



# REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...

An adventure for *life!*

## Reflections

(614) 237-1263

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November 30, 2009

### *Right into the Advent Swing of Things*

#### OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here  
in the name of Jesus  
Pastor - F. Allan Debelak  
Secretary - Dolores Brannigan  
Lay Ministry Coordinator –  
Kelley Scott  
Organist/Senior Choir Director -  
Kathy Rapp  
Chimes Choir Director - Karen  
Kent  
Youth REJOYsing - Julie  
Larson  
Youth Director –

#### CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President – Margie Frazier  
Vice Pres. – Gage Gosnell  
Treasurer – Eileen Day  
Financial Secretary - Bruce  
Collins  
Secretary – Kay Ernsthansen

#### COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPS.

Church in Society - Jenny  
Young  
Evangelism – Jon Disbro  
Fellowship - Becky Fisher  
Finance – Brad Phillips  
Member Care – Carol Heacock  
Parish Ed - Michelle Clemence  
Property – Maureen Callahan  
Stewardship - Judith Bird  
Worship - Wendy Stoica  
Youth – Jennifer Young

#### MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Chairman - Robin Stokes  
Treasurer - David Reinhoel  
Secretary – Ashley Bird  
Member – Helen Brunston  
Member – William McCulley

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Michele Disbro

#### MIC STUDENTS

2<sup>nd</sup> year – Jared Witt  
1<sup>st</sup> year – Joe Brosious

Going away for a short time is always good for me. I'm not quite sure what it is that makes it good. I was able to see my daughter, walk aimlessly up and down NY streets, wander into galleries, visit favorite restaurants and find new ones, and simply have no real schedule – unless I wanted one. Going away also becomes old and “coming home” sounds and feels good. I returned home right at the beginning of Advent. This season always means a new schedule to the weeks at hand and that can confuse me. It also brings a new kind of order into my life. Coming home and looking forward to how God stirs up this season in the life of the church brings a challenge and a sense of wonder. I like challenge and I like wonder.

While I was away, I read a short book by one of my favorite writers, Walter Brueggemann. Karen and Jamela and her partner Jaime were talking about the novels they had just finished or were reading and all I could offer was a book about the events of Joshua chapter 11. No one engaged me in conversation about my reading. I don't think I would call it “work” reading. That would not fit on a vacation. Then again, some of the stuff I read is really work-related because it is life-related. Or should I say it is life-related and therefore it is work-related. Whatever! I enjoyed what I read and found myself being opened up to a whole new way of interpreting the scenes in some of the Hebrew Scriptures that most of us just hate – high violence, massive destruction, brutal taking of life.

From that time of reading and relaxing, I will be turning my reading into an adult Sunday school class for the first few weeks of January. I would like to invite you to that class – especially if you are someone (like me) who is completely turned off by Scripture that seems to portray our God as brutally violent, destructive, and unforgiving. I must say I have been turned around quite a bit – not just in my understanding of the Joshua 11, but in much of my thinking about violence within the community of people who are nurtured and redeemed by our God of Grace.

*Now on to something else!* On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 20 from 2 – 5 p.m., Karen and I would like to invite members and friends of Redeemer to our house for an Advent Open House. We will put a sign-up sheet out in the Narthex to get a “feel” for how many people might *stop by* during those hours. If you don't sign-up, you can still *stop by* our home. The downstairs of the house will be open to all (our cats have the upstairs) and you may come and go as you like. We will have a variety of finger foods placed in various rooms of the house and drinks (of many kinds) will be provided. We maintain an Advent household so that means don't expect a Christmas tree. For both of us, Redeemer has been one part of our lives that we cherish and it is not always possible to gift so many beloved people who we have known for years or are just now meeting. So, please take us up on this invitation to spend some of the last week of Advent at our home. Christ's Peace! pastoral

## GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### LESSONS

Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### ORDER OF WORSHIP – EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

8:30 AM Holy Communion (Setting 2)

11:00 AM Holy Communion (Setting 2)

### INTERCESSIONS & THANKSGIVINGS

+ For the people of Ascension Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer members David Johnston and Christiane Buuck.

