



Reflections

VOLUME 25

March 15, 2021

ISSUE 11

No Feeling Is Final

My favorite poem by one of my favorite poets, **Rainer Maria Rilke**, extends an invitation which may not sound very inviting:

*Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose me.*

Really? We're supposed to let all of life happen, even those things we fear or hate or deem distractions or worthless?

Yes, Rilke says. Because if we try to build walls against life, if we try to avoid what and who we give power to to "make" us uncomfortable, if we try to "protect" ourselves from beliefs and opinions that we don't like, then we give fear way too much power. We close ourselves off from people and ideas God might be trying to speak through.

Think back on a way you have changed over the years. Not a physical change, but a change in how you see the world, how you see God, how you see a group of people you'd been given permission to judge or even hate. The only reason you now love with a larger love is because you let something happen to you that at first you probably didn't want to have happen. You let someone in, and discovered that they weren't like you expected. You let an idea take root that up to that point you'd always rejected.

The season of Lent is a season of repentance. A time when we look at some belief, attitude, or way of being in the world that keeps us separated from someone or something God longs to reach us through. Lent invites us to go beyond what we've been so sure of, and open ourselves to let something new happen to us. Whether it's beautiful or terrifying, we let life happen to us. Because God is always trying to come to us in ways we never expect. "Don't let yourself lose me," sings God. Instead, open yourself to whatever life brings. And trust God is there.

After this past year, we are starting to see possibilities. After a year of terror that has come in the form of sickness, death, excruciating separation from those we love, seeing a nation distrust and even come to hate each other, we are starting to see some beauty. We are starting to see possibilities of sharing life together again. With more and more people getting vaccinated, we are starting to dare to hope that we can come close to each other again. That schools and faith communities and friendships and family gatherings can welcome us back as people who have gone through the terror, loss, fear, and profound uncertainty ... and find ourselves strangely strengthened. Not having lost God ... but found God in surprising places.

Because we've just kept going. Trusting that no feeling is final. Because God is always at work ... bringing us through to a new dawn -- which is always where Lent takes us: to a dawn we never dared imagine was possible.

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

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Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Schedule for Worship in Lent

Wednesdays, now-March 24, 7 p.m.: Sung evening prayer livestream.

Sundays, now through-March 28, 10 a.m.: Sunday worship livestream.

Thursday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.: Maundy Thursday Zoom.

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>

Wednesday Evening Prayer Continues March 17

Redeemer continues livestreaming its midweek Lenten Service of Evening Prayer this **Wednesday, March 17** at 7 p.m. on YouTube. (For link, see the article above.) A portion of each worship service is set aside for a reflection from a Redeemer family member sharing a story about a value that has shaped their lives as they accept **Pastor Dave's** Lenten challenge for everyone to reach 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?"

Anti-Racism Groups Meets Tonight on Zoom

Redeemer's Anti-Racism Group will meet **Monday, March 15** at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Join Zoom meeting 886 0172 3199 Passcode: 131323 at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88601723199?pwd=OVhOVUtjUWpoWnNRNzh0RStwTUxYUT09>. Or call in to 646-876-9923.

RSVP to Be in Sanctuary for Livestream Worship

For now through Palm Sunday on **March 28**, council has agreed to open the sanctuary for up to 10 worshippers a week in addition to those who are leading the livestreamed 10 a.m. worship service.

Because the church doesn't know how many people will be interested in attending in-person worship, folks are asked to RSVP for one of the Sundays between now and March 28. Contact **Office Manager Becky Trover** via email at info@redeemerluth.com) or by calling 614-237-1263. Let her know which Sunday you'd like to attend, and how many people are in your party. If the Sunday you'd like to attend already has 10 people in it, Becky will tell you which other Sundays have space for your sized group -- so if you leave a message, please indicate other Sundays you would be available.

To see full protocol for attending in person, please click [HERE](#).

"We are excited to offer this first step back to re-gathering for those who choose to do this." Please contact **Dave Shull** if you have any questions at dshull@redeemerluth.com or 206-725-3785.

Noisy Offering to Go to ELCA Disaster Relief Program

This week is seen as the one-year anniversary of the COVID outbreak. The U.S. has hit the 500,000 mark of loss lives. In the last year, tornados hit, snowstorms devastated areas like Texas, wildfires burned out of control in the west. Mother Nature did not let up just because of the pandemic. So for now through Pentecost, Redeemer's Noisy Offering will help replenish the ELCA Disaster Relief fund.

