



TIDINGS

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1545 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KESSINGER

“THEY MAY NOT COME BACK”

In the ELCA we have a monthly magazine called *Living Lutheran*. Within its pages are articles written by church members who share encouraging stories about some of the unique things they are doing in their congregations. The magazine also includes interesting reflections about what is currently taking place in our world and how it is affecting our church life.

Some of our members who subscribe to the magazine asked me recently if I saw the article entitled, *They May Not Come Back and Here's Why*. The article was written by Dwight Zsheile, a professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership at Luther Seminary. He is also an associate priest at an Episcopal church in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is recognized as one of the leading theologians in the Episcopal church and has authored a book entitled – *The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age*. I offer his background as a way to say that he knows what he is talking about and his insights certainly caught our attention.

In the article he acknowledges the challenges the church faced prior to the onset of the pandemic and how the last two years have changed things even more. What he predicts for our future is already being experienced at Redeemer. People who attended worship prior to COVID-19 may or may not attend in-person worship anymore. Some of those reasons include 1) continued concerns about the safety of being in public places, 2) a preference to stay home and livestream, and 3) just being out of the habit of getting up on a Sunday morning to attend services.

As much as we would love to see everyone again we know that is not the reality. Our Health Equity Ministry Team and Congregation Council put as many precautions in place, as humanly possible, to keep us safe in our church building. In the end people have to make choices based on their individual concerns. It is my hope that those who cannot worship in-person right now are finding ways to stay connected to our faith community. We await the time when you are able to once more attend services on a regular basis.

Early on we made the decision to keep livestreaming our services once the pandemic has eased its hold on us. It is a wonderful gift for those who are restricted to their homes, for those who wake up on a Sunday morning not feeling well, for those who happen to be out of town over a weekend, and/or for those who live part-time outside of our area. Livestreaming has many benefits. Aside from those just mentioned we also know that people discovered us over the last two years through our website and have attended our services as a result.

It is a blessing to have this capability and I just hope that it does not become a permanent substitute for those who are able to come and gather as a faith community. During the pandemic, research has confirmed that children, adolescents, and adults are all experiencing significant anxiety and depression due to the isolation of the past two years. By definition the church is a gathering place where we build community so that we can work together to fulfill our mission.

Aside from the pandemic, Zscheile also goes on to explain that a shift took place in the church long before 2020. He offers a little bit of a historical background. As early as the American Revolution the church became what he called a voluntary association. It was the means by which people could feel part of a group, participate in its worship, and serve the community. Fast forward to the 1960s and over time people no longer needed the church to direct them to service-oriented projects because they could find them elsewhere. In addition there arose a spirituality that was more individually based. People started to leave the organized religions. They did not need or want the structure of the church to help them discover their true selves or what they needed to do to find fulfillment.

It has always been my opinion that the church needs to shift with the changing needs of the people around us. It needs to stay relevant while not giving up the basic teachings of our faith tradition. I see this as an opportunity for our church. I have always seen Redeemer as being flexible and attending to the needs of others – both near and far. We have already made some changes because the pandemic forced us to think in new ways. It is the right time to explore what more we can do to be the church. Zscheile suggests that people are looking for authentic expressions of spirituality, community, justice, and hope. We can certainly make some shifts to accommodate those needs.

Each of our ministry teams are asking for greater participation so let us know where you might fit in. With fresh eyes we can be open to new ways of doing things that will encourage others to come and see. Our Membership Outreach Ministry team is already exploring new ways for us to connect. Our Stewardship Membership team is already looking for new ways to help people discover their gifts. Small groups will continue to develop so that we can build relationships and hopefully life-long friendships. One new small group that is forming will help deepen the prayer life of the church.

And not everything needs to be new. We will keep those things that are working well. Our greeters welcome warmly those who enter our space. Our music team helps enliven our worship. We are constantly watching for opportunities to serve our community and around the world. We stand ready to respond.

We are the church! We are the Body of Christ that invites everyone to come and see! In the midst of two very long years it is a favorable time to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through our words and in our actions. We invite the Holy Spirit to accompany us on our journey.

In Christ – Pastor Sandy Kessinger





A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOSH

Greetings, Friends in Christ,

With a snap of our fingers, our Lenten journeys are coming to an end. For the past five weeks, we have spent time reflecting on our relationship with God and further engaging with our neighbors in need. I pray that your time of *metanoia* over these past several weeks has been fruitful, but as we look to the future, we see that Holy Week is quickly approaching. This time of solemnity that is remembered between Palm Sunday and Easter morning is meant to be a time where we journey with Christ through the final moments of his earthly ministry.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and the celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Both disciples and onlookers alike celebrated his final return to the holy city. Waving palm branches and laying their cloak on the ground, the crowds gathered there that day showed their respect and praise for Christ. On Palm Sunday, we will imitate this ancient tradition as we too waive palm branches and sing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" in celebration of the fateful journey Christ made for us into the walls of the city one final time.

