



# Reflections

VOLUME 29

December 8, 2025

ISSUE 49

## ***Have You Ever Heard a Whisper?***

In his Christmas message to the church, **ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry** delivers a children's sermon, describing the night when **Jesus** was born. "One silent night, far away in a town called Bethlehem, the stars twinkled brighter than ever. And the angels were there too. It was as if the whole sky was whispering: 'Something wonderful is happening.'

"Hello!

"Can you all whisper back to me?

"Whispers are quiet, gentle, almost like a secret. You have to lean in close to hear them. And I wonder if it's possible for the heavens to whisper at Christmas?

"One silent night, far away, in a town called Bethlehem, the stars twinkled brighter than ever. And the angels were there, too. It was as if the whole sky was whispering: "Something wonderful is happening ..."

"Let's all look up at the ceiling like we're looking at the stars.

"Can you twinkle your fingers like stars?

"Now let's whisper together, 'Something wonderful is happening ...'

"The heavens weren't shouting. They weren't making a big noise. They were whispering, because whispers make us stop, listen and pay attention.

"And what was the whispering about? A baby. A tiny baby lying in a manger.

"His name was Jesus.

"Can you pretend to rock a baby in your arms?

"The night Jesus was born, the shepherds heard the whisper in the sky when the angels sang. The Wise Men sensed the whisper in the star that guided them. And **Mary** and **Joseph** felt the whisper in their hearts: 'This child is special. This child is God's gift.'

"Sometimes we think God only speaks in loud voices or through big miracles. But Christmas reminds us that God often whispers. God whispers love and kindness and peace.

"Can you think of one kind thing you could whisper to someone this week?

"So, this Christmas, listen closely. The heavens are still whispering: 'Jesus is here. God loves you. Share that love with the world.'

"Let's all whisper together: 'Jesus is here.'

"Now say 'God loves us' in a joyful voice!"

To view the video, click [HERE](#).

## In This Issue

[Have You Ever Heard a Whisper?](#)

[The Redeemer Community](#)

[The Wider Church](#)

[The Community Beyond](#)

[Prayers & Personals](#)

[Getting Ready for Sunday](#)

### 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

### Retirement Party for Pastor Dave This Sunday!!



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!!***

In this last week 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 Mimplitch, Michelle Disbro** or **Kathleen Zwanziger**.

### ***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](mailto: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.*

### **Advent Devotional Booklets Available**

Redeemer's 2025 *Advent Devotional Booklet* is 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.

### **Find Calm during Redeemer's Midweek Advent Services**

During this season of Advent, 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. 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.

"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."

### ***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.

## 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!!



## 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."

## '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.

## 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](mailto: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](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

Prayers for healing are asked for **Micheline Saint Felix** who is in the hospital following the birth of her baby and for **Bruce Collins** who is recovering from surgery last week.

### *A Thank You to Redeemer*

**Kathy Zwanziger** writes, "Once again, thank you all for your generosity in contributing 80 ThankFULL Holiday bags to Lutheran Social Services. Our team of **Kathy Mimplitch**, **Kathy Pautsch**, and **Sue Yehling** helped distribute bags to the 273 families served at the Champion Food Pantry Nov. 25."

Over 2,000 families received food for a Thanksgiving meal in the few days before the holiday from that and other Lutheran Social Services (LSS) locations.

## December Birthdays

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 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on Dec. 19!!! *If folks want to send her a card, her address is 2884 Ivanhoe Dr., Columbus 43209-3225.*

## The Wider Church

### Mennonite Action Tour Comes to Columbus Tuesday, Dec. 9

The genocide in Gaza rages on as ICE kidnaps neighbors off the streets in the U.S. That's why the Action Network is bringing training, tools, and frameworks to help Columbus respond in courage to this historical moment, "discerning the times" as "we're called to do (Matthew 16:3)."

Join Mennonite Action for the Columbus stop on its "To Build Our Courage" U.S. tour this **Tuesday, Dec. 9** beginning at 5:45 p.m. at the Columbus Mennonite Church, 35 Oakland Park Ave. Invite friends, family and church congregation members. All are welcome!

Click [here](#) for details and to RSVP.

This is one of 30 stops across the U.S. this fall and winter.

