

# **TIDINGS** Newsletter

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1545 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101

Vol. 70 No. 3  
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Our mission is to share Christ's love  
with the greatest number of people.

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## A Message from Pastor Sandy Kessinger

### March of 2025 An Invitation

One of the ways that Redeemer can be the *church* is to look for different ways to engage in the community. We do an excellent job of supporting various organizations that reach the most vulnerable, such as Second Story which provides housing, counseling, and overall support for people in crisis and/or those who are homeless. We continue our close connections with Share and are diligent in keeping the Little Food Pantry filled.

Some of the members of Redeemer recently attended a virtual town hall meeting with the staff of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, another organization that we support. The reason for the town hall meeting was to inform us that due to their government funding being withheld, they have an urgency to meet the needs of the people that they have been contracted to help.

Hundreds of immigrant families and individuals are already affected. Those families and individuals face the risk of becoming homeless. They will be unable to afford food and some of the other basics that we sometimes take for granted. The town hall meeting ended with an invitation for all of us (as individuals and the church) to help. We will use the coming month to keep highlighting the needs of LSS and other organizations. Our Social Outreach ministry team will also seek ways to send some of our resources their way. Visit their website for more information – [Newsroom](#).

In the midst of everything that is happening in our area right now, we received another invitation of a totally different kind. Hakan Atasever is the Executive Director of the American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA). He sent an email to me late in January wondering if we would be open to joining them in an Iftar Dinner. Iftar is one of the religious observances of Ramadan and Muslims abstain from all food and water from the break of dawn until sunset.

I responded to his email with an enthusiastic YES and so, this is how it will work. We will gather at Redeemer in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 12. We will meet and greet people starting at 6:30 pm and the meal will be served at 7:15 pm (sunset on that day is 7:14 pm). They will provide the meal.

It is their Ramadan and our Lenten season. I hope that since it is during one of the times that we normally meet during Lent that we will get an excellent turnout. Here is a [link](#) to sign-up so we can plan accordingly.

At the end of the dinner, we will stay in Fellowship Hall and hold a brief Interfaith Prayer service. It is our plan to end the evening around 8:15 pm. The whole event is very important and a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as one.

For the rest of the Lenten season, the invitation continues. On Wednesday evenings, come and share a meal and attend our Evening Prayer services. Each week, a member of the congregation will highlight a different character in the Bible and some of the hidden gems that are often overlooked. It will continue the work that we started at the annual Spiritual retreat that was held in February. At the retreat we talked about Esther, Deborah, and the call of the early disciples. We talked about how each of these figures in the Bible spoke to us and how God worked through them to not only be hearers of his Word but also doers. It was not difficult to also reflect on people in our own lives who share some of those same qualities.

All of this leads us back to where I started this article. With all the changes that are taking place in our country, and specifically in our area, the invitation is to listen and to act. Stay alert to what is going on with our neighbors. We will continue to keep you updated on the critical needs of the organizations that we support. We will also give thanks for unique invitations that come our way that we accept with a resounding YES!

An invitation to use our resources where they are needed the most is paramount.

An invitation to sit with our siblings in the Muslim community cannot be passed up.

An invitation to attend our Lenten services and discover how God works in the world is critical.

Come and See! Yours in Christ – Pastor Sandy Kessinger

### **MID-WEEK LENTEN SCHEDULE 2025**

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March 4, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
6 pm to 7 pm

7 pm to 7:15 pm – Bury the Alleluias and Burn the Palms

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March 5, Ash Wednesday  
12 pm and 7:30 pm  
Dinner at 6:30 pm (Hosted by Council)

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March 12, Iftar Dinner at Redeemer  
6:30 pm to 8 pm  
8 pm to 8:15 pm – Interfaith Prayer Service

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March 19, 26 and April 2, 9 – Evening Prayer Services  
6:30 pm, Dinner and 7:30 pm, Worship

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# MARCH

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Traditional worship services at 8:30 am and 11:00 am

Contemporary worship service at 9:45 am

Faith Formation, Confirmation, High School classes – 9:45 am

Table Talk (Adult Class) – 9:45 am

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays	Youth Choir rehearsal – 10:55 am
Mondays	Racial Justice and Equity Book Club (Zoom) – 7:30 pm
Tuesdays	Women's Prayer Group (Hybrid) – 9:30 am
Thursdays	Men's Bible Study (Zoom) – 8:00 am
	Bell Choir rehearsal – 7:00 pm
	Traditional Choir practice – 7:45 pm

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### **Week of March 2**

Tuesday, March 4	Shrove Tuesday pancake supper – 6:00 pm [Featuring art by Redeemer Renaissance Artists]
Wednesday, March 5	Burning of the Palms – 7:00 pm
	Quilting Group – 9:00 am
	Ash Wednesday Worship – 12:00 pm and 7:30 pm
	Ash Wednesday Dinner – 6:30 pm
Thursday, March 6	Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10:30 am

