



November 2023

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 22,
7:00 PM

At Progressive Baptist Church
1505 Burns Ave, Saint Paul

Worship
YouTube
Click [HERE](#)

Online
Offerings
Click [HERE](#)

The Good Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Karsten—A Mission to connect with Tanzania



It was almost 40 years ago that some Pastors from Saint Paul started getting connected in Tanzania and slowly drew others into the idea of being partners across the globe. Fast forward and now there are 54 Saint Paul Area Synod congregations that are partners with 65 Tanzanian congregations in the Iringa Diocese, located in the center of this country that is located on the Eastern coast of Africa in the midpoint of that continent. While the base of this partnership is congregation to congregation, many other helpful ministries have grown and developed over the years – a water ministry that drills wells, a health ministry that provides free medical checkups and care for pastors and lay leaders along with their spouses, an agricultural program that provides small loans to farmers while also buying bulk fertilizer and now building storage warehouses, an outreach to young women about hygiene and life resources, an orphanage that cares for almost 40 rejected or abused kids, and a planting program that has given out more than a million trees.

During our visit in early November. the main thing we will be doing is visiting our church partner, Kidewa. We will be warmly greeted and join together in worship and song and stories. We will also travel around the local area and visit the seven other preaching points connected to Kidewa – these communities are Fita, Ubamba, Ibumu, Nazareth, Mepra, Ivangwa and Chengelle. No doubt we will see the new church that was recently completed (for about \$4,500) at Chengelle with the help from Our Redeemer funds. They say “Asante Sana” – thank you very much. Building this church was their main priority these last years. When visiting, we will hear more reports about the growth of their church, the kids who received sponsorships, and what directions and goals lay ahead. We will share this information when we get back to Minnesota and see where this partnership leads us in the future.

As a partner congregation since 2017, we give Kidewa an annual gift from our Missions budget of \$1,000 which is the partnership fee that they use on projects. On top of that, we have committed another \$1,000 each of the past years for them to use for teenage students of their choosing for going to school (which entails living on a school campus and taking part in school life) – the students we are sponsoring are Enjo Lupala and Witness Chavala. We have done some other requests of special funds throughout the years. We are pleased to say that we have about \$3,000 in gifts so they can tend to other projects. This makes a big difference when the average income for an individual in Tanzania is about \$2,000/year.

This Bega Kwa Bega (BKB)—shoulder to shoulder—partnership is grounded on three pillars: prayers, presence, and projects – and if you want to know more, consider attending the BKB festival on November 10 (more details inside the newsletter). Many thanks to Our Redeemer over these past 6 years for being willing to live into this partnership well. The trip I am leading has people from five other congregations who will be connecting with their partner congregation so the impact of these weeks will be wide. This group will also be helping to run Day of Grace which is the medical program bringing in about 90 clergy and lay leaders with their spouses from the NE district for two days. We will also learn more about the good work and ministry that is going on now, visit some local sites (university, hospital, disabled workers craft center) and then end by enjoying a good African Safari.

Pastor Karsten

More on Mission News

A Tanzania Festival—November 11

Come learn and hear more about the great partnership that the Saint Paul Area Synod has with the Iringa Diocese in Tanzania. This is where Our Redeemer has a partnership with Kidewa. The annual festival is happening this year on **Saturday, November 11**, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (700 Snelling Ave in Saint Paul) from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Contact Judy Moe for more information.



Doulos

This remarkable school in the Dominican Republic continues to do great work serving the students and families from that community. On a recent trip for a Board Meeting Pastor Karsten came away hearing more about the special services Doulos is providing to help over twenty of their students who has various kinds of learning challenges – autism spectrum, ADHD, and others. This kind of care for students is not usual in the DR and is one more way Doulos stands out. Our Redeemer was part of some recent Dessert nights where over \$20,000 was raised to help take advantage of a matching grant for 2023 to help use secure our new land on the side of a mountain. Thanks for past help and support toward this fine ministry.



