RLC Members Reflect on Churchwide Assembly

For a week earlier in August, hundreds of Lutherans from across the country convened here in Columbus for the 2022 triennial ELCA Churchwide Assembly at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. While there will be other reports of what transpired over those five days, Reflections asked those Redeemer members who volunteered to help out at the event to share their most memorable moment from the assembly.

Here are those responses:

Michele Disbro

Over 800 delegates gathered every day to make decisions regarding the vision of the church. It was an inspiring week for me to gather with so many people from across the country to discuss how the church needs to be willing to change to embrace and welcome our ever changing society. With the theme "Embody the Word," we worshipped, listened to devotions, and sang songs to keep us focused in our conversations and decisions. We heard many testimonies about the hurt caused by the church followed by action for reconciliation and healing.

We embraced the Indigenous tribes incorporating a beautiful worship service with the Dakota Drum group, a prayer to the Four Directions, and readings in tribal tongues. The Lord's Prayer was shared in many different languages.

Discussions were held about how the church needs to support clergy as they counsel women who are making difficult decisions in a post-Roe v. Wade world in states with very strict laws. Decisions were made regarding the budget, actions needing to be taken, and future studies.

To be clear, I was not a voting delegate. I was simply a tech support volunteer helping the delegates to use their voting machines to vote on the motions and to follow along with the documents on their iPads. Nonetheless, I felt like I was a part of this huge gathering of Lutherans trying to embody the Word to live as faithful servants.

I was encouraged and hopeful at the end of the week. Now the hard work begins. The delegates need to share the bold vision for the ELCA at the synodical and congregational levels so that real action can happen. I will certainly be lifting this hope up in my prayers!

Julianne Johnson

I volunteered at the Churchwide Assembly as usher at two worship services which were both memorable. The one on Wednesday was a service of acknowledgement and repentance for the church's role with indigenous peoples. This is directly related to an action by the previous Churchwide Assembly that overwhelmingly passed the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.

It was a moving service, led by Indigenous peoples and full of wisdom and symbolism of their culture. I left this experience with my ignorance exposed once again. Whose land do we worship and live on? Who have we stolen from? What

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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 Margues 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.

Come One, Come All to Redeemer's KidsFest on Aug. 28



Children of Redeemer and their families, their friends and neighbor children -- all are welcome to Redeemers' KidsFest this coming **Sunday**, **August 28** on the lawn under a tent from 2 to 4 p.m. **Camp Compassion** will see the children move from station to station over the two hours for crafts, songs, games, stories and snacks.

Redeemer members are asked to get the word out so feel free to pick up flyers (on the table in the back of the Sanctuary) to share with your neighbors and friends. This is a program of RLC's Education Ministry Team. For questions, please contact **Krista Skipper** at kristamary5114@gmail.com or by texting/calling 614-596-5886.

A Big Thank You to All Who Helped with Food Giveaway

THANK YOU to all who helped with the Lutheran Social Services/Mid-Ohio Food Collective food giveaway on Thursday, August 18! That certainly includes all those who contributed paper products – which all "disappeared"! There were 22 volunteers helping distribute 5,758 pounds of food – yes, that is just over half the amount of food we generally distribute.

What was a surprise it was to receive 1,254 pounds of garlic! And this time, 427 pounds of Cheryl's cookies were also delivered. Redeemer served 150 families which meant 498 people which included 141 children and 130 seniors. There were 51 new families.

There are two more giveaways this year. September's "extra" items will be personal products such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dental floss, body lotion, nail care kits, etc. "We truly appreciate everyone's help!"

Dave Lippert, who thanked **Kathy Zwanziger** and **Sue Watson** for their work with the food giveaway, reports that his "t-shirt will need three washings to get the garlic smell out!!"

LWR Representative Coming to RLC

Rev. Tim Krick, manager of congregational engagement for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), is coming to Redeemer on <u>Wednesday, August 31</u> to thank the congregation for its support of LWR work in Ukraine and to update Redeemer about its current efforts there and in other parts of the world. It will begin at 2:30 p.m. here in the Narthex. Tea, fruit and baked goods will be served. There will be time for questions following his presentation.

