



Reflections

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HopeWood Outdoors Sets Servant Weekends, 5K Race, Seeks Summer Staff

HopeWood Outdoors – formerly Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio or LOMO – announces a number of events, volunteer activities and employment openings as the camps, HopeWood Pines (Lutheran Memorial Camp) and HopeWood Shores (Camp Luther), move into spring and then summer.

Both camps have set servant weekends: HopeWood Pines' Servant Weekend is **Friday-Sunday, April 25-27** while HopeWood Shores' has three servant weekends: **Friday-Sunday, May 2-4, May 9-11** and **May 16-18**.

The weekends focus on getting the camp ready for the summer. HopeWood Pines said Servant Weekend projects will include landscaping, painting, cleaning up winter damage and other tasks to help beautify the grounds and facilities. Both note there is no fee for participating in these weekends but freewill donations are accepted to help cover food, insurance and project supplies. To learn more and to register for the HopeWood Pines Servant Weekend go [HERE](#) while go [HERE](#) to register for HopeWood Shores weekends.

Saturday, April 26 sees the HopeWood 5K which goes through the pine forest of HopeWood Pines. The run begins at 11 a.m. The \$50 entry fee covers a racer's bib, t-shirt and a finisher's medal. Food will be available at the finish line. All proceeds from the event will go toward kicking off the HopeWood Capital Campaign, supporting the future growth and development of HopeWood Pines. To register, go [HERE](#).

In addition, HopeWood Pines is sponsoring a "Family Spring Retreat" this coming weekend, Friday-Saturday, April 4-5. To learn more, go [HERE](#).

HopeWood Pines is located at 2790 State Route 61, Marengo and HopeWood Shores is at 3901 Lake Road, Conneaut.

HopeWood Outdoors is also taking applications for summer camp positions. HopeWood writes, "Join the HopeWood Outdoors team and help create a welcoming community where faith and nature intersect. Our transformative programs aim to cultivate growth, connection, and hope in a beautiful outdoor setting. Explore our job openings and apply. We'd love to have you join us on this unforgettable journey!"

"Join us for an incredible summer experience at HopeWood Outdoors. As a camp counselor, you'll have the opportunity to make a positive impact on campers' lives, develop valuable skills for your future career, and deepen your faith in a fun and supportive community." There are also other staff openings. Go [HERE](#) for more information.

In This Issue

[HopeWood Outdoors Sets Servant Weekends, 5K Race, Seeks Staff](#)
[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 Mimplitch
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

Conflict, Peace, and Reconciliation: Lessons from Northern Ireland

Elaine Disbro spent more than a year living and studying in Belfast, Northern Ireland. In December 2024, she graduated with a master's degree in Conflict Transformation and Social Justice. Hear about her experience living in a post-conflict society and what Northern Ireland taught her about conflict, peace, and reconciliation during Redeemer's Adult Education Class on Sundays, April 6 and April 13.

April 6 - Conflict Transformation in Theory and Practice

What is conflict transformation and how does it differ from other approaches that seek to address and resolve conflict? This week the class will explore some of the key theories, concepts, and debates in the field of conflict studies and peacebuilding. "We'll also learn about the conflict in Northern Ireland known as The Troubles and explore the historical grievances, social and economic inequalities, and issues of identity that drove the violence and continue to shape peace and reconciliation efforts."

April 13 - Religion and Peacebuilding in Northern Ireland

Throughout history, religion has been a source of both conflict and peace. In Northern Ireland, where the conflict is often defined by religious identity (Catholic and Protestant), religion has played a complex and paradoxical role, serving as both a source of division and a force for peace and reconciliation. What can we learn from Northern Ireland about the role of religion in conflict and peacebuilding? How might we use these lessons and our Lutheran faith to respond to conflicts facing our world today?

Update from Lutheran Social Services

Kathy Zwanziger reports, that following the news that the Mid-Ohio Food Cooperative would no longer use Redeemer as a site for monthly produce giveaways, Lutheran Social Services' (LSS) **Ben Powers** relayed the following:

"After a period of significant inflation, LSS has actively been cutting costs since October of last year. Unfortunately, that cost containment has not cut expenses enough, and we now had to make the difficult decision to reduce staff across LSS by eight positions. We wanted to let you know that as of Monday, March 24, 2025, **Randi Reid** is unfortunately no longer with the LSS Food Pantries. The decision was not a reflection of her performance, and we thank her for her service and wish her the best.

