



Reflections

VOLUME 29

January 20, 2025

ISSUE 3

RLC Annual Meeting, Potluck Set for Jan. 26

Redeemer will hold its 2025 Annual Meeting on **Sunday, Jan. 26** immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service. At that time, the congregation will be asked to elect **Ashley Bird** as vice president and to approve the 2025 budget.

Also on the agenda is approval of the proposed distribution of Mission Endowment Funds (MEF) for 2025 as well as the selection of Redeemer's delegates to the 2025 Ohio Synod Assembly.

The following outgoing council members will also be recognized: **Katie Jacobs** (Education), **Elyse Herring** (Member Care), **Sue Watson** (Secretary) and **Diane Brobeck** (Outreach). In addition, **Dave Engel** will be recognized for his leadership of the Special Funds Team.

According to **Congregation Council President Brad Binau**, "As stipulated in our constitution, you must be personally present in order to vote on issues presented at the meeting. A quorum of 20 percent of our voting membership (41 persons out of our confirmed membership of 205) is necessary for us to hold the meeting so please plan to attend!"

Following the meeting, folks are invited to the potluck meal in the basement Fellowship Hall and are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. A main dish will be provided as will drinks and paper products, although members are encouraged to bring their own table service.

Copies of the 2024 Annual Report are now available for pick up at the church. It includes a budget summary for 2024 as well as reports from **2024 Congregation Council President Krista Skipper**, a thank you from **Pastor Dave** for a year that included a three-month sabbatical for him and overviews of Redeemer's many ministry areas.

These include the planning and construction of the Remembrance Garden, the many elements of Redeemer's education ministry; outreach that includes a number of food-related ministries, the basketball camp, BREAD, First English activities and the Good Neighbors Picnic; ongoing efforts to keep the property in shape; member care; and stewardship efforts.

The report also details changes in the congregation's membership which sees a total of 59 members removed by virtue of transfer (12), death (3) and inactivity (44). This takes Redeemer's membership to 179 baptized members. Also included is an accounting of attendance at Sunday services (including those watching on livestream and Redeemer's YouTube channel).

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OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor - Rev. Dave Shull

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

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President - Brad Binau

Vice President -

Finance Officer - Laura Warren

Secretary - Rich Pautsch

Worship - Michelle Clemence

Education - Karen Rider

Outreach - Mary Benis

Member Support - Kathy Mimlitch

Property - April Smith

Stewardship - Kathy Denhard

APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer - Kay Ernsthansen

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Misato In Marques Highland

Sara Auman Rich Pautsch

SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Wendy Stoica, Chair Ashley Bird

Julie Boreman John Kennedy

Terry Warren Laura Warren

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

RLC, Christ United Methodist to Begin Book Discussions

Running **Wednesday evenings, Jan. 29-Feb. 19**, Redeemer will join members from Christ United Methodist Church to discuss the book *Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love*, by Duke University professor **William H. Willimon**. According to **Pastor Dave**, “This is a short, readable book that explores how Christians are invited to engage with those society labels ‘outsider’ and ‘stranger.’ These classes will be held at Christ United Methodist (1480 Zettler Road) and on Zoom from 6:30-7:45 p.m. Please go ahead and order a book yourself if you’re interested in joining us. If you have difficulties with that, contact Pastor Dave. [He also noted that he ordered the book through Grammercy Books in Bexley and got it in about four days.]

“**Pastors Willis [Johnson]** and Dave invite you to participate in these opportunities to live into Redeemer’s vision of ourselves as a place that fosters understanding and healing in community.”

The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89188357807?pwd=TbFwmjVanlnj8znNqiXdAZkxn0zVW0.1>; Meeting ID: 891 8835 7807; passcode: 794195.

See the Jan. 13 issue of *Reflections* for a more detailed discussion of the book.

Super Bowl Is Coming Feb. 9! So Is RLC’s Souper Bowl!

