



TIDINGS

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1545 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

Vol. 63. No. 6
June 2018



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SANDY KESSINGER

A Change with Our Staff

For everything there is a season ... that was how one of our staff members started a conversation with me a couple of weeks ago. As the rest of our time together unfolded, Marlon Yearwood, our youth mentor, explained that he would be leaving Redeemer after this summer. Over the last several months he has been in prayerful deliberation and he decided he is being called to a new vocation. In order to pursue that new opportunity, he will complete his responsibilities with us by the end of this summer.

Over the last seven years, Marlon has served in different capacities at Redeemer. For two years he was part of the staff for the Renaissance Afterschool Program. He continued his position with them part-time and then became our part-time youth mentor. After an additional year he became a full-time member of our staff and has been with us ever since.

For those of you who have ever interacted with Marlon you know him to be zealous for Christ. He loves spending time with our youth for social events but he finds it most rewarding to open the hearts and minds of our young people with Scripture. He and Christian Richter have been the high school teachers for the Sunday morning class in recent years. He has also been one of the adult leaders for the Community Bible Study that is held at Redeemer on Thursday evenings. Our youth have attended synod events with Marlon and he is well known in Harrisburg because of the annual mission trips we have made to that location over the years. Outside of his role in our church he has partnered with a local detention center to mentor youth. He has also connected with the local police officers to learn more about the difficult situations our youth face on a regular basis – such as drug abuse and sex trafficking.

He has impacted our lives at Redeemer but after prayer and deliberate conversation with his wife, Deborah, he feels called to plant a new church that will minister to a diverse group of young adults. Growing up, Deborah has watched her father successfully plant churches throughout the United States. Marlon and Deborah share his enthusiasm and want to do the same. And at this point, Marlon needs to remove himself from additional responsibilities so he can focus his full attention on being trained for the work ahead of them.

Marlon will leave Redeemer on September 1 and then engage in a year-long process with the goal of building a mission start. He and Deborah will be under the guidance and leadership of those who professionally have experience in this area. It is an exciting venture for Marlon and for his family and my immediate response was one of joy. Marlon will be a wonderful witness of the gospel message. He will continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ as he has done with us. God has blessed Marlon with incredible gifts for ministry and we wish him well.

We will honor Marlon, Deborah, and their two children on Sunday, August 26, at the 11:00 am service. During worship we will bless them and send them out into the mission field with our love and prayers. A special Coffee hour will be held immediately following the service so people can share their good wishes to all of them.

Whenever a staff position becomes open it is a wonderful opportunity to evaluate the direction we took in the past and then determine the best path forward. Initially our council will take the lead as we envision the job now and its potential for the future. We will meet with both parents and youth to gain their perspectives as well. Some of the questions we are asking include:

What is our vision and expectations for our youth ministry program?

What gifts do we need for this position?

What are the important tasks that need to be accomplished to have a thriving youth program?

The minutes of the council meetings will help keep you abreast of the progress we are making with regard to this position. Marlon wants to remain with us through the summer months so that he can honor his commitment to the Vacation Bible School and the Harrisburg mission trip. Once we start planning for the fall, Deacon Erin and I will have conversations on ways to engage the youth in activities until such time that we find the right person to fill this position.

For everything there is a season ...

how blessed we have been to have Marlon be with us over the past seven years.

We wish him well in his new venture.

Yours in Christ –

Pastor Sandy Kessinger





A Time for Prayer
Every Tuesday – 8:00 am

Bible Study on the *Letter to the Romans*
Every Wednesday – 7:15 pm

June 2 Service Event (BritePaths) (Food Drive) – 9:00 am

June 4 Faith Alive (led by Deacon Erin) – 10:00 am

June 3 Meeting for youth and chaperones going to
ELCA Youth Gathering – 12:15 pm

June 8 Faith and Fellowship (Youth Event) – 7:00 pm

June 10 Special Music Offering – 11:00 am Service
Bowling (Youth Event) – 12:00 pm

June 11 Growing Deeper with God – 10:00 am

June 17 Summer Worship Schedule
9:00 am – Traditional and 10:30 am – Contemporary

June 24 Summer Worship Schedule
9:00 am – Traditional and 10:30 am – Contemporary

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
McLean, Virginia
Minutes from the Church Council Meeting of May 14, 2018

Council members present: Matthew Kratz (President), Dean Graves (Treasurer), Laura Duval (Vice President), Mitch Brown, Karen Detweiler (Secretary), Deanna Heier, Stephanie Hunter, Gordon Jones, Pastor Sandy Kessinger, Joseph Kratz (Youth Representative), Steve Lancaster, Florence Ofili-Toviho, Roberta Pittman, and Rob Wenk.

