



Reflections

VOLUME 28

June 17, 2024

ISSUE 24

Sabbatical Series Part One: *What Is a Sabbatical?*

A sabbatical is one of those things you hear about in different settings, but you might wonder what it is and how it came about.

According to Wikipedia, sabbatical is a rest or break from work, “an extended period of time intentionally spent on something that’s not your routine.”

Sabbatical leave is not a time to do similar professional work in another setting nor is it an extended vacation. The idea of sabbatical has biblical origins. The very root of the word (from the Hebrew: שַׁבָּת Šabat) is the same as that of “Sabbath,” i.e. “to rest” or “to cease.” It is a time to be refreshed in body, mind, and spirit and to deepen one’s relationship with God.

This description written by the Tennessee Baptist Convention further explains its significance in Scripture:

“The concept of sabbatical is deeply and indisputably rooted in Scripture. The term is derived from the Old Testament idea of ‘Sabbath.’ The Hebrew word means ‘rest.’ God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh (Genesis 2:1-3). During the Hebrew children’s exodus from Egypt, God directed them (Exodus 16:26) to gather the manna daily but to rest on the seventh day (Sabbath). In numerous Old Testament passages, God admonished his people to work six days but to devote the seventh day to God as a day of rest (Exodus 20:9-10, 23:12, 31:15, 34:21, 35:2; Leviticus 23:3 and Deuteronomy 5:13). Among the Israelites, God instituted the Sabbath year (Leviticus 25:1-5). On every seventh year, the children of Israel were to refrain from farming the land and let the earth rest. Both the Israelites and the land benefited from the Sabbath rest.

“These passages suggest that there is a rhythm to life. As the preacher said, for everything there is a season (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Jesus’ own life and ministry reflect a deep understanding and appreciation for the rhythms of life. The demands upon Him were so great that his own ministry was punctuated with times of withdrawal for prayer and spiritual solitude (Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46; Luke 5:16, 6:12).”

To help instructors renew their passion for their academic specialties, medieval colleges and universities began to grant professors a leave of absence every seven years. Most colleges and universities continue this practice today – giving teachers the opportunity to rest, expand their knowledge, write, travel to places relevant to their area of study and to teach at other institutions.

A letter was recently sent to Redeemer members and friends about **Pastor Dave’s** upcoming sabbatical. If you haven’t had a chance to read and reflect on this letter, the RLC Sabbatical Team encourages you to do so. We’ll explore more about sabbaticals in *Reflections* over the next few weeks. Please ask questions and be curious. This is an opportunity of rest and renewal for all of us!

In This Issue

[Sabbatical Series Part One: *What Is a Sabbatical?*](#)

[The Redeemer Community](#)

[The Wider Church](#)

[The Community Beyond](#)

[Prayers & Personals](#)

[Getting Ready for Sunday](#)

OUR CONGREGATION

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Office Manager - Becky Trover

Office Assistant - Diane Brobeck

Custodian - Marshall Edgington

Organist/Senior Choir Director - Kathy Rapp

Pianist/Chime Choir Director - Karen Kent

Reflections Editor - Judith Bird

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SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Dave Engel, chair Ashley Bird

Julie Boreman Wendy Stoica

Laura Warren Terry Warren

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Redeemer Community

Youth Gathering Yard Sale Runs This Saturday, June 22!

Redeemer's Youth are raising funds for the 2024 Youth Gathering will hold its yard sale on the church lawn **Saturday, June 22** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Plan now to come and shop and support Redeemer's youth.



Volunteers Needed for Next Food Giveaway Set for Thursday, June 20



Especially, given the heat predictions for the week and Thursday in particular, additional volunteers are needed for the next Lutheran Social Services (LSS)/Mid-Ohio Food Collective/Redeemer Food Giveaway this **Thursday, June 20**. This will allow for giving the regular volunteers a break in the activities. Plus, this is the week the fans will be distributed which will necessitate moving them to the parking lot. Set up begins at 1 p.m., with giveaway beginning at 3 p.m. Folks are needed to help throughout the entire afternoon.

