

# TIDINGS Newsletter

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1545 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101

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Our mission is to share Christ's love  
with the greatest number of people.

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**A Message from  
Pastor Sharon Core**



**Sabbath  
July 2026**

My commute from home to Redeemer varies depending on the day and time. Sunday morning is a breeze. Not too many people on Rt. 7 at 7:15 a.m. When I text Nick to let him know I arrived, he usually makes some reference to the Indy 500 (I have inherited my mother's lead foot!).

Days during the week are a whole other matter! A 20 minute drive on Sunday can take me up to 40 - 45 minutes on weekdays! I really don't like traffic!

This past week, I noticed my weekday commute was a bit shorter—and then I realized “Ah, school is out.” Which means the pace is slowing down everywhere. The summer months have a way of doing that, help us slow down, help us catch our breath, help us practice Sabbath.

On the 7th day of creation, we are told God rested from all the work God had done. And God blessed, hallowed that 7th day. The Biblical narrative is full of stories where people in the midst of life took some time to get away, to breathe deeply, to rest their souls.

As creatures created in the image of God, we also are called to times of rest, to times of deep breathing, to times of restoration and recreating.

Summer has a way of offering us time to do that; many people take vacation during the summer. Others leave town for long periods of time to spend time with family or get away to a cherished summer place.

And summer isn't the only time we are called to Sabbath. In order to revive our souls, in order to respond to the call of discipleship, I believe we need times away, time apart, time to rest. How do you rest? How do you find times to breathe deeply? How do you practice Sabbath?

While not exhaustive, here are some ways we can practice Sabbath.

- Take a break from social media and screens (5 minutes, an hour, a day?!).
- Make a meal with friends and family.
- Take the dog for a walk.
- Drink coffee and read a couple of chapters in your current book.
- Make your favorite breakfast.
- Work a jigsaw puzzle.
- Invite friends over for cards.
- Take a nap.
- Eat your favorite snack.
- Play a musical instrument (for your own enjoyment; don't worry about the “added” notes!).

For me, Sabbath is not so much a certain amount of time (although time off is important!). Sabbath is an outlook, an orientation, a way to acknowledge that I can't keep going and going and going without times of stopping and resting.

Whatever you do, however you spend your time, in whatever way you understand your place on this rotating orb third rock from the sun, take care of your soul, give yourself time to breathe deeply and step away from your routine. Revive, rejuvenate, restore.

*The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. (Mark 6:30-32)*

Blessings,  
Pastor Sharon



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Traditional worship service at 8:30 am  
Contemporary worship service at 11:00 am

Table Talk (Adult Class in Conference Room) – 9:45 am

### Starting July 12

Verbs in the Bible with Pastor Core (Bible Study in Classroom 136) – 9:45 am  
Youth Summer Education (Fellowship Hall) – 9:45 am

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

Thursdays Bible Study (Zoom) – 8:00 am

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Week of June 28

Friday, July 3

Church Office Closed

### Week of July 12

Sunday, July 12

Monday, July 13

Call Committee Meeting (Conference Room) – 12 pm

Congregation Council Meeting (Conference Room) – 7:30 pm

### Week of July 19

Tuesday, July 21

Good Grub and God – 7 pm

**Minutes: June 8, 2026, Meeting of Congregation Council  
RLC Library and via Zoom**

**Council Members Present in Person:** Steve Bott, Treasurer; Pastor Sharon Core; Sabine Detweiler, Vice President; Sara Egeland; Chris Hernadi, Secretary; Megan Kratz; Karen Miller, President; Gene Morrow; Tyler Posey; Anna P., Youth Member Representative.

**Council Members Absent Excused:** Annabelle Allard; David Broderdorf; Lee Cronin

**Call to order.** Karen Miller called the meeting to order at 7:40.

**Opening Devotions.** Pastor Core led opening devotions with a reading and discussion of Matthew 9:9. Council discussed what the choice and use of verbs revealed about the relationship between Jesus and Matthew. Pastor Core ended devotions with prayer.

**Approval of Minutes.** Minutes from the meeting were previously amended and approved by email.

**Adoption of Agenda.** The agenda, as emailed in advance of the meeting, was approved by the Council.

**Executive Committee Summary.** The Executive Committee met on June 3 and talked about the items on tonight's agenda.

**Discussion Item: General Updates from Pastor Core.** Pastor Core reported that the McLean High School Baccalaureate ceremony on June 8 was well attended and included participation from members of the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths. She shared her appreciation of the opportunity to attend the annual DC Synod Assembly and encouraged members to participate in Synod proceedings when possible. Pastor Core also noted that 10 new members will be received during worship services on June 14, and she highlighted this as a positive sign of continued interest in the Redeemer community during the pastoral transition.

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Steve Bott presented the 2026 Financial Summary through May 31, which had been emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. He reported a year-to-date deficit of \$39,884, noting that this represents a slight improvement from the previous month.

