

As we combine the summer editions, enjoy this later July newsletter and early August newsletter

Online Offerings
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Worship
YouTube
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July 2023



August 2023

The Good Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



A Message from Pastor Karsten—Doulos Celebrates 20 Years!

Doulos celebrates 20 years! - Surrounding the graduation ceremony on June 7th of this year's group of 20 seniors, there was a great reunion of past staff coming back to revisit Doulos and rekindle old connections and recall old stories. Over 50 people came from the US and mingled with 50 current staff and another 100 Dominicans for days of special outings, lots of shared meals, a wonderful Saturday program, and a marvelous time of dedicating the new land that Doulos is purchasing to house this school for the next 50 years and beyond. More than anything this was time to give thanks for how God has helped shape what was once a dream, into one of the finest schools in the DR (test results prove this!) that is grounding students in a strong faith and equipping them for college and a life of service. I am proud of the impact this school has had in the city of Jarabacoa, on the students who have attended, amongst the staff who have served, and with the many sponsors and mission trips over the years. I am also proud that Our Redeemer has been a dedicated partner here for fifteen years.

Some of these pictures will help tell the story of this special week – Allen Heimerdinger did work around the campus and met the Seniors he has sponsored and written to for the last 11 years. There was graduation in the amphitheater. Worship and land dedication at the new mountain base home for Doulos. Pastor Karsten with Lisandro – one of students Our Redeemer sponsored. A picture of the new covering over the basketball court (it helps tremendously when it rains and will move to the new campus).

Doulos Dessert Nights—The most exciting announcement that took place during this early June gathering was that an God inspired an anonymous donor to commit a remarkable \$500,000 in matching dollars for the rest of the year if we can raise that same amount through lots of other individuals and organizations. The challenge is being called 'Be a piece of the puzzle' as it will take 332 puzzle pieces of \$1,500 to meet this challenge grant. The Missions Team already has committed \$1,500 to buy one piece of the puzzle. I am working with our Missions Team and others in our church who have been connected with Doulos to host two Dessert Nights to hear more and see how others could work together to try buying up more puzzle pieces. Come join us for a dessert night at 7:00 pm on either **Sunday, August 13** at Pastor Karsten's house or **Wednesday, August 9**, at church. Please rsvp with a call or email to me (karstenn@comcast.net). Come learn more about the excellent ministry of Doulos school and help with a donation to secure this new land.



Pastor Karsten



Intern Becky's Blurb

Thank you all for your continued prayer and support as (my family and) I journey toward ordination! During these upcoming months, I'll be working to organize our Eastside Collaborative Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the host site of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church.



Eastside Collaborative Upcoming Events:

- *Outdoor Worship Battle Creek Park July 16th hosted by Grace Lutheran!*
- *VBS July 16-19th at Gustavus Adolphus for ages 3 through 5th grade.*
- *Unite the Night hosted at Our Redeemer August 1, 5-7 PM with music, games, free food*
- *Phalen Lake Outdoor Worship August 20 hosted by Arlington Hills!*

PRAYER Ministry has a new shape at each of your churches! Check with your leadership team for a new email and confidential link for sending prayer requests.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REQUESTS

We invite you to be an integral part of children's ministry this summer! Vacation Bible School is going to be OUT OF THIS WORLD with the Outer Space Galaxy theme 'Stellar'. July 16-19 Ages 3 - 5th grade can join us at Stellar VBS! We are working together to put on a GREAT community event that will launch us on an adventure that's light years of faith-building fun! Scan the QR Code for VBS Registration for ages 3 through 5th grade. Or sign up here: <https://forms.gle/p2RkuvtUMPjg2Vkv7>

VBS Volunteers still needed:

- Actors for daily skits
- Greeters to welcoming parents and students
- Desk Registration help
- Rotation Leaders: Games, Movie RotationStation, Snack Co-lead,
- Preschool Leaders and Assistants
- Small Group Leaders - taking youth from station to station
- Decoration Team for each of the spaces

