

# TIDINGS Newsletter

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1545 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101

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April 2026



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

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**A Message from  
Pastor Sharon Core**



**New Life  
April 2026**

Spoiler alert! This Tidings article will begin with the word buried the first Sunday of Lent. So, if you read this before Easter Sunday (April 5) be forewarned that that word will appear! Proceed at your own caution!!!!

ALLELUIA!!! CHRIST IS RISEN!!! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!!!!!!  
ALLELUIA!!! CHRIST IS RISEN!!! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!!!!!!  
ALLELUIA!!! CHRIST IS RISEN!!! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!!!!!!

We have made the long journey through Lent and now stand in the light of the resurrection. We are people who have been gifted with new life through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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And so, now what? What do we do with this gift, with this new life? How does this color our view of life? How does the reality of the resurrection guide us now?

If our celebration of the empty tomb is only relegated to the joyous atmosphere of Easter Sunday, then we lose sight of this central tenet of our faith. The reality of the empty tomb is that which defines all of our living, which guides us as we make decisions about who we are and where we are called to be. The reality of the empty tomb is that God brings new life into our lives every. single. day.

How we experience, acknowledge, and act on it is the challenge for each one of us. Because the reality of the empty tomb, the reality of resurrection, the reality of new life is that something died, something ceased to exist—and it may be this part of new life that gives us pause.

Yes, let us celebrate the reality of Easter with the music and the hymns and the flowers. Oh, but tomorrow or the next day—the reality of embracing and living this new life is harder than it seems because this new life means that something in my life no longer exists.

And your life is that which is personal to you and is also the life you share with others—family, friends, faith community. One aspect of celebrating the new life gifted to us is that something that I hold dear may be shifting, may be changing, may not be what I have always experienced or expected. And yet, we are people of the resurrection. We do believe God has the power to bring life from death. We do believe God is present in the midst of the shifts and changes that daily come into our lives.

And even as we celebrate the gift of new life, we also are invited to ask God for the courage to fully embrace and live this gift. Where in your life is God bringing new life?

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Blessings,  
Pastor Sharon



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Traditional worship services at 8:30 am and 11:00 am  
Contemporary worship service at 9:45 am  
Faith Formation, Confirmation, and High School classes– 9:45 am  
Table Talk (Adult Class in Conference Room) – 9:45 am

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays	Youth Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite B) – 10:55 am
Mondays	Social Justice and Equity Book Club (Zoom) – 7:30 pm
Tuesdays	Women’s Faith Group (Conference Room/Zoom) – 9:30 am
Thursdays	Bible Study (Zoom) – 8:00 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite A) – 7:00 pm Traditional Choir Practice (Music Suite B) – 7:45 pm

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Week of March 29

Wednesday, April 1

Thursday, April 2

Friday, April 3

Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) – 9 am

Prayer Shawl Ministry (Conference Room/Zoom) – 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday Service – 7 pm

Good Friday Service – 12 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service – 7 pm

### Week of April 5

Sunday, April 5

Monday, April 6

Easter Sunday (*No Faith Formation, Confirmation, or High School Class*)

Church Office Closed

### Week of April 12

Monday, April 13

Wednesday, April 15

Thursday, April 16

Young Adult Meeting – 7 pm

Congregation Council Meeting (Conference Room/Zoom)– 7:30 pm

Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) – 9 am

Prayer Shawl Ministry (Conference Room/Zoom) – 10:30 am

### Week of April 19

Tuesday, April 21

Good Grub and God Dinner – 7 pm

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

February 22, 2026

Hybrid Meeting, in Person and via Zoom

## **Call to Order:**

President Karen Miller called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

Interim Pastor Core opened with prayer.

President Karen Miller offered information regarding the distribution of materials that were organized in advance of the meeting. She then gave an overview of the areas of focus for the annual Meeting.

## **Consent Agenda and Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting:**

The agenda-as-a-whole, including the Meeting Agenda, Pastor's Report, Council President Report, Ministry Reports, and the minutes from the 2025 Annual Meeting were published in the Annual Report. President Karen Miller asked for a motion to approve the agenda-as-a-whole, with the addition of an update from Redeemer's Music Director as an agenda item. The motion was made from the floor by Jane Skotzko, it was seconded from the floor by Katherine McGuire, and the agenda-as-a-whole with the additional agenda item was accepted unanimously.

