



Reflections

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ISSUE 18

ELCA Celebrates 35th Anniversary

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is observing its 35th anniversary. The ELCA constitution was adopted during the opening session of the Constituting Convention in right here in Columbus on April 30, 1987.

The ELCA was formed from a merger of three Lutheran churches – the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America. To symbolize the formation of the new denomination, the bishops from the three predecessor church bodies poured water from separate containers into one baptismal font.

Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom was elected the first bishop of the ELCA during the Constituting Convention. He was former bishop of the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

Today, the ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than 3.7 million members in more than 9,300 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of “God’s work. Our hands,” the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA’s roots are in the writings of the German church reformer **Martin Luther**.

As the church commemorates its history, it also is looking toward the future, noted **ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**. She spoke of the importance of the “Future Church” priority being rooted in tradition while also being relevant to people who may not know the gospel message of freedom.

“In 1522, early in the Lutheran movement, Martin Luther took hold of the new technology of the printing press and modernized communication by translating the Bible into German, the language of the people,” she said. “Now, 500 years later, we need to find new ways to speak into the cultural vernacular.

“It’s not our intent to water down or minimize the gospel word, but to share the good news to make it rooted in tradition and radically relevant. We believe that the gospel changes lives. The gospel not only is a word of grace but it’s also a word of liberation.”

Additional “Future Church” priorities include starting new ministries and engaging with new, young and diverse people.

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OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor - Rev. David Shull

Office Manager - Becky Trover

Custodian - Marshall Edgington

Organist/Senior Choir Director -
Kathy Rapp

Pianist/Chime 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.

We have missed those of you who have not yet returned to in-person worship. There are a whole variety of worship opportunities available. 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 to Assist at Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed to assist when Redeemer again serves at the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Food Pantry on **Wednesday, May 4**. It runs from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the pantry which is located at 1460 S. Champion Ave. – at the corner of Frebis and Champion.

If you can help, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the library. If you have questions, please contact **Kathy Zwanziger**.

Redeemer Serves Dinner at First English May 12.

Redeemer is serving dinner at First English on **Thursday, May 12**. The menu will be sloppy joe sandwiches, individual packages of chips, fruit cups, dessert and granola bars. **Kay Ernsthansen** reports that the numbers have been going up this winter so she is now planning on serving 120 dinners (10 dozen). Folks who can provide a batch of sloppy joes or a dozen or more of any of the items, please contact Kay by texting or calling her at 614-288-8506 or emailing KayErnsthansen@gmail.com. Thank you!

Thinking on the Edge

Don Luck is leading a six-session series in the Adult Education Class that focuses on traditional themes in Christian self-understanding that have been making him uncomfortable for some time. He is sharing how and why he's been "fussing" with them and invites you to enter his internal conversation. The sessions began Sunday, May 1 with a discussion on what is prayer. Next up is the following:

- May 8** Why keep speaking about Jesus' death as a "sacrifice" to God and moreover one that requires blood?
- May 15** Where is God in the pain and injustice of life?
- May 22** [continued]
- May 29** What is the core of being "church?"
- June 5** How should we view non-Christians?

This coming Sunday, Don examines **Jesus as a Blood Sacrifice**. What were roots and reasons for the widespread practice and assumptions about sacrifice? Why was blood a component? Even a necessity? How did Jesus' crucifixion get connected to it?

The class begins in-person after worship service at 11:15 a.m. in Room 2 in Redeemer's education wing. It is also available on Zoom. Click this link to join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81411790303?pwd=cGNGMHo2K2d1WEIzUHRHekRQWUo2dz09>; Meeting ID: 814 1179 0303; Passcode: 645662; Phone only: 312-626-6799. The discussion will certainly be thought-provoking and there is always room for more voices!!

Tuesday Bible Study Continues May3

The Tuesday Bible Study returns on **Tuesday, May 3** with a new series on encounters Jesus had with women in the Gospels. The group runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. here at the church.

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=cTlaaUM5MWI6U29mNGtsQXhuTnIiUT09>.

Spotlight on BREAD Nehemiah Action

The biggest event on the BREAD calendar is the "Nehemiah Action." **What is the Nehemiah Action?**

This is where the organized people power comes into play. The research teams have worked all year to identify an issue and a solution that has proven success for some of the areas of injustice from the eight on the current roadmap (i.e. juvenile justice, gun control, affordable housing, etc). The Nehemiah Action is where the elected officials or other decision makers are asked to commit to pursuing those solutions. The more constituents in attendance, the more incentive the officials have to listen and commit.

Why is it called the Nehemiah action?

The name comes from this Biblical passage Nehemiah 5:6-13 where Nehemiah brought the injustices of his time to the "nobles and officials." He "called a big meeting" to discuss it and the nobles were convinced to fix the injustice. This is the model for the Nehemiah Action.

Nehemiah 5:6-13 (The Message): "I got really angry when I heard their protest and complaints. After thinking it over, **I called the nobles and officials on the carpet.** I said, 'Each one of you is gouging his brother.'"

"Then I called a big meeting to deal with them. I told them, 'We did everything we could to buy back our Jewish brothers who had to sell themselves as slaves to foreigners. And now you're selling these same brothers back into debt slavery! Does that mean that we have to buy them back again?' They said nothing. What could they say?"