Sunday Adult Ed Class to Discuss Duncan Book on March 21

The Adult Sunday Education Class continues discussing chapters nine and 10 of the book *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* on **Sunday, March 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>

Tuesday Bible Study Begins Looking at Psalms March 16

The Tuesday Bible Study will begin looking at the book of Psalms on **Tuesday, March 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, March 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>

Previous Sunday, Midweek 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

'Souper Bowl' Total, Updates on Other Food Programs Announced

Kathy Zwanziger writes, "Thanks to all of you who donated to the Souper Bowl offering. The finance officer reports that \$502 was contributed for the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry. In addition, there were several bags of food that have been delivered to the pantry. We know that it has gone to help people in this time of need.

"We have recently been told that the pantry will soon be enabling clients to again choose which foods they would like instead of just being given a standard box. We have also been told that at least for the foreseeable future we should run our monthly give-away on a drive-through basis. That will be starting on **Thursday, April 15**, the third Thursday of the month.

"We are thankful for all the volunteers who work in both these programs. You are a blessing to many."

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Pastor Dave reports that his surgery went well and he'll hear within a week if anything more is needed. He thanks you all for your love and prayers.

+ + +

Prayers for healing are asked for **Grace Jones** following recent emergency gallbladder surgery. **Heidi Sherer** also asks for prayers of healing and comfort for her **Aunt Mary** and **Uncle Joel Sherer** and **Uncle Chris Sherer** as they all face serious health issues.

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Prayers are also asked for students, teachers and other school personnel in the Columbus city schools and all other school districts as they gradually return to in-person learning over the next couple of weeks.

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Directory Update: **Jeanne Eakin** has a new email address: jeannegolfs1@gmail.com .

Christ in Our Home Devotional Booklets

The April – June edition of *Christ in Our Home* devotional is available. If you would like to have a copy, the church office is happy to mail one to you. Call 614-237-1263 or email info@RedeemerLuth.com

If you prefer, you may receive Christ in Our Home devotionals via email by going to <https://go.augsburgfortress.org/christ-in-our-home-email-subscription>.

March Birthdays

15-Kristi Hildebrand

17-David Williams 24-Carol Heacock

30-Colin Young 31-Ed Klopfer

The Wider Church

Bishop Eaton Invites Participation in Survey

ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton writes that Lent “is a time when we, as Christians, reflect on our life together in Christ and the ways in which our identity in Christ is reflected in the world. Being able to articulate that identity can help guide us to a better understanding of ourselves and each other as God continues to call us to respond to the needs of the world.

“There are many ways to reflect on our identity as Christians and Lutherans, one of which is by engaging each other across our global Lutheran family. As part of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), we seek to contribute our North American Lutheran perspectives to the larger Lutheran tapestry, made up of 77 million members across 99 countries! And like the ELCA, the LWF has a rich history of theological study processes that can help us better understand ourselves and what it means to be church.

“In 2019, the LWF launched a [study process](#) to explore the ways our global Lutheran identities are lived out through biblical interpretation, worship and the work of justice, peace and reconciliation. As a member of the LWF, the ELCA is taking part in this unique study process in a number of ways as we examine our Lutheran identity in our own context here in North America.

“We hope this process will allow us to experience the diverse ways our Lutheran tradition is being lived out. This is an opportunity to discern the ways in which we, in our own contexts, express law and gospel, faith and works, nature and grace, justification and sanctification, freedom and vocation – all parts of our common theological identity.

“This Lent, I invite you to reflect on your Christian and Lutheran identities by participating in the [Global Survey on Being Lutheran/Encuesta Mundial Sobre lo Que Significa Ser Luterano](#). ... The survey will be open through March 31, and responses gathered will help to shape the 13th LWF Assembly in 2023.

“In addition, between now and June you are invited to take part in a larger conversation that will transpire across the LWF communion. The LWF has produced a discussion guide titled [We Believe in the Holy Spirit: Welcome to a Global Conversation on Being Lutheran/Creemos en el Espíritu Santo: Bienvenido/a a una Encuesta Mundial Sobre lo Que Significa Ser Luterano/a](#). This guide will help lead your congregation’s Christian education and/or youth group on a journey of mutual discovery and learning.

“Thank you for sharing your insights and experiences. They will contribute to furthering our understanding of what being Lutheran means in this time and place as we continue to journey together in Christ through these next 500 years of reformation.”

Bishop Eaton Urges People Get Vaccinated

Vaccination hopes, fears and falsehoods are around us in this time of heightened anxiety. A new resource, [“‘All in’ Against COVID-19: FAQ and Guide to Supporting Vaccine Confidence for Faith and Community Leaders](#),” released March 1, 2021 by The Partnership Center, Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), was among those highlighted during a Faiths4Vaccines Roundtable Discussion in which ELCA advocacy staff participated.

“Many people in this country do not trust either the government or the medical establishment. They fear that this might be an experiment or somehow the government intruding on this. I’ve even heard people say that they’re afraid that a chip is going to be inserted in their arm when they get the vaccine. That’s not true,” says Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton in a [Feb. 28 video](#).