+ *Each week we remember in our prayers in worship those who cannot be with us and those with special needs and concerns:* Doris Bell, Jan Bouman, Rose Varga, Doretha Holland, Georgia Wegmeyer, Lois Monett, Barb Atkinson, Betty Hoops, Bebe McCoy, Ellen Kunce, Evelyn Fitch, Estella Kuemmel, Theresa Frazier, Vernon Schleppe, and Redeemer visitors.

### WORSHIP LEADERS

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
Assisting Minister	Jon Disbro	Mary Benis
Acolyte	Caty McFarland	Dayrel Billingsley
Reader	Kathy Zwanziger	TBA
Cantor	Linda Williams	Mary Benis
Coordinator	Kathy Zwanziger	Dave Reinoehl
Ushers	Becky Fisher	Thea and Seth Harms
Welcoming Team	Hilda Kautz Linda Williams	Mary Benis Julija Volfa Brianna Armstrong
Hospitality	Shirley Lindner	TBA
Nursery	Renee and Caty McFarland Julie Larson (9:45)	Krista Pawlowski

Communion Set-up Michele Disbro, Linda Williams, Wendy Stoica

### RESPONSE TO VISITORS

Baked Goods Baker	Linda Williams
Baked Goods Deliverer	Mary Benis
Note-writer	Leslie Roy
Food Pantry Delivery	Barb Connors

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

*“Living the Question/Practicing Resurrection”*

Jared Witt, Ministry-in-Context Intern

## THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER

DECEMBER 2-8

### Wednesday

- 7:00 PM Beacon of Hope/Seventh Day Adventists – Room 2  
7:00 PM Advent Desserts  
7:30 PM Advent Worship  
8:30 PM OCA (Obsessive Compulsive Anonymous)

### Thursday

- 7:00 PM Bridge - Redeemer

### Friday

### Saturday

- 9 AM-3 PM Beacon of Hope/Seventh Day Adventists  
10:00 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal

### Sunday

- 8:30 AM Holy Communion  
9:45 AM Sunday School  
9:45 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Meeting about Youth  
10:45 AM Parish Education Committee  
11:00 AM Holy Communion

### Monday

- 3:30-8 PM Cello Lessons  
6:00 PM Knitting Circle  
6:00 PM Brownie Troop – Room 3  
6:30 PM Juniors – Room 4

### Tuesday

- 1:00 PM Bible Study  
5-7 PM Youth Expressions – Rm. 4  
6:15 PM Chimes Choir  
7:30 PM Senior Choir

## PRAYERS & PERSONALS

Prayers are asked for the following members: **Chad Eberle** on the death of his father; **Tim Young**, following surgery this past week; and **Julie Johnson** as she continues to undergo tests for what has been diagnosed as a stroke.

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The deadline for articles for *Reflections* is Monday mornings by 7 a.m. Just email them to [dbrannigan@redeemerluth.com](mailto:dbrannigan@redeemerluth.com) and “Reflections” in the subject line.

## REDEEMER COMMUNITY NEWS

### Mid-Week Advent Worship Begins Dec. 2

This year Redeemer will hold midweek Advent worship services beginning on Wednesday, December 2. Redeemer is also inviting Christ United Methodist Church to join us. The service will use the very popular "Holden Evening Prayer." Worship is at 7:30 p.m. but the evening begins with "Advent Desserts" at 7 p.m. in the Narthex.

If you are willing to provide a dozen cookies or the equivalent to share for Advent Desserts for one of the Wednesday evening services, please sign up on the sign up sheet located on the kiosk. The Fellowship Committee will provide treats on December 2.

### An Encouragement Gift

A Redeemer household is planning to give a gift of \$2,000 above their pledge for 2009 in order to encourage giving from people who call Redeemer home. The hope is to (1) stimulate giving beyond commitments for 2009; (2) stimulate new giving; (3) encourage visitor giving.

As Redeemer comes closer to the end of the year, there are several items that will need attention in the 2009 budget (ex: our commitment to Trinity Lutheran Seminary to support the last year of **Michael Powell** plus RLC's BREAD commitment).

If you are "encouraged" to step into this adventure of giving, please make a note on either you check or the envelope in which you put your donation. The end of the year is often a time that brings our responsibilities for the year to an end and gives us a bit of a boost as we enter the next year.

### Meeting about Youth

On Sunday, December 6, during the Sunday School hour (10 a.m.) **Pastor Al** will be meeting with all interested adults to talk about Redeemer's ministry with youth (from the youngest up through the Luther League).

