

April 2023



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The Good Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



A Message from Pastor Karsten—The significance of Holy Week

During confirmation this year, we took some time to dig more deeply into the story and events of Holy Week. This started by understanding that each of the gospels includes lots of details of this significant week – much of the information is the same, but each author includes some unique details or elements of what transpired. It was interesting to note that in John's gospel, the details of holy week, beginning with the Palm Sunday procession, begin at chapter 12. John's gospel has 21 chapters so that means while just over half of the book shares insights and lesson from his three years of ministry, almost half of the gospel of John is devoted to the events of one week – Holy Week. In Matthew's gospel, with 28 chapters, the telling of the Holy Week story begins at chapter 21 so one-fourth of the book is about this one week.

One good invitation and practice for many is to read through the events of Holy Week in one of the gospels. You will get a better feel for the events, the difficulties, the preparation, and the way this was part of God's plan for our life and salvation. We know that Jesus comes riding in on a donkey on Palm Sunday. But that was followed by three days where we find all kinds of teaching moments from Jesus. Thursday is the day of gathering for the Passover meal (which becomes the first Communion meal) and then the prayers in the garden of Gethsemane which lead to his arrest. Friday morning was the trial through Pontius Pilate and then of course his being crucified on the cross, and finally being laid in a tomb after he died. Saturday was a day of inner chaos for the disciples and followers, but then Sunday comes and the news of "He is risen" changes everything. What a week – for Jesus, and for us.

I hope you will take time to do some of your own reading and pondering the goodness of this week. And then come join us for the communal gathering on Maundy Thursday. We will have a simple soup and sandwich supper at 6:00 p.m. for all who want, then worship at 7:00 p.m. with Communion and the Stripping of the Altar. Good Friday has Our Redeemer hosting the East Side Lutheran congregations for a special evening service of readings and music and images projected of the final days, while experiencing the descending darkness. Worship is at 7:00 p.m. with a time of dessert fellowship following. Then, of course, there will be a joyous Easter worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 9.

What a week, for all of what happened, and for all of what it means still for us and the world today.

Pastor Karsten

Intern Becky's Blurb

Happy Spring! With the season comes the joy of more daylight in the evening, plans for gardens and warmer outdoor activities. Our family delights even more with this spring! After five years of seminary, we look forward to graduation this May! Feel free to join us as we celebrate:



*Intern Becky's Commencement Ceremony May 21, 2023 3 PM
Central Lutheran Church, 333 12th St S, MPLS, MN*

Or

*Intern Becky's Baccalaureate Service May 20, 2023 2 PM
Luther Seminary
481 Como Avenue St. Paul, MN*

**Internship continues through the summer. We will celebrate one last time of worship together with me August 20th at Phalen Lake.*



May your spring welcome delight as well!
Intern Becky Sliva

Upcoming Events:

- **Eastside Collaborative Presents...the first of four 'getting to know our neighbor' experiences!**
"Taking Heart Iftar" was held April 4, where we enjoyed a meal & presentation with local Muslim brothers and sisters. We enjoyed learning more about the Islamic faith!
- **Getting to Know Our Neighbor #2 A night with our Ukranian brothers & sisters.** Over a meal we'll engage with our Ukrainian siblings in learning about faith & life as a Ukrainian Orthodox Christian. *Monday, May 1st* Ukrainian Orthodox Church NE MPLS 505 5th St. MPLS Reservations are LIMITED. RSVP : office@orlcmn.org or call Sally at 651-772-2445
- **Mark your calendars!**
Worship in the park at Battle Creek on July 16th and Phalen Lake Park on Aug. 20th!





Shared worship with the other congregations in our building on April 30

In trying to build good relations and have enjoyable times together, we are planning another shared worship with Mensajes de Poder (the Spanish speaking congregation) and Kingdom Life (the Hmong speaking congregation) that worship and meet in our building. As we have done in the past, this will be a morning of shared music leadership, Pastor Karsten will be preaching, and we will enjoy a grand potluck meal following worship. Plan to come for this special day on **Sunday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m.** Be prepared to connect in at least small ways with others. Celebrate the God of the universe as we gather as fellow believers under different languages.

Consider a trip to our international partners!!

This summer from June 6 to 11, you are invited to join Pastor Karsten and Allen Heimerdinger for a trip to Doulos Discovery School to be part of the graduation program on Wednesday, then participate in various activities as part of a 20th anniversary celebration of the school. We will have tours of the present school, visit the new land that has been purchased where we will enjoy a special worship service, hang out with past staff and the community at a great camp, and enjoy a great Saturday evening program of celebration. Cost for the trip including airfare, lodging, meals, and program participation will run about \$1,100. See Pastor Karsten if you are interested in this chance to see and take in and be moved by the great ministry of Doulos.

