



The Focus

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

January 2022

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THANK YOU, KATIE!

Katie McNeal came to us as an intern in September 2020, and the timing could not have been better. We were six months into the pandemic and tired of Covid. Vicar Katie's enthusiasm and infectious smile lifted our spirits, and her tech know-how led us into a vastly improved on-line presence.

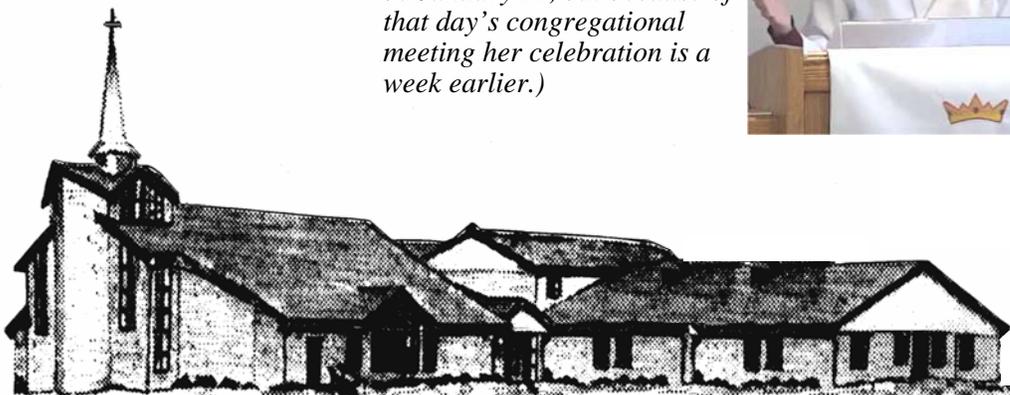
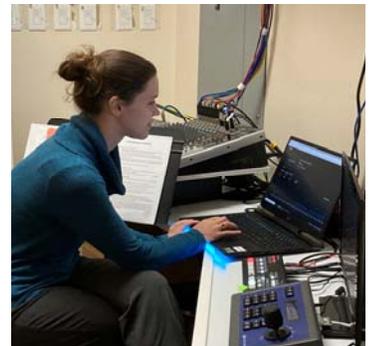
After Vicar Katie successfully completed her internship at the end of August 2021, she was ready to be called as a pastor to a congregation. But that process takes time, so council asked her to stay on with us as Ministry Assistant until we called a new Associate Pastor. Our Redeemer has greatly benefited from her continuing presence among us.

Katie has lived among us as a preacher, teacher, innovator, IT specialist, counselor, cheerleader, colleague and friend and ably done all of it online and in-person. She has brought God's word to us faithfully and skillfully. She has taught teens in confirmation, little kids in Sunday School, adults in Bible study and computer/camera technology with patience and creativity. She has encouraged us to do things we never thought we could do - like singing in a virtual choir and having a YouTube channel. And most of all, she has become a beloved sister in Christ to many of us. Katie will be a wonderful pastor when she is called to a congregation.

We will celebrate Katie's successful completion of her internship and give thanks for time among us on January 22/23. She will be honored during all three worship services and there will be an in-person reception from 10:00-11:00 on Sunday, January 23. Watch your email for ways you can help us celebrate Katie.

Pastor Schmid

(Katie's last day with us will be January 30, but because of that day's congregational meeting her celebration is a week earlier.)



