



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

December 7, 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

We have passed the inspections from the county and have begun to take occupancy of the renovated classroom wing. The pastor and the office staff are in the process of moving into their temporary offices in the classrooms. They will be there until the renovations are completed in the office wing in the spring. Signs are posted to help you find who is located where. If you have a door fob, it will still work at Door #10. However, the visitor's entrance has moved (Monday-Friday) to the other side of the building to Door #15 on the Chain Bridge Road side of the building.

Carol Bergdahl

Former Redeemer member and former Redeemer parish administrator Carol Bergdahl died at her home in San Diego on November 20, 2025. To read her obituary, please go to <https://www.powaybernardomortuary.net/obituary/carol-bergdahl>. The memorial service on December 13 will be live-streamed at 12 noon PST on the church website (www.tierrasantalutheran.org). She is survived by her son, Jeffrey Bergdahl of San Diego, and her daughter, Rev. Julie Bergdahl of 11 Glen Meadow Court, Quakertown, PA 18951-1493.

Poinsettia Donations

This year at Christmas, beautiful holiday greens will fill the Crossroads and nave. Help deck Redeemer's halls by donating in honor or in memory of someone you remember at Christmastime. Please see the insert in your bulletin for more information and an additional contribution opportunity for Lutheran World Relief.

Social Justice and Equity Book Club Starting New Book December 8

The Social Justice & Equity Book Club will be starting a new book, *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, author of *March*, a Pulitzer Prize winner. Anyone is welcome to join us and this would be a good time to do so! We meet every Monday via Zoom from 7:30-8:30pm and will be taking a Christmas break the two Mondays before and after Christmas. Please contact [Teresa Schellenger](mailto:Teresa.Schellenger) for more info.

Advent-Themed Bible Study Hosted by Women's Faith Group—Open to All! December 9—9:30 am

The Women's Faith Group will host an Advent-themed study 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 10

Please come for dinner co-hosted by Redeemer and Redeemer Renaissance for the congregation and Preschool/After-School families on 12/10 (Wednesday night). To attend dinner, RSVP by Monday, 12/8 via this link: <https://bit.ly/48fJbZ>

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

The Advent Vespers (a service of evening prayer) will begin at 7 pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend both or either dinner or Vespers as your schedule permits.

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, the shortfall in our budget that our congregation faces remains steady at about \$85,000. This number will be updated once the November financial report is published. 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.

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 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>.

Young Adult Retreat—January 16 to 18 Sign up deadline December 14

The Young Adult winter retreat to Massanutten, VA is open to those 18 to 39-ish, regardless of whether or not you have attended a meeting before. The retreat will be a time of fun, fellowship, and faith building. The cost of the retreat is \$50. If you are interested, please register at <https://bit.ly/4nE1z4A>.

Youth Community Outreach Event for Living Nativity and Christmas Concert December 14—10:45 am

Youth are invited to join in a community outreach event to spread the word to our Redeemer neighbors about the Living Nativity and Christmas Concert on December 19. This is inspired by a similar project our youth did on the mission trip! We will meet in Fellowship hall for a brief training before chaperones and youth will head out and have pizza upon return. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/48hX3UV> if your youth is interested in participating. They may receive service hours.

Decorating the Altar Trees December 14—12 pm

You are invited to help hang the ornaments on the trees by the altar. Total time is about 90 minutes, but stay as long as your schedule allows. If you want to join the group or want more information, please contact Judy Kuhagen at judy.kuhagen@gmail.com.

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>)



Bakers needed: The treats that the congregation bakes and donates are what makes the sale a success. Items would need to be brought to Redeemer 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 to 8 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.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Including Hybrid Options

Sun., 12/7	<i>Sunday Worship Service Times</i>	
	8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11:00 am	(Live stream 8:30 and 9:45 services)
	8:30 am--12:00 pm	Church nursery is available for infants and toddlers
	9:45 am –10:45 am	Faith Formation & Confirmation Classes
Mon., 12/8	10:55--11:25 am	High School “Bagels & Bible” Class (Teen Center)
	7:30 pm--9:30 pm	Table Talk Adult Education (Music Suite A/Zoom)
	7:30 pm--8:30 pm	Youth Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite B)
		Congregation Council Meeting (Library/Zoom)
Tues., 12/9	9:30 am--10:30 am	Social Justice & Equity Book Club (Zoom)
Wed., 12/10	6:00 pm--7:00 pm	Advent Bible Study (Music Suite A/Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Community Advent Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
Thurs., 12/11	8:00 am--9:00 am	Advent Evening Prayer Service
	7:00 pm--8:00 pm	Thursday AM Bible Study (Zoom)
	7:45 pm--8:45 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite A)
		Traditional Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite B)

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.
Julie H.
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 Zion Lutheran Church, Lovettsville, and their pastor, Andreas Armstrong.

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