



Reflections

VOLUME 29

September 29, 2025

ISSUE 38

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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



KEY ELECTION DATES November 3, 2025

Deadline to Register to Vote: **9:00 pm October 6**

Check your voter registration status at:

<https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>

Register to vote or update your registration online at:

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/register/>

Absentee Voting begins: **October 7**

Deadline for *mail ballots* to be personally delivered to your

County Board of Elections: **November 3, 7:30 pm**

Deadline for boards to receive *mail-ballots* that have been postmarked on or before November 3: **November 8**

Early In-Person Voting: **October 7-November 2.** See hours and full schedule at

<https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters/current-voting-schedule/2024-schedule/>

Election Day: **November 3**
(Polls Open **6:30 am - 7:30 pm**)



The Redeemer Community

'Blessing of Animals' Set for Oct. 5

The blessing of members', friends' and neighbors' pets is set for **Sunday, Oct. 5** on Redeemer's front lawn. It runs from 2 to 4 p.m. and critters of all shapes and sizes are



Redeemer Raises Over \$17,000 for 2025 CROP Walk

As of Monday, Sept. 29, Redeemer's team of **Connie Criswell, Kelley Frank, Heidi Sherer, Wendy Stoica, Trina Thornton, and Kathy Zwanziger** had raised a total of \$17,258 for the 2025 CROP Walk which was held **Sunday, Sept. 28.**



Kelley Frank and Trina Thornton report it was a "lovely and meaningful afternoon!"

While folks were asked to donate earlier this year 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](#)."

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

Connie reported Sunday that the Redeemer team had the fourth highest total in the country. *Way to go Team Redeemer!!*



Kathy Zwanziger reports it was a lovely day for a walk!

What We Can (and Can't) Say about God

Join the Sunday Adult Forums on **Oct. 5** and **Oct. 12** to watch an episode of the "Faith for Normal People" podcast with guest **Janet Williams**. She will discuss a branch of theology which explores what we can and can't say about God, and how there are things we both need to *say* and *unsay*. **Pastor Dave** notes, "We'll divide the one-hour podcast into two weeks to leave plenty of time for discussion."

The Adult Forum runs from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. *Grab snacks and join the group in Room 2!*

Donations Requested for Another Round of Care Kits

Redeemer youth will assemble more Care Kits in November during Sunday School. These care kits can be given out to anyone members find in need. Heading into winter, these items (hand warmers, socks, chapstick) are especially helpful. Bombas has donated socks and Redeemer has received a donation of chapstick from the food pantry for this project.

"If you are able to donate any of the following items, please put them in the black crate in the Narthex by **Sunday, Nov. 2.** Thank you!"

- Small bottles of lotion
- Hand warmers
- Soft breakfast bars
- Small packets of wipes or small bottles of hand sanitizer
- Quart size ziplock bags

Sponsors Sought to Provide Refreshments after Worship

Volunteers to handle after-service refreshments are needed for **Sundays, Oct. 12** and **Oct. 26**. Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board outside the library or call the church office.

"Reach out to **Jon Disbro** if you have any questions and please consider this small way of volunteering. Remember, this doesn't have to be elaborate and there are supplies in the kitchenette of packaged cookies, paper products and coffee and tea." Thanks!!

Help LSS Pack Thanksgiving Care Packages

With Thanksgiving approaching, Redeemer will again be assisting the Food Pantry in providing some food for those who need help providing a Thanksgiving meal for their families. A few bags are available at church to fill with these items **only** so folks are asked to use their own cloth bags for the items. (They will not be returned.). LSS will add a turkey, bread, and produce. **The deadline to have items at church is Monday, Nov. 17.** Redeemer's goal is 50 bags. Questions? Contact **Kathy Zwanziger**.

- 2 pouches or 1 13.75 oz box of mashed potatoes
- 2 cans of fruit (peaches, applesauce, pears, etc.)
- 3 cans of green beans
- 2 cans of corn
- 2 cans of pumpkin
- 1 can of cranberry sauce
- 1 box or bag of stuffing mix
- 1 turkey gravy packet
- 1 box dessert mix



Folks are asked to supply their own reusable shopping bags or the thicker plastic bags such as the Kroger Click List-style bag. (Paper bags tend to tear during storage and delivery so folks are asked NOT to use them.) Bags will not be returned.

Thanks for helping make Thanksgiving happier for many people!

Redeemer Garden Saturday Giveaways Conclude

The Redeemer Community Garden Giveaways wrapped up another great season of growing and giving away produce. **Michele Disbro** reports, “Our last giveaway was Saturday, Sept. 20. The last few weeks have been tough due to the drought but we’ll still have some produce to share with the congregation each Sunday.

