

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
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Pine City, MN 55063

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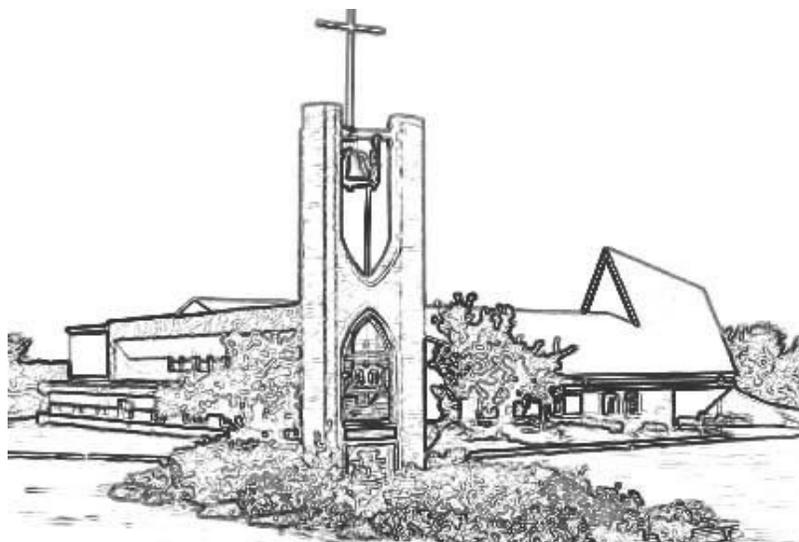
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**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN
THE BACKYARD OF
OUR REDEEMER!!**

**Worship in the backyard at
9:00 a.m. SUNDAYS!
Bring your lawn chair!**

**Live stream continues
To view, go to our home page
(orlcpc.com) and click on the
Facebook link and click on
posts. If another window
pops up click on "not now."**

**If it rains we WILL go into the
sanctuary with safe practices!**



Our Vision:

**Shining God's light into the darkness,
bringing hope where there is despair,
healing where there is hurt.**

If you no longer wish to receive this publication, if you prefer to receive it via email, or if you wish to read it on our website, PLEASE contact the office at orlcoffice@gmail.com or call 320-629-2985. THANK YOU!

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“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30



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(320) 629-2985

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This is a monthly publication.

Deadline for articles is 4:30 pm on the third
Monday of each month.

Shining God's Light

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

September 2020

Pastor's Corner, September 2020

Well, it's hard to believe that September is almost upon us! Soon kids will be going back to school in Pine County and our church activities will resume shortly thereafter. It will be early October before we begin Sunday school and confirmation, as we give parents plenty of time to settle into new school schedules.

As long as the weather remains nice outside, we will have Sunday worship in the back yard. In the event of rain, we will move things indoors. In such cases, we will continue to take precautions: masking up, keeping our distance, and keeping it short. Unfortunately, it won't be safe to have singing during those indoor gatherings (which I hate more than anything! Ugh!). Through it all, we will continue to live-stream worship on our Facebook page and keep in touch with our members who do not have access to computers through our *BeFriender Team* and weekly prayer cards from the staff to our church members.

The Smart Team met recently and has recommended that we keep the congregation in "Phase I" of our plan which was sent out in a previous newsletter. It's important for us all to take the time to assess the situation and make adjustments accordingly, especially during a pandemic. Toward that end, the members of our Smart Team are hard at work, keeping our most vulnerable members and staff in mind as we decide next steps. I want to thank Doug Pieper, Leigha Lange, Kris Clementson and Greg Lea for helping to set the pace for this. Truth be told, no one is in any big hurry to rush things when people's lives are on the line. That said, the *Great Commission* we have from Jesus to "Go, ye, unto all nations..." is more important now than ever before! People truly need to hear the good news that God is with us – that we do not journey through the valley of the shadow of death alone.

