



TIDINGS

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1545 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

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November 2021



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KESSINGER

November 2021

Pray Without Ceasing

One of our small group ministries just spent an entire year reading a book about prayer. On the surface it seemed like an easy topic to discuss. However, the more we read about prayer the more our questions surfaced. What constitutes a good prayer? Are we praying the right way? How does God answer our prayers? Why are some of our prayers not answered?

I am thinking about prayer a lot these days because there is a lot that needs our prayers. On a Sunday morning we pray for the church, the world, and those in need. We offer prayers of thanksgiving for all our blessings. We end our prayers with a petition for those who have gone before us in faith. As we end another church year and start anew on November 28 I invite us as a faith community to pray daily. It is the one of the best ways to stay connected to God and with each other.

Prayers for the Church

For the first time in a long time we are fully staffed. Andrea (Office Manager), Sara (Finance Coordinator), Bill (Building Manager), Linda (Executive Director of Redeemer Lutheran Renaissance), Myriah (Redeemer Lutheran Preschool Director), Yvette (Facilities Host), Pastor Josh (Associate Pastor) and I will work together as a team to further the mission of Redeemer. We pray that we will continue to be faithful in the proclamation of the gospel both in worship and in our love for neighbor. As we explore what it means to be a hybrid church we pray that we would be open to the changes that it will require of us. We pray for the other churches in our community that we will find a path to work more cooperatively with each other.

On the day that I am writing this article the world is watching to see what will happen to the seventeen missionaries who have been taken hostage in Haiti. After a week there is now talk that if the ransom is not paid that it will cost them their lives. Our prayer is that God is with each of them and for all others who lose their life for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Prayers for our Nation

A new tradition at Redeemer is to have a *Day of Prayer* on the day before Election Day. This year that occurs on Monday, November 1. So that we can have one *continuous* prayer throughout the day we offer 30-minute time slots to cover the day from 8 am to 8 pm. Sample prayers are available to help us focus on the intent of the day. People can come to the church to pray or they can do it from the comfort of their homes. Please look at the sign-up (that can be found on the Home Page of our website) and find a time period that works for you.

Prayers for the World

Signs of hope are evident as vaccines are now being approved for the very young. As we have such ready access to the vaccines we pray for the countries who have a limited supply. As the pandemic has taken up so much of our time and energy we also search for lasting solutions to the other deep-rooted problems that afflict our nation and the world. We remember that God has made us stewards of his creation. Our care is not just for the people but for the land and sea and all living things. As the weather turns colder we pray for those who are without food and shelter. Let us *see* them and minister to them with compassion.

We live in a broken world and have fallen short of what God intended for us. In prayer we remember who we are and imagine what we can be with the help of God. It realigns everything. We pray that as we face the reality of our world we can also see a new reality through the eyes of God. Despite all that has happened in this world God is committed to restoring his creation.

Prayers for Healing

The prayer list that is part of our weekly announcements is extensive and needs our constant attention. Although we do not know everyone on the list we pray with sincerity for each and every person and family. We pray that those who are facing chronic illnesses will find the strength they need to persevere in faith. We seek healing and the fullness of life for each person on our list (and all others) with the understanding that our personal wish does not always align with a failing body. We pray for those who care for the sick and dying. We pray for those who have the courage to seek help for mind, body, and spirit.

Our prayers for healing are probably the ones we are most confused about and the ones that raise the most questions. Once more we want to know the right formula by which to pray in order so that our request is granted (if not for ourselves then certainly for the people in our lives that we care about deeply). Prayer is not a means of removing the unknown and unpredictable elements in life but the outworking of the grace of God. God feels the same compassion for human suffering that Jesus demonstrated on the cross. Redemption comes from passing through the pain and not avoiding it. Our main prayer is for the reassurance that God loves us and that God understands our concerns. We are to trust God and not control God.

C.S. Lewis stated it this way:

“All prayers are heard, though not all prayers are granted. Only faith vouches for the connection.”

