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

Tradition, Taste, and Trial
November 2025

Over the years, food on the Thanksgiving table has shifted. Of course, there has always been turkey–some years baked, other years fried (and if you've not had fried turkey, you are missing out!). My grandmother made this sweet potato recipe with marshmallows inside the glob of potato and then rolled in corn flakes–they are labor intensive to make and SO good. While they haven't graced the table in a while they remain in my mind and tastebuds a vivid part of the meal. Cranberries in some form are on the menu–chutney, solid from the can, whole berry. My dad is a rice guy and so we usually have that instead of mashed potatoes (some of you may find this unbelievable!). And there is ALWAYS gravy made from the turkey giblets and drippings. Another mainstay is oyster dressing–and always a sampling of the raw oysters before they are added to the mix. Something green appears–broccoli, spinach, green beans, asparagus–and truth be told it hardly gets eaten! The *pièce de résistance* for many years was my dad's coconut cake–it is legendary and don't even think of suggesting bagged coconut! Hand grated with an icing that cooks slowly over low heat. When I met Nick, I shared a piece with him; my dad agreed to make it as the groom's cake for our wedding reception. I have attempted to make the cake and it will never be as good as the ones my dad made.

Okay, so I don't know about you–but my stomach is now growling and my mouth is watering!

Why all this talk about Thanksgiving dinner? It occurs to me that what appears on my table and your table has to do with tradition, taste, and trial. What absolutely has to be included on the menu--what are the Thanksgiving non-negotiables? What flavors do you enjoy–the accompaniments for the turkey, the side dish that rounds out the meal? And what are you willing to give a try this year--the recipe you saw online for roasted asparagus with lemon sauce or wild rice casserole? It may not be on the table every year, but this year "let's give it a try."

Tradition, taste and trial–we can also use these to think about this interim time. You may have seen the announcement in Sunday's bulletin about the work needed to inform the call process. Council is forming a Transition Team that will help coordinate and guide the congregation through conversations about tradition, taste, and trial–who have you been, who are you now, who might you be in the future?

Keep an eye out for more information on how to self-nominate. It will be my privilege to work closely with this group. Until then, what's on your Thanksgiving menu?

Blessings,
Pastor Sharon

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Traditional worship services at 8:30 am and 11:00 am
Contemporary worship service at 9:45 am

Faith Formation, Confirmation, High School classes – 9:45 am

Table Talk (Adult Class in Music Suite A) – 9:45 am

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays	Youth Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite B) – 10:55 am
Mondays	Social Justice and Equity Book Club (Zoom) – 7:30 pm
Tuesdays	Women's Faith Group (Music Suite A/Zoom) – 9:30 am
Thursdays (but not on the 27th)	Bible Study (Zoom) – 8:00 am
	Bell Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite A) – 7:00 pm
	Traditional Choir Practice (Music Suite B) – 7:45 pm

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Week of November 2

Monday, November 3	Redeemer Day of Prayer – 8 am
Wednesday, November 5	Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) – 9 am
	Bible Study with Pastor (Music Suite A/Zoom) – 12 pm
Thursday, November 6	Prayer Shawl Ministry (Library/Zoom) – 10:30 am
Saturday, November 8	Rise Against Hunger (Fellowship Hall) – 8 am

Week of November 9

Sunday, November 9	Installation of Bishop Hirsch – 3 pm
Monday, November 10	Congregation Council (Library/Zoom) – 7:30 pm
Tuesday, November 11	Redeemer Renaissance closed
Wednesday, November 12	Bible Study with Pastor (Music Suite A/Zoom) – 12 pm

Week of November 16

Sunday, November 16	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (St. John's Episcopal) – 2:30 pm
Tuesday, November 18	Good Grub and God – 7 pm
	Young Adult Group Meeting – 7 pm
Wednesday, November 19	Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) – 9:00 am
Thursday, November 20	Prayer Shawl Ministry (Library/Zoom) – 10:30 am

Week of November 23

Thurs. to Fri, November 27 to 28	Church Office Closed

Week of November 30

Sunday, November 30	No Faith Formation and Confirmation – 9:45 am

Minutes: October 6, 2025, Meeting of Congregation Council
RLC Library and via Zoom

Council Members Present in Person: Annabelle Allard; Steve Bott, Treasurer; Pastor Sharon Core, Interim Pastor; Lee Cronin; Sabine Detweiler, Vice President; Chris Hernadi, Secretary; Victoria Johnson; Megan Kratz; Lena Martikainen; Gene Morrow; Tyler Posey
Council Members Attending via Zoom: Sarah Getter; Megan Kratz, Karen Miller, President.
Council Members Absent: None
Council Meeting Guests: None

Call to order. Karen Miller called the meeting to order at 7:32.

