



Reflections

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ISSUE 18

Redeemer Identifies What it Values

As Redeemer lives into their mission “to be followers of Jesus, sharing God’s love with all” by envisioning ways “to foster understanding & healing in community” it is important to have a foundation of values that guide us.

Recently the Congregation Council discussed what values Redeemer embraces as a community of faith believers. As Gandhi writes, these values become our destiny. They guide our decisions and actions. Members of

council identified many values that represent Redeemer Lutheran Church: welcoming, generous, active, curious, questioning, inclusive, inspiring, compassionate, justice-oriented, open- minded, and progressive. Then, we asked the congregation to vote on their top 3 values. The results are in!

Your beliefs become your thoughts,
Your thoughts become your words,
Your words become your actions,
Your actions become your habits,
Your habits become your values,
Your values become your destiny.

— Gandhi

Value	# of votes
Inclusive	29
Compassionate	27
Justice-oriented/driven	17
Generous	15
Welcoming	13
Open - to conversation	11
Progressive	6
Active	5
Curious/thinking	2
Caring	2
Questioning	1
Inspiring	1
Nonjudgmental	1

Looking over these results, we could recognize the overlap of many of the values. For example, compassionate and caring are similar while generous connects with being compassionate. We discussed that while many churches claim that they are welcoming, they may only welcome people similar to them.

Redeemer is inclusive and welcomes all. While being curious, thinking, questioning, and open-minded describes the people of Redeemer, it may not be a foundational value that guides

our actions. So, the Congregation Council would like to name these three values to guide us in our decisions and actions:

Inclusion, Compassion, and Justice

We plan to include these values along with our vision and mission in our **Reflections** and on the website. We will refer to the mission, vision, and values as we make decisions. We plan to live into these values as we move forward in ministry together. Let’s dream big!

Michele Disbro,
RLC Council President

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OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor - Rev. David Shull

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

Redeemer Launches *Thrive!* Campaign

Redeemer launched its *Thrive!* campaign on Sunday and it will continue over the next four weeks. *Thrive!* is a three-year campaign of the Southern Ohio Synod, initially scheduled to start in 2020 – then COVID hit. The campaign goal is \$1.2 million with a challenge goal of up to \$2 million. Because of COVID many churches, like Redeemer, that planned to launch their campaigns that year had to delay. As of last month, the synod has received pledges of over \$1 million.

At Redeemer's annual meeting it was announced that Redeemer would hold its campaign this spring. Council has approved a goal of \$20,000 for the congregation's campaign: "We would love to exceed our goal," Redeemer team member **Julie Johnson** commented.

Other team members for this effort include **Margie Frazier**, **Wendy Stoica** and **Pastor Dave**.

All the lay people on the team consist of presidents of the congregation during COVID and they each benefited from synod efforts to support churches during the pandemic. Johnson noted, "You should all know that the technology we use to livestream worship was enormously helped by synod efforts by their Out-of-the-Box team, and that they were able to connect us with people for design and installation that greatly reduced our overall costs."

Thrive! was envisioned to equip the people of God in Southern Ohio in ways we have not previously been able to afford or attempt. In next week's *Reflections*, we will share the goals of the *Thrive!* campaign. Each Sunday there will also be a bulletin insert for your information.

Guest Preachers, Teachers on Tap for May 14, May 21

This month, Redeemer welcomes **Cheryl Peterson** and **Emlyn Ott** as guest preachers.

Cheryl Peterson has long been a favorite here. Her time here at Redeemer on **Sunday, May 14** comes with mixed feelings because she is moving from Columbus and Trinity Seminary at Capital University this summer to become academic dean at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

She will preach and then teach the adult education class after worship, focusing on her brand new book about the Holy Spirit. **Dave Shull** will preside.

On **Sunday, May 21**, when Dave is finishing a continuing education class on preaching sponsored by Luther Seminary in Minneapolis, Redeemer member **Emlyn Ott** will preach, preside, and teach.

June Book Group to Discuss *When Breath Becomes Air*

On **Wednesday evening, June 2**, Redeemer's book group invites folks to gather in-person or by Zoom to discuss *When Breath Becomes Air*.

It is the memoir of a writer and neurosurgeon who at age 36, just when he was finishing 10 years of medical training, was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. With his whole future in front of him, a wife and a baby, he now nurtures new life. The novelist **Ann Patchett** says, "This is one of a handful of books I consider to be a universal donor – I would recommend it to anyone, everyone."

