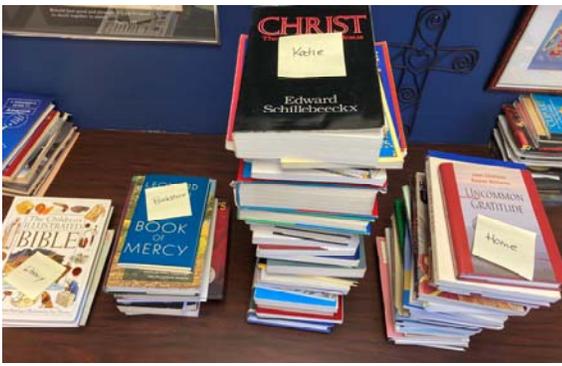


Dear Friends,

I've started going through the books in my office. Right now I have four piles... one to take home, one for the church library, one for the half-price bookstore, and one for Pastor (Vicar) Katie to look through. That last one is the biggest pile. (She's just starting out so she still has empty bookshelves.)



There are a lot of books that were useful to me at some point in time, but which I don't need to keep anymore. There's a whole shelf of books on preaching. Early on in my ministry they were important to me as I tried to find my pulpit voice. But after 37 years my preaching style is, for better or worse, pretty much set. Those books go on the Katie pile.

There's a shelf of poetry that is going home. To be honest, I pull books from that shelf far more often than from the theology shelf. Most of the theology shelf is on the Katie pile. She's welcome to those books, though I probably should warn her that poetry provides much more guidance for loving parishioners and finding moments of hope and redemption in everyday life. Theology has never fed my soul. Poetry has.

The shelf of old hymnals is going home to join two similar shelves in our living room. Hymns have always been my faith language. Those old hymnals contain more than songs. They hold the history and experience and yearnings of God's people in generations past. Tucked among the hymnals are books about the authors and the circumstances that moved them to write the hymns. Those stories make the hymns all the more precious to me.

I'm being very selective about the books on the Lutheran history shelf. I don't have much need for dates and edicts anymore, but I do love a good story

of flawed people who were used by God to do faithful things. Gives me hope for myself.

Some of the Bible commentaries and reference books will stay on the shelf. Pastor Yedlicka left them there when he retired. Pastor Kerri and future pastors are welcome to them. The set that matters to me - the ten volume Theological Dictionary of the New Testament - is already at home. It was a wedding gift. Yep. That's what seminarians put on their wedding registry.

A few atlases and books of devotions are going to the church library. The Greek and Hebrew dictionaries are going home. There was a time when I could read those languages. Now I remember enough to be able to look up words in the dictionaries, and that is quite sufficient. One shelf is crammed with books of sermons and essays by a handful of preachers who have nurtured my faith. They have been companions throughout my ministry. I'm taking them home.

I realize that this is just the first sorting of my books. Since Steve and I are both bibliophiles, our house is already full of books. Once I get my office books home I'll have to cull them again and decide which are really worth keeping as a retired pastor.

But that's what we all do throughout our lives, isn't it? In each phase of life, we take stock of what we have accumulated and carry with us - whether that is books or habits or inner voices or memories. And if we are wise, we choose what to hold on to, and what to let go of. We consider what will be helpful as we move forward, and what will hold us back. Often forgiveness is what we need in order to let go of some of what we carry - either us forgiving others for past hurts, or accepting God's forgiveness for the wrongs we have done. Sometimes we need to be reminded that our worth comes from who we are - beloved children of God - and not from how much we have accumulated.

What I am realizing these days is that the people I carry in my heart - like you - are much more important to me than the books that fill my office shelves. And fortunately there is unlimited shelf space in my heart.

With thanks to God for each of you,

Pastor Schmidt

ADVENT



The season of Advent began on November 26/27. As the candles are lit each week on the Advent wreath, we pray for peace—peace between nations, the peaceable Kingdom of God, peace that comes from trust in God, and the peace that Emmanuel, “God with us,” brings into our lives.

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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 the weekend of January 14 and 15. 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, approval of the 2023 budget and changes to the bylaws of the Mission Endowment Fund.

Christmas and New Year's Break



The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and January 2.

Noah's Ark Preschool will be on break from December 22 through January 2.