We can learn from St. Paul who did not simply make a request and resign himself to a decision by God. Paul put feet to his prayer. He persevered even when it became increasingly clear that his prayer was not being answered.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is on November 25! Best things in life are unexpected gifts dropped on us through grace alone. We are to treasure the time we spend with God more than the requests we want him to fulfill. We are to be grateful for every day that we have been blessed with life.

We give thanks that we are part of a faith community that hears the cries of people and responds in love. With deep gratitude we thank God for all who give of their time and finances so we can be the church. For the gift of friends and family we give thanks. For the beauty of creation that shows itself in this season we give thanks. For the gift of a new day we give thanks.

It has been found that people who live their life with gratitude are generally happier and healthier. Being grateful for our blessings help us to be happy and spiritually strong. In our prayers of thanksgiving we see how God is present even when we struggle. Every day we can recall where we experienced God through the love and care of others.

Prayers for the Faithful Departed

November 7 is All Saints Sunday. It is the day we remember the lives of the faithful departed. As we did last year we will have a time of silence as the bell rings for the more than 725,000 people who died from the coronavirus and its variants just in the United States. Worldwide that number exceeds 4,900,000 people. Our prayers are for those who mourn. We pray for those who will struggle through the holidays because a loved one is absent. We trust in the promises of God that are sure and true that will sustain us in our time of sorrow.

I am thinking about prayer a lot these days because there is a lot that needs our prayers. We need not put a value on our prayers. All of our prayers are good. All of our prayers are prayed in the right way. Prayer is one way to grow closer to God and to let God know what is on our minds and hearts. Will all of our prayers be answered? And if not does that mean we lack faith? None of us have perfect faith but these kinds of questions diminish the role of prayer. When we pray without ceasing we are keeping God with us all the time. We need the presence of God to answer some of those prayers ourselves with his guidance and love.

We pray for the church, the world, and those in need. We offer our prayers of thanksgiving for all our blessings. We pray for those who have gone before us in prayer. “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (2 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Thanks be to God – Pastor Sandy Kessinger



A Message from Pastor Josh

November 2021

In the first verse of Psalm 19, the psalmist proclaims, “the heaven are telling the glory of God, and creation is shouting for joy.” As we feel the change of the seasons upon us with the slowly dropping temperatures and colors of fall beginning to show – it is as if creation is shouting for joy to God.

The beautiful fall weather is yet another reminder that the seasons of life are constantly changing, and for Heather and me, this is most certainly true. We have just experienced a huge change with our relocation to Northern Virginia, but I can say we, too, are shouting for joy to God. We both could not be happier to be joining you all in ministry here at Redeemer. We have experienced nothing but the warmest of welcome – and we give thanks for your kind hospitality!

Now, if anyone has recently started a new job or a new position, you know the first couple of weeks (or months) is usually a time of orientation. Getting a lay of the land, figuring out the ebb and flow of the days and weeks, and of course, getting to know your co-workers. Well, as I prepare to enter my second month here at Redeemer, I can say that I have accomplished the first two pieces of this orientation equation, but I need your help with the third. As I begin my call as your associate pastor, one of the most important things on my list is getting to know you, the people of Redeemer! So, over the next several months, it is my goal to meet with all the families of the congregation.

I have set up a Signup Genius page with dates and times throughout the week – simply go on and select what works best for you and your family. We can meet wherever you feel most comfortable, whether that be out for coffee, or on your front porch, or we can meet via Zoom if you are not yet comfortable with visiting outside your home – I don’t care – just so we can find a space to talk and get to know one another.

Here is the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48AEAD2CA5FEC43-coffee>

I give thanks for this opportunity to serve as your associate pastor, and I look forward to getting to know each of you as we begin this new season together. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything from me.

