Our Mission: Sharing Christ's love with the greatest number of people

Life at Redeemer

Visit us online!

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
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September 27, 2026

Is Our Compassion Enough?

People of faith are confronted with a profound and challenging truth when we read in James 2:14-17:

> [14] What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith
> but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? [15] Suppose a brother or a sister is
> without clothes and daily food. [16] If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep
> warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, **what good is it?**
> [17] In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Here, James is suggesting that faith is not just something we believe. God is calling us to *do something* with our beliefs. And true compassion should never end with just a feeling.

If we meet a person in physical pain, hunger, or shivering from the lack of clothes, God is not asking us to just feel bad for the person who is suffering. Nor did the empty, pious-sounding words in this passage do anything to relieve this person's misery.

If our faith does not alter how we spend our money, how we treat the vulnerable, and what we do with our faith, then it is exactly what James called it: dead.

So, let us leave this place today with a holy restlessness. Let us refuse to be mere hearers of the Word. Let us become doers. May we be a congregation whose faith is beautifully alive -- by the way we love, the way we give, and the way we serve.

Welcome to Redeemer

We welcome you to our worship service this morning! Please sign the guest book that is found in our entry area or the red attendance book found in the pews. If you include your email address, we will keep you informed of any upcoming events. You can also email us at church@redeemermclean.org.

Holy Communion Open to All

We offer Holy Communion at all of our worship services. Please follow the instructions of the pastor when it is time to come forward. If you are not comfortable taking Holy Communion for any reason but would like to come forward for a blessing, then just cross your arms and the pastor will bless you. All are welcome to the Lord's Table.

Call Committee Update

Most munificent blessings and halcyon salutations, siblings! Since we last "talked", your Call Committee has been praying, preparing, and creatively participating with the DC Metro Synod to identify candidates seeking a call.

Alas, we have thus far been unsuccessful in finding that right pastor, at the right time, in the right place, but we remain positive in the knowledge the Lord will shepherd that right pastor, to our right place, on His chosen time to us.

As we remain ready to interview candidates, armed with our congregational vision, priorities, and requirements, and an irrepressible spirit, we ask for your continued prayers and moral support.

Pledge Season Has Begun at Redeemer

This week, we invite you to begin prayerfully reflecting on your financial abilities and priorities for the upcoming year. An annual 'pledge' is simply an estimate of your future giving, so the volunteer leaders at Redeemer can create a responsible and dependable budget for our ministries in 2027. An indication of your "financial intentions" is an estimate, and is not binding.

Over the next few weeks, we hope you will spend some time in prayer asking what God is calling you to donate or do – to support our children's ministries, local outreach, and your music and worship experience here on Sundays.

Please place your orange "Financial Intentions" card in the colorful Collection Box in the Crossroads.

YOUTH

ELCA National Youth Gathering Info Meeting
Today – 12 pm

High schoolers and their families are invited to come and learn about the ELCA National Youth Gathering! This will take place summer 2027, June 28 to July 2. We're holding a Youth Gathering information meeting today, immediately after worship for interested youth and parents. We'll show you more about the Gathering, talk about SERVE, travel, costs and fundraising, answer questions, and start imagining what a Redeemer trip could look like. There will also be pizza!

Social Justice & Equity Book Club
New Book September 28 – 7:30 pm

Redeemer's Social Justice & Equity Book Club is back in session!

We meet Mondays on Zoom 7:30-8:30 pm and all are welcome. We will start reading our new book on Sept. 28 in memory of one of our members, Alice Shaw, who recommended it to us: *The Forgetting River: A Modern Tale of Survival, Identity and Inquisition* by Doreen Carvajal. This would be a perfect time to join us. Contact Teresa Schellenger for more details (jpschellenger@aol.com).

Please Support Britepaths
Fall Donation Drive until October 13

We are collecting funds, toothbrushes and toothpaste which will assist our Fairfax County neighbors in need through Britepaths' Emergency Food Support program. (https://britepaths.org/our-services/food-security/) Every donation directly assists individuals and families facing temporary crises by providing them with necessary household and personal hygiene products and a gift card for groceries. This crucial support allows recipients to purchase essential groceries and find relief during their challenging times, allowing them to focus on stabilizing their situation. Your contribution ensures we can continue to provide timely assistance to those experiencing hardship in our community.

A financial donation can be made one of three ways: 1) donation envelope with "Britepaths" on your envelope, 2) check with Britepaths in the memo line; or 3) online giving via https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCTK/home. Toothbrushes/toothpaste will be collected to add to the Britepaths Snap Gap Pantry. There will be a collection box in the Crossroads.

Little Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued stewardship to Redeemer's Little Food Pantry. The need is robust, and donations are much appreciated. You may select the Little Food Pantry tile on the church's website as a giving option (https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCTK/home) or place your donations in the specially-marked basket in the church narthex.

Regularly needed items include:

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

Please - no glass jars, expired, or partial food portions.

Many thanks to our new volunteers who will be helping with weekly restocking. Your support of this important ministry is much appreciated!

Back to School: Navigating Transitions at Home & School
Guest Speakers
Sarah Tyler, LCSW & Robyne Davis, LPC, BC-DMT
October 1 – 6:45 pm in the Sanctuary

Starting a new school year and shifting routines can be stressful in children and adults alike. Join licensed therapists for an interactive session packed with clear, actionable tools to help children navigate life's transitions with confidence, calm, and resilience. Parents, guardians, educators, and caregivers are invited to attend this event!