“The vaccine is safe, it’s effective, and it’s being made available to many, many, many people. So, I need you to talk to folks in your congregations... to convince them that this is safe, that it’s effective, and it will make it easier for us to return to life in person. ...Be well, dear Church.”

The FAQ section of “‘All in’ Against COVID-19” is reproduced here, and it can be downloaded and reviewed in its entirety from [HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov), including annotated citations. The Partnership Center lists [other resources](#) for your review.

Ohio Program

Here in Ohio, Gov. Mike DeWine expanded eligibility for the vaccine to everyone 50 and older effective **Thursday, March 11** and to those under 50 with Type 2 diabetes and those with end-stage renal disease. Additional information on Ohio’s vaccination program can be found online at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program/get-the-shot> .

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Vaccines

- [How do COVID-19 vaccines work?](#)

Vaccines train our immune system to recognize the virus that causes COVID-19 and make cells to fight it. With vaccines, we can build immunity to a disease without getting the disease.

- [What is “Herd” or Community Immunity?](#)

Herd immunity means that enough people in a community are protected from getting a disease because they’ve already had the disease or because they’ve been vaccinated. Herd immunity makes it hard for the disease to spread from person to person, and it even protects those who cannot be vaccinated, like newborns or people who are allergic to the vaccine.

- [What are the side effects of COVID-19 vaccines?](#)

Some people get temporary side effects like fever, headache, or a sore arm after they take the COVID-19 vaccine. Side effects are usually mild and last only a few days. Side effects occur when the body is building protection against the virus.

- [How do I know the vaccine won’t give me COVID-19?](#)

You cannot get COVID-19 from any of the COVID vaccines now in use nor from those being tested in the United States as none of them contain the live virus that causes the disease.

- [What does it mean that a vaccine has a 95-percent efficacy rate?](#)

Clinical trials showed that the vaccines are 94-95 percent effective, meaning they prevent 94-95 of every 100 vaccinated individuals from getting COVID-19.

- [Will I still be able to transmit the virus if I get a COVID-19 vaccine?](#)

A vaccine reduces the likelihood that you will get infected, so you’ll be less likely to infect others.

- [Why are people having allergic reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine?](#)

A small number of people have had allergic reactions, called anaphylaxis, after getting a COVID-19 vaccine; but they were treated and have fully recovered. The CDC [provides recommendations](#) on what to do if you experience an allergic reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccination or any other vaccine.

- [Do the vaccines work on the new COVID variants?](#)

Scientists are studying variants of the virus that cause COVID-19 to see whether existing vaccines will protect people against them. You can [track US COVID-19 cases caused by variants](#).

- [Why is there a heavy focus on vaccinating people of color?](#)

People of color who get COVID-19 are at much higher risk for severe cases of and even death from the disease. It’s important that they are [vaccinated as soon as possible](#), especially seniors of color.

- [When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?](#)

As larger supplies become available, more people will be able to receive the vaccines. Most adults should be able to get the vaccine later in 2021. Stay tuned to the vaccine program in your state/county by using the [locator](#) or through your [state or local health department](#) to find out when, where, and how vaccines will be available in your community.

- [Do I need to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I’ve already had COVID-19?](#)

Scientists are still reviewing this question. We don’t yet know how long natural antibodies in people who have had COVID-19, or antibodies created as a result of vaccines, will be effective.

- [How long does the COVID-19 vaccine last?](#)

We don't know how long the vaccine protects people, but clinical trials are actively investigating this. What we do know is that among people who were vaccinated in clinical trials of the vaccines now available, 94 to 95 people out of 100 did not get the disease.

- [Who is paying for the vaccine? Is it free to the public?](#)

Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars and are being given to the American people at no cost. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for vaccine administration fees by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay a vaccine administration fee.

- [Do I still need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received two doses of the vaccine?](#)

Yes! Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide in real-world conditions before they recommend that we stop wearing masks or avoiding close contact with others. In the meantime, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic.

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay at least six (6) feet away from others
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often

Getting Ready for Sunday

5th Sunday in Lent, March 21, 2021

Lessons

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; John 12:20-33

Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, 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 The Church on Oakland Park in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Sandra Keaton.

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, 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, Marshall Edgington and his wife, Ken and Grace Jones, Dora Pinder and family, Bill Boys, 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, Pastor Dave, and Heidi Sherer's Uncle Joel and Aunt Mary Sherer and Uncle Chris Sherer.

Noisy Offering will be for ELCA Disaster Relief

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, March 21: Book Discussion on *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. - Chaps. 9-10*

Led by Pastor Dave

This Week at Redeemer

March 16 – March 22, 2021

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	ZOOM Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	ZOOM Congregational Council
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	7:00 p.m.	LIVESTREAM Lenten 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
<u>Monday</u>	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM Sister Act—Bold Women