



JUNE 2019

"The Good Newsletter" Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



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

Every Sunday since Easter we have had time and space in worship through the text, sermon, music and prayers to have our hearts reminded about the early foundations of the church and to know and hear how they have a word, a direction, some lessons still for us today. This theme will continue for a few more weeks through June 9. It is good for us to think back to the early roots of our church and to know both that God's Spirit is still blowing through the church, and that people are still trying to help make the church a worthy place of worship and the workplace of God for us.

One of those underlying themes has been about the readiness for people of every generation to know that the gospel is working as good news when it shapes our life and touches others. We have leaned particularly into the discipline of finding ways and times and places and people when we can talk about faith – about God, Jesus, the world, our hurts, God's hopes, and our questions of faith.

I am not sure how much any of you have taken us up on the discipline of trying to talk with others in a faithful conversation. It is not easy for many to reach out to others, none the less for us to start or carry a conversation that touches the area of faith. But the practice of sharing our faith, of talking with neighbors, family, or friends is good, and does not need to be as hard as we might make it.

So consider this little communication reminder. It is a gift and good practice to be the person who asks questions. Ask questions of others because you want to know their answers. Ask questions as it helps you think about your own faith life. If you have trouble with this practice, then consider trying a few of these questions with various people: (and come up with some of your own)

What churches have you been part of in your life? What do you like about them?
How have you been engaged in the church over the years?
What do you do to nurture your faith?
Is there something specific you do because of your faith? (give, serve, worship...)
How does your Christian faith help you in life?
Is there something else you would like to see the church do or be?
Who is a great example or encourager in your faith life – or is it more self-guided?
What do you like about the church? What do you not like?

There are thousands of good questions to help get others (friends, family members, neighbors, co-workers, even strangers) to visit with you and be able to simply talk about faith. No need for pushiness. No need for pressing people to answer how you might like. No need for their responses to be a problem for you. Just use faith conversation to better know another, and see where else that leads – probably to a sense of care, likely to a unique connection between you, and maybe to a fuller life with Christ for both.



A MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE MINISTER, JENNIFER SCHNEIDER



*"There's a time each year that we always hold dear, good old summertime.
With the birds and the trees'es, and sweet scented breezes, good old summertime."*

The summer offers us a chance to change our pace and routine, a chance to renew and refresh, to enjoy God's beautiful creation. I like to slow down in the summer, read a good book, look at the clouds, enjoy the sunset. During your summer, I would like to encourage you to take up a couple of practices to enhance your summer.

First, in your slowing down, I encourage you to take some quiet time reading your Bible. Don't start at the beginning. Choose a Gospel like Mark (we will be diving into the Gospel of Mark later this fall) or some of the shorter books in the New Testament like 1 or 2 Corinthians. Sometimes it is helpful to take a chapter at a time. Read it once, think about what you heard, and then read it a second time to let it sink in. This is an easy practice for adults and kids alike! (Then you have something to talk about at the dinner table.)

During the summer we spend lots of time out in our yards, at parks, and on the lake. My second practice I would like you to consider is a continuation of what we have been learning on Sunday mornings the past month. We have been learning about faith conversations and how to practice talking about our faith with others. While you are outside this summer and reconnecting with your neighbors, take some time to chat with them. Share with them how God is working in your life, what you are learning in church, or a worship hymn that has inspired your faith. It might not be easy at first – it takes practice. But it has many benefits! As we talk about our faith with others, we are blessing them with hearing about God and we are also reminding ourselves how God is working in our lives. You are blessed to be a blessing. As you go, bless others in this practice of faith conversations.

Peace be with you! Deacon Jennifer



PASTOR KARSTEN TO BEGIN SABBATICAL

From the 4th of June through the 20th of August, I will be on a sabbatical that was approved by the Our Redeemer Board. I am excited for this time of rest and renewal, and I have high hopes for it being a significant time for me personally and professionally. The various settings of "alone" time and "together" time will make this a different kind of fullness that I usually don't get to experience: spending time with my family, getting away to a cabin, completing some minor projects at home, attending a church leader's summit, visiting some of our previous interns, and serving as an ambassador in Tanzania. I trust that God will use me, awaken a deeper love and relationship with my Lord and his church, and prepare me to return to deeper ministry and service with Our Redeemer at the end of summer. Keep me in your prayers please as I will continue to hold you in mine.

