



TIDINGS

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1545 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

Vol. 68 No. 2
February 2023



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KESSINGER

FEBRUARY OF 2023 *WHY IT MATTERS*

The Annual Report went out a couple of weeks ago. If you read it all then you know that we are making great strides in moving forward with our mission and ministries. As you review the agenda for the annual meeting you also know that major decisions need to be made – the proposed budget for the coming year and the proposed building and grounds project that will impact the next few years. All that we will discuss are important issues facing our church.

Annual Meeting – February 12 – 12 pm

It matters that as many of our voting members as possible attend. Our constitution defines a voting member as a confirmed member (normally high school age on up) who has been in attendance and who has made a financial contribution to this congregation in the current or past year. We will meet in person on Sunday, February 12, at 12 pm which is immediately after the 11 am worship service. We also have a Zoom option for those unable to be at Redeemer.

The Zoom link is –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89437207397> (Meeting ID: 894 3720 7397)

Back to why it matters that our voting members attend: The direction of our ministry has to be driven by more than the pastors and council. The church is the work of the people and when our leaders propose ideas (some that have a huge price tag to them and some that have no price tag at all) we need to hear from you. We need to engage in healthy dialogue before we take things to a vote. It is just as important to adopt the slate of candidates for the congregation council as it is to adopt major renovations to our building and grounds. When only a handful of people are present and we just make a quorum, I must confess that I always have in the back of my mind whether this is truly the direction we need to take.

I think it is obvious that the one item that will foster the most conversation is the renovation project. The details of the project have been sent to everyone along with drawings that show some of the areas of concern by our playgrounds. We have held two sessions to answer any questions you might have and a summary was sent to everyone. We are doing everything possible to help you prepare for the discussion and vote. It is my prayer and desire that we look at this from a ministry perspective. Anything we do inside or outside the church should be guided by the questions: How will it enhance our ministry? Whom will it ultimately benefit? If we stay true to our mission statement a third question would be: How does this share the love of Christ with the greatest number of people?

2023 Commitment Cards

Outside of attending an annual meeting it also matters that we make a commitment to the church in terms of our time and finances. It is very difficult to plan for the coming year without some indication of what you might be able to contribute in 2023. We are a grateful church for all that you already give. We acknowledge that when you make a pledge that your circumstances might change over time and adjustments need to be made. Commitment cards help in our planning. Without a strong sense of what to expect, then we are spending our time guessing what we can or cannot do and wait with eager anticipation for the monthly report.

But the commitment cards are much more than a financial offering. Our Stewardship Ministry team is working towards being more about how we spend our time. The Volunteer Booklet needs to be updated. We want to help you find your place at Redeemer that both feeds you and offers you opportunities to give back. Completing the form will give us a start in that process.

Lenten Season


In February we enter the Lenten Season. It will start with the Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21, that concludes with burying the *Alleluias* and burning the palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. We offer two services on Ash Wednesday, at 12 pm and 7:30 pm. The Wednesday evening worship will be preceded by a dinner.

On Tuesdays the Women's Prayer Group will be open to those who want to deepen their relationship with God during these 40 days. On Thursdays the Men's Study Group will study the same materials. And the Spiritual Retreat on Saturday, February 25, from 10 am to 4 pm is open to both men and women.

Out of all the seasons of the church year, Lent is an intentional time to ground ourselves in worship and in study. It matters because it strengthens our faith in God and it strengthens our community. It is from these experiences that we understand the reason we financially support the church and its mission and volunteer our time. It is also from these experiences that we understand the importance of attending an annual meeting.

*In Christ –
Pastor Sandy Kessinger*

JUST A LITTLE LIGHT HUMOR

<p>ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 12 AT 12 PM</p> <p>2023 COMMITMENT CARD DOWNLOAD FROM HERE</p> <p>SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER FEBRUARY 21 AT 6 PM</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES FEBRUARY 22 AT 12 PM AND 7:30 PM DINNER AT 6:30 PM</p> <p>SPIRITUAL RETREAT FEBRUARY 25 FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM</p>	
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FEBRUARY

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services at 8:30 am, 9:45 am, 11:00 am

Week of January 29

Sunday, January 29
Monday, January 30
Wednesday, February 1

Meet and Greet Dinner – 5 pm
Worship and Music Meeting – 7 pm
Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8 am
Wednesday PM Bible Study – 7 pm
Men's Bible Study – 8 am

Thursday, February 2

Week of February 5

Sunday, February 5
Monday, February 6
Wednesday, February 8

Youth Event (Ice Skating) – 1 pm
Day of Prayer – 8 am to 8 pm
Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8 am
Wednesday PM Bible Study – 7 pm
Men's Bible Study – 8 am

Thursday, February 9



Week of February 12

Sunday, February 12
Monday, February 13
Wednesday, February 15

Annual Meeting – 12 pm
Council Meeting – 7:30 pm
Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8 am
Wednesday PM Bible Study – 7 pm
Men's Bible Study – 8 am

Thursday, February 16

Week of February 19

Sunday, February 19
Tuesday, February 21
Wednesday, February 22

Installation of Council Members
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – 6 pm
Ash Wednesday Worship – 12 pm
Lenten Dinner – 6:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Worship – 7:30 pm
Men's Bible Study – 8 am
Spiritual Retreat – 10 am to 4 pm

Thursday, February 23
Saturday, February 25

Week of February 26

Sunday, February 26
Wednesday, March 1

High School Leadership Team – 12:15 pm
Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8 am
Lenten Dinner – 6:30 pm
Evening Prayer and Holy Communion – 7:30 pm
Men's Bible Study – 8 am

Thursday, March 2

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOSH



Greetings, Friends in Christ,

I pray that your new year is off to a great start. It is hard to believe that January has already come and gone but ready or not, here comes February.

