



Reflections

VOLUME 26

March 14, 2022

ISSUE 11

Celebrating a First Bible Study and Sermon ... 20+ Refugee Beds ... and a Wedding!

I have a quartet of things to celebrate with you on this mid-March Monday.

As a church that is blessed by a Learning-in-Context student from Trinity Seminary, we get to celebrate with **Adam Howard** a couple of his joyful “first-
evers.”

Tomorrow is the second installment of the first Bible study he’s ever led. For his Hebrew class last semester, Adam translated the entire book of Ruth. That is what he is leading us through during Lent. He got great reviews after the first session last Tuesday for his enthusiasm, knowledge, and ability to draw on his Hebrew studies to help us explore what English translations of the text can’t express.

On March 27, Adam will preach his first-ever sermon. He’s focusing on the parable of the prodigal son. I remember feeling *so* anxious when I gave my first sermon at the Scarsdale Congregational Church in New York in January 1985. You all are incredibly good sermon-listeners, which is a great gift to give any preacher, let alone one who’s embarking on his maiden sermon voyage with us.

The third celebration is a huge thank-you for your generosity. Last November, you were invited to contribute to Community Refugee and Immigration Services of Columbus. We wanted to see how many beds for Afghan refugees we could raise money for. As of January 31, 2022, you had contributed \$4,707.45. At around \$200/bed, that means about 23 of God’s children will receive a comfortable bed to sleep in, thanks to the open-heartedness of this faith community. For people who have lost everything and are experiencing profound trauma, to have a real bed is a step toward believing it’s possible to recreate home.

And the fourth celebration: my partner **Mike** and I are getting married! On September 16 at the Park of Roses shelter house, a Seattle pastor friend will officiate as we gather to do what neither of us ever thought we’d be able to do. Because that space is limited in size, Mike and I will set up a time in late summer for a reception at Redeemer with any of you who wish to join us. We’ll hope for a comfortably warm afternoon coming-together under some canopies on the church lawn. I am grateful for your support since I let you know about this relationship. And I look forward to your meeting Mike.

In the midst of the private and global challenges we face, it is truly good to have reasons to celebrate. And truly good to be part of a community to celebrate with.

Dave Shull

In This Issue

[Celebrating a First Bible Study and Sermon ... 20+ Refugee Beds ... and a Wedding](#)

[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

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

Treasurer - Julianne Johnson

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.
- * 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.

Executive Team Invites Members Try Out New COVID Practices

It has been a very long two years. You have been incredibly supportive of the efforts by the Executive Team and Church Council to try to keep us all safe as we follow the guidance of the Columbus Public Health Department and Centers for Disease Control around limiting the spread of COVID.

As we anticipate City Council's vote to end the mask mandate Monday evening, the Executive Team met Sunday afternoon to discuss this issue. This is what we are recommending:

Effective **Sunday, March 13**, the every-other-row seating was removed and folks are invited to sit wherever they would like. Masks are still required through **Sunday, March 20**.

If no new directives come from the health department, on **Sunday, March 27**, Redeemer will keep the **north side** of the sanctuary masked, while those sitting on the **south side** can be unmasked.

Small group meetings at the church will remain masked unless everyone at the meeting is comfortable being unmasked.

The Executive Team invites your feedback about these changes.

Again, we thank you for two years of extraordinary resilience and creativity as we have sought to keep deepening our sense of community in the most challenging of times.

Executive Team members include **Wendy Stoica, Michele Disbro, Nate Ott** and **Pastor Dave Shull**.

Video Recognizes RLC's CROP Walk Team

Church World Service, which sponsors the annual CROP Walk here in Columbus and across the nation, recently sent a short video congratulating Redeemer's CROP Walk for their "2021 fundraising prowess." Redeemer's team was 71st in the nation for funds raised and #1 in Central Ohio!! The team raised \$8,000.

Their success reflects, in part, the generosity of the congregation so thanks to all who supported their efforts as well! Members of the team included **Connie Criswell, Heidi Sherer, Wendy Stoica, and Kathy Zwanziger**.

