



December 2020



Sunday Worship
YouTube
[Click HERE](#)

Sunday Connect
Time 11:00 AM
[Click HERE](#)

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

“The Good Newsletter” of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Karsten: Making it through these hard days



In the gospel when Jesus is asked “What is the greatest commandment?” he answers by saying, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Most of the time when we read that, we hear two commands – love God and love the neighbor. But there is a third – love yourself.

Sometimes it is harder to love ourselves. Maybe it is because of the darkness in winter and depression that sinks in. Sometimes it is around special days when grief is relived and can bring on renewed suffering or bring on an inability to experience either joy or sadness. Sometimes it is hard to love ourselves because we are too filled with anxious thoughts and anxiety.

All of these situations, and many more, have their roots tied into attacking our mental health. They can turn us into feeling sad or depressed or angry or confused. And then we can feel anxious, withdrawn, argumentative, or mad. And then we try to figure ways to keep making it through these troubling days.

Life is often not fair, frequently can lack fun, and for many it is hard to function. Add the holidays that heighten the loss for those in grief, or the frustrations for those dealing with difficult families, and mental health can be challenged. This year, adding the seclusion many people are forced to experience because of COVID-19, it can be a reminder of the importance to treat people with extra care and concern during these times.

Here are some helpful suggestions from the Mayo Clinic to help love and care for yourself:

- Pay attention to your feelings. Name what you've lost due to the pandemic. Allow yourself to feel sadness or cry.
- Think about your strengths and coping skills. How can they help you move forward? Consider other tough transitions you've been through, such as a previous job change or divorce. What did you do that helped you recover?
- Stay connected. Don't let social distancing prevent you from getting the support you need. Use phone calls, text messages, video chats and social media to stay in touch with family and friends who are positive and supportive. Reach out to those in similar situations. Pets also can provide emotional support. Include activities that might help you cope, such as exercise, worship or hobbies.

It is a good time to love yourself, because you are loved – by God, by others around you, and by your church. If you want to connect with someone from the church please call us as we are here to walk alongside of people in every kind of life situation. May these days help you find and feel joy, and help you be connected in ways that can strengthen your life.

Pastor Karsten



A Message from Deacon Jennifer: Go Green for Christmas

What does it mean to “Go Green”? Going green is not just recycling your newspapers and soda cans. Going green is so much more...conserving resources and energy, reducing waste and pollution, and even planting trees and natural landscapes.

Basically, going green means to live life, as an individual as well as a community, in a way that is friendly to the natural environment and is sustainable for the earth. It means contributing towards maintaining the natural ecological balance in the environment, and preserving the planet and its natural systems and resources.

It also means taking steps, little ones and big ones, to minimize the harm you do to the environment (including the carbon footprints you leave behind), as a result of inhabiting this planet. This is creation care, this is stewarding God’s beautiful and perfect environment.

The holidays are extra hard on our environment - more shopping trips, glittery wrapping paper and ribbons that don’t recycle, higher electricity consumption from cooking, etc. The Clean Air Partnership for St. Louis states that 8,000 tons of wrapping paper are used during the holidays each year, equating to roughly 50,000 trees (a statistic from 2016).

With grant money from *BizRecycling*, we can make a positive impact on God’s creation. We have already begun using eco-friendly paper products for our Loaves & Fishes meals. We also distribute food from the food shelves which is rescued from grocery stores before it hits the landfill.

The next step in our “Greening” process is to rallying a team to work on further measures for the congregation to shift our waste into commercial composting, expanded recycling, and the smallest amount into garbage. I am looking for 2-3 people to work with me for several months to prepare education opportunities for our congregation, plan for how we can best utilize our grant money, and determine how we might invite our neighbors to “go green” with us. Please reach out to me if you are interested in environmental stewardship and would like to help our congregation learn about and practice better care for God’s beautiful creation.

Deacon Jennifer

Stewardship Update

Thank you for the responses we have received in our recent ‘Celebrating a Culture of Generosity’ stewardship drive. You have shown a trust in God, add commitment to the church, and good generosity! There is now a group that will take the information from these Intent cards and begin constructing a budget for next year. We are still seeing some of the Intent cards coming in after our follow-up calls but right now have 56 cards returned for a current total of \$204,530. We can tell you that of these cards returned, 34 have increased their giving plans, 16 are remaining at last year's level, and 6 are choosing no intent level at this point. Thank you for your financial commitments to help the ministry of Our Redeemer be vital to members, the community, and our world as a whole.

