

# **TIDINGS** **Newsletter**



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Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1545 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101

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Our mission is to share Christ's love  
with the greatest number of people.

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**A MESSAGE FROM  
PASTOR SANDY KESSINGER**

**SEPTEMBER of 2024  
CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

Luther was a strong believer that Christians stand under both government and church and have duties in both realms. One of the things that I appreciate about Redeemer is that our members are closely affiliated with what takes place in our government. Our people serve in a variety of roles and fulfill their responsibilities faithfully. For those of us not in government-related jobs, we live in Northern Virginia and our local news is really the national news. We are a well-informed congregation.

The church also offers us resources to study as we discern our role in society. We have both social statements and social messages that address some of the issues that we face in our culture. All offer Biblical foundations by which to start conversations. I am not a fan of picking the Bible apart by chapter and verse to answer or address all of our modern-day questions. However, we use Scripture to learn some of the overarching themes found in the Bible, such as our commitment to be faithful and obedient to God, and to love God and neighbor – and then to translate that into action.

**DRAFT SOCIAL STATEMENT**

The ELCA is currently drafting a new social statement titled "Civic Life and Faith." The draft is the result of three years of study. For those who are interested, we have until September 30, 2024, to read the draft and offer any suggestions. Once the task force that developed the statement receives everyone's comments, they will edit the draft based on the input from others. It will then be submitted for consideration at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. If adopted by a two-thirds majority, then the social statement becomes an official teaching of the church. It will serve as a discernment tool for us as we think about how our faith connects with our civic responsibilities.

Link to draft Social Statement – [Civic Life and Faith Draft.pdf \(elca.org\)](https://elca.org/Civic_Life_and_Faith_Draft.pdf)

Link to offer feedback – [Draft of a Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CivicLifeFaithSurvey)

**STUDIES FOR CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH**

A study was conducted that helped form the draft social statement that I just mentioned. The study was so well received that it remains a resource for those who want to learn more. The curriculum is divided into six

sessions. Each session has Bible readings, group discussion questions, videos, and case studies. Sessions can be studied in any order based on interest:

- How is God's Invitation to Discipleship Lived Out in a Democracy?
- How do Christians Address Controversial Civic Issues?
- What are Lutherans Views on Civic Life?
- What Are the Objectives of Democracy in the United States?
- What is Faith-Based Living Got to Do with Civic Life?
- How Do We Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord in Civic Life?

Link – [Studies for Civic Life and Faith - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](https://elca.org/studies-for-civic-life-and-faith)

If you would like to enter into these conversations, please let me know and we will do our best to set up a small group to discuss these topics.

### **LUTHERANS IN AN ELECTION YEAR**

As Lutherans we acknowledge that "faith is active in love." In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on the major issues before us? United Lutheran Seminary is offering six sessions that delve deeper into some of our social statements. We can then use what we learned to help in our own decision-making process. They will also offer us excellent guides when we talk with others.

One of the sessions has already taken place but you can review it here:

Introduction to Social Teachings

Link – [KF: ELCA Social Statements - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfJLcJLJLjU)

Slide presentation – KindlingFaith-ULSSeminar.pdf

On August 27	"Corporate Social Responsibility"
On September 8	"Abortion"
On September 24	"Faith, Sexism, and Justice"
On October 8	"Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide"
On October 22	"Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture"

Going forward, we will place in the announcements the link to view and/or to read the slide presentations for the remaining sessions once they are posted. The presenters are all known for their theological work so they will offer good insights and probing questions. It will give us a prayerful way to consider our role in the world. Back to what Luther said, we stand under both government and church and have duties in both realms. Back to what I said, I offer a deep word of gratitude to all of you who serve (or who have served) in government roles.

### **DAY OF PRAYER FOR OUR NATION**

On Monday, November 4, we will have our next "Day of Prayer" at Redeemer. The emphasis will be on our nation as we prepare for the election. We hope that you will participate in our time of prayer that is divided into 30-minute segments. We start at 8 am and continue until 8 pm. We ask God to lead and guide us.

