



# Reflections

VOLUME 25

April 19, 2021

ISSUE 15

## Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: *Regarding Earth Day*

*O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. — Psalm 104:24*

Throughout Scripture, God promises to restore God’s people to health and wholeness, a promise that includes the renewal of all creation. This promise is depicted dramatically in the final pages of the book of Revelation as a grand vision of a new heaven and a new earth. The earth and its inhabitants are weary and uncertain, battered by plagues and death, wars and destruction. But God is still there, persistent and faithful. At the last, God reveals a renewed heaven and an earth permeated by the presence of God, transformed from pain to be a place of healing and wholeness for all things. The 2021 Earth Day theme, “Restore Our Earth,” reminds us of this vision and the holy work God entrusts to us — of seeking the well-being of creation as inseparable from the wholeness of humankind.

In the past year the world received a jolt from its collision with the COVID-19 pandemic, which laid bare persistent racial disparities in health care access and outcomes in our nation. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) noted the disproportionate impact (increased hospitalizations and deaths) of the pandemic on some racial and ethnic minority groups. The CDC found that “inequities in the social determinants of health, such as poverty and health care access, affecting these groups are interrelated and influence a wide range of health and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.”

The racial reckonings of 2020 illuminate how the legacies of slavery, the Doctrine of Discovery and colonization continue to diminish life for people and creation. The glaring inequities exposed through the pandemic are being intensified by the global impacts of climate change. The final 2020 update of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) found last year to be one of historical extremes. There were 22 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters across the United States, which shattered the previous annual record of 16 events in 2011 and 2017. All these disasters disproportionately affected people of color and the most vulnerable populations. We are one people and one earth in need of restoration.

Repenting the sin of racism and repenting our destruction of creation should happen together. Because God gave humans the vocation to be stewards of the earth, we proclaim that, for Christians, care of the earth is not an “environmental cause.” Instead, it is central to our holy calling to treasure the earth and care for it as our home, fully integrating creation care into our love of God, neighbor and all in the environment. Recalling the good earth and our call to be stewards of creation in hope and faith, we know our recovery from the pall of 2020 will, in many ways, be a transition to a new way of life.

Dear church, we can testify to the “good news of God’s grace” (Acts 20:24), which empowers us to move forward. We know that healing is possible — for the planet and for our communities. We are not too late. The time is now. To us, God is calling; through us, God wants to work a miracle; through our finite and inadequate efforts, God can and will bring about “a new heaven and a new earth.” God provides us with diverse gifts as protectors and guardians of creation. We affirm, therefore, the many stewards of the land who have been and are conserving the good earth that the Lord has given us.

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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

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## The Redeemer Community

### RLC Executive Committee Addresses In-Person Worship following Franklin County's Return to 'Purple' COVID-19 Level

Redeemer will continue to have both in-person and livestreamed worship even as Franklin County has been placed into the "purple category" for COVID-19 infections. However, according to the Redeemer's Executive Committee, "We encourage only those adults who are fully vaccinated to attend in-person worship. Children remain welcome if parents choose to bring them. If you are an adult who is not yet fully vaccinated, we encourage you to continue to enjoy worship and other church activities remotely until you are vaccinated. We want everyone to be safe and to be able to trust they are not putting others at-risk. We have yet to have a member of Redeemer die from COVID-19, and we very much want that to remain the case."

Folks planning to attend worship service are asked to RSVP with the church office.

### 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.

### 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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!

## **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 lost 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 Explores the Holy Spirit: *Source of Life***

This **Sunday, April 25**, the Sunday morning adult education class continues 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 20**. 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 20** 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>

## **Bishop Eaton** *cont'd from p. 1*

As stewards of creation, we have many ways to lovingly serve the earth:

- Explore and use ELCA Care for Creation resources, including video, study and action guides with information about the Creation Care Ambassadors initiative.
- Read the Lutherans Restoring Creation story "[5 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day as Church Together but Apart.](#)"
- Accept the ELCA Young Adults [No Plastics for Lent](#) challenge this Easter season.
- Participate in a local cleanup (with appropriate distancing) if permitted by local authorities, or participate in the Earth Challenge 2020 citizen scientist initiative, focused on plastic pollution and clean air.
- Join with the ELCA's ecumenical partner [Creation Justice Ministries](#) in advocacy, education and prayer.