The week continues with Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Although we do not gather for services on these days, we do remember and celebrate some of Jesus' final teachings and actions. We keep in mind the lessons offered as Jesus curses the fig tree, cleanses the Temple, and confronts the authorities.

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of what we in the church call the Paschal Triduum or the Three Days. On this day of worship, we gather on Thursday, April 14th, at 7:30 p.m. and hear the story of Jesus' final night with his disciple before he is arrested. We are reminded of the selfless example of love and service Jesus shares with his disciples as he kneels before them washing their feet and shares one final meal together. It is custom that we, too, wash one another's feet on this night, but with COVID, there will be other ways that we remember and celebrate this practice. The evening concludes with the stripping of the altar, lectern, and pulpit as a symbol of Christ's impending suffering and death.

On Good Friday, we gather in silence. We come together on Friday, April 15th, at 12:00 pm and 7:30 pm to partake in the Tenebrae Service or Service of Darkness. On this night, we hear the account of Jesus' final hours - his trial before Pilate, his mockery and abuse at the hands of the guards, his journey to Golgotha, his last painful moments on the cross. We are left, like the first disciples, with immense heartache. Wanting to know what's next, where do we go from here. We depart that night in the same way we arrived – in silence. We are left reflecting on the ultimate sacrifice Christ gave for us.

We prepare to conclude our Holy Week observances with the observance of Holy Saturday. On this final day before Easter, we wait in hopeful anticipation. The celebration of this day is practiced in many ways across the church, but here at Redeemer, we will gather early Saturday morning, April 16th at 9:00 a.m. and while carrying the cross through McLean, we will practice the Stations of the Cross and remember the journey Christ took for us.

Holy Week concludes with the joyous, magnificent, and marvelous celebration of Easter! We sing and say with our voices raised – Christ is Risen, He has Risen Indeed! We gather and celebrate that Christ overcame death and the grave and offered for all the promise of life eternal! We will have three services this Easter Sunday – 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. – All are welcome, and we hope to see each of you with your family and friends.

Please check our announcements, bulletins, and website for more details on each service.

Peace be with you as we journey through Holy Week together.

Pastor Josh



Minutes of March 14, 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

Excused: Pr. Wullenweber

Called to Order: President Paukovits declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Devotions: Pastor Kessinger opened with devotions based on “the feeding of the 5000” and led a discussion on the invasion of Ukraine. 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 items from her monthly report.

- Connections through Pastoral Care including contacts with members and visitors, home visits and pre-marital counseling.
- Connections through Ministries of the Congregations including Bible study, Preschool involvement, Confirmation, Shrove Tuesday activities, Ash Wednesday and Lenten services, youth events and spiritual retreat.
- Connections through Meetings including meetings with staff, various ministry teams and the Executive Committee.
- Connections through Synod including meetings with Pastor Erin Swenson-Reinhold, Group Discernment Meetings with Max Miller, and a conversation with Bishop Ortiz regarding the annual report pastor submits to the synod office.
- Connections through community events, in particular the Faith and Blue Initiative.
- Vacation, February 21-23
- A coordinator for McLean Day on May 21 is needed.
- Goals for 2022 including building a sense of community through fellowship and service, new and different ways to foster a deeper engagement with Scripture, encouraging year-round stewardship, interaction between ministry teams, and nurturing families and youth through worship, fellowship, and service.

Pastor Wullenweber: President Paukovits asked that in Pr. Wullenweber’s absence, council members review the report that Pr. Wullenweber submitted via email in advance of the meeting.

President Paukovits highlighted upcoming events mentioned in the report for which volunteers will be necessary including Bags of Joy, Summer Bash, youth mission trip, and the Confirmation class retreat.

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

Executive Committee Minutes: The Executive Committee met on March 4, 2022 to define discussion and action items to be brought before the full council.

Staff Compensation: A member of the congregation reached out to President Paukovits to express concern over the current 3% salary target for staff. This year, inflation is estimated to be in upwards of 6%. Mr. Paukovits asked Mr. Regan to bring this issue to Finance Team to revisit the current salary target and examine ways to incorporate Cost of Living Adjustments (based on inflation) into future decisions.