If you have an interest in working with youth and want to be involved in some of our planning and organizing, please come out. If you have questions or concerns prior to the meeting, please call Pastor Al.

### Pick Up Cookie Dough, Popcorn, Cake

The cookie dough, popcorn, and cakes ordered from Lutherans Concerned should be available at Redeemer after either worship service on December 6 and 13.

If you're unable to be at church either of those times, please contact the LC representative who took your order and arrange for pick-up or delivery.

And once again, a big thank-you for your always-gracious support of a really good cause.

### Advent Open House

Pastor Al and Karen would like to open up their home for an Advent Open House on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2 – 5pm. Yes, it is open to all y'all (members and friends). If you think you might attend, sign-up in the narthex to give Pastoral and Karen some kind of estimate of people who will be dropping by the house.

### Sharing the Warmth

So far Redeemer members have contributed over 40 pairs of gloves and mittens, eight hats, five jackets and one pair of snow pants for those in need. Keep the warmth coming!

Deposit the items in the designated box in the Narthex.

### Vision Team Looks at Mission Trips

Join the conversation on Tuesday, December 8 at 7 p.m. to discuss one of the areas of service that came up through the "Day of Vision" last year – mission trips. A lot of possibilities exist!

A few people have already shown interest in this area and this is our first gathering. If you would like to hear more about it, please join us. This can be an exciting way of serving and connecting with others beyond the Columbus area. Questions about this "team" should be directed to **Kelley Scott** at [kelleynotez@yahoo.com](mailto:kelleynotez@yahoo.com) or by home phone at 740-756-4817.

### Alternative Christmas Gift Ideas

Ever wondered what to get the person who seems to have everything already? Or the grandchild who really doesn't need another toy? The Church in Society Committee suggests considering alternative Christmas gifts this year. By choosing from this list, you could save a great deal of time, energy, gasoline, the frustration of standing in long lines—and help a "neighbor" who really needs some assistance in obtaining some of the basics of life.

**God's Global Barnyard:** You can choose to give chickens, a goat, a pig – or any of several other options to someone in the world who could use the gift to sustain their own family and help others. Catalogs will be available in the Fellowship Area or go to:

<http://community.elca.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=469>

**Mosquito net:** To provide protection from disease for a family in a malaria-prone area. For a special occasion (e.g., a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday), challenge your friends to provide 50 nets.

<https://community.elca.org/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=475&nccsm=21&nccspID=997>

**Faith Mission:** For a donation of \$39 you can feed and care for 19 people at Faith Mission. Hope begins with a meal and if you can pledge to give \$39 each month for two months, you could help change the lives of 38 hungry people

<http://www.faithmissionofohio.org/radiothon.php>

**Lutheran Volunteer Corps:** LVC changes lives every day, made possible by a dedicated, grassroots group of donors, alumni, congregations, and friends of LVC. Join with your time, talent, treasure, and prayers provided to help build a world focused on intentional community, social justice, simple and sustainable living.

<http://www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org/>

**Heifer International:** Similar to God's Global Barnyard, a variety of items can be given to someone in need, such as a llama, a water buffalo, trees, a gift basket to begin a small business.

<http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKONiFiG/b.204586/?msource=kw2795>

**Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio:** Consider a camper sponsorship for youth to attend a summer camp.

<http://www.lomocamps.org/support/giving>

**Habitat for Humanity:** Help build a decent, affordable home by donating money for windows, faucets, a light switch, tools, a room, or other construction materials.

<http://www.habitatgiftcatalog.org/site/PageServer?pagename=about>

**International Rescue Committee (IRC):** Dedicated to emergency response efforts in crisis situations around the world, gifts such as blankets, food rations, and carpentry tool kits may be sent to areas around the world.

[http://www.fromharmtohome.org/?ms=em\\_fh2h\\_xxx\\_MAIN\\_bc\\_0919xx](http://www.fromharmtohome.org/?ms=em_fh2h_xxx_MAIN_bc_0919xx)

### **FRIEDE to Attend Magpie Concert**

The FRIEDE small group will attend the 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 12 concert of the Magpie Consort at St. John's Episcopal Church (700 High St., Worthington), starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. at La Chatelaine (627 High St.). Redeemer member **Heidi Scherer** sings with the group.