Steve also reported that Rob Wenk responded to a county violation notice following a neighbor complaint regarding overgrown bamboo along the rear of Redeemer's property. After soliciting bids, Rob accepted a proposal from Avanza Landscaping to remediate the issue at an estimated cost of \$7,200, to be funded from the Building & Grounds Reserve.

**Discussion Item: Transition Team and Call Committee Status.** Karen Miller provided an update on the work of the Transition Team and the Call Committee. She reported that the Transition Team has completed its work and submitted its final report to the Congregation. Karen also noted that the Call Committee held its orientation meeting on June 1 with Pastor Amy Sevimli, Assistant to the Bishop, and met again on June 7. The Ministry Site Profile has been drafted and is currently under review, with the goal of submitting it to Council for Approval by July 10.

**Discussion Item: Building Project Status.** Karen Miller provided an update on the building and grounds projects. She noted that planning is underway for a dedication of the new space, with a possible gathering in September that would include tours and a celebratory event. Karen also reported that progress on the Columbarium and Outdoor projects is temporarily on hold as the team obtains updated estimates for the Columbarium and reevaluates the scope of the Outdoor Space project. Pastor Core commented that the renovated offices are comfortable and accommodating.

**Discussion Item: Synod Assembly Review.** Karen Miller provided a review of the annual Synod Assembly, which was held in Gaithersburg on June 6. She described the assembly as one of the most effective in recent years and noted that proceedings concluded ahead of schedule. Karen highlighted several upcoming Synod-sponsored opportunities that may be of interest to Redeemer, including Stewardship Kaleidoscope; Woven Together; Unreserved: Becoming Congregations of Belonging. She noted that these programs reflect the Synod's developing interest in collaboration and shared ministry among the congregations.

**Discussion item: Personnel Items.** Karen Miller noted that performance reviews are due for Matt Osifchin, Sara Nail, and Linda McConnaughay. Karen reported that a preschool teacher has been hired to serve as one of the nursery staff members during Sunday services. Karen also noted that the employment of the night host has ended and that a search for a replacement is underway; Steve Bott confirmed that candidate interviews have already been scheduled. In addition, Karen reported that the Director of Preschool position is vacant and will be filled by Redeemer Renaissance under Linda's guidance.

Pastor Core added that one of her goals is to review job descriptions and complete outstanding personnel-related requirements so that processes and documentation are current by the time a permanent Pastor is called.

**Discussion Item: Personnel Committee.** Karen Miller proposed to Council a search for two new members of the personnel committee. These positions can be appointed by Council. Karen invited Council members to recommend people they know with appropriate HR background or expertise

**Discussion Item: May tie-up Topics.** Karen Miller shared that Redeemer received a thank-you note from Lutheran World Relief acknowledging both the Endowment gift and the Congregation's gift totaling \$26,500.

Karen also reported on Redeemer's participation in McLean Day, held on May 16. She thanked Josh Magnuson and Luis Rodriguez for organizing Redeemer's presence and noted that the event was well attended and successful. Activities included the popular Salad Spinner art project, which was well received by attendees.

**Discussion Item: Potential Task Force Development.** Acknowledging the broader question of how many major initiatives and task forces the Congregation can effectively undertake at this time, Karen Miller asked Council to consider the potential for creating a task force to review and refresh the Contemporary Worship service and also a task force to study the question of Redeemer's Service schedule.

In their discussion of refreshing the Contemporary Worship service, Council noted feedback shared in the Transition Team report. Any review would involve evaluation of the service with fresh perspectives on worship, music, and participation. Council discussed the potential benefit of such a review as well as the wisdom of implementing changes during the transition between pastors. Pastor Core suggested that formalizing conversations now could be valuable as part of the pastor call process and noted that she plans to work with Music Director Matt Osifchin on music-related matters over the summer. Council agreed to revisit the possibility of a Contemporary Worship task force in the fall.

In their discussion of the Worship Service Schedule, Council considered various perspectives regarding current and potential scheduling options. Discussion included the impact of the current and potential schedule on Christian education programming, attendance, and Church resources. Council noted that while three Sunday services have been a longstanding tradition at Redeemer, two services are more common within the Synod. The value of thoughtfully engaging in these questions during the call process was also noted. Given the complexity of the issue, Pastor Core encouraged Council members to continue to reflect and pray on the matter. No decisions were made on this topic and further discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

**Discussion Item: Youth Topics and Christian Education.** Karen Miller noted that Grace Sweeney and Annabelle Allard are working on programming for the upcoming year, including researching new confirmation curriculum materials. Karen also noted that the Youth Mission Trip will take place June 21 - 26.

**Discussion Item: Summer Schedule and events.** Karen Miller noted that the Summer Worship schedule begins on June 14. The Nicene Creed Lunch will take place following the last service on June 14. Additionally, first communion education will take place between services, with First Communion following at the 11:00 service. More details on future offering are to come.

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**Ministry Reports: Congregational Life.** Karen Miller reported that Lee Cronin has found organizers for a new lunch group, that Phyllis will oversee dinner groups, and that Lady Baaba will organize a Women's Fellowship group in the fall.

