



November 2019

“The Good Newsletter” of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Karsten — “The Poor at our Door”



We read/see so many stories across the world of tragedies, wars, or impact of severe weather which are certainly devastating and require attention and care and prayer. But allow me a brief space here to talk more about the poor at our door – and I literally mean those who are coming in to receive important help right here at Our Redeemer.

Right now one in five families in the seven county metro area of the Twin Cities lives below the poverty line – that amount for a family of four would be \$24,000. Recent demographic survey revealed that about 15 percent of children under 18 in MN live in poverty and about 12 percent of all people – and there has been a steady rise in these percentages for the last ten years. Another number that is telling is that in the two elementary schools which are two and six blocks away have between 85-95 percent kids on a free and reduced lunch program.

So when we open our doors on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30pm and offer a free meal to anyone who wants to stop in, we are addressing a need by providing good meals every week. We continue to have roughly 30-35 people every week. We get this food donated by Loaves and Fishes who in turn receives most of its food donations from companies that have extra food from events and meals. We are one of 31 sites they run over the Twin Cities to re-serve this food for one more meal before it must be thrown away. Please know we are doing good work this way for the poor at our door. Consider joining us by eating together and engaging with our visitors. Or consider volunteering to help deliver, cook, or serve the meal. Stop in and talk to any of the other volunteers to get started or sign up on the Welcome desk.

Right now in Ramsey County there are 40 more families on a waiting list to get into this temporary program before eventually finding a place they can move into and call it home. Before they get started with Project Home they might be staying in cars or crashing at friends' houses.

In November we are opening our church again to house homeless families. Project Home will be here for the fifth year. This is a program run by Interfaith Action of St Paul and utilizes two churches each month to house families who are facing homelessness. These families, of 2- 5 people, have children who are sometimes months old or up to 18 years. Four to six families arrive here about 6pm each night by a special bus, and will stay on mattresses set up in our Sunday School rooms. They get a light meal, play games, do school work and hang out. They get picked up about 6am and go to a day center in downtown St Paul before dispersing to jobs, school, day care or training programs. This is another chance to come volunteer with a great program. You can assist by helping with the early evening shift from 5:30-8:30, or spending overnights. Sign up on the poster at church or by this link: <https://tinyurl.com/PHNov2019>

The poor are right at our door and we can be proud of the way Our Redeemer is opening our doors.



A Message from Deacon Jennifer Schneider—"It's Mine"

Not too many years ago, I frequently heard the phrase, "It's mine!" shrieked throughout the house as a beloved toy or stuffed animal was whisked away in someone else's grip. From a very young age we are possessive of the things around us. First it is toys, but soon it becomes electronic devices, relationships, money, etc. If not nipped in the bud by an attentive parent, children quickly grow into selfish, self-centered adults.

"When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things," 2 Corinthians 13:11 NLT. One of those childish things is a selfish attitude. As we mature, we learn that not everything is ours, and not only that, but all belongs to God. And while all things belong to God - the earth, animals, people, houses, cars, etc - God wants us to take care of it.

God gives us, His beloved children, an amazing opportunity to care for all that God has created. Another word we can use for that "caring" is stewardship. God calls us to be good stewards of creation - using resources wisely and not wastefully. God calls us to be good stewards of people - loving and treating all people with equality and justice. God calls us to be good stewards with our time - sharing our time with others and extending a listening ear when someone needs to talk.

Discussions at the dinner table are a great way to work on our attitudes and practices of stewardship and caring for all God has entrusted to us. Here are some ideas:

1. *Talk with family or a close friend about how you might volunteer together to serve dinner at Loaves and Fishes or sign up to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children.*
2. *Encourage your children or grandchildren to prepare and share a snack with a friend or classmate.*
3. *Share a Bible stories or passage that inspires you to live generously. (Here are a few ideas to get you started: Leviticus 25:35-37, Psalm 41:1-3, Proverbs 11:24-25, Matthew 6:19-21)*

Talk about the talents and treasures you have. Discuss how you can regularly put them to work in church - praying for the ministries of ORLC, lecturing or ushering, teaching Sunday School, and making regular financial gifts to further God's mission through ORLC.

