



# TIDINGS

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1545 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101

Vol. 68 No. 1  
January 2023



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KESSINGER

JANUARY OF 2023

*Solomon began to build the house of the Lord – 1 Kings 6:1*

From the time of the Old Testament to our present day the people of God have built houses of worship so that there is a place, a location, to gather as a faith community. Houses of worship come in different shapes and sizes but they all have one thing in common. Over time the physical structures need our attention. Such is the case at Redeemer.

When I was called to serve as your pastor in December of 2011 our church had already completed two major renovations to the building. Significant improvements were made to enhance our space. A gym was built that is used almost daily for our ministries and by the community. Classrooms in the preschool area were added and the other visible change was to the front of the building that we call the Crossroads and the Prayer and Care room.

I recall at the time of my call that a third major renovation was discussed. It was set aside until we paid down our current loans. In just over a decade we have paid off the two mortgages and are close to repaying ourselves. I am truly amazed and grateful for your generosity that has made it possible to now consider that third project. So what does that entail? The areas not touched in the other two projects include the office areas and the library on the one side and the conference room and remaining classrooms on the other side. It also includes improvements to the grounds that surround our building (the wooded play area and the addition of a columbarium).

The details of the project are included in this newsletter as an attachment. I encourage everyone to read them over carefully. It is lengthy because we want you to have as much information as possible before we have our annual congregational meeting that will be held on Sunday, February 12, at 12 pm. At the meeting we will vote on the recommendation from council to proceed with this project. We have discussed the scope of the projects at the two previous annual meetings so this will sound familiar to some of our members but not to those new to the church.

What I most appreciate about what is being proposed is the desire to make our church building and outside area more environmentally friendly, welcoming, and secure. The architects have found creative ways to address some drainage issues we have in the wooded play area. Our current playground structure that is reserved for the younger children has outlived its life expectancy. It is not part of the project to replace it (that will happen at another time) but an expanded natural play area is being discussed. The whole outside will be more user-friendly for all of our activities. It will even make an outdoor worship experience and other church functions more feasible. Since the preschool and afterschool programs use most of that area year-round they are willing to use some of their financial reserves to help offset the overall cost of the project.

Also proposed for the outside area is a columbarium. A columbarium is a structure that houses the cremated remains of the departed. Cemeteries have them and some churches do as well. In our previous discussions some members of the congregation showed a high interest in having one at Redeemer. Council this year proposed that this should be included in the project as a ministry of the church. It would be open not only to our members but to the community. With more and more people deciding to be cremated a columbarium has become an appropriate place for burial. The architects have proposed a structure that does not have to be built in its entirety right away. A second section can be added as the need arises.

With our loved ones residing in a columbarium at church we have the opportunity to pay our respects every time we are here. Over the summer I visited with Dean Graves, one of our associate members, whose wife, Tracy, died last February. We held the memorial service at Redeemer and Tracy and their son, Matthew, are now in the columbarium at the church they joined in North Carolina. Dean has found it so comforting to be able to sit and say a prayer every time he goes to church. As a ministry of the church it would be an opportunity to not only have a place for cremated remains to rest but it would become (like for Dean) a peaceful place to offer solace.

Finally the project outlines renovations to the classrooms and office space. Here is where we can make some important upgrades to allow our space to be more flexible and welcoming and energy efficient. Our current offices do not lend themselves easily to individual or group discussions. We often look for other space in the building to hold our conversations. And like the playground structure outside the current heating and cooling system is beyond its life expectancy. We could greatly reduce our costs by using energy-efficient systems. We also want to improve the overall security of our building. With children inside and outside throughout the week we want to make sure we keep them as safe as possible.

Redeemer is well known for its outreach into our community. Our building and grounds are used almost 24/7. It is part of the responsibility of any congregation to make sure that once the church is built that it is also maintained. Once you look at the total cost of the project and recover (smile) please know that when I interviewed at Redeemer in 2011 the debt that the church was carrying was almost at that same level. And yet eleven years later we have paid off both mortgages and are close to paying back ourselves. So I do believe that the creative work outside and the renovations inside are worth our consideration and support.

The annual congregational meeting will be both in-person and via Zoom to ensure all voting members can attend. Before the meeting takes place information sessions and Q&A sessions will be held throughout January. The first one is already set for Sunday, January 8, at 10:45 am in Fellowship Hall. A second one has been set for Wednesday, January 11, at 7 pm.

