

2017 Annual Report of the Congregation
The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
McLean, Virginia



Our Mission

*“To share Christ’s love with the
greatest number of people”*



**Annual Meeting
February 4, 2018**

Call to order: Welcome and Opening Prayer

Consent agenda: to be approved as a whole, unless items are removed for further discussion
Pastoral Ministry Reports (Pastor Sandy Kessinger and Deacon Erin Swenson-Reinhold)
President of the Council Report (Matthew Kratz)
Ministry Reports (as printed in the Annual Report)

Items to be presented:

Treasurer's Report (Rob Wenk)

Proposed action items:

Recommendations for Council from the Nominating Committee (Paul Lettow)

- Mitch Brown
- Roberta Pittman
- Rob Wenk
- Joseph Kratz (Youth Representative)

Election of voting members to the 2018 Synod Assembly

- Harold Hofstad
- Chris Hunter
- Stephanie Hunter
- Max Miller
- Florence Ofili-Toviho
- Robin Taylor

Presentation of Proposed 2018 Budget (Cindy Waldron)

- Adoption of 2018 Budget

Other Business:

- Updates to Redeemer Constitution (by action of ELCA and our synod)
- New Connections Campaign
- Areas of emphasis for 2018

Adjourn with prayer

Minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
February 5, 2017

The congregational meeting was opened at 12:10 pm with a prayer from Pastor Kessinger, followed by her expression of thankfulness to the Congregation for calling her to Redeemer just 5 years ago. She noted her love for Redeemer's mission, its people, its diverse opinions and its strong faith.

Council President Dean Graves confirmed that a quorum of members was present. He then presented the agenda for the meeting, calling attention to the materials in the printed Annual report, and made a motion to approve the minutes of last year's congregational meeting (pgs 3-4). [Note: An amendment was made to the 2016 meeting minutes to document that Laura Duval was also nominated and approved by the Congregational to be a member of the Church Council] The motion was approved.

Dean asked meeting attendees to review the following in the Annual Report and to contact the Council if there are any questions:

- Pastor's Report
- Deacon's Report
- President of the Congregation Council Report
- Ministry Reports

Dean Graves thanked the Congregation for their generosity in supporting Redeemer's mission and in particular for their financial contributions in December that helped us meet the church's 2016 operating expenses. Rob Wenk presented the Treasurer's report (pgs 13-17) pointing out that while contributions were less than budgeted they were higher than the previous year and that a significant portion of our receipts are from facility use fees (including preschool and afterschool usage fees). Furthermore, he noted that Building & Grounds expenses were also under budget but higher than the previous year and that this expenditure is carefully managed throughout the year depending on contributions. Overall, the Church's receipts exceeded its expenses by \$6,774. Rob also noted to the Congregation that in 2016 the Church paid down an additional \$170,000 of its mortgage using Reserve funds (an action recommended by Finance and Administration committed and approved by Council) and MMEC contributions. Two important financial milestones of note: 1) Our mortgage is now under \$1M and 2) the MMEC-Pastoral Support Fund has achieved its goal of \$250,000. Rob and Dean also updated the congregation that a committee has been re-formed for the Endowment Fund to determine grants for 2017. No grants were issued in 2016. In closing, Rob reminded members that pledges are still being accepted for 2017 financial givings as well as our time and talent pledges. He noted a specific need for volunteers to support our Worship services. There were no questions on the Treasurer's report from the Congregation. Dean thanked Rob for his continued devotion to the Treasurer's position.

Dean Graves gave thanks to the 2016 Council members for their service, highlighting that the Congregation is well represented by its Council being engaged in many different areas of the church and a special note for their support in the call of Deacon Erin this past year. He thanked outgoing Council members, including Julia Waldron, Elizabeth Carroll, and Mickey Skelton.

Mickey Skelton presented the Nominating Committee's recommendations for new 2017 Council Members: Karen Detweiler, Stephanie Hunter, Steve Lancaster, and Linsey Wenk (youth representative). Their biographies are included on page 19 of the 2017 Annual Report. Mickey noted that the committee reviewed 30 names for the positions and that the nominees were selected to ensure that Council remains well represented across the congregation in demographics, participation in various ministries/activities, and worship service preference. Dean called for additional nominees from the floor (for which there were none) and then called for a voice vote of all 4 candidates. The result was a unanimous Aye vote.

Dean Graves then presented the recommendations for the Endowment Fund committee: Mike Chambers, Dave Muchow, and Lorinda Opsahl-Ong. The nominees are volunteers from the congregation and are joined by Dean Graves and Matthew Kratz as Council representatives. Dean called for a voice vote and the result was a unanimous Aye vote.

Dean Graves then presented the recommendations for Redeemer's voting members to 2017 Synod Assembly: Mark Cronin, Harold Hofstad, CheeLee Leong, Florence Ofili-Toviho, Robin Taylor, and Greg Adams. We now have 6 voting representatives based on Redeemer's congregation size. The nominees were all recommended by Pastor Kessinger to the Council. Dean called for a voice vote and the result was a unanimous Aye vote.

At this time, Pastor Sandy reported the results of the youth Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser as \$164 for the Patriots and \$536 for the Falcons, resulting in a total of \$700 raised for our local food banks.

Cindy Waldron presented the budget for 2017 (pg 18). The budget remained fairly stable with a 0.7% overall increase from last year's budget. There were two primary changes noted: 1) the Building & Grounds budget was reduced based on current expense needs and 2) the Parish Staff budget was increased to account for a full year of Deacon Erin's employment. Cindy also called attention to 2 items on the revenue side: 1) Facility use fees are a major part of our projected revenues and 2) that the budget requires \$120,818 in additional contributions over what we received last year. Cindy thanked the congregation for meeting the financial needs of the Church in 2016 noting that we went into December with the biggest deficit we had ever seen but came through above. Dean then opened to the floor for questions:

- Ron Kutscher asked if salary adjustments/increases are accounted for in the Budget. Cindy Waldron confirmed they are. Pastor Sandy noted that the increases occur when an employee reaches their annual employment anniversary.
- Harold Hofstad asked for clarification on the trend in past years to underspend in Education. Cindy noted that we have continued to preserve funds for Education in case a need arises in a given year. Deacon Erin asked that those funds be preserved for a new Sunday School curriculum under discussion.
- Barbara Donne noted that the Bell Choir is in need of their bells to be tuned, table covers and padding that is expected to be in excess of the amount budgeted for Music. Cindy Waldron noted that the Music budget increase accounted for these costs and Rob Wenk added that the Finance committee has been in touch with Matt and Waka Osifchin about this need and a special donation was also made by a member of the congregation to cover the full costs.

Dean confirmed there were no other questions. He noted that the budget as presented was approved by the Council for vote at today's meeting and called for a voice vote on the \$1,142,425 budget for 2017. The budget passed after a unanimous Aye vote. Pastor Sandy expressed her thanks to the congregation for their continued generosity.

Betsy Kutscher was called forward to provide an update on the stained glass window project. Betsy reported that the glass has been selected and cut for Windows 1-5 with painting to begin shortly. Cartoons/patterns are in progress for the remaining Windows 6-10 and the committee will see drafts late March. The project consists of 15 trays of glass. Photos will be provided during painting. Current delivery is targeted for October 2017. The committee's next design visit will be in April.

Tracy Graves spoke on behalf of the 60th Anniversary Committee and recounted the many joyous activities held in 2016 in celebration of Redeemer's mission including the presentation of new banners, the Celebration service and dinner, our new mosaic in the Crossroads, the 60 Reflections book (including reflections from 60 members of the congregation), the 60th anniversary cookbook (including recipes from members of the congregation), and 6 service projects (including donations of 160 purses to N Street Village and an abundance of winter coats to LSS). Tracy thanked the Anniversary Task force including Joyce Clarke, Marti Hopley, Roberta and Larry Pittman, and Lynn Anne Mullane and on behalf of the committees she presented Pastor Sandy with a scrapbook of all the events from the 60th anniversary year. Pastor Sandy expressed her gratitude and the committee was thanked by the congregation with a standing ovation.

