



The Focus

January 2023

The season of Christmas is followed by Epiphany Day on January 6. This church festival marks the arrival of the magi, whose story is found in Matthew 2:1-12. Despite their depiction in popular carols, they were likely not kings or even wise men, but Persian astrologers and mystics who traveled far to worship the Christ child. Their journey was guided by the words of the prophets and the light of a star.

After a brief detour to Jerusalem and an audience with King Herod, the magi finally found the holy family. They knelt in homage before the Christ child, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. After their visit, the magi were supposed to return home by way of Jerusalem, so that they could tell King Herod where he might find the baby king and pay him homage, too. Instead, the magi were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and so left for their own country by another road.

There are many times in life that we must change routes and travel home by another road. Sometimes the change in course is welcome, allowing us to meet up with a friend or see something new. At other times, the detours catch us by surprise, leaving us stressed and anxious as we scramble to find an alternate path.

As a congregation, we are preparing to travel by a different road this year. At the end of January, we will say farewell to Pastor Schmid after almost 22 years of ministry at Our Redeemer, and our paths will diverge. At the beginning of February, we will welcome Pastors Kevin and Martha Clementson into the role of Interim Senior Pastors. I am looking forward to partnering with them as life and ministry at Our Redeemer continues, and we discern together as pastors and congregation what God is calling us to next.

The path forward is not certain, but we know that we are not alone in our journey. We walk together, bringing with us our experiences from the past, and our hopes for the future. Most importantly, God's faithful, steady presence guides and protects us, just as the magi were guided to the Christ child and home again.

With hope,

Pastor Kerri

Dear church family,

After my retirement, Steve and I will no longer be present in the congregation. Nor will we be available to serve in any pastoral role. This is our choice, both because it is both ethical and because it is the synod guideline. Former pastors are expected to leave because they either meddle and cause problems, or their presence makes it hard for the congregation to transition to their new pastor. Out of love for Our Redeemer we have no intention of doing either of those things. We also expect to move near our son and daughter-in-law in Ohio within a year.

Some of you have asked about how Pastor Yedlicka was able to remain in the congregation after retirement. Those of you who were around then will remember that he completely removed himself from congregational life for a couple years, to allow me time to move into the pastoral role. After that time away, he was able to return and serve among us mainly in a teaching role. And he has never meddled. On the contrary, his presence has been a support and blessing for me.

So, with my retirement Our Redeemer will say a real "good-bye" to a pastor for the first time in 45 years. That's hard, but it is also the right thing to do. And Steve and I will leave you in the hands of three amazing pastors.

With much love,

Pastor Schmid

WORSHIP

On December 31 at 5:30 and January 1 at 10:00 our worship will be a service of lessons and carols. While this is what we have often done on the weekend after Christmas, this year's service will be a bit different from previous ones. All the carols we will sing are American. How many American carols can you name...not Christmas songs, but carols about the birth of Jesus? We'll hear the Christmas story (and Epiphany story), reflect on the Scripture, and learn a bit of history about the carols.

Reminder - there will be only one service on New Year's Day, at 10:00.

Annual Congregational Meeting January 22, 2023 10:00 AM between Sunday services

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22 at 10:00 AM. Copies of the annual report will be available on January 20. All Committee Reports are due into the church office no later than January 9. Included on the agenda for the annual meeting is Election of Council Members, Election of Endowment Board Members, Approval of the 2023 budget and changes to the Bylaws of the Mission Endowment Fund.



The church office will be closed on
Monday, January 2.

Noah's Ark Preschool will be on break
through January 2.

SAVE THE DATE!

