

August 2020

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Sunday 11 AM  
Connection Time  
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## “The Good Newsletter” of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



### A Message from Pastor Karsten: “Trying to be Content”

Most of us can see these words, and sing the tune from Simon and Garfunkel – “Slow down, you move too fast, you got to make the morning last, just kicking down the cobblestones, looking for fun and feeling groovy.” Hopefully our COVID-19 induced limits might still have us able to feel groovy, but probably not nearly as much as if we could get out on the cobblestones or pathways or porches with people. And I am quite certain you are like me in that there are things I am really missing right now?

I miss having my youngest daughter come to my house and be able to safely come inside. I miss not being able to have church meetings face-to-face and close enough to see the joy in one’s eyes or the sorrow in one’s tear. I miss not having our every other year big family reunion with 50+ folks. I miss not getting to a Twins or MN United Soccer game. I long to have a meal in a restaurant with my pastor friends after “trying” to golf. I miss people not being together in the narthex. I miss not seeing the people who have to stay away from the church for health and personal reasons. I miss walking down a street for the community fairs. And the list could keep going!

What is it you miss????? Take some moments to pause your reading and name some out loud, or write them down.....(*go ahead and reflect*). I would be happy to see what you might list if you care to share them.

But on top of what we honestly miss, and grieve and feel anxiety about, there are some blessing behind the changes and the challenges. They might be harder to find and name but they are there – and the practice of naming them can help us be more grateful and not just resentful in this time and situation.

I know I am finding more time with my family to be good for bonding and lots of games. I value the family cabin we have, even if it is limited visits with only me and Jackie and Katie. I have found a new interest in vegetable gardening, which is joyful and peaceful. I spend more nights home, and shared work on cooking has been delightful. I have taken more time for just walking, instead of running or sitting around. There is more room for reading which is always nice. And this list could go on and on.

What is it that you are able to enjoy differently in these days? – *pause and reflect*..... and share those with me via a phone call or email if you like.

Since we are leaning into Paul’s writings for our summer worship series, right now maybe we can take a line from his note to the church at Phillipi (chapter 4, verse 11) and lean into this ourselves – “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.... for I can do all things through him who gives me strength.” May we keep finding strength to keep facing these days.

*Pastor Karsten*

**Things to Know about Outside Worship—Sunday, August 2—** We will be in the East Parking lot with space for cars to drive up and park by the playground Ark. Others are welcome to join us in the grass and courtyard - bring your own chairs or use some of ours. We will have our sound system set up - and we invited the neighbors to come and join us (and asked them not to mow the grass). It should be a good gathering of praise and the chance for many from Our Redeemer to come and worship together in a safer space. Masks are still encouraged and physical distancing of 6 feet will be expected. We will be livestreaming the service for those who want to worship from the comforts of home.



## A Message from Deacon Jennifer Schneider: "Getting Into 'Good Trouble' "

On the heels of the death of George Floyd, riots in the Twin Cities, and the continued discussion over what to do with the broken law enforcement systems, we mourn the loss of beloved civil rights activist John Lewis. He called for us to "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America." He lived out his faith working for justice through his powerful words and actions.

To be faithful to our baptismal promise to **strive for justice and peace in all the earth**, we are taking steps at ORLC to speak out against Black oppression and fight the systemic racism that plagues our nation. It is not enough for us to simply say that we personally are not racist. In the book study held last month, we learned that if we aren't fighting against racism, then we are perpetuating racism. Silence is acceptance.

Black Lives Matter signs will soon be seen on our lawn at ORLC. We are actively taking steps to speak out against racism, to live out our baptismal promise.

Some might say, "ALL lives matter!" That is certainly well and true. God created all humankind in God's perfect and beautiful image. However, Black lives have been systematically crushed over the centuries by both the church and society. (*Learn more by reading "Stamped from the Beginning."*) Think back to the last 100 years of US history: Black veterans were not eligible for the GI Bill. "Redlining" prevented Blacks from securing mortgages, insurance, healthcare and access to grocery stores. (In the 1960s, sociologist John McKnight coined the term "redlining" to describe the discriminatory practice of fencing off areas where banks would avoid investments based on community demographics.) And today, we see discrimination in traffic stops, arrests, and imprisonment.