This November there is a trip being planned to Tanzania to connect with our partners at Kidewa. This trip, November 1-14, will include a three-day stay in the village, visits to various sites around the larger town of Iringa, assisting a special medical program for two days, taking in a Safari, and in the midst of that seeing and sharing and engaging in wonderful ways with the people of Tanzania and others who join in on the trip. There is room for 12 and some of those spaces are being taken by groups of 1-4 individuals from other congregations as we seek to make this a shared trip with many. Total costs for airfare, all meals, lodging, group outings, and the safari will be about \$4,600. See Pastor Karsten for more details and information. A June group gathering is being planned to meet and walk through trip details and information.



Our Redeemer will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated COVID guidelines of Community Risk Levels for Ramsey County*

Look for current levels posted at church entrance.

GREEN (low)



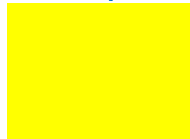
NO Masks Required

Masks can be worn based on personal choice

YES Coffee Hour



YELLOW (medium)



NO Masks Required

Masks can be worn based on personal choice

YES Coffee Hour



ORANGE (high)



YES Masks Required

(indoors & outdoors)

Masks to be worn
Social distancing

NO Coffee Hour



*<https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus/masking#MN>

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, and then follow instructions to complete.

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. Remember—the more you buy, the more our church earns! Email Barb at: bemay1635@gmail.com.



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. If not, become a member—contact the office for details.

Estate Plan Giving

Consider giving through your estate planning directives. Name ORLC in your will to receive a portion of your assets: IRA, stocks, vehicle, boat, camper, house, etc.

Fundraising

Also, by supporting Our Redeemer's various fundraisers throughout the year!

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Please send us your prayer requests

Sisu School Update—Congregation Information Session April 16

There has been quite a bit happening surrounding the possibility of this new St Paul public charter school getting started at Our Redeemer this coming start of the school year. The leadership team from Our Redeemer has spent time anticipating what would need to happen here to prepare for them, and they have gone over the proposed contract and made a number of changes to address Our Redeemer's questions and needs. This contract is currently going through final revisions prior to the Board's April 18 meeting where they could choose to sign the contract. The Board did have conversation about the Sisu proposal at its March meeting where they addressed concerns and questions. They were waiting until Sisu could make a firmer commitment about starting (they currently have about 40 interested students and are aiming for starting with 60) in the fall before we would consider any facility modifications. An architect was hired to perform a review of the site and layout necessary code changes that would need to be made (i.e. a fire safety upgrade) and his report will come back in early April.



An information session on Sunday, March 26, had 19 congregation members hearing updates and raising questions that we would need to have Sisu address. Those questions led to a meeting on Thursday, March 30, with the director of Sisu and two of the representatives of Vang and Associates, the real estate firm that is working to make this collaboration happen. At that meeting, there was more clarity about how the school is funded, when their finances would be available, and understanding their need for more enrollment. One of the good take-a-ways was that Sisu will look to have some open houses at Our Redeemer this Spring so people can better understand the site and hopefully lead to more enrollment commitments.

There will be a final open congregation information session on **Sunday, April 16** following worship where leaders from Sisu and Vang associates will be present. We will share updates on the process, visit the proposed contract, and hear from their leaders, giving the Board more needed information before their meeting on Tuesday, April 18.



Visits with Elected Officials for good causes

This was a gathering at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church with over 250 faith leaders from all over the state, hearing from Governor Walz and other elected officials about bills and steps being proposed to strengthen who we are and how we care for all in Minnesota.

Below are photos of Pastor Karsten and Audrey Lerdahl who spent a morning at the Minnesota State Capitol participating in the hearing on a bill about a new healthcare bill being proposed



April Happenings

3	Lives Worth Living in Fireside Room	6:45 PM
6	Rejoice Circle in Fireside Room	1:00 PM
10	Quilting in Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
10	Faith Circle in Fireside Room	6:00 PM
11	Building Crew Meeting in Fellowship Hall	9:30 AM
11	Hope Circle in the Fireside Room	7:00 PM
15	U.F.O. Crafting Day in Fellowship Hall	8:00 AM
17	Lives Worth Living in Fireside Room	6:45 PM
18	Board Meeting in Fireside Room	7:00 PM
20	Knitting & Crocheting in Fireside Room	6:30 PM
24	Quilting in Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
30	Shared Worship Service & Potluck	10:00 AM

Weekly Events

Bible Study—Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room and on Zoom

Men's Bible Study—Every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. offsite

TOPS—Every Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Maplewood Gamblers Anonymous—Every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (1st Thursday of month is open for guests)

APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



Heartfelt thanks to the many Our Redeemer friends who have helped me through my recent knee replacement surgery and recovery. I appreciate so much all of your prayers, calls, visits, cards, food, rides and good wishes!