Yours in Christ - Pastor Sandy Kessinger

# September

## LABOR DAY WEEKEND – SEPTEMBER 1

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 am – Contemporary Service  
10:15 am – Table Talk (Adult Class)  
10:30 am – Traditional Service

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE – STARTS SEPTEMBER 8

8:30 am and 11:00 am – Traditional Services  
9:45 am – Contemporary Service

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### EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

Starts Sunday, September 8 – 9:45 am  
Faith Formation, Confirmation, and High School  
Table Talk (Adult Class) (Hybrid)

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#### **WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1**

Monday, Sept. 2 Enjoy Labor Day! (Church Office closed)  
Wednesday, Sept. 4 Quilting Ministry – 9 am  
Thursday, Sept. 5 Men's Bible Study (Weekly) – 8 am (Hybrid)  
Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10:30 am (Hybrid)  
Bell Choir (Weekly) – 7 pm  
Traditional Choir (Weekly) – 7:45 pm

#### **WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8**

Sunday, Sept. 8 Faith Formation, Confirmation and High School Classes – 9:45 am  
Table Talk (Adult Class) (Weekly) – 9:45 am  
ELCA Day of Service (Sunrise) – 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
Congregation Council Meeting – 7:30 pm (Hybrid)  
Women's Prayer Group (Weekly) – 9:30 am (Hybrid)  
Bible Study (Work of the Holy Spirit) (Weekly) – 8 am (Hybrid)  
Bible Study (Parables of Jesus) (Weekly) – 7 pm (Zoom)

#### **WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15**

Sunday, Sept. 15 Temple Talk (Rise Against Hunger)  
Tuesday, Sept. 17 Good Grub and God Dinner – 7 pm  
Wednesday, Sept. 18 Quilting Ministry – 9 am  
Thursday, Sept. 19 Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10:30 am (Hybrid)

#### **WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22**

Saturday, Sept. 28 Food for Others (5K) – 8 am ((Tysons)

## Capital Campaign Update

At the end of August, the total amount pledged or donated to the Capital Campaign is \$1,599,112 which is about \$5k higher than last month and represents 59.2% of our \$2.7 million goal.

## Construction Project Updates from August

The blueprints for our interior renovations have been under review by the County since mid-May. We have just received the comments from those who reviewed the zoning, structural, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and life safety aspects. There are 17 issues that need to be addressed by the architects and engineers. These responses will be in the form of additional drawings or written explanations to be submitted.

When the office space is remodeled on the education side of the building, a new office will be created for Linda McConaughay, Executive Director over our Preschool, After-school and Summer Camp programs. Currently, Linda has to use a corner of a storeroom as an office. The new office will provide an appropriate space for the head of an important ministry of the church and she will be able to meet privately with parents, students, staff, and community members.

When the new Natural Play Area and the Columbarium construction is completed, the landscaping in these areas will be significantly enhanced. This new landscaping will require additional care for the new plants, bushes, and trees planted. We hope additional church members will assist those who already help care for the church grounds in this way. If not, we may need to engage a landscaping contractor to provide those needed services.

As you think about how you can support Redeemer's renovation and expansion plans, please consider one of the tax advantaged giving options. The gifting of appreciated stocks or mutual funds will help minimize capital gain taxes. Also, the gifting of retirement Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) can also lower your taxable income. See Redeemer's website under the Giving heading for more information.



## **Metro D.C. Synodical Women's Organization's "Welcome Back" Convention Register by September 7**

The Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) has invited the women of our congregation to their "Welcome Back" mini-convention on Saturday, September 21. This will take place from 8:30 am to 2 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church located at 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22150. The theme is "Resilience and Hope" and it is expected to be a valuable experience for worship, service, and fellowship. Registration is free. If you are interested in going, please sign up [here](#) by Saturday, September 7, or find more information on the [SWO website](#).

### **Mark Your Calendars - Good God and Grub resumes on September 17th!**

What is Good Grub and God? It is a night out in a local restaurant for adults for a good meal, fellowship, and a discussion on some aspect of our faith. Come solo or bring a friend, co-worker, or partner, but come enjoy getting to spend time together.

We are meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month for the rest of 2024:

- September 17th
- October 15th
- November 19th
- December 17th.

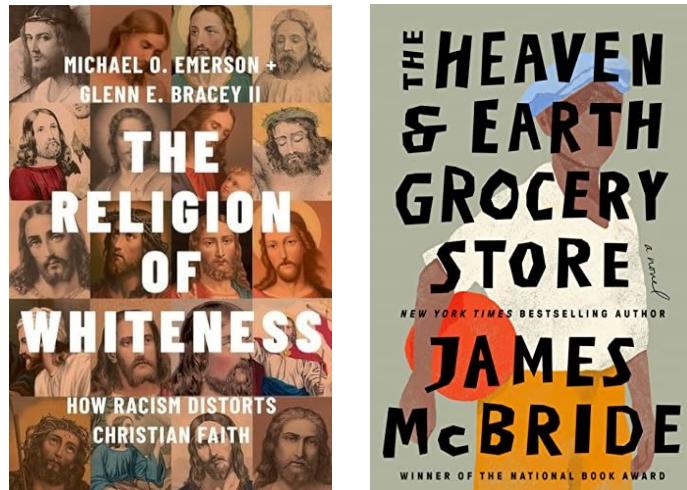
We will be meeting on Tuesday, 9/17 at 7pm at The Union, 1379 Beverly Rd, Mclean. (If the weather is good, we will enjoy sitting outside on the patio.) You are welcome to come as often as your schedule allows. Each month someone will be the "host". Being the host requires no preparation or skills; you get to pick the restaurant and the topic for discussion.

