



# Reflections

VOLUME 29

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ISSUE 50

## Pastor Dave: *His Last Front Page*

The only time I ever remember not being excited to see snow was this past Saturday. I kept thinking how incredibly disappointing it would be if I had to give my “thank you” message to you all standing in our living room over Zoom, looking at your faces in tiny boxes. I am so grateful a good number of us were able to gather in-person. And grateful that **Sachio** and **Toshi** were able to run the livestream so others of you could worship in the warmth and safety of your homes.

The retirement party after worship was a true joy for me. Thank you to **Kathy Mimplitch** for overseeing the gathering, and for all the people she recruited or who volunteered to make it all happen. Thank you to **Brad Binau** for emceeding, to the choir for the beautiful a cappella anthem, and all whose presence surrounded me with so much love.

As I think of what to say in my last *Reflections* front page, I think of the gratitude we owe **Judy Bird** for editing this week after week after week after week.

And I think of a wish I have for Redeemer ... a wish grounded in the grace which remains the great gift of this faith tradition to Christianity and all humankind. It’s a hymn from the Iona community in Scotland. Written by **Kathy Galloway**, the tune is Picardy, which is the setting for “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.” Her words express the spirit of openness, compassion, and trust that is the spirit I have found with you the past eight years. It is the spirit I hope might grow and deepen in you as you move forward together.

I thank you again for letting me be a companion on this shared adventure we’ve been on together, and I offer you nothing but love.

## God’s Graceful Moment

Morning opens wide before us like a door into the light.

Just beyond, the day lies waiting ready to throw off the night,  
and we stand upon its threshold poised to turn and take its flight.

Now the earth in all its glory springs to meet the rising sun,  
warms to all who walk upon it, cradling all that will be done.

All our labor, all our loving mingle and become as one.

We receive God’s graceful moment, while the day is fresh and still,  
ours to choose how we will greet it, ours to make it what we will.

Here is given perfect freedom, every hope in love to fulfil.

As we take the first step together, passing through the door of the day,  
may the love of Christ the Creator give us peace in all that we say,  
heart for all that lies before us, grace to guide us on our way.

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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 Mimplitch  
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

### Christmas Pageant Comes to RLC Sunday

*Back to the First Christmas: A Christmas Pageant* comes to Redeemer **Sunday, Dec. 21** during the worship hour. Written, produced and acted by Redeemer's youth, this promises to be a wonderful addition to the holiday festivities!

Plan now to come Sunday at 10 a.m.

### Redeemer's Final Midweek Advent Service Set for Dec. 17

During this season of Advent, Redeemer has offered a space to rest in the calmness, beauty, and joy of a darkened sanctuary filled with the sounds of *Holden Evening Prayer*.

**Wednesday evening, Dec. 17** is the final midweek service for this year. 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.

### 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 **Kathy Zwanziger** who is having a medical procedure this week.

+ + +

Congratulations go out to **Sarah Kirkman** who was named head keeper for the Asia Quest area at the Columbus Zoo!!

+ + +

From the Finance Team: *Thank you* to the anonymous of a Thrivent grant. Was this intended for a specific ministry at the church? If so, please let **Laura Warren** know.

## Latest Issue of *Christ in Our Home* Available

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

## December Birthdays

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

## Advent Prayer: *Mending the Coat*

*A Poem for Dec. 13, 2025 by Pastor Stephen Bond*

Take the needle and  
the strong black thread.  
Pull it through the place  
where the tear at the seam  
is most frayed.  
Start there.

As opposing sides  
are drawn together  
with each stitch, mind your  
uncalloused fingertips –  
like all healing, there will be pain.  
And scars.

Devote the time  
and vision necessary,  
the strain on eyes to trace  
the string against the dark wool.  
Like Thomas touch tenderly  
the wound.

Commit to this rebellion  
against disposability. Giv yourself  
to the work. Then take  
these same tools, coat on now,  
and step into the cold to do the same for  
the world.

## 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 16 Las Posadas** This tradition uses lighted paths and processions from house to house to remember **Mary** and **Joseph’s** journey through Bethlehem in search of shelter. Pray that this experience will prompt us to welcome, accompany and serve strangers, immigrants, refugees and neighbors in need.

