



# Life at Redeemer

## Redeemer Lutheran Church

1545 Chain Bridge Rd McLean, VA 22101

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[www.redeermclean.org](http://www.redeermclean.org)

**Pastor Sandy Kessinger - [psk@redeermclean.org](mailto:psk@redeermclean.org)  
(703) 635-4672**

**Deacon Erin Swenson-Reinhold - [erin@redeermclean.org](mailto:erin@redeermclean.org)**

## December 9, 2018

**Wednesday Bible Study - 8 am**  
**We will resume on January 2**

### **Bake Sale to benefit the Youth Mission Trips**

The bake sale during the Living Nativity will support our youth mission trips. If you would like to donate baked goods, please drop them off at Redeemer on Friday, December 14, by 6pm.

### **Redeemer's Annual Living Nativity and Christmas Concert**

All are welcome and invited to enjoy the sounds of the season and the excitement of live animals in the creche on Friday, December 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, neighbors, and friends to Redeemer.

Children are invited to put on angel or shepherd costumes, and visit the live animals, maybe pet a bunny or baby lamb!

At 7:30 pm everyone is invited inside to experience a concert of our many choirs - adult, children and bell choirs.

There are many opportunities to serve at this event, if you are interested, please contact Amanda at [Amanda@redeermclean.org](mailto:Amanda@redeermclean.org)

### **2018 Gifts of Hope Celebrating 26 Years!**

**Gifts of Hope** offers an opportunity to purchase meaningful gifts while raising funds to support the beneficiary organizations of our Metro Washington D. C. Synod, ELCA.

**Gifts of Hope** is an alternative to traditional gift-giving. You can select gifts from a list of agencies and activities identified by the Metro Washington, DC Synod. For each gift you select, you will receive a card and an insert describing the gift. 100% of your donation goes to the designated organizations.

**Gifts of Hope** are available in the Crossroads area between services today and for the next 2 Sundays. Stop by to make your selection or for more information.

### **Partner for Surgery**

We are almost totally prepared for the Peterson's next trip to Guatemala. In January they will be taking 60 post-op gift bags to the Infants and to the children ages 2-5. All that we need at this time are **Baby Rattles** and new **Washcloths**. If you are able to donate either of those items your help will be greatly appreciated. Our red collection box is still located outside Fellowship Hall but has been moved a short distance ... over to the wall that leads into the Sunday School wing. We are **so very grateful** for all of your donations in 2018!! Christmas Joy to All!

### **Tuesday Midweek Worship**

As we embark on the busyness of the holidays, we invite you to embark on an Advent journey – a journey of preparation and anticipation. On Tuesday, December 11, and 18 we will gather in the Crossroads for a light lunch at 11:15 am. A 30-minute worship service will follow that includes contemplative singing, prayers, and Holy Communion. We need one or two volunteers each week who can assist us in setting up for the lunch and providing a dessert.

If you have any questions or can volunteer to help with lunch, please contact Deacon Erin at [erin@redeermclean.org](mailto:erin@redeermclean.org).

### **Blue Christmas Sunday, December 16 at 5 pm**

December 21<sup>st</sup> is known as the Winter Solstice. On that day we have the shortest amount of daylight and the longest night of the year. In the church we use this time to offer a special worship for those who have “long days.” Long days might include remembering the loss of loved ones, being in the middle of some crisis or challenge, or just having the Christmas “blues.” On Sunday, December 16, at 5 pm we will bring light in the midst of darkness and read lessons that offer a real sense of hope. Diane Miller will share a reflection on the readings and Karen Devlin will read the poem “A Song for Christmas” in memory of her mother, Bea Lindsten. Come and have a peaceful evening with us.

### **December Faith Formation Schedule**

December 16<sup>th</sup> – Faith Formation Christmas Celebration. RSVP to Deacon Erin ([Erin@RedeemerMcLean.org](mailto:Erin@RedeemerMcLean.org)) or Amanda ([Amanda@RedeemerMcLean.org](mailto:Amanda@RedeemerMcLean.org)) if you are interested in helping with this event.

December 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup> – No Faith Formation  
January 6<sup>th</sup> - Regular Faith Formation schedule

OUR MISSION: SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE  
WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE

# A N N O U N C E M E N T S

## End of Year Tax Advantage

As we approach the end of the year, please remember there is tax advantage of giving appreciated stocks or mutual fund shares. This method of giving allows you to minimize capital gains taxes and yet provide the full current value and financial benefits to the programs and ministries at Redeemer. Veronique Thomas, Redeemer's Financial Coordinator, can help answer questions for you about this transfer process at [703/356-3346](tel:7033563346) or at [vthomas@redeemermclean.org](mailto:vthomas@redeemermclean.org). Also, you can visit Redeemer's website and at the top of the page there is a tab labeled "About Us" and a following tab for "Give Online". In the subsequent description, there are stock and mutual fund donation instructions and forms available.

