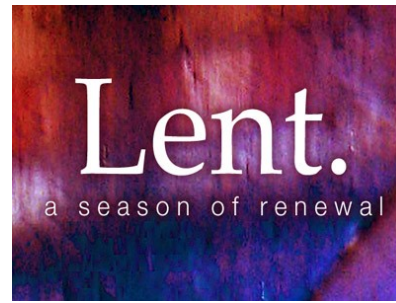




February 2023



Worship
YouTube
Click [HERE](#)

Online
Offerings
Click [HERE](#)

The Good Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Karsten—A recap of our Annual Meeting



One of the ways that we are intentional about living together as a people of faith is gathering annually for an official meeting of the church to tend to a number of matters. That happened again this year on January 29 when forty-one members met in person or via Zoom for this important work.

Our current President, Carmen Snaza, led off the meeting with a devotion and prayer followed by Treasurer Dean Ersfeld with a budget presentation and a review of the 2022 finances. Dean also walked us through the proposed 2023 budget explaining there is a deficit of nearly \$9,800 that is a result of our anticipated giving along with some increased property costs and some deserved basic pay raises for staff. There was talk about some potential income streams this next year we are pursuing including the sale of some property on the far side of our large East parking lot, potential partial sale of our cell tower lease, applying for the Employee Retention Credit from COVID changes in 2020, and the opportunity to house a new St Paul Public Schools Charter School (Sisu Environmental School). Later in the meeting the budget proposal was approved by the congregation.

We also were pleased to welcome four new Church Board members who begin serving a three-year term at our February meeting. Those people are Vicki Anderson, Joe France, Judy Koza (as Secretary) and Sharon Peterson (as Treasurer). These folks bring a variety of gifts, and great sense of both history and newness to the church. We shared deep thanks with those who recently served so well in this context: Dean Ersfeld, Baryogar Johnson, Julie Peterson, Michelle Rebholz, and Roy Wong – in their own ways they were very good servants for the church.

Much of the conversation at the meeting surrounded the possibility of having Sisu Environmental School utilize our education wing for their school, along with use of the kitchen and Fellowship Hall as well. They are looking to open this new school in the fall of 2023 and would begin renting space in July. There was time to present some of the positives about hosting this school – good stewardship of the space, income to significantly help the Our Redeemer budget, having families in the building potentially drawn into the fuller life of the church, and trying to serve the community in another way. We presented some drawbacks and concerns too—the loss of some space the school would use during the day, how to coordinate some spaces to be shared by both the school and church (i.e. Sunday School, Bible study, quilting, other groups), and unknown costs required to get the facility up to code for a school.

Ultimately, there was a vote to accept the current Letter of Intent (that addressed some changes, shared use of spaces, set up costs to be shared, and rental payments), and give permission to take the next steps to work out concrete details about shared spaces, get bids for necessary construction work, and begin the process of writing up a formal contract. We will host an information session on February 19 following worship to bring the congregation up to speed on more details being worked out. What we can say is that the lead team from Our Redeemer met with the school's Board Director (Kate Maki) on Wednesday, February 1, to walk through the building. We felt strong and confident that their commitment to open communication and good collaboration is going to make this a good setting for both us and them.

Pastor Karsten



Pastoral Intern,
Becky Sliva

Good and Faithful Servants of the Eastside!

Thank you for your commitment to our work in and for our communities, as the hands and feet of Christ and a beacon of hope!

In December, the Eastside Collaborative presented a challenge to our churches, Grace Lutheran, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Arlington Hills Lutheran and Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran. The challenge of a Reverse Advent Calendar seemed to be a hit! The collection of food for our community and ministry partners had an overwhelming and exciting response! At least 15 grocery bags from each of the locations were collected, totaling more than 60 bags full of groceries for those living with food insecurity. North St. Paul Food Shelf, Salvation Army, Merrick and Guardian Angels Food Shelf are grateful for our partnership!

Well done! Stay tuned for some educational/social events hosted by the Eastside Collaborative as well as ideas surrounding the season of Lent!

*In Thanksgiving for the abundance of gifts,
Eastside Collaborative Shared Ministry
Intern Becky Sliva*

Spring Moonlight Madness 2023 Friday, April 21 Grades 6-9 Youth Lock-In

We are excited to offer the following activities this spring:

- Youth Rally led by well-known artist Rachel Kurtz (singing, dancing, faith sharing, humor).
- Swimming, gym and ice skating at The Chaska Community Center
- Movies (choice of 3-4 movies)
- Bowling, Laser Tag and Arcade at Bowlero
- Fees: \$43 per person including adult leaders; this covers all fees except extra snacks
Bus Fee (\$20)

→ Looking ahead to the Fall! Moonlight Madness on November 10, 2023 ←



East Side Collaborative invites you
& your friends to join us for

Spring 2023 MOONLIGHT MADNESS

Grades 6-9 All-Night Lock-In with
Youth Rally & Faith Speaker, Chaska Community
Center, Movies, & Bowlero

April 21, 2023
\$43 + \$20 bus fee

REGISTER: Intern Pastor Becky, beckybsliva@gmail.com
Personal Cell: 920-364-0410

Internship News

We are almost at the half-way point of Intern Becky's time with Our Redeemer and the other East Side Collaboration churches. We wanted to let you know that after conversation with our Board and in conjunction of both Grace and Arlington Hills, we are planning on hosting another intern this next year. Our application has been submitted to Luther Seminary and the pastors will begin interviews at the end of February.



February Worship Services—Scriptures & Lectors		
Date	Scriptures (Click on links below)	Lectors
5	Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29 "The Golden Rule"	Darleen Klemm
12	Matthew 13:24-43 "Parables of the Kingdom"	Scott Torvi
19	Matthew 16:24-17:8 "Transfiguration"	Joe France
26	Matthew 18:15-35 "Forgiveness"	Jessica Morgan
<i>If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), please contact Jeremy Mattson, Pastor Karsten or the office.</i>		

Here Comes Lent!

If January is the time for setting up goals and trying to undertake some new steps toward our health or life, then February, when we commonly begin Lent, is a time to begin a more disciplined walk in our faith lives. This year we will be leaning into a resource that was well received a few years back. Besides providing some good resources for our Sunday worship, 'A Sanctified Art' provides a meaningful devotional booklet (devotions/poems/art work) that people will be invited to use personally at home, and if desired, join in a small group setting for shared reflection and study. Two small group sessions will take place – one on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Fireside Room, and the other following worship on Sunday mornings.

After reflection on the history of having mid-week services (they commonly were on Wednesday nights at 6:30 with soup) and the more recent years of trying to have shared services with other East Side Lutheran churches, we have concluded that trying to offer something this year is too hard to pull off and not the best use of our time and energy.

Recent years have made Wednesdays difficult to host any kind of gathering because the ministry of Community Sharing (which everyone says is so helpful and important to our mission) uses up all of the Fellowship Hall and spans from 5:00-7:00. On top of that the last years have seen very few people from Our Redeemer joining in the afternoon or evening Lent services. And then our musician (Jeremy) is not available during the day (teaching school in Eden Prairie) and is trying to work hard with the bells and choir every Wednesday night. These factors lead us to not plan for any mid-week Lent services. But we are hosting the large community Good Friday service, right here on April 7 at 7:00.

New Sunday Worship Plans, January through Easter

On the first and second Sundays of the month, worship services will have a Traditional format of liturgy and music; on the third and fourth Sundays, the format will be Contemporary. Holy Communion will be served as usual on the first and third Sundays. You are invited to come to each 10:00 a.m. service where you will experience uplifting word, music and sacrament as we at Our Redeemer worship our loving God!



Back by popular demand! Computer/Cell Phone Technology Training—March 12

Following worship service on Sunday, January 8, we held a technology training for those folks who were seeking answers to questions about using their computer, tablet, and/or cell phone. It was such a success that we are going to hold another one! Gather in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday worship service on March 12. Of course to make it another successful event, we need anyone who is willing to share their knowledge and work one-on-one (or two or three) to help answer those questions. If you can help out, please sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Desk. And for those of you who would like to be on the receiving end of the training, put your name on the second sheet as well as a general description of your question(s).



Welcoming Our Newest Members

In January, we announced that we welcomed five new members into our faith community at the end of 2022—Zumo Bueale, Joe France, Karen Fredine, Rob Kupferschmidt, and Jennifer “Jenny” Onnen. Below are faces to add to the names. Please join us in welcoming our newest members of Our Redeemer!



Zumo



Joe



Karen



Rob



Jenny

Our Deepest Sympathy to the Family of Shirley Sheehan

In case you hadn't heard, Shirley Sheehan passed away on January 5, 2023. She was a long-time member of Our Redeemer and active in various ministries. Funeral arrangements were held January 12, at Our Redeemer. Please keep Shirley's family in your prayers during this difficult time.



Socks = Love - Let's Sock It to 'em!!



Socks are the #1 clothing need of those experiencing homelessness. Let's collect new socks and then we will “sock it to 'em”! The Sock It To Em Sock Campaign aims to put new socks on the feet of men, women and children in need, especially those experiencing homelessness. Bring in your new socks (baby through adult sizes) to the decorated box located in the Narthex, and Carole and I will distribute them to a local charity. If you have any questions, contact Sally at office@orlcmn.org.

