



Reflections

VOLUME 25

August 30, 2021

ISSUE 34

A Joy to Share

I wanted to let you know that doing online dating during a pandemic isn't always a totally futile process. At least for me, it has brought a great joy I wish to share with you.

On July 5, 2020, I had a first date with a man named **Mike**. At the end of that four-hour time of outdoor eating and walking, each of us said to the other, "This was unexpected. This was good!" And the past 13 months have only confirmed what we felt. We are creating something life-giving and beautiful.

After the new year we started talking about living together. For most people, such an exciting prospect wouldn't have to include a conversation with people you work for. But pastors have ethical requirements we have promised to follow, and these include whether or not it is permissible for pastors to live with a partner to whom they're not married.

So I contacted **Southern Ohio Synod Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt**. I told her about Mike and me and our hopes to live together. I asked her if I was subject to the clergy ethical standards of the United Church of Christ (UCC), which is the body that ordained me, or if I'm subject to the standards of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which, of course, is the denomination I'm serving. I told her I know that I would be in compliance with the standards for the UCC, which state that pastors can live with a partner as long as both parties are adults and both fully want to be in the relationship, and as long as the partner isn't involved in the church the pastor is serving. But I needed to know what my status was.

Bishop Dillahunt told me she'd never been asked that question. So she checked with the person in the national office of the ELCA who deals with the ELCA's agreement with the denominations whose pastors can serve ELCA congregations. After she talked with that person, she sent me this email:

I have heard back from ELCA, and you have done what you need to do. You informed me. And since you have been sent to us from the UCC, you are under the discipline of the sending body. If you are in compliance with the UCC then I'm good with this and happily can say blessings as this relationship grows in love and care for each other.

If anyone asks me about this I can say you are in compliance with the UCC ethics.

So Mike and I are now sharing my home, along with his 10-year-old Australian Shepherd/Pitbull mix, Isabelle, who is totally sweet and licks like there's no tomorrow.

As soon as Mike moved in, I let Redeemer's Mutual Ministry team and Church Council know. I am deeply grateful for their support and their commitment to letting me decide when to share this news. I wanted to wait to tell you until Mike and I felt solid this relationship. We just spent two weeks together in the Pacific Northwest. People say if a couple can travel together and deal with all the

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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

Update on Worship Protocol: *Love Your Neighbor*

- * We strongly encourage all people to wear masks in worship and in other larger group settings.
- * Both sides of the sanctuary are set up for social distancing.
- * Those who wish may stand during the opening and closing hymns and the reading of the Gospel.
- * During the passing of the peace, we suggest you wave or place your palms together under your chin in the “namaste” posture as a way to share the peace in a distanced way.
- * Individual communion elements are available to pick up insider the Sanctuary 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.

Don Luck: *Re-introducing Jesus*

Don Luck, professor emeritus of systematic theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary will present a four-part exploration of the person and significance of **Jesus** that reflects contemporary biblical and theological scholarship and that reaches beyond popular assumptions by many both within and outside the Christian community. Come and be surprised starting on **Sunday September 12** from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in Room 2 and on Zoom

Here are the themes he will be addressing over the four weeks:

September 12: Re-introducing the Jewish Jesus. People inside and outside the church forget that Jesus was not a Christian He was thoroughly Jewish -- but expressed in a radical form of its prophetic tradition. Dr. Luck invites you to meet **Rabbi Yeshua bar Yusef**.

September 19: Re-introducing Jesus as ‘Son of God.’ What happens when we begin not with a divine reality [“the Eternal ‘Son’”] but the thoroughly human Jesus and some Jewish assumptions? Dr. Luck points to Jesus “here on earth” in order to properly understand references to “the Son” who came “down from heaven.”

September 26: Re-introducing Jesus and the Trinity. Because Jesus and God are firmly linked, Christian language about God gets complicated. The result sounds like an exotic – if not irrational – mathematical formula to be taken “on faith.” Dr. Luck will explore the meaning of God’s “tri-unity.”

October 2: Re-introducing Jesus and Non-Christians. Numbers of informed voices in the Christian community are challenging St. Cyprian’s assertion that “No one can have God as Father without having the Church as Mother.” Find out why and how.

