



Reflections

VOLUME 25

February 1, 2021

ISSUE 5

ELCA Releases 2021 Federal Policy Priorities

Rev. Amy E. Reumann, director for ELCA Advocacy, wrote, “With the start of the 117th Congress and a new administration, and as the devastating COVID-19 pandemic influences our lives and shapes our concerns, we face pressing need for national policy action. Yet even with changes, as Christians in the world our engagement is consistently shaped by our love of one another as God loves us.

‘Over time Lutherans have learned that energetic civic engagement is part of their baptismal vocation, both as individuals and through the church’s corporate witness. Such civic participation is not simply voluntary, idealistic, or altruistic. The ELCA holds to the biblical idea that God calls God’s people to be active citizens and to ensure that everyone benefits from the good of government (Jeremiah 29:7, Romans 13:1-7).’ - from the ELCA social message on *‘Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy’*

“Presented here are federal policy priorities for ELCA advocacy activity in 2021. As our nation and world face unprecedented challenges, we expect the first part of 2021 to be a flurry of legislative and regulatory activity. In this arena, Lutherans will express our commitment to addressing heightened hunger, climate changes, poverty, economic hardship and racial and gender disparities in the U.S. and globally. We look forward to working with the new administration in promoting unity and healing in our country. And we look forward to working together as your ELCA advocacy staff and in a network of engaged people of faith.”

The following highlights those public policy priorities:

Domestic Policy

- Hunger and poverty.
- Criminal justice reform.
- Civil and human rights.
- Health care.

Domestic Policy: Housing

- Budget concerns.
- Infrastructure.
- Fair housing and civil rights.
- Disaster relief.

Environmental Policy

- Creation care.
- Climate and environmental justice.
- Sustainability.

International Policy

- Foreign assistance.
- Conflict prevention/peacebuilding.
- Gender justice and human rights protections.

Migration Policy

- Rights of migrants and refugees.
- Enforcement and detention
- Asylum and refugee systems.
- Foreign policy and climate threats.

For details on all these items, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y4zwseoc>.

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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

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President – Julie Johnson

Vice President – Wendy Stoica

Finance Officer – Margie Frazier

Secretary – Margie Farnham

Worship – Julie Larson

Education – Krista Skipper

Outreach – Sue Watson

Member Support – Elyce Herring

Property – Sue Yehling

Stewardship – Laura Warren

APPOINTMENTS

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Margie Farnham Marques Highland

Emlyn Ott Krista Skipper

SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Dave Engel, Chair

Michelle Clemence Nancy Magargal

Jim Riley Terry Warren

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent – Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Souper Bowl Takes on New Format in COVID Times

February 7 will again be Souper Bowl Sunday. It won't be quite as easy or fun to donate this year, but people still need food assistance. So this year, folks are encouraged to make a special donation designated for Souper Bowl (made out to Redeemer) without choosing team or any of the other possibilities.

Or cash in the envelope, will be assumed to be for the Souper Bowl.

Another alternative is to donate food items directly to the LSS Panty: contact **Ben Powers** (bpowers@lssnetworkofhope.org or call him at 614 429-5528 to make arrangements to drop off the food at the corner of Frebis and Champion during February. These are the most needed items:

Grape jelly: 15-17 oz. in plastic bottles.

Black beans: 15.5 oz.

Diced tomatoes: 15.5 oz.

Mandarin oranges: 11 oz.

Tuna *in water*: 5 oz.

Soups: Tomato, chicken noodle or vegetable.

If you would prefer to bring food items to the church, **Kathy Mimplitch** is willing to deliver them – or she would pick them up from homes.

Questions should be directed to **Kathy Zwanziger** at 801-205-9542/KZwanOSU69@gmail.com.

Information on Getting COVID Vaccine

Nurse and Redeemer member **Michelle Skoog** provides the following information about how to get the COVID-19 vaccination: “In case you or a loved one are in need of a COVID vaccine, and meet age requirements, there are several options available. Currently, Ohio is vaccinating Group 1B. This is for people aged 65 and up, beginning with 80+. This week, the week of February 1, Ohio is vaccinating age 70 and older and school employees. Several places are providing the vaccine (although supply is limited), including some store pharmacies such as Kroger, Giant Eagle and Walmart. Primary care providers, associated with a major hospital system, may also have some availability for their patients who meet age requirements. A complete list of vaccine locations can be found at the following link: <https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov>

“Another easy option is your local health department. For Franklin County residents, currently 70 or older, vaccination appointments are being scheduled for this Monday and Tuesday. You can register online for an appointment at <http://bit.ly/vax2normal> or by calling the appointment hotline at 614-525-5225. Vaccinations are done at the Franklin County Board of Elections on Morse Road. You choose an appointment time when you register. Franklin County's registration typically opens for the next age group Thursdays at 1 p.m. of the week prior to that age group's assigned week.

