

Reflections

VOLUME 29 February 10, 2025 ISSUE 6

Trump Advisors Target Lutheran Agencies

Sunday morning, **Pastor Dave** opened the worship service with the following update on developments by the Trump administration and advisor **Elon Musk** with regard to Lutheran charitable organizations:

"Grace and peace to you from the God who calls us to love the powerless and the hated with an especially fierce kind of love. We need to show that kind of love in these days.

"Last week, **Michael Flynn**, who was a national security advisor during **President Donald Trump's** first term, accused a number of Lutheran organizations of using "'religion" as a money laundering operation.' Although the focus of his attack seemed to be on immigrant and refugee assistance, the Lutheran-supported programs he targeted also assist with foster care, adoption, Head Start, food pantries, elder care, and resources for victims of domestic abuse. Flynn pledged to 'examine them all and shut them down.' Presidential advisor **Elon Musk** retweeted Flynn's statements. He said he and his team would be 'rapidly shutting down these illegal payments.'

"Neither man offered proof of any illegal payments.

"In response, our presiding bishop, **Elizabeth Eaton** said, 'The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America remains steadfast in our commitment and work with our many Lutheran partners and expressions of our church – work we have done with legally-admitted refugees and immigrants for 85 years. Our call to love our neighbors as ourselves remains steadfast. Be of good courage, Church. Let us persevere.' More than one pastor in this country has called Christians' support for immigrants and refugees "the sin of empathy."

"We must remember who we follow and how Jesus calls us to live. The hymn we are about to sing ["Will You Come and Follow Me?"] reminds us of what a life following **Jesus** looks like. And if some religious and political leaders in our country say empathy is a sin, then, truly, we who follow Jesus must sin boldly.

"One way we resist cruelty and fear is by coming together for worship. One way we show our good courage and persevere as followers of Jesus is to sing with one voice about the Jesus whose compassion and justice we will never stop trying to make real. In body or spirit, please stand and face the cross as we unite our voices in resistance and praise."

In This Issue

<u>Trump Advisors Target Lutheran</u>
<u>Agencies</u>

The Redeemer Community
The Wider Church
The Community Beyond
Prayers & Personals
Getting Ready for Sunday

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

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Reflections Editor - Judith Bird

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 Mimlitch
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

And Redeemer's Souper Bowl Results Are In!!!

Kathy Zwanziger writes, "Wow! was I surprised that the Super Bowl commercials were not the winner of Redeemer's informal poll Sunday!

"First, an explanation: there were a couple of checks that had no designation, so I divided them as equally as possible. The Kansas City Chiefs garnered 169 'votes' (i.e., dollars), the vast majority of them from those divided checks. The commercials received a total of 265 votes, but the winner by far was the team from Philadelphia, the Eagles, with a total of \$1,198.01!

"Obviously, the biggest winner of all is the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry with a total of \$1,800.01, along with several cans of food.

"By the time you read this article, you will know if you backed the right team. Because the Food Pantry coordinator said we could collect for more than one Sunday, the bowls will be left out one more week on the table near the kitchenette, should you choose to 'reward' the victor – or sympathize with the other team.

"A huge thank you to all of you who participated in our 'poll."

RLC, Christ United Methodist Continue Book Discussion Here at Redeemer

Running <u>Wednesday evenings</u>, 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.' This discussion will now move to Redeemer for the final two sessions. It is also available on Zoom from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

"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.

From the Property Team

"Please do not use the triple sink in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. We are having drain issues and have already had one plumber out who was not able to solve the problem. We will continue to pursue a solution. The single sink in the kitchen is usable but as always, please do not put food waste or grease down the drain.

"Thank you for your patience and cooperation."

Outreach Team Seeks Hospitality Supplies

Jon Disbro writes, "I think we all appreciate the snacks and drinks provided after worship in the Narthex and the visiting that goes on over those treats. Thanks to the volunteers who help set up and the folks who donate supplies.

"If you see any cookies for sale or have a favorite you'd like to enjoy with others. Please buy those and leave them on the counter in the kitchenette. We have a pretty good supply now but with Girl Scout cookies available it's a good time to think about buying and donating an extra box to Redeemer.

"Also, if you are interested in volunteering to set up the refreshments, there is a sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board, and I'd be happy to give an orientation to the process."