### **Week of March 9**

Sunday, March 9	Youth Leadership Sunday at all worship services [No Faith Formation, Confirmation, and Youth Choir rehearsal]
Monday, March 10	Congregation Council meeting – 7:30 pm
Tuesday, March 11	Guest Speaker Robyne Davis (Hosted by RRP) – 6:30 pm
Wednesday, March 12	Joint Ramadan Iftar and Lenten Dinner – 6:30 pm
	Interfaith Prayer Service – 8:00-8:15 pm

### **Week of March 16**

Sunday, March 16	Parents Coffee – 10:45 am
Wednesday, March 19	Quilting Group – 9:00
Thursday, March 20	Lenten Supper – 6:30 pm; Lenten Worship – 7:30 pm
	Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10:30 am

### **Week of March 23**

Sunday, March 23	Youth Service Project – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, March 25	Sacred Ground discussion – 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 26	Lenten Supper – 6:30 pm; Lenten Worship – 7:30 pm

### **Week of March 30**

Sunday, March 30	Youth Mission Trip meeting – 12:00 pm
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**Agenda: February 10, 2025 Meeting of Congregation Council**  
**RLC Conference Room**

**Council Members Present in Person:** Annabelle Allard; Steve Bott, Treasurer; Lee Cronin; Sabine Detweiler, Vice-President; Sarah Getter; Chris Hernadi, Secretary; Victoria Johnson; Sandy Kessinger, Senior Pastor; Megan Kratz; Karen Miller, President; Gene Morrow; Tyler Posey;

**Council Members Excused:** Lena Martikainen

**Council Members Unexcused:** None

**Attendees:** Ellen Kennedy, outgoing President.

**Call to order.** Ellen Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and the Council members introduced themselves to each other.

**Opening Devotions.** PSK led devotions with a reading of Luke 5:1-11. Council members reflected on the struggle to sacrifice and give things up in order to follow Jesus.

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

**Adoption of Agenda.** The agenda was approved by the Council, with the correction of the date of the upcoming Executive Committee for February 28.

**Senior Pastor report.** Pastor Kessinger submitted her report via email in advance of the meeting. Some of the items she highlighted in her report included:

- **Connections through Pastoral Care.** PSK had a higher number of member/visitor contacts to help people process her approaching retirement and the changing environment in the DC-metro area. One Memorial service was held.
- **Connections through Ministries of the Congregations.** A variety of group classes and lessons were ongoing, including a 10-star Council Dinner hosted by Lee Cronin.
- **Connections through Meetings.** A variety of meetings were held during the month.
- **Connections through Synod.** PSK attended the Virginia Conference Meeting at Christ the King, Great Falls and met with Pastor Sarah Garrett Krey, Assistant to the Bishop, in preparation of her visit to our next council meeting in March.
- **Connections through Community.** PSK will be helping the McLean Clergy Group in its transition to a new head in anticipation of her retirement
- **Additional Notes.** 1) Redeemer talked about Safe Space protocols and guidance documents with support from comparable items sent from the United Methodist Church. 2) The American Turkish Friendship Association will host a Muslim/Christian Dinner March 12 at Redeemer, which will be followed by an interfaith prayer service at 8 pm. 3) Redeemer will need to find a new coordinator for the Faith Formation classes after PSK's retirement.

**Executive Committee Summary.** The Executive Committee met February 7 and focused primarily on the Annual Meeting and preparations for Pastor Sarah Garrett Krey's visit with council next month.

**Treasurer's Report.** The financial report for the month was submitted by email in advance of the meeting. Steve Bott will take on the role of Treasurer during his three-year term on Council.

**Decision: Council Officer Selection.** Council elected a President, Vice-President, and Secretary as follows:

- **Nominations for President:** Sabine Detweiller nominated Karen Miller. The nomination was seconded by Lee Cronin. Karen accepted the nomination. The motion to nominate Karen Miller as President of Council was approved unanimously.
- **Nominations for Vice President:** Karen Miller nominated Sabine Detweiller. The nomination was seconded by Tyler Posey. Sabine accepted the nomination. The motion to nominate Sabine Detweiller as Vice-President of Council was approved unanimously.
- **Nominations for Secretary.** Karen Miller nominated Chris Hernadi. The nomination was seconded by Tyler Posey. Chris accepted the nomination. The motion to nominate Chris Hernadi as Secretary of Council was approved unanimously.

PSK thanked outgoing President Ellen Kennedy for her dedication and leadership.

