



Reflections

VOLUME 29

December 22, 2025

ISSUE 51-52

Council Approves Immigration Support Fund Policies; