



Reflections

VOLUME 28

January 29, 2024

ISSUE 5

Ash Wednesday Falls on Valentine's Day: Lenten Soup/Conversations, Sharing Stories Return for Lent

Since it feels like Christmas was just last week, it's almost impossible to believe that Lent begins with Ash Wednesday services at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on **Valentine's Day, February 14!**

Beginning on **Wednesday, February 21** and going through **March 20**, we will gather for **Soup and Conversation**. If you'd like, please sign up to bring a soup or dessert. If you have an article you'd like us to discuss, or a topic you'd enjoy having our group talk about, please let **Dave Shull** know. You are a very thoughtful, curious group, and always have good ideas to explore. So don't be bashful about giving me your suggestions!

Then Wednesday evenings (February 21 – March 20), we will offer sung **Evening Prayer** at 7 p.m. During these services, there is space for a five-minute story. That is where you come in. Over the years, Redeemer folks have shared stories that have moved us, challenged us, opened us to look at our lives in new ways, and helped us get to know each other more deeply. Your willingness to tell your stories has enriched and graced us.

The sung psalm in our Lenten evening prayer service is Psalm 16. The refrain we sing after each verse is, "Keep me safe, O God, I take refuge in you." My dictionary says a "refuge" is protection or shelter, as from danger or hardship; a place providing protection or shelter; a source of help, relief, or comfort in times of trouble. Whatever your definition, when is a time you have taken refuge? When is a time you found yourself in a situation in which you realized you needed protection, shelter, help, relief, or comfort that you couldn't provide yourself? What was it like to admit you couldn't respond to the realities you were facing by yourself, but that you needed something beyond what you could provide? How did you find this refuge? How did it become a refuge for you?

Reflect on that verse from Psalm 16. Think about what it brings up for you. Let a story about refuge come to your mind. If you feel like yours is a story that can be a blessing to us, then by all means sign up on the sheet in the hallway outside the library for an evening to share it with us. Also, please think of a Bible passage that reflects the theme of your story. If you'd like help coming up with one, or if you have any questions, contact me at 206-725-3785.

Thank you for all the stories you have shared ... and for those we await to hear.

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 - Brad Binau

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

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

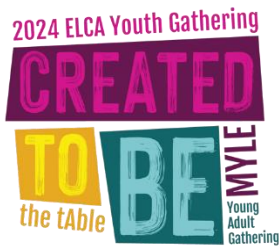
614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Created to Be ... *Brave, Authentic, Free, Disruptive Disciples!*



“Many thanks to those who participated in the annual congregational meeting dinner on Sunday to support the five youth and two adults traveling to New Orleans this summer for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. In addition to delicious homemade lasagnas by youth, chaperones and **Nancy Magargal**, we enjoyed side dishes, desserts and fellowship. We received over \$550 in donations, wrote **Wendy Stoica**.

“The theme for the Youth Gathering is “Created to Be” from Psalm 139:14. We meet once each month to get ready for the gathering by learning about each other and ourselves along with the gathering themes:

“We are created to be brave, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.

“We are created to be authentic, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.

“We are created to be free, to be transformed by the gospel.

“We are created to be disruptive, to work for justice for all our siblings.

“We are created to be disciples, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.

“We plan to host the Easter Breakfast on **Sunday March 31** before worship and a yard sale on the church lawn in late spring. As you consider your own spring cleaning, please think of us and we’ll be in touch soon about how to donate to the yard sale.”

*Toshi and Sachio Phillips, Izzy, Sophie and
Andrew Skoog. Dave Shull, Wendy Stoica*

Church Council Thanks Congregation for Generous Giving in December

At the Annual Meeting, **Michele Disbro** thanked the congregation for their generous giving in December. “With lower general offerings in September, October, and November, the Congregational Council was worried about ending the year with a large deficit. Due to the congregational response, we actually ended the books for 2024 in the black.

“**Nate Ott**, 2023 finance officer, reminded the congregation that we did receive a \$25,000 settlement check from **Mark Nye** in 2023 which helped offset the deficit. Nonetheless, the council thanks the congregation for their part in generous giving and encourages members to keep it up in 2024!”