Dedication of Renovated Spaces
October 3 – 3 to 5 pm

Please join us on Saturday, October 3 to celebrate the dedication of the renovated classroom and office space! Pastor Sharon will lead us through a Service of Dedication, followed by refreshments and fellowship to mark this event in Redeemer's history. RSVP at https://bit.ly/4yOFWV1.

Worship Leadership Training
October 11 – 12 pm

Every time we gather for worship, there are numerous ways we can offer gifts of leadership. On October 11, we'll explore what those are and give them a try. A light lunch will also be provided. If you are interested in joining, please fill out the survey at https://bit.ly/4ApMjQv or scan the QR code.

Good Beginnings
Outdoor Classes for Ages 1.5 and Older with Caregiver
Starting October 13– 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: Oct. 13 & 27, Nov. 10 & 17, Dec. 8, Jan. 12 & 26, Feb. 9 & 23, Mar. 9 & 30, April 6 & 27, and May 4 & 18.

Please call 703-356-3567 for more information.

Scarf Drive for the Women of N Street Village - Last Push!
Collecting until October 18

Please bring in your scarves for the N Street Village scarf drive starting now and ending on Sunday, October 18th. There is a collection box in the Crossroads. The scarves will be distributed in early November. Thank you for your participation!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS
Including Hybrid Options

Sun., 9/27	*Sunday Worship Service Times*	
	8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11:00 am	*Live stream 8:30 (Traditional) and 9:45 (Contemporary) services*
	8:30 am – 12:00 pm	Church nursery is available for infants and toddlers
	9:45 am – 10:45 am	Faith Formation and Confirmation Classes
		High School "Bagels & Bible" Class (Teen Center)
		Table Talk Adult Education (Conference Room/Zoom)
		Youth Leadership Planning Meeting (Library)
	10:55 am – 11:25 am	Youth Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite A)
	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	National Youth Gathering Info Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Mon., 9/28	7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Social Justice & Equity Book Club (Zoom)
Tues., 9/29	9:30 am – 10:30 am	Women's Faith Group (Conference Room/Zoom)
Thurs., 10/1	8:00 am – 9:00 am	Thursday AM Bible Study (Zoom)
	10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry (Library/Zoom)
	6:45 pm – 7:45 pm	Guest Speaker Event (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite A)
	7:45 pm – 8:45 pm	Traditional Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite B)
Sat., 10/3	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Building Dedication Service & Reception

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 Afterschool	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmcconnaughay@redeemermclean.org
Director of Music	Matt Osifchin		mattosifchin@gmail.com
Director of Preschool	Gaby Moore	ext. 111	preschool@redeemermclean.org
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
Evening Hosts	Brian Doyle Chris Tillotson		
Nursery Care	Sabrine Gharbi Bernarda Rodriguez		
Office Manager	Cynthia Finocchiaro	ext. 101	cynthia@redeemermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel		joymentzel@gmail.com
Pianist	Kathy Detwiler		
Youth & Communications Coordinator	Grace Sweeney	ext. 105	grace@redeemermclean.org
Youth Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com

Please Remember to Pray….

For Healing

Catherine
Charlotte
Helen
James
Mike
Rena
Augustenborg, Erica
Biffl, Heidi
Buckley, Doug
DeGioia, Jack
Devine, Dan
Geissl, Irene
Gelfand, Trudy
Harner, Julie
Johnson, Ted
Pittman, Larry
Sakellarides, Michael
Tucker, Ed
Williams, Leila
Williams, Timothy
York, Vivienne

For Comfort and Peace

Innis, Scott
Shupp, Lloyd
Welsh, Ari

For Comfort in Death

The family & friends of Ashley
The family & friends of Harold Core
The family & friends of Miriam Howard
The family & friends of Elizabeth Sylvester

For all healthcare workers and first responders

Laredo, Sandi

For Safety

All refugees
All our military & diplomatic people throughout the world
All those who serve to protect our country

For Comfort and Strength

Those who suffer from depression
Those who suffer from mental illness

Prayer List Note:
To add names to this list, you may fill out the form found at https://www.redeemermclean.org/prayer-requests or email or telephone the church office. We want all our prayers to be current — so ***please keep us up to date on those whom you have added to our prayer list.*** *With the exception of safety prayers for our military, we will remove names after one month unless we hear from you. We are prepared to pray indefinitely.*

Prayers for the World, our Nation, and our Community

We pray for people in countries around the world that experience violence, war, and/or political division.

We pray for people who live in areas where there have been disasters of any kind.

We pray for improved relationships among all nations.

We pray for our elected leaders that they lead with compassion while making hard decisions.

We pray for the unemployed and the underemployed and all federal workers.

We pray for all those facing persecution and oppression.

**Each month we will offer prayers for one of our congregations in the Virginia Conference.
We are part of the Virginia Conference of the ELCA Metro DC Synod.
We pray for Bethel Lutheran Church, Lovettsville, and their pastor,
Rev. Andreas Armstrong.**

**We also have a prayer partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Mary
in Ulyanovsk, Russia, and their pastor, Zhanibek Batenov.**