Receiving Year-End Gifts

At the end of the year, we would welcome any additional gifts you might like to make toward Our Redeemer. Whatever we receive will help us cover financial obligations for this difficult year and help us begin 2021 on the best possible foot. One thing people might consider is that for this tax year there is a universal \$300 deduction for giving through the CARES Act for those who do not list itemized deductions. Any giving, up to \$300, to Our Redeemer will be a deduction to your tax, so consider this as added incentive to make a special year-end gift. For more information call the office.

Might you be interested in serving on the Church Board?

We are looking to add one or two new people to serve on the Church Board, which would begin in February. This is a valuable way to serve the church and is a good experience for individuals. We meet monthly on the second Tuesday in the evening and handle other issues and situations as needed. There is an outline of the responsibilities available. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Karsten or our current President Hilary Hinrichs.

Worship Information

Online Worship – Until further notice, no in-house worship services—Please join us each week for a prerecorded online service as we are choosing to not meet in person at this time so as to be safer for our folks and the community. Watch Our Redeemer services anytime on *YouTube* – find the link on our website, or on the front page of our newsletters, or by look up ‘Our Redeemer St Paul’ on *YouTube*.

Sunday Worship Viewing on Wednesdays— We will open the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 12 noon for a viewing of the previous Sunday worship service on the large screen. Space will be limited to 10 people so we suggest that you contact the office. This is especially for those without technology or who are reluctant to be with any crowds. Come join us!

Christmas Eve in the Courtyard or Parking Lot – On one of the most special nights of worship, it is hard to not be inside with Candles and Communion and the great Christmas music, and, with COVID-19 concerns, we regret not having this opportunity. But we will be offering a different kind of Christmas Eve worship. Join us for a half hour of outside worship on December 24 at 4, 5 or 9 p.m. People can be in cars (we will hand out a bulletin to follow and also plan to have coming from an FM radio station you can listen to in your car) or you are welcome to bring a chair to be outdoors. We will have the area prepared in the East parking lot like we did for outdoor summer services. Come and let worship on this great night stir us—invite others to join you!

Christmas Day—Join in a special Christmas Day service being provided by Bishop Patricia Lull and the Synod staff as a chance to celebrate the Christmas news and draw us into God's past and present work. This will be on our regular *YouTube* account.

Communion – During this time when we have moved to online worship only, we are pausing our celebration of Holy Communion until the time when we can again gather in the sanctuary.

Music???? – Do you care to add to our Advent worship services by recording some music? We are looking to utilize different people to add to our December services as prelude, postlude, or offering music. It can be instrumental or vocal (or both) and you can choose your favorite Christmas carol. Record some verses and share it with us soon by uploading it to orlcmn@google.com or use www.wetransfer.com to send to the same email. (*Note: Remember to record your performance horizontally.*)

Easy Online Devos for Advent

Upload this link: <http://bit.ly/adventdevos> to your Gmail account and have a quick centering devotion and Bible reading at your fingertips. This advent devotional resource is created by Pr. Katy Stenta, a Presbyterian pastor in New York.

Lutheran Social Services—Blessed are you!

A letter from Lutheran Social Services (LSS) sent us a special “thank you” for our past contributions which has allowed them to deliver LSS meals to anyone, anywhere in Minnesota, and which has rapidly increased this past year from an average of 3,500 meals per day to a staggering 9,500 meals per day. They wrote, in part, “...(we) want to thank Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for your support and your investment in this mission we share. As you consider your plans for year-end gifts, (we) ask you to remember LSS with the most generous gift you can give. Your gift will be used where the need is greatest, in service to God’s people throughout Minnesota.” Also included in the letter was the below “blessing.” Please send your gift to [Give to LSS | Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota \(lssmn.org\)](http://www.give-to-lss.org).



Blessed Are You

Blessed are you in this year unlike any other.

Blessed are you who care for the sick and lonely, the anxious and unseen, in the name of Christ.

Blessed are you when you are exhausted and still manage to respond with grace overflowing.

Blessed are you who advocate for justice, mercy, and the welcome of strangers.

