



The Focus

A monthly newsletter for the members and neighbors of
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

February 2022

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Dear friends,

The psalmist wrote:

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! Psalm 133 :1

I thought of those words this past Sunday as I walked down the hall from the lobby to the Social Hall where the reception for Katie was being held. With the pandemic there haven't been many times that we have gathered together for a coffee hour, so I knew people would enjoy sharing a cup of coffee and chatting. What I did not expect were the many little groups of people all along the hallway - people who had stopped to talk with each other even before getting to the Social Hall. It was just so good to have an opportunity to be together and catch up that they stopped right there in the hall.

As we move out of the omicron variant's surge, we are trying to carefully move back into more opportunities for life together beyond the worship hour:

- On February 6, Pastor Kerri's first Sunday with us, we'll have a coffee hour between Sunday worship services.
- This Lent we hope to resume our Wednesday evening potluck suppers.
- In-person Bible study is starting back up in February.
- In March adult Sunday morning class will resume.
- Children and youth activities will be increase as Pastor Kerri begins her ministry among us.

A small but important thing you can do right away to strengthen our church family is to start wearing your nametags again for worship. During the pandemic when we didn't want people crowding together around the nametag rack, we stopped wearing our nametags. But now it's time to get back to that habit. We've had new members join during the pandemic. And it will greatly help Pastor Kerri get to know our church family.

WELCOME, PASTOR KERRI!



Pastor Kerri Clark will begin her ministry among us on February 1. She and her husband Pastor Daniel Clark and son Wade have moved into their new house in Bethel Park.

Welcome to the Clark family!

Pastor Schmidt



LENT 2022

Ash Wednesday, March 2

The church's season of lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2. Our service schedule is as follows:

11:35 AM Worship for Young Children

Join your young child for a very brief Ash Wednesday worship experience that is designed just for them. Children will be invited, if they wish, to receive ashes along with their parent or caregiver. This is an opportunity to introduce your children, in a gentle way, to one of the meaningful traditions of our faith. Rituals and traditions are a gift we give to our children - ways of helping them understand God, and themselves, and the values their families hold.



12:15 and 7:00 PM

A traditional service of ashes and communion is offered at both these times. (For those on their lunch break, the 12:15 service concludes before 1:00.)

We will have the sanctuary open from 1:00-6:00 for those who wish to receive ashes individually.

MESSAGE FROM KATIE

Grateful. Thankful. Appreciative. I have lost count of how many times I have said these words over the past several weeks. I am deeply touched and humbled by the outpouring of love and kindness from each of you. "Thank you" seems to fall short of what I want to say, but it's all I can say. Thank you for your love and care. Thank you for your supportive and generous spirit. Thank you for being your wonderful, gracious selves. Just thank you. I am so grateful, thankful, and appreciative for... everything.

Philippians 1:3-4 "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you."

Peace
Katie McNeal

PS – don't worry, I'll be sure to let you know what's next for me as soon as I can!

ADMINISTRATION

Email Scams

You will **NEVER** receive an email from Pastor Schmid asking for gift cards. Check the address of the sender - if it is really from Pastor Schmid it will be pastorschmid@comcast.net. Check the language - if it is too flowery or too formal it is not from Pastor Schmid. If you are in doubt, please call Pastor Schmid or the church office rather than replying by email.

We also receive emails that appear to be from members but the messages clearly indicate a scam. We immediately delete them. If you are in need, please give the church office a call.

Lost and Found

Two different earrings were found and turned in to the church office. One is a green Christmas ornament and one a pink pearl. Stop in the church office to claim.

COLLEGE NEWS

College Care Packages

We are collecting snacks and goodies to send to our college students. Individually wrapped items can be dropped off at the church through February 6. Donations to cover the cost of shipping will also be accepted. If you can, write a personal note of encouragement to include in a package. **College students . . .** please make sure that the church office has your current address.

College Care Package Packing

Stay around for a few minutes after the 11:00 worship on February 6 and help us pack the college care packages. We have approximately 20 college students to send boxes of goodies to. People of all ages are welcome to help.

