

Lenten Services

March 2024

Every Wednesday Lent Service, 6:45 p.m.
(Community Sharing Lent Dinner, 6:15—6:45 p.m.)

Sunday, March 24	10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Service
	11:00 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast
	11:45 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
Thursday, March 28	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday
Friday, March 29	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday (At Arlington Hills Lutheran)
Sunday, March 31	10:00 a.m.	Easter Worship Service

Worship
YouTube
Click [HERE](#)

Online
Offerings
Click [HERE](#)

The Good Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Meet Jake—our new Deacon Intern!



For the next six months, we can look forward to this photo bomber face in our church pictures! Can you find the one in this issue?

Hello, Our Redeemer! My name is Jake Summerville and I am your new deacon intern! I'll be serving for the next six months or so, helping out with all kinds of ministries around this church and at Arlington Hills Lutheran. I am from Coon Rapids, Minnesota, and was born and raised in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). I graduated from Carthage College with a degree in Communication and Public Relations, but felt a strong call to ministry which led me to five years as the Director of High School Ministry at Bethel Lutheran Church in Hudson, Wisconsin. This internship is the last requirement I have to complete my degree at Luther Seminary with the intent to be ordained as a deacon shortly after. I am thrilled to be a part of all of the great ministries Our Redeemer has to offer, and to become more involved with the East Side of Saint Paul.

Our Redeemer is doing some essential work in the neighborhood, which has made it a great fit for my call to diaconal ministry. Deacons are a relatively new thing for the ELCA, and many people wonder what exactly it is that deacons do in the church. The short answer is just about anything! The long answer is that deacons are meant to be the link between the church and the world, however that might look. Some deacons invest themselves into chaplaincy, tending to the spiritual care of those in need. Others run non-profits like Shobi's Table, a local food truck run by the Saint Paul Area Synod, or specialize in music and provide worship support to many churches. Still others work for organizations like Lutheran Social Services or even for synod or churchwide offices. The role of a deacon is broad, but in all of these cases they are ambassadors for Christ in spaces both in and out of church walls.

It is my hope that in my journey in diaconal ministry, I can specialize in youth advocacy, serving children and teenagers who are at risk. This kind of servant-centered, relational ministry is exactly the kind of thing the ELCA would select a deacon for. If you have any questions about diaconal ministry or my personal call to the diaconate, I would be more than happy to chat! Feel free to ask me anything, and while you're at it, ask me about my cat! Thank you for bringing me into this vibrant community, and I can't wait to see what good work we can do together.

Peace,
Jake Summerville
Deacon Intern



Worship With Us

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
<https://bit.ly/orlcworship>

March Worship Services—Scriptures & Lectors

Date	Scriptures (Click on links below)	Lectors
3	Matthew 16:13-20 ; Psalm 19:7, 9, 11-13	Darleen Klemm
10	Matthew 16:21-23 ; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Dianne Derks
17	Matthew 18:15-22 ; Psalm 119:9-16	Joan Paulson
24 (Palm Sunday)	John 12:12-16	Carol Rodriguez
28 (Maundy Thursday)	John 13:1-20	Diana Ersfeld
29 (Good Friday)	John 18:1-27 ; John 13:31-38 ; John 19:1-30	(TBD at Arlington Hills)
31 (Easter Sunday)	Luke 24:1-12	Cherie Kilbride
<i>If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), please contact the office.</i>		

The Season of Lent

During March, we continue with the beautiful season of Lent leading up to Easter, which is a time when we generally engage in a time of extra introspection, a fuller time of devotion, a deeper time of disciplines, and a wide sense of care for our neighbors and community.

During our Sunday worship services, we have been focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus most famous disciples – Peter. In Peter we find a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter we often see ourselves, and by following his journey, it speaks to us about our own journey of faith.

We have been using two resources during Lent. One is a devotion booklet by 'A Sanctified Art' entitled, "Wandering Heart—Figuring out faith with Peter" that consists of scripture, reflections, art, questions, and prayers for your use. The other resource is a calendar-based activity packet from the EastSide Collaboration (ESCo) that leads one to doing acts of special care while alternating taking time for guided reading and reflection, as well as giving up items to be donated. (See article on the next page.)

