



Reflections

VOLUME 27

October 30, 2023

ISSUE 43

'Go Ask My Partners'

Yesterday in my Reformation Sunday reflection, I explored Psalm 46. This is the psalm which inspired Martin Luther to write the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." That psalm is a celebration of the God who can be trusted to be in charge of the world and trusted to be a refuge even when the worst possible natural and human-created disasters. I said I hadn't ever experienced God rescuing us from ourselves. I said humans have caused climate change, and humans create weapons and start wars. So I don't believe we can just pray to God to reverse the effects of human-caused climate change. I don't believe the people of Ukraine can just pray to God to destroy Russia's weapons, as the writer of Psalm 46 proclaims God did to God's enemies' weapons. I invited any of you who have experienced God intervening directly in the world to rescue us from natural disasters and wars to let me know, because I would value the chance to hear about your experiences.

I offered an alternative way to look at how God "works" and what God "does" in the world than that offered by the writer of Psalm 46. It comes from Rabbi Marc Gellman. He reimagines the creation story in the first chapter of Genesis. After worship yesterday, several of you asked for a copy of Gellman's story. So I'm including it here. It comes from the opening pages of his book *Does God Have a Big Toe? Stories about Stories in the Bible* (Harper & Row, 1989).

Before there was anything, there was just God, a few angels, and a huge swirling glob of rocks and water with no place to go. The angels looked around and asked God, "Why don't you clean up this mess?"

So God collected rocks from the huge swirling glob and put them together in clumps and said, "Some of these clumps of rocks will be planets and some will be stars, and some of these rocks will be ... just rocks. Then God collected water from the huge swirling glob and put it together in pools of water and said, "Some of these pools of water will be oceans, and some will become clouds, and some of this water will be ... just water.

The angels looked around and said, "Well, God, It's neater now, but is it finished?" And God answered, "Nope!"

On some of the rocks God placed growing things, and creeping things, and things that only God knows what they are, and when God had done all this, the angels looked around and asked God, "Is the world finished now?" And God answered, "Nope!"

God made [two people] from some of the water and dust and said to them, "You know, I am tired now. Please finish up the world for me ... really

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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

Time Change Coming: *Fall Back*



Daylight Saving Time will end on **Sunday, November 5** at 2 a.m. that morning. Plan now to set your clocks *back* one hour when you go to bed on **Saturday, November 4** or you could end up being an hour early for church!

New Community Center Opens with Assistance from RLC

Mary Benis writes, “On **Thursday, October 26**, the front page of the Metro section of the *Columbus Dispatch* featured the celebrated opening of the Crittenton Community Center on Kimberly Parkway in the Eastland area.

“What you might not realize is that Redeemer helped make that happen, through a distribution from the Mission Endowment Fund to Directions for Youth and Families.

In addition to its regular programming for kids, the center will house 20 other organizations addressing various needs in the community, including housing, employment, infant mortality, legal assistance, and more. The center has a chance to help heal the surrounding community, long in need of social justice.

“Thanks to Redeemer for its support!”

Adult Ed Class to Look at Theology of Poet Robert Frost

Brad Binau will perform a handful of poems by **Robert Frost** and lead an exploration of how Frost’s work contributes theological meaning to our lives and our relationship with God. The class will be **Sunday, November 5**, immediately following worship at 11:15 a.m. in Classroom 2.

Come, join the discussion!!

New Narthex Art Exhibit Unveiled Sunday

The latest Narthex art exhibit, with the theme of “Snapshots of Saints,” was unveiled on **Reformation Sunday, October 29**. Thanks to **Emily Kent** and **Michelle Clemence** for curating the over 80 entries that were received!

Stop by to peruse the exhibit!

Recruiting Adults for Christmas Program

For this year’s Christmas program, the kids would love to invite adults in the congregation to participate, **Emily Ott** writes. “We’d like to have a panel of adults, and the kids will ask questions about Christmas traditions, cherished memories, and beloved hymns and songs.

“We would love for interested adults to stay for the Sunday school hour on **December 10** to practice with the kids, and to be at the service on **December 17**, when the program will take place during the sermon.”

2024 Commitment Cards Dedicated

The commitment cards for 2024 were dedicated **Sunday, October 29** during the worship service. A total of 40 pledges have been received, totaling \$208,400 supporting the theme of “Revealing the Extraordinary in the Ordinary.”

Laura Warren, stewardship chair, thanks members and friends “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!”

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



Kathy Zwanziger reports, “As of October 23, 41 bags have been delivered to the Food Pantry for their Thanksgiving give-away. That’s over half our goal! Thanks for your generosity! All other bags are due to the pantry by **November 14**, so get them to church before then! Questions? Contact Kathy.

Thanks for helping make Thanksgiving happier for many people!

Helen Wang of Redeemer’s Journaling Group Writes

Everyone has something to write about. You don’t have to be a bestselling writer.



“Your grandkids may be too young to understand your story. Your adult kids may be too busy and impatient to read through your whole paragraph. Your aging parents might ask: “Honey are you all right?”

“Come join the Redeemer Journaling group! Let’s share our life experiences, our dreams and a laugh together. No critics, no judgement and no worries!

“We meet monthly, not too much, not too little, just about right. See you there, the fourth Tuesday of each month 7 p.m. at the church.”

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!”

Enjoying Ongoing Activities at Redeemer

Tuesdays at 1 p.m.: Exploring the Bible. This fall the group will be 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=R2pHTWl1bHRON1FHbFRZdStqb9Bdz09> Phone only: 301-715-8592. The study will go on hiatus for **Tuesdays, November 7** and **November 14**, resuming on **Tuesday, November 21**.

