



Reflections

VOLUME 27

May 8, 2023

ISSUE 19

The Power of Tables

The Sunday after Easter always brings us the reading from John’s gospel that’s come to be known as *the Doubting Thomas story*. As I mentioned in my reflection that morning, preachers are always looking for something fresh to share about a very familiar tale. And on that morning, I expressed my gratitude to church historian **Diana Butler Bass** for noticing something fresh. She realized that the first line of that story, John 20:19, says that on the first Easter, the disciples were hiding in fear from the religious authorities “in the house where they had met.” Bass says there’s only one house in Jerusalem where they had met: the house where, Thursday night, they’d gathered for their last supper with Jesus.

So, in their time of unimaginable fear, confusion, and feeling utterly lost, where do they go? They go to back to the table. Back to the table where Jesus had told stories to remind them who God is, who he is, who they are, and who they might yet become if they open themselves to the Spirit God will send to them after Jesus is no longer physically with them. All those memories, hopes, fears, uncertainties ... all the stories that all of us have shared at all the different tables we’ve sat around.

And in that first-Sunday-after-Easter reflection, I talked about how most of the stories in the gospels in which the Risen Jesus shows up have to do with meals. The Risen Jesus comes to his followers around tables, which tells us something about the power of tables. Sitting around tables, sharing food, we are all the same. Each of us brings something to share, so there aren’t some who are guests and some who are hosts. Each of us is a giver, each a receiver. And we make time for each other. Tables are where stories are born, shared, honored. Tables are where we listen to each other. In being listened to, we are healed. In listening to others, we are changed.

Reflecting on the power of tables, I shared a vision I have that we at Redeemer might dream of gathering people we don’t know around some tables. I imagine groups of people we don’t know, groups whose experiences and lives we might not understand very well, gathering for potlucks, each bringing something to share at the table. I imagine us in small groups around different tables, with a couple of questions to prompt a conversation. I imagine the same groups meeting around the same tables for three or four meals, so we can really come to know each other. So we can build some trust and care. So we can live into our vision of *fostering understanding and healing in community*.

After that Sunday, I heard from several of you that you were captured by this vision I shared. So I’d like to invite any of you who would be interested to gather with me sometime in June so we might dream about what might be possible for a first set of meals: Who might we like to get to know better? How might we invite them and explain this vision? What would make for the most open kinds of conversations? What would we hope for from a first set of mealtime conversations?

If you’d like to gather with others to explore the power sitting around tables for three or four meals with people we don’t know might have, please contact me by the end of May so we might meet in June and come up with some concrete next steps. I look forward to what might happen when we create spaces for the power of tables to come alive!

Dave Shull

In This Issue

[The Power of Tables](#)

[The Redeemer Community](#)

[The Wider Church](#)

[Prayers & Personals](#)

[Getting Ready for Sunday](#)

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

What – or Who – Is the Holy Spirit?

Redeemer Sunday Adult Education for May 14

The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson will explore with the Adult Education class Sunday, May 14 what the Scriptures and early church tradition teach about the "personhood" of the Holy Spirit as a member of the Trinity -- and why that still matters today!

The class follows the worship service and begins about 11:15 a.m. in Room 2. Come join the group for a stimulating discussion!

Join Redeemer Folks for June 17 PRIDE Parade

Register by June 1 Using Link Below

So far this year, there have been 537 pieces of legislation introduced in 49 states that discriminate against our transgender individuals; 64 have passed and 376 are still actively being considered. Because the vast majority of these bills have been sponsored and supported by people who base their actions on their Christian faith, it is all the more important for followers of Jesus who hear him offering a different message to show up in large numbers in PRIDE parades around the country.

Redeemer members and friends have a chance to use their bodies and voices to proclaim a different gospel at the Columbus PRIDE Parade on Saturday morning, June 17 as they walk with folks from other Columbus-area ELCA congregations.

Those who'd like to get a t-shirt to wear to identify them as followers of Jesus who want to express a gospel of compassion and joy need to register by Thursday, June 1. Please use this link: <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/7077794>.

In addition, folks are asked to let **Dave Shull** or **Mary Benis** know they're registered, so they can look for Redeemer's participants at the parade and so they can pass on other information as needed, including where the ELCA marchers will meet so they can go together to their spot among the marchers.

Naomi Morgan, a new member at Redeemer, will have a front-page article in the May 22 *Reflections* to emphasize the importance of getting a good group out this year.

Thanks for all the ways Redeemer makes the love of Jesus real.

It's Getting to Be That Time

Donations of Bottled Water Sought for Basketball Camp

With Redeemer's summer basketball camp set to kick off on Monday, June 12, it's not too early for folks to donate a case of bottled water. One thing that's certain: there will be hot days out there on the basketball courts.

Feel free to buy a case of **8-ounce** water bottles and put it in the donation room off the Narthex.

The young people go through a lot of water!! The camp runs through Thursday, July 20.

Thank you!

