

# 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 Sandy Kessinger**

**April of 2025  
100 Days**



I am writing this article with only 100 days left in our ministry together. At some point, things will slow down but not yet. In my article last month, I talked about the invitation we received to share an Iftar dinner with members of the Muslim community. The event was held on March 12 by about eighty people. Here is a post from the American Turkish Friendship Association that summarizes the event well:

*On March 12, we had the honor of being hosted by the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer for a meaningful interfaith iftar, where nearly 80 guests gathered to share the spirit of Ramadan – a time of reflection, gratitude, and community.*

*The evening began with a warm welcome and a guided tour of the church, offering us a chance to learn more about their faith and traditions. Prayers were shared, fostering a deep sense of unity, and we engaged in meaningful conversations about the significance of Ramadan as a month of fasting, empathy, and spiritual renewal.*

*Breaking bread together reminded us of the power of dialogue, understanding, and friendship across different communities. We are deeply grateful to Pastor Sandy Kessinger and all our friends at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer for their generous hospitality and to everyone who joined us in making this night so special. May we continue to build bridges, strengthen friendships, and celebrate the values that unite us all. Thank you for a truly unforgettable evening!*

It became a bit of an emotional night for most (if not all) of us. People came forward thanking us for being open to their invitation. Some spoke of how they dreamed of such a day when we could break bread together with love and respect. At a time in our world when we are so divided, the unity we felt that night was palpable.

On the way home that evening I reflected on the events of the night and the value of sharing a meal together. In my almost thirty years of ministry, a gathering for an Iftar dinner was a first for me. Seeds were planted that I hope will continue to bear fruit in the future and beyond my tenure at Redeemer. This experience, and others like it, remind me of the *Parable of the Sower* that is found in Luke 8. In the parable, it is the job of the Sower to toss out seeds with little thought of where the seeds might land. As the Sower moved on there would be others who would follow to make sure the seeds were tended to with care. Some will not take root but others will flourish and grow.

When the council met with the Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Sarah Garrett Krey, it was clear in their brief interaction that Redeemer has many gifts and resources to share. During this time of pastoral transition, Pastor Sarah encouraged the council and our congregation to remain in prayer. We are to stay in the moment to enjoy these closing days and we can also be in prayer about the future. Pastor Sarah reminded the council that somewhere out there rests your new pastor. We can pray that the pastor will be guided by the Holy Spirit to this house of worship.

In the meanwhile, the congregation will need to be patient with the process. Calling a new pastor is never a quick thing. There is quite a bit of work to be done even before you start to interview pastoral candidates.

When you read the council minutes, you will see in broad terms the procedure that you will follow. It will become more defined as time goes on.

I am starting to list the things that I currently do that will need to be picked up by volunteers. It will help the interim pastor to have continuity and the extra support. I want to thank those who have already stepped up to do such things as developing messages for our signboard and to be the contact for those who come to worship from the Sunrise Senior Living facility. We will need everyone's active participation in the coming months. For example, volunteers will be needed to coordinate the Faith Formation ministry. We will need teachers for the Confirmation class. If you are able and willing to help in any capacity, then please contact me.

100 days is not a long time. Above all else, I hope that in this time together we will come, first and foremost, on a Sunday morning to worship together. We still have much to learn from each other and it happens when we hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper. It is the best time each week to connect in praise and thanksgiving to God. We still have time for Bible studies. On Wednesdays (April 23 – May 28) the morning sessions will uncover some of the oldest documents written that mirror some of our Biblical stories. The sessions in the evening will explore the prophet, Ezekiel. It will complete our study of the different books of the Bible since my arrival in 2012.

We still have time to be together.

Each day will be a blessing to me – from God – through all of you.