Opening Devotions. Pastor Core led opening devotions with a reading of Genesis 12:1-4 and an excerpt from *Canoeing in the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger. The readings invited a reflection on how Abraham on the one hand and American explorers Lewis and Clark on the other chartered new territory and encountered the unknown. Pastor Core ended with prayer.

Approval of Minutes. Minutes from the meeting were previously 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 October 1 and talked about the items on tonight's agenda

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Steve Bott presented the 2025 Financial Summary through September 30. Due largely to a lower contribution rate, expenses exceeded receipts by $52,000.The amount represents an increase from the August report, yet it is not unlike deficits experienced by Redeemer in years prior to the onset of COVID. After considering the current economic climate in the DC-area and Redeemer's previous experience with deficits prior to the holidays, Council agreed to wait for at least one more reporting cycle before beginning calls for increased contributions to close the gap.

On behalf of Sara Nail, Pastor Core brought to Council's attention a donation received from an individual who requested guidance on where to dedicate the funds. Council agreed to follow Sara's recommendation that the donation be dedicated to the Operating Fund. Pastor Core will follow up with Sara.

Discussion and Action Item: Change to Christmas Services. On behalf of the Worship and Music Committee, Sabine Detweiler presented the recommendation to offer services at 4 pm, 6pm and 8 pm on Christmas Eve and one 10 am service on Christmas Day during the Christmas 2025 season. The reduced number of services will better align with attendance patterns and help relieve the pressure of multiple services when we have just one Pastor.
Sabine Detweiler made the motion to accept the committee's recommendation. Lena Martikainen seconded. After discussion, Council approved the recommendation unanimously.

Discussion Item: Transition Workshop. As a follow-up to last month's meeting, Pastor Core provided suggestions for the kind of work a Transition Team would do and offered three main questions that such a committee should consider during the call process:

- Who are we at Redeemer?
- Who do we think God is calling us to be?
- What kind of Ministry do we want to invite a new Pastor to lead?

Pastor Core added that posing these questions would be an opportunity to evaluate Redeemer's Mission Statement, its Welcome Statement, and the ways in which the history and activities of the ministries, and the relationships between them, might shape the future.

In discussion, the Council considered the history of the Mission Statement, the formulation and adoption of the Welcome Statement, and the importance of cataloguing specific activities that Redeemer has done, still does, and hopes to do as a way to answer the questions Pastor Core proposes.

Council agreed to proceed with the formation of a Transition Committee prior to forming the Call Committee, following the steps and timeline below:

- On or around October 13, Pastor Core will provide Council with a draft description of a Transition Committee's make-up and tasks
- On or around October 13, interested Council Members will provide Karen Miller with a list of questions that they would ask of Congregation members who express interest in serving on a Transition Committee
- On or around October 20, using the feedback above an online form will be created to be made available to the Congregation to solicit candidates to serve on a Transition Committee.

Discussion Item: Pastor Core Schedule and Supply Scheduling. While Pastor Core is on scheduled leave, Pastor Amy Feira will preside services on Sunday, October 12, and Pastor John Teitman will preside in late January through early February.

Discussion Item: New Members. Karen Miller briefed Council on the process followed by Pastor Sandy Kessinger to induct new members. Karen agreed to make a record of these procedures and consider ways to accomplish the necessary tasks during Pastor Core's interim year.

Discussion Item: Redeemer Renaissance Board Meeting. Sarah Getter reported that she is working with Redeemer Renaissance to determine the date of their annual Board Meeting and the details on their proposed 2026 budget.

Upcoming Events: Rise Against Hunger and Synod Youth Retreat. Karen Miller reported that Rise Against Hunger is still raising funds to meet their goal to host the event at Redeemer this November.

The Synod Youth Retreat will take place in November for students in 8th-grade through High School. Four Redeemer youth members have already expressed interest in attending. Grace Howie has agreed to provide adult leadership.

