



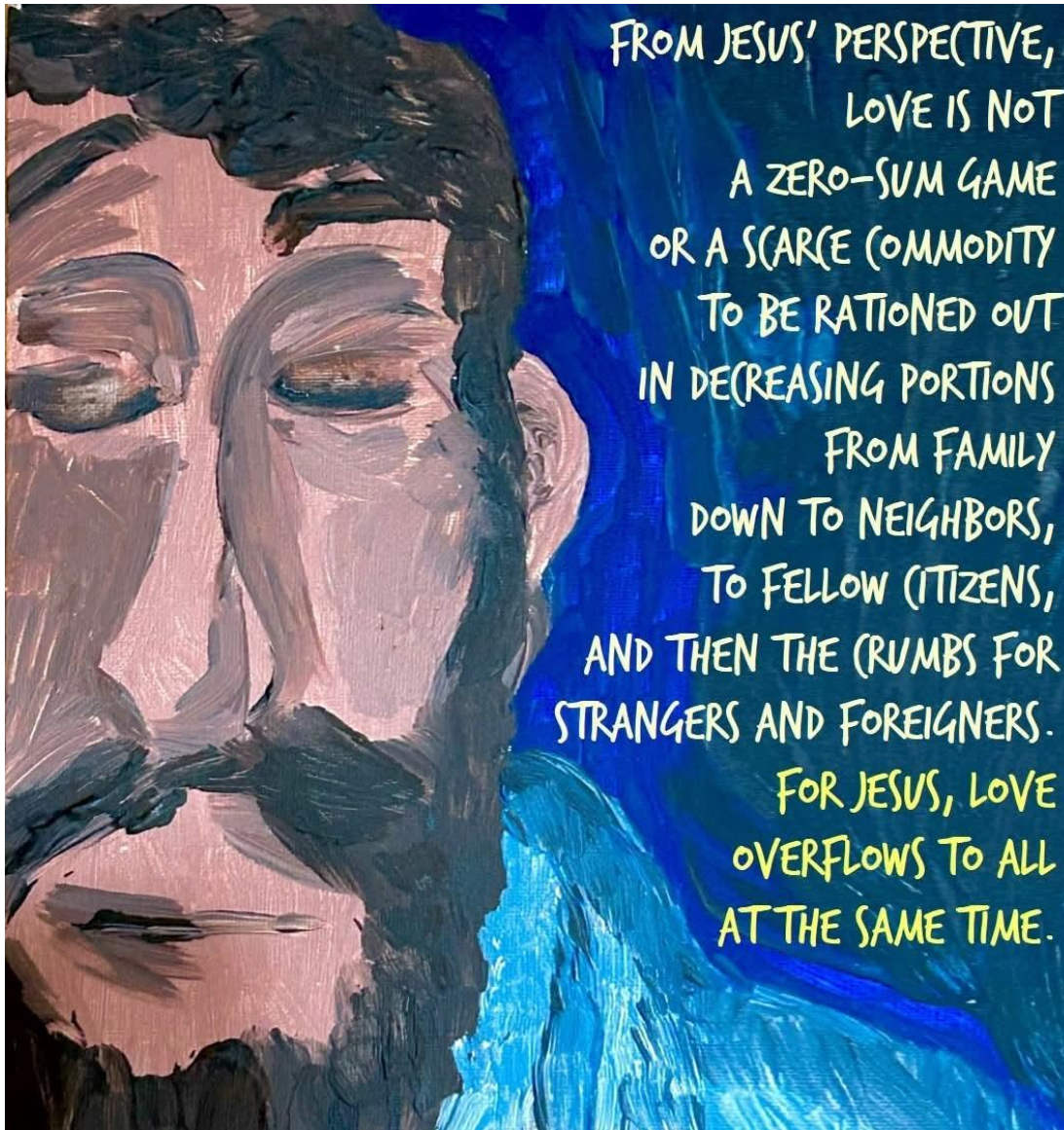
Reflections

VOLUME 29

February 3, 2025

ISSUE 5

Love by Pastor Stephen Bond



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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 - Ashley Bird
Finance Officer - Laura Warren
Secretary - Rich Pautsch
Worship - Michelle Clemence
Education - Karen Rider
Outreach - Mary Benis
Member Support - Kathy Mimitch
Property - April Smith
Stewardship - Kathy Denhard

APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer - Kay Ernsthausen

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Misato In Marques Highland
Sara Auman Rich Pautsch

SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Wendy Stoica, Chair Julie Boreman
John Kennedy Terry Warren
Laura Warren vacant

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd.
Columbus 43227
614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

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 to pick the winner from the Kansas City Chiefs, Philadelphia Eagles or the ads!!

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.

Solar Panels Explored for Redeemer

Julie Johnson reports that last fall the Property Team contacted two companies who install solar panels to find out what would be involved, and what the approximate cost would be to install solar panels on the building. This idea first was raised at least 10 years ago, but the decision was made to not pursue solar because we had teenagers at night who were getting on the roof by climbing on the air conditioning unit in the playground. When that unit had to be replaced, it was moved to the garden area.