Brewing Faith Meets Tuesday on Zoom

The Brewing Faith small group will meet <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>Feb. 11</u> at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. This week's conversation topic, from **Rich Pautsch**, is "Have you ever had an epiphany? What happened? Were you alone or in a group? What did you learn? How did it feel?"

Rich writes there are different types of epiphanies:

- "Personal: A sudden realization about yourself, such as understanding a long-standing emotional pattern, discovering your true desires.
- "Intellectual: A moment of sudden clarity or understanding such as grasping a difficult concept in science, philosophy or literature.



- "Creative: A moment of inspiration in art, writing, music or other creative field, where a new idea emerges out of nowhere.
- "Spiritual: A deep realization about the nature of God or your spiritual path.
- "Moral: A realization about right and wrong, leading to a shift in ethical values, recognizing bias or understanding the suffering of another.
- "**Relational:** A realization about the true nature of a relationship.
- "Existential: An insight about your purpose or meaning in your life"

To join the discussion via Zoom, go to the following link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81911937912?pwd=dJdLmTwhZGznU9DEdQRx33IOgKfYQS.1; Meeting ID: 819 1193 7912 Passcode: 438098.

'Care Kits' Now Available to Hand Out

With the assistance of Redeemer's youth, "Care Kits" have now been assembled and are available for members to give out to anyone they find in need. The kits can be found on the table in the Narthex by the coatroom.

Also, take a bottle of water to hand out.

Members are encouraged to supplement the kits with \$5 in the kit and/or by also giving a book.

The kits include items such as chapstick, small bottles of lotion, hand warmers, soft breakfast bars, small packets of wipes or small bottles of hand sanitizer.

Sunday Adult Forum Continues Look at Church's Response 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."

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."

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: <u>Wednesday, March 19</u> 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: <u>Tuesday, May 13</u> at 6:40 p.m. at the Celeste Center.
- Celebration: Monday, June 30 at 7 p.m. Location: TBA.

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 <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>Feb. 11</u>. The group meets from 1-2:30 pm on Tuesdays for the Bible study. Folks can participate in-person or on Zoom.

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.

'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

<u>Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

<u>Info@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for communicating with the office, *Reflections* newsletter, **Office Manager**

Becky Trover, healing prayer requests or for general information.

<u>MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – 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.

<u>Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – 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.

<u>SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

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

<u>Communications@redeemerluth.com</u> – 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 healing are also asked for **Tom Rider**, brother of **Al Rider** and for **Charlotte Frank**, **Kelley Frank's** mother.

+++

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

14-Kurt Goshen 15-Nancy Ehrich 16-Heidi Carman 24-Linda Williams 24-Sue Yehling 26-Diane Brobeck 26-Wally Jacobs 28-Colton Day

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 <u>here</u>. 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.

Addresses for Ohio's Congressional Delegation

In response to a request from a *Reflections* reader, the list of the names and addresses for members of Ohio's Congressional delegation are as follows: *It is always best to contact your own representative*.



U.S. Senate

Senate Office Building | Washington, D.C | 20515

Husted, Jon 202.224.3353

198 Russell SOB

(R) District office to be announced.

Moreno, Bernie 202.224.2315 SR-B33 Russell SOB (R) District: 614.469.2083 200 N. High St., Room 618 Columbus OH 43215

U.S. House

House Office Building | Washington, D.C | 20515

Balderson, Troy 202.225.5355 2429 Rayburn HOB (R) District 12: 614.523.2555 12931 Stonecreek Dr. Pickerington, OH 43147

Beatty, Joyce 202.225.4324 2079 Rayburn HOB (D) District 3: 614.220.0003 471 E. Broad St., ste 1100 Columbus, OH 43215

Brown, Shontel 202.225.7032 2455 Rayburn HOB (D) District 11: 216.522.4900 25200 Chagrin Blvd. Ste 200 Beachwood, OH 44122

Carey, Mike 202.225.2015 1433 Longworth HOB (R) District 15: 614.927.6902 140 E Town St. ste 1200 Columbus, OH 43215

Davidson, Warren 202.225.6205 2113 Rayburn HOB (R) District 8: 937.339.1524 4879 Mercedes Dr. ste. A, Liberty Twp. OH 45011

Jordan, Jim 202.225.2676 2056 Rayburn HOB (R) District 4: 419.999.6455 3121 W. Elm Plaza Lima, OH 45805

Joyce, David 220.225.5731 2065 Rayburn HOB (R) District 14: 440.352.3939 8500 Station St. Mentor, OH 44060

