



Reflections

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ISSUE 41

ELCA Bishop Eaton Addresses Mideast Crisis

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" Psalm 22:1

Dear church,

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

For the past week we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just-announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people – through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence – must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.

P.S. Things you can do:

- Find updated resources and statements from the ELCA [here](#).
- Join our partner churches for Middle East Peace for prayer from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Eastern time every Wednesday. Register [here](#).
- Call your lawmakers today through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and urge them to take action to deescalate the conflict and uphold unrestricted humanitarian aid to Gaza. Find your member of Congress at [govtrak](#).
- Support Lutheran Disaster Response [here](#).

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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 Rich Pautsch

SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Dave Engel, chair Ashley Bird

Julie Boreman Nathan Ott

Wendy Stoica Terry Warren

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Book Group to Explore Chung Book on Wednesday

The Redeemer Book Group will discuss *All You Can Ever Know* by **Nicole Chung** on Wednesday, evening, **October 18** here at the church and on Zoom. Chung was born extremely premature, placed for adoption by her Korean parents, and raised by White parents in a tiny Oregon town.

The book, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography, explores the discrimination she faces and her search for her birth parents. There are plenty of copies in the library to check out. The group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. "We'd love your voice in our conversations." The Zoom link is <https://us02zoom.us/j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tKM2xEd3dyK1RvSURJYlFuZz09>.

Last Food Giveaway Set for Thursday

The last Mid-Ohio Food Collective/Lutheran Social Services Food Giveaway of the year is set for **Thursday, October 19**, between from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Watching the transformation of an empty parking lot into a drive-through fresh produce market where love and joy are real enough to touch is only one of the reasons to be part of this ministry. Another is to connect with other members of this community as folks bag cucumbers and put boxfuls of amazing stuff into backseats and trunks. Just show up and you'll be put to work.

The October giveaway "extras" are cleaning supplies. These items can be dropped off in the coatroom.

New Theme for Narthex Art Announced

The next Narthex art theme will be "Snapshots of Saints" and will be unveiled on **Reformation Sunday, October 29**. "We would like your pictures without frames, and preferably no larger than 4x6, and we will display them scrapbook style on posterboards. There will be space to write the date and a one-sentence description, i.e., "Emily & Tom at Cedar Point, 1993," **Emily Kent** explained in church on Sunday.

"From the mundane to the outrageous, We want to celebrate saints fully living our lives in the love and grace of Jesus." These can be of members and nonmembers; they can be alive or they can be dead, Emily explained Sunday. There is a form available at church to fill out with identifying information. It can be found on the shelf under the bulletin board, next to the Library.

Sign Ups Complete for 2022 Advent Devotional Booklet

Connie Criswell Sunday thanked everyone who signed up to write a daily devotion for Redeemer's Advent booklet, observing that this is the fastest the slots have been filled! Individual devotions should be emailed to **Mary Benis** by **Sunday, November 13** for editing.

CROP Walk Team Reaches Goal; Donations Still Welcome

Donations can still be made in support of Redeemer's CROP Walk team of **Wendy Stoica, Kathy Zwanziger, Heidi Sherer** and **Connie Criswell** on the team's webpage at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/redeemer-lutheran-church-2>. Connie announced Sunday that Redeemer has reached its goal of \$10,295!

Help LSS Pack Thanksgiving Care Packages

With Thanksgiving approaching in just seven weeks, Redeemer will again be assisting the Food Pantry in providing some food for those who need help providing a Thanksgiving meal for their families. Bags are available at church to fill with these items *only*. (LSS will add a turkey, bread, and produce.)

- 2 pouches or 1 box of mashed potatoes
- 2 cans of fruit (peaches, applesauce, pears, etc.)
- 3 cans of green beans
- 2 cans of corn



2 cans of pumpkin
1 can of cranberry sauce
1 box or bag of stuffing mix
1 turkey gravy packet
1 boxed yellow cake mix

This gives folks the opportunity to begin shopping now. Further details about where to bring the filled bags will be forthcoming. Questions? Contact **Kathy Zwanziger**.

Thanks for helping make Thanksgiving happier for many people!

Highlights of September Congregational Council Meeting

Attendees at the **Monday, September 18** meeting included **Pastor Dave Shull, President Michele Disbro, Vice President Krista Skipper, Nathan Ott, Katie Jacobs, Jennifer Young, Diane Brobeck, Elyce Herring, Sue Yehling, Laura Warren and Sue Watson.**

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. with an opening devotion from Pastor Dave provided a recording of The Lord's Prayer in Swahili (baba yetu, YouTube).

After asking for feedback on how we are living into our mission, vision and values, Michele and Laura led a lively discussion of Sunday's Celebrations (church anniversary, ministry volunteers, choir celebration, and the dedication of the new basketball hoops). It was unanimously agreed that the event was very successful and should become an annual event.

The August 21 minutes were approved unanimously. Also, an electronic vote had been taken since the last meeting, after the Executive Team approved the replacement of the AC unit for the educational wing at a cost of \$19,575.