If you have questions about this sabbatical feel free to contact me before I go. During my time away, Our Redeemer will be in strong hands with the leadership of Deacon Jennifer, Sally holding down the office, Dave and Jim caring for the facility, Curt and Amy leading worship, and the fill-in work by my Pastor friend Chris Becker.

Pastor Karsten



WELCOME BACK, DAVE PARENTEAU!

After months of recovery following a broken ankle, custodian Dave Parenteau is ready to return to work three days a week beginning June 3 doing some basic cleaning and general maintenance. We've appreciated Jim Vansell taking on additional duties in Dave's absence, and we will continue to keep Jim with us for general cleaning, some deeper cleaning work, and helping on larger projects like carpet cleaning and yard work during the summer.



SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JUNE 30

We encourage you to gather in the Fellowship Hall after worship on **Sunday, June 30**, for our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, which we anticipate will last only 30 minutes. This is a great opportunity for us to learn and grow together as people of God and to hear updates on current matters of the church: summary of financial status, updates about ministry, and view a short video about the wider work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Please direct any questions to Deacon Jennifer.



LET'S WELCOME PASTOR CHRIS BECKER!

Greetings in the name of Jesus,

I am Pastor Chris Becker and I have the privilege and honor to serve Our Redeemer while Pastor Karsten is on sabbatical. I retired from full time ministry on January 1, 2017, and then served as an Interim Pastor at St. Mark's in Randolph MN for 14 months. These past two years have reinforced my trust that God indeed walks alongside us especially during those times of uncertainty and unknown.

I am married with two adult daughters and five grandchildren. My wife is a retired teacher who served over 20 years in the St. Paul School District. Linda and I live in an unusual setting for the metro area. We live on what I call a "Farmette." We have goats, sheep, a Llama, and a donkey along with a bunch of chickens and ducks and rabbits as well as our rescue dog "Abraham."



From 2018 mission trip to Tanzania. Linda (my wife) and a good friend (Martha) we have known for years reunite each time we go. We taught in Tanzania in 2000

I have worked with Our Redeemer in the past and have found your community of faith eager to look beyond itself and to be Christ's light to the world. Those goals are what has guided me in my 42 years of ministry. I served 12 years in a church/school on the north side of Chicago, 10 years at Gethsemane church and school in Maplewood MN and 20 years at Amazing Grace in Inver Grove Heights MN.

My passion is guiding people to identify and experience the presence of Jesus in their lives and to share that awareness with everybody. My favorite Bible story is from Luke 15. Some may call it the "Prodigal Son" but I would rather see it as the "Loving Father." The type of love that this father showed to both of his sons is what I strive to model in my own life.

Some of my other interests are: kayaking, cross-country skiing, and basketball.

May the God of gentleness, compassion and acceptance walk with us during this short journey together.

Pastor Chris Becker

P.S. Check the "Announcements" sections of future bulletins for a book study I will be leading after worship services on July 14, 21, 28. The name of the book is "Leaving Your Mark Without Losing Your Mind" by Mark Brouwer.

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

Six Churches Bring Summer Worship to Bruentrup Heritage Farm

Our Redeemer is one of six Lutheran congregations to get together to present food, fun, and worship at the Maplewood Historical Society's Bruentrup Heritage Farm at 2170 County Road D East, Maplewood, on Wednesday evenings June 5 through August 28, 2019, rain or shine. A picnic dinner will be served starting at 5:15 p.m., followed by family activities and a short, casual worship service at 6:30 p.m. in the farm's historic barn. The picnic dinner will be provided by Historical Society volunteers as a fundraiser, charging \$8 for adults (free for kids 12 and under, with a paying adult).



The other five Lutheran church congregations are Redeemer (White Bear Lake), Christ the King (White Bear Lake), Lakeview (Maplewood), House of Prayer (Oakdale), and St. Mark's (North Saint Paul). This is the fifth year these Lutheran churches have worked together on the farm.