Lent Wednesday Meal & Services

We will continue with our short 20-minute Lent services on **Wednesdays** beginning at **6:45 p.m.**, with a meal gathering prior at **6:15 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. A free-will offering will be much appreciated to support our Community Sharing program.



Palm Sunday—Youth Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

Our Children, Youth & Family (CYF) will be serving their annual pancake breakfast on **Palm Sunday, March 24, at 11:00 a.m.** to be followed by an **Easter Egg Hunt** beginning at **11:45 a.m.** We are looking for volunteers to help that day, as well as donations of individually wrapped treats for the Easter eggs. Free-will offering will go to help purchase a motorcycle (piki piki) for a congregation in Tanzania. Let's aim to raise the full \$375 needed to provide this kind of transportation to help a Pastor get around to his congregations and members. Sign up on the form at the Welcome Desk if you wish to help in any way, or reach out to Carmen Snaza.

Order Your Easter Flowers!

If you would like to beautify the sanctuary on Easter Sunday with fresh flowers, as well as remember or honor a loved one, please complete and return the order form (located on the Welcome Desk) before Friday, March 29. Each plant cost \$20. Make your check payable to *Our Redeemer Lutheran Church* or *ORLC* and indicate "Easter Flowers." Or email office@orlcmn.org and then make your payment through our online offering link.



The Lenten Challenge

We hope you are enjoying The Lenten Challenge sponsored by the EastSide Collaborative Lutheran churches (Arlington Hills, Grace, Gustavus Adolphus and Our Redeemer) that consisted of the 40 days of Lent, and will end on the Saturday (March 30) before Easter Sunday (March 31). During Lent, many people choose to give up something or do something additional to reflect on God's blessings in our lives. Both are being done in this challenge. The suggestions consist of reading a scripture, praying for a specific need, calling a friend or shut-in, listening to a hymn, walking around your neighborhood (or within your building complex), giving up an item from your home to give to someone in need, etc. Bring your donations to church, which will be given to the Alley Shoppe at Arlington Hills each week. The Alley Shoppe has provided clothing and household goods to families in need since 1970.



Internship Support Committee

We are looking for two individuals to meet monthly with our Deacon Intern Jake Summerville (along with a few other lay people from Arlington Hills and Shobi's Table). This group will give feedback, support, and come alongside of Jake in a deeper way for these next five months. The first meeting is expected to take place later in March during the day. Talk to Pastor Karsten if you are willing and interested.

New Member Class

If you are interested in learning more about Our Redeemer and leaning into being a fuller part of this community of faith, we would welcome you to be part of the next new member classes, which will take place over two meetings in March or April on days/times that fit for those who are interested in participating. Please see Pastor Karsten for more details or if you have questions.

Confirmation

Our confirmation faith journeys with youth always result in life-long experiences when they learn biblical stories intertwined with community involvement. This year's confirmation program is in conjunction with Cross Lutheran where we gather our middle school youth together multiple times a month for class time (focusing on Lutheran foundations) as well as monthly larger social and learning activities in partnership with five other Saint Paul area Lutheran congregations. Last month, we enjoyed an afternoon of indoor rock climbing (connected with a theme of trusting in God). This March there is a special music concert planned.



Learn a new musical skill—Recorder Ensemble!

Following Sunday's worship services, let your ears guide you to the music coming from the Fireside Room! Check out and learn the recorder ensemble with Alex Carlson and his son, Hunter. It's very impressive and they are excited to get a few interested folks to bring it into worship in the future—or simply to enjoy it after services!





We have new front doors!

We have our new, long-time awaiting front doors, which include an accessible electronic door mechanism. A special thanks to Randy Koza and a good group of other guys who have been working on this much needed improvement to our building! If you have a key, you will be able to use it for the new door. Please note that the door knob installed is not the correct one and until it is replaced, we want to take extra precautions that the door actually gets locked. The door knob only allows you to lock the door from the outside with a key. Therefore, if you are the last person leaving through the front door, **please make sure you use your key to lock the door from the outside**. If you don't have a key, lock the front door by turning the lock lever from the inside and then leave through one of the other building doors that lock automatically.

