

The Focus

August 2023



Pastor's Message

We had a great time on vacation at Lutherlyn's Family Camp last month. We spent time with friends old and new, marveled at God's creation, made crafts, sang songs, and ate good food. Each full day ended with worship and campfire together, as we reflected on the day's theme and praised God together in ways both serious and silly.

While I loved singing and doing the hand motions to all the songs during worship and campfire, it was much harder to get Wade engaged in what was going on. He sat on a chair or, more often, crawled around on the ground, refusing to stand and sing along. I have to admit that I was a little frustrated. I dreaded the argument every day about why we had to go to worship and why he couldn't instead go to the jump pillow or play with toys back at our cabin. Each evening we dragged him along, and let him sit. Every so often I'd look over with a smile, inviting him to join in the singing, letting him know he was welcome either way.

That next weekend, after we were back at home, Wade and I sat at the dining room table working on a craft together. As we worked, he started singing - *Mighty, Mighty Savior*, and *Fill My Cup*, and *Pharaoh, Pharaoh* - all songs we had sung again and again at worship and campfires the week before at camp. All those songs? The worship, the messages about God's powerful, marvelous love? He had heard and internalized them all, even though it seemed like he wasn't paying attention. A seed had been planted in him, and under the soil, unseen, it took root and grew.

One of my favorite scripture passages about growth in faith comes from 1 Corinthians 3:6 - "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." In this portion of the letter, the apostle Paul is responding to conflict about which leader was best. He goes on to describe how we all work together, playing different roles, but, ultimately, our foundation and growth are from God.

During Vacation Bible School this month, we'll be hearing the parable of the sower. In this parable, the seed of God's Word is scattered, and some seeds land on the path, or on rocky soil, or among thorns, or on good soil. In our own families, and in our church family, each of us has a role to play in spreading the seed of God's word - sharing stories, providing opportunities for learning, passing on faith. We bring our children to be baptized, worship together, read Bible stories, and sing songs. And while we plant and water and nurture, we remember that growth comes from God alone. We trust that the Holy Spirit is at work, even when that growth is slower than we expect, happening in unlikely ways, or hidden from our view. For our God whose love is persistent and life-giving, we give thanks and praise!

With hope,

Pastor Kerri

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.

Special readings for Summer Worship

This summer in worship we've been hearing one of the readings each week from a children's story Bible rather than the NRSV translation. To accompany each story, our children and youth have been sharing their artistic talents through artwork that is displayed on the screen and on the hall bulletin board. Many thanks to our July artists highlighted here.



Artist Jack Binotto



Artist Isaac Hilderhoff



Artist Henry Binotto



Artist Reece Greco

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY: 9AM-4PM
TUESDAY: 9AM-12PM
WEDNESDAY: 9AM-4PM
THURSDAY: 9AM-4PM
FRIDAY: CLOSED

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.



Artist Eliza Prex

Church Picnic, Rally Day, and Ministry Fair

Save the date! We'll be sharing in fun, food, and fellowship on **Sunday, September 17** before heading back to our regular worship and Growing in God schedule on September 24. Following the 10am worship service, we'll have a picnic lunch, activities for all ages, and displays from each of our committees to share more about the exciting ministry taking place at Our Redeemer. Hope you can join us!

A Planning Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 16 at 10am. If you are interested in helping plan this event please join us! Let Pastor Kerri (rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com) know if you'd like to help but are not available that day.

Our Redeemer Town Hall Update

It isn't too late! The Congregation Council is interested in hearing from you! Share your hopes and dreams for the future of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and listen to the voices of other church members as we prepare for the upcoming call process.

You can choose from the following dates:

Wednesday, August 2, 7:00 pm (especially for young adults and teens)

Saturday, August 5, 6:15 pm

Sunday, August 13, 11:30 am (childcare provided)

Tuesday, August 22, 10:00 am

Each gathering will be 60 – 90 minutes in length, depending on the number of people attending and the robustness of the conversation! The questions that will guide our discussion are: What brought you to ORLC and what keeps you here? What are ORLC's strengths and challenges? Do you have particular ideas/desires for the present and future ministry at ORLC? Each conversation will be guided by one of our council members.

We would like to know the number of people planning to attend, so please sign up online or at church.

Dining Divas

We'll gather for lunch on **Wednesday, August 30 at 12:30pm** at Cedars (4071 Washington Rd, McMurray).

Flat Jesus

Thanks for sharing your pictures with Flat Jesus! It's been great to see your adventures overseas, across the country, and close to home! Photos can be added to the bulletin board or emailed to the office (orlc@comcast.net).



VBS decorating

We'll be setting up for VBS after worship on **Sunday, August 6**. Your help to install our decorations will be much appreciated as we prepare to welcome 100 kids to Our Redeemer for stories, songs, crafts, and fun during VBS August 7-10!

VBS celebration

On **Sunday, August 13**, plan to join us for worship at 10am to hear about our time at VBS, sing fun songs together, and share some treats! (VBS participants should plan to wear their "ReNew" t-shirts!)

