



JULY 2019

“The Good Newsletter” of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



The Post-Test by Deacon Jennifer

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
— Acts 1:8*

In the past 6 weeks in worship, Pastor Karsten and I focused our preaching and teaching on faith sharing. Many of you participated in a pre- and post- test to measure how comfortable you are talking about your faith with your family, friends, coworkers, and strangers. If I was to sum up the results, most people are willing to talk about their faith with people at church and their families members. Very few feel comfortable talking to strangers and coworkers. That being said, I thought it would be good to focus on this a bit more, since one of our congregational goals for 2020 is to increase our faith conversations per person.

So what does a faith conversation look like? With a family member and a coworker, it might look very different. With my aunt, I talk about how God has guided me down a certain career path to intentional ministry. She talks about her blessings and how God has given each of her sons faithful women who desire to raise their kids in the Catholic faith. With my friend, I talk about the values and mentorship that my kids get in Sunday School. We also talk about how the church sometimes isn't welcoming to those who are different, but God's love is bigger and does not exclude.

Talking to strangers and coworkers about faith can be scary. I get it. Not everyone is an extrovert who can strike up a conversation with the person next in line at the grocery store. Others contend that they could be fired or reprimanded for bringing up faith in the workplace. Faith conversations are not about “witnessing” or converting people to Christianity. On the contrary, faith makes us better workers – in treating others with dignity and fairness, in making ethical business decisions, by not judging coworkers motives or behaviors, in choosing to act in love over proving a point.

This goes for strangers also. When we are standing in line waiting our turn at the bank, we can start a casual conversation with the person next to us. You don't need to air your dirty laundry, but share a personal detail – maybe you are getting money for graduation cards for your Goddaughter who you have prayed for every day since her baptism. You may be surprised how you can ease into talking about your faith once you've opened up the door for personal conversation. Give it a try this month when you are out running errands! Watch and listen as the Holy Spirit works through your life.

You will be blessed in the process!

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CHRIS BECKER

“Reflections”



I have only been serving Our Redeemer for three weeks while Pastor Karsten is on sabbatical, but I have been able to look back over these few weeks to make a few observations about this faith community.

First, you are very **active**. You are not just content with coming to worship on Sunday morning because you keep hearing Jesus call you out into the everyday world. You serve meals, make prayer shawls, care for those who could be easily isolated, study God’s word, empower the youth, commit yourself to go out into your neighborhood, open your doors to others who need a place to worship, worship on a farm hosted by 6 congregations, plan for a neighbors night out event, prepare to host the children of the community through your VBS, and encourage youth to be part of camp ministries and summer stretch.

Second, you are **generous**. Sharing your resources with others is seen in those areas listed above but it is also witnessed in a council report that says your financial giving is steady and faithful. But that is not the only way you are generous. I watch you on Sunday as you greet people. You take your time to make sure all are included in the conversation.

Third, you are **fun**. You take God seriously and the work which God has given you, but you are able not to take yourself so seriously. You can do this because you do not lose sight of the joy that God’s freedom of love gives to you. You can relate to each other recognizing both the strengths and the flaws you embody, and you allow the other person to do the same.

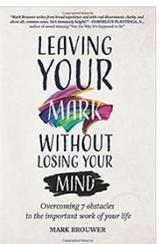
Finally, you are **community**. Our Redeemer is “home”, a “safe place”, a gathering of people that holds onto the traditions of the past and welcomes the changes important for the future of this community.

I look forward to serving you over the next two months until Pastor Karsten returns and to witness God working in and through you.

Peace,
Pastor Chris Becker

BOOK STUDY WITH PASTOR CHRIS: “LEAVING YOUR MARK WITHOUT LOSING YOUR MIND”

Starting Sunday, July 14, after the worship service, we will gather for a conversation around overcoming seven obstacles to the important work of your life. We will use the book by Mark Brouwer entitled “Leaving Your Mark Without Losing Your Mind,” which builds on the spiritual longing for significance. Some of the focus areas will be: 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.



Our journey together will open for us a rich way of seeing how God leads and guides us. One quote from the book (and there are many powerful quotes) is “To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don’t grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float.” Each session will include time for each of us to simply be quiet and let God speak to our spirit.

Come and swim in the water on **Sundays, July 14, 21, and 28** after worship. If you plan to join Pastor Chris, please contact the office or sign up on the form located at the Welcome Desk so we can have books available.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HELD JUNE 30

Our Semi-Annual Congregational meeting was well attended on Sunday, June 30. Board members Hilary Hinrichs and Dean Ersfeld, as well as ministry staff Pastor Chris and Deacon Jennifer presented mid-year budget, project, and ministry updates, in addition to videos sent by Pastor Karsten of our Kidewa partnership congregation in Tanzania.





