



TIDINGS

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1545 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

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March 2023



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KESSINGER

MARCH OF 2023 PRAYING THE PSALMS

Lent is my favorite season of the church year. It is the one season that we seem to be more intentional about our spiritual life. Over the next few weeks our mid-week worship service will center our thoughts on how we can daily live out our baptism. Our prayer groups will shift their focus over the next five weeks to a Lenten devotional called *Water Marks*. By Palm Sunday we will be ready to walk with Christ to the cross and then to the empty tomb.

As individuals we have been taught over the years to give up something for Lent so as to make more room for God. Recently the focus has been to put a more positive light on this season. The suggestion is to add something to our lives that would deepen our relationship with God.

Sometimes I feel like we treat Lent like New Year's. In January we turned our calendars to a new year and resolved that we would promise to work on . . . and then we filled in the blank. Likewise, we come to Ash Wednesday and resolve something similar since our New Year's resolutions may have already been forgotten. The forty days of Lent seem more manageable than a whole calendar year.

What is so attractive about Lent is that it reminds us of our humanity and in our humanity we will always be a work in progress. It allows us to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit. It means that things can shift in our lives and our focus can change and that is a blessing and not to be seen as a failure. So what if we choose something for Lent that we already love and that we will want to continue beyond these 40 days? Is there a spiritual exercise that excites you and is life-giving to you?

One of the things that deepens our faith is the reading of Scripture. It is the one constant in our lives. Every time we open the Bible we have the opportunity to learn something new about the language in which it was written or we gain a new insight from its context. Our Bible studies allow us to contemplate a new way to look at a familiar text together and all of that is quite exciting. It is the engagement with the Word and the interaction with others that allows Scripture to come alive for us. We can seek it and cherish it. It opens for us the window to see God and to be okay with how God sees us.

At a recent staff meeting we read Psalm 2 as part of our devotions. It is the assigned reading for the Transfiguration of Our Lord. I was struck by how relevant it was to our current world situation and it has occupied my mind ever since. The psalm makes a striking claim that in the face of terrifying threats, God creates and preserves order. The entire world can be in an uproar, everyone can seek to overthrow the other, and yet the psalm offers us a beautiful glimpse of the glory and power of God. God is in control and God reigns. We pray along with the psalmist: *Happy are all who take refuge in him.*

After our staff meeting I looked at the psalms that we will read during Lent and believe they give us some solid opportunities for reflection. I offer them for us to read and meditate upon in these 40 days. Each week we can read the same psalm and let it speak to us individually and as a congregation. When we read Scripture slowly and meditatively it opens us up to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Reading Scripture in this contemplative manner is called *Lectio divina* and is a practice that dates back to the third century. It begins with reading the psalm and then quietly reflecting upon it. We are not to analyze it or try to figure out the intended meaning of the psalmist but rather allow it to quietly speak to us. The key is to read slowly, stop at the words or phrases that relate to you and your situation, and allow those same words to nourish and heal you. In our setting we will first hear the psalm read in worship on Sunday. In the days that follow we can include it in our devotions. By the end of the week we can then turn it into a prayer.

For those who want to read the psalms with me this Lent I list them for you. I also give you a key verse to memorize or carry with you throughout the week. I encourage our families to make this part of your conversation with your children. At any time I would love to hear from you about any insights you gained from a particular psalm or how it impacted your prayers.

Week of February 26

Psalm 32 Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

Week of March 5

Psalm 121 I lift my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord.

Week of March 12

Psalm 95 Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Week of March 19

Psalm 23 You anoint my head with oil.

Week of March 26

Psalm 130 I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope.

I offer this as one way for us to engage together in the reading of Scripture. I also understand that the Holy Spirit may be guiding you in another direction this Lent. Be open to the Spirit. Choose something that you love and that excites you and that offers you life.