The session on Wednesday will be via Zoom and here is the link – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87107401929?pwd=alBhTDNreWNiQmthS1QwUVlPVUxMZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 0740 1929

Passcode: 666715

At the annual meeting the motion to approve the scope of the project will be made by council. Once we have a second to the motion we will open the floor for further discussion. It will then be voted upon by all voting members present by a written ballot. Please prayerfully think about this and vote accordingly. The best decision is always the one we do faithfully and after we have time to consider all aspects of the project – the advantages and the disadvantages, the cost, and how much individuals can offer financially to make our goal. If the vote is positive then the next step will be to continue to work with the architects and contractors. We would also form a Capital Campaign task force to help us determine the level of financial commitment from all of us.

At the end of the day let this be a vote that demonstrates our future direction. My prayer is always that we determine together the will of God for our house of worship.

*Yours in Christ –*

*Pastor Sandy Kessinger*



**ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING**  
Sunday, February 12  
12:00 pm

**JANUARY Q&A SESSIONS**  
Sunday, January 8  
10:45 am in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 11  
7:00 pm via Zoom

## **Redeemer Renaissance**

### **Preschool and After-School Registration 2023-24**

Church and community families with children 2 – 12 years of age are welcome to register for the 2023-24 school year! Families with enrolled children returning for 2023-34 may register January 17-20. New families may register January 23 - February 3.

Program offerings promoting a sense of wonder, discovery, and exploration include a play-based curriculum and 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 for Toddlers and Caregivers - offered bi-weekly throughout the school year.

2.5 – 5-year-old Classes - offered are part-time, full-time, morning only, and all day.

K-6<sup>th</sup> 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-6<sup>th</sup> Teacher Workday Special Camps – children from all schools may attend.

Preschool and K-6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Schedule a visit to take a tour & register:**  
**Preschool 703-356-3567 or After-School 703-356-3346 ext. 106**



**Redeemer  
Lutheran  
Preschool**

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOSH



Friends in Christ,

As January rolls around we find ourselves finally at a place where we can catch our breath from the busy holiday season. We have all been going non-stop to meet the demands of the busy season. The shopping, the meal-prep, the family gatherings – these all are intended to bring joy to our lives (which I pray they do) but often when it's all said and done, we find ourselves truly exhausted. Now notice in the above list I did not mention anything about church or the spiritual callings of the season (did you notice?). Although the reason for this season is Christ, we often find that our time quickly fills with everything but time for our spiritual needs. So, now that we have time to take a breath, let's talk about spiritual well-being in the New Year.

There is a tool that all rostered leaders are asked to learn and live by called the “The Wholeness Wheel.” It is a diagram that is intended to help us wholistically live our baptismal callings by focusing on our social, emotional, physical, financial, vocational, and intellectual well-being. The beauty of the wheel, though, is that it is encompassed by our spiritual well-being. The diagram helps us see that a healthy spiritual life sustains a healthy personal life and on the flip side a healthy personal life sustains a healthy spiritual life. The two go hand in hand. When one is lacking the other will be strained. Like the spokes on a wheel – when one is broken the wheel loses its stability and can unravel quickly.

In the busyness of this holiday season, we have all inevitably let one or more of the realms on our Wholeness Wheel lack attention. Which means that our personal and spiritual life may need some love and TLC in this new year. Now this is not another self-help article - as we all know that there are plenty of those floating around this time of year. I also acknowledge that there are some variables in certain realms that we can simply not control - job loss, illness, financial struggles, and other life challenges. For those areas that we can control, I hope, however, that this is a gentle reminder for you to take time to catch your breath, focus on you and your relationship with God, and be the healthiest you can be both personally and spiritually in this new year.

May you feel God's loving presence every step you take and action you make in this new year.

