



Reflections

VOLUME 29

February 17, 2025

ISSUE 7

A Tribute to Bishop Kelley

Editor's Note: **Pastor** ... later **Bishop Kelley**, who died this past week at the age of 95, served Redeemer from 1972 until 1985. A memorial service will be held **Saturday, March 1** at Clinton Heights Lutheran Church (15 Clinton Heights Ave., Columbus). Visitation begins at 11:30 a.m. with the service set to begin at 1 p.m. The Southern Ohio Synod provided the following tribute:

Bishop Robert W. Kelley, 95, of Powell, OH died Feb. 12, 2025, while in the care of National Church Residences' Hospice Services, and Cotter House Worthington. He was born in Brunswick, MD on April 12, 1929, to C. Earl and Margaret (Winters) Kelley. He is predeceased by Marline (Spille) Kelley, his wife of 64 years; his parents; sister, Jean Kelley Hopkins; brothers-in-law, Stuart Hopkins and Robert Spille; sister-in-law, Deloris Spille; nephew, Paul Kelley Hopkins, and grandnephew, Stuart Anthony Nemetz.

Robert is survived by his son, Kevin and his wife Kaz, granddaughter, Samantha; and granddaughters, Laura and Catherine Kelley (and their mother, Kim Kelley); daughter, Kathleen and her husband, Frank King; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Robert was a child of God, who was born, baptized, raised, and ordained in the Lutheran faith and served parishes in Eggertsville and South Newstead, NY; Euclid, Columbus, and Akron, OH. He was Bishop of the Ohio Synod, American Lutheran Church (September-December 1985; January 1986-December 1987), and the Northeast Ohio Synod of the merged Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (1988). He understood that faith does not belong to one denomination. He put this into action through work with and leadership of the Columbus-based Ohio Council of Churches. He was also involved with and supported Church World Services, and the CROP hunger walk.

Robert graduated (1947) Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, which prepared him to graduate (1950) in three years from Capital University, Bexley, OH. Following graduation he entered Mount Wilson State Hospital (Maryland) for a year of rest, nutrition, and open-air treatment for tuberculosis. He then returned to Ohio, attending Trinity Lutheran Seminary until a second bout of tuberculosis sent him back to Mount Wilson for another year of care, during which he benefitted from streptomycin. Robert graduated Trinity and was ordained in 1957. In 1987 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Capital University. In 1995 he was bestowed the honorary title of Bishop Emeritus of the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Robert was attending Trinity Seminary in 1952 when he met Marline (a student at Capital University). They dated and then wrote letters to each other during his year of internship (1953) in San Antonio, TX, after which she moved to Maryland, worked at Fairchild Aircraft, and lived with his mother to be close while Robert was again treated for tuberculosis.

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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 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 Emily Kent
John Kennedy Terry Warren
vacant Laura Warren [ex officio]

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Redeemer's Souper Bowl Total Increases to Over \$1,800

Kathy Zwanziger writes that there is a new Souper Bowl total: \$1,840.01 with the addition Sunday of additional votes for the Eagles and some for the Puppy Bowl! This will be forwarded on to the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry, along with the canned goods that have already been delivered!

“Thanks to all of you who made this happen!”

Kathy also noted that when the Redeemer team served at the Food Pantry earlier this month, a total of 204 guests received food “that YOU have helped make possible!”

RLC, Christ United Methodist Book Discussion Concludes This Week Here at Redeemer

The joint book discussion between Redeemer and members from Christ United Methodist Church of the book *Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love*, by Duke University professor **William H. Willimon** concludes this week on **Wednesday evening Feb. 19** here at Redeemer. It is also available on Zoom from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

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

Sunday Adult Forum to Hear from BREAD on Non-Police Crisis Response

On **Sunday, Feb. 23**, Redeemer's Adult Forum will hear from **Helen Anne Sweeney** regarding a ballot initiative from BREAD for a non-police crisis response. This grew out of concerns over 9-1-1 calls for a mental health issue that did not necessarily have a good outcome. The class begins at 11:15 a.m., following worship, both in-person and on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83475541581?pwd=PEyYLFqECnuQBzf9bSbagxGY44GXcU.1>; Meeting ID: 834 7554 1581; Passcode: 752230; or via Phone only: 1-312-626-6799.

