



Reflections

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ISSUE 42

Laughter amidst the Pain

The writer of Ecclesiastes – in Hebrew Koheleth, which is translated the Assembler, the Teacher, or the Preacher – famously tells us for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven (3.1). As I have talked with a number of you the past two weeks about the war in the Middle East, issues in the election that’s going on right now, difficulties in the U.S. House of Representatives, and individual concerns you’re facing, we have all spoken of how heavy these times are. Some of you have said you’re trying to limit the amount of news you listen to because you realize you don’t know what to do with what you learn. From many of you, I have heard a lot of “It’s so sad,” and “I feel like I don’t know enough,” and “It’s just too much.”

Given how the world is, and how hard it is for us to know how to respond in ways that are helpful, I wonder if Ecclesiastes might invite us to give ourselves permission to find moments in this season to laugh. We don’t laugh to minimize the horror that is the daily life of so many near and far. We laugh because we need a break from the heaviness that can crush our spirits and leave us paralyzed. We laugh because laughter reminds us there is more to life than whatever is going on in the present moment. And we can’t be helpful to others when we take on the world’s struggles.

A social work professor I had loved to say, “Don’t die with the client.” Which means, if you think absorbing their pain is the way to show empathy, you’re wrong. You need to be able to maintain some distance in order to be helpful. So laughter can help us find the kind of balance that frees us to care in meaningful ways.

What brings laughter is deeply individual. So what I’m sharing in this article might not give you this gift. If that’s the case, I trust you will find something that you know will elicit the kind of from the gut laughter you seek. Mike and I have been re-watching “Derry Girls.” That is giving us what we need. But since we are a community of Lutherans, I share what a thoughtful and insightful member of Redeemer shared with me this weekend. So in the spirit of encouraging us all to create moments of laughter amidst the pain, here is:

Singing with the Lutherans by Garrison Keillor

I have made fun of Lutherans for years - who wouldn’t, if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like they do.

If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Lutheranless place, to sing along on the chorus of “Michael Row the Boat Ashore,” they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their under-wear. But if you do this among Lutherans they’ll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

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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

New Narthex Art Exhibit to be Unveiled Sunday

The next Narthex art exhibit, with the theme of “Snapshots of Saints,” 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.

“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 said. 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, anytime during the week.

2024 Annual Pledge: ‘Revealing the Extraordinary in the Ordinary’

Laura Warren, stewardship chair, reported that 29 pledge cards have been received for a grand total of \$138,800 as of October 16. Folks are asked to return the pledge cards to the church by **Sunday, October 29**. “Thank you for all your generosity.”

Celebration of Ministries

Copies of the packet of all the ministries at Redeemer that was shared at the Celebration Sunday in September are located at the entrance of the Sanctuary. The packet contains brief descriptions and contact information to help members and friends find their interests and get engaged!

A PDF version can be emailed if needed. Just contact Laura Warren laura.warren214@gmail.com.

Calling All Puzzle Lovers!

Michele Disbro writes, “Do you like to put puzzles together? Do you have puzzles at home that you’ve put together too many times?”

“Let’s have some fun with a Puzzle Library! Bring in your old puzzles and put them in the library. We’ll be making some space on some of the shelves for puzzles. Leave your puzzles and then, help yourself to some of the other puzzles. What a fun way to have access to lots of different puzzles!”

CROP Walk Results In!

Connie Criswell writes, “A big thank you to everyone who donated to or walked in this year’s CROP Walk. Redeemer was #1 in the Central Ohio walk, with a final total of \$10,494 raised. We met our goal, and accounted for about 25 percent of the funds raised in Central Ohio. Well done!”

Final Food Giveaway Deemed Success

Kathy Zwanziger writes, “THANK YOU to all the volunteers who worked at the Lutheran Social Services (LSS)/Mid-Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) giveaway on October 19, the last for this season.

“A bit of misty rain kept us from getting overheated – that and the cooler weather! We received eight skids of food, weighing 8,887 pounds, about 1,000 pounds less than in September. It was all (except some onions) distributed by 4:50 p.m., so we were able to wrap up a little early.

“We served 166 groups, totaling 533 people. There were 176 children and 124 seniors. A total of 32 families registered for the first time.

“We appreciate so much all the people who contributed cleaning supplies as our extra item this month. It is wonderful to see how much these items mean to many families.

“Rest up over the winter and join us in April 2024!”

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!

Enjoying Fall at Redeemer

Tuesdays at 1 p.m.: Exploring the Bible. This fall the group will explore 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.