**Discussion Item: Council Schedule.** Karen Miller asked the Council if there was interest in holding a meeting or fellowship opportunity in August. Plans will be confirmed at a future date.

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**New Business:** Tyler Posey updated Council on his recent discussion with Stephanie Hunter of the Social Outreach team concerning the likelihood that its annual disbursements of lump sums to organizations will be in October or later. In the meantime, at the end of June SO will ask Sara Nail for an updated SO budget and detailed account info year-to-date.

**Executive Session: Pastor Sharon's Contract Revisited.** In executive session, Council discussed plans for Pastor Sharon's Performance Review and details of the Pastor Core's extension through December 31.

**Close with Prayer and adjourn at 9:46.**

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**Upcoming Dates:**

- Summer Schedule Starts, June 14, 2026
- Executive Committee, June 30, 2026
- Next Meeting of Council, July 13, 2026

### **Construction Project Updates from June**

Here is an update to the financial overview which was provided initially at the Congregational Annual Meeting. So far \$1.59M has been given to the Capital Campaign for all the project areas – building renovation, columbarium construction and playground renovations. The actual construction costs on the interior building renovations was \$1.518M (\$1.815M for all project areas). This leaves approximately \$225K of total costs remaining which we have funded from our internal reserves. This funding delays the need to use borrowed funds and saves on interest costs. We will begin to pay down that amount through our monthly operating statement. This self-financing is something that Redeemer has done in the past with other building projects.

The general contractor who completed our interior building renovations, Whitener & Jackson, is winding down their operations and are not undertaking any new projects. We had hoped that they would be the construction firm for the Columbarium and Playground Renovations phases of our construction project. However, we are in discussion with other firms about these other phases. Whitener & Jackson is still in business and intends to fully honor their warranty commitments on their interior building work.

## Reflections from the 2026 Mission Trip to Wilmington, NC

### Anna

During our trip to Wilmington, North Carolina, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to make many new memories and connect with youth from churches across the country, as well as local community members. Throughout the week, our group spent most of our time volunteering at the Brunswick Senior Center, where we cleaned and organized their storage shed, stained the ramp and stairs, and helped prepare for and run their carnival event. We also spent a day at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, packaging over 12,000 pounds of potatoes for families experiencing food insecurity. Later that day, we volunteered at a nonprofit garden, where we planted crops and helped maintain the garden so that more produce could be harvested and donated to those in need.

While I enjoyed all of our service projects, my favorite part of the week was getting to know the seniors. I did not expect something as simple as sitting down to play a game or listening to their stories to mean so much to them, but those conversations ended up being the most memorable part of the trip for me. It reminded me that even the smallest acts of kindness can have a meaningful impact on others. The senior center was where I saw God the most because as we developed relationships with the members, I learned that many of them did not have people waiting for them at home. Instead, they made friends and found a strong support system at the center. Even though they came from diverse backgrounds, they treated one another like family. Seeing those relationships made me realize how important it is to be present for others and it inspired me to spend more time connecting with older generations in the future.

Thank you to the congregation for your generosity in making this mission trip possible and to our leaders for making it such a fun and meaningful week!

### Austin

The most exciting part of this experience was touring the USS North Carolina. That was super fun. A close runner up though would be when my Spanish skills were put to the test when I had to get a woman and her friend an uber back to her house within the 45 minutes our group had left at our service site. In terms of surprises on this trip, it surprised me how many of my tasks were dealing with food pantries, nearly all of them fell under that category. It also surprised me how many free diaper drives there were, and how supposedly half of all the people in the state use the drives.

The most important thing I learned this trip was how to handle lots of social interactions with a lot of people in a short amount of time. It was overwhelming at first but I quickly got used to it and developed some strategies to keep myself patient and friendly and helpful.

I saw God when we got 2 parking spots back to back at the super packed beach parking lot and then immediately saw "Jesus" carved into the sand upon going to the beach. I met a lot of new people, including Jason, who I'm very glad was a part of this experience. There weren't many guy friends on this trip that were close to my age in our church or who were interested in the kinds of things that excite me so I'm glad I could connect with him and share discussion regarding aerospace engineering and such. I also loved listening to his test pilot stories.

I think I saw everyone open up a bit more to each other on this trip, especially my brother. I think everyone should know that doing work that you can see makes a real difference in people's lives is a very rewarding experience that everyone should try to take part in whenever the opportunity arises.

### Claire

This mission trip was a heartwarming experience that highlighted the joy of service, the beauty of God's creations, and the deep, unconditional love of Jesus. The journey not only strengthened my faith but also opened my eyes to the power of giving back to the community.

The most interesting and rewarding part of this entire experience was definitely all the new friends I made. It was really nice to be brought together by God with new people from our own church as well as from other churches. I am especially grateful for Zoey because she was always there for me, and we became friends throughout this trip. It was so much fun laughing and hanging out with her.

