

The Focus

November 2023



Pastor's Message

At the beginning of our First Communion class, I invited each participant to share about a special meal. Some were special because of the occasion - a holiday meal, or birthday dinner. Others were special because of the food they ate - cheesy pizza, a towering cake, a favorite soup. Many remembered the special people who gathered there around the table - friends, family, and some who have since died.

November is a month of special meals. There is, of course, Thanksgiving, where special people gather to eat special, comforting food on a special day. In this meal we celebrate abundance, and express our gratitude for food to eat, people to share it with, and blessings throughout the year. Traditional family dishes call to mind warm, inviting kitchens from years before, where recipes were passed down and meals prepared with love. Around the table, familiar stories are re-told to a new generation, laughter is shared, and bonds are strengthened. A special meal, indeed!

And, though it might not be the first thing to come to mind, I think that All Saints Day is another opportunity for a special meal. On this day in the life of the Church, we remember those people dear to us who have died in the past year. As we share in the special communion meal on this day, we are especially mindful that, as we receive the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ, we stand alongside not just those gathered for worship here and now, but indeed with the saints of all times and places.

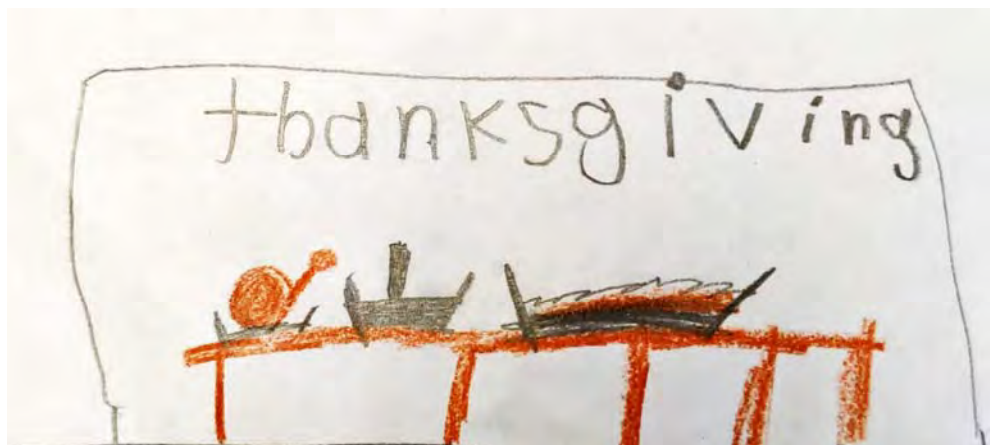
Family members, friends, neighbors and strangers - we call them "saints" not because they lived exceptionally good and holy lives, but rather in thanksgiving for the gift of baptism. Through water and the word God claims us as beloved children. It is by God's promises that we are called saints - people who are forgiven of our sins, freed from the power of death, and formed into the Body of Christ.

As we eat and drink now in the Communion meal, we receive the smallest foretaste of the great heavenly feast to come, when all will be gathered in the presence of God. At this banquet table, everyone will eat and be satisfied. Tears will be wiped away and hearts will be filled with joy. All creation will celebrate a feast that has no end.

As you gather this month around different tables for meals both special and ordinary, remember with joy and thanksgiving the never-failing promises of God, who joins us in the meals we share unites us as one.

With hope,

Pastor Kerri



Cover art by Wade Clark

City Mission Thanksgiving Boxes of Love

The City Mission is planning to provide a Box of Love filled with the contents for a Thanksgiving meal to more than 800 local families. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is sending \$500 for Boxes of Love from the budget of the Service and Outreach Committee. Individuals may make additional monetary donations at Citymission.org/donate. In the meantime, items needed by the City Mission Food Pantry on an everyday basis may be placed in the City Mission bin in our Narthex.