Opening

Matthew Kratz called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Pastor Kessinger led the Opening Devotions based on Matthew 28:18-20. She shared personal insights from an Intentional Impact Leadership Session. Discussion focused on ways to connect and engage with people who are not attending worship at any church.

Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kessinger reported on her recent activities. The recent UN Sustainable Development Goals workshop went well. Also, pastor received a suggestion for having a posted explanation of the picture of the old white church and chartering plaque where those two items are currently located. There was an additional request for pictures of the stained glass windows (with explanations) to be placed in the hallway. Matthew Kratz will reach out to our archivists regarding the chartering plaque.

Deacon Erin has begun her internship activities under the oversight of a committee.

Pastor Kessinger presented Marlon Yearwood's report.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 9, 2018 Council meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Dean Graves shared the financial update. Contributions are up slightly. Expenses for the stained-glass window and mosaic have been paid. Pastor Kessinger has spoken with the family and they have authorized the spending of any remaining balance as the church needs. Our mortgage payment is now directed primarily against principal.

Council Discussion

- We discussed Marlon Yearwood's announcement to Pastor Kessinger that he will be leaving his position as Youth Mentor in September. Council is tasked with determining needs of Redeemer in any potential future hire in this area.
- All Council members were asked to think about the youth needs and propose ideas for a job description at the June meeting
- Deacon Erin is moving forward in her internship activities. Pastor Kessinger has developed a list of things to be addressed during the internship and within our time commitments. There is an internship committee of congregational members (Karen Miller, Chair), who will meet monthly with Erin regarding preaching, evangelism, and all other aspects of pastoral life. The program is expected to be completed in December.
- Once Deacon Erin has completed the internship program, and receives approval from the ELCA, Redeemer will have the first opportunity to call her. We will follow the call process that engages the whole congregation.
- Council is sensitive to the need to explain the anticipated process and to encourage congregational input. Clear and continuing communication through varied channels (Tidings, announcements, etc.) will be undertaken.
- The dedication of the stained glass windows will take place May 20. There will be an opportunity to meet those who worked on our windows at the reception following the 11:00 service.
- We need additional members for the New Connections task force: Council is asked to identify additional people to whom we could reach out.

Committee Liaison Reports

- Roberta Pittman provided the report from the Music and Worship Committee. The Summer Worship Schedule will be:
 - ◇ June 17 through July 15:
 - 9:00am Traditional Worship
 - 10:30am Contemporary Worship
 - ◇ July 22 through August 19:
 - 9:00am Contemporary Worship
 - 10:30am Traditional WorshipThe usual schedule of three services will resume August 26.
- Deanna Heier reported on Social Concerns.
- On May 23, Deanna will present the "on the ground" view of social concerns at a candidates' forum at Redeemer.
- The next Redeemer Food Drive will be June 2-3.
- Vacation Bible School registration for children ages 3-12 has opened. VBS will be held July 23-27. Additional volunteers are needed.
- Stephanie Hunter gave an overview of Synod Assembly plans. We are one of twelve churches in the Virginia area. Attendees will go to workshops in varied areas.

Closing:

The next Council meeting will be held June 11, 2018. The next Executive Committee meeting will be June 7, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm with The Lord's Prayer.

When We Walk Alongside One Another

Deacon Erin Swenson-Reinhold

On May 1st I began my internship to become a pastor in the ELCA. As part of this process, an internship team was formed who will walk alongside me encouraging, challenging, and helping me. A large portion of this team's job will be to simply be present with me – listening with a nonjudgmental and caring attitude and creating a safe place where difficult questions can be asked that will lead to my growth and development. They are charged with reflecting on different aspects of pastoral ministry and participating in stimulating conversations about these topics. They will also be challenged to reflect on their own lives and the calls God has placed on them.

As we journey through this process, I ask that you pray for the internship team, Pastor Sandy, and myself. The internship team is comprised of Karen Miller, Andy Pribulka, Ron Kutscher, Jackie Cho, and Michelle Brown. The internship team will meet monthly throughout my internship and ultimately write the evaluations that are required by the synod and larger church. If you have questions about the internship process, please feel free to contact me or Pastor Sandy.

