



# Reflections

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ISSUE 30

## Looking through the Tear

The Spirituality Network is the name of the organization that runs the spiritual direction certification program I've been part of for the past year. In their August newsletter, a friend of mine from this program named **Luke McCusker** wrote an article called "House Finches." He's given me permission to quote from it.

In the article, Luke describes how he discovers a pair of house finches is building a nest behind a petunia in the corner of a window box. Soon there are four eggs. Two hatch, with "each baby body 75 percent mouth reaching up and swaying a jerking" for food. He writes, "A friend I told called it a blessing on my home and that is how it felt. I have made a nurturing place here. I am doing something right."

Luke continues the story:

Two days later, the nest was empty. A predator took them, and it left a house finch-sized tear in the fabric of my assumptions about the world. Can animals be evil? Was the predator feeding its own babies? Should I have protected the birds? Could I have? Should I become vegan? Of course, this is not just about birds.

When I look through the tear, I see a reality that does not care what I expect or assume. Its ugliness hurts and offends me and its shimmering beauty scares me because I am afraid it will be lost. I want to look away.

But my life is here, in this world, and I want to be in my life. So I have not removed the nest, a place where possibility and loss overlapped. I am lingering at the tear. I am looking through it into a big, deep, dark, bright, ugly, beautiful, pulsing, true world. And with disappointment, or trepidation, or on my knees in trembling or in gratitude, holding tenderness and violence and everything in between, I say, "yes."

*Dave Shull*

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



## The Redeemer Community

### **Yehiel Curry Elected Presiding Bishop, Lucille Mills, Secretary, of ELCA**

**Rev. Yehiel Curry** was elected to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly held last week in Phoenix. In addition, Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills was elected to a six-year term as secretary

Curry was elected on the fifth ballot when he received 562 of the 799 votes cast. A total of 400 votes were needed for an election. **Rev. Kevin Strickland**, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes.

Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, IL, where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries [TEEM] program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on “emerging ministry contexts” like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

“Perhaps I’m out there in one of you,” Curry said. “I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL, in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

Meanwhile, Mills was elected on the fifth ballot, having received 404 votes out of the 782 ballots cast; 392 votes were needed for an election. **Rev. Matthew Riegel**, bishop of the ELCA West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, received 378 votes.

“I have to echo our newly elected presiding bishop [Yehiel Curry] — I’m the product of you. I’m also a TEEM candidate,” Mills said to the assembly following her election.

“I do believe it’s a new season for our church,” Mills said. “I do believe that the reason why I, an African American woman who stands before you with no degrees in a church that cares so much about education ... is because you saw the gifts and potential in me. I celebrate with you that we listen to God’s call and that we will become God’s beloved community.”

Mills has served as an assistant to the bishop in the ELCA North Carolina Synod since 2019. Previously she served as an interim pastor, as program associate for African Descent Ministries with the ELCA churchwide organization in Chicago; and as pastor of Rejoice Lutheran Church, Chesapeake, VA. She received a TEEM certification from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, in 2002.

The churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, met under the theme “For the Life of the World.” The assembly made decisions about the work of this church as well as spent time in worship and engaged in various ways of theological reflection.

### **How to Recycle Pill Bottles, Styrofoam**

**Kathy Zwanziger** writes, “For those of you who have EMPTY pill bottles that you would like to recycle rather than toss in the trash, the Waste and Reuse Convenience Center at 2100 Alum Creek Drive is the place to go! There is a container in the coatroom to collect the pill bottles.

“To protect your identity, as well as your prescription number, remove as much of the label as you can.

“This Convenience Center also recycles styrofoam (the kind that comes when packaging fragile items, NOT food containers).

“Be aware it is only for Franklin County residents and is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.”

### **Need a Ride?**

Redeemer offers a temporary transportation service for members and friends who may need a ride to an appointment or other engagement. However, there is a new email where that request can be sent: [NeedaRide@redeemerluth.com](mailto:NeedaRide@redeemerluth.com).

## 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.”

## 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 Ernsthansen** 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.”

## 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 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.

## 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.

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](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.

[NeedaRide@redeemerluth.com](mailto:NeedaRide@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**

### **Pastor Dave Takes Continuing Ed Week, Vacation Later in August**

While **Pastor Dave** is on a week-long silent retreat for his continuing education and then on his vacation later this month, emergency pastoral care is being offered **Aug. 16-20** and **Aug. 30-Sept. 5** by **Rev. Julianne Smeck** (734-972-6126). **Aug. 21-29** coverage is being offered by **Rev. Lorin Darst**, pastor of First English Lutheran (503-886-9353).

### **August Birthdays**

5-Julie Denniss

6-Clayton Ullman 8-Jessica Marquez

9-Justin Marquez 15-Sarah Kirkman

15-Seth Harms 16-Cathy Oldham

17-Thelma Johnson 23-Scott Steiner

25-LaVerna Reinoehl 26-Brad Binau

27-Matt Bird 29-Jon Disbro

31-Lynn Belhorn

## **The Wider Church**

### **Situation in Gaza 'Dire'**

**Julie Johnson** provided the following update on Gaza: "The situation facing the people of Gaza is dire. While the U.S. continues, for the most part to ignore, it's house-less population and health care isn't considered a human right, \$3.8 billion a year is gifted to Israel to impose its system of apartheid, which includes periodic massacres in Gaza, on the Palestinian people. As we pledge to act to end racism and inequality at home, we know that our

actions can reverberate worldwide. We offer the following “Lamentation for Gaza” from **Rabbi Brant Rosen** of Tzedek Chicago.

