



# Reflections

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ISSUE 33

## The Life He Promises Will Prevail

**ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** writes: I planted a garden last summer during the pandemic. Here in Chicago, March and April 2020 were cold and dreary. And it snowed. All around us was the oppressive reality of COVID-19: the lockdown, the fear, the daily grim statistics of rising cases and deaths, the isolation. I longed for a project that would look to the future and be life-giving. A garden would be just the thing.

I planted green beans and tomatoes, basil and lavender. I even planted raspberry canes, which turned out to be a challenge because there was a run on them—everybody must have been planting their own patch of Eden. I also planted petunias for a splash of color. When all was in, I admired the colors and waited for vegetables to grow.

With human beings in quarantine, the rest of creation had a chance to breathe and thrive. The smog had abated so much in India that people could see the Himalayas for the first time in decades. Penguins roamed the streets of Cape Town, South Africa, and mountain goats strolled through towns in Wales. I heard coyotes howling at night in my urban neighborhood. Rabbits and squirrels had the run of the place. At first this was a welcome sign of life flourishing despite the pandemic. But soon the rabbits and squirrels became brazen, and they turned their attention to my garden.

The squirrels chewed the raspberry canes down to a nub. The rabbits treated my petunia bed and green beans like an all-you-can-eat salad bar. Just as the tomatoes were beginning to ripen, the squirrels took them right off the vine. It was maddening. I tried all kinds of deterrents – Tabasco sauce mixed with dish soap, chunks of Irish Spring soap tied to stakes, constant vigilance – all to no avail. I even considered the possibility of an air rifle, but I'm pretty sure that there is an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of weapons in the city limits.

Eventually I came to believe that the rabbits and squirrels had formed an unholy alliance and were organizing against me. My suspicions were confirmed when I found tiny copies of *Watership Down* (the rabbit liberation manifesto) tucked in the bushes. All that was standing by the end of the season was the lavender, which I found remarkable because I was sure they would have taken the opportunity to fashion little wreathes to adorn their burrows and nests. To add insult to injury, the rabbits kept producing more little bunnies. They were adorable! Darn it!

I planted a garden this summer. Green beans, tomatoes, lavender, basil, zucchini, sage, rosemary and thyme. Flowers will follow soon. The rabbit and squirrel populations are robust, and it doesn't help that my husband feeds the squirrels and has given them names. I thought about constructing a garden compound topped with razor wire, but I'm not going to do that. I will try the traditional methods of Tabasco sauce, dish soap, Irish Spring soap and vigilance. I will also place some fencing around the green beans and tomatoes. And I will hope.

*cont'd on p. 5*

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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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614-237-1263

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## The Redeemer Community

### Update on Worship Protocol

Given the latest guidance by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the rate of increase in COVID infections due to the Delta variant, the Redeemer Church Council strongly encourages all people attending worship services or other large group gatherings at Redeemer to wear masks. "Our shared safety remains our first priority."

### Redeemer Anti-Racism Group Hosts Police Sergeant for Conversation about Race/Policing

The anti-racism group at Redeemer invites folks to an evening with **Sergeant Christopher Smith-Hughes** on **Wednesday, August 25**, from 7-8:30 p.m. Sergeant Smith-Hughes works is the Recruiting Sergeant for the Columbus Division of Police. He will talk with the group about some of the realities police face, ideas about police reform, and other topics the group would like to explore with him.

Please join us – and invite your friends!



### ***Redeemer Kids Fest: Let Your Light Shine!*** **Set for Sunday, August 29, 2-4**

On **Sunday, August 29**, the Education Ministry Team is sponsoring an afternoon of crafts, story time, music, snacks, activities and games on the lawn for Redeemer's kids and families, as well as Redeemer's community kids and families. But, of course, all are welcome! It will run from 2 to 4 p.m.

Due to the uncertainty of health mandates, Redeemer was unable to schedule its traditional Vacation Bible School. This is a way to slowly start rolling out the children's ministry and include the community in the safest way possible.

### First English Sponsors Block Party

Everyone is invited to First English Lutheran Church's (1015 E. Main St.) Block Party on **Saturday, September 18** from noon to 5 p.m. They will have free food, drinks, ice cream and games for all ages. DJ Kurt Mueller will also provide the music. The event is free to the public.

### Sign-Up Open for Oct. 3 CROP Walk

The CROP Walk, scheduled for **Sunday, October 3** this year, is only two months away! Walking this year so far are **Connie Criswell**, **Heidi Sherer** and **Kathy Zwanziger**. If you wish to sign up as a walker or to donate, the Redeemer Team page can be found online at

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/redeemer-lutheran-church-2>

### Sunday Adult Ed Class on Hiatus until Sept. 12

The Sunday Adult Education Class concluded its study of the Lord's Prayer on **Sunday, August 1** and is now on hiatus until **Sunday, September 12**. At that time it will begin a four-part series "Reintroducing Jesus" which will be led by Redeemer member and Trinity Seminary emeritus professor **Don Luck**. The class will run from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. here at church and on Zoom.

