



September 2023



Worship
YouTube
Click [HERE](#)

Online
Offerings
Click [HERE](#)

The Good Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



A Message from Pastor Karsten—Fall and its many changes to our lives!

Fall always bring some changes to our lives. The weather certainly lets us know there is change coming. For some there are new schedules with kids or grandkids heading back to school. The gardens don't have quite the same production. And maybe our trips and travel keep us planted at home more often. Well, things around the church will also see some changes as we move into this next season. Here's what we have to share:

Worship – When we step into our Fall worship one of the things that will be different this year is the selection of texts we will be using. Over the past 12 years, we have utilized the Narrative Lectionary (NL) to guide our lessons. This had us starting in the fall with a chronological walk through the Old Testament up to Christmas, then working through one Gospel until Easter, and then using New Testament passages until summer.

This year, the Worship Planning Team, along with feedback from many others, decided to move back to the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) for our texts. This is the most widely used lectionary by most Protestant churches as well as our Catholic brothers and sisters. This RCL utilizes a Gospel lesson as the main text of the day (most will be from the Gospel of Matthew this fall) while often having other supplemental texts to the theme from the Old Testament, and New Testament. We will mainly pair the Gospel with an Old Testament lesson so we will have two lessons heard each week. This is the format that Our Redeemer has followed in the past and is what you can find listed in the front of our ELW hymnal book. Come let this RCL guide us to good worship this fall as we continue with the shape of having the first two Sundays be Traditional service, the second two services of the month be Contemporary, and the fifth Sunday being blended. Come and join us in worship!!

Good-bye to Becky and now adapting to no intern this coming year – We had a nice chance to say our thanks and pour out our blessings on Becky Sliva as she concluded her internship with us and the East Side Collaborative on August 20. We enjoyed and valued Becky's contributions to Our Redeemer in so many ways. As a recap, here are our other interns we've had the past years: Per, Carole, Anne, Jen, Ben, Peter, Tricia, Nile, Chris, and Janelle. This has always been a good ministry of Our Redeemer to welcome and provide practical learning and growth for these leaders, and we have received a lot from each of them. This year there were not enough students from Luther Seminary to fill all the sites that were hoping for interns. Thus, we will not be having an intern with us this coming year. Part of what that means is that there will be a few more visits from other clergy to step in for the occasional preaching. It might also mean we lean into more homebound visits by members, and look for other leadership in areas like the East Side Collaborative work and worship leading.

(Continued on next page)



Intern Becky's Final Debut

Thank you all for your continued prayer and support on this journey toward ordination! What a gift I've been given in the experiences working with you three amazing parishes, pastoral leaders, teams and members! Thank you for inviting me into your fold, into your loving arms with warm smiles, hugs and advice.

Our EastSide Collaborative (ESCo) has done great work in relationship building, planning special events and worship services this year! Thank you to all of the amazing team work to pull off such beautiful worship gatherings together!

Blessings, Becky



Congratulations to Ann Jackson, Former Intern #8

We are delighted to share the official news that after having served at a Methodist Church over this last year, Ann Jackson (as she often refers to as Our Redeemer's Intern #8) is now fully licensed as a pastor, and continues to serve her congregation in Afton, Minnesota. God's good work in and through her continues. And it continues partly because of the caring space Our Redeemer provided for her growth and discernment. She is deeply grateful for time spent at Our Redeemer!



Continued from front page

Confirmation - We value spending time with our middle school youth helping to shape and deepen their Christian faith with a Confirmation program. This fall we are moving from a Wednesday night program to a Sunday afternoon program, and doing so while also partnering with Cross Lutheran Church (just 7 blocks away – across from Wakefield Park) for programming every other week, with one of the weeks joining another five congregations for more enjoyable 'youth group' type activities ranging from a Hay Ride to serving with Project Home. An information meeting is happening on **Sunday, September 10** from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon in the Blue Room for all interested parents/grandparents, and their youth who are in grades 6-9. We hope you reach out to those family and friends who may be interested in joining us.