*Christ's peace be with you all,*

*Pastor Josh*

## The Wholeness Wheel







## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 1 – 10 am

January 8, 15, 22, and 29  
Services at 8:30 am, 9:45 am, 11:00 am

### Week of January 1

Sunday, January 1

Tuesday, January 3

Saturday, January 7

One Service – 10:00 am

Women's Prayer Group (Hybrid) – 9:30 am

Memorial Service for Bob Erickson – 11:00 am

### Week of January 8

Sunday, January 8

Monday, January 9

Tuesday, January 10

Wednesday, January 11

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

Table Talk (Adult Class) – 9:45 am

Q&A Building and Grounds Discussion (In-Person) – 10:45 am

Congregation Council (Hybrid) – 7:30 pm

Women's Prayer Group (In-Person) – 9:30 am

Q&A Building and Grounds Discussion (Zoom) – 7:00 pm

### Week of January 15

Tuesday, January 17

Wednesday, January 18

Thursday, January 19

Women's Prayer Group (Hybrid) – 9:30 am

Wednesday AM Bible Study (Zoom) – 8:00 am

Wednesday PM Bible Study (Zoom) – 7:00 pm

Men's Bible Study (Hybrid) – 8:00 am

### Week of January 22

Sunday, January 22

Tuesday, January 24

Wednesday, January 25

Thursday, January 26

Coffee Hour – Redeemer Renaissance

Women's Prayer Group (Hybrid) – 9:30 am

Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8:00 am

Wednesday PM Bible Study – 7:00 pm

Men's Bible Study (Hybrid) – 8:00 am

### Week of January 29

Sunday, January 29

Tuesday, January 31

Wednesday, February 1

Thursday, February 2

2022 Annual Report Available

New Member Potluck Dinner – 5:00 pm

Women's Prayer Group (Hybrid) – 9:30 am

Wednesday AM Bible Study – 8:00 am

Wednesday PM Bible Study – 7:00 pm

Men's Bible Study (Hybrid) – 8:00 am

### Coming in February

Congregation Annual Meeting

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday

Wednesdays in Lent

February 12 (12:00 pm)

February 21

February 22 (12:00 pm / 7:30 pm)

Starts March 1





## Redeemer's Endowment Fund Awards last grants of 2022

Church Council approved the Endowment Committee's two grants in December. The focus was youth-Second Story and Christmas-Hope for the Holidays.

Second Story, a local non-profit organization supporting at-risk youth in Northern Virginia received a \$3,500 grant. Below is a snapshot of their many programs. Click the links for more information or check out their website <https://www.second-story.org>.

Since 1972, Second Story transforms the lives of children, youth, and their families by providing safe havens and opportunities for them to grow and thrive. Their programs provide support at critical turning points. [Second Story for Homeless Youth](#) and [Second Story for Young Mothers](#) offer long-term housing as well as life skills support, counseling, and assistance with basic needs. [Second Story for Teens in Crisis](#) provides a short-term place to stay for youth in crisis, plus individual and family counseling. [Second Story in the Community](#) provides drop-in centers for families and after-school programs for youth who need more support outside their homes; many of them living in communities where human trafficking, violence, and gang activity are



Second, a \$1,500 grant was awarded to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) - Hope for the Holidays. LIRS is proud of its eighth-annual Hope for the Holidays™ program which collected cards and gifts for distribution at immigration detention centers across the country, sharing holiday hope and joy with individuals and families seeking safety in the United States. Information about LIRS is available at <https://www.lirs.org/>.

### Thank You!

Thank you for your recent support. In December, Redeemer members donated over \$1800 to the Endowment Fund in celebration of college graduation, a significant Redeemer anniversary and mission growth. These donations increase the principal of the Endowment Fund, earnings will support future grants.

Scan the QR code and select Endowment Fund.



For questions about Redeemer's Endowment Fund or how to donate or potential grants, please contact Endowment Fund Committee Chair, Tammie Koenig, at [Endowment@redeemermclean.org](mailto:Endowment@redeemermclean.org) or a committee member.

# JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Grief Support After the Holidays

The holidays and the weeks afterward can be difficult as people remember celebrations past with family members and friends who have died, either recently or years ago.

Capital Caring Health now provides grief support in addition to hospice care, palliative care, and primary care at home for adults and children.

If you or someone you know would benefit from talking with a counselor, participating in family counseling, or joining a support group, go to the Grief Support page on the organization's website: <https://www.capitalcaring.org/get-help/our-services/grief-support/>

These services are available, free of charge, to anyone living in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

## MLK Day of Service | January 16, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Another Anacostia River Cleanup is scheduled on January 16 for the Martin Luther King Day of Service. Join the group at Pope Branch Park in Southeast D.C. (2900 M Place SE, near the intersection of the Anacostia Freeway and Pennsylvania Avenue S.E.) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Pastor Kessinger and some of the youth group families participated in an earlier Anacostia River Cleanup event.