Christmas Decorations Donations

Carol and Andrew Ausefski in memory of our grandson Brian Ausefski
Jim Beaumont in memory of Bernadette and Matthew Wittman
Linda Blanker in celebration of her seven wonderful grandchildren
Bodnar Family in celebration of faith, good health and family
Missy Bookhammer in memory of my husband, Thomas McCollum
Missy Bookhammer in memory of my father, Eugene McKinney
Missy Bookhammer in honor of Jim, Stacey, Kaelyn and Connor Wold
Carol Brandyberry in celebration of Jackson Webster
Maegan and Jim Bregenser in honor of our children: Hardy and Amanda Kern, Kelsey Kern, Jimmy Bregenser, Mary Bregenser, and Leah Kern
RaDonna Burik in celebration of the Birth of Jesus
The Casper family in celebration of all our blessings from God
Grace and Jacob Casper in celebration of our amazing Grandma
The Day's in memory of George "Yutie" and Margaret Vukovcan
The Day's in memory of Richard and Marty Day
Chris Decker and Lori Greene in memory of Clyde and Mary Elizabeth Greene
Chris Decker and Lori Greene in memory of Dutch and Edna Decker
Shirley Dempster in honor of David and Chris Dempster
Terry and Barb Divilbliss in celebration of grandchildren
Bill and Elaine Dolcich in thanksgiving to God for answered prayers
Bruce and Michele Engman in honor of our family
Joe and Kristianna Gizzi in memory of Marie Gizzi
Joe and Kristianna Gizzi in memory of Thomas Gizzi
Karen Glass in celebration for all of the wonderous gifts that God gave my family this year. We are deeply blessed.
The Harris Family in memory of Zach and Audrey Harris
Jennifer, Halle and Carlie Hewitt in memory of dear father and cherished "Poppa," J. Paul Wilson
Kris and Cameron Kent in memory of Gary and Janet Kent
Joseph and Barbara Lewandowski in memory of the Lewandowski and Stewart Families
Joseph and Barbara Lewandowski in memory of Roger Kohut
Jean Mace in memory of Bill Mace
Ginny Mickitsch in memory of John Mickitsch
Ginny Mickitsch in memory of Judy Dubich
Linda Nickles in thanksgiving for Our Redeemer
Rolf Otterness
Phyllis J. Permar in celebration of my grandchildren: Ariana, Xavier, Aloisa and Halina
Prevade Family in honor of our families and all loved ones no longer with us
Jerry and Pat Reinert in loving remembrance of our parents, Earl and Emma Moyer and Harold and Annie Reinert
Jerry and Pat Reinert in honor of our grandchildren – Angela, Julianne, Jakob and Ryan Reinert
Randy and Laurie Rieger and Family in memory of Vincent, Norma and Daniel Thompson
Dianne and Ken Rigby in memory of our loved ones
Paul and Kelly Romero in memory of Felecita Romero
Paul and Kelly Romero in memory of Larry and Sean Clark
Sally and Carl Ruppel in celebration of the birth of Jesus
Dan and Sara Secrist and family in memory of their Grandparents
Fred and Barb Smith in memory of our parents
Fred and Barb Smith in celebration of our grandchildren
Sharon Snyder in memory of my mother Kay
Sharon Snyder in memory of family members and friends
Larry and Susan Steffick in memory of Paul and Vica Steffick
Larry and Susan Steffick in memory of Charles and Emma Mayer
John and Nancy Till in memory of our parents
Beverly Wilson in memory of her beloved husband, J. Paul Wilson
John and Mohylyn Yocca in thanksgiving for all of God's blessings we have been given

Thank You!



WORSHIP

Baptismal Commemoration

January 9 is the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. In the past, we were able to bring together those who were baptized during the year and celebrate on this day with them. Because of the pandemic we will only verbally recognize those children baptized in 2021. They are:

Kalysta Faith Kondas, August 1
 Ruby Joy Rutkowski, September 7
 Kolton Andrew Smith, September 18
 Marie Catherine Martin, October 24

Ministry Schedule

At the current time, we will be working with volunteers only. Please see the Ministry Schedule posted on the bulletin board or email the church office and let us know when you would like to serve.

COVID Protocol

For the time being, our Covid worship guidelines are as follows:

- Masking is recommended, but not required, for everyone at the Saturday 5:30 and Sunday 11:00 services. Please use your best judgement.
- Facemasks are required for everyone at the Sunday 9:00 service.

It has been a gift to have been able to serve Our Redeemer beyond my internship. It was never intended to be a permanent position, and so the time has come for me to take the leap of faith into whatever role God is calling me next. It has been 16 months (17 at the end of January!) of twists and turns and surprises to say the least! I have had the opportunity to...

- learn with Growing in God classes by way of creating online content and at-home lesson packets and working with students in the building
- explore with a great group of thoughtful Crossroads students who kept me on my toes!
- imagine worship as it could exist online and in person... complete with a choir when we couldn't sing together!
- share stories with enthusiastic and playful preschool students
- work with a team to implement new technology into worship and learning opportunities
- visit with people and be welcomed into their life's stories

And certainly not least of all, I've had the opportunity to experience what a wonderfully kind, supportive, and unique community Our Redeemer is through fellowship and an extra-wide variety of worship services.

