

# May 2023



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## The Good Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



### A Message from Pastor Karsten—Spring Brings Growth and Change

It feels so good to have Spring returning in earnest. There are delivery people who comment about the weather, kids who are saying they are glad to be playing outside, dog walkers rejoicing in this chance to be out without seeing snowbanks, plants and grass that are working hard to reach new heights, and birds that are into full rejoicing.

Spring is such a nice season because there is life and growth and change happening all around us. We can see it, smell it, hear it, and even touch it. So bring on Spring, and let those of us who live here rejoice again in the different seasons we have to enjoy.

During this Spring we are focused on Sunday texts that speak about the formation of the early church with the witness and the writings of the early disciples. And in the reading of these stories they actually have a Spring feel to them as something new and strong is growing and spreading and taking good root. The gospel message about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is shaping lives in new ways, stirring people to newer understandings of God, and leading to the development of faith communities that pray and share and take care of others. And what we read and hear about in these stories still has ways to touch and teach and transform us today, so join us for worship this Spring and find God's Spirit working and stirring for our good life.

And around the church this Spring continues to bring new life and growth. The front flower gardens will soon be taking more colorful shape and if you would like to help out this year talk to Carol Rodriguez. The garden beds in the back of the church will soon get turned and then planted with lots of vegetables and herbs, and if you want to be part of that Terezianna Foray-Wright is always looking for some extra help. We are excited to have two youth joining us this summer to assist with Community Sharing and develop some of their job skills – this is a part of the Right Track program offered and paid by the city of St Paul. And very soon you will be opening a new accessible front door. You can see things are sprouting up.

During these Spring days, we are on the final steps of working things out with Sisu Environmental School to begin a new St Paul Public School Charter School with the plans to have 60 students here in grades Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade this fall. We are finalizing the lease contract with lawyers, we are getting back the code review from the city of St Paul, and one of several open houses for the school onsite here was held Thursday, April 27. Right around the corner we know there will be some work ahead in the sorting and clearing out of various items we have been storing, and then painting some walls, and tending to some minor construction for fire safety – if you care to help with these kinds of projects, talk to Vicki Anderson, Randy Koza or Doreen Winter.

Spring is here – bring it on, for all that it offers, all that it brings, all that it requires, and all the ways it has our hearts and minds giving thanks and praise to God for so much goodness.

*Pastor Karsten*

## Intern Becky's Blurbs

Spring is finally upon us. Wait.--Hold that thought. This spring has been undesirable for many, going from snow, to 80°, back to snow, rain, and cool. While we, as Minnesotans, are some 'tough' individuals that can get through some treacherous winters, we also love the season of spring, the renewal, the colors and the smell of the earth. Just like our waiting with joyful hope and anticipation of spring, I think of the promises in the new covenant. We have hope in the good news (gospel) of Christ, the resurrection of our Lord and salvation is for all the nations, for everyone. We may have our

ups and downs in this season of life, but we have hope and assurance in our faithful Lord. May you find your blessings today by counting each and everyone of them! A blessing for you as you go: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together with one voice glorify God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*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*

Details: <https://www.luthersem.edu/commencement/> Celebrate w/ the Sliva family!

*\*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** . RSVP : [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org) or call Sally at 651-772-2445
- **Worship in the park** at Battle Creek on **July 16** hosted by Grace, and Phalen Lake Park on **August 20** hosted by Arlington Hills!
- **Vacation Bible School! July 16-19** Ages 3 - 5th grade can join us at Stellar VBS-A VBS that's "out of this world"! Eastside Collaborative (if you're reading this that means your church is included) is working together to put on a GREAT community event that will launch us on an adventure that's light years of faith-building fun! Host Site: Gustavus Adolphus
- **VBS Volunteers Requested July 16-19th! Requests include:** Greeters at the doors 30 min. before & after, Registration Table Helpers, Rotation Leaders (Bible Story, Imagination Station Craft/Science, Video & Games), Morning Care & After Care help (30 min before and 30 min after), Group Co-Leaders to bring groups from location to location, Skits, A/V, Decoration Team to create stage, rooms, etc...**Vacation Bible School Volunteer Training TBD** with light refreshments, building tour, visioning, background check, & details/individualized volunteer schedule. 2 date options TBD
- **National Night Out/Unite the Night** as Eastside Collaborative! 1st week in August at Our Redeemer! **Phalen Lake Outdoor Worship August 20** hosted by Arlington Hills