How does a BLM yard sign make a difference? For starters, it helps our neighborhood see that we are not complacent. We as a church are working to be more inclusive and welcoming and this is a visible way that we can begin. It also opens up an opportunity for discussion when people drive up on Wednesday nights for dinner. It can also help us to think about racism and injustice on a more regular basis. Black people face racism and discrimination all day long every day. Whites think about or see racism happening far less often.

It is important for us to educate ourselves about the history of racist practices in our country. But that is not enough. We must be people of action, striving to end oppression, anti-racist people of God. We can start with a yard sign. And then, as we continue to educate ourselves on voter suppression, discriminatory lending practices, inequitable education systems, etc, we can be more prepared to speak out, "get into good trouble," and to vote. With elections looming, our vote is an important tool for change. Our voice speaking to our neighbors and friends helps them to vote wisely to fight oppression and care well for our Black neighbors.

### Live No Longer for Ourselves...

In our walk through 2 Corinthians, we read this from 2 Corinthians 5:15 – "And Jesus died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them". In the midst of the world these days, we need to take good care of ourselves, but let us also have a strong focus on the world around us – that is Paul's encouragement. And we do so as a way of serving the one who served (died) us.

Please bear in mind these days the needs of our local food shelves which only continue to grow. Our Bishop has put out a challenge to the 110 congregations to try and raise \$50,000 by the end of summer. And of course there is a world out there with far less resources than even the poorest around us locally. This note came from Lutheran World Relief that provides care throughout the world.

### As COVID-19 advances, families need clean water more than ever...

Kapinga Eudoxi was saddened by all the sickness in her village — typhoid, malaria, diarrhea. These diseases are mostly preventable, but in Kapinga's village in the Democratic Republic of Congo, they were often deadly. Now, more than ever, families in vulnerable communities — from slums in Kenya ... to refugee camps in Uganda ... to remote regions of El Salvador — need access to clean water. As COVID-19 makes its way around the world, many families have almost no defense against its spread. When every drop of water they can carry is needed for drinking or cooking, handwashing is a luxury too many cannot afford. Still other families are struggling to grow crops to eat and to sell, simply because they don't have enough water. You can send gifts to Our Redeemer and mention 'Food Shelf' or 'Lutheran World Relief' to help out. We will forward those to these organizations.



## Worship on the Farm—via Zoom—August 11—Blessing of the PETS!

This is the last of our **Worship on the Farm Via Zoom—Wednesday, August 11, at 6:30 p.m.** This has been part of a continued collaborative effort with five other area Lutheran churches to organize a shared weekday service. For the service on August 11, there will be the blessing of the pets, so snuggle up to your pet on Zoom for a special prayer! Sign up at this link to get the *Zoom* instructions. <https://mailchi.mp/d985577d8fe0/rsvp-to-worship-on-the-farm-online#rsvp>. We hope you can join in!

## Stewardship News—Quarterly Statements

Hopefully you received the quarterly statements that went out recently. The letter that was attached lifted up the good news of our strong congregational giving at the beginning of the year and our ability to access a PPP loan for Our Redeemer. But as we head into the end of summer, this is a challenging time for us to keep matching our income to our expenses. Your generous financial gifts are significant for carrying out the ministry and work of our church. Please do what you can to help us stay on strong financial ground.

