TIDINGS Newsletter

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 Sharon Core

Splanchnizomai
August 2026

Perhaps one of the most familiar parables is the one found in Luke 10:25-37, the Good Samaritan. The parable itself is told in response to a question from a lawyer—*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*

In true Jesus fashion, instead of answering the question, He asks the man a question—*What is written in the law? What do you read there?*

And without missing a beat, the lawyer responds: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.*

Spot on, Jesus says, *do this and you will live.* Act on the truth you know.

And then we can almost imagine Jesus turning to walk away,—it's that scene in the movie where one character thinks the conversation is over, but the other calls out—and just one more thing, if you don't mind—*And who is my neighbor?*

And with a slow turn, Jesus turns to face the man—*A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.*

We hear about a priest and a Levite, both of whom pass by the beaten man. Then comes the Samaritan. The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE) says when the Samaritan saw the man *he was moved with compassion.*

The Greek word translated *compassion* is *splanchnizomai.* It literally means "love from the guts", "love from the bowels", "love that grabs you viscerally".

Biblical compassion is love that grabs us in our gut and propels us to do something. Compassion is more than pity—pity is knowing about another's suffering but not really participating in it. Compassion is more than empathy. Empathy knows about the suffering, feels the person's pain, but then stops there.

Compassion takes the knowing and feeling and adds action. Compassion does something about the suffering. Compassion steps in to where the suffering is happening and tries to do something to alleviate it.

The Samaritan had compassion. The Samaritan had *splanchnizomai.* The plight of the beaten man grabs him in the gut, propels him into the man's pain and makes him do something.

To allow that *splanchnizomai,* that compassion, that gut-grabbing reaction to take hold requires a fair amount of risk, courage, fortitude, and sacrifice. To allow that *splanchnizomai,* that compassion, that gut-grabbing reaction to take hold means we recognize there is more to life than our existence, our own wishes and desires, our own opinion. To allow that *splanchnizomai,* that compassion, that gut-grabbing reaction to take hold means we step outside of ourselves and allow our hearts to break for our neighbor.

The follow-up question the lawyer asks Jesus is: *And who is my neighbor?* After Jesus tells the story, He asks the lawyer: *Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?*

The lawyer's question implies there are some people he can exclude; there are some people he doesn't have to love; there are some people he doesn't have to care for. Jesus' question back to the lawyer shows the more important question is: *what kind of neighbor am I?*

As followers of Jesus Christ, as ones who have *splanchnizomai,* as ones who have been grabbed in the gut by compassion it is never about who don't I have to pay attention to. It's never about whose feelings can I ignore. It's never about who can I exclude.

It is all about how do I show compassion. It is all about how do I live as a disciple of Jesus. It is all about how firmly my gut grabs hold of me.

How do we as disciples of Jesus Christ, as ones with *splanchnizomai,* as ones filled with compassion, as ones with love from the guts, love from the bowels act on what we know?

Blessings,
Pastor Sharon



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Traditional worship service at 8:30 am
Contemporary worship service at 11:00 am

Table Talk (Adult Class in Conference Room) – 9:45 am
Food for Biblical Thought (Classroom 137) – 9:45 am

WEEKLY EVENTS

Thursdays	Bible Study (Zoom) – 8:00 am

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Week of August 2	
Sunday, August 2	Prayer Shawl Ministry (Library) – 9:45 am
Wednesday, August 5	Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) – 9 am
Week of August 16	
Tuesday, August 18	Good Grub and God Dinner – 7 pm
Wednesday, August 19	Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) – 9 am
Week of August 23	
Sunday, August 23	Blessing of Backpacks – 8:30 and 11 am
	Christmas Ornament Decorating (Fellowship Hall) – 9:45 am
Week of August 30	
Sunday, August 30	Neighborhood Exegesis – 9:45 am

Minutes: July 13, 2026, Meeting of Congregation Council
RLC Library and via Zoom

Council Members Present in Person: Annabelle Allard; Steve Bott, Treasurer; David Broderdorf; Pastor Sharon Core; Lee Cronin; Sara Egeland; Karen Miller, President; Tyler Posey.

Council Members Present via Zoom: Chris Hernadi, Secretary

Council Members Absent Excused: Sabine Detweiler; Megan Kratz; Gene Morrow; Anna P., Youth Member Representative.

Call to order. Karen Miller called the meeting to order at 7:31.

