



# The Focus

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

March 2022

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What a joy it has been to begin life and ministry among you here at Our Redeemer! Thank you for the big and small ways you have welcomed me and my family. I am grateful for your patience as I learn your names and faces, and for your kind notes and words of encouragement.

With these whirlwind weeks of transition for my family and as a congregation, it's hard to believe that the season of Lent is upon us already, and yet - here we are! The paraments in the sanctuary will soon be changed to purple, and we will settle in for a season focused on reflection and repentance, prayer and giving.

In these six weeks between Ash Wednesday on March 2 and Easter on April 17, we will be reminded again and again of two truths. The first is that so much in our lives is in need of forgiveness and mercy - broken relationships, misaligned priorities, choices that harm others and God's beloved creation. As we often say in worship, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. The second truth, though, is that we belong to God. In the baptismal waters we have been claimed as beloved children, receiving the promise that nothing can separate us from God's love and grace. Whatever brokenness or pain, isolation or division we experience, God never leaves us.

There will be many opportunities this month to receive these words of promise and grace - in song, preaching, prayer, and the communion meal. As we journey through the season of Lent together, I hope you will join us for Ash Wednesday worship, Saturday and Sunday worship, and Wednesday evening potluck dinner and worship.

With hope,

*Pastor Kerri*

**Installation  
of  
Pastor Kerri L. Clark  
as  
Associate Pastor**

Transfiguration Sunday, February 27, 4:30 PM.  
A reception will follow. Facemasks are optional



# LENT 2022

As Lent begins, we return to sharing Holy Communion in our “normal “ way at all services. Saturday at 5:30 is by intinction, which means you receive the wafer and then you dip it into the wine cup. (On a very practical and health-wise note, only a small amount of wine is in the cup - just enough to dip the wafer but not your fingers.)

At both 9:00 and 11:00 you’ll take a glass from the usher on your way forward, receive the bread from the pastor and then receive the wine from a communion assistant. This means we need to have four communion assistants and two ushers at each service. IF YOU CAN SERVE AS AN USHER OR COMMUNION ASSISTANT AT EITHER SERVICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE. We need to build up our list of volunteers, so whether you served before or want to take on a new role, please contact the church office by phone, email ([orlc@comcast.net](mailto:orlc@comcast.net)), or through our [website](#).

## 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.

## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6

The theme for Wednesday evenings in Lent this year is “The Hand of Jesus.” After two years of not shaking hands or hugging at church - or most anywhere else - we are deeply aware of how much we miss that kind of human contact. So, on Wednesday evenings we’ll hear the Bible stories of people whom Jesus touched with his hand. And then we’ll hear from those people about what it meant for Jesus to touch them - the healing and wholeness and forgiveness that Jesus brought into their lives.

- 5:45-6:15 Children’s Choir 1st-6th grade
- 6:15-7:00 Potluck supper  
*(Homemade or store-bought food - whatever works for your schedule.)*
- 6:45-7:30 Children with Pastor Kerri for fun and learning
- 7:00-7:30 Worship
- 7:30-8:30 Choir practice

### Daily Word for Lent

Daily Word – Spend time reflecting on one word each day during Lent. Some ways to engage with the daily word include:

- Reflect on the Bible verse, brief devotion and image sent via text message or shared on the ORLC Facebook page every day during Lent. Text @ORLCLent22 to 81010 to sign up for daily text messages.
- Use the daily word as a prompt for reflection through photography, journaling, poetry, art, or music.

If you’d like, share your reflections on social media using #ORLCLent22 and see what came to mind for others.

## Lenten Preparations

In preparation for Lent, we need to make some Lenten window panels for the sanctuary windows. If you can cut paper and use glue, you can help. And if it is easier for you to sit than stand, that's fine - there's lots of sitting work to do. We'll work on the window panels on Tuesday, March 1 starting at 9:00. Come when you can and for as long as you can. We have some scissors here, but if you have a good pair of paper scissors, bring them.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

It's been great to meet some of our children and youth in worship, Sunday School, and Crossroads Confirmation over the past few weeks! As we begin to make plans for the rest of the year, I would love to hear your hopes, dreams, and ideas about ministry with children and youth here at Our Redeemer.