If you are interested in being the host, please contact Kim Wenk at [kbwenk@gmail.com](mailto:kbwenk@gmail.com) or 703-909-3424. We ask that if you would like to attend, please sign up via the link below or contact Kim. You can sign up as late as the day before; we just want to be sure that we have enough seats for everyone.

[Yes, I would like to come to Good Grub and God](#)

## Racial Justice and Equity Book Club

Redeemer Racial Justice and Equity Book Club is reading *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride during the summer to discuss when we return to our Zoom meetings in the fall on September 16! After that we will be reading *The Religion of Whiteness* by Emerson and Bracey. We read about 30-50 pages each week and meet every Monday 7:30 - 8:30 pm via Zoom to discuss what we have read. Anyone is welcome to join us! If interested, please contact [Teresa Schellenger](#).



## Redeemer Renaissance



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 novel 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.

### AGES

Children 1.5 years and older may register.\*

### TUITION

\$350/child/15-Class Sessions

### TUESDAYS at 9:30 AM

October 15 & 29  
November 12 & 19  
December 10  
January 14 & 28

February 11 & 25  
March 11 & 25  
April 8 & 22  
May 6 & 20

[REGISTER online or call 703-356-3567 for more information.](#)

Good Beginnings will take place outdoors in small groups and space will be limited. Children must be 2.5 years old by Good Beginnings start date.

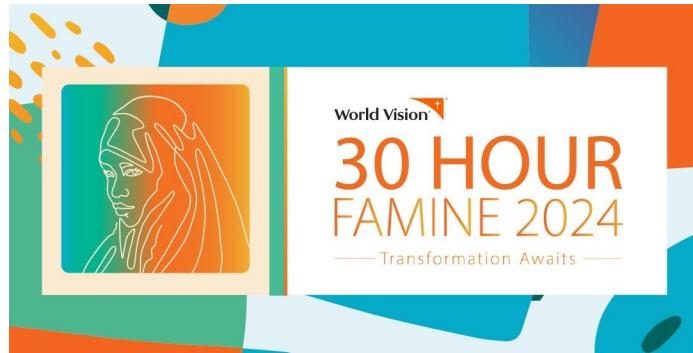


## Youth Events

### **Youth Mission Trip — June 22 to 27, 2025**

**Sign up by September 27**

Our 2025 Youth Mission trip will be to Niagara Falls, NY through the organization YouthWorks. This trip is open to current 7th through 12th graders. Spaces for this trip are limited and we are in need of chaperones. If you are interested in attending please email [Grace Howie](#) to learn more details.



### **30 Hour Famine Lock-In — October 11, 6pm to October 12, 5pm**

The 30 Hour Famine is a fundraiser that concludes with the lock-in event where we will go hungry ourselves to support the need and raise awareness. This year we will fundraise for Rise against Hunger and participants can receive service hours for this event. The lock-in is open to 9th through 12th graders and we are in need of 2 chaperones. If you are interested in participating, please [sign up here](#) or contact [Grace Howie](#) for more information.

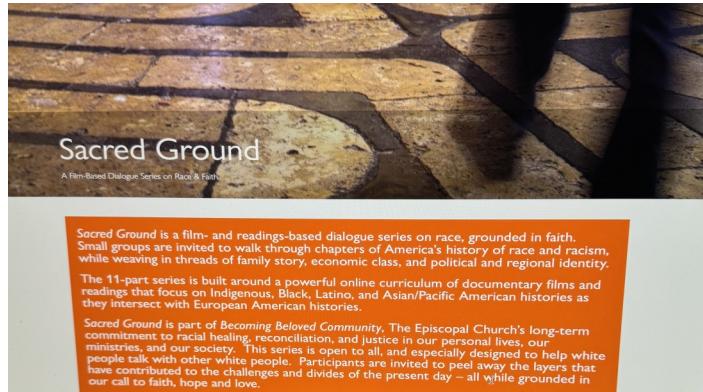
**Please refer to the September Youth Newsletter for other updates related to Youth at Redeemer.**

### **Young Adult Group Meeting, September 24 — 7 pm to 9 pm**

Young adults are invited to attend the next group meeting hosted at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, September 24, from 7-9 pm. This group is open to those between the ages of 19 to 39-ish, but if you feel you are a young adult you are welcome to attend! Dinner will be provided. This group is a partnership between Redeemer, Lewinsville, and Immanuel Presbyterian Church. For more information, please contact Grace Howie.

