

2023

**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”*

Contents

Agenda for Annual Meeting, February 4, 2024.....	2
Minutes of last year’s Annual Meeting (February 12, 2023)	3
Pastor & Council President Reports	
2023 Report, by Pastor Sandy Kessinger.....	6
2023 Report, by Pastor Joshua Wullenweber.....	11
Council President Report, by Ellen Kennedy.....	12
Financial Reports	
Summary of 2023 Operating Fund Activity	14
Working Capital Balance Sheet	15
2023 Total Receipts	16
Summary of Debt.....	17
Redeemer Endowment Fund Statement.....	18
2024 Budget.....	19
2024 Budget Detail	20
Committee & Ministry Reports	
Racial Justice and Equity Ministry Team Report	21
Stewardship Ministry Team Report	22
Endowment Committee.....	23
Finance and Administration	24
Membership Outreach.....	25
Faith Formation.....	26
Youth Group.....	27
Redeemer Renaissance Program.....	28
Rise Against Hunger.....	31
Spiritual Nurture Committee.....	32
Tysons Interfaith.....	33
Worship and Music.....	34
Building and Grounds.....	35
Mutual Ministry.....	36
Table Talk Ministry.....	37
Social Outreach.....	38
Greeter Report.....	41
Music Director Report.....	42
Nominations for Council.....	43
Nominations for Endowment Fund Committee.....	43



Agenda for Redeemer Annual Meeting, February 4, 2024 In Person and Zoom

Call to order: Welcome and Opening Prayer	5 minutes
Consent Agenda (to be approved as a whole):	2 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastors’ Reports • President of the Council Report • Ministry Reports (as printed in Annual Report) 	
Items to be Presented:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastors’ vision for the coming year • Treasurer’s Report • Ministry highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Music Ministry – Matt Osifchin ○ Spiritual Nurture – Diane Miller 	10 minutes 5 minutes 10 minutes
Proposed Action Items:	
Recommendations for Council from the Nominating Committee	10 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee Cronin (First year of 3-year term) • Sabine Detweiler (First year of 3-year term) • Lena Martikainen (Second 3-year term) • Hannah Hughes (Youth Representative – One year term) 	
Recommendations for Endowment from Nominating Comm. (Matthew Kratz)	3 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gene Morrow (Second 3-year term) • David Broderdorf (First 3-year term) 	
Election of voting members to the 2024 Synod Assembly	3 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold Hofstad • Ellen Kennedy • Josh Magnuson • Nate Paukovits 	
Presentation of Proposed 2024 Budget (Ed Regan)	10 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of 2024 Budget 	
Proposed Discussion Items:	
Beyond Measure: Facility Renovation Project and Capital Campaign Presentation by Beyond Measure Task Force	15 minutes
Building Koinonia – Redeemer Welcome Statement Presentation by Building Koinonia Group	15 minutes
Adjourn with prayer	

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the
Congregation of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
February 12, 2023
Hybrid Meeting, In Person and Via Zoom**

**Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
February 12, 2023
In-Person and Via Zoom**

Call to order:

President, Nate Paukovits declared a quorum and called meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

Pastor Kessinger opened with prayer.

Consent Agenda:

President, Nate Paukovits moved to approve agenda-as-a-whole, including the Meeting Agenda, Pastors' Reports, President of the Council Report and Ministry Reports as published in the Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Betsy Kutcher. The motion to accept the Consent Agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting:

Without objection, the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Approved as submitted.

Pastors' Reports and Vision for the Coming Year:

Pastor Kessinger highlighted the following items from her submitted report and plans for 2023.

- Redeemer's focus on worship and scripture
- Continuing Bible study with more participants and leaders
- Home visits
- Time with youth
- Volunteer opportunities renewed after COVID
- Involvement in community
- Care for creation

Pastor Wullenweber highlighted the following items from his submitted report and focus on relationships in 2023.

- Congregational Life Ministry Plans
 - Small group dinners
 - Coffee Hour
 - Summer Bash
- Membership Outreach
 - Reconciling with Christ Program
- Pilgrimage to Holy Land proposed for January 2024

Music:

Matt Osifchin highlighted the following items from the Music Ministry from 2022:

- Easter
- Vivaldi Gloria
- Gerdan, the Ukrainian ensemble
- Christmas

Treasurer’s Report:

In the absence of the Treasurer, Ed Regan, President, Nate Paukovits presented the Treasurer’s Report. There were no questions or discussion.

Recommendations for Council from the Nominating Committee:

Stephanie Beckes Hunter presented the slate of candidates for the Council of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

- Chris Hernadi (First three-year term)
- Megan Kratz (Second three-year term)
- Gene Morrow (First three-year term)
- Tyler Posey (First three-year term)
- Adetutu Toviho (Youth Representative—one-year term)
- Sheridan Kanski (Youth Representative—one-year term)

Stephanie Beckes Hunter moved to accept the slate of candidates. The motion was seconded by Gordon Jones and the motion was passed without discussion.

Election of Voting Members to the 2023 Synod Assembly:

Stephanie Beckes Hunter presented the slate of candidates to be voting members to the 2023 Synod Assembly.

- Harold Hofstad
- Lena Martikainen
- Gene Morrow
- Cindy Morrow
- Nate Paukovits

Stephanie Beckes Hunter moved to accept the slate of candidates. The motion was seconded by Ellen Kennedy and the motion was passed without discussion.

Presentation and Adoption of the Redeemer Renaissance Bylaw Amendment:

President Nate Paukovits presented a proposal to change the Bylaws (Sections C14.03 and C14.03.02) for the purpose of bringing the administration of the Preschool and After-School programs together as one ministry.

President Nate Paukovits moved to accept the proposal. Karen Miller seconded the motion. During the ensuing discussion, concerns regarding the relationship of the programs to Fairfax County Public Schools were addressed. Clarification of the role of the Council Liaison to the Redeemer Renaissance Board was requested for the charter of the governing board.

The motion was passed.

Presentation of Proposed 2023 Budget:

Rob Wenk Presented the 2023 budget for Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and made a motion to accept the budget. Florence Ofili-Toviho seconded the motion, and the motion was passed without discussion.

Presentation for Adoption of the Facility Renovation Project and Capital Campaign:

Rob Wenk presented the proposed Facility Renovation Project including:

- Outdoor improvements for drainage, safety, fencing and enhanced play area.
- The addition of a columbarium and its associated ministry.
- Renovations and enhancements to classrooms, restrooms, offices, vestry, sacristy, heating and cooling system, and the addition of solar panels.
- Funding for the project including a capital campaign.

Rob Wenk moved to adopt the project. Ron Kutcher seconded the motion.

The following items were discussed:

- Current interest and commitment to the columbarium
- Possibility of considering or eliminating individual components of the project
- Governance and use of the columbarium
- Concerns over indebtedness

Ann Lawrence moved to amend the motion to remove the columbarium from the current project proposal.

The amendment motion was seconded by Tammie Koenig. Discussion of the amendment ensued which included:

- Support for the columbarium
- Objections to the columbarium
- Governance, maintenance, and use of the columbarium
- Concerns over indebtedness

Roberta Pittman called question to end the discussion. The motion to end the discussion was seconded by Alex Skotzko. The motion to end the discussion carried. Pastor Kessinger offered prayer. Ballots were distributed. When votes were counted, the motion to amend the proposal failed. (28 votes to accept the amendment; 60 votes to reject the amendment; 4 abstentions)

Lon Augustenborg called the question to end discussion on the facility renovation project and capital campaign proposal. The motion to end the discussion on the proposal was seconded Samantha Dobkins. The motion to end the discussion was carried. Pastor Kessinger offered prayer. Ballots were distributed. When the votes were counted the motion to proceed with the facility renovation project and capital campaign passed. (81 votes to accept the proposal; 9 votes to reject the proposal; 0 abstentions)

Final Comments and Prayer:

Pastor Kessinger made final comments and offered a closing prayer.

Adjournment:

President Nate Paukovits moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron Kutscher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.



2023 Annual Report | Pastor Sandy Kessinger

*But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?
And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?*

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! – Romans 10:14-15

This passage from Romans is one that I have put to memory. It best describes how I approach my call to Redeemer and the wider church. Together we are to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed both inside the church and out in the community. Since not everyone has heard of God in Christ or of his grace, we are to go out and shower them with love and compassion. As one seminary professor once taught us, we should need a new pair of shoes at least every year if we are doing what we have been called to do.

This proclamation of the gospel is lived out with every meaningful conversation I have with members and friends of the congregation. It is what happens when I sit in homes and offer Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend worship services. It is what I teach to those who are bringing their children to the baptismal waters or who are preparing for their First Communion. It is the presence of that good news that we talk about before couples get married. It is the gospel that we cling to when we lay our loved ones to rest. *How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!*

It is one reason that worship and the study of Scripture are so important to me. It is within the chapters and verses of the Bible that we learn about God and the relationship we have with God. Our Women's Prayer Group allows us the safe space to be honest and vulnerable with each other and is always open to anyone who wants to join us. The same is true for our Wednesday Bible studies that are very different from each other. In the Wednesday morning Bible study, we are looking at the different articles in the Augsburg Confession. We put them next to the teachings of Luther and the Bible passages that support his doctrines. In the Wednesday evening Bible study, we take one of the books of the Bible and meticulously go through each chapter and verse. We have discovered the joy of taking it slowly and steadily.

My studies this year took me in the direction of how to live out the gospel message. We finished the course called *Sacred Ground* which enabled us to look at the history of our country through a very realistic lens. Although I am not part of the book club that reads books on the topic of racial justice, I read many of the same books and have been able to recommend some of my own to the group. It has become an important part of my ministry to do whatever I can to speak the truth in love and to do whatever I can to move us in a direction that honors and respects all people.

