

The Focus

March 2024



Our Gifts Belong in Community

Throughout Holy Scripture we see examples of how God provided what was needed by the community through gifts given to individuals. A very early example is found in Exodus 31:3, the call of God to Bezalel of the tribe of Judah to whom God has given numerous gifts, including the ability to devise artistic designs, work in gold, silver and bronze, cut stones for settings, carve wood, and more! When it was time to build the Ark of the Covenant, God provided the skills needed by giving them to the people to do the work.

When people offer their gifts (which includes time, talents, and treasury), the community is strengthened and unexpected things can happen. At the same time, people report that their own joy and contentment increases. Often, when I've thanked people for what they have done, they reported, "Oh, I received more than I gave."

Here at Our Redeemer, we are blessed by those who use their God-given gifts for the sake of the congregation and wider community. There has been an increase in the number of people coming forward for a variety of ministries. For that we are very grateful. If you intentionally look around, you will see people active in a wide variety of ways.

Consider just some of the ways in which people share their talents to strengthen the life of our community of faith:

Leading liturgy in our worship
Wednesday morning workers
Providing funeral lunches
Delivering food to the City Mission
Working in the Sound Booth

Singing in the choir and praise team
Teaching children on Sundays and VBS
Taking care of the altar and worship space
Packing food with Food Helpers
Lighting candles for worship services

There's so much more...What are the talents and gifts that God has given to you? Are you sharing your gifts with others? In the above ministries and in so many more, Our Redeemer is strengthened by each person who gives of themselves to the community.

Sometimes we aren't sure about what gifts God is calling us to develop and use. And of course, at different points in our lives we will utilize our time, talents, and treasury in different ways. If you'd like to take stock of where you are right now in your life, the ELCA provides a helpful Spiritual Gifts Assessment tool. Download it [here](#). If you are interested in going deeper, perhaps even thinking about how you might use your gifts beyond our congregation, check out <https://www.journi.faith/>.

As we continue in this Lenten season, I pray that each and every one of us will spend some time thinking about the ways in which God has blessed us, especially with our time, talents and treasury, and how we are utilizing those gifts in ways that strengthen our congregation and our outreach into the community. If you would like help in thinking about how you can best share your gifts, please feel free to talk with me.

Pastor Martha

Lenten Project for Abiding Missions

Abiding Missions has been serving Pittsburgh's Allentown neighborhood for the last ten years. Pastor Christine Rotella is the neighborhood pastor and a large part of the vision behind Abiding Missions. (Many people remember Pastor Christine from her diaconal internship here at Our Redeemer.) Abiding Missions has had a huge impact on the Allentown neighborhood, providing ministries that strengthen the community while supporting individuals and families. Their ministries include a Food Pantry, After School, Adult Breakfast Fellowship, and a Community Choir.

During Lent (Ash Wednesday – Palm Sunday), we will be collecting items that are much needed by the people served by Abiding Missions. Items needed are: underwear for children and adults (all sizes), deodorant sticks, feminine products, socks for children and adults. Any kind of toiletries for women and men are appreciated as well. Many of these necessary items are costly and not allowed under food stamps rules. Their food pantry is always in need of condiments (e.g. ketchup, mustard, mayo).

Donations can be dropped off in the Narthex during the first five weeks of Lent. Your generosity in support of the people of the Allentown neighborhood and Abiding Missions will be greatly appreciated!

Collaborative Art Project

Spend a few minutes before, after, or during Wednesday worship weaving a CD for our Lenten collaborative art project! The woven CDs will be joined together to make a banner to be displayed during the Easter season. Thank you to all who donated yarn and ribbon for this project!



Created for Community
Wednesdays in Lent
March 6, 13, 20
6pm Potluck Dinner
homemade or store-bought
7pm Worship for all ages
Lend a hand with our collaborative art project!

The April Newsletter will arrive early!!!

Watch for an early edition of The Focus on March 23. The **new deadline** for submitting items for the April newsletter will be **Friday, March 15**.

The April newsletter will have all the details about Holy Week and Easter as well as information about April events! In the meantime, watch the weekly emails for updates on Holy Week and Easter.

Sanctuary Clean-up

The Worship and Music Committee invites you to join them in cleaning the sanctuary in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. We will work on March 15 and 16 between 9:00am and 3:00pm. Please sign up so that if cleaning gets done earlier than expected we can contact you.



