



# TIDINGS

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1545 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101

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August 2018

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SANDY KESSINGER



At the end of June Greg Adams, Marie Born and I accompanied eleven of our youth to the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering. Within the body of this newsletter you will read reflections written by our youth. I will also share some of my reflections as I give you a sense of how we spent our time in Houston.

Out of our 14 participants only 4 of us had been to a previous youth gathering. Since the focus of the experience was very different from a mission trip we reviewed with care what each day would look like. The 30,000 + people that attended the gathering would be divided into smaller groups of 10,000 each. Each group would rotate through a three-day schedule that included a day of service, an interactive day that taught us about the different ministries of the ELCA, and a synod day which allowed us to gather with other youth from our local area. Every evening we would come together as a whole for worship and an opportunity to hear speakers who shared how their faith in Jesus Christ changed everything for them.

Some observations:

- 1) Not all of our youth knew each other well when we boarded the plane for Houston. Marie, Greg and I were intentional about using our time, before the gathering started, to do things the youth would enjoy. We arrived on that Tuesday just in time to eat a real Mexican lunch. After that some of us went to the aquarium while others walked around a park that was adjacent to the aquarium. Then we headed for our hotel to settle into our rooms before we ventured out to an Astros game on Hot Dog Night (each hot dog cost a dollar). It is truly amazing how many hot dogs a human being can eat in one evening. After a good night's rest and a leisurely morning we spent Wednesday afternoon at the NASA Johnson Space Center.
- 2) On Wednesday night the gathering officially started at the NRG Stadium where we attended the first of several worship services as a whole. The live Christian music kept us on our feet for most of the time. When the speakers shared some of their faith experiences we took in all the different ways that Christ can change our lives. Their stories were inspirational and made each of us reflect on what we heard based on our own stories.
- 3) On Thursday we had our service learning day. From the very start the day did not unfold as we had planned. The bus to take us to our destination was two hours late. Once we arrived on site our building supplies never arrived. At first it felt like a wasted day. It was not the day we wanted but it turned into the day that we were given. We learned valuable lessons about flexibility and patience and seeing God at work in the people we met.

- 4) On Friday we spent our day at the NRG Center. In this space we were immersed in the life of the church. Since the open arena was overwhelmingly large and the learning opportunities were exceedingly endless, tracks were developed to help guide us. Based on what we wanted to do there were places for us to experience the following (offered as examples):
- Reflect – We could learn about Camp Hope that helped families after the hurricane
  - Move – There were opportunities to create music through drum circles
  - Connect – We could learn about radical welcoming as well as ways to break down barriers
  - Accompany – Youth could help build houses with Habitat for Humanity in the NRG Center
  - Bond – Sites were set up for youth to work together through a refugee experience
  - Dream – Speakers talked about how they were shaping the church for the future
  - Serve – Youth donated blood for the *Blood Drive* and their hair for *Children With Hair Loss*
- 5) On Saturday we spent the afternoon with our synod. It was the favorite day for our youth as they interacted with those they had met before at events like Shekinah and Chrysalis. We worshiped, learned about what it means to be the Body of Christ, we discussed aspects of our faith in small groups, and (of course) we danced and sang.

After attending five ELCA National Youth Gatherings in my lifetime, I know now that we do not have to keep to the rigorous schedule that is offered to us. We took breaks to eat sit-down meals outside the stadiums. Each afternoon we spent a brief time back at the hotel to rest and relax over card games or spend time in the pool. Daily we discovered the best ice cream places in Houston. We had a special dinner one night to help Tommy and Emily celebrate their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays. By the end of the trip we were well acquainted with each other and it was all good.

On Sunday we decided to worship at a local Lutheran Church as we did not want to rush to the airport for our return trip home. It turned out to be a wise decision as the youth enjoyed the familiar worship experience but in a different context.

We will continue to learn from our experiences and I hope you will enjoy reading the reflections from the youth. I say every single time when I come back from being with our young people that it was the best trip ever! There is nothing better than for me, as pastor, to spend 24/7 with them as they grow in their faith through these real-life experiences. There is nothing better ... because what I learn on these trips only deepens my commitment to Redeemer and deepens my love for all the people here.