Peace and blessing in the month ahead,

Pastor Josh



**Sunday, October 31, 2021
3:30—5:00 pm EDT**

Welcome to a virtual event jointly sponsored by two close neighbors in the Northern Virginia faith community, Lewinsville Presbyterian Church and Redeemer Lutheran Church. The topic is “Accessing Affordable Housing” and it will be presented on Sunday, October 31, 2021, at 3:30pm to 5:00pm EDT via Zoom, as part of the Pathways out of Poverty in Northern Virginia series. The event features **Christopher Fay**, Executive Director of Homestretch, and **Carmen Romero**, President and CEO of Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH), and will be moderated by **Jim Edmondson**, Principal of E&G Group. **James Foster**, Professor at the George Washington University, will introduce the series.

About the event. In this first event of the series, we examine a key barrier to escaping poverty in Northern Virginia: Affordable housing. James Foster will set the stage by describing the multidimensional view of poverty and showing how the lack of affordable housing is a key burden facing poorer Northern Virginians. Christopher Fay will walk us through the multidimensional approach used by Homestretch to help homeless families access affordable housing and expand their capabilities. Carmen Romero will discuss APAH’s strategy to provide quality rental communities for thousands of low-income residents, and to keep them affordable. Jim Edmondson, the moderator of the session, who has extensive experience in owning and managing affordable apartments, will moderate the discussion and facilitate the Q&A session following the formal presentations.

About the Series. Pathways out of Poverty in Northern Virginia begins with the knowledge that affluent Northern Virginia is home to many poor families and individuals who are confronted daily with a multitude of simultaneous challenges. The goal of the series is to understand these barriers, and to explore policies, programs, and individual actions that can help remove the barriers facing our neighbors.

About the Panelists

Christopher Fay is executive director of Homestretch, a program for homeless families in Northern Virginia. Homestretch has earned numerous awards and media attention for its outstanding outcomes in helping homeless families transform their lives. Before Homestretch, he served as director for Delancey Street Replication of the Milton Eisenhower Foundation. Delancey Street is widely recognized as the most innovative and successful program for ex-offenders in the world. Mr. Fay is also an illustrator of over a dozen children’s books including the award-winning “Inigo.” His original screenplay for the 2004 Showtime movie “Carry Me Home” also earned him a Humanitas Prize nomination and an Emmy Award nomination. He has served on many boards including for the Children of Uganda and on the board of trustees for the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia. He has a bachelor’s degree from Carnegie-Mellon University and a master’s degree from Columbia University.



Carmen Romero is the President and CEO of Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH). Ms. Romero joined APAH in 2011 and has spent the last decade overseeing the real estate team contributing to the creation or preservation of over 1,000 new affordable housing units in the DC region with additional developments underway today in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Montgomery counties. Under Ms. Romero's leadership, APAH's Real Estate Development team has delivered several innovative, award-winning affordable housing properties, including Queens Court, Gilliam Place (a partnership with Arlington Presbyterian Church), Columbia Hills, and The Springs. In addition, she oversaw APAH's projects under active construction in Arlington. This includes Lucille & Bruce Terwilliger Place, a 160-unit affordable property born out of an innovative partnership with the American Legion Post 139, and a joint venture with E&G Group to develop 98 units of affordable senior housing in Loudoun County (Loudoun View Senior Residences). Prior to joining APAH in 2011, Ms. Romero was a Director of Real Estate Development and public-private partnerships at Clark Construction. She began her career at Marriott International. She has a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and an MBA from the Wharton School.



About the Moderator

James H. Edmondson, Principal of E&G Group, has over thirty years of experience in real estate development and finance. In 1981 he persuaded a former colleague and then Touche Ross principal, Tom Gallagher, to join him in forming Edmondson & Gallagher with the purpose of acquiring and redeveloping post-war apartments in the D. C. area using the new financing tools and tax laws. The firm grew a portfolio of approximately 3,000 deed-restricted units and created a property management company that continues. E&G became expert in compliance issues and the rehabilitation of apartment buildings. The firm and its principals continue to develop, own and manage affordable apartments. Edmondson is active in local affairs in Northern Virginia. He was a founding member of AHOME, an affordable housing advocacy group; he was vice chair of the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia for many years; he has served as an elder of Lewinsville Presbyterian Church; and in 2009 Governor Kaine re-appointed him as a consumer representative to the Virginia Board of Health. Edmondson has an A.B. in Economics from Princeton, where he is active in alumni affairs, and an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia's Darden School.



