



# TIDINGS

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1545 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101

Vol. 64 No. 1  
January 2019



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SANDY KESSINGER

### *This Year is Different*

First let me offer everyone a –  
Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! And words of thanksgiving for a job well done!

We have grown accustomed to the beauty of Redeemer especially on high festival days and this year was no exception. Starting in the Crossroads and leading into our sanctuary our space was transformed into the colors of the season. But it takes hours of planning and many volunteers who work long and hard to prepare our space for the hundreds of people who attend our worship. And during our time of worship we are blessed with our choirs and instrumentalists who help make our voices reach the highest heavens. We are blessed with people who serve in different capacities at each of our services so everything runs smoothly. Thank you!

And a special thanks for all the Christmas cards, gifts and gift cards to some of my favorite restaurants. I enjoy them all and feel appreciated and loved in our work together.

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And what will be so different about the coming year?

We as a congregation have important decisions to make in the first few months of this year.

*Background:* When I was called to Redeemer in December of 2011 there was a desire for a second pastor to be called within a reasonable period of time after my arrival. However, we did not move forward with that proposal as we wanted to first reduce the debt we were carrying from our two major building renovation projects (the first one gave us the gym and the second one gave us the Crossroads area). We also wanted to collect and set aside some additional funds that were reserved so that we could have a more firm foundation upon which to call someone new to our ministry staff.

In November of 2015 we started the call process because our debt was reduced to a more manageable amount and because we collected enough funds to sustain the call of a second person. In the call process we were clear that we wanted a pastor but we would remain open to the possibility of a lay professional. We made it a priority to find the right person with enough of the right credentials to move forward. We found that right person in Erin Swenson-Reinhold who was then called and started with us in September, 2016 as a *Minister of Word and Service*.

In the past two years, Deacon Erin has been in discernment and has determined that she has the gifts (and has been affirmed in those gifts) to become a pastor which is a *Minister of Word and Sacrament*. After meeting with Bishop Graham and the Candidacy Committee it was decided that Redeemer could become her internship site. Bishop Graham and the Candidacy Committee mapped out the list of courses that she would need to complete to prepare her for the shift of roles. In December of 2018, Deacon Erin completed her internship with us, successfully completed the seminary courses, and was approved by the Candidacy Committee. The final step is to be approved by the national church, the ELCA. Bishop Graham has a verbal acceptance from them but is awaiting the formal approval.

*Now to the Present:* Since this is a change in roster for Deacon Erin our congregation must go through the formal process of calling her as our Associate Pastor. Based on the steps outlined by Bishop Graham, our council will act as the Call Committee. Deacon Erin will submit her résumé to the council (known as the Rostered Ministers Profile) and she will receive our document that describes our congregation and mission (known as the Ministry Site Profile). The council will then interview her at a meeting set for January 14<sup>th</sup>. It will take a vote of two-thirds of the voting members on council to proceed to a Call Vote before the Congregation.

*Call Vote Sunday:* If all goes well and we proceed to the Call Vote then we have penciled in February 10<sup>th</sup> as the Call Vote Sunday. It is also the day of our Annual Meeting. Because the Annual Meeting and the Call Vote have to be two distinct meetings, below is the planned schedule:

- 1) If the vote from Council is positive then we will start the Call Vote Meeting from 12:15 pm to 1:00 pm, immediately following the 11:00 am service. A representative from the synod office will be present to run the meeting. Both the call of Deacon Erin and her compensation package will be voted on that day. If more time is needed to deliberate this important decision then Roberts' Rules allows for an extension of time. Since we have to state the start time for the Annual Meeting in advance we will establish that meeting time to be 1:00 pm.
- 2) If the vote from Council is not positive then there is no need for a Call Vote. We will have the Annual Meeting at 12:15 pm on February 10.

Both meetings are critical! Your presence and vote for the Call Vote will determine the future for Deacon Erin and our congregation. If two-thirds of those present say *yes* then we have an Associate Pastor. If the vote is *no* then our congregation will reevaluate the needs of the church and start the call process over again with other candidates. Deacon Erin will seek a call in another church.