**Discussion Item: Annual Meeting Debrief.** The Council acknowledged the concerns expressed in the Annual Meeting about taking on large debt and noted the Congregation's previous experience of taking on debt responsibly and paying it off ahead of schedule. The Council expressed appreciation for Rob Wenk's ability to listen to attendees at the Annual Meeting and to answer their questions knowledgeably. The Council expressed gratitude for the Congregation's tendency towards consensus and the positive approach to topics like the approval of a mortgage and PSK's retirement.

**Discussion Item: Committee Liaison Assignments.** Karen Miller guided the Council through the governing documents and ministry team descriptions that were distributed via email prior to the meeting. Karen asked Council members to review these documents in advance of next month's meeting and select the committee for which each individual would like to serve as liaison. Liaison assignments will be made at the March Council meeting. Though it is not listed as a ministry committee, Redeemer Renaissance will also require a council liaison.

**Discussion Item: Pastor Transition Planning.** In preparation for her visit next month, it would be helpful to have feedback on the questions below as the Congregation considers an Interim Pastor:

- Where do you want the interim to spend his/her time?
- What three gifts (skill sets) are most important for the interim pastor to have?
- What does the interim need to know about Redeemer?
- What is the greatest anxiety right now about the transition?
- Are there any red flags that you are aware of?

The council agreed to distribute an electronic survey to Congregants, and Karen Miller will work with Grace to develop one. Council members were also encouraged to engage with individuals or groups and report back to Karen by March 2.

PSK emphasized that the engagement of an Interim Pastor is the first step in this transition and that the call for a Senior Pastor is a separate process that takes place after the Interim Pastor is identified. PSK briefly summarized the guidelines for the call process, which are spelled out on the Metro DC Synod website. PSK encouraged Council to take each step seriously and not to rush the process.

**Discussion Item: Lenten Dinner.** The council will host the first Lenten dinner the evening of March 5, Ash Wednesday. A sign-up genius will be distributed to Council members to help with the meal.

**Ministry Reports.** Megan Kratz reported on the upcoming Spiritual Retreat.

**New Business.** None.

**Close with Prayer.** PSK collected prayer concerns from the Council and closed the meeting with prayer.

**Adjournment by Karen Miller at 8:50 pm**

**Upcoming Dates:**

Next Meeting of Council; March 10, 2025

Executive Committee; February 28, 2025

Ramadan Iftar & Lenten Dinner; March 12, 2025

**Hearing Tips in Redeemer's Sanctuary**

- Sit directly in front of a speaker. There are four speakers in the sanctuary (two on each side). The speakers are tall, thin, tan-colored, and mounted to the wall. It is advised for better hearing to sit at the end of the pew, closest to the wall, and facing a speaker as the sound comes directly from them.
- Avoid sitting where the sound is less clear. If you are in a pew where the closest speaker is behind you (not pointed directly at you) the sound will be traveling away from you, and you will not hear as well. If a wall column partially blocks your view of the speaker, then it is partially blocking the sound from that speaker.
- Use one of our sound amplifiers. The sound system operator can provide you with a battery-operated device that amplifies the sound coming from the sound system. They come with a plug that goes directly into your ear. We have several extra ear plugs, and you can keep one with you and re-attach it yourself to the device each week, if you prefer.
- Sit in one of the front pews. In addition to the recommendations above, some people find they hear better the closer they are to the front. It may be especially helpful to sit directly in front of the pulpit for the sermon. At the same time, please keep in mind the recommendation described in Item #1 above and be as close as possible to one of the speakers facing towards you.

The sound system operators do their best to keep the sound volume as high as possible without it becoming too loud and uncomfortable for other people in attendance. Thank you for your understanding and we hope these recommendations are helpful to you.

## Construction Project Updates from February

At the recent Annual Meeting, the congregation approved a motion to authorize the Council to enter into a mortgage for \$1.6M to complete the construction project. The amount of the mortgage is based on the pledges and monetary donations received thus far against the total anticipated costs. While we don't have actual contracts yet for all construction phases that are going to take place, it is our best estimate of the costs at this point. Since the mortgage would not actually be finalized until later in the year, it provides the Council with the authority to determine the best loan terms and loan provider for Redeemer at that time.

The Request for Proposals (RFPs) have gone out to seven local general contractors for the construction phase. We have been conducting site visits with the contractors for them to walk the building and the site. There will also be follow-up questions and responses. As we review the general contractors' bids, we will have a better idea of possible schedule scenarios and actual costs to build. Since we are still in the review process with the County for the exterior work on the Natural Play Area and the Columbarium, they will be submitting updated budget estimates for that phase.

The interior building renovations will be done in two phases. First, the old classroom side of the building will be renovated. Once completed and we are able to occupy those rooms again, the office side of the building will be closed and renovated. Doing it in two phases enables us to continue to use the sanctuary and allows us to maintain offices and staff on site during the construction. As areas and hallways are closed, signs will go up to direct members and visitors to any temporary offices and to the rest of the building.

