



Reflections

VOLUME 26

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ISSUE 50



Bishop Eaton: *God Is with Us*



Sometimes the world just seems so solid. Reality is uncompromising and immutable. Literally, what you see is what you get, and our sight, our perception, is limited. So we forge on with all the obligations of daily life – family and work and taxes and deadlines. Our scope of existence becomes closed in, and our world gets smaller. Can this really be all there is?

The Christmas specials have started on TV, the familiar carols and songs are piped into grocery stores and shopping malls, and all kinds of media invoke the magic of Christmas. I don't know about you, but for me the result is not uninterrupted joy but longing and a sense of loss. Look at the war in one part of the world that brings starvation to many, including children who are powerless. The pandemics of COVID-19 and racism and hate speech cause us to be suspicious of each other and turn inward upon ourselves. Peace on earth, goodwill to all cannot withstand the sharp limits of the real world.

Yet every Christmastime we try to create perfection. If we just get it all right – the decorations, the celebrations, the traditions, the family gatherings – we can push past the limits of the solid world. This effort leaves me exhausted and nostalgic. There must have been a better time, a simpler time, a purer time. And even, if by some superhuman effort, we can create the perfect holiday, how does it feel on Dec. 26?

It's a funny thing, nostalgia. The word comes from the Greek *nostos* – return – and *algos* – pain. One scholar defined nostalgia this way: “the suffering evoked by the desire to return to one's place of origin.” We have our origin story. It is the account in Genesis of Eden, where humankind lived in harmony with creation, a place of peace and plenty where God and God's creatures walked together. I believe that in some mystical way the memory of our place of origin exists in each of us. When we listen to the prophet Isaiah at Christmas, we are assured that God will restore that place: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

We can't bring this about by ourselves. We can't go back, nor can we will Eden into the present. And yet there are times and places where the space between heaven and earth seems to dissolve. The Celts called these “Thin Places.” The distance between heaven and earth collapses. It may only be a moment or feeling, but the sense that we are standing in the presence of the Holy becomes palpable.

During Advent and Christmas, the contrast between what the world is and what it was created to be is stark. We know that something is not right, but we also know that something is right. It's out there somewhere. Nostalgia becomes more acute and so does our desire to bring heaven to earth during this season. This is God's work, not ours.

The Incarnation is God's supreme liminal work. It is *the* Thin Place where heaven and earth touch. It is the tie and place where the suffering caused by our desire to return to our place of origin is ended because God has begun a new story where heaven and earth are joined. “Unexpected and Mysterious” describes this: “In a momentary meeting of eternity and time, Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 258).

Our seemingly solid world with its own reality and truth gives way to the blessed inbreaking of heaven with the true reality. Our origin, present and future are one in God, and God is with us when we perceive it and, more importantly, when we do not.

This is the gift of Christmas.

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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

info@redeemerluth.com

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Sharing of Nativity Sets, Children's Program Set for Sunday, Dec. 18

Members who want to share their Nativity sets are encouraged to bring them this **Sunday, December 18**. Folks can place them on the window sills around the Sanctuary "or on any flat surface" in the Sanctuary or Narthex.

This is also the Sunday of the children's Christmas program as well. This year the program is "The Littlest Angels" which will be presented during the 10 a.m. worship service. **Emily Kent** is directing the production.

Message from Stewardship Committee:

There is still time for members to make a pledge to the Heart to Heart, Hand in Hand 2023 Annual Pledge drive for Redeemer Lutheran Church. Envelopes are available both on the table when entering the Sanctuary and in the Narthex. Pledging helps the church plan what we can accomplish in the new year. So far, pledges have been received from 47 households, totaling \$180,154.

Did you know that direct distributions from an IRA to the church are tax free? They are called Qualified Charitable Distributions and can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions for the year. Check with your tax advisor to see if this is right for you.

Thank you for your pledges and gifts to Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Dec. 13

The Tuesday Bible study continues its examination of the book of Hebrews on **Tuesday, December 13**. To join the Zoom meeting, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 898 1666 2484; Passcode: 072258. To participate via phone, call 646 876 9923. For those who don't have the Zoom app, they can join the meeting by copying and pasting the following web address in your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89816662484?pwd=UnpVZHV3M2ZTSW14K1R1VnRySXliQT09>

Members Urged to Get Photo Taken for New Directory

Karen Rider and **Linda Williams** will continue taking pictures of families before and after church so plan to stop by! This will be done through Christmas Eve. They will also be available this week on **Wednesday, December 14** after the mid-week Advent service.