The video can be viewed at https://bbemaildelivery.com/bbext/?p=video_land&id=0784f734-d1b5-4011-9e89-30bf36ed2aa6

LSS Adds 'Evening Shift' at Food Pantry; Volunteers Needed

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is adding an "evening shift" to their food pantry hours. Beginning **Monday, March 21**, there will be a volunteer shift starting at 3 p.m. on Mondays. The distribution hours will be from 4-6 p.m.

If anyone in the congregation would be interested in assisting at the Monday distributions (e.g., once a month), please contact **Kathy Zwanziger** for more information.

Mid-Week Lenten Services Continue on Wednesdays

Mid-week Lenten evening prayer services continue here at Redeemer through Wednesday, April 6. They begin at 7 p.m. both in-person and livestreamed on YouTube.

If anyone would like to share a five-minute spoken reflection that evening, please see the article below about the theme for these messages, and sign up on the sheet in the hallway outside the library.

Sundays, Redeemer will have the regular 10 a.m. Sunday morning services.

For the entire Lent, Holy Week and Easter worship schedule, see the front page of the March 7 *Reflections*.

We have missed those of you who have not yet returned to in-person worship. If you feel safe coming back into the sanctuary, your presence and spirit would be a true blessing to us. We are not the same without you.

Volunteers Sought for Mid-Week Lenten Reflections

One of the songs in the Lenten evening prayer service includes the words: "Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas; and to hearts broken God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor."

Lent is a time when we reflect honestly about our lives, and open ourselves to name the ways God's Spirit has been present to us in some kind of way. When have you or someone you know felt broken-hearted? What brought that pain about? How did some kind of healing come about? Who are what helped make God's Spirit real and present?

Each of us has some stories about this. You can bless this community by sharing a five-minute story at a Lenten evening service. Sign up in hallway outside the library or phone or email the church office: 614-237-1263; info@redeemerluth.com. Thank you!

RLC Assembles 75 Personal Care Kits, Seeks Items to Make It 100

Thanks to all of the congregation's contributions, Sister Act and the Sunday School youth and their parents Sunday were able to assemble a total of 75 "Personal Care Kits" to be sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

Kathy Zwanziger reports, "In fact, your towel contributions were so generous, we now have 25 towels and we would like to fill them for a total of 100 kits. The items we need to accomplish that goal are the following: 14 nail clippers, 25 combs, and approximately 46 bars of soap (two to three bars of soap per kit, since 8-9 oz. per kit are requested). Please put the donations in the coat room on the shelves.



"Thanks so much to everyone who contributed and for all who helped assemble the kits!"

Matching Donations to LWR Ukraine Efforts Increased

Donations to the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) efforts to assist folks affected by the war in Ukraine will be doubled now up to a total of \$422,000 due to contributions from two congregations in Wisconsin.

To participate through Redeemer, simply make a check out to Redeemer, writing "Ukraine Match" on the memo line. The church will then forward those donations on to LWR.

Here is the latest report from LWR:

"What do you need?" Sometimes it's the simplest questions that mean the most.

Pastor Łukasz Ostruszka, the newly inducted pastor of St. Martin's church in Krakow, Poland, didn't hesitate with his answer. He urgently needed supplies so his congregation could welcome and care for Ukrainian refugees.

To prepare, the congregation of St. Martin's rapidly remodeled the church basement to shelter several families. In the space of a week, the ordinary bathrooms were fitted with showers, beds were brought in, and workers redid water pipes and electrical wiring to accommodate more users.

“This was a space for our parish meetings, but now it’s a hostel for refugees,” says Pastor Ostruszka. “A place to sleep, to be warm.”

When Lutheran World Relief staff in Poland found Pastor Ostruszka's church in desperate need, the timing seemed almost divine. Because of your loving gifts, when families arrive to the church, they will be greeted with toys and milk for the children, toothpaste and toothbrushes, hygiene products, toiletries and energy biscuits.

“Your generosity delivered a cargo van packed with this critical aid — and it arrived at just the right time.

“We were in shock. It's like something from a movie,” says Pastor Ostruszka of his congregation members. “We never expected this. We didn't expect so many people from Ukraine.”

The first group of families is coming from Kharkiv, a city heavily hit by the war. Pastor Ostruszka's wife is coordinating the families' 3-hour journey by bus from the border to Krakow. The women and their children will have a safe place to rest, and, because of your compassion, they won't have to worry about finding essential items.

