



Reflections

VOLUME 26

November 21, 2022

ISSUE 47

Seeing Thank You

This Monday morning of Thanksgiving week brings a beautiful sunrise as I look east through our dining room window. The time change means the sun rises as I pray with my eyes open. What is it about morning light coming through bare branches? I imagine God feeling really delighted with the spare, stark beauty of light through bare branches.

I spent way too many years not seeing the beauty around me but, instead, seeing what *wasn't* there. I paid attention to what was missing. I didn't notice what was right in front of me. If you've ever lived like that, you know it doesn't exactly make for a life of happiness and joy. Needless to say, when some wise people helped me understand I could choose to see the world differently, it was like the sun coming through bare branches. Whereas before, I would have paid attention to the fact that the leaves were missing, now I saw something else. I noticed the beauty, even when there were things that seemed to be missing. I started to notice the beauty around me, and felt so grateful. I saw "thank-you," and prayed "thank-you."

One of the gifts of having parents with a lot of filing cabinets is that they save things most of us would have thrown away. Some years ago my dad sent me a copy of a prayer I wrote for a Sunday School class when I was nine years old. Like the nerd I was, I typed it. Two observations: clearly traditional gender-role expectations were still present in our household in 1968. And, at least when it comes to household appliances, our typewriter didn't have spell-check!

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING THINGS I AM THANKFUL FOR IN MY HOME

1. My family – Because they support me and buy me food and all the things I need.
2. My food – Because it gives me all the energy I need and because I like it. (That is most of it.)
3. Water – Because I like it when I am thirsty and because we couldn't live without it.
4. Books – Because sometimes we learn things we never knew before.
5. Money – Because we couldn't buy anything without it.
6. Games – Because games give us something to do when you don't have anything to do.
7. Kleenexes – Because if you had a cold (like me) you would feel much better if you used one.
8. T.V. – Because if we didn't have a T.V., I couldn't watch my favorite T.V. shows.
9. Refrigerators – Because if we didn't have a refrigerator the food we ate wouldn't be very good.
10. Dish Washer – Because if we didn't have a dish washer my mother would have to wash dishes by hand.
11. Prayer – Because prayer gives us a time to think about all the sins of the day and a time to ask to be forgiven and also a time to be glad that you are so fortunate that you have such a fine home and such a fine family.

by Dave Shull

The End

cont'd on p. 6

In This Issue

[Seeing Thank You](#)

[The Redeemer Community](#)

[The Wider Church](#)

[The Community Beyond](#)

[Prayers & Personals](#)

[Getting Ready for Sunday](#)

OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor - Rev. David Shull

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

info@RedeemerLuth.com

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Council Elections Set for Nov. 27

A congregational meeting has been called for **Sunday, November 27** immediately following the worship service to vote on officers for 2023. The slate includes the following:

Vice President - **Krista Skipper**

Secretary - **Sue Watson**

Education - **Katie Jacobs**

Outreach - **Diane Brobeck**

Stewardship - **Laura Warren**

Terms are for two years and, as such, other Council positions have another year to serve. **Michele Disbro** will move up from vice president to president for 2023.

Advent Devotional Booklets Now Available

Redeemer's 2022 *Advent Devotional Booklet* is now available in regular and large print versions. Copies can be found in the Narthex for pick up. The devotions will also be available on the Redeemer website: www.RedeemerLuth.com.

If anyone would like a print version mailed to them, please let the office know. Those who would like to receive a daily email with that day's devotion, please contact the office.

Feel free to take as many as you like to share with friends and family – the hard work is done, the printer can easily make as many copies as we need!

Poinsettias for Sale

It is time to order poinsettias for the Christmas services. They are \$7 per pot and are available in red, white, or pink flowers. Plants can be ordered "in memory" of a loved one, "in honor" of loved ones or "To the Glory of God".

Order envelopes are on the bulletin board next to the Library or on the table going into worship. Please complete the outside of the envelope, insert cash or check (made out to Redeemer Lutheran Church) in the envelope and put the completed envelope in the offering plate. *It's as easy as that.*

The deadline for orders is **Wednesday, November 30**.

