



# Reflections

VOLUME 27

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ISSUE 49

## Wisdom from Middle Eastern Voices: *A Conversation about the Israel/Hamas War*

As I have followed news of the horrors taking place in the Israel-Gaza War and in the occupied territories of the West Bank of the Jordan River, I have thought about my trips to Israel/Palestine. I did two month-long study trips in 1999 and 2014. And, in 2002, I participated in a two-week trip with a group called “The Compassionate Listening Project.” People from the congregation I served in Seattle and a local Reformed synagogue traveled to the Holy Land together. We listened to people who represented radically different “sides” of the Israeli-Palestinian issue. When they finished their presentations and opened our sessions for questions, we were not allowed to argue with them. We were only allowed to ask questions that helped us understand how they had come to hold the perspectives they did.

As a way to deal with the horrors of this war, I’ve been going back over some of the notes I took from these trips. It is a testimony to the tragic nature of the history of this region that things people said 20 years ago about what blocks any kind of progress are still true. Below are a few of those notes that seem most relevant to the news we’re hearing today.

In 2001, the Jewish peace activist **Eliahu McLean**, told us about his work with a group called “Circle for Sanity,” which brings Palestinians and Israelis together. He said, “Both sides want to talk about their suffering and they’re starting to realize both sides are suffering. There’s so much insanity ... I see both peoples in denial of the other side’s deep connectedness to this land. Each side needs to listen to each other’s narratives. Part of the whole destructive cycle is that [each side sees themselves as] exclusively... the victim. Israel has its own narrative – that we’re surrounded by 40 Arab nations and we have enemies within and we suffered the Holocaust. And the Palestinians say, We’re suffering, we’re suffering. The people I am most inspired by on both sides are the ones who break out of that paralyzing narrative to be empowered in the face of such difficult circumstances. [The Muslim] **Sheikh Hallil Abaz** had every reason, with the Bedouins in the Negev – for him to have the courage to come to Auschwitz and see how the Jewish people suffered and see the dynamic of victimhood here, and when you’re oppressing others you oppress yourself. It’s a cycle, we’re all inter-connected ....

Part of me thinks the political leaders are not listening to their peoples. It seems they’d rather see a continuation of the conflict to further their interests – divide and conquer. On another level, they’re just tools, unwitting participants in helping this whole cycle of negativity feed itself. So when I see it on that level, it’s like there’s an energy beyond the control of one politician ... I feel like a 17-year-old kid who joins the army and kills unarmed Palestinian protestors or a Palestinian kid who blows himself up in a mall, I don’t feel like they were raised to carry out evil acts. I feel both are manipulated by the politicians and by this revenge energy that keeps feeding on itself. Things get uneasy when it’s too quiet. It seems both sides feel more comfortable with violence.”

*cont’d on p.5*

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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](http://www.redeemerluth.com)



## The Redeemer Community

### Children's Christmas Program This Sunday during Worship

The 2023 Children's Christmas Program will be held this **Sunday, December 17** during the worship service. Come, watch as Redeemer's children interview Redeemer members about their Christmas traditions growing up.

### OU Professor to Lead Sunday's Adult Ed Forum on Gaza-Israel War

Redeemer's Sunday Adult Forum welcomes Bexley resident **Loren Lybarger** to the adult ed class this **Sunday, December 17** at 11:15 a.m. to talk about the context for the war between Israel and Gaza.

Loren writes, "The Palestinian-Israeli conflict has spanned more than 100 years. It has defied resolution. At its heart lie competing national claims to territory rooted in deep collective traumas. Since October 7, a brutal war has flared. More than 1,200 Israelis and more than 17,000 Palestinians have died. The vast majority of dead and injured have been civilians. How do we make sense of this horrific situation? Is there an alternative to military violence and failed peace processes? What role can we in the United States play? What role can people of faith play?"

Join us for a discussion of these questions and more.

Loren is a professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at Ohio University. He holds a master's degree in Christian-Muslim relations from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (1995) and a Ph.D. in the psychology and sociology of religion from the Divinity School of the University of Chicago (2002). He teaches courses in the Islamic religious tradition, Sufism, and Political Islam as well as in religious and violence and theories of religion. Loren lived in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as in Egypt for more than eight years during the 1980s and 1990s.

The class begins shortly after 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.