God's Blessings, Lana Larsen



3 Carol Rodriguez	19 Shirley Nordrum
5 Darlene Harwood	20 Janet Johnson
7 Randy Koza	21 Natalie Barrett
7 Hudson Magnuson	21 Rob Barrett
7 Dennis Peterson	23 Eric Snaza
8 Garrett Kilbride	24 Jane Koza
10 Rob Kupferschmidt	28 Jim Riemenschneider
17 Steve Carlson	

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.



Crafting at ORLC

Quilting

Come and join us tying yarn knots on the quilt tops, batting and backing-sheets to ready them for hemming. You don't need to bring a needle and scissors as we have enough to share. The cutting of the quilt squares, piecing and sewing of the fabric squares are done by some of the members in their homes. The finished quilts are then donated to Alley Shoppe 109, National Night Out, ORLC's Craft Sale & Raffle, Maplewood Police Officers (for their outreach program and to comfort those that are in the midst of a police-needed emergency), confirmations, weddings or other special occasions. Please consider being a part of this service group on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 A.M. for fun, good conversations, and refreshments on April 10 and 24, May 8 and 22, June 12 and 26, etc. We hope to see you there!



God's Hands Knitting and Crocheting

Come and join our informal group that enjoys working with yarn with either knitting or crocheting. We meet the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 until 8:00 P.M. in the Fireside Room. We bring our works "in progress" that could be a dishcloth, prayer shawl, chemo hat, sweater, etc. We love Show 'n Tell!!! Most of the work is done elsewhere but it is fun to see the current projects. We share conversation, patterns, ideas, and sometimes, we share yarn. In the seven years of our Prayer Dishcloth Ministry, 984 dishcloths have been given to National Night Out, North St. Paul Food and Merrick's Food Shelves, Alley Shoppe 109 and ORLC's Community Sharing meals. In the 15 years of our Prayer Shawl Ministry, over 80 shawls have been given. If you know of a need, please let the office know. Please come and check us out on April 20, May 18, June 15, etc. We hope to see you there!

U.F.O. Day!

The U.F.O. Days have come to ORLC! Do you have any UnFinished Objects at your house? Bring them to Our Redeemer and work on them here! There will NOT be a contest to see who has the most UFOs! Sometimes it helps to have a set time and peer encouragement to actually finish a project. You will find that encouragement here! We meet on the third Saturday of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. You will have a whole table or half table to work on your projects. Join us for part or all of the day. (Lunch on your own.) We have a fridge and microwave for use. Bring a treat to share if you want. Sandy and Gayle are usually working on scrapbooking, Barb is usually working on her church's card ministry, Dianne is usually crocheting, Kathy made a burlap heart wreath one morning, Lynn finished a cross stitch hanging for her granddaughter one afternoon, Lisa worked on Dazzle Dots, Avery painted on canvas one morning, Karen was latch hooking, etc. Please come and check us out on April 15, May 20, June 17, etc. We hope to see you there!



Community Sharing Wednesdays—Drive-Thru FREE Meals and Groceries

We continue our free meals and groceries with much gratefulness to serve our community through our Wednesday Community Sharing program. We serve an average of 200 meals every week. We have around 65 cars and several walk up guests weekly and with homemade meals coming from Loaves & Fishes, and rescue food from the Merrick and North St. Paul food shelves allowing us to provide about \$3,000 worth of groceries. People continue to communicate their appreciation for this help. You can sign up on the posterboard at church or online at <https://bit.ly/loaves-fishes>. Mark your calendar for our **Community Sharing** drive-thru meals and groceries on **Wednesdays** from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** **ALL ARE WELCOME!** There are various options for volunteering, so if you can help on a regular or even occasional basis, here are our main needs:



- Wednesdays (approx.) 5:00—6:45 p.m. filling take-out meals, bagging food orders, taking/delivering orders to vehicles in drive-thru.
- Wednesdays (approx.) 12:00 — 4:00 p.m. assisting the chef with food preparation.
- Wednesdays (approx.) 2:00—4:00 p.m. sorting through groceries.



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

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

Address Service Requested