Blessed are you who preach the Good News, because, frankly, you need to hear it too.

Blessed are you who give your all—and then some—for the sake of loving your neighbors.

Blessed are you who weep and mourn, pray and lament, laugh and dance.

Blessed are you.

Cookie Sale! Saturday, December 12, 9—11 AM

Due to COVID-19, we will be doing our sale a little different this year. We will be offering the cookies and candies listed below as well as boxes of assorted cookies. Assorted boxes may have cookies not specifically included in the list below. We would prefer that you pre-order, so we can fill your selections and have your cookies packaged up ahead of time. Just drive up to church, stay in your vehicle, and we will bring your order out to your car! This will keep it easy for you and safe for all. Cookies are available in increments of half dozen for \$3 and a dozen for \$6. Candies are \$6 per package (about ½ pound) and dipped pretzels are \$6 for 6 pretzel rods. Please return the attached form and payment to the church. All checks should be made payable to **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**. All proceeds benefit the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church children, youth and family programs. Additional boxes of assorted cookies will be available the day of the sale on a first come, first serve basis. If you have any questions, contact Cherie Kilbride via: 612-703-8535 or sc400@comcast.net



God at the Movies 101: Jojo Rabbit (PG-13)

SUN, DEC 20 AT 7 PM on Zoom: bitly.com/ORLCmovies

Hey all you movie buffs - mark your calendar for the next movie discussion! Invite a friend to watch and then hop on Zoom for a lively discussion. Here is a teaser of the upcoming movie..."Jojo is a lonely German boy who discovers that his single mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their attic. Aided only by his imaginary friend -- Adolf Hitler -- Jojo must confront his blind nationalism as World War II continues to rage on."

Blessed to be a Blessing

On Wednesday, November 25, our amazing Loaves & Fishes volunteer crew served 207 hot turkey dinners and roughly \$2000 of produce, meat, frozen meals, and baking supplies donated from Merrick & North Saint Paul food shelves and Sanneh Foundation. It was a blessing to be able to serve and distribute food to so many of our neighbors. We could not do it without all the chefs, kitchen helpers, servers, dishwashers, food packers, drive-thru runners, custodian, drivers who pick up donations, and financial donations we receive. A heartfelt thank you for being a congregation of care and love to those in need. Also, we raised \$670 during our two-week online fundraiser through the ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread Matching Grant. The ELCA will match our donations with \$500. That means we have \$1170 to keep serving our neighbors. Hooray!

Sock It to 'Em

We helped support the *Sock It To 'Em Sock Campaign*, a nonprofit organization aimed to put new socks on the feet of men, women, and children of all ages in need. Visit their website at: <https://sockittoemsockcampaign.org/> or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sockcampaign>. We collected over 300 socks that are being donated to a local charity, *The Listening House*. If you have any additional socks you wish to donate, please contact Sally since she will be making a final delivery at Christmas.



Special Thanks

We received a special thank you from **Nora Smeed**:

"Thank you to everyone for all the prayers—calls—and cards. I miss you all."

*Love & Prayers,
Nora*

Our Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to **Claire Sexton** whose mother passed away on Saturday, November 28, at the age of 102.



Volunteers Needed! North St. Paul Food Shelf

The **North St. Paul Food Shelf** could use some volunteers! If you have 2 or 4 or 5 hours of time once a week or a month that you could spare for a good cause, please contact Kathi Kirchoff at kathik717@hotmail.com or 651-245-3533. The help needed is for stocking shelves, bagging for clients, sorting through and organizing items. The hours would generally be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the week.



Order your Gift Cards Now!

A reminder that you can purchase gift cards by emailing* Barb Maynard and Sally to pre-order cards since we only keep a limited supply on hand. We can provide a list of stores and the necessary form to complete. 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! (Deadline for Christmas orders is December 7.) (*Email: bezm09@comcast.net AND office@orlcmn.org)



Team Technology—Looking for Volunteers!

It's been quite some time since we've reviewed our entire computer/technology operations from security of documents and website, to enhanced website, newsletter and Facebook features to better reach our community inside and out. It would also include assistance with our online Sunday morning streaming. If you are interested in being a part of Team Technology, please contact Sally at office@orlcmn.org or 651-772-2445.



