



Reflections

VOLUME 29

February 24, 2025

ISSUE 8

Each of Us Has a Story. *Invite Us into Yours.*

Since I give a message around 46 Sundays a year, I assume you hear more than enough from me – more than enough thoughts, reflections, feelings, perceptions, stories. When I first came, I really appreciated the way Redeemer and Christ United Methodist Church came together on Good Friday evenings and members of those communities shared their responses to the seven last words of Christ. Setting up the service like this means the pastors of both congregations are confident members have stories to share that will bring those words alive. So of course people are invited to let us into their stories so the Spirit can touch us, challenge us, heal us, embrace us.

My experience of these Good Friday services has led me to invite you to share a brief reflection at our services of Evening Prayer. While the last couple of years we haven't had a spoken reflection during Advent in order to create a more quiet, meditative mood, we still have your reflections during the Lenten Evening Prayer services, which begin **Wednesday evening, March 5**, and go for the next five weeks. I do this for the same reason we have members lead reflections on the seven last words: serving as a pastor for over 30 years makes it abundantly clear to me that each of us has a story and it is a remarkable gift when you invite us into yours.

During our Wednesday evening Lenten sung prayer service, we sing these words from Psalm 16:

*From of old you are my heritage, you my wisdom and my safety,
through the night you speak within my heart, silently you teach me.*

What's a story you have about a time when a period of silence taught you something? What wisdom, insight, clarity, discovery, or revelation came to you during some period of silence you experienced?

It might have been silence you chose to experience. Or it might have been silence that felt more imposed – like the silence of loneliness, illness, depression, a power outage, traffic jam or flight delay, waiting in a hospital room for a loved one to come back from surgery, the silence of a home in which someone who used to be there with you no longer is.

Whatever the circumstances of your time of silence, what's a story of some gift that came out of that silence? What was that gift? How did you receive it, and how did it change you?

Email, text, or phone me if you have any questions.

Please sign up in the hallway outside the Library to share your five-minute story during one of the Wednesday night services.

Because each of us has a story inside us. And, whether you believe it or not, each of us will be blessed in surprising ways when you invite us into yours.

Dave Shull

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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 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

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.

Adult Forum Concludes Discussion of Response to Sexual Violence

The discussion on the church's response to sexual violence with **Staci Stought** resumes for its final session on **Sunday, March 2**.

Staci, a seminary student and a retired sexual assault police officer, offers a Bible study on how churches can be a beacon of healing and hope to the harm of sexual violence within our world. Her class has gone beyond traditional boundary training to explore the transformative role of faith communities.

She 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.

Come, even if you weren't able to attend the sessions earlier this month.

Death, Dying, and Grieving - Adult Education in March

Ash Wednesday will launch Redeemer into Lenten reflection on our mortality and God's promise to bring life out of death. **Emily Kent** and **Brad Binau** will explore these themes for three Sundays in March in an adult education class, "Death, Dying, and Grieving."

March 9 - Death: Grieving our Losses.

All our losses are a kind of death and all our losses require grief work. We will name and explore different kinds of losses and the fundamentals of good grief work that can result in remembering with less pain.

March 16 - Dying: Experiencing Physical Death

"End-of-life doulas" have special gifts to help us become more comfortable with our own mortality and navigate end-of-life issues for ourselves and those we love. We will explore our attitudes about bodies and how we care for them at the end of life and after death.

March 23 - Grieving: Remembering Life

Good grief work can help us remember the past with less pain and anticipate the future hopefully -- some theologians call this "remembering the future." We will explore funeral and burial practices and how they can facilitate or impede how we remember. We will discuss the role of Redeemer's Remembrance Garden as part of the congregation's mission and ministry.

Narthex Art Theme to Change for Lent

The current art installation's "journey" is coming to an end. The Art Team will be changing the exhibit in the Narthex to give the congregation some ideas to reflect upon during the Lenten season.

If you loaned the church a piece of art for the Christmas/Epiphany journey, please take it home within the next couple weeks. Thank you!

March 23 Deadline to Order Easter Flowers

It's time to order Easter flowers. We will be receiving orders beginning **March 2** through **March 23rd**. As in past years you have the option of white Easter Lilies (\$12.50 per pot), tulips with a choice of red, yellow, purple and/or pink (\$7.50 per pot). The envelopes to order are on the bulletin board in the hallway opposite the coat room. After you complete the envelope, place the money in the envelope, seal and place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions regarding ordering flowers, please contact Kay Ernsthause at KAErnsthause@gmail.com

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.

Redeemer to Serve to Serve at First English March 13

Kay Ernsthansen reports that, on **Thursday, March 13**, Redeemer is scheduled to provide the dinner at First English. The menu, which will serve 150, includes Sloppy Joe sandwiches, tater tots, green beans, individually wrapped cookies or brownies. It runs from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Servers are also needed.

To volunteer, sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, next to the Library.