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.

Saturday mornings: The Chime Choir has now switched its rehearsals to approximately every other Saturday morning. The next rehearsals will be at 10 a.m. on **November 4** and **November 18; December 9** and **December 23**.

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.

Go Ask My Partners *cont'd from p. 1*

it's almost done." But the [people] said, "We can't finish the world alone! You have the plans and we are too little."

"You are big enough," God answered them. "But I agree to this. If you keep trying to finish the world, I will be your partner."

The [people] asked, "What's a partner?" and God answered, "A partner is someone you work with on a big thing that neither of you can do alone. If you have a partner, it means you can never give up, because your partner is depending on you. On the days you think I am not doing enough and on the days I think you are not doing enough, even on those days we are still partners and we must not stop trying to finish the world. That's the deal." And they all agreed to that deal.

Then the angels asked God, "Is the world finished yet?" and God answered, "I don't know. Go ask my partners."

If any of you would like to get together to talk about this story and what it brings up for you, I'd love to do that. So just let me know.

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

Pastor Dave Goes on Vacation; Binau, Ott, Smeck to Fill In

Pastor Dave will be on vacation **Friday, November 3** through **Friday, November 17**. **Pastor Julianne Smeck** will provide emergency pastoral care coverage. She can be reached at 614-258-6634. **Pastors Brad Binau** and **Emlyn Ott** will preach, preside and lead adult education on **November 5** and **November 12**, respectively.

Brad has been a Redeemer member since joining the faculty at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in 1993 (though he sometimes worships at Broad Street Presbyterian Church where his wife, **Ann Palmerton**, is associate pastor).

Since retiring a year ago he has published an article, "Suspicion Or Belief? Living Human Documents and Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity," has done some adult education events (including here at Redeemer), and has been reading widely – from **Stephen King** to cosmology to Intertestamental theology.

He will lead the adult forum on November 5 on "Doing Theology with Robert Frost."

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.

Updated 2023 RLC Member Directory Available

An updated edition of the 2023 **Redeemer Member Directory** is now available. Copies are available by contacting the church office at 614-237-1263 or info@RedeemerLuth.com. In addition, folks can be put on the list for quarterly electronic updates. Just contact the office.

October Birthdays

30-Martin Binau 31-John Caron

November Birthdays

2-Danica Denniss 2-Barbara Hairston
2-Neil Hoddinott 3-Bryce Harms
9-Ruth Murray 13-Emily Ott
18-Carla Baldogo 19-Carolyn Klopfer
20-Zak Hinkle-Moore 21-Andy Jacobs
23-Chelsea Gordon 23-Carolyn Moehring
24-Judith Bird 24-Sarah Highland
25-Dereck Stewart 26-Grace Montgomery
27-Greyson Brush 28-Dave Shull
29-Mary Bowling

The Wider Church

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 31 Reformation Day “Faith is a living, bold trust in God’s grace, so certain of God’s favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God’s grace makes you happy, joyful, and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures” (Martin Luther). Lift up prayers of thanksgiving and praise for God’s grace, which comes to us as a gift and sets us free, lifting our spirits and restoring our relationships with God.

November 1 American Indian Heritage Month Give thanks for our Indigenous neighbors and siblings in Christ, whose diverse gifts, traditions, and wisdom help shape and enrich society and the church. Pray for Indigenous ministries and faith communities in the ELCA and the work of ELCA Indigenous Ministries and

Tribal Relations, and ask God to guide and further the work of our church and society to build better, right and just relationships with Indigenous peoples.

2 Pray for our neighbors who have experienced great losses and turmoil as a result of the earthquake in Morocco and the unprecedented flooding in Libya, that they will find hope, comfort, relief, resources and assistance for the difficult recoveries ahead.

3 “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Jeremiah 31:33). The new covenant that God made with us long ago permeates every aspect of our life and can’t be broken or voided, because its foundation is God’s enduring grace. Give praise and thanks to God!

4 Remember in prayer those who have been impacted by recent tropical storms and hurricanes, that they might find relief, assistance and hope in the support provided by neighbors, faith communities, synods and relief agencies, including Lutheran Disaster Response. Ask God to strengthen our resilience and wisdom to meet the mounting challenges of natural disasters and climate change.

5 Pray that we will take to heart and respond to the same instructions Jesus gave to his disciples: to care for our neighbors who suffer poverty, hunger, and illness and to bless those who commit their lives to caring for others, pursuing justice and making peace.

6 Pray for outdoor ministry professionals, staff, and board members as they gather for the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry conference in Lake Geneva, WI. Ask God to bless their time together for worship, renewal, networking and enhancing their skills.

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 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

All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2023 Lessons

Readings: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; Matthew 5:1-12

Prayer of the Day

O God, generous and supreme, your loving Son lived among us, instructing us in the ways of humility and justice. Continue to ease our burdens, and lead us to serve alongside of him, 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 Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbus.
+ For Redeemer community member Cathy Oldham.

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	Brad Binau
Assisting Minister	Naomi Morgan
Cantor	Wendy Stoica
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Ashley Bird
Vergers	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence
Communion Prep	Michele Disbro
Producers	Scott Steiner, Michele Disbro

*Flowers are given by the Steiner family to the glory of God
Noisy Offering will go to Hawai'i Synod of the ELCA*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

October 30 -November 6, 2023

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 1143
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday	12:30 p.m.	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
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
Monday	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 2462
	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