Something that really surprised me, though, was how much weeding and pulling plants I would have to do! I even got to use shears, which I had never done before in gardening. While it was a lot of hard work, doing the activities in the afternoon and serving people throughout the whole day was truly heartwarming. It made me super happy and appreciative that I got to help people.

I saw God throughout the whole trip. I saw Him in the new people I met and how they showed His traits, and I also saw Him in the beautiful creations at the beach, the park, or just anywhere I went that had natural things.

The most important thing I learned was the characteristics of God and how we should always try and have them while serving in everyday life. The way I saw others change was how grateful people were when we helped them. As we helped each house through weeding, organizing, and cleaning stuff, you could just see the smiles form on their faces. It was deeply moving because they lived in such worse conditions than what we have, yet they were so happy and thankful. This trip taught me that I love to do things like this, meet new people, and just create a bunch of new memories through serving and giving back. Something I want to do differently now is embrace God more in everything I do and always remember that Jesus loves me.

Ultimately, if there is something I learned that everyone should know, it is that Jesus loves you for who you are, not what you do. You always have someone, and we should always try and help to give back to people.

### Evan

Going to the beach was the most exciting part. The lights out schedule surprised me. I learned that helping others feels good. I have done most of the things I did on this trip before. I saw God at the beach when there was "Jesus" written in the sand. I met new friends from other churches. I'm grateful John was on this trip because without him I'd have nobody to talk to every night. It changed when I helped out people in need because some of the situations the people were in scared me a little bit. Maybe think about God and what he wants me to do next. I learned that Wilmington has lots of services for people who want to help the people in need. The thing that made me happy is the fact that we had the chance to take nice showers every night which I was thankful for. I think people should know that out in our world there is someone who needs help and is struggling to live which is why people should help.

### Hannah

This year, I was lucky enough to join seven other youth from our church on a mission trip to Wilmington, North Carolina. I've been grateful to go on two other mission trips before, but looking back, this one felt completely different from the others.

Our week was filled with community service. Three out of the four days, we worked at a senior community center. We got to do some hands-on work to support the center, like staining their shed and helping run a carnival, but the best part was just getting to know the residents. The one day we weren't there, we shifted gears and packaged over 12,000 pounds of potatoes, and also helped out in a nonprofit garden that gives all its fresh produce to people in need.

These projects impacted me differently this year. Working with the seniors really expanded my mindset. It made me realize how much of an emotional impact we can have just by showing up, listening, and hanging out. A lot of the senior citizens were so grateful just to have someone young to talk to, and honestly, I think I learned just as much from them as they did from us.

### John

This year's trip was so much fun. I was able to connect with so many people and strengthen my relationship with God. Going to the beach with the friends I made was one of the best parts of the trip.

It surprised me how much we could get done as a community. At the Diaper Bank, we packaged 11,750 diapers, which showed me how much a group of people can accomplish when working together.

The trip also helped me connect with God, but not really through the services. Instead, I felt closer to God by helping others. On the last day, we met an older woman who had been struggling lately, and being able to pray with her meant a lot to her. That experience showed me how much God can work through people to help others.

### Julianna

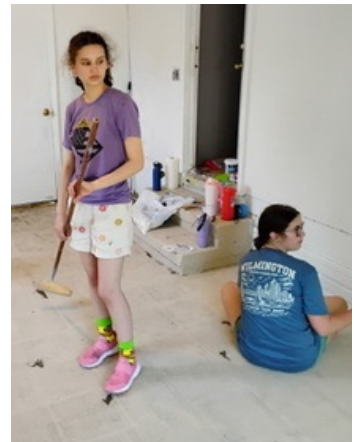
This week I had the opportunity to go with other members of Redeemer Lutheran Church on a mission trip to North Carolina. This was my second mission trip, and during it I was able to meet and connect with many more people of faith and help contribute to the lives of those in need in the community. I had the opportunity to surround myself with many compassionate, dedicated, kind, and faithful people and I learned much more about how people in less privileged situations live their everyday lives. Additionally I was very happy to spend time with the friends I met on last year's trip! I was able to make many new memories that I'll cherish forever.

