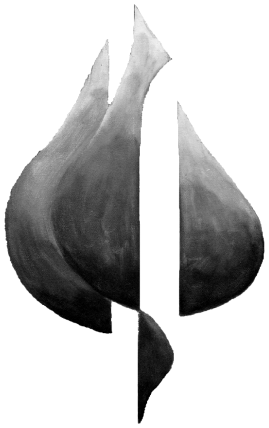

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

An adventure for *life!*

Reflections

(614) 237-1263 VOL. 14, ISSUE 2 January 11, 2010

In Many and Various Ways

There was a response used in the Service of Vespers in the Lutheran Book of Worship when we would use that liturgy for midweek worship. After the biblical readings for the evening ended, one of the worship leaders would say, "In many and various ways God spoke to God's people by the prophets." The congregation would then say, "But now God has spoken to us by his Son." The part of that back and forth that sticks with me are the first few words: *in many and various ways*. I use it in many ways. I know it trickles into prayers, the weekday devotions, and the sermons that I write. I'm always encouraged and challenged by those words.

In many and various ways we each press on into what will be the day at hand. You move into the day much differently than I do. From the way we dress to how we prepare to leave the house, from our breakfast routines to the lunches we expect to eat – it all happens *in many and various ways*. I also know that in the middle of liking that response, I also like things … just the way I like things. Obviously that means that I am not always open to hearing something or seeing something *in many and various ways*. When there is a clash between how I want the world to turn and the way that it actually does turn, I return to this simple response and where it sits in that Service of Vespers. That is where the encouragement comes. It is said after the readings for the evening. It is said no matter what has just been read. It is a reminder that this adventure of following Jesus and being the beloved children of God will make us listen again and turn and see things anew.

In many and various ways I know that I fall short. It really bugs me when it happens and I know I am horribly embarrassed whenever it happens. And yet, it happens. Then again, *in many and various ways* people around me become a word of grace and hope and accountability. Life within the church of Christ is life among many voices and many ways. Therefore, we are all invited to be flexible – gracious – merciful – direct – truthful. It is within these voices and ways that we are given the freedom to prayerfully express ourselves and discover how we will each be a part of the whole adventure for *life* that builds up the body of Christ.

In many and various ways we will continue to move through this year. We will continue walking in old ways that bring us comfort and support. We will also continue to listen to new voices and be enriched by the presence of those who sound and act and live in ways that will make us turn our heads and wonder. The Word of God that comes to us *in many and various ways* is always a word that causes us to wonder. We are people who wonder about who we will become and where we will be going. That is the journey. Along the way we are reminded that we are God's beloved and the Reign of God is our home that is forever expanding with new life. The next time I think I have the way under my belt and I am settled, I pray that the Holy Spirit will tickle me again with the reminder – *in many and various ways*. Then … maybe then, I will be surprised by the joy of God's Reign right when I thought I had everything under my control. Ha!

Christ's Peace! pastoral

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 Ernsthausen

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 Reinoehl
Secretary – Ashley Bird
Member – Helen Brunston
Member – William McCulley

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Michele Disbro

MIC STUDENTS

2nd year – Jared Witt
1st year – Joe Brosious

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

LESSONS

Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 St. Luke Lutheran Church .
+ For Redeemer member Karen Kent.
+ ***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 Schleppi, Julianne Johnson, Robin Stokes and Redeemer visitors.

WORSHIP LEADERS

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Stan Heacock	Gage Gosnell
Acolyte	Jill Disbro	Dayson Billingsly
Reader	TBA	TBA
Cantor	Heidi Sherer	
Coordinator	Kurt Goshen	Paul Atkinson
Ushers	Earl Bradley	Thelma Johnson
	Kurt Goshen	
Welcoming Team	Hilda Kautz	Mike Benis
	Linda Williams	Tomara Herring
Hospitality	TBA	TBA
Nursery	Michele Disbro	Brad Phillips/Misato In
	Eileen Day (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

Justice and Mercy in the Bible –
Pastor Al

THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER

JANUARY 13-19

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
10:00 AM Food Pantry
7:30 PM Church Council

Friday
Saturday
9 AM-3 PM Beacon of Hope/Seventh Day Adventists
11:00 AM Book Study – *Pastor's Home*

Sunday
8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Holy Communion
12:15 PM Worship 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 Daisies – *Room 4*
6:00 PM Knitting Circle
6:30 PM Juniors – *Fellowship Hall*
7:00 PM DADS

Tuesday
8:00 AM ROMEO
1:00 PM Bible Study
6:15 PM Chimes Choir
7:15 PM Mutual Ministry
7:30 PM Senior Choir

PRAYERS & PERSONALS

Prayers are asked for **Shirley Miller's** recovery who successfully underwent a surgical procedure last week and for **Thelma Johnson** and her sister, former Redeemer member **Elsie Draughn,** on the death of **Michael Draughn.**

+ + +

The following members have volunteered to work at the Food Pantry on Thursday, January 14: **Barb Connors,** and **John & Nancy Steiner. We still need two more volunteers. If this is something you can do, please call Kurt at the church office at 237-1263.** *Thank you very much!*

REDEEMER COMMUNITY NEWS

Brannigan Reception Set for Jan. 17

Redeemer will honor **Dolores Brannigan**, who recently retired after over 20 years as church secretary, at a reception Sunday, January 17 following the 11 a.m. service.