LAST WORSHIP WITH INTERN BECKY AUGUST 20, 2023  
PHALEN LAKE





May Worship Services—Scriptures & Lectors		
Date	Scriptures (Click on links below)	Lectors
5/7	<a href="#">Romans 1:1-17</a> "Gospel as Salvation"	Hilary Heinrich
5/14	<a href="#">Romans 3:28-30</a> ; <a href="#">5:1-11</a> "God's Love Poured Out"	Carol Rodriguez
5/21	<a href="#">Romans 6:1-14</a> "Hope of Resurrection"	Lana Larsen
5/28	<a href="#">Romans 8:14-39</a> "Nothing Can Separate Us"	Scott Torvi
If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), please contact the office.		



In-person & livestreaming  
services every Sunday at  
10:00 a.m.  
<https://bit.ly/orlcworship>

### How God Can Use You

Join us in the Fireside room on **Sunday, May 7** at 11:10 for a lively presentation on how "God can use you," a lay person, for His glory. Pastors Joyce Smith Sandberg and Cyndi Ganzgow-Wold will present this session. Bring your cup of coffee and a friend for a very interesting conversation about using our talents to further God's kingdom here on earth. See you there!

### Join us Sunday for Mother's Day!

Come worship with us **Sunday, May 14**, for a special Mother's Day message, and receive a free gift with a card to give to someone special!

### Intern News—Future & Current

In collaboration with Grace Lutheran and Arlington Hills Lutheran, we again applied to Luther Seminary to host one of their interns. We were sad to hear that all of their interns have been placed at other sites. As of now we will not have anyone with us for the 2023-2024 academic year. We are still seeing if there might be a late placement for us, or possibly have one current site that would not be able to host their intern. If the news changes, we will let you know. In the meantime, you are invited to Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis for the graduation ceremony of our current intern, **Becky Sliva**, and other Luther seminary students on **Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m.** Talk with Pastor Karsten if you're interested in carpooling and taking in that good gathering. (See page two for further details of Intern Becky's Commencement Ceremony and Baccalaureate Service.)



### Saint Paul Area Synod (SPAS) Assembly

**Saturday, May 13** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. will be the gathering of pastoral leaders, deacons, and laity representing the 107 congregations in the Saint Paul area synod. This is a great chance to hear more about the wider work of the church, and to be a part of worship, speakers, and some of official business. We have room for one other representative from Our Redeemer. Contact him if interested. Costs are covered by the church and the gathering is taking place at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi.

### A November visit to our Tanzanian partners at Kidewa

Pastor Karsten is helping lead a trip to Tanzania to visit our partners at Kidewa as well as to help with a special medical program for a large group of Tanzania pastors and wives. There will be visits to special sites and places in the main town of Iringa, their church leaders, as well as taking in a safari. Dates for the trip are November 1-14. Costs to be about \$4500. A gathering of interested folks is taking place at **Wednesday, May 24 at 7:00 PM** at Our Redeemer. For an information packet, see Pastor Karsten.

## May Happenings

1	Lives Worth Living in Fireside Room	6:45 PM
4	Rejoice Circle in Cassee's Room	1:00 PM
8	Quilting in Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
9	Building Crew in Fellowship Hall	9:30 AM
9	Hope Circle in the Fireside Room	7:00 PM
15	Lives Worth Living in Fireside Room	6:45 PM
16	Board Meeting in Fireside Room	7:00 PM
18	Knitting & Crocheting in Fireside Room	6:30 PM
20	U.F.O. Crafting Day in Fellowship Hall	8:00 AM
22	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)



## 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, 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](mailto: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!