Planning for both the Middle School Youth Mission Trip and the High School Youth Mission are underway and will be promoted this Sunday October 12.

Ministry Reports: Various

- Annabelle Allard on behalf of the Youth Ministry reported that Youth Leadership Sunday is scheduled for October 26
- Tyler Posey on behalf of the Stewardship Ministry reported that the committee will hold meetings off the usual quarterly cycle to discuss additional ministry items.
- Karen Miller reported on behalf of the Social Outreach Ministry that the committee is hosting a luncheon on October 19 for members and anyone else interested in participating in activities of the ministry.

New Business: Blessing of Animals. Pastor Core reported that the Blessing of the Animals will be held outdoors on October 19 at 1:30 pm.

New Business: Installation of Bishop Hirsch on November 9. Pastor Core announced that she was asked by the DC Metro Synod to serve on the Planning Committee for the installation of Bishop Hersch, which will be held at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. Pastor Core reported that the Synod asked Congregations to repurpose and deliver the flowers used at their own services that morning for the installation ceremony, and she requested that Redeemer consider contributing.

Close with Prayer and adjourn at 9:10

Upcoming Dates:

Executive Committee, November 5, 2025
Rise Against Hunger, November 8, 2025
Next Meeting of Council, November 10, 2025
Synod Youth Retreat, November 21 – 23, 2025

Construction Project Updates from October

The recent construction activity in the education wing includes new pipes, ducts, electrical, and HVAC equipment installed in the ceilings. Soundproofing material has been added between the classrooms. New closets have been built in the back hallway. The old cement blocks in the hallways and classrooms have been covered over for an improved appearance. Plumbing has been added for two new sinks and counters to be installed. A new office was created for the Redeemer Renaissance Preschool and After School programs by splitting an existing large office into two sections.

Currently, every two weeks there is a meeting with the general contractor and the architect to review the construction progress. As a result of the last meeting of the month, there is a billing to the church for the work completed and the materials purchased to date. Those payments are made from your previous donations to the capital campaign. Once those funds are exhausted, we will start to draw down funds from our Mission Investment Fund loan. Your gifts now to the capital campaign will delay the need to use borrowed funds and will reduce our interest costs.

It was discovered during the removal of our old boiler system that some of the 70-year-old pipes to the radiators in the classrooms and offices had become very thin over the years. We were fortunate that none of these had sprung a leak recently in the walls or in the ceiling. Now that they are being removed, that risk no longer exists. It is reassuring to know that our new HVAC system will put us in a much better position for the future.

Now that we are close to getting County approvals for the Natural Play Area renovations and the building of the Columbarium, we have sent out RFPs (Requests for Proposals) to the general contractors who bid on the interior building renovations, plus some additional firms. With those responses, we will have a better idea on the current costs and timelines for completion. Once we review their proposals, we will discuss the details with the contractors and consider any of their recommendations and options.

Message from our Prayer Partnership
Pastor Zhanibek Batenov at Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Mary in Ulyanovsk, Russia

Dear sister in Christ, Pastor Sharon Core! Dear Redeemer congregation! Dear sisters and brothers in Christ!

We warmly salute you and are delighted to share our news with you.

I'll start with what takes place regularly in our congregation and how we serve God and people. Twice a week, on Sunday morning and Thursday evening, we conduct the Divine Liturgy. Bible study is held on Tuesday evenings. In recent months 10-15 people have attended these events on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 25-30 people have attended the Sunday service. On Wednesdays we prepare food and feed the poor, recently around 20 people attended these lunches. Additionally, on Thursdays before and on Sundays after the services we hold classes on the Christian teachings. We have eight people preparing for confirmation and one for baptism.

Here are some of the special events for our community. In October we confirmed another sister in Christ. Our congregation choir also now rehearses regularly on Mondays and Fridays. Our choir is small, but it has grown a bit, now it has 12 vocalists.

On October 4th and 5th we celebrated the Harvest Thanksgiving. In addition to this celebration we held a charity fair and a choir marathon. Various choral groups participated in the choir marathon: two chamber choirs, three children's choirs from a school of arts, a music college choir, three university choirs from the Faculty of Arts, a Roman Catholic choir and our choir from the congregation of St. Mary. These charity events raised money for a local city hospice.

We are especially pleased that the congregation choir accompanied the festive Divine Service on October 5th and now accompanies every Divine Service with Communion which is conducted once a month.

