



The Focus

A Monthly newsletter for the Members and Neighbors of
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

September, 2011

NEW SCHEDULE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11

Dear Friends,

It's almost time for the fall worship and Sunday School schedule to begin. It starts on September 11. And as many of you have been hearing and reading, there are some changes coming. I want to highlight those changes here.

Saturday evening worship at 5:30 remains the same. (That's easy!)

Sunday morning begins at 9:00 with worship. That's 15 minutes earlier than we are used to. It is still a contemporary worship service. That service had traditionally run about 50 minutes, and that practice will continue.

10:00-10:45 is the Education Hour. We have our usual Sunday School for children age three through 6th grade. 7th-9th graders have Crossroads confirmation class with Pastor Broome. 10th-12th grade youth have Sunday School. Adults have opportunities for education and conversation. And we will have nursery provided during the Education Hour as well as during the Sunday worship services.

At 11:00 it will be time for our more traditional worship service.

Now, a little more about adult opportunities...

Each week there will be 3 or 4 options for adults during the 10:00-10:45 Education Hour

1. The Bible Study with Pastor Yedlicka will continue as usual in the conference room. (Why change something that works so well?)
2. A second adult class - Bible 101 - will be held in the social hall. Pastor Schmid will lead the class most of the time. This is a more introductory class than the other Bible study.
3. During the fall and winter a three-week class will be offered for those interested in joining Our Redeemer and members who want to brush up on what it means to be Lutheran. (There may also be other short-term courses if we find there is interest in a particular topic.)
4. The narthex/lobby now has comfortable furniture that makes it conducive to adult coffee and conversation for those who do not wish to go to classes.

Coffee and tea will be set up in the conference room, social hall and narthex each week.

As for coffee hour - this is the tricky part but we think it will work well as soon as we get used to it... On the second Sunday of each month, beginning with October 9, we will have a coffee hour at 10:00 in the social hall. Children will be encouraged to get their snack and go straight to their classes. Adults can linger over coffee. Bible 101 will not meet. Instead, there will be round tables set up in the hall, and sometimes opportunities for conversations around particular topics for those interested. Or, coffee and goodies can be taken into the conference room Bible Study.

What can you do to make this all work smoothly? The biggest thing you can do is be on time for the Education Hour. We really do want classes to start at 10:00 so we have a full 45 minutes for class.

So, let's give it a try. If we have to tweak things here and there, we will, but council and committees and your pastors have put a lot of time into thinking through the schedule to make it work well. This schedule makes it easier for families to worship together, adults to be involved in education and conversation, and lets all of your pastors teach every week.

See you in church.

Pastor Schmid

WORSHIP

September Readings

September 4 - Ezekiel 33:7–11; Psalm 119:33–40; Romans 13:8–14; Matthew 18:15–20

September 11 - Genesis 50:15–21; Psalm 103:1–13; Romans 14:1–12; Matthew 18:21–35

September 18 - Jonah 3:10–4:11; Psalm 145:1–8; Philippians 1:21–30; Matthew 20:1–16

September 25 - Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32; Psalm 25:1–9; Philippians 2:1–13; Matthew 21:23–32

September 11, 1:00 PM Joyful Noise Worship

Our monthly Joyful Noise Worship is a service in which movement and noise are an expectation, not an interruption. The service is designed for people on the autism spectrum and their families, but is also ideal for young children who may appreciate being able to move around during worship. Rhythm instruments accompany most songs, and the Circle Time children's sermon is interactive. As with all of our services, Holy Communion is also offered.

Thank you

The Altar Guild would like to thank Nancy and John Till for the donation of a refrigerator for the Altar Guild use. It will be greatly appreciated by all of us who will be using it.

Joyce Kilgore
Linda Blanker
Co-chairs, Altar Guild

MUSIC

911 Memorial Concert

On Sunday, September 11 at 7:30 PM there will be a Memorial Concert at Immaculate Conception Church presented by the combined choirs of the community recalling the 10th anniversary of the tragedy on 9/11/01. Members of Our Redeemer's Chancel Choir will be participating. All are welcome! The church is located at 119 West Chestnut Street in Washington.

Choir Rehearsals

Our Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 beginning on September 14. We are looking to expand the size of our choir. Drop in at rehearsal and let us make room for you!



Monday, October 3 7:00 PM

STILL ALICE by Lisa Genova

"Alice Howland, happily married with three grown children and a house on the Cape, is a celebrated Harvard professor at the height of her career when she notices a forgetfulness creeping into her life. As confusion starts to cloud her thinking and her memory begins to fail her, she receives a devastating diagnosis: early onset Alzheimer's disease. Fiercely independent, Alice struggles to maintain her lifestyle and live in the moment, even as her sense of self is being stripped away. In turns heartbreaking, inspiring and terrifying, Still Alice captures in remarkable detail what's it's like to literally lose your mind..."

from stillalice.com

Buy or borrow the book, read it, then come and talk about it. The discussion of this book promises to be interesting and thought-provoking, since Alzheimer's has touched the lives of so many of us.

