



Reflections

VOLUME 25

June 14, 2021

ISSUE 22

God Will Transform This Church

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton writes that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is our name. At least two parts of our name, “Evangelical” and “Church,” are either misunderstood or an outright stumbling block for a significant percentage of the American population.

Pew Research reports that over one-fifth of the U.S. public—and a third under 30—are religiously unaffiliated. These are the “nones.” The religiously unaffiliated, whether never churched or dechurched, don’t have a favorable impression of church. They see it as extremist, full of hypocrites, judgmental, anti-science, anti-intellectual, dogmatic, overly concerned about other people’s morality, naïve and out of touch. Ouch.

In the eyes of the nones, the ELCA gets lumped in with everyone else. Though we aren’t perfect, and some of the characteristics of church apply to us at various times, we have a theology based on a liberating gospel of Jesus Christ that is the *euangelion* -- the good news. The “Evangelical” in our name points to the transforming love of Jesus, to reconciliation, to freedom, to grace. It’s expansive, for everyone and all creation. It doesn’t require our effort or our merit, only our trust in God’s promise.

It’s not naïve. Scripture, **Martin Luther**, **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** and others were clear-eyed about the reality of human sin and brokenness and the devastating consequences for individuals, groups of people and creation that result. There is judgment, but it is God’s, not ours. Our evangelical understanding of God’s word is that it is both law and gospel, judgment and promise. We aren’t an everything goes, antinomian church.

I remember the light bulbs going off in my catechism students’ heads when learning about grace. Does it give us license to do anything we want? **Paul** had to address the same line of thinking in the letter to the Romans. No. Grace makes it possible to be honest with ourselves and face our sin because the Spirit grants us the space, time and desire to turn from our sin to the source of life.

Our evangelical witness is full of paradox -- we are simultaneously saint and sinner. Yes, there is hypocrisy in the church -- welcome to humanity! But there is also beauty and love poured by the Spirit into sometimes stubborn and broken hearts. There is law and gospel. We are at once perfectly free and lord of all and bound and servant of all (Luther’s *The Freedom of a Christian*).

Our evangelical witness is that God called the creation good; that we have been given the gift of curiosity that compels us to study the natural world, to engage in scientific research. The more we know about creation, the closer we draw to the Creator. We aren’t anti-intellectual -- Luther was a college professor after all.

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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



The Redeemer Community

Redeemer's Basketball Camp Opens June 14

Registration continues for Redeemer's basketball camp which will run **Monday, June 14** through **Friday, July 23**. Run by former NBA player **Coach Larry Jones**, the camp is split into two sessions of 40 participants each on Mondays and Wednesdays and the other, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Sessions run 6:30-8:30 p.m. The orientation for parents and guardians is set for **Thursday, June 10** from 6:30-7 p.m. here at the church.

To register, call the church office at 614-237-1263.

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, enter Meeting ID: 816 3540 5805; Passcode: 831590. By phone, call 646-876-9923. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the session by copying and entering the following web address in your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81635405805?pwd=Zm5XRjRjYTRpdktrbFp1dnRJd1hqdz09>.

Volunteers, Toiletries Sought for Next Food Giveaway

With Redeemer's next LSS-MOFC Food Giveaway scheduled for **Thursday, June 17**, **Sue Watson** reports they are in desperate need of two things: **volunteers** and **toiletries**!

This month, they are soliciting donations of **soaps** ... hand soap, baby soap, bath soap, any kind of soap! "The little extras we provide are so appreciated by our giveaway guests, and we are grateful for any contributions from Redeemer's generous congregation!"

"Oh, by the way, we REALLY need more **volunteers** to keep the operation running smoothly and efficiently without exhausting our faithful regular volunteers. If you've not joined us before and would like to help us, call the Church Office and let us know! (And with school out, kids are *more than welcome!*)"

Redeemer Begins Garden Giveaway This Saturday!



Beginning **Saturday, June 19** and every Saturday through the summer, Redeemer Lutheran Church will be picking the produce from its community garden and sharing it with neighbors throughout the summer.

The garden giveaway begins at 10 a.m. and is available until it's gone (sometimes by 10:30 a.m. or 11 a.m.!).

If you have any extra produce from your garden, we encourage you to bring it over to share.

