



Our Mission: Sharing Christ's love with the greatest number of people



Visit us online!

Life at Redeemer

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1545 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, VA 22101
Tel: 703-356-3346 | redeemermclean.org
church@redeemermclean.org
Pastor Sharon Core—sharon@redeemermclean.org

November 23, 2025

Welcome to Redeemer

We welcome you to our worship service this morning! Please sign the guest book that is found in our entry area or the red attendance book found in the pews. If you include your email address, we will keep you informed of any upcoming events. You can also email us at church@redeemermclean.org.

Holy Communion Open to All

We offer Holy Communion at all of our worship services. Please follow the instructions of the pastor when it is time to come forward. If you are not comfortable taking Holy Communion for any reason but would like to come forward for a blessing, then just cross your arms and the pastor will bless you. All are welcome to the Lord's Table.

Construction Project Update

In the renovated and improved rooms in the education wing, we will have some new cabinet and drawer storage spaces. If your ministry team needs additional storage at the church, please send an email to church@redeemermclean.org and describe what kind of space your ministry is looking for. We will evaluate all the requests that are received and will try to allocate the new space in the fairest way possible. While some space will be available in late December, other spaces will become available in the spring.

Give a Book a New Home!

"Extra" books from Redeemer's library are on a table in Crossroads today. If you see a book you'd like to read or that a friend or family member would enjoy, please take it. Yes, you can claim more than one book!

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Please note that the church office will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Starting the Real Work of Transition Transition Team Self-Nomination Form Deadline November 30

As announced in services last week, Council has developed a process to use to create a transition team who will start the work needed to gain clarity on our own identity and ministry, as we prepare to call a new pastor. Along with Pastor Core, the team will guide Redeemer and our members as we look at Redeemer's mission statement, welcome statement, history, ministry partners, and level of involvement by members of the congregation, and determine what God is calling us to in our next phase of ministry.

Please prayerfully consider if you feel called to this work! We are looking for a diverse set of individuals to staff this team. You may self-nominate by completing the transition team nomination form at this link: <https://bit.ly/rhc-transition>. Hard copies are also available in the Crossroads. The deadline for submission is November 30, with a target orientation meeting for the team on December 8 at 6:30 pm. Council will be conducting rolling reviews so that the team can get started before the new year.

Meeting Our Yearly Expenses

As we enter this holiday season, we give thanks for all the ways God's grace has sustained us at Redeemer. Because of your faithful support, we've been able to care for one another, serve our community, and deepen our life in Christ.

At this moment, however, our congregation faces an \$85,000 shortfall in our budget. Closing this gap is critical to meeting our obligations in the months ahead. While this may sound daunting, we've done it before through your generous gifts in the final months of the year, and we are confident that we can finish the year-end on a firm financial footing if we all pitch in.

Please prayerfully consider making a special year-end donation. Every gift matters, both large and small. To be counted toward 2025 giving, donations must be physically received at Redeemer or made online by December 29. Thank you for your generosity, partnership, and love for this community. When we give together, we embody God's abundance and share in the privilege of ministry here at Redeemer.

Advent-Themed Bible Study
Hosted by Women's Faith Group—Open to All!
Starting December 2

The Women's Faith Group will host an Advent-themed study at 9:30 am on Tuesday mornings in Music Suite A at Redeemer--open to all men and women interested, in person and on Zoom. If you would like to join us, please sign up at <https://bit.ly/rlcwomensgroup>.

Advent - Community Dinner and Midweek Vespers
December 3 and December 10

Please come for dinner co-hosted by Redeemer and Redeemer Renaissance for the congregation and preschool/afterschool families on 12/3 and 12/10 (Wednesday nights). Please invite a friend, co-worker, neighbor, but please RSVP via this link,

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AAFA722A64-60628125-advent>

We will gather for a casual dinner and fellowship at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The Advent Vespers (a service of evening prayer) will begin at 7pm in the sanctuary.

All are welcome to attend both or either dinner and Vespers as your schedule permits.