Donations for Christmas Decorations

Name _____ Phone Number _____
As you wish your name to appear in the bulletin

I wish to donate # _____ Poinsettia(s) **Donation: \$9.00 each**

I wish to donate \$ _____ to use where needed to decorate

Given in memory of/honor of/celebration of/thanksgiving for (please circle one)



Print clearly

Please place this form and your donation in an envelope and mail it to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 105 Gateshead Drive, McMurray PA 15317-3101 or drop it in the offering plate in the back of the church or in the church office. If you have any questions, call the church office at 724-941-7467. **Deadline Dec 11.**



Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 18 7:00 PM

If you are feeling blue as Christmas approaches, you are invited to this worship service that is filled with words and songs of gentle comfort and hope. Our doors are open to everyone. Please invite others to join you.

Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24
Holy communion is offered at all Christmas Eve services.

4:30 PM Children's Christmas Eve
This service is designed for young children and their families, though everyone is invited. With songs and a retelling of the Christmas story we celebrate the birth of Jesus in an interactive way.

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service
This is a full worship service with carols, candlelight and communion. There is also a children's sermon.

11:00 PM Candlelight Worship Service
Usher in Christmas with a service that ends just as Christmas Day begins.

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25
We will have one service at 10:00 AM on Christmas Day.

New Year's Eve and Day
We will have worship at 5:30 PM on New Year's Eve
and one service at 10:00 AM on New Year's Day.

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 and Kim Maize or Pastor Kerri for more information.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Game Night – K-6th graders and their families are invited to bring your dinner and join us for Game Night on **Friday, December 9 at 5:30 PM**. We'll play some fun active games and board games, too! Sign up on the bulletin board or [online](#).

Youth Babysitting – Pastor Kerri and the 7th-12th grade youth will provide babysitting at the church on **Saturday, December 17 from 10-2 PM** for parents to work on Christmas shopping and other preparations. We'll have a craft, activities, and a pizza lunch. Sign up on the bulletin board or [online](#).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The Christian Education Committee is pleased to announce that Breakfast at the Manger will return this year after a hiatus of two years due to the pandemic! For those of you who are not familiar with our long-standing event for all ages, Breakfast at the Manger is the celebration of Christmas that includes singing, eating and enjoying the telling of a Christmas story around the manger in the social hall. This year the story is "The Spider's Gift" that will be told by Lori Greene, so plan now to have your family join us at 10 AM. Breakfast will be eaten simultaneously with the presentation of the program. Sign up on the bulletin board or [online](#) to attend and bring a breakfast bread to share. Special breads, muffins, bagels or coffee cakes for 8-10 are needed. Other items that will be served for breakfast include cereal, fruit and beverages. Just a reminder that Our Redeemer is a peanut-free church, so we are committed to avoid serving peanuts and peanut products! We look forward to welcoming you back to this celebration that has a thirty-three year history at Our Redeemer!

Growing in God class schedule – There will be no Growing in God classes on December 18 (Breakfast at the Manger), December 25, or January 1.

All Saints Day 2022

We give thanks for all our faithful departed and the witness we see in their faithful lives,
especially those who have died since last All Saints Day:

In Memoriam
November 1, 2021-November 1, 2022

Esther K. Brown

+

Thelma D. Zadach

+

Robert F. Bolander, Jr.

+

Lawrence M. Wagner

+

Terry L. Divilbliss

+

William R. Hamilton

+

Beverly K. Wilson

+

<i>Matt Boice</i>	<i>Dennis Fonzi</i>	<i>Arthur King</i>	<i>Andy Richardson</i>
<i>Nickie Brooks</i>	<i>Sandra Gray</i>	<i>Ron Langley</i>	<i>Ben Ritter</i>
<i>Irene Carulli</i>	<i>Ed Handshue</i>	<i>Lavinia Lehman</i>	<i>Nancy Rupert</i>
<i>Kim Castell</i>	<i>George Hildebrand</i>	<i>Kameron Lopez</i>	<i>Don Smith</i>
<i>Hank Chupek</i>	<i>Lillian Hlavenka</i>	<i>Elizabeth Lucas</i>	<i>Carol Tucci</i>
<i>Mark Dubich</i>	<i>Pete Horn</i>	<i>Eugene McKinney</i>	<i>Pauline Vick</i>
<i>George Elias</i>	<i>Dawn Howe</i>	<i>Frank Milavec</i>	<i>Billie D. Ward</i>
<i>George Fatula</i>	<i>Rita Hynes</i>	<i>John Milavec</i>	<i>Bucky Williams</i>
<i>Renetta Fatula</i>	<i>Carroll Kimmey</i>	<i>Jeff Pavlic</i>	

and all of our loved ones whom we name in our hearts.