A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" FROM DAILY WORK



Dear Members of ORLC,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250 to Daily Work. The 2019 Steps to Success Luncheon generated the revenue needed to start the job search and professional development process for nearly 50 low-income Minnesotans. Thanks be to God! Your support creates a powerful, multi-generational impact by providing communities of color, immigrants, and people with low incomes find the support they need to overcome barriers, gain new skills, and find work that provides a living wage and financial mobility.

At the luncheon, Dorcas shared her story: "At Daily Work, they helped me to build a good resume that showcased my professional experience and my volunteer experiences. They helped me think about what types of jobs I could get and what careers would make sense for me. But what really mattered to me, was that they answered all my questions and helped me understand the job search process."

Side note: The 2018 keynote speaker was our very own Baryogar Johnson. This year he hosted his own table of ORLC members! Thanks again for partnering with this local non-profit working to alleviate hunger through employment!



SUMMER "WORSHIP ON THE FARM" WEDNESDAYS

Volunteers Needed for ORLC Hosting Nights—July 17 and 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 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 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 can be found at: www.worshiponthefarm.org.

Volunteers! Our Redeemer is hosting on the evenings of **July 17** and **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 in the at our Welcome Desk.



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 worshipping our loving God other than in a church. "Worship on the Farm" was spotlighted in the *Star Tribune* on Sunday, June 30.



ROAR! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: AUGUST 12-15

This year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) will bring the kids through an epic African adventure engaging the whole herd. The dates are August 12—15, from 6-8 p.m. with dinner being served at 5:30 p.m. At Roar, we will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers us through this wild life. Registration is open now (ages 3-5th grade). Go to this website to register your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews: vbspro.events/p/orlcmn.



Volunteers are needed to assist with preschool crafts, games, supervising a small group of kids, and registration. You can use the link above to register as a volunteer!

Donations are needed to help make VBS a big success. Please consider donating any of these items: 20 pool noodles, pretzels, popcorn, animal crackers, large bags of Skittles candy, large bags of M&M's candy, 20 empty pop bottles, Ziplock baggies - quart and gallon, 2 large bags of Cheetos - Paws, Little Debby Zebra Snack cakes - (50), apple juice, lemonade. Please bring donations to Deacon Jennifer's office.

CHURCH ON THE MOVE—SUNDAY, JULY 21

Our next "Church on the Move" is planned for Sunday, July 21, immediately following worship! We will take a leisure walk around (or partially) Lake Phalen for some faith-sharing opportunities with our community.

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



A Breath of Hope Adult Forum - Sunday, July 14

Lung cancer is often avoidable. Lack of awareness and early detection are critical problem areas and contribute greatly to the 83 percent mortality rate of lung cancer. Nonsmokers and former smokers, in particular, often miss symptoms. This group makes up approximately half of the diagnoses each year. The stigma that surrounds lung cancer keeps the facts hidden from the general public leaving them uneducated about the world's deadliest cancer. Without awareness and preventative screening, lung cancer will continue to show an appalling 17.8% survival rate. On **Sunday, July 14**, Tricia from Breath of Hope will come and speak to us about lung cancer causes, deflection and prevention. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 a.m. for a brief adult forum on the topic.

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 gather each month and share a meal. All are welcome! Questions: jennifer@orlcmn.org Upcoming Gatherings:

July 25 – picnic (location TBD)

August 22 – cook dinner at Our Redeemer (1390 Larpenteur Ave E)

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

October 24 – local brewery (TBD)

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

OWLS—Lunch and Tour Event—July 10

Older Wiser Lutherans (OWLS) are planning an outing on Wednesday, July 10, for lunch at the *Bungalow Inn Restaurant* in Lakeland and then to a tour of the worker-focused manufacturing business in Hudson WI called *Plantables* that creates products which enhance the environment for bees and other pollinators. We will meet at the church and leave at about 10:45 a.m. returning at about 3 p.m. Check out the colorful poster and sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or call the office. There is no cost for the tour; however, everyone will be responsible for paying for their own lunch at the restaurant.



“S” Connections Ministry Events

The “S” Connection Ministry is an adult group from ORLC who focuses on Spirit-filled Social, Service and Study events. We have put together our calendar of events and have had a lot of fun already in 2019 socializing and serving! Please sign up or let us know if you would like to join us. We welcome anyone who has an interest! Below are the July and August events:

JULY 19—Pot Luck BBQ Picnic

When: Friday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m.

*Where: Doreen & Mark Winter's Home
224 E. Skillman Ave, Maplewood*

What: Bring dish to pass; Main grilled item provided; pool will be open.