## **Important Emails**

[Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

[Info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Info@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating with the office, *Reflections* newsletter, **Office Manager Becky Trover**, healing prayer requests or for general information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Communications@redeemerluth.com](mailto:Communications@redeemerluth.com) – use to send church related announcements or pictures for sharing on Redeemer's social media sites. Another way is to tag Redeemer in the posts.

## **Publishing Deadlines for *Reflections*, Sunday Bulletins**

### For *Reflections*

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

### For Sunday Bulletins

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

## **Prayers and Personals**

Prayers for healing are asked for **Izzie** and **Sophie Skoog** who have both suffered a sports injury. Prayers for healing are also asked for **Madelyn Zimmer's** daughter **DJ Zimmer** who has surgery this week and for **Kathie Ehrich** as she undergoes physical therapy and for niece and sister-in-law who are both facing health issues. Prayers are also requested for the aunt and uncle of **Heidi Sherer, Joel** and **Mary Sherer**.

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

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Prayers of comfort are asked for the family and friends of **Pamela Reed** who died of a heart attack at her home on Tuesday, March 23. She leaves two sons, Michael and Jason. No memorial service is planned at this time. However, **Pastor Dave** will be organizing a Zoom meeting for those wishing to share memories of Pamela. Those who knew Pamela remember her prayer, "for all the trans people throughout the world who are persecuted just for being who they are."

## **Donations of Shampoo/Conditioner Sought for Next Food Giveaway**

While only food is available through the monthly Lutheran Social Services (LSS)-MidOhio Food Cooperative (MOFC) Food Giveaway, there is also a need for personal care items. For the **Thursday, May 20** giveaway here at Redeemer, organizers are asking for contributions of **shampoo** and/or **conditioner** to offer in addition to the items from LSS-MOFC.

Each month, they will focus on a different personal toiletry, but for May, it's "hair stuff." Bring them to the church, or call the church office to arrange a pick up.

## **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](mailto: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**

Redeemer belatedly wishes **Jack Miller** a happy 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on April 4! *Reflections* apologizes for having had the wrong date. Happy, happy birthday, Jack!!!

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**

## **4th Sunday of Easter, April 25, 2021**

### **Lessons**

**Readings:** Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

### **Prayer of the Day**

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Intercessions & Thanksgiving**

+ For the people of Zion Lutheran Church in West Jefferson.

+ For Redeemer community members Sarah and David Kirkman and their son Dylan James.

**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 and their niece and sister-in-law, 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, Kathleen Zwanziger's brother Mark Zwanziger, Barbara and David Hairston, Grace and Ken Jones, Dora Pinder and family, Heidi Sherer's Aunt Mary and Uncle Joel Sherer, family of Doretha Holland.

*Noisy Offering will be for ELCA Disaster Relief*

## Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, April 25: *Holy Spirit: Source of Life*

Led by Pastor Dave

## This Week at Redeemer

April 20 – April 26, 2021

<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	1:00 p.m.	<b>Zoom</b> and <b>in-person</b> Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	<b>ZOOM</b> Congregation Council
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	11:00 a.m.	<b>In-person:</b> Coffee and Conversations at Redeemer, Rm. 2
	6:30 p.m.	<b>ZOOM</b> Sister Act – Bold Cafe
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	10:00 a.m.	<b>LIVESTREAM</b> Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube <b>IN PERSON</b> by reservation
	11:15 a.m.	<b>ZOOM</b> and <b>in-person:</b> Adult Sunday School