



Reflections

VOLUME 24

December 28, 2020

ISSUE 52

Imagining a *Better* Normal

We started our Zoom adult ed class Sunday morning sharing with each other what we were celebrating, praying, singing, or pondering this Christmas. There were 17 of us participating yesterday, and folks offered a variety of responses – which is something I love about our conversations.

One person said, “During this pandemic, we’ve heard lots of people talk about how much they want to get back to ‘normal.’ In some ways, that would be great. But there are some ways that the ‘old’ normal wasn’t so good. That’s what the Black Lives Matter movement has taught us. So instead of hoping that we get to point where we can go back to ‘normal,’ I think it would be good to ask ourselves, ‘How can we move forward in 2021? How can we get to a *better* normal?’”

I know of no better question for New Year’s week than that: Once we’re able safely to return to the kind of lives we’re used to, how can we get to a *better* normal?

When you look at the changes you’ve had to make in your life since we entered the realities of the COVID-19 world, what do you notice? What have you had to stop doing altogether? What have you been able to keep doing only after radically re-imagining how that could happen? What have you found yourself doing more of? Less of? What’s a new way you’re passing your time? What’s something you’re doing or not doing that would shock your New Year’s Eve 2019 self? What is one change you’ve had to make this year that you’re grateful for? What have you learned in 2020 that you will apply to make the life you create in 2021 a *better* normal?

I write this Sunday afternoon, having just gotten back from a two-hour walk with a friend at Highbanks Metro Park. His birthday was Christmas Eve. I’d originally offered to pick up whatever kind of food he wanted and eat it at a pavilion in the park – hopefully one with a fireplace! Yesterday he told me that sounded way too complicated (and uncomfortable!), so what if we just met at the park and walked? As we were walking today, I said, “I don’t remember going to any metro park when I lived here in the 1980s. Now this is one of the main ways I see friends. In normal times, I’d meet them for coffee or have them over for a meal or we’d go to a movie. But now, I come to one of these at least once a week.” And today, with the snow and that pale winter sunlight – I couldn’t stop stopping on our walk, and looking around me, and saying, “Wow!” or “Wow . . .”

A couple weeks ago, I met a friend and his family for a 9:30 a.m. coffee around a firepit in his backyard! When we’re able to be inside with each other again sharing food and drink and conversation, I doubt if we’ll set up a December morning coffee around a fire pit. But I certainly hope I will continue to arrange park walks with friends instead of going back to the “old” normal meetings *in* a coffee shop or *around* my dining room table. Wintertime adventures in metro parks is a *better* normal I wouldn’t have discovered if my friends and I hadn’t had to imagine alternatives to inside gatherings.

One other *better* normal I hope to make part of my 2021 is enjoying my own company more. Options for connecting were drastically reduced in 2020. I couldn’t travel to visit friends the ways I’ve often used vacation time to do. So this year I’ve “had” to spend a lot more time “just” with me. It’s not been nearly as bad as I expected! My inner-critic isn’t nearly as chatty or persuasive as before. I’ve listened to some great books on CD and discovered a couple new British mysteries on DVD at the library. I enjoy making a nice dinner *for myself*. And I’m finding the more-frequent times of silence to be sources of refreshment, peace, and even happiness.

What about you? What have you learned in 2020 that you will apply to make the life you create in 2021 a *better* normal?

Dave Shull

In This Issue

[Imagining a *Better* Normal](#)

[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

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Year-End Building Campaign Coming to Close

RLC President Margie Frazier and Vice President Julie Johnson report that Redeemer's leadership end-of-year fund campaign "is going strong with several new gifts that will support our building's needs! We hope you will prayerfully consider a gift to the campaign so that we can welcome everyone back next year with sound mechanicals, renewed restrooms and air purification equipment.

"Remember, 10 percent of all giving will go to support LSS [Lutheran Social Services] and synod operations. Come join us!"