Marti Hopley spoke to the congregation about the incredible impact that Redeemer's Faith Formation ministry had on her in 2016, sharing her experiences with her Faith conversations group. She expressed her thankfulness to Redeemer for support through joy, crisis and life's spiritual journey and encouraged others to participate in this life-changing ministry.

Sara Egeland spoke on the great work being done through our Sunday School ministry and encouraged those seeking a rewarding and worthwhile service in Christ's name to consider teaching Sunday School in 2017. Deanna Heier spoke to the congregation about the Social Concerns committee's planned activities in support of refugee families, noting that Redeemer's history with this ministry extends back to the 1970s when Redeemer sponsored a Vietnamese family who had just come to the United States. Several events are planned to educate our congregation about the needs and experiences of refugee families in our community including a group outing to the Refugee photography exhibit at the Newseum, a collection of kitchen items for LSS's refugee families throughout Lent, a Day of Prayer for refugee families on March 7th, a sermon and youth activity focused on biblical hospitality on May 7th, a multi-generational interactive, educational event in partnership with LSS called 'The Refugee Experience on May 13th, and an opportunity to welcome refugee families to our community at the Congregational potluck picnic on June 4th. Further education and event details will be included in the monthly Tidings.

Deacon Erin Swenson-Reinhold thanked the congregation for calling her to Redeemer and expressed how much she has enjoyed the faith conversations she has already been apart of. She spoke about the new Faith Alive Bible Study group providing a time of reflection for adults and children in partnership with Marlon Yearwood, the weekly Tuesday prayer hour, and ongoing Faith conversations. Deacon Erin highlighted plans for the Lutherock Confirmation camp in North Carolina for 6th, 7th and 8th graders, noting that this is a wonderful transformative experience for our youth and that she looks forward to planning and attending this year's congregation spiritual retreat. Deacon Erin announced that Vacation Bible School will be continued again this year and that she is working with Marlon and Elizabeth Carroll on plans for this fun and faith-filled week. She also noted plans for a new curriculum for the Sunday School program to be released next Fall. On Marlon's behalf, she added that Marlon continues to mentor youth at the Juvenile Detention Center and supports Teen CBS, the youth Harrisburg mission trip, Sunday School teaching, and Gym Nights for young families.

The meeting closed at 1:14 pm with the Lord's prayer led by Pastor Sandy Kessinger with a final blessing to "Go in peace and be a light to the world".

**2017 ANNUAL REPORT
PASTOR SANDY KESSINGER**

February 4, 2018

*But as for you (people of God) ... pursue righteousness,
godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.
1 Timothy 6:11*

It is time to reflect on another year gone by. And as I think about some of the significant changes that occurred in the past year, the one that immediately comes to mind is how we have grown in our faith. In 2017 we offered more worship opportunities, more Bible studies, and more faith conversations than ever before, and they were led by more lay leaders than ever before. We are growing in our understanding that we are all part of the ministry here at Redeemer (the priesthood of all believers) and we all have a role in sharing the gospel message. Our ministries are healthy, our attendance is stable, and our staff members work diligently to fulfill our mission. Thanks be to God.

In other annual reports I have highlighted for you the myriad of responsibilities I have as your pastor but this year I will simply note those items that were new to us this past year:

1. We took full advantage of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We did some creative studies on *The Small Catechism* that covered (for adults) the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. We celebrated the anniversary through special musical selections from the time period of Luther. We joined thousands of others on Reformation Sunday at the Washington National Cathedral to hear the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA preach on the significance and relevance of this landmark event. Even our Christmas tree this year was beautifully decorated with ornaments made into Luther's seal.
2. We introduced an *Overview of the Bible* series that continues to meet weekly in 2018. The idea for this study grew out of our small group faith conversations. We opened up the invitation to anyone who was interested and it has been very well received. Not only do our members attend but people come from outside of our faith community. New connections are being made as we contemplate the true nature of God and his relationship with us.
3. We introduced Advent Chapel services that were preceded by luncheons. The worship style was simple, we included Holy Communion, and we sang music that was appropriate for the season. It was a wonderful way to reflect on the four themes of Advent – hope, peace, love and joy. Also during Advent we held the *Blue Christmas* service to help those who find the holidays to be challenging.
4. I was trained as a coach through the ELCA. I completed the necessary course work, and I will officially begin coaching another pastor in this calendar year. I have a degree in counseling but in coaching I will fine-tune my active listening skills to engage others in conversations that will help them meet personal and professional goals.

Overall, my top priority remains to develop theologically sound and relevant sermons. In other areas of worship, we made some minor changes to the contemporary worship throughout the year and we will explore what more we can do to make more seasonal adjustments to the service. Home visits are made on a regular basis to those who cannot attend worship due to health concerns. This year we had some significant deaths in the life of our faith community and some were not as closely affiliated with us. In all the situations we walked with people in their time of grief and loss, we offered a worship experience that comforted the bereaved, and we were a real presence for the families both before and after the funerals took place.

Although not new, I spend as much time as possible with the people of Redeemer and those outside our community. Conversations take place in my office or in homes or during a shared meal. In order to maintain a healthy relationship with our youth I also periodically set up small group dinners with them. Emails and other written communications are checked daily and responded to as quickly as possible.

Our Staff

Again this year I offer thanks to our staff for their hard work.

Carol D'Amico is efficient and skillfully handles anything that I send her way.

Lionel Jackson works hard to maintain a building that is constantly used.

Tammie Koenig looks for creative ways to build the preschool ministry.

Linda McConnaughay develops new opportunities to engage the afterschool children.

Bill Parks patiently meets any challenge we offer him in the care of our building.

Veronique Thomas takes meticulous care of our finances (and the people).

Marlon Yearwood effectively engages our youth in faith conversations and outreach.

Deacon Erin Swenson-Reinhold – Deacon Erin continues to be a blessing to me and to us at Redeemer. She is a very hard worker and has grown in her comfort level in preaching and other leadership roles in the church. We work very well together and our gifts complement each other well. She makes herself visible and present to all the people in our congregation.

One More Thought ...

I return to the quote from 1 Timothy 6:11. In the midst of all of our wonderful activities at the church, we are also a church that serves within the context of our world. This year has been especially difficult. Our nation has been divisive on so many issues. The violence in our own country and across other parts of the world has been staggering. The threat of nuclear weapons being fired and rumors of war have inflicted a sense of fear in many people.

And if that were not enough, there were numerous natural disasters that included earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, and fires. As each new disaster (either by natural means or because of human sin) unfolded I prayerfully sent out emails to the congregation to offer us a sense of hope and encouragement.

I am more and more convinced that the Bible offers us great wisdom about who we are and what we are to do in our current context. I pray that as we continue to offer different worship experiences, have more Bible studies, and increase our faith conversations that this is just some of the ways we will open ourselves up to the Word of God. It will help us determine the direction for our lives and we will know how to respond to some of our current circumstances. I am convinced that the better we are able to articulate our faith in Jesus Christ the more it will make a difference to others we encounter.

We might be in a time of exile (using an Old Testament term) but we are never alone. It is what we will continue to preach and teach at Redeemer.

As a faith community I could not ask for a better congregation to serve.

Even in these challenging times, it is pure joy to be your pastor!

Let us continue to grow in our faith.