### **A Lamentation for Gaza**

Gaza weeps alone.  
Bombs falling without end  
her cheeks wet with tears.  
A widow abandoned  
imprisoned on all sides  
with none willing to save her.

We who once knew oppression  
have become the oppressors.  
Those who have been pursued  
are now the pursuers.  
We have uprooted families  
from their homes, we have  
driven them deep into  
this desolate place,  
this narrow strip of exile.

All along the roads there is mourning.  
The teeming marketplaces  
have been bombed into emptiness.  
The only sounds we hear  
are cries of pain  
sirens blaring  
drones buzzing  
bitterness echoing  
into the black vacuum  
of homes destroyed  
and dreams denied.

We have become Gaza’s master  
leveling neighborhoods  
with the mere touch of a button  
for her transgression of resistance.  
Her children are born into captivity  
they know us only as occupiers  
enemies to be feared  
and hated.

We have lost all  
that once was precious to us.  
This fatal attachment to our own might  
has become our downfall.  
This idolatrous veneration of the land  
has sent us wandering into  
a wilderness of our own making.

We have robbed Gaza of  
her deepest dignity  
plunged her into sorrow and darkness.  
Her people crowd into refugee camps  
held captive by fences and buffer zones  
gunboats, mortar rounds  
and Apache missiles.

We sing of Jerusalem,  
to “a free people in their own land”  
but our song has become a mockery.  
How can we sing a song of freedom  
imprisoned behind walls we have built  
with our own fear and dread?

Here we sit clinging to our illusions  
of comfort and security  
while we unleash hell on earth  
on the other side of the border.  
We sit on hillsides and cheer  
as our explosions light up the sky  
while far below, whole neighborhoods  
are reduced to rubble.

For these things I weep:  
for the toxic fear we have unleashed  
from the dark place of our hearts  
for the endless grief  
we are inflicting  
on the people of Gaza.

### **Prayer Concerns from ELCA**

**August 5** Give thanks and praise to God for the joy, freedom and new life we have in Jesus Christ and for the promise of eternal life in the kingdom of God. Hallelujah!

**6** Pray for lasting and resilient peace where there is conflict and war in the world, especially in Ukraine, Russia and the Middle East. Pray that we will not grow weary in supporting and caring for those who continue to live in uncertainty and suffering amid violence, injustice and displacement from their homes and communities.

**7** Praise God that our new life in Christ empowers us to renew ourselves in the image of the Creator and to oppose and cleanse ourselves of anger, hate, slander, abusive language, racism, dishonesty, self-centeredness and greed.

**8** Thank God for the ELCA’s special relationship with the Moravian Church in America, a full communion partner since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

**9** Pray for local, state and national leaders, that they will respect and respond to our neighbors on the fringes of society, including people who suffer poverty and hunger, who need shelter, who live with illnesses and conditions



requiring constant care, and whose rights and protections have diminished. Pray for compassion, strength and persistent courage to advocate and care for our neighbors in need.

**10** Pray for the Spirit's guidance and wisdom in understanding the parables Jesus shared over two thousand years ago, and for insight into the admonitions and wisdom they offer us today.

**11** Pray for our missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission who accompany global partners in 10 European countries, serving in ministries that provide education, pastoral leadership, social services and care for vulnerable populations.

## The Community Beyond

### National Night Out Set for Aug. 5

National Night Out (NNO), an annual community-building campaign, promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. It provides a great opportunity for safer communities and connections between neighbors, police, and firefighters. NNO will be at Berwick Alternative School's open area off South Roosevelt Ave. and Scottwood Rd. on **Tuesday, August 5** from 6-8 p.m.

There will be free food, music, community resources, and other fun activities. Be sure to stop by and visit Redeemer's Outreach Team table.

As a bonus, come early for free produce from the Berwick Alternative Community Garden. Their stand is by the school's parking lot. Volunteers will be there from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Check out Berwick Civic Association on Facebook for more details.

### 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, Aug. 26**.

### 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

### Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

**August 10, 2025 – 10 a.m.**

#### Lessons

**Readings:** Isaiah 1:1, 10-17; Psalm 33:12-22; Luke 12:32-40

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Ascension Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Bebe McCoy.

***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	<b>Dave Shull</b>
Assisting Minister	<b>Michelle Clemence</b>
Cantor	<b>Scott Steiner</b>
ASL Interpreter	<b>Emily Ott</b>
Organist & Senior Choir Director	<b>Kathy Rapp</b>
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	<b>Karen Kent</b>
Usher	<b>Judith Bird</b>
Verger	<b>Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica</b>
Producers	<b>Toshi Phillips/ Sachio Phillips</b>
Communion Prep	<b>Becky Fisher and Eileen Day</b>
Hospitality	<b>Laura and Terry Warren</b>

*The Noisy Offering will go to Sikhona Rescue Centre in Kitengela, Kenya.  
Flowers are given by the people of Redeemer*

## Upcoming Events at Redeemer August 4- August 11, 2025

<b>Monday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	4:30 p.m.	ZOOM Executive Team
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 2462
<b>Tuesday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:00 p.m.	<b>Outreach Team – National Night Out</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	12:30 – 4 p.m.	<b>RLC at LSS Food Pantry</b>
	3:30 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Sister Act
<b>Thursday</b>	10:30 a.m.	Suzuki School
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Monday</b>	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