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving and spend a few weeks talking about stewardship. But thanks be to God that we are blessed all-the-year through with tender mercies and abundance. Make stewardship part of your daily vocabulary and lifestyle. You will be blessed in the process. Thanks be to God!

In Christ Jesus who gave the ultimate gift, Deacon Jennifer

Thanks and Farewell to Dave Parenteau

Dave has worked at Our Redeemer as our custodian for the past 12 years and retired October 31. He has been faithfully cleaning the place every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, as well as helping keep the boilers and mechanical parts of the facility in good order. Add to that the work of setting up and taking down in the Fellowship Hall and other places for special events—he has quietly gone about this "behind the scenes" work for thousands of hours. There is no telling how much toilet paper he has loaded, how many square feet he vacuumed, the number of times his hands touched every chair and every table in this place, how many garbage cans he emptied and the pounds he put into our dumpster. He has replaced fan belts, restored broken equipment, built things for us, organized a church manual, cared for the boilers, and done lots more. Dave has been a steady force in keeping this place clean and functioning, and we owe him our special thanks. There was a 'thank you Dave' party on Monday, October 28 with many of the folks he has worked with over the years. He will continue to join the monthly men's group as a volunteer to help tend to miscellaneous projects. In the short-term Jim Vansell will take over these hours as he has been working here for the past 10 months and knows much of this work. Longer range plans for next year will be decided in the months ahead.



November is the Stewardship Season at Our Redeemer

At the backdrop to our stewardship drive this year we are asking all adult members of Our Redeemer to come to one of the three *Stewardship 2020 Gatherings*. These 75-minute sessions will help us connect with one another, review some of our financial and engagement news from this past year, and look ahead to our mission and ministry in 2020 that requires and requests your good stewardship of finances and your talents. These three meetings are Sunday morning **November 3** from 9:45-11:00, Wednesday night **November 6** from 5:45-7:00, and Sunday afternoon **November 10** from 3:30- 4:45. Sign up to help us prepare for sufficient materials (and treats!) by contacting the office or adding your name at the Welcome Desk.

Project Home Here During Month of November—Great Volunteer Opportunities!

Project Home gets started at Our Redeemer for the 5th year. Beginning on November 1, we will make physical changes in our Sunday School wing in order to house 4-5 homeless families during the month. They will make our church their home from 6pm-6am every day. Besides opening up our rooms, we are asking for members to come and provide the necessary care to make this program a success. ***We need volunteers! Training is available Sunday, November 3, in between services at about 9:45 a.m.***

To sign up either call the church or fill out the following form: <https://tinyurl.com/PHNov2019>

- **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



For more information, visit Project Home: <https://interfaithaction.org/programs/projecthome/>. Or contact Katie Nelson who is serving as our direct contact with Project Home staff. Email her at: happykatie@comcast.net.

If you can't volunteer your time but would like to support this program, you can donate supplies (pajamas, toiletries, games, books, snacks, etc.) or financially: <https://interfaithaction.org/donate/>

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

We are excited to announce that we are planning another Craft Stay Retreat at Our Redeemer on Friday, **November 8**, from 5pm to midnight and Saturday, **November 9**, from 9am to 6pm (later hours TBD). Bring any craft you wish to work on and have fun and relax. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. Meals and beverages are on your own. If not a crafter, "Make & Take's" will also be available Saturday 1-3 p.m. to create: Fall Card, Snowman Candy jar, Post-it™ Note Stamping, Knitted Dish Cloth, Wire Christmas Ornament. Sign up at the Welcome desk or contact Amy Krohn. It's all free, however, free-will donations are always welcomed.

Remembering our Veterans!

Veterans Day is Monday, **November 11**—let's remember those who served! [How do our military holidays differ? Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day, celebrated in May, honors those who have died while in military service. Armed Forces Day is a remembrance that also occurs in May, which honors those currently serving in the U.S. military.]



Second Harvest Heartland Volunteers—Join ORLCs Kingdom Assignment Ministry

Come join our FUN team at Second Harvest Heartland on Tuesday, **November 12**, 5:30—7:30 p.m.! We will have 15 spots to fill—bring your family and friends, but remember to sign them up at the Welcome desk, or contact Amy Krohn. This is an awesome and rewarding experience—you are a part of putting an end to hunger!