Easter Decorations

Given by _____

As you wish your name to appear in the bulletin.

Phone Number _____

I wish to donate # _____ Tulip(s) **Donation: \$10 each**

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

Total enclosed \$ _____

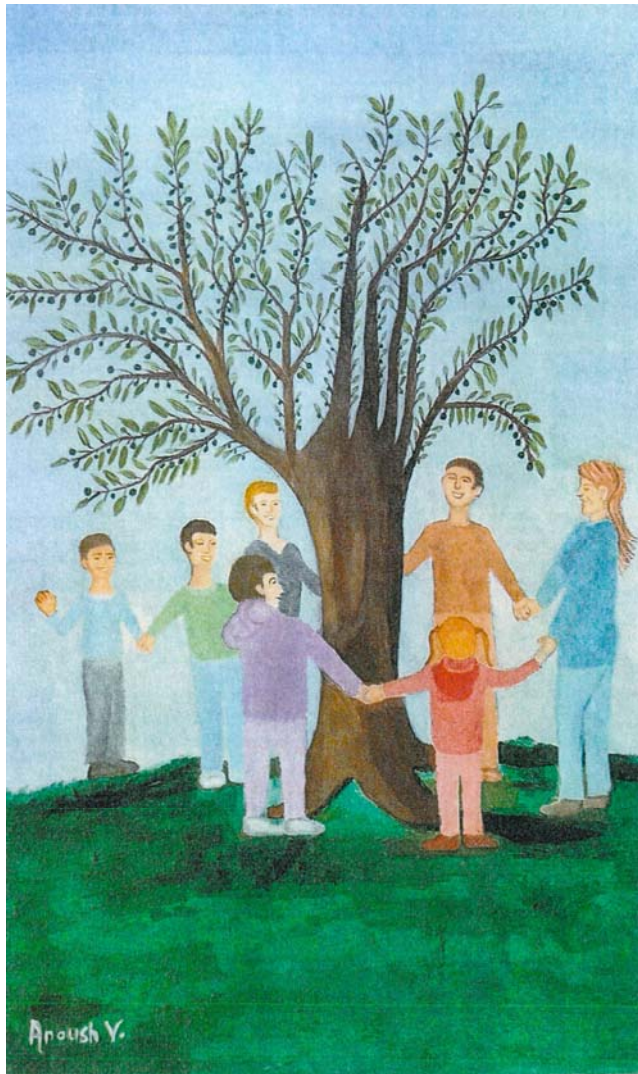
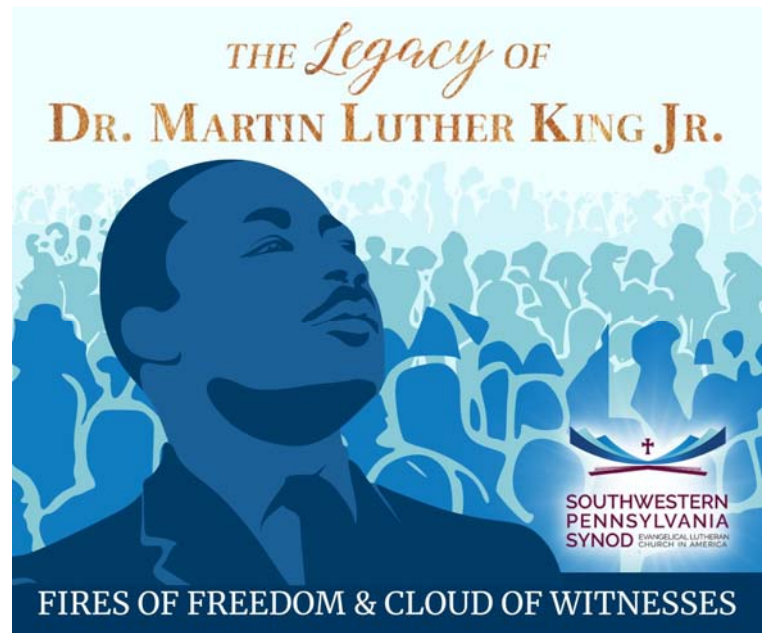
Given in memory of / honor of / celebration of / thanksgiving for
(please circle one):

Please print clearly.

