



Reflections

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ISSUE 26

Redeemer News

Summer Book Group Begins This Week

Redeemer's Summer Book Group begins its deep dive into the thoughts, words, and faith of **James Baldwin** (1924-1987) as it reads *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**, the group will read and discuss this book from 7-8:30 p.m. in-person and on Zoom."

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.

RLC to Serve Dinner at First English on July 10

On **Thursday, July 10**, Redeemer will 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 Ernsthause**n.

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 recipe can be found elsewhere in this issue of *Reflections*."

Lutheran Disaster Relief Responds to Texas Flooding

Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR) writes, "Our hearts break as we learn of the damage, loss of life and ongoing search for survivors."

"We join **Bishop Sue Briner's** [bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod] call to 'pray, pray, pray for those who are still lost as well as the families of those who are lost, who have died or who have experienced loss of home and property.'

"As ever and with your support, our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors in the Texas hill country as the floodwaters recede and rebuilding begins."

Gifts to LDR [HERE](#) can help with those efforts.

Cooling Centers Open in City

A number of cooling sites are now open in the Columbus for the duration of this heat wave. A separate article in this issue of *Reflections* lists those locations and their hours.

Redeemer Garden Giveaway Underway

Redeemer's Saturday morning Garden Giveaway is now open. Stop by to pick up fresh produce from the garden beginning at 10 a.m.

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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](#)

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Vice President - Ashley Bird

Finance Officer - Laura Warren

Secretary - Rich Pautsch

Worship - Michelle Clemence

Education - Karen Rider

Outreach - Mary Benis

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Property - April Smith

Stewardship - Kathy Denhard

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Wendy Stoica, Chair Hitoshi Phillips

Emily Kent John Kennedy

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[REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH](#)

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Basketball Camp Open; NO MORE 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. 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!"

Mike Benis reported Sunday that **NO MORE** donations of water are needed, thanking everyone who has done so.

Brewing Faith to Meet Tuesday at East Market

The Brewing Faith small group will meet **Tuesday, July 8** at the East Market (212 Kelton Ave. in the Trolley District) at 6:30 p.m. **Elaine Disbro** recommended as a possible discussion topic a clip she provided from the Netflix documentary "Join or Die." As she explains, "The documentary traces the story of America's civic unraveling through the work of social scientist **Robert Putnam**. Putnam wrote the book *Bowling Alone* about America's decades-long decline in community connections. The film explores how this decline could hold the answers to our country's present democratic crisis and what we can do about it.

"I was especially interested in a section of the film about social capital (i.e., connections among individuals, social networks, and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them, which contribute to the health and functioning of communities and democracies) and particularly the importance of religion and religious communities to social capital." The clip is [HERE](#).

'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 Wachtman**. 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 Wachtman**, 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.**”

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 **Thursday, July 17.**

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 20** 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 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!

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 13** on (except for **Sundays, July 20 and 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.**

Sloppy Joe Recipe

On **Thursday, July 10**, Redeemer is scheduled to provide the dinner at First English. Here is a recipe for Sloppy Joes from **Kathy Mimplitch** which will be served that night:

2 lbs. 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."

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.

Prayers are also asked for St. Stephen congregation in Longwood FL.

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

Thank You⁴

Ruth Murray wrote, "Your name Sister Act is just that, sisters working with love and compassion. You have given prayers, understanding, physical and financial assistance. Saying thank you is a small measure of the love I feel!"

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Emily Ott writes to the Special Funds Team on behalf of the **Ott Family**, "Thank you so much for your support for **Kathryn** and **Caroline** going to LOMO camp. This financial support gave us the breathing space to feel comfortable sending them, which is an opportunity we are grateful for because of the unique way in which camp

helps them experience God and a community of faith in a new way. And LOMO in particular is a place we are confident will nurture their faith in healthy, not dangerous ways. We are so grateful for the support of Redeemer!”

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Also, a BIG thank you goes out to **Tom Mimplitch** for replacing/installing new carriage lights on either side of the main entrance and to the Property Team/**April Smith** on the completion of the alterations to the main floor restroom doors which now have ADA compliant automatic openers.