The month of February is such a unique month. It is the only month we allow a rodent to predict our weather. It is the only month that is shorter than the rest. And it is the only month within our secular culture that we set aside a day to celebrate love. Yes, that's right, I am talking about that beloved, flower-filled, candy-heart-laden day for remembering your sweetheart – Valentine's Day.

Now there seem to always be mixed reviews about this holiday. Some say it's a day to shower your loved one with gifts; others say it is simply created by the flower and candy companies. Regardless of your personal beliefs on this day, I think we can all agree that it is a day focused on the importance of love and relationships. Now, although it is clearly a secular holiday with attributes to Cupid, the Roman God of love, I wonder if we in the church can take the underlying meaning of this day and celebrate in our own Christ-centered way. After all, Jesus did have a few things to say about love.

In the Book of John, we hear Jesus tell us, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." Then, in Romans, St. Paul expounds on this by saying, "and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law."

For Christians, love is the name of the game. So, I wonder, as we think about this upcoming February 14th, regardless of our views on this holiday, can we make it a day that we share more love with those around us? Off the top of my head, on that day, perhaps, we could drop a note to our neighbor or co-worker telling them we are thinking about them and praying for them. We could grab an extra sandwich at our favorite lunch establishment and give it to someone suffering from homelessness we pass on the street. We could also make a point of visiting a homebound congregation member who doesn't often get many visitors.

There are many ways of loving as Christ calls us to love – many more than the three I listed above. And, although we should always love one another, perhaps, this February 14th, we can devote a little bit of energy to building new relationships and loving on our siblings in Christ who may not be the first we consider our "valentine."

I pray that each of you knows just how loved you are – by God, PSK and me, and your siblings at Redeemer. May God's love and grace surround you in this month ahead.

Christ's peace,

Pastor Josh



Redeemer's
SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
6 PM TO 7 PM



All Are Welcome!
Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser
Freewill Offering

Redeemer Renaissance

Preschool and After-School Registration 2023-24

Church and community families with children 2 – 12 years of age are welcome to register for the 2023-24 school year! New families may register January 23 - February 3.

Program offerings promoting a sense of wonder, discovery, and exploration include a play-based curriculum and nature-based components for children to grow as happy learners. The Preschool and After-School holiday calendars align with the Fairfax County Public Schools' calendar.

Good Beginnings for Toddlers and Caregivers - offered bi-weekly throughout the school year.

2.5 – 5-year-old Classes - offered are part-time, full-time, morning only, and all day.

K-6th After-School - daily programming including STEAM, sports, tutoring, music lessons, enrichment classes, and community building projects. Transportation provided from Churchill Road, Franklin Sherman, Haycock, and Kent Gardens elementary schools.

K-6th Teacher Workday Special Camps – children from all schools may attend.

Preschool and K-6th Summer Camps - children from all schools join in summertime fun with friends through games, art, workshops, and performances.

Children delight in experiencing open-ended play with peers in a safe, developmentally appropriate environment. Our staff engages the children to delve into topics of interest, build hands-on projects, and create bonds that will help them navigate their childhood years and beyond.

**Schedule a visit to take a tour & register:
Preschool 703-356-3567 or After-School 703-356-3346 ext. 106**



**Redeemer
Lutheran
Preschool**



*i will
give
you
rest*

Above: Pastor Josh with the men's group at Camp Caroline Furnace in January.

GOOD READS

selected by Claire Dutrow

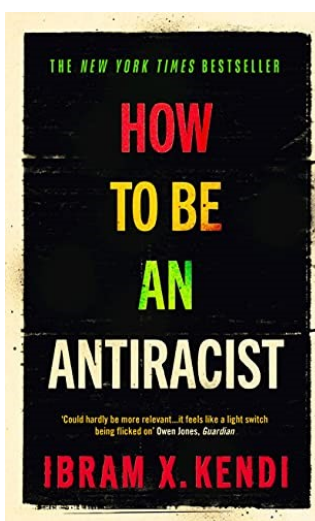
How to be an AntiRacist

by **Ibrahim X. Kendi**

This book explored an approach to understanding and then uprooting racism and inequality in our society—and in ourselves. He explored how racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types.

In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi explored how to see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poi-

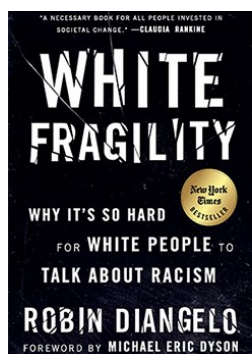
sonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves. Kendi weaves together ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to anti-racism. As a group, we found this book to be important in learning how to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.



White Fragility

by **Robin DiAngelo**

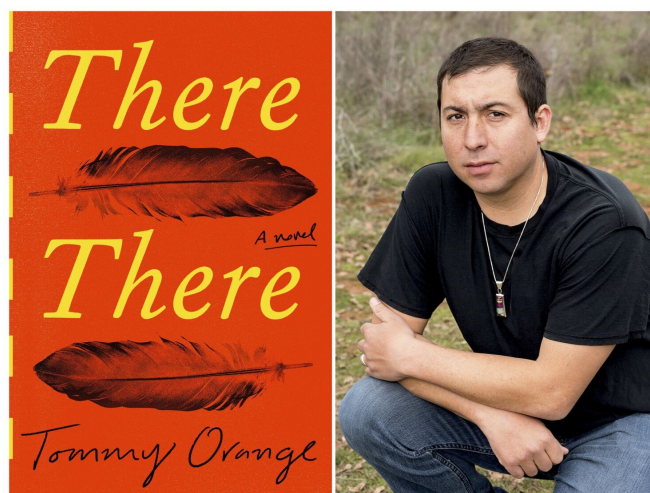
This book explored the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality. One challenging idea is to explore how racism is not a practice restricted to “bad people”. Referring to the defensive moves that



