



Reflections

VOLUME 29

June 30, 2025

ISSUE 25

Picnic Time!!

Redeemer members and friends gathered on the lawn and inside in the Narthex and Library Sunday for a potluck picnic where food and conversation were shared in abundance!



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OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor – Rev. Dave 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

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President – Brad Binau

Vice President – Ashley Bird

Finance Officer - Laura Warren

Secretary – Rich Pautsch

Worship - Michelle Clemence

Education – Karen Rider

Outreach – Mary Benis

Member Support – Kathy Mimlitch

Property - April Smith

Stewardship - Kathy Denhard

APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer – Kay Ernsthausen

MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Misato In Sara Auman

Emlyn Ott Rich Pautsch

SPECIAL FUNDS TEAM

Wendy Stoica, Chair Hitoshi Phillips

Emily Kent John Kennedy

Terry Warren Laura Warren [ex officio]

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Basketball Camp Opens; Donations of **8 Oz.** Bottles of Water Needed

Redeemer's summer basketball camp for youth ages 8 to 14, led by former NBA and ABA player **Coach Larry Jones**, is now underway and members are asked to donate **8 oz.** bottles of water for use by participants – especially given the heat warnings out for this week.. They can be placed in the coatroom, just off the Narthex.

A total of 51 youth are registered. Redeemer provides this camp for free. It runs for six weeks, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. It concludes on **Thursday, July 18.**

Coach Jones commented that this camp had the “best first night ever!”

RLC to Serve Dinner at First English on July 10

On **Thursday, July 10**, Redeemer is scheduled to provide the dinner at First English. The menu will be: Sloppy Joe sandwiches, tater tots, celery sticks and baby carrots w/ranch dressing, and fresh fruit. There will be lemonade and water also available for the dinners. “We will need enough food for 100 dinners which will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Volunteers will need to be at First English by 4:30 p.m. to help,” says coordinator **Kay Ernsthansen**.

She goes on, “The Sloppy Joes (made with two pounds of ground beef or turkey) need to arrive at First English hot. If you would like them picked up on Thursday, we have drivers who can help with this. Just let Kay know you would like a pick up.

“The tater tots come frozen in a bag. They can be put in the freezer upstairs or downstairs. The most economical packages I found were the five-pound family fun bag. Both Giant Eagle and Gordon Food Service carry the five-pound bags. The celery and carrots should be the baby carrots and the ready to eat celery sticks. We need the family size ranch dressing bottles; we will break it down into small cups. The fresh fruit we are looking for Cuties/Clementines or mandarin oranges -- small citrus that is easy to peel. The grapes can be red or green. We will break them down into small bunches. Remember for all the food, we are serving 100 dinners.

“There is also a need for servers. Five to six servers will be good to have. For any questions contact Kay.

“Following is the recipe for Sloppy Joes – from **Kathy Mimplitch** –that has been used in the past.

“Thank you all for your commitment to this ministry.”

2 lb lean ground beef or ground turkey

1/2 cup chopped onion

1/2 cup chopped green pepper

1 tsp garlic powder

2 tsp prepared yellow mustard

1 1/2 cups ketchup

6 tsp brown sugar

Salt and pepper to taste

In a medium skillet over medium heat, brown the ground beef, onion and green pepper. Drain off liquids. Stir in garlic powder, mustard, ketchup and brown sugar. Mix thoroughly. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

This makes ~ 12 servings.

Notes from Kathy: “I usually omit the green pepper (I don't like it)! I sometimes use ketchup and barbecue sauce instead of just ketchup. I almost double the brown sugar as I like it sweet.”

'Noisy Offering' to Go to Kenyan Rescue Centre

Kay Ernsthansen reports that Redeemer's “Noisy Offering” will now go to Sikhone Rescue Centre in Kitengela, Kenya. According to Kay, this is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to provide a physically and psychologically safe space for abused women and neglected children to learn and grow.

The center is a “gender-based violence recovery center where at-risk women and their children are provided shelter, health care, legal representation, and education. Children are nurtured and empowered through primary school at Rehoboth Learning Centre while at-risk women will be employed and educated on our sustainable teaching farm.”

