



# Reflections

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ISSUE 4

## 118th Congress Grows in Diversity, Sees Little Change in Religious Trends

In many respects, the new Congress is the most diverse in American history. It is the most racially and ethnically diverse to date and has a record number of women and openly lesbian, gay or bisexual members. When it comes to religion, however, the governing body has seen small shifts and has been mostly untouched by religious trends in the general public, including the increasing share of Americans who say they have no religious affiliation.

As Congress begins its 118th session, the Pew Research Center released data showing how members' demographic characteristics have changed over the decades. The data comes from CQ Roll Call, which surveys members about demographic information, the Congressional Research Service, members' official campaign websites, and other sources collected by Pew researchers.

Below is a collection of Pew's findings, analyzing the demographics of the 534 voting members who made up the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate as of **Tuesday, Jan. 3.**

**133** - The number of senators and representatives who are Black, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian or Alaska Native. That number has doubled in the last two decades, up from 65 non-White members in 2003.

**28** - The percentage of female members in the 118th Congress. Women account for 153 of 540 voting and nonvoting members of Congress, a 59 percent increase from the 96 women who were serving in Congress a decade ago, though it remains far below women's share of the overall U.S. population.

**13** - The number of openly lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGBTQ+) members in Congress, the highest in U.S. history and a figure that has tripled in a decade. This number includes two senators and 11 members of the House of Representatives.

**88** - The percentage of voting members who identify as Christian, only a few points lower than in the late 1970s, when about 91 percent of members of Congress identified as Christian.

**1** - The number of religiously unaffiliated members in the new Congress. That member is **Sen. Kyrsten Sinema**, independent of Arizona. Another 20 members are categorized as having unknown religious affiliations, most of whom declined to answer questions about their religious affiliation.

**80** - The percentage of racial and ethnic minority members in the new Congress who are Democrats. Twenty percent are Republicans.

**44** - The number of Republican women in the new Congress across both chambers. This is compared to 109 Democratic women across both chambers. The gender division between the two parties began to widen around the 1970s, and of the 261 women elected to the U.S. House in 1992 or later, over two-thirds have been Democrats.

**6.5** - The percent of U.S. adults overall who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual, according to a 2021 Gallup survey. This is compared to the 2 percent of LGB members in Congress.

## In This Issue

[118th Congress Grows in Diversity, See Little Change in Religious Trends](#)

[The Redeemer Community](#)

[The Wider Church](#)

[Prayers & Personals](#)

[Getting Ready for Sunday](#)

### OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor - Rev. David Shull

LIC Student - Marit Johnson

Office Manager - Becky Trover

Custodian - Marshall Edgington

Organist/Senior Choir Director -

Kathy Rapp

Pianist/Chime Choir Director -

Karen Kent

**Reflections** Editor - Judith Bird

### 2023

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

President - Michele Disbro

Vice President - Krista Skipper

Finance Officer - Nathan Ott

Secretary - Sue Watson

Worship - Jennifer Young

Education - Katie Jacobs

Outreach - Diane Brobeck

Member Support - Elyce Herring

Property - Sue Yehling

Stewardship - Laura Warren

#### APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer - Julianne Johnson

#### MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Margie Farnham Marques Highland

Emlyn Ott

#### SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Dave Engel, Chair

Julie Boreman Michelle Clemence

Wendy Stoica Terry Warren

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

#### REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Columbus 43227

info@RedeemerLuth.com

614-237-1263

[www.redeemerluth.com](http://www.redeemerluth.com)



cont'd on p. 3

## The Redeemer Community

### **Annual Congregational Meeting, Pot Luck Set for Jan. 29**

Redeemer members and friends are invited to participate in person at the congregation's Annual Congregational Meeting immediately after worship on **Sunday, January 29**. (The meeting will not be streamed.) Annual Reports are available at church in the Narthex.

Following the meeting in the Sanctuary, everyone is invited to Redeemer's traditional Annual Meeting Potluck Dinner down in the Fellowship Hall. Chicken will be provided. Folks are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert. Drinks and paper products will be provided, but attendees are always encouraged to bring their own table service.

Come participate in making decisions about 2023 including voting on the budget and then enjoy the fellowship at the meal! "Whether you attend Redeemer a lot or a little, we want you to come. Whether you think you have a lot to say or not so much, we want you there. We can't wait to see you!"

### **Tuesday Bible Study Begins Look at Judges on Jan. 24**

The Tuesday Bible study will begin exploring the book of Judges when it meets this week on **Tuesday, January 24**. According to **Pastor Dave**, this is the chance to learn everything there is to know about **Samson and Delilah!** ... as well as a host of others!