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. The debt has been reduced to \$170,064.

Special Guest: Former president, Matt Kratz discussed the purpose and responsibilities of the liaison positions to the ministry teams/committees. Pr. Kessinger discussed the fact that post- Covid, the ministry team/committee structure is being revived. She reviewed the various teams/committees.

Liaison Positions:

<u>Ministry Team</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>Committee (Chair)</u>	<u>Council Liaison</u>
Building and Grounds		(Chair, Rob Wenk)	Nathan Paukovits
Christian Education		(Coordinator, Kim Wenk)	Nathan Paukovits / Pr. Kessinger
Congregational Life		(Coordinator, Pr. Wullenweber)	Mitch Brown
Endowment Fund		(Chair, Tammie Koenig)	Liz Holzapfel
Finance		(Chair, Rob Wenk)	Ed Regan
Financial Review		(Coordinator, Rob Wenk)	Karen Detweiler
Membership Outreach		(Chair, Pr. Wullenweber)	Arash Behravesh
Mutual Ministry		(2 Separate Committees)	Pr. Kessinger / Pr. Wullenweber
Redeemer Renaissance		(Preschool/Afterschool) (Chair, Linda McConnaughay)	Karen Miller
Social Outreach		(Chair, Judy Kuhagen)	Stephanie Hunter / Lena Martikanen
Spiritual Nurture		(Chair, Diane Miller)	Pr. Kessinger
Stewardship		(Coordinator, Pr. Kessinger)	Ellen Kennedy
Worship and Music		(Chair, Liz Scheffler)	Roberta Pittman
Youth Ministry			Peter Kratz
Human Resources			Ellen Kennedy

Health Equity Team: The Health Equity Team modified guidance to allow individuals the choice of wearing a mask during worship and Faith Formation classes through the High School class. We anticipate staying with the current guidance until after Easter when the situation will be reexamined. Masks should be worn when in church building during the day.

Redeemer Renaissance: President Paukovits will work with Linda McConnaughay to lay out the timeline and actions required to join the RLP and RRASP boards, which will require a change to the constitution by-laws.

Ministry Reports:

The Social Concerns Team expedited a \$4,000 donation for Lutheran World Relief in order to provide aid to Ukraine.

The Stewardship Team will meet next week.

Building and Grounds:

President Paukovits reported that Whiting-Turner Construction, the company working on the neighboring Sunrise building has asked to move a construction trailer to Redeemer property. Compensation is being negotiated.

A Girl Scout troop will install a pinwheel garden at the church in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Additional New Business: President Paukovits made a request for an additional Executive Committee Member. Ellen Kennedy moved that Karen Miller be added to the Executive Committee. Liz Holzapfel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Close with Prayer: Pastor Kessinger closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: President Paukovits adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM

Next meeting of Council: April 11, 2022

Next meeting of Executive Committee: March 29, 2022



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Week of April 3
Wednesday, April 6

Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8 am
Lenten Dinner – 6:30 pm
Holden Evening Prayer – 7:30 pm

Week of April 10



April 10 Palm Sunday (8:30 am) (9:45 am) (11:00 am)
April 14 Maundy Thursday (7:30 pm)
April 15 Good Friday (12:00 pm)
Tenebrae Service (7:30 pm)
April 16 Easter Vigil Walk (9:00 am)

Week of April 17
Easter Sunday, April 17
Wednesday, April 20
Saturday, April 23

Worship Services – 8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11:00 am
Wednesday PM Bible Study – 7:00 pm
Memorial Service for Tracy Graves – 11:00 am

Week of April 24
Sunday, April 24
Wednesday, April 27
Thursday, April 28

First Communion Class – 12:15 pm
Youth Group Event – 12:15 pm
Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8 am
Wednesday PM Bible Study – 7:00 pm
Pre-Assembly Meeting for Voting Members – 7:00 pm



Saturday – Sunday, April 30/May 1
Confirmation Retreat
Mar-Lu-Ridge

Redeemer Day of Prayer / May 2



BIRTHDAY
BONANZA
2022

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

PARTY OF THE DECADE

SUNDAY • *May 15* • 12:30 P.M.

REDEEMER'S FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for a church-wide Birthday Bonanza celebrating all those turning another decade! Just to mention a couple: PSK (70), Ron Kutscher (90), and many more. Lunch and dessert will be provided but families bringing a guest of honor are encouraged to bring their favorite cake to share.