Native American Spirituality and Culture

A group called "Just People" is a social justice coalition of Our Redeemer and Presentation of Mary Catholic Church, and the coalition is pleased to present an evening of "Native American Spirituality and Culture" on Thursday, **November 14**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. here in our Sanctuary. The talk is presented by Lawrence T. Martin, Ph.D. (Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe), Professor Emeritus of American Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Informative, insightful and spiritual, sharing how his Catholic Faith is enhanced through the traditions of his Native American heritage, their plight in today's society and also history of two tribes that inhabited Minnesota, the Anishinaabe (Ojibway) and the Dakota. Q's? Contact Joan Paulson at 651-777-0490.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship—and call for Desserts!

On Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, **November 27**, at 7:00 p.m., Our Redeemer will once again play host to this wonderful night of being together with other area churches. Join us for a night focused on "Expressions of Thankfulness" as we welcome Hope Lutheran, Good Samaritan Lutheran, Grace Lutheran, Progressive Baptist, and St. Pascal's Catholic communities. This is always a very good shared service with many of our Christian neighbors. Please sign up at the Welcome desk if you can bring a dessert to share!



"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.

When: Saturday, November 23, 5:00 p.m. **Where:** Wong's, Krohn's, Rebholz/Kuhn's, Nelson's **What:** Appetizers, Salad, Dinner, Dessert

Young Adult Collaboration (YAC)

YAC is a group of 20s/30s who are looking to do life and faith in a new, fresh, and meaningful way. We meet once a month at various locations to eat, talk, serve, and build community. Our next gathering is Saturday, **November 23**, at 11 a.m. for brunch at Pizza Luce, 1183 Selby Avenue in St. Paul. Check us out on Facebook: [@youngadultcollaboration](https://www.facebook.com/youngadultcollaboration). We'll cover your meal; you buy your beverage. Questions: jennifer@orlcmn.org.

Buy Gift Cards for EASY Holiday Shopping! “Bucks for Our Building”

Shopping can't get any easier than this for that hard-to-buy person on your list! Cards will be sold on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month during November and December. Stop by the gift card table to purchase cards that we have on hand or special order others from a list of hundreds of retailers. Special orders must be placed and paid for by December 1 to be received in time for Christmas. This year, we will not order any additional cards that we normally have on hand. Remember that the “Bucks for Our Building” program receives a percentage of the card value for each card that you buy. The more you buy, the more we earn!



December Happenings in the Works:

- **Bentleyville One-Day Trip** Have you ever experienced the wonder of over a million lights over the waters of Lake Superior? The fun of walking thru the metamorphized Aquarium parking lots in Duluth. This is something to see and we plan on going **December 4** by coach bus going Up North with friends with a treat of coffee and goodie on the bus before stopping at Black bear Casino for lunch, then heading for the Carousel at the top of the Radisson Hotel for an included Walleye or Chicken dinner as we overlook the amazing flickering lights. The bus will drop us off to stroll thru the event and perhaps cook a marshmallow or grab some cocoa. Then we head back home relaxed, warm and happy in a comfy bus. Register ASAP for tickets at \$88 per person. Tell your friends. Deadline is November 18. Contact Kathi Kirchoff at kathik717@hotmail.com or at 651-770-3514.
- **OWLS – Day Trip to Captain Ken’s Foods**—The Our Redeemer OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS) are planning a trip to tour Captain Ken’s Foods in St. Paul during the first week of December (date/time not yet determined). At the end of November, a sign-up sheet will be at the Welcome desk.
- **Bakers Needed**—Our Annual Cookie Shoppe is fast approaching: Saturday, **December 7**. Bakers and candy makers are needed to stock our cookie sale that supports children and youth camperships. Please bring donations to the church by Noon on Friday, December 6. Questions? Contact Holly Forsberg.
- **Christmas Concert at ORLC**—On Thursday, **December 12**, at 7:00pm, in the Sanctuary, please come and enjoy a free brass concert with all your favorite Christmas tunes. For more information, see the poster on the bulletin board or contact Deacon Jennifer. Cookies will be served after the concert.
- **Dorothy Day Preparing and Serving**—On Monday, **December 23**—see article below.