“If you are a Columbus or Worthington resident, age 70 or older, vaccination appointments may also be made through the Columbus Health Department. They are available online for this week at: <https://redcap.columbus.gov/surveys/?s=8C9FTR78EN> or by calling Columbus Public Health at 614-645-1519 to schedule an appointment time. Vaccinations are drive-through at the fairgrounds. The time that Columbus Public Health has opened up appointment slots have varied the past two weeks. One week it was Friday of the week prior and the next week it was Saturday. Best advice: start checking online the Thursday before your age range and keep checking!

“In case registration is listed as closed at either public health website (as it is as of February 1 at Columbus Public Health for ages 70 and up), registration often will reopen throughout the week once more vaccine supply becomes available. Keep checking back!

“If you need general information about the COVID vaccine, the following link is a good resource: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine>.”

Anti-Racism Group to Hear from Derrick Holmes

The next Anti-Racism Group Zoom gathering on **Wednesday, February 10** will hear from **Pastor Derrick Holmes**. He is the faith organizer for the Amos Project here in Columbus. The project is part of a Cincinnati-based statewide group called the Ohio Organizing Collaborative. Derrick works with congregations to help them explore ways they can build the kinds of deep, honest relationships which then can be translated into concrete acts of justice as the prophet Amos calls God's people to risk.

This will be a great evening of conversation and dreaming about ways we can become active anti-racism allies in the larger community. You will be blessed by your participation in this.

Join the Anti-Racism Zoom Meeting ID 886 0172 3199; Passcode: 131323 at 7 p.m. By phone call only dial 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/88601723199?pwd=OVhOVUtiUWpoWnNRNzh0RStwTUxYUT09>

Girl Scouts Collecting Toys

The Juniors of Girl Scout Troop 2462 (usually meeting in Redeemer's basement, but not this year so far!) are working on their Bronze Award project. They are collecting preschool toys for the patients of Children's Hospital. They will have a drive-through collection day on **Saturday, March 6**.

They will also have a cookie booth that day, just in case some people would also like to purchase Girl Scout cookies. The event will run be from 10 a.m. to noon.

Sunday Adult Ed Class to Discuss Duncan Book on Feb. 7

The Adult Sunday Education Class will be discussing chapters three to five of the book *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* on **Sunday, February 7** at 11:15 a.m. 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."

Join the Zoom Meeting ID: 818 8878 2023; Passcode: 630107. By phone call 646-876-9923. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the class by copying and entering the following web address in your browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81888782023?pwd=Q2Z2cW9ob3JvR1NSRi9rYVBkMCM9OZz09>

RLC Live Stream Team Seeks Photos

Redeemer's Live Stream team is looking for members who are photographers and or people who want to volunteer to be photographed. These volunteer member photos will be used as part of the slide shows played before and after our church service productions for the live streaming and videos that will continue to be posted on YouTube.

According to **Scott Steiner**, "Pictures of your wonderful hope-filled faces will warm our hearts and help keep us connected. We know that we miss worshiping with each other. We think it will help to see your fantastic smiles to continue to bring light into our world during these difficult times."

Thanks for participating!!

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.

FYI: There are NO flowers during Lent which starts on **Wednesday, February 17** and runs until Easter which is **Sunday, April 11**. Likely there will be lilies and tulips for that Sunday. Weekly altar flowers picks up again on **Sunday, April 18**.

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 Feb.2

The Tuesday Bible Study, which is studying of the book of Genesis, continues on **Tuesday, February 2**. 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, February 2** 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>

Coffee/Conversations Group to Gather on Zoom Feb. 17

The next Coffee and Conversations group is **Wednesday, February 17**, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. To join, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 836 4294 4204; Passcode: 919121. 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/83642944204?pwd=NXg3V1BBaVRsRzZvcnlUK2lGcE9uZz09>

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 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 a quick recovery are asked for **Andrea Steiner** who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and for her dad **Scott Steiner** to remain virus free.