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)



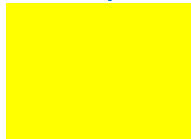
NO Masks Required

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.

New Changes to Amazon Smile

If you place orders through the Amazon Smile program, you can designate ORLC as your charity choice earning dollars here where you worship. However, they plan to end that option by **February 20, 2023**, so you still have a little time left if you wish to take advantage of the program.

Fundraising

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

Staff of Our Redeemer

Pastor Karsten Nelson

651-772-2445 x 102

karsten@orlcmn.org

Vicar/Intern Becky Sliva

beckybsliva@gmail.com

Jeremy Mattson

Worship & Music Director

jeremy.j.mattson@gmail.com

Sally Kupferschmidt

Office Administrator

651-772-2445 x 101

office@orlcmn.org

Jill Rodriguez

Finance Administrator

651-772-2445 x 101

Jill@orlcmn.org

Jim Vansell, Custodian

651-772-2445

Board Members

Carmen Snaza, President

Vicki Anderson

Joe France

Judy Koza

Sharon Peterson

Larry Pruden

Beth Renfors

Deb Spencer

Contact Information

1390 Larpenteur Avenue East

Saint Paul, MN 55109

651-772-2445

office@orlcmn.org

www.orlcmn.org

facebook.com/orlcmn

Please send us your prayer requests

February Happenings

6	Lives Worth Living in Fireside Room	6:45 PM
13	Quilting in Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
13	Joy Circle in Fireside Room	6:00 PM
14	Building Crew Meeting in Fellowship Hall	9:30 AM
14	Hope Circle in the Fireside Room	7:00 PM
16	Knitting & Crocheting in Fireside Room	6:30 PM
20	Lives Worth Living in Fireside Room	6:45 PM
21	Board Meeting in Fireside Room	7:00 PM
27	Quilting in Fellowship Hall	9:00 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)



February is Black History Month

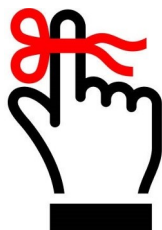
February is Black History month and many people wonder what they can do to honor and learn about black history. There is so much to do in the Twin Cities area from exhibits and museums, to eating at restaurants and shopping at black-owned establishments, and much more. Visit Fox9 News link to get a plethora of ideas: [Celebrate Black History Month in Minnesota: Event list \(fox9.com\)](https://www.fox9.com/black-history-month-in-minnesota-event-list)



February U-F-O Day—Canceled

Our crafting day on **February 18** for those **Un**Finished **O**bjects has been **canceled**, but plan on the next one to be held **Saturday, March 18, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Bring any crafting project you either need to finish or want to start, whether it be scrap booking, card making, crocheting/knitting, dazzle dots, latch hooking, sewing, etc. We hope to see you and your UFOs on March 18, April 15, May 20, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy at: slpruden@hotmail.com.

Reminders—FIRST Sunday of the Month:



- **Bring Your Aluminum Cans to Church**—leave them outside our front doors.
- **Purchase Your Gift Cards**—stop by the gift card table and pick up cards that we have on hand or special order others from a list of hundreds of retailers. Request cards any other time of the month by contacting Barb Maynard at: bezm09@comcast.net AND office@orlcmn.org.



4 Rhonda DeGross	14 Jim Burke
5 Jennifer Houge	14 Carla Shipstad
6 Plogbo Freeman	21 Natalie Forsberg
8 Intern Becky Sliva	24 Mary Luhrs
10 Carol Kringle	<i>*Are we missing your birthday?</i>

**If your birthday is not shown in this month and it should be (or if it is, and you prefer your birthday not be announced in the future), please contact the office. Also, let us know if we can announce your MILESTONE birthdays or anniversaries.*

Baby Mattson is Here!

In case you missed the announcement in our recent bulletins, **Emerson Lee Mattson** was born on Tuesday, January 17! The little guy is doing well and so are Mom & Dad (Alexis and Jeremy). Let's send prayers to the new parents and little Emerson. *[Jeremy is our new director over music and worship.]*



Congrats, Jeremy & Alexa!



Congrats, Pastor Per!



Community Sharing Wednesdays—Drive-Thru FREE Meals and Groceries

The weather continues to be a bit challenging, but that's okay. There's no stopping us (yet) because we love serving meals to our community through our Community Sharing program. We continue to serve meals averaging about 200 every week. We have around 65 cars and several walk up guests weekly and with lots of food coming from Loaves & Fishes, and 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) 4:30—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