



# Reflections

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ISSUE 27

## Letting Our Loved Ones Know How They've Blessed Us

My mom is living the last scene of her life on this earth. Though predicting how long someone has yet to live is not an exact science, Mom's hospice nurse, Kerry, says she imagines Mom will die in the next two weeks-two months. More and more she doesn't have the energy to get out of bed or to have the conversations which have been life-giving for her all her life.

When the hospice nurse gave me this reality check last week, I remembered a class I took in social work graduate school on human development. It was based on the work of **Erik Erikson**, most famous for his eight stages of psychosocial development. Each stage of life has a central tension that we have to seek to balance well in order to develop in healthy ways. Erikson says in the last stage of life, we try to resolve tensions between living in integrity and living in despair. In our old age, as we look back on our life, how do we feel about the choices we've made? How do we feel about the life we've lived? Overall, in the balance of things, do we feel like we've chosen pretty well? Do we feel like we've lived out of our values, and been a blessing to the world? Do we feel like we've made a positive difference? Do we feel like we've loved well? Erikson says that if, looking back, we feel like we've lived with integrity, then we will live our last days with a sense of wisdom. We can trust that we have chosen wisely.

On the other hand, if, when we look back on our lives, we feel like most of the time we haven't made good choices, then instead of feeling a sense of integrity we fall into a place of despair. We find we are filled with regrets and resentments. We find there is much we feel ashamed of or embarrassed about. We find that there are many, many things we wish we could do over. It's natural for all of us to have some of these regrets – things we wish we could go back and change. But those who fall into despair in this last stage of life feel this about many parts of their lives. Those who feel they have wasted much of their lives come to this place of despair, and do not feel they can rest in the blessing of trusting they have been wise in their lives.

As I learned about the reality of Mom's condition, and remembered this theory of Erikson's, I decided one way I could respond. I emailed my brothers and their families and I said: "Lots of us wait until someone's memorial service to tell them the ways they have blessed us. Though Mom talks about feeling like she's lived a good, full life, I want us to let her know how true that is. So in the next week, please write to her and tell her *while she's still alive* what you might say at her memorial service. Let her know how she's blessed you, what she's taught you, why you're grateful for her. I think that would let her know beyond doubt that she's lived a good life. And she can die knowing that she is wise." A couple of my nieces have already sent Mom their letters.

I wrote my letter to her last Friday morning before I drove up to Wooster for an "outside" visit at the assisted living place where she and Dad live. I looked forward to reading it to her. When I got to my place on the opposite side of the porch where residents sit, Dad came down for the visit by himself. He said Mom was too tired to make the trip. So I told him what I'd asked folks in the family to do. And I gave him my letter and asked him to read it to Mom.

Doing this leads me to wonder if we might create ways to have memorial services before someone dies. When it's safe to gather, we can do them in-person. Until it is safe to gather, we can write what we'd say about the person at their service, and send our letters to them. And let them know, beyond a doubt, that they have lived with integrity, that they have blessed us with a wisdom we will keep alive.

*cont'd on p.5*

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### 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

### 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

President – Margie Frazier

Vice President – Julie Johnson

Finance Officer –

Secretary – Chad Eberle

Worship – Julie Larson

Education – Wendy Stoica

Outreach – Jon Disbro

Member Support – Elyce Herring

Property – Sue Yehling

Stewardship – Ruth Murray

### APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer – Larry Trover

Financial Secretary – Brad Phillips

### SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Michelle Clemence

Bruce Collins

Dave Engel, Chair

Nancy Magargal

Jim Riley

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent – Emily Ott

### REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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614-237-1263

[www.redeemerluth.com](http://www.redeemerluth.com)



## The Redeemer Community

### Wednesday 'Meal on the Church Lawn' Cancelled

Because of the heat wave, the Wednesday, July 8 meal on the lawn has been cancelled. However, the Sunday, July 12 meal remains scheduled. RSVP to the church office (614-237-1263; [info@redeemerluth.com](mailto:info@redeemerluth.com)) if you would like to be one of the nine to attend.

If you've been to one of these already and would like to come again, just let **Office Manager Becky Trover** that you'd like to come back. We'll let you know if we get nine new people who'd like to come. If so, we'll then ask you to sign up for a future one.

In the past month, we've had four gatherings on the church lawn for people to bring a chair and something to eat and their masks. The conversations have been good and the chance to see each other in all three of our dimensions as opposed to being in boxes on a Zoom call has been a delight.

