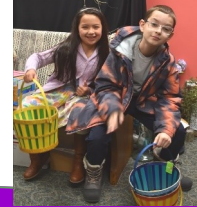


April 2024



Worship
YouTube
Click [HERE](#)

Online
Offerings
Click [HERE](#)



The Good Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Our Redeemer – a little church that is part of something bigger



In many ways Our Redeemer is a smaller Lutheran Church. Our building size is not big, our membership hovers around 225 (a distant mark from when this community was up to 1,200), and our staff is pretty basic with one full time worker (me), two half timers (Sally in the office and Jeremy with music), and two more part time (Jim the Custodian and Jill the Finance person). All that being said, I would also state that Our Redeemer has a really deep and broad ministry life that is mainly seen in other larger congregations.

But Our Redeemer is actually much larger than what the eye sees. This is reflected in the Community Sharing program that recently has been serving over 250 free meals every week to the community and giving away upwards of \$6,000-\$10,000 worth of food every Wednesday. That is big care for the local community. We continue to be a partner with Doulos School in the Dominican Republic by supporting two students and assisting with recent generous fundraising for buying new land. And then farther across the world, we have our partners in Tanzania (Kidewa) who receive both student scholarships and donations for building projects. We are a small church but deeply connected to others.

The other way Our Redeemer is part of something bigger is that we are one *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (ELCA) Lutheran church in the *St. Paul Area Synod* (SPAS), but there are 109 others. They are our brother and sister congregations in ministry. Of course we have some deeper ties and collaboration with the other East Side Lutherans, but our ties to SPAS joins us to a wider network of care and outreach and shared significance in this region. Together we are advocates for social justice and workers for stronger climate care. Through the work of the Synod, we have stronger leadership through various workshops and offerings. Through the Synod, we have healthier congregations as the staff assist when there is congregational conflict or personnel misconduct, during times of transitions and with practical workshops around youth ministry, stewardship and renewal work. Through the Synod, we have developed ties and partnership in Tanzania and Guatemala. We are a part of this larger body and that makes us bigger than we really are.

So, in many ways, Our Redeemer is more than just what we see by looking at a building. We are one part of a larger complex that makes a big difference in the St. Paul area and beyond. And being one healthy, strong, capable congregation helps carry our weight for being a good partner in being the hands and feet of Christ for our members, our neighbors, and the wider world.

Pastor Karsten



April Worship Services—Scriptures & Lectors

Date	Scriptures (Click on links below)	Lectors
7	Acts 4:32-35 ; John 20:19-31	Jessica Morgan
14	Acts 3:12-19 ; Luke 24:36b-48	Kathi Kirchoff
21	Acts 4:5-12 ; John 10:11-18	Jane Koza
28	Acts 8:26-40 ; John 15:1-8	Scott Torvi
<p><i>If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), please contact the office.</i></p>		



How about some analytics??

Every Sunday as we gather for worship in the building with roughly 50 people, we often recognize and say hello to others who are joining us online. After the Easter worship service, Pastor Karsten received a note from one of our members saying, “What a nice Easter Service. We watched while we were driving today.” It might be interesting for you to know that every Sunday, and then sometimes during the week, we have people who join our worship on YouTube (<https://bit.ly/orlcworship>). Over these last four weeks, we had 26 views on 3/10, 41 views on 3/17, 34 views on 3/24, and 54 views on Easter Sunday. That is all to say that part of our community are folks who we do not see, but who see and hear and engage from other places. Think about what that means for us. And be thankful for the technology and the people who help make this happen.

Greeters Wanted

Before Covid, ORLC had a friendly group of volunteers greeting worshipers at the doors of the Church. They helped the ushers by answering questions about the location of restrooms, nursery facilities, and first aid kits. This is a fledgling hospitality program, and training will become available in the near future. The short-term goal is to have a greeter for each service at the front entrance. If you would be interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Audrey Lerdahl at libmama2000@yahoo.com.