LEARNING TEAM

Thank you, Learning Team!

For the last year and a half, a team of six people has been studying our congregation, asking tough questions, and looking at what we need to do to be a faithful, healthy mid-sized congregation. As in our families and at work, we all get into patterns of doing things that work well at some point, but may no longer be so helpful. The Learning Team focused especially on the need to improve how we bring new members into our congregational family, strengthening the connections between members, and encouraging adult education. Enriching these areas will equip us to more faithfully care for each other and serve our neighbors throughout the world in God's name.

THANK YOU to Steve D'Addieco, Terry Divilbliss, Sue Gaugler, Scott Hinkle, Ron Kilgore and Susan Loeser. Their work is now done. The pastors, council and committees will be using their findings and suggestions to put together a plan to guide our ministry for the next several years.

As we begin the fall season, there are a lot of little changes to the way we worship and learn together, as well as how we welcome new members. These have all grown out of the Learning Team and the congregational input sessions they held. So if you wonder "Why did they change that?" talk to a member of the Learning Team or Council or Pastor Schmid. There's probably a very specific answer to your question.

NEW MEMBER

Inquirer's Class

10 AM October 9, 16 and 23

Interested in joining Our Redeemer? The next Inquirer's Class will be a three-part class held during the Sunday School hour, 10:00-10:45, on Sundays October 9, 16 and 23. The class meets in the social hall. Sign up on the bulletin board or by contacting the church office if you are interested. The nursery is available for children too young for Sunday School.

The Inquirer's Class covers church history, how we live in the world as Lutherans, and information about Our Redeemer. (We know that busy schedules may mean you have to miss one of the three classes, but that's okay. We'll get that information to you some other way.) Current members are also invited to attend if you want to brush up on your knowledge of our history and heritage.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

for everyone who has joined Our Redeemer in the past year
Sunday, September 18 Noon - 1:00

Our New Members Team has a great Orientation planned for folks who have joined in the past year. Join us for pizza, a chance to ask questions, and lots of helpful information about getting involved in our life together at Our Redeemer. Everyone who has joined in the past year will be mailed more information about this Orientation. If you joined before that, but still haven't found where you fit, you are most welcome to attend. Sign up on the bulletin board or by contacting the church office. Since the orientation is only an hour and involves pizza, kids are encouraged to be present. We will have childcare available for younger children if we know we need it.

(One of the comments we've heard over the past year is that it's hard to absorb all the information at the initial Inquirer's Class, so hearing about the ministries of Our Redeemer would be more helpful 3 or 6 months later, after you get to know people a bit, and have lived as a member for a while.)

EDUCATION

BIBLE SUNDAY

September 18 11:00

On Sunday, September 18, our third graders will receive their Bibles during the 11:00 worship service. In baptism, parents promise to place the Holy Scriptures into their child's hands. As a congregation, we support parents in keeping that promise by giving Bibles to children as they enter 3rd grade. It's a time for the whole congregation to recognize this important step in children's faith development.

This year we are changing the Bible that the church gives to children. We are using the "Adventure Bible." It's still the Bible, word for word, but it has a lot of comments and questions in it that are interesting for children and teens, along with helpful notes, charts and maps. (It's a little more expensive than the Bible we've given out in previous years, but we think it's well worth it. You can't put a price on engaging children in reading their Bible.)

The church also gives storybook Bibles to 3 year olds. They will receive their Bibles from their Sunday School teachers on September 11 during Sunday School, or one of the following weeks if they aren't there on the 11th.) If you have a three year old who is not ready for Sunday School, see one of the pastors and we'll give you their Bible.

Sunday School begins September 11



Can you believe it? Summer is almost over, and Sunday School begins in just a few weeks. We have many enriching activities planned this year - weekly Bible lessons, crafts, outdoor sessions, Adventures during Advent, Journey to Bethlehem, Palm Sunday festival, and much more.

We have over 100 students in our Sunday school program, and that means we need LOTS of teachers and helpers to make the year a success! Our new service schedule offers time between the services (when Sunday school is held) for you to attend adult education, discussion groups, or help with Sunday School!

We welcome your assistance. Even if you have only a few Sundays to offer, we will find a place for you. Our Witness curriculum provides you with everything you need for each class - Bible lessons, discussion ideas, crafts, games and music.

Contact the church office or one of us if you are interested in helping - your children will love to see you participate, and you can show them that "many hands make light work".

Suzanne Kennedy, pipermoran@comcast.net
Kim Chupinka, kchupinka@kandsrealestate.net

Because of the additional classes on Sunday morning, we are looking to hire someone to weekly set up the social hall space before Sunday School and then to put things back afterwards. If you are interested, please see Pastor Schmid.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF 2011-1012

Multiple teachers means you only teach part of the year. Same for helpers. Each class of teachers and helpers will determine their own teaching/helping schedule. For most classes, one teacher and one helper are all that's needed each week. Teacher training will be provided before the start of Sunday School.