Practical Perspective on Prayer

Do you struggle to pray? Can't seem to find the right words to say? No problem. God isn't concerned about what words you use. Even though He knows all your wants and needs, He really wants to hear them from you. He wants a relationship with you. Prayer is our powerful connection to God. There are many Scripture verses that encourage us to pray: "Ask and it shall be given unto you" (Matthew 7:7), "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16), and "Pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Author and Pastor Max Lucado shares his simple, easy-to-remember prayer model that you can use to build on:

GOD IS GOOD	Praise God for all His goodness
I NEED HELP	Talk to God about your wants and needs
THEY NEED HELP	Intercede for others
THANK YOU	Thank God for His many blessings
AMEN	

Challenge yourself to grow your relationship with God. Pray when you get up, go to bed, in the car, while you wait, everywhere you go. No matter what, He always listens. *[See article below on how you can submit your prayers and praises to us.]*



Prayer Requests **Send us your Prayers & Praises Requests**

Please keep sending us your *Prayers & Praises!* There are three easy ways:

- Pick up a prayer card from the basket on the Welcome Desk and place completed card in envelope and insert into Prayer Box slot located on the Welcome Desk.
- Email your prayers to prayers@orlcmn.org.
- Scan the QR code (shown on the right).



You can choose to have your requests for prayers to one of three options: for the Pastor only, for the Pastor and Prayer Ministry Team, or publicly in the bulletins/newsletters. If you give us permission to announce your prayers publicly, they will appear in the bulletin for two consecutive weeks.

Our Redeemer Prayer Ministry Team: Cherie Kilbride, Dianne Derks, Barb Maynard, Joan Paulson, & Kathi Kirchoff. Please let them know if you have any questions or would like to join the team in any capacity.

Everyone is invited to stay after worship on the first Sunday of the month for a group prayer by the piano.



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

November Worship Services—Scriptures & Lectors

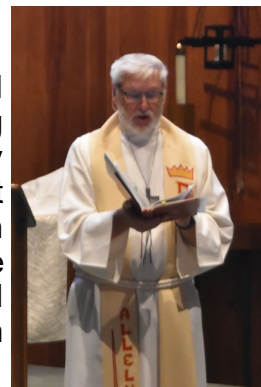
Date	Scriptures (Click on links below)	Lectors
5	Revelation 7:9-12 ; Matthew 5:1-12	Darleen Klemm
12	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ; Matthew 25: 1-13	Lana Larsen
19	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 or 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 ; Matthew 25:14-30	Holly Forsberg
26	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 or Ephesians 1:15-23 ; Matthew 25:31-46	Diana Ersfeld
<i>If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), please contact the office.</i>		

Thanksgiving Worship

In our annual East Side ecumenical worship plans, for this year we are going to be at **Progressive Baptist Church** (1505 Burns Ave in St. Paul– NW of Highway 94 and White Bear Avenue) on **Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.** Come join us for some inspiring music and meaningful preaching that grounds us as thankful people.

Welcoming our Guest Pastor

We welcome back Pastor Terry Nordheim as our worship leader on November 5 and 12 while Pastor Karsten is in Tanzania. Pastor Terry has filled in before and is looking forward to being with the good folks of Our Redeemer once again. Terry is recently retired having served at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lindstrom and before that at Bethesda in Inver Grove Heights. He is a longtime friend of Pastor Karsten through pastor retreats, time on golf outings, and work projects in each other's homes. Please provide a warm welcome for him. Pastor Terry will also be available for other pastoral emergencies or needs during the first two weeks of November as will former Intern Becky Sliva.



All Saints' Day

Every year on the first Sunday of November, we celebrate **All Saints' Day**. This is a day to remember the people of faith who have died. And the term "Saint" does not refer to particularly holy people, but those who trust in Christ as "saints." While this day holds an element of thinking into the far past of Christendom, it is also focused on remembering those within one's congregation who have died over the past year. There is a connectedness we have with those who have died, and we recall the life and faith of those as we toll a bell while reading off their names during the time of prayers. Here at Our Redeemer this year, we will remember, celebrate, and give thanks for **William "Bill" Von Kruezhof, Shirley Sheehan, Florence Senske, Barbara Howard-Glaeve, and Gloria Ronquist.**

Sunday School

We are inviting any school age children to come join us every week for Sunday School from 11:00 to 11:40 a.m. following regular worship services.