Julie Johnson, who spearheaded this effort on behalf of Sister Act, reported Sunday that 175 fans have been collected, exceeding the goal of 170 fans. What better day should they be distributed than what is expected to be the hottest day so far in 2024!

Julie notes that the “really fun part is giving the fans to people who are only expecting food, and who need the relief fans can bring.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you for supporting this effort. The week of the giveaway temperatures are forecast to be in the 90s, so the fans will be especially needed.”

In addition, the “extra” items that Redeemer looks to distribute this week are summer personal care items such as sunscreen, kid's sunscreen, body lotion, insect repellent, etc. The items can be placed in the coatroom, just off the Narthex.

RLC Basketball Camp Underway; Donations of 8 Oz. Bottles of Water Needed

Redeemer's summer basketball camps for youth ages 8 to 14, led by former NBA and ABA player **Coach Larry Jones**, is now underway and members are asked to donate **8 oz.** bottles of water for use by participants – especially given the heat warnings out for this week.. They can be placed in the coatroom, just off the Narthex..

A total of 39 youth are registered. Redeemer provides these camps for free. They run for six weeks, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. They conclude on **Thursday, July 18**.

Redeemer Summer Book Study Begins Wednesday, June 19

In recent summer book studies, Redeemer's Book Group has focused on immigration, racism, and death and dying. This summer, they will discuss a book that begins with the statement: “The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why?”

Pulitzer-prize author **Matthew Desmond** dives into that question in his book *Poverty, By America*. He looks at causes, and, most importantly, presents his own solution for how actually to end poverty.

The group will meet Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. on **June 19, June 26, July 3, and July 10**. The group is starting in June because **Pastor Dave** will be at the ELCA National Youth Gathering in the middle of July. They will meet both in-person and on Zoom. The discussion on June 19 will cover the prologue and the first two chapters. For those not wishing to purchase the book, the library has a number of copies to take out.

To join the meeting via Zoom, go to the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86071756592?pwd=dm5VN2FaZWlVcUk3bEQycTVRTmpSUT09>; Meeting ID: 860 7175 6592; Passcode: 322720. To join via phone, call 312 626 6799.

Both pastor and **Sheryl Owens** look forward to another summer of honest, enriching conversations.

Tuesday Bible Study Resumes This Week

The Tuesday Bible study resumes this week now that **Pastor Dave** is back from vacation. It will resume with the study of the book of Romans on **Tuesday, June 18** at 1 p.m. here at the church and on Zoom.

RLC Garden Giveaways Now Underway

Redeemer's Saturday morning veggie giveaways are now underway. For those who are interested in volunteering, harvesting begins between 8:30 and 9 a.m. with weighing and recording the produce before starting the giveaway at 10 a.m.

Returning and new volunteers are asked to contact Jon at Jon.Disbro@nationwidechildrens.org.

Volunteers Sought to Provide Summer Hospitality following Worship

Jon Disbro writes, "I think we all enjoy the after worship refreshments and the chance to linger and connect with other folks.

"Now you have an opportunity to support that effort by signing up to provide the refreshments for a Sunday over the summer. It's very easy and there are supplied snacks, coffee, and paper products if you need them.

"In the past we have had small groups, committees, and friends sign up to do it together and enhance the normal offerings. Sign ups for June, July, and August are on the bulletin board outside the Library in the hallway.

"Sign up and see how much appreciation you will receive for whatever you offer!"

Liturgical Garments Reflect 'RLC through the Seasons'

Liturgical garments and other items worn/used by Redeemer's worship leaders over the years are the first installment in the latest Narthex Art exhibit: "Redeemer through the Seasons." Two additional exhibits under this theme are planned with the congregation's help needed for the second installment to be announced at the end of June.



Noisy Offering to Support World Central Kitchen

Redeemer's "Noisy Offering" will go to the World Central Kitchen (WCK) which is first to the frontlines, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. Food is essential to life every single day, all over the world -- and it is more important than ever in a crisis.

Not only is a thoughtful, freshly prepared meal one less thing someone has to worry about in the wake of a disaster, it is a reminder that they are not alone, someone is thinking about them, and someone cares.