The Financial Reports were approved with Nate commenting that there has been a trend of having one month with higher income and the next month with a lower income. The month of August was a lower income month. Also, typically the end of the year shows an increase in income. The net operating through August is actually looking pretty good considering a deficit was projected.

The Ministry reports were also reviewed.

Greg Ruban's updates to the Financial Process Audit Report were reviewed in detail, and it was noted by Michele that current **Treasurer Julie Johnson** has requested that both a treasurer and a backup be appointed for next year. Also, credit card limits were reduced from \$29,000 to \$15,000.

The Safety Team (**April Smith, Sara Auman and Sue Yehling**) have prepared a brochure. Council unanimously moved to approve its use. The intent is to place the brochure in each of the pews, on the Kiosk in the Narthex, among other locations. Also discussed was the need to provide them to regular users of Redeemer's space, i.e., Suzuki, Berwick Civic Association, Girl Scouts, etc.

Council was reminded that the next meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on **Monday, October 16**, immediately before the RLC Ministry Evaluation at 7 p.m. **Marques Highland** is preparing a form for council and mutual ministry team members to complete and return to him so he can compile the responses for this meeting.

Council also approved the Facility Use Request to use the Fellowship Hall by Thomas Mitchell (basketball assistant coach) on Nov 23 for a family Thanksgiving dinner.

Michele again reminded Council that budgets are the current focus. Nate will need those numbers soon.

After the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Enjoying Fall at Redeemer

Tuesdays at 1 p.m.: Exploring the Bible. This fall the group will exploring The Acts of the Apostles. Not too familiar with it? Come and change that! Join Zoom Meeting ID: 822 5966 0622; Passcode: 435549; at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82259660622?pwd=R2pHTW11bHRON1FHbFRZdStqbk9Bdz09> Phone only: 301-715-8592.

Every second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.: A Brewing Faith: Redeemer's Zoom theology pub. If you've ever wanted a super-informal, non-threatening place to explore questions about life and theology, this is for you. We often eat and drink at home while we're discussing whatever topic(s) we choose for the evening. It is a really great way to get to know a small, lively group of people. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81765916972?pwd=bjJOT1JlbG1keXpsV205TWNHVUFpQT09>.

Monthly/Third Wednesday Book Group: The joy of a book group is that someone in the group always picks up something the rest of the group missed! This group meets in-person and on Zoom. (See separate story on the new October book.)

Journaling Group, led by **Rich Pautsch**, meets the **fourth Thursday** of the month at **7 p.m.** here at Redeemer.

Ongoing Sundays: Readers are needed for the Sunday services throughout the fall. 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.**

Ongoing Sunday mornings: The Senior Choir rehearses at 8:45 a.m. Contact **Kathy Rapp** with questions at arapthing@hotmail.com or 614-565-2945.

Ongoing Thursdays: The Chime Choir rehearses at 6:15 p.m. most Thursdays. Check the weekly calendar for whether it is meeting. Contact **Karen Kent** at 527780KK@gmail.com or 614-648-8393 with questions.

First Wednesdays: Redeemer serves at the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry on the first Wednesdays. It runs from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Questions? Call the church office at 614-237-1263. Or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board next to the Library. The next time Redeemer serves is **Wednesday, November 1.**

Noisy Offering to Hawai'i Relief Efforts

The Noisy Offering is now going for the Hawai'i disaster relief. Funds will be sent directly to the ELCA synod in Hawai'i. RLC member **April Smith** has provided the following update on Hawai'i relief efforts via **Terri Robertson**, executive assistant for finance and accounting of the Pacifica Synod on behalf of **Bishop David Nagler**:

Donations can be made online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ82/campaign/C-149JR> or by mailing a check to the Pacifica Synod Office, 1801 Parkcourt Pl. Bldg. C, Santa Ana, CA 92701 and write Hawai'i Relief in the memo section.

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 **Cora Marquez** who broke her leg recently. In addition, **Heidi Sherer** asks for prayers of comfort for the family of two educators in the Columbus Public School District who died within days of each other this weekend: **Kim** and **Jeffrey Jones**. Heidi notes that Kim taught at Leawood Elementary and Jeffrey was assistant principal at Woodward Park Middle School. They leave four young adult children.

+ + +

Prayers of thanksgiving are asked as **Rev. Don Luck** celebrates the 65th anniversary of his ordination on **Thursday, October 19!!!**

+ + +

Ride Sought for Don Luck on Oct. 22

Someone with a van or truck is sought to bring **Don Luck** to church and adult education on Sunday, October 22. **Pastor Dave** announced that someone has already volunteered to bring him on **Sunday, October 29**.

Don is leading the adult education program on the Apostles' Creed the last two Sundays in October and uses a particularly large walker for added stability that doesn't fold up like most do. So he needs a vehicle that can accommodate it.

If you can pick him up before 9:30 a.m. and take him back home after adult ed ends around 12:15 p.m., that would be really helpful. Don lives at Kensington Place.

Please let **Dave Shull** know if you can cover **Sunday, October 22**. Thank you!