Musicians Welcomed

We are still welcoming anyone with musical desires to join us in our worship, so if interested please reach out to Jeremy Mattson, our Worship and Service Director.



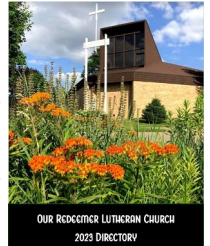
2024 Stewardship—With Faithful Hearts

Last month you received an initial stewardship letter that spoke about how the Apostle Paul wrote about his gratefulness for the faithfulness of the people in the churches he helped start and then visited. Throughout history, the church has maintained its strength and purpose behind the ways people chose to be faithful in their daily life and through their care for God's church.

This month you will receive a second letter along with a pledge card. Your financial gifts help to ensure there is strong weekly worship, office staff, custodial care of our building, as well as good work by our various ministry teams, including our Community Sharing program and partnerships with Doulos and Tanzania. Look for that envelope in your mail, and in the meantime, we encourage you to ponder and pray, and then prepare a financial commitment towards the life of Our Redeemer.

Church Directory App & Special Tech Training

We will be having another "Technology Training" session on **Sunday, November 12** following worship service. A new feature of our church directory is that we received an app for those interested in having the directory on their smartphone or tablet. If any of you who are techy-savvy and would be interested in helping out with this training, please let Sally know or simply show up. If you have any changes you wish to be made to your directory listing for the app, send Sally an email at office@orlcmn.org.



Our Little Free Library

After last winter's mega snowfalls, we have decided that we should give our "Little Free Library" a hiatus for this winter so that people don't need to climb over a snowbank to get to the books. We put the current collection of books in the Fireside Room. Look for the "Little Free Library" back in service next spring!

Confirmation Retreat



For a couple of days over MEA break, Pastor Karsten and Pastor Scott from Cross Lutheran (just 7 blocks away by Wakefield Park) took seven of our Confirmation youth up to the Nelson cabin for a retreat. It was great creating some stories and history amongst kids who did not know each other but came out as new friends. We played some games, ate good food, had three lessons to talk over Justification by Faith, The Cross, and Law and Gospel as we are studying Lutheran roots this year. There was even time for some canoeing, taking out a dock, and making a stop on our way home. Now this groups continues with

serving at Our Redeemer Community Sharing on November 1, having class every other Sunday, and volunteering at Project Home, which helps serve families without housing.



Reverse Advent Calendar to begin December 1

Our EastSide Collaborative (ESCo) is sponsoring another Reverse Advent Calendar event—giving instead of receiving! The idea is simple—beginning December 1, each day until Christmas Eve add an item to the grocery bag we will provide. On the bag, a list of recommended items will be attached. Bring your filled bags back to church and they will be donated to our local food shelves.



Happenings at the individual ESCo churches:

Saturday, November 25	9:00 AM—3:00 PM	Christmas Craft Sale	Gustavus Adolphus
Thursday, November 9	11:30 AM	Soup Lunch & AARP Presentation	Grace
		on 6 Pillars of Brain Health	

November —Regular Happenings		
2	Rejoice Circle	1:00 PM
6	Lives Worth Living	6:30 PM
13	Quilting	9:00 AM
14	Building Crew	9:30 AM
14	Hope Circle	7:00 PM
16	Knitting & Crocheting	6:30 PM
18	U.F.O. Crafting Day	8:00 AM
20	Lives Worth Living	6:30 PM
21	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
27	Quilting	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.

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)

Election Day at Our Redeemer

Our Redeemer will once again be a voting poll for Ramsey County on Tuesday, November 7 for Ward 6, precinct 3.

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—twice in November!

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. And in November, the first and third Sunday!