Opening Devotions. Pastor Core led opening devotions with a reading from Luke 14 and the Parable of the Great Banquet. Drawing from an interpretation of the Parable in "X is for Oxen" from Anna Carter Florence's book A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture, Council considered ways in which our busy, calendar-driven lives compete with our desire to respond to the invitation from God.

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

Adoption of Agenda. The agenda was approved by the Council with the addition of additional ministry reports.

Executive Committee Summary. The Executive Committee met on June 30 via zoom and talked about the items on tonight's agenda.

Discussion Item: General Updates from Pastor Core. Pastor Core had no additional updates beyond her contributions to the agenda items of tonight's meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Steve Bott presented the 2026 Financial Summary through June 30, which had been emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. He reported a year-to-date deficit of $31,590, which is an improvement from last month. In response to a question from Council, Steve clarified the Operating Fund Working Capital Surplus / (Deficit) line, and, in discussion, Council expressed interest in getting more data about the number of contributions to help analyze contributions over the years.

Action Item: Call Committee and Approval of the MSP. Noting that the MSP draft was made available to Council prior to the meeting, Karen summarized the feedback she received from members of Council and the revisions made by the Call Committee to address that feedback. Council requested that the Call Committee include the Welcome Statement in the MSP. It was noted that the MSP document is written to serve as a launch point of further discussion between the candidates and the Call Committee about the interests, traditions and culture of the Redeemer community.

Karen Miller made the motion that the MSP be approved with the changes and revisions summarized in the discussion. The motion was seconded by David Broderdorf. The motion was approved unanimously by Council.

Discussion Item: Building Project Status. Council agreed for dedication activities to be scheduled sometime during the weekend of October 2-4 to celebrate the newly designed interior spaces. Karen Miller will invite individuals to be part of the organization team to organize activities and schedule the precise date and time.

Regarding Phase 2 of the construction project, Karen Miller reminded Council that the original company, which was to have designed the Columbarium, is no longer in business. Rob Wenk is researching companies and reviewing all options for both the Columbarium and the Grounds portions.

Karen Miller further reported that the bamboo clearing project along the back of the property has been completed and paid for.

Discussion item: Personnel Items. Reviews for Matt Osifchin, Grace Sweeney, and Sara Nail are complete. Linda McConnaughay's is on a separate timeline as specified in the Renaissance Charter and is currently in progress. Pastor Core confirmed that all administrative job descriptions are fully updated and current.

It was further noted that the Pre-School Director job search is in progress, and that the night host position is currently filled by Chris Tilletson, who was introduced to Council at the beginning of the meeting and will serve through the summer.

Approval Item: Pastor Sharon Housing Resolution. Noting that administrative guidelines require that a certain portion of a pastor's salary be dedicated to a housing allowance, Karen Miller made the motion that 48% of Pastor Core's salary be dedicated to this purpose. Annabelle Allard seconded the motion. In discussion it was noted that this was the same percentage as was dedicated the previous year. The motion was approved unanimously by Council.

Discussion Item: Personnel Committee. Karen Miller asked Council to consider individuals they know with the appropriate background who might be able to serve on the Personnel Committee and to come to her with suggestions.

Discussion Item: Worship and Music. Karen Miller reported that the Worship and Music committee is exploring the feasibility of offering training to acolytes and crucifiers for youth starting in fifth grade, and for assistant ministers for high schoolers. Pastor Core reported that she has received requests to offer first communion over the summer. Karen Miller asked Council to consider individuals they know who might be able to oversee the repair or replacement of banners which are in need of attention.

Discussion Item: Potential Task Force Development. Karen Miller revisited the topic of a potential task force to study the service schedule. The Council weighed the toll that having such a formal task force could have on the Congregation during a period of change which already has proven to be eventful; the impact that the current schedule, or even discussion about the schedule, would have on the call for a new pastor; and the potential for new opportunities in Worship that the status quo or a schedule change would present. Given the complexity of the issue, Council agreed to table the discussion until the September Council Meeting.

Council agreed that in the meantime, Redeemer will revert to the customary three service schedule on Sunday, September 13.

Discussion Item: Youth Topics and Christian Education. Annabelle Allard reported that she and others will meet this week to discuss priorities of Youth Group and Confirmation classes.

Discussion Item: Website Upgrade. Karen Miller reported that Grace Sweeney has completed the website upgrade. Council requested that requirements and protocols for allowing photos of minors on the new website be confirmed.

