



January 2020

"The Good Newsletter" of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Karsten—"Choosing new things for the New Year"



It is no secret that when the New Year comes around every 365 days it is a time for many people to do some reflecting back over the last year. We might do that with journal writing, through Christmas Cards, or by having conversations looking back through the calendar.

There are many more who will seek to start out the New Year with some new sense of direction or commitment - to do something more, or something less, to tend to the 'loving ourselves' part of life in new ways, to finding something to give up or work on, and maybe even writing down goals and New Year Resolutions.

One of the things we will be doing as a family is opening a letter we had written back in 2014 titled "Spiritual Offerings". It is still sealed and says we were supposed to open in on New Year's Day in 2015. Guess we are going to be a little late. And while I do not remember what we put in this I am sure it will bring about some good conversation and reflection. And we will use it to stir us to do some more planning on what we will seek to do, and try and take on, and give up, in 2020.

In John 10:10 Jesus says "I have come that you might have life and have it to the full". So what it is this next year that can help you along a pathway to a full life? Now that does not mean we necessarily have to find things to fill up our schedule. For some people doing less and taking things off their plate is going to provide necessary space for a 'full life'. Of course for others taking on more things - be it reading or volunteering or visitation or any host of other things might be really good. And how does this 'life to the full' intersect with family, or friends, or ministry, or people and places in the wider world? What a good time to think and reflect and ponder!

I offer here some questions we might consider: What kind of space do you want to create for your faith to grow? What kind of changes or adjustments do you want to tend to so that you are more fully and deeply walking in faith and living a faith filled life? What steps do you want to take to love the person who you are or to take care of yourself? What have you heard about others doing that could fit for you? What have you wanted to do for a long time? What do you believe or know is actually necessary for you at this point?

This is a good time to tend to new paths. God has another good year ahead of wanting to come alongside of us to journey alongside of us in life. God is patiently going ahead of us trying to help guide us. And God is behind us, very willing to let us take a strong lead in how we choose to live our days and tagging right behind us.

Have a great New Year, and treat yourself to some good reflection and intentional direction for your life, for your faith, and for your service in the world. May it lead to a full life.



A Message from Deacon Jennifer Schneider—Trying Something New...Old

The last of the Christmas cookies have been eaten and the decorations stowed away for another year. It's time to start a fresh year, a clean slate. Are you making a list of new TV programs to watch, stacking up books to read, making resolutions to eat right and exercise more? Ugh. It is overwhelming to think about trying to add one more thing to our busy lives.

Maybe this year instead of trying to find new ways to improve our health and wealth, it is time to revert back to something old. With the rise of the internet in the last 2 decades, we have actually become more disconnected. Instead of logging in to social media and streaming Roku videos, try unplugging. Go outside, walk across the street, and ring your neighbor's doorbell. Don't know what to say? Bring them some cookies, offer to shovel their walk, invite them over to play cards. Think of this as a "faith practice." Engage another human being in face-to-face conversation, acknowledging their humanness, their existence on this earth and in your neighborhood. Maybe the first visit is just chit chat. But that breaks the ice. Next time, you will already know their name so you can begin to learn their story. Share a little about you and ask a little about them. Listening is the gateway to building relationships and community. Remember that your best friend was once a stranger. And friends talk about and live out their faith with one another.

In the last year, I spoke with a handful of people who have lived in the same house for over 20 years and have never met the people living next door. We cannot spread the good news of Jesus Christ if we aren't talking. Remember the shepherds who were the outcasts of society were the first ones to share the good news. And look how far it has spread! Maybe we all feel a little bit like shepherds – introverted, lacking social or conversational skills. But God uses all of us. In Romans 10:17, Paul writes that "faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." This means that when we build relationships and begin to share our lives, our faith trickles out and lives are changed from hearing.

In doing this, you are loving your neighbor!

Deacon Jennifer

Annual Meeting

We encourage you to attend Our Redeemer's Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 26**, from **9:45 to 10:35 a.m.** between services in the Fellowship Hall. We will review past year's accomplishments and our goals for 2020. We will also be electing new Board members and approving a budget for 2020. There will also be a more detailed budget conversation on **Sunday, January 19**, at **10:00 a.m.** in Cassee's Room so we can work through any questions and discuss our hopes for the church ahead of seeking congregational approval at the Annual Meeting.

Worship in 2020

Join us for worship in the New Year as we begin our Sunday texts walking through the Gospel of Mark. Come listen to the story of God lived out in the teaching, events, and encounters that Jesus has during his ministry. We will dwell in a chronological walk through this book from January through mid-April when we celebrate Easter. We will continue to worship at the two times of 8:45 a.m. (Traditional) and 10:45 a.m. (Worship & Praise) with one special Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m. on March 29.