### Advent Prayer

*A Poem for Dec. 5, 2025 by Pastor Stephen Bond*

Child of the garbage country,  
empty handed,  
bringing nothing.  
Son of the walled-off waste land  
dependent on strangers' handouts:  
gold and myrrh and incense,  
Firstborn of the wholly Other  
foreigner among us,  
baby laid in a trough:  
of whom we ask in mockery,  
"Can anything good  
come from your hometown?"  
for whom we made no room,  
save for a borrowed shed,  
on whom we looked down:  
You, branded an enemy  
to be defeated,  
You, marked for death  
at the empire's hand,  
You, pierced again  
to be sure they had  
eliminated the threat:  
You knew  
what you were getting into with us.  
You knew  
what we would do.  
You, refugee and Refuge,  
you came anyway.  
Come among us now.

### 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 9** Ask God to help us find paths to peace and reconciliation in places of conflict where they have proved elusive, especially in Palestine, Israel, Eastern Europe, Northern Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Remember in prayer the millions of people who have suffered and been displaced to unfamiliar lands.

**10** Theologian **Henri Nouwen** wrote, “The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.” Say a quiet prayer every day, acknowledging Advent as a time of remembrance, anticipation, celebration of God’s presence and hope for Christ’s return.

**11** Pray that the light of God’s love and forgiveness will shine brightly, renewing your faith and guiding you every day.

**12** Remember in prayer local, state and national leaders, that they will exercise their responsibilities with compassion, justice, fairness and commitment. Ask God to help them as they address intractable problems in our communities and nation, including poverty, racism and limited access to health care.

**13** Give thanks for students returning home from colleges, universities and seminaries. Pray that their journeys will be safe and that they will be renewed by the blessings of family, friends and welcoming faith communities.

**14** How will you tell others about your faith throughout Advent? Pray for the Spirit’s inspiration as you articulate what God is doing in your life and how you have been changed by the embodiment of God’s amazing grace in Jesus Christ.

**15** Give thanks for far-reaching programs and ministries of our church and congregations that encourage hope, comfort and healing, grounded in God’s infinite love and forgiveness.

## The Community Beyond

### 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](#).

### Warming Centers Open as Temperatures Drop

As temperatures drop, the Community Shelter Board and its partners have activated Winter Warming Centers throughout the region to support our neighbors in need.

Key Resources:

- 24/7 Access: The Third Shift Warming/Cooling Center (in partnership with First English Lutheran Church) is open 24 hours a day. (1015 E. Main St.)
- Need Shelter? Call the Homeless Hotline at 614-274-7000.
- Need Food? Call the Food Line at 614-341-2282.
- Youth (Ages 14-24): Star House offers drop-in services (1220 Corrugated Way)

In addition, Columbus Metropolitan Libraries and Columbus Recreation & Parks Community Centers are also available during normal business hours as safe places to get out of the cold.

To learn more and see all locations, go [HERE](#).

# Getting Ready for Worship

## Third Sunday of Advent

### December 14, 2025 – 10 a.m.

#### Lessons

**Readings:** Isaiah 35:1-7; Psalmody Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 38; John 15:9-15

#### Prayer of the Day

Living God, creation brings us news of your love every morning! Yet when we don't expect it, or don't believe we deserve it, that love struggles to find the home in us that can help make us whole. This Advent season, may we create spaces within us to receive your love, so we might come alive and become joy to the world. **Amen**

#### Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Hosanna Lutheran Church in Pataskala.

+ For Redeemer community members Jim Riley and Jim Carson.

**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 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, **Ranel Hoddinott's** sister and brother-in-law **Paulie** and **Jerry Shaffer** and her friend **Lana Thomas' daughter Mary.**

#### Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	<b>Dave Shull</b>
Assisting Minister	<b>Julianne Johnson</b>
Cantor	<b>Connie Criswell</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>Kathleen Zwanziger</b>
Verger	<b>Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica</b>
Producers	<b>Judith Bird, April Smith</b>
Communion Prep	<b>Becky Trover, Michele Disbro</b>
Hospitality	<b>Pastor Dave's Celebration</b>

*The Noisy Offering will go to ELCA's Good Gifts.*

*Flowers are given by the Steiner family to honor Pastor Dave's years of service*

#### Upcoming Events at Redeemer

##### Dec. 8- Dec. 15, 2025

<b>Monday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
<b>Tuesday</b>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	6:30 p.m.	A Brewing Faith, Milo's Deli, 410 W Town Street
<b>Wednesday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	6:30 p.m.	Advent Desserts
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM <b>Holden Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Chime Choir rehearsal

- Sunday**     8:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
                 10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship with Holy Communion/  
                 11:45 a.m. Pastor Dave Retirement Celebration
- Monday**    1:00 p.m. Bexley/Berwick Dementia Support Group  
                 3:00 p.m. Suzuki  
                 5:00 p.m. TOPS  
                 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 2462



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](mailto: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.

**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