Yours in Christ – Pastor Sandy Kessinger



Group photo from joint Lenten and iftar dinner

# APRIL



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

Contemporary worship service at 9:45 am

Faith Formation & Confirmation – 9:45 am (not Apr. 13/20)

Table Talk (Adult Class) & High School class – 9:45 am (not Apr. 20)

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays	Youth Choir rehearsal – 10:55 am (not Apr. 20)
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 (not Apr. 17)
	Traditional Choir practice – 7:45 pm (8:40 pm on Apr. 17)

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Week of March 30

Wednesday, April 2

Quilting Group – 9:00 am

Traditional Potluck Supper – 6:30 pm; Lenten Worship – 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 3

Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10:30 am

### Week of April 6

Tuesday, April 8

Redeemer Renaissance Restaurant Night (Chipotle) – 4:00-8:00 pm

Wednesday, April 9

Lenten Supper – 6:30 pm; Lenten Worship – 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 12

Gwenn Holmlund memorial service; reception – 11:00 am

### Week of April 13

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday Worship – 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 am

Monday, April 14

Congregation Council Meeting – 7:30 pm

Wednesday, April 16

Quilting Group – 9:00 am

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday Worship – 7:30 pm

Friday, April 18

Good Friday Worship – 12:00 pm

Tenebrae Service – 7:30 pm

### Week of April 20

Sunday, April 20

Easter Festival Worship – 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 am

Wednesday, April 23

AM Bible Study – 8:00 am

PM Bible Study – 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 26

Synod preassembly caucus, St. Andrew, Centreville – 10:00 am

### Week of April 27

Sunday, April 27

Mission Trip Meeting – 12:00 pm

Tuesday, April 29

Sacred Ground discussion – 7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 30

AM Bible Study – 8:00 am

PM Bible Study – 7:00 pm

**Agenda: March 10, 2025 Meeting of Congregation Council**  
**RLC Conference Room**

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

**Council Members Excused:** Sabine Detweiller, Vice President

**Council Members Unexcused:** None

**Attendees:** Pastor Sarah Garrett Krey, Assistant to the Bishop for Mobility and Candidacy, Metropolitan D.C. Synod.

**Call to order.** Karen Miller called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and the Council members introduced themselves to Pastor Sarah Garrett Krey.

**Opening Devotions.** PSK led devotions with Prayer for Discernment followed by a reading of Luke 4:1-13. The Council was asked to consider the potential temptations during the period of pastoral transition at Redeemer and mentioned the following: the temptation to rush to a decision, to feel frustrated with the process, to expect a new pastor to be a replica of PSK, and to allow personal views to dominate the process and overshadow the needs of the entire congregation.

**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.

**Discussion with Pastor Sarah Garrett Krey.** Pastor Sarah Garrett Krey briefed Council through the steps of the pastoral transition: the selection of an Interim pastor, the call process, and the eventual election by the Congregation of a new pastor. These steps are outlined in detail in the “Healthy Transitions Guide” on the ELCA-Metro DC Synod website.

Pastor SGK shared the following observations based on her experience of guiding other congregations and on her familiarity with Redeemer:

- The recent survey conducted by the Congregation was an important first step in the transition. To date 45 responses have been collected and reviewed by Council.
- Thanks to its robust ministry activities, secure finances, and current capital improvement plans, Redeemer is well positioned to present an attractive Ministry Site Profile which will appeal to candidates during the call process.
- There is no defined timeline for the transition. SGK has worked with congregations that have taken as little as a few months and as long as a couple of years.
- It is not uncommon for membership to fluctuate during a pastoral transition.
- The ideal Interim Pastor is one who will support Redeemer’s ongoing ministries and administrative proceedings and provides spiritual guidance to congregants while the Congregation (through a Transition Committee, Call Committee, and Council) work with the Synod to identify a pool of candidates and issue a call. Compensation for the Interim Pastor varies, depending on the experience of the individual selected.
- The optimal Call Committee is one that represents the diversity of the congregation. The number of members on the Call Committee (9) is outlined in our constitution.
- The most successful call process is one that is not rushed, and which prioritizes finding the best fit for the congregation over against filling a position as quickly as possible.