"Our mission at LSS remains unchanged - we are committed to providing housing, health care and emergency assistance services. Our goal is to strengthen the organization so we can continue to provide critical services to those we serve."

Kathy adds, "As members of Redeemer, we can continue to help our neighbors by serving at the food pantry and helping at First English, contributing to CRIS, the CROP Walk, and the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, as well as supporting other agencies such as Lutheran World Relief, and Lutheran Disaster Response. On a personal level, continue to share God's love by welcoming immigrants into our community."

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.

RLC Commissions BREAD Team

Redeemer commissioned the members of its BREAD Team Sunday, March 30 during the 10 a.m. worship service. BREAD – Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity -- seeks to further justice issues in this area. These network members – and the congregation – committed themselves to a variety of tasks, including inviting people to the Nehemiah Action, the annual event when BREAD asks public officials to commit themselves to advocating for and implementing BREAD's priorities. (See separate stories, this issue.)

Redeemer's Network members include **Lynn Belhorn, Michelle Clemence, Michele Disbro, Carol Heacock, Kristi Hildebrand, Julie Johnson, Emily and Nathan Ott, Al Rider, Dave Shull and Kathy Zwanziger**.

Kristi reports that, at the Redeemer Justice Network's recent annual meeting, "We started out talking about why we are in BREAD. Some of the comments were the following:

"I can be part of a solution through a bigger effort than I know how to do. I couldn't do this on my own."

"In today's world, you can let yourself get sucked down but maybe by doing something positive, you can get lifted up again. It's a way to act, to get involved, and do something hopeful."

"A song we sing at the Lenten midweek services says 'For justice, for mercy, for freedom, hear our prayer.' Justice, freedom, and mercy don't just happen. We need the Spirit and it requires human hands, hearts, and imaginations to do."

"I was blessed with an upbringing that laid a foundation. Mom did act. I found myself becoming disgusted with things that didn't have equity. I thought, 'Why doesn't someone do something?' And then I said to myself, 'You are the somebody!'"

"As a teacher I saw that parents need a voice. BREAD is a voice that is heard. I enjoy working with people of other faiths and backgrounds. I like being able to address a need and little by little see progress."

The group went over the updates on the two active campaigns, Environmental Justice and Protecting Renters. They also kicked off Nehemiah Action invitation season. It is a once-a-year, 90 minute chance to make a difference just by sitting in a chair. Someone may soon be inviting you to the Nehemiah Action on May 13! (See following article.)

Upcoming BREAD Dates

- 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. (See article below.)
- Celebration: **Monday, June 30** at 7 p.m. Location: TBA.

The BIG Gathering

Michele Disbro writes, "You've probably heard reference to 'The BIG Give' for the day when nonprofit organizations hold a big donation day for charitable giving? Well, how about 'The BIG Gathering'? On **Tuesday, May 13**, the BREAD organization is hoping for a big gathering of people to show support for the campaigns they have been working on this year: a tree campaign for environmental justice and stopping predatory landlords to improve housing issues for many people.

"BREAD has already earned the support of Columbus City Council on both issues and it's time to convince them to take action. ... Numbers truly matter so please mark your calendar to attend the Nehemiah Action at the Celeste Center on **Tuesday, May 13** at 6:40 p.m.

"This is simply a one-time commitment to show up and be in the crowd to show support. Bring a friend or two with you. Let's see if we can meet our goal of 50 people attending the Nehemiah Action. Let's go Redeemer!"

Non-Police Crisis Response Ballot Initiative Moves Ahead

Michele Disbro announced Sunday that the petitions are available for the local ballot initiative to create the non-police crisis response in the city. The goal is to collect 50,000 valid signatures by **Friday, June 27**. Registered voters who live in the city of Columbus can sign the petition. "The benchmark used is if you can vote in the mayoral race, you live in the city of Columbus. If you match this description, please consider signing. We will have them available to sign in the Narthex after church."

