



Reflections

VOLUME 29

March 10, 2025

ISSUE 10

RLC Grieves Loss of Giving Food to Hungry Neighbors on Thursday Afternoons

At the end of worship yesterday, **Kathleen Zwanziger** announced that Redeemer was no longer going to be able to do a ministry we've done with incredible commitment, energy, joy, and pride for longer than the almost-eight years I've been with you. She said she'd learned Friday that realities around costs and supplies had led the Mid-Ohio Food Collaborative to reduce the number of produce market sites they could serve to give away food to hungry people. We are one of those sites.

When Kathleen made that announcement, a deep groan filled the sanctuary. It was a cry of shock, and sadness, and grief. When we went from worship into the adult education class **Emily Kent** and **Brad Binau** are leading on "Death, Dying, and Grieving," I was struck by how Emily and Brad's comments about grieving described my sadness over the loss of this ministry. The Thursday produce market was much more than a meaningful way for us to be part of feeding hungry neighbors. It was a way for the broader Redeemer community to come together to work, plan, laugh, and share our lives with each other. It was hard work. And it was beautiful.

It was a huge effort. Often on the warmest or coldest or windiest day of the month, folks from Redeemer and the larger community would show up to transport tables and tents from the room underneath my office to the parking lot. Others would carry out into the parking lot the "bonus" supplies you'd donated that month. Toiletries, school supplies, fans/fans/fans: these items that you purchased so our neighbors who had come for food could feel our love for them, and how good it is when life is so hard to receive signs of kindness and grace.



Other volunteers would set up the orange cones to guide the traffic, and get their ipads ready to register our guests. After **Tom Mimlitch** had figured out how many zucchini and d'Anjou pears each household should get, volunteers would start putting them in bags. Then we'd prepare boxes with all the produce so we could load them into cars.

It was a stunning process to behold and to be part of. When so many cars had already lined up half-an-hour before the advertised starting time that they threatened to spill out onto Scottwood, we'd circle up for our prayer. Then this remarkable operation of love-made-real would begin. At times there might be a lull in the action, but it rarely lasted. For three hours we'd do what we were there to do. Afterwards it was the hard work of cleaning up, and going home, deeply tired and as deeply satisfied for having been part of something that was so totally in sync with who we are and how we follow Jesus.



Cont'd on p. 4

In This Issue

[RLC Grieves Loss of Giving Food to Hungry Neighbors](#)
[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
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 Ernsthause

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Misato In Sara Auman
Emlyn Ott Rich Pautsch

SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Wendy Stoica, Chair Hitoshi Phillips
Emily Kent John Kennedy
Terry Warren 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

Come, Sing the Blues Sunday at Worship

Giving **Pastor Dave** a break from preaching, **Pastor Brad Binau** will lead a worship service **Sunday, March 16** all about “singing the blues” during this season of the church year – what he calls a “time of scheduled sadness.”

Assisting him will be a number of musicians, in addition to Redeemer’s choir, including the “Blues Brothers” – **Hitoshi** and **Sachio Phillips** -- as well as **Wendy Stoica** on cello.

Plan now to attend ... and to sing the blues!!!

Redeemer’s Summer Food Giveaways

Kathleen Zwanziger reports, “Many of you have probably found grocery prices higher recently. On Friday, two LSS representatives (Ben and Joel) met with Sue and me to let us know that the Mid-Ohio Food Cooperative has also found its costs are higher while it is receiving less food. After evaluating their current situation, they chose to focus on working with produce markets scattered around the city where the need was greatest and discontinue some that were close to other locations. Redeemer was on the list of those markets that will no longer be supplied food.

“Ben and Joel know how much this ministry has meant to the people here. They gave us some options, like working with another produce market (for example, the Church on Oakland Park – which has two markets each month), or having a second day of volunteers at the food pantry each month.

They also are open to other suggestions we might have. They will be sending us a list of other markets available for us to share with our neighbors.

“I’m sorry to deliver this news but wish to thank you for all your contributions in the past – financially or in ‘sweat equity.’ We are open to any suggestions you might have, so that we may continue helping our neighbors.”

Redeemer to Serve at First English March 13

Thursday, March 13, Redeemer serves the dinner at First English and the **items still needed include 18 dozen cookies and six more pounds of sloppy joes.** (See the March 3 issue of *Reflections* for the recipe.) Contact **Kay Ernsthause**n if you are able to provide this. In addition, a couple more servers on Thursday on needed.

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 starting on March 9 in an adult education class, “Death, Dying, and Grieving.” Next up:

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.

March 23 Deadline to Order Easter Flowers

It’s time to order Easter flowers. Orders are now being taken through **Sunday, March 23**. Flower options include white Easter Lilies (\$12.50 per pot) or 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 completing the envelope, place the money in the envelope, seal and place it in the offering plate. Questions regarding ordering flowers? Contact **Kay Ernsthause**n at KAErnsthause@gmail.com.

Variety of Lenten Services, Activities Planned; Volunteers Sought

Beginning **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. See the Feb. 24 issue of *Reflections* for more information on this.

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

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 Council.