The cleanup is sponsored by Anacostia Riverkeeper, a nonprofit organization "dedicated to protecting the Anacostia River for all who live, work, and play in its watershed."

For more information (e.g., what to wear) and to register, go to the organization's website (<https://www.anacostiariverkeeper.org/event/clean-waterways-cleanup-mlk-day-of-service-2023/>)



## ELCA Daily Bible Reading Resource

Press [here](#) for the link to the ELCA Daily Bible Reading found on the [ELCA website](#) (ELCA.org).

★ ★ ★  
*Thank You!* ★ ★ ★

*We thank all who so generously gave of their heart, time and resources this past month to make the Christmas services & activities wonderful, for all.*

# Redeemer Building & Site Plans for the Future

## Background

There have been many recent developments that have impacted Redeemer and call for the evaluation and thoughtful consideration of how to position Redeemer best for the future. First, the development of the Sunrise Senior Living facility next door to the church significantly changed the immediate area surrounding the church. This took away an overflow parking option but will provide new opportunities for ministry with the new residents of the facility. Second, Redeemer's Preschool, After-School, and Summer Camp programs have grown significantly and now use more outdoor spaces. This increase in demand signals that upgrades are required to the outdoor area to make it safer and more flexible for a variety of uses. Third, the original sections of our 60-year-old building have become very inefficient in the use of energy for heating/cooling. The classrooms and offices are also in dire need of renovation to improve their functionality and usage. Finally, as consideration is given to changes to our building and grounds, other areas need to be evaluated to take advantage of this development process. For example, adding a columbarium as a place for interment of ashes has been considered as a future mission of the church. Also, the addition of solar panels as part of the office and classroom HVAC renovations would enable us to be better stewards of our environment.

In 2019, the Congregation Council authorized an engagement of Michael T. Foster and Associates to assist with updating our master plan and provide strategic planning services. This firm has led us through our last three building programs and is very familiar with the congregation and our community. Preliminary findings were reviewed by a building task force and a congregational survey was completed to better quantify areas of member support. At the last two Congregational Annual Meetings, updates have been provided on this process. The following sections describe the currently proposed changes and attached are initial renderings of what some of these new areas would look like.

## Natural Play Area & Outdoor Classrooms

The first priority in the redevelopment of our grounds is to improve the back corner of our site to address site drainage issues and provide better features for the various user groups. This wooded part of our site is used extensively by our Preschool, After-School, Summer Camps, Redeemer Youth, Redeemer's Boy and Girl Scout Troops, and the community. During the early days of the Covid pandemic, our Preschool and After-School programs pivoted to include more outdoor activities year-round. What started as a necessity became an advantage for our programs because we are blessed to have so much outdoor space. However, better utilization of the area is hindered by an easement owned by the county that allows storm water to flow across our property from the McLean Professional Office Park in the back corner. Since we cannot prevent the water from flowing onto our property and from other areas within our site, a creative approach has been identified that incorporates this water flow into a feature of our outdoor space, using rain gardens and a water flow channel.

Once the site drainage has been improved, the area can then be landscaped to help save the remaining trees, improve the soil conditions to better grow grass for games and sports, walkways can be added to improve access and ADA compliance, and a pavilion structure with water and electrical outlets for enhanced usage can be built. Fencing will also be added on two sides for the safety and protection of the children in our care. The improvements in the area will not only be used by our existing school-age programs, but also allow our "church life" opportunities (including Faith Formation, worship and music events, study groups, community events, etc.) to be facilitated in an outdoor setting. A safe and accessible outdoor setting also provides the ability to add intergenerational components to our programming (potentially including our new neighbors from Sunrise Senior Living). The new opportunities for expanded church and youth programs in a healthy outdoor environment are significant.

## Columbarium

A columbarium is a wall of niches that would house the ashes of deceased individuals as a final resting place. The last time the congregation was polled, approximately 50 people expressed interest in having a columbarium at Redeemer. The original high-level design of the columbarium called for it to be located near the current Memorial Garden. However, upon further review and discussions, alternative locations were considered. In order to ensure the privacy and respectful nature of a columbarium, a location on the other side of the building outside the music suites was determined to be a better fit.