Redeemer to Serve at First English January 14

On **Thursday, January 14** Redeemer will be providing the carry out dinner for the members and neighborhood of First English. The menu will be an Italian pasta bake casserole, dinner roll, fruit cup, Hostess desert (something individually wrapped), a Belvita cookies. We will be making 84 dinners (seven dozen). If you are able to help with any of the items, please let **Kay Ernsthansen** know: email: kernie032000@yahoo.com or text 614-288-8506. If you would like to donate but can't get the items to the church, please let her know; she has drivers who will do pick ups.

Italian Pasta Bake Recipe

2 lbs. ground beef
1 large onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 jar (24 ounces) spaghetti sauce
1 can (14 ½ ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
1 can (4 ounces) mushrooms, drained (optional)
1 tsp. Italian seasoning
3 cups uncooked medium pasta shells
3 plum tomatoes, sliced
¾ c shredded provolone cheese
¾ c shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions

- In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat until no longer pink. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Drain. Stir in spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, mushrooms and Italian seasoning. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 20 minutes.
- Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350°. Cook pasta according to package directions; drain. Add to beef mixture and gently stir in sliced plum tomatoes.
- Transfer to an ungreased 13x9-in. baking dish. Sprinkle with cheeses. Bake 25-30 minutes or until bubbly and heated through.

2021 Flower Sign Up Available

Now that services are being livestreamed, Redeemer is again placing flowers in the sanctuary. Have an event to celebrate or remember? Somebody's birthday to recognize? Contact the church office at info@RedeemerLuth.com or 614-237-1263 to sign up for a particular Sunday. Make sure to leave information on the designation for the flowers to be shared in *Reflections* and the Sunday bulletin.

Flowers run \$20 and can be paid ahead of the date by mailing in or dropping the payment off.

RLC Seeking Readers for Livestreamed Worship Services

Enjoy seeing a variety of people participating in Redeemer's livestreamed Sunday service? Redeemer is seeking to expand the number of individuals willing and comfortable to come to the church to read the

lesson. The only other people who would be in the building are the others directly involved in the service. If you could serve in this way, please contact **Pastor Dave**. Thank you.

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Dec. 29

The Tuesday Bible Study, which is studying of the book of Genesis, continues on **Tuesday, December 29**. 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 29** 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 to Look at 'New Normal' for RLC

When the Sunday Adult Education class meets on **Sunday, January 3** it will consider the question of "A New Normal: *What have we learned from 2020 that we would like to incorporate into a new normal for Redeemer? What do you dream for our church going forward?* This class will held on Zoom on **Sunday, January 3** 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=a0pQaVITTFIsQTlhZllhRUFuncZoQT09> .

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

DSnull@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 former Redeemer members **Kim and Kendall Meyer-Turner** who are recovering from COVID and for **Ruth Murray's** brother **Allen Harju** and **Linda Williams' son Greg Williams**, who have also been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus. Prayers are also asked for **Bill Boys** who is recovering at home after having been hospitalized. Prayers continue to be asked for **Skye Andree** and for **Dora Pinder** and her family who are facing some challenges.

+ + +

Former Redeemer member **Jacqueline Bussie** reports that her latest book *Love Without Limits* has won two IAN (Independent Author Network) Book of the Year awards: Outstanding Religion 2020 IAN Book of the Year and third place across all categories in Non-Fiction Book of the Year.

Sale of Face Masks to Benefit Abuse Victims



Diane Louangrath, a Redeemer member, has founded an organization called Renewed Strength and its partner Renewed Strength Zambia to help women and children who have suffered sexual assault or abuse. After speaking with Redeemer members last year, she traveled to Zambia to help heal the wounds of abuse and give guidance on its prevention.