Yours in Christ – Pastor Sandy Kessinger



**WE WERE THERE  
SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**



**AND WE ARE GETTING  
READY TO GO TO**

# August

A Time for Prayer  
Every Tuesday – 8:00 am

Worship Schedule – August 5, 12, 19  
9:00 am – Contemporary Service  
10:30 am – Traditional Service

- August 4      9:00 am – 11:00 am  
Deliver Bikes / Helmets to Redeemer
- August 5      11:30 am – Blessing of Bikes / Helmets in Crossroads  
11:30 am – Meeting with Faith Conversations
- August 12     11:30 am – Meeting for Faith Conversation Groups  
(with PSK)  
11:45 am – Meeting for Faith Formation Mentors  
(Sunday school teachers) with Deacon Erin
- August 19     11:30 am – Important Confirmation Meeting  
For all Parents and Youth – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
4:00 pm – Young Adult Hike and Picnic  
Great Falls Park
- Worship Schedule – August 26  
8:30 am – Traditional Service  
9:45 am – Contemporary Service  
11:00 am – Traditional Service
- August 26     Installation of all Teachers / Blessing of Backpacks  
11:00 am – Farewell to Marlon and his Family

## **REFLECTIONS FROM OUR YOUTH 2018 ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING**

### **From Emily**

This trip has really helped me to see how widespread the ELCA is and to learn more about what our ministry does. It also allowed me to connect with the others in our group and to help them and myself to grow in faith. It was so interesting to see so many youth come together and to watch them all in the same place celebrating God. I also loved learning about all the different ways the ELCA gives back to the community. It inspired me to become more involved in mine. Additionally, even though this was not a mission trip, I am happy we were able to still participate in some service work. It is fulfilling to know you are a part of around 30,000 others helping a community. It was also very fun to get to know my peers better by bonding on the trip.

### **From Tommy**

During this trip I was very fortunate to experience the ELCA. It gave me a stronger connection with my peers and with God. The ELCA has given the youth of the church a very deepening faith experience that I will not forget. While we were in Houston we participated in mass gatherings which consisted of 30,000 youth altogether praising God through music and speakers. We also participated in the Synod Day as we got together with the Metro DC Synod and worshiped in a smaller setting. I got to see one of my friends I had previously met through Chrysalis and Skekinah – which was really cool. Then we had a day of service in which we were originally supposed to build picnic tables but instead we comforted and listened to the elderly at a senior center. Through all of the activities in the past week I feel closer to my pastor (PSK), my friends and to God.

### **From Emma**

During this trip I learned a lot about the Lutheran church and I got to grow closer to the other youth in my group. I got to go to my first professional baseball game and I actually enjoyed it. At the hotel (where we stayed) there were live swans named Graham and Pop. Pop bit Mrs. Born's shirt when she got too close. I was allowed to feed the swans and I learned that Graham would bully Pop away from the food. As an animal person, meeting the swans was very fun and seeing them every day gave me a sense of comfort.

While I was at Houston I was able to connect with people from my church when we went swimming and did other fun activities. I got a burn from one of the moon bounce obstacle courses but it was still fun. I went to the LGBT+ group and learned about the focus of their ministry. I got trinkets from there and a picture in front of their flag. One morning I got to talk with PSK during breakfast and learned a lot about what it means to be a Lutheran. During the gatherings I loved the enthusiasm as we all danced and sang. Overall this trip was one of my favorites out of all the ones I have attended.

### **From William**

This ELCA Youth Gathering was my first one. I did not know what to expect other than I would see a lot of fellow Christians. But when I walked into the NRG Stadium you are hit with a force you cannot feel anywhere else. Once you stepped into the stadium there was no way you could not love Jesus or not be excited about learning about your faith. I think that was the most impressive sight as there were so many youth ready to learn about their faith as well. It was overall a positive experience and I would do it again without any hesitation.

**From Helen**

The ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston was a rewarding experience for me. I saw God in the 30,000 other Lutheran youth that were there celebrating their faith and in the amazing hospitality and hope in the city of Houston. More surprisingly, I saw God in all of the unpredictable scenarios that arose. The gathering is structured so that we have one day to spend with our synod, one day to spend time learning about the work that the ELCA does internationally, and one day to complete service projects in the community. On our service day we were supposed to build picnic tables at a senior center. When the supplies were not delivered I was able to have amazing conversations with some of the residents.

When PSK took us to a Houston Astro's game, the two of us spent five innings scouring the stadium in search of a salad. We snuck into a restricted section, got snapped at by security guards, but had so much fun in the process that it was one of the high points of my trip. I also got to catch up with old friends I had met at other retreats and on mission trips, and we celebrated more birthdays than I could count (PSK is absolutely deserving of a daily celebration during her birth month).