Rally Sunday – Welcome back to a 'new year' as we begin our Fall season of service and worship and ministry on **Sunday, September 10**. Part of what we will have that day is a bulletin insert that will list a number of ways you can get involved in groups or helping to serve here at Our Redeemer. Before that day comes ponder where and how you might like to be utilized for the greater good of the congregation. Might you recommit to a program you have been a part of before? Might you consider a new avenue of your gifts to help meet a need in the church or stretch yourself in good serving.

Pastor Karsten



In-person & livestreaming services every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

<https://bit.ly/orlcworship>

September Worship Services—Scriptures & Lectors		
Date	Scriptures (Click on links below)	Lectors
3	N/A	N/A
10	Matthew 18:15-20 ; Exodus 12:1-14	Jane Koza
17	Matthew 18:21-35 ; Exodus 14:19-31	Dianne Derks
24	Mathew 20:1-16 ; Exodus 16:2-15	Scott Torvi
If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), please contact the office.		

A thank you & an invite from Jeremy: 2023-2024 Music Opportunities!

Dear Our Redeemer,

Thank you for a great first year at Our Redeemer! It was a blessing to make music with you, and I look forward to the music we will make in the year to come. Our first rehearsal will be on **Wednesday, September 6th** at the times listed below. I encourage you current members to invite others to come to the first rehearsal, especially those who may not feel confident in their musical ability and those who may not attend church on a regular basis. These ensembles are a great place to build community, and your personal invitation may be what gives someone the courage to try something new!

Peace,
Jeremy Mattson
jeremy.j.mattson@gmail.com



	Handbell Choir	Sanctuary Choir	Worship Band
Rehearsals	6:00-6:50 p.m. on Wednesdays	7:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays	9:00-9:45 a.m. on Sundays
Performances	2nd Sundays	1st and 3rd Sundays	4th Sundays
Experience	All levels of musical experience welcome	All levels of musical experience welcome	Playing an instrument is helpful

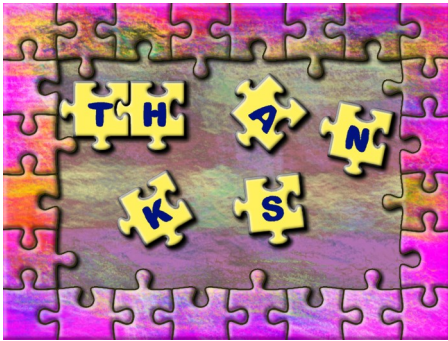
Anniversary Congratulations to Pastor Karsten

It is a pleasure to note a special anniversary to Pastor Karsten! The wider Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrates and recognizes Pastor Karsten for the 35th Anniversary of his ordination as a Pastor in the Lutheran Church. We are grateful for his service here at Our Redeemer for the past 16 years. The picture here is from his Ordination service at his home congregation of St. John's Lutheran in Minneapolis in August of 1989.



Good News- Employee Retention Credit

After a number of months of the application process that required gathering all kinds of financial records on our staffing payments during the time of COVID, we were delighted to receive checks in the mail totaling just over \$40,000. This is money from the US Government being sent back to businesses and churches that stayed open during COVID and could meet the expectations for this refund. The Board celebrated this good news at their July meeting and opted to not make any decision right now as to how we might use or save those funds. There are a couple of bills that might get covered, some of it set aside to see how we end the year financially, and much of it looking to be set away for future costs and budget needs. While Pastor Karsten spearheaded this process, there was a lot of work and assistance from our Finance Administrator Jill Rodriguez, Office Administrator Sally Kupferschmidt, and Dean Ersfeld who was our Board Treasurer.



Doulos Dessert Night Thanks!

I would like to thank the people who recently participated in the dessert nights to hear more about Doulos, the recent purchase of land and the great matching gift of \$500,000 that is good until the end of the year. There has been a wider and deeper response than anticipated to this fund drive which shows God's help is at work to shape and lead this school. If you care to give an individual gift, talk to me or you can scan this QR code.