Prayers are also asked for teachers and other school personnel in the Columbus city schools and other districts as they return to their classrooms and as they juggle hybrid schedules. Prayers are asked especially for those working with special needs and K-3 students.

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Member Directory Updates: **Jack and Shirley Miller's** Columbus phone number is 614-834-4551; cell phone is 220-465-1009.

Notes of Thanks

The following note was received from Redeemer member **Bonnie Hegreness**: "Thank you all for your cards, prayers and best wishes. I am feeling a lot better but the fatigue will be with me a bit longer. Thank you. Stay well."

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Redeemer received the following update from **Pastor Grant Eckart** at Jacob's Porch:

"I just wanted to send a brief update to you about the children that you all helped during the holidays. We were able to present a check for around \$2,750 to the family along with beds, blankets and a variety of items from their toy list. I wish you could have seen their faces. The family and the children were overjoyed.

"And the journey continues for these children. They continue to stay with a family in Clintonville. This family has assumed guardianship of the children and ICE has been made aware of the situation. As long as the children are under 18 and have a U.S. family as appointed guardians they will not be deported. However, the struggle goes on. The youngest likely has diabetes and both have PTSD. We are trying to find doctors, but without insurance for the children, the expense has been a limiting factor. We were able to find a pro-bono dentist. If you have any recommendations on doctors that can provide care pro-bono please let me know. Children's Hospital is not able to provide care, at least for the diabetes.

The children's mother did not get granted asylum in Mexico, so she is in an even more tenuous situation. We are working a lawyer but as of now have not found much hope for reunion for this family unless they return to a dangerous situation in Honduras.

The donated money went a long way for clothing, coats, medicine and food for the family. Because this is now public, meaning the threat of deportation from ICE has been minimized for a time, there is now a go-fund me for the family and the children that describes the current situation. If people would like to continue to support these kids then they can now do so through the go-fund me account at <https://gofund.me/d6d0b36e>

"Thank you again for supporting these kids in addition to all of the other families you all care for."

Giving Statements Due Out This Week

Council President Julie Johnson reports that Redeemer's 2020 giving statements will be mailed this week from the Wells CPA firm.

New Redeemer Directory Available

Redeemer's Directory of members has been updated. To receive an electronic copy or to have a hard copy mailed to you, please contact the church office at 614-237-1263 or via email to info@redeemerluth.com. Hard copies are available at the church and can be found under the bulletin board in the hallway off the Narthex.

February Birthdays

1-Michael McClain, Jr. 3-Karen Kent
4-Donna Voelkel 5-Andre Friederich
5-Georgene Slagle 6-Richard Amon, Jr.
8-William Goshen 8-Robin Stokes
11-Stan Heacock 14-Kurt Goshen
15-Nancy Ehrich 16-Heidi Carman
24-Linda Williams 24-Susan Yehling
25-Bernice Stewart 26-Diane Brobeck
26-Wally Jacobs 28-Colton Day

The Wider Church

Lutherans in 117th Congress Include Ohio's Sen. Brown

Members of the 117th Congress were sworn into office on January 3, 2021. According to the ELCA, the following are Lutheran members of the new Congress:

ELCA affiliated members **Sen. Joni Ernst** (R-IA) and **Sen. Jeff Merkley** (D-OR) successfully won their bids for re-election in November. They will be rejoining their other Lutheran incumbent colleagues in the Senate, including ELCA Members **Sen. Sherrod Brown**, (D-OH) and **Sen. Martin Heinrich** (D-NM); and Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) member **Sen. Ron Johnson** (R-WI).

Also in the Senate, Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) member **Cynthia Lummis** (R-WY) joined the chamber for the first time, while LCMS member **Sen. Cory Gardner** (R-CO) was not re-elected. Sen. Lummis rejoins Congress after retiring from the House of Representatives in 2016.

Four Lutheran members of the U.S. House of Representatives did not return this year. Lutheran members **Rep. Denny Heck** (D-WA) and **Rep. John Shimkus** (R-IL) announced their retirements last year and did not seek re-election. ELCA-affiliated Congressman Heck ran and won his bid for lieutenant governor of Washington State. Other members, **Rep. Collin Peterson** (D-MN) and **Rep. Xochitl Torres Small** (D-NM) lost their bids for re-election in 2020.

Returning ELCA members to the House include **Rep. John Carter** (R-TX), **Rep. Zoe Lofgren**, (D-CA), **Rep. Ed Perlmutter** (D-CO), **Rep. Scott Peters** (D-CA), **Rep. Chellie Pingree** (D-ME), **Rep. Lloyd Smucker** (R-PA) and U.S. Delegate **Stacey Plaskett** (D-VI).