“The doors are now set for push to open from the hallway and pull to exit. The use of the push buttons should be for people with mobility challenges only. When the button is pushed, the door will stay open for approximately 12 seconds which is within ADA standards.”



***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

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 Mimplitch 29-Kathy Mimplitch
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 8 Give thanks for community gardens that feed our neighbors, and pray for the people who tend them with love and purpose.

9 Pray for people traveling this summer, that they will be enriched by their experiences, filled with awe at creation, and inspired to share the good news of Jesus Christ everywhere they go.

10 Pray for the ELCA stewardship leaders network, which grows well-equipped mission interpreters, stewardship key leaders, ventures steward leaders and stewardship coaches to serve as resources for congregations and nurture generosity across the church.

11 “Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith” (Galatians 6:9-10). Pray for our nation, that we will be renewed in our resolve to uplift neighbors who are excluded, forgotten or ignored.

12 Stewardship and generosity are daily expressions of how we respond to God’s immeasurable grace. Pray that the Spirit will nurture within us a lively spirit of generosity to respond to the needs of others, do God’s work in the world and grow the church.

13 Pray for the compassion to care for our neighbors in need, just as the good Samaritan stopped to assist a stranger robbed, beaten and left for dead.

14 “Listen to the word that God has spoken; listen to the One who is close at hand; listen to the voice that began creation; listen even if you don’t understand” (*ACS* 974). May we be open and attentive to how God speaks to us, reaching into our souls every day to stir our faith, knowledge and wisdom.”

The Community Beyond

Columbus Public Health Announces Cooling Centers Are Open ‘Until Heat Subsides’

Columbus Public Health announced that the following cooling resources are available across the city: cooling centers, pools and playgrounds and libraries.

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department will open five regional cooling centers, operating daily from 8 a.m. – 9 p.m., until the heat subsides:

- **Dodge Community Center** – 667 Sullivant Ave., 43215
- **Driving Park Community Center** – 1100 Rhoads Ave., 43206
- **Glenwood Community Center** – 1888 Fairmont Ave., 43223
- **Linden Community Center** – 1350 Briarwood Ave., 43211
- **Marion Franklin Community Center** – 2801 Lockbourne Rd., 43207

All other community centers remain open for regular programming and are available for residents to cool down during hours of operation. The full list and hours can be found [HERE](#).

Pools & Spraygrounds

- **Outdoor pools** now have extended hours from 1 – 8 p.m. daily. Admission is FREE during the heat advisory. A Leisure Card is still required.
- **Spraygrounds** at Barnett, Blackburn, Linden, and Scioto Southland are operating from 12 – 8 p.m., free of charge.

Please check pool status and capacity limits before visiting, and remember to follow all posted rules for safety.

Columbus Metropolitan Libraries

All library branches are open until 8 p.m. and provide a safe, air-conditioned space for cooling off. Locations are [HERE](#).

Resources for Seniors

Franklin County residents 60+ can request a FREE box fan through the Office on Aging.

- Request online [HERE](#).
- Or call 614-525-6200.

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.**

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

Sunday, August 10 at 7 p.m.
Columbus Park of Roses
3901 N. High St.

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 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 13, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Colossians 1:5-14; Psalm 82; Luke 10:30-35

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 African International Lutheran Mission in Canal Winchester.
- + For Redeemer community members Sarah, David, Dylan and Evan Kirkman.

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, Larry Jones.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Karen Rider
Cantor	Mary Benis
ASL Interpreter	Emily Ott
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Nate Ott
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Toshi and Sachio Phillips
Communion Prep	Kay Ernsthausen, Kathy Denhard
Hospitality	Maddie Sutphin

*The Noisy Offering will go to Sikhone Rescue Centre in Kitengela, Kenya.
Flowers are given by Kevin Bailey in memory of Vyron Bailey.*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer July 7– July 14, 2025

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 at Auman/Johnson home
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	6:30 p.m.	A Brewing Faith at East Market, 212 Kelton Ave.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki School
	10:00 a.m.	Remembrance Garden Meeting
	12:00 p.m.	Education Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	7:00 p.m.	Summer Book Study
Thursday	10:30 a.m.	Suzuki School
	4:30 p.m.	Redeemer Serves at First English
	6:30 p.m.	Bexley/Berwick Dementia Support Meeting
	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
	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