The Work of Hitting the “Reset” Button
In the weeks ahead, we will—in different capacities—hit a “reset” button so we can begin doing some things like we had before the Corvid-19 pandemic. But how we “come back” to a new life and world is yet to be seen. We are anxious for the times ahead to be together for worship and some fellowship, as well as some of the ministry work and small groups, but we know that it will look and be quite different. We also know some people may be more ready than others to gathering in the church for these opportunities. Please know we will not rush anyone to be back in the building, but we are talking about what it will take to reset our lives together. Please know that the Board, staff, and others are having conversations about how, when, and what things will look like ahead.

Taking precautions to make sure people are safe and honoring the needs/fears/space of others will be important. When we worship in the sanctuary, we will do so with designated spaces for people to sit, with cleaning the touch points like doors/drinking fountain/pews, and expecting good social distancing. We will foster safe gatherings, continue to provide some form of online worship, and maintain contact with each other through phone calls. We are in this together, and together we will shape a continued good life and ministry as a congregation.

Learning Opportunity After Worship - May 10
The Inclusive Church team will host a discussion/learning opportunity during Our Redeemer Connection Time on Sunday, May 10, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Our topic is Understanding the Process of Becoming a Reconciliation in Christ (RIC) Congregation. We will learn about the journey of what it could mean to become a congregation that is publicly recognized as welcoming people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities by hearing from a few congregations that have gone through the process.

Your 2020 Giving Plans
We recently sent you a first quarter offering/giving statement showing your contributions through March 31, 2020, and a letter on the reverse side asking you to respond by mid-May to help us know what you anticipate your 2020 giving will be for the General and LIFT Funds. Knowing that many folks might have to change their giving plans, which would affect our financial planning for the year, we want to have a better sense of expected income. So please help us by providing your intended giving for 2020 via mail, email to lisa@orlcmn.org, or calling the office at 651-772-2445.

Gift Cards are Available for Purchase!
For not only your personal shopping needs, but also for gift giving (birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, Father’s Day, etc.), we are making gift cards available for you to purchase. As you may know, gift cards purchased through Our Redeemer will result in a percent coming back to the church. We have set up a process that allows you to “pre order” gift cards to be available for pick up the first and third Wednesdays of each month between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. We ask that you email the office at office@orlcmn.org as to which cards you wish to purchase. We will let you know when they are available for pickup at which time your payment would be due.

Remember Mom!
(Here or In Heaven)
An Anxious Person’s Prayer by Vinita Hampton Wright

How can I pray when I’m anxious? That is, how is it possible to pray when anxiety fills my person? How might I go about prayer when I’m in such a condition? Here are a few points to remember.

First of all, reality does not change when I experience internal changes. I might be enraged, frightened out of my mind, or too worried to remember words to a prayer. But God continues to dwell with me. God continues to love me. I remain a person created in the divine image. The world continues moving toward God’s purposes.

Second, it is useless to pretend that I’m not anxious. I must stay with what is and deal with the here and now. Anxiety results from multiple factors: my physical state, which can be affected by fatigue, illness, or adrenaline; my mental state, which can raise my anxiety by believing falsehood or obsessing on a certain problem or fear; my emotional state, which simply indicates how a situation or event is affecting me; my spiritual state, which feels the effects of all other states but may not change as much as I think. What I mean by that is, my spiritual reality is established by the work of Christ and kept by the power of the Holy Spirit. How I interact with my spirituality can be affected by anxiety, but I can take action even then. When I accept that anxiety is happening in me at this moment, I have the power to make choices.

Third, true prayer shapes itself to the situation. How I pray when anxious may not look like how I pray when I’m not anxious. For example:

- During non-anxious times, perhaps I can sit quietly to pray.
- During anxious times, I pray while pacing or rocking.
- During non-anxious times, I might use a lot of words—fully developed thoughts and ideas.
- During anxious times, my prayer is a word or short phrase, such as “Help!” or “I need you!”
- During non-anxious times, I enjoy praying with Scripture or types of meditation.
- During anxious times, I find it easier to pray with objects, such as a smooth stone in my hand.

Please keep in mind some simple ideas if you are anxious and trying to pray:

- Do not rely on your thought processes during great anxiety. Such a state can skew our thinking and set our thoughts in useless circles. For anxious times, have a few statements of truth, such as a few short verses of Scripture that can keep you grounded.
- It is always appropriate to cry out to God. Speak plainly. Allow your emotions to express your heart. Remember the psalms, those poetic yet frank prayers to God in all seasons.
- Carry out St. Ignatius Loyola’s advice to “act against.” Whether our anxiety is the simple result of factors we can recognize, or it feels like an out-and-out attack from something evil, we can counteract it. When afraid, we speak our trust. When worried, we remember God’s protection and help in times past. When tempted to despair, we find one thing for which to give thanks. When beaten down, we choose to help someone else.