Ages 3-4 These little ones need lots of one-on-one love, so we need a teacher and at least two helpers each week.

Teachers: *Beverly Ringling* *Diana Dick* _____
 Helpers: *Cara Tygard* *Mikenna Miller* _____

Age 5-Pre K-K This is a fun age - the world is full of things to discover.

Teachers _____
 Helpers _____

Grades 1-2 These children are starting to read and come up with great questions.

Teachers: _____
 Helpers: *Cara Tygard* _____

Grades 3-4 These kids have received their own Bibles and are anxious to learn the Bible stories.

Teachers: *Dee Hershberger* *Darlene Davis* _____
 Helpers: _____

Grades 5-6 This group will keep you on your toes with their questions and ideas.

Teachers: *Suzanne Kennedy* *Debbie Healey Langley* _____
 Helpers: _____

Grades 7-9 *Crossroads Confirmation Class*

Teacher: Pastor Broome
 Helpers: _____

Grades 10-12 This group only needs one teacher at a time - lots of good discussion happens here.

Teachers: *Martha Rhone* _____
10-12 graders are welcome to serve as helpers in younger classes.

Adult Bible Study

Teacher: Pastor Yedlicka

Adult Bible Basics

Leader: Pastor Schmid and others

Substitutes: Preschoolers _____
 Grades 1-6 _____
 Grades 7-12 _____

**TRAINING FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND HELPERS
 IS SCHEDULED FOR**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 AT 7 PM

YOUTH

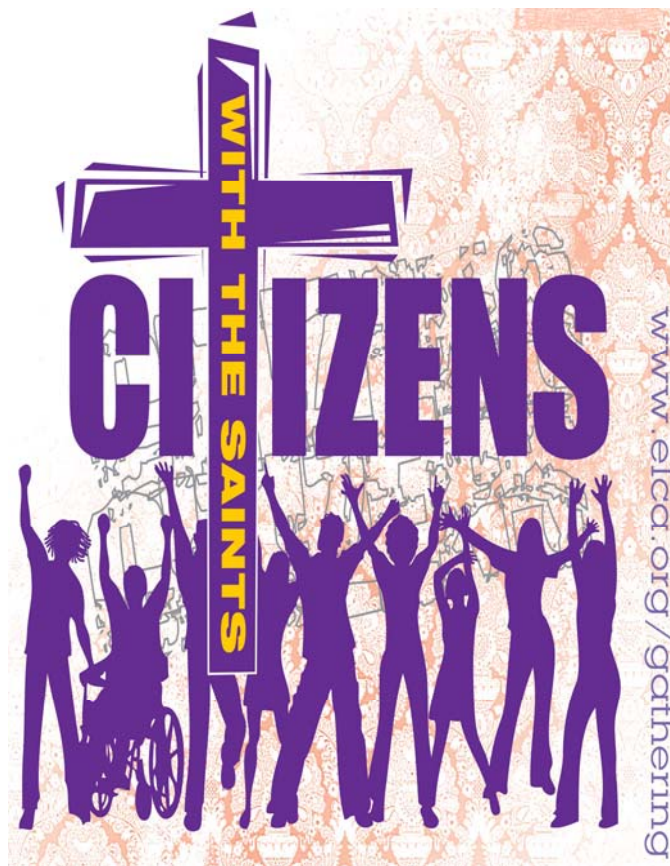
2012 ELCA Youth Gathering - Citizens with the Saints
July 18-22, 2012
New Orleans, Louisiana

Registration opens October 9. Talk to Pastor Broome if you are interested in attending. All youth in 8-12th grade for the 2011-2012 school year are eligible to attend. Visit www.elca.org/gathering for more information.



Help our youth raise funds for the 2012 Youth Gathering in New Orleans by bringing your vehicles to our summer car washes. A free-will offering will be accepted. Car washes are scheduled for August 27 and September 3 from 9:00-1:00.

Youth . . . please contact Pastor Broome at pastorbroome@comcast.net if you are available to help.



Sunday School

Beginning on Sunday, September 11, worship will be at 9:00 and 11:00 AM. Sunday School for children age 3 through adults will take place from 10:00-10:45 AM. The nursery will be available for both worship services and Sunday School.

Crossroads during Sunday School!

Now that our worship schedule has changed, our pastors can teach Sunday School between the services. Crossroads classes will meet with Pastor Broome every Sunday morning from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

In addition to the Sunday morning experience, we will also have youth retreats, Crossroads Special Events, and Sunday Night Live, a worship and learning experience designed for teenage youth, at locations throughout our Southwestern Pennsylvania synod.

Kindergarten-2nd Grade

All children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are invited to our First Friday get together on September 2 from 6:30-8:00 PM.

3rd-6th Grade

Our first overnight retreat of the new school year will be on Friday, September 16 beginning at 7:00 PM and ending at 9:00 on Saturday morning.