Our garden produce is available for anyone who would like some fresh produce! Check us out!

A Perspective on Benevolence

by Karen Collins

Redeemer's Impact
IMPACT

Every year, on a Sunday in late January, Redeemer members gather after worship for good conversation, fellowship, delicious food – especially those deviled eggs – and contemplation of the year just gone by. That done, we turn to the year to come, and finally, the budget.

This year, of course, was different. We were confined in our little Zoom cubicles, no pleasant chatting, no deviled eggs. But we still looked back and looked forward and considered carefully.

One of the most important budget components, making up 10.5 percent of the budget, is benevolence. Over half of this money goes to the ELCA/Southern Ohio Synod, with lesser percentages to Lutheran Social Services, LSS Food Pantry, LOMO, First English, and Jacob's Porch.

We designate these funds to confirm our belief that, in joining with other congregations, we can have a far greater impact in the world than any of us could have as individuals. The ELCA, with its motto "God's Work, Our Hands," uses our contributions in vital areas such as Disaster Response – plenty of call for that this year – Immigration and Refugee Services, World Hunger in so many places, Missions, and Social Ministries.

The breadth of this work and how little I know about it came home to me when **Pastor Cheryl Peterson** and her husband, **Pastor Charles Peterson**, worshipped at Redeemer recently. Pastor Charles Peterson is to become the Professor of Lutheran Identity and Associate Director of the Lutheran Study Center in Pematangsiantar, Indonesia, as soon as travel restrictions are lifted. I didn't even know that the ELCA was active in Indonesia or that the majority of Christians in Indonesia are Lutherans.

Next January I'm sure we will gather again for these important considerations. Hopefully, we will be together, in person, and there will be good conversation and deviled eggs. And hopefully, our collective actions will continue to have a positive impact throughout our world.

To learn more, visit www.elca.org/Our-Work.

***Being Mortal* Book Study Set for Wednesdays in July**

We are slowly coming out of a long season in which issues of medicine and mortality have assaulted us at every level. In the age of COVID, all the words and phrases which had rarely been part of the vocabularies of most of us became as commonplace as book, restaurant, and podcast recommendations and updates on the latest activities of our grandchildren.

So why am I inviting you to join a church book study on **Atul Gawande's** book, *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*? Partly because of what I just said. Issues of medicine and mortality have been front-and-center for the past 15 months. Since it's been on our minds, maybe now is a good time to dive into the broader questions about the role of medicine in our lives, particularly when it comes to the time when our lives are drawing to a close.

I'm also suggesting this because we're getting older. The people we love are getting older. So maybe it would be good to have a chance to dive into a really wise book that will make us wiser about matters that often leave us feeling overwhelmed and guilty, or matters we'd prefer to avoid entirely. And to do that deep dive with people we care about and people we can be honest around. One review of this book speaks to that: "[This book] is about our misguided approach to end-of-life care that causes unnecessary misery. It is about changes we must make in the way we treat and the way we think. Above all, it is about the need for relentless honesty, especially when we are afraid."

When we can come to accept our mortality, we increase the likelihood that the process of our dying will be more peaceful. Unfortunately, the medical profession tries to hold out promises around this that are little more than fantasies that keep us from facing what is real and making decisions that make a peaceful ending more possible.

This book invites us to learn how to make choices that are all about nurturing and maintaining our well-being.

So pick up a copy of this 2014 book that spent a year on the *New York Times* bestseller list and was chosen as a "best book of the year" by 29 publications and organizations. And let's spend Wednesday evenings in July together, from 7-8:30 p.m. – hopefully in-person, if public health trends continue in positive directions. Please let me know you're planning to join our conversations so I can have an idea of how many people to plan for.

To have a chance for honest conversations about a topic our culture loves to avoid is a great gift we can gift each other.

Church Council Updates

Church Council President Julie Johnson reports that there are two major building projects that had not been anticipated at the beginning of the year.

The first relates to a major investment in audio-video technology in the sanctuary and office. Included in this work are new speakers, microphones, cameras, audio mixer, construction of an AV booth in the sanctuary and more. **Tom Mimitch** is leading this effort. The cost will be between \$15,000 and \$17,500. Work on the AV booth and wiring will begin the week of June 14.

