



# Reflections

VOLUME 28

July 22, 2024

ISSUE 29

## We Are Also Citizens

*Editor's Note: On the heels of the recent conclusion of a multi-week discussion of the ELCA's proposed "Draft Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith" in the Sunday Adult Forum and given the developments over the weekend when **President Joe Biden** announced he is not seeking re-election, the following article from **ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** seems most apropos.*

The airwaves are filled with contentious political discourse. And, as we get closer to the November election, it will undoubtedly get louder and coarser. Each side seeks to catch the other with questions that aren't designed for clarity and dialogue but to further its own agenda. **Martin Luther's** explanation of the Eighth Commandment in the Small Catechism – "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. *Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light*" – is barely visible in the rearview mirror.

But the "gotcha" question isn't a modern invention. "Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ... Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (the emperor) or not?" (Matthew 22:15-17). We know the answer. Jesus told them: "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" (21).

This passage has been used to inform the relationship between the institutions of the state and the community of faith. In this relationship the authority of the state is real and respected – but limited. God's authority is acknowledged as ultimate and deserving of ultimate devotion and obedience, yet it doesn't necessitate withdrawal from or opposition to participation in civic life and its responsibilities. We Lutherans call this the doctrine of two kingdoms, and we understand that the church and the state, the spiritual and the temporal, are *both* established by God and are *both* part of God's twofold rule. Both church and state are good gifts from God.

Lutherans have been accused of congenital quietism. Our understanding of God's twofold rule and even the story about paying taxes in Matthew have been used to discourage participation in civic life. However, active participation in public life has been part of the Lutheran movement from its beginning. Lutherans don't withdraw from public life. In fact, the ELCA's constitution pledges us to "work with civil authorities in areas of mutual endeavor, maintaining institutional separation of church and state in a relation of functional interaction."

Active participation in public life has been part of the Lutheran movement from its beginning. Lutherans don't withdraw from public life.

I have been voting for 51 years. I can't think of an election cycle more fraught and divisive than this one. People all across the political spectrum claim that life as we know it is on the line. It's not possible to agree to disagree – one must decide and put a stake in the ground. There is the potential for violence.

*Continued on p. 3*

## In This Issue

[We Are Also Citizens](#)

[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 CONGREGATION 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](http://www.redeemerluth.com)



## The Redeemer Community

### Confirmation Set for Sunday; *Wear Red to Celebrate!*

Besides sharing their experiences at the ELCA Youth Gathering earlier this month, two of Redeemer's youth who went to New Orleans – **Toshi Phillips** and **Andy Skoog** – will be confirmed this coming **Sunday, July 28**. Others who went and will be discussing their experiences were **Izzy Skoog**, **Sophie Skoog** and **Sachio Phillips** as well as **Wendy Stoica** and **Pastor Dave**.

In addition, Sunday also marks **Pastor Dave's** last Sunday before he leaves for his three-month Sabbatical.

### Latest Narthex Art Exhibit Up; It Is *Awesome*

The second installment of "Redeemer Through the Seasons" Art Exhibit, this one focusing on pictures of the church property throughout the years is now up. It is an awesome walk through Redeemer's history and the people who were here. Thanks to all who compiled the many photo albums of the church's decades of activities and to those who provided pictures for the display.

In addition, here is a link to the digital album of Redeemer street view since 2007, compliments of **Tom Mimplitch**: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/LZA6VdKPwTAsRDBG9>.

### Sign a Square

In preparation for Redeemer's 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, folks are encouraged to sign a quilt square for a wall hanging that **Kathy Mimplitch** is working on. The squares can be found on a table in the Narthex. Select one and write or print your name on the white stripe with the markers provided. Other decorative embellishments can be added such as a smiley face, hearts, etc.

### RLC to Provide Garden Shed for Bishop Griffin Resource Center



*The slab has been poured for the garden shed at the Bishop Griffin Resource Center.*

On April 15, the Adult Education class asked the director of the Bishop Griffin Resource Center (BGRC), **Nancy DeRoberts-Moore**, what Redeemer Lutheran Church could do to support their mission. She spoke of the need for a tool shed for their community garden, and the class responded with spirited discussion of possible costs and types of sheds.

