



Reflections

VOLUME 29

September 15, 2025

ISSUE 36

The Time to Retire

With this column, I'm letting you know I've decided it is time for me to retire from parish ministry. My last day as your pastor will be **Sunday, December 28, 2025**.

Since coming to Redeemer in September 2017, you have called out of me the best I've had to give – often more than I knew I had. I have loved this work. Beginning in Epiphany this year, however, I started to notice my energy and creativity were fading. Now well into the season of Pentecost, that reality has not changed. Though I am confident I will bring my best to you for the rest of this year, it is clear to me I no longer have the on-going energy and creativity you need and deserve from your pastor.

When I arrived at Redeemer a bit over eight years ago, part of me had trouble believing you would fully accept a non-Lutheran as your pastor. You showed me how little faith I had! You reached out to me and invited me into your lives. You participated in worship, attended classes, and shared your dreams about what Redeemer might become. In honest, respectful ways, you expressed your frustrations and disappointments about where you saw Redeemer going. You challenged me to be more courageous in what I said and did. You thanked me. You forgave me.

You let me become your pastor.

My eight years with you have continued to reveal to me that you are a wonderfully adventurous group of Jesus-followers whom I will deeply miss being with.

I don't know of any faith community with hearts as big as yours. Whether you learn of a need from someone in the pew next to you or half a world away, your responses consistently make the love of Jesus real to them in life-changing ways. After other congregations have let people know they aren't wanted or don't matter, when they walk through the doors of Redeemer, your open-armed welcome conveys the message: "Don't let anyone ever tell you you are anything less than beautiful!"

Long before I became your pastor, this is who you were. No matter whom you next call "Pastor," this is who you will be. Because this is who you are.

Congregation Council President Brad Binau will have an article in next week's *Reflections* to address some practical questions about next steps into your shared future. I am extraordinarily grateful for his leadership this year, and for the leadership and commitment of the Executive Team, Council, ministry team members, and our remarkable staff.

We still have three-and-a-half months together. I promise I will be available to you in whatever ways will help the end of my time with you feel honest, loving, healing, and complete.

My formal path as a parish pastor began when I was ordained at Broad Street Presbyterian Church 38 years ago. There is no community with whom I would rather bring this path to a close than Redeemer.

Thank you for letting me be your pastor.

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 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

1555 S. James Rd.
Columbus 43227
614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

RLC to Celebrate 68th Anniversary Sept. 21

In Celebration of Redeemer's 68th Anniversary and the church's many ministries, the Stewardship Team is sponsoring a Potluck Luncheon after the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 21 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Canes Chicken will be served.

Sister Act Plans 'Singalong' for Anniversary Sunday

Sister Act invites folks to stay after the 68th anniversary celebration on Sunday, Sept. 21 for an International Day of Peace Community Singalong. It begins at 1 p.m. and Redeemer folks and the community are invited to gather on the church's North Lawn (or in the Sanctuary if it rains) for a joyful singalong.

The song list will include classic peace-promoting songs like Give Peace a Chance. "Just bring yourself and a chair. Hope to see you there!"

CROP Walk Set for Sept. 28



This year's CROP Walk to fight world and local hunger will be on Sunday, Sept. 28. Redeemer has six walkers who are participating at this time: **Connie Criswell, Kelley Frank, Heidi Sherer, Wendy Stoica, Trina Thornton, and Kathy Zwanziger.**

While folks were asked to donate early in the face of government cuts to food programs, the need is still greater than ever. "So if you have not yet donated, or wish to donate further, our Redeemer Team website is [HERE](#)." Those wishing to walk this year can also register on the site.

Online donations are preferred, but cash and checks made out to CWS/CROP are also welcome.

"Please help make our team effort a success!" Connie reported Sunday that the Redeemer team has already raised over \$14,000.

From Congregation President Brad Binau: **Announcements, Announcements, Announcements!**

From my days as a Cub Scout in the previous millennium I can still recall this little ditty:

Announcements, Announcements, Announcements!

What a terrible way to die,

A terrible way to die,

A terrible way to be talked to death.

