

# The Focus

October 2023



## Reformation Still Needed in 2023

On October 28 & 29 we will celebrate Reformation Sunday. Here at Our Redeemer, on Reformation Weekend, we will see lots of people wearing red, sing Luther's most famous hymn, "A Mighty Fortress" and during Growing in God (Sunday School), share in learning more about Luther and the Reformation through a variety of fun activities. As a life-long Lutheran, I look forward to this celebration each year. And yet, lately I've been asking myself a couple of questions that I'd like to share with you!

### **Why celebrate an event that happened 506 years ago? Why celebrate a movement that began in the 16th century when life (including the church) is so different in the 21st century?**

In the mid-20th century, when I was growing up, Reformation was a time to teach us about the differences between Lutherans and our Roman Catholic neighbors. I remember experiencing it as very anti-Catholic.

By the late-20th century, I had become a pastor and it was a time of dialogue between various church bodies, including Lutherans and Roman Catholics. While we could not get to the point of full communion, our relationship with the Roman Catholic Church certainly changed for the better. (I can show you my picture shaking the hand of Pope Benedict XVI in 2006 when I visited the Vatican with ELCA leaders.) In those years, we began to emphasize the commonality of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Today, at this time in the 21st century, we are living in a climate where "Lutheran" schools, colleges, social ministry agencies and even some congregations don't want to be labelled as Lutheran with the hope of appealing to more people. At the same time, many Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and Mainline Protestants are struggling against the ideology of Christian Nationalism in this country.

**So, again I ask myself and you, why celebrate Luther posting 95 Theses in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517? Why celebrate a movement whose roots are in the 16th century?**

Here are a few of the answers in my mind. This annual celebration is a reminder that reform is always needed. We need reform in our own lives as well as in the institutions around us. When we think about reform today, it is most helpful to look toward ourselves rather than toward others. Remember Luther was asking for changes within the church of which he was a member.

Martin Luther and the reforming movement that he and his colleagues began emphasized that through Jesus Christ every baptized child of God has direct access to God. This means praying directly to God, confessing our sins to God and hearing the absolution. It means having access to Holy Scripture through words we can read and books we can have at hand. It means learning about the faith from our families as well as the church. This direct relationship with God through Jesus also means that we are responsible for sharing the faith with others and forming our opinions and our action based on faith rather than on the many loud voices that appeal for our loyalty in this life.

**As we approach Reformation in 2023, I urge each of us to ask ourselves whether we are taking advantage of the important results of the Reformers' work. Five centuries later, do we not need a continuing reformation movement...especially within our own hearts and minds?**

*Pastor Martha Clementson*

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## Pet Blessing – Saturday, October 7 – 5:30 p.m.



Pet owners know that pets become a beloved part of the family. Blessing our pets recognizes that they are not only part of God's glorious and expansive creation, but they are also signs of God's love so generously poured out to us.

On **October 7**, the Saturday Worship Service will be held outside weather permitting, and include the blessing of pets. We request that you bring your pet on a leash or in a secure crate. If you aren't comfortable bringing your pet with you, bring a picture and we will bless your pet in that way. The worship service also will include a homily and the celebration of Holy Communion.

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## Adult Learning

This fall, the Adult Class on Sunday mornings will be studying some of the ELCA Social Statements. We will begin this series on Sunday, October 8, at 10:00 am in the Conference Room. Since the beginning of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (in 1987), there has been a commitment to being a church body that makes a difference in the world. As a way to engage members and friends in conversation around important issues, the ELCA has created Social Statements. Pastor Martha will lead us in study of some of these statements, beginning with Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective. Included in our conversations will be how to interpret scripture passages that seem to speak to modern issues as well as a perspective on how we can best have civil conversations in our very divided world (perhaps even among family and friends). After an Overview, the class will choose a social statement to delve into. All adults are welcome. Please join us even if you can't attend every Sunday!

(Please note: There will be no class on October 1. On October 29 we will join in the intergenerational Reformation Fest.)

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## Chancel Choir

The choir meets weekly for rehearsal on Wednesday evening, and sings at the 11a.m. service on Sundays. Contact Mary Helen Barr with questions.



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## Altar Guild...A Quiet Way to Serve Our Lord

The Altar Guild at Our Redeemer cares for our worship space so that when the people gather our sanctuary is welcoming and all the elements of worship are in place. Although the work provided by the Altar Guild happens behind the scenes, we can't do without them!!!