Planned Building Power Outage

On Monday, March 18, our Federal Pacific Lighting panel in the boiler room will be replaced, which will cause power outages in various parts of building. In addition to lights, it most likely will involve our baseboard heating system, copier/printer, and possibly the phone system.

City of Maplewood Opportunities: Citizens Academy & Safety Awareness Class

The Maplewood Public Safety Department will be sponsoring two great opportunities. One is a **Citizens Academy** beginning **March 26 through April 30**. They are looking for participants for a unique experience and a valuable opportunity to get to know other stakeholders and residents in the Maplewood community. There will be three weeks at the Police Station focusing on police work and three weeks focusing on fire and paramedic work. If interested, please contact Barb Johnson, Community Outreach Specialist, 651-249-2636, barb.johnson@maplewoodmn.gov.



The other is a **Safety Awareness Class** designed for girls and women, which will be held **April 4** from **5:30-7:30 p.m.** at the Salvation Army, 2080 Woodlynn Avenue. It will focus on situational awareness and personal safety at home, work, and in public. **If anyone from Our Redeemer is interested in attending and would like to carpool, please email Sally at office@orlcmn.org.**

“Taking Heart” Open Houses

With the start of Ramadan this month, our Muslim neighbors have begun their day-long fasts, broken by Iftars at night. Join an iftar in your community and get to know your neighbors better in this season. Taking Heart Open Houses is a long-running program coordinated by the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) and the Muslim American Society of Minnesota (MAS-MN) to bring Christians and members of other faith communities together with Muslims for food and conversation during Ramadan. Minnesota mosques and Islamic community centers welcome their non-Muslim neighbors for a traditional Iftar, inviting a time of encounter and learning. Find an iftar near you! Visit mnchurches.org to learn more about Taking Heart.

Messengers for Christ—Hmong Church Leaving

We were sorry to hear that our Hmong church leasing from us made the decision to leave Our Redeemer due to the decrease in their membership. Mensajes de Poder will be moving their Sunday 4:00 worship to the 12:30 p.m. slot until further notice. We have heard from two other churches that may be interested in holding services here. More to come.



March—Regular Happenings		
4	Lives Worth Living	6:30 PM
7	Rejoice Circle	1:00 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	6:30 PM
18	Women in Christ	6:00 PM
19	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
21	Knitting & Crocheting	6:30 PM
25	Quilting	9:00 AM

MARCH 2024						
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.

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 "Giving/Donate" button and in the dropdown box, select "Secure Online Donation." Select "General" contribution 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 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. Purchase them for gift giving or for yourself (i.e., for gas, groceries, restaurants, etc.) Remember—the more you buy, the more our church earns! Email Barb at: bemay1635@gmail.com. Or visit her table in the Narthex 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

Support Our Redeemer's various fundraisers throughout the year!

Staff of Our Redeemer

Pastor Karsten Nelson

651-772-2445 x 102
karsten@orlcmn.org

Jake Summerville

Deacon Intern

Jacob Summerville
jsummerville001@luthersem.edu

Jeremy Mattson

Worship & Music Director
Music.orlcmn@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

Doreen Winter

Contact Information

1390 Larpenteur Avenue East

Saint Paul, MN 55109

651-772-2445

office@orlcmn.org

www.orlcmn.org

facebook.com/orlcmn

prayers@orlcmn.org

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



Thrivent Members—Choice Dollars

Please check your Thrivent accounts and designate any Choice Dollars which have accumulated in 2023. (After March 31, Choice Dollars are distributed by the company to charitable organizations, rather than by you.) Our Redeemer's budget can benefit from your diligence and generosity!



Sympathy to the Kirsch Family— Donations are appreciated

We join in the sadness of the recent tragic death of Brian Odessey who was the son/stepson of **Judy and Gary Kirsch**. He was found dead along Highway 61 a few weeks ago, and the cause of death is still being investigated. Family and friends are trying to raise funds to fly his body back to Kenya for a burial in his home country. If you care to help with expenses, talk to Pastor Karsten or send a gift to Our Redeemer - attention 'Brian's funeral'.

