



FREE to GROW

**Ministry Opportunities
2011-2012**

Welcome...

to the ministry opportunities that are available through Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. In the pages of this booklet you will find a variety of ways you can use your God-given skills and talents and time to enrich the ministry offered here and to serve others beyond the walls of the congregation.

Because the starting point for our lives is God's love for us, before we can do anything to earn it, our lives become a response to that love. We freely share all that God has given us - our selves, our time and our possessions.

In 1 Corinthians 12, St. Paul tells us that God gives a variety of gifts to people, but every gift is given for the good of the whole community. That doesn't just mean the community of the congregation - it means Peters Township and Washington County and the world. We all have something to offer when it comes to sharing God's word and doing God work in the world. "God's work. Our hands." isn't just a slogan on the side of our building. It's how we live as God's people in the church and in the world.

Take a look through this booklet. Take one home with you if you wish. When you find a ministry or activity that you are interested in, just fill out a Ministry Opportunities form in the envelope section of the pew rack or contact a pastor or the church office. We'll get you connected with the right people or group.

And, if there is a ministry you are interested in, but don't see it listed here, talk to one of the pastors. We'll be glad to help you get it started.

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WORSHIP and MUSIC

If you are new to the congregation, one of the fastest and easiest ways to meet people and get involved is through serving as a greeter.

The Worship Leader schedule is put together by our office administrator and printed in the newsletter. Additionally, a reminder is sent out during the week, along with any readings or prayers. If you have a conflict with your assigned time, just let the office know and a substitute will be found for you.

ACOLYTE - Youth 5th grade and older 6-8 times a year
Training is provided during First Communion classes held each October or individually. Acolytes light the candles and carry the cross.

GREETER - All ages 20 minutes several times a year
Greet people as they enter the sanctuary (worship area). Families may greet together or individuals will be teamed with another person.

LECTOR - Youth and adults about 6 times a year
Read the first lesson. It is sent to you ahead of time (and a pronunciation guide is included).

LAY ASSISTANT - Confirmed youth and adults about 6 times a year
Sit up front with the pastors, read the second lesson and some prayers, and assist with the distribution of communion. Training is provided individually.

COMMUNION ASSISTANT - Confirmed youth & adults 6 times a year
Share the wine with people during communion. Training is provided individually. Four are needed at each Sunday service.

USHER - Youth and adults once a month
Hand out bulletins, assist with seating, collect the offering and guide people to communion. Younger children may usher with a parent. Four are needed at each Sunday service.

WORSHIP PLANNING - Youth and adults 1 or 2 meetings
Assist in planning special services or seasons.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE - Youth & adults 6 meetings a year
Plan and oversee the worship life of the congregation.

CHANCEL CHOIR - High school youth and adults weekly rehearsal
Rehearse Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30. Sing at the 11:00 service on Sundays except for summer break.

WORSHIP TEAM - High school youth and adults as available
Rotating teams of 3-4 rehearses and leads 9:00 Sunday worship. Audition with the Music Director so that teams can be made up of voices that work well together.

INSTRUMENTALIST as available
Play an instrument? Provide special music for worship.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER - Confirmed youth and adults as available
Serve alongside the paid childcare provider during Sunday worship or Sunday School.

BELL CHOIR - Youth and adults seasonal
Be part of the bell choir that plays in worship occasionally. Practice seasonally. Ability to read music and a good sense of rhythm is helpful.

ALTAR GUILD - Youth and adults 10 times a year
Care for the paraments, vestments and banners that visualize the church year with colors and symbols. Set up and clean up communion.

LENTEN SUPPER ORGANIZER - Adult 5 evenings a year
Organize the suppers on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

FELLOWSHIP

Assisting with an event is a great way for newer members to get to know people. Find an event that interests you and sign up. Additionally, there are always sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for upcoming events.

COFFEE HOUR - Adults or families 2 hours a year
Two or three people host the coffee hour held on the second Sunday of the month at 10:00 in the Social Hall. Provide food, set up, serve, and clean up. Instructions, coffee and paper products provided.

DINING DIVAS - Adults 6 times a year
Choose and make reservations at a restaurant for our women's group that goes out to eat every other month.

ASSIST WITH AN EVENT - time commitment varies
Each of these are one time events, and require people to plan, organize, set-up, clean up, publicize, sometimes decorate.