The Property Team decided to look into this in light of rising utility prices, especially electric. Redeemer uses more electricity in warm weather because of air conditioning. One month last summer, the church's electric bill was \$1,700. In addition, there is now a federal benefit for nonprofits such as churches.

Both companies that the team spoke to prepared plans and cost estimates. The upfront costs of installing a full array of solar panels was just over \$130,000. Since a nonprofit doesn't pay taxes the federal credit comes later - several months later. Redeemer would get a little over \$30,000 back.

"We will continue to explore how churches are doing this and ways that could assist in upfront costs. If you are interested in exploring this with us, please contact Julie. It would also be helpful to know if members are generally supportive of this or not."

Sunday Adult Forum Looks at Church's Call to Respond to Sexual Violence

The Sunday Adult Forum welcomes **Staci Stought**, a seminary student and a retired sexual assault police officer, who will be offering a Bible study on how churches can be a beacon of healing and hope to the harm of sexual violence within our world for three more weeks. Her class, which began this past Sunday, 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.”

RLC, Christ United Methodist Continue Book Discussion

Running **Wednesday evenings, now through Feb. 19**, Redeemer is joining 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.

Redeemer Holds Annual Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 26, Redeemer held the annual meeting, followed by a potluck lunch.

We recognized and thanked outgoing Congregational Leaders, Council President Krista Skipper, Treasurer Julie Johnson, Secretary Sue Watson, Member Support Elyce Herring, Outreach Diane Brobeck, Education Katie Jacobs, Special Funds Team Chair Dave Engel, Mutual Ministries Team Margie Farnham and Mutual Ministries Team Emlyn Ott.

Ashley Bird was elected Council Vice President. We elected voting members to attend the Southern Ohio Synod Assembly, Wendy Stoica and Scott Steiner. The alternates elected were, Julie Johnson and Brad Phillips.

The 2025 Leadership Team was introduced: Elected by the Congregation to Council: President Brad Binau, Vice President Ashley Bird, Finance Officer Laura Warren, Secretary Rich Pautsch, Education Karen Rider, Member Support Kathy Mimplitch, Outreach Mary Benis, Property April Smith, Stewardship Kathy Denard, Worship Michelle Clemence.

Elected by Congregation to the Special Funds Team: Wendy Stoica Chair, Ashley Bird, John Kennedy, Julie Boreman, and Terry Warren.

Appointed by Congregation Council: Treasurer Kay Ernsthausen.

The Spending Plan (Budget) was discussed. Laura Warren provided a brief summary of significant items in the plan. It was noted that the congregation has plans to replace the fence on the West side of the parking lot and to repave the parking lot. Estimated Costs of \$84,000 will be covered by the \$65,000 in the Building Fund, with the rest coming from general operating funds. The Spending Plan was adopted.

General Announcements:

The Use of Personal Images Policy adopted by Council in December of 2024 has been put on hold, pending resolution of how to incorporate our live streaming ministry into the policy.

Mary Benis of the Member Support team drew attention to the statistical report and the number of people who have been removed from the Redeemer membership rolls. She explained that it had been a number of years since this process had taken place. This year members of Member Support wrote personal letters to those who had not been involved in any way at Redeemer for several years, letting them know they were missed and asking if they'd like to remain members or not. If there was no response, Member Support looked over the names again and then made the decision to remove them from our membership rolls. Mary said in the future Member Support will do this on a more regular basis. Brad Binau noted that this information is important to the Synod office for their research.

Solar Panels were discussed by Julie Johnson. Up front cost would be in the area of \$130,000, with Federal money available after the installation to offset about \$30,000 of that cost. Julie noted that the electric bill some

months approaches \$1700, and that our roofs are well positioned to use solar panels. Julie invited anyone interested to talk to her. (See separate story, this issue.)

From Church Council

To keep the congregation informed about what your Council is doing, each month look for an article that summarizes the significant matters before the Church Council.

The Property Team is investigating improving the accessibility of the main first floor bathrooms. This has been talked about for quite a while and we are moving forward with this.

The church received a gift of \$5,000 from **Charles Bruce**. Some of you may remember him. He was a charter member of Redeemer. His gift will, at the request of his family, be earmarked for the Building and Equipment Fund.

The Personal Images policy adopted by council last December has been put on hold pending reconsideration of the policy in view of the live streaming of the services.

Council asks that when making announcements after worship that people identify themselves and their role related to the announcement.

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, Feb. 4**. The group meets from 1-2:30 pm on Tuesdays for the Bible study. Folks can participate in-person or on Zoom.

Narthex Art Explores Theme of 'Journey' for 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, "Do you have a personal story about a call to 911 for a mental health issue that did not have a good outcome? The team that is working on the ballot initiative for the non-police crisis response is collecting stories. Please reach out to Kristi Hildebrand or Michele Disbro if you have a story that you are willing to share.

Reminder that **Helen Anne Sweeney**, one of the leaders, will be sharing information about this ballot initiative on **Sunday, Feb. 23**, during Adult Education Forum, here at Redeemer at 11:15 a.m.

Upcoming BREAD Dates

- Non-Police Crisis Response Solution in RLC Adult Forum: **Sunday, Feb. 23** at 11:15 a.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.

