



October 2019

“The Good Newsletter” of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Karsten — “The Value of the Church”



I went to a gold store some time back and brought in some pieces from my mother’s collection that was left after her death. After some visits with the family, there were a number of items that nobody really thought they would use, and the decision was made to bring them to a gold shop to see what they were worth. Coming from my mother, they held a sentimental value, but I also thought they held a financial value that would be shared with my brothers and sisters. I was surprised to find out that what they would offer me for these items was a pittance to what value they actually held. I left having sold only one item, keeping the rest to give to family as sentimental keepsakes.

For some today, the church is an institution with great value – it is where they hear God’s word for their life; it is the center of mission to reach out and care for the world; it is a place of rooted community and care for each other; and it is the center of one’s life with God. This is a true and accurate view of the church for many – they value it highly.

But for others, the value of the church is much less. Many don’t see it as an important conduit for their relationship with God. Many distrust it as a place of good stewardship to care for the community or world. Many experience it as a place where they might feel just as much rejection or isolation as they do acceptance or community. And many will simply see it as a place for helpful instruction for children but not as a place to encounter the grace, call, and mission of God for their own lives. For many, the church holds little value.

My hope is that those who are here as members or connected with the life and ministry of Our Redeemer, find it to be a place of value—value as to what it does to help form and shape our good relationship with God and with our neighbors (near and far, known and unknown). I trust that the people at Our Redeemer find this to be a place to encounter God, recall God’s good work for us, and hear the invitation to be partners in the care of all of creation. We value the church enough to engage in it’s work, explore more ways for us to be effective and faithful, and commit our time, talents, and treasures to help sustain the life and mission of Our Redeemer.

When we come across others who may not value the church in the same ways we do, it would be a good time to find out why they may not value the church, to listen to their stories about how the church had or had not been important to them, and to talk to them about your own reasons why you value the church. Even invite them to come join you at your church.

The church is not a perfect place by any means, but it has deep value and can continue to be valuable for us and for others. That is the hope and prayer and work as God’s people in every church, and for us here at Our Redeemer.

Pastor Karsten



A Message from Deacon Jennifer Schneider—"I got my third-grade Bible! Now what?"

Every year, in congregations across the United States, third-graders line up at the altar rail to receive their Bibles. Names are inscribed inside. The books smell of fresh ink and have that delicious creak when the children open them. Then what? Too often, the children go home, and the Bibles go up on the shelf to collect dust until Confirmation. Here are a few ideas we as a congregation might do to plant seeds of faith at this milestone and prevent these treasured Words of God from becoming dust collectors.

1. Tell the story of your Bible. Perhaps you have a special memory of receiving your first Bible. Let the young people in your life understand the important role your Bible plays in your life. Let them see you carry it, mark it and write in it.
2. Practice using the Bible together. Explain what the citation John 3:16 means and how to search first for the book, then the chapter and then the verse. Make a game out of it. Gather your family around a table with their Bibles. Put 10 spoons in the middle. Race to see who can find a particular book and the chapter and verse first. The first person done grabs a spoon. After 10 rounds, the person with the most spoons is the winner.
3. Play memory games with the kids in your life to learn the books of the Bible. Start with the New Testament. Make an index card for each New Testament book. If the children like art, let them decorate the cards. Then scramble the cards and work together to put the cards in order.
4. Read beloved stories together. Most children's Bibles have indexes of well-known stories and parables. Show them how to use this index to choose a different story each Sunday. Take turns reading the Scripture with them. Although you may need to help them with some words, third-graders often love to be asked to read.
5. Make art part of the Bible experience. Encourage them to draw or paint the story they have heard or read. Make sure you write the Bible verse that corresponds to the drawing.
6. Invite children to highlight Scripture or passages. The most precious Bibles are those that are used. Encourage students to highlight verses or stories they read in their Bibles. Let them write notes or questions in the margins. These markings will not deface the children's Bibles. Rather, they will stand as precious reminders of their childhood thoughts as they age.

Third-grade minds are like sponges - open to new words and ideas. What a perfect time for the Bible to come into their lives. With your help, that new Bible will make an imprint on their hearts - rather than their bookshelves.

Peace in Christ. Deacon Jennifer

Note: Deacon Jennifer will be giving a bible presentation at the 10:45 worship service on Sunday, October 13.

God's Work. Our Hands. Thank You!



The "God's Work. Our Hands." food and hygiene drive was a success! On September 15, we gathered at First Lutheran Church to eat, enjoy fellowship with other participating churches and weighed our donations. Our Redeemer's portion of food and hygiene collections totaled 363 pounds!! Thank you to all who made this a possibility. So many of our community families were on the receiving end since all of the items were distributed to various local East Side charities.