A terrible way to die.

True enough, but equally true, and more important, are the ways announcements can be life-giving and community-enhancing! I've noticed in recent months that we seem to have more announcements being offered and more people offering them following Sunday worship. I do not experience these moments of sharing as a terrible way to die, though they do sometimes impede my desire to get to coffee, treats, and the beginning of the education hour with all deliberate speed! Not to mention greeting visitors and catching up with other members.

I recently shared my perceptions about our announcements with other members of the Executive Committee. We agreed that even when announcements keep us in our pews a few minutes longer than anticipated it is a sign of our congregational vitality that we have so much ministry to talk about! And we sensed that our community grows stronger when we learn who is doing what to further Redeemer's mission to be "followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all."

As summer gives way to fall, our life together will intensify and there will be more to share about how we can live out Christian calling. That's a good reason to be succinct in sharing our good news, but it's also a reason to celebrate how much good news we have to share!

Sunday School for Youth to Discuss Book about Haitian Life

The Education Team will introduce Redeemer's youth to the country of the church's new friends from Haiti. After tasting Haitian food Sunday prepared by **WilFrantz Raymond** this past Sunday, on Sunday, Oct. 5, the youth will discuss the book *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by **Tracy Kidder** with the Sunday School leaders. The book tells of **Dr. Paul Farmer**, his love and compassion for the Haitian people, and his work to bring public health to them.

The youth (and any adults) are invited to read the young people's edition or to listen to the audio book.

Volunteers Sought for Good Neighbors Picnic on Sept. 27

Carol Heacock, Redeemer's coordinator for the Good Neighbors Picnic, said volunteers are still needed for the picnic which will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 27** at Wolfe Park on the east side of Columbus.

The deadline has now passed for dropping off donations here at church for the picnic. Check with Carol about where they can be taken between now and Sept. 27.

She said that last year, over 400 picnic guests shopped at the Free Store and received clothing for the coming fall and cold winter months.

"Guests at the picnic are residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and others are provided transportation from a variety of shelters throughout the city. Hundreds of volunteers from faith organizations, community leaders, and local businesses are working to gather in items, plan activities and music and provide food for those attending the picnic.

"On the day of the picnic, games are provided for the children beginning at 10 a.m., music begins at 11, and a free lunch provided by local businesses begins serving at 12. You are invited to add your name to the list of volunteers on the day of the picnic by going to the Good Neighbors Picnic [website](#).

"This is a day of coming together as a community and celebrating with our neighbors."

Sept. 28 Adult Forum Session to Continue to Hear from Dr. John

Pastor Dave reports that the Adult Education Sunday Forum will continue with its "Getting to Know You" series on **Sunday, September 28** when **Pastor Dave** resumes interviewing **Dr. Johnobentz Joseph**.

The class is in-person and on Zoom [HERE](#); meeting ID: 889 7945 2993; Passcode: 850178.

Narthex Art *Changes*

The new theme for artwork in the Narthex is "Changes." Plan now to check out the latest exhibit and what members found illustrating the theme.

Thanks to the team that oversees this ministry!!

Choir Rehearsals Resume

Redeemer's Senior Choir has resumed rehearsals and they will continue on **Sundays** from 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Contact **Director Kathy Rapp** if you have any questions: ARappThing@hotmail.com or at 614-565-2945.

In addition, Chime Choir rehearsals will resume on the second and fourth Saturdays at 10 a.m. here at church. The next rehearsal is set for **Saturday, Sept. 27**. Contact **Karen Kent** with questions.

New members are always welcome for either choir!

Sponsors Sought to Provide Refreshments after Worship

The Outreach Committee reports, "The after-worship hospitality will be handled a little differently during the school year than in the past and will continue moving forward with our usual summer pattern of volunteering. Normally we have a small group of regular volunteers who take a Sunday each month but they have indicated they need a little more flexibility.

"Moving forward there will be a sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board next to the Library with all Sundays available for volunteering. If you are willing and available to provide the refreshments on any given Sunday please sign up on the sheet.