If you would like to be included in an email list for updates about Young Adult events including Group Meetings, Social Events, and Retreats, please email Grace Howie.

## Sacred Ground circles beginning in September 2024!



This will be the third year for Redeemer to host the popular series consisting of 10 monthly sessions to study and discuss race and faith. Developed by the Episcopal Church, it consists of carefully chosen films and readings to help understand and love our “neighbors” and is described as a “life-changing and meaningful experience” by previous participants. The first year the groups met in person and via Zoom. This year we met monthly only via Zoom. If you are interested in joining a circle or learning more about Sacred Ground, please let the church office know [by e-mail](#) before September 8, and we will be back in touch with further information. Feel free to invite others who may not be Redeemer members but who may be interested.

## Food for Others 5K and Fun Run September 28

Join us in taking part in the Food for Others Tysons 11th Annual 5K & Fun Run! Early bird pricing is available for the 5K until Sept. 13 and until Sept. 27 for the 1 mile Fun Run/Walk. Registration is available until the event. There is also a virtual Runner option for those who cannot join in person but still want to participate. If you are interested, register [here](#) and please email [Grace Howie](#) with the details and number of your registrants. Youth can receive service hours for participation.

## Social Outreach

### God's Work. Our Hands. September 8

Join Redeemer members to spend an afternoon of fellowship with the residents of Sunrise of McLean Village from 1:30-3:30 pm on September 8 (also Grandparent's Day!). We will have several activities to enjoy during our time together. We will have games such as Uno, Old Maid, Rummy, and Scrabble, or you can bring a game to share! We will have a knitting/crochet circle to work on the scarves for the Prayer Shawl 200 in 24 and to enjoy meeting fellow knitters/crocheters. We will also have a craft project to make [paper flowers](#). Students in Faith Formation will make drawings or color pictures for the residents during Faith Formation. Sign up [here](#) or contact [Tricia Engle](#) or [Grace Howie](#).

# Social Outreach

## Britepaths

**Please support Britepaths as part of the September donation drive.** As part of this drive, we are collecting funds which will assist our Fairfax County neighbors in need through Britepaths' Emergency Food Support program. 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 that we can continue to provide timely assistance to those experiencing hardship in our community. Join us in making a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors by donating today to Britepaths' Emergency Food Support program. Together, we can provide vital support and foster resilience within our community.

**Client Quote:** "Good afternoon, the reason for writing is to thank you endlessly for all your help for my family with those gift cards for food purchases. It helped me a lot to solve my economic situation in purchases since I am a single mother with 3 daughters and two grandchildren, and I appreciate it very much for such valuable help for my family. From our God, we wish you to receive many blessings and that it is he who always guides and enlightens them to continue with such beautiful work. The gift cards helped a lot to alleviate my expenses and improve my economic situation. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

**40th Anniversary:** Britepaths invites you to join them for an inspiring evening of community spirit and philanthropy at Britepaths' 40th Anniversary Gala! Celebrating four decades of offering vital support to Northern Virginia residents in crisis, this milestone event honors Britepaths' commitment to stabilize families, foster personal empowerment, and support the needs of children. Scheduled for Friday, September 20 at 6 p.m. at Westfield Marriott Washington Dulles, the theme "Stronger Today, Brighter Tomorrow" reflects Britepaths' journey of hope and empowerment. The gala will feature a captivating program with heartfelt testimonials from those whose lives have been transformed by Britepaths. Your presence and generosity will help Britepaths' continue fostering stability and resilience in our community. Let's come together to reflect on Britepaths' journey and envision an even brighter future, visit [britepaths.org/40gala](http://britepaths.org/40gala).

