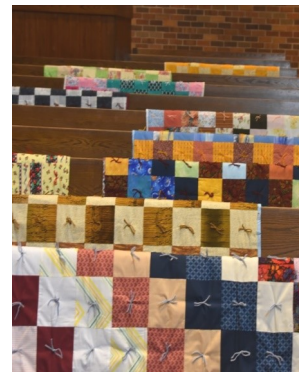


May 2024



Worship
YouTube
Click [HERE](#)

Online
Offerings
Click [HERE](#)

The Good Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

From our Deacon Intern Jake: Grief support group to start up soon



Beloved friends and neighbors,

Our Redeemer seeks to be a place of community for people in all life situations and from all walks of life. We are committed to walking together through the highs and lows of life, and that includes issues which are simply too big for any one of us to handle alone. Though they are difficult to address at times, the problems of grief, loss, and death are likely familiar to most of us in one way or another.

Though we are promised eternal life through Christ, we still deal with loss in many forms in our time here on Earth. When these times come, we could do what so many of us do and soldier on, relying on few others and seeking to get back to normal as soon as possible. Alternatively, we could do what we see modeled so many times through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and lean on our friends, family, and community for love and support. We could live into grief rather than hiding from it. We could allow ourselves to be vulnerable and feel the comfort and peace that comes through supportive, Christ-like community.



These are issues that all of us will face, and that means that in these issues we are not ever alone. Whether you are grieving the loss of a loved one, a change in employment, or something else entirely, the community of Our Redeemer is here to lean on.

To tackle this more directly, we will be starting up a grief support group this summer sponsored by the East Side Collaborative. This will all kick off with an event known as a Death Cafe. If that name sets off any alarm bells, that is the point! This event will be open to the community and will be a time to demystify death and grief. We will be having open and honest conversations with each other about death, how it affects us, and how it can help us live our lives more meaningfully. The Death Cafe will be hosted at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church on **May 30**, from **5:30 to 7:00 PM**. Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome! The grief support group will be spinning out of that event, and more information will be available in the near future, so keep your eyes open for that!



Remember to look for Jake's "photo bomber" pic in this issue!

These are not easy burdens to bear, but by coming together in faithful community we can lighten their load on our lives. We hope to see you there.

Blessings,
Jake Summerville
Deacon Intern



Getting Ready for Retirement—June 30, 2024

Since I have announced my retirement from full-time ministry, there have been responses of surprise, to some sadness, to some having expected this, but mostly people who are glad for what this can mean for me and the family. There are of course a number of folks here who know that path of retirement, and the gift of goodness it can bring. I trust and hope and expect that the path ahead will still be marked with some good personal and family time, some ties into other ministry, and a continuing delight in this beautiful world marked by the love and grace of Christ.

As I said in my initial letter, I am so grateful for the people and place of Our Redeemer to have been my home for ministry these last 17 years. There is such a good grounding of authentic care for one another, a commitment to serving near and wide, and a foundation that will continue to allow this place to thrive into the future. I will miss being the Pastor in your midst, but I do trust there will be a continued good life for Our Redeemer, and I will be prayerful over you for a long time.

Pastor Karsten

Update on Offering Envelope Changes

As noted in the April newsletter, we made plans to change our offering envelope process which was to begin in May, but the envelope company inadvertently sent out an additional batch of envelopes in mid-April that can be used through July. We will be sending out a letter in mid-summer that will include new envelopes that have a similar look (excluding names, dates and envelope numbers). We will be making this move to more generic envelopes for cost-saving purposes since many people do not use these weekly envelopes and instead are giving once or twice a month, or quarterly, or online. Those who want to use weekly envelopes will still get them, and there will be extras available every Sunday. More details will be shared in July.



First Quarter Giving Statements

Your first quarter giving statements are in the mail. This financial statement includes your regular General Fund offerings as well as other special designated gifts we received from you such as for Community Sharing, the Ministry Support 2024 Appeal, and memorials. If you regularly give cash in the offering plate, and would like to receive statements of your giving, contact the office so that we may give you envelopes, or you may choose to give online or by texting our toll-free number.

The Stewardship Team and Church Board are extremely grateful for the extra gifts in response to the Ministry Support 2024 appeal that was requested at the beginning of the year. Also, there are large building expenses coming up that were covered by dedicated funds, which are described in the letter.

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.

Welcome Trinity Baptist Karen Church!