Team Forming to Select Artwork for Narthex

It's time to do something about the bare walls in the Narthex! Actually, it's long overdue. As a result, Church Council decided to form a team to gather suggestions and identify various pieces of art that can be hung on the Narthex walls. It will then submit a proposal to council for artwork to be purchased with Memorial Funds.

If you are interested in being a part of this team, please contact Michele Disbro or Wendy Stoica.

Adult Class Continues Sermon 'Talkback'/'Look Ahead' Aug. 28

The Adult Education Class continues the sermon "talkback"/sermon "look ahead" discussion on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>August 28</u> in Room 2 at 11:15 a.m. Folks interested in discussing themes raised for them by the day's sermon and the biblical text it was based on as well as the scriptures for the next Sunday are welcome to gather in Room 2 or via Zoom.

To join the Zoom meeting, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 814 1179 0303; Passcode: 645662. 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/81411790303?pwd=cGNGMHo2K2d1WElzUHRHekRQWUo2dz09

Save Date for Redeemer's 65th Anniversary Celebration

On <u>Sunday</u>, <u>September 25</u>, Redeemer will celebrate its 65th anniversary. Redeemer members and friends are invited to an old-fashioned Redeemer celebration: a <u>Talent Show and Ice Cream Social</u>. Following worship, folks will gather in the basement Fellowship Hall for a simple lunch provided by Sister Act. Then, they can sit back to enjoy ice cream sundaes and a Redeemer Talent Show.

Talent Show? Yes, Redeemer's got talent and we're looking for folks to share theirs. In the past, we've had groups sing, instruments played, poems shared, and even THE Croatian Stepdancers (thimbles and all) performed. Some of Redeemer's technology talent will be utilized to create a video of life at Redeemer over the last 65 years. Those who'd like to share their talent are asked to contact **Michele Disbro**.

"Redeemer may be turning 65 but we're not retiring from our active ministry in Berwick!"

First English Changes Serving Date Just for September

Kay Ernsthausen reports that First English asked Redeemer to change serving dates in September to the **fourth Thursday**. As a result, Redeemer will be serving dinner on <u>Thursday</u>, <u>September 22</u>. The meal will be the usual dinner of sloppy joes, chips, fruit cups, Hostess desserts, and granola bars (soft ones). People wishing to donate should let Kay know anytime between now and **September 18**.

Nonperishable food items can be dropped off in the coatroom. Kay notes that with its being the fourth Thursday, "We will have more than the usual to serve. We will need food for 150 people."

Good Neighbors Picnic Set for Sept 24

The Good Neighbors Picnic will be held this year on **Saturday**, **September 24** at Wolfe Park on the east side of Columbus. Redeemer members and friends are invited to begin donating new or gently used blankets and cold weather clothing and accessories to help provide for homeless brothers and sisters in the Columbus area.

This all-day event was started in 1999 by **Redeemer member William McCully** along with a few volunteers as part of the National Make a Difference Day.

On the day of the Good Neighbors Picnic, volunteers work to provide a day of celebration including food, music, games, books, family photos, crafts, and shopping at a Free Store for blankets and winter clothing.

Last year over 350 individuals shopped the Free Store which included coats, blankets, winter clothes, shoes, socks, underwear, and personal hygiene items. Men, women, and children of all ages from local shelters are transported to the park for this day of celebration and fun.

Redeemer, along with other faith organizations, community leaders, local businesses and organizations work to gather items for those who are homeless or in shelters. Donations may be placed in the bin located in the cloakroom. Cash donations or gift cards are welcome and may be dropped off at the church office. To learn more about the Good Neighbors Picnic, go to www.goodneighborspicnic.org

Questions and Answers Around Death and Dying

Who do you want at your bedside when you are close to death? Do your loved ones know how much or how little pain management you want if you can't communicate? If you don't want Uncle Pete (and his insistence that he KNOWS you want OSU Marching Band music played as the family leaves the church) to make decisions about your funeral, how will your spouse know what you actually want?