Another way to live out the gospel message was to gather people for retreats. Our Lenten retreat allows us to be self-reflective as we contemplate the journey that Christ took to the cross. Our Confirmation retreat allows us to spend time with our youth to nurture their faith in God through Christ. And this year we held two council retreats. One helped us develop concrete goals for our work together and the other one helped us to understand that our role on council is a spiritual one.

One of my greatest joys of this past year is that I have made my way into the community in new ways. I remain an active participant in the Safe Community Coalition. I have also been designated as the coordinator for our McLean Clergy group. I communicate on a regular basis with 33 of our clergy of all faith traditions. We meet once every other month and email each other when needed. When the war between Israel and Hamas started, we held a prayer service to support all of our faith communities. We have plans in February of 2024 to gather the community together to help us be a positive voice in the midst of so much hatred.

Outside of the McLean clergy group, I have completed my first year on the board of Tysons Community Alliance. I am there to represent Tysons Interfaith and to keep before the board the need to address the spiritual needs of the people who live in that community. It has been a very interesting experience for me and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve in a more corporate setting.

Another joy comes from the opening of the Sunrise Senior Living facility. It is wonderful to take a break in my day and just walk over to visit people. We have about six residents who come to our worship services on a regular basis. Some are members who chose to live there so that they could be close to Redeemer. Others we acquired along the way. Pastor Josh, Joy Mentzel, and I hold monthly worship services at their facility. We have about 12-14 people who attend.

Special projects this year included the *Food for Others* food collection and packaging that was organized by our high school youth. Our summer mission trip took us to Logan County, West Virginia, and was yet another way for us to share the gospel message. We certainly learned a lot about how the message is spread through their outreach projects. We have also been working all year on a welcome statement to make it more clear to those who look at our website or any of our other announcements that we are truly open to all people.

Our staff has gone through some major changes this year. In the church office we transitioned from Andrea Meier to Amber Price to Cynthia Finocchiaro. We are grateful for the work of those who have moved on to take other positions. We are equally grateful that Cynthia is quickly learning the rhythm of our office and is up to the task. In all of these office transitions it was Judy Kuhagen who held us together. She never missed a beat in making sure the office ran smoothly as we went through our search for the right match for our needs.

We also had a transition in the Evening Host position from Jamie DeGrafft to Jonathan Marroquin. Once more we are grateful for all that Jamie did while in this position and appreciate the dedication that Jonathan is already showing. Sara Nail remains a steady presence in our office. She is not only trustworthy and very competent, but she also lives out her faith by showing patience and compassion to all of us. Bill Parks is also a steady presence. He is our handyman who can fix almost anything and does so with a smile and a good dose of humor. Linda McConnaughay and Gina Thorson also do an outstanding job for the Redeemer Renaissance program. They are dedicated and creative and both have the well-being of the children at the heart of their ministry.

And then there is Pastor Josh! He has been a wonderful presence at Redeemer. We work very well together as a team and I appreciate his compassion for others. He has an open heart and works hard to ensure that all are loved. While he was fulfilling his responsibilities with the Air Force, it gave us the opportunity to invite Bishop Kurt Kusserow from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod and Bishop Leila Ortiz from our synod to preach and engage in conversation with our members and council. It was good for them to be with us.

We also welcomed Jessica Zurcher, a seminarian from United Lutheran Seminary. She is fulfilling her field work with us and is doing an awesome job. She is very flexible and has a wonderful pastoral presence. She preached once and also taught one of the Confirmation classes. Jessica will be on semester break until the end of January when she will return until the middle of May. We look forward to her return.

As you can see, it has been a busy year for me and for Redeemer! I am grateful for all of you and the love and support you continue to offer me as I complete twelve years of ministry here. I just got a new pair of shoes for Christmas so I look forward to full speed ahead for the coming year.

In Christ –
Pastor Sandy Kessinger

2023 STATISTICS

End of 2022	Total baptized membership	1,266
	Confirmed members	985
	Average Weekly Worship	188 (Traditional)
		102 (Contemporary)
		274 (Total)
End of 2023	Total baptized membership	1,281
	Confirmed members	1,009
	Average Weekly Worship	182 (Traditional)
		111 (Contemporary)
		293 (Total)

Average Weekly Worship – Based on ELCA Guidelines
 Includes In-Person (122 in Traditional) (70 in Contemporary)
 Livestreaming (Average is 10 to 15)
 Videos (60 in Traditional) (41 in Contemporary)

Our Newly Baptized – 19

Harrison James Malatack	January 22
Emma Lenore Gropp	February 19
Quinn Case Miller	March 12
Hannah Elise Browning	March 19
Samuel Dante Stanford-Molina	April 9
Fausto Ronald Stanford-Molina	April 9
Brady Austin Huber	April 16
Daphne Etta Malatack	April 30
Elizabeth Rose James	May 21
Axel Windsor	July 16
Kira Lydia Jaramillo	September 24
Mia Ryan Rosenfield	October 15
Cameron Stephen Bost	October 15
Amelia Grace Falk	October 26
Andi Mae Haney	October 26
Alice Josephine Lapp	October 26
Isaac Ahmed Kurtom	November 12
Griffin Stephen Badgley Roberts	November 26
Mabel Ann Meagher	December 10

Transfers – 2

Bill and Ann Tribble	LCMS Church
----------------------	-------------

Our New Members – 14

Cynthia Ann Skelton
 Michael, Ann Marie, and Emma Hindley
 Brian, Sarah, and Leo Getter
 Lynn Barth
 Bill and Janet Lofgren
 Sarah McIlrath, Brady, William (Grant), and Stuart (Max) Ward

Confirmed in 2023 – 11

Nathaniel Ryan Beck	Charles William Lindsay
Anna Faith Broderdorf	Anna Leigh Paukovits
Austin David Humes	Joseph Lee Warren
Tom Jordan Kanski	Adrian Johannes Wiklund
Mira Nilima Karnik	Abigail Elizabeth Williams
Catherine Yvonne Lawler	

Weddings – 5

Greg Lawrence and Ravali Reddy	March 25
Johnathan Kim and Michelle Kwak	September 28
Steven Stavdahl and Caroline Wilson	September 30
Nicholas Skotzko and Claire Robinson	October 14
John Haney III and Emily Falk	October 27

Faithful Departed – 7 (* means non-members)

Richard Mark Boyd *
 Gwendolyn Davies Brown
 Mark George (M.G.) Detweiler
 James Joseph Hughes, Jr.
 Laura (Ellen) Etzler McCloud
 George J. Pedersen *
 Inessa Ross
 Orville C. Schumacher
 Andrew (Drew) Bennett Stieg

Total Received – 33

Baptism (children) – 19
 Baptism (adult) – 0
 Affirmation of Faith – 0
 Transfers to Redeemer – 14

Total Removed – 9

Deaths – 7
 Transfer – 2
 Statistical Adjustment – 0

2023 Annual Report | Pastor Josh Wullenweber



Greetings, Friends in Christ,

I give thanks for another year of service and ministry alongside each of you here at Redeemer. 2023 has proved to be another busy year, but I am learning here at Redeemer that is the status quo.

Over the past year I have spent my time walking with and ministering to God's people both here at Redeemer and in the surrounding community of McLean and the greater Washington D.C. area. Along with my call to preach the Gospel and preside at Christ's table, Pastor Sandy and I have worked together to welcome new members, baptize, and commune our youth, to teach Confirmation Class to our confirmands, to lead the Spring evening Bible Studies, to create and lead Lenten and Advent weekly services, to work with our various committees hosting fellowship events, New Members Dinners, Spiritual Retreats, Fall Festivals, and to create a congregational welcome statement.

Reflecting specifically in my call and roll as associate pastor here at Redeemer, I have also over the past year been tasked with leading the Redeemer Youth Group in weekly events (check out the youth group report for more details), the Men's Bible Study Group in various studies, the Men's Retreat to Camp Caroline Furnace, the monthly meal group "Good Grub and God," establishing the Little Free Pantry, and working with the McLean Clergy Group in creating a seminar on interrupting hateful rhetoric.

Outside of my congregational responsibilities, I have also spent time this year continuing with my First Call Theological Education. In this training I meet regularly with other clergy in our Synod to learn and grow in our pastoral identity and ministerial skills. The culmination of our year is a weeklong retreat where we come together with all of Region 8 (Virginia, D.C., Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia) to focus specifically on our first call ministries.

Also, I continue to serve as a Reserve Chaplain with the United States Air Force. I spent my summer at my assigned duty station in Montana working with the men and women of that base. I offered counseling, worship opportunities, and unit engagement/enrichment for the airmen under my care. I truly give thanks for the congregation's support in allowing me to spend a month each year away serving in this manner.

Looking towards the future, I am excited to see where God leads Redeemer in the year ahead. Pastor Sandy and I are working hard to provide new fellowship opportunities for our members of every age and further chances to serve God's people in our community and around the world.

I give thanks to God for each of you, for our ministry together in the past year, and I pray that God would continue to guide our every step in the year to come.

Christ's peace be with you all,

Pastor Josh

Council President Report

Dear Redeemer Congregation,

The Council has had a rewarding year. We spent some time reflecting on our work at a retreat in May, discussing how to center our Redeemer work on our mission: to share Christ's love with the greatest number of people. It was a great day of discussions about Redeemer. Several themes that emerged from our work included: a continued emphasis on Bible studies and spirituality, serving our youth by increasing communication and social engagement, and ensuring good stewardship of our resources.

Council defined three Goals, or Guiding Principles, as focus areas:

- Cultivating and expanding connections with a diverse population through spirituality, fellowship, and service.
- Developing an understanding of the needs of a diverse and changing community to meaningfully share Christ's love.
- Through modeling the teachings of Jesus Christ, we promote a welcoming environment. This can be accomplished by:
 - Spiritual growth for all God's children
 - Educational opportunities
 - Relevant social outreach programs
 - Environmental stewardship

A September Spiritual retreat gave us more time for contemplation and fellowship, and we continued the discussion at a November Thanksgiving dinner with the chairs of our vital ministry teams. Those teams are a great way to get involved at Redeemer, in the ways that you feel called to serve. The contacts for each team can be found in the annual report, where you can also read more about their work over the last year and ways that they would welcome your contribution.