### RLC to Serve at First English on July 9; Donations for Kids' Meals Still Welcome

Redeemer's coordinator for providing meals at First English Lutheran Church, **Kay Ernsthansen**, wrote the following: "During this uncertain time and with our congregation not meeting in person, I would like to thank you all for your support for the First English dinners. When I ask regulars if they will ... I have had no hesitation, just a 'Yes, I can do that.' I have had emails from many who will drop off food to the church or have food ready for pick up. So I start this with a BIG THANK YOU!"

"As of today, all our menu items [for Thursday, July 9] have someone donating them. If for any reason you would like to give and just didn't reach me, I always try to leave some food for the kids' meal bags. So we can always take the following: individual microwave mac n cheese; crackers w/peanut butter; breakfast bars; snack bars; fruit cups; milk that doesn't need refrigerated – that has a shelf life; and juice boxes. These can be left in the basket in the Narthex where all the other food is left.

"Again, THANK YOU!!! Your generosity overwhelms me every time."

### How to Move Race Conversations Outside RLC Walls

Over the past two-and-a-half years, people at Redeemer and friends from elsewhere have read *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, and *White Fragility*. We have talked about implicit bias and relationships with the realities of systemic racism.

Now we're ready for the next step. We're exploring ways to step out of the *relative* safety of the conversations, and into some concrete ways to act outside our church walls. In our first round of brainstorming at our June 17 Zoom meeting, individuals shared the thoughts and ideas listed below. In addition, two quotes shared by two participants in our conversations that can help guide us:

**Rich Pautsch** shared words from University of Nevada psychology professor **Steven Hays**: *If you want to change the psychological factors that keep racism alive, you need to foster the ability to take the perspective of others, to feel what it feels like to be them, and not to run away psychologically, even though it's hard.*

**Margie Farnham** shared words she heard while working in Nairobi, Kenya, for the Lutheran World Federation. She was told the words came from an Australian Aborigine woman: *If you have come to help me, you can go home. But if you see my struggle as part of your own survival, then maybe we can work together.*

- Read **Jason Riley's** book *Please Stop Helping Us* to explore a different slant on racism and racial justice than we've gotten from other books we've discussed.

- Place something in our big grass area by the flower garden - one for each black person killed by police officers with their name printed on it. Sometimes that visual makes it so real regarding the number. One person added that if we just put markers up for local black people killed by police this could be a large

display. Dottie said she saw a beautiful piece of lawn art around this theme and will take a picture and get it to us.

- Invite people to write letters to elected officials as part of a worship service. This can feel meaningful.
- To get more clarity about what African Americans feel would be most important to address, reach out to get information from them. Perhaps ask the Berwick Civic Association. And try to get a wider participation from Redeemer people there. Some suggested working with other civic associations in the area (Berwyn, MAC) so we can have faith communities and civic associations engaged around issues of racism and racial justice so the energy of this moment doesn't fade.
- Partner with Christ United Methodist Church. If we did lawn symbols of those killed by police we could perhaps do a joint worship service on the lawn around dedicating these symbols. Idea of seeing what other area faith communities are doing: Christ the King, Hope Lutheran, St. Philip Lutheran.
- Use the church sign to express support for these issues.
- When it's safe, invite people from Berwick/Berwyn to a listening session where we'd listen to what they believe would be most meaningful and effective for us to be doing, and who we might partner with.
- Look at engaging around local political issues and policies, like over-policing in black neighborhoods. How might we have a place at city council hearings?
- Consider becoming a BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) congregation. BREAD is a national organization that brings faith communities together to study local areas of injustice, talk with experts around these areas, establish program responses to these, and then work with political officials to secure their commitment to these policies. About 40 faith communities are part of Columbus BREAD. Current program priorities are affordable housing, mental health, alternatives to expulsion in school, clearing abandoned buildings in lower-income areas; and job creation. They've also addressed issues around discrimination against officers of color in the Columbus Police Department. Redeemer worked with BREAD around a candidates' forum we hosted.
- Deepening our relationship with Berwick Alternative School.
- When a COVID-19 vaccine is developed, there might be people who need the vaccine but who don't trust government health clinics. Redeemer could be seen as a safe place for these folks. **Dottie Odrosky** offered to coordinate any such program.
- Build on the city and county's declaration of racism as a public health emergency. How might we support this and advocate for programs that move this forward?
- Whatever we do, we should focus on building mutual relationships with partners so we don't fall into a "helper/recipient" model. We honor the gifts all participants bring, and acknowledge each person has needs the other can address, each can be healed and blessed by the others.
- As we're doing lunches on the lawn, perhaps save a space or two for someone who might just come by; perhaps have a sign inviting folks to join us. In general, expand our "outside" presence by doing more things on the lawn.
- For the produce giveaway, do something to raise awareness/interest like we did several years ago when we had a contest around people bringing vegetables to contribute.
- Thinking about the downtown/Short North buildings with boards over their windows becoming art displays, might we use our parking lot fence or the fence by the sunflowers that is more visible for James Road travelers. We could become a place local artists share their talents on current issues. Art speaks powerfully and is very emotive.