EDUCATION

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

February 8, 15 and 22 10:00 in person

Join us as we explore the gospel lessons for the coming Sunday. Come once or every week.

February 8	The Beatitudes	Luke 6:17-26
February 15	Love Your Enemies	Luke 6:27-38
February 22	The Transfiguration	Luke 9:28-43

Crossroads Classes (In-person)

February 20 (new date)
 March 13
 April 3

All classes are on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00PM.



Growing in God

Epiphany was celebrated in Sunday School on January 2. Some of Our Redeemer's "Kings" are pictured below.



LUTHERLYN

Lutherlyn is excited to announce that they are planning for Summer Camp 2022. Registration begins February 1. Please notify the church office when you register so that you may be eligible for a church campership. Visit Lutherlyn's website (<https://www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp/>) for up-to-date information and a link to their online registration form.

MEMBER NEWS

Rest in Peace

Our member, Robert F. Bolander, Jr. died on January 11 at the age of 55. He is survived by his wife, Renee and son, Robert III. A memorial service will be held at Our Redeemer on January 29 at 11:00 AM.

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

Thank You

Dear Our Redeemer,

Thank you for your many cards and expressions of sympathy upon the death of my mother, Thelma Zadach. My brother and I deeply appreciate your love for her and your prayers for us.

Lynn DelVecchio

Directory Addition

The Rev. Kerri and The Rev. Daniel Clark
Wade, age 5
590 Glenrock Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-1433

757-630-6680
rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com

Welcome to Our Redeemer!

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

The poet, Alfred Wainwright famously said; "there is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing." At Noah's Ark, this is one of our favorite mantras. We believe strongly in the power of nature to teach so many critical lessons. When children spend time outdoors; they learn risk assessment as they navigate and explore different terrains, develop grit and resilience with each fall or scrape, are free to imagine and create without boundaries and they cultivate their connection to and need to care for the earth. These beliefs were a driving factor in the development of our natural play space so many years ago and continue to drive us as we add new features and place a priority on time spent outside. There is no such thing as bad weather, as long as we are prepared for it! The lines of rain boots and extra jackets in our hallways are proof that we take our learning outside even when others may steer clear of the adventure! Make sure you spend some time outside this winter to experience the calm and wonder that nature can bring you too!

There is nothing better than a snow day spent with friends and we were so happy to have one our first week after break! Enjoy these pictures of our two-year-old's (and their incredible teachers) all bundled up to play on our amazing playground. There were lots of snow angels, snowball fights and too many giggles to count!

Miss Heidi

Heidi Garner, Director
Noah's Ark Preschool





"Snow day" at Noah's Ark!



Reception for Katie

Thanks to everyone who helped with our reception for Katie McNeal on January 23.

Godspeed, Katie. We look forward to hearing what comes next for you.



IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Edith Bencic, Cindy Cox, Dorothy Dillemath, Kerri Evans, Martha Fecher, Sandra May, Colleen Niven, Larry Wagner and Beverly Wilson.

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

Chris, Doug, Kate, Marjorie Appleton, Larry Arch, Sandi Babbie, Tom Bell, Todd Brosky, Doug Bush, Tom Caley, Irene Carulli, Kim Altman Casteel, Calvin and Margaret Cokeley, Cindy Culp, Carolyn Dagg, Mark Dubich, Lisa Emery, Dylan Flinchum, Keith Forsythe, Catie Geory, Ian Gonzalez, Lisa Grimes, John Haury, George Hildebrand, Bob Hohowski, Joe Ignacz, Ray Keisling, Carroll Kimmey, Arthur King, June Lance, Gordon and Diane Ley, Elizabeth Lucas, Mildred Maize, Zane Martini, Mark Mayer, Paul McKosky, Jolie Mihalik, Chuck Miller, Owen Miller, Adam Miskow, Margaret Moran, Dolores Munsick, Kathy Oberle, Kelly Palombo, Tracey Perles, Holly Perry, Jon Pidich, Dave Provenzano, Phyllis Rhone, Ben Ritter, Betty and Frank Rively, Jeanie Rose, Dave Schrader, Bob Shader, Holly Shader, Donna Stafford, Dan Stimmel, Gary Stinson, Andrew Straka, Terri Strawn, Robby Strickland, Michael Tempelhof, Tina Thielet, Lindsey Tremblay, PJ Tucci, Barb Van Lehn, Taylor Volkmer, Art W., Erin Wagner, Barbara Walker, Ginny Warnick, Terry Whyte, Rhianna Wilk, Bucky Williams and Frank Yocca.

