



# August 2019

## “The Good Newsletter” of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CHRIS BECKER



#### **Reflections of a Cowboy or “Those who dream to be one”**

**Job 38 and 39**

*Over the years I have had the privilege to own, raise and ride horses. This story is birthed out of one of those experiences. I write this to you, the people of Our Redeemer, so that you will always remember that this is Christ’s church in which you and even I for a short time, have been privileged to be part of. You are the Body of Christ here and throughout the world. As much as each of us wants to claim this church for ourselves it is impossible. You are called to join God’s work in the world. What a blessing! Thanks be to God.*

Please read **Job 38 and 39**.



Dave and I were almost there. It had been a long journey, and it was getting dark in this new home of ours. You would not have thought that traveling from Minnesota to someplace on the border of South and North Dakota would have been such a long journey, but some trips are longer in more than miles. We were traveling back in time as we went from our comfortable surroundings to the life of the early cowboys. Dave told me he knew of a place where we could experience life as it was years ago.

We left early allowing for plenty of time since we were pulling a horse trailer and had to travel slower than usual. It all sounded good to me because I considered myself the first of the city slickers. Coming from Chicago the only horse I saw frequently was the kind you put quarters in. Years later who would have thought that I was now riding a quarter horse and racing at the county fair and taking my horse out to ride over miles of open spaces.

We packed our equipment making sure we had everything we needed because where we were going, there weren’t any stores. After about 20 minutes on the highway I looked into the review mirror and saw smoke. We pulled off and discovered that one of the tires on the trailer was hot. It was a used trailer that Glen and I had bought and attempted to fix up, but every so often it showed its age. This was one of those times. We searched for someplace that was open early in the morning. Fortunately, we found a station just a little off the highway. The brake was fixed without the horses getting too excited. Once again, we were on our way and talking about the place we would stay for the next few days.

The last few miles we traveled over some rough roads slowly moving along in the late afternoon towards the place where we would live. We got our first glimpse of it as we turned a corner. Dave pointed out the cabin in the distance. I am not sure if one would call it that, but for the lack of any other name cabin would have to do. It was small, very small, and A-frame structure that could sleep two or three on the floor. It even had some storage space in a small loft. We could stand up in the middle but had to bow a lot around the inside edges. This would be our home for the next few days. We brought the horses into a corral that was used at branding time. We staked out a place for the grill and set up our two chairs. Our first meal was cold sandwiched, but after a long drive they tasted good. The grass was almost shoulder high, so we each found a private section of the “back 40” and each of us designed our own toilet station.

That night we were feeling pretty good about ourselves. We had made the journey with relative ease, and we had brought all that we would need. Life was good, and we were feeling rather in control of things until...until we lifted our eyes to the sky. Here in this pitch-dark place of the earth, miles from nowhere, was this massive expansion of stars stretching from one end of the horizon to the next. We sat there overcome by the feeling of being rather insignificant.

I viewed more stars than this city kid had ever seen before. Stars bright and bold, just glowing in the sky, and stars small and full of glitter. There were stars in designs that even I, a novice, could identify. I saw the Milky Way more clearly than I had ever seen it before. There were shooting stars and planets big and full. The sky was completely filled with them, and they did not stop, galaxies upon galaxies.

I caught myself looking down because the whole thing terrified me. Who was I under such an endless sky? What significance did I have in comparison to this wonder? I had always felt I was in control. In fact, I want and love to be in control. Perhaps it is the German element within me, my family of origin. Giving a gift is easy because I am in control, receiving a gift is awkward and difficult. Now here I was under these Midwest skies small as could be and afraid. Yes, afraid. Afraid of how small I was and remembering the words of God to Job, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me. If you have understanding." And I was speechless as I gazed into the heavens.

O almighty and merciful God, you created and breathed life into me. At that moment you saw me as one of your creations. How I forget that you are the creator and I am the creature. Renew in me my role and guide me to praise you for your might and your power. Amen

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 **A MESSAGE FROM DEACON JENNIFER SCHNEIDER**

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***Dr. Pepper and Living Outside My Bubble***

My cousin was in town this week for a quick visit. She's from Texas and she drinks Dr. Pepper like it's water and she's really good at reading books in funny accents, which my girls love. She also volunteers at a camp for foster children, and sometimes, after the girls are in bed, she tells me stories from camp.

