



Reflections

VOLUME 28

April 22, 2024

ISSUE 16

In This Issue

What Would You Like to Read About on This Page?

Throughout my years of schooling, I never liked assignments when my teacher said, “Write on whatever aspect of this topic you want to.” Maybe those teachers thought they were doing their students a favor by giving us so much freedom. Maybe they’d gotten tired of reading papers by students who clearly had no interest in more focused assignments. I’m sure some students loved such an open-ended approach. I didn’t. I like being given some ideas or themes to start with. I like having something to respond to, as opposed to having to come up with something totally from scratch.

That’s why I appreciate the fact that we use the lectionary in worship here. While there are challenges with the lectionary, there are more challenges that come from not having that structure and framework. Without the lectionary as a starting place, each week is a blank slate. Each week, a preacher stares at the entire Bible, and chooses a couple of readings to focus on. That makes it too easy to pick only texts that reflect what the preacher already believes, as opposed to having to wrestle with texts that stretch us in uncomfortable ways.

Reflections editor **Judith Bird** and I have a rhythm in which one of us writes this front page one week and the other does the next. Most weeks when it’s my turn, I sit in front of my computer on the Sunday afternoon ... and I feel like I’m back in school, trying to complete the assignment for a class in which the teacher has said, “Write on whatever aspect of this topic you want to.” Because I can write anything I want.

Most weeks, there’s not an obvious theme to focus on.

So most Sunday afternoons, I sit in my office at home and say to myself, “The folks at Redeemer hear me preach every week. What more can I say in this column that would be of any interest to them?” And I stare at the blinking cursor, until something comes up that I hope you might be interested in.

As I stared at my clicking cursor this week, I realized I’ve never asked you if there are topics or themes you’d like me to explore on this page. So that’s what I’m inviting you to you to let me know. Some of you might read this and say, “What a cop-out!” or, “How do you spell p-u-n-t?” And there might be a bit of truth in that! At the same time, I do hope you take my question seriously, and spend a few moments thinking about what you’d enjoy or value my writing about. I genuinely enjoy and value hearing what’s on your minds. And enjoy being freed from feeling like I’m back in school trying to come up with some intelligent essay for an assignment that feels infinitely open-ended 😊 !

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 Wendy Stoica

Laura Warren 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

Want to Get More Involved?

Have you ever wondered how people get chosen to hold a communion tray? The assisting minister generally holds one tray and asks another person to hold the second tray. That person is “chosen” because we know that person has done it in the past and would probably say yes if asked. If YOU are interested in servicing in this capacity, please sign up on the bulletin board under the picture of the communion tray or contact **Kathy Zwanziger**.



In addition, since the pandemic, the “usher team” has been limited to one person. We have now been requested to have at least two ushers, one of whom would stay near the door to the sanctuary and hand out bulletins. This means that you wouldn’t need to help carry the elements down the aisle (unless you wanted to). If mobility is a concern but you want to help, this is a perfect way. Again, if YOU are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board under the picture labeled “Usher” or contact **Kathy Zwanziger**. We intend to let you know prior to the Sunday you would help.



Thanks to all of you for the myriad of ways you contribute to the life and mission of Redeemer!

First 2024 LSS/Food Collective Food Giveaway Serves 370!!



Kathy Zwanziger reports, “The first food giveaway of 2024 was held Thursday, April 18, on a beautiful day! Thanks to all of you for your generous contributions to its success. As we have noted in previous years, the numbers were lower than at the end of last year. Going through the ‘season,’ the numbers tend to increase—word spreads rapidly!

“There were 104 guests representing 370 people (121 children and 68 seniors). We had 35 new families which shows again that many people need assistance in obtaining the food they need. We had a total of 24 volunteers setting up, packing food, distributing food, and taking down the canopies. Thank you all!”

Please remember: the “extra” items for the May Giveaway are soaps: hand and body soaps, bar, gels or foam.

April 28 Adult Ed Class to Hear from Columbus Violence Reduction Team

Sunday morning, April 28, after worship, the Adult Ed class will host the director and three intervention specialists who are part of the city's new program, Columbus Violence Reduction.

Columbus Violence Reduction (CVR) is Columbus’s adaptation of the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) model which is an evidence-based strategy out of the National Network of Safe Communities. CVR is a three-pronged approach that aims to reduce group/gang violence in Columbus, focusing on law enforcement, support and outreach, and community moral voice.

The “law enforcement” message is that any future violence will be met with clear, predictable and certain consequences. The “support and outreach” message is an offer of help from social service providers for those who want it. The “community moral voice” message is a moral message from community representatives that violence will not be tolerated.