But before I take my leave, I wanted to say thank you. Thank you to my amazingly compassionate and supportive internship committee. Thank you to the incredibly hard-working staff and council of Our Redeemer. Thank you to the entire congregation for being a welcoming and gracious community that opened itself to not only be my internship site, but also a place where I could continue to serve. Thank you for being patient as we worked out technology issues. Thank you for being kind and caring as we navigate the ever-changing landscape of a pandemic. Thank you for making me feel at home among the people of Our Redeemer. Thank you for welcoming me into your lives over the past 16 months. Thank you for being you. I will miss you and this community very much. However, there's a popular phrase that people often use when a good thing comes to an end: "Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened." And while there will always be a sadness that accompanies an ending, I have a very large smile when I reflect on all the goodness that the past 16 months have brought. Our Redeemer will always hold a special place in my heart and each of you will remain in my prayers.

And in endings we also look to the new life and the new beginnings born. Our Redeemer is about to embark on a new beginning with Pastor Kerri, and I am about to embark on a new beginning as a called and ordained minister of Word and Sacrament somewhere. May God's blessings be felt by all as we continue responding to the paths on which God calls us.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all human understanding be with you all.

Katie McNeal

CHURCH COUNCIL

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting January 30, 2022 10:00 AM between Sunday services

All confirmed members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend the annual meeting. The meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on January 30 in the church sanctuary. A copy of the annual report will be sent to those whose emails are on file in the office and paper copies will be available beginning January 23 for review prior to the meeting.

Council members and committee chairpersons - please note that all end-of-year reports are due in to the church office by January 16.

Nominees are currently being sought. If you are interested in serving on council for the 2022-2024 term, please contact Pastor Schmid at pastorschmid@comcast.net or Council President, Gary Milavec at gmlavec@verizon.net.

COLLEGE NEWS

College Students

Once again we are collecting snacks and goodies to send to our college students in time for Super Bowl Sunday. Individually wrapped items can be dropped off at the church through February 6. Donations to cover the cost of shipping will also be accepted. We do ask that you write a personal note of encouragement to include in their packages. **College students . . .** please make sure that the church office has your current address.

EDUCATION

Sunday School at Our Redeemer

We will meet on January 2.



Crossroads Classes (In-person)

January 23
February 13
March 13
April 3



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

FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Pastor Yedlicka for his winning soup at this year's Advent Soup Supper.

Kielbasa Lentil Soup

Wash 1# package lentils*. Heat in 5 cups water, 2-16 oz. cans tomatoes, 2 bay leaves, 1 tsp. salt, ¼ tsp. pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and add 1# kielbasa. Cover and simmer 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in large skillet over high heat fry 8 slices bacon cut up, until slightly limp. Add 1 cup chopped carrots, 1 cup chopped celery, and 1 medium sliced onion to the bacon and cook over medium heat 15 minutes, stirring constantly.

Add bacon mixture to lentils and continue cooking 30 minutes. Slice the kielbasa.

*To make a less thick soup, use less lentils (i.e. ½ lb.)

MEMBER NEWS

Rest in Peace

Our member, Esther K. Brown died on November 30 at the age of 90 in the home she shared with her daughter, Ann Shepherd. In addition to Ann, she is survived by her granddaughter, Micki Kippelen and husband, Mathieu and their son Roman, all of which are members of Our Redeemer.

Our long-time member, Thelma Zadach died on December 14, nine days shy of her 91st birthday. Before the Covid pandemic, she was a regular in the church office organizing the pews, restocking children's clipboards and entering attendance. Thelma is survived by her daughter, Lynn and son, Bob.

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

New Addresses

Ron and Joyce Kilgore
100 Adams Avenue, Apt. 32
Pittsburgh, PA 15243-1091

Charles and Lalitha Rajakumar (effective Jan. 18)
2120 Chartiers Run
Bridgeville, PA 15017-4116

Best wishes in your new home.

Directory Correction

Susan Lambert
112 Greystone Drive
McMurray, PA 15317-0920

New Members

Larry and Patti Day
105 Mansfield Road
Washington PA 15301-8927

Welcome to Our Redeemer!