Pastor Ann Schmid has announced her retirement beginning February 1, 2023. On Sunday, January 29, Bishop Kusserow will join us for worship in the morning, with a retirement party at 3:00 PM in our social hall. Pastor Schmid has lovingly and professionally ministered to our individual and congregational needs for more than 20 years, and to synod congregations for almost 38 years. Come join in a celebration of gratitude, happiness and hope for our remarkable Pastor! Be sure to check the weekly bulletins for updated information regarding help in making this event a memorable one. Feel free to contact party coordinators Suzanne Kennedy (412-337-9267, pipermoran@comcast.net), Kim Maize (724-986-1527, jkmaize251@comcast.net) and Pastor Kerri (724-603-5589, rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com) for more information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Worship</i>	2
<i>Annual Congregational Meeting</i>	2
<i>Celebrating Pastor Schmid's Retirement</i>	2-3
<i>Breakfast at the Manger</i>	4
<i>Christmas Decorations Donations</i>	5
<i>Children and Youth</i>	6
<i>Member News</i>	7
<i>Recipes from the Advent Soup Supper</i>	7
<i>Christian Education</i>	8
<i>Fellowship</i>	8
<i>College News</i>	8
<i>Noah's Ark Preschool</i>	8
<i>Service & Social Ministry</i>	9
<i>Library</i>	9
<i>In Our Prayers</i>	10
<i>Stewardship</i>	10
<i>Ministry Schedule</i>	11



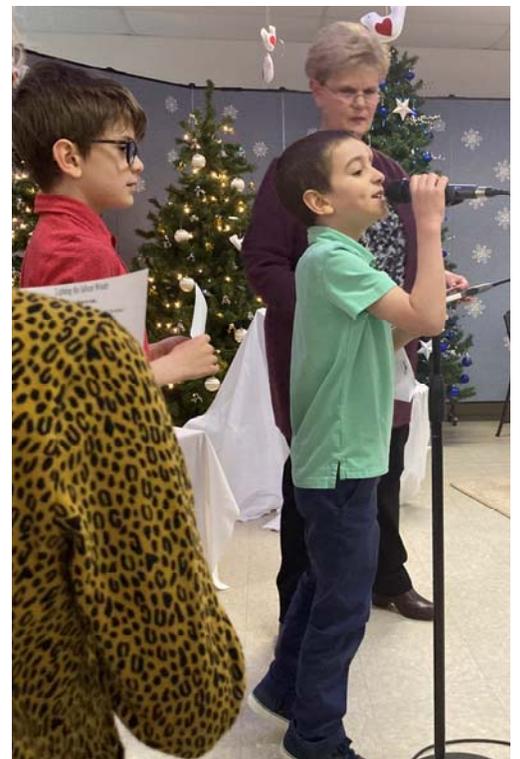
JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
THE MINISTRY OF

The Rev. Dr. Ann Schmid

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

3PM

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
SOCIAL HALL



*Breakfast at
the Manger*

2022



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Donations for Christmas Decorations

