



Reflections

VOLUME 27

February 27, 2023

ISSUE 9

A Prayer for First Week in Lent

Editor's Note: The following is from a former intern at Redeemer and now Pastor Stephen Bond.

“Again, the devil took [Jesus] to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written, Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. [Matthew 4:8-11]

Hold our hands back, God.
Pull us away like we are children,
 straining to touch a hot stove.
We keep reaching
 for kingdoms and crowns,
 for swords and scepters,
 for positions of power and privilege,
even thinking we do it in the name of Jesus,
 but we cannot smell the sulfur as we clutch at them.
It's not that Jesus is unclear.
No, he never takes the tempter's bait for a second.
Jesus knows his way—your way—is not the way of empire.
He knows he will never hold the hammer,
 but rather that he will take the nails;
 he will not kill his enemies to bring your Reign,
 but he will die at their hands in love, praying forgiveness.
He will not answer the world's evil with more evil,
 or fight our hatred with more hatred.
No, Jesus has never once fallen
 for the diabolical lure of making himself “great.”
But we keep fooling ourselves,
 or refusing to acknowledge
 what, in Jesus' eyes, is plain to see.
So bring us to a halt, O God, and train our hands
 to stretch out wide in Jesus' cruciform embrace,
 rather than grasp for the tools of domination or violence,
 and certainly not for your sake or in your name.
Draw us away from all those snake-oil sellers
 who would promise us the world
 at the cost of all that matters.
Peel our fingers from the open flame. Drag us if you have to.
Take from our hands
 the things that Jesus knew to leave behind,
and take from our eyes
 the scales that keep us from seeing his footsteps.
We ask it in the name of this same Jesus,
 who knew to say No to the tempter,
 in order to live his Yes to you.

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OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor - Rev. David Shull

LIC Student - Marit Johnson

Office Manager - Becky Trover

Office Assistant - Diane Brobeck

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

Nathan Ott

Wendy Stoica

Terry Warren

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

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The Redeemer Community

March 7 Deadline to Order Easter Flowers

Easter lilies as well as red, purple, pink and yellow tulips are on sale! Orders need to be placed by **Tuesday, March 7**. Those purchasing flowers can dedicate them to the memory of someone or in honor of someone. Envelopes are on the table as you enter the sanctuary and on the bulletin board next to the Library.

To order, complete the envelope, include a check or cash in the envelope and leave it in the offering plate.

If not at church, please email the office at info@RedeemerLuth.com. Let the office know the number and the dedication. Then drop your check in the mail. Lilies are \$12/pot while the tulips run \$7.

New Worship Response Being Used to First Reading during Lent

Now through the season of Easter, the Worship Team is asking members of the congregation to offer a new response to the first reading. At the end of the reading, instead of the reader's saying, "Word of God, Word of Life," to which the congregation responds, "Thanks be to God," the reader will say, "May we listen for what the Spirit is saying to the church," and the congregation will respond, "Amen."

"The reason for this change has to do with the fact that a number of Bible readings contain images of violence, cruelty, and hatred. If we want to take these texts seriously, and wrestle with the hard issues they raise, we believe we can't simply declare them to be 'word of God, word of life.' We believe responding to such texts by saying, 'May we listen for what the Spirit is saying to the church. Amen,' names the reality that these are hard texts, and that their meaning for today is not at all clear. So we ask for the Spirit's guidance to help us listen for what they may be saying to us who live in a very different time and reality than when they were written," **Pastor Dave** explains.

"Please let any of the Worship Team members know what your experiences using this new response are. Your feedback will help guide our decision about continuing to use it after Easter."

The members of the worship team are **Michelle Clemence, Jennifer Collins, Karen Kent, Don Luck, Kathy Rapp, Dave Shull, and Wendy Stoica**.

An Invitation to Offer Five-Minute Reflection for Lenten Sung Evening Prayers

The final blessing of Redeemer's new Service of Lenten Evening Prayer is a traditional prayer of Palestinian Christians:

Let your peace rain upon us, O living God of peace.

Let your peace rain upon us, Lord, fill our hearts with your peace.

Pastor Dave asks, "When you hear the word *peace*, what comes up for you? Do you go toward international conflicts? Or toward the need for peace among people divided by race, religion, gender and identity politics? Do you think of tensions among families, or even ways we struggle to be at-peace within ourselves and our hearts?"