- Check in with me by text (724-603-5589) or email ([rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com](mailto:rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com)) to share your thoughts, questions, and prayer requests.
- Looking for ways to talk about faith at home? Ask me about books, podcasts, and conversation starters for your family.
- Let me know about your plays, games, or other special events – it will be great to see you doing the things you love!
- Schedule a one-on-one conversation with me or join with others to reflect and share ideas on **Wednesday, March 16 and 23 at 5:45pm** (during Children's Choir).

We'll be announcing upcoming events via bulletin announcements, email, newsletter, and text messages as they're scheduled. Sign up for text alerts about youth activities with Remind by texting @ORLC-Fam to 81010.

-Pastor Kerri

## CHURCH COUNCIL

During their retreat, council elected Terry A. Divelbliss to serve as President, Rolf Otterness as Vice-President and Susan Steffick as Secretary. Committee Liaisons are:

Children and Youth: Dan Scher  
 Christian Education: Becky Long  
 Fellowship: Jennifer Hewitt and Larry Day  
 Finance: Rolf Otterness  
 Health Ministry: Susan Steffick  
 New Members: Sue Russo (former council member)  
 Noah's Ark Preschool: Sue Lambert

Property (*includes Safety and Security*): Terry Divelbliss and Larry Day  
 Service and Outreach: Martha Rhone and Charles Rajakumar  
 Stewardship: Clint Langley  
 Worship and Music: Becky Long and Susan Steffick

*Thank you for your willingness to serve.*

## Easter Decorations

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

*As you wish your name to appear in the bulletin.*

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate # \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip(s)      **Donation: \$8.50 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: APRIL 10**

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## EDUCATION

### BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK Our Growing in God Ministry

“Who will feed the kids this weekend?” is the question that Blessings in a Backpack answers. Did you know that 1 in 6 children do not get the food they need every day? Through school-organized programs, Blessings in a Backpack helps by providing food to children who do not have enough to eat over the weekend. They serve over 1000 schools across the nation! During the week, free and discounted lunches supplement kids’ diets, but on the weekend, it is the Blessings in a Backpack ministry that helps to feed kids.

Dani Mizia organizes this ministry for our congregation so that Ringgold Elementary School North can send home bags of 8-10 food items to supplement weekend diets for the kids. Our Redeemer is requesting your support in reinstating our participation in this ministry through contributions of money via the Sunday School offering and by food contributions. Contributions for the local program may also be made by writing a check payable to “Blessings in a Backpack” and placing it in the offering plate. (The memo line of your check should read Ringgold Account 1440.)

At this time the following items are requested:  
Applesauce (individual cups or pouches)  
Mandarin oranges (individual cups)  
“Handi Snacks” (cheese and crackers)  
Granola or cereal bars (without nuts or peanut butter preferred)

Thank you so much for your help in feeding our local children!

### Crossroads Classes (In-person)

March 13  
April 3



All classes are on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00PM.  
Confirmation will take place on April 24.

### Save the Dates for Vacation Bible School

This year we plan to be holding a regular VBS (minus pandemic modifications) Monday-Thursday mornings, July 25 - 28. Our theme this year is **MAKE WAVES: What You Do Today Can Change the World Around You!**

A sign-up poster for staff and helpers will be posted before the end of March. We hope you will prayerfully consider how You Can Make Waves and Change the World - at least with the kids at Our Redeemer and in our community - just by being part of VBS! Watch for more information later this spring!

### Sunday Adult Class

After a two-year hiatus, our Sunday morning adult class will resume on March 6. We’ll meet in the conference room from 10:00-10:45. During Lent we’ll be looking at the gospel of Luke.

