



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 14, 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

Pastor Sharon's temporary office is now located next to the conference room. Grace and Sara are located in the middle classroom and Cynthia is in the third classroom (Door #15). Bill in the Operations Office is next to Cynthia. Signs are posted to help you find who is temporarily located where. If you have a door fob, it will still work at Door #10. However, the visitor's entrance (Mondays - Fridays) has moved to the other side of the building to Door #15 on the Chain Bridge Road side of the building. Starting this coming week, the office hallway will be closed for the renovation work to begin in that part of the building.

Blue Christmas

December 17—Dinner at 6 pm, Service at 7 pm

Blue Christmas is a special service that brings hope and comfort to those who find the holidays to be difficult. The service is not restricted to those who have suffered losses, but is also a meaningful way to prayerfully end the day with hope. It is a powerful service and we encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to attend as well. It will be held at 7 pm. It will be preceded by a dinner in Fellowship Hall that will start at 6 pm. RSVP to attend the dinner at <https://bit.ly/4oKqqUF>.

Meeting Our Yearly Expenses



Please prayerfully consider making an extra donation to Redeemer this month to help us meet our year-end financial obligations. Our church typically brings in more than 20% of our annual revenue in the last month of the year. And this year, we really need your help -- because we were 31% behind in our contributions at the end of November.

You can give electronically: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCTK/home> (click on "General Fund") or use the QR code above. You can put your extra donation in the offering plate today or bring it to worship on the remaining Sundays in December or mail it to the church. Note that for your donation to be counted toward 2025 giving, it must be physically received at Redeemer or made online by December 29.

Christmas Celebrations at Redeemer

December 17 – Blue Christmas

Dinner at 6 pm, Worship at 7 pm

December 19 - Living Nativity and Holiday Concert

Visit animals in the creche from 6-8 pm

Holiday Concert at 7:30 pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services:

Family-Friendly Service at 4 pm

Starting at 3:30 pm children are invited to participate as animals, shepherds, and angels.

Traditional Candlelight Services at 6 and 8 pm

December 25 - Christmas Day Service at 10 am

December 28 - Lessons and Carols at 10 am

All are welcome!

Bakers, Living Nativity and Bake Sale Volunteers Still Needed December 19

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 volunteer or bake for the bake sale: <https://bit.ly/rlc-nativitybaker>.

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.

Hearing Aid Recycling Drive—Eagle Scout Project

Cooper Thesmar, from Troop 1916 sponsored by Redeemer Lutheran Church is organizing the collection of Hearing Aid devices that are no longer needed (any brand, model, or age) for his Eagle project. Working with the Lions Club International the old equipment will be cleaned, restored/refurbished, and then provided to those in need. Donation receipts will be provided upon request. Thank you for participating in this worthy project and supporting our Scouting community. For additional information or questions, please email: HearingAidRecycling@gmail.com.

Social Justice and Equity Book Club December 15

The Social Justice & Equity Book Club just started a new book, *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, author of *March*, a Pulitzer Prize winner. Anyone is welcome to join us! 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 for more info.

Poinsettia Donations

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.

Young Adult Retreat—January 16 to 18 Sign up deadline today, 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>.

Advent-Themed Bible Study Hosted by Women's Faith Group—Open to All! December 16—9:30 am

The Women's Faith Group is hosting 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>.

Good Grub & God December 16—7 pm



Join us for a night out at a local restaurant for fellowship and casual discussion on an aspect of faith. Come solo or bring a friend, coworker, or partner. You can sign up at <https://bit.ly/good-grub-and-god> or by scanning the QR code. Please sign up by 10/20. More details will be available soon!

Young Adult Christmas Party December 16—7 pm

Young adults are invited to attend our Christmas Party! We will gather for dinner at 6:30 pm at True Food in Reston Town Center. After the meal we will go ice skating in the rink in the town center. If you'd like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a gift valued in the \$5-\$10 range! Please contact Grace Howie at grace@redeemermclean.org with any questions.

January Tidings Contributions & Content Submission Changes due to Holidays

Please submit content for the January issue of *Tidings* no later than 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 20. We will not be able to accept items after that date.

Any submissions for the 12/28 announcements will be due Monday, 12/22 by 12 pm. Please note that we will not have a full edition of the announcements that day, so content will be included as space allows.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH'S ANNUAL LIVING NATIVITY & CHRISTMAS CONCERT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19



BRING YOUR FAMILY, NEIGHBORS, AND FRIENDS TO THIS FREE COMMUNITY EVENT AND CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Visit live animals in the creche & children may try on angel and shepherd costumes!

7:30 PM

Christmas Concert featuring a Christmas Carol Sing Along! Music performed by Redeemer's adult, children, & bell choirs.

Hot chocolate will be served!

Support Britepaths' Food4Thought Program by purchasing baked goods!

1545 CHAIN BRIDGE RD, MCLEAN



Deck the Halls this Christmas at Redeemer

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. The suggested donation is \$25 per honoraria or memorial. Please complete the form below designating the name/purpose of your honoraria or memorial and attach your check. Either mail in the form with your check, leave it in the church office, or place it in the offering plate **by Sunday, December 14th**.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Given by: _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In thanksgiving for _____

Amount enclosed _____ Envelope # _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Gifts to Lutheran World Relief

At this Holy Season, I wish to make a gift to the work of the Lutheran World Relief, so that others may be fed, clothed, housed, and provided with the necessities of life.

This gift is to the glory of God and in remembrance of the Holy Family, and their stay in Bethlehem town.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Given by: _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In thanksgiving for _____

Amount enclosed _____ Envelope # _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Then the King will say to those at this right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was in prison and you visited me, I was sick and you took care of me." - Matthew 25:34-36

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Including Hybrid Options

Sun., 12/14	<i>Sunday Worship Service Times</i> 8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11:00 am 8:30 am–12:00 pm 9:45 am–10:45 am	(Live stream 8:30 and 9:45 services) Church nursery is available for infants and toddlers Faith Formation & Confirmation Classes High School “Bagels & Bible” Class (Teen Center) Table Talk Adult Education (Music Suite A/Zoom) Youth Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite B) Youth Outreach Event (Fellowship Hall) Social Justice & Equity Book Club (Zoom) Advent Bible Study (Music Suite A/Zoom) Good Grub and God Dinner Young Adult Christmas Party Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) Blue Christmas Dinner (Fellowship Hall) Blue Christmas Service
Mon., 12/15	10:55–11:25 am 11:00 am–12:30 pm 7:30 pm–8:30 pm	Thursdays AM Bible Study (Zoom)
Tues., 12/16	9:30 am–10:30 am 7:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite A) Traditional Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite B) Living Nativity and Bake Sale Sounds of the Season Christmas Concert
Wed., 12/17	9:00 am–11:30 am 6:00 pm–7:00 pm 7:00 pm	
Thurs., 12/18	8:00 am–9:00 am 7:00 pm–8:00 pm 7:45 pm–8:45 pm	
Fri., 12/19	6:00 pm–8:00 pm 7:30 pm	

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 McConaughay	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 McConaughay	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
Teddy
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 Stephanie Foster
The family & friends of Vernon Henkel, Jr.
The family & friends of Frank Nauman
The family & friends of Terry Retter
The family & friends of Billy Stalcup

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.**