I just graduated from high school so I am about to make a major transition in my faith (or at least in my community) when I go to college. This trip did not change me spiritually but it absolutely affirmed my identity as a Lutheran. I feel a new push to go out and get involved in church while in college and hopefully continue the mission work that I have loved doing for the past six years. And I cannot wait to come back home to Redeemer and share my experiences with everyone. Thank you so much for making this trip a possibility!

**From Peter**

The youth trip to Houston, Texas, is something I will never forget. Although it was not as long as typical gatherings (5-6 days as opposed to a full week) my schedule was sufficiently busy to make up for the difference in duration. The hotel we stayed in was very nice although the rooms could be larger to fit the 14 youth and adults from Redeemer. I personally was not fond of the concert-style events during the week but there were other very enjoyable experiences. The highlight of my week was the celebration for Tommy and Emily's 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays. We all got together and went to a nice Italian restaurant and then we walked by the bayou. I am actually rather disappointed that the rest of the week was not like Saturday but we had a variety of activities to do. This was my first and only ELCA Youth Gathering because I missed the cut-off for the Detroit trip in 2015 and I will be too old for the upcoming one in Minneapolis. I would strongly consider volunteering as an adult chaperone at a future gathering.

**From Kailen**

Coming into this trip I expected it to be a lot more strict and religion-based. However, it turned out to be a lot more fun than anticipated. I had fun making friends not just with everyone who came from Redeemer but also with people at the convention. I made friends with people from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Virginia. Overall I enjoyed playing interactive games like four-square. The trips we took to the space center and to watch the Astro's game was great as well. Finally, hearing all the speakers share their stories of faith was inspiring and invoked hope within me. The trip as a whole was a great success!

**From Sydney**

This year I went on a trip to Houston, Texas, for the ELCA Youth Gathering and I had a blast! This was my first ELCA Gathering and it was very unique. We got to learn not only about our religion but how other congregations practice it and things that they do in their community. We also got to know ourselves, other church members, and the congregations around us. We had opportunities to interact with the community through service projects or direct communication with those in the area. Our group got to go to Pilgrim Place (which was a senior center) and talk with the residents as well as play games with them. We were not building or cleaning anything but instead we listened to their stories and experiences. We also shared our own stories which allowed us to build connections with the residents and provide support and hope for those who needed it – just by being there.

Sometimes you need to “be” instead of “do” is what PSK told our group and for me that resonated because sometimes things do not need to be fixed but instead supported. This trip was not only an eye-opening experience about how many different congregations there are, or all that Lutheran do or stand for, but we also got to experience things in the community and make connections with the residents, other churches, and create tighter bonds within our group. Thank you so much for making it possible. It truly was and will be an unforgettable experience.

### **From Sam**

Houston was my second ELCA National Youth Gathering. It was definitely a lot different than Detroit but not in a bad way. On this trip I felt like there was a lot more free time that allowed our group to connect with each other. In the hotel whenever we had time people would sit around together and play cards or just talk (often until past midnight). As a result we became a lot closer than when we first started the trip. Although we had a lot of free time we also managed to stay busy and do all the activities that came with the Gathering. Every night at the NRG Stadium there was a massive worship service where all the Lutherans would get together to sing and hear speeches. It is a pretty cool experience just to be with 30,000 other people that are also very excited to worship. During the day we went to the activities in the Convention Center that included moon bounces, four-square, drummers, and a lot more. On one day Helen and I attempted to donate blood. I successfully donated a full pint while they only got a teaspoon out of Helen. Of course, PSK made sure we ate well with plenty of ice cream stops, including the best ice cream in Texas at Hanks (which is a favorite of Beyoncé). Overall I definitely recommend going to an ELCA National Youth Gathering because it helps you connect with the church but you also see how many passionate Christians are out there.

### **From Matthew**

This trip to Houston was my first ELCA Youth Gathering. It was a great trip and an opportunity to become closer with the other youth. The mass gathering in the evening had music, entertainment, and motivational speeches about how God has changed lives. I learned about the different branches of the church and how the ELCA is organized. My favorite parts of the trip were playing games in the community center, staying up late with friends, and being able to reconnect with my friends from Minnesota (that we met on our mission trip to Montana). The ELCA Youth Gathering was far different from the Youth Works trips I have been on the past two years. The focus of the Youth Gathering was to learn about the work of the ELCA instead of volunteer work. Overall, I had a great time and hope to go as an adult in 2021.

### **From Sarah**

During the ELCA Youth Gathering I got to learn more about the church and bond with our youth group. On our first full day we were supposed to make picnic tables for a senior center but our supplies never arrived. Instead we talked with the people there and we played Bingo with them. This made one lady very happy and it reminded me of how God place people in our lives. It was a message I heard during the gathering and I saw it lived out in the people we met.

