



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: Our Redeemer Annual Meeting – Celebrating 2020 and leaning into 2021



We had a very good annual meeting on January 31 in the odd way of doing this remotely by way of a *Zoom* meeting. While seeing people's small faces on the computer screen is nothing like seeing everyone face to face, the day is coming when we will be back. There were some formal elements that marked the day:

We approved a balanced budget for 2021

We elected two new people to the Church Board – Carmen Snaza and Beth Renfors

We amended our Constitution to include the ability to hold official meetings online

We received a vote of support for the Wednesday Community Sharing ministry and approval to seek after additional outside funding

We celebrated a number of things that marked 2020 for being a strong year of adapting

Our giving was very close to what we budgeted showing people's commitment to Our Redeemer

We established a Smart Team to help lead us into wise decisions around opening and sanitizing

We adapted well to various forms of worship – Home Church, Online, Outdoors

We expanded our Wednesday meal program to include distributing around \$2,500 of food weekly

We created some special teams to help with long-range planning and local collaboration

We committed to increased contact with the congregation through weekly (now twice a month) newsletters and individual phone contact

We addressed systemic racism through book studies, speakers and good conversations – more action to come

We installed new LED lights throughout the building in a few days with a large crew of helpers

We applied for and received a PPP grant for \$41,600 that helped significantly

We completed a strong Stewardship Drive that saw deep generosity from our members – many thanks!

We looked into 2021 and saw a good year of life and ministry ahead

We approved a new budget that included a 3% raise for staff and a 20% increase in the Missions Budget

We approved Our Redeemer to seek more outside funding to support the Wednesday Community Sharing

We have a group of folks engaged in developing deeper relationships and exploring ways to share more ministry with three other areas Lutheran churches (Grace, Hope and Arlington Hills)

We are undertaking a deeper commitment to our recycling program with new bins and including an organics element to our garbage

We are preparing for later summer time when we not only will we be together but building deeper relationships and engaging people in ministry points throughout the congregation

We are participating with a cohort of congregations to lean into longer range planning

We will make wise and careful and good decisions in returning to larger indoor gatherings ahead



A Message from Deacon Jennifer: We bring green things to life

“...to ensure access to clean air and water; to limit exposure to dangerous chemicals and pesticides; to hold polluters accountable, including those who disproportionately harm communities of color and low-income communities; to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; to bolster resilience to the impacts of climate change...” was an executive order signed by President Joe Biden on January 20, 2021.

President Biden is guiding our country to better care for creation. As people of God, we are called to action through our Creator’s charge of humans to “till and keep” the earth. Beginning in January of 2021, Our Redeemer is utilizing a new 3-sort system to separate trash, organics, and recycling so we can be better stewards of creation and so we can model for our community sustainable practices.

A fantastic workshop presented by WasteWise of MN helped many of us learn the updated guidelines for how and what we can recycle in Ramsey County. You might have noticed that we have new garbage cans in the building and new dumpsters outside. Each are carefully labeled to help us learn how to appropriately sort our items. In the restrooms, there will be new green bins to collect our paper towels and facial tissues. In the kitchen and fellowship hall, beyond trash and recycling, there will be receptacles for organics - food scraps, napkins, coffee filters, tea bags, egg cartons, pizza boxes, etc.

As a congregation, it is important for us to practice earth care in our facility, but also at home and in the community. To encourage this, we have 15 organics starter kits provided by Ramsey County Environmental Services to kick off our new program. This kit includes a counter-top organics bin with special green organics bags. **To try it out at home, pick up a kit in the church office** along with a list of what can be gathered. Fill up your bag and bring it to church and we will place it in our organics dumpster. It is that simple. It is a great practice to see just how much we throw in the trash that ends up in the landfill. It is a good mindfulness practice as we think about caring for our environment and honoring God’s creation.



- 3-SORT SYSTEM**
- 1. Recycle** –cans/bottles/glass/paper/ cardboard, milk cartons, butter tubs
 - 2. Organics** – food waste, paper towels, compostable take-out containers, Kleenex, toothpicks
 - 3. Garbage** – things that cannot be recycled or put into organics (batteries, furniture, lightbulbs, broken dishes, toys, pottery, dried paint cans, etc.