Kaptur, Marcy 202.225.4146 2314 Rayburn HOB (D) District 9: 419.259.7500

1 Maritime Plaza, room 600 Toledo, OH 43604

Landsman, Greg 202.225.2216 2244 Rayburn HOB (D) District 1: 513.810.7988 961 E. McMillan St., ste. C-1 Cincinnati, OH 45206

Latta, Bob 202.225.6405 2470 Rayburn HOB (R) District 5: 419.354.8700 1045 N. Main St., ste 6 Bowling Green, OH 43402

Miller, Max 202.225.3876 143 Cannon HOB (R) District 7: 440.692.6120 7335 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129

Rulli, Michael 202.225.5705 2082 Rayburn HOB (R) District 6: 330.967.7312 4137 Boardman-Canfield Rd. ste 106 Canfield, OH 44406

Sykes, Emilia 202.225.6265 1217 Longworth HOB (D) District 13: 330.400.5350 121 S. Main St., ste 107 Akron, OH 44308

Taylor, David 202.225.3164 325 Cannon HOB (R) District 2: 513.474.7777 4350 Aicholtz Rd. ste 110 Cincinnati, OH 45245

Turner, Mike 202.225.6465 2183 Rayburn HOB (R) District 10: 937.225.2843 120 W. 3rd St., ste 305 Dayton, OH 45402



Synod Assembly Set for June 6-7

The Southern Ohio Synod Assembly will be held Friday-Saturday, June 6-7 at the Africa Event Center at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. This year's theme is "Anchored in Christ: Freed to Serve."

Redeemer's delegates to the assembly are **Wendy Stoica** and **Scott Steiner**. Alternates are **Julie Johnson** and **Brad Phillips. Pastor Dave** also attends.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

- **Feb. 10** Give thanks for the ELCA's commitment to accompany and work with interreligious partners, including the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, an initiative that connects, equips and mobilizes leaders and members of faith communities to address anti-Muslim discrimination and violence, foster greater understanding and shift attitudes about Islam and Muslims in our country.
- 11 What tasks feel overwhelming to you right now? Ask God to renew your spirit for undertaking those things that are difficult to work through and accomplish.
- 12 Remember in prayer our ministries in nine African countries. Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel, International Women Leaders and Young Adults in Global Mission who work alongside companion churches to help spread the gospel, equip leaders, grow the church and respond to community needs.
- 13 We are recipients and beneficiaries of the good news of Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and imperfections and defied the finality of death so that we could live with newfound freedom in this world, and forever in the kingdom of God.
- 14 Give thanks to God for the leaders of our church who respond to God's call by serving as ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service. Ask the Spirit to sustain their faith, inspire their joy in ministry and equip them with gifts and skills for serving in diverse and challenging contexts.
- 15 Pray for peace, healing and justice, especially in the critical contexts of Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, the Middle East, troubled regions of Africa and wherever conflict and war exist in the world.
- **16** Remember in prayer those impacted by the wildfires in Southern California and by severe winter weather, and those involved in long-term recovery from disasters. Give thanks for Lutheran Disaster Response and for synods and congregations that provide financial support, resources, volunteers and encouragement.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 16, 2025 – 10 a.m. Lessons

Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; Luke 6:17-26

Prayer of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, 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**.



Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of Intercessor Lutheran Mission in Columbus.
- + For Redeemer community members Kelley Frank and Trina Thorton.

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, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister Pastor Dave Shull

Assisting Minister Joss Dana

Cantor Emily Kent

ASL Interpreter Bryan Neal

Usher Kathleen Zwanziger

Verger Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica

Producers **Toshi Phillips**, **Sachio Phillips**

Communion Prep Diane Brobeck, Sue Watson, Kathleen Zwanziger

Hospitality Ashley and Judith Bird

Flowers are given by Kathleen Zwanziger in honor of Jeremy Hutton's birthday
The Noisy Offering will go to BREAD.

Week to Come at Redeemer February 10-February 17, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music TOPS
Tuesday	1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Bible Study Suzuki Music A Brewing Faith via Zoom
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. 6:30 pm	Suzuki Music Book Discussion at Redeemer and on Zoom
Thursday	10:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Suzuki Music Berwick/Bexley Dementia Support Group
Sunday	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed Forum Girl Scouts # 1143
Monday	3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Suzuki Music TOPS Girl Scouts #2462