## Highlights for the Upcoming Weeks in August

<b>Outside Service!</b>	<b>August 2 @ 10 a.m.</b> (weather permitting otherwise in the Sanctuary) Holy Communion
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>August 2</b> Jim Burke <b>August 23</b> Amy Krohn <b>August 9</b> Jane Koza <b>August 30</b> Kathi Kirchoff <b>August 16</b> Holly Forsberg
<b>Vacation Bible School</b>	<b>August 5 &amp; 9</b> Pick up your VBS kits (see article on next page)
<b>Worship on the Farm</b>	<b>August 11</b> Via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Blessings of the Pets (see article above)
<b>Quilting</b>	<b>August 10 &amp; 24</b> Join the Quilters 2nd & 4th Mondays at 9 AM—Noon in the Fellowship Hall.
<b>Knitting &amp; Crocheting</b>	<b>August 20</b> Join the Knitting & Crocheting Group on the 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in courtyard or inside if weather dictates.
<b>Dorothy Day Volunteering</b>	<b>August 24</b> Contact Claire Sexton if interested! (see article on next page)
<b>Young Adult Collab</b>	<b>August 27</b> In your 20s-40s? Join our Young Adult Collab on the 4th Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

### 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](http://www.orlcmn.org/donate), which is also available on our website ([www.orlcmn.org](http://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. (Minimal charge to use a credit card.)
- Text [844-871-2328](tel:844-871-2328), enter amount in message line, send, and you will receive further instructions.



### Additional ways to give to Our Redeemer:

**Gift Cards**—You can still purchase gift cards by preordering them. Email Sally and she will coordinate your order with Barb Maynard. You can pick them up with your payment preferably on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. if she has the cards in stock.

**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](http://ORLCMN.ShutterflyStorefront.com).

**Also, through your Thrivent Dollars!**—check your Thrivent accounts for *Choice* dollars that may have accumulated, and designate them as you choose.

### Worship Online details on back page!

#### CONNECTING ON ZOOM!

**SUNDAYS—Our Redeemer 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>

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11—Worship on the Farm**  
6:30-7:30 p.m.  
(see details in article at top of this page)

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

#### CONTACT US - We are still here for you! New Reopening Office Hours

The staffed office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. However, please reach out to us anytime beyond these hours—we are still here for you and want to know about your prayer needs.

Pastor Karsten - [karstenn@comcast.net](mailto:karstenn@comcast.net) 651-772-2445, ext. 102  
or at 651-271-5134

Deacon Jennifer - [jennifer@orlcmn.org](mailto:jennifer@orlcmn.org) 651-772-2445, ext. 103  
or at 651-494-7943

Finance Administrator, Lisa - [Lisa@orlcmn.org](mailto:Lisa@orlcmn.org)  
651-772-2445, ext. 101

Office Administrator, Sally - [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org)  
651-772-2445, ext. 101

## Back to School

As school starts in the fall, there will be many changes implemented to keep kids safe. With so much up in the air, the **ORLC Missions Committee** has decided to postpone the annual school supply drive until September. Schools will have a better idea of the supplies that they and students will need once a new routine is established. Please hold on to any supplies you have already purchased. More information on the needs and collection time will be posted in September. In the mean time, please pray for our teachers, school staff, and students that they may be healthy and have safe opportunities to learn and grow this school year.

## ORLC Serving at Dorothy Day

On **Monday, August 24**, Our Redeemer is scheduled to prepare and serve meals at the Dorothy Day Residence in St. Paul. We couldn't do this ministry without you! As always, we appreciate *Thrivent Financial*'s involvement for making grants possible to its members, which tremendously helps offset our costs! For details and to sign up, contact Claire at 651-336-2975 or email: [clas1249@gmail.com](mailto:clas1249@gmail.com). (Our next opportunity to volunteer for Dorothy Day will be Monday, October 26, so mark your calendar!)

