



## Keeping Us Tied Together!

February 18, 2021

### Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain

Our Lenten season is here! Ash Wednesday, February 17, falls 46 days before Easter and marks the beginning of this special season called Lent whereby Christians prepare themselves for Easter and engage in deeper faith, stronger community, and a closer connection to God.

Even through our coldest days in Minnesota, we hope to warm your hearts and comfort your souls through this Lenten season by providing you with special worship services, prayers, conversations, and by using the Lenten devotional booklet, called **“Again & Again - A Lenten Refrain.”** (*If you would like a preprinted booklet, contact the office and we will send you one, or you may pick it up.*)

1. **ORLC Ash Wednesday Worship Service Online**— If you haven't done so already, you can take time to view our online Ash Wednesday worship service by clicking on our YouTube link, [HERE](#). Pastor Karsten and Deacon Jennifer provided drive-thru prayers and the imposition of ashes throughout the day.
2. **Live Wednesday Collaborative Lent Services on Zoom**— Join a live online worship service performed in collaboration with Hope, Grace, and Arlington Hills Lutheran churches every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. through Lent. (*A Devotional Conversation will immediately follow – see below.*) The Zoom link is <https://bit.ly/zoomlent> or by clicking [HERE](#). (You can also call in from your phone: 1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 816 6530 3316)
3. **Devotions and Conversation Time** – If you are on our email list, we will send you four devotions from the Lenten booklet each week for you to read over and over—again and again—as much as you wish for reflective or sharing purposes. We then encouraged you to join one of two different days/times for a devotional conversation on Zoom: Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (at the top of our regular “Sunday Connection Time”) and/or Wednesdays after the live 6:30 p.m. collaborative worship service (immediately following the worship service on the same Zoom).
  - a. **Sunday's** Connection Time Zoom link, click [HERE](#).
  - b. **Wednesday's** Zoom link is <https://bit.ly/zoomlent> or click [HERE](#).
  - c. **This week's four devotions** (and intro), click [HERE](#).
4. **Prayer Requests** - You are welcome to stop by church anytime during Lent to drop off prayer requests in the box located to the right of the front doors. (Paper and pens are there as well.)



We hope you enjoy these opportunities to take in this Lenten season during these times when we cannot fully be engaged together in person. Please feel welcome to contact the office should you have any questions or special concerns you would like us to address.

### Online Worship to Continue

The Church Board made the decision that we would not hold large meetings or worship at this time with the level of cases and the concerns around the new strain. We hope to allow some small groups to begin to meet again soon and hopefully return to in-person worship on Easter Sunday (April 4). Should these dates or plans change, we will share that news in our communications. [As a church, we are abstaining from Holy Communion until the time when we can be gathered together once again as a community.]

Worship YouTube  
[Click HERE](#)

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

Lent Wednesday  
[Zoom Click HERE](#)

Online Offerings  
[Click HERE](#)

## Guest Preacher & Teacher: March 7

Join us for worship and a special presentation during Community Time (11:00am-12:30pm) on **Sunday, March 7** by **Pr. Peter Harrits**, Assistant to the Bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod. Our topic for the day is how we understand and adapt to cultural differences. It is a critical piece for us to understand ourselves and our congregation and we envision fulfilling our call to love and serve our neighbor. As we reflect on who we are as people of God and what we have been called to, we can use this learning as a springboard to better connections with our community. Grab a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy this presentation and discussion. Our conversation will last beyond noon, but feel free to join us for all or part of it!

## Black History Month

There is so much to know and understand and much of which is available at the hands of our Saint Paul Area Synod. We have access to their resources which are plentiful with respect to all areas of racial equity from this section of their website: [Advocates for Racial Equity | Saint Paul Area Synod \(spas-elca.org\)](https://spas-elca.org/). Also, here is an informative audio of historical black lives that matter taken from Living Lutheran: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/7.-Historical-Black-Lives-that-matter.mp3>



If you are interested in borrowing the book, "How to fight racism" by Jemar Tisby, contact Sally. We also have two children's books about the Civil Rights Movement and Martin Luther King, Jr., to lend out if you are interested.

## Check Out Our Garbage!

If you haven't driven through the parking lot at church lately, you might have noticed that we have 3 dumpster! The dumpster with



an ORANGE lid is for recycling cardboard, paper, bottles, glass, and cans. The dumpster with the GREEN lid is for organics: food waste and paper towels that are bagged in green biodegradable bags. The dumpster with the BLACK lid is for garbage. While the organics and recycling will be picked up weekly, we will only have the garbage picked up every other week. Our hope is to cut down on garbage since it is taxed at 70% (yes - 70%) and it fills up the landfill and does not break down.