Council has appointed **Julie Johnson** to lead a new ministry group. The purpose of the group is to explore ways Redeemer can enhance its efforts to support those seeking to immigrate legally to or remain legally in the United States. Currently **Emily Ott, Kelley Frank, Elaine Disbro, Karen Rider** and **Pastor Dave** will be serving on this ministry group. Let Julie know if you are interested.

The council has appointed **Emily Kent** and **Hitoshi Phillips** to serve on the Special Funds Team.

Discussion continues about the restroom doors. Council is seeking input from those most likely to be affected by the current configuration of the doors.

CROP Walk Set for Sept. 28; Donations Being Accepted Now

Connie Criswell reports that this year's CROP Walk for world hunger is scheduled for **Sunday, Sept. 28**. However, "They have asked for us to start fundraising NOW, because the need is greater than ever, especially since the current administration has slashed or eliminated aid funding.

The 2025 Redeemer Team page is up and available for donations [HERE](#) If anyone is interested in joining this year's team, please let Connie know. Those who plan to walk are **Kathy Zwanziger, Wendy Stoica** and **Connie Criswell**.

Narthex Art Theme Changes to 'Reflection' for Lent

The Narthex Art theme for Lent is "Reflection." Almost all of the art on display has been created by members of Redeemer, and is meant to be interactive. "As you look into the mirrors, you become part of the art! We encourage you to take your time reading the information next to each piece, and reflect on what you see," writes **Emily Kent**.

"A journal is provided in the exhibit for those that would like to share reactions or thoughts (Reflections?!) about the art."

Easter Party Set for April 13

The annual Easter Party will be on **Palm Sunday, April 13**, during the Sunday School hour. "All kids are welcome to join us for crafts and a candy filled egg hunt! Please extend invitations to your grandchildren, nieces and nephews-the more the merrier!"

Questions? See Krista Skipper or contact her at kristamary5114@gmail.com or 614-596-5886.

From the Property Team: Basement Drain Has Been Solved!!

Property Team Chair April Smith reports that the drain problem in the Fellowship Hall sinks have been solved. "We appreciate your continued diligence in not flushing solid food waste or grease down the drains. Thank you!"

'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!

BREAD Update: Environmental Justice Campaign

Kristi Hildebrand reports that, “Tree canopy has never been more important to Columbus than it is today. Preserving and growing tree canopies create more vibrant, resilient communities. Trees are the only type of infrastructure that increases in value over time and provides benefits valued three times more than the cost to maintain them. This is why BREAD is working with city officials and leaders to increase the tree canopy.

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: Congregation Tifereth Israel (1354 E. Broad St.)
- Nehemiah Action: **Tuesday, May 13** at 6:40 p.m. at the Celeste Center.
- Celebration: **Monday, June 30** at 7 p.m. Location: TBA.

Non-Police Crisis Response Ballot Initiative Moves Ahead

Kristi Hildebrand reports, “The effort to get an initiative on the ballot to address the creation of the non-police crisis response in the city of Columbus is gaining momentum. The ballot language was filed on March 7. The petitions will be distributed soon.

“For more information about this activity, please see the YouTube [video](#) on Redeemer's channel from when **Helen Anne Sweeney** spoke to the Adult Ed Forum on Feb. 23. She gave an excellent presentation on why this is needed, what Columbus has now and what is possible for the future.”

Tuesday Bible Study Looks at Stories of Elijah, Elisha

The Tuesday Bible Study continues its discussion of the stories of Elijah and Elisha when the group meets on **Tuesday, March 11**. 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 CRIS

For the season of Lent Redeemer’s Noisy Offering will be going to the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS). (See separate story, this issue for more information on CRIS.)

CRIS’ mission is to help refugees and immigrants reach safety and stability, sustain self-sufficiency, and achieve successful integration into the Central Ohio community.

Due to the current political climate the funding for CRIS has been cut drastically, so those who can are asked to help.

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

RLC Grieves Loss of Giving Food to Hungry Neighbors *cont'd from p. 1*

After everyone had gone, the parking lot may have looked empty. But it wasn’t empty at all. It was filled with echoes of all the sounds from that afternoon. Sounds of all that work, all that energy, all that love, all that community-building, all that laughter, all that commitment, all that joy in being part of something so right. And the parking lot was filled with echoes of the sounds of so much gratitude. Gratitude our neighbors felt for what it took for us to make this ministry happen. And our gratitude for being so incredibly blessed. It isn’t often we get to make Jesus’ love and justice real month after month in ways we can touch and see. It isn’t often so many get to work together as Redeemer with such commitment, hard work, joy, and unity of purpose.

Hearing the congregation’s collective groan yesterday left me feeling really sad about the loss of this ministry. There will be opportunities to volunteer at other sites Mid-Ohio will continue to service, and those deserve our support. But that will not be the same. This loss of those third Thursday afternoons in the parking lot deserves to be honored and grieved. For it has been one of the most consistently beautiful things many of us have been part of here.

Pastor Dave Shull

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

Christ in Our Home for April-June Available

The latest edition of the daily devotional booklet *Christ in Our Home* for April through June is now available on the Kiosk in the Narthex. Copies are free for anyone who would like one.