Looking Ahead to Fall

Sunday, September 12 kicks many of the activities here at the including the Blessing of the Backpacks, Bible presentations and the opening day for the Youth Sunday School.

See separate articles, this *Reflections*, for other fall activities including the opening of Adult Sunday School, the resumption of the Tuesday Bible Study on **Tuesday, September 7**, and the Good Neighbors Picnic on **Saturday, September 25**.

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.

CROP Walk Seeks Donations Now to Aid Haiti

The CROP Walk, scheduled for **Sunday, October 3** this year, is rapidly approaching!! Walking this year are **Connie Criswell, Heidi Sherer, Wendy Stoica** 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>

While the walk is set for October, donations are being sought now for assisting people in Haiti following the devastating earthquake on the island.

Donations can be made online at the above address or via cash or checks made out to CWS/CROP and given to any of the walkers.

Tuesday Bible Study on Hiatus for August

The Tuesday 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.

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 McCulley** 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.

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.

A Joy to Share *cont'd from p. 1*

uncertainties that brings up and come home still liking each other, that's a very good sign. And that's the case. So I'm letting you know of this deeply unexpected joy.

Mike works for the city of Delaware in their information technology office. He spent his childhood between Chicago and Detroit, and has lived in the area for over 20 years. We have honest conversations and laugh a lot.

Over the years, Mom kept telling me she hoped I'd find someone to share my life with. She died exactly a week after our first date. While I'd have loved for her to meet Mike, there's something sacred about this timing. She is part of the birth of this relationship. Part of the joy Mike and I share. Part of the joy I share with you.

Dave Shull

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 are asked for the aunt and uncle of **Mike Shugert, Jim** and **Livvy Schleicher** who are dealing with COVID-19. Prayers for healing continue to be asked for **Emily Kent** as she deals with COVID and for **Kathy Rapp's** husband **Bob** as he was hospitalized with a fever and pneumonia following surgery. Prayers of thanksgiving are asked as **Miles Smith** can return to school this week, also following a bout of COVID, and for **Skye Andree** who is helping her mother **Paula Carson** while she recovers from Achilles surgery. Prayers of thanksgiving are asked on behalf of **Cora Marquez** following a brief stay in the hospital after suffering a seizure.

Prayers for healing are also needed for **Betty Weaver**, sister of **Kathie** and **Nancy Ehrich** and a former Redeemer member, who has been diagnosed with jaundice and who will be having major surgery on **Friday, September 3**.

+ + +

Membership Directory Update: Elyce Herring has a new address: 2483 Burgandy Lane, Columbus 43232-7205.

Barbara and Ron Willmann have a new address: 612 E. 17th St., Waverly OH, 45690-1563.

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 Birthday

31-Lynn Belhorn

September Birthdays

1-Joanie Engel 5-Trina Thornton
7-Bonnie Hegreiness 8-Julie Boreman
8-Tom Kent 8-Andrea Steiner
13-Ashley Bird 14-Elyce Herring
15-Kris Kauffman 15-Nancy Stinson
16-Grace Binau 16-Michele Disbro
16-Oliver Glover-Oakleaf 20-Paula Carson
21-Jenny Peresta 22-Adam Darst
24-Sheryl Owens 27-Becky Fisher
28-Faith Wick 29-Jennifer Young

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

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 5, 2021

Lessons

Readings: James 2:1-4, 14-17; Psalm 146; Mark 7:24-30

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Grace Lutheran Church, Centerburg

+ For Redeemer community member Dora Pinder

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, Kathie Ehrich's sister Betty Weaver, Mike Shugert's aunt and uncle Livvy and Jim Schleicher.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Rev. Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Michelle Clemence
Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Reader	Michelle Clemence
Cantor	Jennifer Young
Organist	Kathy Rapp
Pianist	Karen Kent
Verger	Wendy Stoica
Usher	Jon Disbro
Producers	Michele Disbro, Scott Steiner

*Flowers are dedicated by Nancy Steiner, celebrating Andrea'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 31 – September 6, 2021

Wednesday

1:00 p.m. **RLC at LSS Food Pantry**
7:00 p.m. Sister Act Planning for October Retreat on Zoom

Saturday

10:00 a.m. RLC Garden Give Away

Sunday

10:00 a.m. **IN-PERSON** and **LIVESTREAM** Worship with Holy Communion

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