Dear sisters and brothers, we're heartily congratulating you on the upcoming holidays, Reformation Day and All Saints' Day! We wish the Redeemer congregation abundant blessings from God and pray that you will find a new, kind and permanent pastor!

With wishes of peace and God's blessings,

Pastor Zhanibek Batenov and the congregation of St. Mary.

Here are some photos from the life of our congregation:

Choir Marathon

Charity Fair

Confirmation

Feeding the Needy

HAPPENING AT REDEEMER

Website Calendar Updates

We have recently updated the church calendar on our website. All “happenings at Redeemer” are now color coded and categorized (ex: Social Outreach, Worship and Music, etc.) with hopes that information will be accessed more easily. You can choose to view only certain ministries by clicking this icon on the calendar. This can be found at https://redeemermclean.org/news/calendar.

New Content Submission Form for Redeemer’s Publications

We have created a content submission form for any information that you wish to be included in one of our many publications. This will replace the current method of submissions via email. The form is a one-stop-shop for all publications and aims to streamline the process for ease of all. The form can be found at this link.

Please note the deadlines for each publication:

- **Announcements**: 12 pm on the Wednesday before the Sunday you would like it to be included.
- **Friday email**: 8 pm on the Wednesday before the Friday you would like it to be included.
- **Tidings and Youth Newsletter**: The 20th of every month for inclusion in the following month's issue (ex: Jan. 20 to be included in the February issue)

Temple Talks from Stewardship
Your Time & Abilities: What Can You Share?
November 2

Stewardship is not just about financial contributions. Sharing your gifts of time and abilities is just as important!

There are so many ways you can help build and maintain the community at Redeemer. When you are a part of that effort, you can also grow your own connections within the community as you work with others.

The various ministries at Redeemer offer you options where you can share your time and your skills.

- Do you like to sing? Welcome people? Work with youth? Discuss history or current affairs? Then you could join a choir--or be an usher--or plan a project with the youth--or join the Social Justice and Equity book group.
- Even if your calendar is already crowded, there are many one-time only or “just now or then” opportunities. You could be a reader during a worship service--or read a book to the children in the weekday preschool and after-school program--or weed the Memorial Garden--or be a backup Faith Formation teacher.
- Or would you like to learn a new skill? You could join the prayer shawl ministry--or the chancel care committee--or the sound board group.

On November 2, you’ll hear more about these opportunities and so many others during Temple Talks at worship and in Crossroads between services. There will be contact information for you to learn more about an activity and sign-up sheets where you can indicate your interest in volunteering.

Any of these activities is a witness to discipleship that will bring you joy and inspire others to share their gifts of time and abilities!

November 3: Redeemer Day of Prayer
Transitions and Our Interactions

You're invited to join others on Monday, November 3, as part of Redeemer's next quarterly Day of Prayer.

We continue to experience so many transitions in our lives: at Redeemer, in our communities, across our country, and throughout the world. We pray for God's presence in our lives as we interact with each other during these transitions.

- How do we treat one another as fellow human beings each created in the image of God?
- How do we listen to those with whom we disagree?
- How do we engage in meaningful conversation without devolving into name calling and dismissal?

To be part of the Day of Prayer: sign up for a half-hour segment between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm to be part of the goal of us praying continuously throughout the day. Either use this link or call the church office (703-356-3346) to claim a time slot. You can pray at Redeemer or from home, school, or office.

A resource document consisting of prayers written by Redeemer members and others, scripture selections, and audio files is available here.

Metro D.C. Synod Bishop Installation
November 9 – 3 pm

Rev. Philip Hirsch will be installed at National Presbyterian Church (4101 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016). The ELCA's new presiding bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry, will preach at the installation. Due to her connection with the church, Pastor Sharon is involved with the event. If you are interested in attending this momentous occasion marking the beginning of new leadership, please register at https://metrodcelca.org/event/installation-of-rev-dr-philip-hirsch/

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at St. Johns Episcopal
November 16 – 2:30 pm

The McLean Interfaith Clergy group is hosting an Interfaith Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 16th at 2:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church (6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean).