### Tuesday Bible Study on Hiatus for August

The Tuesday Bible Study will be gathering at **1 pm Tuesday, August 24**, in Room 2 to honor our long-term member, Bernice Stewart. The regular Bible Study will resume on **Tuesday, September 7**. At that time it will return to meeting in-person here at church and on Zoom from 1-2:30 p.m.

## Lutheran World Federation Serves the World by Sue Watson

*Redeemer's Impact*  
**IMPACT**

When I was asked to consider writing a piece for the Stewardship Committee to highlight our support of the ELCA, I admit I had to do a bit of research. Honestly, I had never heard of all the things that happen as a result of this organization. I was especially interested in the Lutheran World Federation, which has been serving in Kenya for over five decades, not only responding to emergency needs, but also working to empower women and men to have a voice and help as newly displaced people pour in. They are teaching refugees to teach other refugees. The original refugees have great pride in being able to assist newcomers, and I think that's pretty uplifting!

LWF sponsored a workshop a while back asking for testimonies from refugees – not about the usual hardships and challenges, but asking that they reach deep inside and define who they are, celebrating the gifts that they offer. They were asked to write a poem about how they're making their world a better place, no matter that they're in a refugee camp or that the newcomers are tired and afraid. They're making a difference in their communities. And LWF shared their poems in a booklet called "I am hope."

One of the writers said he wished "for people to know that we are part of the solution," rather than simply being seen as recipients of aid and assistance. Another described herself as "a peacemaker and problem solver," working in women's empowerment and counselling. Here are a couple examples:



I am a woman of the world.  
I am the inspiration bringing women together in decision-making.  
I am a world changer  
– Sahara Khalif Jamo

I am the courage to protect  
vulnerable people.  
I am a human rights advocate.  
I am opening paths for refugees.  
– Dirirsa Kejela

I encourage you to download this free little booklet at <https://tinyurl.com/nejsjcys>. As you read, you will feel their joy and pride in what they do – truly uplifting! This is just one more example of the good that is accomplished throughout the world because of Redeemer's support of the ELCA.

## Looking Ahead to Fall

A couple things about scheduling the rest of the summer and fall.

Redeemer's attendance for in-person worship leads the Worship Team and council to decide **to stay with one 10 a.m. worship service through December**. "All of us felt strongly that we enjoy the vibrant feel of more people in worship. And we know any visitors will sense that we are a more vital, healthy congregation when they see more people in a service. We'll look at in-person attendance numbers later in the fall and see what they indicate."

Also: Redeemer's traditional five-evening **Vacation Bible School**. Because younger kids can't be vaccinated, and the church is not yet ready to open Fellowship Hall to groups, it was decided this summer to offer a **full-on KidFest out on the lawn on Sunday, August 29 from 2-4 p.m. Please invite younger folks you know to come.** (See separate story, this issue.)

The Education Team is also responding to feedback from parents and so are planning for **one Sunday School gathering each month for children and youth** that will engage them in a wide variety of ways and not ask for weekly commitments from adults who are still feeling stretched in so many ways.

According to **Pastor Dave**, "We continue to need to be nimble, creative, and willing to do things in ways we haven't imagined before. As the people are about to leave their long exile in Babylon, God proclaims, 'I'm doing a new thing! Don't you see?' We ask you to try on the new things we are offering this fall, as we seek to be the most faithful body of Christ we can be."

## **Good Neighbors Picnic Coming Sept. 25 to Wolf Park**

The Good Neighbors Picnic will be held this year on **Saturday, September 25** at Wolfe Park on the east side of Columbus. Redeemer members and friends are invited to begin donating new or gently used blankets and cold weather clothing and accessories to help provide for our homeless brothers and sisters in the Columbus area.

This all-day event was started in 1999 by Redeemer member **William McCully** along with a few volunteers as part of the National Make a Difference Day. On the day of the Good Neighbors Picnic, volunteers work to provide a day of celebration including food, music, games, books, family photos, crafts, and shopping at a Free Store for blankets and winter clothing. In 2019, close to a thousand guests, men, women, and children of all ages from local shelters, were transported to the park for this day of celebration and fun.

Redeemer, along with other faith organizations, community leaders, local businesses and organizations will work to gather in items for those who are homeless or in shelters.

Donations may be placed in the bin located in the Narthex. Cash donations or gift cards are welcome and may be dropped off at the church office.

To learn more about the Good Neighbors Picnic, contact **Carol Heacock** at [Heacock.Carol@gmail.com](mailto:Heacock.Carol@gmail.com).

## **Redeemer Garden Giveaway Continues This Saturday!**



There are tomatoes and potatoes on a table in the Narthex available to anyone who is interested. Just call the church office to make sure someone is here to get in.

For now through every Saturday this 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.!). Picking begins about 9 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!

## **Slots Available to Sponsor Flowers for Sunday Services**

Since Redeemer has returned to in-person worship, there are lots of openings for folks to sponsor flowers for the Sunday services now into early fall. The flowers, a beautiful addition to Redeemer's livestream, are a great way to recognize a loved one's birthday, an anniversary or to honor an individual important in your life.