There will be a variety of activities and events throughout the summer, including hayrides, games, creative worship, hymn-singing, prayers for the nations of the world, a blessing of the animals, an ice cream social, and an evening of charity service projects. A full schedule of events will be posted at www.worshiponthefarm.org.

This year's theme is *The Mysterious Acts of God*, focusing on fascinating but little-known stories and characters in the Biblical book of Acts. God indeed works in mysterious ways, calling ordinary people to be partners in God's work in the world. Invite family, friends, and neighbors!

LAST-MINUTE DONATIONS FOR OUR TANZANIA PARTNER

Financial gifts are being accepted through **June 16** for Our Redeemer's partner congregation of Kidewa in Tanzania. Serving as an ambassador, Pastor Karsten has been visiting five other Minnesota churches that also have partner churches in Tanzania but are not able to attend. He has been collecting from them various items including financial donations to bring to

their partner congregations for much needed projects. If you care to help with a last-minute financial gift for Our Redeemer's Kidewa congregation, please place it in the offering or send it to the church and mark it "for Kidewa" (designated envelopes are at the Welcome Desk). Your gift can be directed to a specific cause, such as buying land for a tree farm, training for evangelists, constructing a church, sponsoring a student, or for much needed general projects. Also, we will be taking a group photo after our **June 2** worship service that will be shared with our Tanzania partners. If you chose a picture two years ago of one of the individuals from Kidewa to pray for, please bring that picture to church so we can take a picture of you to share with them. As always, thank you for your generosity—these folks appreciate everything we do to help them!



YOUNG ADULT COLLABORATION

Are you in your 20s or 30s or have family, friends, or coworkers in that age group? You will want to invite them to check out the newly-created *Young Adult Collaboration*. It is a group of young adults across the Twin Cities who are looking to engage in life and faith in a new, fresh, and meaningful way. They meet on the fourth Thursday of every month at varying locations to eat, talk, serve, and build community. Their next gathering will be on **Thursday, June 27, at 6 p.m.** at the Crooked Pink Ale House in St. Paul. Appetizers will be provided. You can find out more about the group and their upcoming events on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/youngadultcollaboration.



"CHURCH ON THE MOVE" TO START MOVING SOON!

Sunday, June 16, 10:45 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.



Join in on a leisure "move" around or about Lake Phalen! Or help out under Our Redeemer's new tent to serve lemonade to folks passing by on the pathway. Our first "Church on the Move" event is **Sunday, June 16**, after worship. This day is a great opportunity to meet new people and test out our faith-sharing skills. We will meet at 10:45 a.m. at the big stone by the lake near Larpenteur Avenue and East Shore Drive (see map on right). Afterwards, we will meet back at the church to enjoy a pulled-pork lunch sponsored by the Children, Youth and Family Ministry.



CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY WITH A PULLED-PORK LUNCH—JUNE 16

Join us for lunch after worship service on **Sunday, June 16**. This is a great time to invite your neighbors and friends to church!!! The Children, Youth, and Family Ministry will host their annual pulled-pork lunch to raise funds for camperships and other youth activities. You can also purchase a lunch to go. Cost: \$10 per meal, \$6 for meat only.

DONATIONS & SHOPPERS NEEDED—CHURCH SALE HERE—ROCA DE HOREB

Roca De Horeb is taking their turn at a two-day, fund-raising *Church Rummage Sale* and homemade meals for purchase (perhaps Pupusas?). It will be held in our parking lot on **Saturday, June 15, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.** and **Sunday, June 16, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.** They are accepting donations, and items can be stored in our Under-The-Sea Room. And, don't forget to shop the sale and invite family and friends as well.

Thank You



A HEARTFELT "THANK YOU" FROM CLAIRE SEXTON

I would like to express my appreciation and thankfulness for all the expressions of sympathies given to me on the recent death of my husband, Jim. I was overwhelmed with the many responses from my church family. I was told "that is what we do." You sure did and I am grateful. Thank you to all the ladies who donated food for the luncheon. We showed them (at Presentation Catholic church) a good Lutheran funeral lunch!