AUGUST 9—Guys & Dolls (July 9 deadline)

When: Friday, August 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis)

What: Guys & Dolls - Center Balcony Tickets

Cost: \$32 (6 tickets remaining; sign up by July 9; payment due July 14. Stop at the Welcome Desk or contact Amy Krohn.

The rest of the year will be as follows so join us for some fun: September – Game Night, October – Fall Color Train Ride, November- Progressive Dinner, and December- Bentleyville Lights (Duluth). Look for online sign up's or sign up on the form at the church Welcome Desk.

Are you interested in helping plan an event? If so, let Amy Krohn know at @ 651-779-7945 or ajkrohn@hotmail.com. We look forward to you joining us! *The “S” Connection Ministry Team (Winter, Wong, Krohn, Ring/During, Rebhotz/Kuhn)*

Calling all crafters and people who want to try a new craft! ORLC—Stay Retreat

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. (A free-will donation will be welcomed!)



Summer Stretch is Underway

The Summer Stretch program is designed for youth entering 6th through 12th grade. Each Wednesday in June and July, we meet for service, learning, and fun. On June 19, we volunteered with the Metro Area Watershed District. We learned about the difference pollutant and how they affect our lakes and rivers. We talked about the creation story in the book of Genesis and how God made us stewards of all creation. We finished up the day visiting the aquarium at the Mall of America.

For more information about our project last week, go to this website:
<https://www.cleanwatermn.org/announcing-adopt-a-drain/>



Youth learning survival skills at boy scout base camp during Summer Stretch.

Dorothy Day SUCCESS! Next Date—August 26

A very special thank you to all of you who either contributed money or volunteered to prepare and/or serve food at the Dorothy Day Center on Monday, June 24. Over 235 people were given a meal thanks to Our Redeemer! [We also snuck in a five-minute cake celebration for Jane and Randy Koza's 41st Wedding Anniversary!] If you are interested in volunteering at our next serving opportunity, mark your calendar for **Monday, August 26!**

Mark Your Calendar for National Night Out—August 6

Our Redeemer is the place to be on the evening of **Tuesday, August 6!** This is an excellent opportunity to reach out to our neighborhood and also invite family and friends. More details to come!



HELP Wanted! Deferred salary...

....payment in warm feelings and a sense of fulfillment! Short hours! If you are interested in rewarding (a.k.a. "volunteering") work, the North St. Paul Food shelf is the place for you! They need help Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. and Thursday evenings 4-7 p.m. Jobs consist of shopping with clients, stocking, organizing donated food by types, taking phone appointments, greeting clients, taking in donations, and helping pick up Rescue Foods. If interested in joining some of the area churches and businesses in this rewarding work, please call Kathi Kirchoff. And also, she can set you up for a tour of this rewarding workplace!

ORLC Flower Garden Club—New Life

Thanks to our **Flower Garden Club**, we have a bright entrance to our church property! Take time to walk around the premises to get a closer look at the flowers, and also check out the growth of our garden plots in the back of the building.



Roca De Horeb Name Change & Invitation to Our Redeemer

- **Roca de Horeb (aka Rock of Horeb) is now Mensajes de Poder**
Roca de Horeb is now Mensajes de Poder, which means "Power Messages." It is a ministry where you can find biblical content based on the Word of God of Christian Council and biblical themes.
- **An Invitation to Our Redeemer and Savior Alliance Congregations—July 20**
We are invited to a ministry event on **Saturday, July 20**—they will be serving breakfast, lunch & dinner and sharing in ministry all day, with a special worship service in the evening. More details to come!

July 2019 - Worship Assistants and Readings

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Worship Hosts	Amy Krohn	Dennis Peterson	Rita During & Bruce Ring	Claire Sexton & Judy Moe
Gift Cards	Vicki Anderson			
Hospitality/ Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood Sandy & Larry Pruden	Jan & Dennis Peterson	Michelle Rebholz & Matt Kuhn	Jessica Morgan Doreen & Mark Winter
Lectors	Holly Forsberg	Kathi Kirchoff	Jane Koza	Darleen Klemm
Ushers (one service - not all needed)	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
Communion Servers	Judy Triplett Amy Krohn		Cliff Pearson Claire Sexton	
Weekly Readings	Romans 3:21-31 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Deuteronomy 5: 12-15 Matthew 11: 28-30	TBD	TBD

Finances - Month of May

2019 Beginning Balance	\$ 4,268
Member Giving	\$116,269
Supplemental Giving	<u>\$ 51,483</u>
Total	\$172,020
Expenses	(\$159,432)
Difference	<u>\$ 12,588</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 for further information.