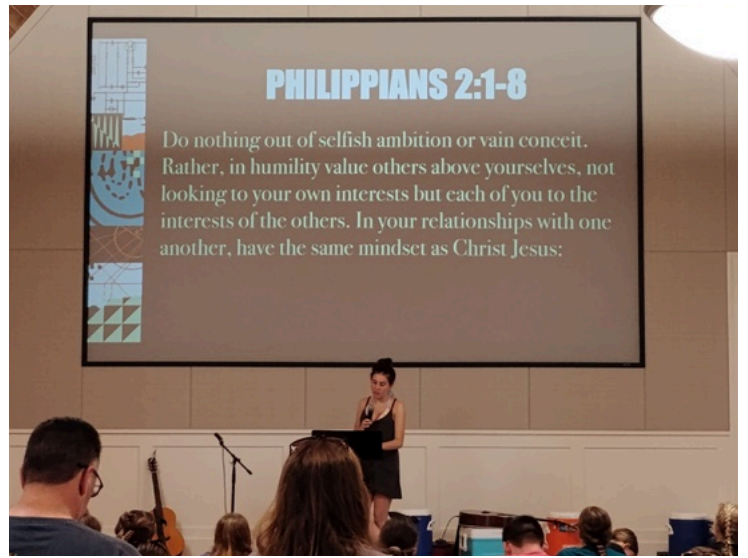
### Zoey

The most exciting part of this experience for me was meeting our group we were serving with this past week and meeting one of my best friends in that group. The main thing that surprised me was that our group was so kind welcoming and willing to take the time and meet us and become close in such a short time. The most important thing I learned this week was that no matter someone's situation it is good to volunteer to help them out in whatever way possible and try to get to know them and their story if possible.

I didn't do anything I haven't done before (literally) but I slept with 7 other people in the same room as me and I have never done that before and I also had never slept in a church before. I saw God in everyone we served this week as well as in one of the girls in our group from Wisconsin. I met a bunch of girls from Wisconsin and met one of my best friends this week. I am grateful that Ashlynn was a part of this experience for me because we met as total strangers and then connected and became best friends instantly and I think that is a very rare thing to find in a person.

I saw people change by connecting closer to God and finding a deeper meaning in service and their belief in God. Something I want to do differently now is being grateful for what I have and not take things for granted because you never know when those things could be taken away. I learned that I can be a very emotional individual when I feel comfortable around the people I'm with or I can seem "quiet" when I don't feel 100% comfortable with the people I'm around. Something I learned that I think everyone should know is that people's situations don't define the person they are and it's important to remember that not everyone has everything we have and we need to be grateful and aware of what we have and use patience with everyone.





# STEWARDSHIP AT REDEEMER

## Stewardship is ...

Stewardship is our calling to do more with the time, talent, and money that God has entrusted with us. And there is no shortage of things we can do in this fallen and broken world.

Even in one of the wealthiest communities in one of the richest nations, for example, many of our neighbors are suffering from homelessness, hunger, poverty, a wide variety of curable illnesses, or the loss of job.

Meanwhile, more than FOUR BILLION people are trying to survive on less than \$7 a day in the less affluent nations.[1]

So, we are grateful for the devotion and commitment of our volunteers, who are helping Redeemer to fulfill our mission: to reach as many people as possible with God's love and assistance. And we thought it would be nice to hear from some of our members on why they have chosen to volunteer their time and impressive talents:[2]

### Joan Bradley

I have been a member of Redeemer for over 20 years during which I mainly helped with youth programs (as a Sunday school teacher and youth group leader) while my kids were growing up. I made lifelong friends among the parents, strengthened my faith as I watched the kids develop theirs, and participated in some amazing outreach programs.

I'm now helping Partner for Surgery, a medical program in Guatemala that focuses primarily on cleft palate repair, but is also now expanding their program to outreach clinics. Their mission is life changing and I appreciate the opportunity to provide any support I can.

With the beautiful bags sewn by the Quilting group, the donations of supplies by the congregation and volunteers to assemble, we have been able to send close to 200 bags per year which are given on the day of surgery to the children and parents.

### Cindy Morrow

Last fall I helped coordinate our Second Story Fall Food Drive. Our Redeemer congregation donated funds, and our youth provided the labor to assemble 27 Thanksgiving Feast Bags for youth and families without homes or facing food insecurity.

I also love to help prepare and serve Lenten and church meals. I smile to see the excitement in the eyes of young people and adults when they see the variety of snacks on Coffee Hour Sundays. Food duty always includes laughing and talking with old friends and new.

Volunteering as a Greeter also allows me to open the doors of Redeemer and Share Christ's Love with all. God is good!

### Paula Green

There are several areas I enjoy participating in at Redeemer: reading the lessons during services, helping with the Little Food Pantry, being in the bell choir, and co-teaching Confirmation class. Reading biblical texts aloud during services helps keep me connected to each season and makes me feel a part of the worship experience.

With so many in need who live in our community or who pass through it because of work, stocking and shopping for the Little Food Pantry is a tangible meaningful way to "love thy neighbor".

Bell choir gives me the opportunity to expand my musical muscles. Co-teaching Confirmation class about our faith is a great way to grow and revisit Lutheran roots and has added depth to my biblical understanding, which is a lifelong journey. Confirmation was a hugely important part of my early faith formation, and I want our young people to have similar experiences.

### Josh Magnuson

Finding new ways to serve others in a selfless and humble way connects me not only with our faith community here at Redeemer Lutheran, but also with the community around us. It gives me a deep sense of purpose and is a great opportunity to meet, work with, and learn beside people outside of my normal daily life. Serving is also a reminder of our baptismal promise to serve all people, following the example of Jesus. Through the work of helping others, we can discover and join in what God is doing in the world, as God makes new and renews.