## **Update from Music Director Matt Osifchin:**

Referring to his section of the Annual Report, Music Director Matt Osifchin emphasized the June celebratory tribute to the ministry of Pastor Sandy Kessinger and the Christmas Eve premier of a new composition for full choir, percussion, and brass quintet, which had been commissioned in honor of a choir member who had passed away on Christmas Day 2024. Matt invited individuals to consider contributing their time and musical talents to Redeemer's music program. Matt offered his thanks to the congregation and Pastor Core for their support, and Karen Miller expressed her gratitude for Matt's commitment to Redeemer's musical life.

## **Pastor's Reflection:**

Pastor Sharon Core offered a reading from Ephesians, identified as the "prayer for the reader" for its focus on spiritual wisdom, empowerment, and comprehension of God's love. Pastor Core invited all of us to consider that God is at work in each one of us as we engage in conversations and make decisions about Redeemer.

## **Transition Team Update:**

Samantha Brainard introduced the members of the Transition Team to the Congregation and updated the congregation of their progress in preparing for the call of a new Pastor. She reported that the Transition Team gathers on Sundays and has been carefully reviewing the 120 responses received so far to the survey. After providing a brief summary of preliminary findings, Samantha outlined next steps as follows:

- Small group and one-to-one interviews will be held from March through April to further delve into patterns gleaned from the survey.
- A Call Committee will be created in May
- The Transition Team will make their final report available to the congregation and the Call Committee at the end of May.
- The Call Committee will present the Mission Site Profile to the synod in June.

Sam invited the congregation to bring questions or information to the Transition Team Committee and encouraged participation in the small group discussions.

In response to a question from congregant Charlie Brown, Sam confirmed that upcoming small group discussions would be publicized in Tuesday emails and service announcements.

In response to a question from congregant John Teitman, Sam shared that as of the date of the annual meeting, 38% of members who attend services responded to the survey.

Karen Miller acknowledged the time commitment and the enthusiasm that each member of the Transition Team brings to their work.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Steve Bott briefed the congregation on the 2025 Financial Report and reviewed the Summary of 2025 Operating Fund Activity, the Working Capital Balance Sheet, the 2025 Total Receipts, and the Year End Statement of Plan Assets.

Steve noted that while 2025 ended in a \$10,000 surplus, this was due to a decrease in expenses. Contributions were consistently below expenses starting in quarter 2, all of quarter 3, and through November in quarter 4. He noted that 27% of the total income for the year was raised in December.

Steve thanked the Finance Committee and Sarah Nail for their collective efforts in preparing the report and for their stewardship of Redeemer's resources.

There were no questions from the floor. Karen thanked Steve for his efforts during the year.

### **Ministry Highlights - Faith Formation and Youth Ministry:**

Grace Howie summarized the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry sections of the Annual Report. She offered her gratitude to the teachers and substitutes of the Faith Formation classes. She acknowledged the dedication and efforts of Redeemer's Youth in their service projects, in their commitment to helping those who are facing food insecurity, in fundraisers such as the Pancake Supper and Living Nativity bake sales, and in their participation in the 2025 mission trip to Niagara Falls, NY. The 2026 mission trip will be to Wilmington, North Carolina. A Confirmation Retreat will be held in late March.

Grace called on adults to help strengthen and expand existing programs by volunteering to provide supervision as needed, and Karen Miller encouraged parents to consider participating in youth ministry and trips.

### **Ministry Highlights - Social Outreach -- Food Insufficiency Ministries:**

Stephanie Hunter referred congregants to the Social Outreach Ministry section of the Annual report, and highlighted the following efforts of Social Outreach ministries:

- Little Pantry--provides food to our neighbors in need and serves numerous people every day.
- Share of McLean--serves as a community collection site for food donations.
- BritePaths--provides emergency short term food assistance, financial assistance, and support for children around Fairfax County.
- Second Story--provided Holiday food baskets to 29 families in 2025, enough to feed 174 people.
- Youth Trip to Niagara--supported those facing food insecurity in New York in Summer 2025.
- Rise Against Hunger--raised over \$85,500 and packaged 213,840 meals which were shipped to Timor-Leste in November 2025.
- Financial Contributions to World Central Kitchen, Lutheran World Relief.