Our Altar Guild is very much in need of some new members! Would you consider offering a few hours of your time to participate in the Altar Guild? Here is what we do:

- We work primarily on Sundays, before and/or after the worship service (both 9:00 & 11:00).
- We work in teams.
- We work quietly behind the scenes.
- We sign up for the schedule taking personal plans into consideration.
- We get together outside of Sunday morning a couple of times a year.
- We receive training/mentoring to learn what to do.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Altar Guild Chair, Becky Long at [beck.long@yahoo.com](mailto:beck.long@yahoo.com) or Pastor Martha.

# Abiding Missions

**All Saints, Ain'ts, and Souls** - Join Abiding Missions on **Saturday, October 28 from 1-4pm** for the 10th annual memorial event All Saints, Ain'ts, and Souls (731 Excelsior St, Pittsburgh). The event will include a parade, music, pumpkins, crafts, refreshments, and a memorial service.



## All Saints - November 1

Dating back to the 9th century, All Saints Day has been a time to remember the faithful departed and Christ's triumph over the grave. In our bulletins on November 4 and 5, we will be remembering all of our loved ones who have died since November 1, 2022. As we remember them, we recall the witness they gave through the lives they lived, what they meant to us as fellow Christians, where they have led the way, and what they have left for us yet to accomplish.

***If you would like to remember a loved one who has died since November 1, 2022***, please give us the necessary information on the form below. Send it to the church office or e-mail the information by Sunday, October 29. And be sure to join us for worship on November 4 or 5.

On All Saints Sunday, please remember... (PRINT CLEARLY)

| <i>Name of loved one</i> | <i>Relationship</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| _____                    | _____               |
| _____                    | _____               |
| _____                    | _____               |
| _____                    | _____               |

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Crossroads Confirmation

Crossroads Confirmation will meet on **Sunday, October 22 from 6:30pm - 8pm**. Students are also invited to attend Youth Group from 4:30-6:15pm, and then stay for class.

## Lutherlyn Family Halloween Fun

Bring the whole family up to Camp Lutherlyn on **Sunday, October 22 from 2-4:30pm** 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>.



## Youth Group

All 7th-12th graders are invited to join Pastor Kerri for Youth Group on **Sunday, October 22 from 4:30-6:15pm**. We'll grill hot dogs, make s'mores, and play games. Crossroads students should plan to stay for class at 6:30pm. Sign up on the bulletin board or [online](#).

## First Communion Classes

Children who wish to begin receiving holy communion are invited to attend two preparatory classes on **Wednesday, October 18 and 25, from 6-7:30pm**. We will celebrate in worship on Reformation weekend, October 28 & 29. This class is especially suited for students in first grade and above, though parents of younger children who wish to participate may be in conversation with Pastor Kerri. Please RSVP to Pastor Kerri at [rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com](mailto:rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com).

## Family Friday

K-6th graders and families: bring your dinner and join us for Family Friday on **Friday, October 6 at 5:30pm** in the Social Hall. We'll take a look at some spooky Bible stories, and share in a craft and activity. Sign up on the bulletin board or [online](#).





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## Young Adult Gathering

Young adults (age 18-30ish) are invited to gather for games and fellowship on **Tuesday, October 17 at 7pm** at the church. Sign up on the bulletin board or [online](#).

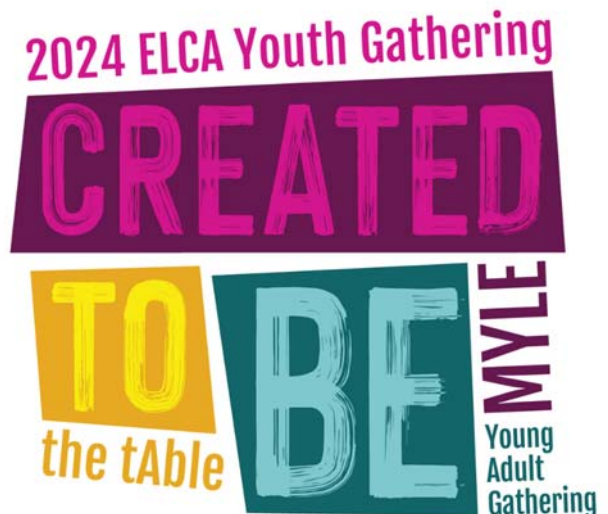


## Luther Fest

People of all ages are invited to join us for an intergenerational "Luther Fest" at **10am on October 29, Reformation Sunday** for games, activities, and crafts to learn about Martin Luther and the Reformation.