Do you have an interest to join Team 2020 TANZANIA? Time is running out!



Final plans are being set for the trip to Tanzania taking place June 2020. We are joining with three other congregations for shared travel to this beautiful part of the world to engage with our partner churches, experience what the place and people have to offer, and understand more about the great work being done in this area. A trip meeting for those planning to go is happening **Sunday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in North St. Paul. See Pastor Karsten for more information or details.

Pastor Karsten meeting with the "Tanzania Cluster."

Adult Forum—October 13: Creating a Safe Place for Children & Youth in our Churches

Come to hear how each one of us can make a difference to protect children and youth from sexual exploitation and abuse. On Sunday, **October 13**, in between services at 9:45 a.m., we will hear from Joy McElroy, Executive Director of *Cherish All Children*, a ministry with a vision to raise generations free from exploitation. We will learn about how churches can be a safe space, and resources for not only creating a Child Safety Policy, but also the importance of creating a culture throughout the congregation where all have a role to play in keeping young people safe and healthy. This includes within our walls, outside in our communities, and in our online interactions. Each one of us – parents, grandparents, and all adults – can help in keeping children and youth safe in our communities. We hope you will join us.

Confirmation Sunday—October 27

Confirmation Sunday will take place this year again on Reformation Sunday (**October 27**) at the **10:45 a.m.** service. Please keep **Natalie Barrett** and **Natalie Forsberg** in your prayers as they work and prepare for that good day. We hope you join us at that service for this special worship honoring their confirmation.

We are serving at Dorothy Day - Monday, October 28

Please consider volunteering on Monday, October 28 at the Dorothy Day center. We need 6 volunteers to prepare the meal and 14 volunteers to serve the meal. Preparers are welcome to meet at ORLC to carpool at 12:30 p.m. or arrive at the Catholic Charities Distribution Center located at 341 Chester Street in St. Paul, at 1:00 p.m. Servers can carpool from ORLC at 3:00 p.m. or meet at Mary Hall, 438 Dorothy Day Place (formerly Main Street) in St. Paul at 3:30 pm. Sign-up forms and maps are located at the Welcome Desk. Families and friends are welcome and no experience is needed! This is a **Thrivent Action Team** event, and we sincerely thank everyone who can help us!

Project Home—We are opening our doors!

Our Redeemer is opening its doors again to provide emergency shelter and volunteer support for homeless families during the month of **November**. *Project Home* is hosted at two faith communities each month hosting up to 20 people while they await more permanent placement. The need is real and opening our doors is deeply appreciated! The families stay from 6pm-6am every day before going to work, school, or a day program. **We need volunteers!** Sign-ups will be out in mid-October. We encourage volunteers to live their faith by serving as Evening and Overnight Hosts, providing hospitality to families in need!

- *Evening Shift (5:30-8:30pm): Greeting, provide healthy snack, play/read with children, homework help, converse with adults*
- *Overnight Shift (8pm-7:30am weekdays, 8pm-9:30am on weekends): Play/read with children, homework help, converse with adults, wake families in the morning, serve breakfast*

In the meantime, you can learn more by visiting Project Home: <https://interfaithaction.org/programs/projecthome/>

Calling ALL Crafters and ANYONE Wanting to Learn a New Craft!—Crafting Stay Retreat

We are excited to announce that we are having another two-day Crafting Stay Retreat at Our Redeemer! The dates are **Friday, November 8**, 5:00 p.m.-midnight and **Saturday, November 9**, 9:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m. (later hours TBD). It's FREE, however free-will donations are always accepted. Bring with you any type of craft, and a snack to share if you would like. (You are on your own for meals and beverages.) We hope you can join us for fun and relaxation! Please contact Amy Krohn at 651-779-7945, or ajkrohn@hotmail.com with questions.

Not a crafter? Or want to try a new craft? Our "Make & Takes" are for anyone. They will take place on Saturday afternoon 1:00-3:00 pm. Registration is required for each item so we can assure we have enough supplies available. (All are free unless noted.)

- ① Fall Card ② Snowman or Elf Candy Jar ③ Post-It™ Note Stamping...and more TBD

Below are scenes from September's Crafting Stay Retreat:



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 generally meet on the fourth Thursday of every month at various locations to eat*, talk, serve, and build community. The next event is on **Thursday, October 24 at 6:00 p.m.** at Bad Weather Brewing Company. Upcoming Gatherings: brunch on November 23 and December 28 at 11:00 am. (*We cover your food, you buy your refreshments!) All are welcome! Facebook: @youngadultcollaboration. Questions: jennifer@orlcmn.org.