A couple weeks ago, we had a dozen members of ORLC participate in an online training to learn about recycling and organics collection. We all learned a lot! Did you know that recycled plastic is made into drink bottles and cups, nylon fabric, outdoor furniture, and even building materials? When we recycle, we can conserve non-renewable fossil fuels (oil), reduce the consumption of energy used in the production of new plastic, reduce the amount of solid waste going to landfill, and reduce emission of gases like carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. If you were unable to attend our training, but want to know what we learned about, watch this video made by our training host: <https://bit.ly/greenorlcnn>. Check it out!

## We have a new Fridge!!

Following the congregational support at our annual meeting to keep leaning into our Wednesday food program (now called Community Sharing), we are happy to report that we have a very new donated double wide industrial refrigerator. This comes as a gift from Hope Lutheran that had started a food sharing program but have decided not to continue. Our deep thanks go out to this local ministry partner (and one of the four East Side churches we are working with in deeper collaboration). Now when food gets dropped off for our sharing, we have appropriate space to store it. Hooray!!



Previous overflow "fridge"!

## Young Adults - Socialize with social distance

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

**Bonfire and Brunch:** Sunday, February 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the church parking lot. Dress warm and bring a lawn chair if you have one. We will provide brunch and a toasty fire. Bring a friend.

**Game Night:** Thursday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom for virtual games and conversation.

### Worship Services & Scriptures

Online Every Sunday @ 10 a.m. on YouTube (view anytime following)

Lent Wednesday Services at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

| Date        | Scripture                                    | Lector         |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| February 21 | <u>Mark 1:9-15</u> & <u>Genesis 9:8-17</u>   | Jessica Morgan |
| February 28 | <u>Mark 8:31-9:8</u> & <u>Psalm 22:23-31</u> | Lana Larson    |

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

## Remaining February 2021 Happenings



|           |  |                        |
|-----------|--|------------------------|
| <u>21</u> | <u>Online Church Service on YouTube</u>                        | <u>10:00 AM</u>        |
| <u>21</u> | <u>Connection Time on Zoom (&amp; Devotional Conversation)</u> | <u>11:00 AM</u>        |
| <u>21</u> | <u>Young Adult Collab – Bonfire &amp; Lunch @ Church</u>       | <u>12:30 PM</u>        |
| <u>22</u> | <u>Dorothy Day – Preparing food 1:00 PM</u>                    | <u>Serving 3:30 PM</u> |
| <u>24</u> | <u>Bible Study on Zoom</u>                                     | <u>9:30 AM</u>         |
| <u>24</u> | <u>Viewing of Sunday Service in Sanctuary</u>                  | <u>12:00 PM</u>        |
| <u>24</u> | <u>Lent Wednesday Worship on Zoom*</u>                         | <u>6:30 PM</u>         |
|           | (*Devotional Conversation to immediately follow on same Zoom)  |                        |
| <u>25</u> | <u>Young Adult Collab – Game Night on Zoom</u>                 | <u>6:00 PM</u>         |
| <u>28</u> | <u>Online Church Service on YouTube</u>                        | <u>10:00 AM</u>        |
| <u>28</u> | <u>Connection Time on Zoom (&amp; Devotional Conversation)</u> | <u>11:00 AM</u>        |

## 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](http://www.orlcmn.org/donate), which is also available on the first page of our website ([www.orlcmn.org](http://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 Bard 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](mailto:bezm09@comcast.net) and Sally at: [office@orlcmn.org](mailto: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: [Our Redeemer Lutheran Church \(shutterflystorefront.com\)](http://Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (shutterflystorefront.com))



## Our Deepest Sympathies

We were sorry to hear about **Velda Humble**'s passing on Saturday, February 13. Velda recently celebrated her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Velda was predeceased by her husband John "Jack." She is survived by her children, Nancy and Paul. Velda and Jack became members of Our Redeemer in 1964. A private burial will be planned in the spring.

We learned that **Berenice R. Helstrom** passed away on February 2, at the age of 70. Berenice is survived by her husband, David and sister, Mary Swanson. Deacon Jennifer presided over her funeral services held February 11.

## 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 whether you need help, or have a special request, or have prayer needs—here we are:

|                             |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Pastor Karsten Nelson       | <a href="mailto:karstenn@comcast.net">karstenn@comcast.net</a> | 651-772-2445, ext. 102 or at 651-271-5134 |
| Deacon Jennifer Schneider   | <a href="mailto:jennifer@orlcnn.org">jennifer@orlcnn.org</a>   | 651-772-2445, ext. 103 or at 651-494-7943 |
| Finance Administrator, Lisa | <a href="mailto:Lisa@orlcnn.org">Lisa@orlcnn.org</a>           | 651-772-2445, ext. 101                    |
| Office Administrator, Sally | <a href="mailto:office@orlcnn.org">office@orlcnn.org</a>       | 651-772-2445, ext. 101                    |

## Just a couple of subtle reminders....



Brady says: "Where are  
you hiding your photos?  
PLEASE send them to  
[office@orlcnn.org](mailto:office@orlcnn.org)"



Remember to "Like" & "Share"  
our Facebook Posts!



## HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, February 21, 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. Find a quiet place, light a candle, and lift your heart and voice to God.*

### Gathering

Again and again, God meets us where we are. In the night, in the light, at the threshold and all places between. God's love knows no bounds, We gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Opening Prayer** Holy Lord, If we are honest, faith often feels like water in our hands. No matter how hard we try to hold onto it, some of it always slips through. This human inability to hold onto you leaves us thirsty for more. We will trust that you are near, Always and forever meeting us here, Running toward our hearts. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

### Song – Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters WOV#697

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,<br>where your cleansing waters flow.<br>Number them among your people;<br>bless as Christ blessed long ago.<br>Weave them garments bright and<br>sparkling;<br>compass them with love and light<br>Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,<br>holy dove and heart's delight. | We who bring them long for nurture;<br>by your milk may we be fed.<br>Let us join your feast, partaking<br>cup of blessing, living bread.<br>God, renew us, guide our footsteps;<br>free from sin and all its snares,<br>one with Christ in living, dying,<br>by your Spirit, children, heirs | Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!<br>Unimagined, all your ways!<br>To your name be glory, honor!<br>With our lives we worship, praise!<br>We your people stand before you,<br>water washed and Spirit born.<br>By your grace, our lives we offer.<br>Recreate us; God, transform! |
|--|---|--|

### Scripture – Genesis 9:8-17 and Mark 1:9-15 (please find this in your own Bible)

#### Scripture Reflections and Questions

While each gospel begins the story of the good news differently, they all include Jesus' baptism. It aligns Jesus with John the Baptist's countercultural movement for repentance and change. It places Jesus with the crowds, showing us that his ministry is one embodied through solidarity with the broken, the poor, and the weary. It reminds us that God's goodness refrain (Genesis 1) echoes through Jesus—and in all of us—also. It reminds us that God didn't just send Jesus to suffer; God delights in Jesus, expressing joy for his belovedness. It reminds us that God does not delight in what we do, but rather, in who we are.

What does it look like to live with belovedness as our essential core and essence? How does this change how we think, love, and act? What happens when we forget or neglect the belovedness in ourselves and in others? God meets us at the edge of things—in suffering, uncertainty, reluctance. God meets us at the edge and promises to stay with us, watching over us through the wilderness of our lives. Where are the edges in your life right now? How is God meeting you there?

#### Prayers

Our baptismal vows call us to compassion and mercy on behalf of those in need. We pray...for the church and its leaders, that we may guide others to see you and serve you. For your perfect creation, that we may honor and care for the resources and beauty you have entrusted to us. For the USA, that our leaders serve with compassion and justice 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 offer companionship and consolation, trusting that you are the Healer of our souls. 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. Into your loving arms we lay down our prayers, Amen.

#### Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven...

**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, February 28, 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. 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

Lord of clear direction and purpose, you were unwavering in your news that you would need to suffer at the hands of others to be killed, only to be raised from death. Help us to hear and respond with faith and faithful lives as we seek to take up our cross and follow you.

## Song – Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

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|--|--|--|
| 1. Take up your cross, the Savior said,<br>if you would my disciple be;<br>take up your cross with willing heart,<br>and humbly follow after me. | 2. Take up your cross; let not its<br>weight fill your weak spirit with<br>alarm; Christ's strength shall bear<br>your spirit up and brace your heart<br>and nerve your arm. | 3. Take up your cross, heed not<br>the shame, and let your foolish<br>pride be still; the Lord for you<br>accepted death upon a cross,<br>on Calvary's hill. |
|--|--|--|

## Scripture - Mark 8:21-38 Jesus tells of his death and resurrection (please find this in your Bible)

### Scripture Reflections and Questions

Pause for a moment and ponder the clarity and strength from Jesus as he knows this path he must take and chooses it fully. Think of the trust and confidence he has in partnership with the Father. Praise God

To every disciple of every age comes the call (the demand) to “take up your cross and follow me”. How is that going for you these days? Any helpful changes necessary? Anything to be especially grateful about?

**Prayers** Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing, we accept God’s invitation to be ever-mindful of the needs of others, offering our prayers on behalf of God’s community in the church and the world.

*A brief silence.*

For religious communities, that they may share peace, love, and justice with each other and the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the beauty of the earth, that we may be ever more dedicated to protecting and preserving what you have entrusted to us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For governments and leaders of governments, that they may devote themselves to service and compassion towards their citizens. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the lonely and brokenhearted, that they may find support and community and experience your great love for them, especially the family of Velda Humble following her death. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer in mind or body, that they may know your presence and find comfort and healing. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For us worshipping together now, that we may go forth from our worship in order to love and serve our neighbors. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

(Other prayers may be included for yourself, church and world – for meaningful disciplines during Lent, for countries with natural disasters and hunger, refugees) **Into your capable hands we commend our prayers.**

## 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!**