Sunday Night Live (7th-12th Grade)

The Lutheran Youth Organization of our Synod meets monthly for a gathering around the Eucharistic Table, friends, food, music, service, learning and fun. The next Sunday Night Live will be on September 11 from 5:00-8:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Butler. Visit "Southwestern PA Synod LYO" on facebook for details on each SNL gathering! Friends are welcome! See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

YOUTH



Retreat for Families with Young Children

Friday, October 7 - Saturday, October 8
at Lutherlyn (our Lutheran Church camp near Butler)

We'll gather at 7:00 at Lutherlyn (or as soon as you can make it after that). Each family has their own separate housing (heated cabins), including a hot shower. We'll eat our meals in the dining hall, and make s'mores over a campfire. We'll take short hikes, learn about nature, play games and learn about God's wonderful world. Then, at 4:00 on Saturday, we'll pack up and go home.

There's no age limit for kids on the retreat, though our activities are geared toward elementary age children and their families.

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cost: Adults and teens | \$50 (non-members \$70) |
| Children age 3 through 11 | \$25 (non-members \$30) |
| Children age 0-2 | free |

That cost includes lodging, meals, a kid's craft, and use of the camp facilities. To register, fill out the form below and return it, with your payment, to the church as soon as possible. Space is limited.

Our Redeemer subsidizes the cost for everyone, and if you need more financial help to attend, talk to Pastor Schmid. Friends are welcome.

RETREAT FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Names: Adults and teens _____ @\$50 each = \$ _____

Children age 3-11 _____ @\$25 each = \$ _____

Children age 0-2 _____ **TOTAL** \$ _____

Please include your address, phone and email if you are not a church member.

COLLEGE

Attention College Students . . .

Please help us to keep the college information that we have on file for you current by completing the information below and returning it to the church by mail or by dropping it in the collection plate. You can also e-mail the information to us at orlc@comcast.net. Thank you.

Name _____

College Attending _____

Mailing Address _____

Your Phone Number _____

Your E-mail _____

Expected date of graduation _____

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year's Vacation Bible School was a huge success! We had 106 children spend four faith-filled days with us learning about how they can care for God's creation. The kids made crafts out of recyclable materials, planted flowers near the entrance to the preschool, played games, and sang songs about God's love. A fun time was had by all!

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful VBS volunteers! We truly appreciate the time that you spent with us and we are so grateful for all of your help! A big THANK YOU to Susan Andrewson, Peggy Barczak, Nora Barczak, Sarah Barczak, Joel Beltz, Julie Bissell, Linda Blanker, Gena Bodnar, Mike Bodnar, Heather Bonanno, Melissa Brandstatter, Maegan Bregenser, Pastor Broome, Ruth Brosky, Becky Burkholder, Brittany Byer, Patrick Chen, Alison D'Addieco, Elaine Dolcich, Chris Doughty, Kim Doughty, Nate Doughty, David Eshelman, Sally Ferko, Doreen Fonzi, Emily Franty, Kristianna Gizzi, Brian Greer, Alison Hart, Traci Kaylor, Owen Kees, Suzanne Kennedy, Leah Kern, Emily Koerbel, Olivia Leng, Carol Locher, Ruth Ann Lowery, Jean Mace, Ryan Maize, Beth May, Jennifer May, Anna McGoogan, Bailey McGoogan, Michaela McFetridge, Kim McHenry, Zoe Medvid, Megan Meissner, Wendy Monaghan, Becky Moshier, Caden Moran, Casey Moran, Cindy Moran, Gerda Moul, Michelle Noschese, Phyllis Permar, Trina Pfanstiel, Wendy Plank, Lalitha Rajakumar, Martha Rhone, Laurie Rieger, Robin Ruzzini, Barb Santaguida, Pastor Schmid, Wes Schmid-Broome, Mackenzie Schwerzler, Madison Schwerzler, Megan Schwerzler, Jen Simmons, Jen Slack, Laura Sloat, Blake Smith, Chloe Smith, Andrew Sontag, Janice Sontag, Heather Stitt, Denise Tannehill, Beth Trax, Michelle Updyke, Joy Weiss, Abigail Zanardelli, the Wednesday men's group, and anyone who we may have forgotten.

We are also very grateful to everyone who donated recyclable materials. Your contributions were used for crafts, decorations, environmentally educational activities, science, and games.

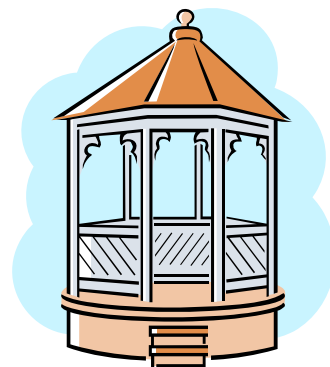
Thank you!
Camille Bodnar and Kelly Sofran

A special thank you on behalf of the church staff and congregation to Camille and Kelly for directing a wonderful Vacation Bible School.