+

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

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*



MEMBER NEWS

Recently Baptized

On Saturday, November 19 we welcomed through the Sacrament of Baptism Luca Valentino Trojan, son of Jeffrey James Trojan and Meghan Kathleen Borden Trojan. *Welcome child of God!*

Thank You

To my dear church family,

Thank you so very much for all the lovely cards, caring thoughts and kind encouraging words when I was laid up with my broken hip. You really lifted me up. Also thank you for the prayers. They really do work and I was so grateful for them.

I am so blessed to be part of this church!

Sincerely,

Sue Russo

New Arrival

Brett and Audrianna Chupinka welcomed their second child on November 16. Brielle Kathleen Chupinka weighed seven pounds and fifteen ounces and was 20.5 inches upon her arrival. Proud grandparents are Kim Chupinka and Steve Chupinka. *Congratulations to all!*

New Address

Ammie Castanet
488 Clubview Drive
McMurray PA 15317-3023

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

Thankful! That's the word that sits with me right now. The holiday season is here and it always feels like a time to reflect. Sometimes we reflect on the things that aren't working for us or the things that have felt heavy in our lives but right now I am reflecting on what I am thankful for. I am thankful for a full staff, and not just any staff, but one that truly believes in our philosophy of loving children. A staff that steps up to care for one another in times of need and looks for ways to create love and kindness in their classrooms. I am thankful for a staff that braves the cold weather to take children out on the first snowfall to catch a few snowflakes on their tongue. I am thankful for a staff that no matter how frustrated they may feel never lets children see that frustration. I am thankful for the church members who support our mission here, for Pastor Kerri as she leads chapel with such enthusiasm and patience, Pastor Schmid as she guides us to make thoughtful choices even when we are uncertain. Elaine as she helps us stay organized and prepared, the Wednesday helpers and the board as they all give their time and talents to help us run smoothly. I admit, I find it tempting to turn to the negative in times of overwhelm and this is a season of overwhelm! Instead, this year, I'm looking to focus on the amazing positives and all that I have to be thankful for in our preschool. If you are feeling overwhelmed and want to sit in the negative, I hope that you too can find someone or something to reflect upon thankfully. If you need inspiration, stop by the preschool to catch a glimpse of happily smiling children. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to each of you from all of us at Noah's Ark!

Miss Heidi



SERVICE & SOCIAL MINISTRY

ELCA Good Gifts are gifts that make a difference around the world

On the bulletin board in the narthex you will find a picture of a tree with various ornaments hanging on it. Each ornament has a picture of something that can be purchased to help those in need around the world. Write a check payable to "Our Redeemer Lutheran Church" in order to provide the item on the ornament. These gifts provide a way for a family to make a living or to help meet a physical or educational need for children and adults somewhere in the world. Goats cost \$50 and can go where other animals can't, surviving in some of the world's most challenging terrain and unreliable climates. Fresh goat milk provides daily nutrition for children and their families. For \$125 you can help a woman start a small business with a microloan. Honeybees may be purchased for \$20 to provide honey to eat and beeswax to transform into handcrafted soaps and candles.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others. How can part of your Christmas budget this year serve people around the world? You may choose to give via *Our Redeemer* or to give online directly to ELCA.org/goodgifts. Choose from more than 50 gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives.

Used Christmas Cards Collection

Please bring your used Christmas cards to church and place in the box on the windowsill. These cards are sent with the 20,000 hygiene kits that are given 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!

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!

Pastor Kerri
 Mary Helen
 Elaine

Pastor Schmid

Merry

 Christmas


Pastor Gedlicka
 Miss Heidi

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, Joel Beltz, Edith Bencic, Ruth Brosky, Cindy Cox, Dorothy Dillemoth, Kerri Evans, Martha Fecher, Richard and Lori Gajdowski, Ray Hrabar, Mandy Jarosh, Gary McGaffic, Marilyn Melvin, Casey Moran on his deployment, Tim Roberts, Kathy Russman, Randy Stonemark, 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, 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, Bob Hohowski, Joyce Hough, Jeff Kaloski, Ray Keisling, June Lance, Gordon and Diane Ley, Jess Ley, Mildred Maize, Megan Meseck, Jolie Mihalik, Chuck Miller, Owen Miller, Adam Miskow, Linda Moeslein, Dolores Munsick, Beth Napolitano, Kathy Oberle, Brad Olson, Pam Pedersen, Tracey Perles, Patty Preisinger, Dave Provenzano, Cyndi Quinn, Phyllis Rhone, Betty and Frank Rively, Jeanie Rose, Joe Sarubbi, Dave Schrader, Meryl Severson, Bob Shader, Holly Shader, Karol Smith, Bernie Solo, 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.