### Staff of Our Redeemer

**Pastor Karsten Nelson**

651-772-2445 x 102

[karsten@orlcmn.org](mailto:karsten@orlcmn.org)

**Vicar/Intern Becky Sliva**

[beckybsliva@gmail.com](mailto:beckybsliva@gmail.com)

**Jeremy Mattson**

Worship & Music Director

[jeremy.j.mattson@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.j.mattson@gmail.com)

**Sally Kupferschmidt**

Office Administrator

651-772-2445 x 101

[office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org)

**Jill Rodriguez**

Finance Administrator

651-772-2445 x 101

[Jill@orlcmn.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@orlcmn.org)

[www.orlcmn.org](http://www.orlcmn.org)

[facebook.com/orlcmn](https://facebook.com/orlcmn)

*Please send us your prayer requests to [prayer@orlcmn.org](mailto:prayer@orlcmn.org)*



## SISU Environmental School

While details are being worked out on the contract with the Sisu Environmental Elementary school, the Sisu staff are holding open houses here with the next one coming up on **Tuesday, May 23, 6:00—7:30 p.m.** This is a K-5 (future expansion 6-8 grades) public school option based on the most successful Finnish education system in the world. Registration for fall of 2023 is now open, so if you know of any parents looking for a school this coming fall for their children, let them know about this open house or provide them with their website at [SisuMN.org](http://SisuMN.org).



**Next OPEN HOUSE is Tuesday, May 23, 6:00—7:30 PM  
At Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

### What can Sisu offer your child?

- Curriculum based on the highly successful Finnish education model
- A commitment to wellbeing—happy children learn more
- Relevance—purposeful learning
- Play and nature infused learning
- Not just what to learn, but how to learn
- Active outdoor play and breaks
- Opportunities to explore and connect with nature



## Spring Rhubarb Festival May 20—Volunteers and Donations Needed

As one of the East Side Collaborative events, Grace Lutheran Church is having a fundraising festival for a good cause on **Saturday, May 20, 1-4 p.m!** All proceeds will go to help Ukrainian Refugees. Do you craft, bake, cook, have a body that can help? We are looking for many helpers to create a wonderful outreach experience to our neighbors, friends, eastside community, and more. Sign up on the form at the Welcome Desk if you can volunteer in one of the capacities below and/or make donations. We are looking for FIVE volunteers from Our Redeemer. See Sally if you have questions.

Ways to help:

- Donate crafts and baked goods
- Donate seed and/or cuttings
- Volunteer to help staff at any of the tables
- Volunteer to be a food server (walking tacos, chips, etc., and Culvers custard)
- Volunteer to be a Booth Attendant-->there will be games for the kids
- Assist w/ vintage car show, demos, music, projects, etc.



Join us. Spread the word. Share to your friends & family! You're invited to join us and/or help!

Call or email Grace Lutheran Church (1730 Old Hudson Rd, St Paul) [\(651\) 774 9617](tel:6517749617)

[Office@gracelutheranstpaul.org](mailto:Office@gracelutheranstpaul.org) (Or see Sally or email her at [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org).)