Calling all Bakers and Bake Sale Volunteers:

One of the highlights of the Living Nativity is the Bake Sale. The proceeds from the sale will be used to supply "weekend food packages" to local youth via Britepaths Food4Thought program

(<https://britepaths.org/our-services/food4thought/help-our-partner-schools/>)

Bakers needed: The cookies and treats that the congregation bakes and donates are what makes the sale a success. If you would like to bake for the sale, please sign up on the link below and bring the items to Redeemer, door 10, on Friday 12/19 from 9am to 5pm. Small items like cookies, brownies and cupcakes are especially popular. If you can put your baked items in plastic bags that would be helpful. For example, a small ziplock bag of 6 cookies.

Youth needed: to set up, sell, and clean up the Bake Sale--and there will be pizza to enjoy before or after you volunteer.

The Bake Sale will take place during the Living Nativity on Friday, 12/19 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and on Sunday, 12/21 after all the services. Come have fun with friends, while you fund raise, and if needed earn community service hours. To sign up, please go to <https://bit.ly/rlc-nativitybaker> or scan the QR code.



Living Nativity and Christmas Concert
December 19

All are welcome and invited to enjoy the sounds of the season and the excitement of live animals in the crèche on Friday, December 19th at Redeemer's Living Nativity and Christmas Concert. This is a Redeemer tradition that the entire community looks forward to and attends. Please invite the community--your family, neighbors, coworkers, and friends!

Come to the manger! Experience the wonder and joy at the Living Nativity!

- The Living Nativity is from 6 to 8pm. The event is all outside, so dress warm! Children (and adults!) love to visit the live animals, and maybe pet a bunny or baby lamb! Hot Chocolate will be served outside.

Come to the Christmas concert!

- At 7:30 pm everyone is invited inside to experience a concert of our many choirs--adult, youth, and bell choirs. People of all ages are welcome to sing along with favorite Christmas carols.

Visit the Bake Sale and buy something yummy!

- The Bake Sale will feature homemade baked goods. All proceeds will go to support the Britepaths Food4Thought program which supplies "weekend food packs" to local students in need.

There are many opportunities to participate in this wonderful night. Please sign up to volunteer:

- Sign up to serve hot chocolate, usher for the concert, or greet in the lobby: <https://bit.ly/rlc-nativityvolunteer>.
- Sign up to bake for the bake sale: <https://bit.ly/rlc-nativitybaker>.

Partner for Surgery

There is a big need for pacifiers, baby socks, and travel-sized baby shampoo. In early December, these items (and more) will be packed in 80 beautiful handmade tote bags and given to kids in rural Guatemala who are undergoing life-changing surgeries.

Items can be donated by:

- Placing them in the bin located in Crossroads.
- Purchasing them through the Amazon wish list using this [link](#) or the QR code.



Content Submission Form for Redeemer's Publications

As noted, we have created a content submission form for any information that you wish to be included in one of our many publications. The form can be found at <https://bit.ly/rlc-submissions> or by scanning the QR code. *Please note this week that due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the submission deadline for the 11/30 announcements and 11/28 Friday email will be Monday, 11/24. We appreciate your understanding.*



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Including Hybrid Options

Sun., 11/23	<i>Sunday Worship Service Times</i>	
	8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11:00 am	<i>(Live stream 8:30 and 9:45 services)</i>
	8:30 am--12:00 pm	Church nursery is available for infants and toddlers
	9:45 am--10:45 am	Faith Formation & Confirmation Classes
		High School "Bagels & Bible" Class (Teen Center)
		Table Talk Adult Education (Music Suite A/Zoom)
Thurs., 11/27	Thanksgiving Day	Church Office Closed
Fri., 11/28	Day after Thanksgiving	Church Office Closed

PASTOR AND STAFF OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Senior Pastor	Pastor Sharon Core	ext. 102	sharon@redeermclean.org
Bell Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com
Director of Music	Matt Osifchin		mattosifchin@gmail.com
Director of Afterschool	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmconnaughay@redeermclean.org
Director of Preschool	Katrina McNair	ext. 111	preschool@redeermclean.org
Evening Facility Host	Brian Doyle		
Executive Director of Redeemer Renaissance	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmconnaughay@redeermclean.org
Facilities Director	Bill Parks	ext. 110	bparks@redeermclean.org
Financial Coordinator	Sara Nail	ext. 103	sara@redeermclean.org
Nursery Care	Bernarda Rodriguez Lusbi Pina		
Office Manager	Cynthia Finocchiaro	ext. 101	cynthia@redeermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel		joymentzel@gmail.com
Pianist	Kathy Detwiler		
Youth & Communications Coordinator	Grace Howie	ext. 105	grace@redeermclean.org
Youth Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com

Please Remember to Pray....