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>

### **Spotlight on BREAD Network Member Kathy Zwanziger**

Kristi Hildebrand reports that BREAD Network Members were asked to answer a handful of questions. The last of their answers are being shared in *Reflections*. Here is the latest installment featuring **Kathleen Zwanziger**.

1. **What is your name?** Kathy Zwanziger
2. **What issues keep you up at night?** I am concerned with the problem of hunger in Columbus and the surrounding area, as well as the violence in our city. There are way too many shootings – plus all the robberies. Affordable housing is another issue. I see lots of buildings going up but wonder if those with a lower income can really afford them. There is such a wide gap between the wealthy and the poor, often because of skin color.
3. **Why did you join the Justice team at Redeemer?** I am interested in learning ways to help resolve some of the issues mentioned. Becoming more informed by talking with people from a different background than mine would be helpful.
4. **What is your favorite kind of bread?** Pumpnickel
5. **Why did you decide to become a Network Member of BREAD?** By joining BREAD I hope to learn other perspectives and work with an organization that has a track record of working with these issues.
6. **What is your Justice prayer for the future?** Dear Lord, please be with your children as we struggle through this pandemic, which has exacerbated the problems of race and violence because of the economic impact. Help us work together for a better environment in which to live and work. Amen.

#### **Upcoming BREAD Date:**

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

### **Sister Act Changes Topic for Jan. 25**

Sister Act's January event will be held on **Wednesday, January 25** here at Redeemer at 6:30 p.m. in Room 2. Folks are welcome to attend in-person. (Zoom access is not available for this meeting.)

However, January's discussion will now be on the topic *Imagine how a church would come back from a disaster?* The meeting begins with the viewing of the movie "The Fire Song" which is about **Kristi Hildebrand's** home congregation, First Lutheran.

Carol Heacock's session on imagination is now set for **Wednesday, February 8.**

## 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](mailto:DShull@RedeemerLuth.com).

## 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.**

## **118th Congress Grows in Diversity ...** *cont'd from p. 1*

**63** - The percent of Americans who identify as Christian in the general population, down from 78 percent in 2007. About three-in-10 U.S. adults (29 percent) identify as religious "nones" – people who describe themselves as atheists, agnostics or "nothing in particular" when asked about their religious identity.

**99** - The percent of Congressional Republicans who say they are Christian. The same is true for 76 percent of Congressional Democrats. Democrats in Congress are less likely than Republicans to identify as Protestant (44 percent vs. 69 percent), but a greater share of Democrats than Republicans are Catholic (31 percent vs. 25 percent).

**3** - The number of Muslim Congress members; all are Democrats in the U.S. House. The current Congress also has 33 Jewish members, made up of 22 House Democrats, nine Senate Democrats, and two House Republicans.

**75** - The percent of Congress members who are White. This is compared to 59 percent of the overall U.S. population.

**Editor's Note:** Story reprinted with permission from *The Hannah Report*, 1/16/23.

## Important Emails

[Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

[Info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for stewardship campaigns.

[Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

[Property@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Property@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

[SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.  
[Transportation@redeemerluth.com](mailto:Transportation@redeemerluth.com) – use to request temporary transportation assistance.  
[Communications@redeemerluth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 are also asked for **Shirley Miller** and her family on the death of her son-in-law **Rick Henry**.

+ + +

**Member Directory:** **Heidi Sherer** has a new email address. If you don't already have her Yahoo address or her cell phone number, you may contact the church office for the information.

**Corrections:** **Terry Warren's** email address is [TerryWarren831@yahoo.com](mailto:TerryWarren831@yahoo.com) and **Jil Williams'** email is [JLWilliams867@gmail.com](mailto:JLWilliams867@gmail.com).

## **Worshippers Asked to Wear Nametags**

Worshippers are asked to wear their nametags for the next several weeks – not only for the sake of newer folks but also for the sake of those among the congregation whose memories aren't what they used to be!

Nametags can be found on the rack near the entrance to the Sanctuary. Can't find yours ... or never had one ... write your name on the pad provided and one will be made.

## **Redeemer Seeks Part-Time Office Help**

Redeemer is seeking an individual to serve one day a week as office staff (Thursday or Friday preferred.) Duties will include the following:

### **DAILY TASKS**

- phone call answering/forwarding/message recording and delivery
- sending requests for assistance to pastor
- email reviewing/answering/forwarding as appropriate
- greet and direct visitors as needed

### **GENERAL TASKS**

- reformat binder to bulletin
- create weekly MailChimps
- create monthly calendar/worship leader chart
- keep worship attendance records
- update data base/official church record
- update directory/various lists
- do Safe Church background checks

### **SKILLS/TALENTS/LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

- computer proficiency in Word, and formatting worship documents; Excel a plus
- data base management
- copyright checking

If interested please contact **Nancy Magargal** at [nmagargal@gmail.com](mailto:nmagargal@gmail.com) or 614-208-5702 to schedule an interview.