Both Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) will donate 100 percent designated funds to relief work in the Holy Land. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/nc94955d> for LWR or to <https://tinyurl.com/2ywxumtz> for LDR.

### 'Angels' Narthex Art Exhibit Now Up

The latest Narthex art exhibit with the theme Angels is now up, thanks to the efforts of **Emily Kent** and **Michelle Clemence**. Stop by and peruse the many and varied "takes" on this month's theme.

Additional submissions are always welcome! Both artwork release and artwork description forms can be found on the shelf under the bulletin board next to the Library.

This means that folks who had items in the exhibit, "Snapshots of Saints," should pick up their pictures.

### Advent Signups Available

**There are two sign-up sheets available related to the upcoming midweek Advent services: for cantors and for Advent desserts.** There are open slots for cantor (December 13 and 20) and desserts (one for December 13 and two for December 20.) Sign up sheets can be found on the bulletin board next to the Library.

### Mission Endowment Fund Seeks Suggestions for 2023 Distribution

Every year the Redeemer congregation donates a percentage (4 percent) of the year-end market value of the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) to other charities on behalf of the congregation. The 2023 third quarter market value was \$137,005 which would provide \$5,480 for distribution (the final amount may increase or decrease depending on the fourth quarter value available in late January).

The guidelines for distribution, as established in the constitution; to establish/support ministries of outreach on behalf of the congregation, and to further partnerships in mission through the synod and other arms of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Some prior recipient examples are: LSS Food Pantry, Lutheran Memorial Camp/HopeWood Pines, Mid-Ohio Food Co-operative, Lutheran Social Services, Ronald McDonald House, and Groveport Special Olympics.

To fulfill the Mission Endowment Fund's guidelines, the Special Funds Team (SFT) is seeking suggestions for the use of the funds for 2023. Please use the pink form included in today's *Reflections* to nominate possible recipients. Complete it and place it in the Sunday offering plate or leave it in the church office. Suggestions are due by **Sunday, December 24**. The SFT will then make its recommendation to council for action by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.

### **Sign Up Now to Read at Worship Services**

Readers for Sunday morning services can now sign up for services over Advent and the winter. Readers, including youth and children, are encouraged to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, next to the Library.

Readings are sent out the week before to give folks a chance to go through the lessons ahead of Sunday mornings. **Readers of all ages are encouraged to participate.**

### **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](http://www.ELCA.org/goodgifts).)

### **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](http://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.

Also available, is a weekly Advent devotional from ReconcilingWorks. Copies can be found on the table in the Narthex.

### **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 separate article.)

## 2024 Flower Chart Available

Have an event to celebrate or remember? Somebody's birthday to recognize? The chart to sign up for flowers for Sunday services in 2024 is now on the bulletin board next to the library.

Flowers run \$20 and can be paid ahead of the date by using the envelopes that are also available on the bulletin board. The envelope provides additional space for spelling out the designation – information that is shared in *Reflections* and the Sunday bulletin.

Folks can also call **Office Manager Becky Trover** to sign up. Flowers can be taken home after the Sunday service or picked up later in the week.

## 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.

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**

-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., both in-person and on Zoom.

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."

To join the group on Zoom, go to at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tKM2xEd3dyK1RvSURJYlFuZz09>; Meeting ID: 865 8150 4887; Passcode: 274918; Phone only: 1-312-626-6799.

## Wisdom from Middle Eastern Voices cont'd from p. 1

In an article we read for a class in 2014, a Palestinian Muslim who advocates non-violence, **Ali Abu Awwad**, was quoted in a 2012 article as saying, "The Jews are not my enemy. Their fear is my enemy. We must help them to stop being so afraid – their whole history has terrified them – but I refuse to be a victim of Jewish fear anymore." And just a couple of weeks ago, **Munther Isaac**, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, spoke before a congressional committee about the war between Israel and Hamas. As he was preparing to return to Bethlehem for the start of the Advent season, he said he and his colleagues intend to set up a small nativity scene with rocks and debris piled atop it. Isaac said, "This is what Christmas now means to us that we see Jesus being born among those who have lost everything, who are under the rubble."

During the 11:15 a.m. adult education hour this **Sunday, December 17**, Redeemer will host **Dr. Loren Lybarger**. Loren is a professor of religious studies at Ohio University who lives with his family a mile from Redeemer. He specializes in Islam and comparative religions. He has lived and worked in Gaza, and still has many friends there. He will share some of his experiences and perspectives and is very interested in listening to our questions and concerns. This is a marvelous chance to hear from a deeply compassionate, thoughtful student of this land and its histories which resist any easy answers. Feel free to invite your friends.