Wednesday Night Community Meal & Fun



Our Redeemer and the Mask Movement



The need is still tremendous as we are asked to “mask up.” We are in need of sewers! As we partner with the *Mask Movement* to provide masks to various individuals and groups that do not have the resources to purchase them, we have more kits on hand ready for whoever is willing to sew them up. If you are able, or know of interested sewers, please contact Sally at the office.



A special thanks to those who have already helped out!!

December 2020 Happenings

Indoors Activities On "Pause": Quilting, Knitting/Crocheting, Bible Study (on Zoom)

Worship Services (Online)	Every Sunday @ 10 a.m. on YouTube Wednesdays @ 12 noon at Church in Sanctuary (by appointment)
Scriptures & Lectors	December 6: Joel 2:12-13, 28-29, “Joel: God’s Promised Spirit” <i>Hilary Heinrich</i> December 13: Isaiah 61:1-11, “Spirit of the Lord Upon Me” <i>Holly Forsberg</i> December 20: Luke 1:26-45, 46-56, “Jesus’ Birth Announced” <i>Denise Olgbaiye</i> December 24: Luke 2:1-14, 15-20, Christmas Eve “Birth of Jesus” TBD December 25: Luke 2:8-20, Christmas Day “Shepherds visit” N/A December 27: Luke 2:21-28, “Simeon and Anna” <i>Dianne Derks, Cherie Kilbride, Holly Forsberg, and 3 additional TBD</i>
Bible Study	Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. On Zoom until further notice. (Contact the office if you need assistance connecting on Zoom.)
Discussion on Monthly Movies on Racism	December 20: Discussion on Zoom on the 3rd Sundays of the month at 7 p.m. See article in this newsletter for details. (<i>Movies to be viewed prior to Zoom discussion time.</i>)
Young Adult Collab	December date to be determined. Contact Deacon Jennifer with any questions.

GIVING OF YOUR OFFERINGS



- Mail your offering/envelope to the ORLC office: 1390 Larpenteur Ave E, St. Paul MN 55109
- 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 webs(www.orlcmn.org) by clicking the “Make Donation” button on the 1st page. Set up an automatic one-time or recurring withdrawal from your financial institution, or by using a credit card. (*There is a 2% fee to use a credit card.*)
- Text 844-871-2328, enter amount in message line, send, and you’ll receive further instructions.

Additional ways to give to Our Redeemer:

- **Gift Cards**—Gift cards are now on sale the 1st Sunday of each month from Barb Maynard. You can place your order other days by emailing Barb and Sally who will coordinate when you can pick them up with your payment.
- **Order through Shutterfly**—Any purchases you make through our Shutterfly Storefront provides Our Redeemer with 8 percent of the sale! Go to: ORLCMN.ShutterflyStorefront.com.
- **Also, through your Thrivent Dollars!**—check your Thrivent accounts regularly for *Choice* dollars that may have accumulated which can be designated to Our Redeemer or as you choose.

Worship details on back page!



CONNECTING ON ZOOM!

SUNDAYS—Our Redeemer Connection Time

11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Meeting ID: 947 3459 2014 Passcode: orlc

WEDNESDAYS—Bible Study

9:30—10:30 a.m.

Meeting ID: 938 5603 8724 Passcode: orlc

THIRD SUNDAYS—Movie Conversation on Racism

7:00—8:00 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/96332478590>

Meeting ID: 963 3247 8590 Passcode: orlc

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

CONTACT US - We are here for you!

We are in the office Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m.—2 p.m.; and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.—5 p.m. However, please reach out to us anytime beyond these hours as we want to hear from you if you would just like to talk or if you have prayer needs.

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

Taking a look back in time...



Merry
CHRIST
mas





HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, December 6, 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 the gift of God to the world and the inspiration for our life – **Now and Always**

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

Opening Prayer

Loving Lord. When we have strayed, you have called us to come home to you. “Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.” With all our hearts we return to you, and gratefully accept your gentle love, for the sake of the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ our loving savior. **Amen.**

Song – Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Verse 1:

"Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in
darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's
pardon waits for them. Tell them that their war is
over;
God will reign in peace forever.

calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.

Verse 3:

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the
rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and
humble, as befits God's holy reign. For the glory of
the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh
shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Verse 2:

For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,

Scripture - Joel 2:12-13, 28-29 (please find this in your own Bible)

Scripture Reflections and Questions

Oftentimes in this season our hearts and minds and activity tries filling up with so much of the cultural ideas of happy and jolly. What can it look like to turn from some of that focus and instead rest and ponder God's gifts.

