



TIDINGS

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1545 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

Vol. 67 No. 7
July 2022



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KESSINGER

JULY OF 2022

It is summer and time to make plans for the fall and winter. Below are some of the things that Pastor Josh and I are working on to help us live out our mission. We hope by the fall that most (if not all) of our members will feel comfortable returning to in-person worship. With an increase in activities we will also need an increase in the number of people who volunteer and/or participate. It is an exciting time to be the church.

God's Work – Our Hands

God's Work – Our Hands is an ELCA initiative that offers congregations an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the church with a day of service. We have held this event in years past and we are pleased to put it back on our schedule. This year it will be held on Sunday, September 11, after the 11 am service. Lunch will be provided, and the service projects will highlight some of the work of Lutheran World Relief. In worship on that Sunday we will sing a hymn that was written by Wayne Wold, a professor and chair of the music department at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. It is called *God's Work – Our Hands* and uses a familiar tune with new words to highlight the purpose of the day.

Adult Catechism

In the fall we will offer an *Adult Catechism* class for our new members and for any of us who would like to be refreshed in the basic teachings of the Lutheran Church. When we confirm our young people we encourage them to continue in their studies. As adults we still have much to learn and we look forward to this opportunity to use our life experiences to understand better what we were taught when we were younger. It may also be true that some of us never went through Confirmation class so these sessions will be taught to accommodate all levels.

Sacred Ground

Sacred Ground is a curriculum that was developed by the Episcopal church that is offered for free to any faith-based organization. It is a film-based dialogue series on *Race and Faith*. Our synod office is currently using it and we hope to start some small groups this fall. Each group can vary in size from 4-12 participants. This link will give you an overview of the program –

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/invitation/>

The way it is set up each group will meet once a month for discussion. We envision this starting in September and going through May. Meeting days, times, and location will be determined by each group. Each session requires about 90 minutes of viewing and 35 pages of reading to prepare. Those who have gone through this course have found it to be very valuable.

Our Youth

Pastor Josh and I are both committed to working with our youth. Pastor Josh hopes to find a day of the week and time when he can meet weekly for youth group activities. We will be working together with the Confirmation class to not only offer Bible studies and catechetical work but to help our youth get to know one another better through service projects, mission trips, and retreats.

Ellen Kennedy and I are working with our high school youth to help them develop leadership skills and to offer opportunities for service. It is another new group and very fluid. Based on the initial conversation we had with our young people this year we will have three emphases. We will look for opportunities to care for our environment. We will use the connections our young people already have with non-profit groups to volunteer our time. Youth will also take the lead in helping to plan and execute activities for the younger children.

Volunteers and Participants

This just gives you a small indication of the direction we are moving into for this fall. It does not include some of our ideas to help us reconnect with one another after more than two years of keeping a safe distance from one another. As our activities increase there will be an increased need for more participation and more volunteers. It is difficult sometimes to know how to jump in with all that we are doing at Redeemer so the Stewardship Ministry team will be writing a booklet this summer that will outline all of our needs and opportunities. It will be important on your part to review the materials we send out and prayerfully consider the areas of ministry where you can be of help and where you want to participate.

I am fully aware of all the demands that are placed on our time. Our young parents keep schedules that encourage children to be physically and mentally well while they also search for time to be together as family. Many of our adults already volunteer in different organizations in order to use their gifts effectively. At Redeemer we thankfully have a core group of people who volunteer. We want to enlarge that group so that everyone has the opportunity to serve. It also lessens the load for others. Stewardship of time is necessary for the church to maintain its mission and ministry. At Redeemer we love that our volunteers are among the very young and include those who are older. We encourage everyone to participate in the areas of ministry that will help them in their faith journey.

We need volunteers, participants, and . . . we also need your financial gifts. We are running at full capacity when it comes to our ministry staff. We are working within the boundaries of our current spending plan but that budget was set with the expectation that an equal amount of money will be received as income. Please give as you are able.

I am excited about the possibilities for our ministry together. For more than ten years now we have evolved and grown together. We continue to evaluate where we are and where we need to be to remain a relevant and vibrant church. Pray for us as we continue to plan for our future. Pray for guidance on where you see yourself fitting in. There is room for everyone at Redeemer.