This week she told me the story of a little girl whose mother had just terminated her parental rights. They would never see each other again, and the girl came to camp absolutely shattered in the knowledge that her mother loved drugs more.

I feel so far removed from the foster care system and drug addiction. Each night, I kiss my girls as they squirm away from me and I thank God that Don and I are healthy parents with two healthy children, a roof over our head and food in the fridge. And it makes it so easy to keep living inside my safe bubble and pretend that problems like drugs and foster care don't reach this far.

But God hasn't called us to live in neat little bubbles; he's called us to get our hands dirty.

The Bible tells us that "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him." It's a verse we cling to in our storms and it's true for you and for me, and it's true for foster children and foster parents and drug addicts. But do you know the rest of the verse?

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Focus on the second half of that verse: "who have been called according to his purpose." That's YOU!

God hasn't called us to sit still inside a sparkly safe bubble. He has called us to be his hands and his feet. Last month, I talked about accompaniment in my sermon. That is listening and learning about who and what is right here around our church. Accompaniment is a way for us to uncover the work God is already doing in our neighborhoods. When we practice Sabbath to tune our hearts to God and refocus on what is important, let's take this word "accompaniment" with us. It is a chance for me, for us, to get outside of our own sphere of understanding (our bubble) and see God at work and the world in need.

When you practice Sabbath, where do you hear or see God? Where do you see a need? How is God calling you now to respond?

At the end of the day, we're all orphans, and God has gifted us His grace and mercy and love. Now go show it to others. Thanks be to God for His love for all creation and for letting us be His hands and feet!

## OLD MCDONALD HAD A FARM....SO DOES PASTOR CHRIS AND LINDA BECKER



Now there is a nursery rhyme about a farm, and there is *Worship on the Farm*, which you might be familiar with, but you have you ever been to our “farmette” with real live animals? You are invited to a day at our farm where adults and children will have the opportunity to be up close and personal with goats, sheep, a Llama, young rabbits, chickens and a few ducks. We might even sing that song about old McDonald (or not). Hot dog lunch will be provided. We have picnic tables and other assorted chairs to just sit and enjoy each others company

and God's creation. **Saturday, August 17, from 12 to 2:30 p.m.**, you can find us at **1210 70th Street West, Inver Grove Heights, MN**. There is construction around us so you will need to come from the west (Argenta). As you come up the hill of 70th you will turn right at the last construction sign and we are the second house on the right off that road (drive). Look for parking signs. **Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, August 14.**



## ROAR! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: AUGUST 12-15, 5:30—8:00 P.M.

Thank you so much to participants and volunteers who attend ROAR! Vacation Bible School this August 12-15 at ORLC. We learn that GOD IS GOOD even when life is UNFAIR, SCARY, CHANGES, IS SAD and IS GOOD. Through the study of the Israelites in Egypt, we discover how UNFAIR life was for the Israelites as slaves in Egypt, how God protected the Israelites when he sent ten (10) SCARY plagues on Egypt, how God provided for the Israelites throughout all the CHANGES as they wandered in the wilderness, and about how the Israelites thanked God for all the GOOD things he did after they crossed the Jordan River. We also learn that God loves us so much that He sent is Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins and we are forgiven eternally by trusting in Jesus as Savior.



At VBS, we plant seeds of faith. We pray and trust that God does the work of growing faith in and through us, both volunteers and participants. Even after VBS is over, we can keep praying that God's love flows through the lives of all who are involved in this action packed week!

## SUMMER “WORSHIP ON THE FARM” WEDNESDAYS Volunteers Needed for ORLC Hosting Night—August 7

Our Redeemer is one of six Lutheran congregations to gather for food, fun, and worship at the Maplewood Historical Society's Bruentrup Heritage Farm at 2170 County Road D East, Maplewood, on Wednesday evenings through August 28, rain or shine. A picnic dinner is 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 is provided by Historical Society volunteers as a fundraiser, charging \$8 for adults (free for kids 12 and under with a paying adult). More details at: [www.worshiponthefarm.org](http://www.worshiponthefarm.org).