Some of our annual events include:

Congregational Dinner *family event held in late January*
Easter Egg Hunt *children's event held Saturday before Easter*
Easter Breakfast *family event held between services on Easter*
Summer Baseball Game *family trip to a Wild Things ball game*
Church Picnic *family event held in late August*
Oktoberfest *adult event held in autumn*
Progressive Dinner *adult event held in December*
Breakfast at the Manger *children/family event Sunday before Christmas*

RUMMAGE SALE - Adults two weeks
We hold a rummage sale whenever there is someone who wants to organize it. It's held in the summer.

FELLOWSHIP & SUPPORT COMMITTEE - Youth & adults 12 hrs/yr
Meets about 4 times a year and provides leadership for events and programs.

SUPPORT

FUNERAL LUNCHEON - Adults 3-5 hours

Provide a fellowship meal after a funeral. Work with others to purchase food, set up, serve and clean up. Costs reimbursed and detailed instructions provided.

MEALS FOR HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED - Adults as needed

Make and deliver one meal for a family experiencing hardship due to illness or hospitalization.

VISITS TO FAMILIES WITH NEW BABIES - Adults as needed

Take a bag of good things for the baby and family and offer support and encouragement. We've found this to be a great job for retired nurses.

PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION - Adults as needed

Based on your availability and people's needs, provide transportation for an elderly member to a church event, doctor's office, etc.

EMERGENCY BABYSITTING - Adults as needed

Based on your availability, provide babysitting at unexpected times, for instance, when a family has to take one child to the hospital and there are other children at home.

VISITS TO THE HOMEBOUND - Adults as available

Periodically visit a member who is not able to get out of the house. Help them feel connected to their congregational family. Frequency is based on your availability and their need.

NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS TEAM - Youth & adults 3 meetings, 3 gatherings a year

Plan ways to welcome and incorporate new members, including a lunch gathering for those who have recently joined, 3 times a year at noon on a Sunday.

NEW MEMBERS SPONSOR - Adults & families about 1 hour a month

Intentionally get to know 4 new member families a year, and invite them to join you at events and in ministry opportunities.

PROPERTY

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN - Adults 2 hours/week

This group of retirees meets Wednesday mornings to do odd jobs around the church building.

CLEAN-UP DAY - All ages 2 mornings a year

Spring and fall a day is scheduled to clean-up the church property.

LAWN MOWING - Older youth and adults 1 or more times a summer

Mow the church lawn. A riding tractor and lawn mower are provided. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board each spring so you can choose your week.

GARDEN TENDING - All ages as needed

Choose a small gardened or landscaped plot to keep free of weeds during the summer. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board each spring so you can choose your plot.

MAINTENANCE SKILLS - Adults as needed

Skills and expertise are occasionally needed for such things as carpentry, plumbing and painting for church projects.

COMPUTERS

TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW - Youth and adults as needed

Help us solve occasional problems with our computers and network or provide advice about equipment and programs.

WEBSITE ASSISTANCE - Youth or adults as needed

We are always trying to improve our website, but don't always know how to do so.

ADMINISTRATION

CRADLE ROLL - Adults 1 hour a month

From your home, at your convenience, send periodic mailings to several congregational children from birth to age 3. All material and stamps provided.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - Adults 2-3 hours a month

This is a great job for a puzzle-lover. We give you the names of people who are willing to do each job, dates when they are available, and any other particular things to consider, and you put together the ministry schedule for the newsletter each month. It needs to be done by the 15th of each month. Finding substitutes is not your job - that's done through the office. Can be done at home or the church office, though you'll want to be able to consult with the Office Administrator the first couple times you do it.

BULK MAILINGS - Adults as available

Apply labels, seals, stuff and sort bulk mailings sent from the church. You can help as often as works for your schedule. It's also helpful to have someone take the mailing to the post office sometimes.

DATA ENTRY - Adults as available

Occasionally enter data (for instance, from Ministry Opportunities forms) into data base on the computer in the office workroom. Done during office hours so the Office Administrator is available for questions and clarification.

WEDDING COORDINATOR - Adults time varies with each wedding

This is a paid position. The coordinator works with the pastor and bride and groom to coordinate wedding details and needs before and on the day of the wedding.