The Barczak Family in memory of our parents Harry and Jo-Anne Thieret , John and Connie Barczak
 The Barczak Family in memory of brother, John C. Barczak
 Jim Beaumont in memory of Bernadette Wittman
 Jim Beaumont in memory of Matthew Wittman
 Linda Blanker in honor of my grandchildren
 Missy Bookhammer in memory of Tom McCollum
 Missy Bookhammer in honor of the Wold Family
 Dave and Tina Borra in thanksgiving for good health, family, and friends
 Carol Brandyberry in memory of Ed Handshue
 Maegan and Jim Bregenser, Jr. in honor of our children: Hardy and Amanda Kern-Carberry, Kelsey Kern and Patrick Gallagher, Jimmy Bregenser, Mary Bregenser, and Leah Kern
 Ruth Brosky in memory of loved ones
 Brian and Laura Casper in celebration of our Savior's birth
 Grace and Jacob Casper in thanksgiving for our wonderful Grandma
 Pastor Kevin and Pastor Martha Clementson in memory of Helen and Clarence Clementson
 Pastor Kevin and Pastor Martha Clementson in memory of The Rev. Gilson C. and Lois Waldkoenig
 Larry and Patti Day in memory of Margaret and Yutie Vukovcan
 Larry and Patti Day in memory of Marty and Richard Day
 Mike and Cheryl Debowski in thanksgiving for the promise of Christmas
 The Divelbliss Family in memory of Terry L. Divelbliss
 Janet Elliott in memory of Norman W. Elliott
 Janet Elliott in memory of Dorothy Uhlemann
 Dylan and Delanie George in memory of Albert Brown and Edith Brown
 Karen Glass in memory of my father, Larry Wagner
 Shar and Ed Hancock in memory of Edward and Patty Hancock
 Shar and Ed Hancock in memory of Irene Sherman
 Jennifer Wilson Hewitt in loving memory of her dear parents, Paul and Beverly Wilson
 Dan, Becky, Isaac, and Owen Hilderhoff in memory of Lavinia Lehman
 Dan, Becky, Isaac, and Owen Hilderhoff in memory of Anna Heasley
 Leigh Ann Izzi in celebration of Pastor Schmid
 Keith, Courtney and Aubrie Kartman in memory of Angie Kazmeraski
 Jean Mace in memory of Bill Mace
 Ginny Mickitsch in memory of John Mickitsch
 Ginny Mickitsch in memory of Mark and Judy Dubich
 John and Nancy Mizia in celebration of our wonderful family
 Larry and Gerda Moul in honor and in gratitude for our children and grandchildren
 Phyllis J. Permar in memory of my parents, Myrtle and Harry Johnson
 Phyllis J. Permar in memory of my husband, Edward J. Permar, Jr.
 Alan and Donna Schaefer in memory of Grant Schaefer
 Bob and Carol Shader in memory of Detta Shader
 Bob and Carol Shader in memory of George and Antoinette Ranii
 Fred and Barb Smith in memory of our parents: Fred and Lois Smith, Howard and Betty Schumacher
 Fred and Barb Smith in thanksgiving for our grandchildren: Olivia, Wyatt, Landon, Liam, Gunnar and Summerlee
 Sharon Snyder in memory of family and friends
 Larry and Susan Steffick in memory of Paul and Vica Steffick
 Larry and Susan Steffick in memory of Charles and Emma Mayer
 Jim and Kathy Tomamichel in celebration of our grandchildren Dylan and Beckham

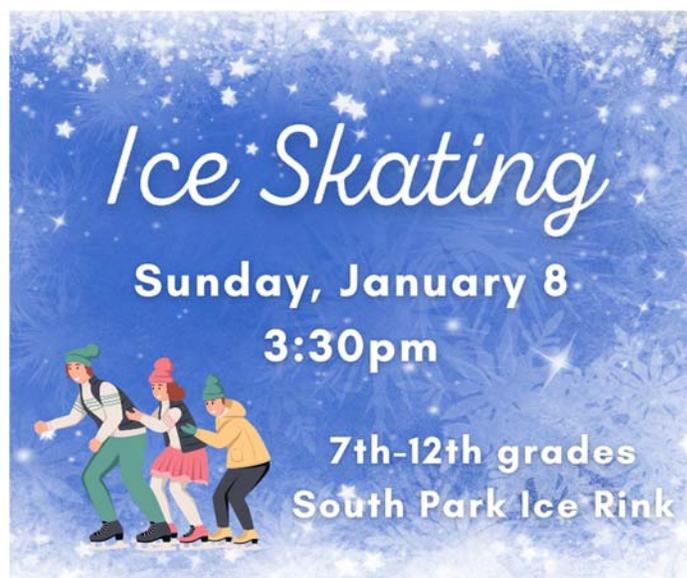
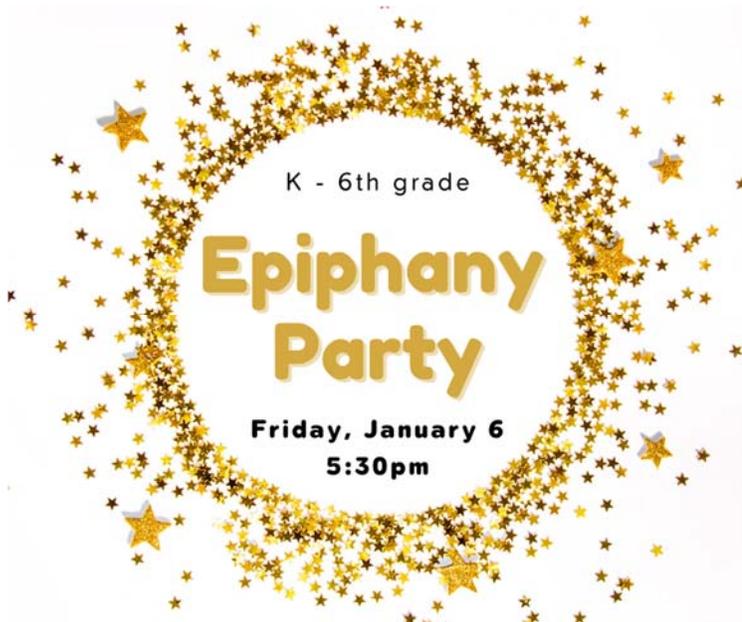
Thank You!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Epiphany Party – K-6th graders and their families are invited to bring your dinner and join us on **Friday, January 6 at 5:30 PM** for a story, scavenger hunt, and games as we celebrate Epiphany and learn about the Magi visiting baby Jesus! Sign up on the bulletin board or online.

