

# **Love Does That**

I start two weeks of vacation today. My first week I'll be in a cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Southwest Virginia. I haven't done a private retreat like this for a very long time. And I am ready for some totally unstructured time that allows me to do whatever I feel like doing ... and not do whatever I don't want. It's a total luxury. I have my bike and my hiking boots and my journal and a book on meditation and a couple of DVD's and a novel and a biography. And plenty of food. So it will be beautiful! The second week I'm back in Columbus to enjoy open time here.

As I think about vacation, I think of opening myself to all the love that is out there and inside of me that I often overlook or allow to be crowded out by tasks. Over these next two weeks, I will open myself to that love. And pray you do the same.

The German mystic, Meister Eckart, wrote these words over 700 years ago.

### **Love Does That**

All day long a little burro labors, sometimes with heavy loads on her back and sometimes just with worries about things that bother only burros.

And worries, as we know, can be more exhausting than physical labor.

Once in a while a kind monk comes to her stable and brings a pear, but more than that,

he looks into the burro's eyes and touches her ears and for a few seconds the burro is free and even seems to laugh,

because love does that.

Love frees.

# In This Issue

**ISSUE 16** 

#### Love Does That

The Redeemer Community The Wider Church The Community Beyond Prayers & Personals Getting Ready for Sunday

#### **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

# Superintendent - Emily Ott REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd. Columbus 43227 614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



Dave Shull



# **The Redeemer Community**

# **Donate to 2024 Youth Gathering Yard Sale!**

Redeemer's Youth are raising funds for the 2024 Youth Gathering by holding a yard sale on the church lawn Saturday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To help make the sale a success, they are looking for donations of gently used items in good condition. This could include the following:

- Clothes
- Housewares
- Books
- Toys
- Sporting goods
- And more!

"Your donation will help make the 2024 Youth Gathering a memorable experience for our young people," writes **Wendy Stoica.** 

**Donations can be dropped off at the church by Sunday, June 16.** The current location is in the Fellowship Hall on the stage. "We will update this information soon including how to request pick up of items so stay tuned!"

In the meantime, for any questions, please contact Wendy at <u>wendystoica@earthlink.net</u> or call or text her at 614-477-3247.

# Fans, Fans, and More Fans!

Sister Act is again sponsoring the collection of box fans to be distributed at the June 20 LSS/MidOhio f\Food Giveaway. The goal for this year is 170 fans. (A total of 153 fans were collected last year.)

Folks can either donate fans (**Julie Johnson** suggests watching for sales) or make a monetary donation to Redeemer, noting "Fans" in the memo line.

Questions should be directed to Julie at Julianne.Johnson53@gmail.com .

Fans, fans, and more fans!

# Update on Distribution of 2023 Mission Endowment Fund Monies

**Church Council President Krista** Skipper reports, "At the January 2024 annual meeting, the congregation voted to approve that six organizations receive one-sixth of the 2023 funds (4 percent of the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) balance as of December 31, 2023). A percentage/fractional part of the money is used since the actual dollar amount in the fund is not available until late January.

"A new transmission of funds process was followed this year. The Columbus Foundation is able to directly transfer the funds to recipients that happen to also be members of the Columbus Foundation. All six recipients this year are members."

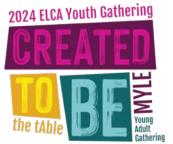
As a result, "Six equal disbursements of \$1,011 were made to Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio, Directions for Youth and Families, Legal Aid Society of Columbus, Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity (B.R.E.A.D.), Hopewood Pines (Lutheran Memorial Camp), and the Bishop Griffin Resource Center.

"The distribution was delayed slightly this year due to a changeover in the IT at the Columbus Foundation and transfers took place as soon as the IT change was completed."

# Sister Act to Discuss Palestinian History

Sister Act will be meeting on <u>Wednesday, May 1</u> to further its theme of "Understanding Justice" with a discussion on Palestine – past, present and future, led by **Julie Johnson.** The group meets at 6:30 p.m. here at the church.

There will be no refreshments served and participants are encouraged, if they are able and choose to, to skip their evening meal before the program. "We rarely experience the sensation of hunger without being able to eat. Doing so that evening gives us some small sense of widespread hunger in Gaza."





# **March Council Meeting**

Council met on <u>**Tuesday, March 26**</u>. Highlights included a discussion of the congregation's "energy level." The Stewardship team will take the lead in coming up with ways to engage the congregation in conversations around this question. Stay tuned for that!

Council also noted that Member Care is establishing a system to alert members by text in the event of an emergency, and their Memorial Garden team will be meeting soon. Again – stay tuned.

**Finance Officer Laura Warren** is working to clarify and simplify some of the monthly documents to provide better understanding for the congregation.

Council's next meeting is **Tuesday, May 28**.

# 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!"

body soaps, bar, gels or foam.

Please remember: the "extra" items for the May Giveaway are soaps: hand and

# **`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.



# Sermon 'Talk Backs' Set for Next Two Weeks

The Adult Education Class for Sundays, May 6 and May 13 will feature sermon "talk backs" where members are encouraged to engage the day's preacher on the sermon. What questions were raised?

