



# Reflections

VOLUME 28

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ISSUE 3

## Observing MLK Day

In 1983, **President Ronald Reagan** signed a law creating a federal holiday in honor of the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** That holiday was first celebrated on January 20, 1986. So today is the 39<sup>th</sup> year this country has marked this day and this remarkable human being.

King was born on this day 95 years ago. He was murdered 56 years ago.

How are you honoring Brother Martin and his legacy today? A variety of public events are being held today and around this day. What are your thoughts and feelings today? What does the day mean to you? What does all he lived and died for mean to you?

It can be so easy just to let days like this go by. Holidays marking a particular person can cease to have much power to change us. **Carl Wendell Hines, Jr.**, was in his late 20s when Martin Luther King, Jr., was murdered. He wrote his sorrow in these words:

*Now that he is safely dead,  
let us praise him,  
build monuments to his glory  
sing hosannas to his name.  
Dead men make  
such convenient heroes; they  
cannot rise  
to challenge the images  
we would fashion from their lives.*

*And besides,  
it is easier to build monuments  
than to make a better world.  
So, now that he is safely dead  
we, with eased consciences,  
will teach our children  
that he was a great man ... knowing  
that the cause for which he lived  
is still a cause  
and the dream for which he died  
is still a dream,  
a dead man's dream.*

--Vincent Harding, "Getting Ready for the Hero," Sojourners, January 1986, p. 16

These are deeply hard words to hear. And that doesn't mean you and I don't need to hear them – and let them confront us with the harsh truth they bear.

It can be hard to know what might be a meaningful way to mark this day, to proclaim we believe this dream is worth making real. But I think it's worth struggling to find something to do.

What is one way today, this week, this month, or this year, that you and one or two others might take an action that tells the world MLK and the dream for which he died is more than a dead man's dream? What is one action a couple of you can take that makes it clear this is a dream that is worth whatever it takes to make real?

Happy Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

*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

### 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

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# The Redeemer Community

## Best Laid Plans ...

**April Smith**, Redeemer's Property Team liaison to Church Council reports, "As we were preparing for worship yesterday, [Sunday, January 14], it was noted that there was a strong electrical type odor in the back of the sanctuary. There was no smoke and we did not find any hot spots indicating any noticeable overheating but we suspected it may be coming from a furnace. Our regular HVAC contractor, Gahanna Heating and Cooling, came and did an inspection of all of our equipment not finding a cause. We then requested a courtesy visit from the Columbus Fire Department and they also suggested it may be one particular furnace. That furnace has been turned off, the smell began to dissipate, and all of the other heating equipment is working in the rest of the building. Gahanna Heating and Cooling will come back again this week ASAP to further investigate this issue."

As far as worship goes, **Pastor Dave** says that essentially the **January 14** service including the monthly Healing Service now becomes the **January 21** service.

## Souper Bowl 2024 Coming!

Once again, Redeemer will join with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Food Pantry in a Souper Bowl Offering on **Sunday, February 11**.

Please remember that, due to the buying power of the food pantries, each \$1 donated will be able to purchase \$4 of food. However, those wishing to contribute an actual food item, the best soups to collect are tomato, chicken noodle, vegetable while the most needed items to collect along with soup are 16 oz. plastic jars of peanut butter or any canned fruit of approximately 15 oz. However, ANY food items can be used.

The LSS Food Pantry has set a goal of 30 churches participating this year (24 in 2023), raising more than \$30,000 (compared to \$23,000 last year), and collecting 4,000 pounds of food.

*Let's see what Redeemer can do while cheering for its favorite team!*

## Adult Ed Forum to Discuss RLC 2024 Budget Jan. 21

On **Sunday, January 21** 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.

**Emily Kent** will now lead the class sometime in February. 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." She hosted her first "Death Café" at the Gahanna Public Library last Tuesday.

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=ZkFSV2tKM2xE3dyK1RvSURJYlFuZz09;>

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. Check the list on the bulletin board for what donations are needed:

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

There is a sign up 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](mailto:KAErnsthansen@gmail.com)

## **Noisy Offering Now Goes to Star House**

Redeemer's "Noisy Offering" will now go to Star House – a drop-in center for youth experiencing homelessness and the only housing village of its kind in Central Ohio for college-age youth who are exiting homelessness. Young people experiencing homelessness, ages 14-24, are provided a safe location along with basic needs and access to crucial, stabilizing resources.