white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

There, There,

by **Tommy Orange**

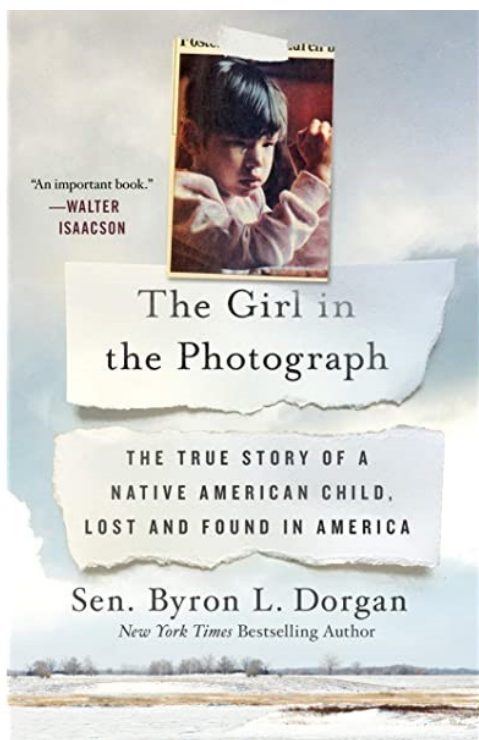


The novel addresses both the challenges of living as an urban Native American, set against the backdrop of violence and genocide and how that history has been covered up and/or sanitized through the years. The novel is written through the eyes of twelve characters of varying ages, stages and statuses of life whose lives are intertwined in some way, and come together in the climax of the book which takes place at the Big Oakland Powwow in California. Reconciliation with the pain and anger associated with our country’s colonization and the horrific role it played in routing out the Native peoples is also a theme that weaves through the novel. Although the author highlights the difficult realities that have plagued the modern day Native population including depression, alcoholism, unemployment, and racism as an “ambiguously nonwhite” ethnic group, he brings hope through the pride and spirit which are nourished by the ancestral roots of each of the characters.



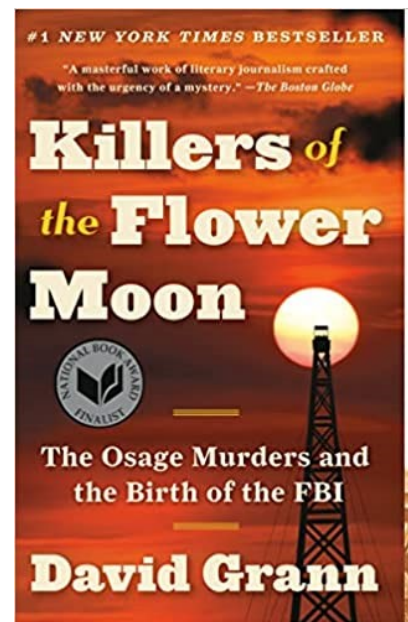
***The Girl in the Photograph:
The True Story of
a Native America Child,
Lost and Found in America
by Sen. Byron Dorgan,
a member of Redeemer***

In 1990, U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota read an article in the *Bismarck Tribune*: "Foster home children beaten—and nobody's helping." Dorgan had been working with American Indian tribes to secure resources. Dorgan flew to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation to meet with five-year-old Tamara who had suffered a horrible beating at a foster home. He visited with Tamara and her grandfather and they became friends. Then Tamara disappeared. Dorgan would search for her for decades until they finally found each other again. This book is her story, from childhood to the present, but it's also the story of a people and a nation. More than one in three American Indian/Alaskan Native children live in poverty. AI/AN children are disproportionately in foster care and awaiting adoption. As distressing a situation as it is, this is also a story of hope and resilience. Dorgan, who founded the Center for Native American Youth (CNAV) at the Aspen Institute, has worked tirelessly to bring Native youth voices to the forefront of policy discussions, engage Native youth in leadership and advocacy, and secure and share resources for Native youth. The book offers answers about what can be done to help things change.



***Killers of the Flower Moon:
The Osage Murders
and the Birth of the FBI
by David Grann***

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, became a prime target. One of her relatives was shot. Another was poisoned. And it was just the beginning, as more and more Osage were dying under mysterious circumstances, and many of those who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered. As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case, and the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to try to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team, including a Native American agent who infiltrated the region, and together with the Osage began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

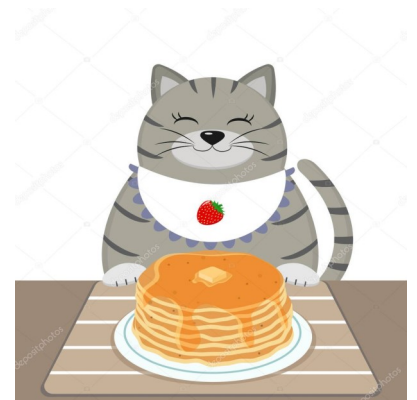


"The second is this:
'Love your neighbor as
yourself.' There is
no commandment
greater than these."
MARK 12:31

February ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is February 21!

- ⇒ All are invited to come support the Youth Mission Trip by enjoying pancakes and fellowship.
- ⇒ Volunteers are needed to make Pancake Supper a success.
- ⇒ How can you help? Both Adults and Youth are needed to set-up, serve, collect donations, and clean-up.
- ⇒ Volunteering is a great way to earn Community Services Hours!
- ⇒ Sign-up to let us know that we can count on your help!
- ⇒ Click this link to sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AAFA722A64-redeemer>



Parent's Night Out | Sunday, February 19, from 5-7p.m.

Sponsored by Redeemer Youth Group

The Redeemer Youth Group will be hosting a "Parents Night Out" to raise money for their upcoming mission trip to West Virginia. Parents are invited to drop their kids off and enjoy an evening on the town. The youth group will lead the kids in playing games, eating pizza, and having "minimal" amounts of sugar. This opportunity is free but a free-will offering is suggested to go towards the mission trip fund. Please contact Pastor Josh if you have any questions and please sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48AEAD2CA5FEC43-parents>

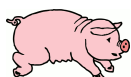



Lenten Creation Care Calendar

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light (VAIPL) is sharing [the calendar on the following two pages](#) for use during Lent to encourage us to take steps each day to overcome the climate crisis as part of efforts to create a just and equitable world.

