



Reflections

VOLUME 25

December 6, 2021

ISSUE 48

Giving God's Children a Place to Lay Their Heads

The front page of Friday's *Columbus Dispatch* showed a photo of some joyful newly-arrived refugees from Afghanistan celebrating their first Thanksgiving in Columbus: **Naseer Durrani** is a journalist who was a vocal critic of the Taliban. **Sajida Saafi** has a master's degree in political science and was a teacher and advocate for women's rights. In spite of their desire to stay in their home country and continue to try to create a truly democratic Afghanistan, they knew they would be at tremendous risk of persecution and even death were they to stay under a Taliban government. They were at the airport hoping to be let onto a flight when the suicide bomb attack that killed over 100 people happened only 150 feet from their bus. When they were finally able to get onto a plane, they had to leave all of their luggage behind, as well as two family members who were denied spaces on the plane.

This couple are two of the 350 Afghan refugees set to be resettled in Columbus. The primary organization overseeing the resettlement is Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS). Agencies like CRIS have received federal grants to support temporary housing for new arrivals. CRIS also helps refugees connect with their new neighborhoods, fill out government paperwork, and find jobs, permanent, housing, and other needs. Each refugee receives a one-time federal check for \$1,225.

Needless to say, CRIS is looking for people who want to offer financial support to these families, many of whom, like Durrani and Saafi, had to leave all of their possessions behind. One of the items CRIS is asking for is beds. Their website has links to Target, Walmart, and Amazon, which offer a single bedframe and mattress for less than \$200. **As a way to show a compassionate welcome to people who have been severely traumatized and who find themselves in a place they never expected to be, the Outreach team of Redeemer invites you to contribute to our efforts to provide as many beds as we can.**

When he is talking about the journey of discipleship, **Jesus** tells his followers, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Human One has nowhere to lay his head." These new neighbors have gone through experiences only other refugees can imagine. What a gift and grace it is for us to be able to offer them comfortable places to lay their heads so they can get good rest and have the energy to face what lies before them.

You can give to this fund in whatever ways you normally give to the church: Just indicate that your contribution is for CRIS or Afghan refugees. We will be collecting funds through **Sunday, January 9**, the Sunday after Epiphany. We'll let you know how many beds we've been able to purchase to offer rest for weary and beautiful heads.

Thank you.

Dave Shull

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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

RLC's Current Worship Protocol: *Love Your Neighbor*

- * Masks are required 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 inside 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.
- * Please put cellphones on "airplane mode."

Children's Christmas Program Set for Dec. 19; Rehearsal on Dec. 12

Just like everything else nowadays, COVID has caused events to change up a bit. Redeemer's annual children's Christmas program is no exception. Last year, the children created a great video of the Christmas story. This year they will be performing the children's Christmas program, *The Friendly Beasts AND the Friendly Kids*, during the 10 a.m. church service on **Sunday, December 19**.

Plan now to join us for a heartfelt message about the gifts we bring to the world!

Parents of all youth, please plan to bring your children to our rehearsal on **Sunday, December 12** during the Sunday School hour following the 10 a.m. church service.

Looking for One More Volunteer to Share Reflection during Mid-Week Advent Service on Dec. 22

At the beginning of the Holden Evening Prayer service which Redeemer does Wednesday nights during Advent, the cantor sings, "Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world," and the congregation responds, "the light no darkness can overcome." It is the promise that moves us through this Advent season: Light.

There is a place in this service for a member or friend of the congregation to offer a brief story – five minutes or so. This Advent, consider sharing a story that speaks to this opening sentence. When is a time in your life you needed light – a time you were lost, stuck, confused, afraid, overwhelmed? How did light come for you? What difference did that light make? What was possible that wasn't before? How does the coming of that light affect how you move through this season of Advent?

If this topic stirs a memory or story, please contact **Dave Shull** or sign up on the sign-up sheet in the hallway outside the Library. One more volunteer is needed for **December 22**.

"Don't underestimate the power your story has to touch us deeply and bring this season alive for us!"

The Wednesday evening Advent service continues this week on **December 8**.

Sister Act Sets Christmas Brunch

All women of the congregation are invited to a Christmas brunch organized by Sister Act on **Saturday, December 11** at the Woodbury (215 E. Town St.) beginning at 10 a.m. Those planning to attend should contact **Kay Ernsthansen** at KErnie032000@yahoo.com or by calling 614-288-8506 by **Tuesday, December 7**.

Sister Act Adopts Two Families for Christmas

Sister Act is coordinating gift cards for two families of students at Berwick School for Christmas. Due to the holiday and personal travel we do not have more information on the families at this time. Details about the families will be available next Sunday morning, December 5, and in next week's *Reflections*.