In Christ – Pastor Sandy Kessinger



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOSH

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope and pray that your summer is off to a great start. Pastor Sandy and I have been hard at work this summer planning the church year ahead, and one area that I personally have been focusing on is our youth group. Remembering from seminary lessons on the embedded cultures of a church, I want us to embark on a holy experiment of establishing the culture of a weekly youth group gathering here at Redeemer. In talking with colleagues in ministry, the youth, and parents, I would like to establish the culture of every Sunday night being known as our youth group time.

My vision is that we would meet every Sunday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. from September to May. This designated time would be an opportunity for our two youth groups (middle school and high school) to gather for a meal, break off into their respective groups for a time of fellowship and learning, and then regather for closing worship. We would still have different events that we would participate in throughout the year as we have done in the past, but our focus going forward would be that of fellowship and faith formation.

If this holy experiment works, I see this method and style of youth ministry fostering a bond and relationship between our youth that will carry them not only through middle school and high school but college and their professional lives as well. Also, because of the weekly presence, it will be a place where our youth feel connected and safe to share the joys and trials of life together.

I am still in the early planning stages of this experiment, but one thing that I realize immediately is that I will not be able to do this alone. If you are someone who would be interested in helping to lead our youth group, please let me know. We will need leaders who are willing to help teach and facilitate discussions but also leaders to help with meal prep and closing worship (musicians!!).

One of the most important things I learned from the lessons on culture was that a cultural norm does not become “normal” unless the community embraces and supports it. Will you help us give this experiment a try and create a culture where our youth gather every Sunday without fail? Will you help us establish a safe place for our youth to walk their faith journeys with one another?

Together we can make this holy experiment a success!

I pray that you all have a blessed month ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josh

On behalf of Troops 1916 and 2119, Greetings from Camp Shenandoah!



Thank you again to all the volunteers who made the June 5th Summer Bash a success!





Minutes of June 13, 2022

Meeting of Redeemer Congregation Council

Via Zoom

Present: Arash Behraves, Mitch Brown, Karen Detweiler, Liz Holzapfel, Stephanie Hunter, Ellen Kennedy, Pr. Sandy Kessinger, Peter Kratz, Lena Martikainen, Karen Miller, President Nate Paukovits, Secretary Roberta Pittman, Treasurer Edward Regan, Pr. Joshua Wullenweber

Called to Order: President Paukovits declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Devotions: Pastor Kessinger opened with devotions based on John 16:12-15.
She closed devotions with prayer.

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

Pastors' Reports:

Pastor Kessinger: Pastor Kessinger highlighted the following items from her written monthly report:

- One-on-one confirmation instruction
- Visitor Information Sessions are going well
- Appreciated the Birthday Party of the Decades
- Summer Bash was a wonderful community event
- Meeting with High School Youth to form Redeemer Youth Leadership Team
- Vacation: May 23, 2022 – May 25, 2022

Pastor Wullenweber: Pastor Wullenweber highlighted the following items from his written monthly report:

- Gratitude for coordinators of the Birthday Party of the Decades
- Participation in McLean Day
- Gratitude for Summer Bash participation
 - 21 Volunteers
 - 3 Community Partner Tables
 - 2 Redeemer Ministry Tables
 - 2 Fairfax County Police Department Officers
- Estimated 150-175 attendees, approximately half from the congregation, half from the community
- Special gratitude to Heather Wullenweber for her input into the planning
- Working with other pastors to establish a synod youth network
- Military Service: Annual Tour from August 1, 2022 to August 24, 2022
- Vacation: May 17, 2022 – May 20, 2022

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

Treasurer's Report: Ed Regan presented the Treasurer's Report. Giving and use fees continue to exceed the expenses of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Indebtedness has been reduced to \$124,377.

Concerns about giving will be addressed in the June stewardship letter and in Pastor Kessinger's July Newsletter article.

Paster Wullenweber will look into providing QR codes for giving.