Youth Ice Skating – 7th-12th graders - join Pastor Kerri for ice skating at the South Park Ice Rink on **Sunday, January 8 from 3:30-5 PM**. Note that the session goes from 3-6pm if you want to stay longer! Sign up on the bulletin board or online.

Youth Group – 7th-12th graders - we'll gather on **Sunday, January 22 from 4:30-6:15PM** to cook and eat dinner together (tacos!) and play games! Crossroads students should plan to stay for class at 6:30 PM. Sign up on the bulletin board or online.



7th-12th grades

Youth Group

Sunday, January 22 at 4:30pm



We'll cook and eat dinner together (tacos!) and play games! Crossroads students should plan to stay for class at 6:30pm.

MEMBER NEWS

New Member

Pastor Debra Thompson, 1400 Main St Apt 328,
Canonsburg 15317-6811

Welcome to Our Redeemer!

Recently Baptized

On Saturday, December 17 we welcomed through the
Sacrament of Baptism, Amelia Mary Beckman,
daughter of Anthony Charles Beckman and Rachel
Anne Blistan Beckman.

Welcome child of God!

New Arrival

Georgia Grace, daughter of Rob and Maggie (Barr)
Sheffer was born on Monday, December 12, and
weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces. She is sister to 4-year-
old (almost 5) Maria and 2-year-old Amelia,
granddaughter to Mary Helen and Dave Barr.

Congratulations to all!

United in Marriage

Lexie Luba and Colin Chupinka were married on
October 22 in Volant, PA. They are living in North
Strabane. (this was inadvertently omitted from last
month's newsletter)

Congratulations and best wishes!

RECIPES FROM THE ADVENT SOUP SUPPER

The two favorite recipes from the event

Chicken Corn Soup

16 lb. roasting chicken cut into pieces if desired (tend to
pull off most of the skin and excess fat)

1 large onion
3 stalks of celery
salt and pepper

1 pint chopped celery
1 pint chopped onion
2 1/2 lbs frozen white corn (really, any kind of corn works)
6 bouillon cubes

1 lb of noodles

Begin by cooking chicken with the onion, celery, salt and
pepper. Use enough water to cover the chicken well. Bring
to a boil, skimming foam from top of stock. Cook until
meat is tender. The longer you cook it the better!