*Yours in Christ –
Pastor Sandy Kessinger*

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOSH



Greetings, Friends in Christ,

By the time you read this, we will all be well on our Lenten journeys focusing on those areas that bring us closer to God and God's people. I pray that your Lenten practices are life-giving and offer you peace, hope, and joy as we, with Jesus, look towards Jerusalem and the life changing events ahead.

Now it is often not good practice during the Lenten season to look too far ahead so as not to lose the power of this penitential season, but I want us, at least in these brief few paragraphs, to think about Easter. I am excited to announce that we are going to try something new while participating in a liturgy that is quite old. This upcoming Holy Week, we will add to the list of opportunities for worship, reflection, and praise the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

Holy Saturday, as it is also known, begins in the early evening hours, just after sunset. Gathered in darkness, often outside, the congregation remembers the darkness of the tomb and the depths Jesus journeyed for us. Then a fire is kindled, and a small glimmer of light begins the Easter celebration. From there, all participant's candles are illuminated, and we transition from the outside inward – one step closer to the altar. It is in the Crossroads where we will hear the story of creation, God's journey with God's people, and the work of God through Christ – but it is still dark, and the small flicker of light is all that illuminates our journey.

From there, we will continue yet another step closer to the altar. From the Crossroads, we move into the sanctuary and continue by standing in the pews. Then, like Jesus' conquering of the grave forever, lights will be illuminated one by one, and the shouts of Alleluia will sing to the heavens. The dark cloth that covered the cross will be removed, bells will toll, and all will celebrate together that Christ has risen – He has risen indeed – Alleluia. But believe it or not, our journey is still not over.

The Easter Vigil service will rightfully end gathered around the altar table. Concluding our Lenten journeys from darkness to light, we will culminate this joyous event by meeting Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Together we will break bread and share in the cup Christ offers, meeting Christ face to face and knowing He goes with us as we continue the Easter celebration.

So, I invite everyone to join us for this ancient celebration that offers a multi-sensory experience as we journey with Christ from the tomb into the light of the Resurrection. We will gather for service on Saturday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. I hope to see all of you there.

I pray blessings on each of you as you continue your Lenten journeys.

Christ's peace,

Pastor Josh



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
SERVICES AT 8:30 AM, 9:45 AM, 11:00 AM**

**FAITH FORMATION, CONFIRMATION
HIGH SCHOOL, TABLE TALK (ADULTS) – 9:45 AM**

Week of March 1

Wednesday, March 1

Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8 am

Wednesday Dinner – 6:30 pm

Holden Evening Prayer – 7:30 pm

Men's Lenten Study – 8 am

Thursday, March 2

Week of March 5

Monday, March 6

Stewardship Ministry Team – 7 pm

Tuesday, March 7

Women's Lenten Study – 9:30 am

Wednesday, March 8

Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8 am

Wednesday Dinner – 6:30 pm

Holden Evening Prayer – 7:30 pm

Men's Lenten Study – 8 am

Thursday, March 9



Week of March 12

Monday, March 13

Council Meeting – 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 14

Women's Lenten Study – 9:30 am

Wednesday, March 15

Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8 am

Wednesday Dinner – 6:30 pm

Holden Evening Prayer – 7:30 pm

Men's Lenten Study – 8 am

Thursday, March 16

Week of March 19

Tuesday, March 21

Women's Lenten Study – 9:30 am

Wednesday, March 22

Wednesday Dinner – 6:30 pm

Holden Evening Prayer – 7:30 pm

Men's Lenten Study – 8 am

Thursday, March 23

Week of March 26

Tuesday, March 28

Women's Lenten Study – 9:30 am

Wednesday, March 29

Wednesday Dinner – 6:30 pm

Holden Evening Prayer – 7:30 pm

Men's Lenten Study – 8 am

Thursday, March 30

LENTEN HAPPENINGS

Upcoming Lenten Studies with the Pastors

During Lent, Pastor Wullenweber will lead the Men's Group and Pastor Kessinger will lead the Women's Group using a resource called "Water Marks." We will explore the importance of our baptism in our daily lives. This study will follow the *Book of Faith* devotional which is available to those who attend the studies. All sessions for both groups are hybrid. Those who come in person will meet in the Conference Room. A Zoom link will be sent to those who want to join from home.