About the Convener

James E. Foster is the Oliver T. Carr Professor of International Affairs and Professor of Economics at the George Washington University. Professor Foster's research focuses on welfare economics — using economic tools to evaluate and enhance the wellbeing of people. His work underlies many well-known social indices directing public action including the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) published annually by the UNDP in the Human Development Report and dozens of national MPIs from Paraguay to Pakistan. Prof. Foster has a bachelor's degree from New College of Florida and a doctorate from Cornell. He has served as an Elder at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church



Events in this Series

Accessing Affordable Housing (Oct. 31)
Improving Financial Literacy
Reducing Barriers to Education and Training
Expunging Misdemeanors
Expanding Community Engagement

[Register Here](#)



Minutes of October, 2021

Meeting of Redeemer Congregation Council

Teleconference via Zoom

Present via Zoom: Arash Behravesh, Mitch Brown, Karen Detweiler, Laura Duval, Liz Holzapfel, Stephanie Hunter, Ellen Kennedy, Pr. Sandy Kessinger, Lena Martikainen, President Nate Paukovits, Secretary Roberta Pittman, Peter Shumway, Treasurer Rob Wenk, Joshua Wullenweber

Called to Order: President Paukovits declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:35.

Devotions: Pastor Kessinger led the council in devotions comprised of reflections and prayers of intercession based on Mark 10:17-31 and Psalm 90:12-17.

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

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

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Kessinger highlighted items from her written report.

Home visits resumed the week of October 10, 2021.

Monica Thommen and Patrick Miller were married on October 2, 2021.

Macklin Augustenborg Meagher was baptized on October 3, 2021.

New members were welcomed by way of transfer into the congregation.

Melanie and Mark Heuer

Joshua Wullenweber

Pastor Kessinger attended and led various prayer and Bible study groups.

Blessing of Animals was held on October 10, 2021.

She met with staff members, the Health Equity Team and the Worship and Music Ministry Team.

She is planning the Spiritual Retreat with Diane Miller and Joshua Wullenweber.

She met with members of the McLean Police Department regarding *Faith and Blue*, a program to help police build relationships within their communities through the community's faith-based organizations.

She attended the Rise Against Hunger Steering Committee Meeting.

She preached at the Memorial Service for Joyce Gleason in Pittsburgh.

Vicar's Report:

Joshua Wullenweber highlighted items from his first week at Redeemer

He helped lead Sunday Services (8:30 & 11:00).

He started teaching Confirmation Class.

He assisted with Blessing of the Animals Service.

Upcoming Projects for Joshua Wullenweber:

His Ordination and Installation Service will be on October 17, 2021.

He is working with Pastor Kessinger and Diane Miller on Spiritual Retreat.

He is planning a Men's Group event (Top Golf/ Early November).

He is planning a Young Adult event (Great Falls Hike and Meal / October 30).

He is planning a Youth event (Corn Maze/ Early November – Sunday Afternoon).

He is planning events to become acquainted with members of the congregation.

He is beginning First Call Theological Education.

Treasurer's Report:

Rob Wenk presented the Treasurer's Report. September was a typical month with no real change to net balance. The church's financial situation continues to be in good standing. Total indebtedness has been reduced to \$266,430.

Building and Grounds:

The Parents' Hall roof study is approved and to be awarded to Seal Engineering to identify likely sources of the sheathing / nail-base failure, and present options for roof repairs or replacement. The cost for the roof study and recommendations is just over \$5,000 and will be sourced from the building reserve fund. The roof

shingle replacement over Fellowship Hall will cost under \$5,000 which will come from the annual maintenance fund.

Hiring of an evening host is in the final stages.