Intergenerational Mission Trip to Doulos

Our Redeemer is going to partner with Prairie Lutheran in Eden Prairie for a work and learn trip down to Doulos Discover School in the Dominican Republic. This trip will be taking place this year from March 28 to April 4. We will stay in a house just blocks away from the school and engage in a variety of projects, such as painting, mixing cement, repairing playgrounds, helping in classrooms and serving farther out in the community. There will be good learning happening too as we understand another culture, spend a meal at a Dominican home, enjoy the full school morning gatherings, and learn from their dedicated staff. There will also be other meal outings (pizza, a nice restaurant—lots of enjoyable food), time for simply hanging out, and engaging in devotional time and connecting with others, as well as a special day away at the beach or river. The cost will be roughly \$1,800, and we have some scholarships available. Space is limited so if interested, talk to Pastor Karsten to get a trip packet with more details.

Sunday School Resumes—Kids and Volunteers Welcomed!

Our Sunday School sessions resume **January 5** at **9:45 a.m.** in the Education Wing. A reminder to please pick up your children at 10:35 a.m. at the conclusion of Sunday School. Invite children from your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers—we also welcome volunteers to either teach or assist our teachers any Sunday you can.

Second Harvest Heartland Volunteers—Join ORLCs Kingdom Assignment Ministry

Come join our FUN team at *Second Harvest Heartland* on **Tuesday, January 7, 5:30—7:30 p.m.!** We have spots to fill—bring your family and friends, but remember to sign them up at the Welcome Desk, or contact Amy Krohn at ajkrohn@hotmail.com.

Loaves and Fishes—Passing the Baton—Volunteers Welcome

Beginning January 8, Our Redeemer will resume providing its *Loaves & Fishes* free meals to the community every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We are grateful for the members who make this ministry happen! In December, we expressed our appreciation to **Doreen Winter, Jane Koza, and Judy Moe** who have had active roles in managing and coordinating the weekly meals over the past 3 1/2 years and decided to “pass the baton” on to others. We appreciate **Jeff Trent** and **Matt Kuhn** who have taken interest in the lead kitchen roles beginning in January. We are still looking for volunteers to assist them in the kitchen (preparing food, serving and kitchen clean-up) either on a monthly, bi-monthly or every week basis. Please talk to Pastor Karsten or Deacon Jennifer if you have any questions or would like more information.



ORLC Serving at Dorothy Day (Richard M. Schultze Family Foundation St. Paul Opportunity Center and Dorothy Day Residence)



On Monday, December 23, sixteen Our Redeemer members prepared and served a delicious meal to 285 people who are experiencing homelessness and poverty. The ORLC Hunger Team wants to thank *Thrivent Financial* for a \$500 Thrivent Action Team grant that helped cover most of the meal cost. A special thanks to Thrivent for being involved in our communities and also we want to thank 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. The number of people being served is trending up since opening of the new St. Paul Opportunity Center and Dorothy Day Residence. The volunteers were amazed by the incredible new kitchen and the dining hall that seats up to 350 people.



We couldn't do this ministry without the great people who volunteer time and again to prepare and serve the meal. Words can't thank them enough! Also, “thank you” to everyone who donates to the noisy offering to help fund this important program. New volunteers are welcome and no experience required. A special thanks to **Dennis Paulson** who is stepping down from leading ORLC through



these serving event! Thank you! The next opportunity to volunteer will be on Monday, February 24.

Hearts for the Homebound—Connecting with our members who are not able to attend church

There continues to be a great need in our congregation for visitation ministry. This is an opportunity to show members who cannot attend church that they are still valued and not forgotten. We ask that volunteers visit a homebound member only once a month for a maximum of one hour. We provide resources with Scripture/ Prayer and communion information to use for your visits. Volunteers are not required to do any chores or errands. If you are interested in becoming or continuing as a volunteer, there will be an informational meeting on **Sunday, January 12**, between services in the Blue Room through the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Barb Maynard if you have any questions.



TOPS Weight Loss Group

It's the beginning of a new year where many New Year's resolutions begin! If one of yours is to take off pounds, then you will be happy to know that a local chapter of *Take Off Pounds Sensibly* (TOPS) meets weekly at Our Redeemer. The meetings are held on **Mondays** from **6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This is an affordable, non-profit, weight-loss support and wellness organization. Members learn about nutrition, portion control, food planning, exercise, motivation, and more. Visitors are always welcome! For more information, check out their website at tops.org or contact Janet Johnson at 651-771-1029 or at janet420@hotmail.com.

Buy Gift Cards for “Bucks for Our Building”

We will be back to our regular schedule of selling gift cards once a month taking place on the first Sunday of each month—however, this month they will be sold on **January 19**. We will have several on hand OR you may special order others from a list of hundreds of retailers. Remember, this **Bucks for Our Building** program provides our church with a percentage of the gift card value. The more you buy, the more we earn!

