



Reflections

VOLUME 24

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ISSUE 23

Remembering Those for Whom Six Feet Feels Like a Mile

A half-hour after finishing the adult education class on Zoom Sunday, May 24, I was in my car with the windows down, singing along to my favorite CD of the band “Mumford & Sons” that I was playing vacation-loud. I was on my first vacation for over six months, and I felt glorious. I was off to spend the next week with my brother, sister-in-law, and niece in Arlington, Virginia, and with my good friend, Mark, who is the ex-husband of the sister of my former partner. (The Germans would have one word for such a person, I’m sure!)

I was going to be the first non-relative either of these families had had in their homes since COVID-19 began. We had talked about that. All of us felt like we’d been responsible keeping ourselves healthy. None of us lives or works closely with those who are listed as at-risk populations. We decided we could visit with each other because we trusted each other and had a long history of doing that.

It was a glorious week.

And one of the things I realized made it most glorious was eating at the same table with someone or someones. Right next to someone. Over the past 2+ months, I’ve eaten six feet from someone a couple of times. Otherwise I have eaten every meal since mid-March by myself. ... this the person whose all-time favorite passtime, as you probably know, is sharing three-hour meals and conversations with someone. So when Mark and I had dinner Sunday evening the 24th, sitting at the same table, as friends do, I felt human again. That’s the best adjective I can come up with. Yes, I was *happy* and *grateful*. But the deepest truth about how I felt was that I felt *human*. As God says after making all kinds of non-human companions for Adam and realizing none of them offers Adam what he needs, *It is not good for the human one to be alone* (Genesis 2.18). I believe God made us for connection (at least some of the time!). And when we go too long without connection that we long for, part of our humanity dies.

So sitting at the table with Mark, with one of his sons and his daughter – a nephew and niece I used to see at least twice a year when Peter and I were together ... sitting at the table with my brother Phil, my sister-in-law Jill, and my niece Kristen ... never before have I realized what an incredible blessing it is just to be around a table *together*. Not so far apart we feel like we’re in different counties. It’s what humans do.

I absolutely understand the need for social distancing when we don’t know where people have been and with whom. I absolutely understand wearing masks when you’re out. I did that the entire time I was on vacation. And if you are around people who are vulnerable, if you yourself are vulnerable, of course you wouldn’t do what I did on vacation.

And ... do friends who don’t live together, or family members who don’t live together, stay six feet apart from each other and never touch until there’s a vaccine? Do we treat all those whom we don’t live with as strangers, no matter how much we trust each other when we say we’ve been living COVID-safe lives? Or can we be responsible and still do what I did that week I was away? Can we trust those we are close to, come together with them, and, especially for those who live alone and feel like six feet is as good as a mile, help each other feel human again.

Since coming back from that trip on May 30, I have included in my morning prayers all those who feel lonely during this long season of minimal contact and no touch.

cont’d on p. 3

In This Issue

[Remembering Those for Whom Six Feet Feels Like a Mile](#)

[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. David Shull

Office Manager – Becky Trover

Custodian – Marshall Edgington

Organist/Senior Choir Director-

Kathy Rapp

Pianist/Chimes Choir Director -

Karen Kent

Reflections Editor – Judith Bird

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Michelle Clemence

Bruce Collins

Dave Engel, Chair

Nancy Magargal

Jim Riley

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Sharing Meals on the Church Lawn

On June 3 and 7, small groups gathered for a sack lunch on the church lawn: seven people for the first one and nine for the second. As one person who's mainly seen people on Zoom said, "It's nice to see people in 3-D!!" We brought our own meals and chairs and masks and stayed six feet apart the whole time. And it was good!

So we're setting up a couple more to see if there's interest: on **Wednesday June 24**, we'll do a 10:30 a.m.-noon coffee. And we'll try another Sunday noon lunch on **June 28**. Please email or phone **Becky Trover** in the church office (614-237-1263 or info@redeemerluth.com) to let her know of your interest. There's room for nine people at each event.

Hope to see some of you in all your three-dimension glory!

Brewing Faith to Meet Tuesday Via Zoom

The small group Brewing Faith will meet this week on **Tuesday, June 9** at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. To join the meeting, use the meeting ID 859 0307 2229; Password: 396399. Or if you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying and entering the following web address in your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85903072229?pwd=ZXRxcnFPMzdCWDc4N2FKaldlL0dadz09>.