HVAC unit replacement is delayed because supply chain issues.

Outdoor landscape and playground development is still in the planning stages.

Executive Committee Minutes:

President Paukovits referenced the Executive Committee Minutes and moved on to the action items discussed at that meeting.

Laura Duval presented a slate for the After-School Program Board and moved to accept the board pending all members agreeing to serve. Roberta Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Preschool is still seeking board members that are members of the congregation. Once the member list is finalized, a vote will be taken via email.

The Call Committee will help with the reception following the Ordination and Installation Service on October 17. Support from Council Members requested for hospitality etc. at the Ordination Service.

Laura Duvall, Rob Wenk, and Peter Shumway are completing their terms on the Redeemer Congregational Council. Laura Duval and Rob Wenk have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee that will propose new council members and Endowment Committee members. The nominating committee will be presented at the November council meeting for approval.

Nate Paukovits is continuing to meet with Linda McConnaughay to define her new role.

Ministry Reports:

The Social Concerns Ministry was asked to explore the possibility of hosting a new refugee family.

The Health Equity Team is stressing the importance of keeping people safe while they are in the church building. The Health Equity Team is working to communicate safety expectations with outside group and working to make sure expectations are met.

The Worship and Music Committee Ministry met on September 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Details of the Ordination and Installation for Josh Wullenweber were discussed.

4:00 pm monthly Confirmation Worshipers have been replaced by a weekly 9:45 class with the pastors teaching the confirmands.

Schedule highlights through January 2, 2022 include:

Confirmation at 2:00 pm on October 31, 2022 (Reformation Sunday)

Wednesday Advent services via Zoom at 5:30 pm

Living Nativity, December 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Concert at 7:30 pm.

Blue Christmas, December 19, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Christmas Eve services at 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00 (6:00 pm and 8:00 pm will be streamed live)

Christmas Day, 10:00 am.

Sunday, December 26, 2021, 10:00 am for Lessons and Carols.

New Year's Eve, 5:00 pm.

Sunday, January 2, 2022, 10:00 am.

The Memorial Service for Janet Wolfe will be held on May 21, 2022.

Additional New Business: There was no additional new business.

Closing: Pastor Kessinger closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: President Paukovits adjourned the meeting 8:45 pm.

Next meeting of Executive Committee: October 26, 2021 at 7 am.

Next meeting of Council: November 08, 2021 at 7:30 pm.



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

Refections from a Redeemer Anti-Racism Book Club 2020-2021

Over the past year our group met to read and discuss books focusing on social justice. We wanted to express our gratitude to Teresa Schellenger who organized the zoom meetings and then summarized the discussion in an email back to the group before the next meeting. The emails deepened our experience and helped us retain important parts of the books.

We met weekly and discussed assigned chapters of the following books and found this pattern allowed us to discuss the contents more thoroughly. Pastor Kessinger has asked us to reflect on how we wanted to share our experiences with the congregation. We thought sharing about the books would be a good first step. We are also building a lending library which we hope to offer soon. We will post further updates in following issues of Tidings.

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson: May have been the most influential book our group read in that it challenged us to think about how our entire social structure is an unrecognized caste system.

My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies by Resmaa Menakem: Written by a licensed clinical social worker who explores the complex effects of racism and white privilege on all races. Provided many exercises to work through our own reactions to racial trauma.

Devil in the Grove by Gilbert King: The winner of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction: A historical account of how Thurgood Marshall (before he became a Supreme Court Justice) and the NAACP brought civil rights cases to courts throughout the country. It highlighted the huge legal challenges that took place to correct injustices, how fragile some of those victories were, and how it could have all gone wrong.