Yours in Christ – Pastor Sandy Kessinger

2017 STATISTICS

End of 2016	Total baptized membership	1,163
	Confirmed members	885
	Average Weekly Worship	288
End of 2017	Total baptized membership	1,185
	Confirmed members	886
	Average Weekly Worship	300

Our Newly Baptized – 10

Connor Joseph Cavanaugh	February 12
Marcella Kay Raimondi	February 26
Hayden Carol Budnyk	May 21
Paxton Thomas Rodriguez	June 11
Logan Alexander Vergonis	July 2
Luke Joseph Niles	September 3
Olivia Grace Pilson	October 20
Cooper James Cassell	December 17
Gavin James Cassell	December 17
Thomas Edward Derr	December 17

Our New Members – 20

Chipouras	Marjorie	
Cotton	Anna and Tom	Gabriel and Daniel
Derr	Jason	
Hall	Jennifer	
Lehmkuhler	Kristi and John Reynolds	Cora and Leia
Lohmus	Peter	
Midgley	Jennifer	
Sandahl	Virginia	
Walker	Steve and Gaye	Chase, Danielle, and Mia
Wamstad	Telford (Ted)	

Confirmed in 2017 – 9

Henry Bourgin	Sarah Regan
Matthew Duval	Avery Richardson
Alexandra Hutchinson	Will Ubben
Michael O'Brien	Kate Waldron
Olivia Pilson	

Wedding

Monica Augustenborg and Patrick Meagher	August 19, 2017
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The Faithful Departed – 7

Woodrith (Woody) Inez R. Blazek
Wally Frank Bowles
Matthew Dean Graves
Craig Harrison Lockard (Committal)
Nancy Mills Loving
Thomas J. (TJ) Miller

Trevor Matthew Niles
Matthew (Matt) Stevenson
James Crawford Turner
Marie Eyeleen Vance
Milan Valuch

Total Received – 30

Baptism (children) – 10
Baptism (adult) – 0
Affirmation of Faith – 13
Transfers to Redeemer – 7
Statistical Adjustment – 0

Total Removed – 8

Deaths – 7
Transfers – 1



2017 Annual Report – President of the Congregation Council

Greeting in Jesus' name:

I have been humbled and honored to serve as President of the Congregation Council over the past year. As a member, I am often amazed by the ministries and activities that occur every day at Redeemer. But to have the opportunity to see the dedication of the church staff, witness the time and talent of members who give so much of themselves, and to see the way that this church and its members takes its mission to heart every day is truly a blessing.

Every member of the Congregational Council brings faith and dedication to their roles. Members over the past year were: Karen Detweiler (Co-Secretary), Laura Duval (Vice President), Dean Graves, Deanna Heier (Co-Secretary), Stephanie Hunter, Gordon Jones, Steve Lancaster, Ann Lawrence, Paul Lettow, Florence Ofili-Toviho, Linsey Wenk (Youth Representative), Rob Wenk (Treasurer), Pastor Sandy Kessinger (Senior Pastor), and Matthew Kratz (President).

This past year saw the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, which was an opportunity for this church and the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to share the hope and joy we have through Jesus Christ. We celebrated with music and worship, and were lucky enough to have the ELCA commemoration right here in Washington, DC. This anniversary was an opportunity to also think about how we will look toward the future and what we can do to joyfully serve our neighbors.

This year we were able to have Deacon Erin with us for the full year and to see the fruit that her call continues to bear. Her presence at Tuesday prayer, faith formation classes, in the pulpit, and elsewhere have supported and challenged us all to grow in our faith.

We have also seen continued changes in our community. The continued growth in the Tysons area offers us opportunities to live our mission to share Christ's love with the greatest number of people. This was a year that saw us learning to support our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters, to worship in new ways during Lent and Advent, to continue VBS for a second year, and to have many new opportunities for prayer and faith development.

The Congregational Council meets on a monthly basis with ongoing emails and other communications in-between meetings. Together we supported the ongoing missions of the church, addressed ongoing financial, administrative, staff, and other matters throughout the year. New and ongoing activities such as the continuation of Vacation Bible School, the various social concern ministries, the administration of our wonderful pre-school and afterschool programs, youth activities and mission trips, and Christian education activities are discussed on an ongoing basis. There was a special emphasis on thinking about our outreach and marketing this year, an emphasis that will continue into 2018. This year, as in the past, we had a deficit near the end of the year that you helped to alleviate. Your giving of time and resources are true gifts of the spirit.

As President, I do wish to express my appreciation to the Congregation Council for their dedication to Redeemer's mission. We talk frankly and honestly and I am blessed to work with such a faithful, caring group of people. I would like to express special thanks to our four outgoing members, Dean Graves, Ann Lawrence Paul Lettow, and Linsey Wenk. Dean is a man of caring, support, thoughtfulness and experience. Ann brought a deep sense of caring and justice, and of course a focus on worship which is the true center of the church. Paul brought a lawyer's insight with the heart of a man of faith. Linsey was more than just a youth representative, but an active member of the Council who shared ideas and feedback.

Finally when we look at all of the faith and joy and caring that Redeemer shares every day we look to the example set by the ministry of Pastor Kessinger. She celebrates when there is joy, she comforts when there is sorrow and she leads this church with her dedication to Christ, her humor and her love. We have a very special spiritual leader and I am especially grateful for her leadership, guidance, and support.

2017 was a blessed year and we are grateful to all members.

Yours in Christ,
Matthew Kratz, President of Church Council

Annual Report January 2018
Deacon Erin Swenson-Reinhold, D.Min.
Minster of Faith Formation

Peace and grace to you! It has been over a year since I started my journey with you, and I am thankful to be part of the Redeemer family! When I was reflecting on the last year, I was overwhelmed with the ways God is working through this amazing faith community!

We are blessed with a strong group of Faith Formation Mentors (formally known as Sunday School teachers) who offer their gifts on a weekly basis to our young people. Another exciting initiative has been Practicing the Faith: Building Households of Faith. Over the course of the academic year, I will have the privilege of spending time with each grade level and their parents discussing a different faith practice and how to incorporate it into the household. It is a joy to watch families gather together to learn and discuss new ways to share their love for God, the world, and each other!

We continue to encourage families to participate in worship and the Children's message is one of the key ways we do this. Our kids need to know they are welcome in worship, and they need opportunities to ask questions about their faith within the context of their larger faith community. I marvel at the ability our young people have at seeing God. They want to know God better, and all they need are people willing to ask them questions and journey with them on their lives of faith. What an honor it is for us to be part of those journeys!

We launched Faith Alive in January 2017, and it has been a joy to build relationships with the adults and children who attend this monthly Bible study. We have been gifted with excellent adult mentors for the children – a big shout of thanks to them! One of the greatest joys is gathering at the end for a brief worship where we participate in a blessing. The kids love to bless their parents reminding us that we are Beloved, Children of God!

In June 2017, I took four confirmands and one youth mentor to Lutherock in Newland, North Carolina. We had a great time building relationships with God and one another while climbing mountains, having faith conversations, ziplining, and meeting new people! I hope to take another group of confirmation students this summer the week of June 17-23, 2018. In addition, I am inviting any students grades 3-5 to join us the same week for a fun-filled week of summer camp at Lutherock.

Pastor Sandy and I led the Fall Spiritual Retreat at Hallowood in November. We enjoyed exploring the life of Christ from Mary's perspective. Marlon and I also worked closely with Joyce and Lynn Ann on building a successful Parents' Night Out ministry. We also launched our Tuesday morning prayer times, a mid-week Advent service, and Blue Christmas.

Looking ahead in 2018, I will be launching a twice monthly Bible study that will focus on spiritual disciplines as a means for spiritual growth. This is open to anyone who wants to intentionally explore new ways to deepen our faith. All are welcome!

I am very happy to be part of the ministry team at Redeemer, and I look forward to all the adventures of the coming year!

Peace, Deacon Erin

Finance Annual Report 2017

Cindy Waldron chaired the Finance Committee and Rob Wenk served as Treasurer. The Finance Committee would like to thank Veronique Thomas for her service as Redeemer's financial accountant.

2017 Summary

The Finance Committee actively monitored Redeemer's expenses and receipts throughout the year and worked with the Church Council in communicating Redeemer's finances to the church.