Those wishing to attend should RSVP to **Shirley Meyer** at 231-8850.

### **Youth Christmas Program Performance**

Redeemer's youth will be performing this year's Christmas program on Sunday, December 13, at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. **Director Julie Larson** writes, "The kids have been working hard on their lines and songs for *Matt & Lucy's Version Births*, so we hope that you'll come and enjoy the show. It's also fun to see some new little faces up front each year!"

Rehearsal times are as follows:

- Saturday, December 5 at 10 a.m.
- Sunday, December 6 during Sunday School hour.
- Saturday, December 12 at 10 a.m.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact **Julie** at [julesrachel@yahoo.com](mailto:julesrachel@yahoo.com) or 614-833-0991. Hope you can join us!

### **World Café Tours la Belle France**

The December outing of World Café will be to La Chatelaine French Bakery & Bistro, 1550 W. Lane Ave., on Sunday, December 13 at 1:00 pm. Please let **Ashley** or **Judy Bird** know (239-9380 or [jambird@aol.com](mailto:jambird@aol.com)) by Wednesday, December 9 that you will be participating so that we can make reservations to ensure enough seating for all.

### **Sister Act to Meet Dec. 15**

Sister Act will meet next on Tuesday, December 15 at 7 p.m. downstairs in Fellowship Hall. This month, Sister Act will be icing Advent cookies and packaging cheer plates to give to Redeemer members.

Sister Act is a new kind of Women of the ELCA congregational unit, meeting monthly and rotating activities of study, service, and spiritual growth. Women of ALL ages are welcome to join us! If you have any questions, contact **Kelley Scott** at [kelleynotez@yahoo.com](mailto:kelleynotez@yahoo.com) or by home phone at (740) 756-4817.

## **Christmas Journey**

The Interesting Journey group's December outing will be Sunday, December 20. The group will be going to see State Auto's Christmas display. This life-sized Nativity has been part of downtown Columbus since 1930. The building is decorated with lighted 12-foot wreaths and rooftop nutcrackers. This year the display is in an adjacent park, closer to visitors, enhancing the experience.

The group will leave church following the 11 a.m. service and eat lunch at Peking Dynasty on Livingston Ave. After lunch they will head downtown to view the Nativity display. Everyone is welcome to join the group for this journey. Please RSVP to **LaVerna Reinoehl** at (614) 236-5687 or [lrinoehl@insight.rr.com](mailto:lrinoehl@insight.rr.com).

### **Sign Up Now to Read Lessons**

There are sign-up sheets on the kiosk for readers for the 7:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve service** and for the two Sunday worship services for now through Sunday, February 14.

**A number of slots for Christmas Eve and both services remain open.** Anyone is welcome to sign up including both youth and adults. Youth are particularly encouraged to read on Christmas Eve.

The readings are sent out the week before and there is a pronunciation guide posted on the kiosk to assist with some of the more difficult Biblical names.

### **Split Announcements**

Those of you in worship on Sunday noticed that the Worship Committee has decided to try a new approach to the Sunday announcements. It is quite simple and practical. At the beginning of worship only those announcements that have to do with worship will be made: liturgy used that day, communion instructions, new hymns, names added to the prayers, etc.

Then after the final hymn but before the dismissal, there will be announcements that deal with items we need to remember for the week.

Worship will then end with the usual dismissal.

### **Test Your Carbon Footprint!**

A new group has formed at Redeemer – the Green Team – which is looking at ways that church can reduce its carbon footprint. That means figuring how many pounds of carbon dioxide are given off by the ordinary heating, cooling, and electrical needs of the church.

The group is also interested in finding out the carbon footprint of several families in the church using a calculator that is based on the following information:

- 1) Make, model, year of car(s) and the annual miles driven
- 2) Total miles flown.
- 3) Total kWh electricity (last 12 months is listed on the bill).
- 4) Total Therms natural gas used (again, listed on the bill) OR total gallons heating oil OR total gallons propane.
- 5) Total gallons garbage.

Over the last few years the Church in Society committee has suggested various ways to help reduce our carbon footprint: recycling, keeping tires at the correct air pressure, using energy efficient light bulbs. Not only are these things better for the environment, but they affect a family's finances. One committee member added insulation to the attic – and the next month the budget amount decreased by \$20 – \$240 for the year. Another family installed a new electric furnace and

heat pump – and decreased their electrical bill by \$80 to \$100 per month during the winter months.