The Annual Meeting is just as important. A quorum is required to pass any motions put before us and this year that includes electing members to our Council and voting members to the Synod Assembly. It also includes the adoption of our 2019 budget. Based on the results of the Call Vote we will also need to discuss 1) an ordination service for Deacon Erin which will take place at Redeemer in March if the vote is positive or 2) how the congregation wants us to proceed towards the call of another candidate if the vote is negative. Both meetings are critical!

We will offer light snacks after the 11:00 am service to sustain us through both meetings. Please watch for upcoming announcements, emails and other mailings on everything I just outlined for us. You are an important part of this congregation and we need to work together to ensure we are fulfilling our mission. It is all to the glory of God.

If you have any questions then please contact me at [psk@redeemermclean.org](mailto:psk@redeemermclean.org) or contact our Council President – Matthew Kratz – [pghkratz@gmail.com](mailto:pghkratz@gmail.com).

Yours in Christ – Pastor Sandy Kessinger

# January

- January 2      Overview of the Bible – 8:00 am  
**Every Wednesday Morning**
- January 2, 16    Quilting Group – 9:30 am
- January 3, 17    Prayer Shawl – 10:30 am
- January 6      Epiphany Sunday – 8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11:00 am  
Faith Formation (Sunday school) resumes – 9:45 am  
Table Talk resumes – 9:45 am
- January 8      Prayers in Sanctuary – 8:00 am  
**Every Tuesday Morning**
- January 9      Bible Study on *Ruth and Esther* – 7:15 pm  
**Every Wednesday Evening**
- January 13     Baptism of Our Lord – 8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11:00 am  
Confirmation Workshop – 12:15 pm
- January 20     Sunday Worship – 8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11 am
- January 21     Women of the ELCA – 1:30 pm
- January 27     Sunday Worship – 8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11 am

**Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**  
**Minutes from the Church Council Meeting of December 10, 2018**

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

Absent: Mitch Brown, Laura Duval (Vice President), and Joseph Kratz (Youth Representative).

Opening

Matthew Kratz called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

Pastor Kessinger led Council with devotions from *Living Our Baptism*. Council members described the injustice or strife that concerns them the most.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

Redeemer 2019 Budget

Cindy Waldron presented the 2019 budget. Cindy highlighted some of the changes from the previous year.

We need to ensure that income is at or above budgeted levels. We are significantly reliant upon use fees and other revenues. Some budget areas seem low, but have additional funds based on targeted fund raising (i.e. flowers and youth events).

Council voted to approve the budget and present it in a single-page summary based on congregational feedback.

Pastor's Report / Deacon Erin Report

Pastor Kessinger shared reports on her and Deacon Erin's recent activities.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 12, 2018 Council meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Dean Graves reviewed the Treasurer's Report. We are communicating the current end of year budget shortfall through bulletins and direct emails.

## Council Discussion

- Deacon Erin has completed the requirements for her internship, a prerequisite for her moving from the Deacon roster (Word and Service ministry) to the Clergy roster (Word and Sacrament ministry). She has also been approved by the Candidacy Committee.
- We will complete the Ministry Site Profile in preparation for the January Council meeting. We anticipate having Deacon Erin interview at the January Council meeting. Pastor Kessinger will communicate in the newsletter about the next steps the congregation needs to take in the process.
- Council discussed planning for the Annual Meeting on February 10. A bulletin and Facebook announcement to save the date for the Annual Meeting will go out. It was discussed to have childcare during the meeting to allow parents to participate.
- Gordon Jones shared updates from the nominating committee.
- Some Council candidates have been contacted and agreed to serve if nominated and elected.
- They continue to reach out to additional nominees including the youth representative and Endowment Committee members.
- The Living Nativity is scheduled for December 14. Due to the forecast of rain, Rob Wenk requested names of people with tents that could be used over the Nativity and animal areas.

