



Reflections

VOLUME 28

January 8, 2024

ISSUE 2



Reign of God Comes

Ultimately the discovery of the Magi
 is that the One who brings about
 the Reign of God will not be found
 clutching feebly to hold onto power;
 not clinging to a throne
 through deception and lies;
 nor dominating others with fear
 at the point of a sword
 or the threat of violence.

God's Reign comes where
 no one else was looking,
 without any of those things,
 and once we have encountered it,
 we find ourselves taking
 a new way home, an alternative
 to all we had known before.

-- Pr. Stephen Bond



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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

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

President - Krista Skipper
 Vice President -
 Finance Officer - Laura Warren
 Secretary - Sue Watson
 Worship - Michelle Clemence
 Education - Katie Jacobs
 Outreach - Diane Brobeck
 Member Support - Elyce Herring
 Property - April Smith
 Stewardship - Kathy Denhard

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 Laura Warren
 Wendy Stoica Terry Warren

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 Columbus 43227
 614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Adult Ed Forum to Discuss RLC 2024 Budget Jan. 14

On **Sunday, January 14** after worship, the Church Council is offering an opportunity for people in the church to ask questions about the proposed 2024 budget, which will be voted on at the congregational meeting after worship on **Sunday, January 28**. This will be an in-person session only.

On **Sunday, January 21**, **Emily Kent** will lead the class. As she reports, “I have completed my Death Doula training and am eager to share what I’ve learned. I’m on a mission to increase conversation and decrease anxiety about the dying process.” In addition, she will be hosting her first “Death Café” at the Gahanna Public Library on **Tuesday, January 9**. For more information, please click this link: <https://tinyurl.com/32bjcmm5>

On **Sunday, January 28**, the congregational meeting and lunch will take place immediately following the worship service.

The Sunday Adult Ed class will resume its regular schedule of weekly offerings in February.

January Book Discussion Coming Up

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tKM2xE3dyK1RvSURJY1FuZz09>; Meeting ID: 865 8150 4887; Passcode: 274918; Phone only: 1-312-626-6799.

Redeemer to Assemble Brown Bag Meals for First English on Jan. 20

This year Redeemer will be providing brown bag lunches for those at First English on the third Sunday of the odd numbered months. On Sunday mornings along with providing breakfast, First English gives the people leaving breakfast a brown bag lunch for that week. Since there will be no Thursday dinners this year, **Kay Ernsthansen** said Redeemer could help provide the sack lunches.

On **Saturday, January 20** folks will gather at Redeemer to put together 150 brown bag lunches. Donations of the following are needed ahead of that time:

- Sandwich bread (300 slices)
- Peanut butter (6 large jars)
- Grape jelly (6 large jars)
- 150 fruit cups
- Chip bags
- Soft granola bars
- Bottled water
- Juice boxes
- 300 Hostess deserts (individually wrapped).

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board next to the Library. **Kay Ernsthansen** stressed Sunday that items need to be provided by count rather than packaging because so many different sized packages are available.

In addition, volunteers are needed **Saturday, January 20** to help make sandwiches and put together the lunches. For any questions and to let her know if you can help, please contact Kay at KAErnsthansen@gmail.com

Tuesday Bible Study Resumes Jan. 9

The Tuesday Bible study will continue its examination of the book of Acts when it reconvenes on **Tuesday, January 9**. To join the Zoom meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82259660622?pwd=R2pHTWl1bHR0N1FHbFRZdStqbK9Bdz09>; Meeting ID: 822 5966 0622; Passcode: 435549. Phone only: 1-301 715 8592.

Ministry Evaluation Provides Helpful Insights

Last fall, the Mutual Ministry Team joined Church Council in evaluating Redeemer's ministries and **Pastor Dave's** relationship to those ministries. This "ministry evaluation" replaced the traditional personnel evaluation that Redeemer has used in the past to review the pastor. After consultation with the Southern Ohio Synod, both mutual ministry and council concluded that a more holistic approach to reviewing the pastor would provide a clearer picture of the pastor's participation in the current life of the congregation and the goals for the future. "As a group, we found it healthier – and more helpful – to discuss Redeemer's ministries rather than focus solely on the minister. Simply put, if we only focused on the pastor and the pastor's performance, then we would lose the larger picture within which the pastor functions," **Margie Farnham**, a member of the Mutual Ministry Team, explains.

"Mutual Ministry team member **Marques Highland** designed the survey used in the process. Marques' professional experience includes work with data-driven tools such as the one he prepared for us. The survey's purpose was to gauge how closely the congregation perceives their priorities and the pastor's to be aligned. We were asked to rank order the criteria based on our perceptions of the level of importance to the congregation and to the pastor. Once council, mutual ministry, and Pastor Dave had completed the survey, Marques tabulated the results and presented them during a joint meeting of council and mutual ministry.