VAIPL is a non-profit organization "dedicated to bringing together all faith communities to mobilize a religious response to climate change through energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy."

For more information about the organization's past and current activities and ways to donate/volunteer, see their website: <https://vaipl.org>.

January Ham Report

-  On January 5, Ralph Dutrow delivered 5 boxes of ham weighing 175 pounds to *So Others Might Eat* from the Fairfax Honey Baked Ham store.
-  On January 19, Laura Wareham delivered 8 boxes of ham weighing 280 pounds to *Food for Others* from the Falls Church and Fairfax stores.
-  On January 19, Rick Stewart delivered 3 boxes of ham weighing 105 pounds to *Martha's Table* from the Alexandria store.
-  On January 26, John White delivered 5 boxes of ham weighing 175 pounds to *Food for Others* from the Falls Church and Fairfax stores.

So for the month of January we delivered 735 pounds of ham. A good start to the year. As always all weights are approximate. Thanks to all for contributing their time and resources to this important outreach program.

Flower Chart

There is now a physical flower chart in Crossroads for anyone wanting to sign up for altar flower dedications. 2023 is one side, and 2024 is on the other side. Feel free to sign up here and/or on the [Sign Up Genius that is still available on the home page of the website](#). The office will update both on a weekly basis so they are in sync. The suggested donation is \$80 and all arrangements may be made to take home.





Because the world can change a lot in 40 days. Lenten Creation Care 2023



VAJPL's theme this year is "Resilience: Cultivating Peace with Nature". During the six weeks of Lent, discuss with your families, co-workers, and faith community the urgency to reduce our country's reliance on polluting infrastructure, which severely threatens the health of Creation. We can make a difference, but we have to first acknowledge the scale of the problem and seek to change the attitudes and behaviors of our government and corporate sectors. This calendar will help you cultivate peace with nature and your neighbor as a spiritual practice.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Week Theme: Mobility Justice – The Freedom to Move						
<p>February 19</p> <p>Prayer: Gracious Creator, guide us in transforming our lives to walk gently with our fellow creatures. Renew our eyes to see the value in each living thing and care for one another in our actions, travels, and relationships. Amen</p>	<p>20 Meatless Monday</p> <p>Did you know? There are more than 280 farmers markets in VA! Support locally grown food and cut down on emissions caused by transporting food long distances. Find your local farmers market at bit.ly/VAFarmersMarkets</p>	<p>21</p> <p>People rely on public transportation for access to work, school, and play. Thanks to advocates, we secured fare-free GRTC through July 2024 in Greater Richmond! Show your support and sign the petition at bit.ly/Zerofare</p>	<p>22 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>"Lent comes providentially to awaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." - Pope Francis</p> <p>During this Lenten season, how do you want to show up? Where do you need to be shaken up?</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Learn about what equitable and walkable mobility could look like in Virginia by watching our EJ Now! show. bit.ly/mobilityjusticeVA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Grab a copy of <i>The Seven Circles: Indigenous Teachings for Living Well</i> for a weekly book discussion starting 3/7. Join us to continue thinking deeply about your movement with the Earth. bit.ly/sevendiscussionbook</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Try parking your car for a day or a week. Take public transit instead. It lessens the wear and tear on your car and reduces emissions from individually used vehicles.</p>
Week Theme: Being Mindful of Waste						
<p>26</p> <p>Prayer: Sustainer of all, keep us ever mindful of our place on this Earth. Let us rebuke the temptation to abuse it for our own comfort. Instead, let us treat it with reverence as we are called to care for your creation. Amen</p>	<p>27 Meatless Monday</p> <p>As you fast from meat today, consider how our excesses and addiction to luxury have harmed our world. Implement ways to faithfully care for Creation at bit.ly/GreenLivingWorship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Bring your own bags when you shop this week. Eliminating single-use bags—whether plastic, paper, or another material—lowers the overall environmental cost. The most sustainable choice is the bag you already have!</p>	<p>March 1</p> <p>Do a plastic fast for the rest of the week to see just how much plastic you use without even realizing it. Commit to using one alternative, like storing leftovers in glass or beeswax covers, for the rest of Lent.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Most landfills exist in communities of color that are already overburdened. Learn about Bristol residents as they fight to preserve their community. vaipf.org/bristolandfill</p>	<p>3 World Wildlife Day</p> <p>Avoid products with microbeads made of "polyethylene," often used in soaps, body wash, and toothpaste. When microplastics enter our waterways, they cause physical damage to our wildlife, like birds and fish.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Read Isaiah 55:1-11 and consider composting your food waste, returning nutrients to the soil. Compost at home or get table scraps picked up: CompostVA.com, BlackBearComposting.com, nopeVA.com</p>
Week Theme: Honoring Our Sacred Waters						
<p>5</p> <p>Prayer: Gracious mother, creator of all since the birth of existence, may we see anew your wonders in water. Flowing rivers, rippling streams, crashing waves; you are in all. Grant us your guidance as we magnify the world around us. Amen</p>	<p>6 Meatless Monday</p> <p>You can save up to 133 gallons of water with each meatless meal! Challenge yourself and your faith community to choose meatless options when available.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Read Psalm 65 and visit your favorite body of water in your community. Reflect on what it means to you and share your water story at vaipf.org/water-stories</p>	<p>8 International Women's Day</p> <p>As climate change makes water more scarce, women are currently having to travel further and further to find water. Read more about how women are disproportionately impacted by climate change and disasters. bit.ly/womenandwaterloss</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Learn more about ways faith communities improved the water quality of their communities. Reflect on what your congregation can do to improve your local watershed. bit.ly/treesplantingmovement</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Find out which watershed you live in, and consider how we are all connected through our sacred waterways. Be mindful that what we discard in the water we use, winds up in our watersheds. bit.ly/inyourwatershed</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Many environmental justice communities are financially burdened by utility bills in times of crisis. Learn more about our advocacy to protect the most vulnerable households against utility shut-offs. vaipf.org/utility-shutoff-protection</p>