Part of the language of people of faith has been lament – the holy and hard work of looking inward and outward for reasons/need for change. What do you lament in the world? Where is the lament within your life? Offer these to God as part of the Advent returning to the Lord that is also the holy and hard work of faithful people.

Prayers – from freedfromfreedfor.org

Pour your spirit upon the church, O Lord, grant us patience as we await your coming again and strengthen our trust in your eternal promises. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour your spirit upon the nations, O Lord, bring wholeness and healing to our broken systems of justice and power. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour your spirit upon all peoples, O Lord, help us to find joy and blessing in the great diversity you have given to the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour your spirit upon those in pain, O Lord, grant healing, comfort, and hope to those suffering from disease of any sort. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour your spirit upon this assembly, O Lord, comfort those who are alone or grieving in this season and use us to surround one another with your love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

(Other prayers may be included for yourself, church and world, for those sick with COVID-19 and others who are mourning deaths, for meaningful Advent days **Into your capable hands we commend our prayers, 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 Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine down upon you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Thanks be to God!**



HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, December 13, 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, our joy and strength, the generous gift of God. – Now and Always
We gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Opening Prayer Faithful God, You restore to your people all that has been lost. Renew our hopes for the future and our zeal for serving you as chosen and beloved children, through Jesus Christ. Amen

Song – O Come Let us Adore Him

Verse 1:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem Come and
be-hold Him Born the King of Angels
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Verse 2:

God of God, Light of Light
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb
Very God Begotten, not created
O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Verse 3:

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
All glory in the highest
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Scripture - Isaiah 61:1-11 (please find this in your own Bible)

Scripture Reflections and Questions

It is interesting that again we see God's care (and use) of the poor and those on the receiving end of injustice. In order to "repair the ruined cities..." perhaps those who have experienced this can be a society that is built from below more so than something simply formed from the top officials – trickle down justice. What thoughts stir?

In this section of Isaiah the people have returned to Jerusalem to rebuild a city and society that will not repeat the injustices of the past. This text reminds us of purpose we carry. The gift of the Spirit is not for our individual salvation alone but for the sake of partnership in the work of God. What actions do you live out for the world?

Prayers

More valuable than expensive clothes or symbols of status is the robe of righteousness with which you cover us. Teach us to treasure the gifts of your kingdom blessings more than the material things which we are tempted to pursue.

Build up and restore ruined relationships and shattered connections with those from whom we feel distanced. Forgive harmful words and actions and teach us to value love and compassion above the need to be right.

Just as the earth brings forth shoots and a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, you will keep your promise to renew all of creation, even after all the damage it has suffered. Make us co-creators in your reconciling work, defenders of living things and the environment which supports them.

Those who mourn will one day celebrate again. Heal all those struggling with grief, regret, sadness, or any sort of illness, especially those whom we name before you...

(Other prayers may be included for yourself, church and world, for those sick with COVID-19 and others who are mourning deaths, for meaningful Advent days) Into your capable hands we commend our prayers, 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 Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine down upon you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Thanks be to God!**



Newsletter Mini Survey



Our next monthly newsletter will start out a new year! Most of us are excited about starting a new year for many obvious reasons, but since there is space in this issue, we wanted to ask a few questions about your preferences about what you may like to see in upcoming issues of "The Good Newsletter."

Would you like to see included:

	Yes	No
1. Birthdays* (month/day)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Wedding anniversaries**(milestones)? <i>(*with consent & **provided by the couple/family)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. A person featured each month and include their faith story?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Recommended books, movies, music, etc., by others?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Items or help needed by you or others and wishing to give to others?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Ideas? _____

(Or email to office@orlcmn.org)

What is your preference in receiving the newsletter:

I prefer to receive the newsletter by regular mail.
 I prefer to receive the newsletter by email to: _____
 I prefer to receive the newsletter both by regular mail and email.
Name: _____
Contact Info (phone or email): _____

Angels We Have Heard On High Get an Angel, Be an Angel...

Enclosed in this newsletter is an envelope containing an **Angel** reminding us of how the Virgin Mary learned she would have a son that she would name Jesus. What a miracle!