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

It's that time again, a new year and a new start! January is a great time to look back at what we've been doing to discern what's worth keeping and what may need to change. In the preschool, that means taking a close look at the children around us. Are our classrooms running smoothly? Are the children feeling a sense of belonging? Are they outgrowing some of our routines? It is truly amazing to see them grow and mature so much from September to January. Where we once had crying little ones unsure about leaving mom, we now have giggling little ones unsure about leaving school! We honor that growth by instituting changes that give children more responsibility in the new year. In our threes classes we add new jobs and sign in sheets for children to feel the sense that they are capable and in charge of their community. In our fours and fives we replace teacher led readings with a child reader, children take over more of the discussions related to sharing and problem solving and grow in the knowledge that they are smart and ready to soar! We are always looking for ways to change and improve but we are especially grateful for the gentle nudge that January brings. I hope that January gently nudges you to look back on your year much like we do. To celebrate all of the good and to reflect on things that may need an update in your life as well!

January also brings our annual registration for the Fall! Beginning January 24 we will welcome our current families to register for classes, January 25 we welcome church members and alumni and on January 31 we will invite new families to register*. If you would like information about registration or to take a peek inside our classrooms (even if your children are grown!) please call the office to inquire about a tour. I love to show off our school!

Miss Heidi

Heidi Garner, Director
Noah's Ark Preschool



*The registration packet is available on the preschool page of the church's website, <https://www.ourredeemer-peters.org/preschool.html>. Please bring the completed registration packet and any payments with you to registration.

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, Beverly Wilson and Jeanne Zoellner.

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

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

We remember those who grieve:

The Shepherd and Kippelen families on the death of our member, Esther Brown; the family and friends of our member, Thelma Zadach.

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

Christmas Card Collection

We are collecting the front of used Christmas cards - but please no Santa cards, personalized cards or cards with notes written on them. The cards will be used as tags to accompany 20,000 hygiene kits distributed to the poor in the Appalachian region of West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia and southern Ohio. A box to collect the card fronts can be found on the window sill in the narthex.



CYS Christmas Gifts Delivered!

Thank you to Kristie Chestney, Gary Milavec, Ken Rigby, Karen Smith and David Young for delivering the Christmas gifts to the Washington County Fairgrounds and to Martha Rhone for organizing. We filled five cars!

STEWARDSHIP ~ HOW ARE WE DOING?

Year to Date as of November 30, 2021

	This Year			Last Year		
	Current	Building	Total	Current	Building	Total
Income	\$414,439	\$46,240	\$460,679	\$412,596	\$54,534	\$467,130
Expenses	\$378,276		\$378,276	\$405,927		\$405,927
Surplus (deficit)	\$36,163	\$46,240	\$82,403	\$6,669	\$54,534	\$61,203
Surplus (deficit)			\$82,403			\$61,203

Members' Designated Offerings

	Year to Date
India Mission	\$1,069
ELCA World Hunger	\$4,960
Endowment	\$80,284
Humanitarian Relief	\$50,000
Food Pantry	\$94
Lutheran World Relief	\$355
ELCA Disaster Relief Domestic	\$460
Abiding Missions	\$1100.00
City Mission	\$583
Family Promise	\$250
	\$139,155

SYNOD NEWS

The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sunday, January 16, 4:00 PM

Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church (517 Sangree Rd, Pittsburgh 15237)

Our synod will be celebrating the legacy of Dr. King with an ecumenical service of Holy Communion. Bishop Abraham Allende will preside and the Rev. Lamont Wells will preach. The service will encourage membership of the synod and our partners to be engaged actively in the practice of nonviolence in our continuing efforts to build the Beloved Community in Pittsburgh. As allowed by COVID protocols, the service will be in person and live streamed. Masks are required for in-person attendance.

View the live stream at: [SWPASYNOD.ORG/MLK2022](https://www.swpasynod.org/mlk2022). Opportunities for service and anti-racist action suggested for the King holiday on Monday, January 17 and beyond can be found at <https://www.swpasynod.org/mlk2022>.

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

KATIE MCNEAL, MINISTRY ASSOCIATE - 412-508-4557 (cell), mcnealkem@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>

YouTube: <https://tinyurl.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.