LSS Reports 3,000 Families Helped at Thanksgiving

"What an incredible Thankfull holiday we had this year!" reported **Benjamin Powers** of Lutheran Social Services (LSS). They went on to say that churches combined to provide over 1,500 bags full of

Thanksgiving dinner fixings, that more than 50 volunteers assisted, and that there were significant financial contributions.

“We are grateful for each church that participated as we served nearly 3,000 families during our distributions throughout Central and Southeast Ohio. ...

“Thank you again for helping make possible plentiful Thanksgiving meals for so many families in need. We are incredibly grateful for your generous support!”

Adult Ed Discusses Gospel Narratives around Jesus' Birth

The Adult Education Class continues to discuss *How do the Gospels talk about the advent and birth of Jesus?* at its next meeting on **Sunday, December 12**. It begins at 11:15 a.m. and will be held both in-person and on Zoom.

To join the group via Zoom, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 822 5653 9706; Passcode: 804399. To participate by phone, call 312-626-6799. If you don't have the Zoom app, you can join the meeting by copying and pasting the following web address in your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82256539706?pwd=Yjd4Q2VPWk93RVczSng4NE5GOURmQT09>.

Advent Devotional Booklets Available in Narthex

Redeemer's 2021 *Advent Devotional Booklet* is now available for pick up in the Narthex. It can be found in both regular and large print versions. You may request a copy to be mailed by contacting the office. The devotions are also available for download on the Redeemer website: www.RedeemerLuth.com.

Those who would like to receive a daily email with that day's devotion should contact the office. If anyone would like a print version mailed to them, please let the office know.

Noisy Offering Goes to ELCA World Hunger

For now until Epiphany, the “Noisy Offering” – that is the offering of loose or “noisy” change made during communion – will go to ELCA World Hunger.

Working with and through ELCA congregations (in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, gifts to ELCA World Hunger enable the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, ELCA World Hunger meets basic needs and recognizes the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change is fostered. To learn more, go to elca.org/hunger.

Report from BREAD Annual Assembly

A total of 14 members and friends from Redeemer attended BREAD's annual assembly on **Monday, November 15**.

First, the presenters reported on a recent win by the organization where Columbus City schools agreed to train all their Student Safety Resource personnel in Restorative Practice training. Restorative Practices is a program that's an alternative to the 20,000 out-of-school suspensions handed out every year to Columbus Public School students. A current Study Safety Resource person gave her personal story of what a positive difference has made with the students.

Another win was reported from the Gun Violence Research Committee. Columbus City Council invested \$80,000 in 2020 for a contract with the National Network for Safe Communities to make 2022 a safer year for Columbus residents.

They reported on the results of the 2021 Listening Process which included 120 House meetings (six at Redeemer) and 1,000 people engaged. The top three problems that people discussed were

neighborhood safety, mental health and environmental injustice. The people in attendance who have committed to BREAD ("Network Members") voted that the next issue BREAD will work on is environmental injustice.

The next steps in the yearly cycle of BREAD are the following: 1. Research committees to learn about the issues and evaluate solutions; and 2. Faith communities to build their networks because BREAD is only able to make a difference when they have people power to influence decision makers.

If any of these existing program priorities, or if the new issue of environmental injustice, are something that you have a special connection to, you can contact one of Redeemer's BREAD Team members to talk about getting involved. Those team members include **Sue Watson, Pastor Dave Shull, Emily Ott, Kristi Hildebrand, Michele Disbro and Kathy Zwanziger.**

Upcoming BREAD Dates

Research Kick-Off: **Monday, December 6, 2021** at 7 p.m.

Redeemer Network Meeting: TBD February 2022

Rally: **Monday, April 11, 2022** at 7 p.m.

Nehemiah Action: **Tuesday, May 10, 2022**, 6:15 p.m. Registration: Celeste Center

Justice Ministry Celebration: Monday, June 27 at 7 p.m.

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Dec. 7

The Tuesday Bible Study continues its study of Jesus' parables on **Tuesday, December 7**. It meets both in-person here at church and on Zoom from 1-2:30 p.m.

To join the group via Zoom, 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 pasting the following web address in your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87137366983?pwd=T0NoUU5ORmNYNlYrajhpZ2hGR09pdz09>.

2022 Flower Chart Available

Have an event to celebrate or remember? Somebody's birthday to recognize? The chart to sign up for flowers for Sunday services in 2022 is now on the bulletin board next to the library.