To sign up to volunteer for VBS, [Click here](#) or use this URL:<https://forms.gle/zhTgRWJ7FA25g8DG7>

Additional Ways to Support VBS (including prayers!):

- Donate volunteer break room snacks
- White cardstock
- Pretzel sticks
- Mini marshmallows
- Coffee filters
- Clear glue
- Glitter and glitter stars
- apples
- Cheese balls
- peach gummy rings
- clementines,
- cheese it crackers
- Fruit snacks
- milky way min candy bars
- clear/blue glue, glitter, star confetti,
- Markers
- 1 pkg cardstock, 2 pkg printing paper, black construction paper
- food coloring

I've graduated with my Master of Divinity AND I still get to work with you through August! Thank you for all your prayers, supportive words and guidance on this journey! I'm so fortunate to work with you Eastsiders!





July/August Worship Services—Scriptures & Lectors		
Date	Scriptures (Click on links below)	Lectors
7/2	<i>We will be providing various prayer/scriptures</i>	Jim Burke
7/9	"	Lana Larsen
7/16	" (Eastside Shared Worship)	Jane Koza
7/23	Isaiah 6:1-8	Kathi Kirchoff
7/30	Isaiah 66:10-14 , Luke 10:1-11	Cherie Kilbride
8/6	Isaiah 61:1-11	Carol Rodriguez
8/13	TBD (Shared Worship with Hispanic & Hmong churches)	Diana Ersfeld
8/20	Mathew 15:21-28 (Eastside Shared Worship)	TBD
8/27	Psalm 100	Dianne Derks
<i>If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), please contact the office.</i>		

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

Worship News Ahead

As we have just closed out a really good five-week preaching series on 'Becoming a More Prayerful Congregation,' we will transition into a new three-week series hearing and seeing God's good words for us in the book of Isaiah. Often referred to as the "5th Gospel" because of much of its content (the prophecy about "a child will be born...., and reference to God who will help us rise like eagles), we will be taking these three weeks to wade through some of the richer sections of this good book. This series will begin on July 23, following the shared Eastside Collab outdoor worship at Battle Creek Park Pavilion on July 16.

The last Sunday of August and the first week of September will have us taking a walk through some of our favorite music with a preaching focus of looking deeper into the messages of our music. Hymns and songs are full of great depth to speak what we feel, tap into the fullest life God wants from us, and give us words to sing our thanks and praise. Come to these meaningful music Sundays.

Looking farther down the line when we gather back again this fall, the big change is that we will be going back to the *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL) instead of the *Narrative Lectionary* we have been using the last 12 years. The Narrative had us starting with three months of chronological walk through the Old Testament, then one gospel from Christmas to Easter, then New Testament letters. The RCL focuses on a Gospel lesson each week along with supplemental OT, Psalm and NT readings. We will be choosing one other lesson besides the Gospel for each week. The RCL is the most commonly followed weekly lessons in the Catholic, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran and other reformed churches. It is also the three-year lectionary cycle we find in the front pages of our hymnal. This change will begin on September 10.

Worshipping with Others

Special worship opportunities lie ahead for us to gather in larger numbers as we worship with others. On **Sunday, July 16**, the EastSide Collaborative Lutheran churches will be at the Battle Creek amphitheater (located just south of McKnight and #94) at **10:00 a.m.**— Our Redeemer folks can bring desserts or chips for the potluck meal to be held after worship. It will be livestreamed at: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranstpaul>

This EastSide "Collab" will then be outdoors again at the Lake Phalen shelter (west side of the lake) on **Sunday, August 20**, at **10:00 a.m.** — plans for the potluck picnic will come later. Come enjoy beautiful worship in beautiful settings. We are also in the planning stages for another shared worship with the Hispanic and Hmong congregations that worship in our building on **Sunday, August 13**, at **10:00 a.m.** with a potluck meal to follow.