RSVP ONLINE BY MAY 1ST

WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0F48AEAD2CA5FEC43-BIRTHDAY

FELLOWSHIP • FOOD • CAKE • FUN FOR ALL AGES

Volunteer Opportunities for Job Preparedness

The third Pathways Out of Poverty in Northern Virginia webinar, sponsored by Lewinsville Presbyterian Church and Redeemer, addressed issues and opportunities for helping our vulnerable neighbors improve their prospects for better jobs and livelihoods in our region.

Panelists discussed high school equivalency credentials, technical skills certification, free community college tuition programs for low/moderate-income Virginians seeking jobs in high-demand fields, and “soft skills” training applicable to any profession (e.g., public speaking, problem solving, professional writing, digital literacy).

Joan Wise, Director of Self Sufficiency Services at Cornerstones (Reston) shared this list of opportunities where others can volunteer their time and skills. <https://www.cornerstonesva.org/> or phone 571-323-9555.

- ◇ If you have a business, management, or HR background, become an employment volunteer, hopefully with Cornerstones.
- ◇ If you have worked in the finance world, volunteer to be a financial mentor, again, hopefully with Cornerstones.
- ◇ If your members are scientists, mathematicians, English teachers or other educators, volunteering to tutor. Cornerstones keeps a list of individuals willing to tutor so that when a tutor is needed, we can reach out.
- ◇ If your members are nurses, doctors, pharmacists, accountants, etc., offering to assist a foreign-born professional pass their licenses in the U.S. Offer internships/residencies at your place of work, if available.
- ◇ Members can speak to their employers and ask them to prioritize low-income individuals for entry-level positions, internships, or shadowing opportunities.
- ◇ Sponsor hard skill classes in IT at Cornerstones.
- ◇ Donate, well-maintained vehicles to local nonprofits: Cornerstones, Catholic Charities, Vehicles for Change, etc.
- ◇ Donate new laptops with MS Office for first-generation college students from Cornerstones or gently used laptops to Computer Core
- ◇ Volunteer for Literacy Council of Northern Virginia to provide consistent, certified ESOL classes. (Many low-income individuals are very mobile. Having certified classes enables students to transfer between ESOL classes offered by Literacy Council, Catholic Charities and other certified classes.)
- ◇ if you have the skills, volunteer for Computer Core (<https://www.computercore.org>).

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP REFUGEES, ETC., HERE OR IN OTHER AREAS?

Contact the church office at church@redeemermclean.org to ask for the list of organizations who need financial contributions, in-kind donations, and/or your time and skills.

LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

[Click here to see the most recent issue of Living Lutheran Magazine!](#)

TAX ADVANTAGED GIVING

As we are in the midst of the tax season, we want to make sure that you are aware of the tax advantage of giving appreciated stocks or mutual fund shares directly to Redeemer. It really is a win-win opportunity for you and the church. This method of giving allows you to minimize capital gains taxes and yet provides the full current value and financial benefits to the programs and ministries that you care about at Redeemer. What a great way to share a portion of the blessings in your life.

If you have stocks or mutual funds that have appreciated significantly, rather than selling those assets and potentially incurring a large capital gain tax bill, those investments can be simply gifted to the church. It is an easy way to help the church meet our expense obligations for the year.

Sara Nail, Redeemer's Financial Coordinator, can help answer questions for you about this transfer process at 703/356-3346 or at sara@redeemermclean.org. Also, you can visit Redeemer's website and at the top of the page there is a tab labeled "About Us" and a following tab for "Give Online". In the subsequent description, there are stock and mutual fund donation instructions and forms available. Thank you!



FROM THE SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY A REPORT ON REDEEMER HAM DELIVERIES

Each month members of Redeemer pick up boxes of ham scraps and bones from Falls Church, Fairfax, and Reston Honey Baked Ham stores for delivery to non-profit organizations in our communities. The "collective memory" is that this Redeemer activity began 40+ years ago.

The total for 2021 was 6,057 pounds delivered to Food for Others, Martha's Table, ThriveDC, So Others Might Eat, and Rising Hope Church.

If you'd like to join the Ham Runners in 2022, contact Rick Stewart (ricstew2002@yahoo.com).

The March report is below.

- On March 3, Laura Wareham delivered 2 boxes of ham weighing 70 pounds to Food for Others from the Fairfax Honey Baked Ham store.
- On March 10, Ralph Dutrow delivered 9 boxes of ham weighing 315 pounds to So Others Might Eat from the Fairfax, Reston and Falls Church stores.
- On March 24, Roberta Pittman delivered 8 boxes of ham weighing 260 pounds to ThriveDC from the Fairfax store.
- On March 31, Ralph Dutrow delivered 9 boxes of ham weighing 315 pounds to Martha's Table from the Fairfax, Reston and Falls Church stores.