Many Council discussions this year provided feedback to the dedicated members of our Beyond Measure capital campaign task force. As we will discuss more at the annual meeting, 2024 will see the next phase of the Beyond Measure campaign. Even while considering how to raise funds for the next phase of major construction at Redeemer, minor projects also required attention and decisions on expenditures. We replaced a gas line outside Redeemer; we had unforeseen repairs necessary to keep Redeemer connected to the internet, and in the coming year we will replace the kitchen stove.

Council also kept abreast of the work of the Building Koinonia group as they crafted a welcome statement that highlights our open doors to all God's people and followed the progress of a new Charter to govern the work of our Redeemer Renaissance Board. Thanks to your continued faithful giving, we approved a budget that increased staff compensation and replenished our Buildings & Grounds reserves. We approved endowment grants for organizations including Alice's Kids and Nuru International and hired a new Office Manager.

A huge thank you to my fellow council members for our work together. Members over the past year were: Arash Behravesh, Chris Hernadi, Pr. Sandy Kessinger (Senior Pastor), Sheridan Kanski (Youth Representative), Megan Kratz, Lena Martikainen, Karen Miller (Vice President), Gene Morrow, Nate Paukovits, Roberta Pittman

(Secretary), Tyler Posey, Ed Regan (Treasurer), Tutu Toviho (Youth Representative), and Pr. Josh Wullenweber (Associate Pastor). I want to especially recognize our outgoing members Arash, Roberta, Tutu and Sheridan — for a job well done. Roberta has served as secretary for several of her years on Council, and her thorough and swift preparation of the minutes was amazing.

In the coming year, Council will continue to focus on our goals while considering ways to increase opportunities for congregation feedback and engagement. We are thankful for Pastor Kessinger's strong leadership and guidance, in partnership with Pastor Wullenweber, and for the faithful work of our many volunteers and ministry teams. Redeemer is blessed Beyond Measure!

Ellen Kennedy, Council President

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
SUMMARY OF 2023 OPERATING FUND ACTIVITY

	Current Year			2022 Actual
	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	Budget Variance	
<u>OPERATING FUND INCOME</u>				
Offerings	\$ 960,030	\$ 923,432	\$ 36,598	\$ 923,432
Pre School Contribution	59,561	57,469	2,092	43,153
After School Contribution	37,493	34,862	2,631	53,443
Facility Use Fees and Other	108,084	115,000	- 6,916	117,305
Total Operating Fund Income	\$ 1,165,168	\$ 1,130,763	\$ 34,405	\$ 1,137,333
<u>OPERATING FUND EXPENSES *</u>				
Synod Benevolence	\$ 71,000	\$ 71,000	\$ 0	\$ 69,000
Education	4,403	6,400	(1,997)	3,241
Parish Life	9,070	8,050	1,020	8,154
Flowers and Decorations	1,646	1,500	146	(908)
Stewardship	1,933	2,150	(217)	1,754
Social Concerns	32,021	31,100	921	28,329
Welcoming	465	2,000	(1,535)	1,685
Worship	4,696	5,000	(304)	4,760
Music (no salaries)	5,244	5,500	(256)	4,135
Youth Ministry	4,072	4,500	(428)	1,428
Building & Grounds	145,044	154,200	- 9,156	148,244
Administration	41,099	41,100	(1)	46,541
Staff (Pastoral, Admin, Music)	723,930	756,738	(32,808)	731,406
Mortgage/Debt Payment	45,597	45,597	0	70,907
Total Operating Fund Expenses	\$ 1,090,220	\$ 1,134,835	-\$ 44,615	\$ 1,118,675
Extra Receipts over Expenses	\$ 74,948	\$ (4,072)	\$ 79,020	\$ 18,658
Operating Fund Working Capital Surplus/(Deficit) as of 12/31/2023	\$ 245,385			

* All expenses net of direct donations (i.e. flower contributions, youth mission trips, etc. - see Total Receipts Report for detail).

Financial Reports submitted by Ed Reagan, Treasurer & Rob Wenk, Finance & Admin

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
WORKING CAPITAL BALANCE SHEET - AS OF 12/31/2023

(Excludes Property & Equipment and Related Debt)

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Chain Bridge Bank	\$ 1,236,765	\$ 1,388,613
Morgan Stanley	518,302	148,817
Advance on Mortgage	-	45,597
Prepaid Expenses, Deposits and Other	10,464	3,085
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 1,765,530</u>	<u>\$ 1,586,111</u>
Total Working Capital Assets	<u>\$ 1,765,530</u>	<u>\$ 1,586,111</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
<u>Current Liabilities and Dedicated Accounts</u>		
Accounts Payable & Payroll Liabilities	\$ 4,551	\$ 3,073
Social Concerns Accruals	2,475	3,456
Free Will Giving Not Yet Forwarded	2,212	2,593
Endowment Gifts	516	6,853
Building & Grounds Reserve	89,168	134,357
Pastor's Benevolent Fund	34,307	18,462
Dedicated Giving Accounts	42,140	44,517
Thanksgiving & Memorials	78,220	78,639
MEC Special Gifts	32,592	32,592
MMEC - Pastoral Support Reserve	263,122	263,122
Capital Campaign	121,902	
After School Tuition & Registration Deposits	64,169	21,500
After School Equipment & Operational Reserve	346,176	211,203
After School Childcare Stabilization Grant	-	28,070
Pre School Tuition Deposits	113,603	131,886
Pre School Consignment Sales Reserve	98,807	98,807
Pre School Equipment Replacement Reserve	369,771	267,386
Total Current Liabilities and Dedicated Accounts	<u>\$ 1,663,731</u>	<u>\$ 1,346,516</u>
<u>Working Capital Fund Balances</u>		
Total Working Capital Fund Balances	<u>\$ 101,799</u>	<u>\$ 239,596</u>
Total Current Liabilities, Dedicated Accounts, and Working Capital Fund Balances	<u>\$ 1,765,530</u>	<u>\$ 1,586,111</u>

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2023 TOTAL RECEIPTS - ALL SOURCES *

Giving by Members	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Operating Fund Contributions	\$ 960,030	\$ 923,432
Additional Principal Paydown	\$ 13,680	\$ 74,263
MMEC - Pastoral Support Fund	\$ -	\$ 10
Youth Activity Reimbursements	\$ 8,990	\$ 2,555
Flowers, F&B, Credit Card Fees & Other	\$ 8,263	\$ 6,837
 Free Will Giving		
Partner For Surgery	\$ 1,405	\$ 1,195
N Street Village	2,640	2,270
LENS	0	750
Britepaths/Our Daily Bread	3,980	4,750
Lutheran World Relief	6,696	16,597
ELCA World Hunger	325	60
Lutheran Disaster Response	1,960	4,860
FACETS	0	0
SHARE of McLean	5,965	9,414
Lutheran Social Services	0	50
Lamb Center	0	348
Social Concerns - Other	100	0
Refugee Families	0	0
Rise Against Hunger/Stop Hunger Now	20,845	27,836
Endowment Fund	7,516	11,890
Pastor's Benevolent Fund	39,125	110
Video Conferencing Equipment	0	0
Music	25	3,200
Youth Fundraisers	2,091	8,935
Thanksgiving and Memorials	0	0
Total Free Will Giving **	<u>\$ 92,673</u>	<u>\$ 92,265</u>
Total Giving by Members & Others	\$ 1,083,636	\$ 1,099,362
 Additional Receipts		
Pre School Contribution	\$ 59,561	\$ 43,153
After School Contribution	37,493	53,443
Facility Use Fees (outside organizations)	108,084	117,305
Total Additional Receipts	<u>205,138</u>	<u>213,901</u>
 Total Receipts - All Sources *	 <u><u>\$ 1,288,774</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ 1,313,263</u></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, 2023

1ST MORTGAGE - CHAIN BRIDGE BANK (1)

Balance since November 2014 \$ -

INTERNAL FINANCING (2)

Opening Balance on 1/1/23 \$ 45,597
Less: Principal Reduction via Monthly Debt Payments \$ (31,917)
Less: Additional Payments - Debt Reduction Direct Giving \$ (13,680)
Balance as of 12/31/23 \$ -

2ND MORTGAGE - CHAIN BRIDGE BANK (3)

Balance since October 2020 \$ -

Total Debt Balance as of 12/31/23

\$ -

Terms

(1) Initiated June 2012. Terms were 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.

(2) 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. We are now replenishing reserves since both bank mortgages have been paid off.

(3) Initiated June 2012. Terms were 4.95% interest, 15 year amortization, fixed rate (no rate reset, no balloon). Due to addition principal payments made by the congregation, the lien was paid in full in October 2020.