As in the past, Redeemer will continue to collect money and canned goods on Super Bowl Sunday – **Feb. 9** – to benefit the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Food Pantries. (Any additional money contributed in February, as well as any canned goods will get to the pantry.)

Ben Powers, LSS congregational relations manager, reminds folks that with the Food Pantry’s buying power, each \$1 donated will be able to purchase \$4 worth of food. He also said the best soups to collect are tomato, chicken noodle, and vegetable. The most needed items, in addition to the soup, are **16-oz.** plastic jars of peanut butter or any approximately 15 oz. size **canned fruit**. However, the LSS Food Pantries will be able to use *any and all* collected food items.

What is the 2025 goal? According to Ben, “Last year we had 26 churches participate in raising over \$21,000 and collecting more than 4,200 lbs. of food! This year, our goal is to have 30 churches participate, raise more than \$30,000 and collect over 4,000 lbs. of food! Thank you for your participation.”

Let’s see what Redeemer can do!

RLC Seeks Donations of Items for ‘Care Kits’

Redeemer youth are creating more Care Kits on Feb. 9 during Sunday School. These care kits can be given out to anyone you find in need. At this time of year, hand warmers are especially helpful. “If you are able to donate any of the following items, please put them in the black crate in the Narthex by **Sunday, Feb. 9.**” Items needed include the following:

- chapstick
- small bottles of lotion
- hand warmers
- soft breakfast bars
- small packets of wipes or
- small bottles of hand sanitizer.

Sunday Adult Forum on Hiatus for One More Week, Then Will Discuss Church’s Call to Respond to Sexual Violence

The Sunday Adult Forum is on hiatus for a second week, **Sunday, Jan. 26**. Then beginning **Sunday, Feb. 2** **Staci Stought**, a seminary student and a retired sexual assault police officer, will be offering a four week Bible study on how churches can be a beacon of healing and hope to the harm of sexual violence within our world. Her class goes beyond traditional boundary training to explore the transformative role of faith communities.

“We will learn how to affirm the sacred worth of every person through the exploration of sex and gender in the Bible, the prevalence of sexual violence, and practical strategies. Discover how the church can cultivate a culture of compassion, foster self-worth in survivors, and embody Christ’s call to love and justice.”

Staci currently works as a pastoral care minister at Messiah Lutheran Church, and is also a trauma program manager at Grant Hospital, giving care and advocacy to co-victims of homicide due to gender-based violence.

“Please note that the final class in this series will be on **March 2**, since Staci is out-of-town for seminary classes in Minneapolis the last week of February.”

Livestream Team Seeks New Members

Redeemer's Live Stream Team is looking for a few new members to help us stream the services. If you are interested in learning how to do this, training is in two sessions and is currently scheduled **for Saturday, Feb 8**.

If interested, please contact **Tom Mimplitch**, by email or text message at: tmimplitch@yahoo.com; 614-390-1072. He reports that **Miles Smith** has already volunteered “so come and join our party.”

Tuesday Bible Study Looks at Stories of Elijah, Elisha

The Tuesday Bible Study is looking at the stories of Elijah and Elisha when the group meets on **Tuesday, Jan. 21**. The group meets from 1-2:30 pm on Tuesdays for the Bible study. Folks can participate in-person or on Zoom.

Redeemer Offers Mobile Messaging Service for Urgent Info

What happens if there is an ice storm or snow and you're not sure if the church will be open for worship? Do you remember last year when we needed to cancel the worship service due to some unexpected HVAC problems?

Kristi Hildebrand reminds folks “you can sign up to receive a text message on your phone whenever there is an urgent situation regarding church.

“This service will be provided by Remind, a service that many local schools use. The schools send out important messages to their families' cell phones so the families can be notified quickly. Redeemer's **Member Care Team** would like to give this service a try here.

“It's super easy to use. Once you sign up, you don't need to do anything. To sign up, just send a text message to 81010 with the message @RLCCBUS and respond to the texts that you get back. Then, If Redeemer needs to notify you of something, the church will send you a text.