**Volunteers!** Our Redeemer is hosting on the evening of **August 7** and we need eight volunteers! Four for serving food and four for ushering. Please contact the office or sign up on the forms located on the poster in the Narthex.

**Invitation to others!** “Worship on the Farm” is not only a special, unique venue to worship and meet new people to engage in faith conversations, but also a place you can invite your family and friends to get a pleasant feel for worshiping our loving God other than in a church. “Worship on the Farm” was spotlighted in the *Star Tribune* on Sunday, June 30.



## SO MUCH TO DO AT OUR REDEEMER TO DO GOOD...



### Mark Your Calendar for National Night Out—August 6

Our Redeemer is the place to be on the evening of **Tuesday, August 6, 5-8 p.m.** for the National Night Out event. There will be free activities, face painting, bounce



house, food, root beer floats, visits from our local police and fire departments. Bring canned goods for the food shelf! There are opportunities to win prizes—a special one being a homemade quilt by the Our Redeemer quilters! Also, handmade Prayer Dishtowels. This is an excellent opportunity to reach out to our neighborhood and also invite your family, friends, and coworkers. Contact Claire Sexton if you have questions or wish to help.



### Volunteers Needed for Serving at Dorothy Day —August 26

If you are interested in volunteering at our next serving opportunity at the Dorothy Day Center, mark your calendar for **Monday, August 26!** We need food preparers and servers, and free transportation is provided from the church. There will be sign-up sheets at the Welcome Desk, or simply contact the office.

### School Supply Collection



Once again, we will be collecting school supplies for the Frost Lake and Weaver elementary schools. The deadline to bring your donations to the church is **August 18**. We are looking for #2 pencils, colored pencils, pencil sharpener, washable Crayola markers, 24 count crayons, wide lined spiral notebooks, pink erasers, wide lined filler paper, plain pocket & 3 prong folders, glue sticks, yellow highlighters, pencil boxes, child size scissors (Fiskars work best), backpacks and the classrooms can always use boxes of tissues, zip lock bags (quart & gallon size), hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes. The schools are so appreciative of any supplies we deliver. Thanks to all of you who have faithfully donated every year!

### Volunteer Opportunities - Do you want to make a difference?

- ⇒ How about volunteering for **Hospice**? There are opportunities to sit with the patient, read, go for walks, or whatever your interest might be. Please contact Lisa Diez at 651-808-4226 for more opportunities. You can also email her at Diezlisa@gmail.com.
- ⇒ The **North St. Paul Food shelf** is in need of volunteers Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings 4-7 p.m. Jobs such as shopping with clients, stocking, organizing donated food, taking phone appointments, greeting clients, accept donations, and pick up Rescue Foods. If interested, please contact Kathi Kirchoff.

### Meals from the Heart

This fall for our "God's Work, Our Hands" project, we will again partner with area churches to pack meals for local people in need of food support. Mark your calendar now for **Saturday, September 14**. A sign up form will be available soon to choose your two-hour shift. Snacks and lunch will be available for purchase from Shobi's Table and Urban Roots. All ages and abilities are welcome. We encourage you to invite friends and family to this event for a great day of service and fellowship.



### STATE FAIR Fundraiser for ORLC

ORLC is invited to participate with hosting the State Fair *Park and Ride* at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 Arcade Street, in St. Paul. Each shift worked earns \$20 for ORLC. We will be working alongside members of Gustavus Adolphus who will show us the ropes. Contact Deacon Jennifer to help you schedule a time to volunteer. Some walking is required, but mostly volunteers are providing hospitality to guests and recording bus arrival times.

### Taco Lunch Fundraiser given by Mensajes de Poder—August 25

On **Sunday, August 25**, Mensajes de Poder will be having a TACO fundraising event in the Fellowship Hall following our 9:30 a.m. worship service. Two taco's, beverage, and side for \$6! You can eat in or take them to go. They are delicious!

### CHURCH ON THE MOVE—SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Get out your walking shoes and join us for a stroll around our church neighborhood. We will hand out VBS flyers to our neighbors. If you are unable to join us on **Sunday, August 4**, but are interested in helping, please contact Deacon Jennifer for a walking route and flyers. Thanks!