Pastor Al Rider will lead the session on May 6 while Naomi Morgan will lead the class on May 13.

# Tuesday Bible Study on Hiatus for Two Weeks, to Begin Romans

The Tuesday Bible study will be on hiatus while **Pastor Dave** is away. When it resumes on <u>Tuesday, May 14</u>, the group will begin a study of the book of Romans. Join the group Tuesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. in-person or on Zoom at <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82259660622?pwd=R2pHTW11bHR0N1FHbFRZdStqbk9Bdz09</u>; Meeting ID: 822 5966 0622; Passcode: 435549. Phone only at 312 626 6799.

# Noisy Offering to Support World Central Kitchen

Redeemer's "Noisy Offering" will go to the World Central Kitchen (WCK) which is first to the frontlines, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. Food is essential to life every single day, all over the world -- and it is more important than ever in a crisis.

Not only is a thoughtful, freshly prepared meal one less thing someone has to worry about in the wake of a disaster, it is a reminder that they are not alone, someone is thinking about them, and someone cares.

Food has the power to be the nourishment and hope we need to pick ourselves back up in the darkest times. This is the foundation of **Chef Jose Andres**, founder of World Central Kitchen. The program began after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. For seven years they worked on resilience programs investing in long- term solutions around the food needs in the Caribbean and Central America.

Then in 2017 with Hurricane Harvey hitting Houston, WCK began to move into action and respond to areas hit by natural disasters. So 2017 they went to Houston.

Since then WCK teams have served meals to people recovering from crisis every single day. Hurricanes, wildfires, tsunamis, and volcano eruptions took the team across the world, growing in knowledge and capacity with each crisis. Initially responding to just natural disasters, WCK quickly expanded the definition of disasters to which we respond – providing nourishing meals for refugees arriving at the U.S. border after fleeing violence and extreme poverty, Venezuelan families lacking access to food in their own neighborhoods, heroic hospital staff working nonstop in the uncertainty of a global pandemic , and Ukrainian families living through an unthinkable invasion and the constant threat of attack.

All of this work is made possible by working with communities wherever WCK teams go – over and over again, WCK sees the best of humanity show up in the worst of times. World Central Kitchen teams across the world remain deeply committed to serving delicious, chef-prepared meals to people with the dignity they deserve.

"As the climate-crisis worsens and disasters become not only larger, but more frequent, we'll continue to be there – and we hope you'll join us. As José likes to say, 'everyone is a part of World Central Kitchen, they may just not know it yet!"".

Recently, members of one of WCK's relief teams were killed while going into Gaza to deliver food. **Kay Ernsthausen** writes, "Since the bombing in Gaza there has been an earthquake in Taiwan. There are so many places that need food. We do what we can for our neighbors with the food giveaways and the garden and this is an opportunity to feed those who are hungry around the world. For more information on World Central Kitchen look them up at <u>https://wck.org</u>."

# Being Good Stewards of Earth #3

Michele Disbro asks, "Do you recycle right?

1. The recycling symbol /# does NOT mean an item is recyclable.

2. Do not put plastic bags in with the recycling. They get caught in the machines. Take them to a store drop-off along with other stretchy plastic.

3. Clamshells for salads and berries are not recyclable.

4. Remove the metal lids from the glass jars but keep the plastic lids on the plastic bottles.

5. Do not recycle items with contamination. A little grease on cardboard is fine but tear off places with food remnants stuck to it.

6. Aluminum foil, pie tins, and basting pans are not recyclable.

7. Shredded paper should be put in a see-through plastic bag (only exception to rule #2).



# **Important Emails**

<u>Dshull@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – 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.

<u>MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – 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.

<u>Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use for communicating with Redeemer's IT Team for items related to the website. <u>Property@RedeemerLuth.com</u> – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

<u>Transportation@redeemerluth.com</u> – use to request temporary transportation assistance.

<u>Communications@redeemerluth.com</u> – 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 the middle east for 400 days. Prayers also are asked for our basketball coach **Tom Mitchell**, recovering from surgery.

### Pastor Dave Takes Vacation April 29-May 12

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

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 Now Available

The updated edition of the 2024 **Redeemer Member Directory** is now available. It can be picked up in the church office. Or call the church office at 614-237-1263 to have it either mailed or emailed. Thanks to **Diane Brobeck** for keeping this resource up-to-date!

The following two updates have been received since the directory has been published:

- Add Kathy Richter, 1260 Marks Rd., Apt. F, Valley City, OH 44280-9816; KARichter@gmail.com.

- Naomi Morgan has a new address: 651 Sheridan Ave., Columbus OH 43209.

#### **May Birthdays**

1-Daniel Pawlowski 2-Nicholas Amon
2-Trevor Binau 2-Jon Denniss
3-Heidi Sherer 5-Nancy Magargal
8-Kay Ernsthausen 8-Auden Neal
8-Kathryn Ott 11-Logan Baldogo
14-Ty Pawlowski 17-Mary Benis

Reflections

17-Ken Jones 19-Al Debelak20-Jackson Harms 21-Paul Voytas22-Dave Lippert 26-Brad Dana26-Kathie Ehrich 29-Barbara Willmann

# **The Wider Church**

# **Gaza and Palestine Update**

Julie Johnson submitted the following update on Gaza and Palestine:

- The death toll in Gaza has topped 34,000. This does not include tens of thousands of people missing and presumed buried in rubble.