Blessings,

Deacon Erin



Vacation Bible School

Find adventure on the river with VBS 2018 Rolling River Rampage July 23-27 9:30am-12:30pm Ages 3(potty trained) though Age 12 Registration begins May 1st for church and preschool members. Registration forms will be available in the church office. There is a one time registration fee of \$30 to cover supplies. If you have any questions feel free to contact Elizabeth Carroll elizabethccarroll@gmail.com

FAITH!

At our last High School Connect Group, we turned to Hebrews chapter 11 and reviewed the entire chapter. Many people call Hebrews chapter 11 “the hall of faith”. It is an incredible chapter of the Bible that is dedicated to remembering and honoring the old testament heroes of faith. By meditating upon Hebrews 11, we begin to understand what faith is, and what faith looks like in a very practical way. The chapter lists many people, but specifically points out sixteen people of faith. Although the people of Hebrews 11 lived at different times, were different ages, were male and female, and began life with different challenges, each one had a unique story. Everybody has a story! God met these individuals where they were and each of them chose to trust and believe God for the impossible. They were normal and regular people, just like you and I. The only thing that set them apart was their faith in God. **Hebrews 11:13** states, “*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*” Amazing! We don’t only want to begin our spiritual journey in faith, but we want to make sure that we die in faith. This is what gives these amazing people a spot in Hebrews 11; they didn’t only have their own faith story to tell, but at the very end of their roller coast lives, they were still found to be holding on to the very promises of Almighty God. The apostle Paul was able to say with great confidence in **2 Timothy 4:7** - *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* Like the great heroes of faith, the apostle Paul was tested and tried in many ways; He worked hard, was thrown in prison frequently, he was severely flogged, almost died on multiple occasions, five times he received thirty-nine lashes, three times he was beaten with rods, once he was stoned, three times he was shipwrecked, he spent a night and a day in the open sea, and he was constantly on the move. He was often threatened and in danger from rivers, bandits, fellow Jews, Gentiles and many false believers.

In my conclusion, having faith in God does not mean that you will live a perfect life, however, in life, God will be with you and will most certainly see you through if you keep your faith in Him, instead of in your circumstances. Your faith will be fed by your focus. Whenever you focus on Goliath, defeat is inevitable. But, when you focus on God, you will have instruction for the battle and your faith in Him will give room to your victory.

Mark 11:22 - HAVE FAITH IN GOD!

God bless you,

Marlon

Congratulations to our Graduating High School Seniors!

Emily Adams



Emily will graduate from McLean High School, will take a gap year, and then attend Christopher Newport University in the Fall of 2019.

Tommy Adams



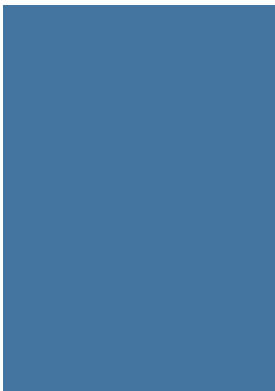
Tommy will graduate from McLean High School, will take a gap year, and then attend Longwood University in the Fall of 2019.

Hannah Alexander



Hannah will graduate from McLean High School and will attend Washington University.

Helen Chambers



Helen will graduate from Langley High School and will attend Bowling Green University.

Crestienne DeChaine



Crestienne will graduate from Langley High School and will attend University of Virginia to study Chemical Engineering.

Adeline Dietrich



Adeline will graduate from McLean High School and will attend the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Lauren Markwart



Lauren will graduate from Langley High School, will take a gap year, and attend the University of Virginia after taking a gap year. She will participate in a Youth With A Mission (YWAM) program where she will be trained to work with human trafficking victims and then travel to, and work in a community impacted by human trafficking.

Cooper James McGuire



Cooper will graduate from George Mason High School and attend Cornell University College of Engineering.

Camille Richter



Camille will graduate from McLean High School and will attend the University of Toronto, in Canada.

Charlotte Roberts



Charlotte will graduate from McLean High School and will attend University of Virginia.

Anna Sargent



Anna will graduate from McLean High School and will attend University of Delaware Honors Program.

Linsey Wenk



Linsey will graduate from Langley High School and will attend James Madison University.

Social Concerns Ministry

Ellicott City

Many thanks to the all who have donated to this weekend's Britepaths Food Drive; your endeavors have enabled us to meet the needs of the 30 families to whom we committed assistance.