If you would like to get a home organics kit or have questions, give me a call or send me an email!

In Christ,
Deacon Jennifer
READ Psalm 104!



Black History Month is a time we pay tribute to the heroes and heroines of U.S. history and recognize the vast contributions they’ve made to American culture.

The theme of Black History Month 2021 is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity," chosen by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

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

Lent is Coming, Again

In the season of Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward. Three things of note at the beginning of Lent:

- 1) Ash Wednesday is February 17. We will have a worship service that you can view at 12 noon or anytime later that day to help us lean into Lent. This will be on our YouTube site. But we also invite people to come to the church from **1-2pm or 6:30-7:00pm** for a drive by imposition of ashes (in the front driveway) where we will mark you with ashes on your forehead and have a short time of prayer.
- 2) Join us Wednesday nights as we will be having a live Zoom worship experience along with three other local Lutheran churches (Hope, Grace, and Arlington Hills). This will begin at **6:30pm** and you can join with this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81665303316>. You can also call in from your phone: 1 312 626 6799 US Meeting ID: 816 6530 3316
- 3) Lean into Lent with a special weekly devotional we are making available, which will include a poetry prayer, a scripture with commentary, as well as two original art based devotions for reflection. You can print from this link [file:///C:/Users/office/OneDrive/Documents/ORLC/Shared%20Ministry/Devotional booklet COLOR print order againandagain SA.pdf](file:///C:/Users/office/OneDrive/Documents/ORLC/Shared%20Ministry/Devotional%20booklet%20COLOR%20print%20order%20againandagain%20SA.pdf) or request (by calling the office) to have one sent to you. For a group experience there will be two options for 25 minute group conversations using this resource - on Sundays during our regular Community Time at 11:00 a.m. or following our shared Wednesday worship at 7:00pm. Let this lead you to a richer Lent as you share the journey with others.

COVID Reopening Plans

The Church Board had determined that we would not begin holding large meetings or worship right now. With the level of cases and the concerns around the new strain we are looking to begin allowing some groups to meet again in later February, and then hopefully to open for in-person worship again on Easter Sunday (April 4). As these dates or plans change, we will share that news in our communications.

Wednesday Meal Program (newly called Community Sharing)

We are seeking more funding so that we can continue with this important ministry at this present time and into the near future. Various articles from the local newspapers to news reports to updates from local CEO's of foodbanks speak about the current crisis in terms of food insecurity for people. Most organizations that deal with food getting out to people in need say that they are providing almost 40% more than this time last year. This food need stretches across racial and economic lines as well as urban/rural and metro/out state.

Our Redeemer, in partnership with Loaves and Fishes, North St Paul Food Shelf and Merrick Community Services, will continue to be a distribution site for fresh meals as well as fresh and frozen recovery food on Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. We are pleased to serve 150-200 meals every week in addition to about \$2,500 worth of food for any who come to the drive through program. With a congregation vote at our Annual meeting we are now free to seek out additional funding through grants and gifts to help maintain and support this significant ministry. To join in the many avenues for volunteering, use this sign up link:

<https://bit.ly/loaves-fishes>.

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 from Sunday at 10 a.m. 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. We are limited seating to make sure we comply with the pandemic guidelines of social distancing (and we must wear our masks). These Wednesdays are especially helpful for those without technology or who are reluctant to be amongst large 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 Services			
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
February 7	Luke 7:1-17	“Raising the Widow’s Son”	Michele Rebholz
February 14	Luke 9:28-45	“Transfiguration”	Jessica Morgan
February 21	Luke 10:25-42	“Good Samaritan”	Scott Torvi
February 28	Luke 13:1-9, 31-35	“Lament over Jerusalem”	Lana Larsen

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



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)

Volunteers Needed! North St. Paul Food Shelf

The **North St. Paul Food Shelf** could use some help—can you volunteer? 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. There are hours available in the daytime and evenings. They are also looking for volunteers to pick up food from local grocery stores and deliver them to the food shelf.



