

The Focus

June 2023



Pastor's Message

I sat down to write an article for the newsletter and frankly found myself staring at a blank computer screen with just one thought on my mind... "I got nothing." My next image was of our Editor Martha Rhone patiently waiting for me to deliver. I went to our ELCA magazine **Living Lutheran** in search of inspiration. A section of the magazine called **Family and Faith** had an article entitled "Come and Rest." I smiled thinking that this was a great theme for summer. The article focused on Mark 6:31 "Come away to a deserted place all by yourself and rest a while." A sigh of relief ensued and in my mind's eye I could see Martha Rhone beginning to smile.

A problem arose as I began to read this verse in context of Mark's gospel. Chapter 6 includes Jesus' rejection by the people of his hometown (Nazareth), the sending of the disciples "two by two," the death of John the Baptist and finally the feeding of the five thousand. Verse 31 is in the opening of the story of the feeding of the five thousand. The disciples have just come back from their little mission trip and had much to say about their experiences. Jesus invites them to come away to a deserted place to rest. Sounds like a plan so they jumped in a boat and made for the other side of the Sea of Galilee. However, crowds had begun to seek after Jesus and seeing him and his disciples get in a boat, they merely walked the shoreline to where the boat came ashore and a massive crowd was soon gathered. So much for any rest for the disciples. Jesus got out of the boat and recognized the needs of those gathered. Mark wrote "he had compassion for them." (v. 34) Jesus saw people in need; the disciples saw hungry mouths, economic limitations coupled with supply side issues and they were wearied from their first near solo adventures as evangelist and now they were expected to pull off the impossible instead of finding rest. But the day was not over! Yes, Jesus found a way to feed five thousand people with five small loaves of bread and two fish. After an abundance of spare food was collected Jesus sent the disciples away in the boat to go back over the other side. But on the water, they encountered heavy winds on the sea which led to them witnessing Jesus walking on water. The storm was stilled the boat landed in Gennesaret where another crowd of people were waiting seeking healing for their loved ones.

Come and rest, the article is titled but the text of these verses from Mark are more likely to teach a lesson of being situationally aware in your journeys of daily life. Too often we miss the things happening all around. This summer as we travel to places outside of our daily routine looking for rest or just a varied pace of living remember to be aware of those around you. The weary waitstaff who may be struggling still with the economic consequences of the past few years. The tired travelers at gates and rest stops who may not be coping so well and could use a kind word and bit of graceful tolerance. The neighbor who has gone through a life transition and is facing a summer alone or far separated from loved ones. Look out for the refugee or migrant who is now trying to maneuver through a strange culture, a foreign language, or fears of retribution from those who resent their presence in our land.

We are in a season for rest and reflection, but we are also in a season of attentiveness to those who need compassion. Yes, it important to find rest and healing for our lives. However there are times when the greatest healing for our souls arises out of our willingness to act with compassion and love for others. The invitation to 'Come and rest'... for the disciples becomes a call to 'come and serve.' The summer is indeed a time for rest, but it can also be a time for unique opportunities to serve.

Peace

Pastor Kevin

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.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 5:30PM
(USUALLY OUTSIDE—WEATHER PERMITTING
BEGINNING JUNE 10)

SUNDAY, 10:00AM
(IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED)

Special readings for Summer Worship

This **summer in worship** we'll be hearing one of the readings each week from a children's story Bible rather than the NRSV translation. We're also looking for artwork from kids and youth to be shared on the screen, which will illustrate the highlighted reading. Artists, let Pastor Kerri know if you'd like to participate, and she'll assign you a week and the story to illustrate.

Trinity Sunday

Join us for worship on June 3 & 4 as we celebrate Trinity Sunday with a special service of readings and hymns.

Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly

Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly is meeting on June 16 -17. Our Redeemer will be represented by Lynn Broman, Jenn King, Rolf Otterness, Pastor Kerri Clark, Pastor Kevin Clementson. Pastor Deb Thompson, Deacon Phyllis Permar, Pastor Broome and Pastor Schmid will also be participating in the assembly. Please pray for safe travel and wise decisions as the voting members come to the assembly from throughout our synod.

Summer Office Hours

Beginning the week of June 5, Elaine, the Office Administrator, will be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-4. She will be working remotely on Tuesdays. The church office will be closed on Fridays.

In an emergency, call the church office at 724-941-7467, press 4 to be connected to the Office Administrator's line and then press 4 again to be connected to her cell phone.

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!**

Family Friday

K-6th graders and their families are invited to bring dinner and join us on **Friday, June 9 at 5:30pm** for fun together on the playground! In the event of inclement weather, we'll be inside the social hall. Sign up on the bulletin board or [online](#).