**Mobile Users
Scan Here**



We have joined the HAP Farm-to-Table for this year's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. If you signed up, your order will be delivered to the church on Sundays at 10 a.m.



THRIVENT MEMBERS

Remember to check your account and direct Choice Dollars which have been added at the end of the Second Quarter, to Our Redeemer or another charity. Thanks!



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



July 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<p>6:00 pm TOPS</p> <p>6:45 pm Lives Worth Living Group (offsite)</p> <p>6:30 pm Building Team</p>	<p>9:30 am Bible Study (FR)</p> <p>5:30 pm <u>Canceled</u>: Loaves & Fishes</p> <p>5:15 pm Meal/Activities and...</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship on the Bruentrup Farm</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>7:00 pm MDP Practice</p>	<p>9:00 am Savior Alliance</p> <p>5:30 – 8 pm MDP (S)</p>	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p>6:00 am MDP (SS)</p> <p>8:30 – 11:00 am Gift Card Sales</p> <p>9:30 am Worship (Communion)</p> <p>1:00 pm Savior Alliance</p> <p>4:00 pm MDP Church</p>	<p>9:30 am Quilting (FH)</p> <p>6:00 pm TOPS</p>	<p>9:30 am Property Team</p> <p>7:00 pm Hope Circle</p>	<p>9:00 am Summer Stretch</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Study (FR)</p> <p>10:30 OWLS Tour</p> <p>5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes</p> <p>5:15 pm Meal/Activities and...</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship on the Bruentrup Farm</p>	<p>6:45 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:00 am Kitchen Table Mystics (FR)</p>	<p>6:00 am MDP Prayer (SS)</p> <p>9:00 am Savior Alliance</p> <p>5:30 – 8 pm MDP (S)</p>	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>9:30 am Worship</p> <p>10:45 am Book Study (Leaving Your Mark without Losing Your Mind)</p> <p>10:45 am Adult Forum (Lung Cancer)</p> <p>1:00 pm Savior Alliance</p> <p>4:00 pm MDP Church</p>	<p>6:00 pm TOPS</p> <p>6:45 pm Lives Worth Living Group (offsite)</p>	<p>2:30 pm Worship Planning</p> <p>3:15 pm Spiritual Growth</p> <p>5:30 pm Cong. Growth</p> <p>7:00 pm Church Board</p>	<p>9:00 am Summer Stretch</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Study (FR)</p> <p>5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes</p> <p>5:15 pm Meal/Activities and...</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship on the Bruentrup Farm (ORLC HOSTING)</p>	<p>6:45 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 pm Knitting & Crochet Group (Caribou Coffee)</p>	<p>All Day MDP Worship Event</p> <p>Food, Music, Worship</p> <p>EVERYONE INVITED!</p>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>9:30 am Worship (Communion)</p> <p>10:30 am Church on the Move</p> <p>10:45 am Book Study (Leaving Your Mark without Losing Your Mind)</p> <p>1:00 pm Savior Alliance</p> <p>4:00 pm MDP Church</p>	<p>9:30 am Quilting (FH)</p> <p>6:00 pm TOPS</p>	<p>9:00 am Summer Stretch</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Study (FR)</p> <p>5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes</p> <p>5:15 pm Meal/Activities and...</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship on the Bruentrup Farm</p>	<p>6:45 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 pm Young Adult Picnic</p>	<p>9:00 am Savior Alliance</p> <p>5:30 – 8 pm MDP (S)</p>		
28	29	30	31	<p>Abbreviation Key: MDP= Mensajes de Poder F= Fellowship Hall FR= Fireside Room S= Sanctuary SS= Sunday School Room Com= Communion</p>		

Our Redeemer Staff

Reverend Karsten Nelson, Pastor
651-772-2445 x102
Email: karsten@orlcmn.org
*(On sabbatical returning August 21; Please contact
Pastor Chris or Deacon Jennifer in his absence.)*

Reverend Chris Becker, Pastor
651-552-8224
Email: beck1230@comcast.net

Deacon Jennifer Schneider, Associate Minister
651-772-2445 x 103
Email: jennifer@orlcmn.org

Curt Morales, Music Director
Email: curt@orlcmn.org

Amy Lindquist, Worship Leader
Email: office@orlcmn.org

Sally Kupferschmidt, Office Administrator
651-772-2445 x101
Email: office@orlcmn.org

Lisa Diez, Finance Administrator
651-772-2445 x101
Email: lisa@orlcmn.org

Dave Parenteau, Custodian
Jim Vansell, Custodian

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

1390 Larpenteur Avenue East,
St. Paul, MN 55109

Phone: 651-772-2445 Fax: 651-771-4548

Web: www.orlcmn.org
Email: office@orlcmn.org

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