On May 4-5, we will welcome *Trinity Baptist Karen Church* (TBKC) to Our Redeemer. They are worshiping on Sunday's at 2:30 p.m. occupying the Sanctuary as well as Sunday school rooms and the nursery. They are also in the Sanctuary and Sunday school rooms on Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

TBKC is a Karen ethnic minority group from Burma also know as Myanmar. Most of their members fled to Thailand refugee camp because of the civil war in their country and persecution created by the Burmese military. Many spent decades in refugee camp until they were able to come to Minnesota between the years 2010 and 2017. They said they are looking forward to joining our church community and working together with all of us!

Worship With Us

IN-PERSON & ONLINE

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



May Worship Services—Scriptures & Lectors

Date	Scriptures (Click on links below)	Lectors
5	Acts 10:44-48; John 15:9-17	Holly Forsberg
12	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; John 17:6-19	Jim Burke
19	Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Diana Ersfeld
26	Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17	Kathi Kirchoff

If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), please contact the office.



We are still wanting Sunday Greeters

We are still looking for greeters to welcome everyone who comes through our doors on Sunday mornings, and also to help the ushers with visitors by answering questions about the location of restrooms, nursery facilities, etc. This is a fledgling hospitality program, and training will become available in the near future. The goal is to have a greeter for every service at the front entrance. If you would be interested in serving, please contact Audrey Lerdahl at libmama2000@yahoo.com.



Welcoming our New Members!

We are happy to announce and welcome new members of Our Redeemer. Within these walls, and through various connections, they have found themselves drawn into this community of faith and desire to make this more fully a home for their faith life. Join us in welcoming the following new members, and please keep them in your prayers:

- * **Alex and Maira Carlson** along with their children **Hunter** and **Amairany** have been drawn in by the music and celebrated here recently First Communion and a Baptism.
- * **Nancy Kaldor** is newer on this end of town and was looking for a new Lutheran home and is delighted with the worship and the Wednesday Bible study group.
- * **Jim and Chris Merle** have been engaged for the past few years both with Community Sharing volunteering and bringing Chris' mother (Sharon Von Kreuzhof) to worship.



Spring Rhubarb Festival – May 18—Volunteers and Donations Needed

One of our East Side Collaborative (ESCO) churches, Grace Lutheran, is having its Second Annual Spring Rhubarb Festival fundraising on **Saturday, May 18, 1-4 p.m!** All proceeds will go to Our Redeemer's Community Sharing program. We are looking for helpers. Contact Sally if you are able to help or if you are able to donate any items.

Ways to help:

- Donate crafts and baked goods
- Donate Silent Auction baskets
- Donate seed and/or cuttings
- Volunteer to help staff at any of the tables
- Volunteer to be a food server
- Volunteer to be a booth attendant--there will be games for the kids
- Or...simply come and enjoy the festivities and bring others with you!



Setup for the event will begin on Friday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This will also be drop-off time for crafts and plants, baked goods or baskets for the silent auction. Donations will also be accepted on Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Spread the word—Bring your friends & family! You're invited to join us and/or help! Grace Lutheran Church is located at 1730 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul (near 94 & White Bear Avenue). Let Sally know if you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

The Great GA Garage Sale is Back! – May 17-18

Another one of our ESCO churches—Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, at the corner of Larpenteur and Arcade, is hosting a really great sale on **Friday, May 17**, and **Saturday, May 18**. We've done this for years and we get some great stuff...and it's affordable. We'll have clothes, furniture, small appliances, jewelry, toys, sporting goods...you name it. It's a fundraiser, but it's also a way to help folks get some of the things they need at an affordable price. Check it out! **Friday, May 17**, we're open **8:00 am to 4:00 pm**...and on **Saturday, May 18**, we're open **9:00 am to 2:00 pm**. Hope to see you!

ESCO to get a new shared Intern

We found out in mid-April that the East Side Collaboration of churches (Our Redeemer, Grace, Arlington Hills, and Gustavus) will be receiving a full-time pastoral Intern for this next year. The person will be a Word and Sacrament Intern who will be starting in late August. More details about this Intern's schedule and engagement with ESCO and Our Redeemer will be available soon as they are currently being worked out. So be ready to welcome yet another Intern (this would be #13 for Our Redeemer!) as someone to both learn from us and serve with us. We will be looking for two people to step up and serve on the Internship Support Committee that will tend to the Intern's good beginning and then meet monthly for reflection and conversations. If you are interested in this work, talk to Pastor Karsten.

