



Reflections

VOLUME 27

November 6, 2023

ISSUE 44

Towards a New Day

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president emerita of Children's Defense Fund.

In 1964, **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and both his acceptance speech and the Nobel Lecture he gave the following day have become touchstones for all who seek to study his words and follow his example. In the first speech, he said he was accepting the award on behalf of the Civil Rights Movement, though he noted it might seem strange to give this prize to a movement still deeply in the midst of struggle. But Dr. King believed it recognized a shared vision of the ultimate end: "Sooner or later all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood."

Dr. King said he had both "an abiding faith in America" and "an audacious faith in the future of mankind" to get there: "I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history. I refuse to accept the idea that the 'isness' of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal 'oughtness' that forever confronts him. I refuse to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround him. I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality."

He continued: "I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow ... This faith can give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds and our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, we will know that we are living in the creative turmoil of a genuine civilization struggling to be born."

As always, Dr. King's words speak to us today. At moments of violence, terror, and profound loss it can be too difficult to see anything at all past the dark midnights. We need the hope and strength to keep struggling towards a new day of peace, sisterhood, and brotherhood.

This is an appeal to all those who are eager to be beacons of hope and who have faith, like Indian philosopher **Rabindranath Tagore's** "bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark." I've said I *know* we can transform our nation and world because we have seen the impossible happen in our lifetime, including a pillar of Dr. King's own dream: the crumbling of the centuries-old walls of legal racial apartheid in America thanks to the courageous witness of a small minority of parents, children, and lawyers who wanted a decent education and better life for Black children and the countless Black and White citizens who built the Civil Rights Movement to end legal segregation in American life. You and I now have the opportunity -- and awesome responsibility -- to compose and play the next movement of the symphony of freedom and justice.

That will be the sound of the joyful new day children and youth everywhere deserve.

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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

Help LSS Pack Thanksgiving Care Packages; Deadline: Nov. 14

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!

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.”

Latest Narthex Art Exhibit Features ‘Snapshots of Saints’

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!

Sister Act Meets Wednesday for Planning Session

The November Sister Act meeting is **Wednesday, November 8** at 6:30 p.m. here at Redeemer. This gathering is the group’s planning session, so folks are asked to bring their ideas and calendars to plan for 2024. Check with the church office for the Zoom link to join the group remotely.

Save the date: Christmas Brunch is **Saturday, December 2**.

Highlights of October Council Meeting

From **Sue Watson**, church council secretary: “We’re in the middle of ‘budget season’ and council will review a proposed version at its November meeting. If you have suggestions or questions regarding next year’s budget, please let a council member know as soon as possible.

“Council approved the purchase of a plaque to honor **Larry Jones** for his work on the Basketball Camp over the years. Council also unanimously agreed to purchase a CD from Chase Bank at 5 percent interest for six months for \$100,000.

“The council meeting was deliberately shortened to accommodate a meeting with the Mutual Ministry Team for a joint evaluation of our ministries at Redeemer.”

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!”

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!”

Sunday Adult Forum to Continue Discussion of Creed on Nov. 19

The Sunday Adult Forum will continue its discussion of the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed for individuals here and its meaning as a part of Redeemer’s weekly worship liturgy on Sunday, November 19. The forum begins after worship at 11:15 a.m. in Room 2.

All voices are valued!!

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.

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.”

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=R2pHTWl1bHRON1FHbFRZdStqbK9Bdz09> Phone only: 301-715-8592. The study is 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 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, December 6**.

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 and strength are asked for former Redeemer community member **Pastor Tim Muller** and his wife **Mary**. She reports on Facebook that he suffered a spontaneous rupture of his esophagus caused by forceful vomiting. "It is one of the most lethal gastrointestinal tract disorders and if not treated promptly has a high mortality rate. Again the surgeon's plans going forward have been in response to Tim looking healthy and staying clinically stable this whole week, but they proceed with caution and realism." He "is still vulnerable as there can be many complications."

+ + +

Prayers for continued healing are asked for **Emily Kent** who had surgery last week. **Pastor Dave** reports she is so grateful for all the food-related gift cards folks at Redeemer gave her.

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

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

Advent Devotional Deadline

Many thanks to all who volunteered to write entries for the Advent Devotional. In order to give time for editing and formatting before the booklet is published November 26, please get your draft to **Mary Benis**, MKBenis@yahoo.com, no later than **Monday, November 13**.