We now turn our efforts to assisting Ellicott City, Maryland, which was ravaged by devastating flash floods last weekend, for the second time in two years.

Redeemer's first efforts to aid Ellicott City are to support the Howard County Food Bank, in partnership with the One EC Recovery Project.

We will be collecting donations of cleaning supplies, food, personal items and/or cash starting Thursday, May 31 through Friday, June 8 at noon.

Items of particular need include:

-water

-cleaning supplies: thick rubber work gloves, work boots, contractor-grade trash bags, paper towels, bleach and bleach wipes, rags, disposable coveralls, flashlights and batteries, square shovels, masks/ventilators

-food: canned fruit and fruit cups, peanut butter, canned tuna, protein bars, cereal

-gift cards in \$20 and \$50 denominations to Walmart, Target, Home Depot and Lowes

-first aid kits, hand sanitizer bottles, toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap)

Please bring donations to Redeemer and leave them clearly marked "Ellicott City" in the Crossroads. There will also be a table for Ellicott City donations at this Saturday's Britepaths Food Drive.

Depending on our turnout, we may also need an additional volunteer/large vehicle to deliver donations to the Howard County Food Bank next Friday.

If you have questions please contact Liz Holzapfel at woodapple1@verizon.net.

Save the Dates:

◇ **ELCA Day of Service:** September 9th – Redeemer

◇ **Rise Against Hunger Mclean Meal Packaging Event:** November 3rd – Redeemer Gym

A Very Happy Birthday to...




Melissa Devore	6/1	Adetutu Toviho	6/15
Carole Dotterweich	6/1	Lindsay Wilson	6/15
Peter Poulos	6/1	Tami Dibble	6/16
Ginny Sandahl	6/1	Paula Giffey	6/16
Sean Wareham	6/1	Gretchen Stark	6/16
Andrew Beck	6/2	James Anderson	6/17
Peter Guma	6/2	William Friend	6/17
Kellee Barron-Lanza	6/3	Juliana Rodriguez	6/17
Gwen Brown	6/4	Paxton Rodriguez	6/17
Paul Hammelton	6/4	Eric Sather	6/17
Kyra Macomber	6/4	Jack Glowacki	6/18
Gina Thorson	6/4	John Zele	6/18
Devin Karnik	6/5	Alejandra Villafuerte	6/19
Kazuko Bach	6/6	William Buseman	6/20
Evan Goodwin	6/6	Guy Jeffress	6/20
Garth Huston	6/6	Mary Karangelen	6/20
David McGuire	6/6	Peter Schultz	6/20
Cristian Nied	6/6	Julia Paukovits	6/21
Cora Reynolds	6/6	Grace Pelak	6/21
Erica Roesel	6/6	Caroline Armstrong	6/22
Michael Anderson	6/7	Matthew Engel	6/22
Haley Dorgan	6/7	Jaxsen Rodriguez	6/22
Patricia Engle	6/7	Mary True	6/23
Julia Englund	6/7	Victoria Johnson	6/24
Alexandra Heath	6/7	Gretchen Roesel	6/24
Austin Humes	6/7	Dallas Tonsager	6/24
Erin Moran	6/7	Jackie Budde	6/25
Douglas Ubben	6/7	Eva Schroeter	6/25
Hannah Huston	6/8	Nicolaas Budde	6/26
Andrzej Manitius	6/9	Matthew Mowrey	6/26
Abigail Williams	6/9	Anneliese Odegard	6/26
Eugene Durman	6/11	Heather Trichtinger	6/26
Sandra Kessinger	6/11	Elisabeth Coker	6/27
Phyllis Lind	6/11	Anna Duval	6/27
Daniel Speckhard	6/11	Milo Engel	6/27
Frederick Budde	6/12	Madelyn Geduldig	6/27
Christina Leas	6/12	Jane Goldfrank	6/27
Sylvia Villafuerte	6/12	Braydon Persino	6/27
Sheridan Kanski	6/13	Delaney Persino	6/27
William Kennedy	6/13	Siri Opsal	6/28
Samuel Schwartz	6/13	Barbel Thomas	6/28
Eric Balleisen	6/14	Logan Vergonis	6/28
Sierra Balleisen	6/14	Sara Grace Kennedy	6/29
Zach Balleisen	6/14	Ingrid Kunec	6/29
Samuel Fitzner	6/14	William Van Wazer	6/29
Ethan Jones	6/14	Emily Adams	6/30
Terri Markwart	6/14	Tommy Adams	6/30
Halle Melby	6/14	Lindsay Conway	6/30
Grace Mykityshyn	6/14	David Cooley	6/30
Marie Rice	6/14	Darlene McCoy	6/30