Food has the power to be the nourishment and hope we need to pick ourselves back up in the darkest times. This is the foundation of **Chef Jose Andres**, founder of World Central Kitchen. The program began after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. For seven years they worked on resilience programs investing in long-term solutions around the food needs in the Caribbean and Central America.

Then in 2017 with Hurricane Harvey hitting Houston, WCK began to move into action and respond to areas hit by natural disasters. So 2017 they went to Houston.

Recently, members of one of WCK's relief teams were killed while going into Gaza to deliver food. **Kay Ernsthansen** writes, "Since the bombing in Gaza there has been an earthquake in Taiwan. There are so many places that need food. We do what we can for our neighbors with the food giveaways and the garden and this is an opportunity to feed those who are hungry around the world. For more information on World Central Kitchen look them up at <https://wck.org>."

Being Good Stewards of Earth #5: A Reminder of 3Rs

Michele Disbro writes, "As a final wrap up to how you can be a good steward of the earth, I want to remind you of the 3R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

1. "**Reduce** – This is the first and best thing to do. Reduce the amount of waste you produce. For example, reduce the smaller-sized items of things you use and choose to buy the larger refill sizes. Reduce the items you buy that are available in non-recyclable containers. Reduce your food waste by meal planning. Consider using cloth napkins. There are many ways to reduce your waste so take that first small step.

2. "**Reuse** - Instead of buying water in plastic bottles, bring your own refillable water bottle. Consider packing your lunch in washable containers. Rather than simply throwing out something that is broken, see if it can be fixed. If you don't want certain items anymore, donate them so someone else can use them. Be creative and find new uses for something that you don't use anymore.

3. “**Recycle** – There are many places to recycle paper, cardboard, and plastic so give it a try! Remember: you can always check out the SWACO website with any questions you have at <https://recycleright.org/recycle-reuse-search-tool/>.”

Important Emails

Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

Info@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the office, *Reflections* newsletter, **Office Manager Becky Trover**, healing prayer requests or for general information.

MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the Member Care team about needs for personal ministry such as in-home communion, a home visit, meals, etc.

FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com – use for stewardship campaigns.

Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with Redeemer’s IT Team for items related to the website.

Property@RedeemerLuth.com – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

Transportation@redeemerluth.com – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

Communications@redeemerluth.com – use to send church related announcements or pictures for sharing on Redeemer’s social media sites. Another way is to tag Redeemer in the posts.

Publishing Deadlines for *Reflections*, Sunday Bulletins

For *Reflections*

- **PLEASE SUBMIT PRIOR TO 5 P.M. ON SUNDAYS.**
- Send to info@RedeemerLuth.com and put *Reflections* in subject line.
- Or leave a note in the *Reflections* mailbox at the top of the stairs outside the church office.

For Sunday Bulletins

The deadline for information to be published in Sunday bulletins is the **Wednesday morning** before. That information can be sent to the above email: just put “Bulletin” in the subject line.

Prayers and Personals

Prayers of thanksgiving are asked by **Laura** and **Terry Warren** on the remission of the Stage 4 cancer of Terry’s sister **Elaine**. Prayers for healing are asked for **Carol Heacock** who will be having shoulder surgery Tuesday.

+ + +

Member Directory Updates: **Renee McFarland** has a new address: 1535 Cabora Lane, Columbus 43232; 614-384-6088 (home).

Renee and **Lily Glover-Oakleaf** have transferred their membership to Old Trinity Lutheran Church.

+ + +

One of Redeemer’s neighbors with whom we’ve had an ongoing relationship is moving to the downtown area this week and needs help with the move. He is willing to rent a truck and to pay someone to help. He can’t do any heavy lifting or drive the truck.

If anyone is able to help, please contact the church office and **Becky** will put you in touch.

‘Christ in Our Home’ for July-Sept. Now Available

The latest edition of the daily devotional booklet “Christ in Our Home” for July through September is now available in the on the kiosk in the Narthex. Copies are free for anyone who would like one.