Discussion Item: Nametag Project. Karen Miller reported that she and Kim Wenk have discussed plans to provide a central location to store nametags or offer other designs like lanyards to encourage their use.

Ministry Reports: Membership Outreach. Pastor Sharon reported that five individuals responded to her call to participate in discussions about membership outreach to rejuvenate this ministry. The immediate goal will be to schedule a new member dinner soon for those who joined the Congregation over the past few months.

Ministry Reports: ELCA Day of Service. Tyler Posey reported on behalf of the Social Outreach committee that September 13 is designated as the ELCA Day of Service.The Social Outreach committee will be hosting Temple Talks on Service and Youth Mission Trips and will organize an afternoon of activities at the Sunrise senior center. Tyler further reported that the committee is looking for volunteers to lead or manage additional projects. Kim Wenk will follow up with announcements as needed.

Ministry Reports: Endowment. David Broderdorf reported that the Endowment Committee will meet on July 19 to select the recipient of the next grant. The aim will be to support one or more organizations affiliated with recently completed Youth Mission Trip to Wilmington, NC. Council members were alerted to expect a call for approval via email in August.

Discussion Item: Council Schedule. It was confirmed that there will be no Council meeting in August. Karen Miller called for suggestions to hold a family-oriented gathering for fellowship sometime in August and asked for ideas by the end of the week.

Discussion Item: Council Schedule. Karen Miller asked the Council if there was interest in holding a meeting or fellowship opportunity in August. Plans will be confirmed at a future date.

New Business: None

Close with Prayer at 9:42 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

- Executive Committee TBD
- Next Meeting of Council: September 14, 2026

Construction Project Updates from July

We are currently addressing a couple of issues with the Columbarium. Our plans call for the construction to begin this fall. However, the county is requiring us to provide a separate stormwater management facility, if the Columbarium is built as a standalone project. In addition, more detailed structural drawings of the pergola (wooden structure above the niches) are now required for a building permit to be issued. In addition, overall project costs have increased, so we are working through all of these issues with our architect and civil engineer.

When you mark on your offering envelope that you would like your gift to go towards the Capital Campaign or Debt Reduction or Principal Payment, your giving serves to reduce the amount owed for what has been spent thus far on all three project areas; 1) renovations to the building, classrooms and offices, 2) preparation for the construction of the new columbarium, 3) preparation for the renovation of the outdoor natural playground. We were able to borrow these funds from our internal reserves and avoid the interest expense and now will be paying down that balance.

STEWARDSHIP AT REDEEMER

Stewardship is …

Peter the Apostle tells us stewardship is how "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

In First Corinthians 12:1-31, Paul compares the community of believers to the body of Christ – claiming that each of us have been given our own separate abilities to support Christ's work in the world. Paul says, "we were all baptized by the Holy Spirit to form one body" and "the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you.'" We all have our "indispensable" roles to play in the life of Christ's church.

Over the past two months, we have enjoyed sharing the stories and insights from some of the volunteers who are helping our Redeemer family reach out to the world with our love, compassion, and assistance. Our volunteers are very active in our local community and helping in the poorest regions in the world.

Today, we'd like to share some the other stories highlighting the things that happen behind-the-scenes each week at your church -- to deliver the music, educational opportunities, and worship experiences you enjoy each Sunday.

Diane Miller

I've called Redeemer home for a long time, and over the years, I've had the joy of serving in many ways. While leading committees has been a great way to meet people, lately I've found that the quietest moments of connection are often the most powerful.

Whether I'm singing in the adult choir or ringing with the bell choir, I feel deeply tied to our worship. On Sunday mornings, serving as a reader or assisting minister reminds me that we are all active participants in sharing the Word.

Sometimes, though, the best way to 'volunteer' is simply to show up—to share a Lenten dinner or a conversation at Bible study and simply be present with one another.

Nancy Etkin

As a 40+ year member of Redeemer, my volunteer activities with the church have evolved as my children grew up and left the nest; then I focused on what would be useful to Redeemer at this stage of my life.

When Redeemer expanded to three Sunday services, adding a 9:45 contemporary worship, I volunteered to be a communion assistant. When COVID shut down that worship volunteer activity, and the congregation slowly returned to the building, I offered to serve as an usher, again for my 9:45 service. I enjoy greeting the members as they enter the sanctuary, providing them bulletins, and assisting with the important work of offering collection and communion organization. I also serve as a reader, continuing my "reading aloud" practice I started with my children as they grew up. These are small ways to express my gratitude for the faith community that has sustained me all these years.