Fri	6/01	8:00a	Redeemer Preschool Graduation	NA	Sun	6/17	9:00a 10:30a 1:00p	Traditional Worship Contemporary Worship MOJO Volleyball	NA NA PH
Sat	6/02	8:00a	BritePath Food Drive		Mon	6/18	8:00a 2:00p 6:00p 6:30p	Fairfax Collegiate Women of the ELCA I Drive Smart Aerobics	RLC LI CL CR
Sun	6/03	8:30a 9:45a 11:00a 1:00p 1:00p 2:00p	Traditional Worship Contemporary Worship Traditional Worship Recital MOJO Volleyball Boy Scout Merit Badge	NA NA NA NA PH FH	Tue	6/19	8:00a 8:00a 12:00p 6:00p 6:30p	Fairfax Collegiate Prayer Time Rotary I Drive Smart MOJO Volleyball	RLC NA FH CL PH
Mon	6/04	10:00a 5:30p 6:30p 6:30p	Faith Alive Sunshine Academy Aerobics MOJO Volleyball	LI CL CR PH	Wed	6/20	8:00a 9:30a 6:00p 6:30p 7:00p 8:00p	Fairfax Collegiate Quilting Group I Drive Smart MOJO Volleyball Hadi Meditation Al-Anon	RLC FH CL PH CL CL
Tue	6/05	8:00a 5:00p 6:30p 7:15p	Prayer Time Sunshine Academy MOJO Volleyball Boy Scout Troop 1916	NA CL PH FH	Thurs	6/21	8:00a 10:30a 6:00p 6:30p 7:00p 7:45p	Fairfax Collegiate Prayer Shawl Ministry I Drive Smart MOJO Volleyball Bell Choir Traditional Choir	RLC LI CL PH MSA MSB
Wed	6/06	9:30a 6:30p 7:00p 7:15p 8:00p	Quilting Group MOJO Volleyball Hadi Meditation Bible Study Al-Anon	FH PH CL CR CL	Fri	6/22	8:00a 6:00p	Fairfax Collegiate I Drive Smart	RLC CL
Thu	6/07	10:30a 6:30p 7:45p	Prayer Shawl Ministry MOJO Volleyball Traditional Choir	LI PH MSB	Sun	6/24	9:00a 10:00a 1:00p 5:00p	Traditional Worship Contemporary Worship Brownie Troop 1845 Faith and Fellowship	NA NA CL FH
Fri	6/08	7:00p	Faith and Fellowship	PH	Mon	6/25	8:00a 6:00p 6:30p 6:30p	Fairfax Collegiate I Drive Smart Aerobics MOJO Volleyball	RLC CL CR PH
Sun	6/10	8:30a 9:45a 11:00a 1:00p 1:00p	Traditional Worship Contemporary Worship Traditional Worship Brownie Troop 1845 MOJO Volleyball	NA NA NA CL PH	Tue	6/26	8:00a 8:00a 12:00p 6:30p 7:00p	Fairfax Collegiate Prayer Time Rotary MOJO Volleyball Stoneleigh Association	RLC NA FH PH MSA
Mon	6/11	10:00a 5:30p 6:30p 6:30p	Growing Deeper with God Sunshine Academy Aerobics MOJO Volleyball	CL CR PH	Wed	6/27	8:00a 6:30p 7:00p 7:15p 8:00p	Fairfax Collegiate MOJO Volleyball Hadi Meditation Bible Study Al-Anon	RLC PH CL CR CL
Tue	6/12	8:00a 12:00p 5:00p 6:00p 6:30p 7:00p 7:15p	Prayer Time Rotary Sunshine Academy Langley Residential Services MOJO Volleyball Finance and Administration Boy Scout Troop 1916	NA FH CL CR PH LI FH	Thur	6/28	8:00a 6:00p 6:30p	Fairfax Collegiate I Drive Smart MOJO Volleyball	RLC CL CR
Wed	6/13	6:30p 7:00p 7:15p 8:00p	MOJO Volleyball Hadi Meditation Bible Study Al-Anon	PH CL CR CL	Fri	6/29	8:00a 6:00p	Fairfax Collegiate I Drive Smart	RLC CL
Thu	6/14	6:30p	MOJO Volleyball	PH					