### Darlene McCoy

I never expected that the Quilting group would become such a meaningful part of my life. At first, I simply wanted to follow in the footsteps of my mother-in-law, Nancy McCoy, but what started as curiosity quickly became a passion. After retiring, I joined the quilting group and began helping the floral team alongside Phyllis and Marti, hoping to find something to occupy my time.

What I found was a community. The quilting group has grown far beyond making quilts for Partner for Surgery — we now support the church in countless ways, from creating quilts for the preschool and after-school programs to sewing special items upon request. Working with the floral group has opened my eyes to the beauty and complexity of flowers, especially during the busy holiday seasons. These groups have shaped me, strengthened me, and connected me with people who have enriched my life.

### Doug Scheffler

The focus of my time for Redeemer is my teaching ministry as a contributor to Table Talk on Sunday morning and as leader of the Thursday morning Bible Study. While class preparation takes hours of reading and research, I have found two great joys from my teaching ministry. The first is to watch class members grow in their understanding of the Bible, our Christian creeds, and church history. The second is how we can use these classes to generate new relationships and support groups within the broader Redeemer community.

### Mary Eckberg

The leading ladies in my family (Mother, Grandmothers, Sister-in-laws, Aunties, Cousins) happen to be "How can we help?" type people and their efforts usually occur in "behind the scenes" ways. Perhaps channeling the "unsung hero" type vibes of my mentors, I've found doing the checklist for event set-up and the tasks for activity clean-up have become an enjoyable way to serve our Redeemer church family. Gaining a useful sense of organization from a professionally trained event planner, Kim Wenk, I continue to learn how to share warmhearted hospitality with those around the tables.

Keeping Hebrews 13:2 in mind, *"Do not neglect hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it."*

Maybe join us at the next church gathering and the company you dine with may surprise you!

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**At Redeemer, our members and staff welcome the opportunity to share our blessings, talents, and handiwork with all of those who need some reassurance of God's love, compassion, and desire to help those who are less fortunate. Volunteering our time, talents and money is a natural response from our hearts – to put our faith and lovingkindness into action for the benefit of others.**

**What might God be calling you to do?**

**If you feel a heart tug to help others, let us know how we can help put your skills, interests, and passions to work for those who need our assistance.**

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[1] According to the World Bank (4 billion people live on less than \$6.85 a day). According to Pew research, 70% of the world's population lives on less than \$10 a day.

[2] Slightly edited for this format.

# HAPPENING AT REDEEMER

## Food for Biblical Thought (Adult Christian Education) Verbs in the Bible led by Pastor Core July 12 to August 2 from 9:45 to 10:40 am

Free food! Grab a pastry and join with your friends (and meet someone new) in between our two summertime services at 9:45 am.

Too often when we read scripture, we trip over the nouns because they may not be ones we are familiar with—shekel, yoke, omer, ephah, Nazarene, vipers, alms. In order to understand what is going on in the text, we need to stop and define the nouns.

Verbs however....we all have verbs, Jesus shared our verbs, Abraham and Sarah shared our verbs, Jacob, Esau, Issac, Joseph...folks in the Bible have the same verbs we do.

For four weeks beginning July 12 - August 2 (9:45 - 10:40 am), we're going to explore verbs! Specifically the verbs in Genesis 29:15-28, Genesis 32:22-31, Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28, and Exodus 1:8 - 2:10.

To help us prepare materials and arrange space appropriately, we encourage you to RSVP [here](#) whenever possible. However, everyone is welcome to attend, whether or not you sign up in advance.

## Financial Stewardship at Redeemer Update

### Stewardship is ...

Stewardship is expressed in three ways: sharing of our time, talents, and financial resources. Making a commitment in any of those areas is an act of faith, an act of worship. For the many opportunities available for sharing our time and talents, see the possibilities listed in the directory "[What's Happening at Redeemer.](#)"

Exciting things continue to happen at Redeemer:

- eight individuals were welcomed as members in June;
- six children and youth received their First Communion in June;
- eight youth and four adults participated in the June 21-26 mission trip to Wilmington, NC;
- the education committee's plan of classes, activities, etc., for children, youth, and adults between the two Sunday worship services began in June;
- the call committee is preparing information for the synod as part of the process of calling a new pastor.

We thank you for your ongoing generosity of giving! The May 31 status does show a \$5.9k improvement over the year-to-date loss. But, as seen in the snapshot below of Redeemer's financial picture as of the end of May, we are still facing a financial challenge. (The update with the end-of-June numbers will appear, when available, in the July Sunday announcements.)

May the Holy Spirit continue to challenge all of us to share our financial resources as we are able during this summer season.

Current year through 5/31/26			
	Actual	Budget	Budget variance
Total Receipts*	\$ 425,827	\$ 483,522	\$ (57,695)
Total Expenses	\$ 465,711	\$ 483,522	\$ (17,811)
Over (Under)	\$ (39,884)		\$ (39,884)
*Includes \$10,000 roll-over from 2025			

## Your Compassion Is Bringing Hope to Lebanon and Ecuador

In May, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer demonstrated extraordinary compassion by making a generous gift to Lutheran World Relief's Emergency Humanitarian Appeal for Lebanon and Ecuador. On behalf of the families whose lives will be touched by your generosity, thank you.

