



Dear Friends,

Last month I notified our church council that I plan to retire on February 1, 2023. I will have more to say about what the last 21 years have meant to me in future correspondences. For now, I want to share with you the arrangement that council has approved for an Interim Senior Pastor following my retirement.

As you know, Pastor Kerri will still be here after I retire, and will remain after you call a new Senior Pastor. Between my retiring and a new pastor being called, an interim pastor will be brought in for two reasons. First, there is more pastoral work to do at Our Redeemer than one pastor can handle. And second, an interim pastor provides the congregation with time to take a deep breath, live into a new situation, and intentionally consider present and future needs and directions before moving into the process of calling a new pastor.

I am overjoyed to tell you that, with the full support of Pastor Kerri and Bishop Kusserow, council will be contracting with Pastors Martha and Kevin Clementson to share the role of Interim Senior Pastor.

I firmly believe that the Holy Spirit gathers us into congregations on purpose, providing the people, gifts, skills, passions and resources needed for ministry in each congregation. I have seen evidence of the Spirit's work among us once again in bringing Pastor Martha and Pastor Kevin into our congregation last spring. They have gotten to know us, and we them, and so Our Redeemer will move into a time of transition with interim pastors whom many of you already know and trust. In addition to Pastors Kevin and Martha being gifted preachers and teachers, Pastor Martha also brings her experience of 20 years as the bishop's assistant, working with congregations in times of transitions.

Over the next few months, more details will be shared about how Pastor Kerri and Pastor Kevin and Pastor Martha will divide responsibilities and work together. To begin with, the contract will be for a 3/4 time Interim Senior Pastor. Among other things, the role will include adult education, preaching twice a month, hospital and shut-in visits, guiding the congregation through a time of discernment and sharing other pastoral tasks with Pastor Kerri.

I'm excited about the promise and potential of such qualified pastors sharing the ministry with Pastor Kerri and leading Our Redeemer into its next chapter.

In Christ,

Pastor Schmidt

WORSHIP



The month of October brings several special worship opportunities.

Saturday, October 1, at 5:30, will be our annual Blessing of the Animals service. Bring your furry and feathered family members - on a leash or in a carrier please - to this outdoor service which includes Holy Communion, readings, and prayers. Our Blessing of the Animals service is held each year near the day of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4. Francis was a 13th century saint who taught people about the goodness and holiness of all of God's creation, including the animals.

At all worship services on October 15 and 16 opportunity will be provided for anointing and prayers for healing. It is our custom to offer a Healing Service near the day of St. Luke, which is October 18. Luke was the writer of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. Some scholars think that he was a physician because of the way he wrote about illnesses and healings. Out of respect for Covid concerns, anointing and healing will be offered with less "touch" and a bit more social distance than in the past. The pastors will not be placing their hands on the congregant's head during the prayer and anointing will be optional.



On October 29 and 30 we will celebrate Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. His intention was to begin a scholarly debate about areas in need of reform within the Roman Catholic Church. Instead, his words sparked a reforming movement that led to the formation of the Lutheran Church. Reformation is both a celebration of our history and a reminder that the church is always in need of reform and renewal. Be sure to wear red - the color of reformation - at all services that weekend.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Adult Study begins October 2-After taking the summer off, our Sunday morning adult class starts back up on Oct. 2, 10:00-10:40, in the conference room. We'll be considering a very timely topic - What does it mean to be a church active in mission and service? As we move out of full pandemic mode, and resume old ministries and consider new areas of service, we'll explore what the Bible says about the early church, especially as that history is told in the book of Acts. Join us every week or as your schedule permits.

Growing in God – Growing in God is off to a great start! We meet at 10 AM on Sundays, with classes for Pre-K & kindergarten, 1st-3rd, 4th-6th and 7th-12th graders.

First Communion classes – Preparation for First Communion will take place October 12, 19 and 26, with recognition in worship on Sunday, October 30. Talk to Pastor Kerri or Pastor Schmid if you have questions or would like your child to be included this fall.



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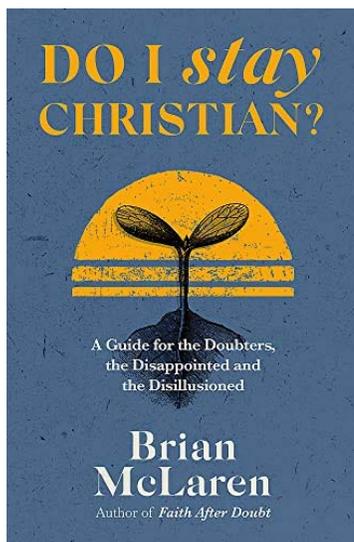
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, CONTINUED

GROWING IN GOD invites the congregation to join us for **Luther Fest on Reformation Sunday, October 30!** We will be featuring all activities from 10 AM to 10:45 AM. There will be a variety of games, crafts and activities, including cookie decorating, that will help all ages learn about Luther and the Reformation. You can even have your photo taken with Martin in the narthex and learn about Luther by learning some Luther carols and other songs. A game of trivia will be featured in the conference room. **ADULTS!** Please help us with our planning by signing up on the bulletin board poster, if you plan to join us. If you would like to help us facilitate these activities, please talk with Pastor Kerri or Phyllis Permar about how you would like to be involved in this intergenerational event!