In preparation for the renovation of the old classrooms, offices, and storage areas, we will have to move all items out of those areas. The walls and ceilings in those rooms will come down and be rebuilt. If your ministry team has things stored in those areas, please consider storing those items off site during the construction. We will have an on-site storage unit in the parking lot for some things, but obviously that will not be a good storage environment for all items. Things that the church no longer needs will either be sold, donated, or salvaged, in order to free up space for items that the church really needs to store going forward.

## HAPPENING AT REDEEMER

**Shrove Tuesday - Redeemer's Annual Pancake Supper**  
**Featuring "Art is Served: A Tasteful Exhibition" by Redeemer Renaissance Artists**  
**March 4**

All are invited to come support Redeemer's Youth Ministry by enjoying pancakes and fellowship. Please bring your family, friends and neighbors!

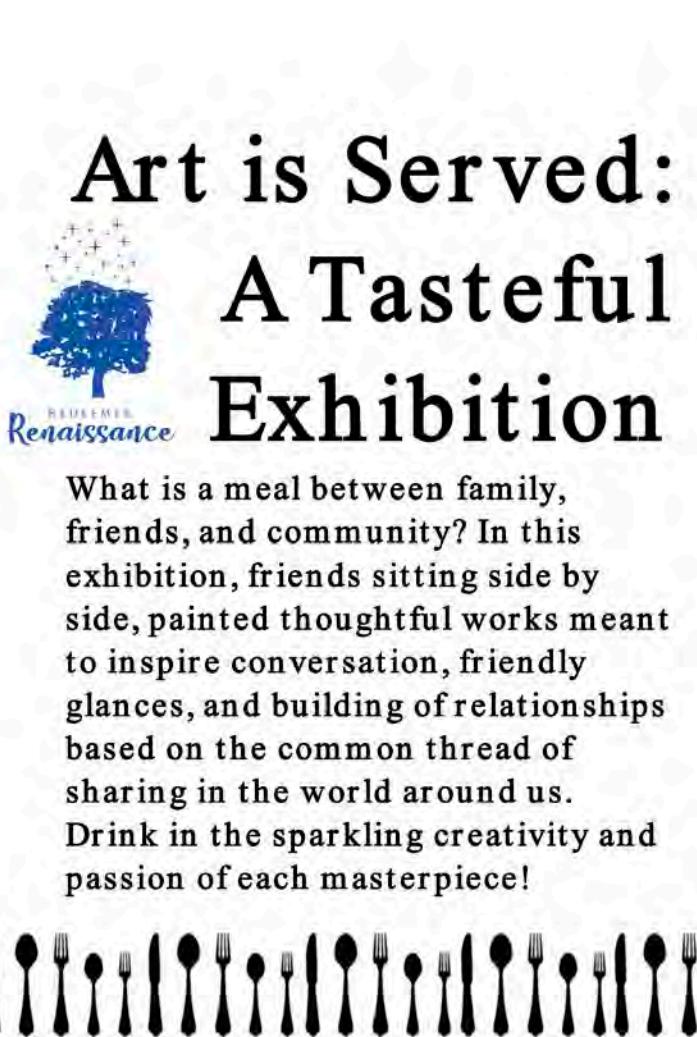
**Volunteers are needed to make the Pancake Supper a success.**

**How can you help?**

Both adults and youth are needed to set up, serve, collect donations, and clean up. Volunteering is a great way for youth to earn Community Services Hours! Click the [link](#) to sign up.

### **Art is Served: A Tasteful Exhibition**

Join us at the pancake supper to experience an exhibition, thoughtfully painted to inspire conversation, based on the common thread of sharing in the world around us. Drink in the sparkling creativity and passion of each masterpiece!



## Ash Wednesday

**March 5—Worship Services 12 pm and 7:30 pm | Supper at 6:30 pm**

Join us as we enter the season of Lent by attending an Ash Wednesday service. This year we will have two services, one at noon, and the other at 7:30 pm. There will be a simple supper offered at 6:30 pm before the evening service.

## Ramadan Iftar and Lenten Dinner

**March 12 — 6:30 pm**

On March 12, Redeemer will host the American Turkish Friendship Association for a joint iftar dinner and Lenten supper. This will be an excellent opportunity to bring our communities together, share a meal, and further strengthen the meaningful connection between our congregations. We will have a short interfaith prayer service at 8 pm—a beautiful way to share in faith and reflection. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at this [link](#).

## Lenten Dinner and Evening Prayer Services

**March 19 and 26**

Please join us for dinner at 6:30 pm followed by worship at 7:30 pm on Wednesdays during Lent.