“Signing up for ‘Remind’ messages is totally optional, but we anticipate it will be helpful in emergencies. Click [here](#) for more complete directions or reach out to Kristi or **Michele Disbro** for help in signing up.”

Narthex Art Explores Theme of ‘Journey’ for Advent/Epiphany

The latest Narthex Art Exhibit is now up, exploring what “Journey” means to members who contributed a wide variety of pieces. And thanks to **Michelle Clemence** and **Emily Kent** for their work installing the exhibit.

There are many amazing stories represented in the exhibit.

Sign Up Now to Read at Worship Services

Readers for Sunday morning services can now sign up for services over the winter. Readers, including youth and children, are encouraged to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, next to the Library.

Readings are sent out the week before to give folks a chance to go through the lessons ahead of Sunday mornings. **Readers of all ages are encouraged to participate.**

BREAD Update: Non-Police Crisis Response Solution

Kristi Hildebrand reports that, “The Columbus Safety Coalition (CSC) and members of BREAD are actively working on a ballot initiative for the November 2025 election. **Helen Anne Sweeney**, one of the leaders, will be sharing information about this initiative on **Sunday, February 23** during Redeemer’s Adult Ed Forum.

“The vision for the Non-Police Crisis Response Solution is for Columbus to have a coordinated and connected system where non-police teams can be dispatched to calls for non-violent issues involving behavioral health, food/housing insecurity, and mediation. The teams will consist of trained social workers and peer supporters and be available 24x7.

“Columbus currently has some of the ingredients for this, such as mobile response units, but they are not available 24 hours a day or 7 days a week. Columbus also does not have a smooth connection between 911 and 988 (Suicide & Crisis Lifeline).

“In February 2023, Columbus City Council allocated \$1.2 million to create a non-police alternative crisis system, which shows that they believe in this approach. However, the city has no timeline for the beginning steps, which are to begin a pilot program and to appoint a citizen advisory panel. To apply some pressure for council to follow through, CSC is planning to put an initiative on the ballot for the next election, following this timeline:

- March, 2025: File (non confusing) ballot language
- March – July, 2025: Collect & validate 25,000 – 75,000 signatures.
- November 2025: Vote on the initiative
 - “Lots of volunteer opportunities will start in 2025 once the attorneys have finished writing the initiative.
- Collect signatures of registered Columbus voters
- Validate the signatures. (Training will be provided & this can be done from home).
- Encourage people to come out on an “off year” election and vote for the initiative
- Vote yourself
 - “NBC4 did a story about the stalled progress: <https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/columbus/columbus-nonpolice-crisis-response-pilot-program-is-not-ready-for-takeoff/>

Upcoming BREAD Dates

- Non-Police Crisis Response Solution in RLC Adult Forum: **Sunday, Feb. 23** at 11:15 p.m., Room 2 and on Zoom.
- RLC Justice Network Meeting: **Wednesday, March 19** at 6 p.m. (before the Lenten service), Room 2 and on Zoom.
- Rally: **Monday, April 7** at 7 p.m. Location: TBA.
- Nehemiah Action: **Tuesday, May 13** at 6:40 p.m. at the Celeste Center.
- Celebration: **Monday, June 30** at 7 p.m. Location: TBA.

Prayer Offered in Adult Forum

The following prayer was offered by **Ruth Murray** at the conclusion of a recent Adult Forum:

“Lord of the platypus and the otter, your playfulness pervades the earth. Just as you called children to you, help me to remember myself as your child. Take the weight of solemnity off my chest, and replace it with delight and curiosity. Source of joy, help me see the opportunities for playfulness and laughter in life around me, and let me be inspired to participate in your good gifts. Help holy merriment overflow abundantly in my life, as a light that reflects you. In Jesus name, Amen.”

‘Noisy Offering’ Going to BREAD

For Advent and Epiphany, Redeemer’s “Noisy Offering” will go to support the work of BREAD. See above article for more details about what BREAD – Building Responsibility Equality And Dignity – is currently working on.

