



Reflections

VOLUME 25

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ISSUE 7

Lent 2021: *Who Are You Really?*

As she reflects on the meaning of Lent, Benedictine nun **Joan Chittister** says, “Lent is about reaching back to remember who we are even while we keep on becoming more than we were.”

Who are you? I mean, who are you *really*? What makes you *you* – something you deeply value, some experience that has shaped you, a person who has been a true mentor and guide for you, a story whose message continues to live in you and shape how you live in the world?

When was a time you lost touch with this essential part of yourself? What happened when you lost touch with this? How did you find your way back “home” to yourself?

When is a time you discovered that the *you* you thought you were became someone you had to let go of? Maybe you were trying to become someone that a person you admired wanted you to be, or someone you thought would be successful or popular. And at some point you realized you were chasing a fantasy. You realized that wasn’t the unique *you* God created. So you had to let go of that false you ... and start to get to know the real you. What was it like to admit you’d lost touch with the real you ... and then try to discover yourself? What have you discovered?

What is one way you are changing these days? What is an area of growth, development, discovery, or curiosity that you find alive in you right now? How do you understand why, of all the ways you could be changing, you find yourself changing in *this* way?

If Sister Joan is right, and Lent invites us to reach back and remember who we are, even as we keep on becoming more than we were, these seem to be some of the questions Lent asks us to live into. Lent invites us to keep coming back to the way of Jesus. And Jesus wants us to come as we really are, not as we think he wants us to be or as we think we’re supposed to be. We take the risk to look at ourselves as we really are. And we hear God’s words saying to us what God says to Jesus at his baptism: *You are chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life*. That love comes first. That love frees us to look at who we truly are. And to practice loving that person. We admit the ways we fall short, the ways we harm others and ourselves, the ways we water down the call of the Gospel. *And* none of this changes what God says about us. Trusting we always are *chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life*, we can continue to become who we truly are, and continue to go deeper in the ways we walk beside this Jesus.

On Wednesday evenings at 7 pm, from **February 24-March 24**, we will livestream a service of sung evening prayer. There’s a space for a five-minute reflection. If any of the questions above grab you in any way, and you find yourself thinking or writing about them, I invite you to share your reflections at one of these services. These reflections have helped us get to know each other in meaningful ways. And they have led the speakers to discover truths about themselves they’d never known before. Please don’t be bashful. Look at the questions above and see if there are a couple that take you somewhere. And please let me know which of these five Wednesdays you’d like to come into the sanctuary and share your reflection. There will only be a few people there, all masked and distanced. Let me know if you have any questions.

May this Lent offer you space to remember who you really are, and may this help you take a step toward who you feel called to become.

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

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

Schedule for Worship in Lent

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.: Ash Wednesday livestream.

Sundays, Feb. 21-March 28, 10 a.m.: Sunday worship livestream.

Wednesdays, Feb. 24-March 24, 7 p.m.: Sung evening prayer livestream, with opportunities for you to share a brief story as described in today's *Reflections*.

Thursday, April 1, 7 p.m.: Maundy Thursday livestream.

Friday, April 2, 7 p.m.: Good Friday livestream worship with Christ United Methodist Church, featuring reflections on the seven last words of Christ.

Easter Sunday, April 4 – *service being planned*.

All livestream services are available on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7sGE88YtJrLWuGWO0sS-yw>

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 from 10 a.m. to noon.

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 wave in the old furnace was moved to the new furnace.

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. 21

The Adult Sunday Education Class will be discussing chapters one through seven of the book *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* on **Sunday, February 21** 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."

New conversation partners are encouraged to join the group!

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!!

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Feb. 16

The Tuesday Bible Study, which is studying of the book of Genesis, continues on **Tuesday, February 16**. 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 16** 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 are asked for **Heidi Sherer's** cousin **Ann** and her family as she is now in the ICU and on a ventilator.

+ + +

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.

The Redeemer Family has received a thank you note from the Marshall Edgington Family: "God bless everyone of you. Thank you so much for your prayers. I love you all!!!"

Birthday Cards Needed

Redeemer is in need of birthday cards to send to members throughout the year. If you have any to donate, please drop them off at the church. Call ahead to 614-237-1263 to make sure someone is there.

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 . Hard copies are available at the church and can be found under the bulletin board in the hallway off the Narthex.

February Birthdays

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

CHOICES Faces Funding Cuts

Lutheran Social Services' domestic violence shelter CHOICES reports that in October, it experienced a \$170,000 cut in federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act grant (VOCA). In addition, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, which distributes the VOCA funding, has warned of another cut this year of up to 30 percent. This will result in a decrease in CHOICES services, the agency reports.

In 2019 Ohio became one of 33 states to provide support for domestic violence programs. The \$1 million budget annual allocation provided grants of \$17,800 to 47 residential programs that year and 69 grants of \$12,000 in 2020. This is simply not enough support for the program that last year received 4,057 hotline calls and helped nearly 1,800 victims rebuild their lives.

Domestic violence (DV) shelters around the state are advocating for a \$5 million appropriation in the state of Ohio budget in Fiscal Year 2022. This would bring Ohio's support for DV programs closer in line with other states. Among the 33 states that provide support to DV programs, Ohio's is the lowest on a per capita basis. Compared to surrounding states, Ohio spends 9 cents per capita, while Michigan spends \$1, West Virginia \$1.40, Pennsylvania \$1.49 and Kentucky \$1.50.

CHOICES provides temporary emergency shelter, a 24-hour crisis hotline, domestic violence counseling, legal advocates, peer support groups and community awareness building. To learn more about the programs or to donate directly, go to its website at <https://Issnetworkofhope.org/choices/>.

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](#).

Getting Ready for Sunday

1st Sunday in Lent, February 21, 2021

Lessons

Readings: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-7; Mark 1:9-15

Blessing in the Dust

by Jan Richardson

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial –

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
insider the smudge
we bear.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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 St. Louisville.

+ For Redeemer community members Julianne Johnson and Sara Auman.

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 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 21: Book Discussion on *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. - Chaps. 1-7*
Led by Pastor Dave

This Week at Redeemer **February 16 – February 22, 2021**

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	ZOOM Bible Study
	4:00 p.m.	ZOOM Mutual Ministry Team
	7:00 p.m.	ZOOM Congregation Council
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 a.m.	ZOOM Coffee and Conversation
	7:00 p.m.	LIVESTREAM Ash Wednesday Worship on YouTube
<u>Sunday</u>	10:00 a.m.	LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube
	11:15 a.m.	ZOOM Adult Sunday School