



Reflections

VOLUME 26

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ISSUE 12

Emily Ott Offers Perspective on Evolving COVID-19 Safety Protocols

Changing policies around COVID mitigation can cause a lot of strong feelings, which is not surprising after the traumatic nature of the last two years. It's confusing and difficult to face a constantly changing landscape.

Like many of us, I have experienced changing policies in my workplace, in my children's school and extracurricular environments, and in places where my higher-risk parents spend time. I wanted to share some of the ways I've been thinking about decision making about levels of risk as mitigation strategies shift.

Redeemer has been responsive to ways we can worship together safely during the changing situation with COVID, and as I write this, Franklin County falls into the "green/low transmission" category in the CDC's classification. As such, some worship protocols have changed. The practice of leaving every other pew vacant has already changed, so folks can sit anywhere in the sanctuary again. Hymnals and joyful noise makers are back in the pew racks. The new protocols that will begin on **Sunday, March 27** include communion distributed at the front of the sanctuary again for those who choose to partake that way, with the servers remaining masked, and the grape juice/wine in individual cups. Additionally, as of March 27, masks will be optional on the south side of the sanctuary. The north side will be for people who are more comfortable continuing to wear a mask and who prefer to sit near others who are also wearing a mask.

Initially, considering any change to a mask requirement in any setting unnerved me, which I think is a common response, since the last two years have repeatedly taught us to associate the sight of masked faces with safety. Our brains learn patterns, and that has been an important pattern to learn!

One factor that has helped my comfort level with other people making their own choices about masks has been the efficacy of one-way masking. In the beginning of the pandemic, when low-efficacy cloth masks were the best anyone could get, we depended on each other wearing masks to reduce transmission. I'm thankful that now, high filtration masks are available, and I was reassured to read that a well-fitting N95 mask provides 95 percent protection. By comparison, surgical masks are about 70 percent effective, so two people wearing surgical masks in an interaction leads to 91 percent protection, whereas a single person wearing an N95 that fits appropriately (with an unmasked interaction partner) is better protected, at 95 percent. I'm grateful to be in a situation where an individual action can be so protective, which was not the case in the beginning. Now, N95 masks are available for adults at many pharmacies, and websites like [Project N95](#) help consumers order verified, tested masks.

Certainly, vaccines provide the greatest single element of protection, and I would love to talk at greater length than anyone cares to hear about how vaccines work, and the way our T-cells continue to mature long after vaccination to provide better and better protection. (It's called affinity maturation, it's wild. Fearfully and wonderfully made indeed!)

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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

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 coming into the building and in the Narthex. Folks wishing to continue wearing masks for worship are encouraged to sit in the pews on the north side of the Sanctuary; those who wish to remove their masks may sit on the south side of the Sanctuary.
- * 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 or folks can now choose to receive communion at the front of the church from masked servers distributing individual cups for the wine/grape juice.
- * 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's COVID Practices Updated

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. Here are the steps being taken:

The every-other-row seating has now been removed and folks are invited to sit wherever they would like. This coming **Sunday, March 27**, masks will only be required while coming into the building and gathering in the Narthex. For worship, 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.

In addition, Sunday, March 27 marks the return of communion being offered at the front of the church. Individuals wishing to continue using the individual cups are free to do so.

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.**

Easter Flowers on Sale

Easter lilies are on sale! Orders need to be placed by **Monday, March 28**. Those purchasing lilies can dedicate them to the memory of someone or in honor of someone. Envelopes are on the table as you enter the sanctuary.

To order, complete the envelope, include a check or cash in the envelope and leave it in the offering plate.

If not at church, please email the office at info@RedeemerLuth.com. Let the office know the number and the dedication. Then drop your check in the mail. The cost is \$10/pot.

Due to all the challenges companies are facing, Lilies are the only flower available this year.

Volunteers Sought for 2022 LSS/Food Collective Food Giveaways

The season for Redeemer's LSS/MOFC Food Giveaway events is quickly approaching. Redeemer is scheduled for the *third* Thursday of every month from April to October, so that means the first event is scheduled in less than three weeks on **April 21!** As folks can imagine, the demand for food assistance is still high, so this ministry effort shared with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and the Mid-Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) is even more important!

At least for the first month or two, the processes used last year will be followed. To recap, there will be a drive-thru process where customers stay in their cars and we follow all of the current physical distancing, hand washing, glove and face mask guidelines.

In an effort to gauge the volunteer staffing for these events, and especially the one on April 21, those who are willing to help are asked to email or call the church office.

