



Reflections

VOLUME 27

March 6, 2023

ISSUE 10

Life Sentences

Last month, I offered a reflections called “A Life Sentence.” I shared a “sentence” that has come to be the primary sentence that shapes who I am and how I want to live. It comes from **Henri Nouwen’s** book *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. Combining several sections of that book, my sentence is, *Hospitality is the creation of a free and fearless space for people to be authentically themselves: a space that transforms hostility to community, and offers food, comfort, warmth, friendship, and strength.*

I invited you to share with me a life sentence that guides how you live your life, and said I’d share them with the rest of the congregation. Four took me up on that invitation. Their gifts to the rest of us appear below.

April Smith

“Never cease to act because you fear you may fail.”— **Queen Lili‘uokalani**

Queen Lili‘uokalani was the only queen regnant and the last sovereign monarch of the Hawaiian Kingdom. She was also a remarkable composer and writer. She heroically struggled to preserve her indigenous lands from annexation and is revered to this day in Hawai‘i.

Larry Trover

“Let us all learn to encounter one another with nonviolence. Peace is not the goal. *Peace is the process.* The proper aim of the game of life is not to gain points – or even to keep score! The proper aim of the game of life is to play fairly for all. Let love be the referee.”

For context I have included a copy of today's entry in my sporadic journal. As I read the words of **Pope Francis** I was positively inspired until I cringed at the final sentence. Let us *not* teach our children to fight!

Dialogue Opens the Way

Social peace demands hard work, craftsmanship. It would be easier to keep freedoms and differences in check with cleverness and a few resources. But such a peace would be superficial and fragile, not the fruit of a culture of encounter that brings enduring stability. Integrating differences is a much more difficult and slow process, yet it is the guarantee of a genuine and lasting peace. That peace is not achieved by recourse only to those who are pure and untainted, since “even people who can be considered questionable on account of their errors have something to offer which must not be overlooked” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 236). Nor does it come from ignoring social demands or quelling disturbances, since it is not “a consensus on paper or a transient peace for a contented minority” (208). What is important is to create processes of encounter, *processes* that build a people that can accept differences. Let us arm our children with the weapons of dialogue! Let us teach them to fight the good fight of the culture of encounter! (*Fratelli tutti*, 217, Pope Francis. *Against War: Building a Culture of Peace*, Orbis Books, pp.99-100.

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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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Redeemer Community

'Spring Forward' Sunday, March 12

Don't forget to set clocks *ahead* one hour Saturday night when you go to bed as Daylight Saving Time kicks in at 2 a.m. **Sunday, March 12.**

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. To order, please call or email at info@RedeemerLuth.com and 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 Photo Directories Available

Redeemer's new Photo Directory is now available!! Many thanks to **Michele Disbro** for shepherding this project and especially to **Karen Rider** and **Linda Williams** for their photography.

Paper copies of the directory are available on the shelf under the bulletin board next to the Library for those who wish to have a hard copy otherwise copies have been emailed to all members.

New Worship Response Being Used to First Reading

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 15 and 29. Contact **Dave Shull** with any questions.

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

Soup Luncheons Planned for Lent

Soup luncheons are now being held at Redeemer on the Wednesdays through Lent. They run from noon to 1 p.m. Folks are asked to sign up to provide soup, bread or a dessert. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the Library. Two more soups, a bread and dessert are still needed for **Wednesday, March 8**.

March Adult Ed Class Examines II/Legal Abortion

On Sundays March 12 and 19, LIC student **Marit Johnson** will continue to 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=VkrHYXRiTI10aG9tcjFDRGJFQTJldz09>

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!"

Redeemer Book Group to Discuss *The Personal Librarian*

Redeemer's Book Group next meets on **Wednesday evening, April 19**, at 7 p.m., in-person at the church and on Zoom. They will discuss *The Personal Librarian*. **Donna Voelkel**, who recommended the book, says it is a historical novel by **Marie Benedict** and **Victoria Christopher Murray**. **Belle da Casta Greene** was a young Black librarian who identified herself as White. She was hired by financier **J.P. Morgan** to manage and create a library for his large collections of ancient manuscripts, etchings, and

noted oil paintings. After Morgan's death, Belle was successful in encouraging J.P. Morgan's son, Jack, to turn the library into public institution to honor his father.

There is much more to say, but that's for the reader to find out and discuss!

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 March 7

The Tuesday Bible study continues exploring the book of Judges when it meets this week on **Tuesday, March 7**. 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).

Sister Act, March Event Set for March 21

The March meeting of Sister Act will focus on “The Joy of Decluttering.” **Ruth Murray**, who will lead the discussion, shares that the book of Matthew talks about the sharing of one’s goods. As part of the discussion time, Ruth will ask folks to share some of their own experiences of decluttering.