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.

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

Redeemer concludes its "Loving the Least of These" Adult Education series, this **Sunday, December 18**. **Lillian Howard**, director of clinical and supportive services, Lutheran Social Services CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, will join us via Zoom. She is the last of a series of speakers who have talked about the realities their clients face, what services they offer, and how individuals and congregations might form relationships with them. The class meets from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on Sunday morning.

This session 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.

Interested in Joining Redeemer?

Persons interested in joining Redeemer – or exploring what membership means – are asked to contact **Pastor Dave** by the beginning of January. He will set up a dinner at his home with you and several folks from Redeemer to talk about their experiences and how they came to find a meaningful faith community here.

He can be reached by calling 614-237-1686 or 206-725-3785 or via email at DShull@RedeemerLuth.com.

January Book Group Book 'Crossover' with Adult Ed

Redeemer's January book group will be part of an expanded Sunday morning adult education program on **January 22**. At 11:15 a.m. that day, the group will watch the documentary "Weapons of the Spirit." This film tells the story of the January book, Philip Hallie's *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*, which is the true story of a village in France whose residents rescued 5,000 Jews during the Nazi occupation. It's a story of courage, faith, and the daily choice to do good.

The 90-minute documentary was made by a filmmaker whose family was rescued by this village. The group will watch the film, enjoy a potluck, discuss it, and discuss the book. Those who don't wish to stay for the book discussion can leave at any time. The discussion will be done by 2 p.m.

Narthex Art Display of Madonnas Continues; January Theme: 'Light'

Redeemer's artwork on loan from members that is displayed in the Narthex continues through the end of month. Those who haven't stopped by are encouraged to do so to see the wide variety of styles.

In keeping with the Epiphany season, the theme for the January art exhibit in the Narthex is "Light."



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!!"

Brewing Faith Meets Tuesday, Dec. 13

A Brewing Faith meets **Tuesday, December 13** at 6:30 p.m. for conversation and fellowship via Zoom.

To join, go to the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89679620020?pwd=Mk4wYWJlZlZkZk2MUVNStJEeIM0VGtGQT09>; Meeting ID: 896 7962 0020 Passcode: 162684; Phone only: 312 626-6799 U.S. (Chicago).

Spotlight on BREAD Network Member Dave Shull

Kristi Hildebrand reports that BREAD Network Members were asked to answer a handful of questions. Their answers have been shared in *Reflections* during 2022. Here is the latest installment featuring **Pastor Dave Shull**.

1. What is your name?

Dave Shull

2. What issues keep you up at night?

On these cold winter nights when I'm in my warm house with plenty of food and feeling safe, I think about people who aren't well-fed, and comfortable, and afraid of people who want to harm them.

3. Why did you join the Justice team at Redeemer?

I wanted to feel like I was doing something meaningful to help people. And I knew I needed to do that with other people.

4. What is your favorite kind of bread?

There's this great bread from India called a puri, which is flattened dough that puffs up when it's submerged in hot oil.

5. Why did you decide to become a Network Member of BREAD?

I want to support the larger organization and make a commitment to doing my part.

6. What is your Justice prayer for 2022?

A verse from one of my favorite hymns, "Community of Christ" by **Shirley Erena Murray**:

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound,
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round.

Disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy:
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

Upcoming BREAD Date:

Nehemiah Action: **Tuesday, April 25, 2023** at the Celeste Center (Ohio State Fairgrounds).

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.

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.**

Important Emails

Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

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

MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the Member Care team about needs for personal ministry such as in-home communion, a home visit, meals, etc.

FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com – use for stewardship campaigns.

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

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

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

Transportation@redeemerluth.com – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

Communications@redeemerluth.com – use to send church related announcements or pictures for sharing on Redeemer's social media sites. Another way is to tag Redeemer in the posts.

Publishing Deadlines for *Reflections*, Sunday Bulletins

For *Reflections*

- **PLEASE SUBMIT PRIOR TO 5 P.M. ON SUNDAYS.**
- Send to info@RedeemerLuth.com and put *Reflections* in subject line.
- Or leave a note in the *Reflections* mailbox at the top of the stairs outside the church office.