Understanding our neighbors—thru IDI

Jesus calls us to love and serve our neighbors. This we know. But sometimes this is hard, due to the perceptions and ideas we hold about people who are different from us. As we continue our journey as Christians to understand and live out our faith, being bold in our call to love involves working for racial justice. “Where are we and how do we begin to do the *work* of racial justice internally and in the world?” This is the theme that Pastor Peter Harrits, Assistant to the Bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod will preach and teach on Sunday, March 7. We have the opportunity as individuals and members of ORLC to participate in a brief online survey to see where we are at on our journey of intercultural understanding. The tool we will use is called the IDI - (Intercultural Development Inventory) a cross-culturally valid, reliable and generalizable measure of intercultural competence. This survey can help us individually look at our own understanding of difference as well as compile our results to see how we as a congregation perceive and interact with people and ideas that are different. (All individual results are private and only shared with the group as an aggregate).

If you are interested in learning more about your own intercultural competence and seeing how our congregation fits in the continuum, please email or call Deacon Jennifer to sign up (before Feb 17). Pr. Peter Harrits will offer an adult forum on Sunday, March 7 with general information for everyone, as well as further learning for those who participate in the survey. Survey participants will also have the opportunity to have a one-to-one coaching session to follow-up. This process normally costs over \$200 per person, but due to a special initiative by the Saint Paul Area Synod and funding from our Augsburg Young Adult grant, we are able to offer this to members of the congregation for free!

Women’s Conference (Virtually)

Feeling like you need a spiritual lift? Here is an opportunity for all women to attend the ‘Set Apart’ conference on March 6, beginning at 9:00 a.m. This will be a faith-filled virtual gathering sponsored by KTIS and University of Northwestern (to name a few).



‘Set apart’ your day to join in for inspiring messages bringing hope, joy, and peace from the Word of God! In our world today, Jesus is the One who can bring us peace! The virtual gathering has a keynote speaker, Pam Tebow, and six fantastic workshop presenters who will encourage your heart with hope, joy, and peace. To see more about the conference, go to their website at www.setapartconference.com.

Let Sally know if you are interested in attending this conference. Registration is \$29, however, if we have 20+ ladies who would like to attend, we are able to get a discount to \$20 each. Please let Sally know by February 18 by emailing office@orlcmn.org or calling 651-772-2445.



Looking back...

2 Caryl Wedes (90!)	10 Carol Kringle
4 Rhonda DeGross	14 Jim Burke
5 Jennifer Houge	14 Carla Shipstad
6 Plogbo Freeman	21 Natalie Forsberg
7 Velda Humble	24 Mary Luhrs
7 Devin Pavel	

If your birthday is not shown in this month and it should be (or if you prefer your birthday not be announced in the future), please contact the office.



February 2021 Happenings



3	Bible Study on Zoom	9:30 AM
3	Viewing of Sunday Service in Sanctuary	12:00 PM
4	Congregational Growth Team on Zoom	7:00 PM
10	Bible Study on Zoom	9:30 AM
10	Viewing of Sunday Service in Sanctuary	12:00 PM
17	Bible Study on Zoom	9:30 AM
17	Viewing of Sunday Service in Sanctuary	12:00 PM
24	Bible Study on Zoom	9:30 AM
24	Viewing of Sunday Service in Sanctuary	12:00 PM

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



HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, February 7, 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

Healing Lord, By your goodness you healed many who were ill, even raising the dead to life. Restore us to new life, healing our hearts, minds, and spirits, so that we may proclaim praise and gratitude for your compassion to all who will hear. In the name of the one who is himself new life, Jesus Christ our savior.

Song - Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain: Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow fill our hearts.

1. You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness; Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.	2. In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding, give us all your vision, God of love.	3. Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother; Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.
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Scripture - Luke 7:1-17 (please find this in your own Bible)

Scripture Reflections and Questions

The request to heal comes from the faith community for one outside of themselves – he had provided some remarkable care for them in some form or another. Who stands out as going above and beyond? – Give thanks.