### Committee reports:

- The Worship and Music Ministry would like to encourage more congregational involvement in worship leadership.
- The New Connections taskforce recently met and reviewed a number of initiatives. They will look to start a program for members to read the Bible over a year, share support for using Redeemer's social media accounts and more.
- Social Concerns is planning a late Winter/Early Spring hospitality event for refugees and congregation members to celebrate diversity.

## Closing

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 9:40 PM

Next meeting of Council: January 14, 2019

Next meeting of Executive Committee: January 10, 2019

**THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**  
**REFLECTION ON READINGS**  
**JANUARY 1, 2019**

We are inviting everyone in our congregation to read the Bible in a Year.  
Every week we will list (on the website and in our announcements) which lessons to read.  
Starting in February we will offer small groups to discuss what we have read:

<i>Talk and Walk</i>	Opportunities to exercise while we talk
<i>Talk and Eat</i>	Opportunities to share a meal while we talk
<i>Just Talk</i>	Opportunities to sit and just have a conversation

Below is a reflection Pastor Kessinger developed for January 1.  
She used it as her sermon for the New Year's Eve service as an encouragement to read more.

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**Matthew 1:1-2:12**

Family tree of Jesus

- 14 Generations from Abraham to David
- 14 Generations from David to the Babylonian Exile
- 14 Generations from the Babylonian Exile to the Messiah

Some of the names we know well and others are not even recorded in the Old Testament.  
Some of the names reflect great leaders and others not so much.  
God worked through the actions of the faithful and those who were disobedient to God.

Birth of Jesus

- Focus is on the message given to Joseph, son of David.
- Magi came to Herod inquiring about the child.
- Wise men knew not to trust the words of Herod once they encountered the Christ child.

Reflection:    Who in your family (tree) has been the most faithful to God?  
                      What promises did God make to Joseph through the words of the angel?  
                      How will this help us face the uncertainty of our futures?  
                      How do we know whose voice to trust?

**Genesis 1:1-2:25**

We start from the beginning with creation.  
We are not to get caught up in the details since there are two creation stories.  
First Account . . .

- Central is the creation of land and water, plants and animals, day and night.
- Everything that God made was good and in the end it was very good.
- God created humans last and made them stewards over his creation.
- And then God rested.

Second Account . . .

- Central is the creation of humankind.
- God made man from the ground (*Adamah* in Hebrew means *earth*).
- Man was to work and care for the Garden of Eden.
- God brought the man all the living creatures to name.
- Name of Adam is first used in verse 20.
- God creates for Adam a helper named Eve (*chawah* in Hebrew means *to breathe*).

Reflection: How can we be better stewards of God's creation?  
Where do we go to see the goodness of his creation?  
What one thing can we do to be obedient to God this coming year?

### Psalm 1

Delight in the Lord!  
Meditate on his law.  
Prosper and yield fruit.

### Proverbs 1:1-6

*Wisdom* in Hebrew is the word *chokhmah*.  
Translation – Listening Heart

### January Readings

Old Testament	Genesis through Exodus 13
Gospel	Matthew – Chapters 1-21
Psalm	Chapters 1-25
Proverbs	Chapters 1-6



## Your IRA and Required Minimum Distributions

Did you know that if you are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your traditional IRA, it can be used as a contribution to Redeemer? Now that Congress has made the Qualified Charitable Distribution provision in the tax code permanent, this is a great way to fund your giving to Redeemer and not have the RMD count towards your adjusted gross income, even without itemizing on your tax return. If you instruct the investment firm that is your IRA custodian, to send your RMD or a portion of it directly to Redeemer, then it does not get included as part of your income. The key point here is that it cannot be passed through you but has to be made payable directly to the church. If you are 70 1/2 or older, this may be a good opportunity for you to stay below the threshold for the Medicare high-income surcharge or help make less of your Social Security benefits subject to tax. You should check with your own tax adviser to confirm that this is something that would be appropriate for you. If you have any questions about the transfer process, you can also contact Veronique Thomas, Redeemer's Financial Coordinator, at 703/356-3346 or [vthomas@RedeemerMcLean.org](mailto:vthomas@RedeemerMcLean.org).

