



Reflections

VOLUME 25

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ISSUE 19

ELCA: *Support Peace with Justice*

Editor's Note: The following is from the ELCA Peace, Not Walls campaign regarding current hostilities in the Middle East.

Tensions in Jerusalem have risen dramatically in recent weeks due to the Israeli government's condoning of the planned expulsion of Palestinians. This has been exacerbated by the use of Israeli security forces to both impede Muslims' access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan and even to enter the mosque and attack worshipers under the pretense of taking security measures against so-called terrorists. All this has occurred in the context of inequitable vaccine distribution to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and disproportionate illness and death of Palestinians due to COVID-19.

The wider context is Israel's 54-year occupation of Palestine, in which Palestinians daily face military incursions, restrictions on movement, physical harassment, dehumanization, land confiscation, home demolitions, expansion of Israeli settlements, and limited access to worship, health care, education, farmland, food, clean water and economic opportunities.

More than a dozen Palestinian families in East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighborhoods risk being forcibly evicted from their homes as soon as this month, as part of "an alarming pattern to change the demography of the city," according to a recent report by the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian Territory, occupied since 1967. If the evictions proceed as planned, these families will have nowhere to go.

In recent months, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian structures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have intensified significantly. The UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process reported on March 25 that since December, "325 [Palestinian-owned] structures were demolished or seized by Israeli authorities or demolished by their owners to avoid heavy Israeli demolition fees. These actions resulted in the displacement of 465 people, including 253 children and 105 women."

The decades-old practice of Israelis demolishing or seizing Palestinian homes represents a flagrant violation of international law, specifically Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the forcible transfer of protected populations by an occupying power. It has also dramatically increased tensions between residents and Israeli extremists in East Jerusalem. Harassment and provocation of Palestinians by Jewish nationalist groups such as Lehava — including parades through Muslim areas, chants of "death to Arabs" and physical violence — have been curtailed by police at times but tacitly allowed at others.

Kairos Palestine, a Palestinian Christian ecumenical movement, issued an urgent call to the global Christian community on March 27: "Your sisters and brothers in Palestine implore you to resist the State of Israel's impending eviction of 15 families from their homes in the Israeli occupied territory of East Jerusalem. ... [W]rite to your governments, insisting that they intervene to stop this action on the basis of human dignity and international law."

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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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The Redeemer Community

Next Food Giveaway Set for May 20

Redeemer continues its ministry to assist those in the community in need of food on **Thursday, May 20**. 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 through October.

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.

This month, Redeemer is collecting hair products (shampoo and/or conditioner) to have available to distribute as personal care items are not otherwise available. Just drop off the items at church; there is a bin in coatroom where items can be placed.

New volunteers are always welcome! **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!"

Council to Consider New Steps Regarding Sunday Worship

Given the recent announcements from both Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and Ohio's Gov. Mike DeWine regarding the lifting of mask requirements in most settings for those who are vaccinated, **Council President Julie Johnson** announced Sunday that the Redeemer Church Council will consider this week what that means for Redeemer.

Watch your emails for information about what is decided.

Anti-Racism Group to View 'Two Distant Strangers'

Redeemer's Anti-Racism group is sponsoring a viewing and discussion of the Emmy Award-winning Netflix show, "Two Distant Strangers" at the church on **Wednesday, June 16**, at 7 p.m., in the Narthex. Folks who haven't been part of this group are welcome to join the group for this viewing. A link to the trailer can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPgf-JaWNh8>.

For those who prefer to join by Zoom to watch the video and/or to join the discussion afterwards, and aren't on the Anti-Racism group email list, please let **Pastor Dave** know so he can send you the information.

Noisy Offering to Go to ELCA Disaster Relief Program

Not only has the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund responded to the COVID-19 pandemic here in the United States but it has also responded in places around the world, most notably now turning its attention to the outbreak in India where it works with partners and companion churches throughout the country. They are supporting communities by distributing food and hygiene kits, conducting livelihood training for migrants, sharing information about COVID-19 and promoting prevention practices.

As a result, 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 23**, 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: 850 2032 6420; Passcode: 689131. 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/85020326420?pwd=MXZY5ZIZ6UnlyWdNqejZjeDhpRUw1Zz09>

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Study of Psalms May 18

The Tuesday Bible Study continues looking at the book of Psalms on **Tuesday, May 18**. 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 18** 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>

ELCA: Support Peace with Justice *cont'd from p. 1*

During Ramadan there have been attacks on Palestinians, including Israeli police actions around the Damascus Gate and Haram al-Sharif (the Temple Mount). The latter were ostensibly in response to Palestinian unrest (stone throwing, yelling, etc.) but have been called disproportionate escalation, deliberate provocation and collective punishment. Israeli forces have barricaded gathering spaces for Palestinian Muslims, blocked buses carrying Muslim citizens of Israel into Jerusalem to pray, and responded to protests with rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades that have injured more than 600 Palestinians, including women and children. They have brought tear gas and stun grenades into the Al-Aqsa Mosque itself, desecrating a sacred space. Palestinian rocket attacks against Israel from Gaza and retaliatory actions by Israeli forces have also threatened civilians and have terrorized Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) stated on May 8 that these actions violate the Status Quo agreement that promises Jews, Christians and Muslims freedom of worship and access to their holy sites. Unequal restrictions on worship by Israeli police has also included the blocked some Arab Christians from the Old City during the Orthodox Easter holiday.