LIBRARY

LIBRARY ASSISTANT - Youth and adults 2-4 hours a month

Assist the librarian with such tasks as cataloging new materials, entering catalogue additions and deletions, arranging displays showing library materials available for church seasons, and visiting Sunday School classrooms to introduce children and youth to materials.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Many Outreach and Service projects are ideal family activities.

WASHINGTON MISSION MEALS - All ages 1-2 hours

Provide meals for homeless in Washington, PA. Prepare a dish in pan provided on the church lobby windowsill, and leave it in the church freezer. You may also volunteer to deliver meals to the Mission.

FAMILY PROMISE - All ages 2 hours - overnight

(formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network)

Assist local churches in providing shelter to temporarily homeless families in our community. We have need for van drivers, dinner hosts, dessert hosts, and overnight hosts (adult volunteers only). The families are housed at Trinity United Methodist Church on Center Church Road. More details are available on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the church office. Our congregation serves in this capacity four times a year. Sign up on the Ministry Opportunities form to have someone contact you with more information.

OPERATION SAFETY NET - All ages 5 minutes - overnight

Operation Safety Net provides street medicine and support to the homeless of Pittsburgh. People of all ages can purchase socks anytime or bring bag lunches to the church refrigerator on Tuesdays. Adults can serve as a host at a winter overnight shelter in Pittsburgh (training provided), and youth and adults can volunteer for the annual Operation Stand-Down. Details are on the bulletin board by the water fountain. Sign up on the Ministry Opportunities form to have someone contact you with more information.

WASHINGTON COUNTY CARING CONNECTION-Adults 1-2 hours a month

Assist with the start-up of this new ministry to connect people in need with the services they need. Planning team members are needed at this time.

SERVICE TRIPS - Youth and Adults 1 day - 1 week

Travel to work in an area of need, rebuilding and cleaning up communities. Local day trips and week-long trips to other areas are offered each year. Sign up on the Ministry Opportunities form to have someone contact you with more information. In 2011 we went to McKeesport and New Orleans.

MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS - Adults 1 day a week

Deliver meals to elderly shut-ins.

MEALS ON WHEELS BAKERS - All ages as available

Provide baked goods for meals - recipes provided.

INDIA MISSION - All ages 1 minute - 1 week

Support schools in rural India, a mission overseen by the brother of one of our members. You can provide financial support by putting money in the basket in the back of the sanctuary.

We are planning our first work trip to the Mission in 2014. You can plan to go or help support those who do travel there. Sign up on the Ministry Opportunities form to have someone contact you with more information. (For 2011-2012 our children's Sunday School offering is going to provide a playground for the schools.)

FAIR TRADE FAIR - Youth and adults 12-15 hours

This sale of items made by and supporting people in poverty throughout the world takes place in the autumn every other year. The next sale will be in 2012. Throughout the year you can support Fair Trade by buying coffee, tea and chocolate available in the lobby.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR GLADE RUN - All ages a few hours
(**Angel Tree**)

Provide Christmas gifts to children living at Glade Run, a Lutheran facility in Zelenople providing residential care and therapy to children in need. We need people to organize the gift list, create a bulletin board display, organize the gifts after they are received, and deliver them to Glade Run. All members of the congregation are invited to purchase gifts in mid-November to early December.

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACKS - All ages 1 hour - 1 morning

Each August the whole congregation is invited to purchase backpacks or school supplies. We need people to pack the backpacks and deliver them to several homeless shelters.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES - All ages 1-2 hours

In late January, the congregation is asked to bring snacks and write notes that can fill boxes to be sent to our college students to let them know they are still part of our church family. We need people to pack those boxes the Sunday before the Super Bowl and people to take them to the Post Office.

PETERS TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY- Adults ½ day - 1 day a month

Throughout the year members of Our Redeemer are asked to bring food for the Food Pantry. A collection box is in the lobby. We need people to help with the monthly distribution.

OUTREACH & SERVICE COMMITTEE - Youth & adults 12-18 hrs/yr

Attend meetings for planning and participate in activities.

GREEN TEAM

GREEN TEAM MEMBER - Youth and adults 1-2 hours a month
Meet to plan how to promote awareness and help our congregation recycle, re-use and save energy.

