



Reflections

VOLUME 27

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ISSUE 47

A Quieter *Holden Evening Prayer* This Advent

The first time I sang the *Holden Evening Prayer* service, I was at Holden Village in the Cascade Mountains in Washington state, and the service was led by the composer of this service, **Marty Haugen**. Marty led that service for the four days I was at Holden Village. Needless to say, this introduction to the service totally spoiled me! The service, composer, and setting, along with the Spirit who was so alive in that community, gave me one of the most moving worship experiences of my life. As soon as I got back to Seattle, I talked with our director of music about ways we could start using that service. When I was in conversation with the call committee here, I was *quite* happy to discover you loved this service as well.

My first Advent here in 2017, I learned your tradition was to have a spoken reflection as part of this service. So we've been doing that for the past six Advents. I assumed that's how you'd always done this service. Then, last month, I had a conversation with a Redeemer member, and learned there were Advents when there were no spoken reflections. This person told me they loved the quiet, meditative nature of this service. And they felt like the spoken meditations can disturb the peacefulness Haugen's service creates. This person said they know the meditations are often very thoughtful and are appreciated by others. Yet they missed the quiet, calm beauty of the service itself.

After it ended, I kept thinking about this conversation. With a news cycle that contains so much violence, and with lives that seem increasingly stressful, I wondered if, perhaps, a quieter *Holden Evening Prayer* service might be a gift we could offer this Advent. I told the Worship Team about my conversation and asked them what they thought. They agreed this could be a good year to offer a less wordy, quieter and more meditative *Holden*.

So when you join us for dessert and *Holden Evening Prayer* Wednesday evenings in December, the service will be as Haugen created it, without a spoken reflection. After the Scripture reading, we will have a period of extended silence, which Haugen suggests but which we haven't kept. The only thing we will have that Haugen doesn't include is a musical reflection following this period of silence.

I have found the spoken reflections offered by Redeemer members these past years to be meaningful and powerful invitations to enter Advent more deeply. I believe we will continue to have these reflections as part of our Lenten evening prayer service. At least for this Advent, though, I invite us all to come out of the noise and lights and violence of our lives and world, and enter a darker, calmer time of deep quiet, in which we can relax and open ourselves to receive God's Spirit. For, as the carol reminds us, *How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n*.

Dave Shull

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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

Holiday Shopping Made Easy

Wondering how to make a positive impact in the world right now? With ELCA Good Gifts you can choose from more than 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. Each of these gifts makes a real impact in the world – one goat, water filter, or school uniform at a time. Just pick up a *Good Gifts Catalog* in the Narthex next to the Advent devotionals and start shopping!

If you've already got your shopping finished (or no one on your list needs a goat), start or continue a Christmas tradition by giving to others in need. That goat can change a life!

(The catalog is also online at www.ELCA.org/goodgifts.)

Sister Act Encourages A Day of Giving ... A Season of Giving

This year the Sister Act group did not adopt a child, family or classroom for the Redeemer members to support. Rather they are encouraging folks to donate to any of the charities in town that provide Christmas to children and/or families that struggle at this time of year.

One way to that is to search out #GivingTuesday information. Giving Tuesday this year is November 28. It was started and is touted as a “global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.”

On this day there are many organizations that have a sponsor that will match donations dollar for dollar. Go online and search Giving Tuesday to see organizations that participate and have sponsors that double the donations.

Another option is to participate in the ELCA's Good Gifts program. (See above article.)

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.”

She can be contacted via email at EmilyKl.Ott@gmail.com or by calling 419-271-3661.

Update on LSS Thanksgiving Giveaway

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Pantry at Frebis and Champion held its Thanksgiving giveaway on Tuesday, November 21. LSS' **Ben Powers** said 22 churches helped support this project. Over 3,000 families were served in Ohio, 1,489 families in Franklin County, and 237 at "our" pantry, according to **Wendy Stoica**. She, **April Smith**, and **Kathy Zwanziger** helped with the distribution.

A total of 1,925 bags were collected from churches, at least 76 of them were from Redeemer. “Thank you all for your help to give our neighbors a Happy Thanksgiving!”

Advent Devotional Booklets Now Available

Redeemer's 2023 *Advent Devotional Booklet* is now available in the Narthex in regular and large print versions. The devotions are also available on the Redeemer website: www.RedeemerLuth.com.

If anyone would like a print version mailed to them, please let the office know. Those who would like to receive a daily email with that day's devotion, please contact the office.

Please feel free to take copies to share with family and friends – we can print more if needed.

Congregation Elects 2024 Church Council Members

On Sunday, the congregation elected the following individuals to positions on the 2024 Church Council:

Vice president – (open)

Finance Officer – **Laura Warren**

Property – **April Smith**
Stewardship – **Kathy Denhard**
Worship – **Michelle Clemence**

Anyone interested in filling the vice president slot should contact **Krista Skipper**.