F&A members and staff who participated in activities this year include:

Charlie Brown	Larry Pittman
Bob Hahne	Doug Ubben
Pastor Sandy Kessinger	Cindy Waldron (Chair)
Jim Kuhagen	Rob Wenk (Treasurer)

F&A worked on the following activities in 2017:

- Monitored financial activities throughout the year
- Submitted and presented monthly financial reports to Church Council
- Renewed the Line of Credit from Chain Bridge Bank
- Constructed and approved the Redeemer 2017 budget
- Reviewed budgets for preschool and after school programs
- Helped with reconciliations and updating financials
- Reviewed financial policies and procedures

2018 Budget

The budget was created by using historical knowledge, input from committee members, staff and feedback from the congregation. The preliminary budget was reviewed and approved by F&A. Cindy Waldron presented the proposed budget to the Church Council on December 11th, 2017. The Church Council approved the budget. A final approval by the congregation is needed to complete the budget process.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Waldron

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
SUMMARY OF 2017 OPERATING FUND ACTIVITY

Current Year

	2017 Budget			2016 Actual
	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	Variance	
<u>OPERATING FUND RECEIPTS</u>				
Contributions	\$910,233	\$983,425	(\$73,192)	\$887,607
Preschool Use Fee	(3,537)	19,000	(22,537)	13,520
Afterschool Use Fee	100,959	40,000	60,959	45,984
Facility Use Fee and Other	82,347	100,000	(17,653)	93,046
Total Operating Fund Receipts	\$1,090,001	\$1,142,425	(\$52,424)	\$1,040,157
<u>OPERATING FUND EXPENSES *</u>				
Building & Grounds	\$125,255	\$151,500	(\$26,245)	\$137,246
Education	3,345	7,050	(3,705)	1,252
Flowers and Decorations	1,655	1,500	155	(600)
Parish Life	3,227	5,300	(2,073)	7,214
Stewardship	2,284	2,000	284	2,159
Parish Administration	33,289	45,850	(12,561)	44,259
Staff	705,682	707,673	(1,991)	634,652
Social Concerns	23,128	24,900	(1,772)	22,443
Synod Benevolence	57,240	57,240	0	55,619
Welcoming	241	2,000	(1,759)	1,340
Worship	4,132	6,000	(1,868)	6,492
Music	2,616	8,000	(5,384)	3,697
Youth Ministry	1,021	7,000	(5,979)	1,199
Mortgage Payment (P&I)	<u>116,412</u>	<u>116,412</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>116,412</u>
Total Operating Fund Expenses	\$1,079,528	\$1,142,425	(\$62,897)	\$1,033,384
Excess of Receipts over Expenses	\$10,473	\$0	\$10,473	\$6,773
Operating Fund Working Capital				
Surplus/(Deficit) as of 12/31/2017	\$82,207			

* All expenses net of direct donations (i.e. flower contributions, youth mission trips, etc.)

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
WORKING CAPITAL BALANCE SHEET - AS OF 12/31/2017

(Excludes Deferred Compensation, Property & Equipment, and Related Debt)

ASSETS	12/31/2017	2/31/2016
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Chain Bridge Bank	\$781,890	\$807,926
Morgan Stanley	29,088	29,748
Thrivent	0	0
Advance on Mortgage	400,000	300,000
Petty Cash	73	37
Prepaid Expenses, Deposits and Other	<u>7,002</u>	<u>5,306</u>
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$1,218,053</u>	<u>\$1,143,017</u>
Total Working Capital Assets	<u>\$1,218,053</u>	<u>\$1,143,017</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
<u>Current Liabilities and Dedicated Accounts</u>		
Accounts Payable	\$11,630	\$20,936
Social Concerns Accruals	2,440	6,646
Free Will Giving Not Yet Forwarded	27,239	14,619
Synod Benevolence Accruals	0	13,875
Payroll FSA Withholding	0	288
Dedicated Giving Accounts	37,931	25,685
Thanksgiving & Memorials/ Stained Glass Gift	149,875	162,463
Pastor's Benevolent Fund	13,250	8,079
MEC Special Gifts	32,592	32,592
MMEC - Pastoral Support Reserve	261,042	257,627
Debt Reduction - Principal Pay Down	22,036	3,368
Office Equipment Replacement Reserve	17,189	17,189
Building & Grounds Replacement Reserve	133,724	108,009
Afterschool Equipment Replacement Reserve	43,659	29,659
Preschool Tuition/Other Deposits	36,630	31,224
Preschool Consignment Sales Reserve	133,512	133,512
Preschool Equipment Replacement Reserve	<u>101,316</u>	<u>101,316</u>
Total Current Liabilities and Dedicated Accounts	<u>\$1,024,065</u>	<u>\$967,087</u>
<u>Working Capital Fund Balances</u>		
Operating Fund Balance	\$82,207	\$71,734
Afterschool & Preschool Fund Balances	111,781	104,196
Total Working Capital Fund Balances	<u>\$193,988</u>	<u>\$175,930</u>
Total Current Liabilities, Dedicated Accounts, and Working Capital Fund Balances	<u>\$1,218,053</u>	<u>\$1,143,017</u>

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2017 TOTAL RECEIPTS - ALL SOURCES *

Giving by Members	2017	2016
Operating Fund Contributions	\$910,233	\$887,607
Additional Principal Paydown	68,668	70,172
MMEC - Pastoral Support Fund	3,415	47,681
Free Will Giving		
Partner For Surgery	\$5,280	\$28,865
Gifts of Hope	940	485
N Street Village	1,435	615
LENS	2,000	2,570
Britepaths/Our Daily Bread	2,795	2,670
Lutheran World Relief	4,620	1,838
Syrian Bakery	12,805	0
ELCA World Hunger	625	360
Lutheran Disaster Response	13,754	570
SHARE / FACETS	1,057	175
Lutheran Social Services	350	0
Refugee Families	6,555	100
Rise Against Hunger/Stop Hunger Now	68,723	57,190
Endowment Fund	5,595	1,630
New Connections - Synod	5,000	0
Pastor's Benevolent Fund	9,425	3,106
Youth Scholarships	5,000	0
Thanksgiving and Memorials Total Free Will Giving **	13,836	6,709
	<u>\$159,795</u>	<u>\$106,883</u>
Total Giving by Members & Others	\$1,142,111	\$1,112,343
Additional Receipts		
Preschool Use Fee	(\$3,537)	\$13,520
Afterschool Use Fee	100,959	45,984
Facility Use Fee (outside organizations)	82,347	93,046
Total Additional Receipts	\$179,768	\$152,550
Total Receipts - All Sources	<u>\$1,321,879</u>	<u>\$1,264,893</u>

* Not including tuition receipts to Preschool and Afterschool programs.

** Member giving receipts through church only. Does not include direct contributions to beneficiary organizations.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

SUMMARY OF DEBT

As of December 31, 2017

<u>REVOLVING LINE OF CREDIT - CHAIN BRIDGE BANK (1)</u>	\$0
<u>1ST MORTGAGE - CHAIN BRIDGE BANK (2)</u>	
Balance since 12/31/14	\$0
<u>INTERNAL FINANCING (3)</u>	\$400,000
<u>2ND MORTGAGE - CHAIN BRIDGE BANK (4)</u>	
Opening Balance 01/01/17	\$670,145
Principal Payments via Mortgage	88,410
Additional Principal Payments - Debt Reduction	<u>150,000</u>
Balance as of 12/31/17	<u>\$431,735</u>
Total Debt Balance as of 12/31/17	<u>\$831,735</u>

Terms

(1) Redeemer renewed a line-of-credit agreement with Chain Bridge Bank in Sept 2017. Maximum ceiling is \$100,000 with terms of prime rate + 0.75%. To date we have not required use of the line.

(2) Initiated June 2012. Terms are 4.30% interest, 15 year amortization, interest rate reset after 5 years to 5 year T-bill + 3.0%, 10 year balloon payment. Lien paid in full November 2014.

(3) In June 2012, Redeemer borrowed \$200,000 from internal cash reserves and applied funds to 1st mortgage principal. In March 2016 and again in May 2017, Redeemer borrowed an additional \$100,000 each time from internal cash reserves. We do not charge ourselves interest but expect to begin replenishment of reserves when mortgage is paid off or economic conditions dictate otherwise (i.e. return on cash savings exceeds mortgage rate of 4.95%).

(4) Initiated June 2012. Terms are 4.95% interest, 15 year amortization, fixed rate (no rate reset, no balloon).