## ELCA Youth Gathering

Next summer the ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 16-20 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Students currently in 8th-12th grades are eligible to attend, and young adults age 18-35 are eligible to attend a parallel event. Those interested in learning more about the 2024 Gathering are invited to attend an informational meeting on **Sunday, October 15 at 10:15am** in the Youth Room. More information is available on the ELCA Gathering website: <https://www.elca.church/gathering>. Youth interested in attending the 2024 Gathering must be in touch with Pastor Kerri by October 18; young adults will register separately.



## 4th-6th Pizza & Movie

All 4th-6th graders are invited to join Pastor Kerri for a special All Saints themed pizza and movie afternoon on **Sunday, November 5 at 12:15pm**. We'll have a pizza lunch and watch "Coco".

## Growing in God

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



# God's Work, Our Hands...





# Church Picnic





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## Noah's Ark Preschool

It's Back to School time for Noah's Ark preschool and we are so happy to have everyone back. So many new faces but even more familiar looking ones. We have so many younger siblings this year, following in the footsteps of their alumni brothers and sisters. We are also blessed to welcome several church members as new students this year. We feel incredibly loved having so many families wanting to be a part of this special mission.

We spent our summer making new friends with class playdates and special time to get to know one another and our classrooms. That time allowed students and families to be familiar with the building and with their friends, so we didn't have many tears our first week, just lots of happy smiles and children excited to dive into new routines and learning. It's such a gift to see children feeling a sense of belonging in their classrooms. Our teachers do a wonderful job of creating environments where children feel comfortable and loved.

We are excited to start our Music and Yoga classes and to spend time with Pastor Kerri in chapel. We will follow those with our field trips to Simmons Farm, where families gather with the teachers to play in the pumpkins and enjoy the Fall weather and then class pictures to round out our Fall traditions. We hope that Back to School and Fall routines have all been smooth and happy in your homes and that you all get to enjoy some beautiful, cool weather soon!

*Miss Heidi*

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## Volunteer Opportunity with Food Helpers (Washington County Food Bank)

Food Helpers now has a location at Southpointe where they are packing bags of snacks for the Little Moochi program. This program provides five nutritious snacks monthly to elementary students in Washington County school districts along with access to the Little Moochi app (developed at CMU) that helps kids form healthy eating habits. They are currently packing 7,000 bags a month but expecting to increase to 10,000 soon. Join us on Tuesday October 17th from 10am-noon at the CNX building at Southpointe to pack some bags by signing up on the bulletin board or [online](#). If there's interest, we would like to make this a recurring event. Contact Jaymi Moody with any questions: [shawnanjaymi@verizon.net](mailto:shawnanjaymi@verizon.net)

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## Advent Fellowship— Save the Date



Mark your calendar now for our Advent Soup Supper on **Saturday, December 2 at 6:15 pm**. The event will include Advent games and activities for everyone as well as the opportunity to make an Advent wreath for your home. Additional details and sign up sheets will be available by November 1.

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## Faithful Filmgoers

The evening of **Friday, October 20** will be the next outing to see a movie and reflect on it together. We hope to see Martin Scorsese's new film, Killers of the Flower Moon, which opens that day. If you are not already on the list, please contact Steve D'Addieco at [stevendaddieco@gmail.com](mailto:stevendaddieco@gmail.com) to receive the final details. New participants are always welcome. Steve will line up the theater and time and then email everyone on the Faithful Filmgoers list. We meet at the theater, pay for our own tickets and refreshments. After the movie we go somewhere (usually B.J's) for a late night snack and conversation.

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## Thrivent-Vote with Purpose!

For those of you who are Thrivent members, you will have the opportunity to vote for Board of Directors between October 5 and November 24. Watch for more information from Thrivent!

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## **Ringgold Elementary School North Blessings in a Backpack Update:**

We are busy getting everything ready to start packing in October. Over 40% of the students at the school (147 kids) are eligible for the program this year and letters have been sent to those families explaining the program and their option to participate. Teachers can also make a referral for a child. Our goal again this year is to discreetly provide bags of food to kids who experience food insecurity on weekends when they do not have access to free school meals. Each bag will contain approximately 9 items for a regular weekend and 12 items for a long weekend. It costs about \$150 to feed each child for the school year. We are so thankful for the support of the church in the form of both food collections and monetary donations. Please see below for information on how you can help.