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Week Theme: Environmental Justice Lightens the Load						
12 Prayer: God, conduit of peace and lover of justice, we have not conserved or shared rightly the bounty you have given us. Let us look with gratitude on that which lights our homes, and conserve the energy which we enjoy. Amen	13 Meatless Monday Choosing to do Meatless Monday every week for a year can equate to saving the same amount of CO2 emissions as driving 348 miles in a car. This choice can improve air quality for environmental justice communities.	14 Talk to the leaders of your church about a sermon on just transition and clean energy during Faith Climate Action Week (4/14-23), or invite a VAJPL speaker by emailing contactus@vajpl.org .	15 Do you know anyone dedicated to environmental justice work in your community? Visit vajpl.org/environmental-justice-hall-of-fame to nominate a candidate for VAJPL's Environmental Justice Hall of Fame.	16 This Saturday (3/18 @ 3pm) in RVA, join VAJPL for a special screening of <i>Mossville: When Great Trees Fall</i> , a story of a once-thriving community burdened by unjust pollution. Register to attend at bit.ly/mossvillium .	17 Reflect on your understanding of environmental justice. Do you notice any environmental inequities in your neighborhood? How do you extend support for our neighbors in environmental justice communities?	18 Interested in advocating for environmental justice with VAJPL? Sign up to volunteer with us at vajpl.org/volunteer
Week Theme: Cultivating Peace with Nature						
19 Prayer: Read Psalm 23:1-2 aloud. This week, let yourself be led to still waters. Give yourself permission to lie down in green pastures. Seek to engage with nature as we are called by God to do, in peace and stillness.	20 Meatless Monday Livestock, and the farming needed to feed them, are the most significant drivers of global deforestation. As we bypass the beef (both meat and dairy) today, we are doing our small part to protect our ecosystems.	21 International Day of Forests Palm oil is in just about every product in the supermarket, and the growing demand is a main driver of rainforest destruction in Indonesia. Find three items you use with palm oil, and pick a palm oil-free alternative for next time.	22 In antiquity and today, communities could not acquire palm leaves for Palm Sunday and used branches of their native trees such as yew, boxwood, willow, or olive. Ask your church to consider native branches in lieu of palm fronds.	23 World Meteorological Day Last year was one of eight warmest years on record, and rising temperatures lead to more extreme weather like heat waves, wildfires, drought, inland, and coastal flooding. Heed nature's cry and take action: bit.ly/worldmetecologicalday	24 Take a contemplative walk around your neighborhood, park, or nearby wooded area. Listen and look for signs of the Creator's touch on your journey. plantingurbanatives.org	25 Restore your home or church landscape and support the local wildlife by planting native. Learn more about the Plant Natives Initiative in your region. plantingurbanatives.org
Week Theme: Building Resilience						
26 Prayer: We see the miracle of life all around us. Plants and new life spring from the soil, growing from that which came before. Let us respect this cycle, and reflect on what has come before us. What do we hope to see grow and flourish in our lives? Amen	27 Meatless Monday Livestock production creates more greenhouse gases than the entire transportation sector. This includes all of the cars, trucks, planes, and trains in the world. Eat meatless meals for a day and consider the reduction of your carbon footprint.	28 Uplift environmental justice and climate resilience in your faith community by joining VAJPL's Climate in the Pulpits in the Mirbar, & on the Bimah. Learn more and sign up at bit.ly/climateinpulpits2023	29 Virginia's sea level has risen up to 14 inches since 1950. Consider how this change negatively impacts the health of coastal areas like Mathews County which rely on Virginia's waterways to thrive.	30 The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) provides funds to create resiliency for vulnerable residents. Learn more about RGGI's importance and take action. bit.ly/regionrggi	31 Flooding and rising sea levels threaten 70% of the state's population that reside on the coast. Learn more about the Coastal Resilience Master Plan at coast.virginia.gov/cmmp	April 1 As the effects of climate change worsen, consider how your faith community can be a resilience hub in the face of disaster. Visit bit.ly/rainfallresiliencetub to learn more about ways your community can offer aid in a climate disaster.
Week Theme: Food Justice for Our Neighbors						
2 Palm Sunday Prayer: Let us give thanks for the abundance of food that we have access to. What does access to food look like in your community? May we better meet the needs of our neighbors in the distribution of those things necessary for life. Amen	3 Meatless Monday Invite others over to prepare a meatless meal together. Read Psalm 136: 1-3, 23-26 before you eat and reflect on the blessings that brought this food to your table.	4 How do you travel to the grocery store? Look up your route! Could you walk or bike? If so, give it a try. If not, reflect on what in the built environment limits your access and mobility.	5 Take part in a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) this year. By buying a share in a local farm, you can get a weekly supply of seasonal produce and support the livelihood of a local farmer. Find CSA info using bit.ly/CSAFinder	6 Read John 13:34-35, and reflect on ways that you can tangibly love your neighbor through food. Go a little deeper and consider planting a garden to share your harvest with those who do not have access to freshly grown produce.	7 Good Friday World Health Day Try fasting today and reflect on the racist and oppressive systems that create "food apartheid" in our communities. Use your usual meal time to unlearn the dominant narrative and rethink our food systems. bit.ly/foodapartheidactions	8 Holy Saturday Starting rethinking food in your faith community. Learn from a number of places of worship in Virginia that are applying creative ideas to care for Creation with our quick guide: vajpl.org/rethinkfood

9 *Easter* The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims God's handiwork. - Psalm 19:1

Reflect on all you have accomplished during Lent and what you will carry with you into this new season. How will you live in greater harmony with all Creation? How will you respond to VAJPL's theme for this year, *Resilience: Cultivating Peace with Nature*? Conclude your Lenten creation care practice by making a personal pledge to advocate for an environmentally just and resilient world with your faith community, legislature, and in your neighborhood.