For Sunday Bulletins

The deadline for information to be published in Sunday bulletins is the **Wednesday morning** before. That information can be sent to the above email: just put "Bulletin" in the subject line.

Prayers and Personals

Prayers for healing are asked for **Donna Voelkel** who is having knee replacement surgery on Wednesday and for **Jeanne Eakin** who is experiencing health issues. Prayers continue to be asked for **Kathy Zwanziger** who is having ongoing health issues, for **Kelley Franks** who has concluded her cancer treatment this past week and for **Skye Andree**.

+ + +

Member Directory Update: **Cathy Oldham** has dropped her landline phone. She can be reached at 614-582-5430.

A Note from Carol Heacock and Family

Dear Redeemer Friends,

I would like to thank you for your support, comfort, encouragement, and love during Stan's battle with cancer and death in October. Your prayers, cards, and numerous gifts of comfort and love have given us strength and courage to walk this journey.

As our Redeemer family, you have richly blessed us by being Christ's body here, in this our earthly journey.

*In Peace and Joy,
Carol Heacock and Family*

Reflections to Go on Hiatus Monday, December 26

Reflections will not be published on **Monday, December 26** as the church office will be closed. Folks are encouraged to get their "beginning of the year" announcements in by 5 p.m. on **Sunday, December 18**. *Reflections* will resume publishing on **Tuesday, January 3**.

Advent Desserts Signups Still Available

There are still a couple of slots open for providing Advent desserts: one this week on **Wednesday, December 14** and two next week on **December 21**.

'Christ in Our Home' Available

The January-March, 2023 edition of "Christ in Our Home" is now available in the Narthex for anyone who would like a copy. Or, it can be mailed. Just contact **Becky Trover** in the church office to request a copy be mailed to your home. Reach her at 614-237-1263 or via email at info@redeemerluth.com.

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.

Sister Act Holds Advent Brunch



Sister Act saw a wonderful turnout Saturday, Dec. 10 for its 2022 Advent Brunch at The Woodbury!



December Birthdays

15-Mindy Eakin
19-Darren Baldogo 19-Joe Darst
19-Novella Hinkle 21-Kolya Larson
24-Julie Johnson 25-Doug Eakin
26-Emily Kent 27-Sue Darst
27-Paul Ritter 29-Tom Comstock
31-John Kennedy 31-Emma Martin

The Wider Church

Good Gifts Catalogs Available

The ELCA Good Gifts catalogs offer more than 50 different gift-giving options that will delight recipients even as the gifts fight hunger, transform lives, and grow the church. Starting at just \$10, these gift ideas make it easy (and fun) to honor friends and family and, at the same time, make a difference. Pick up your catalog in the Narthex soon.

The Community Beyond

Online Seminar Explores Getting Ready for Winter

The Franklin County Office on Aging is sponsoring an online “Senior Seminar Series” with the next event on **Thursday, December 15**. At that time, **Checobia Crawford**, customer services account representative at AEP, will discuss preparing homes for the winter, energy efficiency tips, payment assistance programs and more.

This series is geared to Franklin County residents, older adults, caregivers and kinship families. It is free and can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/9hjuary2> beginning at 11 a.m. on Thursday.

Getting Ready for Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2022

Lessons

Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Luke 1:26-38

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, 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's Lutheran Church in Newark.
- + For Redeemer community members Michele and Jon Disbro.

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, Kelley (Scott) Frank, Brittany Amon, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin, Skye Andree.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Mary Benis
Cantor	Heidi Sherer
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal/Kiarra Santiago
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Communion Prep	Michele Disbro, Eileen Day, Becky Fisher
Producers	Scott Steiner, Tom Mimplitch
Hospitality	Dani Denniss

*Flowers given by the members of Redeemer
Noisy Offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Response.*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

December 13-December 19, 2022

Tuesday	1:00 pm	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM A Brewing Faith
Wednesday	6:15 p.m.	Advent Desserts
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Midweek Service, Holden Evening Prayer
Next Sunday	8:45 am	Chime Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Children's Christmas Program and sharing of Nativities
	11:15 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	11:15 am	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
Monday	7:30 p.m.	Congregation Council

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