So for the month of March, we delivered 960 pounds of ham. A pretty good month!

Here is a breakdown for the year so far: Martha's Table, 710 pounds of ham; ThriveDC, 535 pounds of ham; So Others Might Eat, 385 pounds of ham and Food for Others, 105 pounds of ham. That brings our yearly total to 1,735 pounds of ham.



April Birthdays

- Apr 1 Nik Karnik, Vickie Myers, Steve Pelak
- Apr 2 Sean Angus, Anthony Jeffress, Cody Leonard, Kai Osifchin, Linda Ristig, Claire Roberts, Alexander Wu
- Apr 3 Audrey Grau, Julia Stanford, Ayo Toviho
- Apr 4 Lauren Frederick, Catherine Veum
- Apr 5 Stanley Carroll, Mary Crawford, Hannah Curtis, Tyler Honardoust, Amanda Rodriguez
- Apr 6 Shelley Brennan, Andrew Curtis, Pia Herbolsheimer, Sara Huston
- Apr 7 Suzanne Leaptrot, Ben Pribulka, Claire Pribulka, Amy Sevimli
- Apr 8 Susan Castillo
- Apr 9 Teresa Schellenger
- Apr 10 Miriam Howard, Mia Karnik, Jeffrey Schwartz
- Apr 11 Elisabeth Arnoult-Roberts, Brendon Dorgan, Monika Griffis, Meredith Lawler, Robert Mentzel, Steven Petersen, Madeleine Rubin
- Apr 12 Anna Broderdorf
- Apr 13 Emma Broderdorf, Mary Conway, Charlotte Roberts
- Apr 14 Susanne Gilbertson, Charlie Lindsay, Patrick Sivertsen, C.J. Tyeryar
- Apr 15 Katherine Barnett, Delphine Engel, Steven Kutscher, Helen Pelak
- Apr 16 Mia Barb, Nate Beck, John Leonard
- Apr 17 Rian Klanderman, Julia Simpson
- Apr 18 Phil Demske, Ron Kutscher, Adam Reese, Andrew Stieg, Ella Truslow
- Apr 19 Ella Barnes, Cate Lawler, Michael Michaud, Grace Posey
- Apr 20 Jake Holzapfel Apr 20 John Zele
- Apr 21 Rod Angus, Bobby Barnes, Steve Koenig, Jake Torgrimson, Tyler True, Barbara Tyeryar
- Apr 22 Greg Adams, Joan Durman, Jackie Stoll
- Apr 23 Russ Bruemmer, Isabella Peterson
- Apr 24 Jonathan Gorman, Palmer Holman, Jean-Marie Leonard, Nora Mueller
- Apr 25 Kate Zimmerman
- Apr 26 Katie Holzapfel, Danny Kostelancik, Cindy Waldron
- Apr 27 Robert Clarke, Tom Conway, Emma Dotterweich, Summer McCollough, Janelle Okorie, Terry Straub
- Apr 28 Lauryn Hahne, Liz Holzapfel, Brian Pleasant, Reija Risseeuw, Clay Tyeryar
- Apr 29 Jamie Kanski
- Apr 30 Milo Koehli, Sharie Sivertsen, Sharon Tsai

A Birthday Prayer

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

BCP

PASTORS AND STAFF OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor	Pastor Sandy Kessinger	ext. 102 cell: 703-635-4672	psk@redeemermclean.org
Associate Pastor	Pastor Joshua Wullenweber	ext. 105	josh@redeemermclean.org
Facilities Dir.	Bill Parks	ext. 110	bparks@redeemermclean.org
Office Mgr.	Andrea Meier	ext. 101	ameier@redeemermclean.org
Dir. Of Music	Matt Osifchin		mosifchi@hotmail.com
Dir. Of Preschool	Myriah Pirhala	ext. 111	mpirhala@redeemermclean.org
Dir. of Afterschool & Exec. Dir. Renaissance	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmconnaughay@redeemermclean.org
Financial Coordinator	Sara Nail	ext. 103	sara@redeemermclean.org
Facilities Host	Yvette Infante		yinfante@redeemermclean.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		



Your child will love exploring with us at camp! Redeemer Renaissance Summer Camp

2022

Camp is open to all children aged 3 through grade 6

Your child will be immersed in discoveries and grow friendships as they explore fantastic summertime activities!

To register:

Visit rlpmclean.org (Preschool ages 3-5) or

Afterschool.redeemermclean.org (School Aged Rising K—Grade 6)