Robin Taylor

I lead Table Talk, a small-group ministry at Redeemer, that gathers each Sunday morning to explore questions of faith, build relationships, and deepen commitments to discipleship, centering on historical and contemporary theological study. My work at Table Talk is part of my Lutheran vocation as a trained theologian of the church. (I have a master's degree from Gettysburg Seminary and a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Catholic University.) Table Talk is one of those special places of freedom where you can discuss any topic related to the church and receive respectful and thoughtful discussion, all for the good of the church.

Steve Englund

On Sunday mornings, you'll often find me at the sound board in the back of the sanctuary at the 9:45 service, making sure the sound is balanced and operating the camera for the live stream of the service. It's been my pleasure to serve as a sound technician at Redeemer for over a dozen years now. I started because my son Dan was a sound tech at Langley High School at the time I was asked. I figured that if he could learn what to do with all the controls on the board, so could I. I didn't anticipate how rewarding it would prove to be as a way to participate in and connect with the worship services. It definitely keeps me paying attention! And it's very satisfying to know that when everything goes right, the congregation can focus entirely on the service, the music, and the Word. If you're looking for a meaningful way to serve, we'd love to have another set of hands. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help and to learn.

Luther Markwart

In the last 25 years at Redeemer, I have served in a variety of roles as our children grew up in the church. Having been a public speaker and trainer has prepared me to serve as an assisting minister to present the prayers and readings in a way that touches people both intellectually and spiritually. Serving communion is a very special experience and is unique with each individual in a very holy moment. It is to provide joy, comfort, and blessings, all at the same time. This service also fulfills my early longings to be a Chaplain in the Air Force.

Jason Eckberg

My stewardship journey anchors on translating talent and time to service. "*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*." (Ep 2:10). Experiencing ten congregations in the last 25 years, being a part of worship is personally and spiritually fulfilling. Choir in Papillion Nebraska; assisting minister in Dayton Ohio; reading in Forney, Texas. All wonderful, foundational experiences. Here at Redeemer, contributing to Table Talk, being a greeter, regularly reading, and assisting minister are all the works I enjoy to enhance our experiences!

Kim Wenk

The Living Nativity was one of my first experiences at Redeemer (some 30-plus years ago!) that made me see that we do share God's love with the local community. Is there any better way to love our neighbor? So naturally I wanted to volunteer and started serving hot chocolate. Seeing the wonder of the kids and adults when they see the animals is a great joy. It is a night to step into the true meaning of Christmas and imagine that "peace on earth" is possible.

Teaching High School "Bagels and Bibles" - I will be honest teaching is not really my thing, but I love providing a place where the high school kids can come once a week and leave their stress at the door, enjoy a bagel, and learn about God's love for them. It is refreshing to hear what they think, what they are experiencing in their daily lives. I am amazed at what I learn from them, and they give me hope.

Together, we can make a tremendous difference in the lives of others. And we are grateful for the creativity and hard work of our volunteers who make everything possible here at Redeemer.
As Jesus put it, we will be known by our love.

As the writer of Hebrews puts it: "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

HAPPENING AT REDEEMER

Website Updated!

We've given our online home a fresh new look with improved features, easier navigation, and updated content to make your experience better than ever. Take a look and explore the new site today — we can't wait for you to check it out! As with all new things there is possibility for error; if you do encounter any please contact grace@redeemermclean.org.

New Membership Directory through Website

One of the features of our new website is an integrated membership directory. The membership directory is not public and will require you to "Sign in". Members will receive an email to set up your account in the coming weeks. If you do not receive an email, please contact grace@redeemermclean.org to ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information.

Food for Biblical Thought (Adult Christian Education)
Free Food! Grab a pastry and join with your friends (and meet someone new)
9:45 to 10:40 am in Classroom 137

August 2- Verbs in the Bible led by Pastor Core
Join us as we continue to explore verbs, with this being our last week!

August 9- Topic: What might God calling us to do with our faith? And why?
Greg Adams will lead a lively discussion on how we can navigate our way through life's challenges using the teachings of Jesus, Paul, and Moses. We'll also discuss the age-old controversy over **Faith versus Works**, and much more!