REDEEMER ENDOWMENT FUND
2023 YEAR END STATEMENT OF PLAN ASSETS

Beginning Balances

12/31/22 Balance from Investment Account	\$147,848
12/31/22 Cash Balance in Church Account	6,853
Total Year End Balance as of 12/31/22	\$154,701

Fund Activity in 2023

Contributions to Principal	4,316
Income from Investments	8,180
Gain/(Loss) on Investments	17,397
Fees, Expenses and Taxes	(17)
Disbursements to Charities	(9,000)
Total Changes to Fund Balance in 2023	20,876

Ending Balances

12/31/23 Balance from Investment Account	\$175,061
12/31/23 Cash Balance in Church Account	516
Total Year-end Balance as of 12/31/23	\$175,577

Original Investment Principal

12/31/22 Principal Balance	\$130,613
2023 Contributions to Principal	4,316
Total Year-end Principal Balance as of 12/31/23	\$134,929

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2024 BUDGET**

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer - 2024 Budget

	2021	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023	2024
Income:	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Proposed
Offerings	943,742	969,889	969,889	923,432	923,432	960,030	939,194	
Pre School Contribution	0	2,495	35,241	43,153	57,469	59,561	62,672	
After School Contribution	39,735	39,826	36,891	53,443	34,862	37,493	38,958	
Facility Use Fees and Other	49,800	67,314	80,000	117,305	115,000	108,084	101,000	
Total	1,033,277	1,079,524	1,122,022	1,137,333	1,130,763	1,165,168	1,141,824	

	2021	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023	2024
Expenses:	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Proposed
Building & Grounds	137,800	134,098	140,200	148,244	154,200	145,044	157,960	
Administration	36,600	32,977	39,685	46,541	41,100	41,099	42,500	
Staff (Pastoral, Admin, Music)	652,490	626,405	724,729	731,406	756,738	723,930	790,064	
Synod Benevolence	66,000	66,000	69,000	69,000	71,000	71,000	72,000	
Ed./Worship/Parish Life/Youth	39,950	15,469	38,300	24,249	35,100	31,529	46,700	
Social Outreach	29,200	28,200	39,200	28,328	31,100	32,021	32,600	
Mortgage/Debt Payment	71,237	116,412	70,908	70,907	45,597	45,597	0	
Total	1,033,277	1,019,561	1,122,022	1,118,675	1,134,835	1,090,220	1,141,824	

	2021	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023	2024
Summary:	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Proposed
Total Income	1,033,277	1,079,524	1,122,022	1,137,333	1,130,763	1,165,168	1,141,824	
Total Expenses	1,033,277	1,019,561	1,122,022	1,118,675	1,134,835	1,090,220	1,141,824	
Additional Contributions Needed					4,072			
Extra Receipts		59,963		18,658		74,948		

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer - 2024 Budget Detail

<u>Operating Fund Income</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Proposed</u>
Offerings	\$ 923,432	\$ 960,030	\$ 939,194
Pre School Contribution	\$ 57,469	\$ 59,561	\$ 62,672
After School Contribution	\$ 34,862	\$ 37,493	\$ 38,958
Facility Use Fees and Other	\$ 115,000	\$ 108,084	\$ 101,000
Total Operating Fund Income	\$ 1,130,763	\$ 1,165,168	\$ 1,141,824
<u>Operating Fund Expenses</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Proposed</u>
Building & Grounds	\$ 154,200	\$ 145,044	\$ 157,960
Administration	\$ 41,100	\$ 41,099	\$ 42,500
Staff (Pastoral, Admin, Music)	\$ 756,738	\$ 723,930	\$ 790,064
Synod Benevolence	\$ 71,000	\$ 71,000	\$ 72,000
Education	\$ 6,400	\$ 4,403	\$ 6,000
Parish Life	\$ 8,050	\$ 9,070	\$ 11,050
Flowers and Decorations	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,646	\$ 1,500
Stewardship	\$ 2,150	\$ 1,933	\$ 2,150
Welcoming	\$ 2,000	\$ 465	\$ 2,000
Worship	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,696	\$ 5,000
Music (no salaries)	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,244	\$ 4,000
Youth Ministry	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,072	\$ 15,000
Social Outreach	\$ 31,100	\$ 32,021	\$ 32,600
Debt Payment	\$ 45,597	\$ 45,597	\$ -
Total Operating Fund Expenses	\$ 1,134,835	\$ 1,090,220	\$ 1,141,824
Additional Contributions Needed	\$ 4,072		\$ -
Extra Receipts *		\$ 74,948	

* Note: \$5,000 is to be allocated to the Pastor's Benevolent Fund and the balance to the Building & Grounds Reserve depleted by the new gym roof and replacement of an underground fire sprinkler pipe.

Racial Justice and Equity Book Club 2023 Annual Report

We had such fun this year and got so much accomplished in the process of educating ourselves about racial justice and equity.

We read 5 books: "1619 Project," "The Color of Lightning," "And There was Light," "The Warmth of Other Suns," and "How the Word is Passed."

With our funds this year we added a total of 31 books to our Lending Cart to share with the rest of the congregation. This included books we have read and books for children and our youth to read in Faith Formation. Their summaries were posted in our Youth Newsletter and our Tidings.

With the rest of our funds we donated to two groups: Center for Native American Youth <https://www.cnay.org/> an education and advocacy organization helping to improve the health, safety and overall well-being of Native American Youth; and Offender Aid and Restoration <https://www.oaronline.org/> which journeys with individuals who have been affected by mass incarceration and works to end systemic racism. They do so much to promote justice and equity. We also donated the extra books we have gathered to Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

With a long list of great books to read in the future, we are so happy that we were awarded 1 of the 10 Synod grants for \$250 to help purchase more books for our lending cart!

Please feel free to join our Book Club and/or find a group of friends and start your own book club to see how rewarding it is to read about such an important topic together. And look for a new face in the congregation and reach out to them to welcome them.

Teresa Schellenger, Group Chair

2023 Annual Report Stewardship Committee

Stewardship is an important ministry of any church and one of the most challenging. It encourages us to give of our time based on our different abilities. It also encourages us to give financially to support the mission and ministry of the church. What makes it so challenging is that we are not always privy to what kind of time people have to give to the work of the church. It is not always evident what gifts and abilities people might want to offer. Plus we do not have knowledge of people's financial situation. So much of what we do with regard to Stewardship must be approached from the perspective of faith.

It is by faith that we have spent this past year talking more about how people can get engaged in the ministries of the church than about where we stand financially. This is partly due to the fact that people have given generously each month. But as we put the pandemic behind us and see more people returning to our worship services, we have also increased the activities of the church and we need your help to make things run smoothly.

As a result, we revisited the manual titled *Opportunities to Serve* that outlines all the different ways people can give of their time. Over the summer we also broke down those opportunities into categories. They were then put on small slips of paper that resided in the Crossroads for several months. We hoped this would make it easier to engage in our ministry and we are still a work in progress.

When it comes to our offerings, we monitor the overall giving and develop the quarterly letters to share with you how we are doing. We highlight all that is taking place at Redeemer as a way to emphasize that the donations you make to Redeemer help us to maintain a vibrant ministry.

This year we also had conversations around the Capital Campaign called "Beyond Measure." We are not part of the task force but we also monitor how it is unfolding as it will have an overall impact on our annual giving. It is a commitment apart from our annual budget and we are grateful for those who are pledging and/or making a contribution towards the building and grounds project.

In the new year we will be seeking new members. Paul Lettow has served on the committee for many years and needs to step down. We are grateful for the wisdom and insights he offered to us. We would welcome anyone who has a servant's heart and wants to explore with us the work of stewardship. Please contact Pastor Kessinger or any of our ministry team members if you are interested.

Stewardship Ministry Team members

Laura Duval
Pastor Sandy Kessinger
Matthew Kratz
Tyler Posey, Council Liaison



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Endowment Committee 2023 Annual Report

“Charitable Giving to Support Mission Outreach”

Redeemer’s Endowment Fund was established in 1995 by the congregation to expand our mission outreach. Gifts to the Fund can be any amount, at any time and remain permanently invested. Only the earnings are dispersed to charitable organizations with at least 50 percent to be used in our metro area.

The Endowment Committee manages the fund and recommends grants subject to Church Council approval. Current members are Tammie Koenig (Chair), Dave Kostelancik (Recording Secretary), Dr. Gene Morrow (Financial Secretary & Council Liaison), Joan Durman and Mary O’Brien.

In 2023, grants totaling \$9,000 addressed disaster relief, health, hunger, and youth. Grant recipients are announced to the congregation through Tidings or Temple Talks. In 2023, there were three Temple Talks. On January 15, Second Story shared their programs for at-risk youth. On June 4, Ron Fitzsimmons of Alice’s Kids explained how the organization grew from personal experience to provide small grants for shoes, clothing, or lessons to low-income children. On November 19, Billy Williams of NURU International shared how they work to eradicate extreme poverty among vulnerable rural farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Alice's Kids	Youth	Fairfax Co.	\$2,000
Doctors without Borders-Turkey/Syria	Disaster Relief	Abroad	\$2,000
Nuru International	Hunger	Abroad	\$2,000
Path Forward	Homeless Health	Metro Area	\$2,000
Rise Against Hunger	Hunger	Abroad	\$500
SHARE of McLean	Hunger	Fairfax Co.	\$500

Redeemer members contributed \$4,316 to the Endowment Fund in 2023. Funds were in the form of checks or stock transfers spread across each quarter. Thank you for the support and sharing Christ’s love. For year-end financial status, please refer to the Redeemer Endowment Fund page of the treasurer’s report within this document.

Donations to the Fund extend mission outreach through future grants. While estate gifts are wonderful, the Endowment Committee encourages gifts any time or amount to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, first communion, confirmation, or graduation. There are several ways to contribute: check, ACH or scanning the QR code.

Redeemer’s Endowment Fund



For more information about the Endowment Fund, contributions, or potential grants, please contact Tammie Koenig at Endowment@redeermclean.org or another committee member listed above.

Finance & Administration Committee Annual Report 2023

The Finance and Admin Committee has been involved with a variety of things throughout the year. Here is a list of the more significant items:

- Moved a portion of Redeemer's cash reserves into a program at Chain Bridge Bank that locates the funds at other financial institutions to stay below the current FDIC insurance limits.
- Set-up laddered CDs throughout the calendar year to take advantage of rising interest rates.
- Engaged a local CPA firm to do a financial review of our accounting processes as called for in Redeemer's constitution.
- Reviewed and submitted to the Executive Committee the results of the CPA review noted above which found no significant concerns.
- Reviewed the monthly financial statements for the church as prepared by the Treasurer.
- Prepared a recommendation to the Council on a special one-time wage and salary increase for the staff due to the high inflation environment being experienced.
- Reviewed current insurance coverages for any needed changes.
- Provided input to the Renaissance Director on the Preschool and After-school annual budgets.
- Prepared the draft church budget and submitted it to the Council for review and discussion.