“Thanks to all our volunteers who helped pick and giveaway the produce: **Kathy Zwanziger, Helen Brunston, Shirley Meyer, Kampbell Turner, Dave Lippert, Kay Ernsthause, Sue Yehling, Diane Brobeck, and the In-Phillips family.**

“We also appreciated the help and donations by many of our Berwick neighbors. A big shout out to **Sue Yehling** who helped keep the garden watered throughout the summer.

“Next year, we are hoping to replace some of the mesh bags used to cover the tomatoes (to keep the squirrels from taking a bite out of the tomatoes). **We are looking for small mesh bags often used for onions.** It would be helpful if the bags were still intact and not ripped open. You can see a sample bag on the table where produce is laid out. We’ll be collecting them throughout the year to prepare for the 2026 growing season.”

‘Noisy Offering’ to Go to Huckleberry House

Kay Ernsthause reports that Redeemer’s “Noisy Offering” will now go to support Huckleberry House. She notes Huckleberry House provides shelter, support, and guidance to young people facing difficult situations through four main programs:

- A **24/7 Crisis Shelter** offering a temporary safe place to stay for teens ages 12 to 17 including hot meals, a warm bed, and access to necessities like clothes and hygiene items.
- A **Transitional Living Program** for young people, 18-24 years old, providing a safe place to live combined with a range of supportive services.
- A **Counseling Center**, with a team of therapists who specialize working with teens, young adults, and families to help solve even the most challenging problems.
- The **Youth Outreach Program**, a team of trained, professional staff that engage with youth to prevent homelessness and provide support and resources to increase stability.

Currently the Huckleberry House serves all youth between ages 12-24. Youth between the ages of 12-17 are given shelter and programs to prepare them to move to appropriate housing. This program averages 6.5 days to transition one person.

Youth between 18-24 receive housing and services to help them prepare for transitional housing. This program currently averages 18 months to find housing.

With Kaleidoscope’s loss of funding for housing, Huckleberry House is the alternative for LGBTQ youth and young adults for housing. Please note: Kaleidoscope is not closing all services; they are only losing the funding for housing. Programs will continue.

From the Council

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

As **Pastor Dave** has announced, he will be retiring from parish ministry at the end of 2025. Council received a briefing from **Congregation President Brad Binau** about the process of getting an interim pastor and setting up a committee to search for a new pastor. **Bob Abrams** from the synod office will lead us through the process. Council

will suggest persons for the call committee and will ask the congregation to ratify those suggestions at our **Nov. 23** congregational meeting. (See Brad's separate article in this issue of *Reflections* which provides more detailed information about the call process.)

Some of the immigrant support funding was used to hire an attorney for RLC's immigrant family. The immigration hearing scheduled for Sept. 9 was cancelled. A future hearing is not expected until 2027. "We are grateful that our commitment to immigrant support has already been used to help."

The executive committee, consisting of **Brad Binau, Ashley Bird, Laura Warren** and **Rich Pautsch**, will serve as the nominating committee for new council members in 2026. Currently they are looking for a vice president, stewardship and property representatives. In addition, they are looking for two people to serve on an internal audit committee. "If you have interest in serving any of these roles, we invite you to speak with a member of the committee."

The **Nov. 23** Congregational meeting will include the election of Council members for 2026, the election of two Special Funds Team members, and the ratification of the members of the Call Committee. In addition, the updated constitution is expected to be ready for the congregation to ratify.

Non Police Crisis Response Update

Kristi Hildebrand provides the following update from BREAD: "The Non Police Crisis Response team is working toward getting on the May 2026 ballot. They have collected over 21,000 signatures. They are working on validating those signatures while still collecting more.

"Paid signature collectors have been hired. OhioVotes provided a grant for the paid signature collectors who are door knocking in neighborhoods, such as Linden and West Gate.

"They have strong opposition from the Franklin alcohol, drug, and mental health board [ADAMH Board]. **Erika Clark-Jones**, the director, contends that the board has already implemented this system. The system in place is only for behavioral health calls, and currently, the program handles approximately 80 calls monthly.

"The city of Columbus's 911 number averages over 100 calls daily, and these calls include behavioral health issues, housing crises, food insecurity, and the need for wellness checks.

"We are hoping to write an op ed piece, have a press conference, and hold a town hall to counter these claims. **Tiara Ross**, a candidate for city council, is urging her supporters not to sign the petition. We are hoping the feature speaker at the town hall will be the Law Enforcement Active Partners, a coalition of retired law enforcement officials who have endorsed our ballot initiative."

Sign Ups Underway for 2025 Advent Devotional Booklet



Members and friends are invited to write a devotion for Redeemer's 2025 Advent devotional booklet – the 10th year Redeemer has done this under the leadership of **Connie Criswell**!. It has been fascinating over the years to read/"hear" the different voices as members and friends have contributed to the devotions.