Good Beginnings at Redeemer Renaissance Preschool
Outdoor Classes for Ages 1.5 and older with Caregiver
November 18 and 25 – 9:30 am

Come and play! This outdoor-play program for toddlers and caregivers to enjoy together promotes a sense of wonder, discovery, and exploration while providing a fun introduction to preschool. Children will build their first friendships and work with new materials as they engage in open-ended play in a safe, developmentally appropriate environment. During exploratory play, caregivers will have the opportunity to discuss topics of interest and create bonds that will help them navigate the early childhood years and beyond.

The class is offered on the following dates: Nov. 18 & 25, Dec. 9, Jan. 13 & 27, Feb. 10 & 24, Mar. 10 & 24, April 7 & 21, and May 5 & 19.

Register online or call 703-356-3567 for more information.

Young Adult Group

Young adults are invited to attend our regular meetings at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm. This group is open to those between the ages of 19 to 39-ish, but if you feel you are a young adult, you are welcome to attend! This group is a partnership between Redeemer, Lewinsville, and Immanuel Presbyterian Church. For more information, please contact Grace Howie.

Next Meetings:

- **November 18** – Dinner and Fellowship
- **December 16** – Christmas Party, location TBD

Winter Retreat – January 16 to 18, 2026

The Young Adult Winter Retreat to Massanutten, VA, is January 16-18, 2026. The retreat will be a time of fun, fellowship, and faith-building. Our time together will be filled with winter activities such as sledding and tubing, creating memories with old and new friends alike. Beyond the outdoor adventures, we'll gather for meaningful discussions and worship, deepening our relationships with each other and growing in our spiritual journeys. This retreat is not just a getaway, but a time to renew our spirits and strengthen our bonds as a community rooted in Christ's love. The cost of the retreat is $50. If you are interested please register at this link.

Good Grub and God
November 18 – 7 pm

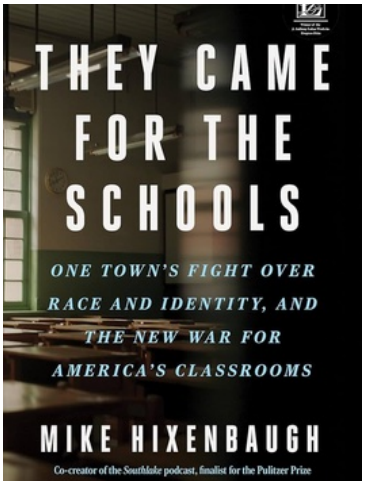
What is Good Grub and God? It is a night out in a local restaurant for adults for a good meal, fellowship, and a discussion on some aspect of our faith.

Come solo or bring a friend, co-worker, or partner, but come enjoy getting to spend time together.

We meet at the restaurant at 7pm. You are welcome to come as often as your schedule allows. Each month someone will be the "host". Being the host requires no preparation or skills; you get to pick the restaurant and the topic for discussion.

If you would like to come, please sign up here. You can sign up as late as the day before; we just want to be sure that we have enough seats for everyone.

Social Justice and Equity Book Club



Redeemer's Social Justice and Equity Book Club has been reading *They Came for the Schools: One Town's Fight Over Race and Identity, And the New War for America's Classrooms* by Mike Hixenbaugh. This will be followed by *Mad Honey: A Novel* by Jody Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. We meet over Zoom on Monday nights from 7:30-8:30 pm to discuss as we read about 50-70 pages per week. All are welcome! Contact Teresa Schellenger at jpschellenger@aol.com for Zoom info.

Sign Up to Host Coffee Hour

Who makes the coffee? You can!

Everyone is welcome to host Sunday morning Coffee Hour. Get your friends, family, or ministry or group together and sign up!

What does the host person/s do? Make the coffee, set up, keep the coffee area tidy and replenished, and CLEAN UP! And have fun! You can even go to service once things are set up.

If you want to provide a simple treat like mini muffins, donut holes, bite size breads or pastries, or something similar–store bought is fine–that is appreciated but not required.

It is a great way to meet people, welcome visitors, and inform people about your ministry or group. All coffee supplies, training, and written instructions are provided. If you are interested, please sign up here. If you have any questions, contact Kim Wenk.