Redeemer Building & Site Plans for the Future

Background

There have been many recent developments that have impacted Redeemer and call for the evaluation and thoughtful consideration of how to position Redeemer best for the future. First, the development of the Sunrise Senior Living facility next door to the church significantly changed the immediate area surrounding the church. This took away an overflow parking option but will provide new opportunities for ministry with the new residents of the facility. Second, Redeemer's Preschool, After-School, and Summer Camp programs have grown significantly and now use more outdoor spaces. This increase in demand signals that upgrades are required to the outdoor area to make it safer and more flexible for a variety of uses. Third, the original sections of our 60-year-old building have become very inefficient in the use of energy for heating/cooling. The classrooms and offices are also in dire need of renovation to improve their functionality and usage. Finally, as consideration is given to changes to our building and grounds, other areas need to be evaluated to take advantage of this development process. For example, adding a columbarium as a place for interment of ashes has been considered as a future mission of the church. Also, the addition of solar panels as part of the office and classroom HVAC renovations would enable us to be better stewards of our environment.

In 2019, the Congregation Council authorized an engagement of Michael T. Foster and Associates to assist with updating our master plan and provide strategic planning services. This firm has led us through our last three building programs and is very familiar with the congregation and our community. Preliminary findings were reviewed by a building task force and a congregational survey was completed to better quantify areas of member support. At the last two Congregational Annual Meetings, updates have been provided on this process. The following sections describe the currently proposed changes and attached are initial renderings of what some of these new areas would look like.

Natural Play Area & Outdoor Classrooms

The first priority in the redevelopment of our grounds is to improve the back corner of our site to address site drainage issues and provide better features for the various user groups. This wooded part of our site is used extensively by our Preschool, After-School, Summer Camps, Redeemer Youth, Redeemer's Boy and Girl Scout Troops, and the community. During the early days of the Covid pandemic, our Preschool and After-School programs pivoted to include more outdoor activities year-round. What started as a necessity became an advantage for our programs because we are blessed to have so much outdoor space. However, better utilization of the area is hindered by an easement owned by the county that allows storm water to flow across our property from the McLean Professional Office Park in the back corner. Since we cannot prevent the water from flowing onto our property and from other areas within our site, a creative approach has been identified that incorporates this water flow into a feature of our outdoor space, using rain gardens and a water flow channel.

Once the site drainage has been improved, the area can then be landscaped to help save the remaining trees, improve the soil conditions to better grow grass for games and sports, walkways can be added to improve access and ADA compliance, and a pavilion structure with water and electrical outlets for enhanced usage can be built. Fencing will also be added on two sides for the safety and protection of the children in our care. The improvements in the area will not only be used by our existing school-age programs, but also allow our "church life" opportunities (including Faith Formation, worship and music events, study groups, community events, etc.) to be facilitated in an outdoor setting. A safe and accessible outdoor setting also provides the ability to add intergenerational components to our programming (potentially including our new neighbors from Sunrise Senior Living). The new opportunities for expanded church and youth programs in a healthy outdoor environment are significant.

Columbarium

A columbarium is a wall of niches that would house the ashes of deceased individuals as a final resting place. The last time the congregation was polled, approximately 50 people expressed interest in having a columbarium at Redeemer. The original high-level design of the columbarium called for it to be located near the current Memorial Garden. However, upon further review and discussions, alternative locations were considered. In order to ensure the privacy and respectful nature of a columbarium, a location on the other side of the building outside the music suites was determined to be a better fit.

The columbarium project would pay for itself over time. Initially, the congregation would fund the construction as part of its mission and then as niches are purchased by members and others, the revenue would come back to the church. Once the construction costs were recovered, additional revenue would provide for on-going maintenance and/or expansion of the columbarium. In order to lower the upfront costs, the initial design was modified so that the construction could be phased, with the second section of niches being built as demand warrants and the funding becomes available.

A Columbarium Ministry Team would be created of church members to administer the site and manage the process. They would draft policies and procedures for the columbarium, which would be approved by the Congregational Council. For those who do not want to use a niche or do not want to incur the cost of one, the spreading of ashes in the current Memorial Garden at no cost will continue to be an option.

Classroom and Office Renovations

The classrooms and offices in the original building are in need of renovation and updating. These spaces are not well suited for our current needs and do not provide the flexibility desired for the future. Functionally, the biggest problem is that sound travels between the various offices and classrooms. This is especially problematic for our pastors, who currently need to make adjustments to have private and confidential conversations in their offices. Reconfiguration of the spaces will also provide more operational efficiencies and improve building security. Updated classrooms will be of benefit to our Faith Formation classes, After-school programs, and outside groups that rent those rooms. The renovation of these areas also allows us to create additional storage space and update the bathrooms in the office hallway.

An important part of these renovations will be the replacement of the current heating and cooling systems specific to these areas. Heat is provided by a 60-year-old boiler, that is past its expected life. Cooling is provided by in-window air conditioning units, that are very energy inefficient and extremely noisy. These updates also provide us with the option to install solar panels on the roof of the gym to provide a renewable energy source and be better stewards of our environment.