"Overall, the responses suggest the congregation's priorities and Pastor Dave's priorities seem closely aligned. In a few areas, the responses were on the nose! For instance, we found ourselves in near perfect alignment in our ranking of what we perceive as the congregation's most important values: inclusion, compassion, and justice (with 'inclusion' at the top). In another example, our ranking of 'ministry priorities' was very closely aligned. Those priorities were:

- "Helping everyone feel welcome.
- "Giving opportunities to serve and grow.
- "Activities to make the world more just.
- "Providing concrete ways for people to show love.

"Most respondents ranked in-person events as the most important means of communication, yet we know social media (ranked near the bottom) is how the world communicates today. How might we expand our social media presence? What does that look like? These were just some of the questions and discussion topics that the survey ignited. We also talked about our Lutheran identity, the liturgy, adult education, and the communities we serve.

"Ultimately, the survey gave Pastor Dave a chance to see what ministries council and mutual ministry believe the congregation deems most important. Those rankings will continue to direct conversations with council and provide some guidance as we consider the future of our programs.

"Overall, council, the Mutual Ministry Team, and Pastor Dave found the survey to be a useful tool. If you would like a copy of the survey with results, you can pick one up in the church office."

Margie Farnham, Mutual Ministry Team Member

December Council Meeting

At the December meeting of Church Council on **Monday, December 18**, **Financial Officer Nate Ott** reported that the deficit is less than had been budgeted for 2023. He noted that the deficit the congregation approved in the 2023 budget was nearly \$40k; the deficit Redeemer will end up with is likely to be in the range of \$10-\$20K.

The **2024 Budget** was reviewed and approved. On **January 14** during the Sunday School hour, there will be a Budget Overview for all members of the congregation who wish to attend. **Brad Binau** has accepted the nomination for vice president of the 2024 Church Council, completing the slate. Additionally, it was announced that **Terry Warren** has renewed for another term on the Special Funds Team. Both Brad and Terry will be voted on at the Congregational Annual Meeting taking place on **Sunday, January 28**.

Council briefly reviewed the summary of the 2023 Redeemer Ministry Review prepared by **Pastor Dave** and **Margie Farnham**. Any action will be considered by the 2024 Executive Team and Council. Elsewhere in this

issue of *Reflections*, Margie describes that process and some of its findings. Anyone wanting a copy of the questions and results of the review can pick it up in the church office.

Michele Disbro announced that the Special Funds Team had approved the laptop purchased recently, the plaque being ordered for **Larry Jones**, and a new Christmas tree, all of which will be covered by Memorial funds.

Lastly, Michele reminded folks of the retreat on **Saturday, January 27** for the 2024 Council Members. She thanked the outgoing members **Nate Ott**, **Sue Yehling**, and **Jennifer Young** for all their efforts during their terms. **Vice President Krista Skipper** thanked Michele for her leadership the past two years.

'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.

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.**

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.

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.

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 Three-Year-Olds Receive Bibles

Redeemer’s three-year-olds received their first **Bibles** Sunday, January 7. Those who received their **Bibles** were **Malcolm Highland** and **Dylan Kirkman**. To mark the occasion, Dylan’s grandmother **Eileen Day** read the story of Noah and Ark during the worship service.

+ + +

Prayers for comfort and healing are asked for **Ruth Murray’s** daughter Ellen Rose receiving medical treatment, and granddaughter Megan whose husband died recently. Prayers for healing continue to be asked for **Pastor Tim Muller** and for **Kathy Richter**, aunt of **Emily Ott**.

+ + +

Member Transfer: **Julie** and **Bruce Hutson** have transferred their membership to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Olympia WA where she has accepted a call to be senior pastor. This follows their move back to the Pacific Northwest to be closer to family.

January Birthdays

9-Marques Highland 11-Rich Pautsch
13-Michelle Skoog 16-Melissa Vivens
20-David Detweiler 20-Corinne Montgomery
20-Tony Naess 20-Eric Vivens
21-Elizabeth George 21-Shirley Miller
22-Maureen Callahan 22-Shirley Cannon
24-Sophia Brush 24-Marshall Edgington
24-Kathy Rapp 24-Heath Wolfe
25-Rosalie Highland 26-Jeff Montgomery
28-Bebe McCoy

The Wider Church

Bishop Dillahunt: *Pick up Your Story and the Gospel and Let’s Go!*

The 12 Days of Christmas end as Epiphany begins: where the star led people to Jesus. A star that showed people from different lands, languages, and customs that hope had been born in a manger in Bethlehem, the Savior of the entire world.

They knew this child was different. The Good News about this child named Jesus didn’t stay in Bethlehem, the shepherds and the Magi heralded this story to others as they traveled home. The travelers got back home and told a story of the journey, of the star that led them to Jesus and led them back again, for their own protection, by another way.

The journey of Advent is done and yet we continue to watch and wait for Jesus to come again. Christmas journeys and celebrations are a memory and decorations, for the most part, are put away. Yet, Jesus, God with us, continues his journey through the season of Epiphany.

Epiphany is a time of journeying, a time of wandering, a time of exploring led by the star. Journey with me in what it means to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus, who came to us as a human baby because of God’s love and desire to have a relationship with us. This is Good News that we can talk about - we can be a STAR which leads someone to know Jesus. Who knew stars could be heralds, too?