## 200 in 24 Winter Scarf Challenge

Calling all yarn artisans to join the 200 in 24 winter scarf challenge for N Street Ministries, serving homeless women in the DC area. The collection so far is robust, but we have not yet reached our goal. We have over 90 scarves on hand now. Scarf-in-a-bag kits are available in the Crossroads, and collection boxes are there too. The scarf drive ends October 20 when the scarves will receive a blessing at the Sunday services. So with needles clicking and yarn a-flying, we can head for our goal and have fun along the way.



## September Birthdays - We Wish You a Happy Birthday!

Sept. 1 Barbara Donne, Jennifer Henshall, Lisa Richter, Zachary Risseeuw, Heather Waldon  
Sept. 2 Becca Moser, Peyton Ostrup  
Sept. 3 Jennifer Jordan, Mackenzie Niles, Stacy Pence  
Sept. 4 Matt Anderson, Susan Garman, David Zimmerman  
Sept. 5 Helen Goldfrank, Deanna Heier, Jason Koenig  
Sept. 6 Victor Litwinski, Grace Myers, Carolyn Valuch  
Sept. 7 Peter Kutscher, Autumn Reese, Michael Sheehan  
Sept. 8 Cara Dillaman, James Goodwin, Walker Pence  
Sept. 9 Elisabeth Brittin, Tom Engle, Caitie McBride, Elin Schwartz  
Sept. 10 DeAnn Allen, Ella Budde, Joan Coffman, Lauren Markwart, Annabel Richter, Rob Wenk  
Sept. 11 Lizzy Apple, Ken O'Brien, Charles Shelleman  
Sept. 12 Jamie DeGrafft, Cindy Hendricks  
Sept. 13 Jonathan Grau, Dana Karangelen, Eve Stewart  
Sept. 14 Erica Augustenborg-Epstein, Jonny Grau, Judy Martin, Michael Petersen, Wyatt Windsor  
Sept. 15 Johnny Bruemmer, Camryn DeGrafft, Karin Kutscher, Jack Posey, Griffin Roberts, Eric Thronson  
Sept. 16 Sophien Djemmal, Emma Gropp, Michael O'Brien  
Sept. 17 Mark Madsen, Phillip Merrill, Chris Miller  
Sept. 19 William Gibson, Kate Jones, Alexandra Lettow, Olivia Madsen, Shannon Wilson  
Sept. 20 David Broderdorf, Ellen Opsal, Paul White  
Sept. 21 Elizabeth Corvari, Nick Corvari, Paul Goodwin, Douglas Johnson, Jennifer Laredo  
Sept. 22 Charlotte Bourgin, Emma Bradley, Carolyn Gilbertson, Shenafa Kenney, Thomas Mueller, Stefanie Schroeter  
Sept. 23 Luke Austin, Tim Crawford, Carol Honigberg, Nicole Sheehan, Yasmina Shields, Kristen Silverberg, Christine Stelter, May Wilson  
Sept. 24 Tyler Hernadi, Gerry Schumacher  
Sept. 25 Jerry Hahne, Stephen Mallard  
Sept. 26 Claire Broderdorf, Soraya Hashemi, Elainne Lea, Roberta Pittman, July Rodriguez  
Sept. 27 Caroline Austin, Leslie Humes, John Lettow, Janet Lofgren, Harrison Malatack, Liina Richardson  
Sept. 28 Florence Hall, Meg Honigberg, Brian Stewart, William Thompson  
Sept. 29 Larry Gilbertson, Bo Gilbertson, Ben Kostelancik, Tim Kostelancik  
Sept. 30 Matthew Cronin, Sonja Kuhn

## PASTORS AND STAFF OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor	Pastor Sandy Kessinger	ext. 102 cell: 703-635-4672	psk@redeemermclean.org
Bell Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com
Director of Music	Matt Osifchin		mosifchi@hotmail.com
Director of Afterschool	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmcconnaughay@redeemermclean.org
Director of Preschool	Katrina McNair	ext. 111	preschool@redeemermclean.org
Evening Facility Host	Brian Doyle		
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
Nursery Care	Bernarda Rodriguez Lusbi Pina		
Office Manager	Cynthia Finocchiaro	ext. 101	cynthia@redeemermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel		joymenzel@gmail.com
Pianist	Kathy Detwiler		
Youth & Communications Coordinator	Grace Howie		grace@redeemermclean.org
Youth Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Ellen Kennedy
Vice President	Nate Paukovits
Secretary	Chris Hernadi
Treasurer	Edward Regan

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lee Cronin  
Sabine Detweiler  
Megan Kratz  
Lena Martikainen  
Karen Miller  
Gene Morrow  
Tyler Posey  
And a Youth Representative