Remove meat and strain broth. Discard the onion and
celery. Cool the chicken, bone and cut it into bite-size
pieces. (If you cook it for a longer time, it will begin to
shred itself!)

Return stock to pot and bring to a boil. Add bouillon,
celery, onion and corn. Add water as you desire (add
additional water and chicken bouillon if desired). When
the onion and celery are soft, add the chicken.

Meanwhile, cook the noodles separately in chicken
broth. Bring them to al dente. Drain the noodles and add to
the soup. (I use any kind of noodles that I have around,
however, I personally have found thin noodles to do well.)

Notes...I find this soup to be very forgiving. You can use
chicken, noodles, and corn from what you have on
hand. Add bouillon if you need more flavor!

*Soup prepared and recipe submitted by Martha
Clementson.*

Taco Soup

Ingredients:

1.5lb ground beef
1 package taco seasoning
1 14.5oz can Ranch Style Beans (can use pinto)
1 14.5oz can cream style corn
1 14.5oz can regular corn, undrained
1 can Rotel (chopped), undrained
1 14.5oz can stewed tomatoes

Directions:

Brown ground beef in dutch oven, stir to crumble, drain
Add all ingredients, cook through
Top with grated cheddar

Soup prepared and recipe submitted by Sara Casile.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Crossroads – Crossroads Confirmation will meet for class on Sunday, January 22 at 6:30 PM.

FELLOWSHIP

Young Adult Gathering – Young adults (age 18-25ish) are invited to meet Pastor Kerri for dinner on **Tuesday, January 3 at 6PM** at El Campesino (4093 Washington Rd, McMurray). Sign up on the bulletin board or online.

COLLEGE NEWS

College Students

Once again we are collecting snacks and goodies to send to our college students in time for the Super Bowl. Individually wrapped items can be dropped off at the church through January 29. Donations to cover the cost of shipping will also be accepted. **College students** ...please make sure that the church office has your current address.

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

A new year is upon us! In the preschool, it's the middle of our school year, as our new year begins in September. When we return to school after our break, our children and teachers will remain in the same loving groups we've been in since September. Symbolically though, we tend to use this time to revisit what guides us here and what makes us different than other preschools. What do we value in our interactions with children and families? We are heavily focused, at Noah's Ark, on kindness and love. We want children to leave here with a full slate of book knowledge that includes letter recognition, counting and being good scientific questioners. But above all of that, we want them to know how to care for one another. To know the ripple affect of their kindness and that no amount of love shared is too small. We want them to leave here with the words to express their feelings and the strength to be able to stand up for themselves and for others when they see injustice around them. We know that sounds lofty and that sometimes life is just too hard to focus on all of that. We want them to know that too. That sometimes, things will be hard and that grace is needed for both our friends and for ourselves. So, in our new year, we will revisit and renew our commitment to be the love that children need, so that they may be that love to the world.

As we look ahead to all that is to come in this new calendar year, we look forward to sharing our school days with our families at Bagels with a Buddy and our Parent/Teacher conferences. We are also busy preparing for registration for the Fall! We will begin registering current families on January 23, with church and alumni families registering January 24 and new families welcomed on January 30. As registration approaches, I welcome lots of interested families and children into our building for tours of our fabulous preschool. It's always fun to brag about our school and our incredible teachers as we walk through the building. I would like to welcome you to come by for a personal tour as well!

Miss Heidi



SERVICE & SOCIAL MINISTRY

Used Christmas Cards Collection

Please bring the fronts of your used Christmas cards to church and place in the box on the windowsill. These cards are used by a group that gives hygiene kits to people living in poverty in WV, KY, VA and Southern OH as part of the Appalachian Outreach. They only can use the front of the cards and NO envelopes. Please do not donate Santa cards or those with handwritten messages. Thank you for helping with this project and for remembering our Appalachian neighbors in need!