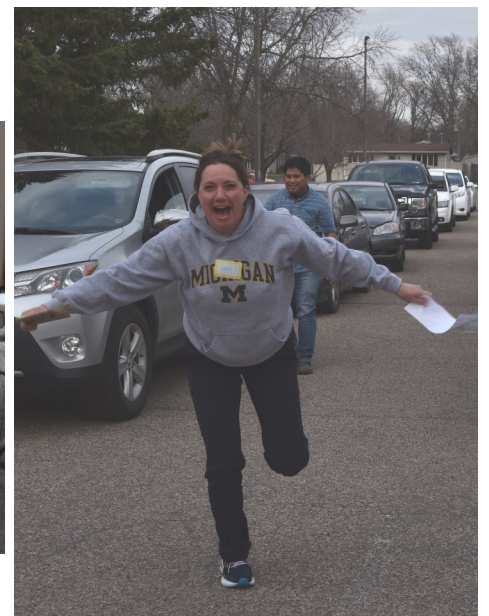
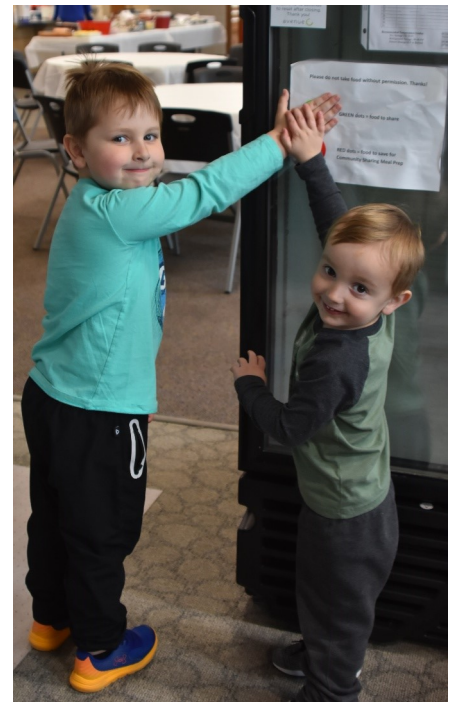
## Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church—Garage Sale—May 19-20

Please plan on making donations, shopping, and/or volunteering at Gustavus Adolphus' yearly sale, **Friday, May 19, and Saturday May 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m!** Donations will be accepted May 15 - 18...not just of your sale items, but also we can use donations of paper and plastic bags in good, useable condition, as well. Please contact Maggie Kidnie at [maggiekid@comcast.net](mailto:maggiekid@comcast.net) for more information.

## Everything You Wanted to Know About Traveling to Tanzania

On **Sunday, May 7**, Kirsten Levorson will be at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church for coffee after their 9:30 a.m. service to help those interested in the process of planning a trip to Tanzania. Kirsten manages the companion relationships in Tanzania for the St. Paul Area Synod and has traveled to Tanzania many times. We will learn about the costs associated with companion visits and hear a typical itinerary. She will also explain the Synod resources that are available to help travelers with finances.







## Deepest Sympathy to the family of Florence Senske

Our deepest condolences to the family of **Florence Senske**, a long-time member, who passed away on the morning of April 13. Funeral services were held at Our Redeemer on Monday, April 17. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations go to Our Redeemer.

***Congratulations to Dianne and Jim Derks who celebrated their 50th***

*Congratulations to Dianne and Jim Derks who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 9!*



Thank you to the many Our Redeemer friends for your prayers, calls, and cards. My ribs are healing nicely. God Bless, Arlys Anderson

## Confirmation Celebration

Join us Sunday, May 14, as we celebrate the confirmation of **Caileigh Kilbride**! You are a blessing, Caileigh!



1	Louis Barrett	20	Joe Senske
2	Rita During	23	Emmanuel Freeman
3	Michele Heimerdinger	23	Joan Paulson
5	Alexandra Thompson	23	Jeff Trent
6	Jackie Nelson	24	Darleen Klemm
8	Mike Kahrau	26	Vanessa Barrett
8	Denice Olagbaiye	26	Alvin Torvi
9	Michael Snaza	28	Fredrick Olagbaiye
14	Martha Freeman	28	Ramona Larson
18	Paul Pavel	30	Courtney Magnuson
19	Alissa Krohn	30	Mark Winter

*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.*



## Calling all gardeners!!

- If interested in helping with our FLOWER GARDENS, contact Carol Rodriguez
- If interested in helping with our PRODUCE GARDENS, contact the office

## 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**