



# Reflections

VOLUME 25

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ISSUE 17

## ***Extraordinary Ordinary Presence: God Shows Up in the Mystery of Waiting***

*Editor's Note: The following, the first of a three-part series by ELCA Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubeendick published by Living Lutheran, focuses noticing God at work in mundane moments and what this might teach about our Lutheran faith.*

Baking has been a source of steadiness and joy in my life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cookies and muffins have been staples, but I recently decided to expand my skill set by making cinnamon rolls for a special family breakfast.

I gathered all my ingredients, triple-checked the recipe, and began. Too late, I discovered that the yeast I was using had expired nearly two years ago. Ah, well. The recipe called for allowing the dough to rise again and again, in the process of making the dough, overnight, and then once more before putting the cinnamon rolls in the oven. Throughout the process, I kept checking the dough in the bowl to see if it had doubled, like it was supposed to. It felt like there was more I should be doing. I didn't need to use the mixer, or crack eggs, or even toss some extra chocolate chips into the batter.

What I really needed to do was wait. Sometimes, what I need most is not entirely, or even largely, dependent on my own efforts. There are many good and necessary things for me to do. Rest and waiting are needed just as vital.

I was reminded of the prophet Elijah, at a time when he is exhausted and afraid for his life. Essentially, Elijah has done everything he is supposed to do—everything God has asked him to do—and everything is still going wrong. God comes to Elijah then, but not in the way that Elijah expects.

He is instructed by the word of the Lord to stand out on a mountain and wait for God to pass by. "Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence." (1 Kings 19:11-12).

God was not found in the great wind, the tumultuous earthquake, or the burning fire. God was not in the noise or the movement. God was in the silence and the waiting. Elijah encounters God only when Elijah remains still.

There is plenty about the life of faith that calls for action, movement, and striving—where we are called to use our voices and bodies and resources to work for justice, care for the environment and love our fellow humans. In baking terms, we frequently need to make sure the dry and wet ingredients are mixed together, scraping the bowl and pouring it into the pan.

But there is also a time to set down the spatula and let the dough rise. In the silent mystery of waiting, of practicing trust, God is present and active, even when it does not feel that way to us.

After the time of waiting and waiting again, the time of seemingly doing nothing, my cinnamon rolls rose. Only then could they be rolled out, shaped, and baked.

Only after the waiting could my family and I eat them in their sweet and gooey glory.

After the waiting, the resting, and the trusting, those cinnamon rolls were delicious.

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### OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor – Rev. David Shull

Office Manager – Becky Trover

Custodian – Marshall Edgington

Organist/Senior Choir Director -  
Kathy Rapp

Pianist/Chimes Choir Director -  
Karen Kent

**Reflections** Editor – Judith Bird

### 2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President – Julie Johnson

Vice President – Wendy Stoica

Finance Officer – Margie Frazier

Secretary – Margie Farnham

Worship – Julie Larson

Education – Krista Skipper

Outreach – Sue Watson

Member Support – Elyce Herring

Property – Sue Yehling

Stewardship – Laura Warren

### APPOINTMENTS

#### MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Margie Farnham      Marques Highland

Emlyn Ott              Krista Skipper

#### SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Dave Engel, Chair

Michelle Clemence      Nancy Magargal

Jim Riley                  Terry Warren

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent – Emily Ott

#### REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

[www.redeemerluth.com](http://www.redeemerluth.com)



## The Redeemer Community

### Racial Justice Signs for Sale

The Racial Justice Team is selling various racial justice and equality lawn signs. (You have probably seen many signs in your neighbor's yard showing their concern for justice.) There are eight different signs available for \$15 each. They can be viewed at this link:

<https://www.redeemerluth.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Racial-Justice-Signs.pdf>

Those interested in purchasing a sign for their lawn OR sponsoring a yard sign for Redeemer's lawn should contact **Kathy Zwanziger** at [kzwanosu69@gmail.com](mailto:kzwanosu69@gmail.com). The signs come with the metal support and most are two-sided. Order by letter and indicate the number of each sign desired. Checks should be written to Redeemer Lutheran Church. (Folks can pay when they pick up the signs.) **All orders are due by Sunday, May 9.**

### BREAD's Nehemiah Action Set for Tuesday, May 11

BREAD's biggest event of the year, the *Nehemiah Action*, takes place **Tuesday, May 11**, from 6:45-8:30 p.m. Here is the link – <https://buytickets.at/breadorganization/510270> – for those who would like to attend the free event. The larger the attendance for this event, the stronger BREAD's voice with the policymakers who truly can make a difference.

### Redeemer to Serve Dinner at First English on May 13

Redeemer will be providing and serving dinner at First English on **Thursday, May 13**. Coordinator **Kay Ernsthause**n reports that items still needed for the May menu serving 72 dinners are Sloppy Joes, hamburger buns, fruit cups and bags of chips, (the multi packs of Doritos, Chips, Cheez-its, etc. are a good choice). Please let Kay know what you will provide.

All donations are due at Redeemer by 3 p.m. on **Thursday, May 13** ready to serve. Those making Sloppy Joes are asked to let Kay know and she can have them picked up. Now that it is light later, serving begins at 6 p.m. which means Redeemer's team will need to arrive at 5 p.m. Individuals who are interested in volunteering to serve and who have had both COVID vaccine shots are asked to contact **Kay Ernsthause**n at [KayErnsthause@gmail.com](mailto:KayErnsthause@gmail.com). Four servers are needed.

Thank you for considering to help with this ministry!