## Our Redeemer and the Mask Movement—Sewing & Distribution Volunteers Needed!

Friendly reminder!! We are partnering with the "Mask Movement" to provide masks to various individuals and groups and churches in the Twin Cities that do not have the resources to access or purchase masks, as well as to those picking up meals on our *Loaves & Fishes* Wednesdays. We are one of the "hubs" or holding places for the masks, as well as sewing and distributing them. We are looking for volunteers to not only sew the masks, but also help pack and distribute them. They come in two sizes—adult and child (about ages 2-10) with the option for either elastic or ties. They provide the pre-cut fabric and elastic/ties all ready to sew! Please spread the word to your family, friends, coworkers and contact Sally to let her know if you or others are interested. Check out their website at: <https://maskmvt.org>. A special thanks to those who have already picked up kits and sewing them up!



## Vacation Bible School is on! Virtual!

Rocky Railway Virtual Vacation Bible School (VBS) will keep you chugging along with Bible stories, games, and science projects that you can watch on *YouTube*! Videos are made in collaboration with Gustavus Adolphus Church and are great for kids ages 1-101. Check them out on the ORLC *YouTube* channel!

For kids who are registered, VBS kits can be picked up on **Wednesday, August 5**, or **Sunday, August 9**, after church. There are still kits available. If you know someone who would enjoy a VBS kit, please talk to Deacon Jennifer.



## YOUNG ADULTS - YACollab

The YACollab will meet on **Thursday, August 27** for dinner (location TBD) at **6:00pm**. Young adults (ages 20's-40's) hang out to play games, socialize, talk about faith and issues near and dear to their heart. A free meal is provided. For more information, contact Deacon Jennifer or check out the Facebook page: [@youngadultcollaboration](https://www.facebook.com/youngadultcollaboration)

## What's happening with our National Night Out? And with our Rummage Sale?

These are great questions we've heard asked! We are not sure yet if we can make these happen in 2020, but if we can do so in a safe manner, they possibly could happen, but we just don't know the answers yet. We will have the committees discuss their preferences, and we'll keep you posted. [Note: None of the free items being placed out on Wednesday evenings are those designated for our rummage sale.]

## Harvesting Has Begun!

Great progress of harvesting in our backyard vegetable gardens! A special thanks to those who have stepped in to help with the harvesting, especially **Carole Erickson, Jason Trent, Bruce Ring**, our ORLC staff, as well as our SUPER gardeners: **Mike Kahrau and Tereziana Foray-Wright!** All produce goes to the food shelves and our Wednesday night free meal program.





## HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, August 2, 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

Find a candle to light as it helps set aside this time as special. Find some kind of rock or pebble to have with you – it is symbolic of the Ebenezer (rocks marking holy space) we are building at church.

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, knowing this is holy space.

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

**Opening Prayer** – Lord, we always want to have a faith that is not just something on the surface of our lives, but is at the very core of how we live and act and talk and care. Thank you that your work with Jesus on the cross has already reconciled us to you. Help us to rejoice in that good news today.

**Song** - You can sing or read “We Walk By Faith” ELW #635 (*Red Hymnal Book*)

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight:  
No gracious words we hear  
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
but we believe him near.
2. We may not touch his hands and side,  
nor follow where he trod;  
yet in his promise we rejoice,  
and cry, "My Lord and God!"
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,  
and may our faith abound;  
to call on you when you are near.  
and seek where you are found:
4. That when our life of faith is done  
in realms of clearer light  
We may behold you as you are  
in full and endless sight.

### Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-21 God's work of Reconciliation

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

### The Ministry of Reconciliation

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;<sup>[b]</sup> even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,<sup>[c]</sup> we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,<sup>[c]</sup> not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



### Scripture Reflection Questions

What lines or phrases stand out to you as you read through this text. Where there is question or delight stop and give yourself more time for reflections, wondering and prayer around those lines. Now read the text again.

Paul is both a confident person and a concerned person. In verse 10 he talks about himself (and us) appearing before God one day. That truth is a fear that drives Paul to serve and live his best. But Paul is just as much motivated by the love of God to serve and live his best. When are you driven by fear in your faith life? When are you driven by love in your faith life?