A special thanks goes to Sara Nail who as Redeemer's Financial Coordinator does a tremendous job for the church in service to the members and to the staff.

Also, a big thanks to Ed Regan, Doug Ubben, Jim Kuhagen, Larry Pittman, and Charlie Brown for serving on this committee. We are always looking for more people to help serve in this area. If you are interested in more information, please contact any of the members directly.

Thank you,
Rob Wenk, Finance & Administration

Membership Outreach Annual Report

The Membership Outreach Committee is called to prayerfully consider different ways we as a congregation can welcome the community around us into the life and ministry of Redeemer. This past year we have focused our time and our efforts on crafting a welcome statement. Acknowledging Redeemer's open, inclusive, and welcoming nature we have strived to capture this in a statement that allowed the community around us to know this wonderful attribute of our congregation. Through listening sessions, coffee hours, and workshops we have worked with the members of Redeemer to capture our voice and bring this welcome statement to life. After eight months of work, the committee was excited to present to the congregation the first draft of the welcome statement. We are currently receiving feedback and using those constructive comments to guide revisions. Stay tuned as we continue to work towards a welcome statement that perfectly captures our congregation's voice and spirit.

Submitted by Pastor Joshua Wullenweber

Membership Outreach Committee

Cindy Morrow

Pastor Joshua Wullenweber

Building Koinonia Group

Matthew Kratz

Sabine Detweiler

Cindy Morrow

Pastor Joshua Wullenweber

Pastor Sandy Kessinger

Faith Formation Annual Report

In May of 2023 we closed out another successful year of Christian Education classes and paused for the summer. September saw the return of our Faith Formation, Confirmation and High School classes for a new school year!

For Faith Formation, we offer four classes led by a wonderful team of both long-time and new mentors:

- Pre-K – K –Shelley Brennan and Joy Hughes
- 1st - 2nd Grade – Sara Egeland and Janet Pfister
- 3rd – 4th Grade –Amanda Rodriguez and Sarah Getter
- 5th – 6th Grade –David Muchow and Greg Adams

We have also been fortunate to have the help of Kryss Speegle, Leslie Humes, Shawna Tunnell, Doug Johnson, Claudia Wrzesinski and Annabelle Allard stepping in when substitute teachers are needed. We are also grateful to all the parents who have volunteered their time this year.

For the 2023-2024 school year, we have 54 students registered for our Pre-K – 6th Grade classes (as compared with 56 last year) with strong attendance each week across all our classrooms.

We are again using the Feasting on the Word curriculum for 3rd – 6th grade, which follows the lessons that are heard in worship each week. The Pre-K – 2nd grade classes focus on a different Bible story or core message each week and incorporate more crafts and games into their curriculum.

Our younger students are starting each class with a musical opening, led by Waka Osifchin. Students have been learning both classic and contemporary Christian songs and we are very blessed to have Waka sharing her beautiful voice and time with them!

We have continued to incorporate Youth Leadership Sundays into our calendar, where youth are invited not only to attend worship with their parents but also to actively participate in the services as acolytes, readers, greeters, and ushers.

We also held a group activity this fall for all classes with Pastor Kessinger where we learned about the Feast of Saint Francis and how we are called to care for all of God's creatures. It was very well attended and made for a very lively morning! We have another group activity scheduled in January with Pastor Josh where we will come together to learn about and celebrate Epiphany.

We have incorporated service activities into our classrooms as well. This past spring, classes assisted in assembling power packs for school children in our area that go without when school is not in session. Classes also helped with labeling food bags ahead of the annual Rise Against Hunger event this past fall.

In addition to our Faith Formation classes for Pre-K – 6th graders, we also have 19 registered 7th & 8th graders in Confirmation class this year (as compared with 18 last year) which is led by Pastor Josh and Pastor Kessinger. This two-year program focuses on both biblical education and exploration of Lutheran doctrine and theology. And then we have our High School Bagels and Bibles class which is led by Kim Wenk and Christian

Richter with 12 registered students enjoying bagels and open discussions on how the Bible applies to their lives.

In closing, I would like to thank all the volunteers that come together each week to mentor our youngest members and to help them learn and grow in their faith.

Classes are always available to new students, and we are always looking for additional mentors and volunteers. You can email Shelley Brennan (shelleybrennan@gmail.com) with any questions.

Shelley Brennan
Faith Formation Coordinator

Annual Report: Youth Group

The Redeemer Youth Group has had a fun filled year of fellowship with one another and service to our church and community. We gather weekly on Sunday nights to break bread together, share in conversation around relevant faith-centered topics our youth are experiencing, and then end with games and activities around that evening's topic. We have come a long way since the pandemic and regularly have eight to ten youth in attendance.

Not all our time is spent here at Redeemer, however. Monthly we enter the community to either serve our neighbors or participate in fun group activities. Over the past year for fun, we have taken the youth ice skating, bowling, and scaling the trees on a high ropes course. Then, in service to Redeemer and our community, we have spent time with our neighbors at Sunrise, rejuvenated the Butterfly Garden near the playgrounds on our church campus, and created Warming Bag with blankets, socks, hats, and gloves for our neighbors in need. The pinnacle of our service to God's people took place over the summer where we traveled with ten youth to Logan, West Virginia for a weeklong summer mission trip. There we served an impoverished community that once was thriving with coal production, but with a shifting economy found itself struggling to survive. Together with churches from four different states and multiple denominations we refurbished an elementary school, helped to beautify local parks, visited local nursing homes, and worked on homes of elderly in the community. There was both transformation in the community but also transformation among our youth who returned with a deeper understanding of the struggle God's people may find them in and the great impact they can have in serving those in need.

Submitted by Pastor Joshua Wullenweber



REDEEMER RENAISSANCE Annual Report 2023

We are still growing and giving joy! Each year that passes brings blessings as we share in building a strong, inclusive community through the work of the Redeemer Renaissance ministry. The gift of caring and support shown by our Redeemer families, Pastor Kessinger, Pastor Wullenweber, Gina Thorson, our Preschool Director, the After-School (AS) and Preschool (PS) Board members, and most importantly, our talented staff simultaneously fills each year with wonderful memories and reminds us of the importance of our mission! We remember all the people at the center of our mission to provide early childhood education and enrichment opportunities to children ages 2 to 12. Our experienced staff bring their professional strengths forward as they support our families, students, and teachers that come together to fill the classrooms each day.

Highlights for 2023

RLC Community Engagement Events: Sharing God's Love

- AS/PS Coffee Hour Interactive Presentation – Sharing the “art” of our ministry with congregants and ministries.
- AS “Art is Served” Shrove Tuesday Art Show – Promote and attend, joining in fellowship.
- PS Time with Pastors – Monthly scheduled messages shared with children.
- PS Summer Playtime Meet and Greet – Weekly gathering hosted by staff, volunteers, & board members.
- AS/PS Family Restaurant Night Fundraisers – Local eateries generously partner with us. All are invited!
- AS/PS Living Nativity – Promote and attend, joining in fellowship.
- AS/PS Livestream Chick Hatching: Big Things Have Small Beginnings
- INSPIRE Volunteer Outreach including RLC, Community Members, & Sunrise Assisted Living
- AS/PS Redeemer Renaissance Faire – celebration of children and bounty of fall. Booths built to highlight program offerings and community spirit. All are invited!
- AS/PS McLean Day – Contribute to booth to distribute information & provide interactive activities inspired by our curriculum.
- AS/PS Monthly Community Building Service Projects benefitting children through Rise Against Hunger, Share of McLean, Partner for Surgery, Little Libraries, and partnerships with RLC Youth, Scouts, & FCPS students

RRPA Family Engagement Events: Building Bridges and Community

- PS Parent Coffee Chats
- AS/PS Guest Speakers
- PS Parent and Teacher Conferences – Fall & Spring
- AS/PS Easter Egg Hunt
- AS/PS Spring Interactive Process Art & STEM Show
- AS Annual Music Recital for Students
- PS Ladybug Lunches, 3's and 4's Outdoors Lunches
- AS/PS Fall Celebration - Costume Parade, Costume Party & Games

- PS Christmas Play – Held outdoors near the manger.
- PS Book Buddies – Students take turns sharing one book with their families & reflecting on their thoughts when together at school.
- AS/PS McLean Rotary Jingle Bell Run – Sponsor – McLean Community Engagement Event

Additional Endeavors

- SEL Training and Concept Integration – Social Emotional Competencies – Office for Children One-Year Class
- PS Teaching Together Mentorship Program – Professional development tool to enhance the use of the 3rd teacher, the classroom itself.
- PS Developmental Screening and Fairfax County Child Find Partnership – Assessment tool for families and to track developmental milestones and make referrals for targeted supports.
- AS Evidence-based child-centered social emotional learning tailored for students in our care. Exercises such as friendship circles, role-playing, journal projects, problem-solving discussions, and breathing or using the relaxation stations to develop confidence and promote self-actualization. Conversations with children and their parents help bridge the gap from school to Redeemer to home.
- Parent Volunteer Readers, Room Reps, Board Members, and Classroom Event Coordinators.
- PS Visits from Pastor Kessinger and Pastor Wullenweber to greet families and children.
- AS Spring, Summer, Teacher Workdays, and Winter Camps
- AS - Open all year except for the 4th of July Week and the week before school starts in August for building and staff preparation.
- PS Summer Camp
- AS/PS Professional Development & Training for Staff – 16+ hours Annually
- AS Enrichment Classes – French Club, Mad Science, Yoga, and Art Club
- PS Global Cardboard Challenge
- AS Homework Assistance and Private Tutoring
- AS Roundup for Reading Circle
- AS Story Time in the Reading Corner
- AS Private Music Lessons
- AS Volunteer and Intern Program for M.S. and H.S. Students
- AS/PS Learning Lab Joint STEAM projects – Science, technology, engineering, art, and math combine for infinite exploration and discovery!
- Grant Applications – Federal Funds for Fairfax County Childcare Subsidies
- Redeemer Renaissance Board Charter
- Outdoor Classroom Offerings – Log Circle, Butterfly Garden, Natural Play Area, and Play Structures invite magical adventures and learning!

