



# Reflections

VOLUME 26

January 17, 2022

ISSUE 3

## Meet RLC's Learning-in-Context Student: Adam Howard

Hi! My name is **Adam Howard**. I grew up in Pickerington, OH, with my mom, my dad, and my big sister Lea. I was not raised Christian. My dad is an atheist and my mom has only recently started truly believing in Christ.

I've been playing music since I was 8 years old, starting with piano and moving to drum set and finally moving onto my true musical love, the euphonium. I wanted to play the bassoon, but I didn't know what it was called, so I said "Fine, give me a tuba," and they gave me a euphonium, and I fell in love. My entire high school experience is based around band. I moved on to college with the intention of getting a Bachelor of Music in euphonium performance. I got pretty far, but I found myself failing music history, so I switched to the Bachelor of Arts in Music so that I wouldn't need that course.

I came to know Christ my junior year of college. I had just come out of the closet to my parents, and I was having a difficult time accepting myself and my life and my circumstances. I ended up disappearing for a few weeks, and my friend Jon from jazz band reached out to make sure I was okay, and when he learned I wasn't, he taught me about Jesus, and how incredibly loved I am. He not only accepted me, but he affirmed me. For the first time in my life, through Christ, I felt loved. I knew that I had been knit together, queerness and all, in my mother's womb, and the greatest of all things is love. Thus, I fell in love with being Christian. I started taking religion classes and actually minored in religion. Through that, I discovered a call to ministry. After all, who better to minister than a gay transgender man who only recently discovered Christ?

Out of fear, I took three years off to work at FedEx. I am eternally grateful to them for giving me enough self-confidence to know who I am and what I'm about enough to survive, and maybe even thrive, in ministry. After breaking six bones and permanently damaging my wrists and shoulder, I decided it was time to quit working at FedEx and begin my goal towards ministry. Now, I am a first-year student at Trinity Lutheran Seminary working towards my Master of Divinity with the goal of being a hospital chaplain in the future. I believe I can help care for the souls of those who are in a similar headspace as I was when I first met Jesus. I am experienced in navigating that Exodus-like space of hospital life, that time between times, that place between places, where the culture and the body change forever. I want to help people through that. My favorite class in seminary so far is Hebrew, which gave me a much deeper understanding of the language and therefore the world in and around which the Old Testament takes place and was written.

I currently live in Grove City with my fiancé Christopher and our three cats, Princess, Lady, and Loki. Feel free to ask for photos of them but be warned, if you do, I will talk your ear off about them. I will be working with you all for three semesters, which means I'll be here until April 2023. I am so excited to get to know you all and to learn in context the ways of pastoral ministry!

*Adam Howard*

## In This Issue

[Meet RLC's Learning-in-Context Student: Adam Howard](#)

[The Redeemer Community](#)

[The Wider Church](#)

[The Community Beyond](#)

[Prayers & Personals](#)

[Getting Ready for Sunday](#)

### 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

### 2022

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

President - Wendy Stoica

Vice President -

Finance Officer - Nathan Ott

Secretary - Margie Farnham

Worship - Jennifer Young

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

#### 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](http://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 silence cellphones."

### RLC Annual Meeting Set for Jan. 23

This year, Redeemer will hold its annual meeting on **Sunday, January 23** at 11 a.m., immediately following worship. The meeting will be both in-person and on Zoom.

This year's agenda includes the election of **Michelle Disbro** as vice president. She joins others recently elected to the 2022 Church Council who include the following:

- Finance Officer – **Nathan Ott**
- Member Care – **Elyce Herring**
- Property – **Sue Yehling**
- Worship – **Jennifer Young**
- Special Funds Team – **Dave Engel**

Returning council members include

- President – **Wendy Stoica**
- Secretary – **Margie Farnham**
- Education – **Krista Skipper**
- Outreach – **Sue Watson**
- Stewardship – **Laura Warren**

Special Funds Team members continuing are **Michelle Clemence, Nancy Magargal, Jim Riley** and **Terry Warren**.

The agenda also includes approval of the 2022 budget and approval of the Special Funds Team/Church Council recommendation regarding distribution of the Mission Endowment dividends.

Copies of the **Annual Report** for pick up are available in the Narthex. To have a copy mailed or emailed to you, call the church office at 61-237-1263. Also available is the **2022 Directory**.

To join the Zoom meeting, go to the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87800689846?pwd=SDM1Ty9Pb2UxT2xaOXVBMVdSWFpvQT09>; Meeting ID: 878 0068 9846; Passcode: 694722; Phone only: 1-312-626-6799.