On our interactive learning day I got to learn more about our church and its beliefs – such as how open it is to the LGBTQ+ community which was a comfort to me because some of my friends identify in this way. I also got to donate my hair. I had been thinking about it for a while but I did not know when or where I could do it but God gave me the time and the place.

My favorite planned day at the ELCA Youth Gathering was the synod day where we got to meet new people from the DC area. This gave me the strongest sense of community at the gathering. We sang songs including my favorite one – Oceans. But they did not want us to stand up at that point and so we had to figure out how to sway while sitting.

My favorite parts of the trip were outside of the gathering because we got to bond and get a feel for the Houston community. We got to see an Astro's game and sing – Deep in the Heart of Texas. When we were out to dinner I became friends with people I did not know before the trip.

### **Extra Notes –**

Favorite interactive activity was the labyrinth like the one we have at our church. It allowed me to pray and self-reflect. The hotel had swans. To eat a second breakfast is an amazing thing.

### **Things I took away from the ELCA Youth Gathering –**

God puts people in our lives to guide us on the right path.  
God will love you no matter how far you stray from his embrace.  
Even if things do not go as planned you still have the people.

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Dear ELCA Guest,

Thank you for staying with us at the Embassy Suites Houston Galleria. You have been such a wonderful group and we appreciate you all coming to Houston.

Check-out:

All you have to do tomorrow is drop off your keys. We will have the receipts ready for group leaders to pick-up under the church names (If you need them, if not you are all set).

Most Importantly:

We do not want you all to leave. You have been such an amazing group from the group leaders, organizers and most impressively the youth. Group leaders your time is so valuable and to spend it here with our future leaders is inspirational. I know how proud you must be supporting such a great group of young leaders; they have been extremely gracious, kind and polite during their entire stay and it is fantastic to see.

Our staff has truly enjoyed meeting with you all and love your passion for life.

We wish you all the best and hope you will come and visit again.

Sincerely,



William Venegas III  
General Manager  
Embassy Suites Houston Galleria

**Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**  
**Minutes from the Church Council Meeting of July 9, 2018**

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

Opening

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

Pastor Kessinger led devotions from *Living Our Baptism... Five Gifts of Discipleship*. Council discussed their experiences with and how congregational practices regarding communion and confirmation have changed over the years.

Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented, with addition of a VBS update.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Kessinger reported on her recent activities. She has been re-elected to serve on Synod Council. She is now coaching two pastors. PSK was very energized being with the youth (and chaperones) at the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 11, 2018 Council meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Dean Graves shared the Treasurer's report. We are slightly ahead of contributions at this point last year. Some funds will be placed in Certificates of Deposit. A large contribution in early July will be directed to the mortgage. Dean Graves recently applied \$10,000 towards the mortgage. The triennial review of our processes by a CPA firm will kick off next month.

Council Discussion

- Council reviewed a draft job description for a Director of Youth Ministry that was provided by the executive committee. Deanna Heier offered two comments. She noted that the position needs to expressly include engaging with parents and other volunteers. She noted that Redeemer does a good job of connecting across generations and the position description should reflect that connectedness.
- Youth feedback to PSK was that the programs need to be interesting and well-grounded in Lutheran theology and practices.
- The role needs to ensure that program activities are happening with the support of parents and committees.
- Revisions will be emailed to Council members for review and online voting.
- The Synod can post the youth ministry position. A memo will go out to pastors.
- Our intent is to seek a full-time position. Rob Wenk moved that we post as a Full-time Position. Deanna Heier took an action to use Site 3 for a salary assessment based on responsibilities and zip code. Ideally, we would have a start date in September.
- We would want to engage some youth and parents in the selection process, most likely after a pre-screen by members of the Executive Committee. A call for volunteers will be sent out for any interested members to participate. PSK, Deacon Erin, and Deanna Heier would be among the screeners. Deanna Heier volunteered to shepherd the process.
- A number of Redeemer members recently attended the Synod Assembly. Florence shared some feedback including an area of focus during the assembly being church security.
- Council discussed the options for a church leader retreat in the fall. Council discussed how our existing strategic plan might inform creation of a new plan without overly constraining our thinking. We could revisit the framework (table of contents) as a means to build our new strategic plan.