The next week **Larry Trover** began working with **Marge Telerski**, coordinator of the community garden at BGRC, to see what we could do. After considering several sheds and sources, in May they decided on a 12' x 12' steel shed available from Menard's. Cost of the complete shed kit is

\$1,250. Estimate for a concrete pad to put it on is \$1,250.

RLC has designated BGRC to receive noisy offerings. Checks may be made payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church with BGRC on the memo line. *Please give as the Spirit moves you.*

### Corn Roast Set for August 4

The congregation will hold a corn roast on **Sunday, August 4** to officially welcome **Pastor Brad** as Redeemer's interim pastor during **Pastor Dave's** Sabbatical. While corn and beverages will be provided, folks are asked to bring a dessert, salad, dessert, veggies or dessert .... 😊

Weather permitting, folks will eat outside so also plan to bring lawn chairs.

### Produce/School Supply Giveaway Serves 190 Families

**Kathy Zwanziger** reports that the weather for Redeemer's food giveaway on **Thursday, July 18** was MUCH more comfortable than in June. "I think the 30 volunteers would agree!"

"We used the new approach: one person commented that the Narthex looked like a data center, with several people entering the information into the system. Although we had 100 fewer people than in June, we still served 190 families for a total of 603 people, 191 of them children (and 139 seniors).

"We again had 52 new families (the same as May but 30 fewer than June). Although the numbers were down, volunteers said they were busy the entire time. Indeed, at one-point cars were reported to be lined up as far as Berwick School.

“Thanks to all of YOU who served our neighbors by volunteering that day as well as those who contributed the school supplies (and summer care products in June). YOU helped the day be a success!”

## Sister Act to Discuss ‘Lessons in Chemistry’ in August

Join Sister Act on **Wednesday, Aug. 21** at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the book, *Lessons in Chemistry*, by **Bonnie Garmus**. This gives folks time to get the book and read it. *Lessons in Chemistry* is a fun book about **Elizabeth Zott**, a not-so-average woman in the 1960’s. [After all, Sister Act would probably ask “Is there such a thing as an average women???”]

As the *Washington Post* wrote “Meet Elizabeth Zott: ‘a gifted research chemist, absurdly self-assured and immune to social convention’ in 1960s California whose career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a beloved TV cooking show.

“Hope you can join us for a lively discussion!”

## New Tulip Tree Planted at Redeemer

**Al Rider** has donated a small tulip tree sapling which is now planted in the lawn at Redeemer. It is surrounded by some fencing between the parking lot and the flower garden. While quite small at this point, it’s known to be a fast grower with a mature height of 60-90 feet. It blooms in May and June, producing tulip-shaped flowers with aromatic stems. Pollinators seem to like the flowers. This should be fun to watch it grow!



Photo by Ashley Bird

## RLC Garden Giveaways Now Underway

Redeemer’s Saturday morning veggie giveaways are now underway. For those who are interested in volunteering, harvesting begins between 8:30 and 9 a.m. with weighing and recording the produce before starting the giveaway at 10 a.m.

Returning and new volunteers are asked to contact Jon at [Jon.Disbro@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:Jon.Disbro@nationwidechildrens.org).

## We Are Also Citizens *cont’d from p. 1*

But division and violence don’t have to be our inevitable future. On Nov. 5, no matter the outcome, we will still be here together. Our church, our people, our congregations will still be here and will witness that unity doesn’t mean uniformity; that what binds us together is new life in Christ; that the church – and our country – are bigger than our “tribe”; and that baptism proves that water is thicker than blood.

This is not “both side-ism.” Based on Scripture and the Confessions and forged through prayer, there are principles that aren’t debatable: love, community, sacrifice for the common good, to name a few. Instead, we are free and forgiven in Christ so that even when we disagree on deeply held convictions, we can still see the other as someone for whom Christ died.

Something that is missed when reading the story of Jesus and taxes is what he reveals about God and the world God so loves. We focus on Caesar. If Caesar’s image and title are imprinted on a base metal coin, a humanly created, literal graven image, where is God’s image to be found? Human creatures – the living beings whom God created in God’s own image, into whom God breathed the breath of life – are bearers of God’s image in the world.

Dear church, our citizenship is ultimately in heaven. But we are also citizens of this country – this flawed, fractious, unequal, imperfect union. In U.S. political history, people have yearned and given their lives for what they had hoped for – democratic life for the sake of the flourishing of all. One of the ways we serve our neighbor is to participate in civic life. Can we see Election Day as a unifying event when the whole country goes to the polls?