Nancy Magargal reports that these are some of the issues discussed <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>August 17</u> when **Dr. Asma Mobin-Uddin** spoke here at Redeemer "about medical ethics and how good planning and honest communication can make end-of-life medical decisions easier on you and your loved ones. Informing our spouses, children and close friends about how we want to be treated as we are preparing to die are very personal and crucially important issues for them to know, and will remove a great deal of stress during a difficult time.

"My mother's sudden death 30 years ago made me so grateful for the dinners she insisted my sister, she and I have every year to discuss her plans for, as she put it, 'a peaceful end." Dr Mobi-Uddin distributed a booklet titled "Choices-Living Well at the End of Life." It is available from Fairfield Medical Center's Patient Representative Department. To request a copy, call 740-687-8555. "I highly recommend that you read it and make a plan and share it with your loved ones. It's one of the most loving things you can do for yourself and those who love you.

"As for me, I'm taking suggestions for the recessional hymn for my funeral. I thank **Sue Yehling** for telling me about her friend who has chosen "Zippity Doo Dah" as her last hoorah!"

Providers of After-Worship Refreshments, Cookies Sought

Individuals or groups within the congregation are encouraged to sign up to provide refreshments following a worship service. It doesn't need to be elaborate: cookies, cold iced or lemonade and coffee will do. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the Library for those who might be willing to provide refreshments on Sundays through the summer.

In addition, donations of packaged cookies are also needed. If this is something you can do, just put them on the counter in the kitchen off the Narthex. Questions? Contact **Jon Disbro** at 614-451-3642 or at Jon.Disbro@nationwidechildrens.org.

Spotlight on BREAD Network Member Emily Ott

Kristi Hildebrand has asked BREAD Network Members to answer a handful of questions, sharing their answers here in *Reflections*. Next up: **Emily Ott.**

- 1. Name: Emily Ott
- 2. **Justice issues that keep me up at night**: The way we handle poverty it's expensive to be poor, and our society punishes it at every turn. It feels overwhelming because it spirals into so many other problems of safety, health care, quality of life, etc. And then I start thinking about the institutions that keep things the way they are, including the disproportionate amount of people of color who are poor; it's a lot to try to chip away at.
- 3. Why did I join the justice ministry: I felt very strongly called to take action on issues of racial justice. I didn't know what to do or how, but I felt led to speak up in our congregation and community about the need to interrogate our response to racial justice after **Henry Green** was killed.
- 4. Favorite kind of bread: Dark rye
- 5. **Justice prayer for 2022**: That we would see some tangible gains, that some of these strategies would have a pronounced impact, to spur greater energy to keep working at this.

RLC's Saturday Garden Giveaways Now Every Saturday

Redeemer's Saturday morning garden giveaways are now underway and will occur every Saturday through the summer. Picking begins at 9 a.m. while the giveaway begins at 10 a.m. and runs until the week's harvest is gone.

Plan to come, help with the picking and the distributing! And if you have extra from your garden, please bring that to share.

LSS Food Pantry Needs Donations

Kathy Zwanziger reports that the LSS Food Pantry needs canned tuna, canned chicken, vegetable oil, and wrapped paper towels as well as cash donations. She reminds folks that donations can be leveraged to purchase more items for the same amount than we can on individual items. Whichever way you choose to donate, it is gratefully appreciated!

Sign Up Now to Read at Worship Services

Readers for Sunday morning services can now sign up for dates over the summer. Readers, including youth and children, are encouraged to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, next to the Library.

Readings are sent out the week before to give folks a chance to go through the lessons ahead of Sunday mornings. Readers of all ages are encouraged to participate.

Noisy Offering to Go to Columbus Diaper Coalition

Redeemer's Noisy Offering – that offering of loose change that is deposited in the offering plate just insider the entrance to the Sanctuary – will now be used to support the Columbus Diaper Coalition.

This coalition began in November 2013 because diapers are not covered by Ohio Works First, SNAP (food stamps) benefits, or any other social-service organization.

