



Reflections

VOLUME 24

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ISSUE 48

How Virtual Worship Becomes Intimate This Advent/Christmas

I don't know about any of you, but our two in-person worship services on Sept. 27 and Oct. 11 spoiled me. Even though there were some meaningful things we *couldn't* do, being together in the same place at the same time brought me so much joy. Then Franklin County went to COVID red ... and now we are COVID purple. And we love you too much not to do our part to keep you safe.

The Worship Team met on Zoom last Monday evening to talk about worship for Advent and Christmas. Full disclosure: We didn't start with a tremendous amount of energy. I think most of us were struggling to imagine a live-streamed Christmas Eve service with six people in the sanctuary feeling like anything but a let-down.

But the Holy Spirit succeeded in lighting a fire from our sodden kindling. By the end of the meeting, we were excited by the possibilities.

First, on **Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16**, at 7:30 p.m., we will live-stream our Holden Evening Prayer service. We've done this service for years at Redeemer. It continues to offer an experience of joy, calm, and beauty. This year our pianists will bless us with even more music to bring alive the promise of this season. If you have a story, poem, or essay that has been a gift to you during this deeply challenging year, please let me know. You can share it at one of the services, or I can read it.

Second, on **Christmas Eve**: we're going to bring you the best of two virtual worlds. From 7-7:30 p.m., you are all invited to join a Zoom gathering. At that time, we will all be able to see and offer greetings to each other. Through a simple setting, the person/family who speaks is enlarged, so we can get a good view of everyone. At 7:30 p.m., the Christmas Eve service will be available to watch on YouTube. This isn't a live-streamed service. It will be a video with lots of participants who have recorded their parts in advance. So you will see members of the Redeemer community you haven't seen in quite a while. Included in this will be the world premiere of a new Christmas pageant starring Redeemer families. And you will hear Christmas carols that you can joyfully sing along with at home.

At the end of the taped service, we will return to Zoom. We ask all of you to light a candle on Zoom and darken the room you're in, so we can feel like we're back in the sanctuary together, challenging the dark with our light. A solo voice will then lead us in "Silent Night."

If you would like to do a reading that you would pre-record for the Christmas Eve service, please let me know.

Finally, on **Christmas morning** at 10 a.m., we will gather on Zoom for a service of carols, sharing stories of Christmas, and simply enjoying the chance to share this morning with people we love. Because you're at home, you can still be in your pajamas with your favorite beverage and some wonderful Christmas morning edible.

I cannot thank the creative souls at last week's Worship Team Zoom meeting for giving their imaginations and spirits so much room to soar. We hope you will join us for these services of worship. And celebrate the ways you are part of this remarkable body of Christ.

Dave Shull

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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

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Vice President – Julie Johnson

Finance Officer –

Secretary – Chad Eberle

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Outreach – Jon Disbro

Member Support – Elyce Herring

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Interim Treasurer – Julie Johnson

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

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The Redeemer Community Advent Devotional Booklet Now Available!

Advent began this year on **November 29** and Redeemer's annual Advent devotional booklet, written by members of Redeemer, is now available. Once again, **Donna Voelkel** has provided lovely artwork for the cover.



Both regular format and large-print format booklets are available to pick up at the church or through the mail. We also provide the devotions via daily email upon request, and the booklet is available on Redeemer's website. **Please contact the church office at 614-237-1263 or info@RedeemerLuth.com if you would like to have a paper copy sent to you through the mail or if you would be interested in receiving devotions via email.**

Ways to Make Christmas Real for Some Neighbors in Columbus

Pastor Dave reports that he recently heard from **Grant Eckhart**, who leads Jacob's Porch, the ELCA campus ministry at Ohio State University. Grant is inviting congregations to provide Christmas gifts to several refugees in Columbus who are facing unimaginably lonely and terrifying circumstances. The Outreach Team at Redeemer has talked about Grant's request and wishes to share it with you for your consideration and your prayers. The descriptions below are written by Grant.

#1: *Two kids fled Honduras earlier this year with their mother after their father was murdered and their lives were in danger. They made it to the U.S. border, seeking asylum, but were immediately turned away and sent to the camps in Mexico near the border. Tragically, they were abused there, and the mother made what must have been a gut-wrenching choice to send the two kids across the border as unaccompanied minors because they had a better chance of getting into the detention facilities on the U.S. side. They were received into the U.S. system, were assigned a caseworker, and spent many months in the U.S. facilities. Sadly, those facilities were not much better, and again they were subjected to some terrible experiences.*

Ultimately their caseworker let them leave in the custody of a woman who runs a nonprofit here in Columbus. Since September the children have been living with a caring family and making regular phone calls to their mother in Mexico, who is now seeking asylum there (which is apt to take six-12 months). However, one member of that family got COVID, was hospitalized, and was recently sent home for hospice care. So the family can no longer house and care for these children.