### Inquirer’s Class

There will be an Inquirer’s Class on Sunday, March 20, 1:00-3:00, for people who are interested in joining Our Redeemer, or who just want to find out more about Lutherans and this congregation. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the office or by email ([orlc@comcast.net](mailto:orlc@comcast.net)) or our [website](http://www.lutherlyn.com).

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## COLLEGE NEWS

Thank you so much for the box of snacks, that was so, so sweet. I really appreciate it. And, so many vegan snacks!! You guys are the best!

Reagan Garner



Dear Our Redeemer,

Thank you for the care package! It has so many tasty snacks. I’ll definitely be sharing some with my friends. Thanks for thinking of me!

Carlie Hewitt

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## LUTHERLYN

Registration for Summer Camp 2022 is now open. Visit Lutherlyn’s website (<https://www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp/>) for up-to-date information and a link to their online registration form. Please notify the church office once you register so that you may be eligible for a church campership.

### \$100 off for FIRST-TIME campers!

This coupon entitles FIRST-TIME Lutherlyn campers to \$100 off of the registration fee for Summer 2022. This applies to Lutherlyn’s residential week-long programs. Young Folks half-week programs get \$50 off for FIRST-TIME campers. 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. Enter coupon code: **FIRST** Register at [www.lutherlyn.com](http://www.lutherlyn.com).

## MEMBER NEWS

### Phone Number Change

Pastor Kerri Clark - 724-603-5589

### Address Change

Michael and Rose Martin  
530 Linden Creek Road  
Canonsburg, PA 15317-4838

## NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

One of my favorite things about Noah's Ark is that we believe that every person is a person of worth and is both deserving of and capable of giving love. As teachers, we work hard to discover and appreciate what makes each person special so that we can love them in ways that most honor them. When we notice the preschool children going out of their way to find special ways to love one another, our hearts are filled with love as well! Because February is traditionally the month of love I asked a few of our children what love means to them! Here's what they said:

*Love means hearts and making cards and doing good things for your friends.*

*I know that God loves us!*

*Love means you are special to someone.*

*You can love someone by doing something nice for them.*

We held our Bagels with a Buddy this month, a time that preschoolers share their space with a loved one, and we celebrated Valentine's Day at school, both excellent times to share love. But, the moments that we catch our preschoolers loving one another authentically are some of the most special moments! Here are some pictures of the children loving one another!

*Miss Heidi*

Heidi Garner, Director  
Noah's Ark Preschool



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 AM on **March 13**. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed. If not, you'll be an hour late for church on Sunday morning.

## 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, Rosalind Bieri, Cindy Cox, Dorothy Dillemoth, Kerri Evans, Martha Fecher, Ray Hrabar, 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, Calvin and Margaret Cokeley, Dom Cuffia, Cindy Culp, Carolyn Dagg, Mark Dubich, Lisa Emery, Dylan Flinchum, Catie Geory, Ian Gonzalez, Lisa Grimes, George Hildebrand, Bob Hohowski, Joe Ignacz, Ray Keisling, Carroll Kimmey, Arthur King, June Lance, Gordon and Diane Ley, Mildred Maize, Mark Mayer, Paul McKosky, Jolie Mihalik, Chuck Miller, Owen Miller, Adam Miskow, Margaret Moran, Dolores Munsick, Kathy Oberle, Kelly Palombo, Tracey Perles, Holly Perry, Dave Provenzano, Phyllis Rhone, Ben Ritter, Betty and Frank Rively, Jeanie Rose, Dave Schrader, Bob Shader, Holly Shader, Donna Stafford, Bob Stark, Dan Stimmel, 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, Bucky Williams and Frank Yocca.

We remember those who grieve:

Ruth Brosky and family on the death of Ruth's granddaughter, Elizabeth Lucas; Jamie Carulli and family on the death of Jamie's mother, Irene Carulli; Doug and Karen Meley and family on the death of Karen's sister, Kim Casteel.