Stephanie acknowledged the efforts of Kim Wenk, Joan Durman, Deanna Heier, Judy Kuhagen, Tricia Engle, Paula Green, Cindy Morrow, Roberta Pittman, and many others for their participation in the endeavors listed above.

Karen Miller invited those in attendance who have volunteered for these ministries to stand and be acknowledged by the congregation.

**Action Item - Recommendations for Council from the Nominating Committee:**

Pastor Core offered a prayer of discernment prior to the voting action-items on the agenda.

Karen Miller thanked departing members of Council (Lena Martikainen, Sarah Getter, and Youth Representative Victoria) and presented the names of candidates recommended for Council from the Nominating Committee as listed in the agenda:

- Sara Egeland (First year of 3-year term)
- David Broderdorf (First year of 3-year term)
- Chris Hernadi (First year of second 3-year term)
- Gene Morrow (First year of second 3-year term)
- Megan Kratz (First year of second 3-year term)
- Tyler Posey (First year of second 3-year term)
- Anna (Youth representative -- 1-year term)

A motion was made from the floor by Karen Detweiler to accept the nominees. The motion was seconded by Charlie Brown. The slate of candidates was approved unanimously.

**Action Item - Recommendation for Endowment Committee:**

Karen Miller thanked departing member Mary O'Brien and presented the candidate recommended for the Endowment Committee as listed in the agenda:

- Lara Paukovits (First year of 3-year term)

A motion to accept the nominee was made by Tricia Engle. The motion was seconded by Matthew Kratz. The nomination of Lara Paukovits was approved unanimously.

**Action Item - Adoption of Updates to the Constitution:**

Karen thanked Judy Kuhagen, Tyler Posey, and Sarah Getter for their efforts in proposing updates to the Constitution to align the document with ELCA Model Constitution requirements and with established current practices at Redeemer. The proposed updates to the Constitution were made available to the Congregation in hard copy and as a link to the newsletter in advance of the annual meeting.

**Action Item - Adoption of Updates to the Constitution (Required Updates):**

A motion was made to accept the proposed required updates by Ron Kutscher. The motion was seconded by Chee Lee Leong. In response to a question posed by congregant Charlie Brown, Karen Miller confirmed that language in the required updates came directly from the Model Constitution. The required updates to the Constitution were approved unanimously.

**Action Item - Adoption of Updates to the Constitution (Non-Required Updates):**

Following adoption of the required updates, Karen Miller reviewed the following non-required updates to the Constitution:

- The addition of language allowing for meetings to be held via Zoom.
- The addition of language formalizing the combined efforts of the Financial and Audit Committee.
- Standardized and consistent language to refer to the Congregation Council.
- The addition of language to include the Child Protection Committee with references to the Child Protection Charter.
- The addition of language aligning the Constitution Title name with Redeemer's legal name.

A motion to approve the proposed non-required updates was made by Charlie Brown. The motion was seconded by Kim Wenk. In discussion, congregant Harold Hofstad noted the historical and contemporary associations with

the term “evangelical” and invited congregants to be mindful of how the term is interpreted outside of the church when it is used in Redeemer’s public messaging.

After discussion, the updates were approved unanimously. The updates will be ratified a second time at the next annual meeting per constitutional requirement.

**Action Item - Adoption of 2026 Budget:**

Rob Wenk presented the proposed 2026 Budget. Rob noted Redeemer’s practice of basing budget contribution projections on actual contribution levels from the preceding year. Rob emphasized that in 2026 Redeemer will require additional contributions to meet anticipated expenses.

The motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Cindy Morrow. The motion was seconded by Tricia Engle.

In response to a question posed by congregant Charlie Brown, Rob agreed to continue to keep the congregation informed of the budget bottom line over the course of the year and suggested that certain discretionary spending items could be deferred in the event of a shortfall. Charlie urged Rob and Council to communicate early, and through Temple Talks in addition to written notices, if contributions appear to be falling short of actual or anticipated expenses.

In response to a question posed by John Teitman, Karen confirmed that the operating budget was designed to keep the ministries moving at current levels, and that the mortgage payments represent commitment to growth through the construction and exterior grounds projects.

In response to a question posed by Johannes Wiklund, Rob clarified that facility use income largely comes from gym, fellowship hall, and music room usage by outside organizations, and music rooms.

After discussion, the proposed 2026 Budget as presented in the Agenda was approved unanimously.

