



Reflections

VOLUME 29

December 1, 2025

ISSUE 48

A Difficult Promise

Like any relationship between a congregation and their pastor, you and I have shared a lot of different experiences in a lot of different places: the sanctuary, the Narthex, my office, classrooms, meetings, hospital rooms, funeral homes, coffee and tea shops, restaurants, and walks, in addition to conversations by phone, email, and text. As I said in my September *Reflections* article telling you I was retiring at the end of this year, we have built the kind of trusting relationship that let me become your pastor. That is the most grace-filled gift you could have given me.

As I leave Redeemer, our relationship changes. I will no longer be your pastor. That means we enter a season when we make a difficult promise to each other. We promise not to initiate contact with each other until your new installed pastor has been here for at least a year. That means after my last Sunday on **Dec. 28**, we will not be in contact while the interim pastor is here, and for at least another year after that.

I wish we didn't have to create this kind of boundary. I don't know about you, but I would enjoy still being able to get together as we have before.

At the same time, I understand why this boundary is necessary. It is the best way for you and your new pastor to have the space and time to create the kind of relationship we have shared. **Pastor Al Debelak** honored that boundary during the interim period you went through, and during my first year as your pastor. I want us to give your new called pastor that same gift. And I know you do, too.

So this is the difficult promise I ask us to make to each other:

- After my last day as your pastor on Dec. 28, we won't initiate contact with each other while your interim pastor is serving you.
- After you call your new pastor, we won't initiate contact with each other for at least another year.
- At no time after I leave on Dec. 28 will I do anything to put myself in the role of being your pastor. That means I won't officiate at any baptisms, weddings, or memorial services. These are sacred occasions for your new pastor to lead.

Of course, if we run into each other out and about, I hope we can give each other big hugs and share where our lives have taken us since we last saw each other!

The adult education hour after worship on **Dec. 21** will be a time we can talk about this matter, or anything else around my retirement. If you'd like to meet one-on-one for a conversation on any topic before I leave, please contact me, or put your name on the signup sheet in the hallway outside the Library.

I do not have the words to thank you for the eight-plus years we have shared life together. I will always hold Redeemer in gratitude and love. Always.

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



The Redeemer Community

Advent Devotional Booklets Now Available

Redeemer's 2025 *Advent Devotional Booklet* is now available in the Narthex in both regular and large print versions. The devotions are also available on the Redeemer [website](#).

If anyone would like a print version mailed to them, please let the office know. *Those who would like to receive a daily email with that day's devotion, please contact the office.*

Please feel free to take copies to share with family and friends – more can be printed if needed.

Izzy Skoog Completes Eagle Project Revitalizing RLC Playground



Izzy Skoog has completed her Eagle project of revitalizing Redeemer's playground which included staining the equipment, creating and installing a sensory wall, moving the benches, and weeding and mulching the garden.

Folks are encouraged visit the playground to see her handiwork!! Thanks, Izzy!!



Contact Pastor Dave if You'd Like to Talk before He Retires

Pastor Dave is setting aside time in his schedule for conversations with any of you who would like to have some time together before his last day at Redeemer on **Sunday, Dec. 28**. If you'd like to set up a time to talk, email him at (dshull@redeemerluth.com), text, or call him (206-725-3785). You can also put your name on the appointment sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Library.

Dave would value any conversations you would wish to have with him.

Bishop Nicholas Up Next

On **Sunday, Dec. 7**, emeritus **Bishop Nicholas** of Myra will lead the Adult Forum in a discussion of Christian relationships with empire. "Sharing my very different experiences under the reigns of **Diocletian** (284-305 AD) and **Constantine** (306-337 AD), I will invite the group to consider how we relate to our government.

The Adult Forum meets at 11:15 a.m. on Room 2.

"Happy holidays! May every day be a holy day for you."

Find Calm during Redeemer's Midweek Advent Services

With the beginning of the season of Advent on **Sunday, Nov. 30**, Redeemer offers a space to rest in the calmness, beauty, and joy of a darkened sanctuary filled with the sounds of *Holden Evening Prayer*.