## Congratulations to Deacon Erin

Since May 1, Deacon Erin has been working diligently to complete her internship and seminary course work to be ordained as an ELCA pastor. Based on her review with the synod Candidacy Committee she has successfully completed what was required for internship. Within the coming week she will finish her course work. On December 5 the synod Candidacy Committee met with Deacon Erin and formally approved her to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament (pastor).

What does this mean? The next step is for the ELCA to formally assign Deacon Erin to our region and synod. Once we are notified that this has taken place our council will meet and interview Deacon Erin (as early as January) and then if all goes well the council will recommend to the congregation that we call her as our Associate Pastor (as early as February). Since there is a change in her status (from deacon to pastor) this is required. A Call Vote Sunday will be set at which time the congregation will vote whether or not to call Deacon Erin.

We will continue to keep everyone informed of the next steps and the choices we have moving forward. If you have any questions about the process please do not hesitate to be in touch with Matthew Kratz, our Council President, or Pastor Kessinger.

## Christian Formation for Adults — The TableTalk Group

New Series on Early Christian Writings  
9:45 am in Room 204

Join us for a new series on the writings of the Church Fathers and other Christians during the first centuries of the church. All are welcome to attend.

- |           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 09-Dec-18 | Valentinian Gnostic Writings |
| 16-Dec-18 | Thomasine Gnostic Writings   |
| 23-Dec-18 | No Class                     |
| 30-Dec-18 | No Class                     |

## Year End Financial Picture

We at Redeemer try to be faithful in our stewardship as demonstrated through our offerings of our time, talent, and treasure. As we have experienced in the past, we now are at the end of our fiscal year and Redeemer faces a shortfall between what we have spent and the total contributions received to date. As an update to the recent letter from our Council President, Matthew Kratz, about this deficit, we have reduced our projected year end operating shortfall from \$223,858 to \$194,565. Each and every gift is important and together we can end the year on a positive note. We have done it before and we hope we can do it again this year. Thank you for all that you do to support Redeemer and our mission together.

## Habitat for Humanity

There is one day left in 2018 to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity - Saturday, December 15.

Where: 8300 Frye Road in Alexandria. This is an old, but very well built house on a large lot. Habitat has recently been demo'ing the interior down to the studs.

When: 8:40-3:30

Who: Anyone age 16 + up

As always, there will be tasks for EVERYBODY, prior building experience and skills are not required and they will teach anything you need to know.

For more information and to volunteer, go to SignUpGenius page at <http://tinyurl.com/Habitat-IC>  
Questions: Ellen Kennedy, [Ellen.kennedy@cox.net](mailto:Ellen.kennedy@cox.net) or 571-228-2505

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

At each service (8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11:00 am) the pastor preaches and presides over Holy Communion and other parts of the liturgy are led by our deacon. The rest of the service is designed to be led by the members / friends of the congregation. At this time we are seeking volunteers to be trained in the fullness of our worship experience: Chancel care, Ushers, Acolyte/Crucifer, Assisting Minister, Communion Assistant, and Reader. In addition it would be helpful to have more volunteers for Coffee Hour and the Sound-board. If you would like to volunteer your time and/or learn more about a particular role then please contact Pastor Kessinger or Deacon Erin immediately. We will then point you to the right person to learn more details. We hope to have a healthy list of names from which to draw as we quickly approach the Christmas Season and as we enter a New Year. Thank you!!!!

**Ministers: The People of Redeemer Church**  
 703-356-3346 church@redeermclean.org www.redeermclean.org

Position	Name	Contact Information
Senior Pastor	Pastor Sandy Kessinger	703-635-4672 psk@redeermclean.org
Deacon	Erin Swenson-Reinhold	erin@redeermclean.org
Facilities Director	Bill Parks	bparks@redeermclean.org
Sexton	Lionel Jackson	ljackson@redeermclean.org
Office Manager	Carol D'Amico	cdamico@redeermclean.org
Director of Music	Matt Osifchin	mosifchi@hotmail.com
Director of Preschool	Tammie Koenig	tkenig@redeermclean.org
Director of After-School Program	Linda Mcconnaughay	lmconnaughay@redeermclean.org
Director of Youth Ministry	Amanda Gebhart	Amanda@redeermclean.org
Financial Coordinator	Veronique Thomas	vthomas@redeermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel	joymentzel@gmail.com
Youth Choir Director	Amy Tribie	atribie@gmail.com
Bell Choir Director	Waka Osifchin	waka.soprano@gmail.com