St. Martin's has helped refugees before, like during a crisis on the Belarussian border. They also helped people coming from Afghanistan, Iraq and countries in Africa.

“Everyone is welcome,” says Pastor Ostruszka. “We hope they will feel at home.”

The numbers now are staggering, and it's clear that the renovated church hall will be a haven for an ongoing stream of frightened, exhausted mothers. As the buses keep coming, your love also carries Ukraine's refugees, bringing them support and aid in a time they need it the very most.

Your generosity is vital to support the work of congregations like St. Martin's. Some 2.6 million people have fled Ukraine since the conflict began, and more than one million of them are children. At this time, financial gifts are the number one need to assist refugees on the move.

Families are in dire need of immediate aid, such as food, water, shelter, clothing and medical supplies. Your emergency gift will help to deliver urgent support and care for those who have left everything behind.

Pastor Ostruszka knows there's a long road ahead. “This is just the start,” he says heavily. He and the congregation are committed to the long haul, and with your love, so are we.

“We should do this. Our Lord gives us something beautiful, and we should go to other people and give to them,” he says.

Noisy Offering Now Going to 'ReconcilingWorks'

For now through Easter, Redeemer's “Noisy Offering” – that is, the offering of loose or “noisy” change given each Sunday when entering the Sanctuary – will now go to ReconcilingWorks. This is in celebration of Redeemer's 30th Anniversary as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Since 1974, “ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation” has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their church, congregations and community.

“In relationships built through outreach and education, ReconcilingWorks shares Christ's message, the Gospel, which is for everyone equally. The group advocates for systemic change in policy and practice in church and society, working to alleviate not only the painful symptoms of oppression but also to eliminate its root causes.

“We are Lutherans working with the recognition that racism, sexism, ageism, able-ism, heterosexism, homophobia, and all the other artificial distinctions that seek to raise one group into privilege and preference over another, conspire together to diminish our world and church.

“An independent, Lutheran, membership-supported organization, ReconcilingWorks is committed to strengthen all of God's beloved for authentic, visible, faithful lives and to work for systemic change with the church and society.”

For more information check out their website at www.ReconcilingWorks.org.

Adult Ed Discusses 'Seven Deadly Sins'

Surprise! The classic “seven deadly sins” (Pride, Anger, Envy, Sloth, Greed, Gluttony, Lust) are not really sinful actions! Rather, they are deadly attitudes or dispositions that can *lead* to sinful actions. For seven weeks, Redeemer’s Adult Education class is exploring these “deadly seven” and when in the cycle of our lives each disposition is most likely to take hold of us.

Along the way, the class will also consider the life-giving potential inherent in each of the seven and those virtues that serve to thwart their influence. The first Sunday, the class discussed gluttony.

As we enter Lent, what better time to take a hard, and sometimes humorous, look at who we are and who God is calling us to be.

Dr. Brad Binau, a Redeemer member and professor of pastoral theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University will lead the discussion. He is currently teaching a course at Trinity on the Seven Deadly Sins.

Sunday, March 20, Brad will be leading the discussion on envy.

The class is available both in-person and on Zoom. Click this link to join via Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86225287104?pwd=Rjcxb0VIYmVXUEs0S2JZVko1eVZTUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86225287104?pwd=Rjcxb0VIYmVXUEs0S2JZVko1eVZTUT09;); Meeting ID: 862 2528 7104; Passcode: 965357. Phone only: 312-626-6799. The discussion is lively and there is always room for more voices!!

Spotlight on BREAD Network Member Sheryl Owens

BREAD Network Members were asked to answer a handful of questions. Their answers will be shared in *Reflections* during 2022.

1. What is your name? Sheryl Owens
2. What issues keep you up at night? Politics - the feeling that this may be what 1930’s Germany was like and my people are the Jews. This nightmare has a lot of tentacles, including health care, voting rights, employment issues, environmental issues.
3. Why did you join the Justice team at Redeemer? It is something I believe I can help.
4. What is your favorite kind of bread? Rye
5. Why did you decide to become a Network Member of BREAD? To stay in touch with the overall BREAD movement and to invite young people to get involved as well.
6. What is your Justice prayer for 2022? The same as for 2021 and beyond:
Let’s pray for
Civility.
Civility without hate.
Love.
Love without murder.
Compassion.
Compassion without malice.
Life.
Life without fear,
without suspicion
without wariness.
Kumbaya.
Kumbaya Lord, and tarry a while.
Amen.

