



June-July 2024



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The Good Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Thank you for 17 years of life and ministry together!



To the faithful folks at Our Redeemer,

As June was my last month to be serving as your pastor, there are some special things I want to celebrate with you. I have been thinking back and remembering so much ministry we accomplished together, and for that I am so grateful, and know there are so many people on the receiving ends of our ministry that are thankful too.

When I think back over 17 years of life and ministry with you, here are some of the things I remember and appreciate, which I have been sharing in various settings.

- We lived well into our mission statement of transforming lives and building community by loving God and serving others.
- We had a great run of being one of if not the largest/best National Night Out in St Paul.
- We tackled the major changes that COVID brought with creativity and commitment to being a vital church, and worked hard to establish a strong recovery too.
- We worked together to bring about strong congregational financial appeals for renovations, staffing hopes, and general budget needs.
- We undertook a big remodel project for bathrooms and the kitchen, and also did a significant project to restore the organ. Numerous other facility upgrades happened.
- We created great partnerships, through worship and work, with the rental congregations in our building and the neighboring East Side (ESCo) Lutheran congregations.
- We engaged in deep mission work for the community through housing homeless families (Project Home) to sharing quilts, to support for Doulos School and partnership with Kidewa in Tanzania, to World Hunger collections and emergency cards.
- Through Community Sharing we have returned back to the community over \$1,000,000 worth of free food that helps them pay medical bills, care for family, or feel more stable.
- We had monthly 'Second Sunday' speakers/teaching for almost 5 years
- We tapped into various grants to help bring extra financial support to our programs
- We have a deeper connection and relationship with the larger St Paul Area Synod
- We were a remarkable internship site for 13 interns over the years.

And there are so many other things that ran well with little direction needed from me – choir, bells, Circles and Bible study groups, quilting, Children's ministry,

I want to end by sharing some of my sense of the path ahead for Our Redeemer. I do not know who your next pastor will be – Christine Wenzel will be the interim and I think she will do well. I don't know how long the process will take, nor do I know what will come out of the work of the transition team in terms of vision and goals and directions ahead. What I do know is that the folks at the St Paul Area Syond (and in particular, Bishop's Assistant Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer) will work hard for you. And what I also know and believe is that this is a fine congregation with good roots, good faithful people, and a future that will be good. You are strong. You are capable. You are committed. You are faithful. And beyond that, our God is strong, and capable and committed and faithful as well, to help bring hope and new future. There will be new days and new life for Our Redeemer. And I look forward to hearing about it in the newsletters and seeing it in person when I come back and visit after some healthy time away.

Thank you for 17 fine years of life and ministry together!!!

Pastor Karsten

Our Pastor retired! Where do we go from here? What happens next?

Phases

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) provides churches like ours with guidance through the process of replacing a retiring pastor. There are four phases of the process that begins once a pastor announces his retirement plans through the hiring of a new pastor. The Saint Paul Area Synod has comprehensive information regarding the call process on their website: <https://spas-elca.org/call-process/>. Below are the four processes:

PHASE 1 – LEAVE TAKING

Rostered minister announces they are leaving

PHASE 2 – INTERIM & TRANSITION TEAM

Interim pastor begins; Transition Team develops Ministry Site Profile

PHASE 3 – THE CALL PROCESS

Call Committee works to identify and recommend a new rostered minister

PHASE 4 – BEGINNING NEW MINISTRY

Call issued: new pastor is welcomed

Retiring Pastor—Leave Taking & Leaving Well

In Phase 1, we learn about the guidance given to Pastor Karsten. The ELCA's *Future Pastoral Acts of Former Pastors* provides a clear understanding of what a pastor may not do after leaving a call or retiring. A pastor may not:

- Officiate at funerals for persons from the former congregation
- Officiate at weddings for persons from the former congregation whether in the church or another location
- Remain a member of the former congregation; the pastor's spouse and minor age children also need to join a new congregation
- Interfere in the life, pastoral care or mission of the former congregation.