Drive-Thru Pray Together Time – Wednesdays

Back on Easter Sunday, Deacon Jennifer and Pastor Karsten offered “drive-thru” prayers (while showered with winter white snowflakes). It was a special time allowing people to stay in their cars and receive a moment of brief check-in and a time of prayer. We are going to begin offering this every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This will take place outside (near the front mailbox) on nights with good weather or in the narthex on other nights. Please feel welcome to come by for some social-distanced caring prayer. And while you are here, we can give you our free to-go meals that are being served during that time as part of our Loaves & Fishes program.

Flower Planting Spaces Available

As you may know, we have sections along the front and side of our building that people can “adopt,” plant, and care for throughout our Minnesota planting season. If interested, contact the office or Carol Rodriguez at caroljrod@yahoo.com.
Giving of Your Offerings

Your continued financial giving through your offerings is important to the health and work of Our Redeemer, and we look forward to receiving what you can contribute. For some, those gifts might be less with recent economic changes and we understand that. Others might find this to be a time to be even more generous. Here are various ways to continue your offering:

- Mail your offering/envelope to the office.
- Drop off your offering/envelope in the locked mailbox located near our front entrance.
- Make an online gift at the link www.orlcmn.org/donate, which is also available on our website (www.orlcmn.org) by clicking the “Make Donation” button on the first page near the bottom. This allows you to make an automatic withdrawal from your bank or financial institution, or by using a credit card. You can also set up either a one-time or a recurring contribution. (There is a minimal charge to use a credit card.)
- Text 844-871-2328, entering the amount you wish to give in the message line, press send, and you will then receive instructions to continue making your contribution.

Loaves & Fishes—Wednesday Take-Out Meals!

Please feel welcome to stop by to pick up your FREE Loaves & Fishes meals on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Remember to tell your family, friends, neighbors—ALL are WELCOME! You can remain in your vehicle or, if you would like to come in to pick them up, we ask that you respect the recommended six-feet social distancing from others so that we can stay healthy and safe! (Note: We recently announced that we would be providing delivery of the meals, but we are not able to do so due to licensure reasons.)

Green Hymnals

We have extra green hymnals in storage and are ready to offer those to anyone who might like to have one of these books in your home. Besides hundreds of hymns (some we will sing on our virtual worship services), they include many different prayers, Psalms, and an index to look up favorite hymns. If you would like one dropped off at your home, please contact the church office, or you are welcome to pick them up Wednesday evenings between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

An Update from Doulos & Our Sponsor Student

We heard an update from our partners at Doulos Discovery School in the Dominican Republic – from the Director of Sponsorship and from the student, Frayluis, who Our Redeemer sponsors:

As you are probably already aware, the D.R. is in much the same boat as the rest of the world, with most things being shut down aside from banks, grocery stores, pharmacies and hospitals. Doulos has been providing e-learning for our students since the middle of March, and while how the school year will come to a close remains uncertain, there is one thing we know for sure- God is sovereign over ALL things. In fact, more than ever people are on their knees asking for wisdom and guidance! Would you join us in praying that those who don't know Him, or don't know Him well, would turn to Him now and that their relationships would be deepened and strengthened? To God be the Glory!

Many of our families have experienced loss of work and income during this time, and Doulos is helping to relieve them in the short term by providing basic necessities from time to time for those most vulnerable. If you could lift up especially our sponsorship families in prayer during this time, that would be awesome!

Dear : Our Redeemer Church,  
Date: April 21, 2020

Hi, I’m Frayluis. I am 16 years old. I am beyond thankful for you because you have been sponsoring me for all the years that I have been in Doulos. How are you holding up in the quarantine? Before the quarantine started, I went on a trip to help translate which is called MMI (Medical Missions International). It was so much fun and a great experience. I was able to help a lot of people with the doctors that went. Can you please be praying for my whole family. I hope you are doing well. I will be praying for you guys and thank you so much for sponsoring me.

Love, Frayluis
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES – YouTube & Home Church

Our worship service is uploaded on our YouTube site every Sunday at 10 a.m. Please consider this as a perfect time to invite others via phone calls, Facebook posts, or other invitations to experience a taste of the good news of Jesus Christ through our worship.

- Click on this link: [http://bit.ly/ORLCMNyoutube](http://bit.ly/ORLCMNyoutube) (or the button at top right corner of front page)
- Visit our website at: [www.orlcmn.org](http://www.orlcmn.org) and on the first page near the bottom, there is a link under the title, “YouTube Videos.”
- On YouTube, search for “Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN” (look for our logo)
- If you don’t have access to a computer or other electronic device, enjoy the Home Church included in this bulletin to create your own personal church, whether by yourself or with others.

Scripture Lessons for Upcoming Sundays

As we step into these weeks after Easter, the scripture texts for our preaching/music/worship themes will be coming from various parts of Acts and 1 Corinthians that speak into how the faith shaped the early church. The overall theme for these weeks will be, “Starting the Church …again.”

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Acts References</th>
<th>Corinthians References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Acts 18:1-4</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 1:10-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 13:1-13</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 56-57</td>
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CONNECTING ON ZOOM!