Building and Grounds:

Likely upcoming expenses:

- Sprinkler piping/head in the nave leaked and caused damage to the sound board.
- Repairs to the sprinkler system are needed and the sound board needs to be replaced.
- Gym roof is still in need of repair and is being monitored.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met on May 27, 2022 to define discussion and action items for the full council. In addition we discussed:

Special Event Recaps

- McLean Day: Roberta Pittman reported that McLean Day went well even though attendance was lower than anticipated. There was good volunteer participation for the event and many visitors to the booth. Tricia Engle will be responsible for McLean Day in 2023.
- The Birthday Celebration of the Decades was very successful as previously reported by both pastors.
- Summer Bash was very successful as outlined in Pastor Wullenweber's report.

Redeemer Renaissance

- Karen Miller reported that work is being done on the by-laws to allow the governing boards of the after-school program and the preschool to be combined.
- Nate Paukovits reported that sub-groups of the combined board and roles are being clarified.

The owners of Spring Cleaning & Maintenance are retiring. Karen Detweiler moved that the retiring owners be given a letter from the Church Council as well as a \$250 gift card. Liz Holzapfel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Columbarium Planning Update

Rob Wenk and Ron Kutscher joined the meeting at 8:30 PM. They have been working with Michael Foster to redesign the columbarium.

The new design is modular and can be built in phases.

Items regarding the columbarium discussed by the council:

- Projected costs
- Who can be interred
- Interest and commitment from the congregation
- Interment of low-income individuals
- Security Concerns
- Policies and procedures
- What happens if Lutheran Church of the Redeemer ceases to be at the current location

Karen Detweiler moved that Michael Foster be approached for a design proposal. The motion was seconded by Mitch Brown and was passed. Rob Wenk will request a cost from Michael Foster for the design.

Ministry Reports:

Peter Kratz reported that Youth Leadership Team will focus on fellowship, mentoring, social justice, environment, and service projects. Nate Paukovits suggested more youth-to-youth communication as well as communications with families.

Stephanie Hunter reported that the refugee families supported by Redeemer are doing well.

Roberta Pittman reported that the Child Safety Committee is making headway bringing all approved adult volunteers into compliance with the Child Protection Policy.

Additional New Business: Shelly Brennan will coordinate Faith Formation in the fall

Adjournment: President Paukovits adjourned the meeting 9:22 pm



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

Announcements

Vacation Bible School—July 25-28 | Mornings, 9am—Noon

Counselors from the Lutheran camp Mar-Lu Ridge will be at Redeemer for a Vacation Bible School experience the mornings of July 25-28 for children ages 6-11. The cost is \$20. Limit is 25 children “first-come, first served.” Sign up [here](#).

Hook and Needles!

All artisans: Grab some knitting needles or crochet hooks and join in the Winter Scarf Drive at Redeemer. The Prayer Shawl group is hosting a winter scarf drive until October 24. Please keep your collections of home crafted, gently used or purchased scarves at home until October. Yarn for projects is available at the church. Contact the church office to arrange a time to select yarn. The collections will go to either N Street Ministries or to refugee groups; the recipients will be selected as information becomes available.



The Prayer shawl group holds hybrid meetings the first and third Thursdays of each month from 10:30 to noon. Beginners are welcome and experienced fiber artists will gladly help newbies. Contact Gretchen Stark for more information (Gretchenstark@gmail.com) or the church office.

Lohengrin Opera is Sunday, August 7, 3 pm

Join us for an abridged version of Lohengrin presented by the Opera Susquehanna. The performance will take place in the sanctuary. For tickets go to operasusquehanna.org. The cost is \$25. Some of the performers known at Redeemer are Keith Craig, Lean Schenk-Crowne and Scott Crowne.

Day of Prayer, August 1

More information to follow in upcoming July Sunday announcements.

Class of 2022

If you have a 2022 graduating senior in your family, please submit photo to Andrea in the church office at ameier@redeermclean.org to be included in next month's Tidings. Your church family would like to celebrate them with you!



Congratulations Anna Detweiler!

Anna is the daughter of David and Sabine Detweiler and just graduated from Langley High School. In the fall, Anna will be attending William and Mary and plans to major in Biology with a minor in English. We wish Anna all the very best as she pursues her studies and this new chapter of her life.



