



# REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

An adventure for *life!*

## Reflections

(614) 237-1263

VOL. 14, ISSUE 1

January 4, 2010

### *January Has Blown into Our Lives*

#### OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here  
in the name of Jesus

Pastor - F. Allan Debelak

Secretary - Kurt Goshen

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 - Gage Gosnell

Vice Pres. - Steve Winner

Treasurer - Eileen Day

Financial Secretary - Bruce

Collins

Secretary - Kay Ernsthause

#### COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPS.

Church in Society - Kathy

Denhard

Evangelism - Jon Disbro

Fellowship - Donna Schmidt

Finance - Brad Phillips

Member Care - Carol Heacock

Parish Ed - Heidi Stover

Property - Maureen Callahan

Stewardship -

Worship - Michelle Clemence

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

One thing that changed with the coming of the New Year has been the temperature. I looked at the weather projections for this week and the high is to be near 26 degrees. The dusting of snow will not simply go away as it did in late 2009 - it just seems to want to blow around a bit. And yet, we are still a people who are shaped by our faithful routines that attempt to connect us to the story of God's love that is the power to bring us life no matter what may be the changes in our lives.

This Sunday, January 10, we will continue one of the "routines" of the life of our congregation. We will invite a handful of 3- and 4-year-olds up to the front of the sanctuary with their parents. We will then place a picture Bible in their hands and they will ask their parents to read the book to them. For the whole congregation this is a reminder that baptism is not a one-day event. It is a part of the ongoing life that springs up from our baptism and shapes us all along the way. We are also reminded that infant baptism demands the involvement of faithful parents and/or guardians. Beyond the day of baptism, faithful adults continue to nurture the way of life that is marked with the cross of Christ forever.

In addition, as we approach the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, the Church Council decided to offer a time before the meeting for members to gather to look at, discuss, and comment on the budget for 2010. We have set aside the Sunday school hour on Sunday, January 24, for this discussion and review. Usually our Annual Meeting does not last very long and a part of that meeting that can make for a longer meeting are items within the budget that merely need to be clarified. Sometimes it may only be the need to show why certain line items have been seen an increase or a decrease over the previous years of ministry and mission. This Sunday school time with the proposed budget will be led by the people on our financial team. The Annual Report for the Annual Meeting will be available on this Sunday.

The date for the Annual Meeting of Redeemer will be Sunday, January 31, 2010. The meeting will begin promptly at 1 p.m. with a potluck held after the 11 a.m. worship - as soon as we can gather everyone down into the basement and have all the food set out. Though our constitution states that we have a quorum with 50 people in attendance, I think it is good for the life of the congregation if we have a stronger showing at this annual event. Child care is provided to allow parents with children to attend the meeting. We have made sure the meeting time is set so that people who are not able to make the potluck can arrive in time for the meeting.

Too often, the Annual Meeting is called a "business" meeting. I don't buy it. It is a meeting that sets the ground work for who we will be in the upcoming year. It is here that comments can be made about the various reports from the past year and visions for 2010. I also think it gives every member the opportunity to be a part of the witness to our Lord that is shaped through something as mundane as a meeting.

Christ's Peace! pastoral

## GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY

### BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

#### LESSONS

Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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 & Rite of Healing (Setting 6)

11:00 AM Holy Communion & Rite of Healing (Setting 6)

#### INTERCESSIONS & THANKSGIVINGS

+ For the people of David Lutheran Church in Canal Winchester.

+ For Redeemer member John Kennedy.

+ *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, 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

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
Assisting Minister	Kay Ernsthause	Seth Harms
Acolyte	Eric Vivens	Colin Young
Reader	Georgene Slagle	TBA
Cantor	Katie Kent Smith	
Healing Team Prayers	Michele Disbro Kathy Zwanziger	Mary Benis Sabine Lamar
Healing Team Assistants	Earl Bradley Michelle Clemence	Carla Baldogo Mandi Schwaderer
Coordinator	Kurt Goshen	Paul Atkinson
Ushers	Becky Fisher Jon Disbro	Mary Benis Mike Benis
Welcoming Team	Michele Disbro Stan Heacock	Becky Fisher Barb Atkinson
Hospitality	Disbro Family	John Caron Chad Eberle
Nursery	Jessica Fisher Becky Fisher (9:45)	Krista Pawlowski
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 – Part 2 –*

*Pastor Al*

## THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER

JANUARY 6-12

#### Wednesday

- 5-7 PM Youth Expressions – Rm. 4
- 7:00 PM First Light
- 7:00 PM Beacon of Hope/Seventh Day Adventists – Room 2
- 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
- 10-11:30 AM Confirmation
- Noon Vision Team

#### Sunday

- 8:30 AM Holy Communion & Rite of Healing
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Holy Communion & Rite of Healing
- 1:00 PM World Café – Blue Nile

#### Monday

- 3:30-8 PM Cello Lessons
- 5-7 PM Youth Expressions – Rm. 5
- 6:00 PM Brownie Troop – Room 3
- 6:30 PM Juniors – Room 4
- 7:00 PM Member Care Committee

#### Tuesday

- 1:00 PM Bible Study
- 6:15 PM Chimes Choir
- 7:30 PM Senior Choir

## PRAYERS & PERSONALS

Prayers are asked for former Redeemer pastor and bishop **Robert Kelley** who was hospitalized this past week.