National Night Out (NNO) – *also referred to as Night to Unite*

For the last 16 years, Our Redeemer has coordinated one of the largest and most enjoyable National Night Out events that happen in East St. Paul—that's the feedback we've heard from local politicians, the fire and police, and the neighbors. The last two years, leaders from the East Side Collaborative stepped up to help plan and lead that evening of food and music and connection. Those leaders are looking to work on a different project. If we are to host this gathering again (Tuesday, August 6, or move it to a different day), we will need a variety of folks to step in for planning, setup and take down, hosting tables and games. If you are interested in helping make NNO happen this August, please connect with Sally or call 651-772-2445 or email: office@orlcmn.org.

Quilts of Valor Presentation

On Sunday, April 14, we held a presentation of *Quilts of Valor* in honor of four of our church Veterans who were nominated by veteran Larry Pruden. Handmade quilts by the Grateful Heart Quilters in Maple Grove were presented by Janet Knafla 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 Quilts unequivocally stated, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

(More photos on page 8.)



Youth Quilts to be donated to LSS

Sixty youth quilts will be donated to the Housing Services Team at Lutheran Social Services (LSS) in St. Paul. They are very excited to receive them for the youth as well as adults using them for lap quilts. Our Redeemer's quilting group is grateful for the donations of cotton fabrics and bed sheets as well as funding from Thrivent Lutheran Financial, which helps cover cost of batting. Our quilt group currently consists of 12 ladies (plus Karsten occasionally) who meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month. You are welcome to join us in our fun and fellowship while using our hands to serve God through serving others! See the beautiful display of the quilts in the photos on page 9 from the "Blessing of the Quilts" Sunday.



A message from LSS:

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is excited to be receiving 60 beautiful, hand-crafted quilts made by caring quilters from Our Redeemer. The quilts will be given primarily to families leaving shelters who are receiving support in housing settings from LSS. They will also be providing warmth and comfort to veterans and others with disabilities who are supported through LSS Housing Services.

We all need stable housing to develop roots in the community, maintain job stability and help our children nurture long-term success in school. LSS provides housing services to help individuals and families gain housing stability, attain educational and employment goals, and maintain housing stability. LSS also works with housing developers and property owners to provide safe and stable housing for people supported.

Gifts of handmade quilts are especially appreciated because they make a new and unfamiliar place feel more like home to individuals and families who have been highly mobile and likely unsettled for some time. The colorful quilts also are a daily reminder for them that they are not alone and that there are caring members of our community who support them and pray for them on their journey. On behalf of the individuals and families we serve and support every day, thank you from our team at LSS!

May —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
20	Women in Christ	6:00 PM
21	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
27	Quilting	9:00 AM

MAY 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

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Sally Kupferschmidt

Office Administrator
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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

Gardeners Needed! Flowers—Vegetables--Rain Gardens

Calling all gardeners!!



- If interested in helping with our FLOWER GARDENS, contact Carol Rodriguez
- If interested in helping with our PRODUCE GARDENS, contact the office
- If interested in helping with our RAIN GARDEN, contact the office or talk to Dennis Paulson
- If you have Thrivent grants, one option is to use those for supplies/plants for our various gardens.



Vegetable Garden – We are looking for two people to help with planting in our back vegetable gardens between May 11-14. We will be buying plants (tomato, squash, cucumber, pepper, eggplant) thanks in part to a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant from Mike Kahrau. If you are available and interested day or night contact Tereziana, Sally or Pastor Karsten.

Volunteers—Retirement Festivities Planning Committee

With Pastor Karsten’s recent announcement of his plans to retire on June 30, we are looking to plan a retirement sendoff before his last day. If anyone is interested in assisting with farewell festivities, please contact Sally or Carmen at office@orlcmn.org or calling 651-772-2445.

What’s happening inside our building?

- **New Sanctuary Windows**
- **New Phone System**
- **New Wiring for our New Speakers in the Sanctuary—thank you Paul Snaza!**



Our Kidewa sponsorship students

*Celebrate
May Birthdays*



1 Louis Barrett	20 Joe Senske
2 Rita During	23 Emmanuel Freeman
3 Michele Heimerdinger	23 Joan Paulson
5 Alexandra Thompson	23 Jeff Trent
6 Jackie Nelson	24 Darleen Klemm
8 Mike Kahrau	26 Vanessa Barrett
8 Denice Olagbaiye	28 Fredrick Olagbaiye
9 Michael Snaza	28 Ramona Larson
14 Martha Freeman	29 Hilary Hinrichs
18 Paul Pavel	30 Courtney Magnuson
19 Alissa Krohn	30 Mark Winter

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.

