



Reflections

VOLUME 25

March 1, 2021

ISSUE 9

Making God's Love Real

I believe the church is here to be a place that tries to help us trust we are loved so we can have the courage to keep growing beyond the narrowness of where we are now. Lent calls us to repent. The best definition I know of for the word is *to go beyond the mind that we have*. When we are sure we are loved, when people make God's love real for us and assure us God is *for us*, then we can risk really questioning our assumptions and attitudes and certainties. We can risk imagining letting go of things we've been so sure of that limit our loving and keep us from opening our minds, arms, and hearts to the infinite expanse of God's grace.

In my message on Feb. 7, **Emily Ott** read a letter to Redeemer from someone who wishes to remain anonymous. It speaks of the ways you have been this kind of community for them – ways you have shown a love that helps them trust you love them. They haven't received this message from other churches they've been part of. Several of you commented on how powerful this letter was, so I've decided to have it printed here so you can read it again.

I hope this letter leads us all to give thanks for the ways Christ's Spirit is creating here a community that makes love real in this kind of way. And I hope this letter challenges us to look at biases and prejudices each of us has that might keep us from widening our embrace to welcome those we might not feel very comfortable around. We didn't know we were blessing the person who wrote this letter with the welcome that is changing their lives. How many others who are hungry for such a welcome might find a home here if we continue to let Christ's Spirit bring us to repentance, so we go beyond the minds that we have, and see God's face in those who for too long have been rejected, judged, and excluded?

"I have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and it has always made me feel like there is not a place for me, especially at the churches I have attended throughout my life. But Redeemer is different because it's safe.

To begin ... OCD can be debilitating, and is often misunderstood because many people have generalized the illness into simple definitions like wanting to put things in order. People like to joke and say that 'It's just my OCD.' Worse yet, others assume that people with OCD are like those on the TV series, 'Hoarders,' in which social media publicly humiliates the individual.

"At Redeemer, I feel love. Redeemer has always been a place for celebrating peoples' differences. So I've been passively watching for years since 1990

"When it comes to peoples' differences, we were talking in Sunday School recently about symbols, and how the symbols speak to visitors ... are they welcoming and accepting, or should you stay home?"

"Over the years, I have looked for a sign or symbol ... that a church might accept me. In churches, though there are no real symbols for telling visitors that the church accepts mental illness. And lessons in scriptures that are zealously read aloud penetrate your soul and remind you that you are bad, according to the scripture. Perhaps it is why I prefer to skip the readings and jump to the sermon. Lol. Heck, as Jesus saves people who are suffering, from what seems to point to mental disease, he is always then telling the person he saves to "Go in peace, serve the Lord, and sin no more!!! Is that me. Am I sinning? Why does it have to be read in that light, and with such fervor?"

Cont'd on p. 5

In This Issue

[Making God's Love Real](#)

[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



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>

Sharing a Story for a Wednesday Evening Prayer Worship

Pastor Dave reports, “We had our first Lenten sung evening prayer service last Wednesday. **Rich Pautsch** shared a story about some values that shaped who he has become, and how is seeing those values in some new ways. **Emily Kent** is going to share a story on **March 10.**”

He noted that leaves, **March 3, 17,** and **24** for someone to share something. “In my Feb. 15 and 22 article in *Reflections*, I invited you to consider writing a short reflection for these Wednesday evening services. I gave a few questions as possible prompts for a reflection, which I based on **Sister Joan Chittister’s** belief that ‘Lent is about reaching back to remember who we are even while we keep on becoming more than we were.’ So I invite you again to see if any of these questions stirs something you’d like to share some Wednesday evening for our livestream service.

“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?”

If interested or if there are any questions, contact Pastor Dave.

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.

RSVP to Be in Sanctuary for Livestream Worship

Starting now and running through Palm Sunday on **March 28**, council has agreed to open the sanctuary for up to 10 worshipers 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.

Redeemer to Serve Carry Out Dinner at First English March 11.

Redeemer is providing and serving the carry out dinner at First English on **Thursday, March 11**. Serving begins at 4:30 p.m. so people can pick up a dinner and be home before dark. The menu will be Pasta Bake (recipe below), roll w/butter, fruit cup, cookie or wrapped desert, and a Belvita pack (for a late night snack or breakfast).

Donations of fruit cups, wrapped deserts (Hostess makes a variety), rolls, and pasta casseroles are needed. Please contact **Kay Ernsthausen** regarding donations. Casseroles need to arrive at the church hot. Kay has drivers willing to pick up casseroles, so let her know if you can make a casserole and if you need it picked up.

Pasta Casserole

1 lb of mini pasta- penne or rigatoni pasta

1.5 lbs hamburger, sausage or a mix to equal 1.5 lbs

2 jars of spaghetti sauce

12 oz. shredded Mozzarella Cheese

2 cups. shredded Parmesan Cheese

Optional add-ins: onions, peppers (red or green), black olives, mushrooms, etc.