"Remember, this doesn't have to be elaborate and there are supplies in the kitchenette of packaged cookies, paper products, and coffee and tea.

"Please reach out to **Jon Disbro** if you have any questions and please consider this small way of volunteering. Thanks!!"

Redeemer Garden Saturday Giveaways Winding Down

Redeemer's Saturday morning Garden Giveaway are winding down but before they stop, come by to pick up fresh produce from the garden beginning at 10 a.m.

Justice Team Rebirth!

Mary Benis writes, “Many years ago a good many of us got energized about an earlier Issue 1, which tried to decrease incarceration by reclassifying many minor drug offenses. **Emily Ott** got us connected to a local community activist, and we were off to the races, or more accurately the petitions.

“Back in 2018 we called ourselves the Justice Team, and we covered a LOT of topics -- the sanctuary movement of that time, racial disparities, police reform, affordable housing, structural racism, and much more. Some of us plugged in on the summer book studies; some of us didn’t but stayed engaged nonetheless.

“During that time, the congregation decided to rejoin BREAD, and some turned their energy to that. But others kept going by email – sharing links to articles or presentations or books or news. Then as sometimes happens, conversations slowed and eventually stopped.

“Fast forward to today, when we have some folks working on immigration again, and now there’s another ballot issue of concern, even as someone else is wanting to explore problems related to poverty. We are clearly a congregation that cares about social justice!

“Given that reality, it seems the right time to reactivate our Justice Team as an umbrella email group to facilitate the sharing of justice causes or concerns. It may be that several folks will share the same passion around an issue and will form their own subgroup. Others may use the forum just to share their outrage, with no action needed—just shared outrage.

“We have set up the team with a specific Redeemer email address, JusticeTeam@RedeemerLuth.com, so that one email can connect to everyone on the team. It can function however its users want it to -- no meetings required, just a chance to share with other like-minded folks. “If you’re interested in such a group, just let the church office know to add your name to the team. Our efforts can make a difference!”

‘Noisy Offering’ to Go to Kenyan Rescue Centre

Kay Ernsthausen reports that Redeemer’s “Noisy Offering” will 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”

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 – 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.

NeedaRide@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 Big *Thank You* to Singing Buckeyes

Thanks to the barbershop chorus, the Singing Buckeyes which includes Redeemer member **Scott Steiner**, for providing the special music Sunday! It was lovely!!

Latest Issue of *Christ in Our Home* Available

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

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Prayers are asked for **Ken and Grace Jones** and their son **Danny** as Danny begins chemotherapy.

+ + +

The Youth Sunday School started a new tradition Sunday as they presented **Sachio Phillips** and **Corinne Montgomery** with blankets they made and which were embroidered with Redeemer’s logo to wrap them in love and to remind them that they are loved by their church community as move on to their next chapter. Both graduated from high school this past spring.



+ + +

Member Directory Update: **Scott Steiner** has a new home address and email: 9563 Haaf Farm Dr. NW, Pickerington, OH 43147; urbanmonksteiner@gmail.com .

+ + +

September Birthdays

15-Kris Kauffman 16-Michele Disbro
16-Shanaëlle Saint Felix
18-Bryan Neal 20-Paula Carson
21-Jenny Peresta 24-Adam Darst
24-Sheryl Owens 26-Sarah Binau
27-Becky Fisher 27-Karen Rider
29-Jennifer Young

The Wider Church

First English 'Impacting Community' Discussion Series Resumes

First English Lutheran Church (1015 E. Main Street) resumes its "Impacting Community" discussion series with the next installment set for **Sunday, Sept. 28** when the topic will be mental health with a speaker from the local Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board. It begins at 4:30 p.m. at the church.

That is followed by discussions on the following fourth Sundays:

- **Sunday, Oct. 26:** Voting Issues (League of Women Voters)
- **Sunday, Nov. 23** Refugees and Immigration (CRIS)
- **Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026:** Human Trafficking (Freedom a la Cart)

More information can be found online at www.urban-connections.org or by emailing info@urban-connections.org.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

Sept. 16 Take time to pray for the people and situations that first came to mind when you awoke this morning.