Officers continuing for a second year include the following:

President – **Krista Skipper**
Secretary – **Sue Watson**
Education – **Katie Jacobs**
Member Support – **Elyce Herring**
Outreach – **Diane Brobeck**

Theme for Upcoming Narthex Art Exhibit: Angels

Drumroll please! The next theme for the Narthex art project is ... Angels! Calling any and all angels for the Advent/Christmas art display. Submissions should be made before **Friday, December 1** in order to be up for the first a Sunday of Advent on **December 3**. Both artwork release and artwork description forms can be found on the shelf under the bulletin board next to the Library.

That means that folks who have items in the exhibit, “Snapshots of Saints,” should pick up their pictures.

Sunday Adult Forum to Hear from ‘Bishop Nicholas’

Bishop Nicholas will chat with the Adult Forum on **Sunday, December 3** about gift-giving traditions. The session begins following the worship service at approximately 11:15 a.m. in Room 2 and on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88957366923?pwd=TnV6cFB4ZUpET25USTgzZ0diZlhnQT09> Meeting ID: 889 5736 6923; Passcode: 38383; Phone only: 1-312-626-6799

Highlights of November Council Meeting

The Worship Team is grateful that the Adult Forum averaged over 25 people each of the three Sundays for the team-sponsored discussion of the history of the Apostles' Creed and the meaning it has for people in worship. They thank **Don Luck** for leading those conversations and those who attended both for their honest sharing and for their open consideration of varying viewpoints.

As of **Sunday, November 26**, the Stewardship Team reports receiving 43 pledges for 2024, totaling \$216,870. Compared to last year, this is five fewer pledges but \$35,136 more money. The team encourages people to continue turning in their financial commitment cards.

Finance Officer Nate Ott reports the general income is lower than council would like it to be at this time of the budget year. He and **President Michele Disbro** will prepare information for *Reflections* and a letter to the congregation encouraging people to keep up on their financial commitments and perhaps consider giving a little extra for 2023. Council continues to express their gratitude for the generosity of this community.

The ELCA National Youth Gathering will be **July 16-21** in New Orleans. Five Redeemer youth – **Sachio** and **Toshi Phillips** and **Izzy, Sophie** and **Andy Skoog** – are going, along with adult leaders **Wendy Stoica** and **Dave Shull**. After the financial support Redeemer's delegation will get from the budget and from the families of the youth attending, there remains a \$3,500 balance to make up. Watch for notices about various fundraising events the youth will sponsor!

Report from BREAD Annual Assembly

On **Monday, November 13**, the BREAD organization held its Annual Assembly. **Kristi Hildebrand** reports that five from Redeemer attended.

The top three problems that people discussed during the Listening Process were education, crime and housing. Network members in attendance that night voted and the next issue that BREAD will work on is housing. Affordable housing is already a campaign item, but affordable housing is a very complex issue and given that many of the stories from the house meetings showcased a variety of problem areas within housing, nearly 200 network members voted to expand BREAD's work with the new committee!

Prior to the vote, there were three presenters on each of the three topics. The speaker on education gave a sobering report on the state of the Linden School area. The speaker on crime talked about the break ins and vandalism that she has personally experienced in Westerville while the speaker on housing spoke as both a pastor and a landlord and shared about the dismal state of the Section 8 system, noting that a woman he knows lived in her car while waiting for her Section 8 voucher to be processed.

For wins, the Stop Violence! Build Trust campaign shared that the most recent session of the Columbus Violence Reduction Initiative (CVR) included nine individuals from known violent groups. City leaders, including **Mayor Andrew Ginther** and law enforcement officers, including **Police Chief Elaine Bryant**, met with them and expressed concern for them and their wellbeing and the current trajectory of their lives. Eight of the nine committed to changing their lives. Over the life of the program, 24 of 26 individuals have made this commitment. BREAD pushed for six years for this initiative.

The Juvenile Justice campaign reported that 500 Columbus City Schools employees have been trained in Restorative Practices and 80 of those are certified to be trainers. Additional training has already been scheduled during 2024. BREAD has been encouraging this since 2017.

In the work-in-progress category, Families First, Housing Now reported on their activities. As Franklin County residents continue to struggle to find housing with rents less than 50 percent of their income or even to find housing at all, Columbus city is still sitting on \$70 million that it received from the American Rescue Plan. BREAD has submitted another information request on the status of their plans and has received no response. BREAD will be hosting a housing demonstration on **Wednesday, December 6** at 5:30 p.m. at Faith Mission (245 N Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215).

If anyone wants to help with housing, they can call Councilmember Favor's office at 614-645-7263 and Commissioner Boyce's office at 614-525-5530 and say something like this: *My name is _____, and I am a member/supporter of BREAD. I was disappointed that you did not attend our Annual Assembly. I urge you to allocate remaining Rescue Plan dollars for affordable housing for families earning \$30,000 and less. Thank you.*

BREAD upcoming dates

-Housing Demonstration: **Wednesday, December 6** at 5:30 p.m., Faith Mission (245 N Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215).

-Research Kick-Off: **Monday, December 11** at 7 p.m., Church of Christ on Genessee Ave.

-Redeemer Network Meeting: **Wednesday, February 21, 2024** at 6 p.m., Room 2.