ADULT BOOK STUDY

DO I STAY CHRISTIAN?



Brian D. McLaren, a public theologian and respected Christian author, recently released his newest book “Do I Stay Christian?” This book, in three parts, explores reasons people may be leaving the faith, reasons for staying Christian and how the Christian Church can live into the future.

This is a timely book and one that will challenge you to think seriously about your faith. In a recent Pew Research article (9/13/22) it was noted that Americans are leaving the Christian faith at an ever-growing rate. The article projected that by 2070 a little more than half (54%) of the American population will be Christian; if current rates continue the percentage could be as low as thirty-five percent (35%).

Pastor Kevin Clementson will be leading a three week study of Brian McLaren’s book on Wednesday mornings, October 5, 12 and 19 at 10:00 AM at the church. Please sign up on the bulletin board or through the website. If you cannot make the scheduled time but would be interested in exploring this book and topic please contact Kevin at kcclementson@yahoo.com to explore an additional time to meet.

FELLOWSHIP

We need your input as we plan future fellowship events.

Faithful Filmgoers

Are you interested in joining others to see a movie and grab a bite to eat as we discuss the movie afterwards? Are you comfortable going to a movie theater yet?

Wine Tasting

Would you be interested in a Wine-Tasting event in our Social Hall in mid-November? In the past this has been a great event to invite friends to. Over a couple hours we will taste 5 wines and learn all about them. You’ll have the option of choosing dry or sweeter wines.

Please check the information on the bulletin board near the office and let us know if you are comfortable with these kind of fellowship events yet.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations

Nora Barczak graduated from Duquesne University with her Masters Degree in Mental Health Counseling. She is continuing her education at IUP toward her PhD. Congratulations!

Rest in Peace

Our member, Beverly Wilson, died on September 23 at the age of 92. She is the mother of Jennifer (Patrick) Hewitt and grandmother to Halle and Carlie. *Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.*

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Playground Picnic – Families with 4th graders and younger: pack up your dinner and chairs and head to the playground at Our Redeemer for fun and fellowship! We'll gather at **5:30 PM on Friday, October 7**. In the event of inclement weather, we'll bring our picnic inside to the Social Hall.

Movie Night – 7th-12th graders are invited to join Pastor Kerri for a movie night on **Saturday, October 22 at 7 PM**. Sign up on the bulletin board or online.

Lutherlyn Family Halloween Fun – Bring the whole family up to Camp Lutherlyn on Sunday, October 23 from 2-4:30 PM for some Halloween fun! Experience hayrides, games, crafts, s'mores, nature activities, and trick-or-treating (for kids 13 and younger). For more information, and to register, visit <https://www.lutherlyn.com/forms/retreateventreg/halloweenreg.html>.



SERVICE & SOCIAL MINISTRY

Day of Service Thank You

Thank you to all who donated supplies for the school and fabric kits. We were able to pack 72 school kits and provide numerous fabric kits. The kits are for Lutheran World Relief. The kits are used throughout the world in places like Ukraine where war or natural disasters have disrupted life for so many people.

City Mission Needs Our Help

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it – and your help is needed to provide meals for our homeless and hungry neighbors in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Needed this Thanksgiving Season: 25,541 meals

Here's the good news: **It only takes \$2.49 to provide a hot, nourishing meal at the Mission.**

Right now, more people than ever find themselves on the edge of poverty. Rising costs on basics like housing, gas and even food put many at risk of experiencing homelessness and hunger for the first time. They're praying for food... for help... for hope.

Your support will make it possible to provide the meals they need – plus counseling, classes, job training and Christ-centered care to transform their lives. Donate at www.citymission.org.

Thank you... and Happy Thanksgiving!

Dean R. Gartland, M.S.
President/CEO

City Mission Urgent Needs *(New items only please)*

Men's Shelter

Men's White T-shirts, Sizes L/XL and 2X

Men's (Soft Waistband) Knit Boxer Underwear, Sizes L - 2X

Single Women's Shelter

Cotton Underwear, Sizes Med-XL

Cotton/Polyester/Spandex Sports Bras, Size Med

Dental Floss

Shower Mesh Body Sponge (Fluffs)

Ongoing Urgent Need FOR ALL SHELTERS

Twin Sheets

Towels and Wash Clothes

Samaritan Care Community Center

Canned Chicken and Tuna

Spaghetti Sauce

Chef Boyardee

Peanut Butter

Jelly

(Any donation of non-perishable food is accepted and appreciated.)