FELLOWSHIP

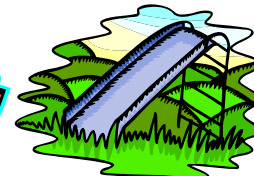
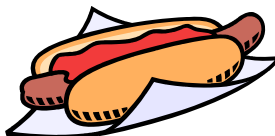


Church Picnic
Sunday, August 28,
Following 10:00 Worship



Good food, good fun, good friends!

We hope to see you there!




GREEN TEAM

IF I DON'T THROW IT OUT - WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?


The Green Team encourages recycling of everything possible!

 **ELECTRONICS** - Best Buy - there is a fee of \$10 for televisions & monitors, but they will give you a \$10 Best Buy Gift Card! They take DVD players, audio equipment, cell phones, MP3 players, computers, small electrics, such as fans & vacuum cleaners.


Peters Township Public Works accepts all electronics FREE anytime they are open!

 **INK & TONER CARTRIDGES** - Best Buy - bins inside of main doors and, of course, Our Redeemer. Look for the cartridge recycling container under the coat rack. Proceeds from cartridge recycling go to offset the cost of the ELCA Youth Gathering.

 **RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES** - Best Buy - bins inside of main doors!

 **CABLES** - Best Buy - bins inside of main doors!

 **PLASTIC BAGS** - Giant Eagle & Lowe's

 **BATTERIES** - Lowe's, Home Depot, Radio Shack

 **CFLs** - Lowe's, Home Depot

Remember to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!



A care-for-creation tip from your Green Team . . .

Turn off the lights and TV when you are not in the room.

MISCELLANEOUS

Foreclosure Help is Here

If you're worried about losing your house, you may be eligible for financial assistance, including new emergency federal loans. In fact, a whole host of programs may help you avoid foreclosure and stay in your home. The first step is to call today, because funding is available for a limited time. Call 2-1-1 now to learn more.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Time is running out to sign up for your fall Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend. The September Weekend has filled; however, you may contact us at the information below to be added to the waiting list. If you act quickly, there is still room for you at the final 2011 Weekend scheduled for Nov. 4-6, 2011 at Park Inn by Radisson-Sharon in West Middlesex, PA. This popular facility with a tropical atrium has a king bed and an in-room hot tub in each guest room. It is located just an hour north of Pittsburgh. Marriage Encounter Weekends are designed to allow you to take time off from daily pressures and responsibilities to search out and discover a warmer, closer, more joyful relationship with each other. Weekends run from Friday at 8 PM to Sunday at 5 PM. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. To register—simply go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and sign up. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact PA Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166.

SERVICE & SOCIAL MINISTRY

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated, organized, and packed the backpacks and school supplies for homeless children in Washington and Allegheny Counties. There were approximately 50 backpacks delivered the week of August 15.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

I would like to thank the following people that made the IHN dinner a success on Monday, July 25.

- Art Alderson drove the van.
- Suzanne Kennedy and Jimmy Moran, sons Casey and Caden provided the main dish.
- Phyllis Permar supplied the dessert.
- John Hesemann and Pastor Steve Broome were the overnight hosts.

The next host dinner is scheduled for Monday, September 26. Volunteers will be needed for the following tasks:

- Monday AM van driver at 6:15 AM transports guests in provided van from Trinity United Methodist to the IHN facility in Washington.
- Monday PM van driver gets van parked at Trinity United Methodist and transports guests from Washington to the Scout Building located at Trinity United Methodist Church.
- Dinner hosts (2-3 people needed to provide complete meal) and at least 2 people needed to eat dinner with the guests 5:30-6:30 PM.
- Dessert hosts provide dessert and spend the evening with the families from 6:30-8:30 PM.
- Overnight hosts spend the night with the guests (yes, you do get to sleep) from 8:30 PM-6:30 AM.

You are welcome to bring your family to share in the experience with our guests. The maximum number of homeless guests that can be accommodated is 14. Since numbers can change at the last minute, flexibility is a recommended attribute of the hosts. Please take an opportunity to share in this worthwhile ministry. For more information contact Pat Easoz at peasoz@comcast.net or 724-941-5316. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the church narthex.

Pat Easoz

We are having a baby!!!! (two, actually)

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Southwestern Pennsylvania is currently hosting two families who are expecting a baby boy in the next 6 to 8 weeks. Both families could use help to get ready for their new additions and IHN is accepting donations of gently-used baby items and clothing:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Cribs | Onesies | Baby lotion |
| Infant Car Seats | Sleepers | Baby wash |
| Strollers | Baby boy clothing | Towels |
| Swings | Socks & Booties | Wash cloths |
| Bouncers | Bottles | Blankets |
| Diaper and wipes | Pacifiers | Breast pumps |

Contact Laura Vincenti at lauravincentiihn@gmail.co to arrange your donation ***before*** dropping off items at the IHN Houses. Thanks for your generosity!

Peters Township Food Pantry

Peters Township Food Pantry UPDATED . . . The Peters Township Food Pantry is currently in need of paper products, any soap products, personal grooming products, saran wraps, waxed paper, baggies, etc. and VOLUNTEERS. The Food Pantry will also accept donations of fresh produce on September 8 at Peace Lutheran Church between 2:00 and 3:30 P.M. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Brosky at 412-854-3694. Their next distribution is September 9 with set up on the 8th at 2:00.

