



Reflections

VOLUME 25

April 12, 2021

ISSUE 14

The Joy of Return

If you were in the sanctuary for in-person worship Easter morning, maybe you are having the experience I am right now. I want to put into words what it felt like to be back in that space with a decent-sized group of people for the first time in over a year. And I can't seem to find a way to express what it was like that doesn't sound trite or over-the-top.

The first and last verses of our closing hymn come close:

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and ev'ry age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*
(Brian Wren, "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing")

Feelings that these words and images stir in you might give you a sense of what it was like to be together.

And it was more.

Seeing how glad people were to be together again. Seeing people so wanting to hug. And seeing a few folks who checked to see if both had had their second vaccines and then gave each other brief but joyful hugs anyway.

Seeing **Skye's** gleeful sprint to the front of the church with the cross, and knowing it wouldn't require any effort to maintain social distance from her as she left me and assisting minister **Karen Collins** far behind her.

Hearing smaller versions of the chimes and senior choirs, ringing and singing us to this joyful return we found ourselves enfolded in.

Maybe that's it. In my message I quoted a German who created something called *the theology of hope*. Writing about the feelings I felt yesterday, and the feelings I think I saw on the faces and in the spirits of all of us there, **Jürgen Moltmann** writes: "The ultimate reason for our hope is not to be found at all in what we want, wish for and wait for; the ultimate reason is that we are wanted and wished for and waited for. ... Whenever we base our hope on trust in the divine mystery, we feel deep down in our hearts: there is someone who is waiting for you, who is hoping for you, who believes in you. We are waited for as the prodigal son in the parable is waited for by his father. We are accepted and received, as a mother takes her children into her arms and comforts them. God is our last hope because we are God's first love."

The joy we shared in our return to each other and to the Redeemer sanctuary felt like the Risen Christ was enfolding us, assuring us we are wanted and wished for and waited for. It was the joy of coming back home.

As you feel safe enough to return for in-person worship, please let Becky know so she can save a spot for you on our RSVP list. We will continue to livestream the services so you can continue to worship when and how is best for you.

And it was a joy to be back home together Easter. You are the best!

Dave Shull

In This Issue

[The Joy of Return](#)

[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

Redeemer Returns to In-Person Worship

Come to worship as often as you want!

Now that we are back to in-person, socially-distance and masked worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings, we want you to know you can come every week that you wish. We no longer have the once-a-month limit we did during Lent.

If it turns out that we have more than 45 people who want to come every week (what a GREAT problem that would be!), then we'll go back to the two-service format each Sunday.

Welcome back!

Please Write a Review

When the Redeemer website was updated recently, more attention was paid to how easily strangers can find our site. The website work group developed a description that incorporates a variety of common search terms and also discovered the importance of individual reviews. That's where you come in.

If you haven't already, please post a review of Redeemer to help others know why you've chosen to connect to this congregation. We included in the basic description terms like *friendly*, *welcoming*, and *diverse*. If you think those are accurate, we'd encourage you to use some of them in your own review.

To post a review, simply search for "Lutheran churches Columbus Ohio." A map will appear, along with a short list of possible Lutheran churches. If you click on "View all," a longer list will appear, but you will probably need to go to the second page of lists in order to find Redeemer. When you find it, just click on the church name or the review just below the name. Then scroll through the next screen to find the list of reviews. Click on the "Write a review" button, and follow the directions from there on.

This is a good opportunity for us to reach out to folks we don't yet know and share what it means to have a supportive church home. And happily, it's something we can all do -- both introverts and extroverts, and even in a pandemic.

2021 LSS/Food Collective Food Giveaways Begin April 15

Redeemer resumes its ministry to assist those in the community in need of food on Thursday, April 15. These food giveaways here at Redeemer are sponsored in conjunction with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) and are set for the *third* Thursday of every month from April to October. That means Redeemer's first giveaway is scheduled for Thursday, April 15.

Demand for food assistance is still high, so this ministry effort shared with LSS and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective is even more important!

LSS/MOFC has said that it will continue to be a drive-thru process where customers stay in their cars and all of the physical distancing, hand washing, glove and face mask guidelines are followed.

In an effort to gauge Redeemer's volunteer staffing for these events, and especially the one on April 15, persons willing to help are asked to email or call the church office.

Sue Watson notes, "I know our congregational efforts to combat food insecurity in our communities are very meaningful for many of us, and our outreach means so much to those we serve. So if you can volunteer (or if you'd like more info), please get in touch with the church office asap!"

It Happened on the Way to Church

by Bill Boys

Redeemer's Impact
IMPACT

Editor's Note: The following is one in a series of articles, prompted by Redeemer's Stewardship Committee, exploring what it means to be "church" here at James and Scottwood – and the "ripple effect" that has well beyond these boundaries.

"Oh, church? I've never been to one. What do you do there?" the restaurant cashier, a nice young lady, responded. I had just mentioned that we were on our way to church one Sunday morning in 2018.