Mini Golf

7th-12th graders, join Pastor Kerri on **Monday, June 26 at 3pm** for a round of mini golf at Sunset Golf (3501 Brownsville Rd, South Park). Sign up on the bulletin board or [online](#); let Pastor Kerri know if you need a ride from the church.

Synod Youth Day

7th-12th graders, save the date for NWPA & SWPA Synod Youth Day at Lutherlyn, Sunday, August 20, 3-7pm. Look for more details in next month's newsletter!

Flat Jesus

Flat Jesus is back for another summer of adventures! As you travel near and far this summer, remember that Jesus is with you wherever you go. Pick up or print out a "Flat Jesus" template. Color it, cut it out, and laminate if you'd like. Bring Flat Jesus along on your summer adventures close to home or out on the road, then snap a picture and share it with us! We'd love to post pictures on the bulletin board at church and/or in our weekly emails and the ORLC Facebook page.



VBS Registration – Save the date for “Renew: The Green VBS” held August 7-10 from 9:15-noon! Registration for participants (age 3.5 to completed 5th grade) and volunteers (completed 6th grade and older) are available on our [website](#).

VBS décor prep day – Join Pastor Kerri on **Tuesday, June 20 from 1-3pm** for some arts and crafts as we begin working on decorations for VBS!

VBS supplies - We could use donations of plastic soda and water bottles (all sizes, clean and dry), paper egg cartons, empty toilet paper rolls, colored tissue paper, newspaper, and brown packing paper. Donations may be placed in the labeled bins in the social hall.



Congratulations to our Confirmands!

McKayla Fornof, Xander King, McKenna Fornof, Thomas Foertsch



Pub Theology for Our Redeemer is up! Our first gathering at Voodoo Brewing in Houston was a success. We are planning our next event; 7:00pm. on June 27. Bring a friend and an open mind for a time of conversation and fellowship.



God's Work, Our Hands

Time to Refresh Our T-shirts and Hoodies

This year marks the 10th anniversary of “God’s Work, Our Hands,” a day of service observed throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We will be joining in God’s Work, Our Hands on September 10, immediately following the 10:00 Worship Service. Watch future newsletters and emails for more information on this exciting day.

In the meantime, we will be ordering T-shirts and hoodies with the name of our congregation on the back. Paid orders must be received no later than Sunday, July 16.

Checks should be payable to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Order forms are available on the bulletin board at church or give us the following information in writing along with your check: Your name, choice of T-Shirt or Hoodie with size(s) desired.

A minimum of 10 orders are needed for each of the items (T-shirt; hoodies), so if we do not receive the required number of orders, your money will be refunded.

T-Shirts are \$11.00 each and come in sizes: Youth S, M, L and Adult S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL

Hoodies are \$24 each and come in Adult sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, and 3XL
Don't forget we need your paid order no later than Sunday, July 16.



Member News

Thank You

I want to thank the congregation at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for keeping me in your prayers. I thank God for my Lutheran Friends at your church for keeping me on your prayer list. I am cancer free and feeling great. I have been given a new lease on life and the bonus is, I am getting my hair back.

Sincerely
Karol Smith

Members on the Move

John and Pat Easoz
8849 Ladson Lane NW
Calabash, NC 28467

Best wishes to you in your new home.

Thank You from Blessings in a Backpack

To Our Redeemer Lutheran Church-

The Ringgold Elementary School North Blessings in a Backpack program is so grateful to have your support as we help 118 students that face food insecurity over the weekends when they do not receive breakfast and lunch from the school. Your food donations have been used each week to help fill the bags for the kids to take home and we were very honored to be the recipient of this year's Souper Bowl of Caring donation which will help us to purchase enough food for two weekends for each student! Your generosity is humbling and we are so thankful! Our principal, Mr. Ference, described your donations as a blessing to the students and sends his thanks as well.

Sincerely,

Jaymi Moody and Dani Mizia

RESN Blessings in a Backpack Coordinators

Holy Hikers!

Mingo Creek County Park!!!

Announcing our new adventure in the Holy Hikers series of athletic events (hiking, walking, exploring).

Saturday, June 10th at 9:00am.

This event will begin at the "Henry" covered bridge with the goal of reaching the "Ebenezer" covered bridge and returning (4ish miles round trip).

The surface is level (mostly) asphalt hiking/biking trail along the scenic river that runs through the park. We will also pass by a dog park so bring your furry friends along.

As always, everyone is welcome, RSVPs not required (just show up).
Friends are welcome (again, just show up).