- Children account for approximately 44 percent of those killed in Gaza.

- Winter is over now, and warmer weather has brought more spread of disease in Gaza.

- A report from France found that Israel has not provided any evidence for the accusation that about a dozen employees of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) took part in the October 7 attack by Hamas. This accusation caused several nations, including the U.S. to halt aid to the group which is critical to humanitarian aid distribution in Gaza. Congress has passed a measure that halts aid to UNRWA for a year. <u>Please advocate for this to change</u>.

- Israel, under intense international pressure, has opened another passage into Gaza for humanitarian aid. In spite of this, the number of trucks with humanitarian aid rarely equals the daily total before October 7.

- Israel has, in the past three months, taken more land from the occupied West Bank than at any time since the Oslo accords.

- At least 482 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed by the Israeli Defense Forces or settlers since October 7.

"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 <u>Sunday</u>, <u>May 5</u> 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 <u>dixon201@earthlink.net</u> or **Nancy Labuhn**: 614-315-4771 <u>nlabuhn@yahoo.com</u>.

# Seminary to Celebrate Anniversary of Tibor Sculpture

Trinity Lutheran Seminary and JewishColumbus will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alfred Tibor's sculpture honoring Holocaust survivors on <u>Sunday, May 5</u> 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 30** Thank God for the gift of baptism, which affirms our faith, washes us clean with God's love and forgiveness, welcomes us to the vast community of siblings in Christ and grants us a new life of service and sharing the gospel wherever we go.

May 1 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Give thanks for our Asian and Pacific Islander neighbors and siblings in Christ, and for their cultures, languages and contributions to our nation and church. Pray



for the well-being of Asian and Pacific Islander congregations and ministries of the ELCA as well as the work of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders.

2 National Day of Prayer Join with our siblings in Christ in praying for the well-being of the church, our neighbors in need and the leaders of our communities and nation. Ask God to help us resolve the problems and issues that keep us from thriving in unity.

**3** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Minneapolis Area, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Arkansas-Oklahoma and Southwestern Texas 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.

4 Pray for congregational young-adult ministries, ELCA Young Adult Ministry, Abide small-group ministry, Young Adults in Global Mission, Lutheran Campus Ministry Network, Lutheran outdoor ministries and long-term volunteer service organizations. Ask God to bless leaders who serve young adults as they seek community, strengthen their faith, find opportunities to serve, and discern their gifts and vocations.

5 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). These words, spoken by Jesus to his followers, seem simple and unambiguous, yet we respond with resistance and stipulations. Pray that we might turn to the word of God and the example of Jesus to see the power of humility and fearless, unconstrained love.

6 National Nurses Week Pray for faith community nurses, who nurture and care for the whole person -- body, mind and spirit -- and promote wellness in Lutheran congregations, ministries and agencies; other denominations; and our communities. Give thanks for the ministry of the Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association, which promotes health and well-being in faith communities and supports nurses serving in a variety of roles across the country.

# **Getting Ready for Worship Sixth Sunday of Easter** May 5, 2024 - 10 a.m.

#### Lessons

Readings: 1 John 5:1-8; Psalm 98; John 15:9-17

# Prayer of the Dav

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Tamara Wawrosch and Noah and Maddie Gosnell.

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, David Williams, Lorien Dana, basketball coach Tom Mitchell.



# **Worship Leaders**

Presiding Minister	Al Rider
Assisting Minister	Kay Ernsthausen
Reader	Georgene Slagle
Cantor	Heidi Sherer
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Zak Hinkle-Moore, Ruth Murray
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Toshi Phillips, Sachio Phillips
Communion Prep	Carol Heacock, Becky Trover
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence

Flowers are given by Laura and Terry Warren in honor of their mothers. Noisy Offering will go to World Central Kitchen.

#### This Week at Redeemer April 29 – May 6, 2024

Monday 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Tr	oop 1143
Wednesday 12:30 p.m. RLC at LSS I	•
6:30  p.m. Sister Act – Le	earning about Palestine
Sunday 8:45 a.m. Senior Choir R	Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON and	d LIVESTREAM Worship
11:15 a.m. IN-PERSON and	d ZOOM Adult Ed
2:00-4:00 p.m. Suzuki Music	Columbus concert
Monday 5:00 p.m. ZOOM Executi	ve Team
5:30 p.m. Girl Scout Tro	op 2462
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Tre	oop 1143

With joy and thanksgiving you are invited to witness and celebrate

# THE ORDINATION OF

# Jillanne Disbro

TO THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

#### Sunday, May 19th at 4pm

In person at **University Lutheran Chapel** 2425 College Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704 You can also join on Zoom!

RSVP to let us know if you will attend in person or if you'd like the Zoom link: https://jdordination.eventbrite.com

Reception with light refreshments to follow the service



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