



Reflections

VOLUME 26

May 9, 2022

ISSUE 19

Roe v. Wade and the 23rd Psalm

*I used these words at the beginning of worship on **Sunday, May 8** as a way to give voice to news about the leaked Supreme Court draft opinion this past week. After worship, several people said they'd like to have a copy of it, so I'm offering it here. As always, I value feedback and conversation, so let me know if you'd like to talk about this.*

We come together at the end of a week when the lead news story has been about the leak of a draft Supreme Court decision that would end a right that women in this country have been guaranteed for 50 years: access to a safe, legal abortion. The right of unborn life to be born and the right of women to control their reproduction cannot both be fully protected. So there is profound division in this country and among followers of Jesus about this matter.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, our prelude and opening song are settings of Psalm 23. Later in the service we will chant Psalm 23. This is a psalm about sitting at God's table in the presence of our enemies. People on opposing sides of the abortion issue have often seen and talked about each other as enemies. Whatever the wording of the ultimate decision next month is, we will be divided. And some on each side will see those on the opposing side as enemies. How do we keep our community strong in the face of our differences of opinion? How do we seek to promote understanding and healing amidst our deep differences?

A poem based on Psalm 23 came into my email inbox this week. I don't know if it was written with the abortion issue in mind. But it could have been. What this poem does is remind us how hard it is to live in the spirit of Psalm 23 and how hard it is to walk in the way of Jesus. Followers of Jesus certainly don't believe the same things. We vote for different candidates and support different laws and policies. And yet we read in our sacred stories that each person is made in God's image. Even those we radically disagree with. We read in our sacred stories that Jesus commands us to love our neighbor in the same ways we love ourselves. When it comes to looking at those who believe totally different things about issues we care deeply about, loving them in this way can feel impossible. How do we try to follow Jesus when this decision will generate such intense feelings of joy and relief in some, and loss, grief, and rage in others?

Along with whatever feelings the final decision brings up in us, God invites us to hear this psalm about sitting at table with our enemies. We sit at this table God prepares for us. We hold our very real feelings about the decision in one hand, and hold these sacred words in the other. And struggle with how to respond.

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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.

Pastor Al Debelak to Preach May 22 while Pastor Dave Is Away

Pastor Al Debelak, who served Redeemer from 1986 to 2016, will preach on Sunday, May 22 when Pastor Dave is away with Mike Allen at a pre-wedding reception being held for them in Seattle. Pastor Dave will be on vacation from May 20-May 27.

Pastoral emergency coverage will be by Pastor Dan Hille from Faith Lutheran Church. He can be reached at 614-832-2461.

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 Ernsthausen 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 KayErnsthausen@gmail.com. Thank you!

Registration Open for RLC Summer Basketball Camp

Registration is now open for Redeemer's summer basketball camps. Led by former NBA and ABA player Coach Larry Jones, they will begin Monday, June 13. A parent/camper orientation is set for this Thursday, June 9 at 6 p.m. in the church. To register, call 614-237-1263.

Redeemer provides these camps for free to youth ages 8 to 14. The camps run six weeks, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for either the Monday and Wednesday camp or the Tuesday and Thursday camp. They conclude on Thursday, July 21.

Join RLC Members on Poor People's March June 18

On Saturday, June 18, people from across the country will gather for the Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly Moral March on Washington and to the Polls! Both Pastor Dave and Larry Trover are planning to go. Larry reports, "I have booked my trip on the bus from Columbus, and have been following the Poor People's Campaign (PPC) since I participated in their huge online event in 2020. You can find out more about the PPC at <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>

“The campaign is using a crowdsourcing charter bus service called [Rally.co](https://rally.co) where you can reserve a seat on a bus shared with your local PPC family. This link will take you directly to information and sign-up for the bus from Columbus: <https://rally.co/poor-peoples-assembly/from/columbusoh-oh> .

Some important things to remember:

- “A credit card is required for reserving your seat but won’t be charged until the ride is confirmed closer to the date of June 18.
- “If you don’t have a credit card or don’t feel comfortable entering it on the website, contact ohio@poorpeoplescampaign.org, and they will help get you on the bus!
- “If you have any questions at all, please contact ohio@poorpeoplescampaign.org. They will do everything we can to make sure you can join in this historic event!

“Bus prices will rise May 19, so book your ride now! All reservations need to be made by **Friday, June 10**; bus trips will be confirmed by **Saturday, June 11**.”