Kristi Hildebrand added, "To collect signatures, you only need to be 18 or older. There are no requirements to validate signatures and that can be done from home. If you are interested in collecting signatures or validating signatures, please see **Kristi Hildebrand** or **Michele Disbro**."

DOGE, Trump Administration Cuts Threaten BREAD Trees Initiative

Among the ongoing social justice campaigns that BREAD is pursuing in the community, is encouraging growth of the urban forest in Metro Franklin County, writes **Al Rider**. Central Ohio happens to have one of the thinnest urban forests in the U.S., less than the 40 percent tree cover that is considered a borderline for public health. More trees mean cleaner more breathable air, cooler summers, more birds and wildlife, and measurably lower disease levels. But the Columbus metro area has less tree cover than Brooklyn (!), especially in the more economically-challenged and industrial neighborhoods.

"The city of Columbus actually has adopted a very positive, forward-looking urban forestry [plan](#), and is pursuing it within the city limits, with BREAD's full support. However, the cost-cutting and job-cutting plans of the current White House and DOGE team have called this into question. Executive Order No. 14154 titled "Unleashing American Energy" threatens to impound over \$1 trillion appropriated by Congress under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021."

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources was awarded nearly \$5.5 million for 36 urban forestry projects in the state last year. Columbus received a \$500,000 grant, and in 2024 spent \$394,000 planting 1,250 trees in underserved neighborhoods -- expecting reimbursement by the federal government. But following the executive order, Columbus' Rec and Parks Department was informed that reimbursement would not be coming as promised. As a result, the rest of the program is on hold, since funding is now in question.

The city of Columbus has joined over a dozen plaintiffs filing a lawsuit in U.S. District Court alleging the executive order "...unlawfully def(ies) Congressional mandates by freezing, disrupting, and terminating funds that Congress had directed and appropriated to specific grant programs to benefit the environment."

Anyone living within city limits is encouraged to call or message their City Council members to support this environmental program and their members of Congress, "on behalf of a shadier, healthier metro area for all of us."

Special Funds Team Provides Overview

John Kennedy, treasurer on the Special Funds Team (SFT) at RLC, writes, "The SFT wanted to provide you with an update on RLC special funds as of the close of 2024.

"We have four funds at RLC that the SFT is chartered to monitor. The monies in the first three funds are placed with the Columbus Foundation and invested with their advice and consultation under Redeemer's direction. In no particular order, here is a brief overview, and then the End of Year (EOY) 2024 status, of each fund.

Mary Kohler Ministry Fund

Highlights

- An unrestricted bequest from Mary Kohler, a teacher and RLC member, and a gift from an anonymous donor established the fund.
- Principal and earnings may be distributed.
- Applications for educational purposes and for new or existing RLC neighborhood ministries receive priority, honoring the donor's intent.
- Members may recommend uses of this fund to the SFT at any time.

Fund Activity	EOY 2024 Balance
Beginning Fund Balance	\$35,829.85
Contributions and Investments	
Dividends and Interest	873.5
Gains/ Losses	2,731.28
Withdrawals	
Grants Approved	14,997.07
Investment Fees	15.14
TCF Administrative Fees	179.15
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$24,243.27

RLC Church Building and Equipment Fund

Highlights

- To fund the capital expenditure needs that exceed the congregation's annual budget.

Fund Activity	EOY 2024 Balance
Beginning Fund Balance	\$17,753.94
Contributions and Investments	
Dividends and Interest	504.2
Gains/ Losses	1,104.57
Withdrawals	
Investment Fees	8.36
TCF Administrative Fees	88.77
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$19,265.58

Mission Endowment Fund

Highlights

- To provide for mission work beyond the operating budget of RLC.
- A donor restricted fund, with principal invested in perpetuity and earnings reinvested, with a percentage of earnings distributed annually, or as desirable, to accomplish its purpose, further defined to:
- Establish and support ministries of outreach within or on behalf of the congregation.
- Further partnerships in mission through the synodical, regional and national expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- To support capital improvements, debt retirement or a building program of RLC when circumstances warrant.
- If you wish to include RLC in your estate planning as an endowment, please specify the Mission Endowment Fund.