Day of Service for all ages Martin Luther King, Jr Day—January 16

Join us at 10:00 AM on January 16 to make meals for City Mission. Ways to help: Monetary Donations for the meals, cooking the meals, and delivering them sometime that week. Sign up to cook or deliver on the bulletin board.

Thank You to all who donated to the ELCA Good Gifts

Your generous gifts are making a difference in the world—responding to hunger and poverty, sharing the gospel, equipping leaders and growing the church. We sent a total of \$830 and it will be matched by ELCA Good Gifts.

Item	Quantity	Total
Honeybees	10	\$200
Goat	4	\$200
Piglet	6	\$180
Latrine	1	\$150
Feed 50 people at a soup kitchen	1	\$100
Total		\$830

Thank you to all who gave gifts for the Washington County Children & Youth Services



and thank you to Kristie Chestney for driving the gifts down.

LIBRARY

Free books from the church library will be available in January

Due to the generosity of Pastors Schmid and Broome, the library has been doing triage to make room for the newly acquired books. The books will be displayed on tables in the narthex for you to add to your own book collection after the holidays. Remaining books will be donated to Half Price Books at Village Square. Please be sure to make your selection early in January! Also a volunteer is needed to update the Library Book list next year. If you are willing to help with this project, please contact Phyllis Permar. The current booklist is digitally stored to make an update easier. Thank you for your help!

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

George Andrewson, Carol Ausefski, Edith Bencic, Chuck and Rosalind Bieri, Ruth Brosky, Cindy Cox, Dorothy Dillemath, Kerri Evans, Martha Fecher, Richard and Lori Gajdowski, Ray Hrabar, Mandy Jarosh, Gary McGaffic, Marilyn Melvin, Casey Moran on his deployment, Tim Roberts, and Kathy Russman.

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

Chris, Doug, Kate, Sam, George Andrewson Sr., Marjorie Appleton, Larry Arch, Sandi Babbie, Bob Bell, Todd Brosky, Wendy Brosky, Doug Bush, Tom Caley, Carolyn Dagg, Ellen Deutsch, D. T. Emery, Kim Gaydos, Catie Geory, Ian Gonzalez, Norma Gower, Marion Greenland, Lisa Grimes, Mickey Gubitti, Robert Hildebrand, Bob Hohowski, Joyce Hough, Ray Keisling, June Lance, Gordon and Diane Ley, Jess Ley, Elizabeth Locher, Mildred Maize, Megan Meseck, Jolie Mihalik, Chuck Miller, Owen Miller, Adam Miskow, Linda Moeslein, Dolores Munsick, Beth Napolitano, Kathy Oberle, Brad Olson, Jean Orth, Tracey Perles, Dave Provenzano, Cyndi Quinn, Phyllis Rhone, Betty and Frank Rively, Jeanie Rose, Joe Sarubbi, Dave Schrader, Meryl Severson, Bob Shader, Holly Shader, Karol Smith, Donna Stafford, Diane Steffick, Dan Stimmel, Gary Stinson, Andrew Straka, Terri Strawn, Tina Thielet, Deb Thompson, Barb Van Lehn, Art W., Dave Weikel, Rhianna Wilk, and Frank Yocca.

We remember those who grieve:

Gerda Moul and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Bernie Solo; and Martha Rhone and family on the death of her mother, Mary Rhone.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please submit your request in writing and place in the offering plate, drop off in the church office, or submit by e-mail to orlc@comcast.net. Please help to keep this list current by contacting the church office when someone can be removed from the list.

STEWARDSHIP ~ HOW ARE WE DOING?