Think for a moment about *God's Work, Our Hands Sunday*. This special day of service, observed by Lutherans across the country, usually comes in the Fall. Even if we aren't planning some huge event, we can still observe it individually in all the minor ways you make a major difference in a person's life: helping a neighbor with a house project, shopping for a senior who has trouble getting out, making a donation to the local food shelf or homeless shelter, or building a ramp for a neighbor who is in need. On and on, the ways you are living out the faith of Jesus is truly making a difference – even when we can't gather like we used to.

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Cont'd



Dear ORL Church,
We are so thankful for your warm welcome of us as well as your desire to commit to supporting us as a congregation. We wanted to send you our sending organization's (Pioneers) link which allows you to set up monthly giving so it will automatically deduct each month and goes directly into our Pioneers account (pioneers.org; "Give to missionary" and use the Project Code #112861).

However, you can of course choose to do it by mail. Please write out the check to: Pioneers Act # 112861 Then mail it to: [10123 William Carey Dr, Orlando, FL 32832](https://www.pioneers.org/10123-William-Carey-Dr-Orlando-FL-32832) Either way, Pioneers will send you a receipt and ensure that your gift is tax-deductible.

Thank you again and please let us know if you have any further questions.
All for Jesus, *Tim & Maria*

The executive committee on behalf of the church council would like to say thank you to staff and volunteers for all the extra work seen and unseen that keeps the church running. Especially the time without a pastor and during this pandemic.

Thank You!

FROM THE OFFICE

Hello, my name is Abbi Lombard. Some of you have already called the office and heard a strange voice on the phone but I thought I should introduce myself a bit. I am temporarily filling in for Diane in the office right now while she is taking some time off to focus on getting better. I know not everyone has heard yet that Diane was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer as the cause of her recent health issues. There is a go fund me link on the Church's Facebook page if anyone is interested or able to give a donation for Diane and her medical treatment costs. And of course please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you, Abbi Lombard

COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE MONTH REPORT

Is there anyone out there that wishes they could turn back the clock? I find myself looking back to January and February as ancient history rather than half a year ago. This year has been challenging in many ways. One of the most difficult parts for me, a planner that likes a full calendar, is that I can't make solid plans! Luckily, being a parent has taught me that I have to go with the flow a bit. I have been working to embrace this mantra for eight years and still find it challenging at times. Recently, my daily devotional showed me again the importance of being intentionally present. Psalms 118:24 reads "This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." I am guilty of looking ahead to next month, next quarter or even next year to make plans or set that time frame as my goal completion date. I believe it is important to always be working toward a goal but I have been reminding myself to slow down, look at what is in front of me and find the joy in each day. God's blessings are all around us, if we continuously look ahead to the next thing we are not able to fully appreciate the blessings right in front of us.

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps," Proverbs 16:9

I challenge each of you to slow down, live each day for the Lord, find gratitude in the blessings he has given and trust in the Lord that he has determined a plan for your life. Blessings to all and let's go through each day with faith over fear!

Erin Anderson

Thank you to everyone who donated money for puppets so that Pastor John and William Woulfe can continue puppet ministry for the children this Fall!





Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministries, Leigha Lange can be reached at 320-629-2985 ext. 204 or via email at youthorlc@gmail.com

Parents please be watching your emails for up to date information regarding fall programming and registration forms.

Sunday School will begin Sunday October 4th at 9 AM.

Sunday School will look a little different this year. Kids will NOT be starting in worship like usual. Kids PreK (3yr old) through 6th should enter through the fellowship doors and will remain in the fellowship hall for the whole service. We are excited to be back together even if it might look different! If you have any questions please reach out to Leigha

Third Grade Bible Milestone

Our Redeemers third grade students will receive their new bibles on September 20th during worship at 9AM. Parents - more details will be mailed/emailed out to you. If you do not receive any information by September 10th please contact Leigha immediately

Confirmation for 7-9th graders will begin October 7th

Confirmation will also look different this year. The 7th and 8th graders will be meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 and the 9th graders will be meeting from 6:30 to 7:30. Due to Covid we have changed a few aspects of the program and one is splitting the grades to help keep numbers in the building at a minimum. We will also NOT be serving food this year because we are currently still in Phase 1 of our Covid plan which means there is to be no one using the kitchen. More details will be coming to your mailbox and email. If you do not receive anything by September 10th please reach out to Leigha.