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
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Jill Rodriguez

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Jim Vansell, Custodian
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Board Members

Carmen Snaza, President

Vicki Anderson

Joe France

Judy Koza

Sharon Peterson

Larry Pruden

Beth Renfors

Deb Spencer

Contact Information

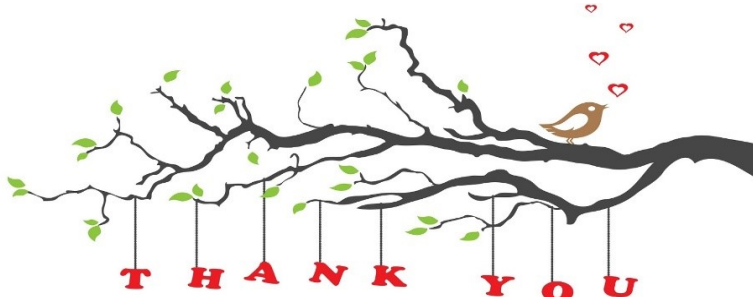
1390 Larpenteur Avenue East
Saint Paul, MN 55109
651-772-2445
office@orlcmn.org
www.orlcmn.org
facebook.com/orlcmn

Please send us your prayer requests: prayers@orlcmn.org



Bakers Needed for Annual Cookie Shop—December 9

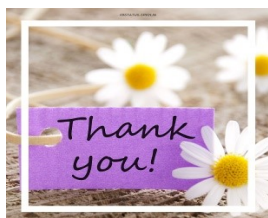
The Children, Youth, and Family Ministry (CYF) is planning for the **Annual Cookie Shop** to be held **Saturday, December 9, from 9 a.m. to Noon**. While it seems a long way away, we are gathering our list of cookie bakers now so we can plan well. Please contact Holly Forsberg (holluvsmick@yahoo.com) if you are willing to bake or sign up on the form at the Welcome Desk. Proceeds go to the CYF fund for camperships, vacation bible school (VBS), and mission trips.



Thank you!

I wish to thank all who worked at the craft sale, donated baked goods, donated the quilt, and attended the sale. It was a great success; we brought in about \$2,500.

Thank you all, Claire Sexton



Thank you!

Many heartfelt thank you's to my ORLC members and friends who prayed for me this whole year for all my eye surgeries, sent me cards, called me, brought food to me, picked me up for church and gave gift cards. I truly am blessed for this church and all my friends to belong here. Again, thank you all very much!

Sincerely, Gloria Stiehl



And Thank you!

I want to say a special thank you for the time and words and good food October 29 for the special honoring of my 35 years of being ordained. I feel and recognize the deep, caring and warm thanks for my service at Our Redeemer as well with this pastor appreciation. You are fine, fine folks and I value the chance to serve with you.

Pastor Karsten



THANK YOU to our Veterans

Veterans Day is **Saturday, November 11**, a holiday honoring all service members. Thank you to all of our veterans for the freedom you fought for the United States! You truly are a hero and a blessing to us!

2 - Rachel Heimerdinger	17 - Jim Vansell
4 - Brady Moe	18 - Deb Renfors
6 - Eleanor Smeed	20 - Amy Krohn
8 - Jan Peterson	21 - Dean Ersfeld
8 - Joe France	22 - Pastor Karsten
11 - Allen Heimerdinger	23 - Sandy Pruden
11 - Barb Maynard	24 - Kurt Thompson
15 - Judy Moe	26 - Karen Fredine
15 - Vanessa Paradise	*Are we missing someone?

**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.*



Community Sharing Wednesdays—even on Thanksgiving Eve!

We will be serving meals this Thanksgiving Eve, November 22, as we continue to be grateful to be able to provide our free meals and groceries to serve our community through our Wednesday Community Sharing program. We are still averaging about 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 coming from the Merrick and North St. Paul food shelves allowing us to provide over \$3,000 worth of groceries. People continue to communicate their appreciation for this help. To receive meals and groceries, mark your calendar for our **Community Sharing on Wednesdays** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** To volunteer, you can sign up at church or online at <https://bit.ly/loaves-fishes>. There are many various options for volunteering, so if you can help on a regular or even occasional basis, here are our main needs:



- Wednesdays (approx.) 12:00 — 4:00 p.m. assisting the chef with food preparation.
- Wednesdays (approx.) 3:00—5:00 p.m. sorting through the boxes of groceries.
- Wednesdays (approx.) 5:00—6:45 p.m. filling take-out meals, bagging food orders, taking/delivering orders to vehicles in drive-thru, and clean up.



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

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

Address Service Requested