REDEEMER ENDOWMENT FUND

2017 YEAR END STATEMENT OF PLAN ASSETS

12/31/16 Balance from Investment Account	\$127,841
12/31/16 Cash Balance in Church Account	4,338
Total Year End Balance as of 12/31/16	\$132,179
Fund Activity in 2017	
Contributions to Church Account	\$5,595
Transfer of Redeemer Cash to Investments	0
Fees, Expenses and Taxes	(12)
Income from Investments	8,861
Gain/(Loss) on Investments	16,330
Less: Disbursements to Charities	0
Total Changes to Fund Balance in 2017	\$30,774
12/31/17 Balance from Investment Account	\$153,020
12/31/17 Cash Balance in Church Account	9,933
Total Year-end Balance as of 12/31/17	\$162,953

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer - 2018 Proposed Budget

	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed
Expenses:							
Building & Grounds	174,005	126,581	163,200	137,246	151,500	125,255	146,100
Education	8,000	1,941	7,400	1,252	7,050	3,345	7,050
Parish Life - General	5,800	3,704	5,300	7,214	5,300	3,227	5,300
Flowers and Decorations	1,500	1,168	1,500	(600)	1,500	1,655	1,500
Mission / Stewardship	2,000	2,366	2,000	2,159	2,000	2,284	2,000
Parish Administration	45,850	48,534	45,850	44,259	45,850	33,289	45,850
Parish Staff	647,191	599,413	692,343	634,652	707,673	705,682	740,477
Social Concerns	24,200	24,075	24,200	22,443	24,900	23,128	24,900
Synod Benevolence	54,000	54,000	55,500	55,619	57,240	57,240	60,000
Welcoming	2,000	1,898	2,000	1,340	2,000	241	1,750
Worship	6,000	3,291	6,000	6,492	6,000	4,132	7,500
Music	5,000	13,676	5,000	3,697	8,000	2,616	5,500
Youth Ministry	5,000	8,222	7,000	1,198	7,000	1,021	7,000
Subtotal	980,546	888,869	1,017,293	916,971	1,26,13	963,115	1,054,927
Loan Payment	116,412	116,412	116,412	116,412	116,412	116,413	116,412
Total	1,096,958	1,005,281	1,133,705	1,033,383	1,142,425	1,079,528	1,171,339
Revenues:							
	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed
Contributions	866,515	847,981	847,981	887,607	887,607	910,233	910,233
Other Revenue	162,818	188,067	148,000	182,768	159,000	179,768	161,930
Building Reserve	(25,000)	(24,983)	(20,000)	(30,218)	(25,000)	(25,715)	(25,000)
Subtotal	1,029,333	1,11,65	995,981	1,040,157	1,046,607	1,090,001	1,072,163
Add. contributions needed	67,625	(5,784)	137,724	(6,774)	95,818	(10,473)	99,176
Total	1,096,958	1,005,281	1,133,705	1,033,383	1,142,425	1,079,528	1,171,339

Stewardship Report 2017

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is similar: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:37, 39.

How do we respond to God’s call to serve and love our neighbors? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us in our time, our talents and our treasures to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes. As members of Redeemer, our faith in a loving God frees us to be generous and to boldly participate in God’s work in our local community and throughout the world. This year was marked by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation that began with the 95 theses that Martin Luther first made public on Oct. 31, 1517. In “The Freedom of a Christian” (1520) Martin Luther famously wrote “A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything; a Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.”

This message from Martin Luther continues to live true today with Redeemer and our Christian faith’s freedom and a life of service to others in Jesus Christ through the many ministries at Redeemer. These ministries are thriving and hopefully with your involvement can grow further. Details of the ministries are in their respective section of the annual report, so for introduction the key Redeemer ministries and involvement titles are:

Social Concerns Ministry: Gifts of Hope, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), Habitat for Humanity of NoVA, Partner for Surgery, Lutheran Social Services (LSS), Quilting Group, Shawl Ministry, Our Daily Bread, Rise Against Hunger

Youth Ministry and Programs – Faith formation (Sunday school) for all ages, Vacation Bible school, music programs and the mission trips

Music Program/Ministry is phenomenal, from the traditional and contemporary choir, the youth choir, and the bell choir and many special events and concerts.

On-going Stewardship: We are humbled and grateful for what God has done through Redeemer and our church community to provide for others. And through the resources of our time, talents and financial support we will continue to work with Pastor Kessinger to support mission programs as deemed by the congregation.

All of you practice stewardship by looking out to see the many ways that God is calling us to love our neighbors both near and far. Throughout the Bible we hear God’s commandment to love God and our neighbors not just with our words, but with our actions.

Thanks to all and please thank one another for the time, talent and financial gifts given in 2017 to meet all known Redeemer requirements and for the commitments of your stewardship growth in 2018 with ongoing and renewed involvement to love God and our neighbors.

Steve Lancaster, Council Stewardship Chair

Membership Outreach

Mark & Lee Cronin

Membership Outreach at Redeemer is an ongoing program to help our worship community fulfill its overall mission to “To Share Christ’s Love with the Greatest Number of People.”

Membership Outreach team has worked to foster an ever greater hospitality and “front-door” welcome at Redeemer worship services and many special events at the church, something we hope has been noticed by our church family and guests during the past year. A growing number of Redeemer congregants – exceeding 60 at this point -- have participated in such “greeting” activities at one time or another, contributing their time and enthusiasm welcoming guests and church members alike to our church. Over the past year Redeemer greeters, in addition to greeting at regular Sunday worship services, have provided Crossroads/narthex and side-entrance welcome at various memorial and funeral services throughout the year, as well as for the Reformation 500th Anniversary Celebration, Redeemer Thanksgiving Luncheon for refugees, New Member dinner at church, music concerts including the Living Nativity in December, and for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Lessons & Carols services at year’s end. Membership Outreach also managed a festival booth during last May’s McLean Day, in addition to a “Welcome Table” at the Church parking lot for McLean Day shuttle bus users. Looking forward to 2018, we anticipate continuation (and hopefully broadening) of the Redeemer welcoming presence for the many greeting occasions -- for each regular and special church worship service plus special community events at Redeemer, in addition to strengthening the “Front-Door” greeting at Redeemer Sunday School venue and generally expanding the pool of greeters in the congregation. Membership Outreach expects to introduce enhanced name tags for our greeters during 2018, as well as occasional (likely annual) fellowship-style pot-luck dinner gatherings for Redeemer Greeters to socialize (and “greet” each other in the process).

As part of expanding the front-door “greeting” experience at Redeemer, Membership Outreach explores more systematic ways of generating follow-up with newcomers and visitors to Redeemer services and events. In that regard, we look to connect with recent new and occasional visitors to Redeemer --- through appropriately-timed follow-up by Pastor or Membership Outreach members with those who offer indication of some interest in returning to Redeemer for worship or community activities, and to visitors seeking a worship community to join. This follow-up, outreach effort will of course include extending invitations to participate in specific fellowship and other activities at Redeemer, such as “Tables of Eight,” Adult Forum, youth presentations, music performance events and community-group functions using Redeemer space --- in addition to Sunday worship services.

Membership Outreach continues with its course of periodic, nearly quarterly special group meetings with Pastor and invited church members, with purpose to broaden involvement of the congregation in certain aspects of Membership Outreach, share ideas about that mission, and partake in some “fellowship” time. These gatherings usually involve six or more people and last about 60-90 minutes, with expectation that a large part of church membership will have attended at least one such meeting over the course of the next few years. To this point in time about 50 current church members who have participated in these “one-time-only” sessions; including spouses and other family members joining in on greeting, these represent a much larger portion of the congregation whole. The goal for the next couple years is to nearly double the number of Redeemer congregants who have participated in such meeting.

In the course of enriching the “greeting” atmosphere at Redeemer, Membership Outreach keeps the scheduling fluid for church member greeting. The intention is to make welcoming gestures a commonplace practice among congregants in general when at Redeemer on any given Sunday. Advanced-scheduled assignments are used only for special services or events where specific planning is required to assure suitable greeting presence for the occasion.

2017 Annual Report of the Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



Redeemer Lutheran Preschool was established in 1962. RLP is an extension of Redeemer's Education Mission. Our vision is to be a high-quality, developmentally appropriate preschool that supports lifelong learning in a caring, Christian environment. Each child develops at his or her own rate through a balance of structured and unstructured activities. The preschool has a positive reputation and extends Redeemer's reach in our community. Preschool families attend worship services and some become Redeemer members.

In Fall 2017, we offered eight half-day classes for children 2 ½ to 4 years of age and morning students had an option to extend their day up to three days per week. At the end of last school year (May 2017), we had 77 students enrolled in our preschool. As of December, 2017, there were 85 students attending including three Redeemer children. Our students represent many cultures/languages including: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Tamil and Urdu.