Ballpark Costs and Financing Options

Based on the preliminary design development work completed thus far, the rough ballpark costs are anticipated to be approximately:

\$1,087,000	Natural Play Area and Outdoor Classrooms, Storm Water Management
\$ 732,000	Columbarium 1st Section (Other section to be built as needed)
<u>\$ 903,000</u>	Classrooms and Office Renovations, New HVAC, Solar Panels
\$2,722,000	Ballpark Total

Potential financing scenario:

\$ 350,000	Preschool Reserve Contribution
\$ 350,000	After-school Reserve Contribution
\$1,250,000	Capital Campaign Goal
<u>\$ 772,000</u>	New Mortgage over 15 years
\$2,722,000	Ballpark Total

Points of reference from last building program in 2011:

<u>\$2,461,000</u>	Crossroads and related areas construction costs
\$1,207,000	MEC Capital Campaign funds raised
\$1,254,000	New 2 nd Mortgage (added to existing 1 st Mortgage of \$1.05M for total of \$2.3M)

Next Steps

The next steps with this process are:

1. Informational sessions will be held to get additional member feedback and to answer questions.
2. At the Congregational Annual Meeting in February, a vote will be held on proceeding with these plans.
3. With an affirmative vote, construction documents will be created and submitted to the county for permitting and any required revisions.
4. A Capital Campaign to raise funds from within the congregation and community will be initiated.
5. Once construction documents are completed, county approvals are obtained, construction bids obtained, and the results of the Capital Campaign are known, another Congregational vote will take place to approve a new mortgage.

Natural Play Area & Outdoor Classroom



Site Layout



Columbarium 1st Section Only



Columbarium - Both Sections





Minutes of Meeting of Redeemer Congregation Council In Person and Via Zoom January 9, 2023

Present in Person: Liz Holzapfel, Stephanie Hunter, Ellen Kennedy, President Nate Paukovits, Secretary Roberta Pittman, Treasurer Edward Regan, Pr. Wullenweber

Present via Zoom: Karen Detweiler and Lena Martikainen

Excused: Arash Behraves, Mitch Brown, Pr. Sandy Kessinger, Peter Kratz, Karen Miller

Called to Order: President Paukovits declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM

Devotions: Pastor Wullenweber opened with devotions based on Matthew 2:1-12 and the Lutheran Hour. He closed devotions with prayer.

Adoption of Agenda Without objection, the agenda was adopted as sent in advance of the meeting.

Pastors' Reports:

Pastor Kessinger's monthly report included:

- ◇ **Connections through Pastoral Care**
 - Member and Visitor Contacts
 - Nursing Facility and Home Visits
 - Pre-Marital Counseling Sessions
 - Pre-Baptism Session
 - Memorial Service
 - Robert Albert Erickson, January 7, 2023
 - New Member
 - Cynthia Ann Skelton
- ◇ **Connections through Ministries of the Congregations**
 - Led Tuesday Prayer Group Sessions
 - Hosted Staff Christmas Lunch
 - Attended the Preschool Christmas Pageant
 - Living Nativity and Christmas Concert at Redeemer
- ◇ **Connections through Meetings**
 - Staff Meeting
 - Executive Committee Meeting
- ◇ **Connections through Synod**
 - Attended the Virginia Conference meeting
 - Coaching Session
- ◇ **Upcoming Events**
 - Dinner for New Members on January 29
 - Lenten Spiritual Retreat on February 25

Pastor Wullenweber's written monthly report included:

◇ **General Ministry:**

- Preached 3 Sundays
- Presided 3 Sundays
- Men's Advent Bible Study - 5 Attendees (concluded 12/15)
- Noonday Advent Worship - 8-12 Average Attendance
- Homebound Visits - 4 Families
- Confirmation Class – 12-15 Average Attendance
- Currently going through Small Catechism
- Integrating Worship Service Component into Curriculum
- Redeemer Youth Group – 6 youth core group
- 6:30 Evening Worship – 4-6 Average Attendance

◇ **Special Ministry Events:**

- Living Nativity/ Christmas Concert
 - * Youth Group raised over \$600 for mission trip
 - * Christmas Eve/Day Services

◇ **Ministry Events:**

- Sacred Ground – Continue conversation with PSK and 13 other members of Redeemer around racial equality and justice

◇ **Committee Interactions:**

- Membership Outreach
 - * **RIC**
 - * **Generating list of core group and initial lesson plan**
- Congregational Life
 - * Fellowship Coffee hours – First Creche Display – December 18 from 9:30 – 11:00 in Crossroads

◇ **Community Interactions**

- Young Adult Ministry Partnership with Lewinsville Presbyterian Church Christmas Party

◇ **Upcoming Events:**

- Young Adult Retreat – January 13-15 – 1 member signed up
- Bible Study on the Book of Job – January 18
- Men's Bible Study – January 22 – February 16 – Sabbath as Resistance
- Beer Reformation – Men's Retreat – January 27-29 – 5 members signed up!
- Holy Land Trip – January 2024

◇ **Synod Interactions:**

- Virginia Conference Clergy Meeting
- Monthly meeting with Ministry Coach

◇ **Holiday Vacation:** January 1-7, 2023

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting were previously approved by email.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Regan presented the Treasurer's Report. By the end of 2022, giving and use fees exceeded the expenses of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Indebtedness has been reduced to \$45,597.

Executive Committee Minutes: The Executive Committee met on January 4, 2023, to define discussion and action items for the full council.

- ◇ President Paukovits highlighted the upcoming "Meet and Greet" Dinner on January 29 and asked council members to participate if able.
- ◇ President Paukovits noted that the profit and loss statements for both the Preschool and After-School Program are both positive. Redeemer Renaissance leadership is doing an outstanding job.