Following is the Sloppy Joe recipe from **Kathy Mimlitch**:

- 2 pounds lean ground beef or ground turkey
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tsp prepared yellow mustard
- 1 1/2 cups ketchup
- 6 tsp brown sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a medium skillet over medium heat, brown the ground beef, onion and green pepper. Drain off liquids. Stir in garlic powder, mustard, ketchup and brown sugar. Mix thoroughly. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. This makes ~ 12 servings.

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!

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.

Upcoming BREAD Dates

- 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. 25**. 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

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

RLC Visitor to Perform in '*The Book of Will*'

Gary Brose, a frequent visitor at Redeemer, will portray one of the main characters in an upcoming play at The Lancaster Playhouse. The play is *The Book of Will*, which tells the fictionalized story of the challenges facing friends of **William Shakespeare** after his death, as they attempt to collect and publish his plays.

The playhouse is at Maria's Event Space, 129 E. Main St. in Lancaster. Performances will be on **Friday-Saturday, March 7-8** and **Friday-Sunday, March 14-16**. For more information or to order tickets, go [HERE](#).

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

March Birthdays

1-Todd Darst 1-Kathy Denhard
3-Ranel Hoddinott 3-Larry Trover
4-Petra Williams 7-Earl Bradley
8-Helen Brunston 8-Al Rider
13-Dave Engel 14-Laura Warren
14-Tim Watson 15-Kristi Hildebrand
17-David Williams 24-Carol Heacock
27-Margie Farnham 30-Colin Young

The Wider Church

CU Sponsors Nelson Lecture Series March 18, 20

Capital University (CU) is sponsoring the Nelson Lecture on **Tuesday and Thursday, March 18 and 20**. Tuesday events include worship in the Gloria Dei Worship Center at 10 a.m. and an interactive lecture at 7 p.m. that evening. “The Blanket Exercise” is an interactive journey through 500+ years of Indigenous history. “Engage, reflect and learn in this powerful, immersive experience. Ages 15+ are welcome.” Due to the nature of this exercise, prompt arrival is required. No admittance once the exercise begins.

Then on Thursday, **Vance Blackfox**, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and founder and director of Other + Wise, will speak in Cap’s Convergent Media Center beginning at 7 p.m. A reception follows at 8:30 p.m.

LMC to Hold Maple Syrup Festival March 9

Lutheran Memorial Camp (LMC)/HopeWood Pines will hold its 49th Annual Maple Syrup Festival on **Saturday, March 9** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival features pancakes, syrup demonstrations and live music.

All proceeds from the day’s events will benefit “camperships,” to send a child to camp.

LMC is located at 2790 State Route 61, Marengo, OH 43334.

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. 24 In the dreariness of winter, when nature seems lifeless, give thanks to God for the people and little things reminding us that life endures, though we might think it depleted. God’s ability to create, revive and sustain life — even in us — is cause for joy and thanksgiving!

25 Pray for synod bishops gathering for the spring Conference of Bishops in Itasca, IL., that the Spirit will guide and enrich their time together for worship, study, mutual sharing, and conducting business. Give thanks for their guidance of our church and ask God to equip them for leadership, service and responding to the growing challenges of ministry in our 65 synods.

26 Give thanks for the work we do together through programs, ministries and initiatives of the ELCA and our synods. Pray that our church will thrive and that we will inspire faith and hope wherever we share the good news of Jesus Christ.

27 “Esteem [the Bible] as the precious fountain that can never be exhausted” (**Martin Luther**, *Table Talk*). What stories and texts in the Bible are most familiar to you? Pray for the Spirit to help you discover something new and revealing each time you read or hear those familiar texts.

28 Pray for the ministries unique to your community, that we will consider the people and needs they serve, value their staff and volunteers, and generously support their work.

March 1 Give thanks for God's compassion, forgiveness and concern for humanity, which extend far beyond rules, borders, ideologies and bias. Pray that we are inspired to do likewise!

2 Thank God for the example of Jesus Christ, focusing not on his crucifixion but on what God reveals to us through his journey of life, suffering, death and resurrection.

Transfiguration of Our Lord

March 2, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; Luke 9:28-36

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 Messiah Lutheran Mission in Reynoldsburg.

+ For Redeemer community members Elizabeth George and Paul Voytas.

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, Nancy Magargal's grandson Benjamin, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, LaVerna Reinoehl and family on the death of her brother Don Kapper, the family of Bishop Robert Kelley.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Jon Disbro
Cantor	Jennifer Young
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Zak Hinkle-Moore
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Tom Mimplitch, Scott Steiner
Communion Prep	Wendy Stoica, Lynn Belhorn, Kay Ernsthausen
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence

*Flowers are given by Becky and Larry Trover celebrating Larry's birthday'
The Noisy Offering will go to BREAD.*

Week to Come at Redeemer
February 24-March 3, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	2:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	7:00 p.m.	Journaling Workshop
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki Music
	6:30 pm	Sister Act
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
	3:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts #1143
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
	5:30 p.m.	Mutual Ministry Team

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