The guiding principles of GVI are the following: do no harm; strengthen the community’s capacity to reduce violence; enhance legitimacy; offer help to those that want it; get deterrence right; and use enforcement strategically.

CVR conducts two main interventions with participants: The call-session and custom notifications. These will be explained at the presentation. The CVR is also present in the community in other places such as scene response, hospital intervention, marches, and other events that promote peace and support the creation of community.

Research shows that a very small percentage of the community is driving a large (60-70 percent) of the serious violence. Research also shows that if implemented correctly, CVR/GVI strategies can reduce group/gang violence by 30-40 percent.

One of the driving forces behind the creation of CVR was Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity (BREAD), of which Redeemer is an active member.

The energy behind this team is to do all they can to make sure people stay safe and alive and out of prison.

When news reports often convey the message that violence is an epidemic that can't be slowed down, these leaders will show us that is not true. Transformation is not only possible, it's happening.

'REJOICE!' Theme for Easter Art Exhibit

The Easter theme for Redeemer's Narthex art is REJOICE! Members and friends have loaned a variety of pieces fitting the theme. Stop by the display in the Narthex during this joyous season!

Redeemer Summer Book Study to Focus on Poverty, By America

In recent summer book studies, Redeemer's Book Group has focused on immigration, racism, and death and dying. This summer, they will discuss a book that begins with the statement: "The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why?"

Pulitzer-prize author **Matthew Desmond** dives into that question in his book *Poverty, By America*. He looks at causes, and, most importantly, presents his own solution for how actually to end poverty.

The group will meet Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. on June 19, June 26, July 3, and July 10. The group is starting in June because **Pastor Dave** will be at the ELCA National Youth Gathering in the middle of July. They will meet both in-person and on Zoom.

Both pastor and **Sheryl Owens** look forward to another summer of honest, enriching conversations.

Tuesday Bible Study Focuses on Resurrection Stories

The risen Christ talking with **Mary Magdalene** in the garden when she thinks he's a gardener ... the Road to Emmaus ... Doubting **Thomas** ... the risen Christ cooking breakfast for the disciples and asking **Peter** three times, "Do you love me?": some of the best-known stories in the gospels are stories about encounters people have on or after the first Easter. What do these stories say? What do the resurrection stories in the different gospels have in common? How are they quite different from each other?

Redeemer's weekly Bible study is diving into these and other questions about how Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell the stories of Easter. Join the group Tuesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. in-person or on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82259660622?pwd=R2pHTW11bHR0N1FHbFRZdStqbk9Bdz09>; Meeting ID: 822 5966 0622; Passcode: 435549. Phone only at 312 626 6799.

NEW DATE: Sister Act to Discuss Palestinian History

Sister Act will now be meeting on **Wednesday, May 1** instead of the previously announced date of April 24. Sister Act will further its theme of "Understanding Justice" with a discussion on Palestinian history, led by **Julie Johnson**. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. here at the church.

Being Good Stewards of Earth #2

Michele Disbro writes, "Leading up to Earth Day, we want to offer some good tips on how to be a good steward of the earth. Did you know styrofoam can be recycled? However, don't go putting it into your recycle container. Styrofoam needs to be taken to 3770 Municipal Way in Hilliard or the Convenience Center at 2566 Jackson Pike.

"The Hilliard Styrofoam Collection Shack is across from the compost cans and is open to anyone. While plastic foam is not recyclable through traditional methods, it can be recycled through densification.

"In 2021, the city of Hilliard received a grant from SWACO to purchase Central Ohio's first densifier. The Runi-brand equipment shreds styrofoam and then compresses out the air, reducing the volume of the foam to 1/50th of its original volume. Put into perspective, a stack of styrofoam the size of an SUV can be compressed to the size of one concrete block.

"Recycled styrofoam is commonly used for insulation, picture frames, park benches, coolers, infant car seats and for added protection in sports and motor vehicle helmets.

"Please follow these rules when dropping off styrofoam recycling:

1. "Styrofoam must be clean. Remove all stickers and tape.
2. "Food containers, egg cartons, and styrofoam peanuts are not accepted at this time although they are anticipating accepting those items beginning in July 2024."

(Information collected from the City of Hilliard and City of Dublin websites along with www.ColumbusRecycles.com)

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

Becky Trover asks for prayers for her niece **Olivia Theissen**, who is being deployed to Iran, Kuwait, and Syria for 400 days.

Pastor Dave to Take Vacation April 29-May 12

Pastor Dave is taking two weeks' vacation, beginning **Monday morning, April 29**. He will return to work on **Monday, May 13**.

