



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: Longing for the New Year and living into 2021



We have counted down the days to the end of what will certainly be remembered as a different and difficult year. We have had racial upheaval following the death of George Floyd, which brought to light racial disparities and a painful layer of injustice and systemic racism from the foundations of our country—and still is alive today. We have watched as hurricanes and wildfires have ravaged our land and brought devastating results through their destructive paths. We have been dragged through a chaotic election cycle that has been stirred by lies and layers of mistrust that will cloud strong elected leaders from tending to their necessary work. And of course we have endured the ramifications of COVID-19 with its broad effects on our economy, health care, and sorrow with so many deaths.

Is it no wonder that we long to change the calendar, to turn the page on this year, to look ahead into a life and a year that can be different? There will no doubt be a number of things that will be different this next year; we will have a country getting vaccinated from COVID-19 and that will allow us to embrace (literally) one another and find ways to be in community again, and we will have new elected leaders who we trust can lead our local communities, state and country in ways that make good, significant impacts.

Of course, even by just turning to new numbers on our calendars and checkbooks, the world will still be much the same. We will have racial issues to work through. We will have natural disasters that will bring havoc. And we still have a long way to go to get on the other side of this pandemic. Much of what will happen this coming year is outside of our control.

But this coming year does provide, once again, a great new beginning for each of us. It is a chance to begin new endeavors that guide us toward healthy living and good care for ourselves and the neighbor. It is a time to begin thinking and planning for how we emerge from COVID with a commitment to good personal engagement with friends and family and even strangers. It is a good chance to shake off some dust from old patterns and ask God to help us be a better self, a stronger disciple, a more unselfish person, or taking on other helpful directions.

The apostle Paul wrote words of encouragement and direction for that community as they faced their own distress. It may not have been at the New Year (very likely it was not!) but his words can provide some sense of foundation as we enter into 2021. From 1 Thessalonians 3:12 “May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you”. You people of Our Redeemer are loved by God, by the staff and lay leaders. Let us seek in the beginning of this year to have our love for each other grow from a distance, and then get ready for a year to reconnect with old friends and build some better relationships as we come together as community, for the sake of each other, and for the wider community and world. Let us start with an interest to pray for each other and pray for a good year ahead for the world.

Pastor Karsten



A Message from Deacon Jennifer: Go Tell it on the Mountain

*Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
Our Jesus Christ is born*

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" is an African-American spiritual song, compiled by John Wesley Work Jr., dating back to at least 1865. I think this is a fitting way for us to start 2021. Last year was overflowing with angst, oppression, mud-slinging, and economic turmoil. This Christmas we pondered the birth of the Christ child over 2000 years ago and have been given a renewed sense of consolation in our sufferings and new hope in the free gift salvation and tender mercies given to all people. How can we keep from singing (and sharing) this incredible gift we have received?

Let us mark 2021 with by audibly, loudly even, in our biggest boldest "outside voices" share the good news of Christ Jesus with all people. (Recapping the past 12 months of my newsletter articles), here are a few specific avenues we might choose to go out and share the good news.

November/December 2020: Take action to care for creation - promote recycling in your apartment complex or home, cut down on the amount of single-serve packages and disposable water bottles used in your household.

August/October 2020: Get political - call or write to you senators and legislators and encourage them to make resources available to assist the growing homeless population, those who suffer from hunger and mental illness, people who are trapped in the broken immigration system.

September 2020: Care for those struggling with food insecurity. Sign up (call or email me for more info) to deliver boxes of food and prepared meals to homebound members of our community.

July 2020: Encourage our youth. COVID-19 didn't just affect adults. Children and youth are struggling with mental health issues, changing educational models, stressors from home life and economic challenges affecting their families. Reach out to the young people in your life and let them know you care.

April/June 2020: Say something when you see injustice happening - call out racist jokes or actions, affirm Black and Brown lives that have for centuries been scorned.

Jan/Feb/March 2020: Keep getting to know your neighbors—(not just the ones living on each side of your home, but the people you encounter in your daily routine). Keep asking questions and learning their story. Find a common thread. Share where you have seen God active in your life!

It is more important than ever that we use our outdoor voices and speak up with and on behalf of others for the good of all of us who share God's good world here in the United States and abroad. Go tell it on the mountain - that Jesus Christ is born!!

Deacon Jennifer



Our Redeemer and the Mask Movement

The need is still tremendous as we Minnesotans 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. Or if you know of anyone who is willing to donate masks to us, we will gratefully accept them. Thank you to all of you who have already helped!