In addition, Star House, along with the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and Finance Fund, jointly owns and operates Carol Stewart Village, an affordable neighborhood for youth coming out of homelessness. It has 62 studio apartments and onsite access to a wide array of programs and social services.

## **Tuesday Bible Study Continues Jan. 16**

The Tuesday Bible study will continue its examination of the book of Acts when it reconvenes on **Tuesday, January 16**. To join the Zoom meeting, go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82259660622?pwd=R2pHTW11bHR0N1FHbFRZdStqbK9Bdz09;>

Meeting ID: 822 5966 0622; Passcode: 435549. Phone only: 1-301 715 8592.

## **'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.

## 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 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 the Ark during the worship service.

+ + +

Prayers for healing and comfort are asked for the **Ehrich family**: **Kathie Ehrich** is currently in the hospital for tests while her and **Nancy Ehrich**’s sister **Betty Weaver** died Sunday. In addition, the **Frank/Thornton family** asks for prayers for **Trina**’s oldest grandson **Nate Foltz** who was in a very serious car accident and faces a long recovery ahead. In addition, **Kelley Frank**’s father **Wayne Frank**, is facing medical challenges.

Prayers for healing continue to be asked for **Pastor Tim Muller** and for **Kathy Richter**, aunt of **Emily Ott**.

+ + +

## January Birthdays

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.

## Prayer Concerns from ELCA

**18** Ask God to renew and strengthen our resolve to end hunger and poverty and to address their root causes in our communities and the world. Promise to listen carefully to our neighbors in need so that we can work together to find appropriate, effective and sustainable solutions.

**19** When we are united with Christ, every aspect of our life and being — spiritual, physical and social — is impacted. Pray for the Spirit to help us stay faithful to the ways of God and the example of Christ and to reclaim us when we give undue value and attention to things that distract us.

**20** Remember in prayer individuals and families who are homeless. Pray for congregations, community ministries, social service organizations and local and state governments that are working to develop effective, creative and sustainable housing, shelter and care for our neighbors.

**21** Jesus Christ is the good news of God's grace and mercy at the heart of our baptism and faith. Give thanks and praise God for this amazing promise and gift!

**22** Pray for Lutheran outdoor ministry leaders as they recruit young adult staff for summer ministries. Pray that young adults will respond to these leaders' invitation to share their faith, gifts and leadership abilities with campers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

**23** There's a bit of Jonah in all of us when we question God's wisdom and mercy and balk at doing what God asks of us. Promise to be attentive and responsive to God's work and to trust that God's boundless love and forgiveness are for all people, including ourselves.

**24** Give thanks for the ELCA Foundation, which helps us to fund God's work in the world, now and well into the future.

## Getting Ready for Worship

### 3rd Sunday of Epiphany, January 21, 2024, 10 a.m.

#### Lessons

**Readings:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6; John 1:43-51

#### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, 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 Christ Lutheran Church in Bexley and Clinton Heights Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Jim Riley, Jim Carson and Leslie and Graham Roy.

*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, 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, Kathie Ehrich and the Ehrich family; Trina Thornton's grandson Nathan Fultz, and Kelley Frank's father Wayne Frank.

## Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	<b>Dave Shull</b>
Assisting Minister	<b>Mary Benis</b>
Cantor	<b>Emily Kent</b>
ASL Interpreter	<b>Bryan Neal</b>
Organist & Senior Choir Director	<b>Kathy Rapp</b>
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	<b>Karen Kent</b>
Usher	<b>Jon Disbro</b>
Verger	<b>Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica</b>
Hospitality	<b>Ashley and Judith Bird</b>
Communion Prep	<b>Julianne Johnson and Sara Auman</b>
Producers	<b>Scott Steiner, Michele Disbro</b>

*Flowers are given by Ashley and Judith Bird in memory of Judy's father Dr. Oscar H. Tieman.  
Noisy Offering will go to Star House center for youth.*

## This Week at Redeemer January 15-January 22, 2024

<b>Monday</b>	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop 2462
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop 1143
<b>Tuesday</b>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	6:30 p.m.	Sister Act
<b>Sunday</b>	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	2024 Budget Hearing IN-PERSON only
	12:30 a.m.	Confirmation class
<b>Monday</b>	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