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June Birthdays

18-Jessica Fisher 20-Katie Jacobs
23-Nathaniel Bird

The Wider Church

First English, Hope to Hold Juneteenth Celebration

First English and Hope Lutheran churches together with Urban Connections will hold a Juneteenth celebration on **Sunday, June 23**, beginning at 5 p.m. in the courtyard of First English at 1015 E. Main St., Columbus. This

“Freedom Celebration” will feature keynote speaker **Donte Woods-Spikes**, live Gospel music and a light dinner. All ages are welcome. Folks are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

First English to Hold Speaker Series

First English Lutheran Church and Urban Connections are sponsoring a speaker series on “Impacting Community” on the fourth Sunday of every month. The first presentation, set for **Sunday, July 28**, will feature **Sam Gresham** and **Molly Shack** of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative. It begins at 6:30 p.m. at First English (1015 E. Main St.)

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

June 18 Remember in prayer those employed in seasonal jobs and ask the Spirit to help us express our hospitality, respect and heartfelt gratitude for their service.

19 Juneteenth Today we commemorate June 19, 1865, when the last enslaved Africans were emancipated in the United States. We lament our nation’s history of slavery, give thanks for freedom and justice, and pray for an end to racism and racial inequity.

20 Pray for community garden programs and volunteer gardeners as they recognize and serve the needs of our neighbors who live with poverty and hunger. Give thanks for our work together through ELCA World Hunger to address the root causes of hunger and poverty here and around the world.

21 Pray for the Spirit to inspire us and grant us wisdom in this time of study, reflection and deliberation that will guide the development of a new ELCA social statement on civic life and faith and the relationship of church and state.

22 Ask God to grant hope, stamina and healing to those recovering from the devastation left by tornadoes and severe storms across our country. Give thanks for our work together through Lutheran Disaster Response to provide relief and assistance to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and worldwide.

23 “Waking up, [Jesus] rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Be silent! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to [the disciples], ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great fear” (Mark 4:39-41). Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our trust in God in the face of every challenge and situation that tests our faith.

24 Pray for youth, adults and congregations preparing for the ELCA Youth Gathering, the tAble (for young people with disabilities), the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the Young Adult Gathering. Pray that their lives and faith will be enriched and inspired through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service and fellowship with Lutheran youth gathered from around the country.

25 Remember in prayer senior adults and those who suffer illnesses and conditions vulnerable to summer heat. Give thanks for community cooling centers, those who perform wellness checks, and first responders.

The Community Beyond Gaza and Palestine Update

Julie Johnson submitted the following update on Gaza and Palestine:

- **Benny Gantz** has left the war cabinet in Israel, citing disagreements with **Benjamin Netanyahu** over Gaza – including plans for after the war. This complicates the peace process as Netanyahu will likely turn to far right leaders to shore up his government.
- Hamas has responded positively to the peace proposal. While there remain differences to work out both sides appear ready to negotiate.
- The Rafah crossing continues to be closed to humanitarian aid and hundreds of trucks are backed up in Egypt.
- A major problem continues to exist with the aid that is getting into Israel. There is a lack of trucks and truckers willing to deliver aid throughout the Gaza strip. So much needed aid sits in warehouses.
- The raid that freed four Israeli hostages killed over 250 Palestinians. An interview on PBS with Doctors Without Borders reported that 190 people were brought to that hospital alone – including numerous people who were pronounced dead on arrival. Burns, serious fractures, severed limbs and other serious injuries were common.
- Hospitals have little fuel, compounding their difficulty serving their patients.
- Palestinians in the West Bank continue to face violence from illegal Israeli settlements.
- Aid convoys from Jordan continue to be harassed by Jews as they make their way to Gaza.

Pray for peace – a just peace for all.

CAIR-Ohio Announces Turaani as New Executive Director

The Ohio chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-OH) announced recently that **Khalid Turaani** has been named its new executive director, overseeing operations in Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton.

Turaani has more than 15 years of executive experience in public affairs and advocacy in Washington, D.C., and Europe. His tenure includes engagements with Congress and the European Parliament, along with a decade-long tenure as a CEO in the private sector.

