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

Life at Redeemer

Visit us online!

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
1545 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, VA 22101
Tel: 703-356-3346 | redeemermclean.org
church@redeemermclean.org
Pastor Sharon Core–sharon@redeemermclean.org

August 23, 2026

Welcome to Redeemer

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

Holy Communion Open to All

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

Blessing of Backpacks Today

We will have the Blessing of Backpacks at both the 8:30 am and 11 am services. Bring a backpack to be blessed as we welcome the start of a new school year!

Register for Youth Classes Resume September 13

Faith Formation, Confirmation, and the High School Class will resume September 13 at 9:45 am. All students need a new registration each year.

To register, please scan the QR code or use this link: https://forms.gle/k96YCUB1GPamsiQ86.

Do you have Interior Space Design or Art Experience?

Now that the offices and classroom renovations are complete, we have a few projects to accomplish with regard to furniture and artwork. If you have skills in either interior design or art selection or appreciation, we'd like you to help! If interested, please send an email to President@redeemermclean.org.

Harold Core

Harold Core, father of Pastor Sharon Core, died August 19 – 6 days after his 90th birthday. Condolences can be sent to Pastor Sharon and her family at 3157 N Rosser Street, Alexandria, VA 22311.

Financial Stewardship at Redeemer -- Update

The summary below shows an increase of $11,000 in the shortfall during the month of July compared to the amount at the end of June.

As the summer is nearing its end and so many of us return to our "regular" schedules in coming weeks, may the Holy Spirit continue to challenge all of us to share our financial gifts as we are able for the work inside Redeemer and in the community beyond our walls.

Current year through 7/31/26		
	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts*	$ 605,420	$ 676,931
Total Expenses	$ 648,097	$ 676,931
Surplus (Shortfall)	$ (42,677)	
*Includes $10,000 roll-over from 2025		

Sunday Morning Offerings for All Ages at 9:45 am!

Today
Christmas Ornament Decorating in Fellowship Hall

Christmas in August! Stop by on August 23 and make a new Christmas ornament that will be hung on the tree in the Crossroads this year. Bring your artistic spirit and we'll provide all the supplies!

August 30
Neighborhood Exegesis – Meet in Sanctuary

What is happening in McLean on a Sunday morning? This summer, we'll have an opportunity to explore that question as we engage in times of neighborhood exegesis. The word "exegesis" literally means a critical interpretation of a text. Usually we think of it in terms of Biblical exegesis. For our purposes, the neighborhood surrounding Redeemer is what we are being invited to critically interpret. Strapping on comfortable walking shoes, joining friends and family, armed with a list of reflective questions, we will begin to exegete our neighborhood. We will gather in the sanctuary for some preliminary conversation and then leave the building! What will we learn? What new things will God reveal to us?

Food for Biblical Thought
Sundays at 9:45 am in Classroom 137

August 23
God doesn't need your money!

If that is a surprise to you, come join our discussion led by Greg Adams. The Bible says a surprising amount about the best and worst uses of our money. But it's also easy to misinterpret some of Jesus' parables and teachings. Jesus doesn't hate rich people, for example, despite saying some pretty harsh things about some people's obsession over money. So come join us for this provocative set of readings, reflections, and dialogue as we explore the deeper meaning of these Biblical readings.

August 30
Blessed for a Purpose

What are we called to do (or not do) with God's blessings? Please join our lively discussion of what Jesus says about our duties, time, talents, blessings, and opportunities. With pastries!

To help us prepare materials and arrange space appropriately, we encourage you to RSVP at https://bit.ly/4uHzhcQ whenever possible. However, everyone is welcome to attend, whether or not you sign up in advance.

ELCA Day of Service
September 13 from 12:30 to 2pm
Car Wash at Redeemer
with donations to fill the Little Food Pantry

Please plan to participate at Redeemer's Car Wash. This is a great opportunity to serve as a family, serve with friends, make new friends! Here is how you can serve and enjoy fellowship:

VOLUNTEER: You can sign up to volunteer at the car wash by clicking this link: https://bit.ly/4zuSl1D

GET YOUR CAR WASHED AND DONATE:
You can come get your car washed. You can invite your friends and neighbors to come get their car washed

What is the cost of the car wash? Donation can be either monetary or a bag of canned food!

All donations will be used to keep Redeemer's Little Food Pantry stocked to serve our neighbors in need.

Collecting Plastic Cutlery for Thrive DC

Do you accumulate unwanted plastic cutlery at home? Please place any unwanted plastic cutlery, wrapped or unused and unwrapped, in the container in Crossroads. It will be given to Thrive DC.