August 16- Topic: Key Takeaways from the Sermon on the Mount
If you have ever read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he lays out some pretty high standards for how we should treat one another – like love your enemy and "Be perfect like your Father in heaven is perfect." So, is this just another list of RULES? Even his disciples questioned, who can do such things? But Jesus was onto something of great value to us. Join us as Greg Adams leads an exploration of how **Jesus is trying to change us from the inside out**.

August 23- Topic: TBD
Please check the announcements for a topic, coming soon!

August 30- Topic: 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.

To help us prepare materials and arrange space appropriately, we encourage you to RSVP here whenever possible. However, everyone is welcome to attend, whether or not you sign up in advance.

Additional Sunday Morning Offerings for All Ages!

Knitting/Crocheting Instruction with the Prayer Shawl Ministry
August 2 – 9:45 am in the Library

Join us in the Library for fellowship and knitting or crocheting! Have you always wanted to learn to knit or crochet? Did you learn in the past and you just need a refresher? Get started on your knitting or crocheting journey with hands-on instruction and online resources to continue your learning at home or just join us with your current knitting project for fellowship and light refreshments. Yarn, needles, and crochet hooks provided.

Christmas Ornament Decorating
August 23- 9:45 am in Fellowship Hall

Christmas in August! Stop by and make a new Christmas ornament that will be hung on the tree in the crossroads this year on August 23. A note was found in the box of leftover Chrismon supplies asking that they be put to good use. So to honor this request we've purchased some plain ornaments that need to be glammed up! Bring your artistic spirit and we'll provide all the supplies!

Neighborhood Exegesis
August 30- 9:45 am in the 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?

To help us prepare materials and arrange space appropriately, we encourage you to RSVP here whenever possible. However, everyone is welcome to attend, whether or not you sign up in advance.

Redeemer Renaissance Preschool Welcomes Gaby Moore as Preschool Director

Redeemer Renaissance is excited to announce that Gaby Moore has taken the position as our new Preschool Director. Gaby brings years of experience as a preschool teacher, a background in business, and a passion for ensuring that each child has opportunities to learn and grow, building a strong foundation in their early childhood education. Gaby is looking forward to meeting everyone. and collaborating to support the mission of Redeemer Renaissance.

Gaby will greet families at our summertime Open House Playground Playtime. Join us on Wednesdays through August 26th, 9:30 – 10:30 AM, to bring your children to visit and play!



Registration for the 2026-27 school year is open.
Questions? Contact Linda McConnaughay, Redeemer Renaissance Executive Director, at 703-356-334

Financial Stewardship at Redeemer Update

Stewardship is not just about money!

Stewardship is expressed in **three ways**: sharing of our **time** and our **talents** in addition to our **treasure** (our financial resources). Making a commitment in any of those areas is an act of faith, an act of worship. For the many opportunities available for sharing our time and talents, see the possibilities listed in the directory "What's Happening at Redeemer."

Exciting things are continuing to happen at Redeemer:

- School supplies were collected for students from families dealing with homelessness who are being helped by Homestretch, a local organization.
- Redeemer's Little Food Pantry continues supplying items for community members, including families whose children don't have school-supplied meals during the summer.
- Various education opportunities for youth and adults are being offered during the hour between the Sunday worship services. One of the August opportunities will be a series on "Food for Biblical Thought" about biblical stewardship.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity of giving! The summary below shows ongoing improvement in our financial status: $8,000 as of June 30 over the year-to-date loss. (The update with the end-of-July numbers will appear, when available, in the August Sunday announcements.)

However, the challenge remains for us now that we are past the half-way point in our financial year. As we're busy with end-of-summer travel and activities, may the Holy Spirit continue to challenge all of us to share our treasure as we are able.

Current year through 6/30/26		
	Actual	Budget
Total Receipts*	$ 534,731	$ 580,227
Total Expenses	$ 566,321	$ 580,227
Surplus (Shortfall)	$ (31,590)	
*Includes $10,000 roll-over from 2025		

Social Justice & Equity Book Club
On Summer Break, Resumes September 14



Check out the The Social Justice & Equity Book Club's lending cart in the Crossroads! Feel free to borrow any book but please remember to return it to the cart for others to read :)

The group is taking the summer off. Meetings will resume on Sept. 14 with a discussion on an essay written by John Hope Franklin on "The Emancipation Proclamation".

