



Reflections

VOLUME 26

January 3, 2022

ISSUE 1

Examining Christian Attitudes toward Heaven, Hell, and Salvation

I wasn't planning on this being the topic of the first *Reflections* front page article of the new year. But when I decided to focus on this topic as the next Sunday adult education series, I thought it might make sense

The Pew Research Center is an organization that collects loads of survey materials around religion in the United States. In September, Pew released the results of surveys they'd done on what Christians in this country believe about heaven and hell. Among the findings:

- Nationwide, 62 percent of all Americans, regardless of religious affiliation, believe in a literal hell.
- 91 percent of those who identify as evangelical Christians believe in a literal hell.
- Mainline Protestants (Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, etc.) are the least likely among Christian groups to believe in hell, with 69 percent saying they did.
- Black Christians and Republicans are most likely to believe in hell.
- 65 percent of women surveyed believe in hell; 59 percent of men do.
- 26 percent of agnostics believe in heaven while 14 percent believe in hell. Among those who believe in "nothing in particular," 50 percent believe in heaven and 39 percent believe in hell.
- 39 percent of Americans are sure that those who do not believe in God can go to heaven.
- Among American Christians, Roman Catholics (68 percent) are the most likely to say those who do not believe in God may be admitted to heaven.
- Compared to Roman Catholics, only 34 percent of all Protestants believe those who don't believe in God can go to heaven; 21 percent of evangelical Protestants believe this, 56 percent of mainline Protestants believe this, and 31 percent of those in historically black Protestant churches believe this.
- Looking at the flip side of this question, 20 percent of Catholics say unbelievers cannot get to heaven. But 56 percent of all Protestants say unbelievers cannot get to heaven. However, there are large differences among different Protestant groups: 71 percent of evangelicals are sure those who do not believe in God cannot go to heaven; 59 percent of those in historically black Protestant denominations believe this; and 30 percent of those in mainline Protestant congregations believe this.

What do you believe about heaven, hell, and salvation? What do you base those beliefs on? How different are they from anything you were taught about these issues growing up? Have your beliefs changed as an adult?

Numbers like these make it hard to imagine how we talk about *the* Christian church, or talk about what *Christians* believe about anything. We sing songs like, "We are one in the Spirit." And yet, are we one? What makes us one when we have such widely different beliefs about core issues such as these?

If you'd like to explore these questions with others at Redeemer, come to Room 2 this Sunday after worship at 11:15 a.m. Our new series of classes is focused on the book, *That All Shall be Saved: Heaven, Hell, and Universal Salvation*. Join us in-person or on Zoom.

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."**

Volunteers Needed to Help at Food Pantry on Jan. 5

Volunteers are needed to fill out Redeemer's team for when it next serves at the Lutheran Services Food Pantry this **Wednesday, January 5** from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Please let **Kathy Zwanziger** know if this is something you can do. She can be emailed at kzwanosu69@gmail.com.

Adult Ed Resumes Jan. 9 on Heaven, Hell, and Universal Salvation

Basil of Caesarea, a highly-respected fourth-century Christian leader, said in his day, most Christians believed that hell was not everlasting, and that all would eventually attain salvation. Today, this is not what most Christians believe.

If questions around heaven, hell, and salvation are ones you find yourself wondering about or in conversation around, come to the Sunday class starting **January 9** at 11:15 a.m., either in-person or on Zoom. **Pastor Dave Shull** will lead the exploration of these questions, drawing from the 2019 book *That All Shall be Saved* by **David Bentley Hart**.

RLC Serves at First English on Jan. 13

Redeemer will be serving dinner at First English on **Thursday, January 13**. The menu will be the Sloppy Joe dinner consisting of Sloppy Joe sandwiches, fruit cups, chips, dessert, and Belvita snacks. Still needed are eight dozen (96) individually wrapped deserts and six two-pound batches of Sloppy Joes.

If anyone can help provide any of these items, please contact **Kay Ernsthausen** at 614-291-8655 (call or text) or email @ kernie032000@yahoo.com.

Sister Act Raises \$750 for Berwick Family

Sister Act raised just over \$750 to buy gifts and food for a second grader from Berwick Elementary and his family for Christmas. **Julie Johnson** reports, "We were able to get a good selection of toys for the second grader including a youth size basketball, Lego sets, a remote-controlled car and more. He also got a winter coat, hat, gloves, pants, tops, socks and a pair of sneakers.

Thank you to all who made this possible!



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.

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.

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 Resumes Jan. 4

The Tuesday Bible Study will resume its study of Jesus' parables on **Tuesday, January 4**. The group meets in-person here at Redeemer 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: 881 4197 0483; Passcode: 646129. 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/88141970483?pwd=L1RkZ3F2UVlhSWIRWS85ZkFjS3NHUT09>.

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 **Kathy Zwanziger** following a surgical procedure last week and continue to be asked for **Pastor Al Debelak** who is dealing with an infection.

Member Directory Update: Karen Collins can be emailed at kkcollins211@gmail.com while Bruce Collins can be reached at bcollins@insight.rr.com. **Meanwhile, Redeemer will be printing the 2022 Directory to distribute on January 9. If anyone has updates or corrections to your listing, please let the office know by Tuesday, January 4.**

January Birthdays

4-Kristen Ullman 5-Tamara Wawrosch
9-Marques Highland 13-Michelle Skoog
16-Melissa Vivens 18-Gary Pawlowski
20-David Detweiler 20-Corinne Montgomery
20-Tony Naess 20-Eric Vivens
21-Elizabeth George 21-Shirley Miller
22-Maureen Callahan 22-Shirley Cannon
24-Marshall Edgington 24-Sophie Brush
24-Kathy Rapp 24-Heath Wolfe
25-Rosalie Highland 26-Jeff Montgomery
28-Bebe McCoy

The Wider Church

Seminary Sponsors 'Nelson Trout Lectures' Jan. 20-21

Trinity Seminary is sponsoring the 2022 Nelson Trout Lectures on **Thursday** and **Friday, January 20-21**. This year's theme is "Excavating and (Re)Forming Leadership from within the Community" with presentations by **Bishop Yehiel Curry** on both days. He will speak at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, preach that evening at the 7 p.m. worship and speak again on Friday at 10 a.m.

There is no cost to attend the lectures or lunch. For more information and to register, go to www.capital.edu/trout-lectures/.

Getting Ready for Worship

Baptism of Our Lord, January 9, 2021

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Luke 3:15-22

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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 St Mark's Lutheran Church, Delaware.

+ For Redeemer community member Nancy Stinson

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, Pastor Al Debelak, Bruce Collins.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Julianne Johnson
Reader	Julianne Johnson
Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Crucifer	Skye Andree
Cantor	Jennifer Young
Organist	Kathy Rapp
Pianist	Karen Kent
Verger	Michelle Clemence
Usher	Neil Hoddinott
Producer	Michele Disbro, Tom Mimlitch

*Flowers are given by Heidi Sherer in honor of her father's 80th birthday
Noisy Offering will be for ELCA World Hunger*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer January 4 – January 10, 2022

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & ZOOM Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	A Brewing Faith on ZOOM
<u>Wednesday</u>	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM BREAD meeting
<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 – 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