With gratitude,

Jaymi Moody and Dani Mizia  
*RĒSN Blessings in a Backpack Coordinators*

### **Current Needs**

- **Microwavable cups of Chef Boyardee/ Mac and Cheese style pastas**
- **Applesauce or fruit cups/squeeze pouches**
- **Snack size boxes of raisins**

**Monetary donations are also appreciated and used to buy food in bulk. They can be made at [www.blessingsinabackpack.org](http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org) via card/Venmo/PayPal or can be mailed to:**

Blessings in a Backpack  
PO Box 950291  
Louisville, KY 40295

**\*\*Must designate for Ringgold Elementary School North account #1440 to be directed to us\*\***

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## **Member News**

### **New Address**

Carl and Sally Ruppel  
9020 Sundance Drive  
Bridgeville, PA 15017-1103  
*Best wishes in your new home!*

### **Baptism**

On September 10 we welcomed Amelia Marie Baumgart, daughter of Thomas Baumgart Jr. and Katie Marie Vena Baumgart through the Sacrament of Baptism. *Welcome child of God!*

### **Rest in Peace**

Carol Butler died on August 25 in Galloway, Ohio where she had moved to in 2016. She is survived by her children Karen and Bobby and

his wife, Somer and their children Ava and Grace. Her memorial service will be held at Our Redeemer on Sunday, October 8 at 2:00pm.

Ron Kilgore died on September 1. He is survived by his wife, Joyce; three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Ron was very active at Our Redeemer. He was a former Church Council member, Endowment Committee member and a baritone with the chancel choir. Ron's memorial service will be held at Our Redeemer on Saturday, October 7 at 11:00am.

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.*



# In Our Prayers

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

Randy Stonemark, Mandy Jarosh, Trudy Wagner, Peggy Barczak, John Till, Chris Decker, and Amy Foertsch.

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

Wendy Brosky, Heidi Garner, Janice Poole, Dan Stimmel, Laura Norton, Nester Miskow, Betty Rively, Mike O'Brien, Nancy Galley, Anthony Santaguida, Gary Graff, Margaret "Peggy" Stopko, Ray Keisling, Jan Shaw, Rick Wilson, Bob Hohowski, Tom Caley, Marcy Raeford, Nancy Lyons, and Leo Patrone.

**We remember those who grieve:**

The family of our member, Carol Butler; Joyce Kilgore and family on the death of Ron Kilgore.

*The most recently names added appear at the beginning of the list and will remain for three months. You may add names, remove a name, or ask for renewal by submitting your request in writing and placing it in the offering plate, drop off in the church office, or submit by email to [orlc@comcast.net](mailto:orlc@comcast.net).*

## Stewardship— How Are We Doing?

**Year to Date as of August 2023**

|                   | This Year |          |                 | Last Year |          |                 |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|
|                   | Current   | Building | Total           | Current   | Building | Total           |
| Income            | \$310,753 | \$35,046 | \$345,799       | \$313,947 | \$38,839 | \$352,786       |
| Expenses          | \$288,613 |          | \$288,613       | \$307,114 |          | \$307,114       |
| Surplus (deficit) | \$22,140  | \$35,046 | \$57,186        | \$6,833   | \$38,839 | \$45,672        |
| Surplus (deficit) |           |          | <b>\$57,186</b> |           |          | <b>\$45,672</b> |

| Other Outreach Offerings  | Year to Date   |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Abiding Missions          | \$800          |
| City Mission              | \$378          |
| City Mission Food Pantry  | \$167          |
| ELCA World Hunger         | \$4,090        |
| ELCA Disaster Relief DOM  | \$322          |
| ELCA Disaster Relief Intl | \$895          |
| Lutheran World Relief     | \$275          |
|                           | <b>\$6,927</b> |