Looking for two members to participate in the 2024 St Paul Area Synod Assembly

Once a year Pastors and Deacons as well as lay leaders from the 110 congregations in the St. Paul Area Synod (SPAS) gather for strong worship, inspiring speakers, formal business, and some connecting together. Our Redeemer is allocated two lay voting members to attend this year, and we are looking for interested persons. There is an optional Missions Fair on **Friday, May 10**, and the fuller day of business and gathering will happen **Saturday, May 11**, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. If you are interested to learn more or attend, talk to Pastor Karsten.



Jake, the Intern Deacon

It has been a busy month! I have had the opportunity to see many facets of ORLC this month, from council meetings to visits and everything in between. This was also my first Holy Week in this kind of position, and between my time at Our Redeemer and Arlington Hills I was able to be a part of some truly exceptional ministry. I also began working with my third site, Shobi's Table, as they continue to provide meals to some of the Twin Cities' most vulnerable residents. While all of this has been quite a juggling act, it has also been a deeply spiritually fulfilling time, and has been full of moments I won't soon forget.



This is Jake's 'photo bomber' pic we will use until he comes up with his professional one. (Look for his photo bomber pic in this issue!)

Looking forward to the next few months, I will be beginning work on my internship project, which will take the form of a grief group with all four East Side Collaborative churches participating. This will begin in May with an event known as a Death Cafe, where all are welcome to come around the table and talk openly and honestly about death, mortality, grief, and the effects these things have on all of our lives. Stay tuned for more details! Thank you for welcoming me into this community, I look forward to continuing to learn and grow with all of you!

*Jake Summerville
Intern Deacon*

You're Invited! Alexis Mattson's Ordination

Your are all welcome to attend Alexis Mattson's ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on **Saturday, April 13**, at **10:00 a.m.** at Advent Lutheran Church, 9475 Jefferson Highway, in Maple Grove. Alexis filled in to preach at Our Redeemer last year and is also the wife of Jeremy Mattson. Keep Alexis in your prayers as she celebrates this blessed ordination opportunity at the church she has been serving at the past year.



Quilts of Valor Presentation

All are welcome to attend a presentation of *Quilts of Valor* to four of our church Veterans on **Sunday, April 14**, at **11:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall after worship service. The quilts will be presented to **Rich Hanson, Rob Klemm, Bill Maynard**, and **Roger Swenson**. Quilts of Valor are awarded to Service Members or Veterans who have been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."



New Member Classes

We will be holding our next New Member sessions on **Thursday, April 11**, from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, April 14**, from **11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** This is a chance to better understand the life and ministry of Our Redeemer, review key foundations for our being a Lutheran church, learn about the wider ties we have as a church, and spend time getting to know each other and others from the congregation. If you are interested, contact Pastor Karsten so we can prepare materials for you.

Offering Envelopes

One change is coming to Our Redeemer this spring in terms of our offering envelopes. In order to save some costs with what had been the quarterly personalized packages of offering envelopes, and to adjust to fewer people actually using the envelopes (especially on a weekly basis) due to more online giving or monthly giving patterns, we are moving to a new less expensive plan.

Later in April, a smaller supply of similar looking envelopes will be sent to all members who currently receive envelopes. This will contain six envelopes that can be used for any of the upcoming weeks. These will not be personalized and therefore will not include your envelope number. We will be able to identify your offering from your name on your check or you can add your envelope number if you prefer. We can identify you by either the envelope number or your name.

We will send out another packet of envelopes again in the summer and will continue in this pattern throughout the year. If you want/need extra envelopes, there will always be a supply at the Welcome Desk, or you can call the office to request more be sent to you. If you no longer want envelopes mailed to you, please contact the office.

**Lots of Good Things
Happening and Good People
Gathering Under our Roof!**



**We have new developments in our
leasing family...**

Welcome Trinity Baptist Karen Church!

We are pleased to announce that another church will be worshipping under our roof—*Trinity Baptist Karen Church* (TBKC). In May, they will begin worshipping on Sunday's at 2:30 p.m. occupying the Sanctuary as well as Sunday school rooms and the nursery. They will also be in the Sanctuary and Sunday school rooms on Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The number of members are currently in the 100-150 range, which include about 40 children.