The heart of our program is our caring, experienced staff. We are blessed with twelve dedicated staff members (in alphabetical order): Amy Carey (2016), Golnar duChateau (2001), Delphine Engel (2008), Kristin Furth (2011), Sue Giaquinto (2012), Cindy Goodman (2005), Norma Grobman (2010), Catherine Hassi (2016), Tammie Koenig (1998), Kristin Peters (2015) Nancy Radcliffe (2010), and Nora Wojcik (2004).

A Preschool Board appointed by Church Council provides guidance to the Director and establishes policies. The Board consists of church and non-member parents. In addition, the Pastor and Preschool Director are ex-officio members. Parishioners are: Amy Friedrich-Karnik (President), (Council Liaison), Jennifer Henshall and Susan Posey. Non-members are: Cecilia Closs, Janine Gelfond, Cheryl Gilbert and Jenny Gregory.

Our semi-annual Baby/Child/Maternity Consignment Sales are typically in March and October. Our **2017 sales raised approximately \$5800** for preschool needs and benevolence. We contribute 10% of each sale back to Redeemer. While the consignment sales' primary purpose is fundraising, it has become another outreach to our community and remaining items were distributed to several charities: Girl Scouts of America, Trinity United Methodist of McLean's Art for Humanity Honduras Ministry and Women Giving Back.

We have developed opportunities for our students to help less fortunate local children through SHARE of McLean Inc. We sponsored our **eighth annual Christmas children's toiletry drive for SHARE** as well as made 85 treat bags for their clients. We collected 15 bottles of baby shampoo, 15 bottles of baby wash, 28 tubes of toothpaste and 34 toothbrushes. Additionally, **we collect new and opened packages of diapers for Share's youngest clients** as there is a huge need and WIC funds cannot be used to purchase diapers. So far this school year, we passed along 700 diapers.

In the Fall, RLP & RRASP had 18 tons of sand delivered to the natural play area as we extend learning opportunities. Research demonstrates the many benefits of natural play areas including increased focus and creativity/problem solving skills. It helps children work cooperatively and make their own discoveries/connections. We look forward to a natural playground.

In summary, Redeemer Lutheran Preschool is an important ministry as preschool families attend many Redeemer activities and frequently attend worship services. We look forward to strengthening the bond between our preschool and church with PSK and Deacon Erin. We are committed to sharing Christ's love with as many of God's families as possible. If you would like to assist the preschool in any way, please contact us.

Tamberly Koenig, Preschool Director tkoenig@redeermclean.org or 703-356-3567

Redeemer Renaissance After-School Program (RRASP) 2017 Annual Report

The Redeemer Renaissance After-School Program, now in its tenth year, continues to provide care and enrichment for children (K-6) in an after-school setting from Churchill Elementary, Franklin Sherman Elementary, Haycock Elementary, and Kent Gardens Elementary. Enrollment numbers for fall of 2017 consistently come to 80 children from over 60 families. RRASP continues to strive to fulfill its mission to provide a vibrant community in which each child is engaged in monthly community service projects, cultural and educational field trips, and learning workshops - cornerstones of the program. Additionally, camps offered to enrolled children during spring, summer and winter school breaks are also attended by children not enrolled in the after-school program on a space available basis.

The program continues to be blessed with the ongoing support from the After-School Governing Board consisting of church members and parents. Claudia Wrzesinski serves as Chairperson, along with Kirsten Apple, Dan Bader, Claire Dutrow, Beth Melby, Shawna Tunnell. Laura Duval serves as liaison to the Church Council. In addition to the director, Linda McConnaughay, there are seven regular staff people and one bus driver, several of whom have been working multiple years for the program. Currently, eight music professionals ensure quality music education for violin, viola, piano, cello and guitar. Two tutors provide services for all areas of study.

Program transportation for the students is provided by bus, and staffed by two staff members. The note on the bus was paid off this year. The bus has also been utilized at times for other programs in the church. Children in the program continue to enjoy the use of the facility, playing on the playground and in Parents' Hall, and doing arts and crafts projects in Fellowship Hall. They also receive homework support in the Teen Center and have the use of 12 laptop computers. The Lego Room, in a space shared with us by the Redeemer Lutheran Preschool, continues to be popular. Music lessons and tutoring are held in the Music Suites and classrooms. An option to participate in a French Club, Coder Kids and Bucket Drumming has also been offered this year.

Each school year there are opportunities for families to interact with one another and explore Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. There is an annual kick-off event the afternoon of the first day of school and a dinner the evening of the Living Nativity to facilitate participation in the evening's events by Redeemer Renaissance Families. Receptions are held following the 9:45 service on Recognition Sunday and following the Music Recital held in May. Information regarding the life of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer is made available and there is an open invitation to the families of the children in the program to participate in all activities of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer as the After-School Program shares Christ's Love with the families it serves.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda McConnaughay
Program Director



Building & Grounds Committee Annual Report 2017

The Building & Grounds group has been involved with a variety of projects throughout the year. Here is a partial list of the more significant items completed:

- The committee volunteers maintained the grounds through weeding, mulching, pruning, trimming and watering. As a result, there were significant cost savings to the church.
- A project was initiated to have Dominion Power install additional lights in the parking lot to improve visibility during pick-up times for the kids coming out of the After-school program and for evening activities.
- Several upgrades were completed to the sound system in the nave for use during worship.
- Dead and dying trees were removed to reduce any potential issues from trees being blown down.
- Sod was planted in a play area used heavily by the kids to help reduced dirt coming inside the building.
- Upgrades were completed to our network to improve email access and our cyber security.
- The parking lots on both sides of the building were patched, cleaned and re-stripped.
- Additional work was completed to improve safety and security for our children, members, guests and staff.

A special thanks to Gretchen Stark and Pete Poulos who have volunteered many hours over the year to care for the grounds and the Memorial Garden. We are always looking for help with the grounds and with minor building repairs. If you could help in any way, please send us an e-mail at RedeemerBuildingandGrounds@verizon.net. Just let us know of your area of interest.

Thank you.

Rob Wenk, Building & Grounds

Worship and Music 2017

Redeemer Worship and Music experienced a busy year with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation adding to the Lent/Holy Week/Easter and Advent/Christmas cycles.

Worship and Music is thankful for its outstanding leadership of: Phyllis Peter Mallard for coordinating Chancel Care, altar flowers and the new veils. Paula Poulous supported the sacristy work.

Ann Lawrence continues to serve the creator of all worship bulletins used at Redeemer.

Kim Wenk served as the coordinator for all the worship support teams: Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, Readers, Acolytes and Crucifers. Her vigilance ensured worship services were supported, and members of the congregation provided an opportunity to participate.

Easter, Reformation and Christmas celebratory decorations relied on the team led by Phyllis and supported by Marti Hople among others.

Betsy Kutcher and her banner group ensured banners were in place, helping to reinforce the church season. Betsy and her group also created the Chrismons used on the altar Christmas trees.

Special thanks to the sound team, led by Rob Wenk, ensured those on the altar could be heard.

The music program, led by Matt Osifchin, supported traditional, contemporary and all the special Holy Week/Easter/ Reformation and Christmas music.

Music Update for 2017

2017 was yet again a very exciting year for the music program at Redeemer. We tried our best to offer quality music on a weekly basis appropriate for the season, as well as special musical events throughout the year.

For Easter, we were joined by the Riverside Brass, and together with the Traditional choir performed, “Christ The Lord is Risen Again” by Richard Proulx. The Praise Team performed a moving rendition of “Agnus Dei” by Michael W. Smith. For each service the grand finale was the “Hallelujah chorus” from Handel’s *Messiah*.

On June 11th, we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a very special and unique musical offering. We wanted to feature sacred music that has been composed over the last 500 years. We performed works from composers of the Medieval to the Modern time periods including: Josquin de Prez, Vivaldi, Haydn, Schubert and Faure. In addition, Redeemer commissioned a new piece, “The Greatest of These” inspired by Mark Cronin, and composed by Scott Crowne, adapted from Respighi, and based off of Paul’s 1 Corinthians 13 text. The performance was very well received and demonstrated Redeemer’s commitment of not only maintaining our rich musical heritage, but to also continue adding to it.