Please join us for our next Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, July 15**, from 7-8:30 p.m. To connect with the meeting: **Dave Shull's** Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 858 9012 4248; Password: 718132. 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/85890124248?pwd=Z1dEMGc5dldxMmNXeWQ0bFZUTVlzd09>.

Contact Dave Shull if you have any questions.

## RLC Weekly Produce Giveaway Underway

Redeemer's weekly Saturday morning produce giveaways from our own garden will again be held on **Saturday, July 11** and will continue every Saturday morning through the summer. The giveaway runs from 10 a.m. until items are gone. Picking is at 9 a.m. If you can help, please call **Jon Disbro**.

If you have food items to include in the giveaway, please drop them off at the church.

## 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, July 12** from 10-11 a.m.

Join the Zoom Meeting using ID: 827 7376 2328; Password: 288326. 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/82773762328?pwd=SG5BNjY0ZEJCaGh0Y0ZIZGZORm56dz09> .

You would bless us by your participation in this!

## Tuesday Bible Study to Begin Look at Book of James on Zoom

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study is beginning to explore the Letter to James. It's a book which **Martin Luther** described as "a right strawy epistle." He believed it totally contradicted the teachings of Paul which had been so essential for Luther's own transformation and which he felt formed the essence of grace. It was one of the last books accepted into the collection that became the New Testament partly because it seemed to differ from Paul's writings. The main reason was because it wasn't clear that it was written by someone who had known or met **Jesus**, so its "apostolic origins" were in doubt. At the same time, James has some of the clearest statements about what love and justice look like in action that exist in any of scripture.

This will be the group's "summer dive" for 2020. If you have Tuesday afternoons free, join us. We are a group of people who are both serious about listening for the Spirit's voice in the text and in each other and serious about supporting each other through whatever we're going through -- and who laugh deeply and often. Give us a try! Get in touch with **Dave Shull** if you have any questions.

To join the group this **Tuesday, July 7** from 1-2:30 p.m., go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 852 7497 7697; Password: 841225. To participate 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/85274977697?pwd=N0RvNEc3U01oWnNhVG83dlRzV0JKZz09>

## Sunday Worship Available on YouTube

The **July 5** Sunday worship service is available at <https://tinyurl.com/r6mk2xh>. For the Sunday Worship Bulletin, go to the Redeemer website at [www.RedeemerLuth.com](http://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!

## Letting Our Loved Ones Know How They've Blessed Us *cont'd from p. 1*

The Rev. William Sloane Coffin said, "The secret of living a good life is to die young as late as possible." Thank you, Mom, for making it so clear to me what a good life looks like. Rest in the knowledge your integrity and wisdom will not die with you.

*Dave Shull*

## Important Emails

[DShull@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:DShull@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

[Info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating with **Financial Secretary Brad Phillips**, and for stewardship campaigns.

[Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

[Property@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Property@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

[SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

[Transportation@redeemerluth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

Prayers are asked for those who have lost their jobs or had their hours cut even as businesses begin opening back up in this COVID-19 economy.

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**Redeemer Office Manager Becky Trover** is switching her day off from Thursdays to Tuesdays. Her office hours continue to be 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Others cover the office on her day off and you can always leave Becky a message at 614-237-1263 or email her at [info@redeemerluth.com](mailto:info@redeemerluth.com).

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**Member Directory Update:** **Randy Kuklinski** has a new address: 1977 Oaklawn Dr., Toledo OH 43614-3528.

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## Computer Available to Good Home

For Sale Cheap (\$0, yes free), to a good family, one 10-year-old PC computer system taken out of service at Redeemer.

It is a Dell Optiplex 990 tower PC, running windows 10 Pro, with 8 GB Ram, 465GB hard drive, a keyboard, mouse, and a 20-inch monitor. The CPU is an Intel i5-2400. A WiFi interface has been added.