## **2023 RLC Member Directory Available**

The 2023 **Redeemer Member Directory** is now available. It can be picked up in the Narthex. Or contact the church office at 614-237-1263 or [info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:info@RedeemerLuth.com) to be put on the list for quarterly electronic updates.

### ***An Update from Kathy Z***

**Kathy Zwanziger** writes: "I can eat almonds again! And meat and bananas and oranges. Dialysis has begun. Being able to remove toxins from my body makes it possible for me to eat foods I had to avoid previously. It also means I have to plan carefully so that I can make an "exchange" four times a day. As my brother used to say, that is my "job" now. Thanks for all your encouragement!"

"By the way, if anyone is planning to move soon or needs sturdy boxes for any other reason, I will have plenty to donate."

## **Members Urged to Keep Car Doors Locked while at Church**

Recently, an 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. In addition, the front door will now be locked during the church service.

### **January Birthdays**

24-Sophia Brush 24-Marshall Edgington  
24-Kathy Rapp 24-Heath Wolfe  
25-Rosalie Highland 26-Jeff Montgomery  
28-Bebe McCoy

## **The Wider Church**

### **HopeWood Seeks Volunteers for Maple Sugar Festival**

Volunteers are needed to work the HopeWood (formerly Lutheran Memorial Camp) Maple Sugar Festival in March. If interested, email [pinest@hopewoodoutdoors.org](mailto:pinest@hopewoodoutdoors.org).

Others are encouraged to "treat yourself to a day filled with maple syrup, all you can eat pancakes, and live music performed by a local band. You can purchase sassafras tea and donuts that are cooked over an open fire, buy real maple syrup or take a nature hike. Be sure to visit the Sugar Shack. You can relax and enjoy a conversation around the fire and connect with friends, old and new.

"Funds are raised at the festival for summer camperships."

The event is set for **Sunday, March 12** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## **Nominations Open for ELCA Commission on Church Governance**

At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, voting members adopted a memorial concerning restructuring the ELCA's governance. The assembly adopted 738-72 the following action:

- "To direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly."

The Church Council discussed this churchwide assembly action at its November 2022 meeting and authorized establishing the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) to consist of no more than 35 voting members and directed the Executive Committee of the Church Council to initiate the process of forming the commission.

The nomination process is open until **Thursday, March 9, 2023**. More information about the commitment and expectation of serving on the CRLC can be found online at



<https://tinyurl.com/y2mk5m6p> . Interested individuals who wish to be nominated or to nominate another person should complete and submit the nomination form.

The Executive Committee of the ELCA Church Council will serve as the nominating committee and will present a slate of nominees to the Church Council at its April 20, 2023 meeting for appointment to the CRLC.

## Getting Ready for Worship

### Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, January 29, 2023

#### Lessons

**Readings:** Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; Matthew 5:1-12

#### Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, 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 Zion Lutheran Church in West Jefferson.

+ For Redeemer community members Becky Fisher and Jessica Fisher and Gideon Mehari.

***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, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Kelley (Scott) Frank, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin, Skye Andree, Kathleen Zwanziger, Laura Warren's brother Walt Hudson, and Shirley Miller and family on the death of her son-in-law Rick Henry.

#### Worship Leaders

**Presiding Minister**

**Assisting Minister**

**Reader**

**Cantor**

**ASL Interpreter**

**Organist & Senior Choir Director**

**Pianist & Chime Choir Director**

**Usher**

**Verger**

**Hospitality**

**Communion Prep**

**Producers**

**Pastor Dave Shull**

**Julianne Johnson**

**Kelley Frank**

**Heidi Sherer**

**Bryan Neal/Kiarra Santiago**

**Kathy Rapp**

**Karen Kent**

**Neil Hoddinott**

**Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica**

**Potluck follows Annual Meeting down in Fellowship Hall**

**Sara Auman, Julianne Johnson, Karen Rider**

**Michele Disbro, Kathleen Zwanziger**

*Flowers are given by Julianne Johnson in memory of her wife, Judy Pollock.  
Noisy Offering will go to Choices.*

## **Upcoming Week at Redeemer**

### **January 24 - January 30, 2023**

<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Journaling Workshop
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Sister Act
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Council Retreat
<b>Next Sunday</b>	8:45 a.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Congregation Annual Meeting IN-PERSON</b>
	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Congregational Potluck</b>
<b>Monday</b>	7:30 p.m.	Personnel Team @ Pastor Dave's house

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