Reflections

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Contemplate Peace

by Kathleen J. Zwanziger

Gone are the nights when one might find me in the kitchen cleaning at 2 a.m. when I can't sleep. I am connected to a machine and my tether is not nearly long enough to get me to the kitchen. Neither is it long enough to get me to the living room where my current book "lies waiting silently for me." It barely gets me to the bathroom door. What can I do but lie in bed, consider a Lenten service message, and contemplate the meaning of peace. It was probably Leo Tolstoy's book, War and Peace, that led me to believe that peace meant the opposite of war -- and was the prime definition.

Based on the number of grey and white heads, not to overlook my own silverblonde hair, many of you remember the Vietnam War. There were guns, there were bullets, there were wounded soldiers, there were body bags. That war was completely opposite my idea of peace.

Two and a half decades earlier there had been a World War. Even in the



terrifying times of that war, there were people who reached across national boundaries to help victims. Recently, a video clip was shared with me on Facebook. The clip showed a room full of middle-aged people, with an elderly couple in the front row. Soon all the people began to stand while the couple looked on in curiosity. The husband was Nicholas Winton. Finally, he realized all the people in the room were among the 669 Czech children that he managed to save from the Nazis by bringing them to England near the beginning of World War II. He never told anyone, but his wife eventually found a scrapbook with the names and pictures of all those he had saved

and arranged the reunion. I "met" Mr. Winton about five years ago in the Prague Railroad Station. As I walked through the station, I came across what was obviously a train door: I had been on enough trains by that time that I easily recognized it. Although I have far from the artistic talent of a Donna Voekel, I think you can discern the handprints in the window of this train door. Nearby was a plaque reading:

This Farewell Memorial is a symbol of courage and love of parents who in 1938 and 1939 regardless of what their own fate awaited them, boarded their children on trains and with heartache and tears in their eyes waved good bye, sending them away to safety to save their lives.

Most parents perished in the Holocaust.

Winton Children

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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 Ashley Bird
Julie Boreman Nathan Ott
Wendy Stoica Terry Warren

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Redeemer Community



Contributions Sought for Easter Breakfast

Contributions are needed for the Easter Breakfast to be held at 9:45 a.m. on Easter Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. Items needed are egg casseroles, breakfast pastries/bread, fruit juice, milk and a volunteer to make coffee.

Please call the church office if you are able to donate an item.

Redeemer Meets, Surpasses Goals for LWR Personal Care Kits

Julianne Johnson reported <u>Sunday</u>, <u>April 2</u> that, "The collection of items for Personal Care Kits has ended with astounding success. We have collected items for more than 150 Personal Care Kits, doubling our past collections. An exact count will be announced next week.

"Personal Care Kits are an essential response when people are displaced by storms or war, and Lutheran World Relief is positioned to respond all over the world. The kits that Redeemer will supply will replenish supplies that have been used in response to the war in Ukraine and earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

"Thank you all for your support of this vital relief!"

Children's Easter Party a Success!

Krista Skipper reports that seven children participated in the Sunday, April 2 Easter Party. They made bunny baskets and a butterfly craft and decorated bunny-shaped cookies provided by **Kay Ernsthausen.**

"The **Katie Jacobs** and **Phillips-In** team scattered 400 eggs across the lawn and the kids got to fill their bags to the brim!"

"Thank you for all the donated candy and for all the extra helpers at the party. We had a blast!"

Next Up for Narthex Art Exhibit: Surprise!

The coming of Easter and the change of the church season means the theme for the gallery of member art in the Narthex will change. That theme for Easter/April is *Surprise!* Artwork can still be brought in.

"Please look around your home for pieces of art that might fit this theme and consider loaning it to the church for a few weeks," **Emily Kent** urged the congregation.

She also thanked everyone for the "Respite" art pieces and urged them to their items up to make room for the new exhibit.

2023 LSS/Food Collective Food Giveaways Almost Here!

The season for Redeemer's Lutheran Social Services (LSS)/Mid-Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) Food Giveaway events rapidly approaches. Redeemer is scheduled for the *third* Thursday of every month from April to October, so that means the first event is on **Thursday, April 20**! The demand for food assistance remains high, so this ministry effort shared with LSS and MOFC continues to be very important!

