



Reflections

VOLUME 27

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ISSUE 24

Stronger Than Always (For My Son)

Editor's Note: The following was written by former Redeemer intern Pastor Steve Bond for his son who is African American. It is reprinted with permission.

Tonight we had to have The Talk -- well, the version for a son not yet twelve -- a revision from the one we had at ten, and perhaps before that as well.

“Is this about puberty?” he asked, as we walked to the swing set to sit. “No,” I answered, his hands fumbling over a can of root beer, “it’s not.”

No, this was The Talk in which I must invoke with fear and trembling the names of Emmett and Tamir wiping my eyes between the words.

He would remember George, but I knew he was not ready to hear about Mother Emanuel, or what the stranger said when he was little.

I had to tell him the reason his mother and I take it so seriously when frustration pushes him to mouth off and then we take away his phone.

But how do you tell a child whose voice hasn’t even cracked yet that there are those who would destroy him for nothing more than a look or a word?

How do you teach someone not to judge when so many will not only judge but condemn and deem him a threat? How do I send him into a world hungry to eat him alive?

“I love you,” I feebly mustered, “and I would take a bullet for you a hundred times out of a hundred. But there will be times I am not there.”

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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

Some Ways to Connect at Redeemer this Summer

The following highlights a number of ways that folks can be involved here at Redeemer over the summer:

Sunday morning, July 2: Former member of the Redeemer family, **Mary Ann Horton**, who wrote in *Living Lutheran* about how welcomed she felt here years ago as a transgender woman, will sign her book after worship and then speak to the adult ed class. Mary Ann's connections at Redeemer helped encourage us to expand our welcome statement to lesbian and gay persons to include transgender people.

Here's a bit about her: To have invented the email attachment is one thing. To have done so while transitioning from male to female and paving the way for Trans rights in the workplace is quite another. Her book, *Trailblazer*, describes her childhood as **Mark Horton** and how the question "who am I, really?" became too loud to silence. As she transitioned from Mark to Mary Ann, she quickly learned the challenges and heartbreaks that came with navigating the maze of social, medical and legal rights afforded, or rather not afforded to the Trans community. In 1997, Mary Ann persuaded Lucent Technologies to become the first Fortune 500 company to add transgender-inclusive language to its nondiscrimination policy, and to add coverage for transition care and surgery.



Wednesday evenings in July, 7-8:30 p.m.: Redeemer Summer Book Study explores the realities of experiences on the Mexico-U.S. border. There's an article about our summer book, *The Line Becomes a River*, elsewhere in this issue. These discussions are safe spaces to explore topics about which those who gather bring a wide variety of perspectives which have no easy resolutions ... and about which you might not have conversation partners to talk.

Ongoing on Saturdays: At 9 a.m., Redeemer gives away the produce from the garden. (Harvesting beans at 8:30 a.m.) Volunteers are needed to help for a couple of hours each week. Contact **Jon Disbro** at 614-832-2639 with questions.

Ongoing Sundays: Readers are needed for the Sunday services throughout the summer. A sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board next to the Library. Readings are sent out the week ahead of the service. **Readers of all ages are welcome to participate in this ministry.**

Redeemer to Serve at First English on June 22

On **Thursday, June 22** Redeemer is scheduled to provide the take-out dinner at First English to approximately 150 individuals. With its being June and picnic season, the menu will be sloppy joe sandwiches, individual chip snack bags, fruit cups, individually wrapped Hostess desserts and granola or breakfast bars. There will be lemonade and water also available for the dinners. **Kay Ernsthause**n reports that she has received pledges for all food items needed Thursday. Contact her at 614-288-8506 or at KAErnsthause@gmail.com with any questions.

Donated items should be placed in the basket in the coatroom. Those donating sloppy joes should contact Kay who will make arrangements for pick up on **Thursday June 22**, so they are hot.

"Thank you for your continued support in helping feed those in need."

Sloppy Joes from Kathy Mimplitch

(If making 4 lbs. of Sloppy Joes, just double the recipe.)

2 lbs lean ground beef
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup chopped green pepper
1 tsp garlic powder
2 tsp prepared yellow mustard
1 1/2 cups ketchup
6 tsp brown sugar
Salt and pepper to taste

In a medium skillet over medium heat, brown the ground beef, onion and green pepper. Drain off liquid. Stir in garlic powder, mustard, ketchup and brown sugar. Mix thoroughly. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. This makes 12 servings.