Christmas Gifts That Make A Difference

The Service and Outreach Committee invites you to help someone in need this Christmas. Beginning in November, you can take an “ornament” from the tree in the Narthex of ORLC in order to provide a gift for one of these three great agencies: Glade Run Lutheran Services, Washington County Children and Youth Social Service Agency, and ELCA Good Gifts (World Hunger).

It's easy to participate: Just select a tag/ornament and follow the instructions. There will be a variety of items, including gift cards. Physical gifts are to be delivered to the church without wrapping so that the agencies can utilize them for specific children and families. Financial donations for ELCA Good Gifts should be made payable to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and clearly marked “ELCA Good Gifts.”

On Christmas Day, it's very rewarding to know that somewhere a child or family is smiling because of a gift you provided.



Pub Theology

All adults are welcome to join in great fellowship and lively conversation around topics of interest in our daily lives each month at the Voodoo Brewing Company in Houston, PA. The next gathering will be on Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 pm. Although we normally meet on the 4th Tuesday, we plan to meet on Thursday, December 28. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

Thank You

Our Redeemer Church Family,

We were surprised and delighted when we saw our pictures in the Observer-Reporter for Clergy Appreciation Month. Thank you too for your kind notes about us! We truly appreciate your loving support!

Pastor Kerri, Pastor Kevin and Pastor Martha

Nov 5, 2023 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

Be sure to turn your clock back an hour when you go to bed on Saturday so you will get an extra hour to sleep before coming to worship on Sunday! Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on Nov 5, 2023 than the day before.

Dining Divas Holiday Lunch – Tuesday, December 5 at 12:30 p.m. – at Atria’s in McMurray

The next Dining Divas gathering will take place on a special day for a special event! We will meet once between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Signing up as soon as possible will be helpful in getting reservations at a busy time of year. If possible, please sign up by the weekend before Thanksgiving. The Dining Divas is a wonderful opportunity for women to get to know one another better and to enjoy a relaxed time together.

Possible Refugee Resettlement

Some of the pastors in Conference 6 (includes the South Hills, Airport area and Washington County) of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod have been looking into the possibility of participating in the resettlement of a refugee/family in our area. This might happen through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services or Jewish Family Services which has an office at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Carnegie. In either case, we need to do some planning before we would be able to answer the who, when and where questions! Important matters like housing, transportation, and job opportunities need to be looked in. A financial commitment of somewhere between \$12,000 and \$20,000 in the first six months of the resettlement is required.

At this point, we are trying to identify people who are interested in helping with this process either by getting personally involved and/or by making a financial commitment. This is a big project which is best undertaken by multiple congregations. If you are interested in participating in at least the exploration of this possible ministry, please let either Pastor Martha (clementsonmartha@gmail.com) or Martha Rhone (mrhone28@hotmail.com), chair of Service and Outreach know of your interest. You also can direct your questions to either of them.

Christmas Decorations

Name _____
As you wish your name to appear in the bulletin

Phone Number _____

I wish to donate # _____ Poinsettia(s) **Donation: \$10.00 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)



Print clearly

Please place this form and your donation in an envelope and mail it to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 105 Gateshead Drive, McMurray PA 15317-3101 or drop it in the offering plate in the back of the church or in the church office. If you have any questions, call the church office at 724-941-7467.

DEADLINE: December 15.

Growing in God

We meet at 10am on Sundays, with classes for Pre-K & kindergarten, 1st-6th graders, 7th-12th graders, and adults.



Jamie Culp and Dylan Mann demonstrate how being connected to Christ lets you share God's love.





Our Redeemer's Preschool GIG class made puppets that can tell the vineyard parables.



Crossroads Confirmation

Crossroads Confirmation will meet on **Sunday, November 12 from 6:30pm - 8pm.** Students are also invited to attend Youth Group from 4:30-6:15pm, and then stay for class.

Youth Group

All 7th-12th graders are invited to join Pastor Kerri for Youth Group on **Sunday, November 12 from 4:30-6:15pm.** We'll make and eat dinner together and play games. Crossroads students should plan to stay for class at 6:30pm. Sign up on the bulletin board or [online](#).