Flowers run \$20 and can be paid ahead of the date by using the envelopes that are also available on the bulletin board. The envelope provides additional space for spelling out the designation – information that is shared in *Reflections* and the Sunday bulletin.

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.

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 **Trina Shields**, the step-granddaughter of **Ruth Murray** who is dealing with the effects of COVID-19 and is on a ventilator. Prayers continue to be asked for **Pastor Al Debelak** who is dealing with an infection in his spine and for **Ashley Bird** who will have his second cataract surgery this week.

Last Week for Free Furniture Offer

Karen Kent has an assortment of gently-used furniture that just doesn't fit in her small condo, available FREE to anyone who needs it. All you have to do is pick it up! If you're interested in any of these items, call Karen at 614-604-6960.

- Loveseat - Green/Burgundy/Tan plaid
- Loveseat cover - Solid Green
- Rocking Chair and Footstool - Dark Wood with Green cushions
- La-Z-Boy Recliner - Tan (with flip-up arm and secret compartment!)
- Bar-Height Chair - Burgundy with Black legs
- Massage Chair - Black
- Bathroom Floor Cabinet - White
- Round 4' Patio Table - Tan with partially painted mosaic-look top, with center hole for umbrella
- (2) 14-inch Square Wicker Baskets
- Car Booster Seat - Spiderman (Miles has outgrown it 😊)
- Rolling Laundry Sorter with 3 detachable laundry bags and hanging rod
- Dog Crate/End Table Combo - Dark Brown with Silver
- Dog Crate - Black Metal
- Dog Cushion that fits in either Crate
- 2 sets of pet steps (one is 3-steps/fleece-covered, one is 4 steps/plastic with stair treads)

Updated Redeemer Directory Available

Redeemer's Directory of members has been updated. To receive an electronic copy or to have a hard copy mailed to you, please contact the church office at 614-237-1263 or via email to info@redeemerluth.com. Hard copies are available at the church and can be found under the bulletin board in the hallway off the Narthex.

December Birthdays

6-Izzy Skoog 6-Sophie Skoog
8-Payton Friederich 8-Bob Rapp
10-Eric Hutton 15-Mindy Eakin
19-Darren Baldogo 19-Joe Darst
19-Novella Hinkle 21 Kolya Larson
24-Julie Johnson 25-Doug Eakin
26-Emily Kent 27-Sue Darst

27-Paul Ritter 29-Tom Comstock
31-John Kennedy 31-Emma Martin

The Wider Church

ELCA Women Sponsor 'Blue' Christmas Service

The Women of the ELCA, looking to promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world, are sponsoring an online "Blue" Christmas service on **Tuesday, December 21** – the longest night of the year – for those experiencing grief, fear or loss this Christmas season. It begins at 8 p.m. EST.

To register for the Zoom service, go to <https://tinyurl.com/3dwxcv9u>.

IACO to Hold Prayer Gathering on Dec. 12

The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO) is sponsoring a Prayer Gathering on **Sunday, December 12** beginning at 3 p.m. at St. Thomas More Newman Center (64 W. Lane Ave.) near the OSU campus. The event will also be livestreamed on the IACO Facebook page.

The service will include reflections from the nine faith traditions that are part of IACO.

Getting Ready for Sunday

Third Sunday in Advent, December 12, 2021 Lessons

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 3:7-20

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Hilliard.

+ For Redeemer community member Georgene Slagle.

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, Shirley and Jack Miller, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling's sister Val, 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, Damon Stewart, Kathie Ehrich's sister Betty Weaver, Chad Eberle's mother, Nancy Stinson and family on the death of her brother Tom Starkey, Emily Kent, Nancy Steiner.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Emily Ott
Reader	Danica Dennis
Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Crucifer	Skye Andree
Cantor	Emily Kent
Organist	Kathy Rapp

Pianist
Verger
Usher
Producer

Karen Kent
Michelle Clemence
Ruth Murray
Scott Steiner, Michele Disbro

Flowers are given by the Kathleen Zwanziger in honor of Eric Hutton's birthday
Noisy Offering will be for ELCA World Hunger

Sunday Faith Exploration Class

Adult Education: How do the Gospels talk about the advent and birth of Jesus?

Led by Pastor Dave

This Week at Redeemer **December 7 – December 13, 2021**

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & ZOOM Bible Study
<u>Wednesday</u>	5:00 p.m.	ZOOM Outreach Team
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM Advent Service
<u>Thursday</u>	6:30 p.m.	Caregivers Support Group
<u>Sunday</u>	8:45 a.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON & ZOOM –Education for ALL ages
	11:15 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal

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