



Reflections

VOLUME 29

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ISSUE 28

Petitions Coming for Ohio Equal Rights Amendment, Repeal of Same-Sex Amendment

Redeemer member **Al Rider** writes, “In November 2017, the Church Council of the ELCA unanimously adopted a social statement on ‘Human Rights’ that declares our church’s continuing support for the UN charter on human rights, adopted in 1948, a position we hold on the basis of Holy Scripture and the Gospel.

“The church council wrote: ‘In the name of the God who creates every human being out of love, this church teaches human dignity is God’s gift to every person, and commitment to universal rights protects that dignity.’ Not just rights for this or that class of person, or this or that nationality or gender or sexual orientation or language ... Our church teaches clearly that ALL PERSONS are created by God and loved by God, and all deserve to be seen as loved in their essence, and embraced by God and God’s people.”

Rider goes on to note that, “Here in Ohio, an alliance of social and religious groups that are in agreement with the ELCA have drafted a proposed Equal Rights Amendment to our state constitution to put on the next state ballot, to guarantee fair and equal treatment for all. The State Ballot Board, chaired by our secretary of state, recently met and by vote of three-to-two, split that proposal into two amendments, which will now need to be voted on separately:

1. “To prohibit the Ohio Legislature and local municipalities from enacting or enforcing laws or policies that would discriminate against Ohioans on the basis of race, color, creed or religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression regardless of sex assigned at birth, pregnancy status, genetic information, disease status, age, disability, recovery status, familial status, ancestry, national origin or military and veteran status.

2. “To repeal the current language in Article 15, Section 11 of Ohio’s state Constitution (adopted in 2004) that defines marriage as ‘only a union between one man and one woman.’ The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, in June 2015, subsequently legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, overriding that provision of Ohio’s Constitution. But it’s not certain that future court decisions will continue that policy. Repealing Ohio’s out-of-date laws forbidding same-sex marriage thus parallels our own church’s social teaching, and would bring state law in line with the teachings of our church.

“In future weeks, petitions will be available in support of placing both of these amendments on the state ballot. Watch for the opportunity to show your support for human rights in Ohio.”

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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 Mimitch

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

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Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Basketball Camp Concludes This Week with Thursday Banquet

Redeemer's summer basketball camp for youth ages 8 to 14, led by former NBA and ABA player **Coach Larry Jones**, concludes this week with the 2025 Banquet on **Thursday, July 24**. A total of 51 youth participated in this free camp provided by Redeemer. It has run for six weeks, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Please note: NO MORE donations of water are needed. Thanks to everyone who has done so.

Remembrance Garden in Operation

Mary Benis writes, "Thanks to everyone who helped bring the Remembrance Garden to life. We fully met the cost of the new plantings, with enough left over to cover the signage that's on order. This whole endeavor has been a great reminder of the commitment and support of the Redeemer community.

"The garden is now fully open and available. In fact, it's already in use. So if you want to consider placing the remains of a loved one, human or pet, in the garden or remembering them in the Memorial Book, just connect with **Pastor Dave**, who will guide you through the process.

"We do hope you'll spend a little time in the Remembrance Garden, just enjoying that beautiful and peaceful space. It's a really meaningful addition to the Redeemer facility, which should serve us well for many years."

Summer Book Group Continues This Week

Redeemer's Summer Book Group has begun 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."

The group will meet on **Wednesdays, July 23** and **30** to discuss the book from 7-8:30 p.m. in-person and on [Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 870 4747 2119; Passcode: 360562. Phone only: 312 626 6799.

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.

'Noisy Offering' to Go to Kenyan Rescue Centre

Kay Ernsthausen reports that Redeemer's "Noisy Offering" will now go to Sikhona 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 Sikhona 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."

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 **Wednesday, Aug. 6** and **Thursday, Aug. 21**.

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.)

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 27** 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

The congregation blessed **Elaine Disbro** Sunday as she leaves shortly for a new job with the British Consulate General in its San Francisco office. *We pray for her success and wish her well on this next step.*

+ + +

Prayers for comfort and rest are asked for **Bill Boys** and **Edwina Bradley**, both of whom remain in the hospital. Prayers for healing continue to be asked for **Pastor Al Debelak** who is currently on an extended round of antibiotics and in rehab. 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.

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

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

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Meets Next Week, to Elect New Bishop

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held July 28–Aug. 2 in Phoenix, AZ. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God’s grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- Elect officers including a new bishop to succeed **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
- Worship together.
- Adopt a budget.
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

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.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

July 22 Ask the Spirit to renew the energy of staff serving in summer camps and outdoor ministries. Pray that they will be enriched by their ministry experiences and inspired to pursue vocations of service in the church and society.

23 “When all our words seem frail and hollow, God heeds the prayers within our tears” (ACS 1050). Praise God for hearing and grasping the depth of our prayers and lamentations, especially when they feel clumsy, inadequate and incoherent.

24 Praise God for gathering us in a church that welcomes all, strives to be faithful to the gospel and equips us to serve in a world of complexity, tension and ambiguity.

25 Give thanks for the Spirit, who strengthens our trust in the steadfast love of God and calms our disbelief and anxiety when we question how anyone can truly love us as we are.

26 Pray for children, youth and young adults in our congregation, that their faith will be nurtured, that their gifts will be valued and used, and that they will be included in every aspect of the church’s mission.

27 Thank God for Jesus Christ, “from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God” (Colossians 2:19).

28 Pray for the voting members, church leaders and volunteers gathering at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ, for decision-making and spiritual discernment on behalf of the entire church.

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**.

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:*

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 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 27, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Genesis 18: 20-32; Psalm 138:1-3, 7-8; Luke 11:1-13

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of All Saints Church in Worthington.

+ For Redeemer community member Nancy Magargal.

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, Karen Rider's niece Tammy and her friend Betsy Wagner, Sue, Tim and Lisa Watson, Heidi Carman, Bill Boys, Larry Jones.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Cantor	Emily Kent
ASL Interpreter	Bryan Neal
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Miles Smith, Tom Mimplitch
Communion Prep	Kay Ernsthansen, Kathy Denhard
Hospitality	Melissa Hackim

The Noisy Offering will go to Sikhona Rescue Centre in Kitengela, Kenya.

Flowers are given by Laura and Terry Warren in celebration of Terry's and daughter Caroline's birthday

Upcoming Events at Redeemer July 21– July 28, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 2462
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	7:00 p.m.	Journaling Workshop
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Suzuki School
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Summer Book Study
Thursday	10:30 a.m.	Suzuki School
	6:00 p.m.	Basketball Camp Celebration
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

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