Discussion/Action Items:

- ◇ Council Nominating Committee: Liz Holzapfel presented the slate of candidates for consideration.
 - The candidates presented were Chris Hernandi, Megan Krantz, Tyler Posey, Gene Morrow, Sheridan Kanski (youth) and Adetutu Tohivo (youth). Youth Representatives will share the position.
 - Liz Holzapfel moved the slate be accepted. Stephanie Hunter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- ◇ Gym Roof: President Paukovits discussed the contractor's proposal to repair the Parents' Hall Gym roof.
 - Option #1 involves the complete demolition and installation of a new vapor barrier & insulation layers and cost approximately \$197,000. Option #2 would salvage existing insulation, plywood & underlayment and cost approximately \$94,000. Both options include ventilation improvement.
 - Several sections of the roof were recently cut open and revealed the vapor barrier and insulation were in good condition and did not need replacement. Therefore, Option, #2 was recommended by the contractor. The replacement of the downspouts on the Southside of the gym was also recommend and cost \$920.
 - President Paukovits moved to repair the gym roof in accordance with Option #2 of the contractor's proposal also including the downspout replacement. Funds for the repair would come from the Building and Grounds reserve funds. The motion was seconded by Liz Holzapfel. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Additionally, President Paukovits moved that excess funds from 2022 be moved to the Building and Grounds reserve funds to ensure enough funds are left in the account to pay for emergency repairs. Ellen Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ◇ The Council conducted Annual Review for Pastor Wullenweber.
- ◇ The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on February 12, 2023. The meeting will take place via Zoom and face-to-face. Quorum for the meeting is 75 voting members. Language for motions presented on behalf of the Council was discussed.

Ministry Reports:

- ◇ A Membership Outreach Team is being formed. The team is currently planning Coffee Hour fellowship and Small group dinners.

Additional New Business:

- ◇ The Council will provide Lenten Dinner on February 22. President Paukovits will coordinate the meal.
- ◇ President Paukovits acknowledged Karen Detweiler, Liz Holzapfel, Stephanie Hunter and Peter Kratz for their service to the Church Council as they complete their terms on council.

Close with Prayer: Pastor Wullenweber closed with prayer.

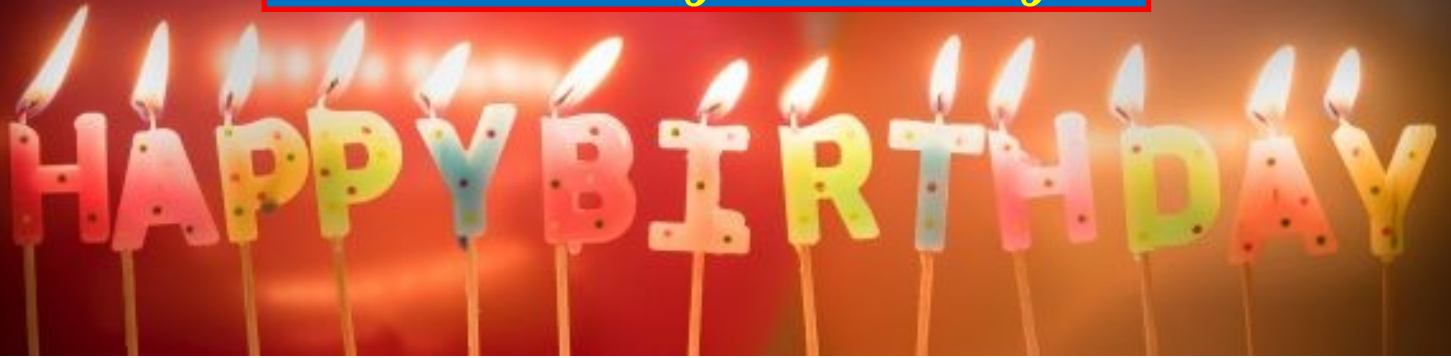
Adjournment: President Paukovits adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Next meeting of Council: February 13, 2023

Next meeting of Executive Committee: February 3, 2023

Annual Meeting of the Congregation: February 12, 2023

February Birthdays



We Wish You a Happy Birthday!!!

- Feb 2 John Armstrong, Stephen Leong
- Feb 3 Matthew Koenig, Caroline Triplett
- Feb 4 Mark Cronin, Christopher Kutscher, Remington Stanley
- Feb 5 Pamela Giffey, Deborah Kern, Althea Retter, Nancy Walsh
- Feb 6 Eslie Djemmal, Lisa Frederick, Mary Ann McKenzie, Alexis Nied, John Pilkinton, William Pilkinton, Benjamin Waldron, Louise White
- Feb 7 Charlie Brown, Artemisia Hashemi, Benjamin Stoessel
- Feb 8 Kristian Bjornson, Jake Ciannella, Brendan Corbett, Max Engel, Kyra Klontz, Robert Koch, Emil Muhs, Ryan Stuart
- Feb 9 James Brennan
- Feb 10 Claudia Johnson
- Feb 11 Courtney Davis, Jane Pennewell
- Feb 12 Joy Hughes, Scott Risseeuw
- Feb 13 Knut Fredriksen, Paul Lawrence, Alex Lee, Logan Mosher
- Feb 14 Kristi Bornmann, Elizabeth Grau, Chris Russo
- Feb 15 Jeffrey Bergdahl, Will Dempsey
- Feb 16 Mark Cackler, Sebastian Herbolsheimer, Eric Rode, Scarlet Steuble
- Feb 17 James Ahlgren, Michael Kuhn
- Feb 18 John Rice
- Feb 19 Christa Choi, Susan Larson, John Lien, Paula Nassen Poulos
- Feb 20 Hanna Herbolsheimer, Alex Tyeryar
- Feb 21 Dennis Shields, Jane Skotzko, Margo Thronson
- Feb 22 Liz Pittman, Ben Sullivan, Diane Thompson
- Feb 23 Karen Devlin
- Feb 24 Corinne Elliot, Elyse Henshall, Jack Slade
- Feb 25 Lauren Corbett, Nash Leaptrot, Lillian Mazur
- Feb 26 Colette Marcellin

Praying that you feel God's guiding light leading you on toward increased wisdom and strength as you celebrate another birthday. May you feel fully alive and loved on this special day!

You are a beautiful creation and we thank God for you!