Before leaving the meeting, Pastor SGK reaffirmed the Synod's commitment to guiding Redeemer through this process and encouraged us to reach out to her with questions.

**Senior Pastor Report.** Pastor Kessinger submitted her report via email in advance of the meeting. Her report detailed Connections through pastoral care, Connections through ministries of the congregation, Connections through meetings, Connections through synod, Connections through community, and additional notes such as the Muslim/Christian Dinner on March 12 and the remaining Lenten Services and dinners. There were no questions from Council.

**Executive Committee Summary.** The Executive Committee met on February 28 and talked about items on tonight's agenda. The position of at-large member on the Executive committee is vacant, and Karen Miller invited council members to consider joining and to contact her for more information.

**Treasurer's Report.** Steve Bott presented the Financial Report. He noted that Redeemer currently has a surplus of \$31,000 and praised Sara Nail, Redeemer's finance coordinator, for her guidance and attention. It was noted that the MMEC Pastoral Support Fund represents restricted funds to be held in reserve if needed for our pastoral staff as protection from unforeseen budget shortfalls.

**Discussion Item: Liaison Positions.** Council Members agreed to the liaison positions listed below:

- Building and Grounds: Chris Hernadi
- Christian Education: Annabelle Allard
- Congregational Life: Lee Cronin
- Endowment Fund: Gene Morrow
- Finance: Steve Bott
- Financial Review: Steve Bott
- Membership Outreach: Lena Martikainen
- Mutual Ministry: PSK
- Redeemer Renaissance: Sarah Getter
- Social Outreach: Karen Miller
- Spiritual Nurture: Megan Kratz
- Stewardship: Tyler Posey
- Worship and Music: Sabine Detweiller
- Youth Ministry: Victoria Johnson
- Beyond Measure: Tyler Posey

**Ministry Reports: Endowment Fund.** On behalf of the Endowment Committee, Gene Morrow made the motion to contribute \$4,000 to Lutheran Social Services. The motion was seconded by Tyler Posey. The motion was unanimously approved by Council.

**Ministry Reports: Stewardship.** Tyler Posey reported that the Stewardship Committee members reviewed the annual volunteer forms, posted links to resources for people dealing with job insecurity, and discussed plans to update the pictures on the online directory.

**New Business.** None.

**Close with the Lord's Prayer.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:18 pm.**

**Upcoming Dates:**

Next Meeting of Council, April 14, 2025

Executive Committee, April 4, 2025

Ramadan Iftar & Lenten Dinner, hosted by Redeemer, March 12, 2025

**Construction Project & Capital Campaign Updates from March**

At this point, it looks like construction will start in mid-August with the renovation work beginning in the classroom wing first. That portion should be completed in November allowing us to then reoccupy that space. Next the office wing will be closed, and renovation work will start there with planned completion in February. These timeframes from the contractors are longer than we had hoped for, so we will be working with the construction team to see where the dates can be improved without significantly increasing costs.

In order to complete our construction project, we are planning to have a new mortgage of \$1.6M. Members have asked how that compares to what Redeemer has done in the past. Prior to when Pastor Kessinger was called to Redeemer, we had two mortgages totaling \$2.3M. The monthly principal and interest payments were approximately \$15K per month. We paid off the first mortgage 7 years early, leaving a \$10K monthly mortgage payment remaining, which was then paid off 6 years early. Therefore, we have handled larger obligations in the past and have paid them off ahead of schedule.

Redeemer's Beyond Measure Capital Campaign for our construction project has received 49% (\$1.5M) of the pledges needed towards our goal of \$3.2M. Plus, an additional 6% (\$196K) has been given directly outside of the pledge process. Making a gift towards the campaign is a great opportunity to honor someone important to you and your family or to just give thanks for all the blessings in your life. Of course, all financial gifts are gratefully received and appreciated with or without a pledge.