Shutterfly Shoppers—8% of your purchases goes to ORLC

Another new way to help bring money to Our Redeemer is ordering through *Shutterfly*—the church will receive **8 percent** of all sales from anyone who places orders through our special *Shutterfly* storefront only by using our following designated link: <http://orlcmn.shutterflystorefront.com/>. Share it on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest asking your family, friends, and coworkers to shop through it as well!

Calling All Crafters!

If you would like a day out of the house to work on your scrapbooking or other craft project, come to Our Redeemer on **Saturday, January 18**, from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** If you wish, bring others with you.

Kids' Cartooning Class at ORLC

From **January 29 to February 26**, Our Redeemer will be welcoming the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation to provide kids, ages 6-14, free class on cartooning on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m. They will learn the basics of cartooning and creating their own characters! They will learn the following techniques used in cartooning: characteristics, features, exaggeration, action and personification. They will apply their new skills every class to create their own original cartoon characters. Registration is done through Saint Paul Parks & Recreation, and questions can be answered by contacting the Hayden Heights Recreation Center at 651-298-5716.

Young Adult Collab

Join others in their 20s-30s-40s for fun, free food, and conversation. We meet once a month on the fourth Thursday. Our next dinner is **Thursday, January 23**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Bring a friend or come and make a new one! If you have questions, contact Deacon Jennifer at jennifer@orlcmn.org.

Valentine's Cookie-grams

The Children, Youth, and Family ministry will be taking pre-orders for valentine cookies at the end of this month. Money is being raised to support youth and adults heading to Memphis in June for a civil rights trip and to support youth attending WAPO Bible Camp later in the summer.

Family & Friends Fun Day - January 20

Mark your calendar for **Monday, January 20**, from **1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** for an afternoon of fun and games. The Children Youth and Family are sponsoring a day of activities and food for all ages. Details are in the works. If you have questions, contact Deacon Jennifer at jennifer@orlcmn.org.

ORLC Went to Bentleyville!

Wow! Twenty three people went on the one-day Bentleyville adventure in December and everyone said they enjoyed it along with the opportunity to bond with those they see in church. It was a good day temperature-wise so the stroll through the event was fun some leaving only with red cheeks and a little frosted nose. If you missed it, look for more fun events in 2020 by the “S” Connection Ministry Group. A special thanks to Kathi Kirchoff for organizing the event!

New Church Directory in the Making—Volunteers Needed

We are starting the process with *Lifetouch* to create an updated church directory. There are many new features including a new, smaller-size directory, and making it easier for Our Redeemer to update the directory in future years—and for all of our members, it offers the convenience of providing access to our directory from a cellphone, tablet, or home computer. We are looking for two to three volunteers to take the lead in working with *Lifetouch*. Please let Sally or Pastor Karsten know if you would be interested.



Notes of Thanks!

Dennis Peterson expressed his appreciation to everyone for the many prayers, cards, and well wishes during his recovery from his recent heart procedure.

Dick Peterson expressed his appreciation for the many people who visited, sent cards, and offered different care during his recovery after falling and injuring his knee and ankle.

Project Home Accomplishments



**INTERFAITH
ACTION** OF GREATER
SAINT PAUL

With Your Support, Look What We Have Done in 2019:

75 families experiencing homelessness had **safe shelter**

28 families found **stable and affordable housing**

750 American Indian families received food from the only **culturally specific food shelf** in St. Paul for this population

110 American Indian children improved in **reading and literacy** through culturally relevant academic programs

Guests of Project Home are welcomed at our new day center, where they receive **meals, showers, housing and education support**

Hundreds of individuals received **tutoring, job coaching, ESL and GED education, and legal advice** free of charge

MICAH Legislative Breakfast Meeting to Address Homelessness

The St. Paul chapter of MICAH (*Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing*) has scheduled a **Legislative Breakfast Meeting** for **Thursday, January 30**, beginning at 7:00 a.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. This will give us and people in our community the opportunity to be involved in making real change in our neighborhoods and the state of Minnesota as a whole. Below are further details and the contact information should you wish to attend:

Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020

Agenda: 7:00am - Breakfast and mingling;
7:30- 9:15 am – Program, discussion, action

Location: St. Timothy Lutheran Church,
1465 Victoria Street North, St. Paul, MN
55117

RSVP with your name, phone number, legislative district or street address, and the number attending: Patti Whitney-Wise, pattiww@micah.org.