RLC Community Member 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-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.

March Birthdays

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

A Call to Support CRIS Ohio

Julie Johnson writes that the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) is a nonprofit agency in Central Ohio that provides a variety of services to refugees and immigrants. It is an affiliate of Church World Services (which Redeemer support each fall through CROP Walk – see separate story, this issue on CROP Walk).

Among other activities it is a refugee resettlement (as an affiliate of CWS) and has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. State Department to directly receive and place refugees in our community. It has been in existence for 30 years and has earned the respect of many who advocate for immigrants and refugees.

CRIS offers a variety of services in addition to resettlement services including legal services, family services, employment services, health and wellness services and youth mentorship services.

“CRIS has been immensely impacted by executive orders signed by **President Trump**. On his first day in office, he signed an executive order that stopped the arrival of refugees. This included persons who had been through all background checks, interviews and other steps required and who had even booked transportation. For four days the U.S government issued a stop work order, halting CRIS’s work with other refugees. CRIS was also impacted when Trump signed an executive order halting government funding of grants and loans.

“*Supporting CRIS is an action that we can take now to support immigrants and refugees in our area in a hostile and chaotic time. The quickest way to support CRIS is directly through either their website at crisohio.org or by calling 614-235-5747. You can also donate by writing a check to Redeemer and note in the memo line CRIS. Donations through Redeemer are usually delayed by at least a month.*”

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.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

March 10 Give thanks for moments of joy and celebration in your life and the lives of your neighbors and siblings in Christ.

11 Who is our neighbor? Pray that we might recognize people everywhere in the world as our neighbors, created by and beloved of God and sharing with us a common lineage.

12 Ask God to bless our congregations’ community meals during Lent, that we might build relationships, reflect in prayer and feel renewed in our enthusiasm for doing God’s work in the world.

13 “When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them” (Psalm 91:15). Lift up prayers of gratitude to God, who hears our pleading and lamentations and does not ignore or abandon us.

14 Give thanks for the ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship program, which supports students attending ELCA seminaries so that they can graduate with less debt and respond to God’s call as the church needs and the Spirit leads.

15 Pray for the ELCA AMMPARO Migrant Ministry, ELCA Witness in Society, ELCA World Hunger, Global Refuge, Lutheran Services in America and other partner ministries and organizations that uphold basic human rights, address causes of migration and help immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees rebuild their lives in our country.

16 “O God, you know all that we think or do, you know the pain we put each other through. Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, grant us peace” (WOV 739). Praise God for the boundless love and forgiveness that create a new spirit within us and enable us to change how we behave toward our neighbors.

17 Remember in prayer the 240 ELCA missionaries who serve alongside global church partners in more than 40 countries, doing God’s work in the world and supporting the growth of new congregations, urban and youth outreach, theological education, pursuit of justice and peace, and leadership training.

The Community Beyond

Columbus Library to Hold 'Big Book Sale' March 14-16

The Columbus Metropolitan Library will hold its "Big Book Sale" on **Friday-Sunday, March 14-16** at the Main Library (96 S. Grant). This is its semi-annual Big Book Sale, selling books and other library materials that are no longer suitable for the library's collection.

Children's books start at \$1. Adult fiction and nonfiction books start at \$2. CDs, DVDs and audiobooks start at \$3. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Proceeds support the Columbus Metropolitan Library's programs and services.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 1-4 p.m. on Sunday.

Second Sunday in Lent March 16, 2025 – 10 a.m. Lessons

Readings: Jeremiah 26:8-15; Psalm 13; Luke 13:31-35

Prayer of the Day

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 Prince of Peace Lutheran Mission in Dublin.

+ For Redeemer community member Barbara Hairston.

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 sister Kleta Childs, 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, Eileen Welker, Nancy Magargal's grandson Benjamin, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, Scott Steiner

Worship Leaders

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Presiding Minister | Dave Shull |
| Preacher | Brad Binau |
| Assisting Minister | Connie Criswell |
| Cantor | Wendy Stoica |
| ASL Interpreter | Bryan Neal |
| Organist & Senior Choir Director | Kathy Rapp |
| Pianist & Chime Choir Director | Karen Kent |
| Usher | Ashley Bird |
| Verger | Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica |
| Producers | Judith Bird, April Smith |
| Communion Prep | Wendy Stoica, Lynn Belhorn, Kay Ernsthausen |
| Hospitality | |

No Flowers during Lent

The Noisy Offering will go to CRIS [Community Refugee and Immigration Service]

Week to Come at Redeemer

March 10 – March 17, 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 |
| | 6:30 p.m. | ZOOM A Brewing Faith |
| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. | Suzuki Music |
| | 12:00 pm | Lenten Soup and discussion |
| | 7:00 p.m. | IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Lenten Evening Prayer |
| Thursday | 10:30 a.m. | Suzuki Music |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Bexley/Berwick Dementia Support Group |
| 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 |
| | 3:30 p.m. | Girl Scouts Troop #1143 |
| Monday | 3:00 p.m. | Suzuki Music |
| | 5:00 p.m. | TOPS |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Girl Scouts #2462 |

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