Your gift comes at a critical time.

Lebanon is facing a severe humanitarian crisis. Years of economic collapse, political instability and recent conflict have left many families struggling to meet even their most basic needs. Children have been displaced, schools have been disrupted and many families have lost their homes. Access to safe water, healthcare and food has become increasingly difficult.

In Ecuador, families fleeing violence, persecution and economic hardship continue to arrive seeking safety. Many come with very few possessions after dangerous journeys. Children are especially vulnerable to hunger, exploitation and interrupted education.

Through trusted local partners, Lutheran World Relief is helping provide emergency food, medical care, shelter, hygiene supplies and support for children and families. The goal is not only to meet immediate needs but also to help families begin rebuilding stable and hopeful lives.

Your generosity reminds families around the world that they are not forgotten. When disaster strikes or conflict forces families from their homes, Lutheran World Relief responds with compassion and stays with communities as they recover and rebuild.

Thank you for living out Christ's call to love our neighbors. Your compassion is providing comfort to children, strength to parents and hope to communities facing unimaginable challenges.

Together, we are spreading God's love to our neighbors around the world.

With heartfelt gratitude,



**Rev. Cathy Daharsh**  
Senior Advisor, Congregational Engagement  
Lutheran World Relief

## Social Justice & Equity Book Club On Summer Break, Resumes September 14

Check out the The Social Justice & Equity Book Club's lending cart in the Crossroads! Feel free to borrow any book but please remember to return it to the cart for others to read :)

The group is taking the summer off. Meetings will resume on Sept 14 with a discussion on an essay written by John Hopes Franklin on "The Emancipation Proclamation".

For most recent book summaries, please visit this [link](#).

Anyone is welcome to join us and September would be a good time to do so! We meet every Monday via zoom @ 7:30pm - 8:30pm.

Contact Teresa Schellenger at [jpschellenger@aol.com](mailto:jpschellenger@aol.com) for more details.



## Youth

### Youth Summer Education Classes

Youth are invited to join this summer starting July 12, between the two services, for Christian educational opportunities that mirror the lectionary to help deepen understanding of what is heard in worship. To help us prepare materials and arrange space appropriately, we encourage you to RSVP [here](#) whenever possible. However, everyone is welcome to attend, whether or not you sign up in advance. Parent volunteers are needed!

- Focus Topics:
  - July 12: Parable of the Sower
  - July 19: Wheat and Weeds
  - July 26: God's Kingdom Is Precious

### Redeemer Renaissance Preschool Register Today!

Preschool offers classes and extended day options for children aged 1.5–5 years old. Explore summer camps for 3–5-year-olds!

Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year is currently open!

For questions or to learn more information about all Redeemer Renaissance has to offer, please call 703-365-3567. We can't wait to welcome you!

**Wednesday Playground Playtime  
July 8**

Please come and play this summer! Redeemer families and friends are invited to gather on the playground! This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other families and introduce your child to the grounds – natural play area, play structures, gardens, and outdoor classroom which are special places for them. These spaces offer your child a safe place to wonder, discover, and explore while increasing their confidence and independence as they transition to begin the new school year.



**INVITATION TO SHARE:  
FAMILIES ARE OUR BEST AMBASSADORS. AS WE BUILD COMMUNITY TOGETHER  
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR REACHING OUT TO OTHERS.**

**PLAYGROUND PLAYTIME  
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS**  
WEDNESDAYS JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>, JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> & AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>  
9:30-10:30AM

Please come and play this summer! RRP families will gather on the playground! This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other families and introduce your child to the grounds - natural play area, play structures, gardens, and outdoor classroom - which are special places for them. These spaces offer your child a safe place to wonder, discover, and explore while increasing their confidence and independence as they transition to begin the new school year.



**RRP PLAYGROUND SAFETY RULES:**

- Fences and trees are NOT FOR CLIMBING
- Stay within sight of your adult
- Wear footwear and clothing appropriate for the weather
- Use play equipment as intended

Thank you for your partnership as we maintain consistency of the rules for your child's health and safety. Children benefit as we bridge from home to school and back again; we'll see you soon!



**Redeemer Renaissance Summer Camp  
June 22 to August 14**

To register please visit <http://redeemerrenaissance.org/>

June 22th - August 14th  
**Preschool - 6th Grade**  
Register Online

REDEEMER  
**Renaissance**  
PRESCHOOL & AFTER-SCHOOL

**SUMMER CAMP**  
2026  
Explore the World

Elementary School Preschool  
3's & 4's

# SOCIAL OUTREACH

## Homestretch School Supply Drive through July 12

Redeemer is sponsoring a school supply drive for Homestretch again this year. Items are being collected thru July 12th. There is a collection box in the Crossroads or you can order directly from the [Amazon wishlist link](#) to be delivered directly to Redeemer. Homestretch is an organization whose mission is empowering families with transformational support to acquire the resources, skills and behavioral changes necessary for achieving and sustaining their economic independence, disrupting the cycle of homelessness. If you have any questions feel free to email Elizabeth Carroll at [elizabethccarroll@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethccarroll@gmail.com).