Atul Gawande, the author of *Being Mortal*, the book discussed in July 2021, says, Dr. Kalanithi's memoir is "proof that the dying are the ones who have the most to teach us about life." There are a number of copies in the public library. "Join us on June 2!"

Here's the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tKM2xEd3dyK1RvSURJYlFuZz09>; Meeting ID: 865 8150 4887; Passcode: 274918. Or join the group via call to 312 626 6799.

LWR Thanks Redeemer for Its Support

Rev. Tim Krick, manager of congregational engagement for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), sent the following letter to the congregation:

“Again, the people of Redeemer are actively living out their faith by sharing their generosity with our neighbors in Ukraine. While we don't hear as much about the war as we used to, the needs are still great and will continue into the foreseeable future as there doesn't seem to be an end in sight.

“As I talked about before when I was with you all in September, you all are bringing housing, food, counseling services along with mobile medical units that are reaching in the far eastern portions of Ukraine.

“Hopefully you have seen and shared the thank you videos with the congregation, but if not, you can find them at www.lwr.org/congregations. There is also a possibility of a content trip happening to Ukraine next month. If that happens, we will have all new pictures, videos and stories to share. I will keep you updated as I learn more.

“I will be coming to Columbus again (I believe later this year) and would love to stop in and provide any additional updates I have, whether about Ukraine or the other work that is happening around the world. ...

“Let me know if you have any questions and again, thank you!”

BREAD Nehemiah Action Report

Kristi Hildebrand reports that BREAD held the Nehemiah Action on **Tuesday, April 25** with 1,650 attending, 49 from Redeemer. The meeting started with a welcome and preparation for the meeting. After a song and a call to order, they celebrated three recent BREAD wins:

- Environmental Justice
- Elder Care
- Columbus Violence Reduction Initiative (CVR)

The bulk of the action were the active campaign reports:

Stop Violence...Build Trust! **Police Chief Elaine Bryant** did not respond to the invitation to attend the Nehemiah Action. BREAD leaders had hoped to ask her the following three questions:

1. Will you apply to Georgetown University School of Law to provide ABLE (Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement) training for the Columbus Police Department and will you submit the application by the end of August 2023? This training is free, and BREAD is strongly encouraging Bryant to take advantage of it. **BREAD is holding a demonstration on Thursday, May 4 at noon outside police headquarters at 120 Marconi Blvd. All are welcome to participate.**

2. Related to non-police crisis response, will you ensure a request for proposals for an outside consultant is released by mid-May?

3. Will you ensure an advisory committee of community members and crisis response experts is in place, with fire and police as non-voting members, by the end of July?

BREAD will continue to attempt to make contact with Chief Bryant.

Don't ignore, restore! **Brother Lloyd Knight** gave inspiring testimony based on his previous experiences with Restorative Practices. A video of his talk can be found on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/duTFXIhm4MQ>.

In an exciting win, **School Board President Jennifer Adair** was in attendance and answered yes the following questions asked of her:

1. During your term as school board president, will you meet with representatives from a comparable district that has successfully expanded restorative practices district-wide to learn what it took to implement and integrate their plan with fidelity?

2. During the superintendent search, will you advocate to the board that accountability for the implementation of restorative practices, as stated in the board's Goals and Guardrails, be part of the selection criteria for the new superintendent?

3. If the new superintendent does not have previous experience in restorative practices, will you ensure that they participate in restorative training within the first quarter of employment?

4. Starting after the next board monitoring session on June 20, will one or more representatives of the board meet with BREAD quarterly to share progress on these commitments and plan next steps?

Trees protect us, We protect trees gave statistics about the extreme heat and lack of air quality in Columbus. They are working to protect trees on public and private land to increase air quality.

Families first...housing now had questions for **Commissioner O'Grady, Councilmember Shayla Favor, and Mayor Andrew Ginther** but unfortunately they were not in attendance.

1. Will you advocate for one-third of the American Rescue Plan dollars to go to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, targeting families at or below 50 percent of the area median income (\$30,000 or less) by July 11, 2023?