Affirmation of Baptism - 10th Grade Confirmation

Our 10th grade students will be affirming their baptism on October 25th!

We are working on details for this service and what it might look like for us. Parents please be watching your emails for more details regarding the next two months and the upcoming service for your children.

Youth Group will begin October 4th from 6:30 to 8 for all 10-12 graders



Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sue and Mark Osterdyke at the passing of Sue's mother, Lois Youngbauer.

We wish to give our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Norm Opheim who passed away July 24. Service will be held September 12th at 11:30 am in Robinson Park. A private interment will be held at a later date.

Please keep all of these families in your thoughts and prayers in the upcoming days.



OUR REDEEMER FAMILY AND FRIENDS

TO PRAY FOR: Pat Hass, Gail Mattison, Jackie Vander Heyden (friend of Lange's), Dr. Sibley & family (friends of Mettlers), Diane V.V., Pat Hass' sister Marilyn, Janet K (Michelle Valvoda's sister), Rodney Kish, Abby Skluzacek, Angela Zack, John Fedder, Sara Helseth, Jeff Kuzel, Rosie Thorson, Carole and Carl Anderson, Bill McCartney, Ashley Jenson, Gail Rosenbaum, Margaret Menigo, LaVonne Nascene, Brian Holler, Paulette Renwick, David Pixley (brother-in-law to Pam W), Rod Benson, Pat Turgeon, Marilyn Arnold, Nicole Trujillo, Karen Blake, Liz Olson, Steve Martini, Sandy (daughter of Marilyn A), Jim Jacobson, Tonia Johnson, Betsi Moffatt Olson, Tom Davis, Patricia Taft, Laurie Madison, Lynnette Simertz (Leigha's friend's mother), Bonnie Abbott, Karen Koecher (sister-in-law to Julie & Lee W), and anyone else that comes to mind.

PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO SERVE!!

CONTINUING TO PRAY FOR: Deb Hagfors, Aine Casey (Judy & Larry Bothum's grandchild), Evie (great-granddaughter of Donna & Ron Pingree), Steven (brother-in-law to Jeff Duzan)

Reminder: Names are not removed unless the office is notified

**SEPTEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE
(We want to be ready....)**

Ushers

9:00 worship time: Lyndon and Ann Hagestuen

Altar Guild: Trudy Wood



Acolytes

**Council
Representative
for the Month**

**Readers and
Communion
Helpers**

6) OUTDOOR WORSHIP
BEGINS in the BACK YARD No calendar
AT 9:00 A.M.

Erin Anderson

Reader: MaryJo Mettler
Communion: Dave & MaryJo Mettler, Trudy Wood

13) OUTDOOR WORSHIP
BEGINS in the BACK YARD
AT 9:00 A.M.

Reader: Jim Koppen

20) OUTDOOR WORSHIP
BEGINS in the BACK YARD
AT 9:00 A.M.

Reader: Bill Woischke
Communion: Tom & Kristi Davis, Don Lund

27) OUTDOOR WORSHIP
BEGINS in the BACK YARD
AT 9:00 A.M.

Reader: Liz Olson

If you are interested in being a reader or communion help please call Trudy Wood At 320-629-1199

Healing Prayer Team

Healing Prayer Ministry

The team will meet in the Prayer Garden behind the church on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. Anyone is welcome to this discussion. Topics this month will include providing personal prayer, intentional prayer plan, the Fall newsletter articles and Advent prayer initiative.



Healing Prayer Team is there for you

The prayer cross is still available for all in the sanctuary. Remember if you want your request to be private, with you and God only, place the slip in the center of the cross. Also if you want others to pray for you, put the prayer slip in an appendage. These requests are collected monthly. The private prayer requests are never read but burned while other requests are prayed for by members of the healing prayer team at the monthly meeting. Please observe all health precautions as you enter the sanctuary.