Vote.

## 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

**Ashley Bird** offers a prayer of thanksgiving for the outcome of his medical tests and thanks everyone for their prayers.

+ + +

**Julie Johnson** reported Sunday that another \$300 to \$400 had been collected for fans. That will be carried over to next summer when she said the goal will be to give away 200 fans.

## July Birthdays

22-Alta Boreman

22-Noah Gosnell 25-Tracy Hoddinott Ervin

27-Tom Mimlitch 29-Kathy Mimlitch

29-Becky Trover

## The Wider Church

### First English to Hold Speaker Series

First English Lutheran Church and Urban Connections are sponsoring a speaker series on "Impacting Community" on the fourth Sunday of every month. The first presentation, set for **Sunday, July 28**, will feature **Sam Gresham** and **Molly Shack** of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative. It begins at 6:30 p.m. at First English (1015 E. Main St.)

## Prayer Concerns from ELCA

**July 23** Praise God and give thanks for the leaders and volunteers who planned and implemented the ELCA Youth Gathering, Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), the tAble event and the Young Adult Gathering. Give thanks for congregations, community organizations, residents and community leaders in New Orleans who demonstrated hospitality and shared their wisdom and resources to help make the ELCA Youth Gathering experience safe, relevant and impactful.

**24** "The Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1). We may not be familiar with the work of shepherds anymore, but we do know the joy and relief of having God in our lives to guide us, comfort us, restore us and walk with us through darkness and evil. Give thanks and praise to God, our ever-present shepherd!



**25** Remember in prayer young adults nearing the end of their yearlong volunteer service in the Young Adults in Global Mission program. Give thanks for their faith, gifts, witness and commitment to ministry, and pray that the Spirit will prepare them to pursue new opportunities for service and ministry in the church, our communities and the world.

**26** Pray for peace and civility in our nation, for the mending of rifts and ideologies that isolate us and for the diverse gifts, perspectives and life experiences that enrich and inform our life together.

**27** Pray that the companion synod relationships connecting ELCA synods and congregations with Lutheran churches around the world will flourish and will nurture and strengthen these congregations for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

**28** Do you see God doing great work with things that may seem small or insignificant to us? Lift up in prayer the things we witness that restore our faith, stir hope and reassure us that God is present and active in our lives, communities and world.

**29** Pray for the Spirit to sustain the faith and energy of staff serving in summer camps and community ministries. Pray that their service experiences will enrich their lives and faith and will equip and inspire them to pursue other service opportunities and vocations.

## Getting Ready for Worship

**10th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Confirmation – *Wear Red!***

**July 28, 2024 – 10 a.m.**

**Lessons**

**Readings:** Genesis 1:26-28, 31; Psalm 139:13-18; Mark 12:28-31

### Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, 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 St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newark.

+ For Redeemer community members Brad Binau and Ann Palmerton, Martin, Grace and Trevor Binau.

***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, her son-in-law Brandon James, and her niece Olivia Theissen, Skye Andree, Carolyn Moehring, Kris Kauffman, 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 father-in-law Wendell Jordan, Kandice Hoddinott-Ward, Brittany Amon, John Huber, Mary Watts, Barbara and David Hairston, Dottie and Larry Bird, Paul Johnson, Carol Heacock.

## Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	<b>Pastor Dave Shull</b>
Assisting Minister	<b>Kay Ernsthausen</b>
Cantor	<b>Connie Criswell</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>Mike Benis</b>
Verger	<b>Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica</b>
Producers	<b>Sue Yehling, Tom Mimplitch</b>
Hospitality	<b>Joss and Lorien Dana</b>
Communion Prep	<b>Kay Ernsthausen, Michele Disbro</b>

*Flowers are given by Rose, first anniversary of Glenn  
The Noisy Offering will go towards construction of a tool shed at the Bishop Griffin Resource Center.*

## This Week at Redeemer

**July 22– July 29, 2024**

<b>Monday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Journaling Workshop
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
<b>Sunday</b>	10 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship and <b>Confirmation – Wear Red!</b>
	11:15 a.m.	Sabbatical Team Q&A – narthex
<b>Monday</b>	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop 2462
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts



**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



# Created to Be – the journey!