The list of readings which provide the basis for the devotions is posted on the bulletin board. The meditations should be fewer than 350 words, include a title and conclude with a short prayer. Individual devotions should be emailed to **Mary Benis** by **Monday, Nov. 10** for editing.

Call the church office at 614-237-1263 and check with Connie at cac56@columbus.rr.com with your selections to avoid duplications. Redeemer member **Margie Frazier** will provide original art for the cover.

If you'd like a copy of a previous booklet as an example, contact the office.

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!!

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.

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

Prayers are asked for **Bill Boys** who is again in the hospital as he looks to start dialysis.

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Member Directory Updates: Sue and Tim Watson have new emails: sue.watson@boldworld.us and tim.watson@boldworld.us.

Elaine Disbro has a new address: 806 Fell St., San Francisco CA 94117; 614-312-8667. The new address for **Jill Disbro** and **Connor Williams** is 1367 Santa Clara St., Richmond, CA 94804; 614-940-4756.

Good Neighbors Picnic 'Wonderful Day'

Carol Heacock reported Sunday that the Saturday Good Neighbors Picnic was a "wonderful day" with families from across the city participating in the events at Wolfe Park. She thanked **Kay Ernsthausen** and **Sue Yehling** for their help in stocking the shelves on Friday, **Ohoho the Clown** for entertaining the children on Saturday and all Redeemer members who donated warm clothing and blankets.

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.

+ + +

September Birthday

29-Jennifer Young

October Birthdays

2-Ryland Neal 4-Misato In

4-May Schwarz 9-Bill Boys

9-Eileen Welker 11-Sue Watson

11-Thea Barbour Harms 16-Eileen Day

19-Renee McFarland 19-Miles Smith

23-Skye Andree 23-Cason Day

23-Sandra Keaton 24-Bret Day

25-Madeline Gosnell 26-Kennedi Jacobs

26-Avery Martin 26-Krista Skipper

27-Brad Phillips 30-Martin Binau

31-John Caron

The Wider Church

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

Sept. 29 Michael and All Angels Ask the Spirit to help us be aware of God's activity in the world and to strengthen our faith when we are perplexed by the mysteries of God's ways and the presence of angels and spiritual beings who serve as God's messengers.

30 Ask God to bless and guide the work of the ELCA Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment program, informed by the unique voices and experiences of people across race, ethnicity, ability, class, sexuality and age. Pray for the advancement of gender justice in the church and society -- justice grounded in Scripture, Lutheran theology and people of all gender identities working together.

Oct. 1 Pray for scientists, pastors, science teachers and others who explore the intersection of faith and science through the Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology. Ask for God's wisdom to discern the benefits, consequences and use of technology to promote the well-being of humankind, communities and creation.

2 Ask the Spirit to guide and bless members of the ELCA Church Council as they support the work and mission of the ELCA churchwide organization. Give thanks to God for their faith, gifts and diligence.

3 Remember in prayer youth and adult leaders gathering for the ELCA Gathering Expedition retreat at Lutherhill camp in La Grange, TX. Pray that their weekend together will nurture faith, stir questions and discussions, and connect them more deeply with one another -- siblings in Christ who find strength and nourishment in community.

4 Today **Rev. Yehiel Curry** is being installed as presiding bishop of our church. Give thanks to God for faithful leaders who inspire and guide our church to be passionate, creative and tireless in proclaiming the gospel and doing God's work in the world.

5 Pray for the Spirit to guide and inspire those gathered for the Conference of Bishops as they worship and study together, advise the presiding bishop on churchwide planning and ecumenical relations, review proposals for the ELCA Church Council, and work on matters related to rostered ministers.

6 "The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you'" (Luke 17:5-6). Praise God for judging us not by the depth of our faith but through a lens of love, forgiveness and concern for us as treasured children.

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, Oct. 28.**

Getting Ready for Worship

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: 1 Timothy 1:8-14; Psalm 137:1-6; Luke 17:5-10

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of Faith Lutheran Church in Columbus.
- + For Redeemer community members Emily, Nate, Kathryn and Caroline Ott.

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 and her 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, May and Anita Zimmer, Grace and Ken Jones and their son Dan Jones.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Cantor	Scott Steiner
ASL Interpreter	Emily Ott
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Judith Bird
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Miles Smith and Tom Mimplitch
Communion Prep	Misato In, Kathleen Zwanziger
Hospitality	Kay Ernsthause

The Noisy Offering will go to Huckleberry House.

Flowers are given by Brad Binau and Ann Palmerton in celebration of their 37th anniversary

Upcoming Events at Redeemer September 29- October 6, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
Wednesday	12:30-4 p.m.	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
Thursday	3:00 a.m.	Suzuki School
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion/
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed
	2:00-4:00 p.m.	Blessing of the Animals
Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	4:30 p.m.	ZOOM Executive Team
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts Troop #2462

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