Coordinator **Sue Watson** notes, "I know our congregational efforts to combat food insecurity in our communities are very meaningful for many of us, and our outreach means so much to those we serve. So if you can volunteer (or if you'd like more info), please get in touch with the church office asap!

"We'll take all the help we can get!"

The other giveaway dates are Thursdays May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15 and October 20.

'Extras' of Hair Care Products Needed for LSS/MOFC April Giveaway

As has done in the past, Redeemer is requesting donations of personal items to be included with the produce at the monthly food giveaways. For April's event, hair care products (shampoo, conditioner, etc.) will be given away.

"We are so grateful for the congregation's constant and generous donations. On behalf of our giveaway's guests, thank you, Redeemer members!" Sue said.

Update on Souper Bowl Sunday Donations

Kathy Zwanziger reports that **23 churches** participated in the Souper Bowl Sunday drive, raising over \$28,000 and collecting more than 3,700 pounds of food items! "Thank you for your support!! As we continue to move forward out of this pandemic, we have faced rising inflation and many supply chain issues. Your support is extremely important as we help support our neighbors in need of food and other resources.

"LSS Food Pantries has seen a dramatic increase in number of clients from even a year ago, which was already high. In February 2022, we saw an increase of clients by nearly 50 percent in Franklin County alone. The LSS Food Pantry system served nearly 9,000 individuals last month. Thank you for helping us make this possible!"

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.

Volunteer Sought for Mid-Week Lenten Reflection on March 30

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. All slots are taken except for **March 30**. Thank you!

Three More Sought to Offer Reflections at Good Friday Service

This year, Redeemer will be worshiping with members of Christ United Methodist Church for Good Friday. As part of the service, Redeemer has been asked to provide a short reflection on four of the Jesus' last seven words. One person has volunteered so far. To see what remains and to sign up, look on the bulletin board in the hall next to the library.

Good Friday is April 15. The service begins at 7 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church on Zettler Ave.

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.

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 27, **Pastor Dave** will again be leading the discussion on pride.

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>; Meeting ID: 862 2528 7104; Passcode: 965357. Phone only: 312-626-6799. The discussion is lively and there is always room for more voices!!

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

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 22**. 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=cTlaaUM5MWl6U29mNGtsQXhuTnlIUOT09>.

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.

Evolving COVID-19 Safety Protocols *cont'd from p. 1*

Another factor that has a huge impact is ventilation. Thankfully, Redeemer has been under the stewardship of a very diligent council and property team during the pandemic (as always!), and they made some significant upgrades to the ventilation system. Air is circulated through our indoor spaces very frequently, and it gets purified by an iWave system, which traps and neutralizes COVID particles. This firmly places our indoor spaces in the category of “well-ventilated,” which is key for safety.

If you're interested in keeping up to date on Franklin County's COVID case numbers, go to this website: <https://tinyurl.com/yrbr5kt4> >COVID19 Summary p2 and adjust the jurisdiction level to “Columbus & Franklin County.” Scroll down to the bottom of the page, where you'll see the rolling seven-day average case count, as well as numbers for individual days. It updates every Monday.

I wanted to share some of these factors, because as I talk to people around me, the efficacy statistics for masking are not always widely known, nor are the specifics about vaccine efficacy and ventilation. One of the ways I coped with COVID was to get deep in the weeds with all of this information, and I'm grateful to be in a position (finally!) where the information provides comfort rather than fear. I'm confident that if and when the situation changes for the worse, as a community, we will again joyfully embrace whatever precautions are necessary to keep each other safe.

Emily Ott

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 **Eileen Day** and **Kathy Ehrich** who have recently had surgery. Prayers are also asked for **Cathy Oldham** and her family.

+ + +

Member Directory Update: Madelyn Zimmer is moving to Kensington Place. Her new address is 1001 Parkview Blvd., Apt. 423, Columbus OH 43219-2274.

'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

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

4th Sunday in Lent, March 27, 2022

Lessons

Readings: Corinthians 5:16-21; Psalm 32; Luke 15:11-32

Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Ukraine

For those who are
fleeing: sanctuary

For those who are
staying: safety

For those who are
fighting: peace.

For those whose hearts
are breaking: comfort

For those who see no
future: hope

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Advent Lutheran Church, Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Linda 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.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Julianne Johnson
Reader	Julianne Johnson
Cantor	Connie Criswell
Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist	Kathy Rapp
Pianist	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Verger	Michelle Clemence
Producer	Scott Steiner, Michele Disbro

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

Upcoming Week at Redeemer
March 22 – March 28, 2022

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. **IN-PERSON & ZOOM** Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Executive Team
7:00 p.m. Journaling Workshop

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. **IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM** Lenten Evening Prayer

Sunday

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