Men's Lenten Study Group | Thursdays at 8 am | March 2 through March 30

Contact Pastor Wullenweber if you are interested.

Women's Lenten Study Group | Tuesdays at 9:30 am | March 1 through March 28

Contact Pastor Kessinger if you are interested.

Wednesday Evening Worship – Every Wednesday Evening in March 6:30 pm (Dinner) and 7:30 pm (Worship)

During Lent the Wednesday worship experience will center on the "Five Gifts of Discipleship: How Do We Live Out Our Baptism?" Martin Luther taught that we are to daily renew our baptism. It is connected to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and starts our spiritual journey. Through baptism we repent and receive forgiveness, love our neighbors, suffer for the sake of the gospel, and witness to Christ.

We will use Holden Evening Prayer for our liturgy. Holy Communion will be offered each week. Please come for dinner that starts at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall and/or the service that starts at 7:30 pm in our worship space. All are welcome!

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>.

The 2023 Lent Collection will benefit Homestretch

Redeemer has been working with [Homestretch](#) for several years, providing food and meeting other needs for their clients who are transitioning out of homelessness. Please see below for a list of items that are especially needed in case you are able to help. Items may be left on the table in the Crossroads now through April 9. **If you chose to provide a gift card, please put it into the offering plate or mail or deliver it to the church office instead of leaving it on the table.**

- Baby wipes, scent free
- Diapers, size 5
- New bath towels, washcloths and hand towels
- Grocery Gift Cards to Aldi in any amount
- Gift cards to Target and Walmart in any amount
- New plastic coat hangers



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



VAIPL'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						
February 19	20 Meatless Monday 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	21 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	22 Ash Wednesday "Lent comes providentially to awaken us, to shake us from our lethargy!" - Pope Francis During this Lenten season, how do you want to show up? Where do you need to be shaken up?	23 Learn about what equitable and walkable mobility could look like in Virginia by watching our EJ Now! show. bit.ly/mobilityjusticeVA	24 Grab a copy of The Seven Circles: Indigenous Teachings for Living Well for a weekly book discussion starting 3/7. Join us to continue thinking deeply about your movement with the Earth. bit.ly/sevencirclesbook	25 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.
Week Theme: Being Mindful of Waste						
26 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	27 Meatless Monday 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	28 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!	March 1 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.	2 Most landfills exist in communities of color that are already overburdened. Learn about Bristol residents as they fight to preserve their community. vaip.org/bristolandfill	3 World Wildlife Day 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.	4 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
Week Theme: Honoring Our Sacred Waters						
5 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	6 Meatless Monday 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.	7 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 vaip.org/water-stories	8 International Women's Day 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	9 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/tresplantingmovement	10 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	11 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. vaip.org/utility-shutoff-protection

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Week Theme: Environmental Justice Lightens the Load						
<p>12</p> <p>Prayer: God, conduit of peace and love 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</p>	<p>13 Meatless Monday</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>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/mossvillescreening</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Reflected on your understanding of environmental justice. Do you notice any environmental inequalities in your neighborhood? How do you extend support for our neighbors in environmental justice communities?</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Interested in advocating for environmental justice with VAJPL? Sign up to volunteer with us at vajpl.org/volunteer</p>
Week Theme: Cultivating Peace with Nature						
<p>19</p> <p>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 re-engage with nature as we are called by God to do, in peace and stillness.</p>	<p>20 Meatless Monday</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>21 International Day of Forests</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>23 World Meteorological Day</p> <p>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</p>	<p>24</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Restore your home or church landscape and support the local wildlife by planting native. Learn more about the Plant Natives Initiative in your region. plantnatives.org</p>
Week Theme: Building Resilience						
<p>26</p> <p>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</p>	<p>27 Meatless Monday</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Uplift environmental justice and climate resilience in your faith community by joining VAJPL's Climate in the Pulpits in the Mirror, & on the Bimah. Learn more and sign up at bit.ly/climateinthepulpits2023</p>	<p>29</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>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/rggi</p>	<p>31</p> <p>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/emup</p>	<p>April 1</p> <p>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/fairresiliencehub to learn more about ways your community can offer aid in a climate disaster.</p>
Week Theme: Food Justice for Our Neighbors						
<p>2 Palm Sunday</p> <p>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</p>	<p>3 Meatless Monday</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>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</p>	<p>6</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>7 Good Friday World Health Day</p> <p>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</p>	<p>8 Holy Saturday</p> <p>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</p>