### Committee Reports

- VBS is full and includes a number of non-members. We have 10 in the age 3-5 group and a total of 25 participants. The kids are going to have a special time to talk about the stained glass windows. Service project will be collecting school supplies to fill backpacks for Britepaths.
- Good Neighbor program update. Our designated refugee family is from Eritrea by way of Somalia, where the brother was dealing with medical issues after a car accident. Redeemer made a phenomenal effort to prepare for moving them into an apartment. We are trying to see what are the current top priorities, especially in medical care, to improve the brother's care and mobility.
- Tom Van Wazer is undertaking bike collection for LSS-served youth. Bikes and helmets can be dropped off on August 4 or brought to church August 5.
- The annual Day of Service is scheduled for September 9. Activities are being planned including making scarves, burn relief for people injured in the Guatemalan volcano eruption, spotlighting local first responders, scrubbing tables and chairs, and perhaps putting together buckets for hurricane season disaster relief.

### Closing

The next Council meeting will be held September 10, 2018. The next Executive Committee meeting will be August 23, 2018.

**Fall is Almost Here!**  
**Deacon Erin Swenson-Reinhold**  
**August 2018**

It's hard to believe that a new school year is right around the corner! With the start of school comes the beginning of another year of Sunday Morning Faith Formation! We have a wonderful group of Faith Formation Mentors to walk and journey with our young people this year, and I'm excited about all the faith conversations and questions that will develop out of these relationships.

To ensure we are all prepared, we would like everyone to register for Sunday Morning Faith Formation. Even if you can't come each week, we ask that you complete a registration form so we can establish an updated database of all our families. We will send an email link with the registration form mid-August or you can sign up on Sunday, September 2. We will gather on Sunday, September 9 at 9:45 am for our first day of Sunday Morning Faith Formation.

If you have any questions or are interested in helping, please contact Deacon Erin at [Erin@RedeemerMcLean.org](mailto:Erin@RedeemerMcLean.org). Thanks!

**Traveling This Summer?**  
**Give to the Church via your Smart Phone**

Now you have the option to make your weekly or a one-time offering to Redeemer via your smart phone. The steps are simple:

- 1) Download the **free** app "Give Plus Church" from the App Store or Google Play.
- 2) Search by entering "Lutheran Church of the Redeemer" and select McLean, VA.
- 3) Either select "Create Account" for reoccurring giving or select "Give Now" for a one time donation. We are offering this secure option through a trusted payment processor that Redeemer has worked with for many years. You can choose to use your checking account (a less costly option for the church) or your credit card. Whether you have forgotten your checkbook, prefer the convenience, or want to continue your financial support of the church while you are traveling this summer, we trust that you will find this easy to use. If you have an older model phone, you can still use the electronic giving option from Redeemer's website by selecting "Give Online" under the heading "About Us".

*Over the next ten months we will include information about the stained glass windows that duplicates what is available in booklet form. Each month we will concentrate on a specific set of windows, starting with the one we entitled "Creation."*



## CREATION

God created the world: day and night, land and water, plants and animals, sun and moon, stars and planets, and people. *God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.* (Genesis 1:31).

The Bible offers two creation stories: Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Genesis 2:4b-25. But there is only one Creator.

The Flood, when Noah and his family and the animals were saved in the Ark, was a reversal of creation; God was angered by the sins of humanity. But after the Flood, God promised that He would not destroy the earth again; the rainbow became the symbol of this covenant between God, Noah, and the rest of the world.

God continues His creating work:

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

*Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.* (Romans 1:20a)

We are the stewards of God's creation. God gave us dominion over the earth; it is our responsibility to care for it. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, our national church, has a social statement explaining its teachings on ecology and the environment and detailing the role of humans in earth's problems and some solutions to those problems: <http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Caring-for-Creation>