Year to Date as of November 2022

	This Year			Last Year		
	Current	Building	Total	Current	Building	Total
Income	\$437,546	\$53,271	\$490,817	\$414,439	\$46,240	\$460,679
Expenses	\$426,095		\$426,095	\$378,276		\$378,276
Surplus (deficit)	\$11,451	\$53,271	\$64,722	\$36,163	\$46,240	\$82,403
Surplus (deficit)			\$64,722			\$82,403

Other Outreach Offerings	Year to Date
Abiding Missions	\$1260
City Mission Food Pantry	\$978
City Mission	\$45
ELCA World Hunger	\$4545
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$2,315
Gods Work Our Hands	\$30
India Mission	\$294
Lutheran World Relief	\$420
	\$9887

MINISTRY SCHEDULE/JANUARY 2023

	January 1, 2023	January 8, 2023	January 15, 2023	January 22, 2023	January 29, 2023
	New Year's Day	Baptism of Our Lord		Annual Cong. Mtg. at 10:00	Pastor Schmid's Retirement Activities
WORSHIP LEADER	10:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Acolyte	X				
Lav Assistant	X	Gary Milavec	Laura Culp	Karen Glass	John Yocca
Lector	X	Mohylyn Yocca	Ruth Ann Lowery	Trudy Wagner	Debbie Healey Langley
Communion Assistant	Barb Hrabar	Kim Chupinka	Missy Bookhammer	Kim Chupinka	Missy Bookhammer
Communion Assistant	Gary Milavec	Debbie Healey Langley	Tina Borra	Jennifer Hewitt	Debbie Healey Langley
Communion Assistant	Jen Milavec	Garrett Langley	Ruth Ann Lowery	Susan Loeser	Ruth Ann Lowery
Communion Assistant	Linda Nickles	Mohylyn Yocca	Linda Nickles	Linda Nickles	Phyllis Permar
Communion Assistant	Phyllis Permar	X	X	X	X
Greeter	X	Kim Chupinka	Linda Nickles	Anne & Sophie Scher	Missy Bookhammer
Usher	Drew Lance	Clint Langley	Dave Borra	Mike Debowksi	Clint Langley
Usher	Karla Lance	John Yocca	Keith Lowery	Gary Milavec	Garrett Langley
Gift Bearer	X	Mohylyn Yocca	Linda Nickles	Anne & Sophie Scher	Debbie Healey Langley
Altar Guild	Barb Hrabar	Kim Chupinka	Tina Borra	Kim Chupinka	Becky Long
Altar Guild	Sue Lambert	Susan Loeser	Laura Culp	Susan Loeser	Sally Ruppel
PowerPoint	Rolf Otterness	Jennifer Hewitt	Karen Glass	Dan/Sam Scher	Rolf Otterness
Camera	Sam Mizia	X	Rolf Otterness	X	Sam Mizia
Head Teller (Monday)	X	Barb Schumacher	Barb Schumacher (Tuesday)	Gary Milavec	Barb Schumacher
Council Teller (Monday)	X	Sue Lambert	Charles Rajakumar (Tuesday)	Charles Rajakumar	Sue Lambert

If you find that you cannot serve when scheduled, please contact the church office.

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

SATURDAY 5:30 PM and SUNDAY 9:00 and 11:00 AM (live-streamed)
Online services are available through [facebook.com/ORLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/ORLutheran), YouTube
and the church's website.

GROWING IN GOD (Sept. - May), 10:00 AM, Age 3-Adults

THE REV. DR. ANN SCHMID, PASTOR - 724-554-6016, pastorschmid@comcast.net

THE REV. KERRI CLARK, PASTOR - 724-603-5589, rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com

HEIDI GARNER, DIRECTOR, NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL - 724-942-6699
noahspreschool@comcast.net

MARY HELEN BARR, MUSIC DIRECTOR - 412-780-3357 (cell)

ELAINE DOLCICH, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

THE REV. JOHN F. YEDLICKA, PASTOR EMERITUS

Office 724-941-7467 Fax 724-941-3262

E-mail: orlc@comcast.net

Website: <https://www.OurRedeemer-peters.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ORLutheran>

YouTube: <https://tinurl.com/ORLCyoutube>

OUR VISION

The vision of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church 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 as we are sent out into God's world.