Please place this form and payment in an envelope and drop in the collection plate or in the church office. If you have any questions, call the church office at 724-941-7467. **DEADLINE: MARCH 20**

SWPA Synod MLK Event

Pastor Kerri invites you to an afternoon of learning and worship on **Sunday, April 7** for “The Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: Fires of Freedom and Cloud of Witnesses”, our synod’s annual commemoration of Dr. King. This year’s event will be hosted at House of Prayer Lutheran in Aliquippa. A pre-event will be held at 2pm at Uncommon Grounds, and the event begins at 4pm with a panel discussion and youth breakout, followed by dinner at 5:30pm and worship at 6:30pm, with the Rev. CeCee Mills preaching and Bishop Kurt Kusserow presiding. Find more information on the synod webpage - www.swpasynod.org/calendar/mlk2024.



World Day of Prayer

This year, the local World Day of Prayer Service will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 3609 Washington Ave., Finleyville on **Wednesday, March 6**. The program has been written by women of Palestine. The program begins at 12:00 Noon followed by lunch. The Women of St. Benedict (St. John XXIII Parish) are hosting the event on behalf of Church Women United. Reservations for lunch are needed by February 26.



DONATION DRIVE IN SOUTHPOINTE

We're reaching out for donations to support those in need, specifically seeking furniture, home goods, decor, health and beauty items. For every \$1 Country Thrift Market makes, the Food Bank can purchase up to five meals. So consider donating your pre-loved treasures and make a difference in someone else's life.


Our needs:

- ✓ Furniture
- ✓ Home goods & decor
- ✓ Health & beauty items


Not currently needed:

- ✓ No large appliances

Cash donations are always accepted & appreciated


 Monday, March 4, 2024

 08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

 CNX Building, South Entrance
1000 Horizon Vue Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Truck for collection will be under the large overhang of the CNX building

 foodhelpers.org/thrift-market

 (724) 632-2190 EXT116

Crossroads Confirmation

Crossroads Confirmation will meet on **Sunday, March 17 from 6:30pm - 8pm**. Students are also invited to attend Youth Group from 4:30-6:15pm, and then stay for class.

Youth Group

All 7th-12th graders are invited to join Pastor Kerri for Youth Group on **Sunday, March 17 from 4:30-6:15pm**. We'll eat dinner together (pizza) and do a service project (stuffing Easter eggs!). Crossroads students should plan to stay for class at 6:30pm. Sign up on the bulletin board or online.

Young Adults

Young Adults (ages 18-30ish) are invited to join Pastor Kerri for dessert at Eat'n Park after the Wednesday Lent services (around 8pm) on **March 6 and 13**.

Family Friday

No Family Friday this month - hope to see you at Game Night (March 9) and the Easter Egg Hunt (date TBA)!

Lutherlyn Events

Maple Syrup Time, March 2 – This Saturday Safari features winter tree identification, tapping a maple tree, collecting sap, and observing the evaporation process. Dress to be outside. There will be a morning session from 9:30- 12:00 and an afternoon session from 1-3:30. Please register for one session only. (Registration deadline: February 26)

Solar Eclipse Retreat, April 6-8. (Registration Deadline: March 25)

Visit Lutherlyn's website at <https://www.lutherlyn.com/> for more details on these and other events.

Lutherlyn Summer Camp

Registration for the summer of 2024 is open! ORLC offers camperships for any children attending Lutherlyn or Agape, our local ELCA camps. Do not submit payment to the camp at registration, but inform the church office before May 15 so campership money may be sent.

Lutherlyn offers \$100 off the registration fee for Summer Camp for first-time campers. Use coupon code **FIRST** when registering to receive. This applies to Lutherlyn's residential week-long programs. Young Folks half-week programs get \$50 off for FIRST-TIME campers with the same code. Does not apply to Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, or Small Fry Days. Must be a FIRST TIME summer camper. No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

Not sure about sending your child to camp? You can learn more about this summer's camp schedule, costs, or view frequently asked questions at <https://www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp/>. Lutherlyn's staff is also happy to answer any questions you may have about our programs, the registration process, pricing, financial assistance, or any other questions you may have.