Directions:

Boil water according to package directions to make pasta. While water is heating up and pasta is cooking, in a large skillet pan brown the meat. If adding onion or peppers, cook those with the meat. Once meat is cooked through, drain off fat. Add spaghetti sauce to cooked meat and any other add ins. Stir until heated through. Mix pasta and sauce together. Pour into 13x9" disposable pan. Bake at 350 until heated through. Approximately 30 minutes.

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.

February Council Update

Church Council President Julianne Johnson reports that Council met last **Tuesday, February 16** via Zoom. They discussed how Redeemer could begin to regather for worship.

A smaller group will meet to ensure that systems and processes are in place, and agreed that initially only 10 people will be able to come each Sunday on a RSVP basis. More details including which Sunday this will start will be coming soon.

Council also reports it has received some very positive results from livestreaming the worship services. A small group is working on what will need to be done to make this a regular feature of Redeemer's ministry going forward.

Almost all of Redeemer's sound system is a patchwork of older technology so they are looking at technology updates as well as a small area in the sanctuary where a person could be while livestreaming the service. More to come on that topic.

Giving was down in January - at the lowest level since pre-COVID lockdown, though sometimes consistent with January giving. **Margie Frazier** presented the financial report, which still needs a couple areas clarified for future meetings. The report was a year-to-date, rather than only for January. Working with **Donald Wells** continues to be very helpful.

ELCA Touching Lives: Immigration, Refugee Services

by Kathy Zwanziger

One of the programs of the ELCA is **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services**, or LIRS. It oversees refugee resettlement, foster care services, family reunification, and more.

Thinking back over the past few years and a campaign promise from 2016 about building a wall, it's not hard to imagine how important LIRS is. We've heard stories on the news about families being separated at the border after they had finally managed to cross into the United States following long and dangerous journeys. Often these families left violent homelands to journey to the U.S., only to be violently torn apart. The parents might be sent back home, if they make it at all; the children often are sent over the border alone, then placed in "protective custody," which might mean jail-like facilities where they sleep on the floor among strangers. It's great to know that our national church, working with the U.S. government, is trying to reunite families. That process takes time; children can be placed in foster care while the parents are being sought.

Several years ago I worked with a class of immigrants with CRIS -- Community Refugee and Immigration Services -- that met at Redeemer. We tried to empower the new (and sometimes not so new) immigrants by welcoming them and teaching them English. The students came basically from one of two regions: Cambodia and Thailand or Ethiopia and Eritrea. The daughter of one of the mothers from the first group is now a member at Redeemer (**Diane Louangrath**).

Teaching English to people who have never learned to read their own language is a challenge. I particularly remember a brother and sister from the second group of students. The brother had been a priest in his country, so he was literate in his language. When handed something in English to read, he was aware that the letters had particular sounds and meant something; he generally could read the paragraph. But when I would ask what it meant, all I would get was a broad smile. In contrast, his sister had to first learn the concept of letters and sounds before beginning to read. What a joy to see her quite by accident a few years later. She had learned enough English to get a job and communicate with her employers.

Imagine finding yourself in a country where you could not read the signs or understand the spoken language. How would you live? Consider how wonderful it would be to find a program like LIRS that would help you adjust to your new location by welcoming you and helping you learn the language, perhaps even helping you find a new place to live. We should be grateful that the ELCA provides such programs for immigrants.

Sunday Adult Ed Class to Discuss Duncan Book on March 7

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

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=Q2Z2cW9ob3JvR1NSRi9rYVBkMCM9OZz09>

Tuesday Bible Study Continues March 2

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

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!

Making God's Love Real cont'd from p. 1

"There are so many references to mental stuff needing to be 'cast out.' So what is there to prove to me that a church could be supportive? And would Jesus even want that.

"But I've been watching carefully. People at Redeemer model acceptance and eagerly participate to love and accept people, regardless of their differences. It took some encouragement, but this pandemic gave me a safe way to meet others at Redeemer. Zooming takes away the need to be physically present. You can watch and begin to remember people's names more easily. Best yet is you talk about everything ... but what really makes a difference to me is the modeling. You can learn a lot about a group by watching how they treat each other. And that interaction itself became my symbol, as such.

"In life, so many people assume the worst about another person's intention. But it's not like that here at Redeemer. I've seen people talking calmly, clarifying, and bonding with one another as they speak about what is 'their truth.' They agree [and] disagree, but remain loving towards each other, regardless. They model the symbol I'm looking for.

"I feel like I have a new family. Our Sunday meetings power me up through the week, and my soul feels like it has a chance and a home. If I could give a blessing to this church family, I would. Please keep doing what you are doing. It is good, and creates a sense in me that I might indeed be saved. As much as I'd like to say that I am healed, I am not, but I know that I'm loved and supported, and I belong here. I love you all."

Thank you, writer of these words, for calling such a love out of us. And for trusting us enough to stay here, and for loving us as well.

Dave Shull

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 of gratitude and for continued recovery are asked for **Ken Jones** and for **Mary Bowling's** sister **Val** who both had successful surgery this past week. Prayers are also asked for **Sue Baker** and her caregiver **Cathy Oldham** as Sue faces decisions about next treatment steps.