"If you would like to prepare a five-minute reflection on some aspect of peace and what this sung blessing brings up for you, I know your words would be a blessing to all of us. Please sign up for the March Wednesday evening that works best for you on the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Library." One person has signed up. Other open dates are March 8, 15, 22 and 29. Contact **Dave Shull** with any questions.

In addition, cantors are needed for the Wednesday evening services on **March 1** and **March 29**. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board next to the Library.

Soup Luncheons Planned for Lent

Beginning **Wednesday, March 1**, soup luncheons will be held at Redeemer for the Wednesdays through Lent. They will run from noon to 1 p.m. Folks are asked to sign up to provide soup, bread or a dessert. The sign up sheet for March 1 is on the bulletin board next to the Library.

March Adult Ed Class to Examine Il/Legal Abortion

Over the first three Sundays in March (5, 12, and 19) LIC student Marit Johnson will lead discussions on articles from the *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* February/March issue, titled "Il/legal Abortion: Lutheran Ethical Responses post-Dobbs." Together participants will read articles from the journal, look at the ELCA's 1991 Social Statement on Abortion, and share insights on ways to talk about this divisive topic from a Lutheran ethics perspective.

To take a sneak peek at articles that may be included, visit <https://learn.elca.org/jle/>.

The class is both in-person and on Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting, go to the Zoom app and then enter the following information: Meeting ID: 869 2869 1370; Passcode: 603299. To participate via phone, call 312-626-6799.

For those who don't have the Zoom app, they can join the meeting by copying and pasting the following web address in the browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86928691370?pwd=VkrRHYXRiTI10aG9tcjFDRGJFQTJIdz09>

RLC Collecting Items for LWR Personal Care Kits

As the death toll from the earthquake and aftershocks in Turkey and Northern Syria continues to climb, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has sent quilts, personal care kits, baby care kits, heating stoves, tents, and other critically needed supplies to trusted local partners in the affected areas, Julianne Johnson reports. This is possible because of ongoing efforts to prepare quilts and kits by Lutheran churches on a regular basis so that a supply is on hand when disaster strikes.

Redeemer has in the past sent personal care kits, and in response to the earthquake the congregation will do so again. "I am setting a goal of 75 personal care kits, and a challenge goal of 100 personal care kits," she added. The followings items are needed:

1. Light weight bath size towels – should be **between** 20" x 40" and 27" x 52". Please remember they are to be light-weight and preferably dark colors (so they are easy-to dry and won't show dirt as quickly).
2. Bars of soap equaling 8-9 ounces in original packaging.
3. Adult toothbrushes.
4. **Sturdy** combs.
5. Metal nail clippers.

Please avoid items with religious symbols or messages or the camouflage, military symbols or American flag. No additional items will be included. For those who prefer to give money, write a check to Redeemer but in the memo area put "LWR Personal Care Kits" it will be used to complete kits. Any balance will be sent to LWR for shipping costs. "We will collect these items throughout Lent. Thank you!"

Book Group Reading 'The Personal Librarian'

Redeemer's Book Group is now reading *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray for its next meeting on Wednesday, April 19 which will be held at 7 p.m. in-person and on Zoom.

Narthex Art Changes Theme for Lent

The changing of the church season means the theme for the gallery of member art in the Narthex has changed. The theme for Lent is "Respite" and many depictions of that are now on display in the Narthex. Folks are invited to ponder members' view of "respite."

Reminder: Redeemer Takes Ongoing Safety Measures

The ushers are locking the front doors soon after worship starts. During worship, an usher will check the Narthex from time to time to make sure no one who wants to attend the service is locked out and to check the parking lot. (Members are reminded to lock their cars while at worship)

Ushers will unlock the front door after worship ends. When the Narthex empties after worship, the front doors will be locked again.

According to **Pastor Dave**, "As Council members review what we learned at the active shooter training, they will offer more information, guidance, and opportunities for conversation."

Tuesday Bible Study Looks at Judges on Feb. 28

The Tuesday Bible study continues exploring the book of Judges when it meets this week on **Tuesday, February 28**. 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! It runs from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and is both in-person and on Zoom.

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>

Redeemer BREAD Network to Meet March 13

The Redeemer BREAD Network will meet **Monday, March 13** at 7 p.m. to hear what is going on with BREAD and start preparing for the Nehemiah Action on **Tuesday, April 25**. This meeting is just for Redeemer members rather than the entire BREAD organization.

The Nehemiah Action is "the Big Event" of BREAD's year where thousands of people gather to show support for the issues BREAD has been working on and to encourage officials to support them.