Here are the 2023 dates and the "extra" items the congregation will be collecting each month:

- April 20 Hair care items (shampoo, conditioner, etc.)
- May 18 Skin care (lotions, sunscreen, etc.)
- June 15 Soap, dish detergent, laundry soap
- July 20 School supplies and tissues
- August 17 Paper items (paper towels, toilet tissue, baby wipes, etc.)
- September 21 Personal items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, dental floss, etc.)
- October 19 Cleaning supplies (wipes, paper towels, sponges, etc.)

Volunteers will follow the processes used the last few years including a drive-thru process where customers stay in their cars and those working the event will follow physical distancing, handwashing, glove and face mask guidelines.

In an effort to gauge the volunteer staffing for these events, and especially the one on April 20, folks are asked to email or call the church office saying if they can help. A sign-up sheet is also available on the bulletin board next to the library.

Sue Watson notes, "I know our congregational efforts to combat food insecurity in our communities are very meaningful for many of us, and our outreach means so much to those we serve. So if you can volunteer (or if you'd like more info), please get in touch with the church office ASAP. We'll take all the help we can get!"

Tuesday Bible Study to Look at Colossians Beginning April 11

When the Tuesday Bible study resumes on <u>Tuesday, April 11</u>, it will begin an examination of the book of Colossians. 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 Book Group to Discuss The Personal Librarian

Redeemer's Book Group next meets on <u>Wednesday evening</u>, <u>April 19</u>, 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 <u>Marie Benedict</u> and <u>Victoria Christopher Murray</u>. <u>Belle da Casta Greene</u> was a young Black librarian who identified herself as White. She was hired by financier <u>J.P. Morgan</u> 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!

March Council Meeting Update

The March Church Council meeting's "Big Picture Discussion" was on Redeemer's Values (to accompany the congregation's mission and vision).

Treasurer Julie Johnson provided updates on both the Parking Lot Project and the upcoming THRIVE Campaign.

In addition, last October's Active Shooter Training was discussed, focusing on finding ways to keep the congregation informed and engaged in the discussions of safety. The council is looking for a volunteer to provide occasional *Reflections* articles on this topic.

Ashley Bird has been added to the Special Funds Team.

Lastly, as Redeemer is required by the ELCA to review its constitution every five years, the Executive Team nominated **Wendy Stoica**, **Terry Warren**, **Eileen Day**, and **Ruth Murray** to form the team to provide this review.

Spotlight on BREAD Network Member Lynn Belhorn

Kristi Hildebrand reports that, "We are now less than a month from BREAD's big event, the Nehemiah Action on **Tuesday, April 25**!"

Leading up to that, Redeemer's newest Network Member **Lynn Belhorn** and her answers to the six questions is featured to learn why she supports BREAD and and why she plans to be at the Nehemiah Action on April 25.

- 1. What is your name? **Lynn Belhorn**
- 2. What issues keep you up at night? "Disparities in access to health care; infant mortality; community violence; lack of safe, affordable housing; lack of dignity, respect and empathy for individual differences and circumstances. No wonder I have trouble sleeping!"
- 3. Why did you join the Justice Team at Redeemer? "I no longer want to be a bystander, wondering who is going to be part of inspiring change. The passion of the team, joining with others to wrestle with difficult issues, moved me to action."
- 4. What is your favorite kind of bread? "Warm, crusty French bread slathered with butter."
- 5. Why did you decide to become a Network Member of BREAD? "Organizing and uniting our voices can bring about greater focus on critical local issues affecting quality of life for all of us."
- 6. What is your justice prayer for 2023? "Heavenly Father, I'm filled with gratitude for all you have provided. Help us to see others through your eyes and magnify their voices with dignity, empathy and respect as we seek equity for all. Amen."

Redeemer has committed to bringing 60 people to the Nehemiah Action on April 25. If you are interested in attending, please contact **Dave Shull, Sue Watson, Emily Ott, Michele Disbro, Kathy Zwanziger** or **Kristi Hildebrand** or call the church office.

Upcoming BREAD Dates

Nehemiah Action: <u>Tuesday, April 25</u> at the Celeste Center at the Ohio State Fairgrounds (717 E. 17th Ave. 43211).