Many members of ORLC and others in the community will pray for any requests within the day of the request. Text requests to Kris Gross at 651-236-0511.

Models of Prayer

How shall we then pray? Offer your heart and concerns to God. How is that done? Here are 4 models, offered by Bob Young, that outline the topics for prayer. Choose one and try it for a few weeks.

ACTS

- A - Adoration: praising God for who He is
- C - Confession: owning our sins
- T - Thanksgiving: thanking God for all he has done
- S - Supplication: prayers of request for ourselves and others

PARTS OF PRAYER

- P - Praise
- A - Ask
- R - Repent
- T - Thank
- S - Share

FIVE-FINGER PRAYER

- Thumb: pray for those closest to you
- Pointing finger: pray for those who guide us: teachers, doctors, counselors, mentors
- Middle finger (tallest one): pray for those who lead us: government, civic, and business leaders, police and firefighters
- Ring finger (weakest one): pray for those who are weak: the poor, sick, disabled, infants, homeless, the powerless, the persecuted
- Pinkie (the smallest, the least): Pray for myself

TAKE A TRIP WITH GOD

- T - For what am I Thankful?
- R - What do I Regret?
- I - Intercession-for whom do I need to pray?
- P - What is my Purpose or Plan?





Thank you, thank you, thank you, my church family. The donations to Go Fund Me (Diane Vander Venter) and gifts to Spire (Shannon Gourley) have covered one big medical expense. Your support is a tremendous blessing. My Cup Overflows.

Diane V.V



Update from the ORLC SMART team

The Smart Committee, focusing on how to reopen the church for use during the COVID 19 outbreak, update is as follows. The primary objective of the Committee and Church Council is the overall safety and health of our Church members and staff. The committee members are Pastor Stiles, Leigha Lange, Doug Pieper (worship committee), Kris Clementson (medical professional), and Greg Lea (Council Rep). As approved by council, we are in phase one (July/August) of carefully reopening the church and activities during COVID 19 which includes limited church services, limited funerals and weddings, no kitchen use or food services in building, committee meetings related to church mission only. This phase one is being extended into September for now.

The Smart Committee continues to monitor and assess COVID 19 progress in the community at large to determine what phase two will be on allowing additional activities in the church starting this fall and beyond. With the COVID 19 outbreak still very real and continuing, the Smart Committee is moving carefully in recommendations to reopen the use of our church by outside organizations. We are reviewing plans for youth activities, Sunday school and other activities.

Look for future announcements as we move into the fall.

Greg Lea



CHILDREN OF JOY PRESCHOOL



We continue to follow the schedule of Pine City schools and will be open for students in the classroom this fall. There will be a COVID cap of 10 students per session. Each session will have the same students for safety reasons. There will be added disinfecting and changes in drop off and pick up procedures to ensure safe social distancing.



We applied for and were granted a PPP loan for this fall/early winter's payroll expenses. We also applied for and received a grant from MN DHS to cover additional expenses we will incur as we do extra disinfecting and other measures to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Our teachers Mrs. Casey and Mrs. Rosie are very excited to see students again. They are also open to work with families who are interested in distance learning as we did last spring; please help to spread the word if you know of anyone in need of this. Casey and Rosie did a wonderful video tour that is posted on our facebook page and also on ORLC's website (under preschool).

We ask that you share it with your friends and family to help us get the word out. We offer a very rich and special preschool program for students—help us get the word out!

The board has made the difficult decision to not offer any apple pies this October. We appreciate all of the support you have given us and look forward to the day when we can host member events again. Please pray for our students, their families, our staff and our board as we continue to navigate this new way of doing things.