A wide choice of dates are available. Cost is \$20/bouquet. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hall next to the Library along with the payment envelopes. For those not yet coming in to the church, just call **Office Manager Becky Trover** to sign up. Flowers can be taken home after the Sunday service or picked up later in the week.

## 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.

## The Life He Promises Will Prevail *cont'd from p. 1*

Legend has it that **Martin Luther** once said: “If I knew that the world were to come to an end tomorrow I would plant an apple tree today.” This is a powerful statement of faith in the God who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the confidence that, when “he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end” (Nicene Creed), God will restore all of creation and this will be a good end.

This is the faith which declares that through pandemics, droughts, floods, famine, deadly bigotry, war, all the death-dealing things in nature and the human heart, life – the abundant life that Jesus promises – will prevail.

## 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 **Emily Kent** and her son **Miles Smith** as they quarantine to recover from COVID and for **Kathy Rapp's** husband **Bob** as he deals with pneumonia following knee replacement surgery.

### Thank You

**Kathy Zwanziger** writes: "Thanks to all the members who contributed paper products for the giveaway on Thursday. What a blessing for the 124 guests!" She went on to say they served the following number of families:

- 73 with between one and three in the family
- 46 with between four and six in the family
- 5 with over seven in the family

Kathy added, "An extra hearty thank you to the 20 volunteers who registered the people, packed and distributed the food, and loaded it into cars. It was a hot and humid day – and we got about twice as many pounds of food as we did in July. Watermelon, cantaloup, and cucumbers made the boxes extra heavy, so there was a good deal of sweating as we helped feed our neighbors!"

+ + +

**Kathy Mimlitch** writes: "THANK YOU for all the assistance in providing a meal to the **Stewart Family** after the funeral last Thursday. Thanks for the people who provided food, thank you for the people who offered food, thank you for the people who served and thank you for the people who cleaned up afterwards.

"It meant a lot to the family."

### Assistance Needed

Now that **Arnell Comstock** is home following surgery and rehab, she and Tom need home-cooked meals or restaurant gift cards for the next six-seven weeks. She has a low-sodium restriction, and doesn't like peppers. They like Wendy's, Burger King, Domino's Pizza and Olive Garden. Contact **Elyce Herring** or the church office for further information

### August Birthdays

23-Scott Steiner  
25-LaVerna Reinoehl 26-Brad Binau  
27-Matthew Bird 27-Jon Disbro  
29-Heather McGurer 31-Lynn Belhorn

## The Community Beyond

### Dementia/Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group in Berwick

Every second Tuesday of each month a Dementia/Alzheimer's caregiver support group meets in Berwick at Redeemer Lutheran Church from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Meetings are open to all caregivers who wish to attend. Most participants come from the immediate communities. There is no charge to attend.

Within meetings, individuals share caregiver concerns and challenges; group participants provide each other caring support, ideas for self-care, and everyday problem solving and care tips for the person affected by dementia.

The caregiver group is an outreach of the Central Ohio Alzheimer's Association. At the meetings information is shared about the association's services and those provided by other community agencies

Also, every third Tuesday of each month, a virtual Dementia/Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group meets via Zoom, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. If you wish to attend, please register through the Alzheimer's Association Helpline, 800-272-3900. After registration, you will receive the Zoom link for the online meeting.

Folks may attend one or both meetings; registration is required for both meetings at the above number. For questions, contact the group facilitator, **Dottie Odrosky** at 614-237-9291.

# Getting Ready for Sunday

## 14th Sunday after Pentecost, August 29, 2021

### Lessons

**Readings:** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-21; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### Prayer of the Day

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Columbus

+ For Redeemer community member Jenny Peresta

***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, 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, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Kris Kauffman, Karen Kent, Beatrice Watts Young, Arnell Comstock, Dottie Odrosky, Bob Gray, Damon Stewart and family, Bob Rapp, Miles Smith and Emily Kent.

### Worship Leaders

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Rev. Dave Shull
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Connie Criswell
<b>Interpreter</b>	Emily Ott
<b>Reader</b>	Connie Criswell
<b>Cantor</b>	Connie Criswell
<b>Organist</b>	Kathy Rapp
<b>Pianist</b>	Karen Kent
<b>Verger</b>	Michelle Clemence
<b>Usher</b>	Judith Bird
<b>Producers</b>	Michele Disbro, Sue Yehling

*Flowers are dedicated by **Judith and Ashley Bird**, celebrating **Matt's** birthday.  
Noisy Offering will be for ELCA Disaster Relief*

**Sunday Faith Exploration Class**  
*The class is on hiatus until Sunday, Sept. 12.*

**This Week at Redeemer**  
**August 24 - 30, 2021**

<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study Remembrance of Bernice Stewart
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	1:30 p.m.	Stewardship Team
	7:00 p.m.	Anti-Racism Group
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	10:00 a.m.	RLC Garden Give Away
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	10:00 a.m.	<b>IN-PERSON</b> and <b>LIVESTREAM</b> Worship with Holy Communion
	2:00 p.m.	<b>Redeemer Kids Fest</b>

**Redeemer's mission:** To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all  
**Redeemer's vision:** To foster understanding and healing in community