Upcoming BREAD Dates

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.

Tuesday Bible Study Explores Book of Ruth

During Lent, the Tuesday Bible Study will be led in a study by the Book of Ruth by **Learning in Context student Adam Howard**. The group meets both in-person and via Zoom on **Tuesday, March 15**. The group runs 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: 863 5869 9434; Passcode: 943506. 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/86358699434?pwd=cTlaaUM5MWl6U29mNGtsQXhuTnlIU09>.

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 and recovery are asked for **John Caron** who had an emergency appendectomy last week. Prayers for continued recovery are asked for **Eileen Day, Kathy Ehrich, Don Luck**, all of whom have recently had surgery.

Prayers for comfort area also asked for **Cathy Oldham** on the death of her brother-in-law **Gerry Oldham**.

'Christ in Our Home' Available

The April-June edition of "Christ in Our Home" is now available in the Narthex for anyone who would like a copy. Or, it can be mailed. Just contact **Becky Trover** in the church office to request a copy be mailed to your home. Reach her at 614-237-1263 or via email at info@redeemerluth.com.

March Birthdays

14-Jenny Friederich 14-Lynn Nakamura
14-Tim Watson 14-Laura Warren
15-Kristi Hildebrand 17-David Williams
24-Carol Heacock 30-Colin Young

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>.

Home-Delivered Meals Available through Aging Office

The Franklin County Office on Aging is still offering free home delivered meals through **Thursday, March 31**, and is continuing to provide free COVID-19 vaccine, booster, and medical transportation for those who are over the age of 60 living within Franklin County that have an appointment scheduled.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving free home delivered meals or transportation, please contact aging office at 614-525-6200.

Office on Aging Launches HOPE Campaign

The Franklin County Office on Aging has launched its HOPE Campaign which has a mission of “Helping Our residents and families with Purposeful Engagements”.

They hope to check in on seniors, families, caregivers and Franklin County residents’ mental and physical health, as well as to inform them of the community-based programs and services available to them through the Franklin County Office of Aging.

Individuals who would like to reach out to find out more about the services and programs the agency can offer to Franklin County seniors, and caregivers, please contact 614-525-5230.

Getting Ready for Worship

3rd Sunday in Lent, March 20, 2022

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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 Zion Lutheran Church, West Jefferson.

+ For Redeemer community member Jil Williams.

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, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Cora Marquez, Mary Kennedy, Diane Louangrath, Kevin Bailey’s sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich and their sister Betty Weaver, Stan Heacock, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy’s brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Alyssa Jordan-Bird and Nate Bird, Shirley and Jack Miller, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling’s sister Val, Grace and Ken Jones, John Kennedy’s niece Michele Wolfe, Kris Kauffman, Chad Eberle’s mother, Don Luck, Eileen Day.

A Prayer for Ukraine

O Lord, God of life, as you care for all creation, give us your peace. May our security come not from weapons, but from respect. May our strength come not from violence, but from love. May our own wealth come not from money, but from sharing.

May our path be not one of ambition, but of justice. May our victory not be one of revenge, but of forgiveness. Unarmed and confident, help us to defend the dignity of all creation. Sharing today and always the bread of solidarity and peace. Amen.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Faith Vigil for Peace in Ukraine



Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Michelle Clemence
Crucifer	Skye Andree
Reader	Michelle Clemence
Cantor	Mary Benis
Interpreter	Emily Ott
Organist	Kathy Rapp
Pianist	Karen Kent
Usher	Neil Hoddinott
Verger	Wendy Stoica
Producer	Tom Mimlitch, Helen Brunston

*There are no flowers on the altar during Lent
Noisy Offering will go to Reconciling Works*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

March 15 – March 21, 2022

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & ZOOM Bible Study
<u>Wednesday</u>	10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	2:00 p.m.	Stewardship Team
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM Lenten Evening Prayer
<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