Lutherlyn – Building for the Future

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church committed \$10,000 to Lutherlyn's Building for the Future Capital Campaign. Your outright gifts and pledges totaled \$44,750. You are nothing short of amazing! As this was a Lutherlyn Capital Campaign, acknowledgements will come from Lutherlyn. All pledge payments will go directly to them as well. Checks can be made payable to Lutherlyn and mailed to PO Box 355, Prospect PA 16052. If you did not make a pledge or gift during our six-week campaign, you can still do so through their website at <https://www.lutherlyn.com/support/buildingforthefuture>.

Member News

New Arrivals

Dave and Tina Borra announce the birth of their granddaughter, Holly Elise Rutkowski on July 6. Holly is the daughter of Kelly and Mike Rutkowski.

Theo Nicholas Chupinka, 3rd son of Stephanie and Tyler, was born on July 11 weighing 8 lbs. 14 oz. and 20.5 inches long. He is brother to Brody (3) and Cooper (17 months), grandson of Kim and Steve Chupinka.

Congratulations to all!

Family Friday

K-6th graders and their families are invited to bring dinner and join us on **Friday, August 11 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.

Synod Youth Day

Rising 7th-12th graders, join the fun for NWPA & SWPA Synod Youth Day at Lutherlyn, **Sunday, August 20, 3-7pm**. We will plan to carpool from the church; please sign up by August 13.

Washington Wild Things

We have been given 50 tickets to the September 2, 7:05pm game when the Washington Wild Things take on the Windy City ThunderBolts. It is Faith & Family Night and also a Coffee Mug Giveaway to the first 1,000 fans. If you would like tickets to the game, please call or email the church office and let us know how many you would like. The tickets will be left in the church office for you to pick up.

Faithful Filmgoers

Our next outing will be on Friday evening, **August 11**. Steve D'Addieco (coordinator) 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 Steve's list by sending him an email regarding your interest at stevendaddieco@gmail.com. Following the movie, the group will go to a place close by for a late-night snack and discussion of the film.

Holy Hikers!

Peters Lake!!! (not Peters Wood)

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

- Saturday, August 26 at 9:00am.
- This event will begin at the parking lot (near the boat launch) at the end of Center Church Road, featuring a 1.5 mile loop (complete as many loops as you like).
- The surface is dirt/mud with some roots and mostly level. Bring your dog!!
- 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!!



Directions: Enter Peters Lake Park from the north entrance using Center Church Road off of E. McMurray Road (traffic light) and proceed to the farthest parking lot.

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

God's Work – Our Hands

Our Redeemer will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the ELCA's Day of Service on Sunday, September 10. We will join in our 10:00 Worship Service before participating in a variety of service activities throughout the church building. The Service and Outreach Committee is planning activities with all ages in mind. A light lunch will be included. So, please put God's Work – Our Hands on your calendar now and watch for more details in upcoming communications from Our Redeemer.



Looking for Saturday Service Activities – We also are thinking about taking on some service activities outside of the church on Saturday, September 9. If you or someone else needs help with light maintenance in the yard or house, please contact Pastor Martha at clementsonmartha@gmail.com.

Day of Service School Kits Project

One of our projects for our “**God's Work. Our Hands.**” day of service will be to donate school kits to Lutheran World Relief. Each kit will contain the following:

- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8” x 10 ½” ; no loose leaf paper
- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 ½” eraser

You do not need to purchase everything on this list. Any donation of the above items will be appreciated. Place your donations in the container in the church narthex through September 6.

Building a Team from Our Redeemer for Habitat for Humanity

Our Habitat for Humanity workday on August 5 is fast approaching. We still could use 3 more volunteers, so please sign up if interested. Information regarding the job site and sign up is below.

The job site is located at the **Lincoln Avenue Townhomes** development, located at **542 Lincoln Ave, East Liberty, PA 15206**. Free street parking will be available for our team around our construction site. A **Build Day Team** has been set up on the volunteer website, so anyone who will be attending should make sure to create a volunteer account at <https://volunteer.habitatpittsburgh.org/user/dashboard/> and then follow this link to register for our Team Build Day: <https://volunteer.habitatpittsburgh.org/need/joinTeam>

You will not need to bring tools/equipment. The Habitat construction crew will provide us with all of the necessary tools, safety gear, etc. You should wear closed-toed shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

Please call Keith Mason at 412-965-6592 or email krmason057@gmail.com with any questions. We look forward to working with you on August 5.

Family Promise of SWPA Second Annual Family Fun Fest!

Friday, August 11, 6pm to 9pm
at Discovery Church (170 Sharberry Lane, Mars PA 16046)

Please join us for our Second Annual Family Fun Fest benefitting Family Promise of Southwestern PA. All proceeds will help serve our mission at FPSWPA: supporting children and families in danger of becoming homeless. Feel free to share this invitation to all of your family and friends, as well as your houses of worship!

Adults \$10 - Children 13 and under \$5

Admission includes unlimited rounds of mini golf on a 27-hole course, an indoor playground, and s'mores!! Additional food and snacks will be available for purchase. We hope to see you there!