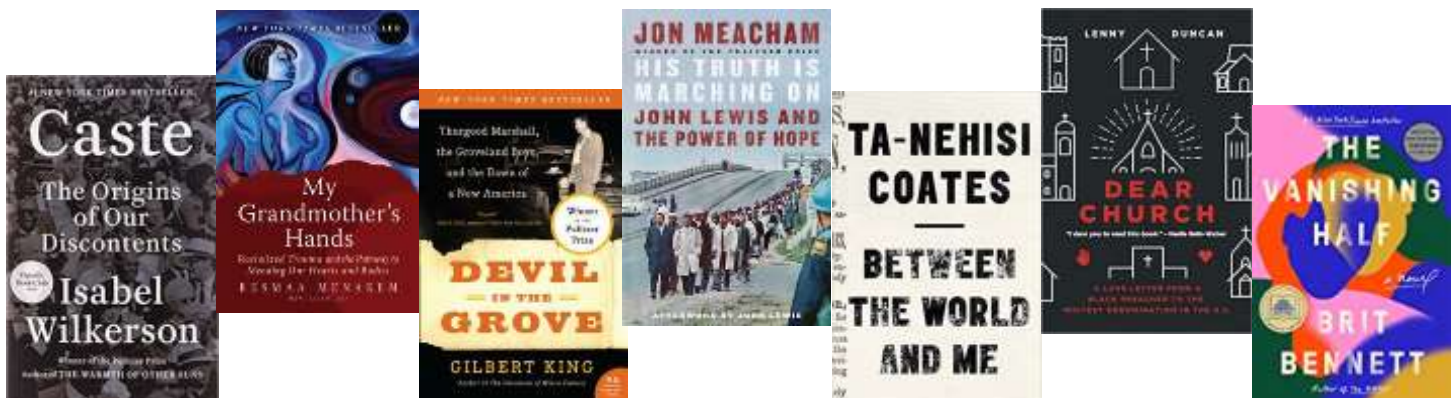
His Truth is Marching On by Jon Meacham: A biography of John Lewis. We were moved by his unwavering bravery and commitment to civil rights, as well as his deep Christian faith.

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates: A moving account of how a young man felt about growing up Black in America, written in the form of a letter to his young son.

Dear Church, a love letter from a Black Preacher to the whitest Denomination in America (ELCA) by Lenny Duncan: A very challenging book which made us consider our own implicit racism and what our responsibility might be to address it in our church and in our neighborhoods.

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett: Our only novel. It introduced the subject of colorism and what sacrifices people make to integrate into the dominant society and what it costs to leave your family behind.

Group Members: Teresa Schellenger, Karen Devlin, Claire Dutrow, Roxanne Englund, Ann Lawrence, Cindy Morrow, Flo Ofili, Hugh Stevenson. Earlier in the year Vicar Hephzibah and Linda Stennet were also faithful participants.





November Birthdays

Nov 1	Katie Michaud, Jennifer Midgley, Brandi Saunders, William Stratos
Nov 2	Dylan Honardoust
Nov 3	Beth Armstrong, Julia Fredriksen, Suzy Mueller, Olivia Pilson, Everett Spiros
Nov 4	J.T. Assante, Siri Fredriksen, Trish Kostelancik, Brian Ristig
Nov 5	Millie Jarvis, Christian Markwart, Charlotte Steuble, Kristi Wolff
Nov 6	Gary Gutzler, Anna Leong, Scotty Skotzko, Lizzie Stark, Krista Zele
Nov 7	Madelyn Frederick, Christian Vergonis
Nov 8	Andrew Goodwin, Leslie Jungemann, Barbara Kieffer, Sydney Walraven
Nov 9	Richard Brown, Annabelle Campet, Laura McCloud, Connor Yuzon
Nov 10	Chris Frederick, Katy Koch, Andrew Lardy, Dave Muhlenberg
Nov 11	Neil Beck, Josephine Rodriguez
Nov 12	Celeste Angus, Ralph Dutrow, Julia Waldon
Nov 13	Liam Connolly, Ryan Kessinger, Natalie Manitius, Stacey Pilson, Alan Rogers
Nov 14	Haley Curtis, Sydney Leonard
Nov 15	Hendrik Johnson, Ike Okorie, Beale Opsahl-Ong, Morgan Pence, Chris Redding
Nov 16	Ray Persino, Michael Ristig
Nov 17	Greyson Hayes, Inessa Ross
Nov 18	Liza Crawford, Eva Grau, Eli Sevimli
Nov 20	Brynn Lighty, Charles Pfaff, Andrew Pribulka, Lily Skowrup, Tim Williams, Gary Zimmerman, Annika Berent, Violet Berendt
Nov 21	Jim Hughes
Nov 22	Gwenn Holmlund, Nadia Stewart
Nov 23	Christopher Hunter, Claire Lynch, Tyler Posey
Nov 24	Hannah Hughes, Thomas Moran, Will Moser, Lauren Yuzon
Nov 25	William Beck, Clara Henshall, Barbara McCall, Bill Triplett, Will Ubben
Nov 26	Jeffrey Barb, Tammie Koenig, Mickey Skelton
Nov 27	Tom Connolly, Daniel Moser, Justin Shellaway
Nov 29	Matt Regan
Nov 30	Justin Daly, Kevin White