+ + +

Redeemer received two grants for the community garden: \$535 from the Columbus Foundation and \$599.75 from the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Community Garden Academy.

Best wishes to **Carla Baldogo** who retired this past month. Her email is troop68.carlab@gmail.com.

+ + +

Directory Correction: Bernice Stewart's email is Bugsbunny67bs@netscape.net .

Wells CPA Firm Mails Giving Statements

Council President Julie Johnson reports that Redeemer's 2020 giving statements have been mailed from the Wells CPA firm. For those who did not receive theirs, please call the church office.

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.

March Birthdays

1-Todd Darst 1-Kathy Denhard
3-Ranel Hoddinott 3-Larry Trover
4-Jack Miller 4-Petra Williams
5-Lily Glover Oakleaf 6-Bennett Whitaker
7-Early Bradley 8-Helen Brunston
12-Deirdre Jimison 12-Catherine McFarland
13-Dave Engel 14-Jenny Friederich
14-Lynn Nakamura 14-Tim Watson
14-Laura Warren 15-Kristi Hildebrand
17-David Williams 24-Carol Heacock
30-Colin Young 31-Ed Klopfer

The Wider Church

Vargas Leaves Sanctuary at First English

Miriam Vargas, who has been living in sanctuary at First English Lutheran Church (FELC) for nearly three years, will be able to return to the community as soon as she and her family are able to find an apartment, reports **FELC Pastor Sally Padgett**.

Vargas, along with her two daughters, has been staying at First English since June 2018. She is the second Columbus woman to be able to leave sanctuary: **Edith Espinal**, who had been living in the Columbus Mennonite Church, was able to go home Feb. 18.

The Community Beyond

Ohio's Vaccination Program
- A Phased Approach

GOALS Save lives and slow the spread of the virus. In the early vaccination phase, supply will be limited. The speed at which Ohio will move through the phases is largely dependent upon the number of vaccine doses available.

PHASE 1 **Supply Limited**
Vaccine is available in limited supply for specific critical populations. Ohio will focus on vaccinating those most at risk, as well as essential healthcare workers and personnel caring for COVID-19 patients. Vaccines will not yet be available for all Ohioans.

PHASE 2 **Supply Increasing**
Vaccine is increasing and available for other specific critical populations who choose to be vaccinated. Vaccines will not yet be available for all Ohioans.

PHASE 3 - 4 **Widely Available**
Once the vaccine is widely available, Ohio will continue to strategically vaccinate Ohioans if they choose. During these phases, vaccines will begin to be available to all Ohioans.

As supply increases, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who **choose** to be vaccinated.

MIKE DEWINE GOVERNOR OF OHIO | Ohio Department of Health | [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov)

ODH Releases Details for Virtual Townhalls on COVID Vaccine

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) released more details Friday about a series of virtual townhall meetings Gov. Mike DeWine recently announced to provide information about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Each of the four town halls is designed for a specific population, but all four are open to anyone. They will feature panelists including medical experts, faith leaders, public health professionals and community leaders from those specific populations.

The events and their target audiences are as follows:

- Monday, March 1, 6:30 p.m., Asian-American and Pacific-Islander Ohioans
- Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m., Rural Ohioans

Links for watching the events are available at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov/townhall

In addition to the live event times, the townhall meetings will air on public television via the Ohio Channel, as follows:

- Saturday, March 6, 6 p.m., Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall for Asian-American and Pacific-Islander Ohioans
- Saturday, March 6, 7 p.m., Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall for Rural Ohioans
- Sunday, March 7, 2 p.m., Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall for Asian-American and Pacific-Islander Ohioans
- Sunday, March 7, 3 p.m., Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall for Rural Ohioans

"It is important to share reliable, factual information about COVID-19 vaccines with all Ohioans. These vaccines are safe and effective. There are many myths about vaccines and about the COVID-19 vaccine, in particular. Having questions answered with credible information can impact whether someone chooses to get the vaccine. We are excited to provide accurate and reliable information from trusted sources," said ODH Director Stephanie McCloud.

"As we strive toward health equity in our state, all Ohioans need accurate information about and access to COVID-19 vaccine. We are pleased to make vaccine more accessible by distributing it to every county in Ohio, supporting bilingual vaccination pop-up sites in underserved neighborhoods, recruiting vaccine providers in highly vulnerable areas, and planning a COVID-19 vaccine webpage specifically addressing equity," McCloud said.

Getting Ready for Sunday

3rd Sunday in Lent, March 7, 2021

Lessons

Readings: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19: 1-4a, 7-10, 14; John 2:13-22 John

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newark.
- + For Redeemer community members Grace and Ken Jones.

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, 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 and Heidi Sherer and family on the death of her cousin Ann..

Noisy Offering will be for ELCA Disaster Relief

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, March 7: Book Discussion on *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. - Chaps. 1-8*
Led by Pastor Dave

This Week at Redeemer

March 2 – March 8, 2021

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	ZOOM Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM A Brewing Faith
<u>Wednesday</u>	7:00 p.m.	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