



Reflections

VOLUME 24

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ISSUE 49

Leadership End-of-Year Campaign for Building Improvements Launches

When we agreed to stand for council president and vice president, we had no idea what this year would bring! We have proceeded through the year trusting in the fact that you elected us to act in your stead, leading the Council to act thoughtfully and faithfully. As we near the end of this year we know that next year will continue to call on our creativity and wisdom, and to count on your prayers and support.

At our last annual meeting, we were able to burn our mortgage. What a joyful accomplishment that was! Prior to the start of the pandemic, we anticipated starting Phase II of our capital campaign to replenish our building and equipment fund and begin maintenance and upgrade projects. Back in February, it became clear that we would need to hit pause on this effort.

We would like to end this year with a challenge to raise \$50,000. To start us off, we are pledging the first \$5,000. We can see our goal in sight! Whatever funds we are able to raise, in addition to the general giving, we want to share with you what priorities we have:

- Replace the furnace for the pastor's office, and two air conditioning units (back of the Sanctuary and Narthex). We would install I-Wave air purifiers in the two air conditioning units to ensure that indoor air quality is also available during hot weather.
- Renovate the main floor restrooms, making them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, water conserving and refreshed. The quote for doing this is a little over \$30,000.
- Tithe (give 10 percent) of the amount raised to the Southern Ohio Synod and Lutheran Social Services. The synod has been a very helpful resource to us throughout this pandemic and we are thankful for that leadership. And LSS has been at the forefront of meeting the needs of the many people devastated by the pandemic, in addition to others it has served.

We know that Redeemer's community is generous. And that 35 percent of all philanthropic giving in the U.S. happens at year's end. The CARES Act of 2020 allows an extra \$300 tax advantage for gifts made to nonprofits and churches this year amid a very strong year for stocks.

If you are able, we hope that you join us in keeping our place of gathering, of worship, and of service in good order for many years to come. If you have questions please contact either of us at margie.frazier@gmail.com, or jjap80@aol.com. We will celebrate together in 2021.

Margie Frazier, President

Julianne Johnson, Vice President

In This Issue

[Leadership End-of-Year Campaign for Building Improvements Launches](#)

[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

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

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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Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

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 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."

RLC Sets Virtual Christmas Eve, Christmas Day Services

Redeemer's **Christmas Eve** will have two parts: first, from 7-7:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a Zoom gathering to see and offer greetings to each other. Through a simple setting on Zoom, the person/family who speaks is enlarged, so we can get a good view of everyone.

Then at 7:30 p.m., the Christmas Eve service will be available to watch on YouTube. This will not be 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 Pastor Dave know.

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.

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.

Sister Act Adopts Two Berwick Families

Sister Act invites Redeemer members to participate in making this Christmas a little merrier for two families at Berwick Alternative K-8 who could use some Christmas cheer. To that end, Sister Act is collecting \$25 gift cards to anywhere (Kroger, Giant Eagle, Walmart, Meijer, Target, Amazon.com) which will be given to the parents so they can shop for their children.

The first family is a large family with nine children. At the beginning of the school year, their father passed away. It has been difficult for mom to now be a single mom. The children are older. The Berwick students are 8th graders. The youngest is a 6th grader.

The second family is one of the school's special needs families. The mother recently got out of the hospital and she is the only working parent. This family also needs basics like gift cards for food and clothes. They have four girls: 2nd grade, 5th grade, 6th grade and 10th grade.

Please bring the gift cards to the church by 6 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 16**. **Pastor Dave** and **Principal Mitchell** will deliver the cards to the families. For those unable to get the gift cards to the church, please contact **Kristi Hildebrand** to make arrangements.

For questions, please contact Kristi at kristi43230@gmail.com or 614-579-6860, **Michele Disbro** or **Kay Ernsthansen**.

Mission Endowment Fund Seeks Suggestions for 2020 Distribution

Each year Redeemer contributes the interest from the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) to other charities on behalf of the congregation. The guidelines for distribution, as established in the constitution; are to establish/support ministries of outreach within or on behalf of the congregation, and to further partnerships in mission through the synodical, regional and national expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Examples, include but are not limited to ELCA Good Gifts, LSS Food Pantry, the sanctuary program at First English Lutheran Church, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio and affiliated camps, Redeemer's partnership with Mid-Ohio Food Bank, etc.