## Commitment Sunday – 2019

The 2019 Commitment Sunday is set for January 27 when we invite everyone to renew (or start) their annual financial pledge to Redeemer to assist us in fulfilling our mission. The annual pledge is an extremely helpful way for each of us to manage our financial giving throughout the year and for our church leaders to understand how much money can be spent towards our valued ministries. An easy way to calculate your pledge is to look at your standard weekly giving and multiple it by 52 for the annual pledge amount. It is understood that you can adjust your giving throughout the year based on personal changes. There is also the option for automatic weekly giving as outlined on our website. The pledge form will be mailed to you in mid January. We hope everyone can make this very important annual pledge.

**Practicing Our Faith**  
**Deacon Erin Swenson-Reinhold**  
**January 2019**

Happy New Year! January is a wonderful time to reflect on the past year and those things we want to incorporate into the coming year. It's a time to set goals, establish priorities, and recalibrate life.

Jesus invites us to daily practice our faith and over the next few months, I will highlight some recommendations for doing so. The ELCA has a vision for lifelong faith formation that is biblically grounded and comprised of four main components.



Each of those components is critical in faith formation and helps build a life of faith.

As we enter 2019, I encourage you to consider all the ways God may be inviting you to engage a life shaped by faith formation. I encourage you to explore different spiritual practices, engage life-giving relationships, identify mentors and guides for ongoing learning, and participate in faith-filled service. The ministry staff at Redeemer is excited about what the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst, and we hope you are, too!

Blessings and Peace,  
Deacon Erin

*ELCA Faith Formation: Recommended Practices for Lifelong Learning.*

## STAINED GLASS WINDOW: WORSHIP AND MUSIC

*In the December Tidings we focused on the Eternal Life window. This month we are sharing a reflection about the window we have entitled "Worship and Music".*



### WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We worship and praise God with music.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. (Psalm 100:4)*

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!  
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!*

*Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!  
Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!  
Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! (Psalm 150)*

We read of God's redeeming love and His relationship with His people in the Bible.

We nurture our relationship with God through prayer.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)*

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit itself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26)*

Four symbols are within the triquetra, a common symbol of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), in the center panel. All of a person's life exists within a relationship to the Trinity and nothing is done outside of that relationship. The intertwined lines of the triquetra illustrate the often complex interrelatedness of soul (heart), mind (quill), and strength (hand). Christ, represented by the cross, is always at the center of our being.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.  
(Deuteronomy 6:5)*

Our praise of God includes acts of love and service to others.

## Your November Ham Report

On November 1, Rick Stewart delivered 4 boxes of ham to Martha's Table and 4 boxes of ham to CFLS weighing 280 pounds from the Fairfax and Falls Church HoneyBaked Ham stores.

On November 8, Gordon Jones delivered 5 boxes of ham weighing 175 pounds to the DC Central Kitchen from the Falls Church and Fairfax stores.

On November 8, Ralph Dutrow delivered 8 boxes of ham weighing 280 pounds to the DC Central Kitchen from the Reston store.

On November 29, Roberta Pittman delivered 3 boxes of ham weighing 95 pounds to N Street Village from the Fairfax store.

On November 29, Ralph Dutrow delivered 18 boxes of ham weighing 630 pounds to the DC Central Kitchen from the Reston store.

So for the month of November, we delivered 1,460 pounds of ham. Fantastic month!

That brings our yearly total to 15,045 pounds! Our delivery breakdown for the month is: DC Central Kitchen, 1,085 pounds; Martha's Table, 140 pounds;

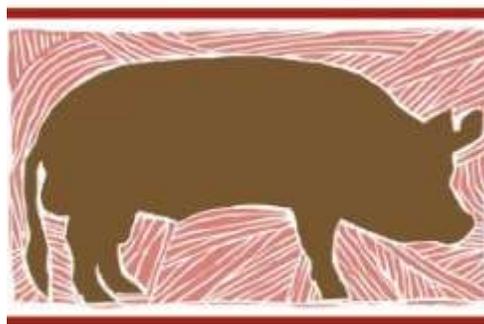
CFLS, 140 pounds; and N Street Village 95 pounds.