Claire Sexton, and family

DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JUNE 24

Our Redeemer is serving for Dorothy Day on **Monday, June 24**. We need 5 volunteers to prepare the meal and 14 volunteers to serve the meal at Dorothy Day Mary Hall. Carpooling for preparers can meet at ORLC at 12:30 p.m. or arrive at the Catholic Charities Distribution Center (341 Chester St. in St. Paul) at 1:00 p.m. Servers can car pool at ORLC at 3:00 p.m. or meet at Mary Hall (438 Dorothy Day Place) at 3:30 p.m. Sign-up forms and maps are located at the Welcome Desk. Families and friends are welcome, and no experience is required. Please consider joining us—thank you!

HOW CAN YOU HELP ③ ORGANIZATIONS AT ONE TIME?

① Feed My Starving Children ② MN Adult & Teen Challenge ③ Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities

There will be a "Better Together" Food Packing Event at the MN State Fairgrounds **Friday, June 7**, and **Saturday, June 8**. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is hosting this MobilePack event and providing all the meal ingredients. This is a joint benefit for Feed My Starving Children, MN Adult & Teen Challenge, and Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities to pack 1 million meals for starving kids worldwide! The goal is to raise awareness and revenue which will be split equally to support all three organizations, as well as feeding children around the world. Volunteers are needed for 2 and 1/2 hour shifts. They are hoping to have 5,000 volunteers. Please consider helping if you can, individually or with a group. It is a good opportunity to support all three of these organizations. Contact Vicki Anderson for more details and to sign up or visit the following two websites: [Feed My Starving Children](http://FeedMyStarvingChildren.org) and [Hands on Twin Cities](http://HandsOnTwinCities.org).



START SAVING FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

For VBS August 12-14, we will be doing some special craft projects. Save your empty coffee cans (plastic or metal) and shipping tubes. Also, we are looking to borrow any African fabric or decor that the Children Youth and Family ministry team could use to decorate for VBS. This year's theme is

ROAR - Life is wild, God is good. Contact Deacon Jennifer if you have any of these items.

If you wish to sign up your kids or volunteer, go to: vbspro.events/p/orlcmn.

"THANK YOU" FROM THE NELSONS!



"Thank You" from
Pastor Karsten and Jackie



What a delightful surprise Our Redeemer had for us on our 30th Wedding Anniversary on May 5 between worship services. It was completely unexpected and such a thoughtful gesture by this kind and caring congregation to recognize an important milestone anniversary in our lives. We know there are many others who have far more years than ours, and one of the nice things about being in this church is to see and learn and find encouragement in the ways others live out their love for each other. Thank you for the special celebration with cake, gift cards, and beautiful bouquet of flowers that lasted two weeks. Now on to 30 more!

June 2019 - Worship Assistants and Readings

	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30
Worship Hosts	Dean Ersfeld	Dennis Peterson	Sharon & Dick Peterson	Claire Sexton & Judy Moe	Doreen Winter
Gift Cards	Sharon Peterson				
Hospitality/ Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood Larry & Sandy Pruden	Dennis & Jan Peterson	Matt Kuhn & Michelle Rebholz	Mark & Doreen Winter Jessica Morgan	Sharon & Dick Peterson
Lectors	Holly Forsberg	Jim Burke	Kathi Kirchoff	Jane Koza	Dianne Derks
Ushers <i>(one service - not all needed)</i>	Rob Klemm Dennis Paulson Matt Killbride Scott Torvi Carla Shipstad	Baryogar Johnson Roger Ollila Dennis Peterson Vicki Anderson Tina Gray	Bill Maynard Jim Riemenschneider Bruce Ring Jessica Morgan Kari Keating	Mike Kahrau Sandy & Larry Pruden Doreen & Mark Winter	Bruce Ring
Communion Servers	Judy Triplett (or) Amy Krohn		Cliff Pearson (or) Claire Sexton		
Weekly Readings	Romans 6:1-14 Matthew 6:24	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:18-39 Acts 2:1-20	Romans 5:1-5 Matthew 28:1-20	TBD	TBD

Finances - Month of April

2019 Beginning Balance	\$ 4,268
Member Giving	\$104,315
Supplemental Giving	<u>\$ 43,968</u>
Total	\$152,551
Expenses	(\$130,267)
Difference	<u>\$ 22,284</u>

Our finances through April are strong due to stock donations and one larger one-time gift. Thank you for helping us continue on this strong path of giving throughout the summer!