SERVICE & SOCIAL MINISTRY, CONTINUED

Drought in East Africa - Emergency Alert - Updated August 12, 2011

BACKGROUND

The worst drought in 60 years is creating severe food and water shortages for millions of impoverished people in the Horn of Africa. Combined with ongoing conflict in many countries, the region is facing an urgent, life-threatening humanitarian crisis.

More than 12.4 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti are affected by drought conditions which have led to widespread food shortages. Famine has been declared in three additional regions of Somalia — Afgoye, Mogadishu and Middle Shabelle — joining Bakool and Lower Shabelle for a total of five famine declared regions in Somalia.

The lack of rain, which began in late 2010, has led to several failed crop cycles, the death of livestock and the loss of agricultural livelihoods. Left with few resources to provide food for themselves and their families, and displaced by ongoing conflict and fighting, people are fleeing their home lands in Somalia for camps in Ethiopia and Kenya.

The camps, built to hold 90,000 refugees, are currently hosting over 400,000 people and receiving more than 1,500 new arrivals each day. Many of the new arrivals have walked long distances and arrive malnourished and in poor physical condition. Children are particularly affected; reports indicate that 30 to 40 percent of the children arriving to Dadaab are acutely malnourished.

Lutheran World Relief has worked in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation in the Dadaab camps since 2008, with support from the United States Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. These ongoing programs link vulnerable refugees to social services, provide shelter and promote security within the camps. In addition, LWR and LWF address the needs of neighboring communities through sanitation programs.

LWR AND PARTNERS ARE RESPONDING

LWR committed an initial \$500,000 to immediate response efforts to support the work of its partner, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Kenya and Ethiopia. In Kenya, LWR is working with LWF to expand its work in the Dadaab camps to ensure the reception of new arrivals as well as the provision of water and other critically needed supplies to families in and around the Dadaab camps.

In Ethiopia, LWF is distributing food in drought affected communities, providing supplementary nutrition for young children and new mothers, training farmers to improve natural resource management and agriculture and providing farm tools to begin recovery efforts.

While urgent humanitarian assistance is required today, strategies to safeguard and build up livelihoods — sustainable development — will help save even more lives in the long term. LWR will continue to build the capacity of our local partners and communities to help them become less vulnerable when future droughts occur.

YOU CAN HELP

To carry out a long-term response to this crisis, aimed at helping farmers recover their crops and agricultural livelihoods and reducing people's vulnerability to future crises, LWR must raise **\$3 million** by the end of 2011. Help increase LWR's response to this crisis with a gift to the **East Africa Drought** fund.

LWR accepts gifts by phone at 800.597.5972, online at lwr.org/donate or by sending a check or money order to:

Lutheran World Relief
P.O. Box 17061
Baltimore, MD 21298-9832

Your gifts will be used to respond to the East Africa Drought until needs there are met. Gifts received after that time will be used where needs are greatest. Thank you for your compassion. Please give generously.

IN OUR PRAYERS

We lift up the following members of our congregation so that they may be strengthened by our prayers of intercession:

Gloria Beyer, Matt Debowski, Norman Elliott, Eva Erickson, Holly Martin, Emma Mayer and Rolf Otterness.

We remember those friends and family members who have asked for our prayers:

Ann K., Deborah P., Jonathan, Kate, Marissa, Mark, Melissa, Scott A., Maryann Anderson, David Armitage, Sandi Babbie, Therese Bell, Joyce Biearman, John Bland, Philip Blanock, Lynn Brandt, Eloise Brown, Jennifer Young Brown, Barbara Bryce, Austin Bullock, Debbie Carter, Michele Caruso, Mary Ann Cekus, Larry Clark, Bob Cunius, Lisa D'Addieco, Michael D'Addieco, Jordan Davis, Myron Davis, Sandie DeCesare, Nicole Demis, Joyce Donovan, Joan Dvorznak, Brad Elias, James Fadgen, Harold Fair, Michael Ferguson, Teagan Ferris, Ken Flodine, Thelma Gall, Kelley Gaster, Alexa Gilfoyle, Karen Gilleland, Julie Hanczar, Joan Handshue, Audrey Harris, Lance Harris, Keith Hay, Nick Heisler, Wilma Hesemann, Jeff Highfield, Karla Hilzendeger, Mary Holovak, Julie Howe, Russ Huff, Jaxon Isley, Bob Janosko, Marcella Johnston, Tim Jones, Cindi Karoleski, Bill Kelly, Roger Kenney, Carol King, Jimmy Kuzak, Paul Lambert, Marion Laughner, Bruce Leavitt, Glen Lehman, Addison Marry, Bill Marshall, Amy May, Lori McCormack, Charlotte McFall, Thelma McGaffic, Amy Megahan, Dave Merlo, John Mull, Carl Munch, Dolores Munsick, Meleny Burik Myers, Janet Novotny, Louise Parshall, Brett Pattera, Janet Phelps, Austin Pitts, Paula Polito, Florence Ratay, Ida Rattelman, Joe Reinhardt, Ralph Rhone, Harry Robol, Margaret Rorison, Mary Rudolph, Eugene Salamony, Brian Schill, Keith Snyder, Nancy Steffey, Jim Sterner, John Szott, Tina Thielet, Elaine Tiboni, Dan Tovar, Jennie Valencic, Dolores Veres, Loretta Warsaw, William Werner, Laurie Williams, Leona Wilson, Frank Yarussi, Mary Yavelak, John Yedlicka (Pastor and Sandy's son), Carla Yohe, Kathy Zadach, Janet Zupancic and those who struggle with job loss or job insecurity.