From Kathy: "I usually omit the green pepper (I don't like it)! I sometimes I use ketchup and barbecue sauce instead of just ketchup. I almost double the brown sugar as I like it sweet."

Recipe can be made with ground turkey.

Adult Ed Class: *Sermon Talkbacks*

On some Sunday mornings for adult ed this summer, the class will be doing what they've done some previous summers: gather after refreshments and talk about any questions or comments participants have about that morning's scripture readings and the reflection.

Preachers enjoy this because it turns the sermon from a monologue into a dialogue. And preachers hope participants enjoy it because it offers opportunities to ask questions, challenge, and engage in conversations that otherwise wouldn't happen.

On **Sunday, June 25**, the **Rev. Mary Ann Siefke**, director of congregational engagement and advancement at Capital University, will preach and she will be available for the talkback following worship.

The class is both in-person and on Zoom at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82689102919?pwd=V0NSY0c1SDBWUXZlMWFzbXlWZHpPdZ09>. Meeting ID: 826 8910 2919; Passcode: 430914; phone only: 1-929-436-2866.

BREAD Holds Justice Ministry Celebration

Kristi Hildebrand reports that the BREAD Celebration took place on Monday, June 12. It was a return to an event more like the pre-COVID celebrations of the past with balloons and cake and games.

Because of the faith community members (like Redeemer) and individual members, BREAD celebrated these victories in 2022:

- The Franklin County Commissioners continued to approve \$6.5 million for affordable housing helping at least 200 families per year access safe, decent housing.
- Franklin County has an Affordable Housing Trust Fund with revenue of about \$5 million of public dollars in 2022 that has financed the development of over 14,000 units of affordable housing since 2001.
- Franklin County has allocated \$8 million from the American Rescue Plan budget toward affordable housing.
- Nine Restorative Justice Circles are in place to prevent children from entering the juvenile justice system. These circles should save the people of Franklin County approximately \$2.2 million by diverting them from the court system.
- Neighborhood blight is disappearing through the Franklin County Land Bank with annual revenue of about \$3.5 million. The land bank has demolished nearly 4,000 vacant units.

BREAD will raise more than 50 percent of its budget locally and over \$180,000 in individual investments so that it can OWN ITS ORGANIZATION and not be owned by outside foundations! For every \$1 invested in BREAD in 2021, the group leveraged \$51 back into our community!

When folks invest in BREAD, the money goes toward:

- Supporting local and national training for leaders
- Covering cost of events, office space, and supplies
- Hiring staff to recruit and work with more congregations

At the celebration, Redeemer was recognized for bringing 50 percent of its average weekly attendance to the Nehemiah Action. Eight people from Redeemer were celebrated for bringing at least three people to the Nehemiah Action.

BREAD is part of a larger organization (DART - Direct Action & Research Training) and has comparable organizations in cities all over the U.S. DART awards the "Nehemiah Cup" to the organization with the largest display of organized people power. BREAD won the Nehemiah cup in both 2022 and 2023.

Thank you for your support of BREAD and justice!

RLC Summer Basketball Camp Underway

Redeemer's summer basketball camp, led by former NBA and ABA player **Coach Larry Jones**, is now underway. Participants can still register by calling 614-237-1263.

Redeemer provides this camp for free to youth ages 8 to 14. The camp runs six weeks, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. It concludes on **Thursday, July 20**.

Donations of Bottled Water Sought for Basketball Camp

With Redeemer's summer basketball camp set to kick off on **Monday, June 12**, Redeemer members are asked 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!

June 15 Food Giveaway Serves 150 Guests

June 15 was a beautiful day for Redeemer's giveaway, **Kathy Zwanziger** reports. "Thanks to all of you for making it a success – by working and by contributing special items. We were given 10,330 pounds of food, including a skid of milk! (That was 300 pounds more than in May.)

"There were 150 guests, representing 477 individuals: 147 were children and 101 were seniors. There were 55 new families (compared to 39 in May). Again, thanks to all!"

Please note the special items for the July 20 giveaway – in addition to the fans (see separate story, this issue) – are school supplies and tissues.

Redeemer Safe Church Team Highlights Safety Tips

Redeemer's Safe Church Team (**April Smith, Sara Auman, Sue Yehling**) will be providing a series of monthly "Redeemer Safety Tips" that will be useful reminders in responding to emergency situations as members gather together in the building, in the community and in homes.