The group is comprised of many different congregations in the Columbus area which, in turn, represent many different traditions. Each of the congregations believes something different about the nature of God and the name God. But each shares a commitment to pursue justice guided by faith – to finding, in shared beliefs the strength that unity can bring.

The “Noisy Offering” is that donation of loose change that is made as one enters the Sanctuary.

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 are asked for **Al Rider** who will be undergoing surgery this week after breaking his ankle, for **Tammy Carson**, the mother-in-law of **Paula Carson**, who had a stroke, and for the family of **Julie Denniss** on the death of her stepdad **Dale Kinzel**. Prayers continue to be asked for **Ruth Boys**.

Prayers are also asked for the many family members and friends of Redeemer members who are affected by the wildfires in California.

A Note from Ruth Murray

Ruth Murray writes this note to the congregation: “For more than a year you have included my daughter **Ellen Rose** in your prayers. Ellen's illness is treatable but not curable. She has gone through periods of ‘no hope’ to now a brighter side. After brain surgery at Cleveland Clinic plus additional changes, her hope has returned. Although the blood cancer remains, she is doing much better not letting it define her. I want you all to know that your prayers touch both Ellen and me and I am grateful and thank you.”

Christ in Our Home for January-March Available

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

Flower Sign Up Sheet for 2025 Now Up

The sign-up sheet to provide flowers for the worship services in 2025 is now up on the bulletin board next to the Library. This is a good opportunity to remember a loved one, a special occasion or just because. To pay for the flowers use the special envelop that is also available on the bulletin board. They run \$20.

January Birthdays

20-David Detweiler
20-Corinne Montgomery 20-Tony Naess
21-Elizabeth George 21-Shirley Miller**
22-Maureen Callahan 22-Shirley Cannon
24-Sophia Brush 24-Marshall Edgington
24-Kathy Rapp 24-Heath Wolfe
25-Rosalie Highland 26-Jeff Montgomery
28-Bebe McCoy

** Shirley turns **90** this year. Cards can be sent to her at 4050 Wiston Dr., Groveport OH 43125-8910.

The Wider Church

Bishop Eaton Addresses Wildfires, Suggests Contributions to LDR

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton writes, “The images of leaping flames, smoke-choked skies, and the wreckage of homes and habitats in and around Los Angeles are hard to bear. The ongoing, deadly California wildfires have claimed lives, displaced hundreds of thousands of people, and destroyed homes, businesses, schools and houses of worship. The devastation continues as winds spread the flames. So far we know that **Bishop Brenda Bos** of the Southwest California Synod and her wife, **Janis**, lost their home in the Eaton fire. We believe that the fires have touched the lives of many more ELCA members and several congregations as the synod continues to receive damage reports and assess the immediate needs for support.

“The prophet Isaiah writes that even when fires rage, the final word is faith, not fear. God redeems us and calls us by name to be agents of healing and hope, even amid staggering loss. In faith, we respond through prayer, accompaniment and action.

“Please join me in praying that God’s love and care be manifest among all who are impacted by these wildfires. Pray for the firefighters battling unrelenting blazes and for first responders, health care providers and public servants providing safety and support for those impacted. Pray for ELCA ministries as they care for the many needs of their communities. Pray for the long-term well-being of all who are affected by the widespread devastation and who face ongoing danger.”

She went on to suggest that folks can help by contributing to Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR). “Gifts to ‘U.S. Wildfires’ will be used in full to assist those affected by wildfires until the response is complete. To give by phone, call 800-638-3522. Checks or money orders can be mailed to Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.”

ELCA, Augsburg Fortress Sponsor Online Educational Event

This year, the ELCA, in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, will join the movement of racial healing for the church and the nation. On **Tuesday, Jan. 21**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST, the ELCA will feature a free online educational event that centers the voices of ELCA leaders of color.