Dorothy Day Update—Goodbye Mary Hall, Hello Richard M. Schultze Family Foundation St. Paul Opportunity Center!! Monday, October 28, 14 ORLC, 2 St Thomas Catholic Church and 2 Presentation members prepared and served a delicious meal to 244 people who are experiencing homelessness and poverty. The ORLC Hunger team wants to thank *Thrivent Financial* for a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant that helped cover part of the meal cost. Thank You *Thrivent* for being involved in our communities and Thank You *Thrivent* members for making the grant possible. The experience is a gift to us as we serve people who have so little but are so thankful for the food we provide. We are humbled as we receive “Thank You” and “God Bless You” many times as we serve the meal. ORLC served the very last meal served in the old Mary Hall facility and beginning October 29 the new **Richard M. Schultze Family Foundation St. Paul Opportunity Center** opened and can serve up to 350 people in one sitting. ORLC will be preparing and serving in the new building on **December 23**. Please plan on joining us.

We couldn't do this ministry without the great people that volunteer time and again to prepare and serve the meal. Words can't thank them enough! Also, thank you to everyone who applies for a *Thrivent Grant* or donates to the noisy offering to help fund this important program. New volunteers are welcome and no experience required. Hope to see you **December 23**. Thank you!

North St. Paul Food Shelf

A note from Kathi Kirchoff: *I thank God for the volunteers we have for the North St Paul Food Shelf as we serve many clients that can't get food at some of the short hour agencies or lottery lines. We still need helpers 2-3 hrs in the mornings to grade and stock our rescue foods. We need help 4 days a week as we look to expand into another evening to help the working poor, students, families that need rides from others, seniors that depend on children who work day hours. The need is there along with the fact that this food shelf exists thru donations, not government doling. Also needed are people every couple months to walk along with clients as they choose their food. Come for a tour and see what your help can help toward combating hunger.* 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!

Congratulations to our recent Confirmands!

On Sunday, October 27, Our Redeemer honored its two recent confirmands, **Natalie Barrett** and **Natalie Forsberg**.



Quilting News

We are coming to the end of our quilting season but before we begin our winter hiatus, we want to offer our grateful thanks for the generous donated gifts of fabric, thread, yarn, and sheets. We appreciate the generosity of ORLC! Some quilt recipients have been recent graduates, baptisms, Alley Shoppe 109, National Night Out and Worship on the Farm. There is still time to check us out at this year's last meeting before our winter break, on **November 11** at 9:30 a.m., (in the Fellowship Hall). The only skills you need are the abilities to hold a needle and tie a knot. The cutting of fabric squares, piecing and sewing of the quilt squares are done by some of the members in their homes. You don't have to bring any supplies as we have enough to share. We plan to be back in March 2020, but would like to see you in November.



God's Hands Knitting & Crocheting

The God's Hands Knitting and Crocheting Group wishes to thank ORLC for the many yarn donations that we have received this past year. Many Thanks for your generosity! The bags of yarn were brought to the monthly meetings and shared with all who attended that get-together. The yarn could be used for prayer shawls, chemo hats, or baby blankets, just to name a few possible items. Items have been donated to Alley Shoppe 109 and Bundles of Love, among other non-profits that have touched our hearts.

Please consider being a part of this fun group of different skill levels. Most of the handiwork is done elsewhere, but it is fun to see the various projects "in progress". We meet at the Caribou Coffee on White Bear Avenue and County Road D, (by Maplewood Mall), from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., on the third Thursday of each month. Come and check us out on November 21, December 19, January 16, etc. We hope to see you there!

A Thank You from our Neighbor

On October 8, we received this thank you from a church neighbor, Chrissy Brothen-Adam:

Good Afternoon,

Just wanted to send a quick note of thanks from our family to your church. We live across the street on Clarence and last night we noticed that the lights in the parking lot across the street are bright and in great working order. We appreciate and are so grateful for this lighting. My husband and I feel the improved lighting is such a blessing to our home and our neighborhood. Almost a month ago, one of our vehicles was rummaged through in our driveway. This added lighting we hope is a deterrent to crime.

*Thank you,
Christina*

This is a good reminder for all of us to make sure we lock our vehicle doors and don't have anything valuable inside that is visible from the windows.