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 October 2022

	This Year			Last Year		
	Current	Building	Total	Current	Building	Total
Income	\$391,543	\$48,433	\$439,976	\$377,008	\$42,480	\$419,488
Expenses	\$384,241		\$384,241	\$344,783		\$344,783
Surplus (deficit)	\$7302	\$48,433	\$55,735	\$32,225	\$42,480	\$74,705
Surplus (deficit)			\$55,735			\$74,705

Other Outreach Offerings	Year to Date
Abiding Missions	\$1,060
City Mission Food Pantry	\$853
City Mission	\$45
ELCA World Hunger	\$4,185
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$2,315
Gods Work Our Hands	\$30
India Mission	\$294
Lutheran World Relief	\$365
	\$9,147

All donations must be received in the church office by 9:00 AM on Friday, December 30 to be recorded as a 2022 donation.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE/DECEMBER 2022

	December 4, 2022		December 11, 2022		December 18, 2022	
	Second Sunday of Advent		Third Sunday of Advent		Fourth Sunday of Advent	
WORSHIP LEADER	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Acolyte	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
Lay Assistant	Mark Harris	Jackie Beck	Ken Rigby	Sally Ruppel	Jennifer Hewitt	Maegan Bregenser
Lector	Garrett Langley	Soheila Lunney	Dianne Rigby	Jen Milavec	Tim Prex	Lalitha Rajakumar
Communion Assistant	Kim Chupinka	Lori Greene	Missy Bookhammer	Becky Long	Susan Loeser	Eliana Beck
Communion Assistant	Debbie Healey Langley	Sue Lambert	Tina Borra	Gerda Moul	Ruth Ann Lowery	Jackie Beck
Communion Assistant	Garrett Langley	Soheila Lunney	Cheryl Debowski	Carl Ruppel	Linda Nickles	Martha Clementson
Communion Assistant	Phyllis Permar	Kim Maize	Karen Glass	Nancy Till	Susan O'Brien	Barb Hrabar
Greeter	Phyllis Permar	Tony, Ryan and Luke Moody	Cheryl Debowski	Paula Reese	Susan O'Brien	Mizia Family
Usher	Drew Lance	Jim Doughty	Dave Borra	Eric Reese	Keith Lowery	Jim Mizia
Usher	Clint Langley	Joe Maize	Mike Debowski	Max Rush	Dan Scher	Charles Rajakumar
Gift Bearer	Karla Lance	Jacob Casper	Dianne Rigby	Paula Reese	Scher Family	Mizia Family
Altar Guild	Kim Chupinka	Lori Greene	Tina Borra	Becky Long	Kim Chupinka	Barb Hrabar
Altar Guild	Sharon King	Joyce Kilgore	Heather Morelli	Sally Ruppel	Susan Loeser	Joyce Kilgore
PowerPoint	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Camera	X	Sam Mizia	X	Sam Mizia	X	Sam Mizia
Head Teller (Monday)	Judy Pilof		Judy Pilof		Gary Milavec	
Council Teller (Monday)	Charles Rajakumar		Jennifer Hewitt		Jennifer Hewitt	

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

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

		December 24, 2022		December 25, 2022	
		Christmas Eve		Christmas Day	
		4:30 PM	7:00 PM	11:00 PM	
WORSHIP LEADER				10:00 AM	
Acolyte		X	VOLUNTEER	X	
Lay Assistant		X	Susan Loeser	X	
Lector		X	Juliette Langley	X	
Communion Assistant		Karen Glass	Missy Bookhammer	Phyllis Permar	
Communion Assistant		Linda Nickles	Debbie Healey Langley	X	
Communion Assistant		VOLUNTEER	Rochelle Koerbel	X	
Communion Assistant		VOLUNTEER	Beth Pansino	X	
Communion Assistant		VOLUNTEER	X	X	
Child Blesser		TBD	TBD	X	
Greeter		Linda Nickles	VOLUNTEER	X	
Usher		Doug Meley	Mike Koerbel	X	
Usher		VOLUNTEER	Clint Langley	X	
Lights		X	Garrett Langley	X	
Gift Bearer		X	Caroline Langley	X	
Altar Guild		Lori Greene (before 7PM service)	Susan Loeser	X	
Altar Guild		Barb Hrabar (before 7PM service)	Becky Long	X	
PowerPoint		X	TBD	X	
Camera		X	Sam Mizia	X	
Head Teller		Gary Milavec and/or Barb Schumacher			FINAL COUNT FOR 2022 Gary Milavec and/or Barb Schumacher
Council Teller		Carl Ruppel and John Till			Carl Ruppel and John Till

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

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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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1)
and the church's [website](https://www.ourredeemer-peters.org).

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://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.