Restaurant Gift Cards Sought for Member Facing Surgery

Kathy Mimplitch reports that upon asking **Emily Kent** how the church can help following her surgery set for **Wednesday, November 1**, she is requesting gift cards to restaurants rather than Meal Train. To that end, a gift bag can be found in the Narthex where those gift cards can be dropped.

October Birthdays

16-Eileen Day
17-Shari Ayers 19-Renee McFarland
19-Miles Smith 23-Skye Andree
23-Cason Day 23-Sandra Keaton
24-Bret Day 24-Leyton Wolfe
25-Madeline Gosnell 25-Madalyn McGurer
26-Kennedi Jacobs 26-Avery Martin
26-Krista Skipper 27-Brad Phillips
28-Bruce Hutson 29-Brittany Amon
29-Jeremy Davis 30-Martin Binau
31-John Caron

The Wider Church

IACO Sponsors Interfaith Visit to Congregation Beth Tikvah

The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO) is sponsoring an interfaith visit to Congregation Beth Tikvah in Worthington on **Friday, October 27** at 6 p.m. The group will cover the fundamentals of Judaism, the essence of Judaism, the role of the synagogue in Jewish life and the Jewish Sabbath and prayer service. There will be an opportunity to ask questions on these subjects. Following the discussion, the group will attend a Sabbath service.

David Binkovitz, a member of the congregation, a Reform synagogue, will lead the presentation.

Prayer Concerns for Week from ELCA

October 17 “Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times” (Psalm 106:3). Ask the Spirit to fill us with love and reverence for our neighbors as children of God, that people of all backgrounds, abilities, ages, beliefs, needs and circumstances might be treated with respect, fairness and compassion.

18 Give thanks for the gifts and service of military chaplains, who care for U.S. military personnel and their families across our nation and in their countries of deployment.

19 Give thanks for writers, editors and photographers who serve the church by sharing the gospel, telling stories of faith and service, inspiring us and revealing how God works through our church, congregations and siblings in Christ.

20 Pray for those whose lives and communities have been forever changed by severe weather and wildfires, and who are immersed in the long, demanding work of rebuilding their lives and communities, here and around the world.

21 Ask God to bless the work of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA and its members, professionals and volunteers who are involved in lifelong faith formation ministries in congregations and ELCA-affiliated organizations.

22 Pray that we will be obedient and loyal to God and, at the same time, respond to God’s call to live as responsible, involved citizens in our communities and the world.

23 Give thanks for Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of the ELCA, and pray for their ministries, which nurture faith, promote healing and wholeness, help people discern their spiritual gifts and vocations, and equip them to serve as disciples of Christ.

The Community Beyond

Early Voting Underway

Early in-person and absentee voting by mail for the **November 7** is now underway. Hours for early, in-person voting at local county boards of elections are as follows:

- Monday, October 16-Friday, October 20, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Monday, October 23-Friday, October 27, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Monday, October 30- Friday, November 3, 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 4, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- Sunday, November 5, 1-5 p.m.
- Election Day Tuesday, November 7 polls will be open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Voters may also choose to vote by mail. Information about requesting an absentee ballot can be found online at VoteOhio.gov. The deadline for absentee ballot applications to be received by the local board of elections is **Tuesday, October 31**. Absentee ballots must be post marked by Monday, November 6 or delivered directly to the local board of elections by 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7.

Once their ballot request is received by their county board of elections, voters may track their ballot at <http://VoteOhio.gov/Track>. As long as a ballot is postmarked by the day before the election, **Monday, November 6**, and received by Saturday, November 11, the vote will be tabulated.

Ohio voters will find two issues on their ballot this election: State Issue 1 is the reproductive/abortion rights constitutional amendment while State Issue 2 is an initiated law legalizing recreational use of marijuana. Also on this ballot are local elected offices.

Getting Ready for Worship

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost, October 22, 2023

Lessons

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Psalm 96:1-9; Matthew 22:15-22

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

A Prayer for Peace

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 St. Phillip Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Bryan Neal and Ryland, Auden and Elinn.

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, Julie Larson and husband Eli who is receiving cancer treatment in Houston, Kathleen Zwanziger, Phillip Hall and Kirstin Roberts, Carolyn Moehring, Kris Kauffman, Mary Watts, Kelley Frank's parents Charlotte and Wayne Frank.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Mary Benis
Reader	Miles Smith
Cantor	Jennifer Young
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Mike Benis
Vergers	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Ashley and Judith Bird
Communion Prep	Kay Ernsthausen
Producers	Tom Mimplitch, Sue Yehling

*Flowers are given by Emily Kent celebrating Miles' 12th birthday.
Noisy Offering will go to Hawai'i Synod of the ELCA*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

October 16 -October 23, 2023

Monday	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 2462
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 1143
	6:30 p.m.	Congregation Council/Mutual Ministry
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Stewardship Team
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversations
	7:00 p.m.	Book Group
Thursday	1:00-3:00	SET UP Food Giveaway
	3:00-5:30	LSS/MidOhio Food Giveaway
	6:15 p.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	1-3:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship:
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed

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