Did You Notice? Our Redeemer's Little Free Library is back!

After a little winter break, The Little Free Library is open for your reading pleasure. Take one or two books, and return one or two books. It's free and easy without set business hours. Many types of books are available: children, youth, adult, fiction, non-fiction, craft, romance, mystery, paperback or hard cover. Come and check out the current and ever changing selections. After last winter's record snowfall, (and the 2023 Halloween Snows), it was decided to close The Little Free Library this winter season, due to an abundance of caution for the safety of our reading patrons and the expected snow amounts. Surprise! What a winter! Check out the book selections —You might find a treasure!



HAPPY March BIRTHDAY!

3 Sharon Peterson	17 Benjamin Thompson
4 Michael Keating	19 Cherie Kilbride
6 Robin Benjamin	19 Roy Wong
7 Layla Lee	25 Don Trimble
9 Nancy Stack	25 Arlys Anderson
9 Hendrix Magnuson	26 Judith Meister
10 Joe France	27 Kim Muchow
11 Jason Snaza	29 Bill Maynard
11 Ronald Sullivan	29 Shawn Sullivan
14 Ryder Rediske	30 Carole Erickson
15 Rachel Trimble	

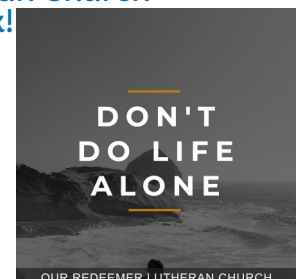
**If your birthday is not shown in this month and it should be (or if it is, and you prefer your birthday not be announced in the future), please contact the office. Also, let us know if we can announce your MILESTONE birthdays or anniversaries.*

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.

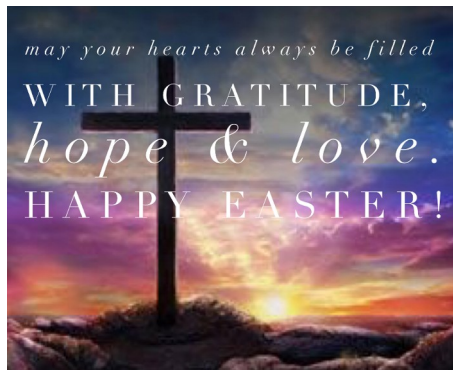
[ATTN: Facebook Folks!](#)

Remember to LIKE
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
on Facebook!





↑ "The Girls" at the Women's Valentine's Day luncheon on Saturday, February 10 (Karsten, Judy Moe, Deb Spencer)



↑ Guest Pastor Lynda Thompson & surprise guest Bishop Patricia Lull.



Baby Julian making his first debut in the Our Redeemer Worship Band! ↓



Community Sharing Wednesdays

Thank you for helping us feed the hungry!

Our **Community Sharing** on **Wednesdays** from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** continue to grow, and we have many of you to thank! Whether you volunteer on occasion or every Wednesday, or pick up grocery food from stores or food shelves, or donate money, or gift a Thrivent grant, we appreciate it as does many of the recipients. Thank you! If you haven't had the chance to do so and would like to, here's how you can get started:

* **To volunteer, contact the office or go online at <https://bit.ly/loaves-fishes>**

These are our volunteering opportunities:

12:00—4:00 p.m. assisting the chef with food preparation.

3:00—5:00 p.m. sorting through the boxes of groceries.

5:00—7:00 p.m. filling take-out meals, bagging food orders, taking/delivering orders to vehicles in drive-thru, and clean up in fellowship hall.

Did you know that some employers donate money to our Community Sharing program if their employees volunteer? 3M is a great example—check with your employer!

* **To donate money, drop off in our mailbox or go online at www.orlcmn.org/donate; or text 844-871-2328, enter amount in message line, send, and follow instructions.**

If you (or someone you know) wishes to receive a free meal & groceries, remember **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



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

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

Address Service Requested