Other “self-described Lutherans,” according to the ELCA, who will be returning are **Rep. Kelly Armstrong** (R-ND), **Rep. Jack Bergman** (R-MI), **Rep. Angie Craig** (D-MN), **Rep. Ron Estes** (R-KS), **Rep. Tracey Mann** (R-KS), **Rep. Donald Norcross** (D-NJ) and **Rep. David Trone** (D-MD). Re-elected LCMS representatives **Rep. Larry Bucsho** (R-IN), **Rep. Glenn Grothman** (R-WI) and **Rep. Jim Hagedorn** (R-MN). WELS member **Rep. Ron Kind** (D-WI) also returned to the House.

The Community Beyond

Columbus City Council Seeks Community Input on Police Reform

As it creates policies to guide the Civilian Review Board, the Columbus City Council is seeking community input around police reform. Individuals who would like to have their views considered by council are urged to complete the following survey this week: [this survey to share your thoughts](#).

City Receives Federal Money for Rental Assistance

The city of Columbus and council announced the receipt of \$26.8 million in federal funding designated to help families in need of rent and utility assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Recognizing that the lowest income households are at the greatest risk for long-term housing instability, 60 percent of the funding will be targeted to households at 50 percent AMI and below or \$42,100 for a family of four. The remaining 40 percent will be available to households at 80 percent AMI or \$67,360 for a family of four.”

“Community partnerships have been essential to getting rental assistance funding out to Columbus families in critical need since last summer,” said Councilmember Shayla Favor. “These additional dollars, along with our strong housing stability network, will go a significant way towards stabilizing even more families and helping them avoid a devastating eviction.”

The city will immediately distribute \$10 million to IMPACT Community Action Agency to continue the HOPE Fund program. Additionally, Columbus will set aside \$3 million for CelebrateOne. CelebrateOne will distribute the emergency rental assistance funds to community partners who will provide rental and utility assistance to families at high risk of infant mortality and maternal health complications.

“We know the importance of stable housing for families,” said **Mayor Andrew J. Ginther**. “This funding will allow for more of neighbors to stay in their homes during this unprecedented time.”

Bill Cohen Presents Valentine Concert on Facebook

Former public radio reporter **Bill Cohen** will livestream his 12th Annual Valentine Concert on Valentine’s Day, **February 14** on Facebook at 7 p.m. He will sing songs that tell the ups and downs of love from John Denver, the Everly Brothers, Sam Cooke, James Taylor, Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole and others.

The virtual concert will be livestreamed on Cohen’s Facebook page, “Bill Cohen Sings.” Simply click on this link just before the concert starts: WWW.Facebook.com/BillCohenSings/live/ . If you have a Facebook account already, just click that link.

For those who do not have a Facebook account, you can still watch using that link, but you’ll need to do one more thing! Once you click on that link, you will be asked to either log in or join. **IGNORE THAT REQUEST!** Instead, click anything else like Home, Events, Videos in the left hand column and the notice to login or join will go away! Then, watch the concert live at the time of the event!

Getting Ready for Sunday

5th Sunday after Epiphany, February 7, 2021

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Mark 1:29-39

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

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Delaware.

+ For Redeemer community members Katie, Andy, Wally, and Kennedy Jacobs.

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, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, 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, David and Barbara Hairston, Kay Ernsthause, Marshall Edgington and his wife, Ken and Grace Jones, Dora Pinder and family, Bill Boys, Heidi Sherer's cousin Ann, Kathy Rapp, John Kennedy and Kevin Bailey, Michelle Clemence's sister Nancy Roebuck and her niece and family: Kaarina, Michael, Natalie, Liam and Tiffany Scales, Pamela Andrews.

Noisy Offering will be for Kaleidoscope Youth Center.

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, February 7: Book Discussion on *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. - Chaps. 3-5*

Led by Pastor Dave

This Week at Redeemer February 2 – February 8, 2021

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|-------------------------|------------|--|
| <u>Tuesday</u> | 1:00 p.m. | ZOOM Bible Study |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | 1:00 p.m. | RLC at Food Pantry |
| | 7:30 p.m. | ZOOM Worship Team |
| <u>Sunday</u> | 10:00 a.m. | LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube |
| | 11:15 a.m. | ZOOM Adult Sunday School |