“Sikhona” translates from Zulu to mean, “I Exist”

Kay continues, “The U.S. Executive Director of Sikhone Rescue Centre is **Elli Watchman**. Elli is a graduate of Capital University and was in the first Bonner Class at Capital. As a Bonner student Elli volunteered 10 hours a week at First English. I knew her then, and I know her father- **Pastor Steve Watchman**, senior pastor at Holy Trinity Church in Upper Arlington. I have chosen this organization as it gives HOPE to those who are suffering from abuse. I also want us to see there is a world out there that is not turned upside down by the U.S. political system.”

Columbus Safety Collective Campaign Continues to Collect Signatures

Michele Disbro reports, “The Columbus Safety Collective (CSC) continues to gather signatures for the Non-Police Crisis Response campaign. To qualify for the November ballot, we need 25,000 valid signatures by **Sunday, July 20**. So far, we’ve gathered about 8,500, with a 70 percent validation rate (6,500 valid). There were some filing issues which have delayed the time we have had to collect signatures.

“If we miss the July deadline for the November ballot, the CSC will continue the collection of signatures to meet the deadline for the May 2026 ballot. [Here](#) is a link for a recent news story on CBS regarding this important campaign:

“If you are registered to vote in the city of Columbus and still have not signed the petition, please see **Kristi Hildebrand** or **Michele Disbro**. Please also reach out to Kristi or Michele if you would like to collect or validate signatures and you will be connected to the organizers of this campaign. If you would like to donate money, go to this [website](#). Thank you for your support of this Non-Police Crisis Response campaign. Be sure to talk it up with your friends (especially if they live in Columbus!).”

Recycle Old, Unusable Clothing, Fabric!

Michele Disbro asks, “Did you know the average person throws away around 70 pounds of clothing each year and most of it ends up in landfills? The city of Upper Arlington, in partnership with SWACO Circular Thrift, and Sustainable UA, has launched a textile recycling drop-off pilot program running from now through **Sunday, Aug. 31**.

“This initiative provides a convenient and eco-friendly way to dispose of worn-out or damaged clothing and household textiles – items that are no longer suitable for donation or resale and would otherwise end up in the landfill. Donating your old clothing and fabrics allows them to be repurposed into insulation, industrial rags, or other products rather than ending up in the landfill.

What Can Be Donated?

“This program is specifically for end-of-life textiles -- items that are stained, ripped, or otherwise unsuitable for traditional donation or resale. Accepted items fall into the following five categories:

- Denim
- Sweatshirts & fleece (with hardware such as zippers or buttons)
- T-shirts and sweatshirts (without hardware)
- 100% polyester items
- Other items include sheets, towels, blankets, socks, underwear, and bras (no underwire)

“If you would like to donate any of these fabric items, please bring them to church in a bag and Michele will drop them off at the UA Textile Recycling Bin. **All items should be clean and dry.**”

No Cooling Center at Redeemer This Summer

After repeated attempts, **Pastor Dave** was finally able to connect with a city official to get some clarification on the guidelines for cooling centers in Columbus this summer. Originally, the request had been for faith communities to participate and to design their programs around the days and hours that worked best for their ministries.

Now, however, it turns out that the city is really interested only in sites that can be available during their regular hours of operation, which is expected to be M-F from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. So Redeemer’s plan to make the church available from 12 to 8 p.m. does not meet the city’s guidelines since those are not our regular business hours.

Members of the Outreach Team have greatly appreciated the positive response they’ve received from many in the congregation and the overall willingness to commit to such a major undertaking. “This may not be the right vehicle for Redeemer’s outreach to the community this summer, but it’s provided another reason to be proud of Redeemer and its focus on helping others,” **Mary Benis** writes.