Are you new to Redeemer and want to know more about our construction project and the accompanying capital campaign? Here is the link to our website and the specific area that provides more details: <https://redeermclean.org/beyond-measure>. If you have any additional questions, you can send an email to [church@redeermclean.org](mailto:church@redeermclean.org) and we will have the appropriate person get back to you.

**Message from our Prayer Partnership**  
**Pastor Zhanibek Batenov at Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Mary in Ulyanovsk, Russia**

Dear sister in Christ, Sandy Kessinger!

I am cordially greeting you from Ulyanovsk. For us, probably just like for you, and for all the other Lutherans all over the world, December was a hectic month. The main thing that happened was, of course, the festive Christmas services. In addition, there were concerts dedicated to Christmas by children's and adult choirs, organ concerts, and a Christmas fair. I was especially inspired by an event in our Church with the participation of children's choirs from a nearby children's art school.

In January there were fewer plans, but there were also concerts and excursions in the church. In addition, it was possible to conduct a seminar on the topic "Traditional Protestant theology through the prism of spiritual chants." The seminar was conducted by Anton Tikhomirov, Doctor of Theology, rector of the St. Petersburg Lutheran Theological Seminary. The seminar participants were from my congregation and from that in Samara.

In addition, over the past two months 6 new people have come to the congregation. We recently started a confirmation training course and 8 people are taking it. I plan to confirm them at Easter. Plans for this year also include spring and summer events, for example, children's holiday camps, kayaking trips, and open-air activities. I am also planning several more educational seminars for active community members.

A piece of particularly good news for me is that at the beginning of this year my assistant Nikolai who translates all my letters to you enrolled as a distance learner in the St. Petersburg Lutheran Theological Seminary. I also want to share with you that since January I have started learning English in group classes twice a week. I hope that in time I will be able to write letters without the help of a translator and Google.

I'm asking for your prayers for all our plans and our ministry.

God's blessings to you, dear sister in Christ!  
Warm greetings and blessings to your congregation!



## HAPPENING AT REDEEMER

### Wednesday Lenten Service & Supper

Our remaining Lenten Suppers at 6:30 pm are as follows:

April 2 – Traditional Potluck

If you plan to attend, please sign up [here](#) so we know what you will bring.

April 9 – Our supper will be hosted by the greeters.

Our Evening Prayer service is at 7:30 pm. The worship service will be live streamed; please go to this [link](#) to join us remotely.

### 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 (mini muffins, donut holes, bite size breads or pastries, or 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 would like to sign up, please use 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 has just finished reading an old classic, *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. We are now reading *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. Now is a good time to join us and all are welcome! Contact [Teresa Schellenger](#) if interested.

## Holy Week Worship Schedule

Join us for worship during Holy Week!

- **Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday Worship** – 8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11:00 am
- **Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday Worship** – 7:30 pm
- **Friday, April 18: Good Friday Worship** – 12:00 pm and 7:30 pm (Tenebrae Service)
- **Sunday, April 20: Easter Festival Worship** – 8:30 am, 9:45 am, and 11:00 am

## Sign Up to Volunteer for McLean Day May 17

McLean Day is a community festival held right here in McLean! This year, McLean Day will be held on Saturday, May 17, at Lewinsville Park from 11 am to 5 pm. For many years we have had a booth to share information about Redeemer with our local community. We also serve as a satellite parking location and have a welcome table in our parking lot. Volunteers are needed for the booth and welcome table.

If you are interested, please sign up [here](#) to volunteer. For more information please contact [Barb Perlowski](#).

## Young Adults

### Group Meeting, April 22 – 7 to 9 pm

Young adults are invited to attend the next group meeting hosted at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, April 22, from 7 to 9 pm. 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! Dinner will be provided. This group is a partnership between Redeemer, Lewinsville, and Immanuel Presbyterian Church. For more information, please contact [Grace Howie](#).