Self-paced so no need to keep up with the fast-walkers (bring a friend to hike with!).
So, this is easy-going, informal, come as you are, participate as you will, get exercise, have fun!!

For Directions: Enter "Henry Covered Bridge", Mansion Hill Rd, Finleyville into your GPS.

See you there!!
Clint Langley 724-263-7757



Young Adult Gathering

Young adults (age 18-30ish) are invited to join Pastor Kerri for dinner at Aladdin's (4080 Washington Rd) on Thursday, June 1 at 6:30pm.

Faithful Filmgoers

Mark your calendar for our next outing! Friday evening, July 7

Steve D'Addieco is the coordinator of these events. Near the beginning of July, he will select a movie, a time and a place with everyone in mind! He will email the details to all of the people who have expressed an interest in Faithful Filmgoers. If you haven't done this already, you can easily be added to the Steve's list by sending him an email regarding your interest at stevendaddieco@gmail.com. Following the movie, the group goes to a place close by for a late-night snack and discussion of the film. (A group of eight people joined together on May 19 and had a great time!) Friends are welcome too! Please join us in July!!!

Dining Out Divas

Thursday, June 22 at 12:30pm, The Porch at 120 Siena Drive, Upper St. Clair

Ladies...join us for a fun lunch and great fellowship. Please sign up so we can arrange for plenty of seating. New Dining Divas are always welcome!!!

Washington Wild Things

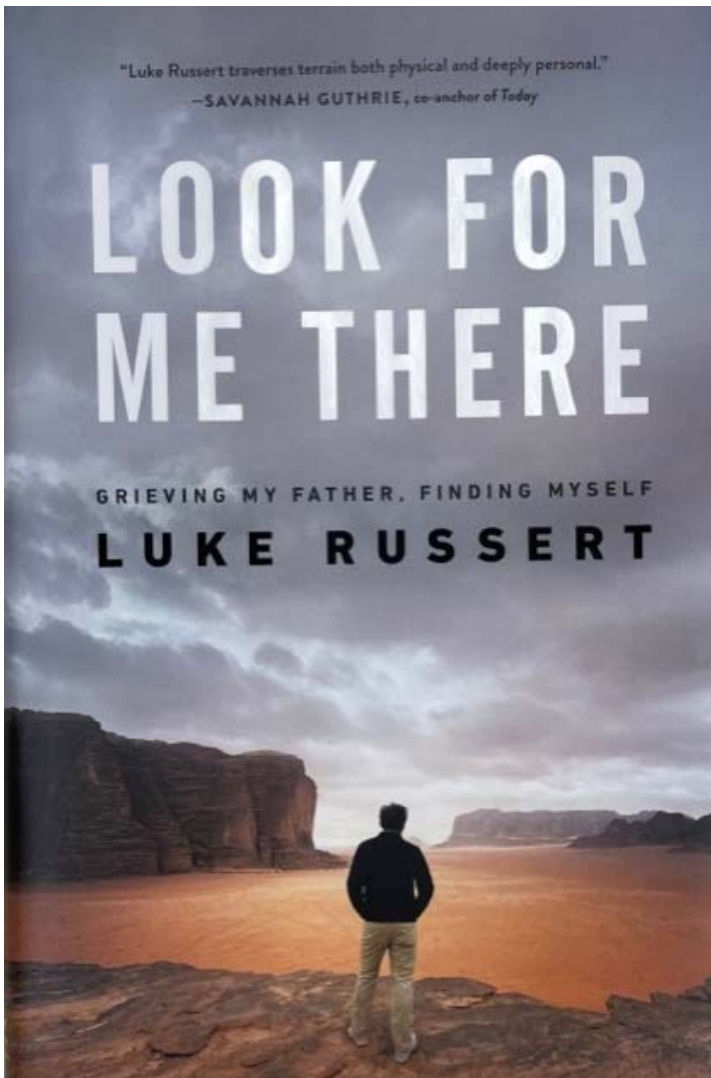
We are bringing back a church favorite . . . A Night with the Wild Things. Join us on Tuesday, June 13 as the Washington Wild Things take on the Ottawa Titans beginning at 7:05pm. Tickets are \$10 each. We will meet at the stadium. Tickets will be at will call. Food and drinks are available at the game.

Reservations and payment are due into the church office by June 11.



Annual Dinner Theater Outing set for JULY 28!

This year's play at Little Lake will be "Deathtrap", which is a comedic thriller containing adult themes. For a synopsis of the plot see the bulletin board sign up poster. The play begins at 7:30pm, but an optional dinner will be at Capstone Grill at 5:45pm. The cost of admission for the play is \$ 25 per ticket. Please make your check payable to "Our Redeemer Lutheran Church" and submit by July 16. We hope that you will be able to join us for this fun outing! For more information see Phyllis Permar.