The columbarium project would pay for itself over time. Initially, the congregation would fund the construction as part of its mission and then as niches are purchased by members and others, the revenue would come back to the church. Once the construction costs were recovered, additional revenue would provide for on-going maintenance and/or expansion of the columbarium. In order to lower the upfront costs, the initial design was modified so that the construction could be phased, with the second section of niches being built as demand warrants and the funding becomes available.

A Columbarium Ministry Team would be created of church members to administer the site and manage the process. They would draft policies and procedures for the columbarium, which would be approved by the Congregational Council. For those who do not want to use a niche or do not want to incur the cost of one, the spreading of ashes in the current Memorial Garden at no cost will continue to be an option.

**Classroom and Office Renovations**

The classrooms and offices in the original building are in need of renovation and updating. These spaces are not well suited for our current needs and do not provide the flexibility desired for the future. Functionally, the biggest problem is that sound travels between the various offices and classrooms. This is especially problematic for our pastors, who currently need to make adjustments to have private and confidential conversations in their offices. Reconfiguration of the spaces will also provide more operational efficiencies and improve building security. Updated classrooms will be of benefit to our Faith Formation classes, After-school programs, and outside groups that rent those rooms. The renovation of these areas also allows us to create additional storage space and update the bathrooms in the office hallway.

An important part of these renovations will be the replacement of the current heating and cooling systems specific to these areas. Heat is provided by a 60-year-old boiler, that is past its expected life. Cooling is provided by in-window air conditioning units, that are very energy inefficient and extremely noisy. These updates also provide us with the option to install solar panels on the roof of the gym to provide a renewable energy source and be better stewards of our environment.

**Ballpark Costs and Financing Options**

Based on the preliminary design development work completed thus far, the rough ballpark costs are anticipated to be approximately:

\$1,087,000	Natural Play Area and Outdoor Classrooms, Storm Water Management
\$ 732,000	Columbarium 1st Section (Other section to be built as needed)
<u>\$ 903,000</u>	Classrooms and Office Renovations, New HVAC, Solar Panels
\$2,722,000	Ballpark Total

Potential financing scenario:

\$ 350,000	Preschool Reserve Contribution
\$ 350,000	After-school Reserve Contribution
\$1,250,000	Capital Campaign Goal
<u>\$ 772,000</u>	New Mortgage over 15 years
\$2,722,000	Ballpark Total

Points of reference from last building program in 2011:

<u>\$2,461,000</u>	Crossroads and related areas construction costs
\$1,207,000	MEC Capital Campaign funds raised
\$1,254,000	New 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mortgage (added to existing 1 <sup>st</sup> Mortgage of \$1.05M for total of \$2.3M)

## Next Steps

The next steps with this process are:

1. Informational sessions will be held to get additional member feedback and to answer questions.
2. At the Congregational Annual Meeting in February, a vote will be held on proceeding with these plans.
3. With an affirmative vote, construction documents will be created and submitted to the county for permitting and any required revisions.
4. A Capital Campaign to raise funds from within the congregation and community will be initiated.
5. Once construction documents are completed, county approvals are obtained, construction bids obtained, and the results of the Capital Campaign are known, another Congregational vote will take place to approve a new mortgage.

## Natural Play Area & Outdoor Classroom



## Site Layout





## Columbarium 1<sup>st</sup> Section Only



## Columbarium - Both Sections





## **Minutes of Meeting of Redeemer Congregation Council In Person and Via Zoom December 12, 2022**

**Present In Person:** Liz Holzapfel, Stephanie Hunter, Ellen Kennedy, Pr. Sandy Kessinger, Karen Miller, President Nate Paukovits, Secretary Roberta Pittman, Treasurer Edward Regan, Special Guest, Rob Wenk

**Present Via Zoom:** Arash Behraves, Karen Detweiler, Peter Kratz, Lena Martikainen, Pr. Wullenweber

**Excused:** Mitch Brown

**Called to Order:** President Paukovits declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

**Devotions:** Pastor Wullenweber opened with Advent devotions based on Isaiah 9. He closed devotions with prayer.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Without objection, the agenda was adopted as sent in advance of the meeting.