Here we are just 12 days after the Christmas journey, in the beginning of January, with a road ahead in a new year, with new opportunities and stories to share as those followers of Jesus.

The Season after Epiphany is an in-between time which gives us a new way of thinking about faith. It's a new journey of excitement and a chance to SHINE, to share the Good News of Jesus with the world.

Epiphany **pushes** us to move forward knowing what is coming next in Jesus' life and ministry.

Epiphany **shows** us a different way of looking at the world. It's not about us.

Epiphany **guides** us to focus on where we fit in the story of God in Jesus.

Epiphany **invites** us into God's story of life, love, grace and forgiveness.

Epiphany **moves** us beyond ourselves to share our story of faith, with another.

Epiphany **signals** a shift from keeping quiet about Jesus to sharing the Good News

Epiphany is about **discipleship** and what that means in 2024 and into the future to let our star shine to others.

My prayer for you this Epiphany season is that the star leads you on a journey of discovery of the potential of sharing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in new ways **without** being afraid of what might come of the invitation to follow. Epiphany is a time for us to both Come and See and Go and Tell.

Blessed Epiphany, Season Southern Ohio, as we journey together knowing we walk along side each other arm in arm, as shining stars ready to share Jesus with those we meet along the way as we clarify, collaborate, and cultivate. We are Stronger and Better Together ... Joining Jesus in the restoration of the world.

Find out more about the journey of discipleship by listening to our Synod podcasts, checking in on what's happening with MomenToUs and Paraclete Post.

You can find the Southern Ohio Synod podcast on your favorite podcasting platform and searching 'Southern Ohio Synod'. Here are a few links to help you get connected:

[Apple Podcasts](#)

[Spotify](#)

[AmazonMusic](#)

[YouTube](#)

Pick up your story and let's go! God has given us everything we need to share the Good News with the world.

Capital Sponsors 'Day of Learning' on MLK Day

Capital University will sponsor its 33rd annual Martin Luther King Jr. "Day of Learning" on Monday, Jan. 15. Keynote speakers include **Tobias Spears**, Ph.D., assistant dean for diversity, equity and inclusion officer in the Biological Sciences Division of the University of Chicago, and **Frederick Charles Staidum Jr.**, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of English and affiliate, Institute for Racial Justice at Loyola University Chicago.

In addition, this year's service project involves collaboration with Star House Columbus. Also, leaders from both campus and the community will facilitate 90-minute workshops around the theme of "Courage in Community."

To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y8p8329b>.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

10 Remember and give thanks for our siblings in Christ who have gone before us, and for those living among us today who help reveal the mysteries of God's grace and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

11 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

12 Lift up prayers for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who suffer poverty and hunger, oppression and violence, and who are alone and without advocates. Pray that we will look to God to deepen our understanding of justice and peacemaking and to guide our relationships with our neighbors in need.

13 Pray for the ELCA's Future Church: God's Love Made Real initiative, which aspires to a welcoming, thriving, connected, sustainable church and envisions a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

14 Pray that we will respond daily to Jesus' invitation to follow him and will learn, serve our neighbors in need, share the gospel and invite others to experience God's love, forgiveness and truth in community.

15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Give thanks and praise for siblings in Christ, such as **Martin Luther King Jr.**, who risk everything to proclaim God's love and concern for all, stress the inherent value of our neighbors as children of God and awaken us from indifference, inactivity and hesitation to do God's difficult work in the world.

16 "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well" (Psalm 139:14). When we doubt ourselves and question our value, remember and give thanks that God created us and knows us inside out, including our quirks, gifts, needs, questions and complexities.

17 Pray for youth and family ministry leaders and volunteers gathering for the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza 2024 in New Orleans, that the Spirit will renew their faith, affirm their gifts and equip them to surround young people with God's grace and mercy.

Getting Ready for Worship

2 Sunday of Epiphany, January 14, 2024, 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Genesis 28:10-17; Psalm 139:1-6; John 1:43-51

Prayer of the Day

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, 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 Christ Lutheran Church in Columbus.
- + For Redeemer community members Jim Riley and Jim Carson.

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, Carolyn Moehring, Kris Kauffman, Mary Watts, Emily Ott's aunt Kathy Richter, Pastor Tim Muller, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose and granddaughter Megan, John Kennedy's sister and brother-in-law Becky & Vic Wolfe.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Mary Benis
Cantor	Emily Kent
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Katie Jacobs
Communion Prep	Julianne Johnson and Sara Auman
Producers	Sue Yehling, Scott Steiner

*Flowers are given by members of Redeemer
Noisy Offering will go to LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence*

This Week at Redeemer
January 8-January 15, 2024

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop 1143
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	A Brewing Faith by ZOOM
	7:00 p.m.	Berwick Civic Association
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Bexley/Berwick Dementia Support Group
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship \
	11:15 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON ONLY Budget Hearing
Monday	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop 2462
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts 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