The Columbus Diaper Coalition is a diaper bank that currently supports four area food pantries. Since the supply chain for infant supplies has been interrupted and with the added stress of inflation, the diaper bank has more and more demand. The vision of the Columbus Diaper Coalition is to grow into a diaper bank that can serve all of Columbus.

For more information or where to drop off diaper donations go to: $\underline{\text{http://www.columbusdiapercoalition.org}}\;.$

RLC Members Reflect on Churchwide Assembly cont'd from p. 1

other actions have we taken and justified in God's name?

But I can't end there. I also got to usher at the session where the top three candidates for vice president of the ELCA answered three questions. This is the highest position a lay person can hold. What a gifted and diverse group of candidates! A Black woman, a gay man, and a man who was a Muslim 10 years ago! All well qualified, all bringing gifts to the possible job. And the assembly elected **Imran Sadduqui**, the former Muslim. One of those times I'm proud to call myself a Lutheran!

Al Rider

I volunteered to help on the tech team for the ELCA Assembly, and as we wrapped up our week together, about 1,000 delegates made a rush out the door to catch flights home There, the next incoming group was already crowding the Convention Center lobby, perhaps 200-300 of them: A COSPLAY convention...!

It was *Matsuricon 2022*, an event for digital and board gamers, with hundreds of folks in amazing get-ups: winged angels, horned beasts, walking mushrooms, witches, goblins, knights in armor, wild animals, you name it! Lots of color, plenty of imagination. And as those fully-costumed gamers clustered there in the lobby, suddenly the doors of "Hall A" swung open and out came a thousand fully-costumed Lutherans who had just finished their closing worship: dressed in funny white bathrobes, purple bishop's shirts, odd backward collars, colorful stoles, processional gear including candles, banners ... All mixing together.

I wish I'd had a camera! It was the most amazing and colorful collection of "sinners and saints" I've ever seen, except of course that all the "saints" were also sinners and most of the "sinners" were no doubt also saints. A vivid parable of what our Church is all about as we boldly exit our own congregation every Sunday and head back, charged up with the Gospel, into the colorful and messy world we live in, which has its own agenda and its own spiritual attire. ... where the differently-costumed folks we meet are not our opponents: they are our neighbors. Thanks be to God!

Larry Trover

I was impressed by the indigenous music at Wednesday's worship service: drums, flute, and chanting.

Important Emails

<u>Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave.**

<u>Info@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for communicating with the office, *Reflections* newsletter, **Office Manager Becky Trover**, healing prayer requests or for general information.

<u>MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – 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.

<u>Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

<u>Property@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

<u>SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

<u>Transportation@redeemerluth.com</u> – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

<u>Communications@redeemerluth.com</u> – 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 <u>info@RedeemerLuth.com</u> 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 strength and comfort are asked for both **Nancy Stinson** who faces very serious health issues and for **Leah Spang** who is now receiving palliative care.

Prayers for healing are also asked for the following friends of the Riders, all of whom face serious health issues: **Katie Harber** who is having back surgery; **Olesya Savenkova**, who is having heart surgery; and **Tim Matthews** who needs a kidney transplant.

Prayers of comfort are asked for Paula Carson's family. Her sister-in-law's husband, CJ, was murdered last week. Please pray for healing and comfort for Paula and Skye, Paula's husband, Johnny Ray, her sister-in-law Amanda Carson, and their three children.

Kathy Updates Her Health Status

My evaluation by a kidney transplant team was postponed when I had COVID; the next available date is in late October (but I'm hoping someone else will cancel before then). In the meantime, I can look for a living kidney donor.

Who could donate? Healthy people between 18 and 70 can donate a kidney and have no change in life expectancy. A kidney from a living donor is generally healthier than one from a deceased donor – and the wait for the recipient can be decreased from years to months. Donors are often family members or friends, but some people just want to offer the gift of life to a stranger. Donors are given a complete health work-up; expenses are usually paid by the recipient's insurance company (and would be, in my case). Neither sex nor race matter; blood type does – but if the donor's type does not match the recipient, "paired exchanges" are facilitated, and more lives can be saved.

For more information about living kidney donation at Ohio State, please visit: https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/KidneyDonor.