Justice Ministry Celebration: Monday, June 12 at 7 p.m.

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.

Contemplate Peace cont'd from p. 1

If you watched much television in 2020, you undoubtedly saw similar scenes, as children or spouses stood outside medical or care facilities, holding their hands to the glass to place them on the hand of a relative ill from a new and feared disease. Then just a year ago, fathers and brothers stood outside buses or trains and placed their hands on the windows as their wives and children or siblings departed Ukraine to save their lives from the invading Russians while the men remained to fight. The people of Ukraine are still waiting for peace to return to their country.

When contemplating the definition of peace, I checked Google. Imagine my surprise when I found that the **second** definition was "a state or period in which there is no war." The first meaning is "freedom from disturbance; tranquility." Ah.

As a seventh grader, I had decided it would be fine if I died; I just wanted to be confirmed first. Why would I be completely at peace with that thought? Because my dearest friend had moved out of town; I felt that half of me went with her. The years passed – I was confirmed, graduated high school and college, married, had children and grandchildren. My priorities changed. I no longer thought I would be content dying so young. Then I learned I had PKD, polycystic kidney disease. Instead of simply waiting for my kidneys to fail, I have actively tried to prolong my life.

This past fall, that same childhood friend called to check how my life was going. I told her I had started the evaluation process for a kidney transplant. She exclaimed, "Be realistic, Kathleen! A 75-year-old lady will not be given a kidney!" Most of Dianne's career was working in a dialysis unit, so she had some knowledge on the subject. There are thousands of people on wait lists for a kidney; many of them have been on dialysis for several years. There is a priority for those who are eligible for a kidney from a deceased donor. Dianne had managed a dialysis unit at the hospital where I had my tonsils removed when I was six, the unit where my brother went for his dialysis treatments. Her pronouncement left me in a state of unease, yet I continued the path. I knew that if a living donor volunteered to give **me** a kidney, there was a chance. I am taking more meds than I ever intended to. I began dialysis. I had a heart cath, the last step to qualify for a kidney transplant.

Two weeks ago (March 1), the day after my heart cath, I basically stayed at home and imitated a "slug." Based on my desire to attend the evening prayer service, **Pastor Dave** decided I was a "pious slug." Some of you saw my black and blue wrists that evening. I came, skeptical of learning a new service, mostly because I am so fond of Holden Evening Prayer. Yet the dulcet tones of our cantor lured me, and the repetitive canticles drew me in. A sense of peace settled around me.

Several days later I notified the coordinator and the transplant team that the heart cath was completed. The response I received was that "your donor" needs to complete some tests. That seemed like positive news to me! That Wednesday (March 8) I was notified that the potential donor had completed all the tests. It was with hopefulness that I attended the service that week, again becoming immersed in the contemplative service and the community here at Redeemer. It is difficult to wait to see if the potential donor is a match, but I am at peace with the process.

How appropriate that it was again a Wednesday in Lent – March 29 -- that I got a phone call from my prospective kidney donor: she had been approved! When I came to the lunch that day, I went to Pastor Dave's office to tell him. While I was there, someone from my team called to confirm. After assuring that person the heart cath had been completed, we moved ahead. After another call from the donor and another from my team, **Wendy Stoica** and I were scheduled for transplant surgery on **Monday, April 25**.

Thank you all for your support. Please keep us both in your prayers.

Important Emails

<u>Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave.** <u>Info@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for communicating with the office, *Reflections* newsletter, **Office Manager Becky Trover**, healing prayer requests or for general information. <u>MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for communicating with the Member Care team about needs for personal ministry such as in-home communion, a home visit, meals, etc.

<u>FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for stewardship campaigns.

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

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

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

<u>Transportation@redeemerluth.com</u> – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

<u>Communications@redeemerluth.com</u> – 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 **Ruth Boys** as she remains in Westminster Thurber for rehabilitation following a fall.

An Update from Pastor Dave on His Dad

Pastor Dave would like to thank those of you who've asked him about his dad's health. After having low blood-oxygen levels, pneumonia, COVID, and four non-stop days of the COVID cough, Gordon's body had no strength left. So he'll spend the next month or so at a skilled-nursing facility with the goal of getting his strength back so he'll have enough independent movement abilities to return to his assisted-living facility. Dave and his dad are grateful for your love and support!