RLC Holds Annual Meeting, Elects Binau to Open Slot on Council

Outgoing **Finance Officer Nathan Ott** told members gathered **Sunday, January 28** for Redeemer’s Annual Meeting that the 2024 budget had been developed so as “not to be too rosy.” Estimates for giving in 2024 were pegged on the low end while expenses are overestimated. “We didn’t want to make promises [with the budget] that we could not keep.”

Past President Michele Disbro thanked the congregation for their stepping up contributions in December that allowed the church to finish the year in the black which Ott said was about \$17,000 – albeit that includes the \$25,000 settlement from **Mark Nye**.

Ott also said that salaries for **Pastor Dave** and the staff were increased by 3 percent. “Most of our expenses are fixed,” he explained. “They include the building, maintenance and salaries.”

The budget went on to be accepted unanimously.

Also approved unanimously was the proposed distribution of Mission Endowment Fund interest with one-sixth of the amount going to each of the following: Bishop Griffin Resource Center, BREAD, Lutheran Memorial Camp (HopeWood Pines), Legal Aid Society of Columbus, Directions for Youth and Families/Crittenton Community Center and Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio (undesignated donation).

The congregation also elected **Brad Binau** vice president and the following as its delegates for the 2024 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly: **Scott Steiner**, **Wendy Stoica**, **Brad Phillips** (alternate) and **Julie Johnson** (alternate). While it will run **Friday-Saturday, May31-June 1**, the location has not yet been set.

Terry Warren was unanimously elected to a slot on the Special Funds Team.

The congregation also recognized outgoing council members who included **Sue Yehling** and **Jennifer Young**, in addition to Disbro and Ott.

January Book Discussion Now Set for Jan. 31

The date for Redeemer's book group discussion of *This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto* by Suketu Mehta has been delayed until **Wednesday, January 31, 2024** at 7 p.m., both in-person and on Zoom.

Sheryl Owens writes about the book, "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://us02zoom.us/j/86581504887?pwd=ZkFSV2tKM2xEd3dyK1RvSURJYlFuZz09>; Meeting ID: 865 8150 4887; Passcode: 274918; Phone only: 1-312-626-6799.

Souper Bowl 2024 Coming Sunday, Feb. 11!

Once again, Redeemer will join with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Food Pantry in a Souper Bowl Offering on **Sunday, February 11**. This year, the teams in the Super Bowl are the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers.

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 Class to Resume Discussion of Gaza-Israel War

Islamic Professor Loren Lybarger returns to the Adult Education Class on **Sunday February 4** to continue conversations about the Israel/Palestine war that was started during his first appearance in December when he spent an hour with the class discussing the war between Israel and Hamas. "He does not seek to demonize either party in this conflict, but instead he wants to help folks understand the history and context of this land and the various people who call it home," according to **Pastor Dave**.

Lybarger is a professor of Islamic studies and comparative religions at Ohio University. He has degrees from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and the University of Chicago. He spent eight years living in the Middle East, much of that in Gaza.

He lives with his wife and two daughters in Bexley.

The class is both in-person and on Zoom. To join the group on Zoom, go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88957366923?pwd=TnV6cFB4ZUpET25USTgz0diZlhnQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 5736 6923; Passcode: 38383; Phone only: 1-312-626-6799.

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 Resumes Jan. 30

The Tuesday Bible study resumes this **Tuesday, January 30** with a review of its discussions of the book of Acts. Also, at that time, they will discuss what to cover next.

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 – 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 of thanksgiving are asked now that **Maggie Rapp**, the newborn great-granddaughter of **Kathy** and **Bob Rapp**, is over pneumonia and home with her family. Prayers of celebration are also asked for **Donna Voelkel** who turns 90 on **Sunday, February 4!!**

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Prayers for healing are asked for **Matt Bird** who has COVID and for his wife **Sarah Sed** on her upcoming surgery.