We have now found another family that is willing to take the two kids. They are a family with a big heart but not much money and have already adopted four other children with various disabilities related to fetal alcohol syndrome. So we are inviting you to purchase a gift for any of these four children as well.

*A "Genius" signup has been set up that lists specific items for all the kids: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d48a4aa22a46-holiday>. But Visa cards, gift cards, and checks would also be welcome. Any of these gifts can be mailed to Jacob's Porch, 45 E. 13th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201, and Grant will make sure the children receive them, along with any letters that might be included. Grant will be delivering everything by **Tuesday, December 22**. Checks should be made out to Jacob's Porch with "Mission outreach/children's fund" in the memo line or mentioned in the letter.*

#2: *A man from Ghana fled his homeland seven months ago because he was being persecuted for his sexual identity. He entered the U.S. and was immediately detained by ICE in California. Because of a COVID outbreak at his detention facility, he was allowed to leave with an ankle monitor. He came to Columbus, where his cousin and sister live in an apartment. However, the sister has lost her job, and the cousin makes minimum wage, so the man has asked for money to buy winter clothes, with anything extra going for food or rent. I spoke to the referral hotline in California to vet this situation. The agent there said that the man had been helpful in translating English for other immigrants in ICE detention, and she believes he is sincere. After speaking with him, I believe the same. These situations move fast, and*

typically all the details are not known immediately. I am hoping to find at least several hundred dollars for him to buy some clothing. If that goes well and we get to know him further, we may seek further assistance.

*The man's asylum case will be called here in Columbus on **December 23**. If you would like to contribute to his needs, please send Visa cards, gift cards, or checks made out to Jacob's Porch with "Mission outreach/Ghana" in the memo line.*

Individual names have been withheld in both of these situations because of the sensitivity of the cases. If you have questions, please contact **Pastor Dave**.

Thank you for any assistance you might feel led to offer.

Sharing an Advent 'Something' for RLC's Wednesday Evening Advent Service

Redeemer is going to live-stream the Holden Evening Prayer Advent Service at 7:30 p.m. on **Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16**. **Pastor Dave** asks, "As you have lived through all the challenges 2020 has brought, how do you find yourself this Advent? What is something having to reimagine so much of how you live has taught you? How has it changed you? If you don't feel like writing something new, are there poems, songs, scripture passages, or stories that have given you something you've needed to keep putting one foot in front of the other?"

"I'd love to have you share that at one of these services, starting already this Wednesday evening! There will only be a few people in the sanctuary, and they will be masked except for when we speak or when a soloist is singing. So we will be as safe as we can be! Please phone or email me at 206-725-3785; dshull@redeemerluth.com) if you'd like to do this, or if you have any questions.

"Thanks in advance to the video people, musicians, and other worship leaders for making it possible for us to share this beloved part of our Advent life together."

Folks Asked to Think of Beneficiaries for 2020 MEF \$\$

Folks are asked to begin thinking about possible charitable beneficiaries for the 2020 distribution of interest from Redeemer's Mission Endowment Fund (MEF).

The guidelines for distribution, as established in Redeemer's constitution, include furthering partnerships in mission through the synod and other arms of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Special Funds Team will review the suggestions and make its recommendation to council which, in turn, will present the final recommendation to the congregation at the January annual meeting.

Information on how to submit the suggestions will be forthcoming.

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Dec. 1

The Tuesday Bible Study, which is studying of the book of Genesis, resumes on **Tuesday, December 1**. If you have Tuesday afternoon 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, December 1** from 1-2:30 p.m., go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 871 3736 6983; Passcode: 619946. 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/87137366983?pwd=T0NoUU5ORmNYN1YrajhpZ2hGR09pdz09>

Redeemer to Serve at Food Pantry on Dec. 2

Redeemer will serve at the LSS Food Pantry on **Wednesday, December 2** from 1 to 4 p.m. A total of five volunteers are needed and **Kathy Zwanziger** notes clients will be coming into the building on those days. If this is something you can help with, contact Kathy at 801-205-9542 or KZwanOSU69@gmail.com.