North St. Paul Food Shelf Volunteer Opportunities and Perhaps a Tour!

There are still plenty of volunteering opportunities available at the North St. Paul Food Shelf. They could use people once a week to help date, sort, organize Rescue Foods before client appointments. For example, they could use people who are available, willing and able to pick up food from Rescue Food locations in the mornings from 8 to 10 a.m. The need is great to be able to work toward removing hunger as it continues to grow. A few hours every week goes a long way, and the rewards are awesome when you see those recipients blessing you, praising God for you, and crying out in thanks! Please consider helping out by contacting Kathi Kirchoff at kathik717@hotmail.com or at 651-770-3514. Also, Kathi would love to set up a tour of their operations for anyone!

Volunteer at Second Harvest Heartland as part of ORLCs Kingdom Assignment Ministry

Come join Kingdom Assignment Ministry Team at Second Harvest Heartland on **Tuesday, October 15, 5:30—7:30 p.m.**! Amy Krohn says, "Our teams have so much fun together while serving the people of our community. Last month, we worked so hard that we finished eight pallets of food in half the time to fill Second Harvest's quota of pallets! If we could have worked the full time, we would have been on track to exceed our record-breaking 16 pallets. Awesome way to work together team! Thank you! We have more fun times planned ahead so mark your calendars now for Tuesday, November 12, and heading into 2020: January 7, February 4, March 3. Remember to bring family and friends, but sign them up with us!"

12th Annual Craft, Fine Arts, & Bake Sale—October 26

Our Redeemer's 12th Annual Craft, Fine Arts, & Bake Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, October 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** If you are interested in selling your artful items or baked goods, please contact Claire Sexton at 651-336-2975. Your family and friends are also welcome to participate. The cost is \$20 per 8-ft space, \$30 per 8-ft space with a rectangle table, or \$25 for a space of a 5' round table. Additional \$2 cost if need to be near an outlet. This is a VERY popular sale with many followers, so reserve your space soon!

The "Lake Phalen Butt Man" Belongs to Us!

And we are proud! On September 26, *Kare11* news featured our very own **Roger Svendsen** on his mission to pick up cigarette butts around Lake Phalen. He has saved from our earth over half a million cigarette butts in the past ten years! Check out their story at: www.kare11.com/video/news/local/land-of-10000-stories/lake-phalens-butt-man-is-on-a-mission.



All-Church Picnic Pics & Many Thanks!

A special thanks to Michelle, Matt, Everett and Avey (Rebholz/Kuhn family) and Judy Koza, as well as many others who were instrumental in the food and fun-filled All-Church Picnic on September 29!



It's your **V**ictorious day! We have **V**ery good news for you!

(We are going to give you **V**ery important information without using the sometimes other scary **V**-word.) Many of us want to be good stewards of our gifts and time by serving, but don't know how to find the right fit or to connect with the right people and programs. More good news! Here are some ideas in our church and surrounding community:



- **Offering Counter**—Be a counter of offerings just once a month. Usually involves a week night for about 90 minutes. No finance background needed. Interested? Contact Lisa at lisa@orlcmn.org for information.
- **Sunday School Helper**—If you have an interest in helping our younger congregation, how about simply one hour per month? No experience needed—we will guide you in guiding our young ones.
- **Loaves & Fishes preparer and/or server**—Wednesday evenings from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Can't commit to every Wednesday? How about once or twice a month? If interested, contact Doreen Winter at doreen55@comcast.net or 651-775-3425.
- **Second Harvest Heartland Packer Fun**—Well, not to be confused with a Wisconsin Packer Fan, but you will have so much fun, you will jump at every opportunity to participate—almost every month on a Tuesday for only two hours 5:30—7:30 p.m. Contact Amy Krohn at 651-779-7945, or at ajkrohn@hotmail.com
- **North St. Paul Food Shelf almost any job!** They are always in need of helpers 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 at kathik717@hotmail.com or at 651-770-3514.
- **Help Youth with Disabilities to Swim**—If you love swimming and would be interested in helping youth with disabilities learn to swim at John Glenn Middle School, visit their website at www.isd622.org/swim, or call 651-748-7436. See poster on our bulletin board.
- **Hospice Care Helpers**—There are opportunities to sit with a patient, read, go for walks, or whatever your interest might be. Please contact Lisa Diez at 651-808-4226 or at diezlisagmail.com for more opportunities.
- **Got Musical Talents?**—Don't be shy! It might just be your "American Idol" opportunity in a small way! If you or any family members like to sing or play an instrument, contact Amy Lindquist or Curt Morales.
- **Project Home Evening or Overnight Host**—During the month of November, we will be participating once again in Project Home of St. Paul. There will be two shifts you can help with. See article in this newsletter, and contact Project Home or our church office. A sign-up chart will be posted in the narthex soon.
- **Dorothy Day Preparer or Server**—If you enjoy preparing food, or simply dishing up food for grateful individuals, please contact Joan or Dennis Paulson, or watch the bulletins for our bimonthly opportunities. Carpooling from church is always available. See article in this newsletter for the next opportunity, October 28.

