



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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December 28, 2009

Discovery along the Journey

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 Ernsthause

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

2nd year - Jared Witt

1st year - Joe Brosious

This week, we complete our initial look at spiritual gifts. Which ones have seemed like they "fit" you? Have you found any to be surprising? Maybe the idea of spiritual gifts is new to you. Maybe you are already serving in places that provide the right fit for your gifts. Maybe you've been using your gift(s) in certain ways over the past years and would like to use your gift(s) in a new way. Maybe you want to learn more about your gift(s). What makes sense for you?

Wherever you are in your faith journey, I hope this overview of spiritual gifts over the past three weeks has shed light on new possibilities, affirmed your gifts, and/or sparked your curiosity. In the coming months, each person at Redeemer will have a chance to discover more about his/her gifts, needs, and God's calling. I hope you will want to participate in this process. Beyond your own discovery, perhaps you can be a "seed example," sharing your story with others, or maybe you would like to work with others as they discover their gifts and connect them with ministry opportunities that are a good fit for those gifts. These are all part of the process and I look forward to discovering more with you!

Peace, Kelley

Evangelism: the gift that moves believers to reach out to others, sharing the Good News with them through word and deed and inviting and welcoming them into the community of faith. Biblical References: Matthew 28:16-20, Ephesians 4:11-16, Acts 2:36-40.

Hospitality: the gift that causes a believer to joyfully welcome and receive guests and those in need of food and lodging. Biblical References: Romans 12:13, Romans 16:23a, Luke 10:38.

Leadership: the gift that gives a believer the confidence to step forward, give direction and provide motivation to fulfill a dream or complete a task. Biblical References: Romans 12:8, John 21:15-17, II Timothy 4:1-5.

Music--Vocal: the gift that gives a believer the capability and opportunity to present personal witness and inspiration to others through singing. Biblical References: Psalm 96:1-9, Psalm 100:1-2, Psalm 149:1-2.

Skilled Craft: the gift that enables a believer to create, build, maintain or repair items used within the church. Biblical References: Exodus 30:1-6, Exodus 31:3-5, Ezekiel 27:4-11.

Teaching: the gift that enables a believer to communicate a personal understanding of the Bible and faith in such a way that it becomes clear and understood by others. Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:28, Matthew 5:1-12, Acts 18:24-48.

Writing: the gift that gives a believer the ability to express truth in a written form; a form that can edify, instruct and strengthen the community of believers. Biblical References: I John 2:1-6, 12-14, I Timothy 3:14-15, Jude 3.

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

LESSONS

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9] 10-18

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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 Clinton Heights Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer member Sandra Keaton.

+ *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, Julianne Johnson, Robin Stokes and Redeemer visitors.

WORSHIP LEADERS

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Kathy Zwanziger	Karen Collins
Acolyte	Renee McFarland	Dayrel Billingsley
Reader	Georgene Slagle	Diane Montgomery
Cantor	Linda Williams	N/A
Coordinator	Kurt Goshen	Paul Atkinson
Ushers	Jack Miller	Mike & Mary Benis
Welcoming Team	Dick Kautz	Tamara Gosnell
	Katie McCleef	Grace Jones
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence	TBA
Nursery	Renee & Caty McFarland	Sarah Kirkman
	Julie Larson (9:45)	

Communion Set-up Ranel Hoddinott & Eileen Day

RESPONSE TO VISITORS

Baked Goods Baker	Donna Voelkel
Baked Goods Deliverer	Mary Benis
Note-writer	Hilda Kautz
Food Pantry Delivery	Cathy Oldham

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Violence and the Old Testament God - Pastor Al

THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER

DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 5

Wednesday

7:00 PM Beacon of Hope/Seventh Day Adventists – Room 2

8:30 PM OCA (Obsessive Compulsive Anonymous)

Thursday **New Year's Eve**

5:30 PM Serving Dinner at First English Lutheran Church

Friday **New Year's Day**

Saturday

9 AM-3 PM Beacon of Hope/Seventh Day Adventists

Sunday

8:30 AM Holy Communion

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Holy Communion

12:15 PM Parish Education Committee

Monday

3:30-8 PM Cello Lessons

5-7 PM Youth Expressions – Rm. 5

6:00 PM Brownie Troop – Room 3

6:00 PM Knitting Circle

6:30 PM Juniors – Room 4

Tuesday

1:00 PM Bible Study

6:15 PM Chimes Choir

7:30 PM Senior Choir

7:30 PM Berwick Civic Association

PRAYERS & PERSONALS

Membership Directory Update

The following folks have been removed from RLC's membership roster, so please delete the households: **Christiane Buuck, Dick Ellis, Scot Gerding, Greg Hopkins, David Johnston, Shirley Lindner, Matt Miller, Steve Neff and Scott Steiner.**

January Birthdays

2-Don Luck 3-Evelyn Fitch

4-Kristen Ullman 5-Brandi Amon

5-Tamara Gosnell 5-Hans Schwarz

12-Estella Kuemmel 16-Mark Edmund

16-Melissa Vivens 18-Gary Pawlowski

20-Corine Montgomery

21-Barb Atkinson 21-Elizabeth George

21-Shirley Miller 22-Maureen Callahan

22-Shirley Cannon 23-John Steiner

24-Hilda Kautz 25-Rose Varga

28-Cassie Battiste 28-Bebe McCoy

Please let us know if we left your name out of this list, 237-1263, ASAP.