In December, along with the Living Nativity Scene and Christmas festival, we presented a concert which included all of the various music groups at Redeemer. The different groups included the Youth Choir, Traditional Choir, Bell Choir, and the Praise Team. In total, over forty people performed for the concert. The finale of the evening was a contemporary arrangement, ‘Joy to the World’ by Chris Tomlin.

For Christmas Eve at the 4:00 service the Praise Team and Youth Choir joyfully lead the congregational singing and gave special offerings. For the Traditional services we once again collaborated with the Riverside Brass as well as harpist Cara Fleck. The Traditional choir sang a particularly uplifting piece, “Go Tell It On the Mountain” from *Appalachian Carols* by Gwyneth Walker.

Moving into 2018, we will strive to maintain a high level of excellence in all of our music offerings. We are also planning more concerts and commissioning more new compositions.

Personally, I would like to give special thanks to all the members of the various choirs and groups, the cantors (Chris, Amy and Waka) Kathy, Eric and Joy for generously offering their special musical gifts. I would also like to thank Pastor Kessinger for her outstanding leadership, and the congregation for their continuing support of the music program.

Matt Osifchin



Annual Report: 2017

2017 was another fantastic year at Redeemer! It is amazing to see another year come and go. My hope for the youth in 2017 was to see them grow in several areas and by the grace of God, I have seen this transpire. In this report, I would like to share a few of those with you.

We began the year with a lock-in for our confirmation youth where we spoke about the importance of faith and walking with God. We also gave great attention to having our identity established and found in Jesus Christ and the relevance of finding our fulfillment in Jesus. This allowed our youth to grow in confidence as a child of God.

Our “Gym Nights” were changed to “Faith and Fellowship” toward the end of the year, with a focus on Faith. We met each month, on the second Friday, with the fourth through sixth graders and we also introduced the third graders to be a part of the fellowship. On the third Friday, we met with the high school youth and also included the middle school youth in 2017 to become a part of the group. The night always began with some snacks and a time to present our prayer petitions to God. We then would have a Bible lesson/scripture reading and discussion. After this, we would go to the gym where we played group games such as basketball, soccer, floor hockey, badminton and other games. This allowed our middle school youth to connect with our high school youth and also created a level of comfort with our younger youth.

I wanted to create a platform in 2017 that allowed our youth to thrive in outreach and service opportunities. Some of the highlights of our outreach and service work included: the refugee experience, RLC social concerns, mission trips to North Carolina and Harrisburg, VBS, ELCA Day of Service, Crucial Disaster Response for hurricane relief, Rise Against Hunger, and CCNV Homeless Shelter collection and service. This allowed our youth to grow in love and have compassion for those outside of our demographic area. Furthermore, it helped them to not only see the needs of others but, it also allowed them to meet and fulfill those needs; revealing to our youth their relevance in the world and the power they have to make a difference.

Tuesdays were the days when I continued to go and mentor the young men at the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center. I mentored several youth in 2017 and also recruited two more mentors. I continued to mentor the incarcerated youth using a curriculum I created based on the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5. With this mentorship program at the Juvenile Detention Center, through the Lord, it opened up a door for hope and recovery from the mentee’s past mistakes to allow them to focus on their future.

On Sunday mornings, I continued to teach the high school class with Christian Richter and would also fill in any of the classes that needed teachers. Furthermore, I took our youth on two retreats. Our middle school youth went to Shekinah where the theme was “Casting Light” and the main verse was Matthew 5:16- ***In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*** Our high school youth went to Chrysalis where they learned about how God’s story intersects with their story.

One of the new events that was created in 2017 was “Parents Night Out”. “PNO” was developed in order to give parents an opportunity to get away and have some alone time without the kids. “PNO” served many purposes: relief for parents, fun and fellowship for kids, outreach and way to serve our community, and a fundraiser that went towards emergency relief and/or youth mission trips. We hosted three “PNO” events in 2017.

Last year, I also created a survey where I asked several questions to Redeemer parents that were designed to help me better serve our Redeemer families in 2018. The results are as follows: **63%** of Redeemer youth participate in youth activities from *somewhat often* to *very often* to *extremely often*, **31%** of Redeemer youth participate in youth activities *not very often* and **6%** participate in youth activities *not at all often*.

According to the survey, the most active group at Redeemer was our high school youth and the least active was our first graders. When it came to the preferred day to serve our youth, **55%** preferred *Sundays*, **27%** preferred *Fridays*, and **18%** preferred *Saturdays*. Depending on the day, **36%** of parents opted for youth activities to be between *10 am & 2 pm*, **31%** opted between *1 pm & 5 pm*, and **33%** opted between *5 pm and 9 pm*.

When I asked the parents how frequently they would like to see youth activities at Redeemer for their youth; **60%** said *once a month*, **38%** said *periodically 4-6 times per year*, and **2%** said *once a week*. Finally, when I asked the parents what kind of youth activities they would like to see more of, **2%** said *off-site activities*, **16%** said *faith/education*, **33%** said *fun/fellowship* and **47%** of parents said that *Redeemer is well balanced*. With this information, I will work to increase the number of unengaged youth at Redeemer and try to better connect with our younger youth.

My main goals for 2018, apart from the continual spiritual development of our youth, is to see our youth build strong relationships with one another through faith and service, to see them connect with the church, and to make them feel at home while in church.

Blessings,

Marlon Yearwood (*Youth Mentor*)

Redeemer Social Concerns Ministry Annual Report for 2017

Sharing God's love with the greatest number of people, the mission of the Social Concerns Ministry, is accomplished by supporting several organizations and activities that help people in need. Here are some examples of the ways we demonstrated our commitment last year to love our neighbors as ourselves:

- *volunteering with 13 organizations and 3 Redeemer ministries (see list below)*
- *offering financial contributions to 18 charitable organizations, as well as the Syrian Bakery project and Hurricane Emergency Relief effort*
- *organizing Redeemer's ELCA Day of Service where over 100 volunteers donated their time, goods and services to 6 organizations, including our local police and fire stations members*
- *packaging our 2-millionth meal for Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now) through a community effort over the last several years*
- *hosting our first-ever Refugee Experience Event where 25 adults and youth spent two hours in a simulation event that started with people having to flee their homes under threat of war, journeying to a refugee camp, and then deciding whether to stay, leave on foot or take their chances by raft across the sea*
- *visiting the Newseum exhibit on refugees where 12 people learned about the refugee's plight*
- *inviting Pastor Elijah Mwitanti to give the sermon on May 7 with a focus on biblical hospitality and welcoming refugees into our community*
- *hosting a Thanksgiving luncheon for refugee families*
- *collecting linens, toiletries and kitchen items for welcome kits and by collecting winter coats, hats, and mittens/gloves for refugee families served by LSS/NCA*
- *hosting the Redeemer summer picnic*

As the Highlights show, Redeemer's Social Concerns Ministry extended itself to local, metropolitan, national, and international programs and organizations. In working with these organizations, we were able to address food, clothing, shelter, medical, transportation, and social needs of vulnerable persons and their families. In addition to our volunteer time, the organizations listed below with an asterisk also received financial support from Redeemer. Other organizations that received financial support but not volunteer time from the Social Concerns Ministry include: Bethany House, FACETS, Home Stretch, Langley Residential Services, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Lutheran World Relief, and the Village at Rockville. For more information about these organizations and activities, please see Redeemer's website at <http://redeermclean.org/connect>.

The work of the Social Concerns Ministry is carried out by 18 committed Redeemer members with many more members of the congregation being drawn into projects. Social Concerns Ministry members include: Lynn Barth, Elizabeth Carroll, Joyce Clark, Gene Durman, Joan Durman, Amy Friedrich-Karnik, Tracy Graves, Bob Hahne, Deanna Heier, Stephanie Hunter, Kate Jones, Judy Kuhagen, Betsy Kutscher, Linda Peterson, Carol Perry, Nancy Power, Gretchen Stark, and Elaine Tucker.