Well, I mean, standing at the cashier's station, ready to leave the restaurant, you can't spend a whole lot of time discussing religion, can you? I think I said a few words about "community," "learning to love your neighbor as yourself," and "trying to understand and serve God." That's about it, in the time available then. But I often thought afterward, "What might I have said that would have quickly given her an understandable idea of why I go to church?"

Pastor Shull said afterward at the time what a surprising question to be asked, spur of the moment like that, and entirely an honest one, too. Like many in her generation might have asked. He said it's an encouragement for having a brief "elevator speech" thought out. Would be a great thing for us Christians to have in mind for such who ask, wouldn't it?

Of course, I wouldn't have even dared to get into the fact that not all churches are alike (by a long sight)! And that brings me to why I joined Redeemer and why I support it regularly even when I can't be there right now, support the wider church we're part of, and support the social service agencies of the church in these times that are so very hard for so many.

What I told the cashier wasn't too bad, I guess. It's certainly true for me. Redeemer shows the church is a community, and a wider community than many people in our country would accept. And in community we find friends, fellow humans of all kinds, we learn to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to be of service to one another and the world around us. The reasons we do this run back through the centuries, to Jesus and beyond, for encouragement. And we do not neglect to honor those of other religious or nonreligious persuasions who seek to guide their lives by humane consideration and nobler ideals that encompass all creation. After all, we are all making our way through this adventure we call life.

Musical Reflections

Kathy Rapp reports that Redeemer's choirs will not be returning to a regular schedule until the fall. Hopefully by then, most will have been vaccinated and the need for social distancing will be lessened. We have been so fortunate to have the recordings that **Tom Mimplitch** made for us to use for special music during the pandemic.

However, now we would like to add some "live" music to our worship service. If you would like to share your music by singing or playing an instrument for an upcoming service, please let **Karen Kent** or **Kathy Rapp** know that you are interested. We will find a Sunday that fits your schedule. We look forward to hearing from you.

Council Adopts Worship Policies for Easter, Following Sundays

Council met recently and approved expanded capacity for worship services. It also approved beginning to open the building for small groups, with the caveat that safety measures such as requiring masks, social distancing, use of hand sanitizer, and other measures will continue to be followed.

For worship, Redeemer will allow 45 people at one 10 a.m. service. (Folks should call the church office to say they plan to attend worship.) If there is enough interest Redeemer will return to two services. The service will continue to be livestreamed.

For small groups meeting in April there will be limited areas that will be available. Each group will have to reserve a space, and the space will depend on the possible number attending. Contact the church office to reserve space. There are guidelines for using the space that groups will have to agree to abide by for the foreseeable future.

The Fellowship Hall and downstairs kitchen are not available due to air quality issues.

The basketball hoops are back up.

For feedback or suggestions please email the church or **Council President Julie Johnson** at julianne.johnson53@gmail.com

LOMO Summer Camp Registration Now Open

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio (LOMO) Summer Camps are open! There are opportunities for kids from kindergarten to high school in full week camps, mini-week camps and family camps.

Redeemer's Church Council would like to support anyone interested in attending with financial scholarships. This would also show our support for LOMO.

Please let **Krista Skipper** know if you may have an interest!

Sister Act Explores Lamenting as Bold Women

Lamenting with the best of them – huh? Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James, and Salome were bold women. These women were bold followers of Jesus. They were there during the crucifixion. They lamented his death and, in their grief, gathered their spices to prepare the body of Jesus only to discover the tomb was empty. Their amazement and joy at the empty tomb is often discussed but not so much the grief and lamenting of these bold women. Just what is lamenting?

Ann Voskamp writes, “Lament is a cry of belief in a good God, a God who has His ear to our hearts, a God who transfigures the ugly into beauty.”

Join Sister Act in a discussion about lamenting, led by **Sue Watson**, during the group's April gathering on Zoom on **Wednesday, April 21** at 6:30 p.m. **Emily Kent** will also be joining us to share about The Threshold Choir and the beautiful gift it offers people who are close to death and their grieving families.

Here is the Zoom link for Sister Act gathering: Meeting ID: 826 5335 8869; Passcode: 306635.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82653358869?pwd=TEdrdGdnRmxRUXFIWERMZkIrdE15UT09>

The group is also looking forward to its May retreat on **Saturday, May 15** when they will begin to gather in person outside. Watch for more details to come on the Sister Act day retreat.

Women's Fall Retreat Set for October 1-3

Women and friends of Redeemer, the fall retreat will be held **Friday, October 1 through Sunday, October 3** at Lutheran Memorial Camp. The theme for the retreat has not yet been set, so if you have any ideas, please, feel free to share them with **Carol Heacock**.

This year Redeemer will again be staying in the Priebe Center. This facility accommodates up to 20 guests with two per room. There is a full kitchen and large area for gathering.