**Discussion Item - Update on Building Project and Path Forward:**

Rob Wenk guided the congregation through activities of the Building Project as detailed in the Building and Grounds Committee Report:

- **Accomplished to date.** Rob noted that turnover from construction of the classroom wing was completed in December, and renovation construction of the office wing began as scheduled on December 15. County approval of the site plan for the Columbarium and playground renovation was granted.
- **Financial Review.** Rob expressed his appreciation to all those who have pledged and contributed towards the capital campaign. New pledges are still being received and collected, which will help Redeemer to reduce borrowing requirements and costs.
- **Path Forward.** Bids for the exterior work came back much higher than expected, due to annual rising costs and additional county requirements for storm water management and tree protection. Architects, engineers, and general contractors are revising current plans, and the team will review to propose a solution.
- **Discussion.** In response to a question posed by Charlie Brown, Rob confirmed the commitment to proceed as planned with both the Columbarium and the playground area as approved by the Congregation at a prior annual meeting. It was further noted that the Columbarium provides the potential to produce income, which can help to manage costs of the entire project.

**Adjournment:**

President Karen Miller asked the congregation to proceed with adjourning the meeting. Hearing no objection to adjournment, Pastor Core closed with prayer.

Karen Miller adjourned the meeting at 1:21 PM

**Minutes: March 9, 2026, Meeting of Congregation Council  
RLC Conference Room**

**Council Members Present in Person:** Steve Bott, Treasurer; Pastor Sharon Core; David Broderdorf; Lee Cronin; Sabine Detweiler, Vice President; Sara Egeland; Chris Hernadi, Secretary; Megan Kratz; Karen Miller, President; Gene Morrow; Anna (youth rep); Tyler Posey

**Council Members Attending via Zoom:** None

**Council Members Absent Excused:** Annabelle Allard

**Council Meeting Guests:** Brian Doyle, Redeemer Evening Facility Host.

**Call to order.** Karen Miller called the meeting to order at 7:34

**Farewell to Brian Doyle, Redeemer Facility Evening Host.** Evening Facility Host Brian Doyle announced to Council that he will be taking a new position outside of Redeemer, which will begin in six weeks. He will continue at Redeemer in his position as Evening Host until then. He expressed his humble gratitude for his experience at Redeemer and will hold the entire community in his prayers. The Council thanked him for his dedication and emphasized the importance of the work that he has done and continues to do here.

**Welcome New Council Members.** David Broderdorf and Sara Egeland and Youth Representative Anna were welcomed to their first meeting of Council after their election by the Congregation. Council members introduced themselves to the new members.

**Opening Devotions.** Pastor Core led opening devotions with a quote from *Wishful Thinking*, by Frederick Buechner: *“The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”* In their discussion, Council members offered examples of individual “deep gladness” of the “world’s hunger.” Pastor Core invited Council members to reflect how the Redeemer community could house the intersection of the two.

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

**Adoption of Agenda.** The agenda, as emailed in advance of the meeting, was approved by the Council with the addition of the announcement from Brian Doyle as mentioned above.

**Executive Committee Summary.** The Executive Committee met on March 4 and talked about the items on tonight’s agenda. In addition, there was a discussion of the need to explore ways to broaden Redeemer’s Christian Education program for both adults and youth. It was noted that this has been identified in the survey launched by the Transition Committee, as well.

**Discussion Item: General Updates.** Pastor Core mentioned that on Sunday, March 15, she and Pastor John Teitman will meet informally with potential new members. Pastor Core invited current members to attend these conversations, which will be held after the 11:00 service, and to contact her if available.

**Election of Officers.** Council unanimously approved the Council members below to serve as Officers and as At-Large Executive Committee member.

- President: Karen Miller, for a second one-year term
- Vice President: Sabine Detweiler, for a second one-year term.
- Secretary: Chris Hernadi, for a second one-year term.
- Member at-large of Executive Committee: Annabelle Allard

It was noted that Annabelle Allard agreed prior to the meeting to be considered as Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee, and that the position of Treasurer, currently held by Steve Bott, was elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting as required by Redeemer's governing documents. It was further noted that, because an individual may serve as President for no more than two consecutive years, Karen Miller will not be eligible to serve as President in 2027.