Group photo from March meeting

## Youth

In March, some of our youth participated in a service project creating no-sew fleece blankets for [Project Linus](#). Our youth were able to create 13 blankets! Thank you to all who participated. These blankets will be blessed with others from the Prayer Shawl and Quilting groups for Project Linus on May 11. Please refer to Pg. 17 & 18 for further information about Project Linus and who our local chapter serves as our Prayer Shawl and Quilting groups are also creating blankets for the Fairfax chapter.



### Important Dates:

#### Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

No Faith Formation but the High School Class will still meet.

#### Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday

No Faith Formation or High School Class.

#### Sunday, April 27 – Mission Trip Planning Meeting



## 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**

## April Community Service- Soap & Toiletries Drive for SHARE of McLean

For the month of April, Redeemer Renaissance will collect soap & toiletries for Share of McLean. The children are keeping track of donations by making a graph representing the number of boxes we receive (math skills!)

Share, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation providing emergency assistance since 1969 to the less fortunate in McLean, Pimmit Hills, and nearby areas of Northern Virginia. Share programs include family emergency financial assistance; distribution of food, used clothing; recycled furniture; and transportation services for seniors. Virtually 100% of donations go to the direct benefit of clients because Share is an all-volunteer organization.

**Help others by donating soap or toiletry items. Thank you!**

**Restaurant Night Fundraiser at Chipotle**  
**April 8, 4 to 8 pm**

Join us on April 8 for a fundraiser at Chipotle, 6707 Old Dominion Dr, McLean, VA 22101. Please let them know you are there as part of the Redeemer Renaissance Preschool & After-School Fundraiser. You can order [online](#) for pickup using code WZGYXN9.

**DO GOOD  
WITH CHIPOTLE**



**CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR  
REDEEMER RENAISSANCE  
PRESCHOOL & AFTER-SCHOOL**

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH | 4-8PM**  
**6707 OLD DOMINION DR, MCLEAN, VA, 22101**

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **WZGYXN9**  
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count toward the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.



## Redeemer Renaissance Spring Camp April 14 to 17

Spring Camp is still 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](#).

## 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](#).



## SOCIAL OUTREACH

### Counting our Blessings during Lent

If you've not had time yet to count your blessings in Lent, it's not too late to start. You can use the Lenten Blessings calendar provided by Redeemer's Social Outreach Ministry: you can find it [here](#) or pick up a copy from the table in Crossroads.

Each day you can answer the question and give thanks. For example, "How many umbrellas are in your house? Give thanks for rain to make gardens grow!"

Once a week there is an "action" related to a "question". The action is to donate a specific item to an organization/activity sponsored by Redeemer; you can put the item in the box on the table in Crossroads. For example: After answering a question about how many pans are in your kitchen, you're encouraged to give a small bottle of dish soap for Homestretch, an organization in Falls Church that helps "homeless families with children living in Virginia to attain permanent housing and self-sufficiency by giving them the skills, knowledge, and hope they need to become productive participants in the community."

Another way you can help any of the five organizations named on the calendar is to 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.

### Partner For Surgery – Donations Needed

Partner for Surgery is an organization which helps people in remote areas of Guatemala obtain life-changing surgery (e.g, cleft palate repair for babies). Founded by our own Frank and Linda Peterson, thousands of Guatemalans have been served. Frank continues to make trips several times a year carrying hand-made bags containing toiletries and toys for the kids. In April, he will return with 50 bags for kids 0 – 1. At this time, we still need a few more items:

- **Baby socks**
- **Travel size baby shampoo**
- **Baby rattles**

These items can be placed in the bin located in the church Crossroads or purchased through the Amazon Wish List [here](#), or by scanning the QR code.