For members who have an emergency pastoral care need while he is away, please contact **Rev. Julianne Smeck**, pastor of Hope Lutheran Church. She can be reached at 734-972-6126. Redeemer member **Al Rider** will preach and preside on May 5. Redeemer member and Trinity Lutheran Seminary student **Naomi Morgan** will preach on May 12; **Larry Trover** presides that day.

Updated 2024 RLC Member Directory Coming End of April

An updated edition of the 2024 **Redeemer Member Directory** will be published by the end of the month. If anyone has updates to their contact information, please let the church office know at 614-237-1263 or info@RedeemerLuth.com.

April Birthdays

22-Grayson Ullman

23-Andy Skoog 24-Michelle Clemence

24-Elaine Disbro 27-Margie Frazier

27-Dora Pinder 28-Edwina Bradley

The Wider Church

ELCA Church Council Holds Spring Meeting

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met in Chicago, April 11-14. The council, which serves as the ELCA churchwide organization’s board of directors and interim legislative authority between meetings of a churchwide assembly, carries out its work in support of the ELCA’s priority areas of being a welcoming church, a thriving church, and a connected and sustainable church.

In her report to the council, **ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** gave thanks to **Rev. Michael Burk** for his service as presiding bishop pro tempore during her leave of absence. Eaton returned from leave on Monday, March 18.

Addressing the work and purpose of this church, Eaton spoke of the particular witness to the gospel that identifies Lutherans. “The unique work of the church is to give the gospel free course in the world,” Eaton said. “To care for the gospel, including the word as well as the sacraments. No other institution on earth has that charge.”

The council took the following actions:

- Received “Faithful Teaching,” the Common Statement of the Twelfth Round of the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic dialogue. Next year will mark 60 years of dialogue between Lutherans and Catholics in the United States. During this time, substantial progress has been made in discovering the shared unity that is detailed in what are now 12 common statements.
- Adopted “Gun-related Violence and Trauma” as an official social message of the ELCA.
- Authorized the development of a social message on child protection and maltreatment in response to a 2022 Churchwide Assembly memorial.
- Revised a continuing resolution outlining the pre-assembly identification process for the elections of churchwide officers.
- Requested a review of ELCA World Hunger FY24 revenue and expense performance through May 2024, sharing recommendations with the budget and finance committee and authorizing the executive committee to approve necessary revisions to the World Hunger FY24 spending authorization following the review.
- Approved adding a Roth option for elective retirement contributions through Portico Benefit Services, beginning Jan. 1, 2025.
- Approved amendments to the churchwide organization’s personnel policies.

The council received/engaged in the following:

- An update from the co-chairs of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC).
- An update on the God’s Love Made Real initiative.
- An update on the work of the budget prioritization task force.
- Reports and updates from officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and Church Council committees.
- Reports and updates from the Administrative Team.
- Presentations from representatives of the ethnic associations and Reconciling Works.
- Racial justice and gender justice education.
- Personal reflections on faith from council members.
- Worship, prayer and fellowship.

Gaza and Palestine

Julie Johnson submitted the following update on Gaza and Palestine:

“Much has happened since I last updated the article on Palestine. Aid workers from World Central Kitchen have been killed and the United States has taken its firmest stance on Israel’s actions. The known death toll in Gaza is over 33,000 with tens of thousands unaccounted for and probably buried in the rubble that is present day Gaza. Death by famine and disease is ongoing. And the hostages are still be held and their condition is unknowable.

“The question continues to be what can we do? Israel says it will open two more land access points for humanitarian aid. The question remains how speedy the process will be to let aid through and how safe the aid workers are from military attacks.

“These are things we can do:

- “1. Advocate with the Biden administration to continue to press for an immediate ceasefire. This includes support when the administration does act, as they have most recently.
- “2. Support restored funding for UNRWA which has the most experience with aid distribution in Gaza.
- “3. Financially support World Central Kitchen, the World Food Program and Red Crescent who are working directly to provide much needed aid.

“This is an incredibly complex time in an unbelievably complex region. Condemnation of any person, group, religion, or country won’t help. But neither can we be silent.”

Lutheran Women’s Spring Gathering Set for May 5

All Lutheran women are invited to attend the annual Central Ohio Conference Spring Gathering set for **Sunday, May 5** at Peace Lutheran Church (455 Clark State Rd., Gahanna). Guest speaker is **Mary Miller**, a professional musician, humorist and inspirational speaker.