For most all of us it should be heart pounding, joy inducing, thrilling, and welcomed news that God has already reconciled us by the very work of Jesus on the cross. Resting in that reality allowed Paul and allows us to be freed up to live our lives fully and freely – lost in God’s love and caught up in God’s purposes around us. How do you experience this in your own faith life. How might you more fully rest and trust in this good news?

### **Prayers**

One prayer option is to say: “Thank you Jesus for....” and “Help me Jesus with....”)

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

You have given us the ministry of reconciliation, O God, that your children might know and live in your unifying Spirit. Help us to let go of past preoccupations, grudges and insults, and move forward with the strong understanding you’re your claim on our lives is already done and your work to reconcile was complete on the cross.

Be present with those who live in places where conflict and disease dominate the landscape. Protect children and grant safe refuge for all who need it – especially we think of families and communities and countries affected by COVID-19. .

In Christ all is made new. Bless the work of those who find ways of cleaning up a polluted planet and preserving the life which depends upon it. May we find restoration in caring for all you have made.

We sometimes become preoccupied by the complaints of our physical bodies and blind to the world outside of ourselves. Show us a better way of caring for these temporary temples, nourishing and using them in ways which honor you and maintain our health. Bless all those who struggle with particular challenges, especially.....

We grieve those who are no longer with us, although we know they are safe and loved in your eternal home. Keep us united in spirit until that day when we shall see their faces again in your heavenly kingdom.

*Here other petitions may be offered – for schools administrators, for local and national legislators, for those just starting to address racism.....*

We trust in your faithfulness, O God, to both hear our prayers and respond to them in the way which serves us and your world best. We pray all of these things in the name of Jesus our savior. 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**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God!**



## Loaves & Fishes—Wednesdays Drive-Thru Take-Out Meals & Prayers & Masks!

Such a blessing that we are able to provide free food to others while juggling the various issues in their lives. Remember that you too are welcome to stop in for our FREE *Loaves & Fishes* take-out meals on **Wednesdays** from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** (Or check in with the office staff on Thursdays for leftovers that we are needing to find homes rather than the trash.) You can also receive a drive-thru prayer and free masks! After going through our “drive-thru” meal line, then park your vehicle and visit our tables of other items we may have available. Please tell your family, friends, neighbors—ALL are WELCOME—no questions asked (not based on financial status).



Thank you, thank you, thank you! A humongous THANKS to our chefs, **Matt Kuhn** and **Jeff Trent**, A huge THANK YOU to **Kathi Kirchoff** who manages the **North St. Paul Food Shelf** and **Kevin Berglund** from the **Merrick Food Shelf** for providing us with a plethora of various breads, pastries, fruits, vegetables, snacks, etc., when available. (At times, there are also tables of FREE clothes.) And to **Kurt and Lisa Thompson** who couriers (and hauls in) many of the goods to our door from the North St. Paul Food Shelf! **Volunteers!** We are always looking for volunteers to hand out meals, so contact the church office to sign up if you or others are interested. 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 call Deacon Jennifer at 651-494-7943.

**Donations on GoFundMe**—One of our Wednesday evening chefs (Matt Kuhn) started a *GoFundMe* page that is inviting donations so that we can purchase a freezer and food warmer in order to better serve the community that is gathering for free meals on Wednesday nights as part of our *Loaves & Fishes* program. Extra funds will help buy other equipment and utensils helpful for this ministry. This has already generated almost \$1,300. If you would like to help, or just to check out what this is all about head to this [GoFundMe link HERE](#) (or search for Matt Kuhn’s *GoFundMe* page).



### SUNDAY WORSHIP OPTIONS - At Church & On YouTube & By Reading “Home Church”

- Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in church (Sunday, August 2, outside in our courtyard & designated parking lot area.)
- Online <http://bit.ly/ORLCMNyoutube> or go on to our website: [www.orlcmn.org](http://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 logo)
- Read our weekly *Home Church* if you do not have access to a computer or other electronic device.

Address Service Requested

DO NOT DELAY  
DATED MATERIAL

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