9 Easter The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims God's handwork. - 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.





“LOVE THY NEIGHBOR” WAYS TO HELP

Different Ways to Give to Turkey and Syria

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is contributing to ACT Alliance to address the devastation from the earthquakes. ACT Alliance is a global alliance of more than 145 churches and related organizations from over 120 countries created to provide humanitarian aid for poor and marginalized people. There are several ACT Alliance members already active in the region that are providing immediate aid. These organizations are supplying blankets, mattresses, hot meals, and hygiene kits to earthquake survivors. As needs are assessed the organizations will establish further actions. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response (Middle East Crisis) will be used to assist survivors of the earthquakes and other disasters in the region.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

is also delivering aid and support to survivors of the earthquakes in Turkey. Members of their Humanitarian Action team have deployed to Turkey to support the response operations. They are coordinating with local partners to distribute ready-to-eat food, hot meals, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, and warm winter clothes. They are also airlifting urgently needed supplies like first aid kits and heating stoves, thermal blankets and tents to comfort families who are sleeping outside in freezing temperatures. They will expand their response to reach more earthquake survivors as they secure additional funding.

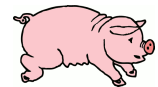
Financial Contributions

You can give online at www.ldr.org and/or www.lwr.org or write a check to “Redeemer Lutheran Church” with memo indicating either “LDR – Earthquake in Turkey” or “LWR – Earthquake in Turkey.” Any size gift will help either organization.

Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service Needs at the Southern Border

Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service (<https://www.lirs.org>) works with Border Servant Corps (<https://www.borderservantcorps.org>) at the U.S. southern border. The groups help to house, feed, and clothe immigrants who have been released from Customs and Border Protection Custody. Items needed for individuals and for the work of the two groups are included in an [Amazon wish list](#).

FEBRUARY HAM REPORT



- On February 3, Ralph Dutrow delivered 11 boxes of ham weighing 385 pounds to MANNA from the Falls Church, Fairfax and Reston Honey Baked Ham stores.
- On February 9, Gordon Jones delivered 3 boxes of ham weighing 105 pounds to Martha's Table from the Fairfax store.
- On February 16, Steve Greanias delivered 5 boxes of ham weighing 189 pounds to the Rising Hope Church from the Falls Church and Fairfax stores.
- So for the month of February we delivered 679 pounds of ham. A fair amount for a short month.
- Our year to date totals for ham donations are: Food for Others, 455 pounds; MANNA, 385 pounds; Martha's Table, 210 pounds; Rising Hope Church, 189 pounds
- and So Others Might Eat 175 pounds. Our total for the first two months of 2023 is 1,414 pounds. All weights are approximate.

So we are off to a good start this year. Thanks to everyone for helping to take a bite out of hunger.