Sharing content from the Sacred Ground curriculum - Session 1

NOT SOMEWHERE ELSE, BUT HERE –
excerpt from an essay by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker

"This is my country. Love calls me beyond denial and disassociation. It is not enough to think of racism as a problem of "human relations," to be cured by me and others like me treating everyone fairly, with respect and without prejudice. Racism is more: It is a problem of segregated knowledge, mystification of facts, anesthetization of feeling, exploitation of people, and violence against the communion/community of our humanity. My commitment to racial justice is both on behalf of the other—my neighbor, whose well-being I desire—and for myself, to whom the gift of life has been given but not yet fully claimed. I struggle neither as a benevolent act of social concern nor as a repentant act of shame and guilt, but as an act of desire for life, of passion for life, of insistence on life—fueled by both love for life and anger in face of the violence that divides human flesh."

Prayers for being called beyond denial and disassociation -

Dear God, I know I was not meant to go it alone because you created the church to be a supportive family for your children. And I know the church is made up of people like me so it isn't perfect! Help me to play my part in the church, so I can learn from the teaching, be encouraged by the fellowship, be renewed in the Eucharist, and find strength for living each day through prayer.

Dear God, You understand that sometimes I do things I never intended to do. My sorrow doesn't make it all right and neither can I use my weakness as an excuse. Help me to begin anew, to experience your forgiveness and to walk again in Jesus' way.

Dear God, Help me to live the way Jesus called me to live. May my actions speak louder than my words of your love and of new life in Jesus. At the same time, help me rise above my own stumbling speech and give me the words to express what I believe. Let me be a witness to the truth.

Dear God, All too often I have looked at people in a very superficial way. Help me begin to see them with your eyes, knowing that every person is created in your image, as your child. If Jesus died for that person, how can I despise him? Give me a new love that reaches out to everyone because Jesus died for all.

Dear God, I don't want my attitudes to be shaped by the injustices that mar society, by the discrimination, greed, and lust that spoil relationships. In Jesus: color does not count, wealth carries no weight, and gender is not important. Help me to live in Jesus, to see people through his eyes, and work for the harmony that reflects your kingdom. Amen.

Adapted from *Praying the Baptismal Covenant* by Reginald Hollis, Copyright 1993 (May be used with acknowledgement to the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer)
Seeing the Face of God in Each Other: Antiracism Training Manual, p 36

Youth

October Group Service Project – Thank you!

On October 12, our High School and Confirmation Students came together to create personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. They were able to complete about 100 kits! Thank you to all who participated in these service projects for those in need.

Youth Leadership Sunday – Thank you to all who served in Worship!

Thank you to all who participated in Youth Leadership Sunday! It was meaningful to see our youth serve as greeters, ushers, acolytes/crucifers, and readers. We thank all the musicians who performed, how talented our youth are! We also thank Ella and Stanley who delivered the children's messages at our services. The next Youth Leadership Sunday will be January 11, 2026.

Important Dates

- **November 30 –** No Faith Formation and Confirmation
- **December 19 –** Living Nativity and Bake Sale
- **January 11, 2026** – Youth Leadership Sunday

For any questions or additional information, reach out to Grace Howie.
For more detailed youth news, please read the Youth Newsletter.

The Renaissance Faire was amazing! Thank you!

We thank all the families, staff, volunteers, Redeemer Renaissance board members, RLC members & friends, neighbors, and especially, the wonderful children of Redeemer Renaissance!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Redeemer Renaissance Preschool & After-School Open House
December 4

Join us on Thursday, December 4 from 10:30 to 11:30 am or 5:30 to 6:30 pm for an Open House showcasing all Redeemer Renaissance has to offer! Classes for 2's, 3's, and 4's are offered morning and all-day classes.

Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year will begin in January of 2026.

For questions or more information, please call 703-365-3567

Advent Themed Bible Study
Hosted by Women's Faith Group – Open to All!
Tuesdays, Starting December 2 at 9:30 am

The Women's Faith Group will host an Advent theme study at 9:30 am on Tuesday mornings in Music Suite A at Redeemer--Open to all men and women interested, in person and on Zoom. If you would like to join us, please sign up here at this link.

The dates this study will meet are December 2, 9, 16, and 23.

Redeemer Lutheran Church's Annual Living Nativity and Christmas Concert
December 19

All are welcome and invited to enjoy the Sounds of the Season Concert at 7:30pm and the excitement of live animals in the creche on Friday 12/19 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. This event is open to the entire community, so bring your whole family, neighbors, and friends to get into the Christmas spirit! Even if you can't attend, please invite your friends and neighbors.