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 for further information.



**Mobile Users
Scan Here**



**COME TO SCRAPBOOKING/
CRAFT DAY—Saturday, June 15
9 a.m.—3 p.m.**

Questions?
Contact Amy Krohn or the Office.

**PENTECOST—
Sunday, June 9,
Wear RED**



If interested in joining the ORLC **Flower Garden Club**, please contact Carol Rodriguez (or the office). There's still gardening plots in the front of the church available to be "adopted."



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!

Reminder! One Worship Service for the Summer
Mark your calendar—One worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays for the summer months now through September 2. (Also, every Wednesday, "Worship on the Farm" at 6:30 p.m. —see article in this newsletter.)



Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed


Thurs

Fri

Sat

June 2019



1 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30 – 8 pm ROH (S)						
2 6:00 am ROH (SS) 8:30 – 11:00 am Gift Card Sales 9:30 am Worship (<i>Communion</i>) 11:30 am Confirm. Reform 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm ROH Church	3 6:00 pm TOPS 6:45 pm Lives Worth Living Group (offsite) 6:30 pm Facilities Team	4 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	5 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:30 pm Worship on the Bruenstrup Farm	6 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Children, Youth and Family Ministry	7 7:00 pm ROH Practice	8 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30 – 8 pm ROH (S) ← "Better Together" Food Packing Event → June 7-8, State Fairgrounds
9 9:30 am Worship (Pentecost) 1:00 pm Confirm. Reform 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm ROH Church	10 9:30 am Quilting (FH) 6:00 pm TOPS 6:00 pm Joy Circle	11 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 9:30 am Property Team 7:00 pm Hope Circle	12 9:00 am Summer Stretch 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:30 pm Worship on the Bruenstrup Farm	13 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Kitchen Table Mystics (FR)	14 7:00 pm ROH Practice 	15 6:00 am ROH Prayer (SS) 7 am – 6 pm ROH Church Sale (in parking lot) 9:00 am Savior Alliance 9:00 – 3:00 pm Scrapbooking 5:30 - 8:00 pm ROH (S)
16 7 am – 6 pm ROH Church Sale (in parking lot) 9:30 am Worship (<i>Communion</i>) 10:30 am Church on the Move 10:30 am Pulled Pork Lunch 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm ROH	17 6:00 pm TOPS 6:45 pm Lives Worth Living Group (offsite)	18 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Worship Planning 3:15 pm Spiritual Growth 5:30 pm Cong. Growth 7:00 pm Church Board	19 9:00 am Summer Stretch 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:30 pm Worship on the Bruenstrup Farm	20 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 6:15 pm Knitting & Crochet Group (Caribou Coffee)	21 7:00 pm ROH Practice	22 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30 – 8 pm ROH (S)
23 9:30 am Worship Service 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm ROH Church	24 9:30 am Quilting (FH) 12:30 & 3:00 Dorothy Day 6:00 pm TOPS	25 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	26 9:00 am Summer Stretch 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:30 pm Worship on the Bruenstrup Farm	27 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Young Adult Collaboration at Crooked Pink Ale House in St. Paul	28 7:00 pm ROH Practice	22 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30 – 8 pm ROH (S)
30 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Semi-Annual Meeting 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm ROH Church						Abbreviation Key: ROH= Rock of Horeb F= Fellowship Hall S= Sanctuary SS= Sunday School Room Com= Communion <i>[Updated 6-4-19]</i>

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Sunday Summer Worship
One Service @ 9:30 a.m.
May 26–September 2



<https://twitter.com/orlcmn>

<https://www.facebook.com/orlcmn>

Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
1390 East Larpenteur Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55109