2. Will you meet with BREAD by July 11, 2023?

ID equals, Opportunity! Councilmember Barroso de Padilla was not in attendance, but has expressed her support for the municipal ID. The questions that BREAD wanted to ask her were:

1. Will you be our advocate on the City Council for a Columbus ID program?

2. Will you meet with One ID Columbus by July 28, 2023, to lay out a plan for engaging stakeholders, funders, and other community support? **YOU can help by signing the petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/one-id-columbus>**

BREAD will continue to apply pressure to Mayor Andrew Ginther, Police Chief Elaine Bryant and other officials to encourage them to meet and keep the dialogue open.

The event concluded with a summary, the BREAD prayer, "O God, to those who have hunger give BREAD, and to those who have BREAD give the hunger for justice!" and a song.

A special shout out to Redeemer's **Emily Ott** who provided ASL interpretation of the event.

Thank you, Redeemer, for your continued support of BREAD and its efforts!

Upcoming BREAD Date

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

One More Chance to Right a Wrong

The Adult Education Class on April 23 with **Peter Kobak** of Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) was really informative and motivational, **Mary Benis** notes. "Thanks to all 35 folks who attended in person or by Zoom – it was a great turnout!"

"If you haven't yet been able to submit a postcard in support of freeing **Tony Apanovitch** from his wrongful incarceration on Death Row, you can still do so. There will be cards available in the Narthex through **Sunday, May 7**, along with a sample text. Or you can contact the church office and ask that a form be emailed to you. The sample text is available online at bit.ly/takeactionfortony.

"For maximum impact, the best way to return your cards is to bring or send them back to Redeemer by Sunday, May 7. They will then be forwarded to OTSE. But if that's not possible, just add the stamps yourself, and mail your cards directly to the governor and the parole board. In addition, we're encouraged to call the governor's office at 614-644-4357 and ask for clemency for Tony.

"All the details of Tony's case can be found at www.justice4apanovitch.com. These postcards are a way to turn our righteous outrage into positive action and, hopefully, justice for Tony."

Exploring the God We Do and Don't Believe In Redeemer Sunday Adult Education for May 7

Pastor Dave writes, "A question about how people might respond to someone who says they're angry with God because of some tragic event that has happened led to a lively conversation about God in the Sunday morning adult education class on April 16.

"On **May 7**, we will continue to broaden that conversation by looking at a couple of articles about God and talk about how our beliefs about God have changed during our lifetimes. Sometimes it's just as important to name what we no longer believe about God – or what we never believed about God – as it is to talk about what we do believe.

"These two weeks will give us opportunities to hear from each other about what we do and don't believe, and what that means for how we live today."

Noisy Offering Now Goes to Kindway

During December, the Adult Sunday Education class welcomed people from groups that are out bringing God to a group of people or a neighborhood. One of the groups was Kindway.

Kindway is a God-led prison ministry devoted to investing in the lives of those who've been affected by incarceration. According to Kindway, it has developed "an impressive reputation within Central Ohio prisons and the Columbus community for its EMBARK reentry programming." EMBARK helps individuals build their independence while growing their faith to become active and engaged Christians in the Columbus community. After a thorough selection and orientation process, individuals begin the EMBARK program during their incarceration within a year of release to ensure enough time for intensive personal reflection.

During this time, individuals also participate in Equip programming including trauma recovery, faith-based reentry curriculum and vocational training.

One of the group members who came in December was a young woman who is thriving due to this program. Redeemer's support will help with program cost, rent, setting up housing and many more costs that are incurred as people leave a jailed life and reenter society.

April Council Meeting Highlights

There was considerable discussion surrounding the responses to the recent "Values" survey at the Monday, April 17 meeting of the Church Council. Results of the survey will be published shortly.

Wendy Stoica spoke to the council about the Thrive Campaign and asked us to pledge our support. The Thrive Campaign will officially begin on **Sunday, April 30**, with a presentation to the congregation.

Council discussed the automatic doors for the main floor bathrooms. The estimated costs connected with this project were \$6,800+ for the installation and the electrical work required. It was agreed that we would temporarily move this to the "wishlist" category.

Finance Officer Nate Ott advised that the financial reports for the first quarter show we are in a healthy position. Also, as requested, they are working on getting quarterly financial reports to the teams; Nate has requested these documents and will distribute them as soon as they arrive from the accounting firm.

Lastly, Council approved the transfer request from **Tommy Spahn** and **Bailey Sanders** to a church nearer their home in Johnstown.

Food Giveaway Serves 131 Families

A total 131 families or 448 people were served at Redeemer's first Food Giveaway of the year on **Thursday, April 20**, according to **Kathy Zwanziger**. That included 159 children and 105 seniors. There were 40 new families receiving assistance.