Minutes of Meeting of Redeemer Congregation Council In Person and Via Zoom February 13, 2023

Present in Person: Chris Hernadi, Sheridan Kanski, Ellen Kennedy, Pastor Kessinger, Megan Kratz, Karen Miller, President Nate Paukovits, Tyler Posey, Secretary Roberta Pittman, Treasurer Ed Regan, Adetutu Toviho, Pastor Wullenweber

Present via Zoom: Gene Morrow

Excused: Lena Martikainen

Absent: Arash Behravesh

Devotions:

Pastor Kessinger led devotions and prayer from God Pause – A daily devotion by the alumni of Luther Seminary based on Matthew 5:21-37

Adoption of Agenda:

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

Welcome to New Council Members:

Nate Paukovits and Pastors Kessinger and Wullenweber welcomed the new council members. Installation for all council members will be on Sunday Feb. 19

Pastors' Reports:

- **Pastor Kessinger:**

- ◇ **Connections through Pastoral Care**

- Made Facility and Home Visits to be with Members
- Meeting with New Members
- Hospital Visits
- Meals with Families and Individuals
- Funeral Preparations

- ◇ **Connections through Ministries of the Congregations**

- Prayer Group Sessions (Tuesdays at 9:30 am)
- Confirmation Class (9:45 am on Sundays)
- Wednesday AM Bible Study (Sessions at 8:00 am)
- Wednesday PM Bible Study (Sessions at 7:00 pm)
- Meet and Greet Dinner (around 40 people attended)
- Attended Ice Skating with Youth Group

- ◇ **Connections through Meetings**

- Zoom meeting to discuss the proposed Building and Grounds Project
- Staff Meetings
- Planning Meeting with Diane Miller and Pastor Josh for Spiritual Retreat
- Worship and Music Committee Meeting
- Executive Committee Meeting
- Attended the Virginia Conference Meeting
- Completed Report to the Bishop and to the ELCA
- Coaching Session

Minutes continued next page

- ◇ **Connections through Community**
 - Meeting of Tysons Community Alliance as a board member
 - Lunch with Directors of Chesterbrook Residences (Nursing Home)
- **Pastor Wullenweber:**
 - ◇ **General Ministry:**
 - Preached 2 Sundays and presided at 3 Sundays
 - Men's Bible Study using the resource "Sabbath as Resistance"
 - Wednesday Evening Bible Study
 - Homebound Visits
 - Confirmation Class
 - Redeemer Youth Group
 - Ice Skating Event – Reston Town Center
 - ◇ **Special Ministry Events:**
 - Young Adult Retreat – 2 day retreat – Leesburg
 - Presided over graveside service for community member
 - Men's Retreat – Camp Caroline Furnace
 - New Member Dinner
 - ◇ **Ministry Events:**
 - Sacred Ground – Continue conversation with PSK and 13 other members of Redeemer around racial equality and justice
 - ◇ **Committee Interactions:**
 - Membership Outreach
 - Reconciling in Christ
 - Congregational Life
 - Worship and Music
 - ◇ **Community Interactions**
 - McLean Clergy Group
 - Chesterbrook Assisted Living, working with their Activities Director
 - ◇ **Synod Interactions:**
 - First Call Theological Education
 - Hosted this month's gathering - 10 participants
 - Virginia Conference Clergy Meeting
 - Monthly meeting with Ministry Coach
 - ◇ **Upcoming Events:**
 - Parents Night Out – Mission Trip Fundraiser
 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
 - Spiritual Retreat
 - Lenten Bible Study
 - Ash Wednesday/ Lent/ Holy Week/ Easter Vigil/ East
 - Holy Land Trip

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 for the month of January exceeded expenses of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Indebtedness has been reduced to \$38,373. President Paukovits explained the details of the Treasurer's Report to the new Council Members.

Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee met on February 3, 2023, to define discussion and action items for the full council.