Family Friday

K-6th graders and families: bring your dinner and join us for Family Friday on **Friday, November 10 at 5:30pm** in the Social Hall. Sign up on the bulletin board or [online](#).

4th-6th Pizza & Movie

All 4th-6th graders are invited to join Pastor Kerri for a special All Saints themed pizza and movie afternoon on **Sunday, November 5 at 12:15pm.** We'll have a pizza lunch and watch "Coco".

We celebrate with those
receiving their First Communion!

Maevin Barbati
Henry Binotto
Dakota Dube
Diana Dube
Carmela Fastuca
Jovanni Fastuca
Clara Forrest
Wynne Greco
Sophia Kennelly
Caroline Moody

Anusha Oberg
Eliza Prex
Ryleigh Ross
Sophie Scher
Logan Schnieders
Lucas Schnieders
Madison Schnieders
Carmen Sciulli
Giovanni Sciulli

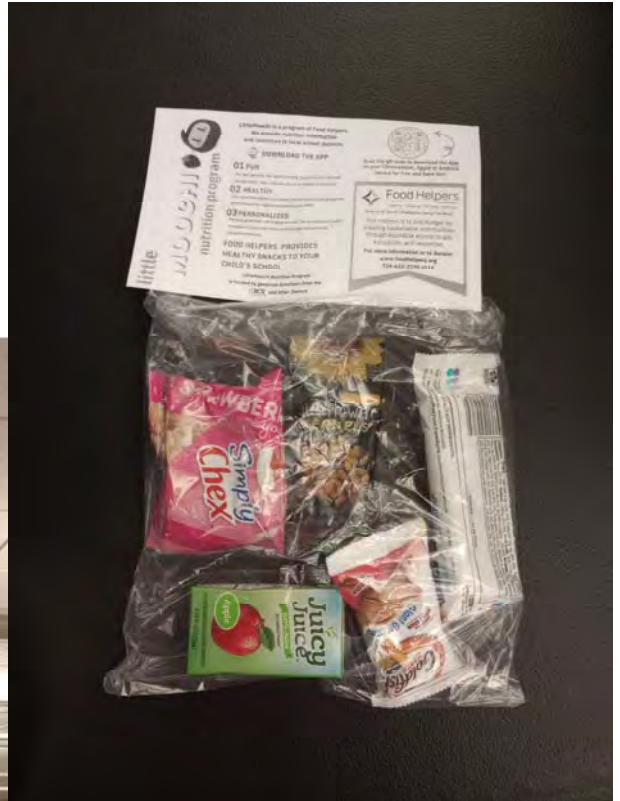


Food Helpers

The service event with **Food Helpers** at Southpointe went very well with 15 volunteers and over 2000 bags packed!

We are looking to do a dedicated ORLC event again on **January 16th** with a sign-up to be posted when it's confirmed. In the meantime, Food Helpers has multiple opportunities each week to help pack food at Southpointe and their Brownsville warehouse as well as handing out food at Truck to Trunk distribution sites across Washington County (weekday and some Saturday options). Holiday meal distributions are being planned also. They have electronic sign-ups on their website (foodhelpers.org, click on volunteer) and several church members are signing up to attend those as individuals or small groups!

Contact **Jaymi Moody** with any questions: shawnanjaymi@verizon.net



Noah's Ark Preschool

With fall in full swing, we have been spending long stretches of time outside; learning, exploring and creating new friendships. We have a little swing on the playground that's frequently a spot where children will gather to spend time with new friends.

One child pushes as the others swing and if we adults can get close enough to listen without interfering, we hear some pretty amazing conversations. These little ones are so full of empathy and curiosity for one another. They will notice and inquire about how one got a boo-boo and then share "oh no I'm sorry" before they share their own boo-boo tale.