Lutherlyn's Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm

Phone: 724-865-2161

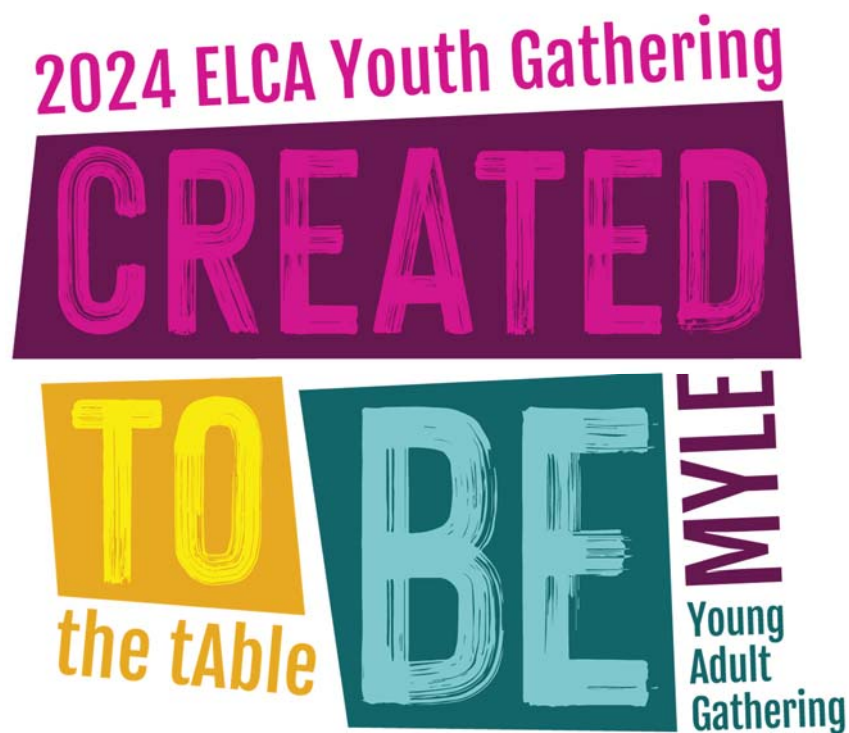
email: registrar@lutherlyn.com

Support our trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering

We're so excited! Simon Beck, Xander King, Susan O'Brien, and Pastor Kerri will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July! The ELCA Youth Gathering is a faith formation event for high school students and their adult leaders held every three years. As part of this experience, participants will:

- Be affirmed and challenged in their faith
- Experience new perspectives
- Ponder their vocation
- Bond with their congregational group
- Learn more about the ELCA and our partners

Your help is needed as we raise \$7,000 to attend this powerful and transformational event! Keep an eye out in worship as we share more about what we're looking forward to experiencing this summer, and on the bulletin board as we track our fundraising progress. Donations with the designation "youth gathering" may be made by cash, check, and online. Thank you!



VBS Planning

The weather is chilly, but it's time to start thinking about summer and our annual week of Vacation Bible School! A planning meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 29 at 7pm**. Bring your calendars - we'll be looking at dates as well as curriculum options. If you can't attend the meeting, but would like to be involved in further planning, let Pastor Kerri know.

Pub Theology

Pub Theology will meet on **Tuesday, March 27 at Voodoo Brewing at 7:00**. Come and join in great fellowship and conversation.

Our Redeemer Game Night (All Ages)

Join us in the Social Hall on **Saturday, March 9 at 6:30** for an evening of games, fellowship, and ice cream sundaes! All ages are welcome! Games will include Bunco, Trivia, Family Feud, Bingo, and board games for the younger kids. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or use the online signup. Feel free to form teams of family & friends for Family Feud (and, no worries if you don't have a team - just let us know on the signup if you want to join a team).



Please reach out to Debbie Healey Langley at debhealeylangley@gmail.com with any questions.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Service and Outreach Update

While sponsoring the collection of items for Abiding Ministries during the season of Lent, we continue to collect items for Blessings in a Backpack and the City Mission. The large brown containers in the narthex are marked for each organization. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Drivers are needed beginning in May to transport our congregation's donations to the City Mission in Washington. Normally, drivers take our donations twice in the month. See the sign up sheet in the narthex for more information or if you are willing to volunteer to help in this way.