To those ends, the Special Funds Team (SFT) is seeking suggestions for the use of the funds for 2020. A **pink** form is available for use to nominate possible recipients. You may leave it in the church office or email it to Dave Engel at joanie.dave@yahoo.com.

Suggestions are due by **Sunday, December 20**. The SFT will make its recommendation to Council which, in turn, will present the final recommendation to the congregation at the January annual meeting.

Thank you for your suggestions.

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Dec. 8

The Tuesday Bible Study, which is studying of the book of Genesis, resumes on **Tuesday, December 8**. 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 8** 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>

Adult Sunday Education Class Set for on Dec. 13

The Sunday Adult Education class resumes on **Sunday, December 13**. 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 13** 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!

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 are asked for **Ken Jones** as he awaits the results of medical tests.

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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

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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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

ELCA's Good Gifts Program Covers Gamut of Needs

Even though Redeemer will not be offering its own in-person Alternative Gifts Fair this year, that does not mean that mean folks cannot still support the ELCA's Good Gifts program. And this year, two new pandemic-related programs are available to support: soap and sanitation supplies (\$25) and protection for frontline workers (\$25).

The former provides sanitation supplies and education for households, schools, clinics and other public spaces while the latter provides personal protective equipment (PPE) such as face masks, gloves and disinfectant.

This is in addition to the many projects that run the gamut from providing a goat and flock of chicks (\$60) to supporting a community garden (\$200) to providing scholarships (\$100). Chicks alone are \$10.

To see all the options available go to www.ELCA.org/goodgifts, call 1-800-638-3522 or pick up a catalog at the church. (Best call first to make sure someone is there.)

The Community Beyond

Virtual Social Services Fair Set for Dec. 8

Columbus Metropolitan Library has partnered with Ohio Means Jobs, Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio, Human Service Chamber of Franklin County, United Way of Central Ohio and The Columbus Foundation to host another free **Virtual Social Services Fair** to connect people with the help they need.

The free virtual event will take place Tuesday, December 8 at www.omjfcf.org/vssfairn. The online chat will be staffed by nearly 50 participating agencies from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Participants will be able to engage with professionals to find help on a variety of issues, including food access, legal aid, rent stabilization funds, child care, job help and more.

Participating agencies include the following:

- Action for Children
- Alvis, Inc.
- American Red Cross
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio
- Catholic Social Services
- Central Community House
- Center for Healthy Families Central Community House
- Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio
- Columbus Early Learning Centers
- Columbus Literacy Council
- Columbus Metropolitan Library
- Columbus Works, Inc.
- Community Development for All People
- Dress for Success Columbus
- ECDI: Economic & Community Development Institute
- Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services
- Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services
- Furniture Bank of Central Ohio
- Future Ready Columbus
- Goodwill Columbus
- Homeless Families Foundation
- Homeport
- Huckleberry House, Inc.
- Jewish Family Services
- Legal Aid Society of Columbus
- Lifecare Alliance
- Local Matters
- Lutheran Social Services
- Mental Health America Ohio
- Mid-Ohio Food Collective
- Ohio Means Jobs
- OhioHealth
- Physicians CareConnection
- Social Ventures
- SON-Ministries
- St. Stephen's Community House
- St. Vincent Family Center
- Star House
- The Buckeye Ranch
- The Childhood League Center
- United Way of Central Ohio
- Universal Medical Staffing
- Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio
- YMCA Columbus

Getting Ready for Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Prayer for the Times

This prayer comes from **Pastor Steve Bond**:

It's not that we're asleep, God,
but that we're not paying attention.
Or rather, with so many other noisy, shiny things
all vying for our eyes and ears,
we pay attention to everything else
because it is comfortable to let them distract us.
Maybe that's why
You keep leading people into the wilderness.
Maybe there's nothing sacred about the sand
or holier about the parched ground,
but there is less background noise,
and fewer talking heads,
that's for sure.

Maybe we can let these days
of somber separation
be the wilderness we need
so that the voices you raise up
can startle us into action, truth, and love
without our trying to change the channel.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 North Community Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Elyce Herring.

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 13: 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 8 - 14, 2020

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
3:00 p.m. Member Care Team
6:30 p.m. ZOOM A Brewing Faith

Wednesday

7:30 p.m. **LIVESTREAM** Advent Worship

Sunday

10 a.m. **LIVESTREAM** Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube
11:15 a.m. ZOOM Adult Sunday School