|                      |      |                      |      |                     |      |
|----------------------|------|----------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Robert Daly          | 8/1  | Emily Kight          | 8/13 | Sarah Regan         | 8/21 |
| Annika McBride       | 8/1  | Alexander Morris     | 8/13 | Taylor Saunders     | 8/21 |
| David Stanford       | 8/1  | Nancy Power          | 8/13 | Connor Cavanaugh    | 8/22 |
| William Tribble      | 8/1  | Milton Schultz IV    | 8/13 | Steve Lancaster     | 8/23 |
| Collin Wareham       | 8/1  | Paul Thorson         | 8/13 | Joan Leonard        | 8/23 |
| Michael Maglio       | 8/2  | Maurine Crouch       | 8/14 | Matthew Straub      | 8/23 |
| Bradley White        | 8/2  | Kristian Hutchinson  | 8/14 | Sessa Tiffany       | 8/23 |
| Jessica Goodman      | 8/3  | Gordon Jones         | 8/14 | Marjorie Chipouras  | 8/24 |
| Gregory Lawrence     | 8/4  | Joseph Marinoff      | 8/14 | Mara Corbett        | 8/24 |
| Glenn Griffis        | 8/5  | Bliss Temple         | 8/14 | Michael Stanford    | 8/24 |
| Carol Smith          | 8/5  | Mijo Kim             | 8/15 | Jeffrey Engel       | 8/25 |
| Zachary Apple        | 8/6  | Alexa Risseeuw       | 8/15 | Leo Malachowski     | 8/25 |
| Kimberly Dorgan      | 8/8  | Ruby Shellaway       | 8/15 | Victoria Schumacher | 8/25 |
| Alexandra Hutchinson | 8/8  | Forrest Stieg        | 8/16 | Elaine Tucker       | 8/27 |
| John Stanford        | 8/8  | Mary McGuire         | 8/17 | Tyler Frederick     | 8/28 |
| Rosanna McCalip      | 8/9  | Mauricio Villafuerte | 8/17 | Michael Philpy      | 8/28 |
| Maria Retter         | 8/10 | Donna Zimmerman      | 8/17 | Eric Sivertsen      | 8/28 |
| Alexander Weischedel | 8/10 | Anna Cotton          | 8/18 | Nora Stewart        | 8/28 |
| Seth Cavanaugh       | 8/11 | Joan Hughes          | 8/18 | Victor Pilson       | 8/29 |
| Liesl Curtis         | 8/11 | Andrew Moran         | 8/18 | Jessica Plowgian    | 8/29 |
| Roxanne Englund      | 8/11 | Barbara Goodwin      | 8/19 | Helen Chambers      | 8/30 |
| Madeline Harshbarger | 8/11 | James Kanski         | 8/19 | James Mallek Jr.    | 8/30 |
| Bonnie Barndt-Maglio | 8/12 | Jose Moreno          | 8/19 | Cooper McGuire      | 8/30 |
| Tim Bereuter         | 8/12 | Gabriel Peterson     | 8/19 | Melvin Dotterweich  | 8/31 |
| Siena Koerner        | 8/12 | Anita Peterson       | 8/20 | Zoe Heath           | 8/31 |
| Larry Millstein      | 8/12 | Crestienne DeChaine  | 8/21 | Thomas Klanderman   | 8/31 |
|                      |      |                      |      | Camille Richter     | 8/31 |



# *Social Concerns Ministry*



## **SAVE THE DATE**

ELCA Day of Service

Sept 9, 2018

~ God's work. Our hands. ~

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer will be participating in the ELCA's 2018 Day of Service on September 9th.

We will begin together with prayer and lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15pm (right after the 11 o'clock service). Onsite activities will take place in the Fellowship Hall and Gym. Offsite groups will leave from the church together.

Projects are being planned for all ages and all/no skill levels. All supplies will be provided. All you need is a call to share God's love with the greatest number of people. Feel free to bring neighbors, friends, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops. Service hours can be earned.

Contact Deanna Heier ([dmheier@yahoo.com](mailto:dmheier@yahoo.com)) if you would like to help with the planning or if you would like to add and lead a new activity. An online signup will be sent out to the Congregation later this month.

Hope to see you there!

## **Kits of Care**

Help make education possible for children around the world living through war, disasters, and poverty.

School kits will be assembled at the **Redeemer Day of Service on September 9**.

The kits will be taken to local **Lutheran World Relief** Centers which will distribute them to children around the world.

Please participate by donating any of the following items:

Spiral notebooks: 70 sheet, Wide or college ruled, Approx. 8"x10 ½"

Crayons: Box of 16 or 24 crayons

Ruler: 30 centimeter, or one side with centimeters, other side with inches

Scissors: blunt point

Pencils: No. 2 with erasers, unsharpened

Erasers: 2 ½ inch

Ballpoint pens: Black or blue (no gel ink)

Pencil sharpener

Drawstring backpack style cloth bag: Can be ordered, See instructions on display in Crossroads Area. (No standard backpacks)

Please leave items in designated bins in Crossroad Area during the month of August.

Plan to participate in the **Redeemer Day of Service on September 9** where these ordinary items will be packed and turned into extraordinary gifts of God's love.

Questions: Contact Nancy Power 703.821.1066 ([npower6803@verizon.net](mailto:npower6803@verizon.net))

## **Bikes and Bike Helmets**

Lutheran Social Services is seeking donations of used or new youth bikes (for ages 8 & up) and bike helmets to be awarded to refugee children who have just completed their first year of school in the United States. Given the countless traumas these children have endured, finishing their first year of school is a remarkable achievement. Please help these children celebrate by donating a bicycle, helmet or your financial support.