Donations can be placed in the containers in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Shelley Kubincanek at 724-222-8530 x282 or by email at skubincanek@citymission.org.

SERVICE & SOCIAL MINISTRY, CONTINUED

City Mission Needs Volunteers

Currently, their most urgent volunteer needs are help in their Thrift Stores, at their warehouse and in the childcare center at their Women with Children Shelter. If you are interested in volunteering at the Mission, visit their website:

<https://www.citymission.org/ways-to-help/volunteer>. You can complete the volunteer application online and Jason Johnson the Volunteer Manager will get back to you.

City Mission Upcoming Events

Small Business Holiday Gift Shop, Sunday, November 6
Celebrate Success, Thursday, November 10

Family Promise of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Annual fundraiser at Wigle Whiskey in the Strip District during Family Promise week – October 20, 2022 at 7 PM

As always, volunteers are needed, whether to help in the Day Center or provide support at a hosting church. For more information, please feel free to call their office at 412-921-2916.

FREE License Plate Legibility Event!

Sunday, October 9* from 8 AM to 11 AM at two locations:

- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
- St. Benedict the Abbott Church, 120 Abington Drive

AAA East Central in conjunction with National Faith and Blue Weekend is partnering with Peters Township Police Dept. to check the legibility of license plates. If your license plate meets the criteria (one or more numbers or letters cannot be recognized from 50 feet or the plate shows any blistering, peeling, discoloration or loss of reflectivity) you will receive a new plate in the mail from PennDot.

This is a FREE event for AAA Members and the general public. No appointment necessary. For more information, call 724-942-5030.

*weather permitting

THRIVENT

Attention Thrivent Members

Just a reminder that Thrivent voting for Board of Directors will be held from October 5 through November 21! Watch for Thrivent to contact you in whichever way you have indicated your preference to vote! BE SURE TO VOTE WITH A PURPOSE SOON!!

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

We are so excited to be back in action in the Preschool! We started classes the week of Labor Day with shortened sessions. That means we split each class in 1/2 and each group attends for an hour. This means extra planning and work for our teachers but it is such a gift to our children and families. Easing our little ones in after a long summer of free time with their parents and siblings is a gentle way to respect them and help them to trust that "yes, mommies always do come back". That hour in a smaller group is just enough time for children to find something fun they want to come back for, to get a little extra attention from their teachers and to get to know a few friends just a little better before bringing the whole class together. While we definitely had a few tears that first week (from both mommies and littles!), they were short lived and everyone is starting to feel safe and loved! That's what makes all the work and even the tears worth it, because while we love seeing eyes light up as children learn the ABCs, our philosophy prioritizes comfort and belonging and love above all else. We know that learning can only happen when you know you are loved, safe and that you matter! I'm so proud of the work and care our teachers put into helping each child see how just loved and important they are! Thank you for continuing to pray for the work we do in the preschool! And thank you for all of the ways that so many of you help us to carry out our mission as part of our faith community.

Miss Heidi

Heidi Garner, Director
Noah's Ark Preschool



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, Edith Bencic, Cindy Cox, Dorothy Dillemath, Kerri Evans, Martha Fecher, Richard and Lori Gajdowski, Trish Henderson, Ray Hrabar, Mandy Jarosh, Casey Moran on his deployment, Tim Roberts, Kathy Russman, Sue Russo, and Jim Tomamichel.

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, Tam Brister Todd Brosky, Wendy Brosky, Doug Bush, Tom Caley, Carolyn Dagg, Ellen Deutsch, D. T. Emery, Denny Fonzi, Catie Geory, Ian Gonzalez, Marion Greenland, Lisa Grimes, Mickey Gubitti, Christine Guerrieri, George Hildebrand, Bob Hohowski, Joyce Hough, Ray Keisling, June Lance, Gordon and Diane Ley, Jess Ley, Mildred Maize, Megan Meseck, Jolie Mihalik, Chuck Miller, Owen Miller, Adam Miskow, Dolores Munsick, Beth Napolitano, Marjorie Norton, Kathy Oberle, Brad Olson, Tracey Perles, Dave Provenzano, Cyndi Quinn, Phyllis Rhone, Betty and Frank Rively, Jeanie Rose, Dave Schrader, Meryl Severson, Bob Shader, Holly Shader, Karol Smith, Bernie Solo, Donna Stafford, Dan Stimmel, Gary Stinson, Andrew Straka, Terri Strawn, Tina Thielet, Deb Thompson, Barb Van Lehn, Art W., Brent Wadzita, Rhianna Wilk, and Frank Yocca.