LSS Food Pantry Seeks Produce Donations

In light of reductions in the state of Ohio budget resulting in less funds for Ohio foodbanks, Lutheran Social Services (LSS) reports that they recently learned that Mid-Ohio Food Collective has had to make the difficult decision to eliminate its daily produce shop-through service provided to food pantries for the month of July. While LSS Food Pantries will still receive produce from MOFC; “the removal of this service will significantly reduce the amount of produce we will have to offer the families we serve each week in Franklin and Delaware counties ... create[ing] a gap in the resources for the month of July”

As a result, LSS is asking for donations of bags of potatoes, salad kits, bags of grapes and carrots. These items can be taken to the pantry at 1460 S Champion Ave **any Tuesday in July, between 9 a.m.-12 p.m.** OR items can

be dropped off at the regularly scheduled volunteer shift, at the Champion Food Pantry. Redeemer is next set to work on **Wednesday, July 2** and **Thursday, July 17**.

From the Council

To keep the congregation informed about what your Council is doing, each month look for an article that summarizes the significant matters before the Council.

Work begins soon on the automatic doors for the main restrooms. Thanks to **Bob Rapp** for helping with the electrical work. Once the electrical work is completed, the openers will be installed. The doors will be rehung to swing inward instead of outward.

We continue to keep a close eye on issues related to our financial reporting. We have had some transition challenges with The Wells Group transitioning to The Long Group. We thank **Laura Warren** and the Finance Team for their diligence with this matter.

While Redeemer was looking in to becoming a cooling center this summer, that has not worked out. (See separate story, this issue of *Reflections*.)

We have already begun preliminary work on the 2026 spending plan. If you have ideas for ministries that require funding from the spending plan, council invites you to share them.

Council will be taking July off. Back in August.

Sister Act Updates Summer Schedule

After some conversations, Sister Act has cancelled its July 30 event because it was inadvertently scheduled for the last night of the July book study. In addition, **Michelle Clemence** feels only one gathering is needed for making the Christmas ornaments for the new tree at church. That meeting is set for **Wednesday, Aug. 6** at 6:30 p.m. here at Redeemer.

In addition, another Sister Act event has been scheduled: an outing on **Friday, Aug. 22** to go to hear **Nadia Bolz-Weber**. See this [link](#) for more information and to reserve a free ticket. (See separate story, this issue.)

Sponsors Sought to Provide Refreshments after Worship

There are no sponsors for refreshments beginning **Sunday, July 13** and for most days for the remainder of the summer! Groups at Redeemer, friends or individuals are sought to provide refreshments following the worship services over the summer. This provides a chance for folks to linger and reconnect with members and friends here at Redeemer. Sign ups for June, July, and August are on the bulletin board outside the Library in the hallway or call the church office.

Narthex Art Turns to 'Colorful Creation' for Pentecost

Inspired by the first couple verses of Isaiah 35 which mention “Wilderness and desert will sing joyously... a symphony of song and color,” the Narthex art theme for Pentecost turns to “Colorful Creation.” Stop by to see the latest items on loan from members of the congregation!

Summer Book Group to Read/Discuss Book on James Baldwin

Pastor Dave wrote in the April 28 issue of *Reflections*: “I don’t know how many of us at Redeemer have read anything by **James Baldwin**. Baldwin (1924-1987) has been called the best-known Black writer during the period of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Even though he died almost 40 years ago, more and more writers in this country are looking back to him to try to understand how the unwillingness among White people to look honestly at our country’s treatment of Black people keeps us from healing and being able truly to become a country whose laws and attitudes reflect we truly believe that ‘all are created equal.’

“This summer, we will do a deep dive into the thoughts, words, and faith of Baldwin as we read *The Gospel According to James Baldwin: What America’s Great Prophet Can Teach Us about Life, Love, and Identity*. At just under 200 pages, this 2024 work was written by **Greg Garrett**, whom BBC Radio has called “one of America’s essential voices on religion and culture.” Beginning **Wednesday, July 9** and then on **July 16, 23** and **30**, we will read and discuss this book from 7-8:30 p.m. in-person and on Zoom.” (**Note: the dates have changed!**)

For the first class, folks are asked to read the first 56 pages and to bring a question from the reading to ask the group.

Sign Up Now to Read at Worship Services

Readers for Sunday morning services can now sign up for services over the winter. Readers, including youth and children, are encouraged to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, next to the Library. Readers are still needed for **Sundays, July 6** on (except for **Sunday, Aug. 10**).