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE/OCTOBER, 2023**

|                                | October 1, 2023       |                     | October 8, 2023       |                 | October 15, 2023 |                  | October 22, 2023  |                     | October 29, 2023 |                    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| WORSHIP LEADER                 | 9:00am                | 11:00am             | 9:00am                | 11:00am         | 9:00am           | 11:00am          | 9:00am            | 11:00am             | 9:00am           | 11:00am            |
| <b>Acolyte</b>                 | *                     | Henry Binotto       | *                     | Jack Binotto    | Sam Scher        | *                | *                 | Jules & Reece Greco | *                | Jaclyn Capezzuto   |
| <b>Lay Assistant</b>           | Mohylyn Yocca         | Maegan Bregenser    | Jennifer Hewitt       | Carl Ruppel     | Karen Glass      | Jackie Beck      | Mark Harris       | Sally Ruppel        | Beth Pansino     | Kim Maize          |
| <b>Lector</b>                  | John Yocca            | Jennifer Milavec    | Garrett Langley       | Mary Helen Barr | Kim Chupinka     | Brian Casper     | Linda Nickles     | Becky Long          | Terry Divelbliss | Karen Smith        |
| <b>Communion Assistant</b>     | Missy Bookhammer      | Eliana Beck         | Tina Borra            | Brenda Binotto  | Missy Bookhammer | Eliana Beck      | Missy Bookhammer  | Eliana Beck         | Missy Bookhammer | Sarah Dagnal       |
| <b>Communion Assistant</b>     | Kim Chupinka          | Jackie Beck         | Kim Chupinka          | Lori Greene     | Kim Chupinka     | Maegan Bregenser | Laura Culp        | Jackie Beck         | Garrett Langley  | Soheila Lunney     |
| <b>Communion Assistant</b>     | Laura Culp            | Brenda Binotto      | Karen Glass           | Sue Lambert     | Susan Loeser     | Sarah Dagnal     | Garrett Langley   | Sue Lambert         | Susan Loeser     | Barb Hrabar        |
| <b>Communion Assistant</b>     | Jennifer Hewitt       | Sarah Dagnal        | Debbie Healey Langley | Becky Long      | Linda Nickles    | Barb Hrabar      | Ruth Ann Lowery   | Becky Long          | Keith Lowery     | Kim Maize          |
| <b>Communion Assistant</b>     | Linda Nickles         | Barb Hrabar         | Garrett Langley       | Sally Ruppel    | Phyllis Permar   | Rochelle Koerbel | Linda Nickles     | Kim Maize           | Ruth Ann Lowery  | Carl Ruppel        |
| <b>Communion Assistant</b>     | Phyllis Permar        | Susan O'Brien       | Ruth Ann Lowery       | Nancy Till      | Mohylyn Yocca    | Becky Long       | Phyllis Permar    | Susan O'Brien       | Phyllis Permar   | Sally Ruppel       |
| <b>Greeter</b>                 | Phyllis Permar        | Karla Lance         | Debbie Healey Langley | Paula Reese     | Anne Scher       | Maegan Bregenser | Phyllis Permar    | Susan O'Brien       | Dianne Rigby     | Dani & Penny Mizia |
| <b>Usher</b>                   | Keith Lowery          | Drew Lance          | Dave Borra            | Eric Reese      | Dan Scher        | Jim Doughty      | Drew Lance        | Jacob Casper        | Ken Rigby        | Jim Mizia          |
| <b>Usher</b>                   | John Yocca            | Doug Meley          | Clint Langley         | Max Rush        | John Yocca       | Mike Koerbel     | Karla Lance       | Joe Maize           | Drew Lance       | Max Mizia          |
| <b>Gift Bearer</b>             | *                     | Ella Binotto        | Eliza and Norah Prex  | Henry Binotto   | Sophie Scher     | *                | *                 | Wynne Greco         | *                | Eliza Prex         |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>             | Laura Culp            | Barb Hrabar         | Tina Borra            | Sue Lambert     | Laura Culp       | Carol Brandybery | TBD               | TBD                 | TBD              | Heather Morelli    |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>             | TBD                   | TBD                 | Kim Chupinka          | TBD             | Susan Loeser     | Becky Long       | TBD               | TBD                 | TBD              | Sally Ruppel       |
| <b>PowerPoint</b>              | Karen Glass           | Meredith Pomposelli | Rolf Otterness        | Ryan Hettinger  | Ryan Hettinger   | Gary Milavec     | Dan and Sam Scher | Rolf Otterness      | Karen Glass      | Rolf Otterness     |
| <b>Camera</b>                  | X                     | Sam Mizia           | X                     | Rolf Otterness  | X                | Sam Mizia        | X                 | Sam Mizia           | X                | Sam Mizia          |
| <b>Head Teller (Monday)</b>    | Gary Milavec (Sunday) |                     | Dave Borra            |                 | Judy Pilof       |                  | Carol Locher      |                     | Susan Loeser     |                    |
| <b>Council Teller (Monday)</b> | Becky Long (Sunday)   |                     | Sue Lambert           |                 | Jackie Beck      |                  | Terry Divelbliss  |                     | TBD              |                    |

\*Child volunteer(s) is requested.

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. MARTHA CLEMENTSON, INTERIM PASTOR  
443-699-9837, [clementsonmartha@gmail.com](mailto:clementsonmartha@gmail.com)

THE REV. KEVIN CLEMENTSON, INTERIM PASTOR  
443-699-8534, [kclementson@yahoo.com](mailto:kclementson@yahoo.com)

THE REV. KERRI CLARK, PASTOR - 724-603-5589, [rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com](mailto:rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com)

HEIDI GARNER, DIRECTOR, NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL - 724-942-6699  
[noahspreschool@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:orlc@comcast.net)

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

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

YouTube: <https://tinivurl.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.