## SHARE of McLean Donations Needed

### SHARE OF MCLEAN Most Needed Items April 2025

Canned chicken and tuna  
Canned vegetables (corn and peas only) \*  
Canned tomato products (diced, sauce)  
Spaghetti sauce (cans or plastic jars)  
Canned beans (chickpea only) \*  
Canned fruit  
Peanut butter (16 oz.)  
Pasta (elbow, penne, spaghetti, etc.)  
Rice (1 lb. bag)  
Oatmeal (box)  
Granola bars / snacks  
Ramen noodles  
  
Diapers (sizes 5 & 6)  
Pull-ups (4T – 5T)  
Baby wipes  
Toilet paper  
Paper towels  
Shampoo  
Toothbrushes (individually wrapped) / Toothpaste  
  
New socks and new underwear (all sizes needed)



\* Currently, we do not need any green beans or black beans\*

- Please remember NO GLASS, NO OVER-SIZED, NO OPENED and NO EXPIRED items
- Low or no sodium items preferred
- Share can accept refrigerated and frozen food such as chicken, fresh produce, yogurt, cheese, and eggs but only by prior arrangement (contact: [info@shareofmclean.org](mailto:info@shareofmclean.org)).

Our Vision is to positively impact the lives of our neighbors in need.

Our Mission: Share of McLean is an all-volunteer, community-based nonprofit that teams with individual donors and partner organizations to assist our neighbors who face food insecurity, economic hardships, or related challenges.

## February and March Ham Report

Hi All,

The following is the ham run report for February and March.

- On February 19 Roberta Pittman delivered 3 boxes of ham weighing 60 pounds from Fairfax to Thrive DC.
- On March 6 Roberta Pittman delivered 2 boxes of ham weighing 50 pounds from Fairfax to Thrive DC.
- On March 28 Ralph Dutrow delivered 4 boxes of ham weighing 100 pounds from Falls Church and 3 boxes of ham weighing 75 pounds from Fairfax to So Others Might Eat.

Our total delivery weight for February and March is 285 pounds and 785 pounds year to date. Thank you all.

Sincerely,  
Laura Wareham

## The Prayer Shawl Ministry and Project Linus

The Prayer Shawl Ministry usually meets on the first and third Thursday of the month from 10:30 to noon (virtual option as well) in the library. We have an exciting 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.

Just a small sampling of the organizations the Fairfax County Chapter of Project Linus 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" plus or minus an inch
- Toddler - 40" x 50" plus or minus an inch
- Free yarn and pattern are available in Crossroads. Knitters and crocheters can provide their own yarn and/or pattern as well.

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

## Quilting Group

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 group of five ladies on a mission to share our love of sewing. We continue to support Partner for Surgery in Guatemala along with Project Linus (which we started supporting in 2024). Our quilts are various sizes based upon Project Linus guidelines: minimum sizes: 36" x 36" for baby blankets, 42" x 60" for children's blankets, and 45" x 72" for teen blankets, in addition to fleece blankets. Project Linus supports local Fairfax County organizations such as Ronald McDonald House, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) kids who have lost a military service parent, local emergency situations and national emergency situations when a call for assistance is received, and INVOA Hospital, to name a few. Partner for Surgery, Guatemala provides medical and surgical care in rural Guatemala, helping impoverished Guatemalan children and families living in remote locations. Our quilts are hand delivered by Frank Petersen. Additionally, we provide handmade tote bags and bears for the children.

Additionally, this year, we "teamed" up with the Prayer Shawl Group to make fleece blankets for Project Linus. The Quilting Group purchased the fleece and rotary skip blade and prepped the fleece for the crocheters to put an edge on. Additionally, any leftover fleece was made into scarves to support the Prayer Shawl's scarf drive later this year. The Quilting Group will deliver both quilts and blankets made by Prayer Shawl to the Project Linus drop off in Fairfax.