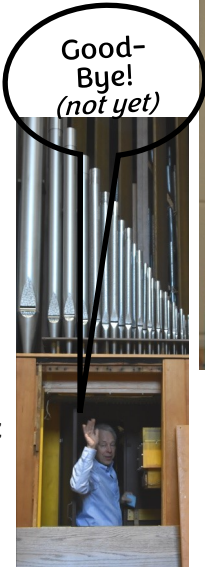
Reminders—FIRST Sunday of the Month!

- **Bring your aluminum cans to Church**—leave them outside our front doors and Larry Pruden will cash them in for money for Our Redeemer!
- **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. Great for graduation, birthday, or wedding gifts or for your own personal shopping.
- **Prayers for the People** - join a small group in the Sanctuary immediately following worship service as we pray for those requesting prayers.

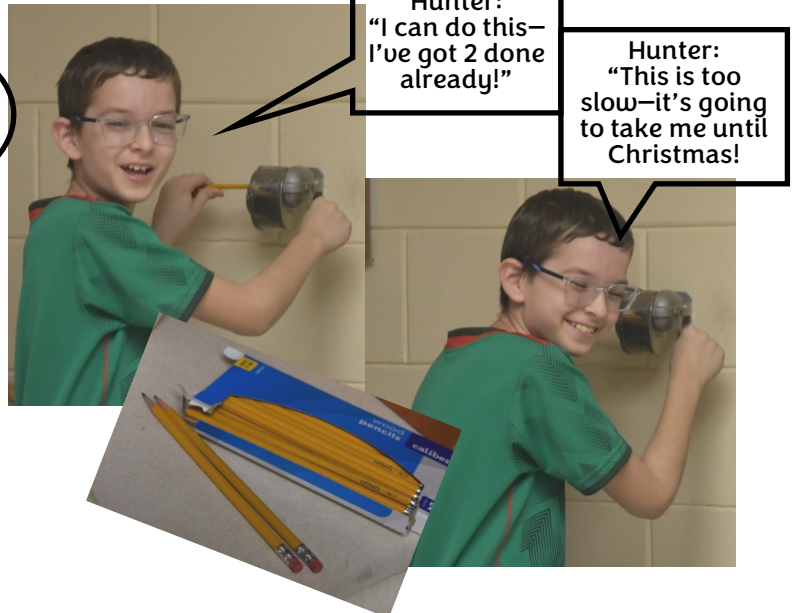
ATTN: Facebook Folks!



**Remember to LIKE
Our Redeemer Lutheran
Church
on Facebook!**



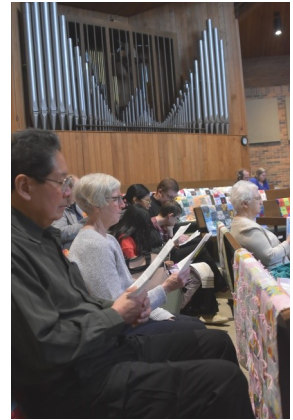
Good-Bye! (not yet)



Hunter: "I can do this—I've got 2 done already!"

Hunter: "This is too slow—it's going to take me until Christmas!"

Now what we have here is Carol Rodriguez on her knees PRAYING for volunteers to help in the flower gardens! PLEASE help Carol! (Sally offered but she's known for killing plants—stay away Sally!)



Blessing
of the
Quilts



60 Handmade
Quilts
For
Lutheran
Social Services



Community Sharing Wednesdays 5:30—6:30 PM

We are on 'PAUSE' for meals in May!



During May, we will not be providing hot meals, but we will continue the grocery distribution. We are seeking out new cooks from partner programs and from some of our individual ties. While we search out new options and finances to keep providing this service. So if you—or if you know anyone who would be interested in cooking meals on Wednesdays on a regular basis, or occasionally, and who has a safe-serve certification, please contact our office by emailing: office@orlcmn.org or by calling 651-772-2445.

Again, we are grateful for the many people who help us make this program happen—especially Loaves & Fishes, and the North St. Paul and Merrick Food Shelves—and our volunteers! 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 cleaning up kitchen and fellowship hall.



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

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY**

Address Service Requested