If you like to cook, you can help the City Mission by preparing a casserole that is frozen here at Our Redeemer and then delivered to the Mission for reheating. Pans and suggested recipes are located above the coat rack.

Souper Bowl of Caring Thank You

Our Redeemer gathered \$827 for the Souper Bowl of Caring collection which took place on February 11. This entire amount has been given to Abiding Missions for use in their food bank. Thank you for your generosity.



Daylight Saving Time

Daylight saving time officially starts on Sunday, March 10 at 2am. Don't forget that we move clocks AHEAD one hour, therefore, losing an hour of sleep.

Sign ups are requested for many of the events at Our Redeemer. You can sign up through our [website](#) or on the bulletin board at the church.

Noah's Ark Preschool

We are active seekers of joy in our preschool, and one of the most fulfilling ways to experience it is by connecting with nature! We feel incredibly fortunate to have a beautiful, natural play space just outside our preschool doors. This space is truly magical and extends our philosophy of exploration, imagination, and understanding our impact on others and the world around us.

Our teachers brave the cold, snow, wind and even the rain to be sure our children experience all the changes that come with nature. Our preschoolers are able to witness the changes in the trees, explore the smells and colors and take risks on our uneven hills. With spring coming quickly, we will soon be pumping water down the troughs and through the sandbox, planting flowers and discovering bugs. So many ways to appreciate our space and find joy! This Spring, we invite you to enjoy our space on the weekends with your little friends as well!



Miss Heidi

Member News

Rest in Peace

Linda Blanker passed away suddenly on February 8, 2024 as a result of a tragic automobile accident. She was 81 years old.

Linda has been an active member of Our Redeemer for many years. She participated in a variety of church ministries but was especially active in leadership roles supporting our worship services. Linda served on the Altar Guild, and as a lay worship assistant, lector, and communion assistant.

Linda is survived by her daughter Jennifer Donovan and husband Bret and children, Clark and Camdyn Cekus, Lia and Emmy Donovan; and son Mark Alvarez and wife Jackie and children, Nathan, Luke and Lauren Alvarez. *Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.*

New Members

On February 4 the following were received into membership at Our Redeemer:

Emily Beaversen (Daughter Samantha was received previously through baptism)
2640 Monterey Drive
Pittsburgh PA 15241-1819

Naomi Ganchuk
1169 Grandview Drive
Bethel Park PA 15102-3355

Allyson Hepler (Daughter Evelyn Dye was received previously through baptism)
190 Galley Road
Canonsburg PA 15317-2376

Keith Mason
153 Twilight Drive
Canonsburg PA 15317-0503

Matthew, Jennifer and Lucas Schnieders (Children Logan and Madison were received previously through baptism)
3003 Brookstone Drive
Canonsburg PA 15317-3903

Welcome to Our Redeemer!

In Our Prayers

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

Carol Ausefski, Ray Hrabar, Chris Decker, Jen Barbati, Gary McGaffic, Randy Stonemark, and Lynn Broman.

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

Phyllis Rhone, Rudy Faynor, Clem Ferri, Doug Brandt, Nancy Adams, Robert Ruppel, Mike Levkulich, Dave Brewton, Pam Turner, Joan Dvorznak, Linda Day, Gary Lasher, Calvin Cokeley, Laura Norton, Anthony Santaguida, Judy Concannon, Dan Stimmel, Ray Keisling, Janice Poole, Nester Miskow, Wendy Brosky, Anthony Orecchio, Tamara Brister, Heidi Garner, Carol Davelli, Dot Glidden, Marcy Raeford, Nancy Lyons, Kayden Spencer, Larry Pansino, Lara Alderson, The Rev. Warren Lundblad, Mike Zgorliski, Ron Rieger, and Kerwin Broman.

We remember those who grieve:

Jennifer and Bret Donovan and family on the death of Linda Blanker.

The most recently added names 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.

Stewardship— How Are We Doing?