At this time, Redeemer will be the only ones scheduled at the camp that weekend. As a result, in order to have food service, Redeemer will need to pay for a total of 20 guests for the full weekend. This will include meals Friday evening through breakfast on Sunday. The retreat concludes with the worship service on Sunday.

The cost for the weekend will be \$79. for two nights lodging and meals. For those coming on Saturday only, there is no cost.

As always, scholarships are available for the weekend. Please let one of those listed below or the office know.

Carol notes, “At the present time, we need to know each person's interest in attending the retreat in October. We understand this is early in the year and schedules change, but we are looking to how many are interested.” Please let her know.

If there are any questions or thoughts to pass along, please contact with **Carol Heacock, Kay Ernsthausen, Wendy Stoica, or Michele Disbro**.

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 Explore the Holy Spirit

This **Sunday, April 18**, the Sunday morning adult education class begins to explore the Holy Spirit -- what do the Bible, theology and mystics say about Spirit, and how might we open ourselves to Spirit's presence and power?

New voices for the class' Zoom conversations are always welcome! It meets Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. if you'd like to dive in with us! Let Dave Shull know if you have any questions.

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 Continues Study of Psalms April 13

The Tuesday Bible Study continues looking at the book of Psalms on **Tuesday, April 13**. 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, April 13** 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 as well as the mid-week Lenten services are available at <https://tinyurl.com/r6mk2xh>. For the current Sunday Worship Bulletin, go to the Redeemer website at www.RedeemerLuth.com >News, Sermons, Devotions.

We are holding one another in prayer and in spirit as we work through this time. Go in peace, serve the Lord, wear a mask!

Important Emails

Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com -- use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

Info@RedeemerLuth.com -- use for communicating with the office, *Reflections* newsletter, **Office Manager Becky Trover**, healing prayer requests or for general information.

MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com -- use for communicating with the Member Care team about needs for personal ministry such as in-home communion, a home visit, meals, etc.

FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com -- use for stewardship campaigns.

Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com -- use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

Property@RedeemerLuth.com -- use to report items that need repair in the church building.

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com -- use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

Transportation@redeemerluth.com -- use to request temporary transportation assistance.

Communications@redeemerluth.com -- use to send church related announcements or pictures for sharing on Redeemer's social media sites. Another way is to tag Redeemer in the posts.

Publishing Deadlines for *Reflections*, Sunday Bulletins

For *Reflections*

- **PLEASE SUBMIT PRIOR TO 5 P.M. ON SUNDAYS.**
- Send to info@RedeemerLuth.com and put *Reflections* in subject line.
- Or leave a note in the *Reflections* mailbox at the top of the stairs outside the church office.

For Sunday Bulletins

The deadline for information to be published in Sunday bulletins is the **Wednesday morning** before. That information can be sent to the above email: just put "Bulletin" in the subject line.

Prayers and Personals

Prayers for healing are asked for **Sophie Skoog** who has suffered a sports injury.

+ + +

Member Directory Update: Robin Stokes has a new address – 155 Marion Street, Dublin OH 43017-1321.

+ + +

Prayers of comfort are asked for the family and friends of **Doretha Holland** who died April 1. Her funeral was held at Redeemer on Saturday, April 10.

Thank you to all who helped provide the meal for the family.

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>.

+ + +

April Birthdays

13-Steve Boreman

15-Jill Disbro 16-Mike Benis

19-Damon Stewart 22-Grayson Ullman

23-Andrew Skoog 24-Michelle Clemence

24-Elaine Disbro 27-Margie Frazier

27-Dora Pinder 28-Edwina Bradley

Getting Ready for Sunday

Third Sunday of Easter, April 18, 2021

Lessons

Readings: 1 John 3:1-7; Psalm 4; Luke 24:36-49

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of 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 Zion Lutheran Church in Danville.

+ For Redeemer community members Emily Kent and Miles Smith.

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 and Cathy Oldham, 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, Shirley and Jack Miller, Deidre (DJ) Zimmer, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling's sister Val, Carolyn and Ed Klopfer, Nancy Stinson's brother Tom Starkey, Barbara and David Hairston, Grace and Ken Jones, Dora Pinder and family, family of Doretha Holland.

Noisy Offering will be for ELCA Disaster Relief

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, April 18: Discussion of the Holy Spirit

Led by Pastor Dave

This Week at Redeemer

April 13 – April 19, 2021

<u>Monday</u>	7:00 p.m.	BREAD Rally on Zoom (call the church office for details)
<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM A Brewing Faith
<u>Wednesday</u>	7:00 p.m.	ZOOM Anti-Racism Group
<u>Thursday</u>	3:00 p.m.	Food Giveaway – LSS/Mid-Ohio Food Collective
<u>Sunday</u>	10:00 a.m.	LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube IN PERSON by reservation
	11:15 a.m.	ZOOM Adult Sunday School
	2-4 p.m.	Confirmation Class at Three Creeks Metro Park