



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
*Transforming Lives and Building Community by
Loving God and Serving Others*



Worship YouTube
Click [HERE](#)

Sunday 11AM
Connection Time
Zoom [HERE](#)

Wednesday 9:30AM
Bible Study Zoom
[HERE](#)

Online Offerings
Click [HERE](#)

Keeping Us Tied Together!

August 19, 2020 (Home Church for Sunday, August 23)

Weather forecast for worship service: A SUNNY SUNDAY

If you are well and able, we look forward to seeing you at our drive-up service on **Sunday, August 23**, at **10:00 a.m.** Bring a chair (we will have chairs available) if you wish to sit in our courtyard or on the lawn on what we are expecting weather-wise—SUNNY with 0 chance of rain! We will continue with our online services as well on YouTube. **Also, it's NOISY offering Sunday! Our Redeemer is serving for Dorothy Day on Monday, August 24.** If interested in preparing or serving, contact Claire Sexton for details.

The "Need" is real Near and Far: "Seek after the welfare of the city"

Last Sunday, part of the message was to "seek after the welfare of the city" (from Jeremiah 29:7) and that is a reminder for us to step into good care for where we live. But I would add that we are not as Christians able to draw lines on who we will help or care for, and that this requires both local and global action. So, in that vein, let me share a few things that have come across my desk recently about concerns of care.....

near and far.

Near: The **Saint Paul Synod Bishop** put out a challenge for the 120 congregations in our synod to try and raise \$50,000 for the local food shelves as they have been stretched extra thin with so many more clients. She had been in conversation with one area food shelf director who spoke about the deep needs now and what they see continuing for months ahead. The good news is that, as a larger body of believers, we have met that goal and now are trying to see what the stretch offering can be by the end of summer. **If you want to share in this care, send a donation to Our Redeemer and label it "food shelf."**

Far: From **Tanzania**, the updated news from **Bega Kwa Bega** (the program of our partnership with the folks of Kidewa parish in Tanzania) during this summer is:

- When the COVID virus was first discovered many churches took extreme caution as was the case with schools and hospitals, posting lists of precautions that should be taken
- Most churches implemented outdoor seating, shorter services and physical distancing and as expected attendance and giving is down
- Many Tanzania churches and hospitals and schools are in financial crisis
- The Lutheran Radio Ministry is widely used as a way to worship, and to receive COVID-19 information.
- For many COVID is less of a concern than the lack of rain and the plague of locusts, and the economic impact is the point of highest concern

They still have a deep value in equity so are working to provide good care and basic services to all. **If you care to help with our friends in Tanzania please send a gift and mark it 'Tanzania' and it will help in education, congregation, and health care settings.**

Volunteers for Outdoor Worship Services

As we plan for more outdoor worship services, we welcome any willing volunteers for the set up and take down of sound equipment, chairs, parking cones, etc. Ideally, we could use about 5 people every week in the set-up work, and another 5 people to assist with ushering and greeting. Contact the church to get your name on a list, and then we'll contact you to set up a schedule with your preferred dates. (We have a signup sheet at the tables on Sundays.)



They're back! 2020 Census Training - (Note Quilters Date Change)

We said "goodbye" last Tuesday, but we just received a phone call on Thursday saying that they're back! We welcome back again the **Rochester Area U.S. Census Bureau** training crew. It might just be a day or two, but for sure they will be here Monday, August 24, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (moving our Quilters Group to Wednesday, August 26, at 9 a.m.).

Book Study - Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix

If you didn't get a chance to participate in the last book study, you can join us with a new condensed version of the book by author Ibram Kendi: *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix*. We will meet on the following **Sundays at 11 a.m.** in the courtyard: **September 13 and 20, October 4 and 11.**

SEW for Minnesota, MASK-UP!

With Minnesota in the "mandatory mask-up" mode, there is more need for masks! We are looking for volunteers to not only sew masks, but also help pack and distribute them. The *Mask Movement* provides the pre-cut fabric and elastic/ties all ready to sew! Please spread the word to your family, friends, and coworkers. Contact Sally to let her know if you or others are interested.



Wednesday Evening Loaves & Fishes Free Meals

Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.! You never know what we are going to have—but it is all good! In addition to our "drive-thru" free meal last Wednesday, which included a delicious homemade peach cobbler dessert to go along with turkey and mashed potatoes, we were giving away free diapers thanks to Kathi Kirchoff from the North St. Paul Food Shelf! Please stop in and invite others to our Wednesday drive through experience! We also receive a variety of bakery and produce items generously donated by the **North St. Paul** and **Merrick food shelves**. **Volunteers!** Remember that we have volunteering opportunities for our Wednesday evenings. We generally need 8 to 12 individuals each week (5-7p.m.) to prepare, serve, clean up, and host. Please sign up at <https://bit.ly/loaves-fishes> or contact the office. Speaking of "volunteers," look for an article in our next newsletter about a **Super Surprise Volunteer Melissa** (baker of the peach cobbler)! *[Clothing for kids and mens are needed by our visitors. If you have any you wish to donate, please bring them to the church.]*



GIVING OF YOUR OFFERINGS

- Mail your offering/envelope to the office or drop it off in the locked mailbox located near our front entrance. Our address: ORLC, 1390 Larpenteur Ave E, St. Paul, MN 55109
- Go online 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 front page; this allows you to make an automatic withdrawal from your bank or financial institution, or by using a credit card. You can make a one-time or a recurring contribution. (Cost 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.