For most recent book summaries, please visit this link.

Anyone is welcome to join us and September would be a good time to do so! We meet every Monday via zoom @ 7:30pm - 8:30pm.

Contact Teresa Schellenger at jpschellenger@aol.com for more details.

SAVE THE DATE- ELCA Day of Service "God's Work. Our Hands."
September 13

Save the Date, Mark your calendars, Plan to participate in "God's work. Our Hands", on Sunday, September 13th. We are currently planning exciting service projects that everyone is invited to participate in both between services and during the afternoon. If you would like to lead an activity please contact: Kim Wenk at kbwenk@gmail.com.

What is God's Work, Our Hands? Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. Scheduled for Sept. 13, "God's work. Our hands." is our annual day of service and an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

The ELCA's first dedicated day of service, in September 2013, was held to celebrate the church's 25th anniversary. Through the years, we have embraced "God's work. Our hands." as a way to be church together. Being church together means being connected, as we recognize our shared calling and our shared responsibility across congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Through our acts of service, we bear witness to the love and concern God's people have for one another. Our congregations do this work every day — loving their neighbors and improving their communities. Service to our neighbor allows us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Metro D.C. Synod Event: Unreserved
September 19

Reserve Your Spot for UnReserved

UnReserved is the practice of making room for all people without exception. Join us Saturday, September 19 as we explore what it means to become congregations that reflect the diversity of God's people and the communities we are called to serve. Registration is $20 per person. Lunch will be provided. If you are interested please register here.

Youth

Blessing of Backpacks
August 23

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 use this link.

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Note from Homestretch
School Supply Drive Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated to our school supply drive! We receieved the following note from Homestretch:

Dear Friends at Redeemer,
Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. Your donation of school supplies will make a real difference for the children and families served by Homestretch. Because of your thoughtful efforts, children will start school feeling prepared and supported.

With heartfelt appreciation
The Homestretch Team

Ham Runners

In April, May and June, Roberta Pittman, Jim Kuhagen, Tyler Posey, Steve Greanias and Laura Wareham helped to feed our neighbors in need by delivering food donations from Honeybaked Ham stores in Fairfax and Falls Church to So Other Might Eat (550 pounds), Thrive (310 pounds), Rising Hope Mission Church (170 pounds) and Arlington Assembly of God/Corrine's Kitchen (90 pounds).

Little Food Pantry
Please continue to support Redeemer's Little Food Pantry this summer!

You may select the Little Food Pantry tile on the church's website as a giving option or place your donations in the specially- marked basket in the church narthex. Regularly-needed items include:

- canned tuna and chicken
- canned fruit and vegetables
- beans
- oatmeal packets
- single serving boxes of cereal
- hearty soups, instant soups and microwave options
- peanut butter
- Ritz crackers
- granola bars
- rice
- pasta

Please - no glass jars, no expired, or partial food portions. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!



Prayer Shawl Ministry
Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Annual Scarf Drive for N Street Village

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is hosting its annual winter scarf drive for the women of N Street Village. If you are a crafter, please consider crocheting or knitting a winter scarf. Gently used or newly purchased scarves are also gratefully accepted.

Pick up a scarf-in-a-bag kit in the Crossroads and enjoy a hands-on project over the summer. Each bag contains enough yarn to knit or crochet a scarf and a pattern or use any pattern of your choosing.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will take a break in July and August.

Please email Lynn Barth at lynnbarth@gmail.com for more information.
A collection box for the scarves will be put out in September, and the drive will end in early October.

Quilting Group
Sewing Happiness into Every Stitch





We love what we do! 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, we provide quilts, flannel blankets, tote bags, and bears for the children.
- Project Linus – Supporting children in Fairfax County and beyond, we provide them with quilts and fleece blankets.
- Redeemer – Providing parishioners with quilts during service, flannel blankets for toddler baptisms, shut-ins, pre-school/after school care, or anyone else in our church family that is in need.

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 desperately need 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 a quilt top
• 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") to purchase batting, fabric, thread, and other essentials.
• Fabric, thread, and sewing supplies that you or someone else no longer needs/uses.

Interested? Please contact: Darlene McCoy or Joyce Clarke.

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 Music	Matt Osifchin		mattosifchin@gmail.com
Director of Afterschool	Linda McConnaughay	ext. 106	lmcconnaughay@redeemermclean.org
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

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