



Reflections

VOLUME 26

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ISSUE 4

RLC Elects Council VP, Approves 2022 Budget

The Redeemer congregation elected **Michele Disbro** vice president for 2022 at its annual meeting on **Sunday, January 23**. This means she will serve as president of the congregation in 2023. Council members for 2022, who were also installed Sunday by **Pastor Dave**, include the following:

President – **Wendy Stoica**
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**

The Special Funds Team – **Dave Engel**, chair – was also installed. Others on the team include **Michelle Clemence**, **Nancy Magargal**, **Jim Riley** and **Terry Warren**.

President Wendy Stoica also announced the appointment of **Karen Collins** to the Mutual Ministry Team.

Outgoing Finance Officer **Margie Frazier** and outgoing president **Julie Johnson** highlighted Redeemer's budget, with Margie noting that the congregation had a "very good year" and that it was "a gift" to not have to make hard decisions. Specifically, giving and other income exceeded the 2021 budget of \$311,943 by \$89,229 for a total of \$401,172. After unexpected expenses including roof repairs and technology upgrades, the congregation ended up with a year-end fund balance \$36,711 – an amount Margie called "extraordinary."

The budget approved for 2022 totals \$369,700 and includes a 3 percent increase for all staff. In addition, Julie explained that the 2022 budget includes the replacement of the Fellowship Hall HVAC system which means that the church can reopen that space for use. It has not been used because it has been impossible to adequately ventilate the area during the pandemic.

In addition to the budget, the congregation approved one-time bonuses for staff and **Tom Mimlitch** in gratitude for all their extra efforts over the two years of the pandemic. It was also suggested that council consider paying the producers who oversee the Sunday morning livestreaming of services.

The congregation approved the distribution of the Mission Endowment dividend with 10 percent going to eight charities and 20 percent to Lutheran Social Services. The list of charities will be corrected and the exact amount will be reported to the congregation once the accounting is complete. It was also suggested that additional information be provided on each of the charities with **Karen** and **Al Rider** providing a brief description of the work of Grace Missions, Inc. of Haiti which is one of the beneficiaries.

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OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor - Rev. David Shull

L-I-C Student - Adam Howard

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 - Michele Disbro

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 Karen Collins

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 silence cellphones."

RLC Experienced Technical Difficulties at Annual Meeting

Tom Mimplitch offered the following explanation for the technical difficulties experienced for Redeemer's Annual Meeting Sunday:

"There were unexpected problems with the Zoom portion of the congregational meeting. The short answer is new technology and glitches ruled, and we apologize to the Zoomers. But if you want the long and boring details...

"First, we had hoped to use the livestream cameras and sound system to connect into **Pastor Dave's** PC for the Zoom meeting and we were in early to give that a try. But we could not get that connection to work in the short time we had. So plan B was to use the Zoom camera that Pastor Dave usually uses for Sunday school and other Zoom meetings. So we set that trial up and it seemed to work. We also knew that the audio from the small Zoom camera would not pick up enough, so we tried some new wireless mics that connected through USB to Dave's PC and that also seemed to work during our pre-worship testing.

"But when service was over [and] we tried to bring Dave's PC back on and start the Zoom meeting then everything seemed broken. Neither the camera nor the wireless mics were functional on his PC now. But members were connecting into the meeting already. We tried going back to using his built-in camera and microphone, but neither of those would work either. We tried other solutions as well. Also, since the wireless mics for the Zoom meeting were not connected to the house speakers, members in the sanctuary were also having a hard time hearing. At this point, we turned on the church's wireless mics and speakers to fix that problem.

"At this point I decided to set up my own laptop and connect into the Zoom meeting to see if I could get the camera and microphones to work with mine. It took me awhile but we finally got the camera working, and then the USB wireless mics too. But as you Zoomers know there was a lot of echo caused by using two microphones and the sanctuary speakers. Also because these USB mics were not intended to work at this great of a distance they kept cutting in and out.

"The tech team apologizes for not being better prepared, but we will work on that. Also the good news is that after Dave's PC was rebooted, the camera and microphones magically started working again."

Souper Bowl Sunday Coming Feb. 13

Redeemer will again be joining Lutheran Social Services (LSS) in sponsoring Souper Bowl Sunday on **February 13**. Donations of soup – preferably tomato, chicken noodle or vegetable – can either be taken directly to the Food Pantry at the corner of Frebis and Champion now through the end of the month OR folks can join in the "voting" for a favorite Super Bowl team by putting money in the appropriate bowl on that Sunday.

Kathy Zwanziger points out that for every \$1 donated, LSS and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective can purchase \$4 worth of food.

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.