TBKC is a Karen ethnic minority group from Burma also know as Myanmar. Most of their church members fled to Thailand refugee camp because of the civil war in their country and persecution created by the Burmese military. Most of them spent decades in refugee camp until they were able to come to Minnesota. Most of them came to Saint Paul between the years 2010 and 2017. They are friendly and opened minded. However, they expressed to us that their language barriers may be the most difficult for their members to communicate or establish good relationships with us. When they first came to Minnesota, they spent 13 years at LifePoint church—and then the last year, they have spent their time at SDA. They said they are looking forward to joining our church community and working together with all of us! We will plan on having some combined worship services as time moves forward.

Welcome Recovery AA Crafting!

We recently welcomed a small *Recovery* group who combine AA meetings and crafting. They hold their meetings in a Sunday school room Saturdays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. They are grateful to be able to meet here, which is convenient for some of their members who need to use bus transportation. Currently, the number of members range from 6 to 12.

Mensajes de Poder—Moving Up

After *Messengers for Christ* church left last month, the *Mensajes de Poder* congregation moved their Sunday worship time from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. [They also have a service on Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. and their band practices every Friday at 7:00 p.m.]

Messengers for Christ Church—Coming Back!

The Hmong church, *Messengers for Christ*, previously leasing from us, made the decision to return back to Our Redeemer to worship. Beginning possibly in May, they will worship on Sundays in the Fireside Room at 1:00 p.m., with a meeting held prior at 12:00 p.m., and also using the Youth Room.

TOPS (Taking Pounds Off Sensibly)

The TOPS group has been with us for several years, and they appreciate being able to do so. They meet every Monday at 6:00 p.m. They were meeting in the Fellowship Hall, but have moved to the Fireside Room, entering the doors from our West parking lot. All are welcome to join—contact Barb Maynard if you are interested or have questions.

Gamblers Anonymous

The *Maplewood Gamblers Anonymous (GA)* have been meeting at Our Redeemer for over two years and they love it here! They are so appreciative of our willingness to open our doors for their weekly meetings, which are held on Thursdays, from 7:00 to about 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (They are also grateful for the extra food items from Wednesdays.) While most of their meetings are private for confidentiality purposes, their meetings held the first Thursday of each month are open to anyone. At these meetings, they acknowledge and celebrate members who have reached milestone accomplishments. Anyone can join, and you can check out this website for information: www.MinnesotaGA.com 1-855-222-5542 - [Welcome to Minnesota Gamblers Anonymous](#)

Customized Options—Keyboarding/Drumming

This group of soon-to-be musicians started out with keyboarding but have advanced and have been raising our roof by drumming to the beat with Home Depot construction buckets every Thursday in our Fellowship Hall from 12:30 to about 2 p.m. *Customized Options* of Oakdale is a nonprofit and provide alternative services to adults with developmental disabilities. If you know anyone who might be in need of these services, refer them to their website: www.customizedoptions.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; or
- Email your prayers to prayers@orlcmn.org; or
- Scan the QR code



Every first Sunday of each month, you are welcome to join in a small group prayer session in the Sanctuary immediately following worship service.



Thank you! From Darline Harwood

"I want to thank every one that sent me Easter cards—that was so nice. I thought I would be back to church, but something else has come up. I have a lump in my leg, so have to go and get an MRI on Friday, April 5. I still have some lower back pain yet. I feel fine one day and then I get more pain."

Prayers for the Kirsch Family—Donations Accepted

Following the tragic death of Judy and Gary Kirsch's son/stepson, Brian Odessey, family and friends are raising 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 contact our office, or send a monetary gift made out to Our Redeemer, with the notation 'Brian's funeral.'

Thank you, Thrivent!

Thank you, *Thrivent Financial*, for supporting Community Sharing Wednesday meals with grants used to purchase supplies needed! See more information below...