Wednesday evenings, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, and Dec. 17, will be oases in the midst of everything else that is going on in your lives. Folks are invited to gather in the Narthex at 6:30 p.m. for dessert and coffee (sign-ups are in the hallway outside the library), and then in the Sanctuary for the 7 p.m. service. **There is one dessert slot open for this week.**

"Let yourself let go of all you might be carrying right now, and receive the gift of this time to be reminded of what life, love, and peace feel like."

Would You Like to Be a Counter??

Redeemer is looking for people to be a volunteer counter for the church. "We would like to expand our counter pool so that the volunteers aren't counting all 12 months," writes **Laura Warren**. Duties of the counters include the following:

- Counters collect all the donations after each service and place them in the safe.
- Counters count, prepare the counter report and make the deposits for the church, every two weeks and on the last business day of the year.

Please let Laura know if you are interested or have any questions. Thank you.

Blue or Purple Narthex Art Now Installed



The *Blue or Purple* exhibit has now been installed in the Narthex! Stop by to peruse the many pieces submitted by members and friends! There are many stories there and a number of pieces created by Redeemer members.

It will be up through Christmas.

Care Kits Available for Members to Distribute

The Sunday School students assembled over 100 care kits for the congregation to pass out to those in need, **Michele Disbro** reports. The kits are now available in the Narthex. “Take as many as you'd like.”

The care kits contain socks, hand warmers, lotion, wipes or hand sanitizer, chapstick, a granola bar, and a list of resources for support.

“Feel free to grab bottles of water to distribute with the care kits.

“A huge thank you to everyone who donated materials to support this wonderful project. The care kits will be available in the Narthex throughout the cold season until we run out.”

Save the Date! Plan to Come!!

After worship on **Sunday, Dec. 14**, Redeemer will have a special celebration honoring **Pastor Dave** and his time here at Redeemer. It will be a catered luncheon, so plan to attend and be a part of the festivities as Redeemer wishes Pastor Dave the best in his retirement!

Tell Pastor Dave What You Think of Him!!

Over the next weeks, leading up to **Pastor Dave's** retirement celebration on **Sunday, Dec. 14**, Redeemer members and friends are invited to submit a personal note of appreciation and to place them in a basket in the Library. Blank note cards will be available.

Questions should be directed to **Kathy Mimlitch, Michelle Disbro** or **Kathleen Zwanziger**.

'Noisy Offering' to Go to ELCA's Good Gifts

Kay Ernsthansen reports the Noisy Offering from the beginning of Advent thru Epiphany will be used to buy items from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. “With the right amount of donations we could buy a Family Farm (\$715), a herd of goats (\$300), a cow (\$500), fish farm (\$250), community vegetable garden (\$220), an irrigation system (\$100), safe water access (\$250), latrine (\$150) and the list goes on.

To decide what Redeemer will support, the children and confirmation Sunday school classes will vote in January. “The kids will be able to make suggestions of what we should buy and then will vote on what we buy. If we can buy more than item, we will maximize the offering to buy as much as we can,” Kay writes.

“So, clean out the bottom of your purses and backpacks, empty out the columns of the car from all the change from the fast food drive thru's. See what you want to help give as a Christmas gift to someone in need.”

Volunteers Sought to Provide Refreshments after Worship

Volunteers are needed to set up/provide refreshments following the Sunday worship service. A sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board next to the Library.

It doesn't need to be elaborate. Coffee, teas are in the cupboard and packaged cookies are under the counters.

This is a wonderful time to visit with fellow worshippers and is much appreciated.

Reach out to **Jon Disbro** with any questions.

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.

The council has elected to transfer checking account funds in excess of funds needed for the day to day operation of the church to interest bearing accounts. \$100,000 will be transferred to a five-month certificate of deposit, and \$30,000 will be transferred to a liquid, interest bearing account. In addition, \$22,000 will be added to the Property and Equipment Fund at the Columbus Foundation. After the transfer, the Property and Equipment fund will have a balance of about \$50,000.

Since **Ashley Bird**, as the incoming Congregation Council president, will be added as a check-signer for the main checking account, he will be resigning as one of the offering counters. Council is looking for volunteers to fill that role. (See separate story, this issue.)

With the resignation of **Rich Pautsch** as secretary, council will be appointing someone to serve as secretary for 2026.