*Dave Shull*

## Important Emails

[Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Dave**.

[Info@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for stewardship campaigns.

[Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com) – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website.

[Property@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:Property@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

[SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com](mailto:SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com) – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

[Transportation@redeemerluth.com](mailto:Transportation@redeemerluth.com) – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

[Communications@redeemerluth.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@RedeemerLuth.com) and put *Reflections* in subject line.
- Or leave a note in the *Reflections* mailbox at the top of the stairs outside the church office.

### For Sunday Bulletins

The deadline for information to be published in Sunday bulletins is the **Wednesday morning** before. That information can be sent to the above email: just put "Bulletin" in the subject line.

## Prayers and Personals

Prayers for healing are asked for **Heidi Sherer**, for **Dottie Odrosky**, for **Pastor Tim Muller** and for **Kathy Richter**, aunt of **Emily Ott**.

+++

Congratulations to **Cassandra Reinoehl**, daughter of **Eric** and **Laurel Reinoehl** and granddaughter of **LaVerna Reinoehl** on her graduation this past week from Bowling Green State University with a degree in accounting!!! *Way to go Cassie!!!!*

## 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](mailto:info@RedeemerLuth.com). In addition, folks can be put on the list for quarterly electronic updates. Just contact the office.

## December Birthdays

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

### ***Message from Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

Advent is a season of waiting, watching, and hoping for Jesus, both remembering his arrival as a baby in Bethlehem and looking ahead to when Jesus will return.

This season is at odds with our want for instant responses, especially when we crave peace for the areas of our world experiencing conflict, healing for those battling illness, comfort for those living through the first holiday season after a loved ones' death, shelter and food for those experiencing homelessness or food insecurity.

As we enter this season, God, help us focus our attention on what matters: The arrival of the Messiah, the Savior, the Redeemer of the world, who calls us to the still more excellent way of love, caring for and serving our neighbors across the world. Let us join in prayer, using the words of Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus (All Creation Sings - #904):

*Come to be our hope, O Jesus, come to set your people free.  
From oppression, come, release us, grant us your true liberty.  
Come release from every prison those who suffer in our land.  
In your love we find the reason still to live and understand.*

*Come to build your new creation through the road of servanthood;  
give new life to every nation, changing evil into good.  
Come and open our tomorrow for your joyful reign so near.  
Take away all human sorrow; give us hope against our fear.*

The Synod Staff Team and I wish you a holy, hopeful, and hope-filled Advent. We give thanks for how we see God at work in and through each of you and how you are involved in your local congregations and ministries. May the God of peace be present with you throughout this season.

### **ELCA to Study Social Statement 'Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust'**

After a seven-year process of discernment and dialogue across the ELCA, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly voted to adopt [\*Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust\*](#) as a social statement of the ELCA. In 2022, the Churchwide Assembly authorized two reconsiderations of the social statement:

- A review of specific text references that “would consider the import that marriage legally is now a covenant between individuals;” review specific wording “in light of public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender-non-conforming couples;” and “consider references to diversity of family configurations;” and
- A possible revision that reconsiders the “church’s current concept of the four positions of bound conscience” found on pages 19-21 of “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust.”

In response to these actions, a task force will begin working in 2024 on both reconsiderations. Throughout the process, the task force will be listening deeply and working closely with people across the ELCA. More information about the process and specific opportunities for joining the conversation will be shared as soon as possible.

The first step in this process is to gather a task force from across the church. This task force is intended to represent the diverse perspectives, identities, backgrounds, and contexts of ELCA members, including the diversity reflected in the four conscience-bound positions of the current social statement. To learn more about these positions, follow the link to the full text of [\*Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust\*](#).

[Click here](#) to learn more and to access the applications & nomination forms to serve on this task force. Applications will be open until **January 31, 2024**.

## ELCA Developing Social Message on Gun-Related Violence/Trauma

The ELCA is currently working on creating a social message about gun-related violence and trauma. Social messages are ELCA teaching documents that draw from existing social teaching but throw a fuller and sharper spotlight on a particular social issue. The draft's themes focus on trauma, public health, and an ethic of shared responsibility for peacemaking, seeking to move beyond the strict polarization of gun rights vs. gun control.