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Please welcome **Kurt Goshen** who will be staffing the church office now that **Dolores Brannigan** has retired. Kurt will be in the office M – F, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

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The deadline for **Reflections** articles is 7 a.m. on Mondays. Please email them to [info@redeemerluth.com](mailto:info@redeemerluth.com).

## REDEEMER COMMUNITY NEWS

### 2010 Offering Envelopes Available

The 2010 offering envelopes are now available in the Narthex for pickup. This year's set includes a new envelope for contributing to Redeemer's congregation-wide subscription to the *Lutheran* as well as monthly envelopes for "Building Maintenance."

All contributions received through this envelope will be deposited to the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund to be used for future, major building expenditures such as parking lot repair and resurfacing, furnace, roof, etc.

So far, these funds have been used to help pay for repair of the front steps and the purchasing of scaffolding.

Envelopes for children in the congregation are also available for pickup.

### Redeemer's Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Redeemer Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 31. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. A congregational potluck will be held immediately after the 11 a.m. liturgy.

Reports for the Annual Meeting will be available at the Sunday, January 24 Sunday School session set to review primarily the proposed 2010 budget. All members are encouraged to read through the reports, the financial records for the past year and the proposed 2010 budget. Come ready to be a part of Redeemer's future.

In order to meet this schedule, 2009 Council members need to have their reports in to Kurt no later than Friday, January 15.

### 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.

### LOMO Information Now Available

Information from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio (LOMO) about its summer programs is now available. Flyers with the summer schedule can be picked up in the Narthex while more detailed information can be found online at [www.lomocamps.org](http://www.lomocamps.org).

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:jambird@aol.com) by Wednesday, January 6 that you will be participating so that we can make reservations to ensure enough seating for all.

### 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.

## The Wider Church

### Southern Ohio Synod Assembly

The Southern Ohio Synod is now accepting nominations for both the 2010 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member or Southern Ohio Synod Council positions. The forms can be found online at <http://www.southernohiosynod.org/> -- check the Southern Ohio Synod icon in the left-hand column.

All nomination forms should be sent to the synod office (300 S. Second St., Columbus, OH 43215) marked "Attention Nomination Committee." **Forms are due by January 31, 2010.**

The 2010 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly will be held at Wittenberg University in Springfield on **May 21 - 22**.

### 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](mailto: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.

**Redeemer's "Noisy Offering" – which encourages folks to donate their loose change following communion in the offering plates placed at the front of the church – will be going to this effort for the next several weeks.**

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.

## **Lutherans Attend Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen**

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Lutherans from other parts of the world participated in the recently concluded Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Geneva, sent a seven-member delegation, which included members from India, Mauritania, Tanzania, the United States and LWF staff.

Mary Minette, director for environmental education and advocacy, ELCA Washington Office, was part of the LWF delegation. Writing a blog while in Copenhagen, she said the LWF delegation expressed concern that "the future of all creation is in jeopardy. Our belief is the issue is not only about

science and policy and politics, but also an issue of justice." Minette's blog is at <http://www.ELCA.org/advocacy> on the ELCA website.

Minette said the foundation laid by U.S. President Barack Obama and other world leaders at the conference makes feasible U.S. climate legislation this spring. "The outcome of the conference in Copenhagen is only the start, and the fight against climate change isn't over yet. There is much left to do to ensure the long-term protection of God's good creation," she added.

In addition, Rev. Barbara R. Rossing, professor of New Testament, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), was also part of the LWF delegation. Rossing signed an ecumenical statement urging world leaders to be courageous and make "decisions that must be made for all of humanity and for the future of creation." Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa was among those who signed the statement, found at <http://bit.ly/6ERjXJ> on the web.

In an ecumenical forum on climate change, Rossing said, "It's the world's poorest people, those who have done the least to cause the problem of climate change, who are the first to suffer its catastrophic effects." She said they ask, "Why is God punishing us?"

The Bible can help Christians address the adverse effects of climate change in a positive way, she said. The Book of Revelation, which Rossing has studied and written about extensively, makes clear there is still time to repent for human actions that adversely affect the earth's climate, she said.

Revelation focuses on the urgency of the present moment, Rossing said. She said some scientists have said humanity has less than 10 years to act to significantly reduce carbon emissions before so-called "critical tipping points" are reached on certain environmental concerns.

"We as theologians, ethicists and biblical scholars must take seriously such mounting evidence from science and name this 10-year window as a kind of kairos moment for our churches and for our world -- a moment of hope and urgency," Rossing said.

"When this planet is threatened, it is threatened for all of us," the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, WCC general secretary-elect, said at the forum. Tveit, a Lutheran, is general secretary, Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations. In one way, he said, the climate crisis "brings us together as one humanity."

"Are we able, are we willing to be one church, representing the one humanity with one heart showing the love of the one God for the one world? This is the challenge for the ecumenical movement today and tomorrow," he said.

Rossing's and Tveit's comments can be found at <http://bit.ly/6yooqQ> on the web.

The ELCA's social statement on the environment, "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice," is at <http://www.ELCA.org/socialstatements> on the ELCA website.