



Reflections

VOLUME 25

January 11, 2021

ISSUE 2

Reaching across the Divide

The political divides in the United States already felt like they were practically unbridgeable. When we couldn't even come close to agreement on what was a "fact" and what was "fake news," we wondered what common ground we could find even to *begin* a conversation.

Then came the events of January 6. That's the feast day of the Epiphany, which celebrates when the Christ Child was revealed to non-Jews in the form of the Magi. But that day brought a different kind of "revealing": how far the president and some of his followers were willing to go to try to keep the new president- and vice-president-elect from assuming the offices to which a clear majority of the voters had elected them.

Whatever happens in the near-term after last Wednesday, it's fair to ask how any kind of healing and mutual understanding might begin. And whether it's even time to try to approach that.

A front-page article in yesterday's *Columbus Dispatch* invites any of us interested in trying this to join a group that has been doing it the past four years. "Braver Angels" and the "USA Today Network Ohio" are partnering to form groups of people who find themselves on very different sides of the political divide yet are committed to fostering understanding by listening deeply to each other and talking honestly with each other. One part of the story (<https://tinyurl.com/y2o7q8kd>) speaks of how the group helped a couple who had been married for years to stay together in spite of how challenging they found their shared lives after the 2016 presidential election.

There are small-group workshops and one-on-one conversation sessions available, depending on the kind of setting you prefer. The article explains that to sign up for the first workshop ("Depolarizing Within" on **Saturday, January 23**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), go on-line to <https://bit.ly/38jtOSP>. To sign up for a one-on-one session, find more information at <https://bit.ly/3hRx1fd> and enter OH in the "code" field; or email **Beverly Horstman** at horstman.bev@braverangels.org.

The editor of the *Dispatch* said, "Our hope is that the discussions will help individuals and communities move forward together to accomplish our common hopes and dreams."

This seems to be exactly the kind of opportunity we committed ourselves to when we adopted our mission statement two years ago: *Redeemer Lutheran Church fosters understanding and healing in community*. If you choose to participate in Braver Angels, please let me know! I'd love for us to share our experiences.

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

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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The Redeemer Community

RLC Annual Meeting Set Via Zoom for Jan. 17

This year, Redeemer will hold its annual meeting via Zoom on Sunday, January 17 at 11:30 a.m. This includes not only the option to participate online but also to call in.

Materials were sent in advance to all members.

Among the items on the day's agenda is the election of the 2021 slate of council members. They include the following:

- Vice President – **Wendy Stoica**
- Secretary – **Margie Farnham**
- Finance Officer – **Margie Frazier**
- Education – **Krista Skipper**
- Outreach – **Sue Watson**
- Stewardship – **Laura Warren**
- Special Funds Team – **Terry Warren**

New Executive Team appointments include **Emlyn Ott** and **Marques Highland**.

By dint of their election last year, continuing council members include **Julie Johnson** (president), **Julie Larson** (Worship), **Elyce Herring** (Member Support) and **Sue Yehling** (Property). Special Funds Team members continuing are **Michelle Clemence**, **Dave Engel**, **Nancy Magargal** and **Jim Riley**.

In addition, the following outgoing council members will be recognized: **Jon Disbro** (Outreach), **Chad Eberle** (secretary), **Ruth Murray** (Stewardship), **Wendy Stoica** (Education) and **Margie Frazier** (president); and outgoing Special Funds Team member **Bruce Collins**.

Also concluding their service are **Brad Phillips** as financial secretary, **Larry Trover** as treasurer and Executive Team appointees to Mutual Ministry team **Michele Disbro** and **Bill Boys**.

In addition, approval of the 2021 budget for the congregation is on the agenda.

The following is the link, meeting ID and passcode for the annual meeting. To join the Zoom Meeting, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87176701929?pwd=bW9KTzIzQ0FMMjEwVzZhYWYWh2UnNlZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 7670 1929

Passcode: 226159

The phone number for the meeting is 1-646-876-9923.

'Conversations on Race' Group to Meet January 13

Redeemer's "Conversations on Race" group will meet on Wednesday, January 13 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Any who wish are invited to join us as we talk about concrete steps we can take to bear witness to the inclusive love and justice of Jesus. To Join the Zoom Meeting go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88601723199?pwd=OVhOVUtjUWpoWnNRNzh0RStwTUxYUT09>; Meeting

ID: 886 0172 3199; Passcode: 131323. Phone only: 646 876 9923.

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), and 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. (Sufficient fruit cups have already been donated.) 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.

Sister Act Plans to 'Be Bold in 2021!'

The theme for Sister Act this year is “*Be Bold in 2021!*” For the first gathering of Sister Act on **Wednesday, January 20**, the group will be making “Bold Connections” as it meets over Zoom to make cards. Heidi Carmen is putting together the card-making craft and will have packets available for pick up at church by **Monday, January 18**. Then, Sister Act will connect on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on January 20 to chat and make the cards under the direction of Heidi.

If anyone needs a card making packet delivered to their house, please contact **Sue Yehling** or **Michele Disbro**. Hope you can join us!

Zoom information for **Wednesday, January 20** at 6:30 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85283909143?pwd=Skhnb1BweDRjR2RMUTY5YVdoaElqZz09;MeetingID:85283909143;Passcode:370554>.