Action Items:

- **Election of Officers/ Executive committee**
 - ◇ Nate Paukovits moved to elect Ellen Kennedy as President. Pr. Kessinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - ◇ Ellen Kennedy moved to elect Karen Miller as Vice President. Megan Kratz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - ◇ Ed Regan will remain Treasurer.
 - ◇ Nate Paukovits moved to elect Roberta Pittman as Secretary. Megan Kratz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - ◇ Karen Miller moved to elect Nate Paukovits as Member-at-Large for the Executive Committee. Megan Kratz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Council Liaison Positions**
 - ◇ Council members were asked to study the list of committees/ministry teams and inform Ellen Kennedy which one(s) each member would like to participate as Council Liaison. Council members were asked to seek consensus with the committee/ministry team chair of their chosen committees/ministry teams regarding the role of the Council Liaison in that committee/ministry team.
- **Annual Meeting Recap**
 - ◇ Council members shared their impressions of the tenor of the meeting.
 - ◇ It was felt that the structure of meeting was good and that it flowed well.
 - ◇ It was felt that having small informational meetings in advance of the larger meeting was helpful.
- **Bylaw Change for Redeemer Renaissance**
 - ◇ In preparation for its submission to the Synod, Secretary Roberta Pittman was instructed to make revisions to the Constitution of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer to reflect the changes to the bylaws as voted on at the Annual Meeting.
- **Steering Committee for the Building and Grounds Project and Capital Campaign**
 - ◇ Council members were asked to consider possible candidates to serve on Steering Committee for the Building and Grounds Project and Capital Campaign.
- **Annual Review of Pastor Kessinger**
 - ◇ The Council conducted the Annual Review for Pastor Kessinger.

Minutes continued next page

Ministry Reports:

- **RIC**

- ◇ Pastor Wullenweber reported that the Reconciling In Christ ministry team is being formed. In addition to himself, members include Sabine Detweiler, Liz Hernadi, Tyler Hernadi, Pastor Kessinger, Matthew Kratz, Cindy Morrow and possibly 2 additional people.

- **Worship and Music**

- ◇ Roberta Pittman reported that the Worship and Music Committee met on January 30, 2023 and discussed the following:
 - Filling the vacant section leader/cantor positions.
 - Schubert Mass in G will be performed in June.
 - Schedule and details for Lent, Holy Week and Easter
 - ⇒ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Burial of the Alleluia, 6:00 PM.
 - ⇒ There will be 2 services (Noon and 7:30 PM) on Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes. Dinner will precede the evening service at 6:30 PM.
 - ⇒ Lenten Services will be at 7:30 PM on Wednesdays preceded by dinner at 6:30 PM.
 - ⇒ There will be one service at 7:30 PM on Maundy Thursday with Absolution of Sins and individual prayers.
 - ⇒ There will be 2 (Noon and 7:30 PM) services on Good Friday.
 - ⇒ Easter Sunday Services will be at 8:30 AM, 9:45 AM and 11:00 AM.

Additional Old Business:

Nate Paukovits reminded the members of the Council that they are responsible for the dinner on February 22, 2023. A Sign-Up Genius will be forthcoming.

Additional New Business:

Ellen Kennedy expressed her excitement for working with the council in the new year.

Closing Prayer:

Pastor Kessinger offered a closing prayer.

Adjournment:

President Paukovits adjourned the meeting at 9:16 PM.

Next meeting of Council: March 13, 2023

Next meeting of Executive Committee: March 3, 2023



Redeemer's Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, February 12, 2023. The main results of the meeting are listed below; for more information on the proposals, see website (news tab) to view the 2022 Annual Report.

Council Members

-- outgoing members: Mitch Brown, Karen Detweiler, Liz Holzapfel, Stephanie Hunter, Peter Kratz
-- newly-elected members: Chris Hernadi (1st 3-year term), Megan Kratz (2nd 3-year term), Gene Morrow (1st 3-year term), Tyler Posey (1st 3-year term);
youth representatives, each for a 1-year term: Adetutu (Tutu) Toviho and Sheridan Kanski.

Officers were elected at the Feb. 13 Congregation Council meeting:

-- President: Ellen Kennedy
-- Vice-president: Karen Miller
-- Roberta Pittman continues as Secretary.
-- Ed Regan continues as Treasurer.

