



# Reflections

VOLUME 25

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ISSUE 6

## Lutheran Confessions 101

This term, I'm auditing a class at Trinity Seminary: Lutheran Confessions, taught by **Cheryl Peterson**, who is certainly no stranger to the Redeemer community. I decided I needed more background in this tradition which I am still learning about. There are no on-line lectures; we get lecture notes each week along with reading assignments. Auditors don't do the papers or take the tests.

Though some of this may be stuff you've known for a long time, I thought I'd share a few things I've learned or been reminded of in the course of my reading. Most of this comes from a recent text called *Book of Harmony: Spirit and Service in the Lutheran Confessions*. The author, **Martin Lohrmann**, is the first cousin of Redeemer member **Georgene Slagle**.

First is the importance in the Lutheran tradition of the concept of "dialectic." This idea refers to what we learn through conversation with others. The Lutheran reformers in the 1500s saw this as a way to combine the wisdom of the past with the needs of the present. Instead of trying to offer people a fixed set of answers to a host of questions that they'd have to try to force to be true for centuries, the idea was to offer grounding principles that could be applied to a variety of circumstances and settings for years to come. As Lohrmann says, "They aimed to identify clear central points around which all kinds of adaptation and uniqueness could exist in harmony." That lets us have the flexibility to approach new situations that the Reformers never imagined while also being informed by core teachings that do not change.

A second learning is that early Lutheran history leading to the creation of the *Book of Concord* in 1580 shows that, at the heart of our tradition, is valuing decision-making that comes by consensus as opposed to coercion. During the process of agreeing on this collection of documents that expressed the faith Lutherans shared, some of the participants rejected it because they didn't agree on how it balanced "right belief" and "right practice." They worked hard to try to listen to each other and honor differences, while also realizing not everyone will agree with the outcome, and that was okay.

And, third, again using Lohrmann's words, early Lutherans spoke of the *gospel* as "the singular message that God gives sinners grace, reconciliation and new life through faith in Christ." The documents that make up the Lutheran Confessions state that "the chief worship of God is to preach the gospel" (from *Apology of the Augsburg Confession*). The Christian life includes all kinds of spiritual and practical things; yet the Lutheran tradition says what always comes first is proclaiming and living out this promise of grace, reconciliation, and new life through faith in Christ. Grounded in these core concepts, the believer is then freed from the constant fear of not being "good enough". Our lives can then be a response of gratitude for being loved so much.

I still have lots to learn. Feel free to share with me basics of Lutheran Confessions 101 that you think it would be good for me to know!

*Dave Shull*

## In This Issue

[Lutheran Confessions 101](#)

[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

### 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](http://www.redeemerluth.com)



# The Redeemer Community

## News from Redeemer

**Council President Julie Johnson** and **Finance Officer Margie Frazier** report the following developments here at Redeemer that are of interest to the entire congregation:

Margie reports that the Small Business Administration has officially forgiven Redeemer's Payroll Protection Program loan of \$26,800. "Essentially the loan became a grant," Margie adds.

In addition, Julie, on behalf of Church Council, reports that the furnace that heats pastor's office, the conference room and robing area, as well as the downstairs storage areas beneath those offices, was just replaced along with the air conditioner for that area. The furnace broke down recently, and it would have cost in excess of \$500 to repair. It was 20+ years old, and replacement of the unit had been included in this year's budget. The iwave in the old furnace was moved to the new furnace.

## 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=OVhOVUljUWpoWnNRNzh0RStwTUxYUT09>

## 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.

## 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 8, Ohio is vaccinating age 65 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 65 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 65 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 8 at Columbus Public Health for ages 65 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>.”

## Souper Bowl Takes on New Format in COVID Times

Even though the Super Bowl is over and **Tom Brady** has again won, albeit this time with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, it is not too late to support the Souper Bowl, benefitting the LSS Food Pantry. This year, folks are encouraged to make a special donation designated for Souper Bowl (made out to Redeemer).

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](mailto: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](mailto:KZwanOSU69@gmail.com).

## Sister Act to Meet Feb. 22

Because of Lent schedules, **Carol Heacock** reports that Sister Act will meet via Zoom on both **Monday, February 22** and **Monday, March 22** at 6:30 p.m.

More details will be forthcoming.

## Sunday Adult Ed Class to Discuss Duncan Book on Feb. 14

The Adult Sunday Education Class will be discussing chapters four to seven 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=Q2Z2cW9ob3JvR1NSRi9rYVBkMC90Zz09>

## RLC Livestream 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](mailto: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. 9

The Tuesday Bible Study, which is studying of the book of Genesis, continues on **Tuesday, February 9**. 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 9** 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](http://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](mailto:Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

[Info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for stewardship campaigns.

[Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

[Property@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Property@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

[SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

[Transportation@redeemerluth.com](mailto:Transportation@redeemerluth.com) – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

[Communications@redeemerluth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 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.

## Wells CPA Firm to Mail Giving Statements

**Council President Julie Johnson** reports that Redeemer's 2020 giving statements will be mailed from the Wells CPA firm by the end of the month.

## 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](mailto: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

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://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

### Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 14, 2021

#### Lessons

**Readings:** 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Psalm 50:1-6; Mark 9:1-9

#### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, 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 St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westerville.

+ For Redeemer community members Deirdre, Bret, Bob, and Lauren Jimison.

**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 Hegreiness, 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 Ernsthausen, 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.

*Flowers are given by Kathy Zwanziger in honor of Jeremy Hutton’s birthday*

*Noisy Offering will be for Kaleidoscope Youth Center.*

## Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, February 14: Book Discussion on *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. - Chaps. 4-7*  
Led by Pastor Dave

## This Week at Redeemer

February 9 – February 15, 2021

### Tuesday

1:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. ZOOM Brewing Faith

### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. ZOOM Anti-Racism Group

### Sunday

10:00 a.m. **LIVESTREAM** Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube  
11:15 a.m. ZOOM Adult Sunday School