WAYS TO GIVE

Scout Project—School Supplies Collection

Hi, my name is Stanley Carroll and I am a First Class Scout in BSA Troop 698 and a member of Redeemer. While working on my Citizenship in the Community merit badge I am collecting school supplies through the charity Homestretch for 3 different boys. One is entering 2nd grade, one is entering 7th grade (like me) and one is entering college. You can read more about Homestretch [here](#) Please review the available slots [here](#) and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

The drive will run through 7/27/22; email elizabethccarroll@gmail.com with questions or to drop off items.

SHARE Back-to-School Collection Drive

June 15 - July 15, 2022

Your donations of school supplies this summer will help local children start off the new school year ready to learn!

By July 15, please drop off donations either directly with SHARE, located at 1367 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean, VA or on the cart at Door #10 at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

List of Requested School Supplies

#2 pencils (~10-12 per pack)	Index cards
Crayola crayons (24 pack)	Sticky notes
Crayola markers - broad line (~8 pack)	Pencil cases
Colored pencils (~12 pack)	Scientific calculators (TI-85 or better)
Red, blue, black ballpoint or pens	USB Flash drivers
Mechanical pencil packs (Papermate, BIC, etc.)	Padlocks for lockers
Highlighters	Small backpacks (elementary school)
Pink pearl scissors	\$25 Target gift cards
Blunt tip scissors	

LWR/LDR Ukrainian Assistance

To support those affected by the war in Ukraine, you can donate to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Luther Disaster Response (LDR). Both are hard at work in Eastern Europe and Ukraine.

You can write a check to Redeemer Lutheran Church (memo: LWR or LDR Eastern Europe Crisis) or [go to this link](#) to give online. Thanks to a generous LDR donor, current gifts to the Eastern Europe Crisis Response fund will be matched, dollar for dollar, until \$25,000 is reached.

[Click here](#) to check out LWR & [click here](#) for the LDR website.

Donations to Redeemer
Want to give online today?
You can access our online giving
page here:





SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE – JULY 3, 10, 17

9:00 am – Traditional
10:30 am – Contemporary

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE – JULY 24, 31

9:00 am – Contemporary
10:30 am – Traditional

TABLE TALK (ADULT EDUCATION)

Every Sunday – 10:15 am

Week of July 3

Wednesday, July 6

Wednesday PM Bible Study (Deuteronomy) – 7 pm

Week of July 10

July 10-15

Monday, July 11

Wednesday, July 13

Youth Works Mission Trip – Philadelphia

Council Meeting – 7:30 pm

Wednesday PM Bible Study (Deuteronomy) – 7 pm

Week of July 17

Wednesday, July 13

Wednesday PM Bible Study (Deuteronomy) – 7 pm

Week of July 24

July 25-28

Bible Camp for Ages 6-11 (VBS)



Prayers for Pastor Josh

Responsibilities with Air Force – August 1 to 28

Sunday, August 7

Pastor Paul Opsahl will be our guest preacher

Faith Formation Picnic

Opera Susquehanna at Redeemer at 3 pm

Abridged version of Lohengrin. Tickets cost \$25.

Performers include Keith Craig and Leah and Scott Crowne



We Wish You a Happy Birthday!!!

