Day honors all the people, living and dead who served in the Armed Forces.]



## ONE WORSHIP SERVICE TO BEGIN MAY 26

Beginning Sunday, May 26, we will switch to our summer worship schedule, which means we will have one worship to begin at 9:30 a.m. Remember to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to worship with us each Sunday. (Or, to “Worship on the Farm” Wednesdays beginning June 5, at 5:30 p.m. See article on next page.)

## ISAIAH COMMUNITY MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVE TIM MAHONEY

Thank you to all who attended the community meeting with Representative Tim Mahoney on Saturday afternoon, April 27. The meeting was hosted by Our Redeemer and organized by ISAIAH, a faith-based organization working for social justice in Minnesota. The event was in collaboration with Our Redeemer Lutheran, Isaiah, Presentation Catholic, and Assalam Mosque. Representative Mahoney reported on the progress of legislative proposals, which were some of Isaiah's focal points: child care assistance, paid family leave, and allowing undocumented Minnesotans to obtain drivers licenses (which he noted just passed in the House). He also responded to concerns about the Rush Line Corridor project, Islamophobia, and other concerns about creating a caring economy to protect Minnesota families in our robust multi-racial democracy. In addition, he addressed investments he believes our elected leaders should make and also touched on infrastructure throughout Minnesota, as well as budget considerations and the importance of medical care.



## SUMMER "WORSHIP ON THE FARM" WEDNESDAYS TO BEGIN JUNE 5

Our Redeemer is collaborating with several other churches to provide special summer worship services beginning June 5, every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m. worship) at the Bruentrup



Farm, which is located just 2 blocks east of Maplewood Mall on County Road D. There will be food along with fun games for all ages starting at 5:30 p.m. This is a great setting to be casual and friendly, gather with others for song and prayer. The theme is Mysterious Acts of God as we walk through the Book of Acts with lots of unique stories. We also hope this provides an easy way to reach out to a friend, family member, or neighbor inviting them into a good faith experience. Come check this out over the summer on Wednesdays!



## BOOK CLUB - WAKING UP WHITE

Please join us for engaging conversation as we discuss Debby Irving's book, "Waking Up White," which addresses issues of racial inequity and white privilege. We will meet in the Fireside Room on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. on May 5, May 12, and May 19. Whether you read the book or not, join us for conversation and story. This will be open to the public, so please share with others who may be interested. Books are available to purchase for \$10. Contact Deacon Jennifer for more information.



## YOUNG ADULT COLLABORATION

Young Adult Collaboration is a group of young adults across the Twin Cities who are looking to do life and faith in a new, fresh, and meaningful way. The Collaboration was launched in January of 2019 in an effort to be the space where young adults could authentically and meaningfully engage in community. We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month at varying locations to eat, talk, serve, and build community. We are beginning a series of cooking and eating a meal together. Come for a time of fun, conversation, and food on May 23, at 6:00 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. All are welcome! Like us on Facebook to learn more about our upcoming events! <https://www.facebook.com/youngadultcollaboration/>



## PLEASE...MAY WE HAVE YOUR UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION?



We hope to enhance our communication efforts by asking that you provide us with any updated e-mail addresses and other contact information. By doing so, we can keep you abreast of current events, worship changes, funeral notices, and other important announcements. You can also receive our newsletters by email, but we will still send you a paper newsletter if you prefer. Please send your changes to [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org) or call us at 651-772-2445, or drop us a note in the mail. There will also be forms available at church.