POSTER MAKER - Youth or adults as needed
Make informational posters as needed.

RECYCLER - Youth and adults or families as needed
Gather recyclable material in church and take to the curb on Sunday mornings. Facilitate gathering of recyclable materials at church gatherings.

EDUCATION

All members of Our Redeemer are encouraged to grow as disciples through reading and learning about the Bible and how it applies to our lives. Watch the newsletters and bulletins for specific classes and events that are offered.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM - Youth and adults 4 hours a year
Plan and oversee Christian education opportunities for all ages.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER - 10th grade - adults 2 hours a week
Sunday School is held September through May, 10:00-10:45. Class preparation takes about an hour each week. Teams of teachers are assigned to each class, so you don't have to teach every week.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPER - 10th grade - adults 1 hour a week
Assist Sunday School teachers during class. You don't have to help every week.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT - Adults varies
Oversee and assist the operation of Sunday School, recruit teachers and helpers, order materials. Can be done by two people.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM - Youth and adults 10-12 hours
Help organize and carry out the Sunday School's outdoor living nativity, presented the 2nd weekend of December.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

(CO)DIRECTOR - Adults 12 hrs/month May-July, more during VBS
Plan for and oversee Vacation Bible School, usually held the first week of August.

ADULT and TEEN HELPERS 3 hours a day for the 4 days of VBS
We need people to tell stories, lead music, make snacks, do crafts, play games, staff the nursery, escort children from station to station and other things. Preparation time is needed if you are leading a station.

CHILDREN and YOUTH

Ministry opportunities for children and youth can be found throughout this booklet. This is a listing for those who want to work with children and youth.

FIRST FRIDAYS HELPER - Youth and adults 2 hours
Our Kindergarten - 2nd grade group meets once a month (usually the first Friday) for pizza, Bible stories and time together. Pastor Broome provides the leadership. We need one adult or youth to help each month.

BIG KIDS HELPER - Youth and adults 2 hours - overnight
The 3rd - 6th grade group gathers monthly for activities or overnight retreats at the church. We always need one or two extra adults to stay overnight or help with activities.

YOUTH GROUP HELPER - Adults 2 hours - overnight
The 7th-12th graders meet monthly for activities or overnight retreats at the church. We always need one or two extra adults to stay overnight or help with activities. Also, there are monthly Lutheran Youth Organization events throughout the synod that kids need to be transported to.

CITIZENS WITH THE SAINTS - Adults 4 hours - one week
As our youth prepare to attend the national youth gathering in New Orleans in July, 2012, we need adults to help with fund-raising activities and to attend "Citizens with the Saints".

CROSSROADS CONFIRMATION MENTOR - Adults 8-10 hrs/yr
Listen and share with 7th-9th graders in a small group setting.

YOUTH HUNGER RETREAT - Adults 24 hours
Join our youth in their annual fast to raise money for those who hunger.

PRAYER

The monthly newsletter and the weekly bulletin list people who are in need of prayer. The Prayer Chain is a smaller list that is sent out periodically, usually for time-sensitive needs.

PRAYER CHAIN - Youth and adults 1-2 hours a week
Pray for those in need, especially those who are grieving and facing critical health needs. You can receive the prayer chain by email or mail.

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARD FOR STEWARDSHIP - Adult 2 days
Become a Steward for Stewardship for our congregation. The synod provides two days of training a year for people who want to help strengthen their congregation's stewardship program. Stewards are given both a strong Biblical foundation and practical program ideas.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Adult 8-10 hours a year
This committee is responsible for year-long stewardship education and the annual response program each fall.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM PLANNER - Youth & adults 4 hrs/yr
Work with the committee to creatively plan the 2012 fall stewardship response program.

EVANGELISM

UNOFFICIAL GREETER - Youth and adults 5 minutes a week
When visitors come to worship, they are met at the door by the official greeters. But we also need people who can make a point of seeking out visitors and talking to them. If the pastors are aware of visitors, they will point them out to you.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE - Youth and Adults 2 hours quarterly
Help us develop a stronger, more intentional evangelism program.

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

OFFICE ASSISTANT - Adult

2 ½ hours a week

Assist the preschool office with filing, collating and such tasks once a week during the school year.

