



Reflections

VOLUME 27

April 11, 2023

ISSUE 15

A Chance to Right a Wrong

by Mary Benis

I've been drawn to a lot of worthy causes in my adult life, but justice issues have been the most constant theme in one form or another. Almost immediately after I stopped teaching, I was matched with a 15-year-old girl who was getting into trouble. That relationship lasted until she died, some 40 years later, and among other things, it introduced me to the inside of the criminal justice system. I've been concerned ever since.

That experience has led me to support all sorts of related groups, especially those focused on the injustice that ripples through the whole justice system. One particular area of passion began way back when our kids were writing high school essays on the death penalty, and we all came to recognize how unfairly and ineffectively it was administered.

Fast forward to earlier this year, when I clicked on a link in an email from Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) and was outraged by what I read. It was the story of **Tony Apanovitch**, who had spent 32 years in prison for a rape and murder he hadn't committed, before the conviction was overturned and he was released from death row. But two years later an absurd technicality put him back on death row. You can read the story at www.justice4apanovitch.com.

Peter Kobak is coordinating a campaign to correct this injustice and has agreed to come and meet with us during the Adult Education hour on **Sunday, April 23**, starting at 11:15 a.m. He'll talk about abolishing the death penalty in general and the work of OTSE, in addition to discussing the particulars of Tony's case. Then we'll have time to write letters to be submitted as part of the campaign to free Tony. For the folks who can't attend the Sunday discussion but want to be involved, we'll have letter-writing materials available in the Narthex that day and can also email a sample letter if necessary.

I hope you'll take the time to check out Tony's story and then will take the next step to get involved somehow. If you have questions or concerns or would just like to know more, please get in touch with me, **Mary Benis** -- phone or email is fine. I think our faith, as well as our Lutheran heritage, challenges us to confront injustice wherever we encounter it.

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This coming **Sunday, April 16** the Adult Ed Class gets to "Ask the Pastor." Beginning at 11:15 a.m., **Pastor Dave** is hosting an "ask the pastor" session which can start with a sermon talkback, discussing the themes of the "Doubting Thomas" gospel passage and the message Dave offered about it. And/or, it can just go with any questions or themes those in attendance want to address.

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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

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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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Columbus 43227

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614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Redeemer Welcomes New Members Easter Sunday!

Redeemer is privileged to welcome the following new members to the congregation:

Sara Auman

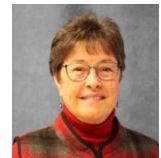


After being a former member of a Presbyterian church and a Methodist church, I now find myself feeling more at home with this Lutheran congregation. I was introduced to Redeemer by Julie Johnson. I knew it was a place of deep faith and community for her and I wanted to respect her connection here. I do remember however saying to her, “just don’t ever expect me to want to join, I am done with joining churches”. She graciously said that was not her expectation. Yet here I am after four years of experiencing Redeemer for myself, and joining feels much more like a blessing than an obligation. Thanks to everyone who has shaped my experience here.

I have retired from my nursing career at OhioHealth after 43 years, I have a private counseling practice in Grandview, am a mom of two and a grandmother of two, oh, and a dachshund lover.

Lynn Belhorn

I was born and raised in Lancaster, Ohio, with a strong sense of faith instilled by my mom. Many childhood activities were focused on our involvement at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church – worship, Sunday School, Wednesday Church School, various choirs, Luther League. After I graduated from Ohio University with a degree in Elementary Education, I married and moved to the Findlay area in Northwest Ohio. It was there that we raised our children:



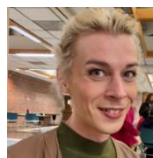
Kristin; Megan; Saki-a Japanese foreign exchange student who became a daughter of my heart. They have blessed me with 8 grandchildren-the lights of my life. My passion for early childhood education led me back to Central Ohio after my divorce, landing at Nationwide Children’s Hospital as a trainer of early learning professionals. I have chosen to become a member of this congregation because, as you have welcomed and embraced me, I desire to do the same for others who walk through the doors. The gift of hospitality lives and breathes here. I want to be a part of that.

Trina Thornton and Kelley Frank



A lot of you know us already. For those who don’t, we live and work in Lancaster. We share a love of music, nature, and exploring different places. We are lifelong Lutherans. We have been together since March 2006, made public commitment to each other in a beautiful ceremony at Redeemer on January 7, 2012, and were legally married in New Mexico on January 7, 2016. God called us to a different faith community for a while - we thought to share our gifts and skills - but perhaps to help broaden their definition of welcome and provide stability during several years of pastoral transition and COVID. We are now returning to Redeemer “officially” as members, but we’ve never really left in our hearts. Redeemer is home to us and will always be so.

Naomi Fae Morgan



When first coming to Redeemer I was weary and wary of going to another church. However, I felt a desire for community, liturgy, and Sunday mornings that were busy so Sunday afternoon naps felt well deserved. You can take the testosterone out of a woman but you cannot take away her after church naps. A sober alcoholic queer tattooed swearing pastor introduced me to a God whose gift to me was love almost 8 years ago now. She was Lutheran and at that time I did not know that one day I would say, “The reason I know I am Lutheran is that my theology is just like Luther’s – God’s love is bigger than my trauma.” I have since found out that not all Lutheran swear like the Pastor did ... but I have found out that in this church is a group of people who believe that “God is Love.” I was deeply touched by how welcoming this congregation has been to me and my son Liam. My desire is to serve the Body of Christ by participating with God and others to create spaces safe for black life, queer life, disabled folk, and women. As I have sat with this community I

have sensed that you too have this same desire for the flourishing of all life. I would love to partner with you and join your church in following the lure of God into the blessed community.