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.**

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 for healing are asked for **Pastor Al Debelak** who is now home after recent open-heart surgery. He is currently on an extended round of antibiotics. Prayers are also asked for his wife **Karen Riccio**. Prayers for comfort continue to be asked for **Ellen Rose** and her mother **Ruth Murray**, as Ellen is in hospice care.

+ + +

Member Directory Update: Bill Boys has a new email address: wboys43206@gmail.com.

Pastor Dave on Vacation through July 6

Pastor Dave is currently on vacation through **Sunday, July 6**, returning to work on **Monday, July 7**. Members who have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact **Pastor Julianne Smeck** from Hope Lutheran Church at 734-972-6126.

On **Sunday, July 6**, Redeemer member the **Rev. Emlyn Ott** will preach and preside.

A Thank You

Nancy Steiner wrote, "I would like to thank all the ladies of RLC Sister Act for the beautiful hand made cards. The messages are always loving and inspiring. Thank you for spreading happiness."

***Christ in Our Home* for July-Sept. Available**

The latest edition of the daily devotional booklet *Christ in Our Home* for July through September is now available on the Kiosk in the Narthex. Copies are free for anyone who would like one.

July Birthdays

1-Bruce Collins 1-Karen Riccio
3-Caroline Ott 5-Sachio Phillips
7-Diane Montgomery 8-Kathleen Zwanziger
11-Evelyn Boreman 12-Payton Amon
16-Kandice Hoddinott 17-Cora Marquez
18-Kelley Frank 19-Terry Warren
21-Grace Jones 22-Alta Boreman
22-Noah Gosnell 25-Tracy Hoddinott Ervin
27-Tom Mimlitch 29-Kathy Mimlitch
29-Becky Trover 31-Marilyn Roberts

The Wider Church

Considering Ways to Support Immigrants

Church Council has appointed **Julie Johnson** to lead a new ministry group to explore ways Redeemer can support those seeking to immigrate legally to or to remain legally in the United States. People on this ministry group include **Elaine Disbro, Kelley Frank, Emily Ott, Karen Rider and Dave Shull.**

The ELCA is a “Sanctuary Denomination.” As the ELCA website states: “In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith.”

Among the tasks the ministry group has identified are the following:

- Keeping informed of the rapid changes affecting specific refugee and immigrant groups initiated by the Trump administration.
- Keeping informed of the legal actions and the status of those actions.
- Ensuring that those we know who are potentially affected have access to resources to help them.
- Learning about the various ways that Redeemer can consider how to be a sanctuary to immigrants and refugees.
- Learning what churches in our area are doing and have done to support immigrants and refugees.
- Exploring what the implications and factors would be in considering all of the options that we might be called upon to consider.
- Reporting our findings to the Congregation Council.

“One immediate way that individuals and Redeemer can walk along with immigrants at this critical time is by supporting CRIS Ohio. The Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) is a nonprofit agency in Central Ohio that provides a variety of services to refugees and immigrants. “The quickest way to support CRIS is directly through either their website at crisohio.org or by calling 614-235-5747. You can also donate by writing a check to Redeemer and note in the memo line CRIS. Donations through Redeemer are usually delayed by at least a month.

“Another way that Redeemer is walking alongside immigrants is to be of assistance to those who worship with us. Whether through transportation to church, providing a bulletin in their language, connecting them to needed services or helping with daily needs, we have opportunities to help. We ask for your prayers as we continue in this work.”

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

July 1 Remember in prayer congregations, synods and outdoor ministries that have applied for an ELCA Disability Ministry grant. These grants support projects and programs that identify and prepare people with disabilities for leadership positions and equip members of congregations to welcome them to full participation in the life of the church.

2 Nothing is impossible for God. Our sins, fears, demons and eccentricities are no match for God’s power to forgive, heal and renew us. Give thanks to God for surrounding us with siblings in Christ who extend to us their mercy and love.

3 Our church has missionaries in 35 countries, and its Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program covers six countries/territories. Pray that God will bless these missionaries as they serve alongside companion churches in education, evangelism, administration, parish ministry, leadership development, justice and health.