Our annual totals are: DC Central Kitchen, 11,565 pounds; Martha's Table, 1,925; ThriveDC, 595 pounds; CFLS 505 pounds and N Street Village, 455 pounds. All weights are approximate.

If anyone is interested in joining our excellent crew of ham runners, please contact Rick Stewart at:

[ricstew2002@yahoo.com](mailto:ricstew2002@yahoo.com)

Thanks to all of our ham runners for donating their time and talent to the fight against hunger.





Donald Daus	1/1	John Corvari	1/11	Nathaniel Tiffany	1/22
Kevin Maul	1/1	William Dutrow	1/11	Amelia Dutrow	1/23
Marion Lockhard-Schultz	1/2	William Frisbie	1/11	Mark Hughes	1/23
Sharon Tonsager	1/2	Edwin Pan	1/11	Edward Schumacher Berendt	1/23
David Truslow	1/2	Ginger Torgrimson	1/11	Julian Mentzel	1/24
Hayley Wenk	1/2	Christopher Armstrong	1/12	Emma Mykityshyn	1/24
Sverre Bach	1/3	Madeleine Engel	1/12	Grace Chambers	1/25
Melissa Gorsline	1/3	Carol Martz	1/12	Emma Horn	1/25
Charles Lettow	1/3	Sebastian Salzman	1/12	Natalie Horn	1/25
Daniel Bader V	1/4	Tessa Stoll	1/12	Dan Retter	1/25
David Young	1/4	Janie Mortensen	1/13	Rebecca Behravesh	1/26
Justin Young	1/4	Rekha Arness	1/14	Benjamin Epstein	1/26
James Prince	1/5	Martha Blue	1/14	Benjamin Campet	1/28
Jessamin Straub	1/5	Knut Opsal	1/14	Caroline Elliot	1/28
JaLyn Tiffany	1/5	James Sullivan	1/14	Alexandra Gomes McKay	1/28
Annelie Wiklund	1/5	Madison Barb	1/15	Cindy Goodman	1/28
Daniel Moreno	1/6	Matthew Duval	1/15	Forrest Stieg	1/28
Judy Prince	1/6	Amara Okorie	1/16	Kevin Dempsey	1/29
Karlen Bader	1/7	Arcel Castillo	1/17	Nicholas Elbert	1/29
Judith Kastner	1/7	Phyllis Peter-Mallard	1/17	Adem Sevimli	1/29
Emma Swenson-Reinhold	1/7	Elias Tiffany	1/17	Anika Crone	1/30
Greg R. Adams	1/8	Joseph 'JoJo' Warren	1/17	Gretchen Odegard	1/30
Griffin Stieg	1/8	Justin Bornmann	1/19	Katie Romhilt	1/30
Christine Bader	1/9	Kelly Kight	1/19	Bob Speegle	1/30
John DeLeonardis	1/9	Caden Stuart	1/19	Jake Dunleavy	1/31
Darlene Lebedev	1/9	Ephraim Swenson-Reinhold	1/21	Katherine Miller	1/31
Finn Koehli	1/10	Niels-Oliver DeChaine	1/22	Luke Niles	1/31
Frederick Muhlenberg	1/10	JoAnn Mueller	1/22	Jeffrey Pishner	1/31
Tessa Skochko	1/10	Jean Speegle	1/22	Anna Villagran	1/31