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

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



RISE AGAINST HUNGER EVENT—NOV. 6TH

The next McLean Community meal packaging event take place on November 6th, 2021 at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. The goal will be 150,000 meals which will require raising \$46,500.00 as well as the help of 700+ volunteers. This year all volunteers must be 12 or older and fully vaccinated. Registrations and donations can be made at <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/McLeanRAH2021>



Fully vaccinated Volunteers are needed to assist with check in for the Rise Against Hunger Event on November 6. Please contact riseagainsthungermclean@gmail.com if you can help.

Additionally, on November 6, we will be collecting food for SHARE near the Keillor Wing entrance. Feel free to come by with a donation even if you are not volunteering at the event. Finally, we are short of our fundraising goal. Any gift you can give will help. You can donate online at <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/McLeanRAH2021> or write a check to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and add Rise Against Hunger in the memo line. Any gift you can give will help.

LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE



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COFFEE WITH THE NEW PASTOR BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Greetings everyone, I am so excited to be serving here with you at Redeemer! As I begin to settle into my new call, I can think of nothing more important than getting to know each of you a bit more. So, I want to extend an invitation to find some time to sit down and chat. We can grab a cup of coffee somewhere, meet at church, or meet via Zoom – whatever works best for you and your schedule, we will make work. Here is a Signup Genius with available dates/times here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48AEAD2CA5FEC43-coffee>.



STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Yvette Pineda will be joining the church staff this week as our part-time Evening Facility Host. Yvette will be focused on the overall safety and security of the building and to assist groups that meet at the church. Her schedule will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 5-9pm. If you need to schedule something involving Yvette in the evenings, please make those arrangements through [Andrea](#) in the church office.

WE ARE WEARING MASKS IN THE CHURCH BUILDING



Our Health Equity Team meets on a regular basis to evaluate our current COVID policies. Decisions are based on the number of cases in our area, the CDC guidelines, and the availability of the vaccine to all age groups. We appreciate everyone who is adhering to our current policy to keep our masks on during worship and while in our church building. We will let everyone know when any adjustments are made so that we can work cooperatively to keep our church open.

SEPTEMBER HAM REPORT

On September 9, Laura Wareham delivered 5 boxes of ham weighing 175 pounds to Food for Others from the Falls Church and Fairfax Honey Baked Ham stores.

On September 23, John White delivered 3 boxes of ham weighing 105 pounds to Food for Others from the Fairfax store.

On September 30, Roberta Pittman delivered 6 boxes of ham weighing 210 pounds to ThriveDC from the Fairfax store.

So for the month of September we delivered 490 pounds of ham. That brings our total for the year to 4,557 pounds of ham. A breakdown of our deliveries is as follows: Food for Others, 1,517 pounds; ThriveDC, 1,150 pounds; Martha's Table, 1,015 pounds; So Others Might Eat, 545 pounds and Rising Hope Church, 330 pounds. All weights are approximate.