Upcoming Happenings

Sunday Worship Services	Outdoors (weather permitting) 10 a.m. <u>OR</u> online via <i>YouTube</i> (click on this link: http://bit.ly/ORLCMNyoutube) or read our <i>Home Church</i>
Scriptures & Lectors	August 23 John 10:1-10 "I have come that you might have life to the full" <i>Amy Krohn</i> August 30 Micah 6:1-8 "Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly" <i>Kathi Kirchoff</i>
Quilting	August 26* note date change Wednesday at 9 AM—Noon in the Fellowship Hall.
Dorothy Day Volunteering	August 24 Contact Claire Sexton if interested!
Young Adult Collab	August 27 In your 20s-40s? Join our Young Adult Collab on the 4th Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

CONNECTING ON ZOOM!

SUNDAYS—Connection Time
11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85817075248>



WEDNESDAYS—Bible Study 9:30-10:30 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82883163046>

Or participate by phone: 312-626-6799 (long distance charges may apply)

CONTACT US - We are still here for you!

Office is open **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

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
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HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, August 23, 2020

*This is a simple format that allows you—whether by yourself or with others—to take some dedicated time and enjoy the gift of worship in your home setting. If others are with you, the words in **blue** and **green** could be spoken by alternating individuals. Find a quiet place, light a candle, and lift your heart and voice to God.*

Gathering

Jesus Christ is our hope and consolation. – **Now and Always**

We gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

(you can make the sign of the cross on your forehead or over your body)

Opening Prayer

Shepherding Lord, As we bow in adoration and seek your wisdom and guidance we are grateful that you have shown yourself to be the Good Shepherd. As you have for generation we ask you to continue to lead and guide us so that we might rejoice in all that you have done, and that we might seek for the abundance of life you call forth from our very lives.

Song - You can sing or read, “Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us”

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| 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are. | 3 Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee. |
| 2 We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray. | 4 Early let us seek Thy favor,
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still |

Scripture John 10:1-10 “Jesus the Good Shepherd”

¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Scripture Reflections and Questions

In the Old Testament there was a strong image of God being a shepherd for the people. What do you like about the image and character of Jesus being our Good Shepherd? Where does this bring you trust and confidence?

A shepherd in the days of Jesus (and often today) would lead by going out in front of the animals and with a unique call draw them to follow where he went. Ponder for a bit how your life right now is marked with various ways you are following. Ponder as well some ways that the call of Christ may be seeking to pull or lead you into new pathways for your sake, or for God's sake in the world.

There are beautiful words here when Jesus says, "I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly". God wants good for us. God has acted that our lives might know the goodness of love, peace, calling, forgiveness. Give thanks for the God's abundance in your life, and then pray for ways you keep being open to new/more/different ways that your life might be marked by the abundance of God.

Prayers

If you are with others, invite each person to pray (one option is to say: "Thank you Jesus for..." and "Help me Jesus with...")

Here is a set of prayers you may use:

We know that our redeemer lives, and that we also will live with him when our earthly lives have ended. Let us then rejoice in living with no fear of what comes next, and let us celebrate the days which we have been given. God of promise, **Hear our prayer.**

As you speak to us through your living word help us to rejoice that you are a shepherd and worthy for us to follow. Help us as well to live into the abundance of our life and gifts as we love you and seek to be a blessing to our neighbors near and far. God of promise, **Hear our prayer.**

You have made this earth to renew itself, even where life has been destroyed. May we partner with nature to replenish trees, reduce pollution, and clean the oceans which sustain our planet. God of promise, **Hear our prayer.**

Give hope to those who have given up, and companionship to those who feel they have been abandoned. Send your Spirit's healing power to all whom we know it most... God of promise, **Hear our prayer.**

We celebrate all who translate your word so that others may come to know you and your promises, and look forward to the fellowship they will share with others need beyond this mortal life. Bless their work. God of promise, **Hear our prayer.**

Here other petitions may be offered for yourself, the world, the church – pray for teachers and students, Tanzania, Doulos, Wednesday Community Meal, our seeking after the welfare of our community, Our Redeemer Church Board and the Finance Planning Team

Into your capable hands we commend all of these prayers, and place our trust in your faithfulness to answer them in whatever way you choose, for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Receive our prayers and use us to be the answers to the needs of your people, for the sake of Jesus, **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 the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