If you are considering new appliances, be sure to look for the Energy Star ratings for increased efficiency and lower monthly costs.

If you are interested in figuring your carbon footprint, start collecting the data listed above. The committee will plan for a time to input the numbers and give you your personal (household) carbon footprint.

The Green Team is open to additional members and encourages everyone to participate in “green activities” in their own households – a way we can all participate in the stewardship and protection of the environment.

## Personals *cont'd from p. 2*

### *December Birthdays*

2-Dave Reinoehl	4-Doretha Holland
6-Isabella Skoog	6-Sophia Skoog
8-Payton Friederich	9-Darren Baldogo
10-Bob Edmund	10-Eric Hutton
13-Sarah Fisher	13-Roman Fisher
13-Ellen Kunce	15-Melinda Eakin
19-Fred Darst	21-Kolya Larson
23-Larry Gallick	24-Julianne Johnson
25-Doug Eakin	26-Bob Battiste
26-Katie Kent Smith	
27-Sue Darst	29-Don Yehling
31-John Kennedy	31-Emma Martin

*If your name was left out of this list, please call the church office ASAP at 237-1263.*

## The Wider Church

### Hanson to Host Online Town Hall Forum

ELCA Bishop Mark Hanson will host an online town hall forum on Sunday, December 6, at 5:30 p.m.; for those wishing to participate, please check [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) for more details. This town hall meeting follows his issuing of the following letter to members of the ELCA:

Sisters and brothers in Christ of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

I greet you with the words of the apostle Paul to the Romans: "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand" (Romans 5:1-2a).

Where does the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) stand today? We stand together in God's grace, but we are not standing still. We proclaim Jesus Christ and are fully engaged in this mission by actively caring for the world that God loves. God's mission is serious work that calls for serious commitment. We bring all that we are – especially our rich diversity, our shared tradition and even our disagreements – in service of God's mission.

We go forward in this mission trusting that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). Evidence abounds of the Holy Spirit being poured out upon us and through us:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Naples, Fla., recently purchased land for a new ministry center. They also convened ELCA partners, seminaries, synods, and churchwide staff to envision together a vibrant, evangelical and multicultural Lutheran presence in southwestern Florida.

Our new directors of evangelical mission, based in synods, are trained and ready to serve ELCA congregations that they might continue to grow as evangelical centers for mission.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi told Global Mission colleagues traveling in the region that they are ready to deepen their relationship with the ELCA so that together we can more generously and faithfully respond to malaria, HIV and AIDS. **Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl**, ELCA coordinator for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, writes, "The ELCA, especially through the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, will be part of a movement that changes the world. It's certainly going to change Malawi."

In summer 2009, 37,000 youth, young adults and adult leaders attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. They spread throughout the city, wearing orange t-shirts in a witness of service that touched the hearts of residents and has them talking still.

ELCA chaplains **Michael Lembke**, **Richard Brunk** and **Paul Dirksmeyer** bore witness to God's mercy at Fort Hood, Texas. They ministered to families, friends and an entire nation grieving the tragic shootings at the nation's largest military base.

These are just a few examples. Think of the signs of the Holy Spirit being poured out in your life and in your congregation! Thanks be to God for this continued outpouring of the Spirit among us.

When the ELCA Church Council faced the reality of reduced financial resources for mission, it made a difficult but necessary 10 percent budget reduction. The decision, however, does not diminish our resolve and commitment to engage together in God's mission for the life of the world.

We will engage Christ's mission with everyone who stands together in God's grace, using the rich gifts that the Holy Spirit has poured into our lives:

- Together we will proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord in worship spaces and workplaces, in online conversations and around kitchen tables.

- Together we will develop new ministries in every synod in multicultural communities and among people living in deep poverty.

- Together we will raise up and welcome faithful, wise and courageous leaders by sustaining vital and creative seminaries and campus ministries.

- Together we will send missionaries to accompany new and growing Lutheran churches throughout the world.

The apostle Paul wrote that where the Holy Spirit is poured out upon us, hope abounds and hope does not disappoint us (Romans 5:4-5). What a wonderful promise this is as we now enter the season of Advent! With our hope in Christ, we face the future together as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving the world that God so loves.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!