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 looking up ‘Our Redeemer St Paul’ on *YouTube*.

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

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.

Worship Service			
Online Every Sunday @ 10 a.m. on YouTube (view anytime following)			
Wednesdays @ 12 noon at Church in Sanctuary (view previous Sunday service)			
Date	Scripture	Lector	
January 3	Luke 2:21-38; 41-52	“Jesus in the Temple”	Amy Krohn
January 10	Luke 3:1-22	“Jesus and John the Baptist”	Jim Burke
January 17	Luke 4:14-30	“Jesus Brings Good News”	Kathi Kirchoff
January 24	Luke 5:1-11	“Jesus Fishes for People”	Carol Rodriguez
January 31	Luke 6:1-16	“The Lord of the Sabbath”	Jane Koza

If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), contact the office.

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.



Young Adults - 2 Events in January

The YACollab will meet online on **Thursday, January 28 at 6:00pm** for virtual games and conversation. A Bonfire and Brunch is planned for **Sunday, January 24 at 12:30pm** in the church parking lot. Dress warm and bring a lawn chair if you have one. The YACollab (ages 20's-30's) gathers monthly to play games, socialize, talk about faith and issues near and dear to their hearts. For more information, contact Deacon Jennifer or check out the Facebook page: @youngadultcollaboration

Annual Meeting on Zoom

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting that we will again have on the last Sunday of **January 31, at 11:00 a.m.** This will be a meeting to review the past year, look into some goals and directions for 2021, elect new Board members, and approve a budget. The plans right now are for this meeting to be run on *Zoom* – so please anticipate this. People can use computers to join us or even call in via phone to hear the meeting. There are ways to vote which we will lay out in the next newsletter. Please make plans to join us.

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

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





**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA
IRINGA DIOCESE
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM KIDEWA PARISH**

Dear beloved Pastor Karsten and your family and all Christians of our partner parish of Our Redeemer, Praise the Lord!

I Pastor Felix Kikoti, my family and all Christians of Kidewa parish we greet you in the precious name of Jesus Christ. We hope that God is still keeping you though we know that you have a challenge of this pandemic disease of COVID 19. We continue to pray for you and we are eager to know about your situation in this season of this pandemic.

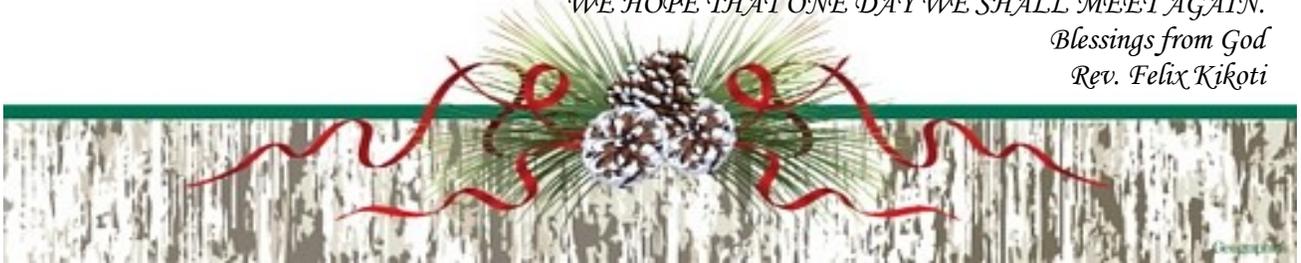
We always hear from the media on the increase of number of infections and deaths in your country, we feel pains and this makes us to have deep prayers on you as our friends in Jesus Christ. So physically you are alone but spiritually you have Jesus and we are together through prayers.

On our side we continue well and we thank God that we have passed though the season of General election in our country and things are continuing as usual.

Lastly but not least: we are wishing you the blessings from God during this Season of Christmas and New Year Of 2021.

WE HOPE THAT ONE DAY WE SHALL MEET AGAIN.