Pastor Karsten

Send us your Prayers & Praises Requests

Please send us your *Prayers & Praises!* Pick up a prayer card at the Welcome Desk to provide us with your prayers of concern and joy. This card has a couple of options of where to direct your prayer (Pastor only, Pastor & Prayer Ministry Team, or with the church). Simply place your prayer cards in the offering basket or in the prayer box that is also located on the Welcome Desk. Or, you can email your prayer to prayers@orlcmn.org, or through the QR code (shown to the right) that will allow us to anonymously collect prayer requests. These are shared with the Prayer Ministry team, which consists of Cherie Kilbride, Dianne Derks, Barb Maynard, Joan Paulson, & Kathi Kirchoff. If you give permission to share with the church, your prayer will be shown in our bulletin for two weeks and/or in our newsletter. You are also invited to stay after worship on the first Sunday of the month for more group prayer up front by the piano. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to join our team in any capacity. *Below are some requests we recently received.*



Prayers of the People

- Prayers for Intern Becky and her family in the transition following the end of her internship.
- Please pray for my kids' dad who lost his job two weeks ago.
- Prayers for my family, friends, and church.



September—Regular Happenings		
4	Lives Worth Living	6:45 PM
11	Quilting	9:00 AM
12	Building Crew	9:30 AM
12	Hope Circle	7:00 PM
16	U.F.O. Crafting Day	8:00 AM
18	Lives Worth Living	6:45 PM
19	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
21	Rejoice Circle	1:00 PM
21	Knitting & Crocheting	6:30 PM
25	Quilting	9:00 AM



SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	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

Holidays and Observances: 4: Labor Day

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!

Staff of Our Redeemer

Pastor Karsten Nelson
651-772-2445 x 102
karsten@orlcmn.org

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: prayers@orlcmn.org

Women in Christ Meetings—Special Event September 23

Don't miss out on the chance to join women who can be together in faith and love and care for each other. Meetings for Women In Christ are in person and will have a monthly meetings with group discussion, social events, service plans and lite supper together. Plans are for fun events, service to others and expanding our love for each other. Watch for the first event on **Saturday, September 23**, at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall and make sure to invite your friends and family, neighbors. **Joan Paulson** will be giving a special presentation. Contact Kathi Kirchoff for more information at 651-770-1309 or email kathik717@hotmail.com

SUPPORT Group Meetings

Including Our Redeemer, another church from our EastSide Collaborative has group meetings being held and open to anyone who is interested:

- **Alcohol Anonymous**— To begin September 7, every Thursday @ 7:30 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 No. Arcade St. (South Entrance) in St. Paul. Contact Tim at 651-829-7695 if interested.
- **Maplewood Gamblers Anonymous**—Every Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. here at Our Redeemer, 1390 Larpenteur Ave E in St. Paul. Info at www.minnesotaga.com. Or come on the first Thursday of the month when they are open to the public.



A Special Request from Interfaith Action—Project Home

I'm reaching out because in the past, your congregation had been hosts for Project Home when we had a mobile shelter structure. I want to invite volunteers from your congregation to participate in this year's point-in-time homelessness study, organized through the Wilder Foundation. Many nonprofits will be participating this year and we are working on getting volunteers to conduct interviews at Project Home. Click [HERE](#) for more info on the study.

We need volunteers to interview adult shelter guests on Thursday, October 26 and Friday, October 27. The interviews will take place at Project Home which is located at the St Joseph Provincial House at 1880 Randolph in St. Paul (our new location as of the pandemic).

- The volunteer time expectation is **about 4 hours**.
- Our Shelter Manager Donna will take care of organizing with our adult shelter guests. Sara and I will coordinate and schedule volunteers.

Because of the sensitive nature of the interview process, **volunteers need to be at least 21 years old and will need to go through a training with the Wilder Foundation.** Click [HERE](#) for more info on the volunteer experience. There are both in-person and online trainings available for volunteers. The training lasts 1.5 hours.

Next steps:

- Let me know if you would be willing to share this opportunity with your congregation and help with recruitment. Interested volunteers can sign up through this link: <https://wilder.quickbase.com/db/bg9edx6y5?a=nwr&dfid=14&ifv=1>. It is a simple online form and volunteers can and should indicate their interest in participating at Project Home specifically in the "Other/Comments" section.
- Once signed up, volunteers will be contacted by the Wilder Foundation and invited to participate in training.