This is the first of the series which will cover a variety of subjects such as medical, weather, fire and active shooter threats. Other safety projects being planned are emergency preparedness brochures as well as evacuation maps to be posted throughout the building. The team hopes that this information will remind all to be aware and prepared in the event of an emergency.

By administering immediate care during an emergency, an individual can help an ill or injured person before emergency medical services arrive. This could help save a life.

Checking an Injured or Ill Person

1. Check the scene for safety, form an initial impression, obtain consent, and use personal protective equipment (PPE)
2. Check for responsiveness, breathing, life-threatening bleeding or other life-threatening conditions using shout-tap-shout. Check for no more than 10 seconds.
3. If the person is responsive or responds to stimulation and is fully awake and does not appear to have life-threatening conditions:
 - Interview the person (or bystanders if necessary), ask questions about signs and symptoms, allergies, and medications and medical conditions. Take note of any medical identification tags.
 - Do a focused check based on what the person told you, how the person is acting and what you see.
 - Do not ask the person to move if you suspect a head, neck or spinal injury.
 - Do not ask the person to move any area of the body that causes discomfort or pain.
4. If the person does not respond, responds but is not fully awake, is not breathing or is only gasping, or has life-threatening bleeding or another obvious life-threatening condition CALL 9-1-1 and get equipment or ask someone else to do so.

For a person who is unresponsive and not breathing: START CPR and USE AN AED IMMEDIATELY. Redeemer has an AED unit available in the Narthex to the left of the main doors.

The American Red Cross offers on-line or in person classes. Contact www.redcross.org.

Fans, Fans, and More Fans!

Sister Act recently discussed all the ways that Redeemer currently serves as a refuge, and how the congregation might imagine new ways to be a refuge in the future.

Long story short (and you'll hear more of that discussion in the future!) Sister Act members thought about how the community collects fans each summer for people without air conditioning and how many of those current efforts reach people who are homebound.

Sister Act would like to provide fans in July at Redeemer's LSS/MidOhio Food Giveaway, to households that may need them. So, to that end, Sister Act is collecting box fans from now until **Thursday, July 20** when they will be distributed at the July food giveaway.

Julie Johnson has gone ahead and purchased 50 fans at \$20/each. Contributions can be made toward those rather than worry about bringing in a fan. Just note "Fans" in the check memo line or on the envelope.

Fans, fans, and more fans!

Summer Book Study Focuses on Mexican/US Border

Every July, Redeemer spends four Wednesday evenings together discussing a book on an issue that comes out of the day's headlines. Having this amount of time means the discussions on the book are not rushed nor are the conversations short-circuited. Spending four weeks on the book invites a deep dive into a topic that is controversial and complex. And it creates a space where folks can share their opinions and questions while listening to people who likely will have some different ideas and experiences. This July book group offers a rich opportunity to live into Redeemer's mission of *fostering understanding and healing in community*.

This July, the group will read and discuss *The Line Becomes a River* by **Francisco Cantú**. Cantú is a Mexican-American who worked for the U.S. Border Patrol on the Mexican border from 2008-2012. Writing about this book, author **Sandra Cisneros** says, "There is a line dividing what we know and do not know. Some see the world from one shore and some from the other. Cantú brings the two together to a spiritual whole. My gratitude for this work of the soul."

There are a lot of copies in the public library for those who don't want to buy a copy. Please lend your voice and ears to our discussions the four Wednesday evenings in July, beginning **July 5**, from 7-8:30 p.m.

And invite your friends! Having non-Redeemer people joining us makes our conversations that much richer.

Narthex Art: *Love in Any Language*

The Narthex Art theme is now "Love in Any Language." Stop by to check out members' vision of what that means to them.

Tuesday Bible Study on Hiatus June 20

There will be **no** Bible study on **Tuesday, June 20** while **Pastor Dave** is away. It will resume on **Tuesday, June 27** from 1 to 2:30 p.m., both in-person and on Zoom.

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.

Stronger Than Always (For My Son) *cont'd from p. 1*

I wish I could tell him in truth
I will always be able to protect him;
I wish there were a better word
to use. Maybe "everywhen."

I'd say, "I will be there everywhen
to save the day and keep you safe.
You know you can believe it
since I said it stronger than 'always'."

But wishing does not make it so,
and I am at a loss for words. Tonight

I can walk with him into the house.
Tonight that has to be enough.