Help Needed to Fix, Serve Meal at First English on Feb. 11

"God has given us two hands -- one to receive with, and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing." Billy Graham

Redeemer Lutheran has committed to First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1015 W. Main St., to provide the Thursday, February 11 evening community meal. Volunteers are needed to prepare a casserole (an easy recipe and pan are provided) or provide salad or bread.

In addition, others are needed who can serve the meal and clean up afterwards (5 – 8 p.m.).

A sign up sheet is posted in the Narthex or contact **Kathy Denhard** at 596-3743 or kathyd0301@yahoo.com with questions or if you can help. Thank you for your support.

RLC's Annual Meeting Set for Jan. 31

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.

Volunteers Sought for RLC's Delegates to Synod Assembly

Volunteers to serve as Redeemer's delegates to the Synod Assembly set for May 21 – 22, 2010 at Wittenberg University are needed. One male and one female each is needed for the delegate slots as well for alternates. Please contact **Pastor Al** if you are interested.

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.

LOMO Information Now Available

Information from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio (LOMO) about its summer programs at its four Ohio camps 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.

This year, LOMO is offering a reduced fee ($50) for those registering online. In addition, Redeemer offers scholarships towards the camp fees: $50 for a full week and $25 for a half week.

To participate, please contact the church office by March 31 to let Kurt know what week your child will attend which camp so Redeemer can issue the check.

Please provide a copy of either the registration form or the confirmation email from the online registration to the church secretary.

Questions? Contact **Becky Fisher** at 321-6164 or **Michele Disbro** at 451-3642.

'Journey' Group Heads to CMA

The Interesting Journey group will be going to the Columbus Museum of Art (CMA) on Sunday, January 24 to see the Chihuly Illuminated exhibit. Chihuly Illuminated focuses on the element of light intrinsic to Dale Chihuly's glass art. The exhibit includes neon sculpture, large-scale installations, drawings and related work from the early 1970's to the present.

Also included are pieces from the artist's private collection. Admission to the museum is free. The group will meet after the 11 a.m. church service to carpool to the Old Bag of Nails restaurant for lunch before heading to the museum. Please RSVP to **LaVerna Reinoehl** at (614) 236-5687 or lreinoeh@insight.rr.com if you would like to go on this journey.

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 .

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.

Member Profile

Colin Young has been a Redeemer member all his life. He's now a freshman at Bexley High School, enjoying math and sciences most and probably heading toward engineering. He also enjoys music: he plays the flute in the school band and likes to listen to alternative or techno music.

Colin lives with his mom and dad and cat, Grace. He's happy to have two sets of grandparents in Ohio: **Karen** and **Bruce Collins** here in town and his dad's parents in Van Wert County.

Colin has become an avid collector of 1980s Transformers, and he's also a fan of roller coasters, especially the Millenium Force at Cedar Point.

Colin finds the people at Redeemer to be very friendly, and he's looking forward to participating in the reorganized youth group. In the meantime he often acolytes and also helps on both the welcoming and the healing teams.

The Wider Church

Trinity Seminar Sponsors 'Summer Sampler' for High School Youth

Trinity Lutheran Seminary here in Columbus invites high school youth who have completed their sophomore, junior or senior year to visit the seminary for three weeks in June or July to explore vocations, think theologically, participate in service projects, shadow mentors and make friends with Jesus-loving youth from the around the country.

If you or someone you know would be interested in this unique experience, check out the www.summersampler.com website and watch a short video about the program.

There are two sessions scheduled in 2010: June 13 through July 3 and July 11 through July 31.

For more information, contact **Pastor Ruth Fortis**, director, at rfortis@trinitylutheranseminary.edu.

Lilly Gives ELCA $1 Million to Address Seminarian Debt Concerns

The Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis, has awarded nearly $1 million to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to continue and broaden its project that addresses the financial challenges of seminarians attending its eight seminaries. The ELCA and partner institutions will match the grant with an additional $1.1 million.

Known as "Stewards of Abundance," the three-year project builds on two years of focused efforts by many ELCA leaders to address this concern.

In general, "more seminarians have debt, and their debts are larger," said Donald L. Huber, project coordinator. Such debts have negative implications for seminaries and for the church as seminary graduates seek to pay loans or default on them, which is already happening, he said. The goal is to reduce the number of students who graduate with debt and to lower the size of that debt, Huber said. Project leaders plan to develop an overall strategy for fundraising for students, he added.

Stewards of Abundance "will accelerate and coordinate" efforts already underway in financial education for seminarians, financial wellness plans developed by committees in ELCA synods that advise and approve candidates for professional leadership, a new seminarian health insurance plan, securing scholarship dollars and experiments to pay down student debt, he said.

The project includes a significant effort to raise scholarship resources for ELCA seminarians. Lilly Endowment designated $320,000 of its grant for this effort, and the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission will raise an additional $500,000 as matching funds to encourage significant gifts for seminary education. An additional $100,000 of the grant provides matching funds for financial education and coaching, Huber explained.

Debts carried by new pastors and professional lay leaders are a significant concern, said the Rev. Paul N. Hanson, director, Fund for Leaders, ELCA Development Services. "I believe that the research will show that this debt is having an adverse effect on ministry in congregations, and I trust that our combined efforts will help the ELCA solve this problem," he said.

"As people become more aware of it, particularly in the theological education community and in the synods, I hope this project will generate some excitement," said Huber. "We're doing the right things for the right reasons. This has potential for synod leadership and the theological education community ... to be a morale booster."

The ELCA has about 2,500 seminarians in its eight seminaries, and supervises the work of another 115 seminarians in other seminaries who are preparing for ordained ELCA ministry.

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!