### **Pastors' Reports:**

#### **Pastor Kessinger:**

Pastor Kessinger highlighted the following items from her written monthly report:

- Hospital Visits
- Baptisms
- New Members
- Home Visits and Connections with Members
- McLean Clergy Meeting
- Upcoming Winter Projects
  - ◊ Bible Studies on Revelation (Wednesday AM) and Book of Job (Wednesday PM)
  - ◊ Dinner for New Members on January 29
  - ◊ Global Mission Sunday

#### **Pastor Wullenweber:**

Pastor Wullenweber highlighted the following items from his written monthly report:

- Affirmation of Baptism as a result of Adult Catechism Class
- Confirmation Class
- Redeemer Youth Group and Sunday Evening Worship
- Young Adult Ministry Partnership with Lewinsville Presbyterian
- Church Emergency Preparedness Procedures
- Upcoming Events
  - ◊ Young Adult Retreat – January 13-15
  - ◊ High School Youth Retreat – January 20 - 23
  - ◊ Beer Reformation – Men's Retreat – January 27-29

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Ed Regan presented the Treasurer's Report. The expenses of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer continue to exceed giving and use fees. Indebtedness has been reduced to \$71,001.

It was requested that the Treasurer provide frequent updates regarding the financial status of the church throughout the month of December.

**Executive Committee Minutes:** The Executive Committee met on, December 1, 2022, to define the following discussion and action items for the full council.

**Discussion items:**

- Security: An intercom and additional security measures are being put in place at Redeemer.

- Building and Grounds:

Rob Wenk presented building and site improvement plans to address:

- ◇ Natural Play Area
- ◇ Drainage issues in the back of the site
- ◇ Classroom and office renovations
- ◇ Heating and cooling system replacement
- ◇ Installation of solar panels
- ◇ Building a Columbarium
- ◇ Gym Roof repair
- ◇ Financing of projects
- ◇ Providing information to the Congregation

To ensure that the Congregation has adequate time to receive information regarding the proposed projects, Karen Miller moved to change the date of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to February 12, 2023. Lena Martikainen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Liz Holzapfel moved that the Church Council give approval to proceed with the building and site improvement plan. Stephanie Hunter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- 2023 Budget:

Ed Regan presented the 2023 budget. Roberta Pittman moved to approve the 2023 budget. Ellen Kennedy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- Constitution By-law Change Proposal:

Nate Paukovits presented the proposed changes the Church Constitution By-laws relating to Redeemer Renaissance Preschool and After-School Programs. Karen Miller moved to take By-law proposals to the Congregation. Liz Holzapfel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- Endowment Grant Recommendations:

The Endowment Committee met on November 17, 2022, and unanimously recommended the following grants:

- ◇ \$3,500 to Second Story, a local non-profit organization supporting at-risk youth in Northern Virginia.
- ◇ \$1,500 to Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Service's Hope for the Holidays.

Stephanie Hunter moved to approve the two Endowment Fund Grants. Ed Regan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- Council Nominating Committee Report:

There will be 4 adult vacancies and 1 youth representative vacancy on the Church Council for the upcoming year. Stephanie Hunter and Liz Holzapfel reported that there are 3 confirmed candidates for the vacancies as well as 2 youths willing to share the responsibility of youth representative.



### **Ministry Reports:**

- Ed Regan reported that there had been a formal audit review of the Church finances and no significant recommendations had been made.
- Pastor Wullenweber reported that:
  - ◇ He is working with the Congregational Life Ministry to create multiple ways for members to connect and reconnect including the monthly Coffee Hour between services.
  - ◇ A task force is being formed to interface with the Congregation regarding what it means to be “Reconciling in Christ” Congregation.