We thank you in advance for your support!

## Little Food Pantry Please continue to support Redeemer's Little Food Pantry this summer!

You may select the [Little Food Pantry tile](#) on the church's website as a giving option or place your donations in the specially- marked basket in the church narthex. Regularly- needed items include:

- canned tuna and chicken
- canned fruit and vegetables
- beans
- oatmeal packets
- single serving boxes of cereal
- hearty soups, instant soups and microwave options
- peanut butter
- Ritz crackers
- granola bars
- rice
- pasta

Please - no glass jars, no expired, or partial food portions. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!



## Update on SHARE

SHARE is a food pantry here in McLean. McLean Baptist Church has provided SHARE with space to operate for over 60 years. Redeemer has always supported SHARE by holding food drives and with financial donations. During COVID, Redeemer became a collection site for people to drop off food donations for SHARE. While Redeemer will continue to support SHARE with financial donations and food collection drives periodically during the year, we are no longer going to be a 24/7 drop off site for SHARE.

We encourage people to continue to donate food to SHARE by dropping off the food at SHARE. Donations can be left at SHARE 24/7 in the storage closets located outside door #8 at McLean Baptist. For more information about donating to SHARE, please visit their website: [shareofmclean.org](http://shareofmclean.org).

Please note that we will always be collecting non-perishable, unopened food at Redeemer for our Little Food Pantry. The Little Food Pantry is our congregation's commitment to serving our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Annual Scarf Drive for N Street Village

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is hosting its annual winter scarf drive for the women of N Street Village. If you are a crafter, please consider crocheting or knitting a winter scarf. Gently used or newly purchased scarves are also gratefully accepted.

Pick up a scarf-in-a-bag kit in the Crossroads and enjoy a hands-on project over the summer. Each bag contains enough yarn to knit or crochet a scarf and a pattern or use any pattern of your choosing.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will take a break in July and August.

Please email Lynn Barth at [lynnbarth@gmail.com](mailto:lynnbarth@gmail.com) for more information.

A collection box for the scarves will be put out in September, and the drive will end in early October.

## Quilting Group

### Sewing Happiness into Every Stitch

We love what we do! We are a small but mighty group on a mission to share our love of sewing and make a difference through our craft.

**Who We Support:** Our quilts and handmade items bring comfort and care to those in need through:

- Partner for Surgery (Guatemala) – Providing medical and surgical care in rural communities, we provide quilts, flannel blankets, tote bags, and bears for the children.
- Project Linus – Supporting children in Fairfax County and beyond, we provide them with quilts and fleece blankets.
- Redeemer – Providing parishioners with quilts during service, flannel blankets for toddler baptisms, shut-ins, pre-school/after school care, or anyone else in our church family that is in need.

**Partnering with the Prayer Shawl Group:** We've teamed up with the Prayer Shawl Group to make fleece blankets for Project Linus. The Quilting Group preps the fleece, and the crocheters add a beautiful edge. For Prayer Shawl info, contact Lynn Barth.

**How You Can Help:** We desperately need sewers! Either in person on Wednesdays or if you cannot attend in person, we will provide you with:

- Quilt squares already designed, and marked for sewing a quilt top
- Bundled quilt kits that include a sewn top, pre-cut batting and backing, yarn and/or binding)

**Other ways to support:**

- Monetary donations (please designate for "Quilting Group") to purchase batting, fabric, thread, and other essentials.
- Fabric, thread, and sewing supplies that you or someone else no longer needs/uses.

Interested? Please contact: [Darlene McCoy](#) or [Joyce Clarke](#).

## PASTOR AND STAFF OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Senior Pastor	Pastor Sharon Core	ext. 102	sharon@redeermclean.org
Bell Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com
Director of Music	Matt Osifchin		mosifchi@hotmail.com
Director of Afterschool	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmconnaughay@redeermclean.org
Executive Director of Redeemer Renaissance	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmconnaughay@redeermclean.org
Facilities Director	Bill Parks	ext. 110	bparks@redeermclean.org
Financial Coordinator	Sara Nail	ext. 103	sara@redeermclean.org
Nursery Care	Sabrina Gharbi Bernarda Rodriguez		
Office Manager	Cynthia Finocchiaro	ext. 101	cynthia@redeermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel		joymentzel@gmail.com
Pianist	Kathy Detwiler		
Youth & Communications Coordinator	Grace Sweeney	ext. 105	grace@redeermclean.org
Youth Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Karen Miller
Vice President	Sabine Detweiler
Secretary	Chris Hernadi
Treasurer	Steve Bott

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Annabelle Allard  
David Broderdorf  
Lee Cronin  
Sara Egeland  
Megan Kratz  
Gene Morrow  
Tyler Posey  
And a Youth Representative