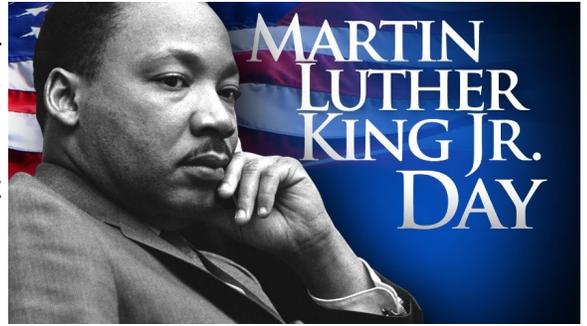
*Blessings from God
Rev. Felix Kikoti*



Photos from 2017

Celebrating the Life of Martin Luther King Day

This year the nation will celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, January 18. His birthday, which is actually January 15, is an annual federal American holiday that celebrates the life and achievements of this influential American civil rights leader. Some history around this holiday—it was promoted soon after his assassination in 1968 but a bill wasn't brought before the US House of Representatives until 1979. When it did, the bill fell five votes short of the number needed. There were two main arguments mentioned by opponents—the first being that a paid holiday for federal employees would be too expensive and, secondly, that a holiday to honor the birth of a private citizen who had never held public office would be contrary to the longstanding tradition.



The effort received more publicity and, in September of 1979, Stevie Wonder released a song called "Happy Birthday" that was meant to make a case for the holiday, calling out anyone who didn't support the idea. Additionally, six million signatures were collected for a petition to Congress to pass the law. Several legislators opposed the holiday and questioned whether King was important enough to receive such an honor and criticized King's opposition to the Vietnam War. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan came into office and originally opposed the holiday, but on November 2, 1983, Reagan signed a bill to create a federal holiday honoring King. The bill passed the House of Representatives and was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Initially, some states resisted observing the holiday only in the year 2000 was it officially observed in all 50 states for the first time.

Lessons with a Dog—by Pastor Karsten

One of the new things over this Christmas was that the Nelson's adopted a rescue dog named Rosie. She has brought joy and love as well as lots of poop picking and trips outside. But there are some applicable life (and faith) lessons that come with these endeavors. Rosie loves to be with us: on laps, in the same room, or sitting at our feet, which is a reminder for me that we all long for comfort – something God knows too. We have been working on training and her interest and ability to learn (sit, down, up, stay, back, come – and some of them with just hand signals), and she reminds me that we are all learners, all the time, in life and in faith. One other life reflection is that dogs teach us something about trust as they let us lift them and as they wait for us to provide food and water to fill the dish – not unlike our God above. Thank you Rosie for what you bring to us.



Happy 70th Birthday, Dianne Derks!
(A photo from the past—can you identify every one?)

January Birthdays

1 Emmett Matteson	14 Stephen Edwall
7 Florence Senske	14 Zachary Peterson
8 Roger Svendsen	20 Rob Klemm
9 Vicki Anderson	21 Ella Friendt
10 Riley McClaine	25 Brianna Sullivan
12 Roger Truen	28 Laurie Fitzgerald
13 Laurie Morales	





January 2021 Happenings

6	Bible Study on Zoom	9:30 AM
6	Viewing of Sunday Service in Sanctuary	12:00 PM
13	Bible Study on Zoom	9:30 AM
13	Viewing of Sunday Service in Sanctuary	12:00 PM
20	Bible Study on Zoom	9:30 AM
20	Viewing of Sunday Service in Sanctuary	12:00 PM
24	Young Adult Collab in Church Courtyard	12:30 PM
27	Bible Study on Zoom	9:30 AM
28	Young Adult Collab on Zoom	6:30 PM
31	Annual Congregational Meeting on Zoom	11:00 AM

Ways to Give to Our Redeemer



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 offering at the link www.orlcmn.org/donate, which is also available on the first page of our website (www.orlcmn.org) by clicking the “Make Donation” button. Set up an automatic one-time donation or recurring withdrawals from your financial institution, or by using a credit card. (NOTE: There is a 2% fee to use a credit card.)
- Text 844-871-2328, enter amount in message line, send, follow instructions.

Purchasing of Gift Cards

When you purchase gift cards through Our Redeemer’s “**Bucks for Our Building**” program, a percentage of your gift card value is given back to church. There is a long list of many businesses from which to choose. Our current gift card “sales representative” is Barb Maynard. You can place your order by emailing Barb and the office. Barb and Sally will coordinate when you can pick up your order and make your payment. Remember—the more you buy, the more your church earns! Email Barb at: bezm09@comcast.net and Sally at: office@orlcmn.org

Giving of Thrivent Dollars

Are you a Thrivent member? If so, check your Thrivent accounts regularly for *Choice* dollars that may have accumulated which can be designated to Our Redeemer or as you choose.