Church Office Now Open Four Days/Week

The church office is now open Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with **Becky Trover** and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon with **Diane Brobeck**. The office is closed on Fridays.

'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 Especially at Easter

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.

April Birthdays

3-Chad Eberle
4-Jenny Young 4-Wendy Stoica
6-Nathan Ott 13-Steve Boreman
15-Jill Disbro 16-Mike Benis
18-Isaac Marquez 19-Damon Stewart

19-April Smith and her twin brother Alan Wood 22-Grayson Ullman 23-Andrew Skoog 24-Michelle Clemence 24-Elaine Disbro 27-Margie Frazier 27-Dora Pinder 28-Edwina Bradley

The Wider Church

First English Update

Kay Ernsthausen reports there are many things happening at First English:

- **First update the open pulpit**. Through conversations with the synod office, the council has decided to fill the pulpit in a new innovative way. Instead of doing the normal call process, they are hiring a contract pastor. The pastor will be responsible for specific duties as outlined in the contract. The contract will most likely be a six-month contract renewable at the end of the contract. They have found someone wanting a contract position and they have come to the church and preached on one occasion. The next step is for the council to establish the contract terms and responsibilities.
- **Second update the building**. A roofing company has been found that not only will repair the tile roof but will also help to maintain the roof. Over the last six months, the roof has been repaired and there are no more leaks into the building and down the walls. The sanctuary walls are being repaired from all the water leaks. The company will also be replacing broken tiles each year.

In addition, handicap accessibility is being looked at more seriously. A way into the sanctuary has been figured out but to get a wheelchair to the restrooms is still a problem. With the generous donation from Lord of Life, the old stove in the kitchen has been removed and a new six-burner stove and a convection oven have been purchased and are being installed. Also, with the help of a \$10,000 grant, the teen room is being updated as a study room for the 22nd Street Cookies kids. They are also buying a new larger freezer for cookie dough.

-- **Third update - meals**. The Sunday morning breakfast continues to be offered. Currently 150 breakfasts are being served every week. Some of the churches providing breakfast periodically need extra help on Sunday morning. The meal coordinators will be sending emails as this becomes known so the partners not providing meals can see if they have people available to help.

The Thursday night meal is being very missed in the neighborhood. The issues around the Thursday night meals were discussed. It was determined that a covenant with the Thursday night providers might help with the issues of help and amounts of food. The suggestion will be if one church can't do it alone they partner with another church. The covenant is the next thing to be developed. The council is hoping to bring back Thursday night dinners sometime after the May council meeting.

"The church council is doing a very good job of keeping the congregation together and serving the neighborhood."

Getting Ready for Worship

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 Lessons

Readings: Jerimiah 31:1-6; Psalm:118:1-2, 19-24; John 20:1-18

Prayer of the Day

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 David Lutheran Church in Canal Winchester.
- + For Redeemer community members Sarah, Marques, Rosalie, and Malcolm Highland.

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, 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, Nancy Magargal, Gordon Shull, John Caron, Kathleen Zwanziger, Wendy Stoica.

Worship Leaders

	8:30 a.m.	<u>11 a.m.</u>	
Presiding Minister	Dave Shull, Pastor	Dave Shull, Pastor	
Assisting Minister	Michelle Clemence Mary Benis		
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal/Kiarra Santiago		
Reader	Kathleen Zwanziger		
Cantor	Scott Steiner Wendy Stoica		
Organist	Kathy Rapp Kathy Rapp		
Pianist	Karen Kent Karen Kent		
Verger	Michelle Clemence Wendy Stoica		
Ushers	Neil Hoddinott Ashley Bird		
Producers		Sue Yehling, Scott Steiner	
Communion Set-up	Michele Disbro Diane Brobeck		

The Easter flowers are given by various members and friends of Redeemer Noisy Offering will go to CHOICES.

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

April 4 – April 10, 2023

Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Outreach Team on ZOOM
	7:30 p.m.	Berwick Civic Association
Wednesday	12:30-3:30	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM Good Friday Service at
	-	Redeemer
Next Sunday	8:30 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	9:45 a.m.	Easter Brunch
	11:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
Monday		OFFICE CLOSED

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