If you or anyone you know has a youth bicycle or helmet to spare, there are several ways to donate: (i) Redeemer will collect bicycles and/or helmets in the Church parking lot on Saturday August 4th from 9 am to 11 am; (ii) you can bring the bicycle and/or helmet to Church on Sunday August 5th; or (iii) contact Tom Van Wazer (703-967-8698 or [tvanzazer@cox.net](mailto:tvanzazer@cox.net)) to arrange for a pick-up. All are welcome to a blessing of the bicycles and helmets following the 10:30 service on Sunday August 5th.

## **Your June Ham Report**

On June 7, Bob Hahne and Nancy Power delivered 6 boxes of ham weighing approximately 210 pounds to Martha's Table from the Falls Church and Fairfax HoneyBaked Ham stores.

On June 14, Rick Stewart delivered 7 boxes of ham weighing approximately 245 pounds; 3 boxes to Martha's Table and 4 boxes to Thrive DC. All boxes came from the Falls Church store.

On June 15, Ralph Dutrow delivered 15 boxes of ham weighing approximately 525 pounds to the DC Central Kitchen from the Reston store.

On June 21, Laura Wareham delivered 9 boxes of ham weighing approximately 315 pounds to the DC Central Kitchen from the Falls Church and Fairfax stores.

On June 8, Gordon Jones delivered 9 boxes of ham weighing approximately 315 pounds to the DC Central Kitchen from the Falls Church and Fairfax stores.

So for the month of June, we delivered approximately 1,610 pounds of ham. A hot month by any standard!

That brings our year to date total to 9,130 pounds.

Here is a breakdown by charity for the month:

DC Central Kitchen 1,155 pounds; Martha's Table 315 pounds and ThriveDC 140 pounds. Our annual totals are: DC Central Kitchen 6,855 pounds; Martha's Table 1,540 pounds; ThriveDC 490 pounds and CFLS 245 pounds.

If anyone is interested in joining our crew of ham runners, please contact me at: [ricstew2002@yahoo.com](mailto:ricstew2002@yahoo.com)

Thanks to all of our ham runners for their investment of time and energy in this important community outreach.

## ***Gifts of Hope—Together we make a difference***

Thank you for supporting Gifts of Hope during our 2017 Advent campaign in which we raised \$106,200.00 from online giving and from congregation members across the Synod, including \$740.00 from members of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (an increase of \$255.00 from 2016). These funds have been distributed to our beneficiary organizations and will help people improve their lives. Thanks to the volunteers who present this alternative gift-giving option to your congregation.

In 2017 we added Lutheran Campus Ministry to our group of beneficiary organizations. We are happy to announce that in 2018 we have added the Community of St. Dymas, a congregation inside the prison walls of the MD Department of Corrections. Gifts of Hope helps support the work of 19 non-profits and ministries connected to our Metropolitan Washington DC Synod.

Our gifts are available year-round—not just during the Christmas season—via our website: [giftsofhopedc.org](http://giftsofhopedc.org). Your support provides hope for today and hope for tomorrow. As one donor family explained: *We support GOH because we know there are people in our community and the DC area that are hurting and could use some help getting back on their feet or with basic needs.*