**Additional New Business:** There was no new business.

**Close with Prayer:** Pastor Kessinger closed with prayer.

**Adjournment:** President Paukovits adjourned the meeting 9:25 pm.

**Next meeting of Council:** January 9, 2023

**Next meeting of Executive Committee:** January 4, 2023

**Next Congregational Meeting:** February 12, 2023







*The Christmas Concert on the evening of the Live Nativity and Bake Sale with Music Director, Matt Osifchin 12/16/22*

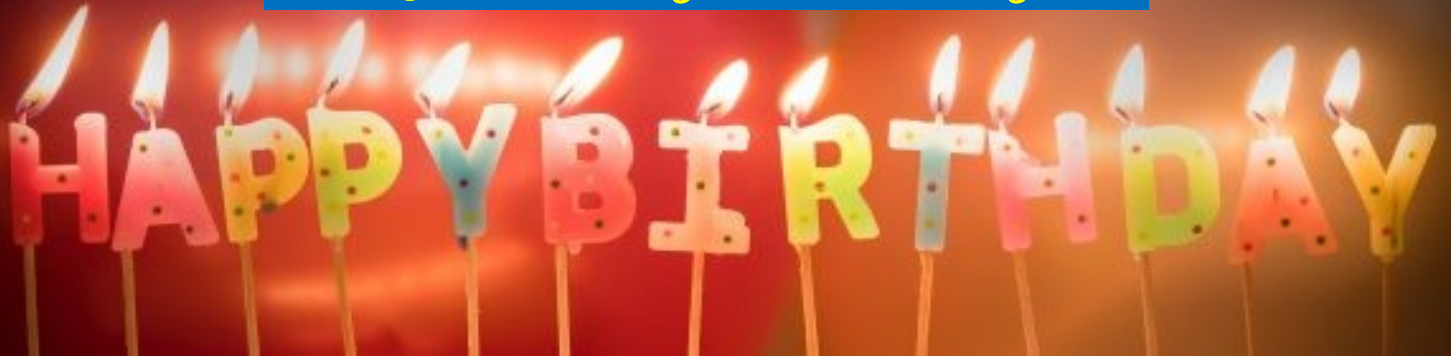


*Christmas Concert - Sounds of the Season - Youth Choir*

[Press on this link to watch and listen!](#)



# January Birthdays



*We Wish You a Happy Birthday!!!*

Jan 1 Donald Daus  
Jan 2 David Truslow, Hayley Wenk  
Jan 3 Melissa Gorsline, Charles Lettow  
Jan 4 Dan Bader, David Young, Justin Young  
Jan 5 Kelly Dewberry, James Prince, Jessie Straub, JaLyn Tiffany, Annelie Wiklund  
Jan 6 Daniel Moreno, Judy Prince  
Jan 7 Karlen Bader, Judy Kastner  
Jan 8 Greg Adams, Griffin Stieg, Maren Sulkala  
Jan 9 Christine Bader, John DeLeonardis, Darlene Lebedev  
Jan 10 Finn Koehli, Fritz Muhlenberg, Tessa Skochko  
Jan 11 John Corvari, William Dutrow, Edwin Pan  
Jan 12 Brent Armstrong, Madeleine Engel, Sebastian Salzman, Tessa Stoll  
Jan 13 Barb Perlowski  
Jan 14 Rekha Arness, Martha Blue, Knut Opsal, Jim Sullivan  
Jan 15 Maddie Barb, Matthew Duval  
Jan 16 Amara Okorie  
Jan 17 Arcel Castillo, Phyllis Peter-Mallard, Elias Tiffany, Joseph 'JoJo' Warren  
Jan 19 Justin Bornmann, Kelly Kight, Caden Stuart  
Jan 22 Niels-Oliver DeChaine, JoAnn Mueller, Jean Speegle, Nathaniel Tiffany  
Jan 23 Edward Berendt, Amelia Dutrow  
Jan 23 Mark Hughes  
Jan 24 Julian Mentzel, Emma Mykityshyn  
Jan 25 Grace Chambers  
Jan 25 Emma Horn, Natalie Horn, Dan Retter  
Jan 26 Rebecca Behravesh, Benjamin Epstein  
Jan 28 Benjamin Campet, Caroline Elliot, Alexandra Gomes McKay, Cindy Goodman, Forrest Stieg  
Jan 29 Kevin Dempsey, Nicholas Elbert, Adem Sevimli  
Jan 30 Anika Crone, Gretchen Odegard, Katie Romhilt, Bob Speegle  
Jan 31 Katherine Miller, Luke Niles, Jeff Pishner, Anna Villagra

Praying that you feel God's guiding light leading you on toward  
increased wisdom and strength as you celebrate another birthday.

May you feel fully alive and loved on this special day! You are a beautiful creation and we thank God for you!