Adult Sunday Class Continues to Examine Apostles' Creed

We say the words every week in worship: *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth ...*

Where do these words come from? Why does this statement of faith include what it does, but say nothing about the sacraments, and nothing about what a life of following Jesus looks like in practice? Are there ways earlier Christians might have heard these words that are lost to us now? If we affirm these words in worship, what do we believe we are saying? What are we committing ourselves to? What meanings do these words have for us?

These are the kinds of questions we're exploring in our Sunday Faith Exploration class. The next one is **Sunday, June 14** from 10-11 a.m.

Join the Zoom Meeting using ID: 849 1080 6030; Password: 896913. By phone, call 646 876 9923. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying and entering the following web address in your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84910806030?pwd=WEcvQTNUZ3ZUcnRoRUYxMjh0dFMwUT09>

You would bless us by your participation in this!

Tuesday Bible Study Continues This Week on Zoom

This **Tuesday, June 9**, the Bible study group here at Redeemer continues its in-depth exploration of Paul's First Letter to the Church in Corinth after a week off. In this letter, Paul addresses how communities are formed, what the role of love is in our common life, what it means to be in a body as opposed to just spiritual beings, who Jesus is, what the cross of Jesus is and does, and how to imagine the brand new world he says people are living in here and now.

In other words, a letter Paul wrote around the year 55 talks about issues that Redeemer has to face today if we are to be an active, vital body of Christ today.

If you have some free time on Tuesday afternoons from 1-2:30 p.m., join our community of exploration, honesty, laughter, and prayer. **The Bible study is held via Zoom**. If you'd like to join us, here's the information you'll need to connect:

If you'd like to be part of the Tuesday Bible study on Zoom and have the Zoom app, then enter Zoom and use this information: Meeting ID: 820 8256 3456; Password: 915263. To enter by phone call 646-876-9923 and enter the meeting ID and password.

If you don't have the Zoom app, you should be able to join the meeting by copying and entering the following web address in your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82082563456?pwd=WjIzNEhtVIBUT3U2d2hjck5OR3Fzdz09>

Call Dave Shull at 206-725-3785 if you have any questions.

Sunday Worship Available on YouTube

The **June 7** Sunday worship service is available at <https://tinyurl.com/r6mk2xh>. For the Sunday Worship Bulletin, go to the Redeemer website at www.RedeemerLuth.com >News, Sermons, Devotions.

We are holding one another in prayer and in spirit as we work through this time. Go in peace, serve the Lord, wash your hands!

Sister Act to Host Zoom Session on Caring for LGBTQ Community

Redeemer's Sister Act small group will host a discussion on Zoom about how to care for the LGBTQ community. The intent is to open eyes to the discrimination that goes on, gain understanding about how comments can be hurtful and learn about the importance of pronoun identification. This is set for **Tuesday, June 16** beginning at 6:30 p.m. Information about how to join the online discussion will be available closer to the date.

Remembering Those for Whom Six Feet Feels Like a Mile, *cont'd from p. 1*

Maybe it's a selfish prayer, since I'm in that cohort. But for those who do not sit at table with others and would like to, for those who miss having anyone else in the car, for those who miss simple human touch ... I say a prayer for safe closeness, for safe ways to feel whatever helps you feel human. Because when it is not good for the human one to be alone, the minimal six feet of social distancing can feel like a mile.

Dave Shull

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 communicating with **Financial Secretary Brad Phillips**, and 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.

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

Pastor Dave received the following note from the Leadership Team at First English Lutheran Church: “Under the leadership of **Kay Ernsthansen**, Redeemer is making it possible for First English to provide take out meals twice a week to our neighbors. Please share with your members how much we appreciate your generous commitment during this crisis.”

+ + +

Congratulations to out to **Karen and Bruce Collins** who will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on Friday, June 12 and to **Becky and Larry Trover** who will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on Saturday, June 13!!

Prayers for healing and strength continue to be asked for **Dave and Dolores Brannigan** as Dave is now home from the hospital.

+ + +

Jeremy Davis, a Redeemer member who is at the Ross Correctional Institute, is unable to receive visitors due to COVID-19 prevention efforts. In addition, Redeemer is not able to send him the group letter written each week after worship. Please send him a note sharing a greeting, thought, or prayer. It must be on a blank white 8.5x11” piece of paper; the note must be written in black or blue ink only. There can be NO enclosures of any kind. His address is Jeremy Christian Davis #758199, 16149 Ohio-104, Chillicothe OH 45601.