July Birthdays



- Jul 1 Alexander Griffis, Eunhee Hunter, Steve Weischedel
- Jul 2 Bill Corbett, Taylor Huber, Dave Kostelancik, Carter Miller, Marcia Zaborsky
- Jul 3 Judy Loving
- Jul 4 Patrick Devlin, Tyler Straub, Anna Thorson, Margie Werntz
- Jul 5 Lola Walraven
- Jul 6 Margaret Duval, Tessa Lamoureux, Gunnar Torggrimson, Kelsey Torggrimson
- Jul 7 Kate Beck, Matthew Cooley, Bill Hendricks, Hobbs Huston, Stephen Laredo
- Jul 8 Paul Dibble, Glenna Sulkala
- Jul 9 Jessica Opsahl-Ong, Robin Taylor, Mark Vrooman
- Jul 10 Laughlin Dibble, Megan Kratz
- Jul 11 Florence Ofili-Toviho
- Jul 12 Kris DeLeonardis, Ryan Hughes
- Jul 13 John Curtis, Rachel Waldon
- Jul 14 Veronica Goff, Andrea Kuschke-DeChaine, Allison Lawrence, Ricky Michaud, Molly Sullivan
- Jul 15 Kirsten Apple, Luke Campet, Laura Cooley, Nancy Etkin, Jay Kennedy, Philip Leibensperger, Hadley Sibert, John Tharrington
- Jul 16 Rizza Calunia, Craig Carroll, Kristi Lehmkuhler-Reynolds, Matthew Richardson, Sharon Wesbrook
- Jul 17 Alex Moreno, Julietta Reese, Christopher Ristig
- Jul 18 Nathan Goff, Natalie Lynch, Alice Pfaff
- Jul 19 Aneka Demske, Brad Macomber, Greta Moi
- Jul 20 Michelle Brown, Megan Fedorczyk, Nicholas Hutchinson, Matthew Martz, Rose Shellaway
- Jul 21 Kimberly Cavanaugh, Laura McCoy
- Jul 22 Andrea Dietrich, Carol Pribulka
- Jul 23 Charlie Morris, Kirsten Olson
- Jul 24 Scarlett Cavanaugh, Addie Dietrich, Jean Friday, Patricia Giffey
- Jul 25 Michael McCoy, Lara Paukovits, Maggie Pishner
- Jul 26 Mathieu Campet, Neva (Ginny) Cassell, Matt Koch
- Jul 27 Cory Angus, Dan Englund, Grace Heinke, Mary-Hannah Klontz, Clinton Leonard, Grace Salzman, Alex Zele
- Jul 28 Alice Ahlgren, Wendy Linthicum, Trevor Sheehan, Scott Wilson
- Jul 29 Stephanie Newhall
- Jul 30 David Carr, Douglas Gorsline
- Jul 31 Autumn Okorie, Larry Pittman, Annabel Siber

A Prayer for those celebrating Birthdays

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up when they fall; and in their hearts may your peace, which passes understanding, abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. *Book of Common Prayer*

Lohengrin

a romantic opera by Richard Wagner

in an abridged version presented by

Opera Susquehanna



FEATURING

Keith Craig, *Lohengrin*

Susan Wheeler, *Elsa*

Leah Crowne, *Ortrud*

Michael Nansel, *Friedrich*

Jeri Buchholz, *King Heinrich*

Scott Crowne, *piano*

Sunday, August 7, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia

FOR TICKETS: OperaSusquehanna.org

Group discounts available

PASTORS AND STAFF OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor	Pastor Sandy Kessinger	ext. 102 cell: 703-635-4672	psk@redeermclean.org
Associate Pastor	Pastor Joshua Wullenweber	ext. 105	josh@redeermclean.org
Facilities Dir.	Bill Parks	ext. 110	bparks@redeermclean.org
Office Mgr.	Andrea Meier	ext. 101	ameier@redeermclean.org
Dir. Of Music	Matt Osifchin		mosifchi@hotmail.com
Dir. of Afterschool & Exec. Dir. Renaissance	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmconnaughay@redeermclean.org
Financial Coordinator	Sara Nail	ext. 103	sara@redeermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel		joymentzel@gmail.com
Pianist	Kathy Detweiler		
Youth Choir Dir.	Amy Tribie		atribie@gmail.com
Bell Choir Dir.	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com
Nursery Care	Bernarda Rodriguez & Lusbi Pina		



The Redeemer Ringers under the direction of Waka Osifchin, D.M.A., blessed the congregation on June 13 with a performance of *I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry*. [Click on this link](#) to listen.



On June 29th, Christ United Methodist Youth Choir of Plano, TX performed a concert entitled *Be The Change*. Find the Redeemer facebook page to listen to *God Bless America* sung with Redeemer's Youth Choir!



**Redeemer Lutheran Church | 1545 Chain Bridge Road | McLean, Virginia 22203
703-356-3346 | redeermclean.org**