Enrollment for the Redeemer Renaissance program is increasing, with tours scheduled weekly.

- The Preschool maintains a waitlist to fill spaces if one becomes available and expects robust numbers of registrants for the 2024-25 school year.
- The Preschool currently has a waitlist of six children and the After-School program currently has a waitlist of eighteen children interested in registering for the 2024-25 school year.
- Preschool and After-School are proven pillars of the local community, and the financial health is strong. In 2023, eight scholarships were awarded to children attending preschool, after-school, and camp.

- In-house referrals have provided families with continuity of education and care for their children, as new families join us, or students move from preschool to the after-school program.
- Currently, there are sixty-seven Preschool and sixty-four After-School students enrolled for the 2023-24 school year. For camps enrollment, please see below.
- Staff for the year's programming included five teachers, twenty-seven support staff, eight contractors, one Office Administrator, ten substitutes, one Preschool Director and one Executive Director. We are grateful for each of them as they inspire our quality educational environment in a Christian setting.

After-School and Preschool formal year-round program offerings include:

- Good Beginnings for Toddlers and Caregivers - Offered bi-weekly throughout the school year (9:30 AM – 10:30 AM).
- 2.5 – 5-year-old Classes - Offered as part-time, full-time, morning only (8:30 AM – 12 PM), and all-day options (8:30 AM – 3 PM).
- Child's Afternoon Out – 2's discovered with invitations to create art and play (12 PM – 3 PM).
- Learning Lab – 3's and 4's explored with STEM activities and nature projects. (12 PM- 3 PM)
- K-6th After-School - Daily programming included STEAM, sports, tutoring, music lessons, enrichment classes, and community building projects. Transportation provided from Churchill Road, Franklin Sherman, Haycock, and Kent Gardens elementary schools (2:30 PM – 6:15 PM).
- K-6th Teacher Workday Special Camps – Children from local elementary schools attended these 7 days of camps to engage in Reverse Engineering, 3D Art, Laser Tag, Lego Rally, workshops, and performances by professionals and more. (8 AM – 6:15 PM).
- Preschool and K-6th Camps – Over 230 children from local schools joined in summer, winter, and spring camp fun, making friends through games, art, science, workshops, water day, movie day, silly Olympics, Laser Tag, animals, and performances. Every day of camp is unique! (8:30 AM – 6:00 PM).

The After-School and Preschool Boards met jointly and have been instrumental in providing feedback regarding programming, planning, and budget suggestions for consideration. Following the adoption in February 2022 of changes to the RLC Bylaws to RLC Congregation Council for the purpose of officially bringing the administration of the preschool and after-school programs together as one, three members volunteered to participate in weekly work sessions to write a Redeemer Renaissance Board Charter for governance of the program. The charter will be submitted to RLC Council for approval.

We invite you or someone you know to INSPIRE and join us in 2024! A significant part of our success in engaging with church and local families is due to our placing value on our community, observed through outreach and active involvement. We are proud to say that children who attended our programs regularly partner with us for service-learning opportunities, come work with us, and lead children in our programs they find value in and used to attend! Three prior program attendees, now in H.S. and M.S. volunteer weekly as assistants to the staff. Volunteers are INSPIRED, and their experiences serve them and our community well. Members of our staff, including teachers, teaching assistants, substitutes, music teachers, and tutors are often former parents of children who attended the program, or knew someone who worked with or attended the program. Recently, a few have been students who attended the program once upon a time. Parents, church members, friends, family, and community members honor the children and our ministries by volunteering their time and resources. For each of them, we give thanks!

Linda McConnaughay
Redeemer Renaissance, Executive Director

Rise Against Hunger

Thanks to the generosity of space, resources, time and patience of the clergy, staff and congregation of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, the McLean Community was able to package more than 200,000 meals For Rise Against Hunger on November 4, 2023. Nearly 1200 volunteers from the community came together over three 2-1/2 hour shifts in order to accomplish this task. These meals were sent to the Philippines. McLean Community Rise Against Hunger Events would like to thank all the members of Lutheran Church of Redeemer who shared their time and resources, especially the Endowment Fund and individual members who made generous donations, and Rob and Kim Wenk who gave many, many hours of their time and energy. The next meal-packaging event for Rise Against Hunger will be November 9, 2024.

Submitted by Roberta Pittman



Spiritual Nurture Committee Annual Report

The primary goal of the spiritual nurture committee is to help our congregation deepen their faith. In concert with Pastor Kessinger and Pastor Wullenweber, we plan events and activities to achieve this goal.

Our Bible studies offer a wide range of approaches to welcome all into understanding and discussing scripture.

- The Wednesday evening Bible study reviewed the books of Job in two parts, Joshua and 1 Kings.
- Wednesday morning Bible Study met on a regular basis, taking the summer off, and resuming in the Fall.
- Pastor Josh has continued with the men's Bible Study and added additional informal gatherings meeting at local pubs.

We held many in-person events and continued to use Zoom where appropriate for ease of attendance.

- We held a day long Pre-Lent retreat in Reston.
- During Lent we resumed holding in-person services preceded by a light supper in the Fellowship Hall. Lenten services were framed using a Lutheran book of faith devotion entitled "Book of Faith: Water Marks." Redeemer members offered short reflections based on a chapter of the book. We continued to use Holden's Evening Prayer for the services.
- Advent services were offered at noon in the church and again over Zoom in the early evening hour of 5:30pm. Redeemer members participated as readers and offered personal written prayers for the evening services.
- Special services were the Blessing of the Pets, and the annual Blue Christmas service.
- We are a praying community.
 - Quarterly days of prayer were placed on the calendar where members could sign up to pray in half-hour increments. The themes for our days of prayer were: February—renewal in preparation for Lent, May—environment and Earth Day, August—climate and God's creation, November—elections, our government and country.
 - PSK continues to hold a weekly in-person women's prayer group on Tuesday morning.

We remain steadfast in our desire to deepen our faith. As a congregation we follow the teaching of Jesus Christ, and as our population changes, we are developing and evolving to meet these needs. We will continue to develop programs and practices that nurture our congregation's abiding devotion to understanding the nature of God and his desire for us to live fully as his children.

Submitted by Diane Miller

Tysons Interfaith

Tysons Interfaith

Redeemer is a founding member of [Tysons Interfaith](#) (TI) and continues to play an active leadership role in the organization. Founded in 2013, Tysons Interfaith is a collection of eighteen faith communities from the Tysons area that seeks to promote spirituality and build interfaith cooperation. TI is a member of the [Tysons Community Alliance](#) and is represented on its Board of Directors by Pastor Kessinger.

During 2023, Tysons Interfaith continued the “Oneness of Humanity” on-line conversations. Topics covered included: a workshop for communities of faith on the challenges faced in rebuilding and reconnecting post pandemic; a briefing by the Interfaith Council of Washington on its religious and cultural literacy workshops; and a presentation by Reverend Trish Hall on learning and applying interpersonal communications skills to bridge gaps and build peace in families and communities.

In April 2023, Tysons Interfaith members participated in Interfaith Iftars held in northern Virginia and sponsored an interfaith trash cleanup at Raglan Road Park, an area known as “Tysons’ Last Forest.” In June, the group gathered representatives of the Sikh, Bahai, Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian faiths for a public informal dialogue at the Tysons Center Mall Plaza. In the fall, TI partnered with the Fairfax County Police Department to hold a “Faith and Blue” food drive at the Tysons Community Alliance Fall Mixed Market over six consecutive Wednesdays at the Boro in Tysons. Collected food and personal care items were given to SHARE and Second Story.

Tysons Interfaith uses its [website](#) and other communications platforms to promote spirituality and faith education, as well as to foster a sense of community and mutual respect among faith communities and neighbors in the Tysons region. We look forward to continuing this important work in the new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Posey

Worship and Music 2023 Annual Report

2023 provided a year expanding worship opportunities after the Pandemic years. We have established worship opportunities on Sundays, and again on weekdays during Lent and Advent.

The Lent/Holy Week and Easter cycles included Ash Wednesday, Wednesday Worship and an Easter Vigil service at Sundown, Holy Saturday. We rekindled the new fire and brought it into the church to celebrate the Resurrection. The celebration of Easter continued through the three services Easter morning.

The Advent/Christmas/Epiphany cycle included Wednesday evening worship on Zoom, the Blue Christmas service, four Christmas Eve services, and one on Christmas Day.

This year also saw intensive renovation planning as we prepare for construction. The construction will impact the Sacristy, Robing Rooms, and related storage areas. We are grateful to those whose expertise helped plan the important new parts of our building and how we will support worship during the construction period.

All the work associated with supporting the Pastors during this time is led by the capable teams led by: Phyllis Peter Mallard, Paula Poulos, Andy Pribulka, Betsy Kutscher, Kim Wenk, Ann Lawrence, and our Church Council representative Roberta Pittman.