Mission accomplished! Made it through without mentioning the **VOLUNTEER word!**

Stewardship 2020—We need to get you important information and get your input!

Look for a mid-October mailing with information about plans for our Good Stewardship Drive in November. We are requesting that everyone come to one of three stewardship sessions. These 75-minute gatherings will have time for some food and guided table talk, presentations about life and ministry at Our Redeemer, and more specific sharing around your stewardship plans for 2020. The three sessions will be: morning of Sunday, **November 3**; evening of Wednesday, **November 6**, and afternoon of Sunday, **November 10**.

Book Study: *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*

Join us for a book study discussing race, class, power, and privilege. *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* is a 2014 non-fiction book written by Debby Irving. Copies of the book are available to purchase at a subsidized rate of \$10 from Deacon Jennifer. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or email jennifer@orlcmn.org. Meeting dates are Wednesdays from **5:45-7:00pm: Oct 9, 16, 23 & 30**.



Exploring More Options for our Contemporary Service

If you have interest in exploring more options for our contemporary, Worship & Praise service, please join the initial conversation to be held **Sunday, October 6**, at **11:45 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. It will be led by lay congregation folks who are devoted to this service and very interested in hearing everyone's input about ideas, concerns, and future hopes around the service. We will discuss what we like and what we may see as a way to make this service even more meaningful and a great worship experience for all. (If you can't attend, but wish to provide input, place your suggestions in a sealed envelope addressed to "Contemporary Service Conversation" or "CSC" and place in the box located on the reception desk, or mail it to the church office.)

"S" Connections Ministry—Progressive Dinner in November

The "**S**" Connections Ministry is an adult group focusing on **S**pirit-filled **S**ocial, **S**ervice and **S**tudy events. They have put together various fun social and serving events already in 2019 and are planning more! Everyone is welcome! Their November event is a Progressive Dinner on **Saturday, November 23**, beginning at 5:00 p.m. If you want to join in on the fun evening, sign up on the form at the Welcome Desk.

Where: Wong's, Krohn's, Reholz/Kuhn's, Nelson's **What:** Appetizers, Salad, Dinner, Dessert

October 2019 - Worship Assistants and Readings

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Worship Hosts	Claire Sexton & Judy Moe	Sharon & Dick Peterson	Dennis Peterson	Rita During & Bruce Ring
Gift Cards	Sharon Peterson			
Hospitality/ Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood Sandy & Larry Pruden	Jan & Dennis Peterson	Michelle Rebholz & Matt Kuhn	Jessica Morgan, Doreen & Mark Winter
Lectors	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Carol Rodriguez <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Kathi Kirchoff	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Amy Krohn <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Hilary Hinrichs	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Dianne Derks <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Holly Forsberg	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Lana Larsen <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Cherie Kilbride
Ushers	<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>8:45 a.m.</i> Mike Kahrau Larry Pruden Sandy Pruden <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Mark Winter Doreen Winter
Communion Servers	<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	
Weekly Readings	Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9 "Hear O Israel"	Ruth 1:1-17 "Ruth"	2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150 "David Anointed King"	1 King 12:1-17, 25-29 "Kingdom Divided"

Finances through the month of August:

2019 Beginning Balance	\$ 4,268
Member Giving	\$176,353
Supplemental Giving	\$ 78,727
Total	\$259,348

Expenses	\$264,668
Difference	(\$5,320)

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**

REMINDER FOR THRIVENT MEMBERS:

Thrivent *Choice Dollars* are again awaiting your direction. Please direct this free money to ORLC or a charity of your choice. Thank you, and "Thank you, Thrivent!"

Hunger Box Update

Judy Moe is pleased to report that \$107.90 was deposited in September from our penny jars & Hunger Boxes which brings our 2019 total to \$327.30. This money supports the ELCA World Hunger Fund. Thanks to all who continue to

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!

WHAT AWESOME GARDENERS WE HAVE!

Our backyard garden produced 247 pounds, all of which were donated to charity! (And a special THANKS to **Mike Kahrau** for all his dedicated work to help make this happen on behalf of ORLC!)

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Sunday Services and School

- Traditional Worship **8:45** AM
- Sunday School **9:45** AM
- Worship & Praise **10:45** AM

Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY



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