Once a new pastor has been called to the congregation, a former pastor may be invited by that new pastor to special celebrations within the congregation. The newly-called pastor may also meet with the former pastor.

So now that Pastor Karsten has left, he is required to follow these types of contact restrictions with the congregation for about a year, which is to allow space for new leadership to be established and for him to enter into his new retirement venture. He is hoping to be back in touch after that period of time, so please do not consider any lack of response as personal because he loves you all and is hoping to be in touch again when the time is right.

Transition Team—Volunteers Needed

As specified in Phase 2, the Board has interviewed and approved the hiring of Interim Pastor Christine Wenzel. And now the church Board is in the process of forming a Transition Team that will work with Interim Pastor Wenzel to identify the needs and priorities to be addressed in preparation for then next pastor. If you are interested in participating on the Transition Team, or if you have any questions or suggestions for the team, please contact Sally at the office at office@orlcmn.org or Carmen at carmen.snaza@gmail.com. In the future, we will then be forming a Call Committee Team.

Worship Coverage in July, Interim Pastor to begin in August, & Interim Pastoral Care

Where do we go from here? Interim Pastor Christine Wenzel has a tentative start date of August 1. Covenant (contract) details will be confirmed on July 8 and submitted to the Bishop for approval. Sundays worship services are covered as shown below, but if other pastoral care is needed please contact the office at 651-772-2445 or email office@orlcmn.org and we will either fill the need with Deacon Jake or will reach out to our neighboring East Side Collaborative churches for assistance.

July 7: *Pastor Terry Nordheim*

July 14: *Intern Deacon Jake Summerville*

July 21: *Bishop Patricia Lull (ESCo Service at Phalen)*

July 28: *Intern Deacon Jake Summerville*

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.



Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly

Pastor Karsten, Julie Peterson, and I were able to attend the Saint Paul Area Synod assembly this year, but my time was limited to Saturday morning due to some family events that came up. I really enjoyed the keynote speaker, Joe Davis, who was energizing and inspiring. We all received a copy of his book, *Remind me again: Poems and Practices of Remembering Who We Are*, which I am excited to start reading. His message is recorded and can be found on the 2024 synod assembly wrap-up page: <https://spas-elca.org/synod-assembly/2024-synod-assembly-wrap-up/> It was uplifting to see a new congregation, Eternal Flame Lutheran Church, join our synod, too. The mission fair had several informational booths which was nice to see all the good things going on. Everyone is kind and welcoming and I highly recommend attending this event if you haven't already or even if you have and would like to go again.

Carmen



Then & Now



Remember to look for Jake's "photo bomber" pic (or two) in this issue!





July Worship Services—Scriptures & Lectors		
Date	Scriptures	Lectors
7/7	Ezekiel 2:1-5; Mark 6:1-13	Jessica Prenzlou-Morgan
7/14	Amos 7:7-15; Mark 6:14-29	Darleen Klemm
7/21	Jeremiah 23:1-6; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	N/A—Esco at Phalen
7/28	2 Kings 4:42-44, John 6:1-21	Kathi Kirchoff
<p><i>If you wish to be a part of our services (lector, technology, musically, faith-sharing), please contact the office.</i></p>		

Upcoming Outdoor Worship Plans—July 21, August 18

Mark your calendar for some outdoor worship and lunch following this summer. We will be having two worship services with our East Side Collaborative congregations (Arlington Hills, Grace, Gustavus Adolphus, Our Redeemer) at the Lake Phalen pavilion on **Sundays, July 21 and August 18, at 10:00 a.m.** .

Music Leadership Changes Coming

You will notice some changes in music leadership this fall with our new member Alex Carlson taking the lead on Handbell Choir and vocal Choir direction, and Jeremy Mattson continuing as our Music and Worship Director who will mainly be present on Sundays. This change will help with Jeremy’s work-life balance and gives Alex an opportunity to continue to share his musical gifts. We are so blessed to have this level of talent with us here at Our Redeemer.

