



Reflections

VOLUME 25

December 13, 2021

ISSUE 49

Holiday Worship



Wednesdays, December 15 and 22

Holden Evening Prayer

In-Person and Livestream

7 p.m.

Sunday, December 19

Sunday School Christmas Program

In-Person and Livestream

During 10 a.m. worship



Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship

In-Person and Livestream

7 p.m.

Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship

In-Person only

10 a.m.

Sunday, December 26

First Sunday of Christmas

In-Person and Livestream

10 a.m.

Zoom link for worship services:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7sGE88YUjRLWuGWO0sS-yw>

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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."**

Come One Come All: RLC's Children's Christmas Program on Dec. 19

Plan now to attend the **Sunday, December 19** production of Redeemer's 2021 Christmas pageant *The Friendly Beasts AND the Friendly Kids* by the youth of the congregation. It will be performed **during** the 10 a.m. church service.

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

Offering Envelopes

The Stewardship Team has renewed the agreement to send out offering envelopes by mail every other month in 2022. If you currently receive the envelopes but don't plan to use them, please let the office know. Also let the office know if you don't receive the envelopes but would like to.

The team greatly appreciates the continuing faithfulness of members and friends in supporting Redeemer financially.

Looking for One More Volunteer to Share Reflection during Final 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 15**.

Sister Act Adopts Family for Christmas

Sister Act is coordinating contributions for a family of students at Berwick School for Christmas. This year contributions of cash are sought so that food and other items for direct assistance for the family can be purchased. To contribute, see **Michele Disbro, Julie Johnson** or **Sara Auman**.

Contributions Sought for Beds for Afghan Refugees

As noted in the December 6 issue of *Reflections*, the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) is seeking monetary assistance to help meet the needs of approximately 350 Afghan refugees being settled here in Columbus.

Redeemer's Outreach Team invites members to help with the purchase of beds by making a contribution between now and **Sunday, January 9**, designating it for CRIS/Afghan refugees and placing it in the offering plate.

Adult Ed Concludes Discussion of Gospel Narratives of Jesus' Birth

The Adult Education Class will conclude its discussion of *How do the Gospels talk about the advent and birth of Jesus?* at its next meeting on **Sunday, December 19**. 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>.

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.

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Dec. 14

The Tuesday Bible Study continues its study of Jesus' parables on **Tuesday, December 14**. 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=T0NoUU5ORmNYN1YrajhpZ2hGR09pdz09>.

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.

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!”

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

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.

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 of thanksgiving are asked for the recovery of **Trina Shields**, the step-granddaughter of **Ruth Murray** who is dealing with the effects of COVID-19 and was on a ventilator. Prayers for healing are asked for **Barbara Hairston** as she broke her ankle after she and her husband were in an auto accident where they were not hurt. Prayers for healing continue to be asked for **Pastor Al Debelak** who is dealing with an infection.

+ + +

Nancy Steiner, noting that she is doing much better, thanks everyone for their prayers and concern. "God is good."

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

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

Lutheran Disaster Relief Helping Victims of Tornadoes

On the night of December 10 and early morning of December 11, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR) reports that 94 people are dead across five states, more than 80 of those in Kentucky. For those unaccounted for, search-and-rescue operations are underway. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and over 300,000 people were without electricity.

Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Your gifts to support these response efforts will empower our partners to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs. Given the extent of the damage, recovery will take years as thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt or repaired. With your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can accompany survivors on the long road to recovery.

Gifts to "U.S. Tornadoes" will be used in full (100 percent) to help people impacted by the tornadoes until the response is complete. "The season of Advent is a time of hope as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Right now, we have an opportunity to share hope with our neighbors in their time of greatest need. Please join me in prayer and consider giving if you are able."

To give, go to the LDR webpage at <https://tinyurl.com/y5vuwz2y>.

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>.

Getting Ready for Sunday

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 19, 2021 Lessons

Readings: Micah 5:2-5; Psalm 104:1, 10-22, 33; Luke 1:39-45

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of St John Lutheran Church, London.

+ For Redeemer community member Lea Spang.

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 Hegreiness, 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, Pastor Al Debelak, Bruce Collins, Ashley Bird.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Jon Disbro
Reader	Kathryn Ott
Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Crucifer	Skye Andree
Cantor	Mary Benis
Organist	Kathy Rapp
Pianist	Karen Kent
Verger	Wendy Stoica
Usher	Sue Watson
Producer	Tom Mimlitch, Sue Yehling

*Flowers are given by Rebecca Waston
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 14 – December 20, 2021

<u>Tuesday</u>	11:00 a.m.	Member Care
	1:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & ZOOM Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM A Brewing Faith
	7:30 p.m.	Congregation Council
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 p.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM Advent Service
<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 – Adult Education
	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