4 Independence Day Give thanks for the freedom we enjoy in our country. Promise to be responsible with that freedom and attentive to those marginalized by poverty, prejudice, persecution, unjust laws or malevolent ideologies.

5 “Insofar as a Christian is free, no works are necessary. Insofar as a Christian is a servant, all kinds of works are done” (**Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian***). Praise God for freeing us from sin through the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. Ask the Spirit to inspire our service, our acts of kindness and mercy, and our praise for God, the true source of absolute freedom.

6 God sends us into the world equipped to share the gospel, care for neighbors in need, inspire hope and strive for justice and healing. Give thanks for the strength and encouragement we receive from our church, our faith communities and our siblings in Christ.

7 Pray for the ELCA Domestic Mission unit and its renewal team, which help synods to equip congregations for engaging in renewal ministry and for growing as vibrant and diverse communities of faith.

The Community Beyond

Virtual Death Cafes Now on Zoom!

Emily Kent hosts a virtual Death Cafe on the fourth Tuesday of every month. They run from 7-8:30 p.m. Zoom Meeting ID 880 4396 8579, passcode 478465. “Please join us for a non-judgmental conversation about death and dying.” The next one is set for **Tuesday, July 22**.

IACO Sponsors Session on Where Religion Meets Ecology on July 6

The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO) will sponsor “The Sacred and the Sustainable: Where Religion Meets Ecology” on **Sunday, July 6** beginning at 2 p.m. It features **Rabbi Yonatan Neril**, the founder of the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development and co-author of the *Eco Bible*.

“Rooted in Earth and rising in faith, this talk explores how religious teachings can guide us toward ecological healing. Rabbi Neril draws on sacred texts and spiritual insights from across traditions to show how caring for the planet is a sacred responsibility and a shared path forward.”

It will be held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church (93 W. Weisheimer Rd., Columbus 43214). It runs until 3:30 p.m. To register, go [HERE](#).

Reynoldsburg Community Band Announces Concerts

The Reynoldsburg Community Band has announced the schedule for its free concerts this summer. Please come and join the band ... and **April Smith** and **Linda Williams**, who both play in the group! More information about the band can be found [HERE](#). *Mark your calendars for the following concerts:*

Monday, July 14 at 7 p.m.
Reynoldsburg Senior Center
1520 Davidson Drive, Reynoldsburg

Monday, August 11 at 7 p.m.
Reynoldsburg Senior Center
1520 Davidson Drive, Reynoldsburg

Sunday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Village Green Park
47 Hall St, Powell, OH

Getting Ready for Worship

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 6, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Prayer of the Day

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Advent Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Karen Kent, Tom Kent, Emily Kent, and Miles Smith.

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, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sisters Kleta Childs and Karla Weaver, Bebe McCoy's brother-in-law Walt and her sister Jan, Brittany Parsons, Mary Bowling's sister Val, John Kennedy's niece Michele Wolfe, Maddie Sutphin, the Trover's son-in-law Brandon James, Skye Andree, Kris Kauffman, Ruth Murray's daughter Ellen Rose and family, Kathie Ehrich, Dottie and Larry Bird, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, Al Debelak and Karen Riccio, Edwina Bradley, for Laura Warren's brother and sister-in-law Sam and Cynthia Hudson, Karen Rider's friend Betsy Wagner, Sue, Tim and Lisa Watson, Heidi Carman, Bill Boys

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Emlyn Ott
Assisting Minister	Jon Disbro
Cantor	Al Rider
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Zak Hinkle-Moore
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Michele Disbro, Sue Yehling
Communion Prep	Kay Ernsthansen, Kathy Denhard
Hospitality	Melissa Hackim

*The Noisy Offering will go to Sikhone Rescue Centre in Kitengela, Kenya.
Flowers are given by Becky and Larry Trover celebrating Ginny's birthday*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer June 30 – July 7, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	7:00 p.m.	BREAD Celebration
Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	7:00 p.m.	Berwick Civic Association
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki School
	12:30 p.m.	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Thursday	10:30 a.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop 2462
	5:45 p.m.	Mutual Ministry Team
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp

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