### Sister Act Hosts Event on Medical Ethics

To kick off their year of being "Joyful Revolutionaries," Sister Act will be hosting an event on medical ethics on **Wednesday, January 19** at 6:30 p.m. All women in the congregation are invited to join us as **Dr. Mobin-Uddin** shares information surrounding many difficult medical decisions. There will also be a Q&A time so bring questions!

This event will be in a hybrid fashion. You may join us in person (wearing your masks) in Room 2 (Adult Sunday School room) or connect over Zoom at the link below. "We hope you can join us for a great opportunity to learn and discuss your concerns regarding medical decisions. If you have any questions, please contact **Ruth Murray** who is coordinating the event."

To join the meeting via Zoom go to the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87606212036?pwd=cGVsRjNOaXZ5VE5JRmJUSFFxM0RoZz09;> meeting ID: 876 0621 2036; Passcode: 411555.

## Narthex Update

**Julie Johnson** reports that, “Many have noticed changes in the Narthex. We had all enjoyed the sunflower artwork by Redeemer member **Donna Voelkel** for the past few years. These original pieces were on loan from Donna. One large piece was a print of an original piece. That piece will be displayed in **Pastor Dave’s** conference room. Donna had the opportunity to sell these pieces so we returned the originals to her. We are grateful to her for sharing them with us.

“So we have the opportunity to imagine new chapters for the Narthex. In order to do that we needed to refresh the space and adjoining areas with a new coat of paint. That work is now complete. Now we can dream!

“We have created a neutral palette for the next step. Some have commented about our painting over the stripes and symbol that were there before. Whatever we decide to do shouldn’t have to blend in. We heard from artists that artwork should be displayed on a neutral space. We chose a lighter color to brighten the space.

“One adult Sunday School class discussed images of Jesus we grew up with. Many of us had White European images of Jesus. An idea came up about bringing in different images of Jesus. When I imagine the Narthex I imagine it as a place that can change and can be an outgrowth of faithful discussions. What can you imagine? I encourage you to share ideas in the coming weeks and months and years.”

## Adult Ed Resumes Discussion of Heaven, Hell, Universal Salvation on Jan 30

Due to the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 23, the Sunday Adult Education Class will **NOT** meet on Sunday, January 23 but will resume on Sunday, January 30 to continue its discussion of questions around heaven, hell and salvation.

Pastor noted that **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 these are questions you find yourself wondering about or in conversation around, come to the Sunday class starting January 30 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**.

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>.

## Contributions Sought for Beds for Afghan Refugees

Redeemer’s campaign to support the Community Refugee and Immigration Services’ (CRIS) drive to help meet the needs of approximately 350 Afghan refugees being settled here in Columbus has been extended through Sunday, January 30.

Specifically, Redeemer’s Outreach Team invites members to help with the purchase of beds by making a contribution between now and Sunday, January 30, designating it for CRIS/Afghan refugees and placing it in the offering plate.

## Updated Version of *The Friendly Beasts*

The children's Christmas program this year recounted an updated version of the story, "The Friendly Beasts" as written by **Michele Disbro**. In response to requests for a copy of the revised words to Christmas classic, *Reflections* is reprinting them here:

Jesus our brother, strong and kind.

He lived his life with love in mind.

He spoke up against the wrongs he did find.

Jesus our brother, strong and kind.

I am the student who knows what is wrong.

I ignore the bully and don't go along.

I show others how kindness is strong.

I am the student who knows what is wrong.

I am the friend who welcomes the new.

I invite them to play and learn what to do.

I comfort the friend who is sad and blue.

I am the friend who welcomes the new.

I am the person who helps when there's need.

I volunteer to give food to feed.

I help clean up or do a good deed.

I am the person who helps when there's need.

I am the child who wants to do right.

I look to Jesus and see the light

I will follow his example and shine bright.

I am the child who wants to do right.

## BREAD Efforts around Juvenile Justice See Success

Redeemer has rejoined BREAD (Building Responsibility Equality and Dignity) which is a justice organization that builds the power of people of faith to solve community problems. In meetings with thousands of community residents, the organization presses targeted decision-makers to implement solutions to those problems.

But, practically, what does BREAD actually do? The best way to illustrate what BREAD does is to look at some specific examples, **Kristi Hildebrand** writes.

One example is juvenile justice. A research group made of BREAD members studied juvenile justice issues locally and identified that the problem they wanted to address was that Columbus City Schools had over 20,000 out-of-school suspensions annually. This results in ongoing classroom disruptions, students' dropping out and potentially getting into petty crimes while suspended, all contributing to the school to prison pipeline.

What did BREAD do? They knew that the school district was looking for an alternative to suspensions. They wanted to keep kids in school, improve the learning environment, reduce suspensions, reduce bullying, and keep kids out of the court system. BREAD learned that "restorative practices" are an alternative to suspensions and have proved successful elsewhere.