Adult Sunday Education Class Set for on Dec. 6

The Sunday Adult Education class resumes on **Sunday, November 29**. At that time the class, which has been looking at “What Does the Bible Say About?” will start to explore the following question: If all religions are equally valid, is the Bible necessarily where we turn for guidance? Is the answer that each person chooses the religion that works for them and then they concentrate on their path. If they chose Christianity, they lock into their document (the Bible) and their favorite guy (Jesus) and they get their answers there. Meanwhile, others are getting their answers from the Quran, or just the Old Testament, or whatever their chosen document is. Or should we all be seeking answers from all the documents? Or should we be looking somewhere else?

The next class will held on Zoom on **Sunday, December 6** from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Join the Zoom Meeting ID: 820 2910 0882; Passcode: 024855. 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/82029100882?pwd=a0pQaVITTFIsQTlhZllhRUFuncnZoQT09> .

You would bless us by your participation in this!

December Sister Act Event Set for December 5

Sister Act has one more event scheduled on this year's calendar for **Saturday, December 5**. The group will be meeting that day at 4 p.m. by ZOOM for a Happy Hour event.

Michele Disbro is planning a game with questions similar to the party questions the group shared at its retreat. These are general question designed to share little known facts about who we are, questions to cause us to ponder, spark a memory, or just bring a smile or a hearty laugh.

Previous Sunday Worship Services Available on YouTube

Previous Sunday worship services are available at <https://tinyurl.com/r6mk2xh>. For the current 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!

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.

Communications@redeemerluth.com – use to send church related announcements or pictures for sharing on Redeemer's social media sites. Another way is to tag Redeemer in the posts.

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

Prayers for healing are asked for **Barbara Hairston's** husband **David** as he goes through some medical tests to determine what kind of treatment may be needed. Prayers are also asked for **Kay Ernsthausen** as she continues to recover from hip replacement surgery.

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A Note of Thanks

As you worship with us this Advent, you will notice three new banners in the sanctuary. These come from the creative mind, skilled hands, and color-filled faith of **Michelle Clemence**. Thank you, Michelle, for sharing God's gifts in such generous and life-giving ways!

December Birthdays

2-Doretha Holland 2-Ruby Jacobs
3-Julija Volfa 3-Walton Wolfe
4-Hitoshi In Phillips 6-Isabella Skoog
6-Sophia Skoog 8-Payton Friederich
8-Bob Rapp 10-Eric Hutton
15-Melinda Eakin 19-Darren Baldogo
19-Joe Darst 19-Novella Hinkle
21-Kolya Larson 24-Julie Johnson
25-Doug Eakin 26-Emily Kent
27-Susan Darst 27-Paul Ritter
29-Tom Comstock 31-John Kennedy
31-Emma Martin

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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.

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

Capital Choir Offers Virtual Christmas Concert

Although Capital University will be unable to offer an in-person Christmas Festival this year, the 2020 Christmas Festival, **Together We**, will be offered in an online format, providing the choir the opportunity to share the joy and hope of the season with audiences near and far.

Together We will include never-released video highlights of several past Christmas Festivals (years 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2019) performed by Capital's Conservatory of Music choral ensembles and instrumentalists. The virtual concert will also feature a first-ever performance by the 2020-21 Chapel Choir. Join us as **together we** celebrate the miracle and wonder of the Christmas story.

Links to the video concert will be available at www.capital.edu/christmas-festival on the following two dates and times only:

- **Saturday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.**

- **Sunday, December 6, 3:30 p.m.**

“Mark your calendars to celebrate this joyous season ‘**together**’ with us!”

LSS Reports on 'ThankFULL Holiday 2020'

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) reports that across its entire Food Pantry network it held 14 events in 10 days in 10 different counties. Holiday meals were provided to 2,678 households – an increase of 6 percent over last year. In addition, a total of 84 tons of food was distributed.

Specifically in Delaware and Franklin counties, there were five events; 1,260 households served; 43,695 pounds of produce, 23,232 pounds of holiday bags and 16,000 pounds of turkey distributed.

ELCA Taking Applications for YAGM Program

Applications for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program are now being accepted, for the 2021-2022 program year.

This program is for young adults ages 21 to 29 and begins in August 2021. Participants will be placed in one of the country programs, with the list of participating countries possibly changing due to the COVID-19 situation.