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.

November Birthdays

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

ELCA Provides Updates on War in Middle East

“In the past weeks we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. Our prayers are with all our siblings in the region, including ELCA missionaries and our partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). The Young Adults in Global Mission program made the difficult decision to evacuate the five YAGM participants and their country coordinators serving in Jerusalem and the West Bank. In a recent newsletter, missionaries to the Holy Land **Gabi** and **Meghan Aelabouni** shared what life is like for them right now: “We are safe. And we grieve for so many who are not. We are heartbroken. And we are deeply, deeply grateful to be here, standing and working with our Palestinian partners on behalf of our church. Thanks be to God.”

During an interview with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), **Dr. Fadi Atrash**, chief executive officer of Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in East Jerusalem, shared how the war is affecting the hospital’s staff and patients. AVH, which is owned and operated by LWF and supported by ELCA World Hunger, provides specialized cancer treatments and hemodialysis. “On top of their very painful journey of cancer treatment,” Dr. Atrash says, “[our patients] are losing family members and their homes.”

In response to the Hamas attacks in southern Israel, Israel’s declaration of war against Hamas, and the ongoing Israeli siege of Gaza, the ELCA offers statements from some of our Lutheran and global partners in the region. Included are ELCA resources that provide a deeper understanding of the region’s history, the humanitarian crises caused by the current war, and the ELCA’s work for a just peace in Palestine and Israel. Those statements can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/ybhper6h>.

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

7 Election Day Ask the Spirit to help us exercise concern for our neighbor, the well-being of communities, and racial, gender and economic justice as we discern whom to elect as our leaders and public servants. Give thanks for ELCAvotes, an initiative to help us citizens and people of faith understand our role in promoting dignity and respect for all.

8 Remember in prayer foster families and programs that provide transitional and long-term homes and care for infants, children and youth. Ask the Spirit to inspire people to consider becoming foster parents, and give thanks for foster care services provided by member organizations of Lutheran Services in America.

9 Pray for the leaders of our church as they gather for the ELCA Church Council, that the Spirit will guide their deliberations and decisions to further our mission of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, serving our neighbors and growing the church.

10 Give thanks and praise to God, creator of diverse, abundant creatures in the seas and oceans that feed the hungry, inspire awe, reveal secrets that lead to medical discoveries and keep aquatic ecosystems healthy and thriving.

11 Veterans Day Remember and give thanks for those who have served our country in times of peace and conflict — here and around the world. Pray that they will never be forgotten or taken for granted.

12 We all want to know what the kingdom of heaven is like and when Jesus will come again. Express your trust that Jesus Christ has made a place for us in the kingdom of God, and pray that the Spirit will focus us on doing God's work in the world now, as we look forward with gratitude to life eternal.

13 Give thanks for ELCA Campus Ministry and the Lutheran Campus Ministry Network (LuMin), which bear witness to God's grace through worship, study, fellowship and service with students, faculty, staff and others at 230 college and university campuses across the country.

The Community Beyond

Election Day Finally Arrives on Tuesday

Hours for in-person voting at local polling places on **Tuesday, November 7** will run from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. For those who chose to vote via an absentee ballot, they 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 and in Franklin County, there is also a library levy and a Columbus Public Schools levy on the ballot.

Getting Ready for Worship

24th Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 2023

Lessons

Readings: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-20; Psalm 70; Matthew 25:1-13

Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, 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 Zion Lutheran Church in West Jefferson.

+ For Redeemer community members Emily, Nate, Kathryn and Caroline Ott.

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

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Emlyn Ott
Assisting Minister	Mary Benis
Cantor	Heidi Sherer
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Nate Ott
Vergers	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Katie Jacobs
Communion Prep	Elyce Herring
Producers	Judith Bird, Tom Mimplitch

*Flowers are given by Sue Yehling in memory of her husband Don
Noisy Offering will go to Hawai'i Synod of the ELCA*

Upcoming Week at Redeemer

November 6 -November 13, 2023

Monday		Deadline for Advent Devotionals to Mary Benis
	5:30 p.m.	Executive Team by ZOOM
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 1143
Tuesday		Election Day
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Sister Act
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Bexley/Berwick Dementia Support Group
Saturday	1-3:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Program
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Healing Prayer
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed
	11:15 a.m.	Sunday School for ALL ages
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