## This Week at Redeemer

## Upcoming Events

Sun	12/09	8:00a	Traditional Service	Nave
		9:45a	Contemporary Service	Nave
		11:00a	Traditional Service	Nave
		1:00p	MOJO	Nave
		1:30p	Brownie Troop 1845	Classroom 202
Mon	12/10	4:00p	I Drive Smart	Classroom 202
		5:00p	Partner for Surgery Reception	Fellowship Hall
		5:30p	Sunshine Academy	Classroom 202
Tue	12/11	6:30p	Aerobics	Conference Room
		6:30p	MOJO Volleyball	Parents' Hall
		7:00p	Congregational Council Meeting	Conference Room
		8:00a	Prayer Time	Nave
		9:00a	Faith Conversation	Library
		12:00p	Rotary	Fellowship Hall
		5:00p	Sunshine Academy	Classroom 202
Wed	12/12	6:30p	Langley Residential	Conference Room
		6:30p	MOJO Volleyball	Parents' Hall
		7:15p	Boy Scouts	Fellowship Hall
		7:30p	Finance and Administration	Library
		7:00p	Hadi Meditation	Classroom 204
Thu	12/13	8:00p	Al-Anon	Classroom 204
		5:30p	Teen CBS	RLC
		6:30p	MOJO Volleyball	Parents' Hall
		7:00p	Bell Choir	Music Suite A
Fri	12/14	7:45p	Traditional Choir	Music Suite B
		6:30p	Living Nativity/Christmas Concert	RLC
Sat	12/15	9:00a	MOJO Volleyball	Parents Hall



12/10	Congregational Council
12/11	Prayer Time
12/11	Advent Lunch/Service
12/11	Finance and Administration
12/14	Living Nativity
12/16	Blue Christmas Service (5 pm)
12/17	Women of the ELCA
12/18	Prayer Time
12/18	Advent Lunch/Service
12/19	Quilting
12/20	Prayer Shawl Ministry
12/24	Christmas Eve (4,6,8,10 pm)
12/25	Christmas Day (10 am)
12/30	Lessons and Carols (10 am)
12/31	New Years Eve Service (5 pm)



Redeemer members,

Please call Redeemer's office to let us know when you are in the hospital or if you know of a member who is in the hospital. We want to provide all members with a pastoral presence and prayer in times of need. Also, please let us know if a member is homebound, so that we can visit and provide Holy Communion. Thank you for your partnership in our caring ministry.

- Pastor Sandy Kessinger



## ***Please Remember to Pray....***

### **For Healing:**

Adam  
Scotty Benson  
Bill  
Keith Bornmann  
Michelle Crone  
Elizabeth  
Jim Firth  
Bonnie Green  
Kirk Gunderson  
George Hall  
Deanna Heier  
Grace Holtby  
Jack  
Jeff  
Judith  
Audrey Markwart  
Coletta Miller  
Nicholas  
Rev. Robert Richter  
Roy Rom  
Karin Ryding  
Katherine Elizabeth Savage  
Charlotte Sears  
Richard Skelton  
Kathy Stieg  
Beth Telford  
Terry  
Ray Tiernan  
Les Townsend  
Tracy  
Janet Wolfe  
Dawn Zimmerman

### **For Comfort in Death:**

The family and friends of President George H. W. Bush  
The family and friends of Lisa Schwartz  
The family and friends of Betty Smith

### **For Comfort and Peace:**

Bertha  
George  
Lynn Porter Hardisky  
Susan  
Joann Shupp

### **For Comfort and Strength:**

Gwen Brown  
Sarah and Jenny  
Liza and Straker

### **For Safety:**

For all our military and diplomatic people throughout the world  
For all serving as police officers  
Greg Adams and Colette Marcellin, in Afghanistan  
Courtney Barnett, in Afghanistan  
Stephanie and Matt Kessinger and son, Ben, in Paraguay  
Jon Walsh

#### ***Prayer List Note:***

*To add names to this list, use the Prayer Request book located in the Crossroads. You may also email or telephone the church office. We will forward your request to the email prayer chain. We want all our prayers to be appropriate—so **please keep us up to date on those whom you have added to our prayer list.** With the exception of safety prayers for our military, we will remove names after one month unless we hear from you. We are prepared to pray indefinitely.*