Through YAGM, young adults will learn what it means to serve in a spirit of accompaniment as they walk alongside global church companions. They'll become immersed in a new community and form deep relationships. And they'll confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, gender privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

To learn more go to ELCA.org/YAGM.

Young adults will find relevant opportunities for professional experience, including the following:

- **Health and human rights:** health care, HIV and AIDS, homelessness, immigration and refugees.
- **Education:** fine arts, youth education, childhood education, working with people living with disabilities.
- **Environmental justice:** agriculture and farming, development, environment.
- **Professional support:** office work, communication, technology, finance.
- **Congregational ministry:** children's ministry, Christian education, youth ministry, congregational ministry, camp ministry.

Around the world, host families, churches, workplaces and communities are ready to welcome YAGM volunteers. The deadline to apply is **January 15, 2021**.

Christ United Methodist Church Learning Extension Center Program Seeks Volunteers

Christ United Methodist Church is seeking volunteers to help with its Learning Extension Center as well as students who might be interested in participating. No teaching background is necessary.

The center, established in partnership with Columbus City Schools, is intended to support students in the community by providing a safe and quiet learning space with Internet access and guidance from caring adult volunteers.

It runs from 1 to 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Lunch is provided from 12:30 to 1 p.m. with an optional Bible lesson following. The center is working closely with the principal and some teachers from the neighborhood Scottwood Elementary School, assuring that the students are following the standards in the curriculum. Already several students are coming to the center.

The center is being operated according COVID-19 guidelines: all volunteers and students have their temperature checked when entering the building. Everyone is required to wear a mask except when eating or drinking. "The kids are not always completely compliant with this but this is a work in progress!" All students are at least six feet apart. Volunteers attempt to maintain that distance from the students "but that has been challenging when they need more help. As we are learning more about how the online learning works we are not needing to be so close to them. But when we are trying to look at what they are doing on the computer we are definitely not able to stay six feet away. So there is obviously some risk but we are trying to minimize it. We will know everyone who is there every day so if someone does become ill we can easily do contact tracing. And we are not around any other people in the building."

The three students currently participating are all family members and are around each other every day, making social distancing less important. That will not be the case as more students come.

Those interested in learning more or volunteering, can call **Site Coordinator Debbie Jackson** at 614-406-2362. "Thank you for considering sharing your presence and skills."

Getting Ready for Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2020

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Mark 1:1-8

Prayer for the Times

God, in Jesus Christ, you have redeemed us through the life, death and resurrection of your son Jesus. Grant your unending power to create life where there is death, calm where storms rage, peace where there is unrest, justice where there is injustice, humility where there is haughtiness, love where there is hate and indifference, health where there is sickness, hope where there is hopelessness. Sustain us all by your patient power through the Holy Spirit. Guide us in the way of truth and life for Jesus' sake. Direct us to do your will. Show us the way to grace and love that we are Jesus' feet, hands and voice sharing the Gospel's message by showing grace and mercy. Help us to pray for each other and let the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of Messiah Lutheran Church in Reynoldsburg.
- + For Redeemer community member Bonnie Hegreness.

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, Val Farnham,

Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt, Brittany Parsons, Lynn Belhorn's friend MaryAnn, Laura Warren's brother Walter Hudson and his wife Jan, Doretha Holland, Shirley and Jack Miller, Deidre (DJ) Zimmer, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling's sister Val, Carolyn and Ed Klopfer, Nancy Stinson's brother Tom Starkey, Kathleen Zwanziger's brother Mark Zwanziger, Larry Trover, Earl Bradley's brother Fay Bradley, David Hairston, DeeDee Jimison, Bill Boys, Kay Ernsthause, Marshall Edgington and his wife, Kristi Hildebrand's grandmother Hazel Plice.

Noisy Offering will be for Kaleidoscope Youth Center.

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, December 6: Adult Sunday School "Why Do We Follow Jesus
and What Do We Look For from the Bible?"

Led by Pastor Dave Shull

This Week at Redeemer

December 1 - 7, 2020

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	ZOOM Bible Study
<u>Wednesday</u>	10:00 a.m.	Stewardship Team
	1:00 p.m.	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
	3:30 p.m.	ZOOM Mutual Ministry Team
	7:30 p.m.	LIVESTREAM Advent Worship
<u>Saturday</u>	4:00 p.m.	ZOOM Sister Act Happy Hour
<u>Sunday</u>	10 a.m.	LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube
	11:15 a.m.	ZOOM Adult Sunday School