In addition, a freewill offering will be collected for Lutheran Social Services as well as gift cards from Lowes or Home Depot which will be donated to victims of the tornadoes in Logan County for repair and building supplies.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. with the program getting underway at 2 p.m.

Also on the agenda is an update from the conference board as well as singing and refreshments.

Questions should be directed to **Janet Dixon:** 614-475-2772 dixon201@earthlink.net or **Nancy Labuhn:** 614-315-4771 nlabuhn@yahoo.com.

Seminary to Celebrate Anniversary of Tibor Sculpture

Trinity Lutheran Seminary and JewishColumbus will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Alfred Tibor's sculpture honoring Holocaust survivors on **Sunday, May 5** at 2 p.m. at the seminary (2199 E. Main St. Bexley). The sculpture stands at the entrance to the seminary.



Prayer Concerns from ELCA

April 23 To whom do we turn when we are tired or unsure of our path in life? Praise God, who stays by our side through every twist and turn.

24 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Rocky Mountain Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

25 Give thanks for the numerous volunteers from across the country who are training to help youth and their adult leaders at the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans.

26 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Alaska Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

27 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northeastern Minnesota and Virginia synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

28 “Those who say, ‘I love God,’ and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen” (1 John 4:20). Give thanks that God loved us first, so that we might know unconditional love and mercy and pass them along to all our neighbors.

29 “To the servant of God ... every place is the right place, and every time is the right time” (Catherine of Siena, theologian, 1347-1380). Pray for the wisdom to see every moment of every day as an opportunity to honor God through loving, serving and honoring our neighbors in need.

The Community Beyond

Photographer Documents Stories of Central Ohio Refugees

The Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, located in Lancaster (145 E. Main St., Lancaster), is showing the work of photographer **Tariq Tarey** who has documented the stories of Central Ohio residents who were once forced to flee their homes and become among the millions of refugees “who have found hope and resilience in the face of adversity” in the exhibit “from STRUGGLE to STRENGTH.”

The exhibit runs through **Sunday, April 28**. **Krista Skipper** highly recommends making the trek to see it before it closes.

Community Safety Day Set for April 27

Community Safety Day will be held this coming **Saturday, April 27** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Columbus Fire Training Academy (3639 Parsons Ave.) This includes a drug take-back opportunity along with free Naloxone/training, vaccinations, free goodies, information and other resources,

It is sponsored by various departments of the city of Columbus as well as Recover for Life/Franklin County Public Health, Jordan's Crossing Resource Center and Nationwide Children's. For additional information, contact 614-330-3413 or go online to RREACT@Columbus.gov.

CAREgivers' Retreat Set for April 27

The Columbus CARE Coalition, city of Columbus, Star House, the Unified Community and Neighborhood Network and the Center for Family Safety and Healing are sponsoring the CAREgivers' Retreat on **Saturday, April 27** from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Education Center (543 S. 18th St./park in Orange Garage).

Keynote speaker **Dr. Maria Houston** will discuss "Nurturing Resilience: A Journey into Self-Care."

Parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends and activists are invited to participate in this free event.

Register at <https://caregiversretreat2024.eventbrite.com> or email lvela@columbus.gov.

There will be an art exhibit, raffle, swag bags and Resource Fair.

Getting Ready for Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-8

Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 Those Affected by Severe Weather

Merciful and Ever-Present God, we are joined together with our siblings in Christ when they suffer. Continue to be with those who live along the Ohio River, as they prepare their homes, workplaces and communities for flooding. Protect those who are still in danger. Open more safe pathways for evacuations. Gather resources from across the region to help with cleanup once the waters recede. May your love and presence be known in how we respond and care for one another; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Peace

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Intercessor Lutheran Mission in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Sue and Tim Watson.

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, Emily Ott's aunt Kathy Richter, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose, John Kennedy's sister and brother-in-law Becky and Vic Wolfe, Kathie Ehrich; Terry Warren's sister Elaine Warren, Nathaniel Bird's mother-in-law Rose Jordan, Heidi Carman, David Williams, Lorien Dana.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Kathleen Zwanziger
Reader	Kathleen Zwanziger
Cantor	Wendy Stoica
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Ashley Bird
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Michele Disbro, Sue Yehling
Communion Prep	Kathleen Zwanziger, Naomi Morgan
Hospitality	Joanie and Dave Engel

*Flowers are given by Margie Frazier and Dave Lippert in memory of their parents.
Noisy Offering will go to World Central Kitchen.*

This Week at Redeemer

April 22 – 29, 2024

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop 1143
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Garden Meeting
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed
	12:30 p.m.	Youth Gathering
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