'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 the safety of **Nancy Magargal’s** grandson **Benjamin** who is losing his temporary protected status and is in danger of being deported and for all who are in this danger. Prayers for comfort are asked for the brother of **LaVerna Reinoehl, Don Kapper**, who received a cancer diagnosis. Prayers for comfort are also asked for **Don** and **Emily Crosley** on the unexpected death of Don’s father last week.

+ + +

Community Directory Update: Margie Frazier and **Dave Lippert** have moved. Their new address is 340 W. Goodale St., Apt. 205, Columbus OH 43215.

Flower Sign Up Sheet for 2025 Now Up

The sign-up sheet to provide flowers for the worship services in 2025 is 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 envelope that is also available on the bulletin board. They run \$20.

February Birthdays

3-Joss Dana

3-Karen Kent 4-Donna Voelkel*

5-Georgene Slagle 6-Richard Amon Jr.

6-Sara Auman 8-Robin Stokes

8-William Goshen 14-Kurt Goshen

15-Nancy Ehrich 16-Heidi Carman

24-Linda Williams 24-Sue Yehling

26-Diane Brobeck 26-Wally Jacobs

28-Colton Day

**Donna turns 91 this month!! Shower her with cards and good wishes!!*

The Wider Church

Bishop Dillahunt Message to the Southern Ohio Synod

Bishop Susan Dillahunt writes, “My office has received questions about the safety and security of church buildings as changes occur with immigration policies in the United States. There is a lot of misinformation, unfounded rhetoric, and unclear policies being communicated, increasing the fear of the unknown. As we navigate this together, I wanted to share with you some resources to assist the ministries in the Southern Ohio Synod—congregations, campus ministries, food pantries, schools, and preschools. Your ministries are vital to the communities you serve. Below are some beginning resources that can help you:

- **Global Refuge** (formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services or LIRS) website is a good starting point. Their resource page is linked [here](#).
- **Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities** (AMMPARO) is an ELCA Ministry, under the larger ministry of ELCA Advocacy. You may learn more about their ministry [here](#) and access their resources [here](#).
- If you would like to subscribe to **ELCA Advocacy's alert emails**, you may do so [here](#). This will be a helpful resource for future resources.
- Deacon Nick Bates (**Hunger Network in Ohio**) is available for conversation as he continues working on policies at the state and national levels. You may email him [here](#).
- Consult [this document](#) from the **National Immigration Law Center**. It was shared with us from the ELCA. This is especially important for our schools and preschools.

As we receive more information and resources we will share them with you on the synod website, through our weekly emails, and/or on social media.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

Feb. 3 Ask God to help us move beyond our apprehensions, anger and entrenched beliefs so that we might confess and address deeply rooted aspects of racism that poison relationships, workplaces, society and the church. Pray for the Spirit to remind us that we are children of God who live in grace and are called to love, respect and serve one another — complexities, differences and all.

4 Among all our gifts and abilities, the most important is love for God and our neighbors — family, strangers and siblings in Christ alike. Praise God for teaching us what love entails through the selfless, unreserved and undeserved love of Jesus Christ for humankind.

5 Pray for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries of the ELCA, which seeks, supports, nurtures and sends pastors and seminary students to serve as federal chaplains and chaplain candidates for the U.S. military, Veterans Affairs hospitals and federal correctional institutions. Give thanks for chaplains and the gifts that the Spirit nurtures within them as they serve in unique contexts.

6 Lift up prayers and songs of praise to God for being the bright light in the world that illuminates the one true and enduring source of hope, guidance and eternal life — Jesus Christ.

7 Use the words of Psalm 71:3 in your prayer to God today: “Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.”

8 Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who labor in one or more jobs to meet basic daily needs for themselves and their families. Ask God to strengthen and sustain their spiritual and physical strength and to help us be supportive, caring and generous neighbors.

9 Ask God to help us be attentive and responsive to how God speaks to us through Scripture, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the work of the Spirit and the encouragement and admonition offered by our siblings in Christ.

Getting Ready for Worship

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 9, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Psalm 138; Luke 5:1-11

Prayer of the Day

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, 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.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Ibada ya Kiswahili Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Becky and Jessica Fisher and Ghideon Tsehaye Mehari.

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, Ruth and Bill Boys, Eileen Welker, Al Rider, Nancy Magargal's grandson Benjamin.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Emily Ott
Cantor	Scott Steiner
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Nate Ott
Vergers	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Sue Yehling, Michele Disbro
Communion Prep	Diane Brobeck, Sue Watson, Kathleen Zwanziger
Hospitality	Katie and Ruby Jacobs

*Flowers are given by Carol Heacock in memory of Stan
The Noisy Offering will go to BREAD.*

Week to Come at Redeemer
February 3-February 10, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	4:30 p.m.	ZOOM Executive Team
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts #2462
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	2:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	5:15 p.m.	Outreach Team
	7:00 p.m.	Berwick Civic Association
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki Music
	12:30-4:00 p.m.	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
	6:30 pm	Book Discussion at Christ UMC
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 and Healing Prayer
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed
	11:15 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
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