## Sign Up to Host Coffee Hour

Who makes the coffee? You can!

Everyone is welcome to host Sunday morning Coffee Hour. Get your friends, family or ministry/group together and sign up!

What does the host person/s do? Make the coffee, set-up, keep the coffee area tidy and replenished, and CLEAN UP! And have fun! You can even go to service once things are set up.

If you want to provide a simple treat like mini muffins, donut holes, bite size breads or pastries, or something similar -- store bought is fine -- that is appreciated but not required.

It is a great way to meet people, welcome visitors and inform people about your ministry/group. All coffee supplies, training and written instructions are provided. If you are interested please sign up at this [link](#). If you have any questions, contact Kim Wenk at [kbwenk@gmail.com](mailto:kbwenk@gmail.com).

## Racial Justice and Equity Book Club

Redeemer's Racial Justice and Equity Book Club is currently reading an old classic, *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, which will be followed by *James: A Novel*, written by Percival Everett - a retelling of this great story, this time from Jim's viewpoint. We read about 30-80 pages per week and meet Monday nights 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm over Zoom with lively discussions on what we have read. Anyone is welcome to join us! Contact [Teresa Schellenger](#) if you are interested.

## Youth

### **Important Dates:**

#### **Youth Leadership Sunday — March 9**

Youth Leadership Sunday is an opportunity for children to actively participate in worship services as they attend with their parents. Youth will serve as greeters, ushers, acolytes, and readers. If your youth is interested in participating please sign up at this [link](#).

#### **Metro D.C. Synod Virginia Conference Play + Pray Event (Grades 6-12) — March 9, 2 to 4 pm**

Middle and high school students are invited to come play, eat, and join in fun and fellowship. The Virginia Conference event will be from 2-4 pm at Bowlero Sterling and is completely free. Please register [here](#) and email [Grace Howie](#) so she knows who from Redeemer plans to attend.

#### **Good Trouble: Being Bold and Boundless (Online and In-Person Event)**

##### **March 8 — Middle School**

##### **March 29 — High School**

The Metro D.C. Synod Racial Equity Team and Youth + Family Committee invite youth to a powerful event series on racial justice. All sessions will be held in-person or online from 10:00 AM–1:00 PM. For more information and to register please visit this [link](#).

#### **Guest Speaker Robyne Davis**

#### **Navigating the Emotional Rollercoaster: Practical Strategies for Emotional Regulation**

##### **March 11 at 6:30 pm**

Redeemer Renaissance will host Robyne Davis. Please see the flyer below on page 13 for more information. This is a free event; all parents are welcome.

#### **Parents' Coffee— March 16, 10:45 to 11:15 am**

Parents are invited to join in Fellowship Hall for coffee and an opportunity to build fellowship with other parents and families at Redeemer. The gym will be open during this time for the youth to play.

#### **Service Project & Pizza — March 23, 12 pm**

Join us on Sunday immediately after services for pizza and a service project in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up at this [link](#) so we know how many to expect. A few parent volunteers are needed, but all parents are welcome to attend.

For more detailed Youth News, please read the Youth Newsletter.

For any questions, please contact [Grace Howie](#).



REDEEMER  
**Renaissance**  
PRESCHOOL & AFTER-SCHOOL

## Registration 2025-26

It's time! Church and community families with children 1.5 – 12 years of age are welcome to register for the 2025-26 school year! Families with enrolled children returning for 2025-26 and new families may register now.

Program offerings promoting a sense of wonder, discovery, and exploration include a play-based curriculum with nature-based components for children to grow as happy learners. The Preschool and After-School holiday calendars align with the Fairfax County Public Schools' calendar.

- Good Beginnings Class for Toddlers and Caregivers - offered bi-weekly throughout the school year.
- 2.5 – 5-year-old Classes - offered part-time, full-time, morning only, and all day.
- K-6th After-School - daily programming including STEAM, sports, tutoring, music lessons, enrichment classes, and community building projects. Transportation provided from Churchill Road, Franklin Sherman, Haycock, and Kent Gardens elementary schools.
- K-6th Teacher Workday Special Camps – children from all schools may attend.
- Preschool and K-6th Summer Camps - children from all schools join in summertime fun with friends through games, art, workshops, and performances.

Children delight in experiencing open-ended play with peers in a safe, developmentally appropriate environment. Our staff engages the children to delve into topics of interest, build hands-on projects, and create bonds that will help them navigate their childhood years and beyond.

**We can't wait to welcome you! Schedule a visit to take a tour & register:**

**Preschool 703-356-3567 or After-School 703-356-3346 ext. 106**

Join Redeemer Renaissance Preschool & After-School  
for a Parent Discussion on  
**Navigating the Emotional Rollercoaster:  
Practical Strategies for Emotional  
Regulation**



**Tuesday, March 11th at 6:30 PM**

Struggling with tantrums, meltdowns, or big emotions? Parents will learn how to help their children navigate their emotional ups and downs. This informative discussion will provide concrete tools and strategies to help your child understand and regulate their feelings, leading to calmer days and calmer parents.