This year, the *Missions Team* is inviting you to spread your wings and be someone's **Angel**. Due to social distancing, we will not be participating in traditional ways of gathering and giving at Christmas time. We ask that you consider the pandemic way of giving and mail a donation that will go to one or more places we are connected with as listed below. Place a dollar amount next to your choice(s):

- \$ _____ Bega Kwa Bega (Kidewa, Tanzania)
- \$ _____ Doulos Discovery School (Domin Rep)
- \$ _____ Merrick Community Services (St Paul)

\$ _____ TOTAL GIVING AMOUNT

Name: _____

By **December 31**, please mail or drop off your donation to church and it will be directed accordingly. Make checks payable to ORLC and note "Mission Angel" (or online at www.orlcmn.org/donate).



Drive-Thru Christmas Cookie Shop

Saturday, December 12, 9-11 a.m.

Please write the number of dozens (or 1/2) of each type of cookie and/or number of packages of candies you would like on the line to the right of each option. Contact Cherie Kilbride at: 612-703-8535 or sc400@comcast.net. Order due **December 5** (there will be some extras available on the day).

Cookies (\$6 per dozen)

- Peanut Butter Blossoms (chocolate kiss) _____
- Cutout Sugar Cookies _____
- Gingerbread Cutouts _____
- Rosettes _____ (limit of 1 dozen per customer)
- Spritz _____
- Russian Teacakes _____
- Snickerdoodles _____
- Assorted _____

Candies (\$6 per item)

- English toffee _____
- Peanut Brittle _____
- Fudge _____
- Caramels _____
- Chocolate Dipped Pretzels _____

Total Items _____
Total Cost \$ _____

Name _____

Phone # _____



Christmas Flowers

A wonderful way to remember your loved ones, or honor special people in your life, is to purchase a Christmas plant. Simply complete the form below and return it to the office by **December 22** with your payment. Make checks payable to **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church** and indicate "**Christmas Flowers.**" After Wednesday, December 23, at 1 p.m., you may pick up your plant (or leave it to be passed along to a shut-in).

Number of Plants: _____ @ \$14 per plant = \$ _____

In HONOR of: *Please PRINT*

In MEMORY of:

Your Name(s): _____

Contact Info (phone or email): _____

Community Free Meals—Wednesdays Drive-Thru Meals & More!

While our doors are closed to our inside services and most activities, we are still open to providing our community with free drive-thru meals through Loaves & Fishes as well as other donations from local food shelves on **Wednesdays** from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** Please spread the word that our meals are available in take-out containers and by driving up to our front church entry by entering the Birmingham Avenue entrance. We are grateful to receive other food items from the **North St. Paul** and the **Merrick food shelves** as well as from the **Sanneh Foundation**. Please tell your family, friends, neighbors to join us — because ALL are WELCOME—no questions asked (not based on financial status).

Pick a Week to Serve

We love and appreciate all our volunteers on Wednesday nights and really need the help. The hospitality we provide is a way that we share our faith and welcome our neighbor. Each night we need about 12 volunteers. If you are able to commit to helping on a regular basis, please consider signing up for a shift every other week! We are creating teams that serve on 1st and 3rd or 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. You can sign up at <https://bit.ly/loaves-fishes>.

Bags - paper or plastic

Each week during our Loaves & Fishes meal, we hand out roughly \$1500 of bread, produce, and frozen meals along with our hot dinner. We are in need of gently used clean paper and plastic bags for shopping and carrying home these grocery items. If you have extras lying around, please bring them to the church and place them in the box in the Narthex.

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPTIONS: Online on YouTube — Wednesdays at Noon—By Reading "Home Church"

- Until further notice, we will not be holding services inside. Please join us online at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday at <http://bit.ly/ORLCMNyoutube> or go on to our website: www.orlcmn.org and on the first page there is a link under the title, "YouTube Videos." Or on *YouTube*, search for "Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN" (look for our logo)
- If you do not have access to a computer or other electronic device, enjoy reading our weekly *Home Church* OR contact the office and reserve a space in our sanctuary on **Wednesdays at Noon** to view the previous Sunday's service on our large screen. (Limited to 10 individuals, social distancing and wearing masks.)

Address Service Requested

DO NOT DELAY
DATED MATERIAL

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