We remember those who grieve:

Carol Brandyberry on the death of her father, Ed Handshue; and Jennifer Hewitt and family on the death of her mother, Beverly Wilson.

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 August 2022

	This Year			Last Year		
	Current	Building	Total	Current	Building	Total
Income	\$313,947	\$38,839	\$352,786	\$303,292	\$34,678	\$337,970
Expenses	\$307,114		\$307,114	\$278,383		\$278,383
Surplus (deficit)	\$6,833	\$38,839	\$45,672	\$24,909	\$34,678	\$59,587
Surplus (deficit)			\$45,672			\$59,587

Other Outreach Offerings Year to Date

Abiding Missions	\$960
City Mission Food Pantry	\$803
ELCA World Hunger	\$3,415
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$2,170
India Mission	\$294
Lutheran World Relief	\$300
	\$7,942

MINISTRY SCHEDULE/OCTOBER 2022

	October 2, 2022		October 9, 2022		October 16, 2022		October 23, 2022		October 30, 2022	
	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
WORSHIP LEADER									Reformation/First Communion	
Acolyte	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Lay Assistant	Susan Loeser	Carl Ruppel	Karen Glass	Jackie Beck	Jennifer Hewitt	Gary Milavec	Lori Greene	Mohylyn Yocca	Maegan Bregenser	
Lector	Dianne Rigby	Randy Stonemark	Tim Prex	Sohela Lunney	Jen Milavec	Karen Smith	Terry Divebliss	Debbie Healey Langley	Brian Casper	
Communion Assistant	Cheryl Debowski	Barb Hrabar	Carole Beltz	Eliana Beck	Martina Clementson	Cheryl Debowski	Sohela Lunney	Kim Chupinka	Eliana Beck	
Communion Assistant	Keith Lowery	Kim Maize	Tina Borra	Jamie Carulli	Barb Hrabar	Ruth Ann Lowery	Carl Ruppel	Jennifer Hewitt	Jackie Beck	
Communion Assistant	Ruth Ann Lowery	Debbie Stonemark	Kim Chupinka	Lori Greene	Rochelle Koerbel	Linda Nickles	Sally Ruppel	Keith Lowery	Sue Lambert	
Communion Assistant	Phyllis Permar	Nancy Till	Jennifer Hewitt	Susan O'Brien	Sue Lambert	Beth Pansino	Nancy Till	Ruth Ann Lowery	Becky Long	
Greeter	Martha Rhone	Jennifer Hewitt	Scher Family	Tony, Ryan and Luke Moody	Secrist Family	Karen Smith	VOLUNTEER	Kim Chupinka	Ruth Brosky	
Usher	Mike Debowski	Joe Maize	Joel Beltz	Simon Beck	Clint Langley	Mike Debowski	Doug Meley	Clint Langley	Simon Beck	
Usher	Drew Lance	Eric Reese	Dave Borra	Doug Meley	Garrett Langley	Keith Lowery	Charles Rajakumar	Garrett Langley	Jim Doughty	
Gift Bearer	Karla Lance	Paula Reese	Phyllis Permar	Dani Mizia	Debbie Healey Langley	Cheryl Debowski	Lalitha Rajakumar	Debbie Healey Langley	Jackie Beck	
Altar Guild	Dave and Sandy Dawson	Becky Long	Tina Borra	Barb Divebliss	Laura Culp	Tina Borra	Heather Morelli	Kim Chupinka	Sue Lambert	
Altar Guild	Barb Hrabar	Heather Morelli	Kim Chupinka	Lori Greene	Dave and Sandy Dawson	Joyce Kilgore	Sally Ruppel	Susan Loeser	Becky Long	
PowerPoint	Karen Glass	Rolf Otterness	Ryan Hettinger	Jacob Casper	Jennifer Hewitt	Ryan Hettinger	Jacob Casper	TBD	Gary Milavec	
Camera	X	Sam Mizia	X	Sam Mizia	X	Sam Mizia	X	X	Sam Mizia	
Head Teller (Monday)	Barb Schumacher		Carol Locher		Gary Milavec		Gary Milavec		Carl Ruppel	
Council Teller (Monday)	Dan Scher		Martha Rhone		Charles Rajakumar		Susan Lambert		Susan Steffick	

If you find that you are not available when scheduled, please contact the church office.

X-N-A-2-K2-4-0-1 Needed

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 and 9:00 and 11:00 AM (live-streamed) , SUNDAY
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.