A special \$5,000 gift has been received toward this project.

The second project requires immediate attention and deals with gutters pulling away from the education wing of the building, especially at the corners. There has been water damage resulting in the need to replace the gutters, downspouts and fascia wood with the possible need for “scabbing” of rafters. The estimate for repairs is \$26,109.

According to Julie, “We finished last year with a surplus of more than \$90,000, due to reduced costs during the pandemic, a PPP loan (that was forgiven) from the government and very faithful giving by you. Part of what we were planning to do with those funds was to complete building improvements – just different ones! For example, we are not pursuing the bathroom remodel project that was discussed at the annual meeting, which would have cost more than \$35,000.

“We recently received a generous gift of \$10,000 for the building for which we are profoundly grateful. We could not have foreseen that we would have such a big, unplanned expense, within days of that gift.”

Feedback on these projects is encouraged to Julie, **Pastor Dave**, **Vice President Wendy Stoica** or any council member. Check the member directory for their emails or phone numbers.

In-Person Worship Guidelines

Based on the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state of Ohio pandemic recommendations, the Redeemer Church Council adopted these in-person worship guidelines as places open up and activities get back to normal. **All people are welcome to return to worship without reservations and by following these guidelines:**

- “We ask that all people, except the worship leaders, wear their masks throughout the service.
- “The far side, or north side, of the sanctuary is set up for social distancing. People who have not been vaccinated or are more comfortable maintaining social distancing please sit there.
- “The south side, closest to the double doors, pews are not restricted and should be used by those who have been vaccinated.
- “Please remain seated throughout the service.
- “You can sing hymns softly with your masks on.
- “Individual communion elements are available to pick up at the front door.
- “If you wish to use one of the first-floor bathrooms, please follow instructions in the bathroom about disinfecting it after your use. Only one person at a time in the restrooms.
- “We will want everyone out of the building by 20 minutes after the service ends.”

Noisy Offering to Go to ELCA Disaster Relief Program

Redeemer’s Noisy Offering – that offering of loose “or noisy” change made during communion – continues to be designated for the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. Not only has Lutheran Disaster Relief 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 coronavirus 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.

Sunday Adult Ed Class Goes Hybrid to Include In-Person Participation

This **Sunday, June 20**, the morning adult education class goes hybrid as it continues its discussion of the Holy Trinity. People are welcome to attend in-person as well as via Zoom!

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.

The group meets here at church or can be joined via 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=MXZY5ZlZ6UnlyWdNqejZjeDhpRUw1Zz09>

Please Note: the Adult Class will be on hiatus Sunday, June 27 while pastor is gone.

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Study of Psalms June 15

The Tuesday Bible Study concludes its study of Psalms on **Tuesday, June 15**. 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, June 15** from 1-2:30 p.m. come to church for in-person participation or 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>

Please Note: the Tuesday Bible Study will be on hiatus Tuesday, June 22 while pastor is gone. It will return on Tuesday, June 29.

God Will Transform This Church *cont'd from p. 1*

I happen to know some millennials who had conversations with their none neighbors. These conversations were open and engaged. The none neighbors carried the above-mentioned perceptions of church, but they also knew that their millennial friends served as Young Adults in Global Mission and were active in their congregation. The nones were trying to reconcile their perceptions of church with their experience of actual Lutherans – one of whom is a scientist. Without that relationship, the nones would never have known a true evangelical witness to the liberating good news of Jesus.

Earlier this year, the ELCA unveiled a new approach to implementing the “Future Church” – an approach focused on motivating the entire church to actively share the way of Jesus with more people so that they might experience community, justice and love. The design emphasizes the belief that members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and its partner organizations all have important roles in the church's mission. This “Future Church” stresses three goals:

- A welcoming church that engages new, young and diverse people.
- A thriving church rooted in tradition but radically relevant.
- A connected, sustainable church that shares a common purpose and direction.

God is calling us into this exciting mission, and the Spirit will activate each of us to invite people to know the way of Jesus The ELCA can hold up our evangelical witness, which is an alternative face of Christianity – not for institutional survival, but so that more people will experience the deep love of Jesus, be transformed and liberated by that love and “work for justice and peace.”