Ordering from Shutterfly

Any purchases you make through our Shutterfly Storefront provides Our Redeemer with 8 percent of the sale! Your family, friends, and coworkers can also order through our storefront, which is: ORLCMN.ShutterflyStorefront.com.

CONTACT US – We are here for you!

While we are working remotely much of the time, one of us is generally in the office on Tuesdays and 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 need help, or have a special request, or have prayer needs.

Pastor Karsten Nelson	karstenn@comcast.net	651-772-2445, ext. 102 or at 651-271-5134
Deacon Jennifer Schneider	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

WE ARE Family





HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, January 3, 2021

*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 God of all learning. The boy Jesus found comfort and wisdom within the temple. Teach us, Lord, as you have taught others, and grant us wisdom and willingness to learn. Amen.

Song – As With Gladness

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide

Scripture - Luke 2:41-52 (please find this in your Bible)

Scripture Reflections and Questions

Jesus enters the Temple today, as he had many years past, and finds it a place of deep learning and nurture for his faith and life. What have been the places that have nurtured your faith? Who have been the people that have nurtured your faith? What might be some helpful holy disciplines this year as you seek to nurture your faith?

For Jesus part of the mark in his life was the obedience he chose and lived with to honor his life and calling. Holy obedience is never very easy for us, but still is a holy goal and faithful direction. What might obedience look like from you this year? Reflect too on how the obedience of Jesus has brought you life, salvation and peace.

Prayers

God of wisdom, work in and through the church to welcome, value, teach, and learn from children and youth in our communities of faith.

God of creation, we thank you for the gifts of fields and stream, lakes and mountains, oceans and seas; work through us to care for all that you have made.

God of hope, work in and through the nations to bring about your peace and justice upon all the earth.

God of relationships, help us to reach out to those around us with love, curiosity, and compassion; surround each and every person with supportive and loving communities.

God of healing, mend those who are broken in body, mind, or spirit; and lift up those laid low by addiction, hunger, unemployment, or illness.

God of life, draw us ever outwards from ourselves and towards the people around us; grant us thankful hearts of service and love.

God of delight, open our lips to sing forth your praise; turn our weeping into rejoicing and grant us a glimpse of our future home with the saints in light.

Grant that all people may hear together the song of joy, and find their homes in the garden of justice and hope, that we may experience the fullness of life, which is your will for all, in the coming of Jesus Christ.

(Other prayers for yourself, church and world, for our partners in Kidewa TZ and Doulos School in the DR, for holy obedience in 2021, our care in the community)

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, January 10, 2021

*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 Heavenly Father, With joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your light on all, for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world. Amen

Song – On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh. Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!	Then cleansed be every life from sin: make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.	We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward. Without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.
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Scripture - Luke 3:1-22 (please find this in your Bible)

Scripture Reflections and Questions

For Jesus his life of ministry began with and through his baptism. Trust that the promises of God over you through baptism prepare an eternal home as well as call you into a faithful life all of your days. Ponder this!

For Jesus there certainly was a time to step more fully into his calling and obedience with God – what and who has helped you step into a deep walk of faith? What are ways you seek to serve your Lord this year?

Prayers

Our baptismal vows call us to compassion and mercy on behalf of those in need. We offer our prayers for the church and the world.

For the church and its leaders, that we may prepare your way through our witness and service to others.

For creation, that we may prepare your way by working to heal and restore the damage we have caused it.

For the nations of the world, that we may prepare your way by proclaiming your justice and peace for all people.

For the lonely and anxious, that we may prepare your way by sharing your comfort and love with those in need.

For those struggling with illness that we may prepare your way by surrounding them with compassionate care and comforting love.

For all the saints, that we may prepare the way as they did before us.

Lord God, you revealed your Son in the waters of the Jordan and anointed him with the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim good news to all people.

Sanctify us by the same Spirit, that we may proclaim the gospel by acts of love in your name.

(Other prayers may be included for yourself, church and world – for those elected to serve, for countries with natural disasters and hunger, refugees, scientists)

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!**

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

Our free drive-thru meals through Loaves & Fishes as well as other donations from local food shelves continue to gain momentum 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 and following the signs. 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 are asked.

Volunteers are much needed and appreciated!

We greatly 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>. Also, there is a need for help on Tuesdays during the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to unload food shelf deliveries and organizing the goods in preparation for Wednesday evenings.

Bags - paper or plastic

Each week during our Loaves & Fishes meal, we hand out a plethora 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

- 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 Larpenteur Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55109