Redeemer Member Julie Larson Says 'Thank You' as She Moves to Iowa

Member **Julie Larson** writes, "After almost 25 years at Redeemer, I'm sad to say goodbye to my church family. As many of you know, 2023 was a very challenging year with my husband **Ely's** AML diagnosis, then

chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant at MDAnderson. I was back and forth between Houston and Columbus for much of the year, trying to manage life in both places. No longer able to care for our Pickerington property, we decided it was best to sell and start fresh elsewhere. Iowa is my home, so we've moved to Iowa City to start our next chapter as Ely continues his lengthy recovery; **Kolya** will remain in Columbus at least for the near future.

"Thank you for all the prayers, love and support you've given our family over the past year, and really for the past 25 years. I feel so fortunate to have found such an open and inclusive faith community that truly welcomes everyone. Keep doing what you're doing, Redeemer, because you are serving the community in many wonderful ways. I will definitely visit whenever I'm back in Columbus! God's Peace to you all."

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Membership Directory Updates: **Brad Binau's** email address should be BBinau@capital.edu. **Madelyn Zimmer's** new address is 4800 Old S Wadsworth Blvd., #215, Littleton CO 80123. Her daughter **May** reports she is doing "really well."

February Birthdays

1-Michael McClain Jr. 3-Karen Kent
4-Donna Voelkel 5-Andre Friederich
5-Georgene Slagle 6-Richard Amon Jr.
8-William Goshen 8-Robin Stokes
14-Kurt Goshen 15-Nancy Ehrich
16-Heidi Carman 24-Linda Williams
24-Sue Yehling 26-Diane Brobeck
26-Wally Jacobs 28-Colton Day

The Wider Church

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

30 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding" (Psalm 111:10). Give thanks that, in this verse, fear isn't something negative, threatening or worrisome but instead means awe and respect for God and God's ways, which enable us to practice wisdom, compassion and justice throughout life.

31 Pray for leaders and organizations gathered at the Lutheran Services in America Disability Network Winter Meeting in Phoenix, that the Spirit will inspire and guide their work as they empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead their best lives in society, the church and the world.

February 1 Pray for synod hunger team chairs and other key ELCA World Hunger leaders participating in the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering in Houston. Ask the Spirit to guide their work of energizing congregations and synods to end hunger and poverty in the world, bringing relief and hope to our neighbors.

2 Remember in prayer those who suffer from heart disease, heart failure and congenital heart defects. Pray for the doctors, nurses, surgeons, care providers, researchers and chaplains who provide treatment, care and encouragement to patients of all ages and their families.

3 Pray for your synod's leaders, congregations and special ministries. Ask the Spirit to sustain them and stir their creative wisdom in carrying out the mission of the church in a changing and challenging world.

4 Give thanks for Jesus, our Savior, who changed the world not by force or coercion but by demonstrating God's lifesaving love, mercy, care for those who suffer and welcome for those who are excluded. Pray that the example of Jesus and the word of God will guide us in living for one another and sharing the gospel.

5 Pray for peace, healing and justice in places of conflict and violence, especially Ukraine, the Holy Land, Myanmar, Haiti, Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Community Beyond

The city of Columbus Department of Neighborhoods is seeking input into what the future for the Eastland area should be. A part of that planning process includes a questionnaire that is available in the Narthex for individuals to provide their thoughts and ideas.

Those interested should fill it out and deposit it in the box on the table next to the kitchen.

Getting Ready for Worship

5th Sunday of Epiphany, February 4, 2024, 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Mark 1:29-39

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, 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 Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pickerington.
- + For Redeemer community member Heidi Sherer.

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, Kelley Frank's family on the death of her father Wayne Frank, Terry Warren's sister Elaine Warren, Becky Trover, Kevin Bailey, Maggie Rapp.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Julianne Johnson
Cantor	Scott Steiner
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Judith Bird
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence
Communion Prep	Katie and Ruby Jacobs
Producers	Toshi Phillips, Sachio Phillips

*Flowers are given by Julianne Johnson celebrating Sara Auman's birthday.
Noisy Offering will go to Star House center for youth.*

This Week at Redeemer **January 29- February 5, 2024**

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop 1143
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Book Study
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Ed IN-PERSON and ZOOM - Gaza
	12:30 a.m.	Confirmation
Monday	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