We remember those who grieve:

The family of Robert F. Bolander, Jr.

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.

SERVICE & SOCIAL MINISTRY

NEWS FROM THE CITY MISSION:

City Mission Sweet Sunday 2022

We are incredibly excited for the 28th annual Sweet Sunday Dessert Festival at the Hilton Garden Inn in Southpointe on February 27 from 12-5. We are planning Sweet Sunday as an in-person event this year. Of course, we are closely monitoring the Covid situation in our area, and as we get updated information, we will make the necessary adjustments to ensure that all guests, vendors, staff, and volunteers stay safe, so please check back with us regularly to stay up-to-date.

Tickets, which will be sold at the door, are going to be \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of 4 or more. Currently, some of the Covid precautions we are planning to have in place are: acrylic shields for the desserts, masks and gloves for vendors, a cap of 20 vendors to create more space for social distancing, and hand sanitizer stations throughout the venue. We are also going to have auction baskets, and we are currently planning on live entertainment, so please be a **SMARTIE**. Join us at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe on Sunday, February 27, and be ready for one **WHOPPER** of a good time!

City Mission Warehouse Sale

City Mission's 48,000 square foot warehouse facility, located at 1000 Sheffield St, Washington, open Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., serves as both a store distribution center for our seven thrift store locations AND a vocational training center offering work therapy programs for our residents to train for future employment.

City Mission offers the opportunity to shop this location every three months, the first Friday and Saturday of that month. You never know what you will find at a great price! The next sale will be Friday, February 4 and Saturday, February 5 from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. All proceeds benefit City Mission's Life-Changing Programs.

SERVICE & SOCIAL MINISTRY, CONTINUED

Tax Assistance

Free Tax Assistance by VITA will be held at the Bible Chapel Monday through Thursday starting February 7 and continuing through April 7 from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. No appointments. First come, first served. Must wear mask and be vaccinated. Must bring your last year's tax return; ID for yourself and spouse; social security numbers and birthdates for yourself, spouse and dependents; all W-2 and 1099 tax documents (including Social Security 1099), 1095 health care statements and property tax receipts. Both spouses must sign joint returns. Federal, state, local taxes and property tax/rent rebate forms are prepared. Questions? Call the IRS at 800-829-1040. Online, search "VITA" at www.irs.gov. Please do not contact the Bible Chapel.

STEWARDSHIP ~ HOW ARE WE DOING?

Year to Date as of December 31, 2021

	This Year			Last Year		
	Current	Building	Total	Current	Building	Total
Income	\$469,345	\$51,180	\$520,525	\$464,728	\$60,114	\$524,842
Expenses	\$416,581		\$416,581	\$448,288		\$448,288
Surplus (deficit)	\$52,764	\$51,180	\$103,944	\$16,440	\$60,114	\$76,554
Surplus (deficit)			<u>\$103,944</u>			<u>\$76,554</u>

Members' Designated Offerings

	Year to Date
India Mission	\$1,144
ELCA World Hunger	\$5,405
Endowment	\$80,284
Humanitarian Relief	\$50,000
Food Pantry	\$164
Lutheran World Relief	\$455
ELCA Disaster Relief Domestic	\$515
Abiding Missions	\$1,200
City Mission	\$580
Family Promise	\$250
	<u>\$139,997</u>


A Special
THANK YOU


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

IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES

5:30 PM, SATURDAY and 9:00 (live-streamed) and 11:00 AM, SUNDAY
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. DR. ANN SCHMID, PASTOR - 724-554-6016 (cell), pastorschmid@comcast.net

THE REV. KERRI CLARK, ASSOCIATE PASTOR- 757-630-6680 (cell),
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. STEVEN E. BROOME, RETIRED

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>

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.