Patty Keyport
CoJ Board

FACEBOOK: 'LIKE US': PLEASE BE SURE TO 'LIKE' AND 'FOLLOW' CHILDREN OF JOY ON FACEBOOK. CHECK US OUT AT: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CREATINGJOYINLEARNING/](https://www.facebook.com/creatingjoyinlearning/)

YOU CAN ALSO EMAIL ORLCKIDZ@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 320-629-2985 EXT. 4

~ DONATIONS ~
ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE
SANCTUARY LIGHTING PROJECT



July
Income: \$23,721 - General Offering Income
 898 - Other General Offering income
 \$24,619 - TOTAL Available for Expense Payment

 \$21,971 – Expenses Supported by General Giving

July
Account Balances \$2,500 - Property Improvement Reserve
 13,595 - General Operating Fund
 32,956 - Restricted Funds
 68,956 - Endowment Fund
 \$117,599 - TOTAL CASH & SAVINGS



It is budget time of year!! The finance committee will be meeting to work on the budget on September 1, 2020. We will need all budget requests before that time.

Currently on the finance committee is Steve Schmidt (RRI Consulting), Diane Lombard (Treasurer), Sue Osterdyk (member), Kristi Davis (member). If you are interested in learning more or being on the finance committee, please let us know. Our September financial meeting will be on the 8th at 5:00.

Thank you for your generosity, love and trust. The council, committees and staff that use the funds given to Our Church try our very best to honor your monetary gifts in a mindful and financially sound way that is pleasing to God and that helps us to:

SERVE GOD TOGETHER!

Respectfully
Diane L., Treasurer



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021?

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is **DEBT FREE...ARE YOU NEXT?**

We are in the early stages of offering an opportunity to you to begin the journey of being Debt Free! Council has been presented a concept whereas all members of ORLC would be able to take online educational courses thru Ramsey Solutions (Financial Peace University). These courses would be at no cost to our members but donations are welcomed to help offset the \$2,500 for the SITE LICENSE. YOU choose the day of week.....YOU choose the time....YOU choose which class you want to enroll in first and experience virtual learning as a family for 365 days!

The three courses that will help you on your journey are:

- 1) Financial Peace University 9 wks...learn how money doesn't have to be stressful.
- 2) Smart Money, Smart Kids 6 wks...teaching your kids and teens the basics of money.
- 3) Legacy Journey 6 wks...biblical framework for living intentionally now so later you'll be able to leave a legacy.

ORLC council will need to know how many members will participant before they approve buying this SITE LICENSE for 2021. Please pray about this opportunity for you and your family.

Watch for future updates and or mailings. Questions text Glenn @ (651) 208-9886

Serving Others, Glenn Westing & Sue Osterdtyk & Pastor John

Glenn M. Westing & Sue Osterdtyk & Pastor John



ALTAR FLOWERS!!!

Isn't it nice to see them in our virtual worship services? If you would like to sponsor flowers please call the office (or if you have but forgot when, please call the office)!! You can pick them up the Monday following or even Sunday morning around 10!

Here are blank dates:

All of October, November and December

GIVEPLUS is our eGiving tool to help make contributing from your smartphone or iPhone easy! Download the free app when at Our Redeemer to begin or visit us on our web page orlpc.com. You can also stop by the office for more information or help getting it set up. Your financial gift allows us to continue our mission throughout the year. Thank you!



Church Council Meeting
Thursday, August 13, 2020 @ 7:00pm



Present: Kris Gross, Ashley Espeseth, Diane Lombard, Greg Lea, Erin Anderson, Rich Elliot, Gail Mattison, Kyle Nascene, Wayne Hansmann, Brent Weiss, John Schille, Eric Wicktor

Absent: None

Staff Present: Pastor John Stiles, Leigha Lange,

Other Attendees: Steve Schmidt, Glenn Westing

Meeting called to order by President Kris Gross at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions by Greg Lea

Glenn Westing presented a summary of the Financial Peace University Program that has been conducted at ORLC the past few years. He suggested that ORLC consider joining the program by paying an annual membership fee of \$2500 that would permit any church member to participate in three programs online for one year. A motion was made by Rich Elliot, followed by a second by Brent Weiss, for the council to consider this membership by determining how many members might be interested in this program and want to participate over the next year. Once there is a determination of interest, then a decision will be made on how the church should participate and the appropriate budget will be included in the annual budgeting process. Motion carried.