## Book Studies!

- **Leaving Your Mark Without Losing Your Mind**

Pastor Chris' book study, entitled "Leaving Your Mark Without Losing Your Mind," authored by Mark Brouwer, has been extended! There will be two more sessions, Sundays, **August 11 and 18** following our worship service. You can still participate even though you missed early sessions. The book touches on building spiritual longing for significance. Some focus areas are: getting overwhelmed by the needs you encounter; struggling with not having enough time; getting burned out by high levels of stress and anxiety; and feeling disheartened by conflicts and difficult people.



- **Waking Up White**

*For me, tolerance is not about others, it's about accepting my own uncomfortable emotions as I adjust to a changing view of myself as imperfect and vulnerable. As human.* ~ Debby Irving

Back by popular demand, we will meet beginning in **September** for informal discussions of Debby Irving's book, "Waking Up White." Books are available for purchase at a subsidized cost of \$10 from Deacon Jennifer. Sign up at the welcome desk or by emailing [jennifer@orlcmn.org](mailto:jennifer@orlcmn.org).



## Coffee Cart Coming Soon!

Coffee, rolls, and fellowship will continue in the Fellowship Hall as usual on Sunday mornings. But for folks who are really just looking for a cup of coffee before joining us for service, starting in the fall, there will be a coffee cart located in the Narthex. Be watching for that space to be created and be one way to welcome our members and guests who aren't traditional "fellowshippers."

## Calling all crafters!

- **Craft Day—Bring a Craft to work on**

Craft Day on Saturday, **August 17**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Invite your family and friends for a peaceful environment with lots of table space at Our Redeemer in the Fellowship Hall.

- **Craft Stay Retreat—Bring your own Craft project and/or learn a new Craft**

We are excited to announce that we are having another craft Stay Retreat! It will be held in the Fellowship Hall starting **Friday, September 20** at 5 p.m. to midnight, and again **Saturday, September 21** from 9 a.m. to midnight. You can bring any type of craft you are working on so come have fun and relax! Bring a snack to share if you like. Meals & beverages on your own. For those who want to try a new craft, we will be offering Make-N-Takes on Saturday afternoon. More details to come. (Registration required). If interested in participating in the Stay Retreat, contact Amy Krohn at 651-779-7945 or email: [ajkrohn@hotmail.com](mailto:ajkrohn@hotmail.com). (A free-will donation will be welcomed!)



## Young Adult Collaboration

Young Adult Collaboration is a group of young adults in their 20's and 30's 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. They meet on the fourth Thursday of every month at varying locations to eat, talk, serve, and build community. All are welcome! Questions, contact Deacon Jennifer: [jennifer@orlcmn.org](mailto:jennifer@orlcmn.org)

Like them on Facebook to learn more at: <https://www.facebook.com/youngadultcollaboration/>

Upcoming Gatherings:

August 22 – Memory Lanes Bowling Alley in Minneapolis, 6-8 p.m.

September 26 – cook dinner at Gustavus Adolphus (1669 Arcade St.)

October 24 – local brewery (TBD)

## Do you have NEWSLETTER NEWS to share?

Please contact Sally by August 23 to include news you wish to share for the September newsletter. In addition to the common articles, here are some other ideas: green-thumb tips from our gardeners, tidbits from the quilters, scrapbookers, crochet/knitters, etc. Or photos, church humor/cartoons, ORLC history facts. How about faith-based stories to share? A special thanks to Carole Erickson for submitting our first humor entry!

## Summer Camp WAPO in Amery, WI

Our Redeemer kids settling in at Camp WAPO!



There was a young fellow who thought very little, but, thought about it a lot. Then at long last, he knew what he wanted to do, but, before he could start, he forgot.