If you miss the church service and still want to order, please contact the church office. Don't wait ... Don't forget ... Order now!!

Letting Someone Know Your 'Under Radar' Activities around Here

A request from **Pastor Dave**: "There are lots of things around the church that mysteriously seem to get done. Often they've been done by the same person for years. And they're done under the radar screen of all of us – except whoever does them. It's fantastic so many of you do so much without drawing attention to yourselves, and, on behalf of the congregation, I thank each of you for all you do. The only problem is that when, for whatever reasons, you can't do these tasks anymore, we don't know that we need to make sure they're done by someone else.

"**Becky Trover** words our invitation to you well: Could you be sure some church leader knows what you're doing? Oftentimes we don't notice that the robes are magically always clean and mended, the kitchen is magically cleaned, certain supplies magically never run out, paint is magically touched up, and like that – until one day they're not. God bless you angels who take care of those things!

"So could you please make sure whoever leads the ministry area you're blessing the congregation in an under-the-radar kind of way knows what you're doing? THANK YOU!!"

Thanksgiving Deadline to Answer RLC Worship Survey

The Worship Team would like to hear from members of the congregation by Thanksgiving regarding **two issues** surrounding Sunday morning worship.

First is the question of Redeemer's worship schedule and the ways folks worship with the Redeemer community. The second area deals with personal safety at the church.

Before COVID, during the school year, Redeemer worshipped Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., with an education hour between services. During the summer, there would be one service. The year before the pandemic (2019), the average attendance for the 8:30 a.m. service was 36; the average for the 11 a.m. service was 62, with the average attendance for both services being 98 people.

Redeemer returned to in-person worship on Easter Sunday 2021. Except for Easter 2021 and 2022, the church has had one 10 a.m. service. The average in-person attendance in 2021 was 46; average livestream was 8; average YouTube viewership over the next week was 42; average YouTube viewership over the next 30 days was 68. So, total average attendance and viewership in 2021 was 122 (in-person + livestream + views within 30 days).

Through July 17, 2022, the average in-person attendance on Sundays is 58; average livestream is 15; average YouTube viewership the first week is 33; average YouTube viewership over 30 days is 56. So, total average attendance and viewership so far in 2022 is 129.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/3r4h73n2> to take the survey.

Thanksgiving Deadline to Drop Off Madonnas, Nativity Scenes

Thanksgiving is the deadline to drop off Madonna/nativity scene artwork for hanging in the Narthex over the Advent/Christmas season. This is the first effort in a new "rotating art exhibit" plan to decorate the walls in the Narthex with artwork from members. It can be left in the church office where the liability forms can be found for signing.

The art will be hung on **Friday, November 25** in time for the first Sunday in Advent on **Sunday, November 26**.

According to **Michele Disbro**, throughout the church year, there will be different themes. "If you have a piece of art you'd like to share with Redeemer for that theme, we will hang it in the Narthex using our flexible hanging system. (This system allows us to hang art using wires coming down from a support system rather than putting nails into the wall.)

"Please do NOT share super valuable art. Yes, we have a security system and cameras however, by lending your art, you are understanding that something could possibly happen and you are releasing Redeemer from responsibility.

Please contact Michele at mddisbro@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Nov. 27 Deadline for Suggestions for 2022 MEF Distribution

Every year the congregation donates a percentage (4 percent) of the year-end market value of the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) to other charities on behalf of the congregation. The 2022 3rd quarter market value was \$123,400 which would provide \$4,936 for distribution, **Dave Engel**, chair of the Special Funds Teams (SFT) reports. "The final amount may increase or decrease depending on the fourth quarter value.

The guidelines for distribution, as established in the constitution; to establish/support ministries of outreach on behalf of the congregation, and to further partnerships in mission through the synod and other arms of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Some prior recipients include LSS Food Pantry, Lutheran Memorial Camp/HopeWood Pines, Bishop Griffin Resource Center, Mid-Ohio Food Co-operative, Grace Missions Inc, Haiti, Lutheran Social Services, Renewed Strength Zambia, Ronald McDonald House, WELS Youth Leadership Program, and Groveport Special Olympics.