Staff and Committee Reports:

Leigha Lange reported on the potential Sunday School ideas and plans, the Wednesday Church service in the park among other things. See report in office file.

Financial Report: Diane Lombard and Steve Schmidt reported on the financial status of the church. Income exceeds expenses year to date but both are down income and expense are down from prior year. Comment made the Mortgage has been paid off. See handouts in office file. Motion was made to accept the financial reports by Greg Lea and a second by Gail Mattison. Motion carried

Steve Schmidt and Diane Lombard presented a resolution to apply for a loan/grant from Frandsen Bank and Trust under the Payroll Protection Program established under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act(CARES Act). This grant program allows ORLC to receive up to \$29,945 in the form of a loan that will convert to a grant if used for protecting payroll over an 8 week period. Ashley Espeseth made a motion to proceed with this loan/grant program and was seconded by Pastor Stiles. Motion carried. All documents are on file in the church office.

Greg Lea reported to the council on the Smart Committee updates. The committee members are Pastor Stiles, Leigha Lange, Doug Pieper(worship committee), Kris Clementson(medical professional), and Greg Lea(Council Rep). As approved by council, we are in phase one(July/August) of carefully reopening the church and activities during COVID 19. The Smart Committee continues to monitor and assess COVID 19 progress in the community at large to determine what Phase Two will be on allowing activities in the church starting in September and beyond.

John Schille provided an update on the Security plan for the Church. The four camera system that would monitor each door is currently being installed and an electronic locking system for the doors will be completed over the next few weeks. The budget for this project is slightly more than expected but is estimated to be completed for approximately \$1300.

Kris Gross updated the Council on the Policy and Procedures Committee and the ongoing efforts to document policies and procedures for the Church. That committee is meeting throughout the summer to complete the task. Kris also gave an update on the Heritage Committee plans and archival of documents. Report on file in office

Diane Lombard update the council on the Executive Committee action to recognize the church staff for all the hard work done during the pandemic and while the church completed the call process for our new Pastor.

Personnel Committee update was presented by Ashley Espeseth. Staff reviews have been completed in August.

The council reviewed the Mission Giving Guidelines and percentages for budgeting purposes. A motion was made by Erin Anderson and seconded by Wayne Hansmann to change the name of the allocation called the Discretionary Mission Accrual to Dragon Food Shelf. In discussion, an amendment was made by Ashley Espeseth and a second by Wayne Hansmann to allocate \$500 from this fund to the Backpacks Fund before the name change. The motion as amended carried.

Pastor report was presented by Pastor John Stiles. He commented on the "Faith on Fire" bonfire get together with ORLC youth and how much he enjoyed meeting the young members of our congregation. He also commented the Wednesday church services in the park that include food, faith and fellowship. He mentioned the talent in the puppet show in the park service each week and the desire to purchase new puppets used in the program as the ones used to date are loaned to ORLC. Anyone that would like to contribute funds to purchase new puppets for the program is encouraged to do so by contacting the church office. See copy of Pastor's report in the office file

Properties Committee update was presented with discussion was on the status on re-rocking the back driveway to the church. Wayne Hansmann and Brent Weiss have numerous bids for this project and will conclude on next steps this fall.

Council received updates from Congregational Care Committee by Gail Mattison and from the Mission and Outreach by Erin Anderson/Pastor Stiles

Kris Gross/Pastor Stiles/Steve Schmidt reminded Council and Committee members that all budget requests for next year's budget need to be in by August 15th.

Council Member for the Month of September is Erin Anderson

Next Council Meeting is on Thursday, September 10 , 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion Rich Elliot and second by Ashley Espeseth to adjourn was made then followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by
Greg Lea, Secretary