If you could put this PC to good use, please contact the church office via phone or email on or before **Friday, July 10**. In case we have several people that would like to have this PC, we will have a random drawing.

Call 614-237-1263 to let **Office Manager Becky Trover** know of your interest, or email her at [info@redeemerluth.com](mailto:info@redeemerluth.com). For specific questions about the computer, please email **Tom Mimplitch** at [tmimplitch@yahoo.com](mailto:tmimplitch@yahoo.com).

### Southern Ohio Synod Moves

The offices of the Southern Ohio Synod have moved. Effective **July 1** the new address is 9200 Worthington Rd., Suite 140, Westerville OH 43082.

### Christ in Our Home Devotional Booklets

The July – September edition of *Christ in Our Home* devotional is available. If you would like to have a copy, the church office will be happy to mail one to you. Call 614-237-1263 or email [info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:info@RedeemerLuth.com)

If you prefer, you may receive Christ in Our Home devotionals via email by going to <https://go.augsburgfortress.org/christ-in-our-home-email-subscription>

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**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.

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### June-July Birthdays

5-Sachio In Phillips 7-Diane Montgomery  
8-Kathy Zwanziger 11-Evelyn Boreman  
12-Payton Rae 13-Renee Glover-Oakleaf  
14-Chase Friederich 15-Kandice Hoddinott  
16-Cora Marquez 17-Jasmin McFarland  
18-Kelley Scott 19-Leslie Sorg  
20-Pamela Reed 21-Grace Jones  
22-Alta Boreman 22-Kim Faulk  
22-Noah Gosnell 25-Tracy Hoddinot Ervin  
27-Tom Mimplitch 27-Mike Shugert  
29-Kathy Mimplitch 29-Becky Trover  
31-Marilyn Roberts

### 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

### SOS Issues Warning

The Southern Ohio Synod (SOS) writes that has been notified that scammers are at it again. Some folks are receiving emails claiming to be from Bishop Dillahunt asking the recipients to send money.

1. **“Bishop Dillahunt will never contact you directly via email to ask you to send money to her personally.** Our synod office has checks and balances in place to make sure that only specific people handle donations. Bishop Dillahunt is not one of those people.
2. “If Bishop Dillahunt were to ask you to send a donation, you will be directed to send donations to our office address (9200 Worthington Rd., Suite 140, Westerville, Ohio 43082) or to our PO Box address (P.O. Box 0604, Lewis Center, OH 43035). Do not send money anywhere else!
3. **“Bishop Dillahunt's email address is [BishopSDillahunt@southernohiosynod.org](mailto:BishopSDillahunt@southernohiosynod.org).** Most scammers will send from some other address that may look similar, but is not her address.
4. “Just delete the emails. **Do not click on any links.**”

## Camp at Home

Join Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio (LOMO) all summer long for LOMO's Camp at Home!

LOMO is looking forward to bringing folks the most valued aspects of camp to homes – campfires, worship, interactive Discovery Bible studies for both youth and adults/families, devotions, nature activities, camp photos, brainteasers, games and reminiscing about past memories.

Programs are for all ages. The Discovery Bible Studies are via Zoom and are the only events where registration is needed. All other activities will be posted online at <https://tinyurl.com/yd6d9ogf> . To participate, email **Jenny Frantz** at [jenny@lomocamp.org](mailto:jenny@lomocamp.org) .

See the link above for all the dates and how to participate.

## 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> .

## Getting Ready for Sunday Sixth Sunday After Pentecost, July 12, 2020

### Lessons

Sunday Readings: Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119: 105-112; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### 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. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Ascension Lutheran Church, Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members David Detweiler and Brian Fear.

***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 Hegreness, 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, Betty Shull, Deidre (DJ) Zimmer.

*Noisy Offering will be for Kaleidoscope Youth Center.*

## **Sunday Faith Exploration Class**

Sunday July 12: 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** **July 7 - July 13, 2020**

<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study - via ZOOM
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	2 Noon	Lunch on the Lawn - <b>CANCELLED</b>
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	5:00 p.m.	<b>Redeemer serving at First English</b>
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	9:00 a.m.	Redeemer Garden Pick
	10:00 a.m.	Redeemer Garden Giveaway
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	YouTube	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School - via ZOOM
	12 Noon	Lunch on the Lawn
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class at Pastor Dave's home