This event is open to all ELCA rostered ministers, lay leaders, and members. “We welcome all ELCA synods, congregations, colleges, universities, seminaries, separately incorporated ministries, and antiracism teams, as well as the church’s affiliate organizations and ecumenical and interreligious partners. Join us in this collective effort for a more just and equitable world.”

To learn more, go [HERE](#).

IACO, Others to Hold Session on ‘Living with Gratitude’

The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO), the Spiritual Life and Learning Center and the Spirituality Network are holding a “Leaning In: Living with Gratitude” session on **Saturday, Jan. 25** to discuss ways to move forward in these times with respect and civility even when folks don’t see eye to eye.

It runs from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at First Community/Grace Hall. The session will be led by **Mark Hiltz** who will help attendees examine why gratitude is so important.

For registration information, go [HERE](#).

Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust: *Update and Input*

The ELCA reports on the reconsideration of the church’s 2009 social statement, Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust which Redeemer discussed at length in several Sunday Adult Forums. A task force seated by the ELCA Church Council has been hard at work since Spring 2024 on this first reconsideration. The draft edits from the task force are now available online for public feedback [here](#). The public comment period runs until **Jan. 31, 2025**.

At the link above, there are also several resources:

- A copy of the entire Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust social statement with draft edits underlined and highlighted (also available in Spanish);
- A document with Explanations of the Draft Edits, which helps connect each draft edit to the authorization from the 2022 Churchwide Assembly (also available in Spanish and large-print)
- A conversation guide for groups (also available in Spanish and large-print); and
- A survey for people to submit their feedback on the draft edits.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

Jan. 21 Thank God for the gifts given to us through the Spirit, and pray that others might recognize their own unique gifts and see where they are valued and needed.

22 Pray for ELCA directors for evangelical mission, who serve as resources to synods in mission development, congregational renewal and stewardship.

23 Pray for our church’s grassroots Life of Faith initiative, meant to help us to live out our baptismal vocation in daily life, serve our neighbors and work for justice in the diverse contexts of family, workplace, school, community and the world.

24 Pray that we will open all our senses to God's glory, power and voice as revealed in nature — the awe-inspiring and dynamic handiwork of our Creator.

25 Conversion of Paul Give thanks that, for God, all things are possible, even when we do not envision the possibility of lives being changed, hearts softened or faith awakened.

26 Ask God to help us follow Christ's example, being humble, kind, loving, merciful, attentive to our neighbors and quick to respond to their needs.

27 Remember in prayer youth, adults and families involved in service learning and mission trips throughout the year. Pray that they might share the gospel, serve their neighbors in need, participate in the work of global companions and ecumenical partners, and respond to the unique contexts and needs of communities.

Getting Ready for Worship

Third Sunday of Epiphany

January 26, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: 1 Corinthians 12:12-18; Psalm 19; Luke 4:14-21

Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Prayer in Time of Fires

O Lord, when fires rage and consume the land, when homes are reduced to embers and ashes, when families are displaced and tomorrow is uncertain, grant us faith to trust that even the dust will live by your breath. For in you, O Lord, is new life. 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.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Hope Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Joanie and Dave Engel.

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, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sisters Kleta Childs and Karla Weaver, 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, her son-in-law Brandon James, and her niece Olivia Theissen, Skye Andree, Kris Kauffman, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose, Kathie Ehrich, Barbara Hairston and family, Dottie and Larry Bird, Karen Kent, Ruth and Bill Boys, Eileen Welker, Al Rider.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Mary Benis
Cantor	Connie Criswell
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, April Smith
Communion Prep	Kay Ernsthansen, Cathy Oldham
Hospitality	Congregational Potluck

*The flowers are given by Kathleen Zwanziger in honor of Jamie's birthday
The Noisy Offering will go to BREAD.*

Week to Come at Redeemer January 20-27, 2025

Monday		Martin Luther King Holiday
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop 2462
Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	6:30 p.m.	Congregational Council
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki Music
Thursday	10:30 a.m.	Suzuki Music
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 a.m.	Annual Meeting and Congregational Potluck
Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS

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