Year to Date as of January 2024

	This Year			Last Year		
	Current	Building	Total	Current	Building	Total
Income	\$34,918	\$3,680	\$38,598	\$35,829	\$4,033	\$39,862
Expenses	\$37,228		\$37,175	\$42,910		\$42,910
Surplus (deficit)	\$(2,310)	\$3,680	\$1,423	\$(7,081)	\$4,033	\$(3,048)
Surplus (deficit)			\$1,423			\$(3,048)

Other Outreach Offerings	Year to Date
Abiding Missions	\$100
City Mission	\$20
City Mission Food Pantry	\$7
ELCA World Hunger	\$410
ELCA Disaster Relief DOM	\$0
ELCA Disaster Relief Int'l	\$0
Good Gifts	<u>\$0</u>
Lutheran World Relief	<u>\$30</u>
	\$567

MINISTRY SCHEDULE/MARCH 2024

	March 3, 2024		March 10, 2024		March 17, 2024		March 24, 2024	
	Third Sunday in Lent		Fourth Sunday in Lent		Fifth Sunday in Lent		Palm Sunday	
WORSHIP LEADER	9:00am	11:00am	9:00am	11:00am	9:00am	11:00am	9:00am	11:00am
Acolyte	*	Isaac Hilderhoff	*	Henry Binotto	Sam Scher	*	*	Jack Binotto
Lay Assistant	Karen Glass	Kim Maize	Ken Rigby	Jackie Beck	Mark Harris	Maegan Bregenser	Laura Culp	Lori Greene
Lector	Trudy Wagner	Keith Mason	Dianne Rigby	Karen Smith	Linda Nickles	Becky Long	Debbie Healey Langley	Heather Morelli
Communion Assistant	Missy Bookhammer	Lori Greene	Kim Chupinka	Eliana Beck	Missy Bookhammer	Becky Long	Kim Chupinka	Brenda Binotto
Communion Assistant	Tina Borra	Soheila Lunney	Debbie Healey Langley	Brenda Binotto	Tina Borra	Sarah Dagnal	Debbie Healey Langley	Carol Brandyberry
Communion Assistant	Laura Culp	Keith Mason	Susan Loeser	Carol Brandyberry	Garrett Langley	Lori Greene	Barb Hrabar	Sue Lambert
Communion Assistant	Linda Nickles	Susan O'Brien	Beth Pansino	Lori Greene	Susan Loeser	Becky Long	Susan Loeser	Heather Morelli
Communion Assistant	Phyllis Permar	Carl Ruppel	Phyllis Permar	Barb Hrabar	Linda Nickles	Keith Mason	Beth Pansino	Carl Ruppel
Communion Assistant	Trudy Wagner	Sally Ruppel	Trudy Wagner	Sue Lambert	Phyllis Permar	Susan O'Brien	Phyllis Permar	Sally Ruppel
Greeter(s)	Karla Lance	Hilderhoff Family	Dianne Rigby	Gerda & Larry Moul	Anne Scher	Paula Reese	Dianne Rigby	Dani Mizia
Usher	Dave Borra	Jacob Casper	Clint Langley	Simon Beck	Dave Borra	Jacob Casper	Clint Langley	Jim Mizia
Usher	Drew Lance	Jim Doughty	Keith Lowery	Doug Meley	Dan Scher	Eric Reese	Ken Rigby	Max Mizia
Gift Bearer	*	Owen Hilderhoff	*	Jack Binotto	Sophie Scher	Titus Pomposelli	*	Penny Mizia
Altar Guild	Tina Borra	Lori Greene	Susan Loeser	Carol Brandyberry	Tina Borra	Lori Greene	Barb Hrabar	Sally Ruppel
Altar Guild	VOLUNTEER	Sally Ruppel	VOLUNTEER	Barb Hrabar	VOLUNTEER	Becky Long	Susan Loeser	VOLUNTEER
PowerPoint	Ryan Hettinger	Xander King	Karen Glass	Rolf Otterness	Gary Milavec	Meredith Pomposelli	Rolf Otterness	Rolf Otterness
Camera	X	Sam Mizia	X	Sam Mizia	X	Sam Mizia	X	Sam Mizia
Head Teller	TBD		TBD		TBD		TBD	
Council Teller	TBD		TBD		TBD		TBD	

Positions marked with an "X" are not needed at this service.

*Child volunteer(s) is requested.

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

The schedule for Holy Week will be published in the April newsletter.

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

105 Gateshead Drive
McMurray, PA 15317-3101

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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

THE REV. KEVIN CLEMENTSON, INTERIM PASTOR
443-699-8534, kclementson@yahoo.com

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.