Summer Book Study

When I think of summer, reading a good book and enjoying great conversation with others are two things that come to my mind. I recently heard an interview with Luke Russert about his brand-new book, **“Look For Me There – Grieving My Father, Finding Myself.”** Luke is the son of the late Tim Russert who was a legendary news broadcaster, including anchoring *Meet the Press*. After his father’s untimely death, Luke tried to follow in his father’s footsteps but then stepped away and began to travel. All the time, Luke was looking for his own place in the world. I’ve only begun to read this book, but am looking forward to it. Does it sound interesting to you? If you are able, I’d love to join in conversation with you about the book. We would focus on three topics: grief, travel, and finding oneself at any stage of life. I invite you to join me for conversation about the book on **three Thursdays in July: the 13th, 20th, and 27th from 10:30 a.m. – Noon.** Each person will be responsible for obtaining and reading the book between now and July 13. It would be helpful if you would sign up by the end of June so that I will know if anyone is going to join me in reading and conversation.

Pastor Martha

Heads Up Everyone.....Your Opinion Counts

Our Redeemer Council will be hosting a number of Town Hall Gatherings in mid-late summer and will be held at the church at a variety of times. Please watch for details soon. We need your participation as we move forward into the senior pastor call process.

Summer Guest Speaker

Pastor Brian Bennet from **Lutheran Campus Ministry** in Oakland will join us on Saturday, July 15 and Sunday, July 16. He will preach and give a temple talk about campus ministry at each worship service. On Sunday we will hold the forum after worship.

Come and learn about **Lutheran Campus Ministry** in the Greater Pittsburgh area.



New Books in the Library

Wherever You Are by Glenys Nellist.

“God is in the gently falling snow, the river, and the honeybee. God is in the people you meet. God is in city streets and country lanes. God is in laughter and tears. No matter where you go, how you are feeling, or what you do, God is with you.

This gentle, reassuring picture book by bestselling author Glenys Nellist and illustrator Sian James encourages children to notice God all around them, in the ordinary people and places of everyday life.”

The Wrong Shoes, A Book About Money and Self-Esteem by Caryn Rivadeneira.

“Marco loved his Super Stepper Running Shoes when he saw them in the store—but on the first day of school he discovers that everybody was wearing Jupiter Jumpers. He wanted those shoes. He needed those shoes. But his dad said no, and his mom said he should earn some money and save up for them himself. Marco never had a job before! So he grabbed his trusty Field Guide and his best friend Amelia for a quest through the wild world of money—a quest that teaches them some unexpected lessons about self-worth.”

The Very Best Story Ever Told, The Gospel with American Sign Language by Robin Currie.

“The story of God’s love through Jesus is the very best story ever told! With the help of gentle, repetitive text and simple American Sign Language described in words and pictures, children will be able to remember and retell the gospel story again and again.”

City Mission Food Pantry

Our Redeemer is a supporter of the Washington City Mission, which is located at 84 W. Wheeling St. in Washington PA. This Christ centered organization serves Washington and all surrounding counties. The Mission provides supportive services such as food, meals, personal care items, clothing and counseling to individuals and families who qualify as low income in our community. It also offers support services to residents as they exit the homeless site for independent living. Our Redeemer collects food for the Mission throughout the year. There are two marked boxes in the Narthex (lobby). Presently, the Mission’s Food Pantry is in need of Cereal, Canned Chicken, Ramen Noodles, Breakfast Bars, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Spaghetti Sauce and Peanut Butter Crackers.

We also volunteer to deliver the food items once monthly. We have volunteers through July but are in need of help for the remaining months of 2023. Food can be delivered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am through 3 pm at the address above which is less than 30 minutes from church. (Hint – if you are delivering food that month, plan to load your car following a church service on Saturday night or Sunday and ask fellow members to help load the items!) At the Mission, a staff member unloads your car. In less than 15 minutes, your car is unloaded and you are headed home! There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board.

The Mission also is in need of frozen meals. Foil pans and recipes are located in the Narthex or feel free to use your own recipes. Place the items marked for the Mission in the freezer and they can be delivered at the same time as the food.

Recycling Bottle Caps

The city of Washington is asking community members to recycle bottle caps, any size or color. When enough are collected the caps will be melted down to make chairs and tables for Washington park. To help out, a container is on the window sill in the Narthex (lobby).

In Our Prayers

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

George Andrewson, Carol Ausefski, Edith Bencic, Steve Broome, Cindy Cox, Chris Decker, Dorothy Dillemath, Kerri Evans, Richard and Lori Gajdowski, Ray Hrabar, Mandy Jarosh, Gary McGaffic, Beth Ricciuti, Kathy Russman, and Randy Stonemark.