We are all looking forward to a big haul in October. Thanks to everyone for their time and effort.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



November 7th is All Saints' Sunday and the day that we remember the faithful departed. During the time of prayer we will offer prayers of thanksgiving for those who have gone before us in faith since the last All Saints' Sunday. If you have someone that you would like us to include, then please call the church office (703-356-3346) or email_church@redeermclean.org no later than today to give us the information.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT TO TAKE PLACE NOV. 12 & 13



We are holding a Spiritual Retreat on Fri., Nov. 12 and Sat., Nov. 13. After consulting with the Health Equity Team we ask that those who attend either be fully vaccinated or have a negative COVID test within 72 hours of attending. This seems like the best path forward.

For those who arrive early (3 pm on) we will have devotions for you to contemplate before we gather for dinner. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm. After dinner we will gather for a time of prayer and reflection. We have an early-to-rise session planned for Saturday morning and then throughout the day we will gather, reflect, pray, and eat until 3 pm. The theme for the retreat is Advent. The leaders include Vicar Josh, Pastor Kessinger, and Diane Miller.

The retreat will be held at the Holiday Inn-Dulles. Please use [this link](#) to reserve your room. Use [this sign up](#) to let the church know you will be coming. If you wish to call the hotel directly at 703-471-7411 to book over the phone, the 3 digit group code is **LR0**. We are asking for an additional \$50 by check, to cover the cost of the retreat made out to "Redeemer Lutheran Church" with the memo "2021 Spiritual Retreat."

The retreat will be held at the Holiday Inn-Dulles. Please use [this link](#) to reserve your room. Use [this sign up](#) to let the church know you will be coming. If you wish to call the hotel directly at 703-471-7411 to book over the phone, the 3 digit group code is **LR0**. We are asking for an additional \$50 by check, to cover the cost of the retreat made out to "Redeemer Lutheran Church" with the memo "2021 Spiritual Retreat."

Please sign-up! We welcome everyone! Single people and couples! Older people and younger people! If you have specific questions, then please contact Diane Miller at dianemiller@gmail.com.

OPERA EVENT AT REDEEMER ON NOV. 7TH



You are invited to a special opera event on November 7th at 5 pm at Redeemer Lutheran to help the Lozano family. Please come and support tenor, Israel Lozano and his wife, Darcy Monsalve, a soprano. Both of them will sing duets from famous Verdi's La Traviata as well as Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor. A wonderful one hour event with the famed Israel Lozano who sang with Placido Domingo. Free will offering \$25 or more per person. Thank you for helping in advance!



Throughout
Advent, collect
these items
identified by
SHARE and bring
them to the
church.

Please no
holiday-specific
(candy, cranberries
etc) items.

Redeemer's Reverse Advent Calendar

Nov. 28 48 oz. plastic bottle of cooking oil	Nov. 29 Canned whole tomatoes	Nov. 30 Canned crushed tomatoes	Dec. 1 Canned peaches	Dec. 2 Canned pears	Dec. 3 Canned pineapple	Dec. 4 Meal helpers or side dishes
Dec. 5 Canned corn	Dec. 6 Dried or canned beans	Dec. 7 Canned peas	Dec. 8 Canned mixed vegetables	Dec. 9 Pasta sauce in a plastic container or can	Dec. 10 1 lb package of spaghetti	Dec. 11 Macaroni and cheese
Dec. 12 Ramen noodles	Dec. 13 Peanut butter in a plastic container	Dec. 14 Plastic containers of jam or jelly	Dec. 15 Box of cereal	Dec. 16 Canned soup	Dec. 17 Toilet paper	Dec. 18 Paper towels
Dec. 19 Feminine products (liners or pads)	Dec. 20 Baby wipes	Dec. 21 Diapers (size 6)	Dec. 22 VO5 shampoo	Dec. 23 Suave shampoo	Dec. 24 40 oz. container of laundry detergent	<u>Please no</u> <u>glass</u> <u>containers</u> <u>or over-</u> <u>sized items</u>