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Steve Bott presented the 2026 Financial Summary through February 28, which was made available via email prior to the meeting. It was noted that Redeemer has a \$30,00 surplus as of February 28. Given that the surplus includes the \$10,000 surplus from 2025, Redeemer's contribution rate is slightly behind the levels reached in February 2025. In light of this, Karen Miller reiterated the commitment expressed in the Annual Meeting to keep the congregation updated on the budget status throughout the year. Pastor Core and council members considered ways to reframe the discussion of money within the congregation to encourage individual reflection on contribution intentions to the church.

**Action Item: Endowment Committee Request:** On behalf of the Endowment Committee, Karen Miller asked for a motion to approve the Endowment Committee's request to issue a \$5,000 grant to Second Story, as detailed by Endowment Committee liaison Gene Morrow.

The motion to approve the Endowment Committee's request was made by Megan Kratz. The motion was seconded by Sabine Detweiler, and the motion passed unanimously by Council.

**Discussion Item: Transition Team Progress.** Karen Miller reported that the Transition Team will conduct small-group meetings through March and will hold topic-specific small group meetings from after Easter and into May. The first meeting was held March 8. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for March 10 and March 19. Pastor Core expressed her appreciation of the depth and seriousness of the conversations that were held at the first meeting. The aim of these meetings is to provide coherent and substantive material for the Mission Site Profile, which will be submitted to the Synod as part of the Call process.

**Discussion Item: Council Liaison Assignments.** Karen Miller described the responsibilities of being a Council Liaison, and Council members agreed to serve as Liaisons as listed below:

- Building and Grounds: Chris Hernadi
- Christian Education: Annabelle Allard
- Congregational Life: Lee Cronin
- Endowment Fund: David Broderdorf
- Finance and Administration: Steve Bott
- Membership Outreach: Gene Morrow
- Mutual Ministry: Pastor Sharon
- Redeemer Renaissance (Preschool/Afterschool): Sara Egeland
- Social Outreach: Tyler Posey
- Spiritual Nurture: Megan Kratz
- Stewardship: Karen Miller
- Worship and Music: Sabine Detweiler
- Youth Ministry: Anna (youth rep)
- Child Protection: Karen Miller

Pastor Core offered her assistance to encourage more participation in these committees and ministries.

**Discussion Item: Nominating Team for Call Committee.** Karen Miller asked Council to reach out to her with suggestions for a Nominating Team for the Call Committee. It was noted that the nominating team would ideally consist of two individuals from Council, and two individuals outside of Council. Karen reminded Council that the Call Committee would eventually consist of 8 individuals, some of whom could be from the Transition Team, some of whom have already expressed interest in serving on the committee.

**Discussion Item: Synod Assembly Attendance.** The DC Synod Annual Meeting will be held on June 6. Redeemer is allotted seven slots plus one additional individual (a person of color or who has English as a second language) who may attend to represent Redeemer. Karen noted that 3 members of the Congregation have already expressed interest in attending.

**Ministry Reports: Youth Ministry.** Anna reported that Grace Howie will follow up soon with the Youth Committee to provide an update about future events.

**New Business:** None.

**Close with Prayer and adjourn at 8:46.**

**Upcoming Dates:**

- Transition Open Meetings March 10, March 19
- Executive Committee April 8, 2026
- Next Meeting of Council April 13, 2026

**Construction Project Updates from March**

The recent construction activity in the office wing includes putting up new drywall, installing the ceiling grid, hanging new light fixtures, moving fire sprinkler pipes to accommodate the new HVAC ductwork, pulling data cabling for the phone, security and computer systems, installing new electrical outlets, balancing the HVAC system, and creating a new directional sign package to go out to bid.

The features and benefits soon to be realized in the remodeled office wing are improved offices with better sound privacy, remodeled public restrooms, ability to individually control heat/cooling in each room, improved space utilization in the robe room, larger meeting space in the library, separate area for member mailbox access and copier use, improved entryway security along with energy efficiencies, and a separate secured computer equipment room.

When construction finishes in the office wing, the pastor and the staff will move from their temporary offices back into their renovated offices in the other wing. The renovated restrooms will be open again and members assisting with worship will be able to use the robe room. The library will be available for booking meetings starting in May. There will also be new signage going up for each room or office and to direct people in the hallways.

The financial update that was provided at the congregational annual meeting is as follows: So far \$1.3M has been given to the Capital Campaign for all the project areas. There is approximately \$71k of pledges from members yet to be received, although many of those are new pledges for 2026. So far \$936k has been spent on the interior building renovations, with approximately \$536k yet to be spent to complete the interior work. At that time, there would be approximately \$450k of those costs that will be financed internally from our reserves to delay the need to use borrowed funds. This is something that Redeemer has done in the past with other building projects to save on loan interest costs.