Diane returned with some cloth, now made into masks which she is selling to help support the mission of her organization in Zambia and in the U.S. (She has applied for nonprofit status and is awaiting the answer.) If you are interested in purchasing a mask (in basically orange or yellow), the cost is \$5; **Kathy Zwanziger** is coordinating the distribution with more masks to be delivered on Monday for those who are interested. Thank you.

December Birthdays

29-Tom Comstock 31-John Kennedy
31-Emma Martin

January Birthdays

1-Connie Criswell 2-Don Luck
4-Kristen Ullman 5-Tamara Wawrosch
9-Marques Highland 13-Michelle Skoog
16-Melissa Vivens 18-Gary Pawlowski
20-David Detweiler 20-Corinne Montgomery
20-Tony Naess 20-Eric Vivens
21-Elizabeth George 21-Shirley Miller
22-Maureen Callahan 22-Shirley Cannon
24-Sophia Brush 24-Kathy Rapp
24-Heath Wolfe 25-Rosalie Highland
26-Jeff Montgomery 28-Bebe McCoy

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

COTA to Begin Charging Fares on Jan.11

COTA will begin charging fares on **Monday, January 11** for fixed-route vehicles and COTA//Plus and **Monday, February 1** for Mainstream and Mainstream On-Demand.

According to the company, operates on a fare-based system for its long-term financial sustainability. COTA temporarily suspended transit fares in March because fareboxes are located in the front of all its vehicles. At that time COTA required rear-door boarding of all vehicles to allow time for state-of-the art sanitization practices and implementation of protective measures like facial coverings and increased air circulation to be implemented. Beginning January 11, customers will board at the front entrance and exit at the rear.

"Masks are required for all operators and customers. All COTA vehicles are equipped with strong ventilation systems, to keep air constantly circulating every minute. COTA has implemented daily sanitization procedures that exceed industry standards. COTA uses virus-killing disinfectants and all surfaces of all transit vehicles are coated with Aegis Microbe Shield, which is an antimicrobial solution used in the hospital and food industries. These solutions are applied through spraying, fogging and intensely cleaning every surface. Meanwhile, additional vehicles are being added to improve social distancing on high ridership lines since capacity is reduced to 20 persons on all fixed route transit vehicles."

Customers can now purchase new passes and replace expired passes at the Customer Experience Center at 33 N. High St. in downtown Columbus or at more than 30 grocery store retail locations.

Getting Ready for Sunday

Second Sunday of Christmas, January 3, 2021

Lessons

Readings: Ephesians 1:3-12; Psalm 147:12-20; John 1:4-5, 9-14, 16-18

Prayer for the Times

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

You redefine what we thought we knew, God,
and we aren't quite sure what to do about it.
We live in a time and in a land
that speaks so glibly of "freedom"
as if it meant we are not bound to one another,
as if we bear no responsibility for each other,
as if no one can tell me to give anything up for someone else,
as if my convenience and comfort outweigh my neighbor's life.
We were told such freedom is the most important thing there is.
But you, O God, you are perfectly free.
You are the sovereign over all creation,
And yet your freest act of all
was the choice to lay it all down,
pouring yourself out like water,
entering our humanity,
Sharing our breath and bone,
binding your life to ours
at the cost of comfort and glory.
Such is your wild and good freedom, God.
Redefine us, as well, to be free for such love.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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 Reformation Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Novella Hinkle.

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, Kay Ernsthause, Marshall Edgington and his wife, Kristi Hildebrand's grandmother Hazel Plice, Ken Jones, Skye Andree, Michelle Clemence's roommate Courtney, Dora Pinder and family, Bill Boys, Ruth Murray's brother Allen Harju, Kim and Kendall Meyer-Turner, Greg Williams.

Noisy Offering will be for Kaleidoscope Youth Center.

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, January 3: Adult Sunday School *A New Normal: What have we learned from 2020 that we would like to incorporate into a new normal for Redeemer?*

Led by Pastor Dave Shull

This Week at Redeemer

December 29, 2020 – January 4, 2021

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study

Sunday

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