Wed	1/02	8:00a 9:30a 6:30p 7:00p 8:00p	Bible Study Quilting Group MOJO Volleyball Hadi Meditation AI-Anon	CR FH PH CL CL	Thu	1/17	10:30a 6:30p 7:00P 7:45p	Prayer Shawl Ministry MOJO Volleyball Bell Choir Traditional Choir	LI CR MSA MSB
Thu	1/03	10:30a 5:30p 6:30p	Prayer Shawl Ministry Teen CBS MOJO Volleyball	LI RLC PH	Sat	1/19	10:00a	I Drive Smart	CL
Sat	1/05	4:00p	I Drive Smart	CL	Sun	1/20	8:30a 9:45a 11:00a 12:00p 1:00p 1:30p	Traditional Worship Contemporary Worship Traditional Worship Banner Committee MOJO Volleyball Brownie Troop 1845	NA NA NA FH PH CL
Sun	1/06	8:30a 9:45a 11:00a 1:00p	Traditional Worship Contemporary Worship Traditional Worship MOJO Volleyball	NA NA NA PH	Mon	1/21	6:30p 6:30p	Aerobics MOJO Volleyball	CR PH
Mon	1/07	6:30p 6:30p	Aerobics MOJO Volleyball	CR PH	Tue	1/22	8:00a 12:00p 6:30p 7:15p	Prayer Time Rotary MOJO Volleyball Boy Scout Troop 1916	NA FH PH FH
Tue	1/08	8:00a 12:00p 6:00p 6:30p 7:15p 7:30p	Prayer Time Rotary Langley Residential MOJO Volleyball Boy Scout Troop 1916 Finance and Administration	NA FH CR PH FH LI	Wed	1/23	8:00a 6:30p 7:00p 7:15p 8:00p	Bible Study MOJO Volleyball Hadi Meditation Bible Study AI-Anon	CR PH CL CF CL
Wed	1/09	8:00a 6:30p 7:00p 7:15p 8:00p	Bible Study MOJO Volleyball Hadi Meditation Bible Study AI-Anon	CR PH CL CF CL	Thu	1/24	5:30p 6:30p 7:00P 7:45p	Teen CBS MOJO Volleyball Bell Choir Traditional Choir	RLC CR MSA MSB
Thu	1/10	5:30p 6:30p 7:00P 7:45p	Teen CBS MOJO Volleyball Bell Choir Traditional Choir	RLC CR MSA MSB	Sat	1/26	10:00a	I Drive Smart	CL
Sat	1/12	10:00a 10:00a	Boy Scout Lock In I Drive Smart	RLC CL	Sun	1/27	8:30a 9:45a 11:00a 1:00p 1:30p	Traditional Worship Contemporary Worship Traditional Worship MOJO Volleyball Brownie Troop 1845	NA NA NA PH CL
Sun	1/13	8:30a 9:45a 11:00a 12:15p 1:00p 1:00p 3:00p	Traditional Worship Contemporary Worship Traditional Worship Confirmation Workshop MOJO Volleyball Girl Scout Troop 1845 Cub Scouts	NA NA NA RLC PH CL CL	Mon	1/28	6:30p 6:30p	Aerobics MOJO Volleyball	CR PH
Mon	1/14	6:30p 6:30p 7:30p	Aerobics MOJO Volleyball Congregational Council Meeting	CR PH CR	Tue	1/29	8:00a 12:00p 6:30p 7:15p	Prayer Time Rotary MOJO Volleyball Boy Scout Troop 1916	NA FH PH FH
Tue	1/15	8:00a 12:00p 6:30p 7:15p	Prayer Time Rotary MOJO Volleyball Boy Scout Troop 1916	NA FH PH FH	Wed	1/30	8:00a 6:30p 7:00p 7:15p 8:00p	Bible Study MOJO Volleyball Hadi Meditation Bible Study AI-Anon	CR PH CL CF CL
Wed	1/16	8:00a 9:30a 6:30p 7:00p 7:15p 8:00p	Bible Study Quilting Group MOJO Volleyball Hadi Meditation Bible Study AI-Anon	CR FH PH CL CR CL	Thu	1/31	5:30p 6:30p 7:00P 7:45p	Teen CBS MOJO Volleyball Bell Choir Traditional Choir	RLC CR MSA MSB