### 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 Sets Spring Mini Retreat**

Sister Act will hold its Spring Mini-Retreat on **Saturday, May 15**, on the yard of Sue Yehling's home, 9770 Taylor Road SW, Reynoldsburg, beginning at 11 a.m. Those coming are asked to bring a chair for sitting outside, a lunch or a snack, and something to drink. The group will not be providing food or drinks to share. (Sue has some extra chairs if needed.)

The theme for the retreat is "***Be Bold in Sharing Your Gifts.***" As the Bible teaches, "We are all the Church, the body of Christ and just as the body has many different parts, we have each been given gifts to share and to build up the Church," notes **Sister Act Coordinator Carol Heacock**. "We'll discuss our gifts and how others have blessed us with theirs. We will also challenge each other in ***Being Bold*** with our gifts, maybe taking that first step in pursuing an idea or dream but just haven't had the courage or clarity."

As in past retreats, everyone is asked to wear a mask and to practice social distancing. Bottles of hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be available.

There is parking across the street in a neighboring church's parking lot. However, if they have an event scheduled that day, Sue said there is room in her drive and the neighbor's drive for parking.

## **Church Council Update for April: New Livestreaming Equipment, HVAC Unit Coming**

**President Julie Johnson** reports that Redeemer's Church Council approved up to \$10,000 for new equipment to improve the church's live-streaming capabilities and \$5,000 to install it in the sanctuary. She notes that council sees this as "advancing Redeemer's future in worship, justice and building improvement.

"We are on the cusp of a whole new system of technology that primarily has been developed to improve our worship and live-streaming ability but also should provide new ways to support our ministry in general and the development of our ministry in the future."

The plan was largely researched by **Tom Mimplitch** and presented to council in March. They thank Tom for all his work!

In addition, the Southern Ohio Synod referred the congregation to **Jeremy Johnson** who works at Trinity Lutheran in Marysville and who has been to Redeemer twice already to assist in refining and implementing this plan.

The new equipment includes everything from cameras to new speakers to a new sound board, to video control to microphones for the organ and piano - and on and on. "This will create a new foundation of technology - replacing what we now have, which is essentially a patchwork of old equipment, some of which doesn't even work."

In addition, Redeemer will be changing Internet providers, greatly expanding the speed and capability of using multiple devices for Zoom or other connections. For two years these changes will cost slightly less than the church is spending now. "We are making this change in part at the request of Suzuki who will be returning for limited in person but also Zoom calls."

Council also acted on recommendations from the justice team that has been focused on racism to approve Redeemer's joining the BREAD organization as part of our collaborative efforts for justice. (See today's front page article.)

Finally, council voted to replace the AC unit that's currently in the playground (and that young people have used to get on the roof) and put the new unit in the courtyard. The AC units for the basement will also be removed while the crane is there with those basement units replaced perhaps next year.

"And we continue to slowly and carefully reopen. What a joy!"

## 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, May 9**, 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=Q2Z2cW9ob3JvR1NSRi9rYVBkMCM90Zz09>

## Tuesday Bible Study Continues Study of Psalms May 4

The Tuesday Bible Study continues looking at the book of Psalms on **Tuesday, May 4**. 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, May 4** 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>

## 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 continue to be asked for **Madelyn Zimmer's** daughter **DJ Zimmer** who is recovering from successful surgery and for **Izzie** and **Sophie Skoog** who each is continuing to recover from a sports injury. Prayers are also asked for **Kris Kauffman** who just had surgery and is facing some challenges and for **Terry Warren** who is having surgery this week. Prayers are also asked for **Heidi Sherer's** uncle, **Joel Sherer**, who has now entered hospice, and for his wife **Mary**.

+ + +

## **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.

## **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](mailto:info@redeemerluth.com) . Hard copies are available at the church and can be found under the bulletin board in the hallway off the Narthex.

## **Quarterly Statements Due Out Shortly**

Redeemer's **Finance Officer Margie Frazier** reports that the quarterly giving statements for the first quarter of 2021 will be sent soon via email from Wells LLC. Folks for whom the church doesn't have email addresses will receive their statements via USPS.

## **May Birthdays**

3-Heidi Sherer 5-Nancy Magargal  
8-Kay Ernsthausen 8-Kathryn Ott  
11-Logan Baldogo 14-Ty Pawlowski  
17-Mary Benis 17-Ken Jones  
19-Al Debelak 20-Jackson Barbour Harms  
21-Paul Voytas 22-Dave Lippert  
22-Lea Spang 26-Kathie Ehrich  
27-Jeanne Eakin 29-Barbara Willmann

# Getting Ready for Sunday

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 9, 2021

## Lessons

**Readings:** Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; John 15:9-17

## Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of the African International Lutheran Mission in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Barbara Kositzke.

**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, Barbara and David Hairston, Grace and Ken Jones, Dora Pinder and family, Heidi Sherer's Aunt Mary and Uncle Joel Sherer, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Izzy and Sophie Skoog, Kris Kauffman, Terry Warren.

*Noisy Offering will be for ELCA Disaster Relief*

## Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, May 9: *Holy Spirit: Source of Life*

Led by Pastor Dave

## This Week at Redeemer

May 4 - 10, 2021

<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	1:00 p.m.	<b>ZOOM and IN-PERSON Bible Study – Room 2</b>
	5:00 p.m.	<b>ZOOM Outreach Team</b>
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	1:00 p.m.	<b>RLC at LSS Food Pantry</b>
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	10:00 a.m.	<b>LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube</b>
		<b>IN-PERSON by reservation</b>
	11:15 a.m.	<b>ZOOM Adult Sunday School</b>