RLC Serves at LSS Food Pantry

Redeemer's schedule for serving at the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Food Pantry changes to the third Thursday of the months of April through October and folks are asked to mark that on their calendars. Redeemer continues serving on the first Wednesday of February and March: **February 2** and **March 2** from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin ahead of each service date.

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>.

BREAD Looks to Gun Violence Solutions

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, **Kristi Hildebrand** explains.

Another example of a BREAD success is related to gun violence. (For background information on BREAD, please see previous *Reflections* issues.) Gun violence is not just a problem; it is an epidemic in Columbus. There are approximately two shootings per day and one murder every three days. The solution that BREAD took to the city was to contract with the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC) which can work with local agencies over a two-year period to implement a program to reduce murders and violence.

Columbus City Council invested \$80,000 in 2020 for a contract with the NNSC in 2021. An audit of violent activity was completed in the summer of 2021 and staff was hired by the city to carry out recommendations from NNSC. The 2022 city budget includes an additional \$315,000 to extend the contract with NNSC to fully implement the Group Violence Intervention strategies with fidelity. NNSC is implementing the GVI (Group Violence Intervention) program in which city officials assemble a partnership of law enforcement agencies, social service providers and community leaders such as clergy, civic association presidents and formerly imprisoned people to form relationships with those identified as being part of violent groups.

Also, Columbus law enforcement officials meet regularly to exchange intelligence and monitor the gang activity. **Columbus Assistant Police Chief LaShanna Potts** agreed with the NNSC report's assertion that the city's response must include an anti-violence message from the community, as well as swift and fair criminal consequences for those who engage in violent crime, and a genuine offer of help for those who want to leave the criminal life behind. "You cannot depend on policing alone to reduce crime," Potts said.

Here is a link to a *Columbus Dispatch* article about NNSC and GVI in Columbus Ohio: <https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/2021/10/06/report-many-columbus-homicides-involve-gang-group-members/6009299001/>

The Redeemer Network Meeting has been scheduled for **Wednesday, February 23** at 7 p.m. The meeting is for anyone who is a Network Member, anyone who is considering becoming a Network Member or anyone who just wants to hear about what is going on with BREAD.

Upcoming BREAD Dates

Redeemer Network Meeting: February 23, 2022 at 7 p.m.

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

Nehemiah Action: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 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.

Tuesday Bible Study to Explore Letters of Paul

The Tuesday Bible Study will meet both in-person and via Zoom on **Tuesday, January 25** to continue its study of Paul's letters.

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 – 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 comfort and support are asked for **Jack and Shirley Miller** as Jack has entered hospice care.

January Birthdays

24-Marshall Edgington 24-Sophie Brush

24-Kathy Rapp 24-Heath Wolfe

25-Rosalie Highland 26-Jeff Montgomery

28-Bebe McCoy

The Community Beyond

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests Available

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests. Orders will usually ship in seven to 12 days.

Tests can be ordered online at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

Duarte among Winners of 2022 Governor's Art Award

Richard "Duarte" Brown, who painted the murals on Redeemer's parking lot, was named one of nine winners of the 2022 Governor's Awards for the Arts this past week. He was recognized in the arts education category. This follows his receiving the Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson Fellowship from the Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Columbus Museum of Art earlier this year.

These awards have been given since 1971 and showcase and celebrate exceptional Ohio artists, arts organizations, arts leaders and patrons, and business support of the arts. This is the only arts award in the state that is conferred by the governor.

According to the Ohio Arts Council, which oversees the awards, "Richard 'Duarte' Brown is a master artist with the TRANSIT ARTS Youth Arts Program and the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE) Art in the House program. For more than 30 years, Duarte has dedicated his talents to helping young people in Columbus through countless programs

"Through his own mixed media paintings, Duarte connects people through the sharing of narratives that unveil layers of personal development and stir individual strength, wisdom and courage. He encourages the innate creative voice in all of us through visual demonstrations of ethnography that show a quest for growth, provoke dialogue and draw out the brilliance of the lifelong alumni of his creative influence. ..."

Getting Ready for Worship

4th Sunday after Epiphany, January 30, 2021 Lessons

Readings: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Psalm 71:1-6; Luke 4:21-30

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of St Paul Lutheran Church, St. Louisville.

+ For Redeemer community members Becky and Larry Trover

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

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Jon Disbro
Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Crucifer	Skye Andree
Reader	Adam Howard
Cantor	Mary Benis
Organist	Kathy Rapp
Pianist	Karen Kent
Verger	Wendy Stoica
Usher	Judith Bird
Producer	Scott Steiner, Michele Disbro

Flowers are given by Julianne Johnson in memory of Judy

Noisy Offering will be for ELCA World Hunger

Upcoming Week at Redeemer January 25 – January 31, 2022

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & ZOOM Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Journaling Workshop
<u>Wednesday</u>	11:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
<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