Submitted by Liz Scheffler



Building & Grounds Committee Annual Report 2023

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:

- Maintenance of the church grounds was completed by the committee volunteers through weeding, mulching, pruning, trimming, and watering. As a result, there were significant operational cost savings to the church.
- Installed new plywood, venting, and shingles over the gym to resolve ongoing roof leak issues.
- Replaced an underground 4" pipe that failed inspection as part of our fire sprinkler system.
- Upgraded our file server to address security, software support and performance issues.
- Replaced the sound system console in the nave that had started to develop intermittent problems.
- Determined that a replacement of the kitchen stove is needed to meet county fire standards.
- Repainted lines in both parking lots using in-house equipment and supplies.
- Installed a storm water conservation landscape bed as a cost-sharing project with the county.
- Gained agreement from the owners of the office park next door for them to modify the way their storm water flows to reduce its impact to the church's grounds.

Building & Grounds Master Plan

We have continued to develop the details of our building and site plans with the architects, MEP engineers, civil engineers, arborists, and landscape architects. Our preliminary site plans have been submitted to the County to determine if we fall under our current existing Special Use Zoning Permit. There have been several rounds of questions and answers to provide clarifications to the County for this determination. This process has taken significantly longer than expected. In addition, detailed construction drawings are being finalized for the classrooms, offices and other interior spaces in order that they may be submitted to the County for review and permitting. Detailed work on the plans for columbarium will begin once the zoning approval is received.

A special thanks to Gretchen Stark, Pete Poulos, Steve Koenig, Joyce Clarke, John Teitman, Barbara Perlowski, Susan Posey, Alice Lockard and Tyler Posey who have volunteered many hours over the year to help care for the grounds and for 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 church@RedeemerMcLean.org. Just let us know of your area of interest.

Thank you –
Rob Wenk, Building & Grounds



2023 Annual Report Mutual Ministry Committee

A Mutual Ministry committee is made up of members who give Pastor Kessinger the space to check in on how she is doing both personally and within the life of the church. It is also the space where the members reflect back to her any comments that they are hearing about our life together at Redeemer. The committee members offer support and care for the pastor.

The work of this committee is confidential and sensitive so we do not report on the content of our discussions. However, it is important for the congregation to know that this committee exists and that we meet periodically to check in with the pastor over a shared meal.

Pastor Josh has a separate Mutual Ministry Committee so that he has the opportunity to speak openly to them. At this time we have every indication that both pastors are working well together as a team. Both pastors respect each other and do what they can to carry their own load while being available to assist the other. We are grateful that their work is bearing so much fruit for the benefit of our members and those in our community.

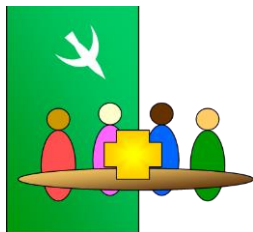
We know in the coming year that Pastor Kessinger wants to put more emphasis on building up our pool of volunteers and also to rethink how we do youth ministry. Other goals will be discussed as they unfold for her and the congregation.

Mutual Ministry Members

Amy Friedrich-Karnick
Chris Hunter
Pastor Sandy Kessinger
Karen Miller
Susan Posey
Mark Thronson



Table Talk Annual Report



TableTalk
Meets Sundays
9:45 to 10:45 am
In Room 205 & Via Zoom

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. We believe it is important for those who are part of the Body of Christ to have a forum for the in-depth study of 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. Accordingly, we meet every week throughout the year for study, talk, and fellowship.

Modern Understandings of Religion & God: The Christian Tradition

During 2023, we continued our series on **God: The Christian Tradition**. We began the year studying how God is portrayed in the Eastern Orthodox tradition. We then studied how Christian understandings of God are enculturated in different contexts. We explored 20th century European theology, process theology, Native American theology, Black theology, Hispanic theology, Asian-American theology, open theism, African theology, liberation theology, and Asian theology. In 2024 we will be discussing world religions and the Christian response to religious pluralism.

Gathering as a Hybrid Ministry

TableTalk is a **fully-hybrid ministry** of the church, meeting in-person and via Zoom. We offer a simultaneous live-stream to off-site attendees so that on each Sunday morning we have a mix of in-person and Zoom participants.

We welcome new members to join us at any time. To join, simply come to Room 205 on Sunday mornings or send me an email for the Zoom log-in credentials. Many thanks to co-coordinators Harold Hofstad and Doug Scheffler and to the participants of TableTalk!

– Robin Taylor, Ph.D. (tabletalk.rlc@gmail.com)

Redeemer Social Outreach Ministry Annual Report for 2023

2023 was another year of great need by many in both our own area and around the world. The Redeemer community of members and friends responded with amazing generosity to requests for financial donations and in-kind donations in addition to gifts of time and abilities to participate in the work of various groups. These various contributions allowed us again this year to help carry out Redeemer’s mission “To share Christ’s love with the greatest number of people.”

The work of the Social Outreach Ministry is led by members who serve as liaisons for the organizations we support, coordinators for activities sponsored by Redeemer, and those “general” members who help decide the overall focus for the ministry’s actions. So many more people from within the Redeemer community participated in the specific activities described in the table below.

Organization or Activity	
Britepaths	Redeemer continued to support Britepaths (https://britepaths.org) and its ongoing mission in the Northern Virginia community. Individuals and families can turn to Britepaths for a range of services: emergency and short-term food assistance; financial assistance (e.g., one-time grants for overdue rent), and support for children. The organization received a \$500 donation early in 2023 from the Social Outreach carryover funds; the Redeemer community donated \$980 in the fall grocery gift card drive. For more information and how you can volunteer, contact Redeemer liaison Barb Perlowski (bperlowski@cox.net).
Capital Caring	The Redeemer community donated items for Caretaker kits for Capital Caring (https://www.capitalcaring.org) and then assembled them between worship services on the ELCA Day of Service; \$323 was also donated for the work of CC. Its mission is to provide patients and their families with advanced illness care of the highest quality, including hospice, palliative care, and primary care at home. Katie Tran from Capital Caring gave Temple Talks that day to share information about the organization’s services. Capital Caring also receives a budget allocation from Social Outreach. For more information and how you can volunteer, contact Redeemer liaison Elaine Tucker (eptucker2@gmail.com)..
Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center	The Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center (https://fcmlcc.org) provides an early-childhood program and childcare support to families, regardless of those families’ economic resources. Redeemer provided lunch/snacks for those children and the center received a budget allocation from Social Outreach. For more information and how you can volunteer, contact Redeemer liaison Denise Augustenborg (denise.august01@gmail.com).
Ham Run	Redeemer’s ham run team delivered 8,538 pounds of ham donated by Honey Baked Ham stores to Food for Others, MANNA, Martha’s Table, N Street Village, Rising Hope Church, So Others Might Eat, and Thrive DC. If you want to join the team of Ralph Dutrow, Steve Greanias, Gordon

	Jones, Paul Lawrence, Roberta Pittman, Rick Stewart, Laura Wareham, and John White, contact coordinator Rick Stewart (ricstew2002@yahoo.com).
Homebound Ministry	Joyce Clarke, Paula Green, and Lynn Ann Mullane collect and deliver gift bags for homebound members of the Redeemer community. For more information and how you can volunteer, contact Paula (pegreen@verizon.net) or Lynn Ann (lymulla7@aol.com).
Homestretch	Homestretch (https://www.homestretchva.org) is a local organization that works to help homeless families with children transition out of homelessness. The 2023 Lenten collection was for items needed for those families; a July project collected 14 backpacks for children for the coming school year. Later in the year, potty training supplies were donated. Homestretch also received a budget allocation from Social Outreach. For more information and how you can volunteer, contact Redeemer liaison Elizabeth Carroll (elizabethccarroll@gmail.com).
HopeLink Behavioral Health	HopeLink Behavioral Health is the new name of PRS Inc. For more than 60 years the organization has provided support, especially crisis intervention and suicide prevention services, to individuals and families living with behavioral health challenges. A six-week project to collect items for the HopeLink Recovery Academy program began in December. The organization also received a budget allocation from Social Outreach. If you are interested in becoming a liaison for HopeLink, contact Tricia Engle (triciaengle07@gmail.com).
Partner for Surgery	Partner for Surgery (https://partnerforsurgery.org) was founded in 2001 by Redeemer members Frank and Linda Peterson after learning, from their Peace Corps volunteer son Todd, of the medical needs of the rural people in Guatemala. Heidi Stewart is the coordinator of an ongoing project to send 160+ gift bags with Frank on his trips to Guatemala for the children, mostly ages 0-5, who are having surgery. The Redeemer community donates the items for the bags. The cloth bags are made by Corinne Cramer and Joyce Clarke; Joyce also makes a stuffed bear for each bag. Susan Posey, Alice Lockard, and Elizabeth Hefferon manage the packing of the bags. Partner for Surgery also received a budget allocation from Social Outreach. For more information and how you can help, contact Heidi (heidistew@yahoo.com).
Quilt Ministry	During 2023 the Quilting group made 91 quilts: 37 smaller quilts to Partner for Surgery for children having facial surgery in Guatemala; 26 larger quilts to Lutheran World Relief; 18 quilts for children/youth to Project Linus for local distribution; 8 lap quilts for some of Redeemer's homebound members; and 2 lap quilts used by our greeters when transporting the Sunrise visitors to our worship services. Three flannel blankets were given to the Shawl ministry for toddlers being baptized. Three members of the group (Joyce Clarke, Darlene McCoy, and Ramona Rovito) made the swags that adorned the pulpit, side windows of the

	sanctuary, and the choir loft for Christmas. The group meets the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9 am to 12 pm. Fabric donations and new members to design, cut, assemble, and sew quilts are welcome; no experience is necessary. For more information, contact coordinators Joyce Clark (joyceclarke1943@hotmail.com) and Darlene McCoy (mccoy.darlene@gmail.com).
Second Story	Redeemer's generous donations provided a Thanksgiving food basket and a \$20 grocery gift card to 10 families, enough to feed 60 persons, for clients of Second Story (https://www.second-story.org). Your additional Thanksgiving funds of \$680 are being used to support Second Story outreach to youth. Ann Hill, Director of Development at Second Story, in a Temple Talk, gave examples of how this organization helps youth in crisis, trauma, and homelessness rewrite their own "Second Stories" with love and success. Second Story also received a budget allocation from Social Outreach. For more information and how you can volunteer, contact Redeemer liaison Cindy Morrow (TheMorrowPlace@gmail.com).
SHARE of McLean	SHARE of McLean (https://www.shareofmclean.org) would like to thank Redeemer for their continuous support in 2023. Redeemer was (and continues to be) a community collection site for food donations. Redeemer members also donated generously during the food drives throughout the year (especially Rise Against Hunger and a winter coat drive). SHARE also received a budget allocation from Social Outreach. If you would like to help with food drives or weekly deliveries or other ways you can volunteer, contact Redeemer liaison Tricia Engle (triciaengle07@gmail.com).
Shawl Ministry	Redeemer's prayer shawl/baptismal blanket ministry continued to be very active in 2023: 17 prayer shawls delivered, 16 baptismal blankets given, 109 winter scarves donated to N Street Village. 25 scarf kits were assembled for other Redeemer members to use to create some of those winter scarves. Extra yarn was donated to the National Lutheran Home. The meetings, the first and third Thursday mornings from 10:30 am-noon, are both in person and via Zoom. If you knit or crochet (or would like to learn), contact Gretchen Stark (gretchenstark@gmail.com).