Where did all our Interns go?

Look for updates from some of our interns in future newsletters!

Twin Cities Recorder Guild

On June 30, we welcomed members of the Twin Cities Recorder Guild, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting playing the recorder. Membership is open to anyone. They hold monthly meetings September - May at Olivet Congregational Church. They are a chapter of the American Recorder Society. You can find them on Facebook. If anyone is interested in learning or giving the recorder a try, seek out Alex Carlson. He will be happy to provide you with recorders to use and also teach you if interested.



ESCo: Outdoor Worship Plans—July 21, August 18

We will be having two worship services with our East Side Collaborative congregations (Arlington Hills, Grace, Gustavus Adolphus, Our Redeemer) at the Lake Phalen pavilion on **Sundays, July 21 and August 18, at 10:00 a.m.** The July 21 event will include a lunch provided by Shobe's Table and paid for by ESCo.

ESCo: Next Grief Support Gathering—July 11 & 25

Deacon Intern Jake has started up a grief support group sponsored by the East Side Collaborative (ESCo). This is a six-week session and is open to the community and is a time to demystify death and grief. It allows an opportunity for 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 sessions are held every other Thursday at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, and the next sessions will be held on **Thursday, July 11 and 25, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** All are welcome—bring family and friends! If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Jake or email him at jsummerville001@luthersem.edu.

ESCo to get a new shared Intern - Volunteers needed for Internship Support Committee

As we reported a couple of months ago, we found out that the East Side Collaboration of churches (Arlington Hills, Grace, Gustavus Adolphus, Our Redeemer) will be receiving a full-time pastoral Intern for this next year. Bethany Ketchem will be a Word and Sacrament Intern who will be starting August 18. So be ready to welcome yet another Intern (this would be #14 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.



National Night Out (NNO)

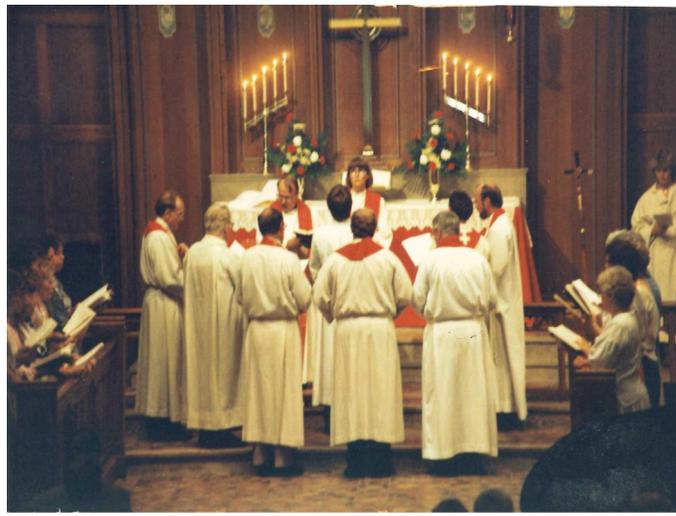
For the last 16 years, Our Redeemer has coordinated one of the largest and most enjoyable National Night Out events that happen in East St. Paul—that's the feedback we've heard from local politicians, the fire and police, and the neighbors. The last two years, leaders from the East Side Collaborative 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.