Any one and everyone is encouraged to support BREAD by attending the Nehemiah Action on April 25.

Those wishing to take their involvement to the next level can become a BREAD Network Member by committing three things:

1. Attend four BREAD meetings in a year
2. Bring three people to the Nehemiah Action and
3. Consider a monetary commitment.

For those with any questions about becoming a Network Member, the Nehemiah Action or anything BREAD related, please ask a Redeemer BREAD team member: **Sue Watson, Dave Shull, Emily Ott, Kristi Hildebrand, Kathy Zwanziger, or Michele Disbro.**

Redeemer's March 13 meeting will held in Room 2 and on Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting, go to the Zoom app and enter the following information: Meeting ID: 859 6681 4372; Passcode: 483823. To participate via phone, call 312 626 6799. For those who don't have the Zoom app, they can join the meeting by copying and pasting the following web address in their browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85966814372?pwd=U0lzN3liSF15aDV0c0tlVGZsSGtrUT09>

Upcoming BREAD Dates:

- Redeemer Network Meeting: **Monday, March 13, 2023**, at 7 p.m. in Room 2 and on Zoom.
- Rally: **Monday, March 27, 2023** at 7 p.m.
- Nehemiah Action: **Tuesday, April 25, 2023** at the Celeste Center (Ohio State Fairgrounds).

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 **Thelma Johnson** following a medical procedure this past week.

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.

February Birthday

28-Colton Day

March Birthdays

1-Todd Darst 1-Kathy Denhard

3-Ranel Hoddinott 3-Larry Trover

4-Petra Williams 5-Lily Glover Oakleaf

6-Bennett Whitaker 7-Earl Bradley

8-Helen Brunston 8-Al Rider

12-Deirdre Jimison 12-Catherine McFarland

13-Dave Engel 14-Jenny Friedrich

14-Lynn Nakamura 14-Laura Warren

14-Tim Watson 15-Kristi Hildebrand

17-David Williams 24-Carol Heacock

27-Margie Farnham 30-Colin Young

The Wider Church

EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY



See the separate article, this issue, about Redeemer's efforts to collect items for personal care kits to send to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Or donate to LWR's efforts at the above online address.

The Community Beyond

Program Offers Clinics on Challenging Home Valuation

The Auditor's Office is partnering with Columbus Legal Aid to host its third annual Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP). The program is designed to help low-to-moderate income homeowners file a complaint against the valuation of their owner-occupied home with the County Board of Revision (BOR).

The program provides complaint-filing clinics and referrals for possible further representation for homeowners in Franklin County with gross annual incomes below \$75,000. The auditor's office will host in-person, Zoom, and telephone clinics, where low-to-moderate income homeowners will be paired with an attorney or real estate professional for assistance with completing the BOR complaint form.

Clinics will be held on Saturday, March 4 in person at the Whitehall YMCA, Tuesday and Saturday, March 7 and 11 on Zoom and Thursday, March 23 via phone.

More information, including links to register as a volunteer or participant, is available on the [Franklin County Auditor's website](#).

Getting Ready for Worship

2nd Sunday in Lent, March 5, 2023

Lessons

Readings: Romans 4:1-5, 16-17; Psalm 121; John 3:1-8, 16-18

Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Ukraine

For those who are fleeing: sanctuary
For those who are staying: safety
For those who are fighting: peace.
For those whose hearts are breaking: comfort
For those who see no future: hope.

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Ascension Lutheran Church in Columbus.
+ For Redeemer community member Barbara Hairston.

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, Becky Trover's sister Maddie Sutphin, Skye Andree, Kathleen Zwanziger, Laura Warren's brother Walt Hudson, Julie Larson and husband Eli who is receiving cancer treatment in Houston.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Reader	Marit Johnson
Cantor	Scott Steiner
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal/Kiarra Santiago
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Sue Watson
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence
Communion Prep	Becky Fisher, Michelle Clemence
Producers	Scott Steiner, Michele Disbro

*There are no altar flowers during Lent
Noisy Offering will go to CHOICES.*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

February 28 – March 6, 2023

Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study IN-PERSON and ZOOM
	7:00 p.m.	Journaling Workshop
Wednesday	noon	Soup and Discussion
	12:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Redeemer @ LSS Food Pantry
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Lenten Evening Prayer
Next Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Ed IN-PERSON and ZOOM
	12:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Monday	5:30 p.m.	Executive Team

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