For Healing

Aaron
Bettina
Carin & Bill
Carol
Charlotte
Chris
Christina
Jana
Jean
Jeff
Jesse
Joe
Jon
Kim
Mandy
Marie
Michael
Nancy and Peter
Sam
Debbie G.
Joan and Ed
Joe G.
Steve M.
Trevor W.
Achikian, Maral
Augustenborg Epstein, Erica
Ayers, Kyle
Bates, Barbara
Blakey, Patrick
Blankenship, Bob
Born, King "Song"
Bornmann, Keith
Boyer, Carol
Boyer, Charlie
Brown, Richard
Capodanno, Sophie
Carter, Nicole
Cavallo, Michael
Cooke, Martin
Cox, Mary
DeGioia, Jack
De la Luz Rodriguez, Octavio
Devine, Daniel

Diaz, Martin
Duval, Louis
Eifler, Ruth
Geissl, Irene
Glindemann, Ginger
Glindemann, Keith
Graham, Jim
Green, Paul
Gross, Kathy
Heuer, Mark
Hopkins, Harley
Hughes, William
Jackson, Shirley
Jephson, Patrick
Johnson, Ted
Juzbasich, Leo
Keating, Kathleen and Michael
Kennedy, Will
Maheshwari, Mohan
Martin, Beverly
Martin, Trevor
McElroy, Tyler
Miller, Coletta
Moe, Mike
Myers, Kathy
Pittman, Larry
Pleasant, John
Pujol Rodriguez, Esther
Reblitz, Jennifer
Ryding, Karin
Scheinblum, Terry
Schiedt, Mary Jane
Schmid, Rahizza
Schneck, Pastor Tony
Shaefer, Phil
Stear, Carolyn
Stolar, Bob
Teutler, Alexander
Teutler, Olga
Vanderhoof, Brenda
White, Jerry
Williams, Tim
Wright, Jim
Wu, Jian
Yesko, Edmund

For Comfort and Peace

Peggy
Collins, Josephine
Hanna, Claire
Portis, Carol

For Comfort in Death

The family & friends of Carol Bergdahl
The family & friends of Stephanie Foster
The family & friends of Vernon Henkel, Jr.
The family & friends of Frank Nauman
The family & friends of Terry Retter

For Safety

All refugees
All our military & diplomatic people
throughout the world
All those who serve to protect our country
Armas, Jesús
The Uriel family

For all healthcare workers and first responders

Dominic, Elizabeth, and Ian
Sharon
Tara and family
Kuhagen, Leslie
Kutscher, Karin
Laredo, Sandra

For Comfort and Strength

Ari
Dave
Katelyn
Anna and Stephen
Sarah and Jenny
Franks, Hannah
Martin, Ramona
Taylor, Charles
Weber, Amy and Emerson and Fynn
Those who suffer from depression
Those who suffer from mental illness

Prayer List Note:

*To add names to this list, you may email or telephone the church office. We want all our prayers to be current — so **please keep us up to date on those whom you have added to our prayer list.** With the exception of safety prayers for our military, we will remove names after one month unless we hear from you. We are prepared to pray indefinitely.*

Prayers for the World, our Nation, and our Community

We pray for people in countries around the world that experience violence, war, and/or political division.
We pray for people who live in areas where there have been disasters of any kind.
We pray for improved relationships among all nations.
We pray for our elected leaders that they lead with compassion while making hard decisions.
We pray for the unemployed and the underemployed and all federal workers.
We pray for all those facing persecution and oppression.

**Each month we will offer prayers for one of our congregations in the Virginia Conference.
We are part of the Virginia Conference of the ELCA Metro DC Synod.
We pray for St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Centreville, and their pastor, Tom Montgomery.**

**We also have a prayer partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Mary
in Ulyanovsk, Russia, and their pastor, Zhanibek Batenov.**