# Reflections from the 2026 Confirmation Retreat

## Josephine

My confirmation trip to Mar-Lu Ridge ended up being such a good day. I woke up around 6:20, and before heading to the church I stopped at McDonald's with my grandpa, which made the morning way better. I fell back asleep in the car on the way there, so the ride felt super fast. Even though almost twenty kids are in my confirmation group, it ended up being just me and Ella going. At first that felt kind of disappointing, but once we got to the church and met up with everyone, it didn't bother me anymore. When we arrived at Mar-Lu Ridge, there was actually a huge group of kids from a bunch of different churches and it felt a lot like the mission trip I went on last summer. We all got introduced to each other and did icebreakers, which helped everything feel less awkward. After that we went into our first confirmation session, and part of it was clay molding. We were supposed to make something that represented us. I made a little person, Ella made a skateboard, Grace made a cat, and Ellie made a ball. It was fun and pretty relaxing. After Session 1 we had a lot of free time before lunch, and the four of us played volleyball. Grace and Ella won but me and Ellie didn't lose. Lunch was amazing, steak sandwiches, the best cookies ever, and lemonade. For camp activity time, me and Ella picked the Flying Squirrel, where you get clipped into a harness and everyone else pulls you up into the air. It was so much fun and definitely the right choice. The views at Mar-Lu Ridge were so insane. Everywhere you looked, the hills and valleys stretched out forever. The sky felt huge and bright and the air was so clear it almost didn't feel real. The view from the chapel during closing worship was my favorite it was peaceful and beautiful in a way that made you want to just stand there and take it in. Even though our group was tiny, the trip made me feel more connected to my faith and the people I was with. It ended up being one of the best days I've had in a while.

## Ella

I woke up too early. I was tired in the first hours. When we got to the church it was just me and Josephine for the day trip. This trip to Mar-Lu-Ridge was about an hour so I slept for most of it along with Josephine. When we got to the retreat center, we looked out to see the gorgeous view, seeing all the small towns and houses was truly amazing. We somehow arrived before everyone else including the greeters! Once everyone was there, we played a lot of games. One being called Mingle where you had to move around and once the song stopped you had to get into groups based on a number. I met a lot of people today. One knew over fifteen things to with a plain deck of cards. We went back inside to start our first confirmation session and Pastor Josh lead it!! (He misses us a lot and says hi to Redeemer). He told us about how we formed from the dirt in the ground and about the breath of life. Then they brought out air dry clay and we got to mold things that represented us. My items were a skateboard and two dice (that looked marbled). Once we were done, we had free time, which meant we could do what we wanted. Me and Josephine went to play volleyball with our chaperones. (P.S. me and Grace won 17-13, then we went to 25 and ended 25-23). After that I went to play with and meet the other kids from the other areas. The we went to lunch, and boy was that good. Shredded beef sandwiches, fruit, cookies and some juices (I devoured it all). After that we went up the hill together to the main room so we could go to our activities!! Me and Josephine did the flying squirrel which was interesting. It wasn't a ropes course, instead it was getting pulled up in the air by the other kids and hanging there for 3 seconds, then going back down. It was fun! After that was done we went back to the other building for our second confirmation session. It was interesting and talking about who impacts us and who we impact in our lives. Then we went to the chapel where we sang and said our praises to the Lord. Afterwards we said out goodbyes, posed for a photo and left.



## HAPPENING AT REDEEMER

### Holy Week Worship Service Schedule

**Maundy Thursday, April 2**

7 pm

**Good Friday, April 3**

12 pm and 7 pm (Tenebrae)

**Easter Sunday, April 5**

8:30, 9:45, and 11 am

Livestream links will be available on the homepage at <https://redeemermclean.org/>.

### Join the Christian Education Ministry

Do you care about helping children, youth, and adults grow in faith? Redeemer's Christian Education Ministry Team is seeking new members to help guide and strengthen our Faith Formation, Confirmation, adult education, and other learning opportunities. This team provides vision, support, and encouragement for the educational life of our congregation - ensuring that all ages are nurtured in Scripture, discipleship, and love of Christ.