SFT is seeking suggestions for the use of the funds for 2022. Please use the **pink** form found at the end of *Reflections* or on a table in the Narthex to nominate possible recipients.

Complete it and place it in the Sunday offering plate or leave it in the church office. Suggestions are due by **Sunday, November 27**.

The SFT will then make its recommendation to council for action by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.

Sister Act Collecting Toys

Sister Act is coordinating the collection of toys and books for infants up through children age 17 to assist the Mid-Ohio Workers Association whose members are the working poor. This organization came to Redeemer's Adult Education class on November 13, and these donations are part of their holiday efforts.

Toys are needed for all ages 0-17 and should be unwrapped. They need to be delivered by **Thursday, December 15**. This is in lieu of Redeemer's adopting a family from Berwick School this year.

"Thank you all for your support."

BREAD's Annual Assembly Hears Status Reports

On November 15, BREAD met for the Annual Assembly at Christ the King Catholic church and on Zoom. ABC News coverage of the event can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/3texjxrz>. The Annual Assembly is one of the four major BREAD events that happen during the year. **Pastor Dave** gave the report on the 2022 Listening process. The committees gave reports on the status of five issues from the roadmap:

- **Juvenile Justice** reported on the importance of helping kids learn to communicate their feelings. In the first month of school, Columbus City Schools (CCS) had 97 fights. CCS has committed to have Restorative Practices, which are proven to reduce violence, in every school by 2026. BREAD also learned that restorative practices will now be included in the superintendent's annual evaluation which will lead to more accountability. Staff will have two additional trainings this school year, and five high schools are part of a pilot program with a special focus on student-led restorative practices.

- **"Family First! Housing Now!"** reminded attendees that there is still in a housing crisis. The voters approved a bond package that provides \$200 million for affordable rental and home-ownership programs, efforts to keep housing affordable in certain areas (including the Near East Side), and programs to house people who are homeless. This was a big win! But many people are being evicted and end up living in their cars or in tents. BREAD is holding a protest at Crew Stadium on **Thursday, December 1**. Anyone who wants to participate will meet at 5:30 p.m. and the protest will run from 6-7 p.m.

Municipal ID explained that thousands of families cannot access available aid because it requires an ID. A municipal ID would fill that need. **Police Chief Elaine Bryant** is from Detroit where they have a successful municipal ID program. To help, sign the letter at the following link to tell city council that the city needs a municipal ID: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/one-id-columbus>

- **"Stop Violence! Build Trust!"** As previously reported, Columbus signed on to the National Network for Safe Communities' (NNSC) Group Violence Intervention (GVI) as recommended by BREAD. "We need ongoing commitment to continue with it." This is good news as **Robert Clark**, director of public safety, has made a serious commitment to GVI. Under his leadership, a team of six has been hired to work with NNSC to implement the initiative with fidelity. The initiative will be ramping up in the winter of 2023 to reduce violence among gangs. Clark attended the Annual Assembly and spoke about the need to reduce violence in the city. He committed to work with BREAD and attend the Nehemiah Action in April.

- **Non-police Crisis Response**. BREAD has been working collaboratively with the Columbus Safety Collective on a \$10 million proposal to the city of Columbus to implement a non-police crisis response team that will respond to 911 calls involving individuals struggling with mental health. It is anticipated that a full proposal will be submitted to city council for approval in early 2023.

- **A.B.L.E. Training**. BREAD leaders participated with the U.S. Attorney for Southern Ohio in a training for Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. BREAD has asked **Police Chief Elaine Bryant** to submit an application for the free training provided by the Georgetown School of Law. No commitment has been made to date.