Our group is always looking for assistance and we welcome new sewers into our small group. If you are unable to attend in person, we can provide you with supplies to design a quilt or even a bundled set (quilt top, batting, backing fabric, and yarn) to make at your leisure at home. Other ways to help are to donate fabric or even monetary donations. If donating money, please indicate it is for the "Quilting Group." Monetary donations will go towards the purchase of much-needed batting, fabric, thread, and any other supplies needed.

If you are interested, please contact either [Darlene McCoy](#) or [Joyce Clarke](#).



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

- Apr 1 Nik Karnik, Vickie Myers, Steve Pelak
- Apr 2 Anthony Jeffress, Cody Leonard, Kai Osifchin, Claire Roberts, Alexander Wu
- Apr 3 Audrey Grau, Julia Stanford, Ayo Toviho
- Apr 4 Lauren Frederick, Catherine Veum
- Apr 5 Amanda Augustenborg, Stanley Carroll, Mary Crawford, Hannah Curtis, Tyler Honardoust, Michael Russo
- Apr 6 Shelley Brennan, Andrew Curtis, Amie Frisbie, Pia Herbolzheimer, Sara Huston
- Apr 7 Suzanne Leaptrot, Ben Pribulka, Claire Pribulka
- Apr 8 Susan Castillo
- Apr 9 Mark Doherty, Teresa Schellenger
- Apr 10 Miriam Howard, Mira Karnik, Jeffrey Schwartz
- Apr 11 Elizabeth Arnoult-Roberts, Brendon Dorgan, Monika Griffis, Meredith Lawler, Robert Mentzel, Madeleine Rubin
- Apr 12 Anna Broderdorf
- Apr 13 Emma Broderdorf, Mary Conway, Charlotte Roberts
- Apr 14 Susanne Gilbertson, Charlie Lindsay, Patrick Sivertsen, CJ Tyeryar Jr.
- Apr 15 Delphine Engel, Steven Kutscher, Helen Pelak, Erin VerWest
- Apr 16 Mia Barb, Nate Beck, John Leonard
- Apr 17 Rian Klanderman, Julia Simpson
- Apr 18 Phil Demske, Ron Kutscher, Adam Reese, Ella Truslow
- Apr 19 Ella Barnes, Cate Lawler, Michael Michaud, Grace Posey
- Apr 20 Jake Holzapfel, Samuel Stanford-Molina, Jon Zele
- Apr 21 Bobby Barnes, Steve Koenig, Jake Torgrimson, Tyler True, Barbara Tyeryar
- Apr 22 Greg Adams, Joan Durman, Jackie Stoll
- Apr 23 Troy Balkema, Russ Bruemmer, Isabella Peterson
- Apr 24 Jonathan Gorman, Palmer Holman, Jean-Marie Leonard, Nora Mueller
- Apr 25 Allen Coker, Paul Sletten, Kate Zimmerman
- Apr 26 Katie Holzapfel, Elizabeth James, Danny Kostelancik
- Apr 27 Robert Clarke, Tom Conway, Emma Dotterweich, Summer McCullough, Janelle Okorie, Terry Straub
- Apr 28 Lauryn Hahne, Liz Holzapfel, Reija Risseeuw, Clay Tyeryar
- Apr 29 Annabelle Allard, Jamie Kanski, Michael Rivers
- Apr 30 Charlie Fitzner, Milo Koehli, Sharon Tsai

## PASTORS AND STAFF OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor	Pastor Sandy Kessinger	ext. 102 cell: 703-635-4672	psk@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
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Nursery Care	Bernarda Rodriguez Lusbi Pina		
Office Manager	Cynthia Finocchiaro	ext. 101	cynthia@redeermclean.org
Organist	Joy Mentzel		joymentzel@gmail.com
Pianist	Kathy Detwiler		
Youth & Communications Coordinator	Grace Howie		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  
Lee Cronin  
Sarah Getter  
Megan Kratz  
Lena Martikainen  
Gene Morrow  
Tyler Posey  
And a Youth Representative