Journaling Group, led by **Rich Pautsch**, meets the **fourth Tuesday** 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.** In addition, volunteers are needed set out **refreshments** following the worship service. Check the list on the bulletin board for open Sundays. (Cookies can be found in the cupboard in the kitchenette off the Narthex. Coffee is also supplied – it just needs to be perked.)

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.

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.

Laughter amidst the Pain *cont'd from p. 1*

Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony. We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all 200 of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of "Children of the Heavenly Father" in a room with about 3,000 Lutherans in it; and when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: These Lutherans are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:

1. Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited.
7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.
8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
9. Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCA bride and an LC-MS groom make for a mixed marriage. (For those of you who are not Lutherans, ELCA is Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and LC-MS is Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, two different divisions of the same Protestant religion. And when and where I grew up in Minnesota, intermarriage between the two was about as popular as Lutherans and Catholics marrying).
10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to \$1 for a meal at church.
12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.
13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole add a little too much color.
14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you're a Lutheran when:

*It's 100 degrees, with 90 percent humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.

*You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.

*Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.

*The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight.

*When you watch a "Star Wars" movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "And also with you."

*And lastly, it takes 15 minutes to say, "Good-bye."

Keillor ends this piece with this blessing: May you wake each day with His blessings, Sleep each night in His keeping, And always walk in His tender care.

Dave Shull

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

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.

Emily's favorites include: Door Dash, Kroger, Bob Evans, Popeye's, Chipotle, City BBQ, Zoup!, Donatos and PF Chang's.

October Birthdays

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.

LWR Provides Update

The following update was received from **Rev. Tim Krick** of Lutheran World Relief:

“Thank you for all the ways you are leading your congregation to care for others. We join you in praying for our neighbors caught in danger in Israel and Gaza.

“If your congregation is called to [ACTION](#), your love can reach innocent civilians and rush aid to families in crisis right now.

“Lutheran World Relief has a long history of reaching our neighbors caught in the crossfire in this region. From sending emergency health care supplies to delivering LWR Mission Quilts, your love has long been reaching our neighbors caught in this conflict. With your support, together, we will not abandon these neighbors now.

“We are reaching out to our longstanding partners in the region to determine the specifics of our coordinated response and are committed to updating you as those plans become clearer.

“As always, your congregation’s gift will deliver critically needed resources like medical care, food, water and essential supplies where they are needed most. ...

“Gifts can be made online at lwr.org/crisis or mail a check to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Write “Crisis” in the memo.

“Thank you for leading your congregation to care for our most vulnerable neighbors in crisis in Israel, Gaza and around the world.”

Prayer Concerns for Week from ELCA

October 24 Pray for our congregations and synods, affiliated ministries and organizations, and full communion partners that we might encourage and support one another, share resources and ideas, and work together to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

25 Pray that God will further the work of our church’s AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) for welcoming and protecting migrant children and their families, accompanying them in court, advocating for just and humane immigration policies and supporting companions in Latin America who care for deported and returned migrants in their countries of origin.

26 “Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples” (Psalm 96:2-3). Ask the Spirit for the words we need to share our faith and tell God’s story of love, hope and forgiveness.

27 Ask God to make us a dynamic and engaged church of the present and future, driven by God’s redemptive love to be attentive to the world and culture and agile in how we proclaim the gospel and do God’s work in the world.

28 Give thanks for grandparents who inspire our faith, share their wisdom and gifts, care for grandchildren and enrich our communities of faith with diverse perspectives and ideas.

29 Reformation Sunday Give thanks for Martin Luther and other Protestant reformers who, at significant risk, challenged traditions and practices of the church that strayed from Scripture and proclaimed that God’s love and forgiveness are ensured through Jesus Christ. **30** Pray for ELCA World Hunger’s Education and Networking Grants, which assist congregations, synods and partner organizations throughout the United States and the Caribbean in developing education and service-learning programs that deepen our understanding of hunger and poverty.

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 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

Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2023

Remember to wear red on Sunday!!

Lessons

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Psalm 46; Matthew 22:34-46

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, 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 The Church on Oakland Park in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Dottie Odrosky.

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	Karen Rider
Reader	Georgene Slagle
Cantor	Al Rider
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Neil Hoddinott
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Ashley and Judith Bird
Communion Prep	Kay Ernsthausen
Producers	Sue Yehling, Scott Steiner

*Flowers are given by Carol Heacock in memory of Stan
Noisy Offering will go to Hawai'i Synod of the ELCA*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

October 23 -October 30, 2023

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 1143
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Journaling Workshop
Thursday	6:15 p.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship & Dedication of Financial Commitment Pledges
		Remember to wear red!
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 1143

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