"What you're doing is wrong. Is there no fear of God left in you? Don't you care what the nations around here, our enemies, think of you?"

"I and my brothers and the people working for me have also loaned them money. But this gouging them with interest has to stop. Give them back their foreclosed fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes right now. And forgive your claims on their money, grain, new wine, and olive oil."

"They said, **'We'll give it all back. We won't make any more demands on them. We'll do everything you say.'**"

What can I do?

Redeemer has committed to bringing 47 people to the Nehemiah Action on May 10. Secure your free ticket for this event by contacting **Dave Shull, Sue Watson, Emily Ott, Michele Disbro, Kathy Zwanziger** or **Kristi Hildebrand** or calling the church office.

Upcoming BREAD Dates

Nehemiah Action: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at the Celeste Center 6:15 p.m. (doors open) 7 p.m. (event)

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

Noisy Offering Now Going to 'ReconcilingWorks'

For now through the Easter season, 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.

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

Congratulations to **Bryce Harms** – and his parents **Seth** and **Thea Barbour-Harms** – on Bryce's graduation from the University of Cincinnati this weekend. His major was digital media collaborative.

Congratulations also to **Chad Eberle** who ran the Cap City Half Marathon Saturday and to **Melissa Vivens** who completed the quarter marathon.

+ + +

The updated **Redeemer Member Directory** is now available. It can be picked up in the Narthex. (It can be found on the shelf under the bulletin board next to the library.) Or call the church office at 614-237-1263 and have it either mailed or emailed. Thanks to **Becky Trover** for doing this!!

May Birthdays

1-Daniel Pawlowski 2-Nicholas Jack Amon
2-Trevor Binau 2-Jon Denniss
3-Heidi Sherer 5-Nancy Magargal
8-Kay Ernsthausen 8-Kathryn Ott
11-Logan Baldogo 14-Ty Pawlowski
17-Mary Benis 17-Ken Jones
19-Al Debelak 20-Jackson Harms
21-Paul Voytas 22-Dave Lippert
22-Lea Spang 26-Kathie Ehrich
27-Jeanne Eakin 29-Barbara Willmann

The Wider Church

Vote for LSS CHOICES

Voting is now open to decide the 100 winners in the State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant program and the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) CHOICES program is one of the 200 finalists. The top 100 vote-getters will receive a \$25,000 grant.

Voting, which runs through **Friday, May 6**, can be done by going online to <https://www.neighborhoodassist.com/entry/2042537>. **Each person can vote 10 times a day, every day.** Winners will be announced June 7.

According to CHOICES, the \$25,000 will help the agency provide safe shelter for domestic violence victims and their children. "Annually, CHOICES serves about 2,000 people and answers more than 4,000 crisis hotline calls."

Volunteers Needed for Churchwide Assembly 2022

The Southern Ohio Synod reports volunteers are needed for the Churchwide Assembly being held this summer in Columbus, OH. Volunteers are needed each day from **Sunday-Friday, August 7-12** in a variety of roles. You can sign up for the days and roles that you prefer by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/mrbxk6jt>. Please note that you are indicating a preference and event organizers may need to assign you a different role so that all responsibilities are covered. Thanks!

An Update on Relief Efforts for Ukraine

Treasurer Julie Johnson reported that Redeemer has collected nearly \$4,685 for Ukraine relief efforts by Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The congregation will continue to collect contributions for those relief efforts. Just note "Ukraine" in the memo section of a check. Redeemer will forward the donations to LWR.

Community Beyond

Komen Race for the Cure May 14

John Kennedy reminds folks that the Komen Race for the Cure will be run in Downtown Columbus on **Saturday, May 14**. This is the 30th Annual Columbus Race.

He encourages folks to come out and participate or cheer on the runners. Additional information can be found online at www.komen.org/columbusrace.

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>.

Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease Support Group Returns to In-Person Meetings

The Bexley/Berwick Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease Caregiver Support Group has returned to meeting in-person here at Redeemer on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. **Dottie Odrosky** leads the group.

Wearing a mask is no longer required but is very much acceptable for those who prefer to continue to do so.

Those who have not attended before are asked to register by calling 800-272-3900 or by going online to www.alz.org.

Getting Ready for Worship **Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 8, 2022** **Lessons**

Readings: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; John 10:7-18

Prayer of the Day

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and do work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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 Christ Lutheran Church, Heath.

+ For Redeemer community members Jennifer, Tim, and Colin Young.

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, 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, Sam Hudson, nephew of Laura and Terry Warren, on being deployed to Poland, Kelley (Scott) Frank.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Michelle Clemence
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Cantor	Connie Criswell
Organist	Kathy Rapp
Pianist	Karen Kent
Verger	Wendy Stoica
Ushers	Mike Benis
Producers	Tom Mimplitch, Kathleen Zwanziger
Communion Set-up	Misato In, Wendy Stoica

*The flowers on the altar are given by John D. Kennedy in memory of Marcelene A. Kennedy
Noisy Offering will go to ReconcilingWorks*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer May 3 – 9, 2022

<u>Tuesday</u>	1:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON / ZOOM Bible Study
<u>Wednesday</u>	12:30 p.m.	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
	5:30 p.m.	Mutual Ministry Team at Pastor's home
<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 Education for all ages
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON / ZOOM Adult Ed
	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