July August

Regular Happenings

6	3	Rejoice Circle	1:00 PM
3	7	Lives Worth Living	6:45 PM
10	14	Quilting	9:00 AM
11	8	Building Crew	9:30 AM
11	8	Hope Circle	7:00 PM
20	17	Knitting & Crocheting	6:30 PM
15	19	U.F.O. Crafting Day	8:00 AM
17	21	Lives Worth Living	6:45 PM
18	22	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
24	28	Quilting	9:00 AM

July 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	31					

August 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	31		

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, 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. Or visit her table on the first Sunday of each month.



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: prayers@orlcmn.org*

Notes from the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Update on SISU School Decision

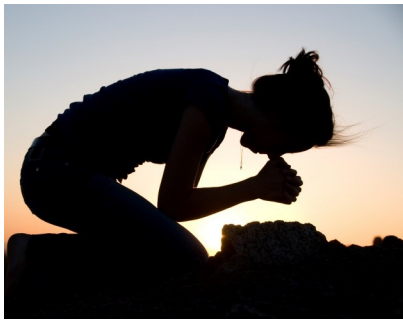
Our congregational meeting on June 25 we tended to the formal business of approving the minutes and hearing an update on our financial status (down somewhat in offerings – about \$10,000, but down equal amount in spending so we are in a stable position). We spent time talking about the recent decision by Sisu school to not sign the lease and therefore to not begin their school in our space this fall. That was a surprise and a frustration for many. We are looking into other possible charter school interest for next year, or even other options for fuller use of our education wing. We reviewed the goal areas that are still priorities for us – Engaging, Worshipping, Funding, Serving, Prayer. We heard an update on the front door (looking for a new option as delivery would not be until fall), gave thanks for the updated Web site work (led by Dennis Paulson), and touched base on the current interns working with us (Becky Sliva and Emilia Hurst) and reminded folks we are not an intern site this fall as there were fewer interns for all the interested sites.



SEMI-ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Becoming a more prayerful congregation

What a delight focus this has been over the month of June and into the beginning of July as we have looked at various struggles to being people of prayer, but also being inspired and guided to try shaping our prayer life with some great directions (inward/upward/outward) and forms like the 5 Finger prayer (those closest to us, those who point us the way, the leaders, those who are weak, and ourselves) and ACTS (Adoration, Confessions, Thanksgiving, Supplication) to help guide us. We tried different places of prayer within worship (at the altar, at the end of worship in groups) and have begun a new prayer request element with a prayer team praying for all the needs presented. We are living well into this new goal of 'becoming a more prayerful congregation.' Please work on this good spiritual discipline yourself, and consider joining us for one more avenue of prayer as we will have an open prayer time after worship on the first Sunday of every month.



Prayer Requests

We also started a new Prayer Ministry and created cards encouraging people to provide us with their prayers of concern and joy. Prayer cards are in the pews and at the Welcome Desk, and can be returned in the offering

basket or in the prayer box located on the Welcome Desk. These are shared with the Prayer Ministry team. We will publish prayers in the weekly bulletin (if given permission) for two weeks so others can pray as well. You are also invited to stay after worship on the first Sunday of the month to participate in a group prayer up front by the baby grand piano. We have also created a new email address, prayers@orlcmn.org, a Google form and QR code (shown to the right) that will allow us to anonymously collect prayer requests. This form has options of where to direct your prayer (Pastor only, Pastor & Prayer Team, or with the church in bulletins/newsletters). The prayer team currently consists of Becky Sliva, Cherie Kilbride, Dianne Derks, Barb Maynard, Joan Paulson, & Kathi Kirchoff. Please let us know if you would like to join our team in any capacity. Below are a few of the Prayers & Praises we recently received.