Thanks to the Craft Show Helpers

A thanks from Claire Sexton and the Garden Committee:

I would like to give a big thank you to all who helped make the craft sale a success. Thank you for the baked goods, quilt, and all who worked and help set up. Also to Sally for all her help. We made \$2,300 plus.

A Thanks from a Wednesday Guest

Richard Ayd is a regular dinner guest at Our Redeemer's Loaves and Fishes meals on Wednesday evenings. He was excited about his recent ability to move into his own apartment. Being the giving and caring folks at Our Redeemer (and other Wednesday guests), a collection of much needed items for his new home was donated. He provided the following sincere note of appreciation for us to pass along to reach those who helped him out.

Please thank everyone and also the Wednesday night dinner crew. Everyone has been so kind and generous to me. Thank you all a lot. Thank you to all that have been able to donate new or slightly used items for my apartment. I am in need of queen bedding, bathroom wares, kitchen utensils, home furnishings and small dog accessories. I am appreciative and I thank you all for your generosity and donations. Richard Ayd

Tanzania Fall Festival

Come hear more about this beautiful partnership between congregations (including Our Redeemer!) in the St. Paul Area Synod and around Iringa Tanzania. Stop in to enjoy the music, a great speaker, and informative workshops all happening Saturday, **November 9**, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Shepherd of the Hills in Shoreview.

November 2019 - Worship Assistants and Readings

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
Worship Hosts	Amy Krohn	Dean Ersfeld	Sharon & Dick Peterson	Doreen Winter
Gift Cards	Vicki Anderson		Mary Forsberg	
Hospitality/ Kitchen Help	Darlene Harwood Sandy & Larry Pruden	Jan & Dennis Peterson	Michelle Rebholz & Matt Kuhn	Jessica Morgan, Doreen & Mark Winter
Lectors	8:45 a.m. Jim Burke 10:45 a.m. Hilary Hinrichs	8:45 a.m. Scott Torvi 10:45 a.m. Holly Forsberg	8:45 a.m. Darleen Klemm 10:45 a.m. Kathi Kirchoff	8:45 a.m. Amy Krohn 10:45 a.m. Jane Koza
Ushers	8:45 a.m. Rob Klemm Dennis Paulson 10:45 a.m. Matt Kilbride Carla Shipstad Scott Torvi	8:45 a.m. Baryogar Johnson Roger Ollila Dennis Peterson 10:45 a.m. Vicki Anderson Tina Gray	8:45 a.m. Bill Maynard Jim Riemenschneider Bruce Ring 10:45 a.m. Kari Keating Jessica Morgan	8:45 a.m. Mike Kahrau Larry Pruden Sandy Pruden 10:45 a.m. Mark Winter Doreen Winter
Communion Servers	8:45 a.m. Judy Triplett 10:45 a.m. Amy Krohn		8:45 a.m. Cliff Pearson 10:45 a.m. Claire Sexton	
Weekly Readings	1 Kings 18:[17-19] 20-39 "Elijah at Mount Carmel"	Hosea 11:1-9 "Hosea"	Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5 "Isaiah's Vineyard Song"	2 Kings 22:1-10, [14-20]; 23:1-3 "Josiah's Reform"

Finances through the month of October:

2019 Beginning Balance	\$ 4,268
Member Giving	\$206,394
Supplemental Giving	\$ 95,175
Total	\$305,837
Expenses	\$332,327
Difference	(\$26,490)

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!"

Can Recycling

Larry Pruden is pleased to report that \$24.50 was deposited in October from can recycling. If you wish to donate your empty cans for the proceeds to go to Our Redeemer, bring them in on the first Sunday of every month.



GIFT CARDS—Twice a MONTH!

A reminder to purchase gift cards on the first and third Sundays of November and December! 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!



Want to be a Census Taker?

If you wish to join the 2020 census team, apply online at www.2020census.gov/jobs. The jobs provide: great pay, flexible hours, weekly pay, paid training. For more information or help applying, please call 1-855-JOB-2020.

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Sunday Services and School

- Traditional Worship **8:45** AM
- Sunday School **9:45** AM
- Worship & Praise **10:45** AM
- Fifth Sunday in a month ONE service **10:00** AM

Address Service Requested

DO NOT DELAY
DATED MATERIAL



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