*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](mailto:orlc@comcast.net). Please help to keep this list current by contacting the church office when someone can be removed from the list.*

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## SERVICE & SOCIAL MINISTRY

### City Mission Samaritan Care Center

Current needs, though any donation of non-perishable food is accepted and appreciated, include boxed cereal, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles/pasta and thermal gloves for men. Donations can be placed in the containers in the narthex.

### Tax Assistance

Free Tax Assistance by VITA, held at the Bible Chapel Monday through Thursday, continues 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](http://www.irs.gov). Please do not contact the Bible Chapel.

### Recycling Update for Peters Township

There are some new rules about recycling. Plastic tubs are now accepted. Acceptable plastic tubs have a snap-on lid and hold such foods as yogurt, cottage cheese, cream cheese and butter. The lids and any food must be removed before the container can be recycled. Plastic tubs do not include small, single serving packages that have a peel-back lid. Plastic take-out trays and other plastic food trays are still not accepted.

Paperboard boxes, such as cereal, dry foods and tissue boxes are accepted, but please remove any plastic film and flatten the boxes. Paper towel rolls are now accepted, but no toilet paper rolls. Pizza boxes are now accepted but paper and food waste must be removed. Please flatten boxes. No cardboard soaked with grease.

Cartons such as those that contained milk, almond/soy milk, cream and orange juice are no longer accepted.

For more information and clarification, see the post on the bulletin board across from the restrooms.

## SERVICE & SOCIAL MINISTRY, CONTINUED

### Thank You

On behalf of the children and families served by Washington County Children and Youth Services, we want to take the time to express our gratitude to you for being part of our 2021 Helping Hands Holiday gift drive. Our Helping Hands holiday gift drive is held each year with a goal of providing gifts to the children and families of Washington County experiencing unfortunate circumstances requiring child welfare services.

Your generous donation helped us provide nearly 1000 children and youth with a gift to unwrap on their holiday morning. Recipients of gifts range in age from newborn through young adults. In every case, gifts from the Helping Hands gift drive provide children with a feeling of excitement despite daily challenges.

*The complete letter can be found on the bulletin board in the church narthex.*

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA

### ATTENTION: WOMEN of the E.L.C.A.

Yes, that means YOU, if you are a member of an E.L.C.A. congregation!

SWPA Women of the ELCA will hold their 2022 Convention on May 20-21, 2022

The theme is **WOMEN SPREADING THE WORD!**

*Always praise and exalt my Lord God by showing strength and might!*

Opening worship on Friday evening will be held at 6:30 PM followed by conversation with Bishop Kusserow. The in-person convention will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 501 Fairfield Drive, Greensburg, PA. Registration cost is \$20 plus Saturday lunch fee of \$15. You are on your own for Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast.

Registration forms, directions, tentative convention schedule and information on how you can share in the ministry and fellowship of the synodical women can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex. Be sure to note that the paid registration deadline is before April 1, 2022.

## STEWARDSHIP ~ HOW ARE WE DOING?

Year to Date as of January 31, 2022

	This Year			Last Year		
	Current	Building	Total	Current	Building	Total
Income	\$43,030	\$4,368	\$47,398	\$36,329	\$4,013	\$40,342
Expenses	\$37,977		\$37,977	\$33,882		\$33,882
Surplus (deficit)	\$5,053	\$4,368	\$9,421	\$2,447	\$4,013	\$6,460
Surplus (deficit)			<b>\$9,421</b>			<b>\$6,460</b>

Members' Designated Offerings	Year to Date
India Mission	\$72
ELCA World Hunger	\$360
Food Pantry	\$10
Lutheran World Relief	\$30
Abiding Missions	\$150
	<b>\$622</b>

# OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

105 Gateshead Drive  
McMurray, PA 15317-3101

## OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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](mailto:pastorschmid@comcast.net)

THE REV. KERRI CLARK, PASTOR - 724-603-5589, [rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com](mailto:rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com)

HEIDI GARNER, DIRECTOR, NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL - 724-942-6699  
[noahspreschool@comcast.net](mailto: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

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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.