17 Give thanks and praise to God, who shows us mercy and patience, knows our gifts and stirs within us meaning and purpose for our baptismal journey.

18 Pray for ELCA World Hunger leaders, congregations and ministry partners participating in the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering in Columbus, that their sharing, planning and networking will enrich their work to address hunger and its root causes in our communities and the world.

19 "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises" (Psalm 98:4). Join your siblings in Christ in prayers of praise and thanksgiving for our amazing God!

20 Pray for Palestinians in Gaza, its surrounding areas and wherever they have fled in search of shelter and relief from war. Pray that the devastation and suffering will end and that leaders will commit to peaceful solutions, reconciliation, mutual respect and the rebuilding of communities that can thrive.

21 Remember in prayer those recovering from devastating floods and grieving the loss of loved ones and neighbors. Give thanks for the work we do through Lutheran Disaster Response to respond to urgent needs, give emotional and spiritual care, support long-term recovery and restore the vitality of communities. Ask God to strengthen and bless our partnerships with synods, congregations, local relief agencies and ecumenical relief programs.

22 First day of fall "In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth: born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth" ("Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom," ACS 1064). Sing praise to God for creating and entrusting to our care the earth, its natural resources and the inspiring beauty of all living things, including humankind.

The Community Beyond

Julie Johnson Provides Update on Middle East

Julie Johnson reports, “At least 63,746 Palestinians have been confirmed dead since Israel's war on Gaza began. Thousands of others are still buried in the rubble.

“The World Health Organization chief has urged Israel to stop the ‘catastrophe’ of people starving to death in Gaza, saying at least 370 people have died from malnutrition since the war began.

“This is a catastrophe that Israel could have prevented and could stop at any time,” **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** told reporters.

“‘Starvation of civilians as a method of war is a war crime that can never be tolerated: doing so in one conflict risks legitimizing its use in future conflicts,’ he said. His comments came two weeks after the United Nations declared a famine in Gaza, blaming the ‘systematic obstruction’ of humanitarian deliveries by Israel.

“Amnesty International warned Israel’s escalating assault on Gaza City will have ‘catastrophic and irreversible consequences’ for Palestinians.

“Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Ministry has condemned repeated statements by **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** about forcibly displacing Palestinians from their land, including through the Rafah border crossing that Israeli forces completely sealed.

“**Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot** says the EU’s credibility on foreign policy is ‘collapsing’ because of the bloc’s failure to act over Israel’s war on Gaza.

“The Health Ministry in Gaza reported 373 people, including 134 children, have died from starvation and malnutrition in the besieged Palestinian territory since the war there erupted in October 2023.

“Tedros repeated the number and said it included ‘more than 300 just in the past two months.’

“‘People are starving to death while the food that could save them sits on trucks a short distance away. The most intolerable part of this man-made disaster is that it could be stopped right now.’”

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, Sept. 23.**

Getting Ready for Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-19; Psalm 113; Luke 16:1-9

Prayer of the Day

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pickerington.

+ For Redeemer community member Dottie Odrosky.

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, Edwina Bradley, Karen Rider’s niece Tammy and her friend Betsy Wagner, Sue, Tim and Lisa Watson, Heidi Carman, Bill Boys.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Lynn Belhorn
Cantor	Jennifer Young
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Toshi Phillips/Sachio Phillips
Communion Prep	Cathy Oldham, Nancy Magargal
Hospitality	Scott Steiner

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

Flowers are given by Kevin Bailey in honor of Ruth Ann Bailey

Upcoming Events at Redeemer September 15- September 22, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m. Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m. TOPS
	7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts#2462
Tuesday	1:00 p.m. Bible Study
	3:00 p.m. Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m. Congregational Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
	3:00 p.m. Suzuki School
Thursday	3:00 a.m. Suzuki School
	12:30 -4 p.m. RLC at LSS Food Pantry
Saturday	10:00 a.m. Garden Giveaway
Sunday	8:45 a.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion/
	11:15 a.m. Anniversary Picnic and Ministry Celebration
	1:00 p.m. Sister Act International Day of Peace Sing Along
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