Thrivent Members—Choice Dollars

Our Redeemer is a great place to designate your *Thrivent Choice Dollars* for many of our services and building needs. Below are some examples where we could use your Thrivent dollars:

- \$ Supplies (plants, soil, fencing, tools) for our vegetable gardens
- \$ Supplies (take-out containers, bags, plastic ware, foil, gloves) for our Community Sharing Program on Wednesdays
- \$ Supplies (building materials, school supplies) for *Doulos*.
- \$ Supplies (batting, yarn, fabric) for our *Quilters Team*.

If you are interested, we can help guide you in completing the application form—contact our office.

What is Thrivent? Thrivent is a Fortune 500 diversified financial services organization, providing advice, investments, insurance, banking and generosity programs and solutions. They “thrive” on generosity and giving back to our communities in many ways, including outreach programs, volunteer efforts, and charitable-giving solutions. If you are not a member yet, please contact the church office and we can assist with getting you signed up. Visit their website at www.thrivent.com.

April—Regular Happenings

1	Lives Worth Living	6:30 PM
4	Rejoice Circle	1:00 PM
8	Quilting	9:00 AM
9	Building Crew	9:30 AM
9	Hope Circle	7:00 PM
15	Lives Worth Living	6:30 PM
15	Women in Christ	6:00 PM
16	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
18	Knitting & Crocheting	6:30 PM
20	U.F.O. Crafting Day	8:00 AM
22	Quilting	9:00 AM



April
2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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				

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

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karsten@orlcmn.org

Jake Summerville Deacon Intern

Jacob Summerville
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Vicki Anderson
Joe France
Judy Koza
Sharon Peterson
Larry Pruden
Beth Renfors
Deb Spencer
Doreen Winter

Contact Information

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Saint Paul, MN 55109
651-772-2445
office@orlcmn.org
www.orlcmn.org
facebook.com/orlcmn
prayers@orlcmn.org

Mowing anyone?



One of the ways we are looking to cut some of our costs is by having a team of folks who would be willing to volunteer to help mow the church lawn. We have a riding lawnmower available for use and are looking for two to four individuals who would be willing to take turns mowing the grass this summer (about once a week as needed). If you are interested in being part of this crew, please contact Dick Peterson or Pastor Karsten.



Meet a Book Author—Invitation from Gustavus Adolphus

Colleen Baldrice, author of “Tree Spirited Woman: A story of Spiritual Awakening and Life Enrichment” will be at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, April 24 at 1:00 p.m.** to talk about her book. Ms. Baldrice is a member of the Pembina Band of Chippewa (Ojibwe) from the White Earth Reservation in Northern Minnesota. GA book groups have enjoyed discussing her book which is filled with simple truths, friendship and wisdom. Everyone is welcome!



Gardeners Needed! Flowers—Vegetables--Rain Gardens

If anyone is willing and able to work in any sections of our church flower gardens, please talk to Carol Rodriguez! Also, if there is an interest in working in our other gardens—vegetable and rain gardens—contact the office. (If you have Thrivent grants, one option is to use those for supplies for our beautiful gardens.)

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.
- **Prayers for the People** - join a small group in the Sanctuary immediately following worship service as we pray for those requesting prayers.



ATTN: Facebook Folks!

Remember to LIKE
Our Redeemer Lutheran
Church
on Facebook!



3 Carol Rodriguez	17 Steve Carlson
5 Darlene Harwood	19 Shirley Nordrum
7 Randy Koza	20 Janet Johnson
7 Hudson Magnuson	21 Natalie Barrett
7 Dennis Peterson	21 Rob Barrett
8 Garrett Kilbride	23 Eric Snaza
10 Rob Kupferschmidt	24 Jane Koza
13 Char Hanson	28 Jim Riemenschneider

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 Spread the word—ALL ARE WELCOME!

Let others know—guide them here where we can help. Our **Community Sharing** on **Wednesdays** from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** is moving along, and we are grateful for the many people who help us make this happen. 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.**



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

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

Address Service Requested