We'll explore:

- Common emotional challenges, such as anxiety, social difficulties, and academic stress
- Strategies for identifying triggers and expressing emotions safely
- Strategies to develop coping and problem-solving skills
- Strategies to promote the body-mind connection
- How to set limits and boundaries while remaining empathetic
- How to collaborate with schools and other professionals to support emotional health

**Presented by: Robyne Davis, MA, LPC, BC-DMT**

Mrs. Davis is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Special Education Teacher, and Board-Certified Dance/Movement Therapist. She has over 20 years of clinical experience and is a parent of FCPS graduates. She currently works in both private practice and school settings.

\*This is a free event, and childcare is not provided.



Robyne Davis, MA, LPC, BC-DMT  
McLean, VA  
571.487.8210

Redeemer Renaissance.org  
McLean, VA  
703-356-3567





### Redeemer Renaissance Summer Camp June 16 to August 8

Redeemer Renaissance's Discovery Summer Camp is now open for registration. The camp will run from June 16 to August 8 for preschool to 6th grade. Children will engage in a variety of offerings including sports, arts, and science, while building community and creating lasting memories. For more information and to register for preschool, please use this [link](#). For K to 6th, please use this [link](#).

### Redeemer Renaissance Spring Camp April 14 to 17

Spring Camp is now open for registration. The camp will be from Monday, April 14, through Thursday, April 17. Offerings for each day of camp inspire curiosity, creativity, and frivolity with friends. Activities will include Squeals on Wheels (an educational petting zoo), Teeny Tiny Art, Color Splash Zone, and more! For more information and to register, please use this [link](#).



## SOCIAL OUTREACH

### January Ham Report

Hi All,

The following is the ham run report for January.

On January 9, Laura Wareham delivered 9 boxes of ham weighing 235 pounds from Fairfax to Thrive DC. On January 16, Roberta Pittman delivered 5 boxes of ham weighing 140 pounds from Fairfax to Thrive DC. On January 31, Ralph Dutrow delivered 5 boxes of ham weighing 125 pounds from Reston and Fairfax to So Others Might Eat.

Our total delivery weight for January is 500 pounds. Thank you all.

Sincerely,  
Laura Wareham

### Counting our Blessings during Lent

Perhaps you have used an Advent calendar each year to “count down” the days until Christmas. Some companies have created very elaborate calendars for that activity.

Redeemer’s Social Outreach Ministry has created a simple way for us during Lent to count the many blessings in our lives. It is so easy not to notice our blessings or perhaps to recognize some but not others. So, the hope is that each day we, both adults and children, stop to answer the question assigned to that day and give thanks.

Examples:

How many sweaters do you have? Give thanks for warm clothes!  
How many umbrellas are in your house? Give thanks for rain to make gardens grow!

We can extend our thankfulness in one of two ways (or perhaps both ways):

- (1) Each Saturday the blessing includes an opportunity to give a small item to one of the organizations supported by Redeemer; there will be boxes in Crossroads where we can put those items sometime during the following days.
- (2) We can keep a running total of the answer to each day’s question and donate that number of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, etc., to one of the organizations named in the calendar. Write a check to Redeemer and put the name of the group in the Memo line.

March 5, Ash Wednesday, is the first day of Lent. A calendar graphic version of the blessings will be in the worship bulletins on the preceding Sunday, March 2; that version is also below. There is also a separate listing of the blessings. The two versions are also available at these links: [the calendar graphic](#); and [the listing day by day](#).

# Lenten Blessings Calendar

2025

During Lent, we encourage all of us to give thanks every day for our many blessings and at the same time share with others who are less fortunate by donating items listed below for each Saturday. (Please put the items in the boxes in Crossroads.)

[Another way we can help others: keep a running total of the answer to each day's question and donate that number of pennies, nickels, dimes, or quarters, etc., to one of the groups listed at the end of this document. Write a check to Redeemer and put the name of the group in the Memo line.]