The discussion on the church's response to sexual violence with **Staci Stought** will resume for its final session on **Sunday, March 2** since Staci is out-of-town for seminary classes in Minneapolis this next weekend.

Variety of Lenten Services, Activities Planned; Volunteers Sought

Yes, Lent is not that far away, beginning on **Ash Wednesday, March 5** when Redeemer will hold worship services at both 7 a.m. (in-person only) and 7 p.m. (both in-person and livestream).

Then from **Wednesday, March 12** through **April 9**, Lenten Soup and Conversation will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Narthex. The sign-up sheet to provide soup, bread or a dessert is on the bulletin board next to the Library.

Midweek Lenten services run those same Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Volunteers are sought to share a story about a time they experienced a period of silence – maybe long, maybe brief – and how that silence blessed them with some kind of wisdom, insight, discovery or revelation. What did that silence teach you? Presenters are also asked to come up with a Bible passage that speaks to the theme of what the silence taught you.

The sign up sheet for this is also on the bulletin board next to the Library.

From the Property Team Re: Fellowship Hall Kitchen

“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.”

'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 include.

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.

Michele Disbro thanks everyone who contributed items or cash and who helped assemble the kits!

Sister Act to Explore Personal Prayer Practices

Sister Act will gather **Wednesday, Feb. 26** at 6:30 p.m. in the Redeemer Sanctuary for an interactive exploration of personal prayer practices. Together attendees will learn about and try various ways of being present with the Divine.

As this gathering will be more reflective and intimate, it will be an in person only gathering. A resource handout will be available for those unable to attend in person. If you have any questions, please contact **Kelley Frank** at kelleynotez@yahoo.com or 740-475-8498.

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. (See separate story, this issue.)

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.

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. 18**. 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.

Bishop Kelley *cont'd from p. 1*

Marline taught Robert to drive prior to their marriage on Dec. 28, 1955 in Greenville, OH. Marline supported Robert and his ministry, managing home and children while he gave priority to his vocation. Together they raised their children to be independent thinkers, responsible, considerate, and members of the Lutheran faith.

As Bishop, Robert was afforded opportunities for international travel, which he and Marline had not previously experienced. They had the privilege of meeting Bishop Desmond Tutu while on a multi-week church trip throughout South Africa. Robert admitted his cultural naiveté at one event, which led to his clapping along with the rhythmic chanting of the crowd, only to later learn the chant translation was, "One settler, one bullet." Had he not been sitting on a stage with other dignitaries that might have been a lesser faux pas. Robert and Marline developed relationships on that trip that led to reciprocal church leader visits to the United States, and a child who claimed them as adopted grandparents. A trip to Switzerland was another they took together, but when Robert went to Rome and had an audience with the Pope John Paul II, Marline was not along. Robert also travelled to Brazil and experienced the Christ the Redeemer statue.

Robert was generally reserved, could be intimidating, but could also cause peals of laughter with his quick and unexpected wit. His granddaughters, in particular, knew that Papa might be a tough cookie on the outside but had a soft, gooey center. He had high standards for himself, and his family, yet knew none is perfect and that forgiveness is divine.

Robert was a voracious reader and frequent visitor to the Powell library. He received the Dispatch and numerous periodicals until his death.

Robert enjoyed music and singing, was a member of many choirs, including the German Maennerchor (Columbus). Robert appreciated gardening and throughout his life had house and office plants (including a tree), and a vegetable garden in every back yard. He enjoyed watching baseball, basketball, and football, favoring Cleveland teams, yet succumbed to Columbus college football fandom in his later years.