Prayers of the People

- Prayers for Darlene Harwood for healing from a recent fall.
- Prayers for Susan Peterson after surgery.
- Prayers for Amy Lindquist as her family embarks on a 6 week trip.
- For the family of Dennis and Jan Peterson who are grieving the loss of Dennis' mother.
- Prayer Request Link on the Website works! HOORAY! Praises to God and our skilled techie, Dennis Paulson!
- Healing for Bill Maynard as he completes radiation treatments for cancer in his lymph nodes.
- Healing for Lana Larsen after suffering a minor heart attack.
- Pray that our young children know God, Jesus & the Holy Spirit
- Thankful for 17 years of marriage. Pray for continued love & care.
- For my work life as my job changes a bit this week.
- Joy of 1st great grandson.



National Night Out—Tuesday, August 1

Mark your calendar for this great community event being presented by the EastSide Collaboration! National Night Out (NNO) will be held at Our Redeemer on **August 1, 5-7 PM**. NNO is an annual opportunity to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement promoting a true sense of community by creating a more caring place to live and work. Not only will you be able to visit with local police and fire responders, but also enjoy music by Amy & Adams. There will be free food (hot dogs, root beer floats, popcorn, snow cones), games (cake walk, sidewalk chalk art, basketball, volleyball), and a good opportunity to make some new connections. We will also be providing information on our four churches about our services we make available to our communities. We are looking for volunteers from each of the churches to make this a successful, fun event. Please sign up on the form located at the Welcome Desk or email Sally at office@orlcmn.org.



Bunco Game Night—Friday, July 21

It's another fun night of Bunco Night to be held at Our Redeemer in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, July 21, 6-9 p.m.** Even if you haven't played Bunco before, don't hesitate to sign up for a fun game night and food. (If you wish, bring a snack to share; a small donation of money is appreciated for food.) In order that we can plan on the number of tables and food needed, please RSVP to Kathi Kirchoff at kathik717@hotmail.com by July 20.

Grief Workshop

There will be a Grief Workshop hosted after our worship service here at Our Redeemer on **Sunday, August 6, at 11:15 a.m.** by Deacon Intern Emilia. Have you ever felt grief hitting you when you least expect it? Or after you thought you were over something? Or does grief feel ever present for you? This workshop will be for a variety of types of grief in all different stages. This could be the loss of a loved one (recent or long ago), or other things that have been lost such as time with family, loss of mobility, or many other types of losses. This workshop will involve several activities to understand our grief better as well as discussing memories around those we have lost. We will also discuss how we can deal with grief in healthy ways. You can expect this workshop to be about 45-60 minutes in length, and personal follow ups with Deacon Intern Emilia are welcomed. There is also another Grief Workshop being hosted at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church on Sunday, July 23, at 11:15 for those who are interested in attending multiple sessions.



A Special Thank You to Interns Becky Sliva and Emilia Hurst!

Becky Sliva has been our shared intern since last August and we have so enjoyed her deep faith, her interest in helping others connect with God, her working with the East Side Collaboration, and her helping to shape and revise a prayer ministry at Our Redeemer. We will say a final farewell to her at our August 20 service at Lake Phalen, but we will have her here on August 13 for a more formal sending/ending. And while Deacon Intern Emilia has been here just over the summer we will be saying farewell to her also. She will begin a full-time CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at the University of Minnesota in September to conclude her studies. They both have our deep thanks for time given at Our Redeemer. Please keep them in your prayers as they enter their next chapters.

July Birthdays

1 Julie Brovitch	17 Kathi Kirchoff
1 Mark Johnson	19 Ardith Cocchiarella
6 Larry Pruden	22 Dennis Paulson
7 Lisa Thompson	26 Jim Krohn
15 Carmen Snaza	28 Steve Friendt

NOTE: 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 and we will make the necessary change.



August Birthdays

1 Fred McClaine	16 Katie Nelson
1 Dan Anderson	20 Annette Wilson
3 Jennifer Kubitschek	22 Jon Nelson
5 Olivienne Hefta	29 Donna Kahrau
7 Val Meyer	30 Darlene Busse

NOTE: 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 and we will make the necessary change.



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 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.

WE ARE IN NEED OF EMPTY EGG CARTONS!



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

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

Address Service Requested