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			March 5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> How many gloves and mittens are in your home?  Give thanks for warm hands!	6 How many letters are in your last name?  Give thanks for families!	7 How many musical instruments are in your home?  Give thanks for musicians!	8 How many bathtubs are in your home?  Give thanks for fresh water! <b>Bring a washcloth to Redeemer for the Lamb Center</b>
9 How many people wore robes during the worship service today?  Give thanks for all the people who help us worship!	10 How many blankets are in your home?  Give thanks for warm beds!	11 How many letters are in your street name?  Give thanks for streets and roads!	12 How many pets are in your home?  Give thanks for all kinds of animals!	13 How many sweaters do you have?  Give thanks for warm clothes!	14 How many rooms are or were in your school?  Give thanks for teachers!	15 How many shoes are in your bedroom?  Give thanks for warm feet! <b>Bring a pair of socks for grade-school children to Redeemer for Share</b>
16 How many pews are at Redeemer?  Give thanks for all houses of worship (churches, synagogues, mosques, etc.).	17 How many rocking chairs are in your home?  Give thanks for relaxation!	18 How many boxes of cereal are in your kitchen?  Give thanks for breakfast!	19 How many plants are in your home?  Give thanks for God's creation!	20 How many tires are on your cars and/or bikes?  Give thanks for transportation!	21 How many lights switches are in your home?  Give thanks for electricity!	22 How many toothbrushes are in your home?  Give thanks for dentists & for people who help people in Guatemala! <b>Bring a toothbrush for 2-5 yr olds to Redeemer for Partner for Surgery</b>
23 How many crosses can you count at Redeemer?  Give thanks for Jesus!	24 How many doors are in your home?  Give thanks for freedom to come and go!	25 How many playgrounds are in your neighborhood?  Give thanks for exercise!	26 How many Bibles are in your home?  Give thanks for God's word!	27 How many pairs of sunglasses are in your home?  Give thanks for sunshine!	28 How many bandages are in your home?  Give thanks for doctors and nurses!	29 How many fruits are in your kitchen?  Give thanks for people who feed the hungry! <b>Bring a fruit bar to Redeemer for the Little Food Pantry</b>

# Lenten Blessings Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>30</b> How many songs were sung at Redeemer today? Give thanks for music!	31 How many books are in your bedroom? 	April 1 How many words are in the Lord's Prayer? Give thanks that God hears our prayers!	2 How many neighbors live next to your home? 	3 How many trees are in your yard? 	4 How many phones are in your home? 	5 How many pans are in your kitchen? Give thanks for people who cook our meals. <b>Bring a small bottle of dish soap to Redeemer for Homestretch</b>
<b>6</b> How many outer doors are there at Redeemer? Give thanks for a welcoming place!	7 How many umbrellas are in your house? 	8 How many cans of vegetables are in your kitchen? 	9 How many mugs are in your kitchen? 	10 How many windows are in your home? 	11 How many balls are in your home? 	12 How many color pencils are in your home? Give thanks for imagination. <b>Bring a box of color pencils to Redeemer for HopeLink</b>
<b>Palm Sunday</b> How many times did you wave your palm at Redeemer today? 	13 How many flowers are blooming on your street? Give thanks for their beauty!	14 How many people did you thank today for helping you? Give thanks for all "helpers"!	15 How many clocks are in your home? 	16 How many lamps are in your home? 	17 How many people can you tell "I love you" today? 	18 How many countries have you visited? 
<b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>20</b> How many "alleluias" did you hear in church today? Give thanks to God that Jesus, our Savior, rose from the dead!						<b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>19</b> How many people can you tell "I love you" today? Give thanks to God for His love for all of us! Give thanks for all of God's people!

For more information about the work of the organizations included above:

The Lamb Center (<https://www.thelambcenter.org>)  
Share of McLean (<https://www.shareofmclean.org>)  
Partner for Surgery (<https://partnerforsurgery.org>)  
Homestretch (<https://www.homestretchlva.org>)  
HopeLink (<https://hopelinkbh.org>)

Britepaths is one of the local organizations that the Social Outreach Ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church supports. Their mission is: "Britepaths provides short-term safety-net services to our neighbors in need while empowering them to work toward long-term self-sufficiency. We deliver our services with respect, compassion, and equity, always preserving the dignity and self-esteem of our clients."

Britepaths provides financial assistance to their clients as well as some pantry items. There are a couple of ways to donate to Britepaths:

- Financial donation through offering (include "Britepaths" on the envelope or on the check)
- Through their [Amazon wish list](#)
- Donate items from their most-needed list (6 or 8 pack of toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo/conditioner/2-in-1/shampoo for textured hair, body wash, deodorant, household cleaners, large bottles of laundry detergent)

If you would like to donate items from the most-needed list, please reach out to [Barb Perlowski](#) for delivery instructions.

## The Prayer Shawl Group and Project Linus

The Prayer Shawl Group usually meets on the first and third Thursday of the month from 10:30 to noon (virtual option as well) in the library. We will next meet on March 6 from 10:30 to noon. We have an exciting and worthwhile new effort underway - knitting and crocheting baby and toddler blankets for Project Linus!

Project Linus supports any child aged 0 - 18 that is in distress due to illness, injury, or traumatic event in their life by giving them a warm, soft blanket. They have a great need for baby and toddler blankets especially.