## August 2019 - Worship Assistants and Readings

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
<b>Worship Hosts</b>	Dean Ersfeld	Doreen Winter	Amy Krohn	Doreen Winter
<b>Gift Cards</b>	Mary Forsberg			
<b>Hospitality/ Kitchen Help</b>	Darlene Harwood Sandy & Larry Pruden	Jan & Dennis Peterson	Michelle Rebholz & Matt Kuhn	Jessica Morgan Doreen & Mark Winter
<b>Lectors</b>	Scott Torvi	Lana Larsen	Carol Rodriguez	Dianne Derks
<b>Ushers (one service - not all needed)</b>	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
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Judy Triplett Amy Krohn		Cliff Pearson Claire Sexton	
<b>Weekly Readings</b>	Luke 10:25-37 "Wrong Question"	Luke 7:36-50 "How many sins are on your list?"	Matthew 13:31-34, 44-50 "Rapid Fire"	TBD

### Finances - Month of June

2019 Beginning Balance	\$ 4,268
Member Giving	\$148,417
Supplemental Giving	<u>\$ 62,201</u>
Total	\$214,886
Expenses	(\$198,500)
Difference	<u>\$ 16,386</u>

### 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.



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### Schedule Change Coming SOON!



Our Fall worship times and Sunday School Kick Off will begin on September 8.

- Traditional Worship **8:45** a.m.
- Sunday School **9:45** a.m.
- Worship & Praise **10:45** a.m.

### Lost & Found:

***If you lost an earring with a stone in it,  
please contact the office!***



### 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!



***One Worship Service for the Summer***  
*One worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays for  
the summer months 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

# August 2019



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 6:45 am Men's Bible Study	2 7:00 pm MDP Practice	3 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30 – 8 pm MDP (S)
4 6:00 am MDP (SS) 8:30 – 11:00 am Gift Card Sales 9:30 am Worship ( <i>Communion</i> ) 10:45 am Church on the Move 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm MDP Church	5 6:00 pm TOPS 6:45 pm Lives Worth Living Group (offsite) 6:30 pm Building Team	6 5 – 8 pm National Night Out	7 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 5:15 pm Meal/Activities and... 6:30 pm Worship on the Bruentrup Farm (ORLC HOSTING)	8 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Kitchen Table Mystics (FR)	9 7:00 pm MDP Practice	10 6:00 am MDP Prayer (SS) 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30 – 8 pm MDP (S)
11 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Book Study ( <i>Leaving Your Mark without Losing Your Mind</i> ) 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm MDP Church	12 9:30 am Quilting (FH) 5:30-8 pm Vacation Bible School 6:00 pm TOPS	13 9:30 am Property Team 5:30-8 pm Vacation Bible School 7:00 pm Hope Circle	14 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 5:30-8 pm Vacation Bible School 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 5:15 pm Meal/Activities and... 6:30 pm Worship on the	15 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 5:30-8 pm Vacation Bible School 6:30 pm Knitting & Crochet Group (Caribou Coffee)	16 7:00 pm MDP Practice	17 9:00 am Savior Alliance 9 am – 3 pm Craft Day (FH) 12-2:30 p.m. Lunch at Pastor Chris' Farm 5:30 – 8 pm MDP (S)
18 9:30 am Worship ( <i>Communion</i> ) 10:45 am Book Study ( <i>Leaving Your Mark without Losing Your Mind</i> ) 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm MDP Church <b>BRING IN SCHOOL SUPPLIES!</b>	19 6:00 pm TOPS 6:45 pm Lives Worth Living Group (offsite)	20 5:30 pm Cong. Growth 7:00 pm Church Board	21 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 5:15 pm Meal/Activities and... 6:30 pm Worship on the Bruentrup Farm	22 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Young Adult Collab (Memory Lanes Bowling Alley)	23 7:00 pm MDP Practice	24 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30 – 8 pm MDP (S)
25 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Taco Lunch 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm MDP Church	26 12 – 5 pm Dorothy Day 9:30 am Quilting (FH) 6:00 pm TOPS	27	28 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 5:15 pm Meal/Activities and... 6:30 pm Worship on the	29 6:45 am Men's Bible Study	30 7:00 pm MDP Practice	31 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30 – 8 pm MDP (S)

**Our Redeemer Staff**

**Reverend Karsten Nelson**, Pastor  
651-772-2445 x102  
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**Sunday Summer Worship**  
**One Service @ 9:30 a.m.**  
**May 26—September 2**



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