CLASSROOM HELPERS - Adult

2 ½ hours a week

Assist in preschool classes with the needs of children and teachers during the school year.

SHOW AND TELL - Adult

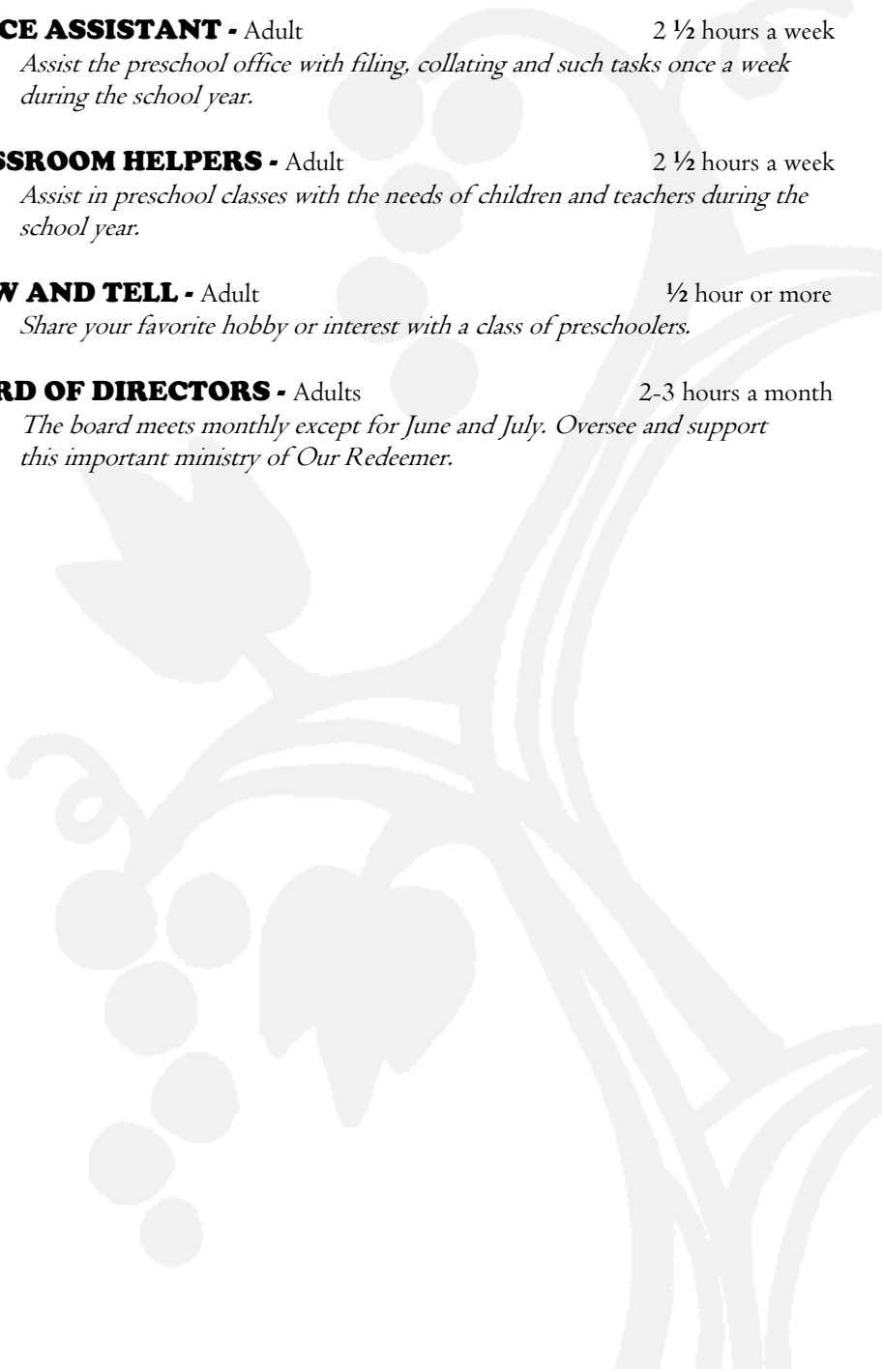
½ hour or more

Share your favorite hobby or interest with a class of preschoolers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Adults

2-3 hours a month

The board meets monthly except for June and July. Oversee and support this important ministry of Our Redeemer.



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