Council also continues to fine tune the spending plan for 2026. One item in particular under discussion is the amount of Immigration Support to fund through the spending plan.

Repairs have been made to the furnace serving Fellowship Hall, and a voltage monitor will be installed to protect and determine the cause(s) of the blower motor burning out on this unit.

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.**

Council Clarifies Policy on Payments to Individuals

The Redeemer Congregation Council has adopted a policy of not disbursing funds directly to individuals with the exception of funds requested by individuals for reimbursement of church related expenses and funds requested in payment for personal services. This was prompted because council has received requests from some members about designating contributions from a particular donor to the Immigration Support Fund or other funds of the church designated to benefit a particular individual. They refer folks to the following article for more information [HERE](#).

“If you need additional information about this matter, consult your tax preparer.”

Remembrance Garden Guidelines Posted

The following guidelines have been posted regarding Redeemer’s Remembrance Garden: The garden is intended to be a place for reflection, remembering and celebrating those who have gone before. Just as the congregation welcomes all, so, too, the garden is open to all.

Anyone wishing to scatter or bury the remains of a beloved person or pet simply needs to speak with the pastor, who will facilitate the process to best suit the individual’s preferences and desires. The pastor can be contacted through the church office at 614-237-1263 or info@redeemerluth.com.

Zoom Links

The following regular Zoom links to Redeemer’s Sunday Adult Education Forum and weekly Tuesday Bible Study.

Adult Education Forum Zoom can be found [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 889 7945 2993; Passcode: 850178 .

Tuesday Bible Study Zoom can be found [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 819 5203 4409; Passcode: 781179 .

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 of thanksgiving are asked on behalf of **Micheline Saint Felix** and **WilFrantz Raymond** and the arrival of **Mathewoodson Raymond** on **Monday, Nov. 24!!** Mother and baby are doing well and are home.

+ + +

Prayers of comfort are asked for the family on long-time Redeemer member **Bonnie Hegreness** who died on **Friday, Nov. 21**. Bonnie and her husband **Art** were among the earliest members of Redeemer. While Bonnie has most recently been living in Texas, she faithfully kept in touch with her RLC family.

+ + +

Prayers for healing are asked for **Ranel Hoddinott’s** sister and brother-in-law **Paulie** and **Jerry Shaffer** as he is being treated for cancer and for comfort for **Mary**, the daughter of her friend **Lana Thomas**, who is in hospice care.

December Birthdays

2-Eowyn Dana 2-Ruby Jacobs

4-Toshi Phillips 6-Izzy Skoog

6-Sophie Skoog 8-Bob Rapp

10-Eric Hutton 19-Joe Darst

19-Novella Hinkle* 20-Debbie Turner

24-Julianne Johnson 24-WilFrantz Raymond

26-Emily Kent 31-John Kennedy

***Novella Hinkle** celebrates her 98th birthday on Dec. 19!!! *If folks want to send her a card, her address is 2884 Ivanhoe Dr., Columbus 43209-3225.*

The Wider Church

Bishop Dillahunt, Synod Staff Send Advent Message

“Welcome to the sacred season of holy waiting. While the world around us rushes to prepare for Christmas – filled with lists, hustle, and haste – we are invited to pause, breathe, and cling to the deep hope we have in Jesus, our Savior.

“In a time when everything seems to accelerate, Advent calls us to slow down and open our hearts and spaces to Christ’s coming. As John 1:5 reminds us, ‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.’

“This season, we remember that God comes not in power or grandeur, but in vulnerability and love. **Jesus, Emmanuel** – God with us – brings hope, peace, joy, and love to all people.

“As we wait in anticipation, let us be watchful – not with fear, but with expectant hope. May our congregations, ministries, and communities become places where the tired find rest, the lonely find belonging, and all are reminded that God is still at work – redeeming and renewing the world.

“Come, Lord Jesus, come into our holy waiting, and fill us with your peace – peace that surpasses all understanding – keeping our hearts and minds fixed on the Good News of Christ.”

Blessed Advent, Southern Ohio Synod.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

December 2 Hanging Advent wreaths and lighting candles to anticipate the birth of the Messiah are Christian traditions that date back hundreds of years. Thank God for the gift of Jesus Christ that continues to change our identities, our lives and our understanding of life as beloved children of God.