- **Environmental Justice**. People are suffering from more rain, more heat and worse air quality. One mature tree absorbs 500 gallons of rain, lowers the temperature 20 degrees and provides oxygen for a family of four. Studies show that more trees are linked to less crime. According to BREAD, legislation for both public and private trees is needed. **Steven Horhut**, Columbus Recreation & Parks, said that he explains his job to kids by telling them he is The Lorax since he speaks for the trees like the character in

the **Dr. Seuss** book. He committed to having a consultant under contract to begin drafting a private tree protection ordinance by June 1, 2023. He also committed to attend the Nehemiah Action.

Redeemer was recognized as one of the faith communities in which 50 percent of the network members have made an investment of at least \$5 in BREAD. New officers in the executive committee were also voted in and installed.

The next BREAD event is the Research Kickoff on **Monday, December 5.**

Adult Education Class Continues with 'When Did We See You?' Hearing from Those Who Minister with the 'Least of These'

As Redeemer continues its "Loving the Least of These" Adult Education series, here are the speakers who will be speaking over the coming weeks. Each of them will talk about the realities their clients face, what services they offer, and how individuals and congregations might form relationships with them. Classes meet from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Sunday mornings.

November. 27: **Teresa Gibson**, Welcome Services Coordinator, Community Refugee and Immigration Services.

December 4: **Malik Moore**, manager, Barnett Branch of Columbus Metropolitan Library. He will talk about some of the realities of life on the East Side which many of us aren't aware of, and invite the congregation to explore being part of conversations about how the church might build relationships with the neighbors and move forward together.

December 11: **Joel Call**, distribution center manager for Lutheran Social Services Food Pantries

December 18: **Lillian Howard**, director of clinical and supportive services, Lutheran Social Services CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, will join us via Zoom.

All these sessions will also be streamed on Zoom. To join the Zoom Meeting, go to the Zoom app and enter Meeting ID: 857 6635 5631; Passcode: 312394. Or go online and enter this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85766355631?pwd=enM2bDNUV3NrK0Z5UTBxTU1pVXRQdz09>. Or phone 312-626-6799.

Members Urged to Get Photo Taken for New Directory

Karen Rider and **Linda Williams** have started taking pictures of families before and after church and will continue for the next month or so. So plan to stop by!

Members who are homebound or need some special arrangements are asked to contact **Linda Williams** and she will schedule a time to come take your picture.

The team is hoping to roll out the new photo directory in 2023.

So, please be sure get your picture taken in the next month. "We want the current version of you in our directory!" **Michele Disbro** said.

2023 Flower Chart Available

Have an event to celebrate or remember? Somebody's birthday to recognize? The chart to sign up for flowers for Sunday services in 2023 is now on the bulletin board next to the library.

Flowers run \$20 and can be paid ahead of the date by using the envelopes that are also available on the bulletin board. The envelope provides additional space for spelling out the designation – information that is shared in *Reflections* and the Sunday bulletin.

Folks can also call **Office Manager Becky Trover** to sign up. Flowers can be taken home after the Sunday service or picked up later in the week.

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 upcoming Sundays.

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 .

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.**

Seeing Thank You *cont'd from p. 1*

This week and beyond, may you be opened to see, say, and sing thank-you for the beauty that is around and within you, waiting for you just to notice it. Happy Thanksgiving!

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

Prayers for comfort are asked for **Heidi Sherer** and the **Sherer Family** on the death of Heidi's **Aunt Mary**.

+ + +

Prayers for healing are asked for **Skye Andree**.

+ + +

Member Directory Update: The **Disbros** have dropped their landline phone. Jon can be reached at 614-832-2639 and Michele can be reached at 614-286-0573.

A Note from Kathy Z

“Thanks to all of you who offered words of sympathy on the sudden death of my brother Mark. He had spent the afternoon with his daughter and grandchildren. When they left, he went out to his shop, where his wife found him less than two hours later. We never know when the end will come.”

Advent Signups Now Available

There are a number of new sign-up sheets available related to the upcoming midweek advent services: for cantors, for volunteers to share their stories and, last but not least, for Advent desserts. This year, folks are asked to share about a time they felt led. When did you find yourself on a path you didn't expect to be on, one that perhaps you don't even remember choosing? How did you respond? What happened?