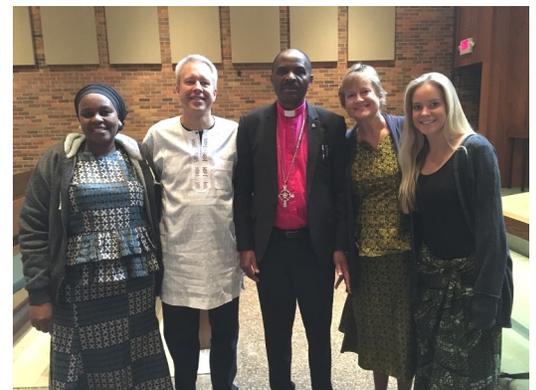
New Lease for Catering Company

We have entered into a three-month trial agreement with *Potlikkers Catering* where Chef Dee and Melinda will be renting our kitchen facilities beginning **July 1**. They anticipate that they will use our facilities for three to four cooking events per month. Chef Dee recently volunteered to make a meal for our Community Sharing Wednesday and is interested in doing more in the future. Check out their website at: potlikkercatering.com. Contact Sally if you have any questions.





“We started with a simple hello, but ended with a complicated goodbye.”













Thank You!

To our beautiful church family,
 We have been blessed beyond measure to be part of an amazing community at Our Redeemer these past 17 years. Your generosity and kindness overflow, marks of a beautiful congregation. We deeply appreciated the grand celebration and sending Sunday that were so meaningful, together with your many kind messages and vast presentation of gifts that blew us away. Thank you for so many gifts, my goodness, that included all manner of gift cards, pampering creams and bath salts, an entire wine collection, thoughtful books on retirement, a beautiful heart locket, financial support for our international ministries, fun beach gear, a gorgeous cabin-themed quilt, Chippewa Lake woodcut—and so much more. The warmth we feel in our hearts is palpable and we will carry your good wishes and kindness with us forever. We know your love, compassion and care for the neighbor will continue to be a beacon for others.

With grace upon grace and God's blessings in abundance,
 Pastor Karsten, Jackie and family







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.



Mensajes de Poder Rummage Sale—Date Changed to July 27 & 28

Due to the weather conditions for their June dates, Mensajes changed their summer rummage sale to **Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Food will be available for purchase, and it will be held in the parking lot. You are welcome to donate items for their sale that are gently used. They will also take larger items, but be prepared to take them back home if they don't sell. It is preferred that you bring your items on Friday, July 26, in the evening. Contact Sally if you have any questions.

Church Directory Changes?

Did you know that if you have any changes to your church directory, we can make those so that they are updated on our church directory app? Contact Sally at the office to make changes such as your phone number, email, address, and even your photo.

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.

A special **THANK YOU** to all the retirement party planners and doers!!



MEN WITH PURSES :)



ATTN: Facebook Folks!
Remember to **LIKE & SHARE** Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on Facebook!



2 Randy Luhrs	15 Diana Ersfeld
7 Vince Rodriguez	15 Maira Carlson
9 Barb Madigan	19 Beth Renfors
9 Amy Lindquist	19 Sharon Von Kreuzhof
10 Adeline Luhrs	20 Alex Carlson
13 Heather Trent	21 Jeremy Mattson
14 Michele Rebholz	22 Sally Kupferschmidt
15 Jeffrey Battey	24 Russell Kringle

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.

1 Julie Brovitch	17 Kathi Kirchoff
1 Mark Johnson	19 Ardith Cocchiarella
6 Larry Pruden	22 Dennis Paulson
7 Lisa Thompson	26 Jim Krohn
15 Carmen Snaza	28 Steve Friendt

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 .

July—Regular Happenings		
1	Lives Worth Living	6:30 PM
8	Quilting	9:00 AM
9	Building Crew	9:30 AM
9	Hope Circle	7:00 PM
8/17	U.F.O. Crafting Day	8:00 AM
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
22	Quilting	9:00 AM



July 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

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

Community Sharing Wednesdays 5:30—6:30 PM

Meals to be served every other week -Groceries every week!

As of now, we intend to provide meals at least twice a month. We have meals today, and then again on July 10 and July 24. We are still researching new options and finances to keep providing this service to all of you. If you have any questions, please contact our office by emailing: office@orlcmn.org or by calling 651-772-2445. Reminder that some days we will be short groceries due to the amounts our food shelves receive.

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