2023 Synod Assembly

The following were elected to be our voting members to the 2023 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly: Harold Hofstad, Lena Martikainen, Gene Morrow, Cindy Morrow, Nate Paukovits.

Bylaw Changes

We adopted bylaw changes to our constitution that places the Redeemer Preschool and Redeemer After-school under one umbrella called Redeemer Renaissance. It allows both programs to work more closely together.

2023 Budget

We adopted the 2023 budget for a total of \$ 1,134,835.

Building and Grounds Project

We adopted the Buildings and Grounds project that includes a natural playground area, a columbarium, and the refurbishing of offices and other rooms inside the church building. More details on what comes next will be forthcoming.





SUMMER CAMP 2023

Rising K-6th Grade

Get ready for fun and learning! Summertime is for discovering, imagining, growing, laughing, and playing with friends! At camp, special performances, workshops, art, playing games and sports, STEM projects, and building friendships magically transform the lives of children. Please remember that space is limited. Questions? Please contact Linda McConaughay at 703-356-3346 ext. 106



To register visit our websites:

Preschoolers, ages 3 and 4

rlpmclean.org

Rising kindergarteners through 6th grade

afterschool.redeemermclean.org





March Birthdays - We Wish You a Happy Birthday!!!

Mar 1	Shirley Detweiler, Bentley Gates, Dylan Jones, Willa James Thom
Mar 2	Diane Carsten-Pelak, Reid Klanderman, Justin Leas, Margitta Muhlenberg, Steve Wesbrook, Emma Williams
Mar 3	Kurt Darr
Mar 4	Kim Buseman, Carl Lettow, Greta Opsal
Mar 5	Denise Augustenborg, Lee Cronin, Bruce Heier, Alexander Rubin, Joseph Thompson
Mar 6	Steven Etkin, Robb Heier, Hannah Ristig
Mar 7	William Bourgin, Hans Crone, Adair Gerke, Stephanie Hunter, Betsy Kutscher, Chris Manitius
Mar 8	Craig Arness, Jennifer Demske, Colin Dibble, Michael Jansen
Mar 9	Lily Carroll, Syd DeLeonardis, Paul Lettow, Erik Magnusson, Esther Rang, Joshua Warren
Mar 10	Mary Kay Friend, Judy Kuhagen, Tom Redding, RuthHale Thom, Larry Tucker
Mar 12	Katie Armstrong, Skylar Hendricks
Mar 13	Jack Malek, Laura Stoessel, Johnny White
Mar 14	Ainslee Austin, Kim Lien
Mar 15	Katie Maglio, Betsy Spiros
Mar 16	Monica Cho, Younghae Choi, John Linthicum
Mar 17	Waka Osifchin
Mar 18	Michael Bradley, Stephen Moser, Amy Mykityshyn, Jack Skowrup
Mar 19	David Englund, Kim Williams
Mar 20	Lynn Ann Mullane, Andrea Pfister, Ale Van Scoyoc
Mar 21	Josh Elliot, Krista Opsahl-Ong, Bob Robertson, Evan Thorson
Mar 22	Dan Bader, Thomas Miller
Mar 23	Jamie Lynn Brainard, Chelsea Engle, Anna Pelak, Sunny Truslow
Mar 24	Karlotta Bjornson, Sean Connolly, Lukas Malachowski, Karen Miller, Frank Peterson
Mar 25	Brandt McCurdy
Mar 26	Mats Ahlgren, Rene Jeffress, Alexis Leibensperger, Rebecca Pilson, Eric Shelsta, Rick Stewart
Mar 27	Alex Papandrea, Emily Sullivan, Timothy True
Mar 28	Eric Trichtinger
Mar 29	Mark Heuer, Mike Kenney, Ave Macomber
Mar 30	Elizabeth Carroll, Jeanne Lighty, William Pelak, Andrea Villafuerte
Mar 31	Lisa Campet



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Redeemer Lutheran Church | 1545 Chain Bridge Road | McLean, VA 22203

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