Rich Pautsch



I grew up in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. I went through Confirmation and had perfect attendance for years in Sunday School. I learned what I was expected to learn. I found this learning to be academic, leaving no room for wonder. As an adult I began to look for something more. After dabbling in a number of other religious traditions, I eventually ended up at Redeemer. I am still and probably will always be a seeker and questioner. I have been coming to Redeemer for 10 years and have felt at home here most of those years. I finally decided to make it official and become a member.

April Smith

I was raised in Liverpool, New York, a suburb of Syracuse. I am a product of an excellent public school system and playing the flute has been a big part of my life for over 50 years. I enlisted in the Army as a soldier/musician shortly after high school graduation. After serving for 6 years, I spent another 16 years as a wife to a career soldier. In 2000, I found myself divorced and relocated to Hawaii to live with the woman who would be my partner until I moved to Westerville at the end of 2017 to be close to my twin brother and his family. I am currently single and enjoy meeting new people.



My jobs have included private flute instructor, accounts receivable clerk, custodian, groundskeeper, church and preschool facilities manager and operations assistant in the central Ohio district for a national company.

Service to the church over the years has included musician, greeter, usher, reader, school board, council, stewardship and property committees. My hobbies include watching baseball and football, attending concerts and theatre productions and traveling to places “off the beaten path.”

Why am I saying “yes” to Redeemer? Last year I felt the need to make a change in my worship life and I missed my Lutheran roots. Redeemer is the place I found to be not only welcoming, but the people here are genuinely friendly and interested in my faith and life stories.

Narthex Art Exhibit: *Surprise!*

The new theme for the exhibit of members’ art in the Narthex is *Surprise!* This theme will run for Easter/April is *Surprise!* Artwork can still be brought in.

Clearance: Lost and Found Box

Redeemer’s Lost and Found Box has reached the overflowing stage so the items are spread out on the table in the Library in the hopes of their finding their owners. Check it out! Items that remain will be donated or otherwise disposed of as appropriate.

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 **Tuesday, April 11**, 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 **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!

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 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: Tuesday, April 25 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.**

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 **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!

- e 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 comfort are asked for **Pastor Dave**, his brothers and the whole Shull Family on the death Saturday, April 8 of his father **Gordon Shull**. He was a month shy of turning 98. "Pastor and his brothers are incredibly grateful for his life and grateful he's at peace."

+ + +

Prayers for healing are asked for **Bebe McCoy's** sister **Jan** who is dealing with kidney failure. Bebe writes, "Much love to all there, Christ's peace to you. Thank you for being there and for your prayers."

A Note from Pastor Dave

At the beginning of Easter worship, when I was thanking people for various ways they had made Holy Week and Easter worship possible, and for the kindnesses you have shown me around my dad's death, I forgot a HUGE thank you: **Becky Trover** and **Diane Brobeck** who had to do three complicated bulletins that had LOTS of moving parts in them. So all of us owe them a huge round of gratitude! I'm sorry I neglected to put them on that list on Sunday.

Thank you, Becky and Diane!

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

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

LSS Names New CEO

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) this past week announced the hiring of **Rachel Lustig** as the new president and CEO of the organization. She succeeds the **Rev. Larry A. Crowell**, who has served as interim for the past year. She begins her new duties on **Monday, May 15**.

Todd Treon, chair of the LSS Board of Directors, writes that, "Rachel has 14+ years' experience in executive leadership at faith-based organizations. In her previous decade-long role as president and CEO of Catholic Social Services based in Columbus, she transformed the agency and brought it into its

strategic niche as an anti-poverty agency whose goal is to empower people in need -- regardless of faith or background -- with the tools they need to reach their full potential.

“Before joining Catholic Social Services, Rachel was a senior executive at Catholic Charities USA, the nation’s largest private human service association. In that role, Rachel advanced best-practice strategies that were innovative, impactful, and collaborative, and she helped seed the nation’s first domestic poverty research lab at her alma mater, the University of Notre Dame.”

The Community Beyond

Grammercy Bookstore Hosts Discussion on *Poverty, by America*

The Grammercy Bookstore in Bexley (across from the Bexley Library) is hosting the Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Matthew Desmond** to discuss his latest book *Poverty, by America* beginning at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 19**. Desmond reimagines the debate on poverty, making a new and bracing argument about why it persists in America: because the rest of us benefit from it.

Tickets run \$30 and include a copy of the book. Limited complimentary tickets are also available. both can be obtained by contacting the bookstore at 614-867-5515 or online at <https://tinyurl.com/yjbxcfvp>.

Getting Ready for Worship

2nd Sunday of Easter, April 16, 2023

Lessons

Readings: 1 Peter 1:3-9; Psalm :16:1-2, 5-11; John 20:19-29

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, 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 Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pickerington.

+ For Redeemer community member Kristi Hildebrand.

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, John Caron, Kathleen Zwanziger, Wendy Stoica, Ruth Boys.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Marit Johnson
Cantor	Mary Benis
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal/Kiarra Santiago
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Ashley Bird
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Katie Jacobs
Communion Prep	Diane Brobeck, Kay Ernsthausen
Producers	Michele Disbro

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

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

April 11 – April 17, 2023

Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study IN-PERSON and ZOOM
	6:30 p.m.	A Brewing Faith on ZOOM
Thursday	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Caregivers' Support Group
Next Sunday	8:45 a.m.	CANCELLED Chime Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Congregation Council

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