Social Concerns Ministry Highlights of 2017

Organization	Purpose	Highlights
Britepaths (Our Daily Bread)*	Food	Provided food assistance to 60 families through congregational food drives and gift cards
Capital Caring*	Hospice	Offered comfort and companionship to patients
Falls Church-McLean Children's Center*	Early Childhood Education	Provided snacks for children; built much needed outdoor storage space with shelving for the children's playground toys and equipment
Gifts of Hope	Alternative gift-giving	Organized parishioner gift giving
Habitat for Humanity*	Home Building	Helped build houses for families at risk of homelessness
Ham Run	Food	Collected 14,900 pounds of donated ham and sides from Honey Baked Hams and delivered the food to N Street Village, Martha's Table, DC Central Kitchen, and Thrive
INOVA	Blood Drive	Co-sponsored 2 blood drives with Lewinsville Presbyterian Church
Lutheran Social Services*	Refugees	Set up apartments for refugee families; provided welcome kits of linens, kitchen items and toiletries; hosted a Thanksgiving party for refugee families; donated winter coats and other items
Lutheran Volunteer Corps*	Volunteers for Social Justice	Provided administrative assistance
N Street Village*	Homeless Women	Served 30 meals to homeless women on each of 6 occasions
Partner for Surgery*	Medical Care in Guatemala	Provided surgical care, hundreds of gifts bags and dozens of quilts
Quilting Group	Handmade Quilts	Made 70 quilts for children served through Partner for Surgery
Rise Against Hunger	Food	Packaged over 300,000 meals to feed people in Nicaragua
SHARE*	Food, Clothing, Furniture	Delivered furniture to needy families; donated food for SHARE pantry
Shawl Ministry	Handmade Shawls and Baptismal Blankets	Made several prayer shawls, including 10 which were given at baptisms
Shepherd's Center*	Transportation	Transported older adults to appointments

If you have an interest in any of the projects listed in the Highlights or an idea for other volunteer activities, please contact Joan Durman at jgdurman@aol.com or Deanna Heier at dmheier@yahoo.com to become part of our ministry.



2017 Annual Report

TableTalk

Meets Sundays

9:45 to 10:45 am

Room 204

TableTalk is a small-group ministry at Redeemer in which participants explore questions of faith, build relationships, and deepen commitments to discipleship. As we gather around the table for Holy Communion as one body in Christ, we also gather around the table as one people for study, talk, and fellowship.

TableTalk's Mission

We believe that it is important for those who attend services on Sunday morning to have a forum for in-depth study of contemporary Christianity and to be able to use those studies as a way of connecting Christian faith with a post-Christian, primarily secular world. As Christians have done throughout the history of the church, and in accord with our Lutheran heritage, we believe that one of the best places for seeking understanding of the Christian faith is communal discussion with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Lutheran Spirituality for Today

In January, TableTalk began exploring contemporary Lutheran spirituality. We discussed:

- Living a “**grace-filled life**” in the Lutheran tradition
- “**Spiritual gifts**” and the distinctive gifts of the Lutheran tradition to spirituality
- How to more fully **experience God** in the contemporary church today

Being a Lutheran Christian in the World Today

On October 31, 2017, the church commemorated the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation. Consequently, a focus of TableTalk this year has been to try to understand Luther's distinctive contributions to Christianity and how those contributions are important for Christians today. We began in the Fall by studying Luther's concern for daily life and Luther's own powerful sense of vocation. Then, we studied Lutheran public ministry as it is expressed in the vocation of believers, pastors, and bishops. Currently, we are discussing Luther's theology of love, and will follow in the Spring, with a study of the future of Lutheranism in a global context and the persecution of Christians throughout the world.

We welcome new members to join us at any time.

Many thanks to co-coordinators Harold Hofstad and Doug Scheffler and to the participants of TableTalk!

– Robin Taylor (tabletalk.rlc@gmail.com)

Redeemer Mutual Ministry Committee Annual Report

Charter: Consistent with Redeemer Lutheran Church's Bylaws, "A Pastoral Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the pastor(s) in consultation with the president. The term of office of members of the Pastoral Ministry Committee shall be two years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment. The committee shall provide encouragement to, and may consult confidentially with, the pastor." The committee was formed in 2012.

2017 Activities: To further the purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee, we held several regular meetings at members' homes for informal working dinners:

January 10, 2017 – Jackie and Tony Cho's home

May 11, 2017 – Doug Ubben's home

October 12, 2017 – Nancy Power's home

Topics: Pastor Kessinger determines much of the agenda for the individual meetings. Topics during the year have included long term planning – particularly spiritual, Bible study, volunteerism, youth, pastoral support, congregational support, community, and personal and family topics.

Members: MMC member Jackie Cho was replaced by David McGuire.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the MMC.

Doug Ubben

Committee members:

Bob Hahne

Pastor Sandy Kessinger

Megan Kratz

David McGuire

Nancy Powers

Doug Ubben

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

2017 Annual Report

Make it short but it is not sweet. What we have learned over this past year is to be patient (I have not always been patient). Pastor Kessinger had told me many times to be patient, it will happen in God's time. So I ask you now to please be patient. This past year there here have been some slow times at Stained Glass By Shenandoah. Now our windows seem to be on track and progress is being made. All designs, all cartoons(full size patterns exact for each window), all glass picked out and some has been cut and painting(to give shape and dimension to flat glass) has begun. SO PROGRESS!!! We have been promised installation right after Easter. Again PATIENCE, please. I pray that when the windows are in place you will be amazed and thrilled. Our sanctuary will have a new and glorious look.

Betsy Kutscher

Church Council Nominees

Mitchell Brown

Mitchell Brown has been attending Redeemer Lutheran Church since moving to Virginia in 2006, and he and his wife, Michelle, became members in 2012. Mitch, along with Michelle, for the past three years have taught the 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation/Faith formation class and the three years prior helped teach the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Sunday school classes. Since 2011, Mitch has also been a member of the Redeemer Bell Choir and has been part of the Redeemer Traditional Choir since 2014. In 2016, Mitch was the President of the Redeemer Call Committee that helped to bring aboard Deacon Erin into our Church family. Mitch and Michelle live right across the street from the church (we're the ones playing "Frogger" across Westmoreland every Sunday morning) and have two little boys, Isaac (age 4 on Feb 4!) and Caleb (2 in May). Isaac is a student in Redeemer Preschool's Turtle class.

Mitch grew up in Marshalltown, IA, went to college at Northwestern University, and moved to Virginia upon graduation. He is a lifelong member of the Lutheran church, a big fan of soup suppers, but he is still unwilling to extol the virtues of lutefisk. He loves the Redeemer family and it would be an honor to help serve the Church as a member of the Council.

Joseph Kratz

Joseph Kratz is a sophomore at Falls Church High School, and has been a member of Redeemer for as long as he can remember. He attended Redeemer Pre-School, was confirmed in 2016, is a member of the youth group, and has gone on two mission trips, one to Harrisburg, PA, and last summer to North Carolina, to serve the communities. He has acolyte and was assistant minister during his confirmation service. He currently helps teach in the second-grade faith formation class and also ushers.

Joseph enjoys running track and cross country, loves history and English in school, and participates in Model UN and the math honor society.

Roberta Pittman

Roberta moved to Northern Virginia from her native Ohio in 1971. She was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Washington, DC for nearly 30 years. She and her family transferred their membership to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in 2001. She and her family have enjoyed the quality of the worship experience at Redeemer as well as the strong music program, the sense of social responsibility, and the emphasis on children and youth.

Roberta's involvement with Lutheran Church of the Redeemer began with and continues with the music program (currently choir and bell choir), and has over the years included being the founding director of the Redeemer Renaissance After-School Program, overseeing the McLean Day tent, the 60th Anniversary Committee, Rise Against Hunger and the "ham ministry." Additionally, she currently oversees the church Facebook Page and the online directory.

Rob Wenk

Rob has been a member at Redeemer for 27 years. He and his wife, Kim, were married at Redeemer and have been involved ever since. Their two daughters, Hayley and Linsey, have also been active members. He and his family regularly attend the 8:30 service; where he assists with ushering and the sound system. Rob has served as the Treasurer for Redeemer, has been a member of the Finance & Administration and Building & Grounds Committees. Previously he was part of the 2006 Building Committee and the Stewardship Committee. Rob was been a life-long Lutheran, originally from Chelsea, MI. He previously was with Marriott International at their headquarters in Bethesda, MD.