**17** Ask God to help us be patient and merciful with ourselves, our siblings in Christ and the people around us.

**18 International Migrants Day** Pray for immigrants and refugees around the world who seek safety, a welcoming community and a place to rebuild their lives. Give thanks for the ministries of our church and other organizations that enable us to respond with compassion, support and resources, including Global Refuge, Lutheran Services in America, LWF (Lutheran World Federation) World Service, and the ELCA’s AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).

**19** Pray that, throughout this season of celebration and gift-giving, our faith and the example of Jesus will inspire our generosity toward neighbors who suffer poverty, loneliness and isolation, especially during the holidays. Pray that our actions and words might reflect the light of God’s love, stirring hope, joy and compassion.

**20** Pray for Global Mission personnel and those serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program who celebrate Advent and Christmas far from home, and thank God for our global companions, whose traditions enrich our faith.

**21 Winter solstice** On this shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, give thanks for the brilliant light of God’s love.

**22** Remember in prayer those who serve our communities, often working hours that prevent them from participating in worship and holiday activities. Pray for those working in health care, law enforcement, retail sales, emergency response, the military, social services, the hospitality industry and other vocations that we have come to rely upon.

## The Community Beyond

### Columbus Coalition to Hold Homeless Memorial Service

**Carol Heacock** reports that, “Every year the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless holds a memorial service to honor and remember the people who have passed away while unhoused in Columbus. This memorial service is traditionally held on or close to the longest night of the year. The service includes several interfaith speakers, music, and the reading of names of those who have died.

“This year the memorial service will be held on **Thursday, Dec. 18** beginning at 6 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad St. All are welcome to attend.”

### 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

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

### December 21, 2025 – 10 a.m.

### Lessons

Readings: **Back to the First Christmas – A Christmas Pageant**

#### Prayer of the Day

God of Play and Delight, Jesus told us when we live in this world with the wonder and freedom of children, we catch glimpses of the world you dream of. May we listen well to the young people in our midst, so we might be reminded of the wisdom they know which we too easily forget. We pray in the name of the Coming One, who always and everywhere invited children to come to him. **Amen**

#### Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Ibada ya Kiswahili Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Heidi Sherer.

**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, 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>Mary Benis</b>
Cantor	<b>Scott Steiner</b>
ASL Interpreter	<b>Emily Ott</b>
Organist & Senior Choir Director	<b>Kathy Rapp</b>
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	<b>Karen Kent</b>
Usher	<b>Mike Benis</b>
Verger	<b>Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica</b>
Producers	<b>April Smith and Judith Bird</b>
Communion Prep	<b>Becky Trover, Michele Disbro</b>
Hospitality	<b>Wendy Stoica and Karen Rider</b>

*The Noisy Offering will go to ELCA's Good Gifts.  
Flowers are given by the Melissa Hakim to celebrate Debbie Turner's birthday*

**Upcoming Events at Redeemer**  
**Dec. 15- Dec. 22, 2025**

<b>Monday</b>	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
<b>Tuesday</b>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	6:30 p.m.	Congregational Council
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	6:30 p.m.	Advent Desserts
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Holden Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	12:30-4:00	<b><i>RLC at LSS Food Pantry</i></b>
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Chime Choir rehearsal
<b>Sunday</b>	8:45 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Worship IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM
	10:00 a.m.	Youth Christmas Program
	11:15 a.m.	Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas Eve
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Ed IN-PERSON AND ZOOM
<b>Monday</b>	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

## RLC Celebrates Pastor Dave

Despite the snow, Redeemer members and friends turned out **Sunday, Dec. 14** to celebrate **Pastor Dave** and his eight years as pastor here. **Council President Brad Binau** called it the “happiest sadness,” acknowledging the congregation’s loss but also the new chapter for Dave.

**Kathy Mimlitch** headed a team of volunteers that arranged for the food and the *desserts* while presenters included past presidents **Margie Frazier** and **Krista Skipper** and **Eileen Day**.

Dave received a painting painted by Margie, a jar of wishes from members and friends of the congregation and a picture album from Eileen, incorporating many of the pictures in the slide show that **Kristi Hildebrand** put together of Dave’s time here.

The choir sang “Walking in the Spirit of God” and **Quay Barnes** of the Mideast Area Commission and **Dottie Odrosky**, who leads the caregivers group that meets here at the church, also related what it has meant to work with Dave.