Restorative practices promote inclusiveness, relationship-building and problem-solving, through such restorative methods as circles for teaching and conflict resolution to conferences that bring victims, offenders and their supporters together to address wrongdoing. Instead of punishment, students are encouraged to reflect on and take responsibility for their actions and come up with plans to repair harm. Other communities like Pittsburgh have seen a 36 percent drop in out of school suspensions in two years of implementation.

BREAD pressed the Franklin County Juvenile Court to set up a Restorative Justice Program. They worked with lead **Juvenile Court Judge Elizabeth Gill**, in this effort. Nine Restorative Circles are now up and running in various neighborhoods throughout Franklin County!

“Because of the power of BREAD, non-violent juveniles in Franklin County are being diverted from the court system to this community-based program where they are held accountable for their actions and able to rebuild relationships within their neighborhoods. The Restorative Justice Circle program has reached its capacity for volunteers and continues to improve based on recommendations from the International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP).”

### **Upcoming BREAD Dates**

Redeemer Network Meeting: Wednesday, February 23 at 7 p.m.

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

Nehemiah Action: Tuesday, May 10 at the Celeste Center: 6:15 p.m. Registration; 7 p.m. Event

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

## **Noisy Offering Goes to ELCA World Hunger**

For now through 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](http://elca.org/hunger).

## **Tuesday Bible Study to Begin Study of Philemon**

The Tuesday Bible Study will meet both in-person and via Zoom on **Tuesday, January 18** to begin study of Paul’s Letter to Philemon. “This is Paul’s shortest letter and is also one of his most surprising,” **Pastor Dave** notes. “He doesn’t write to a church community but to a person whose slave has escaped and is now in Paul’s care.

“What does the letter tell us about what Paul might think of slavery? How does he respond to the real needs of a real person who has come to him for help?”

Join us in-person 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](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

Please pray for healing for all those who have contracted COVID-19 in this latest surge especially for Redeemer member **David Williams** and for those who continue to deal with the after effects of the illness.

+ + +

**Member Directory Update:** Kelley Scott has changed her name back to **Kelley Frank**. There is no change to her phone or email address.

## January Birthdays

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/](http://www.capital.edu/trout-lectures/).

## The Community Beyond

### CPH Hosts Drive-Thru COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Jan. 19, 20

Columbus Public Health (CPH) is hosting a two-day drive-thru COVID-19 clinic on **Wednesday** and **Thursday, January 19 and 20** at the Celeste Center on the State Fairgrounds, 717 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. The hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. They are offering the first and second vaccinations and boosters for those ages 5 and up as appropriate. Boosters for those 12 and older will be administered provided it's been at least five months for Moderna and Pfizer and at least two months for Johnson and Johnson.

Folks can preregister for an arrival time by 4 p.m. on **Tuesday, January 18** at <https://redcap.columbus.gov/surveys/?s=NLWTAYFXDE>. Walk-ins will also be accepted.

## Getting Ready for Worship

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, January 23, 2021 Lessons

**Readings:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-18; Psalm 19; Luke 4:14-21

#### Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of St Paul Lutheran Church, Westerville.
- + For Redeemer community member Robin Stokes

**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, 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, Grace and Ken Jones, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Kris Kauffman, Kathie Ehrich's sister Betty Weaver, Chad Eberle's mother, Pastor Al Debelak and Eric Hutton.

## Worship Leaders

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Dave Shull
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Michele Disbro
<b>Interpreter</b>	Bryan Neal
<b>Crucifer</b>	Skye Andree
<b>Reader</b>	Adam Howard
<b>Cantor</b>	Wendy Stoica
<b>Organist</b>	Kathy Rapp
<b>Pianist</b>	Karen Kent
<b>Verger</b>	Michelle Clemence
<b>Usher</b>	Kathleen Zwanziger
<b>Producer</b>	Sue Yehling, Scott Steiner

*Flowers are given by Nancy Steiner in memory of loved ones*

*Noisy Offering will be for ELCA World Hunger*

## Upcoming Week at Redeemer January 18 – January 24, 2022

<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	1:00 p.m.	<b>IN-PERSON &amp; ZOOM</b> Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Congregation Council
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	2:00 p.m.	Stewardship Team
	6:30 p.m.	<b>IN-PERSON &amp; ZOOM</b> Sister Act
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	8:45 a.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	<b>IN-PERSON &amp; LIVESTREAM</b> Worship with Holy Communion
	11:00 a.m.	<b>IN-PERSON &amp; ZOOM</b> <a href="#"><i>Congregational Annual Meeting</i></a>

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