Fund Activity	EOY 2024 Balance
Beginning Fund Balance	\$151,646.50
Contributions and Investments	
Dividends and Interest	3,541.74
Gains/ Losses	12,969.82
Withdrawals	
Grants Approved	6,066.00
Investment Fees	73.49
TCF Administrative Fees	654.94
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$161,363.63

Memorial Gifts Fund

Highlights

- Memorial gifts are recorded and attributed to the person being memorialized.
- After six months, the total amount contributed in memory is reported to that family.
- Following consultation with the family, the SFT recommends to the Congregation Council a use for the funds.
- The recording of that Memorial is concluded upon expenditure of those funds.
- Because of the purpose of this fund, the monies shall remain liquid and not be considered for long-term investment.

"I hope this information is of value. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any member of the SFT – **Wendy Stoica, Emily Kent, Hitoshi Phillips, Terry Warren, Laura Warren or John Kennedy.**"

Variety of Lenten Services, Activities Planned; Volunteers Sought

Now through **April 9**, Lenten Soup and Conversation will be held Wednesdays 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.

Sign ups are now posted to volunteer to do a short reflection on one of the last words of Christ during the Good Friday service here at Redeemer on April 18.

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."

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, Heidi Sherer, and Connie Criswell**. Two new walkers have now been added to Redeemer's team: **Trina Thornton and Kelley Frank!**

'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!

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, April 1**. 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.

Important Emails

Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

Info@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the office, *Reflections* newsletter, **Office Manager Becky Trover**, healing prayer requests or for general information.

MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the Member Care team about needs for personal ministry such as in-home communion, a home visit, meals, etc.

FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com – use for stewardship campaigns.

Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

Property@RedeemerLuth.com – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

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

Communications@redeemerluth.com – use to send church related announcements or pictures for sharing on Redeemer's social media sites. Another way is to tag Redeemer in the posts.

Publishing Deadlines for *Reflections*, Sunday Bulletins

For *Reflections*

- **PLEASE SUBMIT PRIOR TO 5 P.M. ON SUNDAYS.**
- Send to info@RedeemerLuth.com and put *Reflections* in subject line.
- Or leave a note in the *Reflections* mailbox at the top of the stairs outside the church office.

For Sunday Bulletins

The deadline for information to be published in Sunday bulletins is the **Wednesday morning** before. That information can be sent to the above email: just put "Bulletin" in the subject line.

Prayers and Personals

Prayers for healing are asked for **Kevin Bailey's** sister **Karla Weaver** and for **Michelle Skoog** who had surgery this past week for a "blown out" knee.

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Congratulations go out to **Trina Thornton** on her retirement from the Lancaster Parks and Recreation/Alley Park Outdoor Education after 27 years! Way to go, Trina!!

Memorial Services for Madelyn Zimmer, Ruth Boys Memorial Set

The families of **Madelyn J. Zimmer** and **Ruth Boys** invite you to gather at Redeemer for memorial services which will celebrate their lives.

The service for Madelyn will be **Monday, April 7**, with visitation at 1 p.m., the service at 2 p.m., and a reception at 3 p.m.

Kathy Mimplitch is coordinating the reception and would appreciate cheese trays, fruit or vegetable trays, chips and dip, and cookies. If you are able to contribute, please contact Kathy at 614-439-7739 or KathyMimplitch@yahoo.com.

The service for Ruth will be **Saturday, May 10**, with visitation at 10 a.m., the service at 11 a.m., and a lunch reception at noon.

"We hold family members and friends of these two remarkable women in love, and are grateful for the ways they enriched Redeemer and the ways their spirit remains alive in this place."

A Note from Earl Bradley

Earl Bradley sent the congregation the following thank you note: "I was pleasantly surprised and very grateful that so many members took time to write a card and send birthday greetings to me. I appreciate each and everyone of you. It's nice to be remembered.

"May God bless you."

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.

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.