Beyond his professional roles, Khalid has been a community leader in the areas of voters' rights and coalition-building around electoral politics and human rights, CAIR-OH said. Born and raised in a refugee camp, he has been involved in humanitarian missions that have spanned addressing the Flint water crisis to aiding refugees in Gaza, Thailand, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Turaani into our community. His wealth of experience and proven leadership resonate deeply with CAIR's mission," said **Nabeel Raazi**, president of the board of directors of CAIR-OH. "In these challenging times, extraordinary effort and leadership are imperative. We are delighted that our rigorous search process has led us to Khalid Turaani, an esteemed American Muslim leader of national recognition."

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. CAIR-Ohio has three offices in Ohio – Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland. Its stated mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

Getting Ready for Worship

5th Sunday after Pentecost

June 23, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Psalm 133; Mark 4:35-41

Prayer of the Day

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

A Prayer for Peace

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Excessive Heat

God, as the heat of summer intensifies, we pray for those without air conditioning or electricity, clean water, or health care. For all of our neighbors in "survival mode", give them the communities and resources to not only survive, but to thrive this summer. And Lord, remind us to give you a drink when we see you thirsty. Amen

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Columbus.
- + For Redeemer community members Sara Auman and Julianne Johnson.

Each week we remember in our prayers in worship those who cannot be with us and those with special needs and concerns: Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin and her niece Olivia Theissen, Skye Andree, Carolyn Moehring, Kris Kauffman, Emily Ott's aunt Kathy Richter, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose, John Kennedy's sister and brother-in-law Becky and Vic Wolfe, Kathie Ehrlich; Terry Warren's sister Elaine

Warren, Nathaniel Bird's in-laws Rose and Wendell Jordan, Lorien Dana, Kandice Hoddinott-Ward, Brittany Amon, John Huber, Mary Watts, Barbara and David Hairston, Dottie and Larry Bird, Paul Johnson, Carol Heacock

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Mary Benis
Cantor	Heidi Sherer
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Mike Benis
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Judith Bird, Sue Yehling
Communion Prep	Laura Warren, Cathy Oldham, Michelle Clemence
Hospitality	Sara Auman and Julianne Johnson

*Flowers are given by Judith and Ashley Bird in honor of Nate Bird on his birthday
Noisy Offering will go to World Central Kitchen.*

This Week at Redeemer

June 17 – June 24, 2024

Monday	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 2462
	6:30 - 8 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 1143
	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Clearness Committee
Wednesday	6:30-8 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	6:30-8 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Summer Book Study
	1-3:00 p.m.	Set up for Food Giveaway
	3-5:30 p.m.	LSS MidOhio Food Giveaway
Friday	6:30-8 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
	10- 3:00 p.m.	Youth Garage Sale
Saturday	10 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed
Sunday	6:00 p.m.	Suzuki Chamber Music Week
	6:30 - 8 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 1143
	7:00 p.m.	BREAD celebration

I Have Felt the Hand of God

The following are the words to the musical reflection offered Sunday by **Jennifer Young**. A Composer's note says, "It expresses what we often wish to tell someone in our lives: 'Through your sacrificial love I have learned to know God better.'" (For those who might want to hear it, go to Redeemer's YouTube channel and listen to it as part of the Sunday, June 16 worship service.)



I have felt the hand of God in your hand.
Holding me, you gave me strength to stand.
When I was all alone you came and met my need.
And when I lost my way, your hand was there to lead.
Through your touch, God's hand reached out to me.
I have felt the hand of God in your hand.

I have heard the voice of God in your voice,
Singing praise, you taught me to rejoice.
Your voice of comfort caused my grief to end.
And when my faith was gone, you called me home again.
When you spoke, God's voice called out to me.
I have heard the voice of God in your voice.

I have seen the face of God in your face,
Giving all, you shared with me God's grace.
And you were faithful to guide me as I grew.
I saw your love for God and I saw God in you.
When you smiled, God's love surrounded me.
I have seen the face of God, I have heard the voice of God,
I have felt the hand of God through you.

-- Pamela Martin/Craig Courtney
"I Have Felt the Hand of God" © 1997 Beckenhorst Press

Redeemer's mission: To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all
Redeemer's vision: To foster understanding and healing in community
Redeemer's Values: Inclusion, Compassion, Justice