They talk about their dogs or their baby brothers and they giggle at each other's stories. There is never any judgement in these conversations. Instead, young children lead with a natural and pure curiosity. They just love and support one another.

I really appreciate that reminder that Noah's Ark children give me, to lead with curiosity rather than fear and to listen to others with love and empathy rather than judgement. In this month where the trees let go of things that no longer serve them, I hope that we too can let go of those traits (particularly fear and judgment) that no longer serve us.

Have a joy filled fall!

Miss Heidi



Advent Soup Supper

Mark your calendar now for our Advent Soup Supper on **Saturday, December 2 at 6:15 pm**. The event will include Advent games and activities for everyone as well as the opportunity to make an Advent wreath for your home.

Thrivent-Vote with Purpose

For those of you who are Thrivent members, you will have the opportunity to vote for Board of Directors between October 5 and November 24. Watch for more information from Thrivent!



Ringgold Elementary School North Blessings in a Backpack Update:

Blessings in a Backpack current needs are listed below. They are packing for 112 each week right now. Monetary and food donations are appreciated.

Current Needs

- **Microwavable cups of Chef Boyardee/ Mac and Cheese style pastas**
- **Applesauce or fruit cups/squeeze pouches**
- **Snack size boxes of raisins**

Monetary donations are also appreciated and used to buy food in bulk. They can be made at www.blessingsinabackpack.org via card/Venmo/PayPal or can be mailed to:

Blessings in a Backpack
PO Box 950291
Louisville, KY 40295

****Must designate for Ringgold Elementary School North account #1440 to be directed to us****

Notes and Messages to Veterans

As part of **God's Work. Our Hands** Sunday, the response of the thank you notes to Veterans, was tremendous! Lori Greene took 99 notes to pass out at the Veteran's Center and almost 30 coloring pages done by young children through adults. This was way above the expectations! Thank you to all who participated. And a big thank you to Jaymi Moody for supervising the younger colorers and helping prepare the tables for the event.

Member News

New Arrival

Megan and Jack Miller are proud to announce the September 7 birth of their son, Halston Joseph, at the Ft. Cavazos Military Base in Texas. Halston weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21 inches long. Proud grandparents are Lori and John Schwerzler. Congratulations to all!

United in Marriage

Congratulations to Kelsey Kern and Patrick Gallagher who were united in marriage on Saturday, October 14 at The Renaissance Hotel in Pittsburgh. Pastor Kevin Clementson officiated at the ceremony. Congratulations!

Newly Baptized

On October 8 we welcomed through the sacrament of baptism Jackson Daniel Kinn, son of Tyler Jackson Kinn and Megan Milavec Kinn, grandson of Gary and Jen Milavec. Welcome child of God.

In Our Prayers

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

Carol Brandyberry, Lori Gajdowski, Chris Decker, Jen Barbati, Gary McGaffic, Randy Stonemark, Mandy Jarosh, and Peggy Barczak.

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

Liliana Milovic, Laura Norton, Anthony Santaguida, Margaret “Peggy” Stopko, Judy Concannon, Ray Keisling, Marcy Raeford, Ellen Deutsch, Dan Stimmel, Tamara Brister, Wendy Brosky, Heidi Garner, Janice Poole, Nester Miskow, and Betty Rively.

We remember those who grieve:

Larry and Susan Steffick on the death of their sister-in-law, Jeanette Steffick.