Questions? Call Patti: 612-618-3738



December 2019



January 2020 - Worship Assistants and Readings

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Worship Hosts	Sharon & Dick Peterson	Judy Moe & Claire Sexton	Rita During & Bruce Ring	Dean Ersfeld
Gift Card Representative			Barb Maynard	
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> Darleen Klemm <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Cherie Kilbride	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Dianne Derks <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Kathi Kirchoff	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Amy Krohn <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Jane Koza	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Scott Torvi <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Hilary Hinrichs
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	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Bill Maynard Jim Riemenschneider Bruce Ring <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Jessica Morgan & Kari Keating	<i>8:45 a.m.</i> Mike Kahrau Sandy & Larry Pruden <i>10:45 a.m.</i> Doreen & Mark 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	Mark 1:21-45 "Jesus' Ministry Begun"	Mark 2:1-22 "Jesus Heals and Teaches"	Mark 4:1-34 "Parables in Mark"	Mark 5:1-20 "Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac"



More Free Money?

Thrivent members: Now that 2019 is over, please check your accounts again for any Choice Dollars waiting to be designated. Thanks!

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

Missions Distributions

This year we celebrated being able to give to great ministries and organizations outside of our walls. It is part of our commitment as church to love the neighbor. Gifts from our budget totaling about \$16,000 went out to the St Paul Area Synod, Doulos Discovery School, Tanzania, The Missionaries we have supported – Donald and Josephine Bessman, Merrick Community Services, Lutheran Social Service, Interfaith Action that coordinates Project Home, Daily Work, Dorothy Day, Loaves and Fishes Wednesday meal program, Isaiah, and the Pastor's emergency fund. In addition to all of that, we collected more gifts for ELCA World Hunger appeal that came in during December.

GIFT CARDS!

A reminder to purchase gift cards on the first Sundays of each month! (Except this month it will be Sunday, January 19.) 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!



Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

January

				1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (offsite) 6:00 pm Child-Youth-Family Team 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR)	3 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 7:00 pm MDP Practice (S)	4 6:00 am MDP Prayer (SS) 9:00 am Savior Alliance 12-5 pm Private Family Event (FH) 5:30—8 pm MDP (S)
8:45 am Traditional Service 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Praise 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm Mensajes de Poder	5 6:00 pm TOPS 6:45 pm Lives Worth Living Group (offsite)	7 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Second Harvest	8 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (offsite) 10:00 am Kitchen Table Mystics (FR) 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR)	10 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 7:00 pm MDP Practice (S)	11 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30—8 pm MDP (S)	
8:45 am Traditional Service 9:45 am Hearts for Homebound 9:45 am Adult Forum 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Praise 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm Mensajes de Poder	12 6:00 pm TOPS 6:00 pm Joy Circle	14 9:30 am Property Team 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 3:15 pm Spiritual Growth 5:30 pm Congregational Growth 7:00 pm Hope Circle 7:00 pm Board Meeting	15 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (offsite) 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 6:30 pm Knitting & Crochet Group (Caribou Coffee)	17 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 7:00 pm MDP Practice (S)	18 9:00 am Savior Alliance 9 am—3 pm Scrapbooking/Crafts (FH) 5:30—8 pm MDP (S)	
8:45 am Traditional Service 9:45 am Gift Card Sale 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Budget Overview (CR) 10:45 am Worship & Praise 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm Mensajes de Poder	13 6:00 pm TOPS 6:00 pm Joy Circle	21 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	22 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (offsite) 6:00 pm Young Adult Collab (FH) 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR)	24 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 7:00 pm MDP Practice (S)	25 9:00 am Savior Alliance 5:30—8 pm MDP (S)	
8:45 am Traditional Service 9:45 am Annual Meeting (FH) 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship & Praise 1:00 pm Savior Alliance 4:00 pm Mensajes de Poder	19 6:00 pm TOPS 6:45 pm Lives Worth Living Group (offsite)	28 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	29 9:30 am Bible Study (FR) 5:30 pm Loaves & Fishes 6:00 pm Cartooning Class 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 6:45 am Men's Bible Study (offsite) 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR)	31 6:00 pm Savior Alliance (FR) 7:00 pm MDP Practice (S)	Abbreviation Key: Com= Communion CR = Casse's Room FH= Fellowship Hall FR= Fireside Room MDP= Mensajes de Poder S= Sanctuary SS= Sunday School Room	

Our Redeemer Staff

Reverend Karsten Nelson, Pastor
651-772-2445 x102
Email: karsten@orlcmn.org

Deacon Jennifer Schneider, Associate Minister
651-772-2445 x103
Email: jennifer@orlcmn.org

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

Amy Lindquist, Worship Leader
(612) 203-3119
Email: amymlindquist@yahoo.com

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

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

Jim Vansell, Custodian
651-772-2445
Email: office@orlcmn.org

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/orlcmn>

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

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

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

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