Blood Drive Set for Jan. 23

The next blood drive here at Redeemer will be held on Saturday, January 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the narthex.

To schedule a time, either sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex or call the church office at 237-1263 or the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Church Secretary Position Open

Pastor Al is currently gathering the names of anyone who might be interested in applying for the church secretary position following the retirement of Redeemer's long-time secretary **Dolores Brannigan** at the end of the year.

The hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. It will pay \$12 per hour.

Please see **Pastor Al** if you are interested.

2010 Flower Chart

The chart for altar flowers for 2010 is on the kiosk. The cost per vase remains at \$20. Please put a checkmark next to your name when you sign up to indicate you intend to take your flowers with you after the services otherwise the flowers will either be taken to one of Redeemer's shut-ins or used in the Narthex.

RLC's Mission Endowment Fund

The Mission Endowment Fund is an important ministry within Redeemer Lutheran Church. Bequests to this fund either while living or in memory of a loved one extend or continue a legacy in the name of the donor or the family. These gifts of love enhance Christ's purpose in the lives of God's children throughout the community.

The Mission Endowment Fund is diligently managed by a committee of responsible church members highly committed to supervising the use of these funds within approved guidelines and in the best interest of Christ's mission.

Gifts may come in the form of a will declaration, memorial or simply as a donation while still living.

Inquiries should be directed to the Mission Endowment Fund Committee Chair **Robin Stokes** at bird2861@yahoo.com.

World Café Visits Horn of Africa

The January outing of World Café will be to the **Blue Nile Restaurant**, 2361 N. High St., on Sunday, January 10 at 1 p.m. Please let **Ashley** or **Judy Bird** know at 239-9380 or jambird@aol.com by Wednesday, January 6 that you will be participating so that we can make reservations to ensure enough seating for all.

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.

If you are "encouraged" to step into this adventure of giving, please make a note on either your 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.

Readers, Hospitality Sponsors Needed

Volunteers to read for the Sunday worship services as well as to set up Sunday morning hospitality – particularly following the late service – are both needed.

To read, sign-up on the sheet on the kiosk for either of the two Sunday worship services for now through Sunday, February 14. 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.

To volunteer to provide hospitality or to find out what that entails, call **Jon Disbro** at 451-3642.

December Council Update

Budget (through November)

Year-to-date income (budget) – \$244,388 (88% of budget)

Year-to-date expenses – \$242,803

* On the recommendation of **Pastor Al**, council voted to remove a number of inactive members from the membership roster. (See "Prayers and Personals" column, this issue, for the names.) He explained that several had moved out of the community, have found other church homes or did not respond to his letter.

* **Pastor Al** reported that Redeemer should be receiving the final \$800 from the 2009 Neighborhood Partnership Grant and council gave him permission to write a new grant for 2010 focusing on one of the "vision" ideas involving a multi-layered, collaborative gardening project by RLC, the two neighborhoods adjacent to Redeemer, Lutheran Social Services and the Girl Scouts.

* **Pastor Al** reported that during November worship attendance averaged 149: 51 at the early service and 98 at late.

* Executive Committee noted that **Pastor Al** will be working on a job description for the church secretary position and that it will likely not be filled before February 2010.

* Council approved a change to Redeemer's Continuing Resolutions so that the section dealing with the Audit Committee now reads as follows: "An Audit Committee of at least two voting members shall be appointed by the Finance Committee. Audit Committee members shall not include members of the Church Council, employees or their immediate family, nor the immediate family of any Officer of the congregation. The committee shall furnish the audit report to the congregation by the last Sunday in March."

* Council reviewed the first draft of the 2010 budget with final approval for the budget that is to be presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting set for the January 14 council meeting. An open forum/presentation on the proposed 2010 budget will be held during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, January 24 with the final budget approved at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31.

* Executive Committee discussed the vacancy for the stewardship liaison for the 2010 Council, noting that the committee will consider having a Sunday School open forum to discuss this. **Lay Ministry Coordinator Kelley Scott** will also be involved.