Redeemer Enters Second Week of *Thrive!* Campaign

Redeemer is now in Week 2 of its *Thrive!* campaign, and this article will highlight the goals that have been set for the use of this money. It's important first to say that this is not for building a building or calling staff for the Southern Ohio Synod. The *Thrive* campaign is about equipping people of God in new ways. It is based on a feasibility study that the synod conducted that garnered input from over 40 people across the state to gain insight into what congregations need to grow and thrive in the years to come.

Thrive! has five goals:

1. **To equip lay leaders.** The synod has already been doing this through, in part, a variety of workshops offered. For the last three years Redeemer's presidents and vice presidents have benefited from workshops for leadership. These workshops have included a wide range of topics from legal to financial and beyond. An upcoming workshop is on Effective Council Meetings. The list goes on.

2. **To raise up leaders for smaller congregations.** This goal is to identify and equip leaders to serve in contexts where the congregation is not able to fund a full-time pastor. The synod has developed a curriculum for lay persons to become qualified to serve where a congregation cannot even support a part-time pastor. The first group is now nearly ready to serve their congregations in that capacity.
3. **To strengthen rostered ministers.** The synod will provide the opportunity for pastors and deacons to identify themselves, and be identified by leaders in their congregations, as healthy leaders who are growing in their faith and ministry skills.
4. **To launch new congregations and reach new people.** There has already been one new faith community started in the synod.
5. **To enhance worship practice.** The synod will engage congregations across the region to improve and enhance their own worship and music opportunities and share their resources and knowledge to assist other congregations.

Redeemer is asking each household to prayerfully consider a three-year pledge to support these goals. The Redeemer Church Council has set a goal of \$20,000 over the next three years and already has received commitments for \$5,400 towards that goal. Members will be asked to join that effort on **Sunday, May 21**.

Redeemer's *Thrive!* Team: **Margie Frazier, Wendy Stoica, Julianne Johnson, Dave Shull**

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.

Brewing Faith 'Meets' Tuesday, May 9

The May meeting of the discussion group "Brewing Faith" will be on **Tuesday, May 9** at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. There is a new Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81765916972?pwd=bjJ0TlJlbG1keXpsV205TWNHVUFpQT09>. Meeting ID: 817 6591 6972; Passcode: 190081. Phone only: 312 626 6799.

May's Food Giveaway Almost Here!

Redeemer's Lutheran Social Services (LSS)/Mid-Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) Food Giveaway events is scheduled for the *third* Thursday of every month from April to October, so that means the next event is on **Thursday, May 18!** The demand for food assistance remains high, so this ministry effort shared with LSS and MOFC continues to be very important!

The "extra" items the congregation will be collecting for are skin care products such as lotions and sunscreen.

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. To volunteer, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board next to the Library.

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* by **Paul Kalanithi**.

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.

BREAD Nehemiah Action Report

Kristi Hildebrand reports that BREAD held the Nehemiah Action on **Tuesday, April 25** with 1,650 attending, 47 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** – We celebrated Recreation and Parks meeting its commitment to begin work by June 1, 2023 on an ordinance that will protect large trees on private property.
- **Elder Care**: In order to get to the root cause of why people in certain zip codes die up to 27 years sooner than in others, BREAD representatives met with stakeholders across the county and helped shape a new community health assessment called HealthMap 2022. We also celebrated more support for older adults who frequently call 911 - the Columbus Fire Department's SPARC team went from having one social worker to four and has helped over 4,700 people since 2019!
- **Columbus Violence Reduction Initiative (CVR)**: BREAD celebrated the launching of the Columbus Violence Reduction (CVR) initiative which is modeled after a proven strategy to reduce group and gang violence.

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.
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. at Christ the King Catholic Church (2777 E. Livingston Ave.)

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.

Tuesday Bible Study Continues Look at Colossians May 9

The Tuesday Bible study continues its examination of the book of Colossians on **Tuesday, May 9**. 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

Prayers for healing are asked for **Toshi Phillips** who had surgery Monday to set an arm he broke in a track meet and for **Matthew Bird** who sustained a concussion in a scooter accident. Prayers continue to be asked for **Kathleen Zwanziger** and **Wendy Stoica** as they await a new date for their kidney donation surgeries.

Member Directory Update: **Lynn Belhorn** has a new address: 2034 Farmbrook Circle N, Grove City 431-23-9494; her email is Lynn.Belhorn@gmail.com.

May Birthdays

8-Kay Ernsthause 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

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

Bexley Library Book Sale This Week

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 14, 2023

Lessons

Readings: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 First English Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Misato In and Brad Phillips, Sachio and Hitoshi Phillips.

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, Toshi Phillips, Matt Bird.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Shull
Preacher	Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson
Assisting Minister	Emily Ott
Reader	Karen Rider
Cantor	Jennifer Young
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Nate Ott
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Karen Rider
Communion Prep	Misato In, Karen Rider
Producers	Michele Disbro, Scott Steiner

*Flowers are given by John D. Kennedy in memory of Marcelene A. Kennedy
Noisy Offering will go to Kindway*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

May 9 – May 15, 2023

Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM A Brewing Faith
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.	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

Redeemer's Values: Inclusion, Compassion, Justice