## May 2019 - Worship Assistants and Readings

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26 (one service at 9:30 a.m.)
<b>Worship Host</b>	Amy Krohn	Claire Sexton & Judy Moe	Rita & Bruce Ring	Doreen Winter
<b>Gift Cards</b>	Barb Maynard			
<b>Hospitality/ Kitchen Help</b>	Darlene Harwood Larry & Sandy Pruden	Dennis & Jan Peterson	Matt Kuhn & Michelle Rebholz	Mark & Doreen Winter Jessica Morgan
<b>Lector</b>	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Darleen Klemm  <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Jim Krohn	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Carol Rodriguez  <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Holly Forsberg	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Scott Torvi  <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Amy Krohn	<i>9:30 a.m.</i> Lana Larsen
<b>Ushers</b>	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Rob Klemm Dennis Paulson  <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Matt Kilbride Carla Shipstad Scott Torvi	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Baryogar Johnson Roger Ollila Dennis Peterson  <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Vicki Anderson Tina Gray	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Bill Maynard Jim Riemenschneider Bruce Ring  <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Kari Keating Jessica Morgan	<i>9:30 a.m.</i> Mike Kahrau Sandy & Larry Pruden Doreen & Mark Winter
<b>Communion Servers</b>	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Judy Triplett  <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Amy Krohn		<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Cliff Pearson  <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Claire Sexton	
<b>Weekly Readings</b>	Acts 10:1-27, 34-48 "Peter's Vision"	Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-18 "Paul's Mission"	Romans 1:1-17 "Gospel as Salvation"	Romans 3:28-30; 5:1-11 "God's Love Poured Out"

### GIFT CARDS—FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

A reminder to purchase gift cards on the first Sunday of each month! We have several on hand OR you may special order others from a list of hundreds of retailers. Remember that the *Bucks for Our Building* program provides our church with a percentage of the gift card value. The more you buy, the more we earn!

### MERRICK FOOD SHELF

A special thank you to everyone who donated perishable food items during April for the Merrick Food Shelf—we reached a total of 399 pounds!

### GOT PHOTOS? WE DO!

If you are interested in viewing or requesting copies of photos you may have seen Jackie Nelson and Sally Kupferschmidt take during our many events, email the office at [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org) or call 651-772-2445.



### 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! Email [lisa@orlcmn.org](mailto:lisa@orlcmn.org) for further information.

Mobile Users

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Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

							<p>9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Loaves &amp; Fishes 6:00 pm Rummage Sale Setup 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Confirmation</p>		<p>6:45 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Rummage Sale Setup</p>		<p>9 am – 3 pm Rummage Sale 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30 pm ROH (S) 8:00 pm ROH (FH)</p>		4
<p>6:00 am ROH (SS) 8:30 – 12:00 Gift Card Sales 8:45 am Traditional Worship (com) 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Waking Up White 10:45 am Worship &amp; Praise (com) 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm ROH Church</p>		<p>6:00 pm TOPS 6:45 pm Lives Worth Living (F) 6:30 pm Facilities Team</p>		<p>9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Loaves &amp; Fishes 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Confirmation</p>		<p>6:45 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Kitchen Table Mystics (FR)</p>		<p>9:00 am Savior Alliance 11:00 am Schubert Concert (Chalaca) 5:30 pm ROH (S) 8:00 pm ROH (FH)</p>		11			
<p><b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> 8:45 am Traditional Worship 9:45 am Waking Up White 9:45 am Tanzania Matters 10:45 am Worship &amp; Praise 1:00 pm Confirm. Reform 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm ROH Church</p>		<p>9:30 am Property Team 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Missions Team</p>		<p>9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Loaves &amp; Fishes 7:00 pm Choir</p>		<p>6:45 am Men's Bible Study 6:15 pm Knitting &amp; Crochet Group (Caribou Coffee)</p>		<p><b>ARMED FORCES DAY</b> 6:00 am ROH Prayer (SS) 1:00 pm Funeral 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30 pm ROH (S) 8:00 pm ROH (FH)</p> 		18			
<p>8:45 am Traditional Worship (com) 9:45 am Waking Up White 10:45 am Worship &amp; Praise (com) 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm ROH Church</p>		<p>6:00 pm TOPS 6:45 pm Lives Worth Living (F)</p>		<p>9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Loaves &amp; Fishes</p>		<p>6:45 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Young Adult Collaboration at Gustavus Adolphus</p>		<p>← St. Paul Synod Assembly →</p>		25			
<p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Farewell to Tim Thao 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm ROH Church</p>		<p><b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Church Office Closed</p> 		<p>9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Loaves &amp; Fishes</p>		<p>6:45 am Men's Bible Study</p>		<p>7:00 pm ROH Practice</p>		31			

**Abbreviation Key:**

ROH= Rack of Horeb

F= Fellowship Hall

S= Sanctuary

SS= Sunday School Room

## Our Redeemer Staff

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### Sunday Worship:

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

**Sunday Worship Beginning May 26:**  
**9:30 a.m. One Worship**



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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
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