“How did this process create peace in you and joy in sharing with others? How do we move forward in the process of decluttering? Is this just something we do with our possessions or can we apply the act of decluttering to the way we spend our time?”

The group meets at the church and on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21. The Zoom information will be sent out later.

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.**

Life Sentences *cont'd from p. 1*

Scott Steiner

“Love is always bestowed as a gift – freely, willingly, and without expectation. We don’t love to be loved; we love to love.” — **Leo Buscaglia**

Al Rider

What’s your “Life Sentence”? was Pr. Dave’s question; but being something of a preacher myself, I do stories more than I do sentences. So what I have here is a “*Life Story*” instead.

The “Road to Emmaus” story in Luke 24:13-35 has always been my favorite image of Jesus: An unseen, unrecognized Stranger who shows up out of nowhere and in disguise, first questioning our tired, sad thinking as we trudge down the road together, then coming in to dine with us and surprise us with deep friendship, and who then sends us out with transformed lives on new adventures.

Why are so many church groups so enamored with teaching rigid orthodoxies that turn their members into narrow, suspicious pharisees?? It’s all about fear of course. Fear of the unknown, fear of relationships, and imaging their small-g “god” as more of an unchanging *Idea* in their heads rather than a living and challenging *Friend* who walks unrecognized beside us.

Stories and poetry bring us closer to God than doctrines do. (*And funny thing...The Bible is mostly stories and poetry... Imagine that*)

I am grateful for the wisdom you share with each other in this community. And I am grateful for the ways you do it. I rarely hear sentences start with, “*You should do....*” You don’t try to fix each other. Instead, you ask each other questions. You listen to each other. And, when invited to, you share ideas about possible responses. In these ways, you become responses to **Harry Emerson Fosdick’s** prayer in “God of Grace and God of Glory”: *Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days.*

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 healing are asked for **Karen Kent** who bruised her hand and broke her nose this past week, for **Kathy Zwanziger** who had a medical procedure, and for friends of **Ruth Murray** who are battling cancer: **Phillip Hall** and **Kirstin Roberts**.

‘Christ in Our Home’ Available

The April-June 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.

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.

March Birthdays

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

First English Blessing Box

Kay Ernsthansen reports that, with the suspension of Thursday night dinners at First English Lutheran Church, the Blessing Box in the church’s courtyard is needed more than ever. There is a basket in Redeemer’s coatroom to collect donations for the Blessing Box or they can be dropped off directly.

Suggested items include soup and canned meats that open with a pop tab when possible (not all unboxed have a can opener); canned fruit and veggies; instant mac and cheese or any “just add water”

items; granola bars, either the harder Nature Valley kind or the softer fruit bars; and instant potatoes and boxed dinners.

They are not able to accept fresh fruit and veggies as they draw bugs and critters. “Both things they don’t want in the box with the food.”

As the RLC basket has items Kay will take them to First English to fill the Blessing Box there. In advance thank you for your donations.

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 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](#).

Friends of the Library to hold Big Book Sale of children's materials

WHO: Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library

WHEN: General Sale | Saturday, March 11 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bag Sale | Sunday, March 12 from 1-4 p.m.

WHERE: Main Library | Larry D. Black Auditorium

96 S. Grant Ave.

Columbus Metropolitan Library

WHAT: Friends of the Library Big Book Sale

The Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library is holding its semi-annual Big Book Sale, selling books and other library materials that are no longer suitable for Columbus Metropolitan Library’s collection. Children’s books and graphic novels start at \$1. Proceeds support Columbus Metropolitan Library’s programs and services. Visit columbuslibrary.org/friends for more information.

Getting Ready for Worship

3rd Sunday in Lent, March 12, 2023

Lessons

Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95:1-7; John 4:3-15, 27-30, 39-42

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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 Bethel Lutheran Church in Grove City.
+ For Redeemer community member Thea Barbour-Harms and Seth Harms, Bryce and Jackson Harms.
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, Karen Kent, Phillip Hall and Kirstin Roberts.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Emily Ott
Reader	Marit Johnson
Cantor	Wendy Stoica
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal/Kiarra Santiago
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Nate Ott
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Katie Jacobs
Communion Prep	Becky Fisher, Michelle Clemence
Producers	Tom Mimplitch, Sue Yehling

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

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

March 7 - 13, 2023

Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study IN-PERSON and ZOOM
	5:00 p.m.	Outreach Team ZOOM
Wednesday	noon	Soup and Discussion
	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.	Sunday School for all ages
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Ed IN-PERSON and ZOOM
	12:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Monday	7:00 p.m.	BREAD Team ZOOM

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