Robert's attachment to Maryland never waned. Short-term memory loss dementia did not diminish his long-term memory, which ensured his children and grandchildren can recite from memory many childhood stories.

Robert lived "independently" for four years at the home he shared with Marline after her death in 2020. His children, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and granddaughters provided assisted living to him there longer than was probably wise due to the desire to support his sense of independence and gain his agreement that he should not be living alone. It was almost six months to the day after he moved into Cotter House Worthington that he left this world and joined his Lord and Savior in heaven.

The family acknowledges and thanks the staff at Cotter House Worthington for their care of "Mr. Robert," and their efforts to help him live his best possible life in his 95th year.

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

The **Trover Family** offers prayers of thanksgiving that Becky's great niece **Olivia** is safely back in the United States.

+ + +

Prayers are asked for **Charlotte Frank, Kelley Frank’s** mother, who is undergoing treatment at the hospital at OSU following a series of falls. Prayers also for **LaVerna Reinoehl** and family on the death of her **brother Don Kapper**.

+ + +

Becky Trover may be interested in borrowing an air mattress early in March. If you have one you would be willing to lend, please contact her at 614.284.0522

+ + +

Pastor Dave Out of Town Sunday, Feb. 23; Joss Dana, Rich Pautsch to Preach

Because **Pastor Dave** will be attending a memorial service in Boston next weekend, **Joss Dana** and **Rich Pautsch** will be providing Sunday morning message. **Pastor Larry Trover** will preside.

In addition, **Pastor Julianne Smeck** will be providing emergency pastoral care coverage for **Friday-Sunday, Feb. 21-23**. Her phone number is 734-972-6126.

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

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 [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.

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. 17 Pray for the 300 health and human service organizations that form the alliance of Lutheran Services in America and serve more than 6 million people every year in the United States and the Caribbean. Pray that our work together through these organizations will provide us with abundant resources and skills to respond to the unique needs of people of all ages.

18 “I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you” (Isaiah 43:1-2). Give thanks and praise to God for being our ever present help in every circumstance of life.

19 Praise God for the work of the Spirit, which creates and nurtures our faith and hope in Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, whose love has no limits and endures through our ups and downs.

20 World Day of Social Justice (UN) Ask for God's help to advance social justice everywhere, to foster healthy societies and economies, to end inequality and discrimination, and to increase inclusion — issues critical for the well-being of our neighbors and communities.

21 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

22 Remember in prayer our ministries in nine countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Pray for ELCA Global Mission personnel and Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers, who help deepen relationships of accompaniment with companion churches and who work to develop leaders, strengthen education and health ministries, and confront issues of migration and gender justice.

23 “Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you” (Luke 6:27-28). Pray for humility and courage to love our neighbors as God has loved us.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany February 23, 2025 – 10 a.m. Lessons

Readings: Genesis 45:3-11, 14-15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Luke 6:27-38

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 Lord of Life Lutheran Mission in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Margie Frazier and Dave Lippert.

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 and their son-in-law Brandon James, 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, Tom Rider, Nancy Magargal's grandson Benjamin, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, LaVerna Reinoehl and family on the death of her brother Don Kapper.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Larry Trover
Preachers	Joss Dana and Rich Pautsch
Assisting Minister	Lynn Belhorn
Cantor	Heidi Sherer
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Ruth Murray
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Judith Bird, April Smith
Communion Prep	Diane Brobeck, Sue Watson, Kathleen Zwanziger
Hospitality	Sara Auman and Julianne Johnson

*Flowers are given by Ruth Murray and Donna Voelkel celebrating their anniversary.
The Noisy Offering will go to BREAD.*

Week to Come at Redeemer
February 17-February 24, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	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
	6:30 p.m.	Congregational Council
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki Music
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	6:30 pm	Book Discussion at Redeemer and on Zoom
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.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed Forum
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