We remember those who grieve:

Chris Buell on the death of his grandfather, James Chance; Deanna Buell on the death of her grandfather, Heinz Lehs, Vicar Becky Dittenhafer on the death of her mother-in-law, Dorothy Dittenhafer; Dayna and Bill Mizikar and family on the death of Dayna's father, Howard Zimmer, Myke (Watterson) Jaros on the death of her daughter, Kim Bacchiochi.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please submit your request in writing and place in the offering plate, give to the secretary, or submit by e-mail.

LUTHERLYN

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events . . .

Fathers and Sons Day, September 2 and 3*

Crafty Lady's Getaway, September 5-11. Register by August 29.*

Wild Women Retreat for Mothers and Daughters, September 23-25. Register by September 12. Space is limited.*

"A time for all Seasons" Quilt Show, October 15 & 16*

SpiritFest (SWPA Synod junior high youth event), October 21-23

Fall Work Day, October 29. Register by October 19.

Family Halloween Fun, October 30. Register by October 21.*

Saturday Safari, November 5

Santa's Workshop Weekend, November 18-20. Register by November 11. Space is limited.*

Advent Retreat, December 2-4. Register by November 21.*

Visit Lutherlyn's website at www.lutherlyn.com for additional information.

**Brochures can be found on the bulletin board at the church.*

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Stewardship Update

Current Operating Expenses

*(includes the interest portion
of the mortgage payment)*

| | Actual Income | Actual Expense | Financial Position | Budgeted Expense |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| July 2011 | \$39,999 | \$32,162 | \$7,837 | \$33,884 |
| Year to Date | \$251,374 | \$235,113 | \$16,261 | \$241,067 |

Additional Outreach Offerings

| | July | Year to Date |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| India Health Center | \$128 | \$1,161 |
| World Hunger | \$260 | \$1,735 |
| Habitat for Humanity | \$0 | \$0 |
| Food Pantry + CROP Walk | \$0 | \$458 |
| Endowment | \$0 | \$10 |
| Darfur | \$20 | \$50 |
| Lutheran World Relief | \$0 | \$60 |
| Global Mission | \$0 | \$60 |
| Synod Disaster Fund (Africa) | \$265 | \$265 |
| Synod Disaster Fund (Haiti) | \$225 | \$495 |
| | <u>\$898</u> | <u>\$4,294</u> |

Building Fund

*(used to pay the principal portion
of the mortgage payment)*

| | Collected | Payment | Financial Position |
|--------------|-----------|----------|--------------------|
| July 2011 | \$4,612 | \$3,679 | \$933 |
| Year to Date | \$25,893 | \$25,602 | \$290 |

Balance in Building Fund Savings \$33,107

Thank you for your faithful support of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and its ministries!

FREE to GROW

in faith · in giving · in ministry

Our capital campaign to reduce our mortgage debt and free up funds for ministry begins in October. Watch for more in future bulletins and newsletters.

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

August 16, 2011

Most of us have a favorite month or time of year. Personally, I do like spring and fall, but am not particularly fond of the month of August.

It is a month of beginnings and endings – summer ends, as do vacations and the time allowed for relaxing on the deck or near a favorite body of water. But it also usually marks the end of heat waves. School begins – we are hurrying to buy school supplies and saying good-bye to college-bound children and those little ones off to kindergarten. So another stage of life begins. These beginnings and endings carry with them many difficult emotions. Separation can be hard to deal with and a sense of anxiety over the many changes often occurs.

Noah's Ark teachers have planned special opportunities to greet each child and new family as the new year is about to begin. Parent Orientation (September 7) and home visitations are just two options for easing the stress of the new preschool experience. Our staff is well-prepared to handle both the anxious preschooler and their parents. Some might respond, "What's the big deal? It's just preschool!" To this, I would respond, leaving my child with unfamiliar people and surroundings is a BIG deal. To help ease this transition we begin with abbreviated sessions and half the class comes at one time. During this time the parents can meet informally over coffee in the social hall, meeting new parents and feeling more comfortable with their child's new friends.