We also continued to support the Pastors' Fund (to respond to needs of individuals) and these other organizations that received financial donations from the \$31,100 allotted to this ministry in Redeemer's 2023 budget, from some unspent 2022 funds, and from unrestricted gifts to Social Outreach: Bethany House, FACETS hypothermia prevention program, Lamb Center, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Lutheran World Relief, N Street Village, Racial Justice and Equity activities at Redeemer, RIP Medical Debt, Shepherd's Center, Village at Rockville, World Central Kitchen, and Young Adults in Global Mission.

Additional financial contributions were received from the Redeemer community this year for specific local and international organizations; that information is found in the financial section of this year's annual report.

If you are interested in learning more about the ministry's activities, would like to be part of the ministry group, or have a recommendation for a group or activity not listed in this report, please contact the new Social Outreach Ministry Chair: Tricia Engle (triciaengle07@gmail.com).

Submitted by Judy Kuhagen

REDEEMER GREETERS

The Greeter Team at Redeemer is an ongoing program to help our worship community fulfill its overall mission "To Share Christ's Love with the Greatest Number of People."

Redeemer Greeters strive to foster ever greater hospitality and "front-door" welcome at worship services and many special events at the church, something we hope continued to be noticed by our church family and guests during the past year. A growing number of Redeemer congregants – now reaching nearly 100 in service since this initiative was launched about 10 years ago – have participated in such "greeting" activities at one time or another, contributing their time and enthusiasm to welcome guests and church members alike to our church community. During the past year our 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, as well as for Wednesday evening Lenten Dinner and services, Easter Week worship services, the Living Nativity/Christmas Concert night in December, and Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and "Lessons & Carols" services at year's end. Members of the Greeter Team also managed a "Welcome Table" at the Church parking lot for McLean Day shuttle bus users. The roster of greeters has been significantly enhanced during 2023 by participation of Redeemer youth joining adult greeters as part of their expanded service to the Redeemer worship community on certain Sundays of the church season.

Looking forward for 2024, we anticipate continuation (and hopefully broadening) of the Redeemer welcoming presence for the many greeting occasions -- for regular and special church worship services plus special community events at Redeemer -- in addition to re-establishing the "Front-Door" greeting at Redeemer Faith Formation venue and generally expanding the overall pool of greeters, that to include Redeemer youth.

In the course of enriching the "greeting" atmosphere at Redeemer, the Greeter Team whenever possible avoids relying on rigid scheduling for church member greeting, and arranges to fill needed Greeter spots on a week-to-week basis. The intention is to make welcoming gestures a commonplace practice among congregants in general when attending a worship service or other event at Redeemer. Advance-scheduled assignments are used only for special services or events when specific planning is required to assure sufficient greeting presence for the occasion ... for example, for Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve services, Living Nativity/Christmas Concert night, and McLean Day.

As leaders of the Redeemer Greeting Team, we offer a big "Thank You" to all our team members for their contribution to providing a warm welcome for congregation members and guests arriving at church entryway doors. We as well are keen to welcome more in our worship community to serve as greeters in this new year.

Submitted by Mark & Lee Cronin

Music Director Report

2023 has certainly been an exciting year for the music program at Redeemer. For the entire year we provided music for all three services while engaging the full musical staff and volunteers. The Traditional Choir, Bell Choir, and Youth Choir each performed throughout each season. 2023 was also a time we added some new cantors with Raeshawn Parker, Keith Craig and Zachary De Besche joining our music staff. I'm very appreciative to have such skilled and talented singers in our ranks.

For Easter, we offered both a Traditional and Contemporary style service. Some of the special offerings included, "O Clap Your Hands" by Ralph Vaughn Williams, "Agnus Dei" by Michael Smith, and "Angels Rolled De Stone Away" arr. by Jester Hairston. We were joined also by the Riverside Brass whose powerful sound resounded throughout the sanctuary.

In June, the Traditional Choir performed Schubert's *Mass in G* accompanied by organ and string quartet. The strings were led by Judy Cho, a member of the After School Program as well as the Army Band. The choir together with the musicians performed the complete work magnificently.

We held our annual Christmas concert/sing-along. All the musical groups performed at the Christmas concert. In addition, we invited the audience to sing carols with us between performances of each group. The event was warmly received and helped to set the tone for the Christmas season.

On Christmas Eve, there were four services at 4pm, 6pm, 8pm and 10pm. At the 4pm service the Youth Choir performed "Children Go Where I Send Thee" arr. by Ruth Elaine Schramm and "Light of the World" by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, and Scott Cash. During the other three services the Riverside Brass once again was able to join us. The choir's special offerings included "Go Tell it on the Mountain" arr. by Gwyneth Walker and "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Harold Darke. Also included was Cara Fleck Plewinski playing beautifully on the harp.

Moving into 2024, we will strive to maintain a high level of excellence in all of our music offerings and adjust as circumstances dictate. We are looking forward in the future to 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 (Keith, Evan, Zach, Raeshawn, Waka), the sound crew, Kathy, Eric, and Joy for generously offering their special gifts. Thank you to Pastor Kessinger and Pastor Josh for their outstanding leadership, and the congregation for their continuing support of the music program.

Submitted by Matt Osifchin

Nominations for Council

Lee Cronin

Lee Cronin and husband Mark married at Redeemer Church in 1988, joining the congregation shortly after. They brought their two sons (Eric and Matthew) for Sunday School, where Lee also taught for a couple years when Matthew attended. Lee and Mark are now involved as greeters at Redeemer for Sunday morning and other church services and events, which they enjoy very much. Lee has worked in the past with the Fairfax County government, a life insurance association and government contractor consultancy, then was a stay-at-home mother just after 9/11 until becoming a real estate agent, which she enjoys very much to this day helping people in that field.

Sabine Detweiler

Sabine Detweiler and her husband David have been members of Redeemer since moving to McLean from Frankfurt, Germany in 2016. Their children Anna (19), Clara (17) and Max (14) were/will be confirmed at Redeemer. Sabine has served on a Call Committee, is a member of the Building Koinonia Group, and is a participant of the Prayer Group at Redeemer. She worked as a German lawyer in an international law firm and the legal department of a bank for 17 years until the family's move to the US in 2016. Sabine enjoys running and playing tennis and loves to travel with her family.

Hannah Hughes

Hannah Hughes is a junior at Marshall high school. Hannah plays the double bass in the school orchestra, runs track, and plays soccer. She has been a member of Redeemer since she was a toddler and was confirmed at Redeemer. She is a part of the high school leadership team and helped run the food drive last year.

Lena Martikainen

Lena has been a member of Redeemer since 2012. Before moving to Virginia Lena attended Episcopal Trinity Church in Boston, MA. Her family in Finland belonged to the Lutheran Church where her daughter was baptized. Since joining the Redeemer Family, Lena has participated in Bible studies, weekly Table Talks, and Redeemer's book club and volunteered in a few Redeemer's events. Lena lives in McLean, and her daughter with her family lives in California. Lena has been working for the Federal government for more than 14 years. In Boston Lena was working at the International Rescue Committee and was teaching at Harvard University. She also served on the Board of Directors of Friends of Fairsted and volunteered at the Olmstead museum in Brookline, MA. During her first term on council, Lena has served as liaison to the Social Outreach Ministry Team.

Nominations for Endowment Fund Committee

David Broderdorf

David has been a Redeemer member for 17 years and joined the church after moving to the DC area to attend law school at Georgetown. David is married to Laura, who also is a Redeemer member. David & Laura are the proud parents of daughters Anna (14), Claire (12), and Emma (8) - all graduates of Redeemer preschool and current students at McLean schools. David is a partner at the Morgan, Lewis & Bockius law firm and specializes in labor & employment law for U.S.-based companies. David's volunteer experience at Redeemer includes Sunday usher service, family and confirmation activities, and Human Resources/personnel meetings.

N. Eugene Morrow MD (Gene)

Gene and his wife, Cindy, joined Redeemer in January 2020. Gene has been the financial secretary of the Endowment Committee for the last three years, and has just completed his first year on the Church Council. He serves on a Mutual Ministry Committee, and is a member of Table Talk and Pastor's Wednesday morning Bible Study. Gene and Cindy were two of Redeemer's voting members to the 2022 and 2023 ELCA Synod Assemblies. Gene practiced dermatology for 32 years in Springfield, Missouri. Cindy was his office manager. After retirement they moved to Northern Virginia to get closer to their two grandsons, now 8 and 12 years old.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1545 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, Virginia 22101
703-356-3346 | redeemermclean.org



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.