Redeemer Renaissance Preschool Registration for the 2026-27 school year is open!
Questions? Contact Linda McConnaughay, Redeemer Renaissance Executive Director, at 703-356-3567

Endowment Ministry - June Youth Mission Trip & Support for Wilmington, NC Organizations

The Endowment Fund and Committee were formed in 1995 to extend Redeemer's outreach mission. All donations remain in the Fund; only earnings are dispersed as modest grants to nonprofit organizations.

The latest Endowment Commitee grants were approved by Council for $6,000 (total for the three organizations) to Pender County Christian Services, Brunswick Senior Resources (Leland Center), and the Diaper Bank of North Carolina. During the summer mission trip to the greater Wilmington, NC area, our youth and chaperones served each of these organizations. We witnessed each organization making significant impacts in the lives of those in need of various services in southeastern NC.

Redeemer continues its commitment to share God's love with our neighbors locally, throughout the U.S., and abroad.

For questions about the work of the Endowment Committee or about giving to the Fund, please email Stephanie Hunter at endowment@redeemermclean.org.

Rise Against Hunger

The next Rise Against Hunger meal-packaging event will be on Saturday, November 7th at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean. It is possible that this year 4 million meals since the first event in 2010 can be packaged. That would require $99,000 to pay for 247,536 meals and 1200 volunteers to package them. It seems like a lot, but with your help, mountains have been moved before, and with your continued support, they can be again.

Now is the time to go to the event page and make a donation and/or register to volunteer at the event. There will be 3 shifts on November 7 beginning at 8 am, 11 am and 2 pm. There is also a setup shift on Friday evening, November 6 beginning at 4 pm. There are jobs for volunteers from age 4 to age 104.

The address of the event page is https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/e803896
Donations can not only be made on the registration page, but through Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, or by mailing a check to McLean Community Rise Against Hunger Events, PO Box 150, McLean VA 22101.

Please follow McLean Community Rise Against Hunger Events on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/mcleancommunityrah

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS
Including Hybrid Options

Sun., 8/23	*Sunday Worship Service Times*	
	8:30 am and 11:00 am	*Live stream 8:30 (Traditional) and 11:00 (Contemporary) services*
	8:30 am – 12:00 pm	Church nursery is available for infants and toddlers
	9:45 am – 10:45 am	Table Talk Adult Education (Conference Room/Zoom)
		Food for Biblical Thought (Classroom 137)
		Christmas Ornament Decorating (Fellowship Hall)
Thurs., 8/27	8:00 am – 9:00 am	Thursday AM Bible Study (Zoom)

PASTOR AND STAFF OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Senior Pastor	Pastor Sharon Core	ext. 102	sharon@redeemermclean.org
Bell Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com
Director of Afterschool	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmcconnaughay@redeemermclean.org
Director of Music	Matt Osifchin		mattosifchin@gmail.com
Director of Preschool	Gaby Moore	ext. 111	preschool@redeemermlcean.org
Executive Director of Redeemer Renaissance	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmcconnaughay@redeemermclean.org
Facilities Director	Bill Parks	ext. 110	bparks@redeemermclean.org
Financial Coordinator	Sara Nail	ext. 103	sara@redeemermclean.org
Interim Evening Host	Chris Tillotson		
Nursery Care	Sabrine Gharbi Bernarda Rodriguez		
Office Manager	Cynthia Finocchiaro	ext. 101	cynthia@redeemermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel		joymentzel@gmail.com
Pianist	Kathy Detwiler		
Youth & Communications Coordinator	Grace Sweeney	ext. 105	grace@redeemermclean.org
Youth Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com

Please Remember to Pray….

For Healing

Helen
James
JD
Augustenborg, Erica
Bobak, Leland
Cumberland, Marilyn
Cupka, Aubrey
DeGioia, Jack
Devine, Dan
Dorr, Jeanne
Geissl, Irene
Gelfand, Trudy
Harner, Julie
Johnson, Ted
Koenig, Tammie
Pittman, Larry
Williams, Timothy
York, Vivienne

For Comfort and Peace

Shupp, Lloyd
Welsh, Ari

For Comfort in Death

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

For all healthcare workers and first responders

Laredo, Sandi

For Safety

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

For Comfort and Strength

Those who suffer from depression
Those who suffer from mental illness

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

Prayers for the World, our Nation, and our Community

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

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

We pray for improved relationships among all nations.

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

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

We pray for all those facing persecution and oppression.

**Each month we will offer prayers for one of our congregations in the Virginia Conference.
We are part of the Virginia Conference of the ELCA Metro DC Synod.
We pray for King of Kings Lutheran Church, Fairfax, and their pastors,
Rev. Dr. Elijah Mwitanti and Rev. Garret Wolf.**

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