3 Pray for people and whole communities in the Caribbean that have suffered devastation and loss from Hurricane Melissa, especially across Jamaica, Haiti, Cuba and the Bahamas. Ask God to strengthen their faith as they recover and rebuild and to bless them with support, resources, funding, volunteers and prayers for the duration of their recovery.

4 Pray that, throughout this season of gift-giving, we will be mindful of those, nearby and far away, who lie beyond our familiar circles of family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

5 LWF (Lutheran World Federation) World Service is composed of 154 churches, in 25 countries, that embrace the Lutheran tradition, including the ELCA. Pray for the LWF's humanitarian and development work, which promotes peace, justice, reconciliation and dignity for individuals and communities.

6 Pray that we will exercise hospitality and generosity by inviting others to be part of our Advent traditions, worship, meals and celebrations.

7 Pray for the Spirit to form us into faithful yet ever-maturing disciples of Christ who, like John the Baptist, proclaim the gospel, invite others to believe, and boldly serve our neighbors.

8 Martin Luther is supposed to have said, "I have so much to do that I shall have to spend the first three hours in prayer." For what and whom will you pray today?

The Community Beyond

IACO to Celebrate 40th Anniversary Dec. 7, Continues Interfaith Discussion

The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO) will celebrate its 40th anniversary on **Sunday, Dec. 7** at its annual Prayer Gathering at the Bharatiya Hindu Temple (3671 Hyatts Rd., Powell). It will run from 4 to 6:30 p.m. More information will be coming soon. IACO is also sponsoring an interfaith dialogue group discussing "How Can People of Faith Respond in Times of Crisis and Conflict?" Each gathering will have speakers of different faith traditions. The next meeting will be **Thursday, Nov. 20**. Register [HERE](#). A vegetarian potluck light dinner is also available.

Singing Buckeyes Present Christmas Concert Dec. 13

The barbershop group *The Singing Buckeyes* which includes Redeemer's **Scott Steiner** will present "Harmonies for the Holidays" on **Saturday, Dec. 13** at both 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Valley Dale Ballroom (1590 Sunbury Rd., Columbus 43219).

Tickets for the afternoon performance run \$20 while the evening performance, which also includes the Columbus Children's Choir, run \$25. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Getting Ready for Worship

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-11; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Matthew 3:1-12

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of Hope Lutheran Church in Columbus.
- + For Redeemer community members Karen and Al Rider.

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 Hegreiness, Mary Kennedy, Kevin Bailey's sister Kleta Childs, 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, Kathie Ehrich, Dottie and Larry Bird, Kelley Frank's mother Charlotte Frank, the Bradley Family, Karen Rider's niece Tammy and her friend Betsy Wagner, Sue, Tim and Lisa Watson, Heidi Carman, Grace and Ken Jones and their son Dan Jones, Emily Crosley, Bill Boys.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Michele Disbro
Reader	Bishop Nicholas
Cantor	Wendy Stoica
ASL Interpreter	
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	Becky Trover, Michele Disbro
Hospitality	Becky Trover

*The Noisy Offering will go to ELCA's Good Gifts.
Flowers are given by Kathy Zwanziger celebrating Eric's birthday*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer

Dec. 1- Dec. 8, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	4:30 p.m.	Executive Team via ZOOM
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts #2462
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	5:15 p.m.	Outreach Team
Wednesday	12:30 p.m.	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	6:30 p.m.	Advent Desserts
	7:00 p.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Holden Evening Prayer
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Sister Act Brunch at The Woodbury (215 E. Town St., Columbus)
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion/
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed
	11:15 a.m.	Christmas Play Rehearsal
Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	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



Please join us on
Sunday, December 14
11:45 am
to celebrate the ministry of
Pastor Dave Shull
as he enters retirement.
Luncheon will be provided.

Please RSVP to info@RedeemerLuth.com
or 614.237.1263

In lieu of gifts, please consider a donation to RLC
ministries such as Good Samaritan fund,
Immigration fund, Mary Kohler fund, Memorial
fund, etc.