-BREAD Rally: **Monday April 15** at 7 p.m.

-Nehemiah Action: **Tuesday, May 21**, 6:15 p.m. registration, Celeste Center.

-BREAD Celebration!: **Monday, June 24** at 7 p.m.

Noisy Offering to Go to LSS Choices

The Noisy Offering for November and December will be sent to Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Choices. The holidays can be a very stressful time and as a result, the number of people (both men and women) abused by their spouse increases. Many will stay with a spouse because it's the holidays. But once January comes around they find the courage to leave.

Along with the increase in spousal abuse the holidays also see an increase in human trafficking.

Because of this, Redeemer's Noisy Offering will be for LSS Choices during this holiday season so when Redeemer sends the funds in January it will be right when the numbers seeking service are going up.

Book Chosen for January Discussion

Sheryl Owens reports that Redeemer's book group will be discussion *This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto* by **Suketu Mehta** at its meeting on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024** at 7 p.m.

She writes, "Mehta's forte is not mincing words or verbal diplomacy. He does not sugar coat his perspective; in fact, he rips off the bandage and throws alcohol on the wound left behind and then douses you with an ice water bath. This is either refreshing, or startlingly shocking, but it is not boring. You immediately feel his frustration and anger.... and hope.

“You may have heard it before, but this is not a whisper. It is a migrant's tale, and a minority tale. It is an economic tale since migrants and immigrants have all been touched by this saga. However, some have been able to rise above it because they could and chose to blend in.

“I was going to include a quote from this book, but choosing just one is like eating one Lays potato chip. Instead, I'll just invite you to read this book, and join the discussion: ... I believe there is something for everyone on this journey.”

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 continued healing are asked for **Emily Kent** who had has found recovery slow going and for **Pastor Tim Muller**. Prayers for healing are also asked for **Kathy Richter**, aunt of **Emily Ott**.

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Kathy Zwanziger writes, “THANK YOU to all who took gladiolus bulbs and wood hyacinth bulbs recently! If someone would like more gladiolus bulbs, please come by my house and we can "lift" some: they will be larger than those that are left at church. There are a few iris roots left, but no more wood hyacinths (at least until spring when I see how many I missed!).”

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

27-Greyson Brush 28-Dave Shull

29-Mary Bowling

December Birthdays

2-Ruby Jacobs 3-Julija Volfa
3-Walton Wolfe 4-Hitoshi Phillips
6-Izzy Skoog 6-Sophie Skoog
8-Payton Friederich 8-Bob Rapp
10-Eric Hutton 15-Mindy Eakin
19-Darren Baldogo 19-Joe Darst
19-Novella Hinkle 21-Kolya Larson
24-Julie Johnson 25-Doug Eakin
26-Emily Kent 27-Sue Darst
27-Paul Ritter 31-John Kennedy
31-Emma Martin

The Wider Church

First English Update

Kay Ernsthansen provided the following update on First English Lutheran Church: “I attended the First English Council meeting last week. With regards to Thursday night dinners, as things stand now, they will not be back in 2024. The church is committed to providing a Sunday morning breakfast. There is a group of churches that are very faithfully providing Sunday morning breakfast.

“That said some of the churches could use some help. So during the odd months starting in January 2024 on the third Sunday, Redeemer will be providing 150 brown bag lunches to be handed out with the breakfast. I will have more on this next week.

“Other changes coming to First English: the clothing room will be closed by the middle of December. There aren’t enough people to do it well so they will be giving away what is there on **December 3 and 10** and what is left will go to The Church for All People.

“Finally, with great sadness, I need to report that 22nd Street Cookies, will be disbanding. They are closing the program. I don’t have all the details but it will be closed by the end of the year.

“**Pastor Darst** is fully at work at First English and there is a nice core group of people. They just need the help and support of the partner churches to make things happen. I will continue to look for ways we at Redeemer can support this ministry.”

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

28 Pray that our daily lives will reflect joy and thanksgiving to God, our maker and the rock of our salvation.

29 The suffering and devastation mount with every day the Russia-Ukraine War continues. Pray for an end to the war, and that our allies will remain steadfast in valuing and pursuing peace, justice and recovery for Ukraine.

30 Andrew, the Apostle Andrew, a humble fisherman, was the first person to respond to Jesus’ invitation to set everything aside and follow him. Pray that we too will answer the call to learn, to serve and to spread the gospel with our unique gifts.

Getting Ready for Worship

First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Mark 13: 24-37

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 African International Lutheran Mission in Canal Winchester.
- + For Redeemer community members Kathy and Rich Pautsch.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Michele Disbro
Cantor	Connie Criswell
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Ruth Murray
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence
Communion Prep	Wendy Stoica
Producers	Toshi Phillips, Sachio Phillips

*Flowers are given by The Steiner family to the Glory of God
Noisy Offering will go to LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence*

This Week at Redeemer November 27-December 4, 2023

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 1143
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	5:15 p.m.	Outreach Team
	7:00 p.m.	Journaling Workshop
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Sister Act Brunch at The Woodbury
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
	12:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Monday	5:30 p.m.	Executive Team
	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