April Birthdays

1-Gabriel Reinoehl 3-Chad Eberle
4-Jenny Young 5-Wendy Stoica
6-Nathan Ott 13-Steve Boreman
15-Jill Disbro 16-Mike Benis
18-Isaac Marquez 19-April Smith
19-Damon Stewart 22-Grayson Ullman
23-Andrew Skoog 24-Michelle Clemence
24-Elaine Disbro 27-Margie Frazier
27-Dora Pinder 28-Edwina Bradley

The Wider Church

Considering Ways to Support Immigrants

Church Council has appointed **Julie Johnson** to lead a new ministry group to explore ways Redeemer can support those seeking to immigrate legally to or to remain legally in the United States. People on this ministry group include **Elaine Disbro, Kelley Frank, Emily Ott, Karen Rider** and **Dave Shull**.

The ELCA is a “Sanctuary Denomination.” As the ELCA website states: “In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith.”

Among the tasks the ministry group has identified are the following:

- Keeping informed of the rapid changes affecting specific refugee and immigrant groups initiated by the Trump administration.
- Keeping informed of the legal actions and the status of those actions.
- Ensuring that those we know who are potentially affected have access to resources to help them.
- Learning about the various ways that Redeemer can consider how to be a sanctuary to immigrants and refugees.
- Learning what churches in our area are doing and have done to support immigrants and refugees.
- Exploring what the implications and factors would be in considering all of the options that we might be called upon to consider.
- Reporting our findings to the Congregation Council.

“One immediate way that individuals and Redeemer can walk along with immigrants at this critical time is by supporting CRIS Ohio. The Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) is a nonprofit agency in Central Ohio that provides a variety of services to refugees and immigrants. “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.

“Another way that Redeemer is walking alongside immigrants is to be of assistance to those who worship with us. Whether through transportation to church, providing a bulletin in their language, connecting them to needed services or helping with daily needs, we have opportunities to help.”

We ask for your prayers as we continue in this work.

ELCA Issues Draft Statement on Child Protection/Maltreatment

The ELCA released a [draft social message](#) on child protection and maltreatment on March 21, ELCA Program Director of Theological Ethics, Education and Community Engagement Ryan Cumming and ELCA Director of Theological Ethics Roger Willer announced. This draft social message is in response to a request from the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and addresses the church’s calling to protect and nurture children and youth, both within the church and within society more broadly. We are writing in hope that you will participate in the public comment period on this draft.

Folks are asked to read the draft social message and complete an online survey by visiting [HERE](#). Comments, affirmations, questions or concerns about the draft social message can also be emailed to the Theological Ethics team of the

ELCA churchwide organization at draftsocialmessage@elca.org. The survey and public comment period will be open until **Monday, June 30**. A copy of the draft can also be found on the kiosk in the Narthex.

ELCA social teachings are developed through a process of communal deliberation across the church, and your feedback will be prayerfully considered as this draft is revised. Your perspective is important to this process, so we hope you will find time to review the draft and share your comments.

A revised, proposed social message will be sent to the ELCA Church Council this fall for possible adoption as the newest social teaching of our church. If adopted, this social message will serve as a guide for people of faith to think theologically and ethically about children and the church. It will also serve as an official policy document to guide the church's public witness and to support policies at the congregational, synodical and churchwide level.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

April 1 Pray for lasting peace between nations and for the healing of people who suffer conflict, war and violence, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Syria, Haiti, Myanmar and regions of Africa.

2 Arab American Heritage Month Give thanks for the contributions and impact of Arab Americans in every aspect of society, including religion, education, science, business, government and the arts. Ask God to bless and further the work of ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage.

3 "You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, but only asking for me to follow" (WOV 784). Praise God for seeking us out and, despite our imperfection, making us humble disciples, equipped and inspired by the Spirit.

4 Pray for church leaders, liturgists, scholars and scientists gathering to discuss including the Feast of Creation Day in liturgical calendars, an effort organized by the Roman Catholic Church in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, World Methodist Council, Anglican Communion and World Communion of Reformed Churches. Ask the Spirit to guide their study and discussion of climate justice, the Nicene Creed, the role of the Holy Trinity in creation, and how Christians engage with the creation story.

5 Remember in prayer worship leaders and musicians participating in the ecumenical Music that Makes Community workshop in Waco, Texas, a day of building community through singing, learning and fellowship.