The most recently added names appear at the beginning of the list and will remain for three months. You may add names, remove a name, or ask for renewal by submitting your request in writing and placing it 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 September 2023

	This Year			Last Year		
	Current	Building	Total	Current	Building	Total
Income	\$345,915	\$39,046	\$384,961	\$346,847	\$43,295	\$390,142
Expenses	\$324,275		\$324,275	\$344,531		\$344,531
Surplus (deficit)	\$21,640	\$39,046	\$60,686	\$2,316	\$43,295	\$45,611
Surplus (deficit)			\$60,686			\$45,611

Other Outreach Offerings	Year to Date
Abiding Missions	\$900
City Mission	\$428
City Mission Food Pantry	\$199
ELCA World Hunger	\$4,425
ELCA Disaster Relief DOM	\$1,032
ELCA Disaster Relief Intl	\$895
Lutheran World Relief	\$305
	\$8,184

MINISTRY SCHEDULE/NOVEMBER, 2023

	November 5, 2023		November 12, 2023		November 19, 2023		November 26, 2023	
WORSHIP LEADER	9:00am	11:00am	9:00am	11:00am	9:00am	11:00am	9:00am	11:00am
Acolyte	Sam Scher	Henry Binotto	*	*	Sam Scher	Jack Binotto	*	*
Lay Assistant	Susan Loeser	Carl Ruppel	Ken Rigby	Max Rush	Mark Harris	Gary Milavec	John Yocca	Jackie Beck
Lector	Debbie Healey Langley	Sarah Dagnal	Dianne Rigby	Heather Morelli	Tim Prex	Jen Milavec	Olivia Yocca	Mary Helen Barr
Communion Assistant	Tina Borra	Brenda Binotto	Missy Bookhammer	Becky Long	Kim Chupinka	Brenda Binotto	Missy Bookhammer	Eliana Beck
Communion Assistant	Kim Chupinka	Sarah Dagnal	Tina Borra	Jackie Beck	Laura Culp	Maegan Bregenser	Ruth Ann Lowery	Barb Hrabar
Communion Assistant	Debbie Healey Langley	Sue Lambert	Debbie Healey Langley	Eliana Beck	Karen Glass	Sarah Dagnal	Linda Nickles	Kim Maize
Communion Assistant	Garrett Langley	Becky Long	Ruth Ann Lowery	Barb Hrabar	Linda Nickles	Sue Lambert	Phyllis Permar	Carl Ruppel
Communion Assistant	Linda Nickles	Soheila Lunney	Beth Pansino	Gerda Moul	Phyllis Permar	Kim Maize	Mohylyn Yocca	Sally Ruppel
Communion Assistant	Phyllis Permar	Sally Ruppel	Phyllis Permar	Susan O'Brien	Trudy Wagner	Nancy Till	Olivia Yocca	Nancy Till
Greeter	Linda Nickles	Binotto Family	Phyllis Permar	Dani Mizia	Kim Chupinka	Paula Reese	Karla Lance	Heather Morelli
Usher	Dave Borra	Jacob Casper	Clint Langley	Jim Mizia	Drew Lance	Joe Maize	Drew Lance	Simon Beck
Usher	Clint Langley	Max Rush	Garrett Langley	Max Mizia	Karla Lance	Eric Reese	Gary Milavec	Joe Maize
Gift Bearer	Anne and Sophie Scher	Jack Binotto	*	Penny Mizia	Eliza and Norah Prex	Henry Binotto	*	*
Altar Guild	Tina Borra	Sue Lambert	TBD	Becky Long	Susan Loeser	TBD	TBD	Heather Morelli
Altar Guild	Kim Chupinka	TBD	TBD	TBD	Laura Culp	TBD	TBD	Sally Ruppel
PowerPoint	Dan and Sam Scher	Gary Milavec	Jennifer Hewitt	Meredith Pomposelli	Dan and Sam Scher	Rolf Otterness	Ryan Hettinger	Gary Milavec
Camera	X	Sam Mizia	X	Sam Mizia	X	Sam Mizia	X	Sam Mizia
Head Teller (Monday)	Gary Milavec		Dave Borra		Barb Schumacher (SUNDAY)		Susan Loeser	
Council Teller (Monday)	Jackie Beck		Jennifer Hewitt		Dan Scher (SUNDAY)		John Yocca	

*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

WORSHIP SERVICES

SATURDAY 5:30 PM and SUNDAY 9:00 and 11:00 AM (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.