A [draft version of this social message](#) is now available for feedback. Individuals are asked to take the time, alone or with a group, to study the message draft and share your affirmations, concerns, and suggestions via [this survey form](#). Those who have any questions, comments, or need a printable version of the survey are asked to email [draftsocialmessage@elca.org](mailto:draftsocialmessage@elca.org).

**Feedback is due by January 31, 2024.** The draft will be revised in light of the public feedback and then considered for adoption by the ELCA Church Council in late March of 2024.

## Prayer Concerns from ELCA

**12** Praise God for the diverse Advent and Christmas traditions of the Christian church around the world, traditions that enrich our faith and understanding of how Christ has impacted communities, cultures and nations.

**13** Pause during the busyness of the holidays and pray for our neighbors in need, especially those experiencing suffering, poverty, war, recovery from disasters and displacement from their homes. Pray that they will find relief, hope and renewed strength in the certainty of God's attention and love, evidenced in the gift of Jesus Christ and reflected in our concern, response and advocacy.

**14** Give thanks for the seasons of the liturgical year and the Scripture, colors, symbols, prayers, music and rituals of faith that help us live in the rhythm of life as children of God and siblings in Christ.

**15** Ask God to help us reflect on those who are not present whenever we gather and to remember that these children of God bring unique voices, gifts and life experiences to the worship, activities and gatherings of our congregations.

**16 Las Posadas** Give thanks for the tradition of Las Posadas, which recalls Mary and Joseph's Nativity journey and is observed in parts of Latin America and in some Latino communities in the United States.

**17** Pray that we will have the humility, honesty and boldness of John the Baptist, who did not shy away from expressing his faith in Jesus Christ even when challenged and threatened.

**18 International Migrants Day** Pray for those who, with great risk and uncertainty, have left their home countries and familiar surroundings to seek welcoming communities where they feel safe, respected and free to reestablish their lives and raise their families.

## The Community Beyond

### NBC4 Drive to Benefit Mid-Ohio Food Collective

NBC4 will be collecting contributions on **Wednesday, December 13** for the Mid-Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) from 5 to 11:30 p.m. Every dollar will be doubled by match sponsors and will provide more than \$9 in groceries for needy families in the community.

To donate, folks can call the NBC4 Phone Bank on December 13, text DYDD (Double Your Donation Day) to 614-896-3933, go online to [mofc.org/double](http://mofc.org/double) or mail a donation to Mid-Ohio Food Collective, P.O. Box 182883, Columbus OH 43218-2883.

MOFC is one of Redeemer's partners for the Food Giveaways held April-October each year.



# Getting Ready for Worship

## Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023

### Lessons

**Readings:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; John 1:6-8, 19-28

#### Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 All Saints Lutheran Church in Worthington.
- + For Redeemer community member Dora Pinder.

#### Worship Leaders

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	<b>Dave Shull</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Julianne Johnson</b>
<b>Cantor</b>	<b>Scott Steiner</b>
<b>ASL Interpreter</b>	<b>Bryan Neal</b>
<b>Organist &amp; Senior Choir Director</b>	<b>Kathy Rapp</b>
<b>Pianist &amp; Chime Choir Director</b>	<b>Karen Kent</b>
<b>Usher</b>	<b>Jon Disbro</b>
<b>Vergers</b>	<b>Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>Karen Rider</b>
<b>Communion Prep</b>	<b>Wendy Stoica</b>
<b>Producers</b>	<b>Scott Steiner/April Smith</b>

*Flowers are given Phillips family in memory of Lisa Price  
Noisy Offering will go to LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence*

**This Week at Redeemer**  
**December 11-December 18, 2023**

<b>Monday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 1143
<b>Tuesday</b>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Stewardship Team
	6:30 p.m.	ZOOM A Brewing Faith
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:15 p.m.	Advent Desserts
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Holden Evening Prayer
<b>Thursday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Bexley/Berwick Dementia Support Group
<b>Sunday</b>	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Program
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed
<b>Monday</b>	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 2462
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 1143
	7:00 p.m.	Congregation Council

Mission Endowment Fund  
2023 Distribution Nomination

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization's Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount or Percentage of Available Funds Requested; \_\_\_\_\_

Redeemer member(s) involved with the organization: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, who? \_\_\_\_\_

Redeemer member submitting the request: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit to church office or put in offering plate on/before **December 24, 2023.**

**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