Today's lesson is recorded in large part to help us see the power that rests in Jesus – he can heal and renew. But we also find in these healings the heart of Jesus who seeks to bring fullness to life – all lives. Give thanks.

Prayers (from *Freedfromfreedfor*) Sisters and brothers, 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 *A brief silence.*
 Heal the church, O Lord, and protect it from hypocrisy, oppression, and injustice.
 Heal the world, O Lord, and use us bring about your abundant providence for all people.
 Heal the nations, O Lord, and turn us from selfishness and violence towards cooperation and peace.
 Heal those suffering in mind or spirit, Lord, grant them the knowledge of your great love and care for them.
 Heal those suffering in body, O Lord, and restore them to wholeness in you.
 Heal this assembly, O Lord, and deepen our faith in your eternal promises.
Here other intercessions may be offered for yourself, the church, the world Lord – be our guide and inspiration as we step forward into another year of life and ministry through you:
 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 healing power of the gospel by acts of love in your name. **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 us and keep us. May the Lord's face shine down upon us with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.
Thanks be to God!





HOME CHURCH – for Sunday, February 14, 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 Healing Lord, By your goodness you healed many who were ill, even raising the dead to life. Restore us to new life, healing our hearts, minds, and spirits, so that we may proclaim praise and gratitude for your compassion to all who will hear. In the name of the one who is himself new life, Jesus Christ our savior.

Song - O God Our Help in Ages Past (LBW #320)

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

2 under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure.
Sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away.
We fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Scripture - Luke 9:28-45 (please find this in your own Bible)

Scripture Reflections and Questions

Part of the life of faith is finding time away from the world, from others, and from our schedules so we can rest with, listen for, rejoice in, and enjoy the presence of the Lord. Jesus needed this and us too. When for you?

Jesus Alone – Those are words as one enters Mt Carmel Camp in MN. When Jesus is transfigured part of the message for the disciples is that Jesus alone is the fullness of God. How can/does your life reflect Jesus alone?

Prayers (from Freedfromfreedom) O God, as your Son drew apart to be in prayer with you, we offer our prayers for the transformation of the world and the church. *A brief silence.*

Glorious Lord, transform your church and turn it into a true reflection of your just and peaceful kingdom here on earth. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glorious Lord, transform creation and restore waterways and forests, oceans and mountains to the great splendor you first formed them to be. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glorious Lord, transform the nations and the leaders of nations into people that care for one another and work for equity and justice. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glorious Lord, transform the hearts and minds of any who struggle with mental illness and are burdened with anguish, anxiety, or any other invisible pain. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glorious Lord, transform the bodies and minds of any who struggle with disease and are burdened with chronic illness, sudden sickness, or any other visible pain. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glorious Lord, transform the lives of this assembly by turning us ever outwards towards our neighbors. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered – for you, family, people needing love, people in love, church.....

Glorious Lord, you transformed the lives of countless saints before us, transform our lives too. 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 us and keep us. May the Lord's face shine down upon us with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. **Thanks be to God!**



Valentine's Day Treats

This Valentine's Day you can purchase some home-made **treats for your sweets** and support Our Redeemer's Children, Youth and Family programs!

Please enclose cash or check payable to ORLC CYF and mail bottom portion to:

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
 1390 Larpenteur Ave E, Saint Paul, MN 55109
 or email form to SC400@comcast.net

Questions?



Preorder Treats for your Sweets! for pick up or porch delivery (within 5 miles of ORLC)

_____ Giant Heart-Shaped Cookie \$15 (circle 1) Chocolate chip / Sugar
 Add short message? _____

_____ Decorated Cupcakes \$7/half doz (circle 1) Chocolate / Vanilla / Mix

_____ Cookies \$5/half doz (circle 1) Chocolate chip / Sugar

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

how do you want to get them?

Pick up Fri 2/12

Delivery Sat 2/13