The church received a total of 6,681 pounds of food although it normally receives 10,000 pounds of food.

A total of 22 volunteers participated.

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Look at Colossians May 2

The Tuesday Bible study continues its examination of the book of Colossians on **Tuesday, May 2**. 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>

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 *An Update on Kathy Z*

Because **Kathleen Zwanziger** developed symptoms of an infection, the transplant has been postponed. She is having labs done and then will be in consultation with the transplant team to determine next steps. Kathleen continues to be grateful for the support of her Redeemer family. Your continued prayers are appreciated. We'll update information as we have it.

As a result, the Meal Train effort for both Kathy and her donor **Wendy Stoica** has been postponed for the time being. The congregation will be notified once it is needed.

May Birthdays

1-Daniel Pawlowski 2-Nicolas Jack Amon
2-Trevor Binau 2-Jon Denniss
3-Heidi Sherer 5-Nancy Magargal
8-Kay Ernsthausen 8-Kathryn Ott
11-Logan Baldogo 14-Ty Pawlowski
17-Mary Benis 17-Ken Jones
19-Al Debelak 20-Jackson Harms
21-Paul Voytas 22-Dave Lippert
26-Kathie Ehrich 29-Barbara Willmann

The Wider Church

Spring Gathering for Lutheran Women Set for May 7

The Spring Gathering is for all women who are members of any Lutheran church in the Central Ohio area. Attendees do not need to be a member of an organized women's group within their church to attend this event.

This is an opportunity to get to know other women in the area.

Who: Lutheran Women's Spring Gathering (Women of the ELCA)

Date: Sunday, May 7, 2023

Time: Registration: 1:30 p.m. Program: 2 p.m.

Place: Clinton Heights Lutheran Church (15 Clinton Heights Ave.; Columbus, OH 43202)

Theme: Love Thy Neighbor!

Please come for the fellowship, speakers, singing and refreshments! For questions or additional information, please contact **Janet Dixon** at 614-475-2772.

First English Announces Selection of New Pastor

First English Lutheran Church announced the selection of **Pastor Lorin Darst** as its new pastor. He started Sunday. He grew up in Southern Oregon until he attended college at the University of Nevada, Reno. While in Reno he worked as a certified nursing assistant and an emergency and critical care technician. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in health science. During his time at UNR, he connected with his local ELCA campus ministry and his original goal of becoming a physician was eclipsed by a growing call to pastoral ministry.

Darst attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary here, in Columbus where he met his future spouse, Tiffany. He graduated in 2006 and served in the first cohort of pastoral residents at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, IA for two years. Upon concluding his residency he served Grace Lutheran Church and School in Conroe, TX for nearly six years before moving back to his home state. Upon arriving in Oregon, Darst worked with immigrant farm workers before accepting a call at Macksburg Lutheran Church, a rural congregation southeast of Portland.

In 2022, Tiffany was offered a new job in Columbus. They are both incredibly excited to be close to Tiffany's family again, though they miss Lorin's family, some dear friends, and day trips to the coast.

The Wider Community

Friends of Bexley Public Library will be holding their annual spring Book Sale from **Thursday, May 11** (members only) through **Sunday, May 14**. Find thousands of gently-used books, movies, and music at unbeatable prices. The sale will run from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday.

Getting Ready for Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 2023

Lessons

Readings: 1 Peter 2:1-10; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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 Fellowship Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Neil and Ranel Hoddinott.

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, Phillip Hall and Kirstin Roberts, John Caron, Kathleen Zwanziger, Wendy Stoica.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Michele Disbro
Reader	Karen Rider
Cantor	Emily Kent
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence
Communion Prep	Misato In
Producers	Scott Steiner, Sue Yehling

*Flowers are given by Wendy Stoica in memory of Tim
Noisy Offering will go to Kindway*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

May 2 – May 1, 2023

Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Bible Study
	5:00 p.m.	ZOOM Outreach Team
	7:00 p.m.	Berwick Civic Association
	7:00 p.m.	Journaling workshop
Wednesday	12:30 p.m.	Redeemer at LSS Food Pantry
	5:30 p.m.	Mutual Ministry Team – Dave Shull's home
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.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
	12:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class

Redeemer's mission: To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all

Redeemer's vision: To foster understanding and healing in community

Values: Inclusion, Compassion, Justice