* Dates set by the Executive Committee include Friday, January 15 – deadline for annual committee reports and Saturday, January 23 – Council retreat.

* **Financial Secretary Bruce Collins** reported that 63 households had pledged at total of \$156,040 for 2010.

* The Fellowship Committee has set the Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper for Tuesday, February 16.

* Parish Education said that picture Bibles will be presented to Redeemer's three-year-olds on the Baptism of the Lord – Sunday, January 10.

* Council approved a request from the Property Committee to purchase scaffolding at a cost of no more than \$2,000 to come from the Building Fund.

Member Profile

Brianna Armstrong is a freshman at Gahanna Lincoln High School. In her free time she enjoys meeting with her Girl Scout troop, which she has been a member of since the first grade. Brianna has a new addition to the family, her pet rabbit named Oreo, who is eight weeks old.

Brianna is a native of Cleveland. She has two sisters that in her words drive her crazy. Brianna likes to read and surf the Internet. Brianna attends the second service.

She enjoys the endless volunteering opportunities and feeling of being welcomed at Redeemer. Brianna looks forward to participating at Redeemer in the upcoming year.

The Wider Church

Local Girl Scouts Encourage 3 R's

Junior Girl Scout Troop 2300 would like to encourage all people to practice the three R's – reducing, reusing, and recycling. This fall, the troop embarked on the Girl Scout Journey, "It's Your Planet – Love It!" They learned all about energy and how our energy usage impacts our planet. To finish up their journey, the girls planned a service project. They noticed how many plastic grocery bags that were used on a weekly basis and decided that they could reduce the use of these bags in the community by decorating reusable grocery totes.

If you would like to purchase some unique grocery totes for your use, please let Girl Scout Troop 2300 know how many you would like by contacting the troop at girlscouttroop2300@yahoo.com. The totes cost \$3 each.

Please remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle!

Southern Ohio Synod Pilot for LMI

The Southern Ohio Synod Council, upon request of the synod's Hunger Task Force, recently approved an application to become a pilot synod for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI), joining four others in the ELCA in pioneering this effort which eventually will include all 65 synods.

The pilot project, which was approved by the Churchwide Assembly in August, is a partnership of the ELCA, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), and Lutheran World Relief (LWR) that emphasizes prayer, awareness, advocacy, and fundraising. The partners set a goal of raising \$75 million over five years to combat malaria, a disease intensified by poverty. The ELCA's portion of the goal is \$20 million.

LMI gifts from ELCA members and congregations will be received under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal. These donations are intended to supplement, not supplant, existing gifts to the appeal. Disbursements to areas in need (primarily in Africa) will be coordinated by the Global

Fund, a unique global public/private partnership, which is dedicated to attracting and disbursing resources to prevent and treat HIV/Aids, tuberculosis, and malaria.

According to the ELCA, nearly 1 million people die annually from malaria. Ninety percent of those deaths are in Africa. Tanzania, a focus area for LMI, experiences 60,000 to 80,000 such deaths annually. Pregnant women and children are especially vulnerable to the disease with 85 percent of those who die under the age of five.

In addition, the economic ramifications of malaria are staggering. The disease costs Africa more than \$12 billion each year in gross domestic product. Malaria both intensifies poverty and is intensified by poverty.

However, malaria is a preventable disease; it has not been a problem in the U.S. for 60 years. What is needed are resources to address the issue. Lives can be saved by something as simple as long-lasting insecticidal bed nets. LMI will include a "Lutheran Nothing but Nets" emphasis – one of the beneficiaries of Redeemer's 2009 Legacy Gifts.

Much more information will be forthcoming in 2010.

Thrivent Financial, Habitat for Humanity Finish 2,000th Home

A new home for Abdikalik Abdulahi and his wife, Suaada Abdiaziz of Somalia, built by a host of volunteers, was dedicated December 4 in Minneapolis – the 2,000th home built through an alliance of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International.

"Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity" is a four-year, \$125 million alliance of the two organizations. Their work has resulted in construction of homes in 46 states – including Ohio – and the District of Columbia.

That alliance concludes this year, but a new \$15 million program, "Thrivent Builds Homes," will focus on volunteers from Lutheran congregations and Thrivent members. Its goal is to build 181 homes in 37 states in 2010.

Homes are sold to selected families at no profit. The buyers pay their own mortgages.

Approximately 350,000 volunteers in the United States have helped construct Thrivent Builds homes in the past four years, said Tim Lehman, Thrivent Financial's vice president of member experience strategy. A similar global program of Thrivent and Habitat has brought together about 4,000 volunteers in 350 teams to build homes in 32 countries, he said.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Minneapolis, is the nation's largest fraternal benefit society. Information about the Thrivent Builds program is online at <http://www.thriventbuilds.com/>.