We are looking forward this year to introducing the children to the new features in their outdoor play space. Have you seen Andrew Sontag's wonderful gazebo that he completed for his Eagle Scout project? We are very excited about using it for stories, dramatic play, snacks and just hanging out. Another beautiful feature is the new entrance to the space provided by Cheryl Debowski and the work of her talented husband, Mike! We now enter the area through a fantastic wooden arbor. Thank you to Andrew and Mike for these awesome additions.

Our staff of educational consultants has increased this year with the addition of an art teacher, Jill Shanley, (recommended by Wendy Plank) and also two new teachers for our Stay & Play class. This will be led by Trina Pfansteil and Heidi Garner. We look forward to our church family meeting all of the preschool staff members when they are installed at the early church service on September 18.

Here's to the beginning of a new and exciting year, filled with God's blessings.



Gerda Moul, Director
Noah's Ark Preschool



MINISTRY SCHEDULE/SEPTEMBER 2011

| WORSHIP LEADER | September 4, 2011 | September 11, 2011 | | September 18, 2011 | | September 25, 2011 | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | Labor Day Weekend | Sunday School Begins at 10:00 AM | | | | | |
| | 10:00 AM | 9:00 AM | 11:00 AM | 9:00 AM | 11:00 AM | 9:00 AM | 11:00 AM |
| Acolytes | Madison and Megan Schwerzler | Anna and Anthony Pascarella | Chris and Nate Doughty | Amber and Thomas Antle | Chelsea and Lindsey Johnston | Brandon and Brittany Byer | Travis Harakal Megan Meissner |
| Lay Assistant | Christine Rotella | Mark Harris | Gary Milavec | Camille Bodnar | Carl Ruppel | Ken Rigby | Carolyn Eshelman |
| Lector | X | Jennifer Prevade | Maegan Bregenser | Sarah Barczak | Sue Gaugler | Soheila Lunney | Marlene McGaffic |
| Communion Assistants | Debbie Healey Langley Keith Lowery Ruth Ann Lowery Jamie McGoogan | Linda Blanker Donna Miller Kelly Romero Paul Romero | Chuck Benedict Jessica Benedict Ruth Brosky Martha Robb | Peggy Barczak Carole Beltz Beth Pansino Julia Pansino | Kim Chupinka Cindy Cox Doug Cox Sue Lambert | Lynne Barney Dee Hershberger Todd Miller Ruth Moodispaugh | Terry Divelbliss David Eshelman Lori Kees Phyllis Permar |
| Greeters | Dawna and Leonard Brigger | Alan and Carol Isiminger | Heather and Isabella Morelli | T. Zadach Conn Jeanne Zoellner | Kelly and Jeff Sofran | Shirley Dempster Martha Rhone | Harakal Family |
| Head Usher Ushers | Ron McGoogan Drew Lance Karla Lance Max Rush | Paul Prevade Joe Maize Kim Maize Donna Miller | Frank Morelli Art Alderson Frankie Morelli Dan Zebraskey | Joel Beltz Nichole Antle Tom Plank Wendy Plank | Charles Rajakumar Colin Chupinka Jake Martin Doug Meley | Clint Langley Mike Koerbel Amy Roy Dan Roy | Max Rush Darlene Davis Mavis Herring L. Razumic-Rushin |
| Head Teller Council Teller Assistant | Judy Pilof Lalitha Rajakumar Max Rush | | Barb Divelbliss Lalitha Rajakumar D. Healey Langley | | TBA Lalitha Rajakumar Mohylyn Yocca | | Carol Brandyberry Lalitha Rajakumar Mohylyn Yocca |
| Altar Guild | Dawna Brigger & Joyce Kilgore | Linda Blanker and Heather Morelli | | Sue Lambert and Becky Long | | Marlene McGaffic and Melissa Zanardelli | |
| Coffee Hour | | No Coffee Hour This Month | | | | | |

Please submit October schedule requests to the church office by September 15. Thank you.

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
105 Gateshead Drive
McMurray, PA 15317-3101

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

105 Gateshead Drive
McMurray, PA 15317-3101
724-941-7467

WORSHIP SERVICES

5:30 PM, SATURDAY
9:00 and 11:00 AM, SUNDAY
Childcare available from 8:45 AM-12:00 Noon

JOYFUL NOISE WORSHIP
1:00 PM-2nd Sunday of the month

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sept. - May)
10:00 AM, All Ages

THE REV. DR. ANN SCHMID
&
THE REV. STEVEN E. BROOME, PASTORS
724-941-7272 (home)

THE REV. JOHN F. YEDLICKA,
PASTOR EMERITUS

GERDA MOUL, DIRECTOR
NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL
724-942-6699

MARY HELEN BARR,
MUSIC DIRECTOR
412-833-0992 (home)

ELAINE DOLCICH,
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Office 724-941-7467
Fax 724-941-3262
E-mail: orlc@comcast.net
Website: <http://www.ourredeemer-peters.org>.

OUR VISION

The vision of Our Redeemer is to be a welcoming church where people of all ages and backgrounds will:

- encounter God in worship
- experience Christian community
- discover their God-given gifts
- grow in faith
- and be equipped for service and witness in God's world.