Here is a small sampling of the organizations the Fairfax County Chapter supports:

- Ronald McDonald House, D.C.
- TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors...kids who have lost a parent in military service)
- Local emergency situations and national emergency situations that put out a call for assistance
- INOVA Mt. Vernon Pediatric Emergency Room

### **Knitted and crocheted blanket requirements**

Handmade-only blankets made with new, washable materials from non-smoking homes. Ends should be secure as blankets for hospitalized children may undergo daily washing.

Soft acrylic yarn, 100% cotton, or a soft cotton/acrylic blend (no wool, please!)

Baby - 36" x 36"

Toddler - 40" x 50"

Free yarn and patterns are available in the Crossroads. Knitters and crocheters can provide their own yarn and pattern as well.

Please contact [Lynn Barth](#) if you have any questions.



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

March 1 Shirley Detweiler, Bentley Gates, Dylan Jones, Joshua Magnuson, Willa James Thom

March 2 Diane Carsten-Pelak, Reid Klanderman, Justin Leas, Margitta Muhlenberg, Steve Wesbrook, Emma Williams

March 3 Kurt Darr

March 4 Kim Buseman, Carl Lettow, Greta Opsal

March 5 Denise Augustenborg, Lee Cronin, Bruce Heier, Alexander Rubin, Joseph Thompson

March 6 Steven Etkin, Robb Heier, Hannah Ristig

March 7 William Bourgin, Hans Crone, Adair Gerke, Stephanie Hunter, Betsy Kutscher, Chris Manitius

March 8 Craig Arness, Jennifer Demiske, Michael Jansen

March 9 Lily Carroll, Syd DeLeonardis, Paul Lettow, Erik Magnusson, Esther Rang, Joshua Warren

March 10 Mary Kay Friend, Judy Kuhagen, Tom Redding, Ruth Hale Thom, Larry Tucker

March 12 Katie Armstrong, Skylar Hendricks

March 13 Jack Mallek, Laura Stoessel, Johnny White

March 14 Ainslee Austin, Kim Lien

March 15 Katie Maglio, Betsy Spiros

March 16 John Allard, Monica Cho, Younghae Choi, John Linthicum

March 17 Waka Osifchin

March 18 Michael Bradley, Stephen Moser, Amy Mykityshyn, Jack Skowrup

March 19 David Englund, Kim Williams

March 20 Lynn Ann Mullane, Andrew Pfister, Ale Van Scoyoc

March 21 Josh Elliot, Krista Opsahl-Ong, Bob Robertson, Evan Thorson

March 22 Dan Bader, Thomas Miller

March 23 Jamie Lynn Brainard, Chelsea Engle, Anna Pelak, Sunny Truslow

March 24 Karlotta Bjornson, Sean Connolly, Lukas Malachowski, Karen Miller, Frank Peterson

March 25 Brandt McCurdy

March 26 Mats Ahlgren, Rene Jeffress, Alexis Leibensperger, Rebecca Pilson, Eric Shelsta, Rick Stewart

March 27 Alex Papandrea, Emily Sullivan, Timothy True

March 28 Eric Trichtinger

March 29 Mark Heuer, Mike Kenney, Ava Macomber

March 30 Elizabeth Carroll, Jeanne Lighty, William Pelak, Andrea Villafuerte

March 31 Lisa Campet

## PASTORS AND STAFF OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor	Pastor Sandy Kessinger	ext. 102 cell: 703-635-4672	psk@redeemermclean.org
Bell Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com
Director of Music	Matt Osifchin		mosifchi@hotmail.com
Director of Afterschool	Linda McConaughay	ext. 106	lmcconnaughay@redeemermclean.org
Director of Preschool	Katrina McNair	ext. 111	preschool@redeemermclean.org
Evening Facility Host	Brian Doyle		
Executive Director of Redeemer Renaissance	Linda McConaughay	ext. 106	lmcconnaughay@redeemermclean.org
Facilities Director	Bill Parks	ext. 110	bparks@redeemermclean.org
Financial Coordinator	Sara Nail	ext. 103	sara@redeemermclean.org
Nursery Care	Bernarda Rodriguez Lusbi Pina		
Office Manager	Cynthia Finocchiaro	ext. 101	cynthia@redeemermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel		joymenzel@gmail.com
Pianist	Kathy Detwiler		
Youth & Communications Coordinator	Grace Howie		grace@redeemermclean.org
Youth Choir Director	Waka Osifchin		waka.soprano@gmail.com

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS

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

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Annabelle Allard  
Lee Cronin  
Sarah Getter  
Megan Kratz  
Lena Martikainen  
Gene Morrow  
Tyler Posey  
And a Youth Representative