If you have a heart for teaching, mentoring, organizing, or simply supporting the faith development of our community, we would love to have you join us. Serving on this team is a meaningful way to share Christ's love and invest in the spiritual growth of Redeemer.

To learn more or express interest, please complete the form at <https://bit.ly/4ua8bfu>. If you have any questions before completing the form, please reach out to [Annabelle Allard](#).

### Endowment Ministry - Lenten Season Grant

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, either local or outside our local area.

The latest Endowment Committee grant was approved by Council for \$5,000 to Second Story ([second-story.org](https://second-story.org)), a local organization which provides housing, counseling, and life skills for teens in crisis, homeless youth, and young mothers. Redeemer continues its commitment to share God's love with Second Story and help make a positive difference in the lives of youth and young mothers in our area.

For questions about the work of the Endowment Committee or about giving to the Fund, please email Stephanie Hunter at [endowment@redeemermclean.org](mailto:endowment@redeemermclean.org).

## Social Justice and Equity Book Club New Book April 13

The Social Justice & Equity Book Club is just finishing up another great book, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, and we will be starting a new book on April 13, *The Emancipation Proclamation* by John Hope Franklin. Anyone is welcome to join us and this would be a good time to do so! We meet every Monday via Zoom @ 7:30 pm-8:30 pm. Please contact [Teresa Schellenger](#) for more information.

## Stewardship Ministry Financial Information

In response to the discussion at Redeemer's annual congregational meeting in February, the Stewardship Ministry will be providing a monthly status of receipts and expenditures in an effort to provide more transparency of our financial health. Opportunities for you to share your time and talents will continue to be provided, as has been done in the past. Watch for this information in the announcements and in *Tidings*.

## Young Adult Group April 13– 7 pm

Young adults are invited to attend our regular meetings on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm.

- **April 13**
- **May 11**

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! This group is a partnership between Redeemer, Lewinsville, and Immanuel Presbyterian Church. For more information, please contact [Grace Sweeney](#).



## Youth

### **Redeemer Renaissance Preschool Register Today!**

Preschool offers classes and extended day options for children aged 1.5–5 years old. Explore summer camps for 3–5-year-olds!

Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year is currently open!

For questions or to learn more information about all Redeemer Renaissance has to offer, please call 703-365-3567. We can't wait to welcome you!

### **Easter Sunday No Faith Formation, Confirmation, or High School Class April 5**

Please note there is no Faith Formation, Confirmation, or High School Class on Easter Sunday. We encourage you to come, join us, and worship as a family! Services are at 8:30, 9:45, and 11 am.

### **Take-Home Service Project for April Placemats for Sunrise of McLean Village Return by May 3**

Our April Service Project will be to create placemats for Sunrise of McLean Village. This involves decorating a paper placemat, with hopes of spreading joy to the residents. Specific paper will be available in Crossroads starting on Easter and distributed during Faith Formation the following week. Our goal is to create at least 30 placemats as this would allow for each resident in the memory care unit to receive one. All ages are welcome to participate, and you can create more than one! Please do not use 3-D elements since the placemats will be laminated.



### **Metro D.C. Synod Day of Service Family Event April 18 Register by April 5**

In celebration of Earth Day and our commitment to Creation Care, all Metro D.C. Synod families are invited to join in a Family Day of Service at Caroline Furnace Camp & Retreat Center.

The camp is ADA accessible and there will be projects available for all abilities. To register and find out more information go to <https://bit.ly/3NsLYZz>.

**Good Beginnings at Redeemer Renaissance Preschool  
Outdoor Classes for Ages 1.5 and older with Caregiver  
April 7 & 21 –9:30 am**

Come and play! 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 new 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.

The class is offered on the following dates: April 7 & 21, and May 5 & 19.

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

**Redeemer Renaissance Summer Camp  
June 22 to August 14**

To register please visit <http://redeemerrenaissance.org/>

June 22th - August 14th  
**Preschool - 6th Grade**  
Register Online

REDEEMER  
*Renaissance*  
PRESCHOOL & AFTER-SCHOOL

**SUMMER CAMP**  
2026  
Explore the World

Elementary School      Preschool  
3's & 4's



## Sweetie Pi Dance – Thank you!

The Sweetie Pi Dance hosted by Redeemer Renaissance was a huge success!  
Thank you to all who joined us and danced the night away after enjoying both pizza pies and dessert pies!