This mission will take all of us, and it means actual relationships with real people led by an incarnational God. I believe that God will transform this church.

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 continue to be asked for **Arnell Comstock** who is facing some health challenges and for **Trina Thornton** and family on the death of her father **John Bright**.

A Note of Thanks

Thanks go out to **Caskey Cleaners** for their contribution in support of Redeemer's Summer Basketball Camp. "We are grateful for their generosity on behalf of youth in our neighborhood!"

Office Hours

As the office workflow has changed [again!], **Office Manager Becky Trover** will once more be taking Thursday as her regular day off. Normal office hours are Monday through Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Schedule Revised for '*Staying Connected*' Emails

Going forward, the *Staying Connected* emails from the church will be sent Thursday mornings. Other regular emails include *Reflections* sent on Mondays, and worship service information on Saturdays. Of course, crucial information will be sent as needed.

If anyone would like to contribute items for the *Staying Connected* emails, please contact **Office Manager Becky Trover**.

Christ in Our Home Devotional Booklets

The July – September edition of *Christ in Our Home* devotional is available on the kiosk. For those unable to get to church, the church office is happy to mail one to you. Call 614-237-1263 or email info@RedeemerLuth.com

The Christ in Our Home devotionals are also available via email by going to <https://go.augsburgfortress.org/christ-in-our-home-email-subscription>.

Pastor Goes on Study Leave

Pastor Dave will be going on study leave **Monday-Sunday, June 21-27**. During his absence, **Pastor Julianne Smeck** from Hope Lutheran Church will be covering pastoral emergencies. She can be reached at 734-972-6126. **Rev. Dale Linder**, a chaplain at Riverside Hospital, will preach and preside that Sunday.

June Birthdays

16-Jil Williams
18-Jessica Fisher 20-Katie Jacobs
23-Nathaniel Bird 24-Andy Day
24-Bobby Jimison 25-Ron Willmann
26-Eric Reinoehl 27-Mike Shugert
30-Julie Brush

The Community Beyond

Vaccination Clinic Set for June 14

Registration are now open for a free COVID-19 Vaccine Community Clinic that will be held on **Monday, June 14** at the Far East Recreation Center (1826 Lattimer Dr.) from 12:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is for anyone 12 years of age or older. Folks are asked to bring their IDs and insurance cards if they have them. "No one will be turned away."

While walk ins are welcome, appointments can also be scheduled by going online and copying/pasting this link bit.ly/FERCVax614 into the browser; calling 614-645-1519; or emailing health@columbus.gov. First doses of Pfizer and the Johnson and Johnson vaccines will be offered. Appointments for the second Pfizer dose will be scheduled when the first dose is received.

Free Lunches for Students Available at Columbus Libraries

For now, through **Friday, August 20**, free lunches are available for students at 15 library locations throughout the city. The lunches will be distributed as "grab and go" meals for kids to take home weekdays. The hours vary by location (and are all during lunch time except for the Barnett Branch which is 3-4 p.m.) so go to <https://tinyurl.com/xn9tj3cw> to check out the time for the branch library closest to you.

In Redeemer's area, meals will be available at the Driving Park Branch, Barnett Branch, Main Library, Whitehall Branch and Reynoldsburg Branch.

The meals are made possible in conjunction with the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Getting Ready for Sunday

4th Sunday after Pentecost, June 20, 2021 Lessons

Readings: 1 Samuel 17:32-49; Psalm 133; Mark 4:35-41

Prayer of the Day

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Christ Lutheran Church, Heath.

+ For Redeemer community member Bebe McCoy.

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, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Kris Kauffman, Karen Kent and Kathy Rapp's cousin Beatrice Watts Young, Emily Kent, Trina Thornton and family, Arnell Comstock.

Noisy Offering will be for ELCA Disaster Relief

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, June 20: The Holy Trinity

Led by Pastor Dave

This Week at Redeemer

June 15 - 21, 2021

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Bible Study – Room 2
	7:00 p.m.	ZOOM Congregation Council
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON Coffee and Conversation
	4:00 p.m.	ZOOM Education Team
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Anti-Racism Group viewing and discussion of “Two Distant Strangers”
<u>Thursday</u>	3:00 p.m.	LSS / MidOhio Food Giveaway
<u>Sunday</u>	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education