6 Pray for a spirit of humble generosity that recognizes and encourages the diverse gifts and contributions of our siblings in Christ, who give as they are able and are inspired by their gratitude towards and love for God.

7 Praise the Creator for the new life of an emerging spring, which inspires our joy, awe and hope.

The Community Beyond

April 7 Deadline to Register to Vote in May Primary

Next Monday, April 7 is the deadline to register to vote in the Primary Election set for **Tuesday, May 6**. To be qualified to vote, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the general election in November.
- Be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election they want to vote in.
- Not be incarcerated for a felony conviction or have been declared incompetent for voting or permanently disenfranchised.

Also required is an Ohio driver's license or state ID card and the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number. Registration can be done online [HERE](#). Address changes can also be handled online.

Candidates on the Franklin County May ballot are those running for seats on the Columbus City Council, Whitehall City Council, Hilliard City Council and the Columbus Board of Education. Eligibility to vote for these depends on an individual's address.

Free Tax Prep Service Serves Low- to Moderate-Income Households

With the annual tax filing deadline quickly approaching, Franklin County is raising awareness about free tax preparation services available to thousands of residents and families. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners recently highlighted the Tax Time program, which serves low- to moderate-income households.

Earlier this year, the commissioners approved a contract between the Franklin County Department of Family Services and the United Way of Central Ohio, providing \$75,000 in funding for Tax Time, a coalition of nonprofit, business, and government partners that aims to help residents maximize their returns, avoid preparation fees, and build wealth.

"As a former Tax Time volunteer, I have seen firsthand the tremendous impact this program has on our community," said **Board President Commissioner Erica C. Crawley**. "This initiative not only empowers our residents to maximize

their tax returns, ensuring they receive every dollar they are entitled to, but it also safeguards them from costly and potentially predatory tax preparation services that can take advantage of those who may not be aware of their options."

Tax Time brings together the United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and AARP's Tax Counseling for the Elderly program under one comprehensive initiative. This tax season, residents can access free tax preparation services both in person and virtually at multiple locations across Franklin County.

"We encourage all residents to take full advantage of this service," **Commissioner John O'Grady** said. "Every effort has been made to ensure accessibility, whether you prefer to meet with volunteers in person or simply find virtual support more convenient."

Tax Time has prepared and processed more than 189,000 tax returns since its inception in 2007. Tax Time's IRS-certified volunteers prioritize helping families claim their full refunds, including credits such as the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit

"Ensuring that every eligible resident can access free, high-quality tax preparation is a vital step toward financial empowerment," said **Commissioner Kevin L. Boyce**. "Tax Time helps families keep more of their hard-earned money, avoid costly fees, and claim the credits they deserve. This program is about strengthening financial futures and safeguarding economic stability for all our neighbors."

Households, earning less than \$67,000 last year are eligible for free preparation services. **United Way Program and Grants Coordinator Brandi Cunningham** reported that Tax Time has helped more than 2,000 in Franklin County this season. Residents can learn more and sign up for appointments by calling 211 or visiting [HERE](#).

Getting Ready for Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; John 11:46-48, 53; 12:1-8

Prayer of the Day

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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 St. John Lutheran Church in London.

+ For Redeemer community member Bonnie Hegreness.

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, Eileen Welker, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, Scott Steiner, Al Debelak, Michelle Skoog.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Julianne Johnson
Cantor	Al Rider
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Judith Bird
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Toshi Phillips, Sachio Phillips
Communion Prep	Diane Brobeck
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence

No Flowers during Lent

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

Week to Come at Redeemer

March 31 – April 7, 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.	Berwick Civic Association
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki Music
	12:00 pm	Lenten Soup and discussion
	12:30-4:00	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Lenten Evening Prayer
Thursday	10:30 a.m.	Suzuki Music
Saturday	noon	Hymn Pickin' Team
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	1-4:30 p.m.	Madelyn Zimmer Memorial
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki Music
	4:30 p.m.	ZOOM Executive Team
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop #2462
	7:00 p.m.	BREAD Rally/Congregation Tifereth Israel (1354 E. Broad St.)

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