Piano Available Free

Madelyn Zimmer has a piano that she is giving away to anyone who might be interested. It was purchased in the 1970s at Lazarus and is in excellent condition. If interested, please reach out to Madelyn's daughter May by texting or calling her at 937-728-2643. (She lives in Dayton.)

August Birthdays

23-Scott Steiner
25-LaVerna Reinoehl 26-Brad Binau
27-Matthew Bird 27-Jon Disbro
29-Heather McGurer 31-Lynn Belhorn

Community Beyond

CMOA Exhibit Features Tapestries with Biblical Themes

The Columbus Museum of Art (CMOA) announced that its newest exhibition, *Raphael —The Power of the Renaissance Images: The Dresden Tapestries and Their Impact*, features six monumental tapestries depicting Biblical scenes. It is now open.

The tapestries have never-before been exhibited in the U.S. and the Columbus Museum of Art is the only American venue for this exhibition. The specific scriptures depicted in the tapestries are:

- St Paul Preaching at Athens (Acts 17:16–34)
- Christ's Charge to Peter (Matthew 16:16–19)
- The Sacrifice at Lystra (Acts 14:8)
- The Healing of the Lame Man (Acts 3:1–8)
- The Conversion of the Proconsul (Acts 13:6–12)

These massive tapestries were created from the same Raphael paintings as the world-famous versions that were woven in the 16th century to hang in the Sistine Chapel. Currently housed in the museum of the Vatican, this original set was temporarily reinstalled in the Sistine Chapel in February 2020 to commemorate the 500-year anniversary of Raphael's death. Each tapestry depicts -- in monumental scale and grand detail -- a Biblical moment in the lives of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Over 100 years after the Vatican tapestries were completed, Raphael's original designs were purchased by King Charles I of England and made into another set of tapestries at the renowned Mortlake Tapestry Manufactory outside London. This second set of tapestries was taken to Germany in the 18th century and now, for the first time ever in the United States, these tapestries will be on view at CMOA, loaned by the Old Masters Gallery of Dresden.

The museum has multiple formats for group visits:

- **A Guided Tour**: One-hour tours are conversation based and led by trained volunteers to share information about the art and exhibition.
- **A Self-Guided Experience**: Explore the galleries as individuals or small groups. The Museum can provide stools for slow looking or casual discussion.
- **A VIP Tour with a Curator**: Receive an in-depth look at the incredible history and significance of the tapestries, but also the truly one-of-a-kind exhibition partnership with Columbus' Sister City, Dresden.

The museum strongly encourages weekday visits when the exhibition will be quieter and less crowded and welcomes visitors to extend their visit and enjoy the café and sculpture garden after exploring the museum. Ticket information and information on a variety of seminars on the tapestries can be found online at the museum's website at https://tinyurl.com/3k7rn9a2.

Getting Ready for Worship

12th Sunday after Pentecost, August 28, 2022 Lessons

Readings: Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81: 1, 10-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Prayer of the Day

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 Hosanna Lutheran Church, Pataskala.
- + For Redeemer community members Diane Brobeck and Tammy DeNune.

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, 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, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling's sister Val, Grace and Ken Jones, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Kris Kauffman, Sam Hudson, nephew of Laura and Terry Warren, on being deployed to Bulgaria, Kelley (Scott) Frank, Brittany Amon, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Kay Ernsthausen
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Cantor	Wendy Stoica
Organist	Kathy Rapp
Pianist	Karen Kent
Verger	Wendy Stoica
Usher	Jon Disbro

ProducersMichele Disbro, Kathleen Zwanziger **Communion Set-up**Michele Disbro, Becky Trover

Flowers are given by Judith and Ashley Bird for Matt's birthday Noisy Offering will go to the Columbus Diaper Bank

Upcoming Week at RedeemerAugust 23 – August 29, 2022

Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Journaling Workshop
Wednesday	2:00 p.m.	Stewardship Team
<u>Saturday</u>	9 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
Sunday	10 a.m.	IN-PERSON / LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Education Class
	2-4 p.m.	KIDS FEST