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

Chris, Doug, Kate, Sam, Nancy Adams, Larry Arch, Sandi Babbie, Gladys Bacco, Nikki Baselj, Wendy Brosky, Doug Bush, Tom Caley, Judy Concannon, Carolyn Dagg, Ellen Deutsch, D. Tom Emery, Pat Filipiak, Beth Gallagher, Lee Gauden, Catie Geory, Ian Gonzalez, Joey Granata, Lisa Grimes, Robert Hildebrand, Joyce Hough, Stan Karoleski, Ray Keisling, June Lance, George Langford, Jess Lee, Diane Ley, Andrew Locher, Steve Lombardi, Mildred Maize, Charlene Marquart, Ruth Marston, Paul McKosky, Megan Meseck, Samantha L. Middlemiss, Jolie Mihalik, Chuck Miller, Owen Miller, Adam Miskow, Linda Moeslein, Margaret Moran, Joyce Morrison, Dolores Munsick, Beth Napolitano, Phil Neubauer, Lynn Oberg, Kathy Oberle, Brad Olson, Jean Orth, Gracie Patton, Dave Provenzano, Cyndi Quinn, Jess Izzi Reiter, Betty and Frank Rively, Jeanie Rose, Bob Ruppel, Kevin Ruppel, Joe Sarubbi, Dave Schrader, Jeff Schwarz, Meryl Severson, Holly Shader, Donna Stafford, Dan Stimmel, Gary Stinson, Andrew Straka, Terri Strawn, Jennifer Kepple Styles, Tina Thielet, Nancy Verderber, Art W., Dave Weikel, Ellyn Whitt and family, and Rhianna Wilk.

We remember those who grieve:

John and Mohylyn Yocca and family on the death of John's father, 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 April 2023

	This Year			Last Year		
	Current	Building	Total	Current	Building	Total
Income	\$165,212	\$17,085	\$182,297	\$163,791	\$19,093	\$182,884
Expenses	\$142,392		\$142,392	\$151,154		\$151,154
Surplus (deficit)	\$22,820	\$17,085	\$39,905	\$12,637	\$19,093	\$31,730
Surplus (deficit)			\$39,905			\$31,730

Other Outreach Offerings	Year to Date
Abiding Missions	\$500
City Mission	\$325
City Mission Food Pantry	\$56
ELCA World Hunger	\$1,750
ELCA Disaster Relief Intl	\$895
Lutheran World Relief	\$125
	\$3,651

MINISTRY SCHEDULE/JUNE 2023

	June 4, 2023	June 11, 2023	June 18, 2023	June 25, 2023
			Father's Day	
WORSHIP LEADER	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
Acolyte	*	*	*	*
Lay Assistant	Kim Chupinka	Laura Culp	Max Rush	Susan Loeser
Lector	Ryan Maize	Jen Milavec	Tim Prex	Ruth Ann Lowery
Communion Assistant	Jackie Beck	Maegan Bregenser	Tina Borra	Missy Bookhammer
Communion Assistant	Garrett Langley	Linda Nickles	Karen Glass	Gerda Moul
Communion Assistant	Juliette Langley	Carl Ruppel	Linda Nickles	Phyllis Permar
Communion Assistant	Kim Maize	Sally Ruppel	Susan O'Brien	Jamie Whyte
Greeter	Debbie Healey Langley	Dani Mizia	Karla Lance	Karen Smith
Usher	Clint Langley	Jim Mizia	Dave Borra	Doug Meley
Usher	Joe Maize	Max Mizia	Drew Lance	John Yocca
Gift Bearer	*	Penny Mizia	Eliza and Norah Prex	*
Altar Guild	Susan Loeser	Laura Culp	Becky Long	Lori Greene
Altar Guild	Becky Long	Sally Ruppel	Heather Morelli	Susan Loeser
PowerPoint	Gary Milavec	Jennifer Hewitt	Ryan Hettinger	Lori Greene
Camera	Sam Mizia	Sam Mizia	Sam Mizia	Sam Mizia
Head Teller (Monday)	Judy Pilof	Gary Milavec	Barb Schumacher	Carol Locher
Council Teller (Monday)	Jennifer Hewitt	Sue Lambert	John Yocca	Jackie Beck

*Child volunteers are 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

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105 Gateshead Drive McMurray, PA 15317-3101
724-941-7467

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

SATURDAY 5:30 PM (Usually outside—weather permitting beginning June 10)
and SUNDAY 10:00 AM (In-person and 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.