# AUGUST

|     |      |   |   |                                   |     |      |   |  |                             |
|-----|------|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----|------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Wed | 8/01 | 8:00a<br>8:30a<br>6:00p<br>6:30p<br>7:00p<br>8:00p  | Fairfax Collegiate<br>Quilting<br>I Drive Smart<br>MOJO Volleyball<br>Hadi Meditation<br>Al-Anon                    | RLC<br>FH<br>CL<br>PH<br>CL<br>CL | Wed | 8/15 | 8:00a<br>9:30a<br>6:30p<br>7:00p<br>8:00p | Fairfax Collegiate<br>Quilting Group<br>MOJO Volleyball<br>Hadi Meditation<br>Al-Anon  | RLC<br>FH<br>PH<br>CL<br>CL |
| Thu | 8/02 | 8:00a<br>6:00p<br>6:30p                             | Fairfax Collegiate<br>I Drive Smart<br>MOJO Volleyball  | RLC<br>CL<br>PH                   | Thu | 8/16 | 8:00a<br>6:30p                            | Fairfax Collegiate<br>MOJO Volleyball  | RLC<br>PH                   |
| Fri | 8/03 | 8:00a<br>6:00p                                      | Fairfax Collegiate<br>I Drive Smart   | RLC<br>CL                         | Fri | 8/17 | 8:00a                                     | Fairfax Collegiate   | RLC                         |
| Sun | 8/05 | 9:00a<br>10:30a<br>1:00p                            | Contemporary Worship<br>Traditional Worship<br>MOJO Volleyball  | NA<br>NA<br>PH                    | Sun | 8/19 | 9:00a<br>10:00a<br>11:30a<br>1:00p        | Contemporary Worship<br>Traditional Worship<br>Confirmation Meeting<br>MOJO Volleyball | NA<br>NA<br>FH<br>PH        |
| Mon | 8/06 | 8:00am<br>6:00p<br>6:30p                            | Fairfax Collegiate<br>I Drive Smart<br>MOJO Volleyball  | RLC<br>CL<br>PH                   | Mon | 8/20 | 8:00a<br>6:30p<br>6:30p                   | Fairfax Collegiate<br>Aerobics<br>MOJO Volleyball                                      | RLC<br>CR<br>PH             |
| Tue | 8/07 | 8:00a<br>8:00a<br>12:00p<br>6:00p<br>6:30p          | Fairfax Collegiate<br>Prayer Time<br>Rotary<br>I Drive Smart<br>MOJO Volleyball                                     | RLC<br>NA<br>FH<br>CL<br>PH       | Tue | 8/21 | 8:00a<br>8:00a<br>12:00p<br>6:30p         | Fairfax Collegiate<br>Prayer Time<br>Rotary<br>MOJO Volleyball                         | RLC<br>NA<br>FH<br>PH       |
| Wed | 8/08 | 8:00a<br>6:00p<br>6:30p<br>7:00p<br>8:00p           | Fairfax Collegiate<br>I Drive Smart<br>MOJO Volleyball<br>Hadi Meditation<br>Al-Anon                                | RLC<br>CL<br>PH<br>CL<br>CL       | Wed | 8/22 | 8:00a<br>6:30p<br>7:00p<br>8:00p          | Fairfax Collegiate<br>MOJO Volleyball<br>Hadi Meditation<br>Al-Anon                    | RLC<br>PH<br>CL<br>CL       |
| Thu | 8/09 | 8:00a<br>6:00p<br>6:30p                             | Fairfax Collegiate<br>I Drive Smart<br>MOJO Volleyball  | RLC<br>CL<br>PH                   | Thu | 8/23 | 8:00a<br>6:30p                            | Fairfax Collegiate<br>MOJO Volleyball  | RLC<br>CR                   |
| Fri | 8/10 | 8:00a<br>6:00p                                      | Fairfax Collegiate<br>I Drive Smart   | RLC<br>CL                         | Fri | 8/24 | 8:00a                                     | Fairfax Collegiate   | RLC                         |
| Sun | 8/12 | 9:00a<br>10:30a<br>11:45a<br>1:00p                  | Contemporary Worship<br>Traditional Worship<br>Faith Formation Mentor Lunch<br>MOJO Volleyball                      | NA<br>NA<br>FH<br>PH              | Sun | 8/26 | 8:30a<br>9:45a<br>11:00a<br>1:00p         | Traditional Worship<br>Contemporary Worship<br>Traditional Worship<br>MOJO Volleyball  | NA<br>NA<br>NA<br>PH        |
| Mon | 8/13 | 8:00a<br>6:30p                                      | Fairfax Collegiate<br>MOJO Volleyball   | RLC<br>PH                         | Mon | 8/27 | 6:30p                                     | MOJO Volleyball  | PH                          |
| Tue | 8/14 | 8:00a<br>8:00a<br>12:00p<br>6:00p<br>6:30p<br>7:00p | Fairfax Collegiate<br>Prayer Time<br>Rotary<br>Langley Residential<br>MOJO Volleyball<br>Finance and Administration | RLC<br>NA<br>FH<br>CR<br>PH<br>LI | Tue | 8/28 | 8:00a<br>6:30p<br>7:30p                   | Prayer Time<br>MOJO Volleyball<br>Stoneleigh Association                               | NA<br>PH<br>MSA             |
|     |      |   |   |                                   | Wed | 8/29 | 6:30p<br>7:00p<br>8:00p                   | MOJO Volleyball<br>Hadi Meditation<br>Al-Anon  | PH<br>CL<br>CL              |
|     |      |   |   |                                   | Thu | 8/30 | 6:30p                                     | MOJO Volleyball  | PH                          |