Thinking on the Edge

Don Luck is leading a 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. On **Sunday, May 15**, he’s continuing the conversation about alternatives to understanding Jesus’ crucifixion as being a blood sacrifice God requires for forgiveness.

May 15 Continuation of discussion begun May 8: Why keep speaking about Jesus’ death as a “sacrifice” to God and moreover one that requires blood?

May 22 Where is God in the pain and injustice of life?

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!!

Fellowship Hall Update

Redeemer’s Property Team is happy to report that the HVAC systems in the Fellowship Hall and basement are complete! **Julie Johnson** reports, “We have now replaced all of the furnace and air conditioning units and put iWave air purification devices in.”

However, they are not yet ready to recommend to Church Council that those spaces be opened until a couple more tasks are accomplished.

First, since the space was not used and the air was not circulated for so long a time, they have arranged for the duct system to be professionally cleaned with the hope that job will be complete by the end of the month.

In addition, the team has had some minor electric repairs done and some plumbing checks done on the bathroom. They are recommending that only the bathroom that is entered from the Fellowship Hall be opened due to the condition of the one off the hall. That bathroom will be closed for the foreseeable future.

The cost for final replacement of the HVAC system was just over \$45,000. Redeemer had received a gift last year toward this project of \$25,000.

Tuesday Bible Study Continues May 10

The Tuesday Bible Study returns on **Tuesday, May 10** 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=cTlaaUM5MWI6U29mNGtsQXhuTnlIUOT09>.

BREAD Nehemiah Action Set for Tuesday, May 10



The BREAD Nehemiah Action, set for tomorrow, **Tuesday, May 10**, begins at **6:40 p.m.** at the Celeste Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds. Registration begins at 6:15 p.m.

While the event is free, tickets are needed. **Pastor Dave, Emily Ott** and **Michele Clemence** have tickets, call the church office or scan the QR Code below. Check with them about car-pooling.

Masks are strongly encouraged plus the seating will be socially distanced. No child care will be provided but a separate child friendly space will be provided.

Questions? Call the BREAD office at 614-220-9363.

According to BREAD, attendees will be joined by thousands of people gathered to fight for justice on the community problems BREAD has voted to tackle.

“Our power lies in the number of people at the Nehemiah Action speaking with one voice. BREAD research committees have met with professionals and agencies in the field for months before deciding on the best possible solution and the appropriate decision makers with the power to make the change.

“Your presence is more than just a number; you can expect to be an active participant in backing up our spokespeople by showing solidarity.”



Sister Act Event to Meet May 18

Sister Act will discuss “joy” at its next meeting on **Wednesday, May 18**. Led by **Julie Johnson** and **Sara Auman**, the group will explore what joy looks and feels like as individuals and as a community of sisters in Christ. This builds on the group's theme for the year: “Joyful Revolutionaries.”

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at Julie and Sara's home (688 Brenton Place). It is planned to be outside on the patio but can move inside if needed.

The June event, set for **Saturday, June 11**, will be a day-long retreat at **Sue Yehling's**. It begins at 11 a.m. Ideas for activities, projects, and discussion topics are welcome. Please feel share them with **Michele Disbro, Carol Heacock, or Kay Ernsthausen**.

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.

Roe v. Wade and the 23rd Psalm *cont'd from page 1*

A poem by the Methodist pastor **Steven Garnass Holmes**:

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemy. (Psalm 23:5)

This is a promise of safety:
in biblical times hospitality was so honored
that a host was expected to protect you
even from murderous enemies.

But it's also an invitation to reconciliation.
When the Beloved prepares the table
your enemies aren't just onlookers. They're invited.

There is only one table.
Jesus sets the Passover table and seats Judas
right beside him, in the place of honor.

The Beloved sits beside you,
your enemy across from you.
(The Beloved sits beside them, too.)

And you both feast on the same grace,
the same cup overflowing,
the same goodness and mercy.

You will not get up from the Beloved's table
until you are reconciled.
Until then you both are still at the table.

Dave Shull

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

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

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

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; Ohoho the Clown to Skate

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 .

Ohoho the Clown (Larry Trover) will be skating in the event, noting that every 50 seconds, somewhere in the world, someone dies from breast cancer. "Nowadays, it seems nearly everyone knows someone who has been impacted by breast cancer. That's why we all need to keep working – and why Ohoho the Clown is participating in this year's Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

“In the face of this deadly disease, it's not enough to simply say you support the breast cancer cause. It's time to join us and take action.” Folks can help by making a donation in support of Ohoho by clicking on this link: http://www.info-komen.org/goto/ohoho_for_komen . “I hope we can count on your support. Remember, every dollar gets us closer to our goal!”