Sunday Adult Ed Class to Begin Discussing Duncan Book on Jan. 24

Following a one-Sunday hiatus on **Sunday, January 17** because of the annual meeting, the Adult Sunday Education Class will begin discussing the book *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* on **Sunday, January 24**. In the book, ELCA **Pastor Lenny Duncan** writes about some realities confronting our denomination that we won't want to face, but which we ignore at our own peril. He writes in a very accessible style. He clearly wants to wake us up. And he knows waking people up from sleep doesn't often feel very kind to those of us who wish to ignore painful truths. But throughout the book Pastor Duncan's motivations are clear: "Dear Church, this book is a love letter to you. I know at times it hasn't felt that way."

The book is available a lot of places online for quite reasonable prices, and it seems you'll get your copy at least a week before our first class so please order your own copies. The class will discuss the introduction and first two chapters for the session on **Sunday, January 24**.

Let Pastor Dave know if you have any problems/questions.

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 Jan. 12

The Tuesday Bible Study, which is studying of the book of Genesis, continues on **Tuesday, January 12**. 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, January 12** 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>

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, wear a mask!

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 continue to be asked for **Heidi Sherer's** sister **Wendy** and brother-in-law **Sion** due to health concerns and for **Ken** and **Grace Jones** as Ken is planning a medical procedure. Prayers continue to be asked for **Dora Pinder** and her family who are facing some challenges.

Prayers are also asked for **Julianne Johnson's** niece who gave birth to a daughter prematurely.

RLC Serves 59 Families at Food Pantry

On January 6, five Redeemer members served 59 families at the Food Pantry. During the "lulls" in the clients, the volunteers checked on the news out of D.C. but were thankful that they could be helping people get access to food. Thanks to **Michele Disbro**, **Kathy Mimplitch**, **Wendy Stoica**, **Sue Yehling**, and **Kathy Zwanziger** for being part of Redeemer's volunteer team!

Pastor Dave's Email Gets Hacked Again ...

This past week, several Redeemer members got what appeared to be emails from **Pastor Dave** asking for gift cards. This has happened before. Pastor Dave wants to assure members that he would *never* make such a request. So please continue to **ignore the substance** while **letting him know** that this has happened again! Thank you.

January Birthdays

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

Registration for 2021 LOMO Camp Programs Opens Soon

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio (LOMO) announced that registration for 2021 sponsored retreats and summer camp programs will open on **Saturday, January 23**. The complete schedule can be found online at <https://www.lomocamps.org/calendar> . The first of the retreats is the Family Spring Retreat at Lutheran Memorial Camp (LMC) on April 23-24. That is followed by Servant Weekends at Camp Luther and LMC in May.

Summer camp programs are scheduled to begin the week of June 13.

LOMO writes, “We have put many safety protocols in place to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19; these procedures are based on the CDC’s Field Guide for camps. But, even with safety procedures, we cannot guarantee that COVID-19 will not be spread at camp. While we want everyone to experience the joy and blessings of camp participation we understand that you might choose not to attend camp if you are at high risk for complications if you become infected with the virus.

“The CDC continues to update their recommendations for how to reduce your risk of contracting the virus. We will continue to update safety information in light of COVID-19 on this website.

“Each camper will be required to sign a covenant related to COVID-19; when a vaccine is developed we will ask every camper to be vaccinated prior to attending camp unless you have a pre-existing medical condition that prevents you from doing so. We will not turn anyone away from participating in a camp program if they have not been vaccinated.”

For more COVID-19 information related to camps, go online to <https://tinyurl.com/y9e4e4wn>.

Also online is information about applying to work at LOMO: <https://www.lomocamps.org/employment>.

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

2nd Sunday after Epiphany, January 17, 2021

Lessons

Readings: Genesis 28:10-17; Psalm 139:1-6; John 1:43-51

Prayer for the Times

Paraphrase of a poem by **Rev. Howard Thurman:**

When the carols
have been stilled.

When the star-topped tree
is taken down.

When family and friends
are gone home.
When we are back to our schedules
The work of Christmas begins.
To welcome the refugee.
To heal a broken planet.
To feed the hungry.
To build bridges of trust,
not walls of fear.
To share our gifts.
To seek justice and peace
for all people.
To bring Christ's light
to the world.

Prayer of the Day

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of St. John Lutheran Church in London.
- + For Redeemer community members of the Hoddinott family - Ranel, Neil, and Kandice Hoddinott and Tracy Hoddinott-Ervin, Cheyenne Lambert, Milah Amon, and Anthony McDaniel.

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, Ken and Grace Jones, Dora Pinder and family, Bill Boys, Heidi Sherer's sister and brother-in-law Wendy and Sion.

Noisy Offering will be for Kaleidoscope Youth Center.

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, January 17: Adult Sunday School is on hiatus because of the Annual Meeting; it resumes on Sunday, January 24.

This Week at Redeemer January 12 – January 18, 2021

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	ZOOM Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM A Brewing Faith
<u>Wednesday</u>	7:00 p.m.	ZOOM Anti-Racism Group
<u>Sunday</u>	10 a.m.	LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube
	11:30 a.m.	ZOOM ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING