



# Reflections

VOLUME 25

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ISSUE 22

## How We Talk about God

The theme for our Zoom adult education class now is the Trinity. In our first session June 6, we talked about the times in worship we refer to the Trinity. After the opening hymn, the pastor says, “The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” In the Apostles’ Creed, we say we believe in “God the Father Almighty..., Jesus Christ, ... and the Holy Spirit...” And at the benediction, we receive the blessing of the Trinity.

This led us in a couple different directions.

We discussed the language we use for God in worship. Someone mentioned the traditional language for the Trinity is exclusively male: *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. While *Holy Spirit* doesn’t have a gender, when a pronoun for Holy Spirit shows up in the Bible or in a hymn, that pronoun is almost always *he*. So how is the Trinity an inclusive image? Women make up a huge percentage of church members and leaders: how does using primarily or exclusively male images for God embody and reflect them? And how does it invite all of us to expand our imagination and our faith so we “see” God more broadly and experience God as not just male?

You may have noticed in the bulletin that after saying what the Bible passage we’re reading is, we put the version we’re using; I often use “The Message.” Next to the name of the version often appears the word “altered.” Most of the time that is because I have altered the language used to describe God. Where the version uses “Father” I usually replace it with “Abba.” “Abba” is an Aramaic word that means “Poppa” or “Daddy.” This intimate word is the way Jesus speaks and prays to the member of the Trinity, commonly referred to as “Father.” I also alter these texts by replacing male pronouns for God.

I do this because language has tremendous power to shape our attitudes and beliefs. Though many of us would say, “God is not a man,” the Christian church throughout the centuries has followed the culture – or culture has followed the church – so that women have been denied anything like equal power, status, rights, and freedoms. Changing this language is a small way to try to free God from the limits we’ve placed on God by our language, and from ways we might see women as less than men.

In our discussion of the Holy Spirit the past two months in adult ed, we explored Proverbs 8 and the character of “Wisdom.” If you read this chapter, you’ll find that our Jewish ancestors speak of a being who is very much like the familiar words from the first chapter of John’s Gospel, “*In the beginning was the Word.*” In Proverbs, Wisdom is with God from the very beginning. Wisdom is God’s partner in creating all things. And this image is spoken of as “she.” Here is a female image of one who is as close to God as the Christian images of the Trinity are to each other. So the class wondered if this might invite us to start referring to the Holy Spirit in the Trinity as “she” in worship. The Hebrew word for “spirit” is a feminine noun; the Greek word for Spirit is neuter, neither masculine nor feminine.

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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

### Sister Act to Meet June 9

The Sister Act group meets this week on **Wednesday, June 9** beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Redeemer's sanctuary. They will be led by **Kathy Zwanziger** who has prepared a "pop quiz" on the "Bold Women" in the country, both past and present. After a brief review of our quiz results, the group will discuss some of these women in greater detail.

Kathy would also like each participant to have a couple of Bold Women from their own lives to name and briefly share why that woman was or is bold.

### Redeemer's Basketball Camp Returns This June

Registration is now open 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!*)"

### 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](http://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 Mimplitch** 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.

## Church Council Adopts New 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 new worship 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 Explores the Holy Trinity

This **Sunday, June 13**, the Sunday morning adult education class begins a new series on the Holy Trinity. 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=MXYSZIZ6UnlyWdNqejZjeDhpRUw1Zz09>

## Tuesday Bible Study Continues Study of Psalms June 8

The Tuesday Bible Study continues looking at the book of Psalms on **Tuesday, June 8**. 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 8** 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>

## How We Talk about God *cont'd from p. 1*

What if we explore this as a way to bring a female face to the God whom we have so exclusively addressed – and perhaps imagined – as male?

Yesterday we also talked about the challenge of not just “going through the motions” when we say words in worship we say every week – words like those in the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. How do these stay fresh? As a way to address this question, I'm going to use the Sundays in July to preach about the Lord's Prayer. I do this in the hope that we might discover new meanings in this prayer, and might pray it with a new spirit and passion.

I would value hearing from you about how we use language in worship. And I look forward to exploring this question with the worship team as well. The Psalms call us to “Sing a new song to the Lord” (96.1; 98.1). Spirit moves among us to free our imaginations from shrinking God to a too-small size. Freeing our language about God is a way to keep God the wondrous Mystery our faith proclaims and celebrates.

*Dave Shull*

## 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 are asked for **Arnell Comstock** who is facing some health challenges and for **Trina Thornton** and family on the death of her father this past week.

+ + +

**An update on Maddie Gosnell:** In addition to graduating from the Kansas City Daytime Academy, she also graduated from Bexley High School this spring. She will be joining the State Street Ballet Company in California, as a trainee.

## **Memorial Service for Val Farnham Set for June 12**

A memorial service for **Val Farnham** will be held on **Saturday, June 12** at 11 a.m. here at Redeemer. It will be followed by interment at Forest Lawn. There will be no reception at the church. Val died in January. Prayers for comfort and peace continue to be asked for his family.

## **A Note of Thanks**

Thanks go out to **dentists Daniel and Eric Zidel, Catering by Scott, Byers Dodge/Chrysler/Jeep** on Hamilton Road and **Fair Landscape and Design** in Bexley for their contributions in support of Redeemer's Summer Basketball Camp. "We are grateful for their generosity on behalf of youth in our neighborhood!"

## **June Birthdays**

11-Cassandra Reinoehl  
13-Jim Riley 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](https://bit.ly/FERCVax614) into the browser; calling 614-645-1519; or emailing [health@columbus.gov](mailto: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.

# Getting Ready for Sunday

## 3rd Sunday after Pentecost, June 13, 2021

### Lessons

**Readings:** Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; Mark 4:26-34

### Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Bethel Lutheran Church, Grove City.

+ For Redeemer community members Jessica, Justin, Cora, and Issac Marquez.

**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, Emily Kent.

*Noisy Offering will be for ELCA Disaster Relief*

### Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Sunday, June 13: The Holy Trinity  
Led by Pastor Dave

### This Week at Redeemer

June 8 - 14, 2021

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	<b>ZOOM</b> and <b>IN-PERSON</b> Bible Study – Room 2
	6:30 p.m.	<b>ZOOM</b> A Brewing Faith
<u>Wednesday</u>	6:30 p.m.	<b>IN-PERSON</b> Sister Act
<u>Sunday</u>	10:00 a.m.	<b>IN-PERSON</b> and <b>LIVESTREAM</b> Worship with Holy Communion on YouTube
	11:15 a.m.	<b>ZOOM</b> Adult Sunday School

**RLC Mission Statement:** *Followers of Jesus sharing God's love with all.*

**Vision:** *An adventure for life fostering understanding and healing in community.*