PRIDE Is Back

The Columbus Pride Parade returns in person this year. This parade celebrates support and solidarity with our LGBTQIA siblings. The date is **Saturday, June 18**, at 10:30 a.m. The ELCA effort is being coordinated by **Pastor Jacqui Buschor** of the Church on Oakland Park.

The t-shirt color this year is blue, and the cost to register is \$18 with a t-shirt, or \$5 without a t-shirt. The deadline to register is Wednesday, June 1. This registration link allows us to register together or individually: <https://tinyurl.com/ELCApride2022>. If you'd rather not register alone, get in touch with **Mary Benis** at mkbenis@yahoo.com.

“The Pride Parade is always a good experience for the marchers. It's a wonderful opportunity to say out loud what our shirts proclaim: ‘This is Christ's church; there's a place for you here.’ So if you can spare the time and you're up for a slow walk, make plans to join with other Columbus Lutherans to celebrate both our diversity and our unity.”

Second Lawsuit Challenges Budget Provision on Refusal of Care

The ACLU of Ohio recently announced a lawsuit to challenge a provision of the state budget on the ability of clinicians, institutions and insurers to decline to perform or pay for health care services contrary to their beliefs and principles - the second challenge to the law launched in recent weeks.

The language in HB110 (Oelslager), added in the Senate, states those entities can decline to perform or pay for a service that “violates the practitioner's, institution's or payer's conscience as informed by the moral, ethical or religious beliefs or principles held by the practitioner, institution or payer.”

The ACLU of Ohio and attorneys with Baker Hostetler filed the new lawsuit on behalf of Equitas Health, which focuses on health care needs for LGBTQ+ people. The plaintiffs said the provision will have “an especially severe impact” on LGBTQ+ people and those living with HIV/AIDS. The litigation charges that inclusion of the law in the state budget violates the Ohio Constitution's single subject rule.

“The health care denial law was snuck into an unrelated appropriations bill in the 11th hour behind closed doors. Our constitution's single-subject rule serves an essential democratic purpose in placing concrete limits on the power of the General Assembly. This extremely broad and vague provision is harmful to healthcare providers serving the LGBTQ+ community, who now face legal and monetary risk in ensuring their patients receive appropriate and necessary care. Religious freedom is not a license to discriminate,” said **Amy Gilbert**, staff attorney for the ACLU of Ohio.

“This law hurts Equitas Health's ability to fulfill its mission of providing quality healthcare and preventative services to the LGBTQ+ community, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and others who experience health care disparities,” said **Karl Fanter**, partner at BakerHostetler and pro bono counsel for Equitas Health.

“Equitas Health will always stand up for the rights of our patients. The relationship between a patient and their medical provider is built on trust. This law puts that trust in jeopardy, further marginalizing the people who need our services most. The effects of this law are so chilling that our board of trustees has determined we can no longer wait. The time to fight for our patients' rights is now,” said **Kaarina Ornelas**, Equitas Health board chair.

The lawsuit was filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court.

Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein recently filed a lawsuit challenging the same budget provision, charging violations of the single subject rule as well as constitutional home rule protections and the federal Affordable Care Act.

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 Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 15, 2022 Lessons

Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; John 13:31-35

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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, Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Jenny 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, Brittany Amon.

Worship Leaders

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Presiding Minister | Dave Shull, Pastor |
| Assisting Minister | Karen Collins |
| ASL Interpreter | Bryan Neal |
| Cantor | Jennifer Young |
| Organist | Kathy Rapp |
| Pianist | Karen Kent |
| Verger | Michelle Clemence |
| Usher | Ashley Bird |
| Producers | Sue Yehling, Scott Steiner |
| Communion Set-up | Misato In, Wendy Stoica |

*The flowers on the altar are given by Laura and Terry Warren in memory of their mothers
Noisy Offering will go to ReconcilingWorks*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

May 10 – 16, 2022

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|---|
| <u>Tuesday</u> | 1:00 p.m. | IN-PERSON / ZOOM Bible Study |
| | 7:00 p.m. | <u>BREAD Nehemiah Action</u> |
| <u>Thursday</u> | 5:00 p.m. | RLC serves at First English |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Caregivers Support Group |
| <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 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