The Lutheran World Federation, in a statement issued May 10 [which can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/35pdds9h>], called upon its member churches to 1) urge their respective governments to multilaterally work toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict; 2) continue to pray and advocate for the ELCJHL, the Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem and their respective ministries; and 3) continue to pray and advocate for reconciliation and peace with justice, for Jerusalem and all its residents -- Christian, Jewish and Muslim; Palestinian and Israeli.

Contact the White House today [through the ELCA Action Center](#)! Urge **President Joe Biden** to deliver a message to Israel: it must halt the illegal removal of East Jerusalem families from their homes, originally scheduled for this month, and respect the Status Quo agreement and holy sites in Jerusalem. Send copies to your senators and U.S. representative.

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 continue to be asked for **Kris Kauffman**, and **Terry Warren** who are recovering from surgery.

Pamela Reed Memorial Service Set for May 23

A memorial service for **Pamela Reed** will be held here at Redeemer on **Sunday, May 23** beginning at 2 p.m. Pamela died of a heart attack at her home on March 23. She leaves two sons, Michael and Jason. Those who knew Pamela remember her prayer “for all the trans people throughout the world who are persecuted just for being who they are.”

A BIG Thank You Goes Out to Tom Mimplitch

A BIG “Thank you” goes out to **Tom Mimplitch** for all his work installing Redeemer’s network and Wifi upgrades!! This will strengthen the church’s Wifi signal nearly everywhere in the building.

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.

Quarterly Statements Now Available

Redeemer’s **Finance Officer Margie Frazier** reports that the quarterly giving statements for the first quarter of 2021 have been sent via email from Wells LLC. Folks for whom the church doesn’t have email addresses will receive their statements via USPS. Anyone who has not gotten their statement should contact the church office.

May Birthdays

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

The Wider Church

Camp Luther Sponsors Servant Weekend

Camp Luther is sponsoring a “Servant Weekend” May 21-23 to help to open the camp in the spring. Servant projects could include raking trails, painting, cleaning, and special building projects. Once done working, folks can take time to relax by a campfire or enjoy a sunset over Lake Erie. All ages are welcome to serve over the weekend to help improve Camp Luther.

Servant weekends require online registration at <https://www.lomocamps.org/servantweekends>; there is not a fee, but the camp does accept free-will donations to help pay for food, insurance and project supplies.

ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod Elects First Transgender Bishop

Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer (they/their), San Francisco, CA, was elected May 8 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Rohrer is the first transgender bishop in the ELCA. The election took place during an online synod assembly.

The bishop-elect has served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco since 2014 and as community chaplain coordinator for the San Francisco Police Department since 2018. They served as executive director of the Welcome Ministry in San Francisco from 2002 to 2014, assistant night minister for the San Francisco Night Ministry from 2013 to 2018 and community garden coordinator at Project Homeless Connect from 2010 to 2012. Rohrer also served as pastor of a multi-parish call serving the homeless and hungry at Welcome Ministry from 2006 to 2014.

Rohrer received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Augustana University in Sioux Fall, SD, in 2001, a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley in 2005, and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2017. Rohrer is currently a doctoral candidate in transformative studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. Augustana is one of 26 ELCA colleges and universities.

Rohrer’s installation is scheduled for Sept. 11 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek, CA. **Rev. Mark W. Holmerud** has served as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod since 2008 and will retire June 30.

The Community Beyond

City Holds Virtual Townhall with Police Chief Candidates

The city of Columbus is sponsoring a virtual townhall meeting on Wednesday, May 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. featuring the finalists for Columbus’ next chief of police. Tune in to the city’s [Facebook](#) page, [YouTube](#) channel or CTV to hear directly from the finalists and learn more about their background, experience and plans for the future of the division. The finalists will be announced Monday, May 17.

The community is also invited to submit questions for the town hall by emailing policechiefsearch@columbus.gov. Questions may be submitted in advance or during the event, and will be used to help guide and inform the live discussion.

Getting Ready for Sunday

Day of Pentecost, May 23, 2021

Lessons

Readings: Acts 2:1-8, 12-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 16:5-15

Prayer of the Day

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, 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 All Saints Lutheran Church, Worthington.
- + For Redeemer community members Diane Louangrath, Alexa Thanakeo, Haley Thanakeo, Lilah Mwansa, Zuri Mwansa.

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, 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 family on the death of her Uncle Joel Sherer, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Kris Kauffman, Terry Warren, Karen Kent and Kathy Rapp's cousin Beatrice Watts Young.

Noisy Offering will be for ELCA Disaster Relief

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, May 23: *Holy Spirit: Source of Life*

Led by Pastor Dave

This Week at Redeemer

May 18 - 24, 2021

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	ZOOM and IN-PERSON Bible Study – Room 2
	7:00 p.m.	ZOOM Congregation Council
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON Coffee and Conversation – Room 2
	4:00 p.m.	ZOOM Education Team
<u>Thursday</u>	3:00 p.m.	LSS / MidOhio Food Giveaway
<u>Sunday</u>	10:00 a.m.	LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube IN-PERSON by reservation – <i>Wear Red!!</i>
	11:15 a.m.	ZOOM Adult Sunday School
	2:00 p.m.	Pamela Reed Memorial Service