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Rise Against Hunger

Rise Against Hunger delivers critical aid domestically and internationally. This organization is dependent upon volunteers and donations. Lutheran Church of the Redeemer has been an indispensable partner of the McLean Community Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Events since 2010. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of the staff, clergy, congregation, and the Endowment Committee of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

For more information, contact riseagainsthungermclean@gmail.com.

Little Food Pantry

Current Little Food Pantry Needs

- All food donations are welcome, but currently, the Little Food Pantry supply is especially in need of:
  - peanut butter (plastic containers only)
  - oatmeal packets
  - hearty soups/stews
  - canned vegetables (not black or pinto beans)
  - breakfast bars.
- Volunteers are needed to help regularly restock the LFP with food that has already been collected. Contact Paula Green at pegreen@verizon.net for more information.
- Thrivent members – did you know you can apply for (2) $250 grants each year for great causes like the LFP? Contact your Thrivent rep for more details.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sharing God's love through hearts and hands.

Join us for fellowship and knitting or crocheting the 1st & 3rd Thursday of every month from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm in the Redeemer Library, with a virtual option.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets to knit and crochet shawls, baptismal blankets, Project Linus blankets and scarves to give to those who need a prayer, some comfort, or something warm to help in celebration. Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels are welcome, including those with no experience who want to learn to knit.

Contact Lynn Barth at lynnbarth@gmail for more information.

Partner for Surgery

We continue to support the children in Guatemala who are undergoing surgical procedures, providing handmade tote bags filled with items to make their stay easier. We anticipate another trip in December, so we are gathering suplies to assemble another 100 bags in mid-November. Please support this life-changing ministry.

Need is highest for: travel-sized baby shampoo, pacifiers.
These items can be donated by:

- Placing them in the bin located in the Church Crossroads
- Purchasing them through the Amazon Wish list using this link or the QR code.

For more information, please contact Joan Bradley at joan.bradley27@outlook.com.

Quilting Group
Sewing Happiness into Every Stitch

We love what we do! The Quilting Group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, from 9:00–11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. We're 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. Quilts, tote bags, and bears are hand-delivered by Frank Petersen.
- Project Linus – Supporting children in Fairfax County and beyond, including:
  - Ronald McDonald House
  - Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
  - INOVA Hospital
  - Local and national emergency response efforts
- Lutheran World Relief – Extending our reach globally with compassion.
- Redeemer – quilts for Sunrise parishioners while attending service, flannel blankets for toddler baptisms, shut-ins, or anyone else in our church family that is in need, upon request

Quilt Guidelines: We follow Project Linus sizing standards,

- Baby: 36" x 36"
- Child: 42" x 60"
- Teen: 45" x 72"

We also create fleece blankets and flannel baby blankets.

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. Another wonderful way to get involved! For Prayer Shawl info, contact Lynn Barth.

How You Can Help: We're always looking for helping hands—especially more sewers! If you can't attend in person, we'll provide you with:

- Supplies to design or sew quilt tops
- Bundled quilt kits (includes sewn top, pre-cut batting and backing, yarn and/or binding)

Other ways to support:

- Monetary donations (please designate for "Quilting Group")
- Fabric, thread, and sewing supplies

Donations help us purchase batting, fabric, thread, and other essentials.

If you are interested, please contact either Darlene McCoy or Joyce Clarke.

PASTOR AND STAFF OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Senior Pastor	Pastor Sharon Core	ext. 102	sharon@redeemermclean.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	lmcconnaughay@redeemermclean.org
Director of Preschool	Katrina McNair	ext. 111	preschool@redeemermclean.org
Evening Facility Host	Brian Doyle		
Executive Director of Redeemer Renaissance	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmcconnaughay@redeemermclean.org
Facilities Director	Bill Parks	ext. 110	bparks@redeemermclean.org
Financial Coordinator	Sara Nail	ext. 103	sara@redeemermclean.org
Nursery Care	Bernarda Rodriguez Lusbi Pina		
Office Manager	Cynthia Finocchiaro	ext. 101	cynthia@redeemermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel		joymentzel@gmail.com
Pianist	Kathy Detwiler		
Youth & Communications Coordinator	Grace Howie	ext. 105	grace@redeemermclean.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
Lee Cronin
Sarah Getter
Megan Kratz
Lena Martikainen
Gene Morrow
Tyler Posey
And a Youth Representative