**Our Redeemer Connection Time**

Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Join by clicking: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77524309472](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77524309472)

Every Sunday, join in on the "Our Redeemer Connection Time"! It is a great alternative to be able to see familiar faces to share stories, check in, and learn more about our lives during these days as well as hear about some news from the church.

**Sunday School**

Sundays, 11:00-11:30 a.m. Join by clicking: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87487610887](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87487610887)

Hey kids! Zoom on in for a great time to hang out with other kids to play a game, enjoy a fun short lesson, or do a craft while on video chat and, of course, talk about Jesus.

**Bible Study**

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join by clicking: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/851377018?pwd=S2EwU1FoVU8xdlQ0c1hVRHBGN3psUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/851377018?pwd=S2EwU1FoVU8xdlQ0c1hVRHBGN3psUT09)

Every Wednesday, we’ve scheduled Bible Study sessions where we can connect with our pastoral staff to hear prayers and discuss our weekly scripture lessons.

**CONTACT US – We are still here for you!**

While our church doors must remain closed at this time, know that our staff and Board members are still here for you! We are picking up the mail and answering messages left on our office phones. We are attempting to keep all lines of communication open so that you can reach us. Please feel welcome to call and leave messages for any of the staff, or reach us via email:

- Pastor Karsten - karstenn@comcast.net 651-772-2445, ext. 102 or at 651-271-5134
- Deacon Jennifer – Jennifer@orlcmn.org 651-772-2445, ext. 103 or at 651-494-7943
- Finance Administrator, Lisa – Lisa@orlcmn.org 651-772-2445, ext. 101
- Office Administrator, Sally– office@orlcmn.org 651-772-2445, ext. 101

Jesus here…please send Sally photos…will pay in chocolate!
HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, May 10, 2020

Please use this resource to worship in your home. If you have others with you, this service works well to have people take on different parts (for example, blue and green are options to alternate).

Gathering
Find a candle to light as it helps set aside this time as special; then read the following response:

Jesus Christ is the light of the world – now and always
We Gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
(you can make the sign of the cross on your forehead or over your body)

Opening Prayer
Blessed Triune God, On a day we pause to give thanks, remember and honor mothers and grandmothers and Godmothers and stepmothers and adoptive mothers we are often reminded of the love and example we have received from them. Bless us for the work to live into the various roles and titles we carry this day, and help us ground ourselves in the great work of the cross.

Song
You can sing, simply read, or listen to a version to the tune of “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

Refrain:
“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy Faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Scripture Reading: Acts 18:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Acts 18: 1After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, 3 and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together -- by trade they were tentmakers. 4Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12 What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." 13 Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. 18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Scripture Reflection Questions
The lesson opens for us an introduction to the church at Corinth from who we get lessons on living in love and find the continual correcting work necessary to keep us on the best paths as your people. Who, like Paul, have been nudges and encouragers for your good life and good faith?
For Paul there are some key foundations for how he will understand himself and live his life. He knows that the cross work of Jesus means everything to us, and the world – how does the cross shape you today? (trusting in forgiveness?, called to servanthood? Called out into the world?...). Paul also knows that for many this very grounding of life will seem so foolish – who might you see or know that think of the cross and faith as foolish? What might you say to them or how might you pray for them?

Paul understood that division is an open doorway for other weeds to take root – frustration, anger, jealousy, hatred. Let’s be mindful of our holy work to repair divisions and to seek after unity. How might that happen with you or through you?

Prayers

If you have others with you, invite each person to pray (one option is - “Thank you Jesus for....” and “Help me Jesus....”)

Suggested prayers for: those affected by Covid-19, front-line workers, ORLC, family, neighbors, elected leaders, world hunger, public safety officers, etc.)

Here is a set of prayers you may use:

God of all people, use our varied gifts to proclaim your great love to the entire world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of all creatures, grant abundant life to the wide variety of birds, animals, and insects that you have made and entrusted to us. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of every nation, send your spirit of compassion, love, justice, and peace upon all countries and their leaders. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of the broken, bind up the hearts and minds of all who suffer from anxiety, fear, depression, loneliness, and other mental and social illnesses. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of the dying, be with those who do not have long left to live, grant them peace and comfort in their last moments. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of the church, bless this congregation and its members with every gift necessary on our path of discipleship. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of sinners and saints, join all people into one body of faith in your great and joyous kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Through the resurrection of your son, O God, you destroy the power of death and remove your people’s shame. By the power of the Spirit, raise us from sin and seat us at the paschal feast, that we may rejoice in the gift of salvation Jesus has won for us. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

May you depart knowing the invitation of God, to move from comfort to insecurity, from what we know to what we have yet to discover, from where we have been to where we have yet to go, from safety to a place of risk. Go in the example of the saints before you, the Israelites in the wilderness, Paul blind in Damascus waiting for Ananias. Go in the name of Jesus, our Christ, who said ‘follow me’ without saying where he was going, just promising transformation and relationship with the Triune God along the way. Amen.

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK – STAY SAFE & WELL!