As we get closer to the days of the interviews, I will coordinate with volunteers to schedule when they can come to Project Home.

This study will provide extremely important information about our shelter guests and homelessness in Minnesota. We want your congregation to be a part of this effort!

I'm here to answer questions so please don't hesitate to reach out!



With gratitude,
Elizabeth Kulus (she/her)
Volunteer Coordinator
Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul
651-661-7736



Bunco Game Night—Friday, October 6

Mark your calendar for another fun night of Bunco Night to be held at Our Redeemer in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, October 6, 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 October 4.

God's Hands Knitting and Crocheting Group

At the God's Hands Knitting and Crocheting Group meeting this July, we prepared over 200 Prayer Dishcloths for the National Night Out give away at Our Redeemer. This brings our total to over One Thousand! Thank you to the knitters and crocheters who have faithfully, over eight years, donated to this fun service project.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry also continues with over ninety shawls given since its inception. Just a note for reference: A Prayer Shawl needs approximately three skeins of Homespun yarn. In 2008, the cost of one skein was about \$3. The current cost of one skein is about \$9. We wish to thank you for the donations received from individuals and Thrivent Grants for this Ministry.

Please come and join in the fun and good conversation on the third Thursday of each month 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room at ORLC. While most of the handicraft work is done elsewhere, we enjoy show 'n tell. Sometimes we share patterns and sometimes we share yarn. We hope to see you there! And, invite your family and friends to join you!

Presentation of Mary School 2023 Panther Classic Golf Fundraiser

Connect with parents, alumni, and friends of Presentation of Mary School while enjoying an afternoon of fun, games, and golf. Bring your foursome, or come by yourself to join us at Oak Marsh Golf Course in Oakdale on Sunday, September 24 for an 18-hole scramble golf tournament to benefit the school. Tee times start at 1pm. A boxed lunch and complimentary drink ticket are included with registration. All paid golfers will receive an 18 hole green fee for future play at Oak Marsh Golf Course. Don't miss out on a great afternoon of prizes, games, friends, food, drinks, and golf! Don't wait, space is limited, so sign up early! Register today at <https://www.oakmarshevents.com/panther-classic.aspx>. Sponsorship opportunities available as well. Contact Bill Josten at wjjosten@gmail.com to discuss sponsorships.



1—Claire Sexton	20—Judy Triplett
5—Carol Battey	23—Joyce Pederson
8—Jeff Morgan	24—Gloria Stiehl
8—Bruce Ring	25—Gary Kirsch
9—Matt Kilbride	25—Maureen Sullivan
11—Allen Heimerdinger	26—Roger Olila
11—Jill Rodriguez	Did we miss you? ↓

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.

Coming SOON—New Church Directory!

Yes, it's true! Our 2023 church directory will be in our possession soon!



On the horizon: An Our Redeemer Craft, Fine Art, Bake Sale and Combined Our Redeemer and Mensajes de Poder Rummage Sale

Our Redeemer's Craft & Fine Arts & Bake Sale: Saturday, October 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To sign up for a space, or for further information, there are forms on the Welcome Desk, or you can contact Claire Sexton at: clas1249@gmail.com.

Our Redeemer and Mensajes de Poder's Rummage Sale: Saturday, September 16, and Sunday, September 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The intend to hold the sale outdoors in the parking lot—there will be food available for purchase. Contact Sally if you have questions or would like further information.



Baby Boy wishes for Hilary and Joel

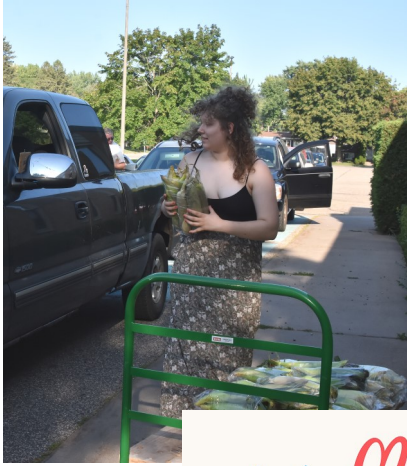




Community Sharing Wednesdays—Drive-Thru FREE Meals and Groceries

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.



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

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

Address Service Requested