# SOCIAL OUTREACH

## Honeybaked Ham Donations for February

Steve Greanais picked up 2 boxes of ham weighing 144 pounds from the Fairfax store and delivered them to Rising Hope.

Roberta Pittman picked up 4 boxes of ham weighing 140 pounds from Fairfax and Falls Church stores and delivered them to Thrive DC.

Tyler Posey picked up 2 boxes of ham weighing 80 pounds from the Fairfax store and delivered them to SOME.

We provided 364 pounds of donated ham products to our community in February.

## Quilting Group Sewing Happiness into Every Stitch

We love what we do! The Quilting Group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, from 9:00–11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. We are a small but mighty group on a mission to share our love of sewing and make a difference through our craft.

Who We Support: Our quilts and handmade items bring comfort and care to those in need through:

- Partner for Surgery (Guatemala) – Providing medical and surgical care in rural communities. Quilts, tote bags, and bears are hand-delivered by Frank Peterson.
- Project Linus – Supporting children in Fairfax County and beyond.
- Lutheran World Relief – Extending our reach globally with compassion.
- Redeemer – quilts for Sunrise parishioners and our own while attending service, flannel blankets for toddler baptisms, shut-ins, or anyone else in our church family that is in need, upon request

Quilt Guidelines: We follow Project Linus sizing standards:

- Baby: 36" x 36"
- Child: 42" x 60"
- Teen: 45" x 72"

We also create fleece blankets and flannel baby blankets.

Partnering with the Prayer Shawl Group: We've teamed up with the Prayer Shawl Group to make fleece blankets for Project Linus. The Quilting Group preps the fleece, and the crocheters add a beautiful edge. For Prayer Shawl info, contact [Lynn Barth](#).

How You Can Help: We are currently in need of sewers! Either in person on Wednesdays, or if you cannot attend in person, we will provide you with:

- Quilt squares already designed, and marked for sewing
- Bundled quilt kits that include a sewn top, pre-cut batting and backing, yarn and/or binding

Other ways to support:

- Monetary donations (please designate for "Quilting Group")
- Fabric, thread, and sewing supplies

Donations help us purchase batting, fabric, thread, and other essentials.

Interested? Please contact: [Darlene McCoy](#) or [Joyce Clarke](#).

## Partner For Surgery

Partner for Surgery - Frank Peterson will be headed back to Guatemala in mid-April bringing a whole host of items for the infants (and their families) who are undergoing cleft palate repair. Included will be:



- 30 jumbo crayon sets and coloring books for the 1 - 2-year-olds
- Breast pumps - we have 34 to send down this trip with an additional 11 needed for next trip in early fall
- 60 Gift bags - filled with pacifiers, rattles, diapers, wash clothes, combs, shampoo, soap and socks. The best item in the bag is hand-sewn teddy bears - thank you Joyce Clarke!
- Quilts and blankets - all made by the Redeemer quilting group

Huge thank you for the donations / contributions to this great ministry!

Donations can be left in Crossroads or by using the Amazon [link](#).

Items can be donated by:

- Placing them in the bin located in Crossroads.
- Purchasing them through the [Amazon wish list](#) or by scanning the QR code.



## PASTOR AND STAFF OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Senior Pastor	Pastor Sharon Core	ext. 102	sharon@redeermclean.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	lmconnaughay@redeermclean.org
Director of Preschool	Katrina McNair	ext. 111	preschool@redeermclean.org
Evening Facility Host	Brian Doyle		
Executive Director of Redeemer Renaissance	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmconnaughay@redeermclean.org
Facilities Director	Bill Parks	ext. 110	bparks@redeermclean.org
Financial Coordinator	Sara Nail	ext. 103	sara@redeermclean.org
Nursery Care	Bernarda Rodriguez		
Office Manager	Cynthia Finocchiaro	ext. 101	cynthia@redeermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel		joymentzel@gmail.com
Pianist	Kathy Detwiler		
Youth & Communications Coordinator	Grace Sweeney	ext. 105	grace@redeermclean.org
Youth Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Karen Miller
Vice President	Sabine Detweiler
Secretary	Chris Hernadi
Treasurer	Steve Bott

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Annabelle Allard  
David Broderdorf  
Lee Cronin  
Sara Egeland  
Megan Kratz  
Gene Morrow  
Tyler Posey  
And a Youth Representative