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 comfort and healing are asked for **Kevin Bailey** who is hospitalized after having a heart attack; for the partner of Redeemer's Learning in Context intern last year **Adam Howard** who has been diagnosed with Stage 3 lung cancer. Prayers of comfort for **Tom Rabenold**, friends and family of former member **Lou Staffilino**, who died peacefully Monday as the result of a rare blood disorder. Tom's address is 1549 Chestnut Farms Loop, Grove City OH 43123-7921

Update from Kathy Z

Kathleen Zwanziger, who is recuperating from kidney transplant surgery, writes, "What a joy to be able to worship in person with you! However, it is difficult to not be able to hug or even touch people! My immune system is at its lowest point: the first three months following a kidney transplant are vitally important. Naturally, I have to take anti-rejection drugs--PLUS a bunch of others! At first, it was 14 in the morning and 15 in the evening in addition to a 'swish and swallow' four times a day. Gradually, I will be able to stop some of them. To see if the anti-rejection drugs are doing what they should, I need to have blood drawn twice a week. I am looking forward to June 28, when all 27 staples should come out, and then to my sister's birthday in late August, when the protocols will change (e.g., labs only once a week).

'I so much appreciate all your messages of care and concern, as well as all the meals. I now have some great ideas of what I can fix in the future! You are a wonderful family!'

'Christ in Our Home' Available

The July-September 2023 edition of "Christ in Our Home" is now available in the Narthex for anyone who would like a copy. Feel free to take an extra copy to share with family or friends. 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

Pastor Heads Out-of-Town for Week of June 18

Pastor Dave Shull will be out-of-town Sunday afternoon, June 18 until Sunday evening, June 25 for continuing education. For a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact **Pastor Julianne Smeck** of Hope Lutheran Church at 734-972-6126.

On **Sunday, June 25**, **Rev. Mary Ann Siefke** will serve as both preacher and presider. She is the director of congregational engagement and advancement at Capital University.

June Birthdays

20-Katie Jacobs 23-Nathaniel Bird
24-Andy Day 24-Bobby Jimison
25-Ron Willmann 26-Eric Reinoehl
30-Julie Brush

The Wider Church

ELCA Working Group Seeks Input

The 10th chapter of Romans reads, “How are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?” (Romans 10:14-15).

In response to this and other invitations in Scripture, the church continues to educate, form, and send rostered ministers so that all may call on Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. Our process to do so is currently under review.

In March 2022 a diverse group was appointed to examine and improve the candidacy process that equips rostered ministers for service in the church. This ELCA team is the Candidacy Leadership Development Working Group (CLDWG.)

In the last year the group has spent much of its time hosting virtual and in-person listening sessions to learn the needs of our church. It also completed a survey for those excluded by the candidacy process. As it moves forward, the working group is prioritizing feedback from the church.

All members of the ELCA are invited to hearings at which the working group will share its findings. There will also be an opportunity for response. More details will be shared at the hearings; an executive summary of the team’s work can be found [here](#).

The hearings will be hosted [via Zoom](#) on the following dates:

- June 20, 7 p.m. Eastern
- June 22, 1 p.m. Eastern
- June 26, 2 p.m. Eastern
- June 28, 10 p.m. Eastern

The Community Beyond

Mid-Ohio Workers’ Association Celebrates 22nd Anniversary

Redeemer members are invited the 22nd Anniversary Celebration of the Mid-Ohio Workers’ Association on **Saturday, June 24** at Blendon Woods Metro Park/Sycamore Shelter (4265 E. Dublin Granville Rd.). It runs from 3 to 7 p.m. (rain or shine). There will be dinner, live entertainment and speakers. To RSVP, please call 614-262-0567.

Getting Ready for Worship

Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 18, 2023

Lessons

Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Sandra Keaton.

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, John Caron, Kathleen Zwanziger, Wendy Stoica, Matt Bird, Earl and Edwina Bradley's niece Tina Monroe, Chris Doss and Adam Howard.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mary Ann Siefke
Assisting Minister	Julianne Johnson
Cantor	Emily Kent
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Mike Benis
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Judith and Ashley Bird
Communion Prep	Katie Jacobs, Michelle Clemence
Producers	Michele Disbro, Lynn Belhorn

Flowers are given by the congregation to the glory of God.

Noisy Offering will go to Kindway

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

June 19 – June 26, 2023

Monday	6-8:00 p.m.	Suzuki Chamber Music Week through Thursday
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
Monday	6-8:00 p.m.	Suzuki Fiddle and Cello Jam through Thursday
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp

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