RSVP to info@familypromiseswpa.org

In Our Prayers

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

Aaron Steffick, Ron Kilgore, Chris Decker, Karen Meley, Ruth Brosky, Ruth Ann Lowery, Amy Foertsch, Randy Stonemark, Beth Ricciuti, Steve Broome, Carol Ausefski, Gary McGaffic, Mandy Jarosh, George Andrewson, Kathy Russman, Ray Hrabar, Cindy Cox, Kerri Evans, Dorothy Dillemath, and Edith Bencic.

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

Jessica Mannion, Anthony Santaguida, Gary Graff, Steve Lombardi, D. Tom Emery, Dan Stimmel, Margaret “Peggy” Stopko, Ray Keisling, Jan Shaw, Rick Wilson, Bob Hohowski, Tom Caley, Marcy Raeford, Nancy Lyons, Leo Patrone, Bob Ruppel, Kevin Ruppel, Paul McKosky, Phil Neubauer, Nancy Adams, Margaret Moran, Ellyn Whitt and family, Lynn Oberg, Jess Izzi Reiter, Jennifer Kepple Styles, Judy Concannon, Samantha L. Middlemiss, Gracie Patton, Nikki Baselj, Beth Gallagher, George Langford, Jeff Schwarz, Stan Karoleski, Robert Hildebrand, Jean Orth, Linda Moeslein, Joe Sarubbi, Brad Olson, Megan Meseck, Ellen Deutsch, Cyndi Quinn, Sam, Beth Napolitano, Wendy Brosky, Jess Lee, Carolyn Dagg, Lisa Grimes, Betty and Frank Rively, Lee Gauden, Adam Miskow, Kathy Oberle, Diane Ley, Doug Bush, Mildred Maize, Owen Miller, Catie Geory, Dolores Munsick, Larry Arch, Jeanie Rose, Chuck Miller, Ian Gonzalez, Rhianna Wilk, June Lance, Gary Stinson, Chris, Doug, Terri Strawn, Jolie Mihalik, Art W., Kate, Tina Thielet, and Dave Schrader.

We remember those who grieve:

Lori and Richard Gajdowski and family on the death of Lori’s mother, Donna Stafford.

The most recent names added appear at the top of the Prayer List and will remain for 3 months. You may remove a name sooner or ask for renewal if a person is still in need of prayer after the three months.

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 email to orlc@comcast.net.

Stewardship— How Are We Doing?

Year to Date as of June 2023

	This Year			Last Year		
	Current	Building	Total	Current	Building	Total
Income	\$233,979	\$25,340	\$259,319	\$236,930	\$28,949	\$265,879
Expenses	\$214,460		\$214,460	\$230,186		\$230,186
Surplus (deficit)	\$19,519	\$25,340	\$44,859	\$6,744	\$28,949	\$35,693
Surplus (deficit)			\$44,859			\$35,693

Other Outreach Offerings	Year to Date
Abiding Missions	\$600
City Mission	\$350
City Mission Food Pantry	\$126
ELCA World Hunger	\$2,850
ELCA Disaster Relief Intl	\$895
Lutheran World Relief	\$185
	\$5,006

MINISTRY SCHEDULE/AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2023					
	August 6, 2023	August 13, 2023	August 20, 2023	August 27, 2023	September 3, 2023
WORSHIP LEADER	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
Acolyte	Henry Binotto	Sam Scher	*	*	*
Lay Assistant	Carl Ruppel	Maegan Bregenser	Jackie Beck	Beth Pansino	Kim Maize
Lector	Linda Nickles	Becky Long	Mary Helen Barr	Brian Casper	Mohylyn Yocca
Communion Assistant	Brenda Binotto	Sarah Dagnal	Eliana Beck	Missy Bookhammer	Barb Hrabar
Communion Assistant	Barb Hrabar	Debbie Healey Langley	Susan Loeser	Laura Culp	Sue Lambert
Communion Assistant	Becky Long	Juliette Langley	Soheila Lunney	Carl Ruppel	Linda Nickles
Communion Assistant	Phyllis Permar	Trudy Wagner	Phyllis Permar	Sally Ruppel	Phyllis Permar
Greeter	Tina Borra	Scher Family	Ruth Brosky	Eric and Paula Reese	Ruth Brosky
Usher	Dave Borra	Clint Langley	Jim Mizia	Drew Lance	Joe Maize
Usher	Keith Lowery	Doug Meley	Max Rush	Karla Lance	John Yocca
Gift Bearer	Jack Binotto	Sophie Scher	Penny Mizia	*	*
Altar Guild	Heather Morelli	Becky Long	Susan Loeser	Laura Culp	Lori Greene
Altar Guild	Sally Ruppel	TBD	TBD	Susan Loeser	TBD
PowerPoint	Gary Milavec	Karen Glass	Meredith Pomposelli	Rolf Otterness	TBD
Camera	Sam Mizia	Sam Mizia	Sam Mizia	Sam Mizia	Sam Mizia
Head Teller (Monday)	Judy Pilof (Sunday)	Carol Locher	Barb Schumacher	Dave Borra	TBD
Council Teller (Monday)	Dan Scher (Sunday)	Larry Day	Jackie Beck	Jennifer Hewitt	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

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724-941-7467

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

SATURDAY 5:30 PM (Usually outside—weather permitting)
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.