Please consider ways to add to the observation of the Advent season here at Redeemer and sign up.

'Instant Advent: A Cartoon Christmas Countdown' Available

Starting on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, families can enjoy 29 Sparkhouse Family Devotionals, to be posted daily. This is all part of a move that celebrates the new [Sparkhouse Family YouTube Channel](#). This series is meant for at-home use by families.

Members Urged to Keep Car Doors Locked while at Church

A few Sundays ago, the usher noticed that someone was in the parking lot, trying car doors as the church service was underway. Members are urged to lock their car doors anytime they are at church.

November Birthdays

21-Andy Jacobs

23-Chelsea Gordon 23-Carolyn Moehring

24-Judith Bird 24-Sarah Highland

25-Dereck Stewart 26-Grace Montgomery

28-Dave Shull 29-Mary Bowling

The Wider Church

ELCA Asks for Input on Draft Social Message on Climate Care

“The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.” —Psalm 24:1

What is a faithful Lutheran response to Earth's changing climate and worsening natural disasters? How do we think about this crisis as people of faith, and what are we called to do?

After hearing requests from across the church for guidance, the ELCA Church Council in November 2021 authorized development of a social message on climate care. Social messages are ELCA social teaching documents on specific social topics; these documents shape ELCA policy and help members discern how to respond to an issue.

A draft of the social message "Earth's Climate Crisis" is now posted for public comment! Feedback of this kind helps the drafters know how the document could be more clear, helpful and faithfully Lutheran. Please [read the social message draft](#) and [use this survey](#) to share your input by **Friday, December 2**. Questions or longer responses can be emailed to draftsocialmessage@elca.org.

The Community Beyond

Connection Café Series Supports Caregivers

The OSU Aging Team invites non-paid caregivers to attend the free Connection Café: Caregiving Around the Clock virtual series every Tuesday in November from 10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Participants can attend one or all the session and simply need to register at <https://go.osu.edu/caregivingaroundtheclock>.

Topics include stress and self care, health and nutrition and a caregiving plan, among others.

Getting Ready for Worship

First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew 24:37-44

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father 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 St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Kathy Denhard and Tony Naess.

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, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich and their sister Betty Weaver, Jeremy Davis, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Jon Denniss, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Sam Hudson, nephew of Laura and Terry Warren, on being deployed to Bulgaria, Kelley (Scott) Frank, Brittany Amon, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin, Skye Andree, family and friends of Stan Heacock.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Cantor

ASL Interpreter

Organist & Senior Choir Director

Pianist & Chime Choir Director

Usher

Verger

Communion Prep

Producers

Hospitality

Pastor Dave Shull

Jon Disbro

Scott Steiner

Bryan Neal / Kiarra Santiago

Kathy Rapp

Karen Kent

Zak Hinkle-Moore

Michelle Clemence

Katie Jacobs, Misato In

Sue Yehling, Scott Steiner

Judith and Ashley Bird

Flowers given by Ashley Bird in celebration of Judy's birthday.

Noisy Offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

November 22-28, 2022

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| Tuesday | 1:00 pm | IN-PERSON and ZOOM Bible Study |
| Thursday | | Thanksgiving Day Office closed |
| Friday | | Native American Heritage Day Office closed |
| Next Sunday | 8:45 am | Chime Choir Rehearsal |
| | 10:00 am | IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion |
| | 11:15 a.m. | Congregational Meeting - Elections |
| | 11:15 am | Senior Choir Rehearsal |
| | 11:15 am | IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education |

Mission Endowment Fund 2022 Distribution Nomination

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Web Site Address: _____

Organization's Purpose: _____

Amount or Percentage of Available Funds Requested; _____

Redeemer member(s) involved with the organization: Yes _____ No _____

If yes, who? _____

Redeemer member submitting the request: _____

Please submit to church office or put in offering plate on/before **Nov 27, 2022.**

Redeemer's mission: To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all
Redeemer's vision: To foster understanding and healing in community