June Birthdays

11-Cassandra Reinoehl
13-Jim Riley 16-Val Farnham
20-Katie Jacobs 24-Andy Day
24-Bobby Jimison 25-Ron Willmann
26-Eric Reinoehl 30-Julie Brush

COVID-19 Information

To get the most up-to-date information regarding the pandemic and Ohio’s COVID-19 activities, go to the Ohio Department of Health website at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/> or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

In addition, the Southern Ohio Synod has put together a number of Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) resources online at <https://tinyurl.com/y9ohdaov> . Among the items linked to are the latest “Stay Safe Ohio” order from **Gov. Mike DeWine**, a checklist on face coverings and cleaning and disinfecting alternatives.

The Wider Church

LSS Faith Mission Seeks Support to Help Homeless

Lutheran Social Services’ (LSS) Faith Mission writes that, “Summer is a dangerous time of the year for neighbors experiencing homelessness on the streets of Columbus. They face dehydration, heatstroke, and food poisoning on the streets – and this year, they’re scrambling to find safe shelter in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

“As the need increases, giving goes down. It becomes even more difficult for us to serve the many neighbors who are hungry and homeless coming to us for support.”

As a result, LSS is asking folks to make a three-month commitment over the summer. This can be done online at <https://tinyurl.com/y85e5mrf> .

“Your gift also offers healing to people in need across the LSS Network of Hope – providing meals and shelter to homeless and hungry neighbors at LSS Faith Mission in both Franklin and Fairfield counties, ensuring families struggling with hunger have access to nutritious food at the LSS Food Pantries

and blessing women and men facing domestic violence with a safe secure place to stay and heal through LSS CHOICES.”

Trinity Sponsors Courses Online

Trinity Seminary is now offering five one-week intensive courses. They include two different church music courses, a preaching workshop, a course on Emotional Intelligence, and a course on Faith, Work, and Economic Wisdom, which explores how human flourishing requires engaging all aspects of life in community. With the exception of the preaching workshop, all courses are appropriate for lay people as well as clergy.

Please note that while courses are being offered using online technology, they will meet synchronously, at specific times as listed.

All courses are available for credit (\$600/hour) or for audit (\$105/credit or \$52.50/hour for 65+).

If interested, email TJ Carpenter, administrative assistant for academic and contextual matters at Trinity at tcarpenter@capital.edu or by calling 614-236-6841 for a flyer with times and more detailed descriptions of the courses.

Updated Guide Available

The updated guide “Lutheran Introduction to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression” is now available to order for \$2.25 each. Published by ReconcilingWorks, this latest edition includes revisions “to ensure that the language is as helpful and inclusive to expanding welcome to the LGBTQIA+ community...” In addition, “new pages bring some visibility to the different ways in which someone may identify – including the flags that celebrate their diversity.”

It can be ordered by going to <https://tinyurl.com/y6ugynf5> where other print items are also available.

Getting Ready for Sunday

Second Sunday After Pentecost, June 14, 2020

Lessons

Sunday Readings: Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Matthew 9:35—10:8[9-23]

Prayer for the Times

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted,
grant courage and hope.
Where anxiety is infectious and widening,
grant peace and reassurance.
Where impossibilities close every door and window,
grant imagination and resistance.
Where distrust twists our thinking,
grant healing and illumination.
Where spirits are daunted and weakened,
grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.

Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of African International Lutheran Mission, Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Eileen and Bret Day.

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, Lea Spang, Bonnie Hegreiness, Heidi Carman, Cora Marquez, Mary Kennedy, Kelly Scott, Diane Louangrath, Sue Baker, Julie Denniss' uncle Ed Stewart, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich, Stan Heacock, Jeremy Davis, Amy DeLorenzo, Linda and Don Williams, Pamela Andrews, Val Farnham, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt, Brittany Parsons, Lynn Belhorn's mother Maryland Belhorn and friend MaryAnn, Laura Warren's brother Walter Hudson and his wife Jan, Bill Boys, Doretha Holland, Dolores Brannigan's husband Dave, Becky Trover's sister Maddie, Jack and Shirley Miller, Tom Comstock and family, and Redeemer visitors.

Noisy Offering will be for Kaleidoscope Youth Center.

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday June 14: A study of the "Apostles' Creed for Today" ~ Led by
Dave Shull.

This class is held via Zoom. See separate story about how to participate.

This Week at Redeemer

June 9 – June 15, 2020

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study – via ZOOM
	6:30 p.m.	A Brewing Faith –via ZOOM
<u>Sunday</u>	YouTube	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School – via ZOOM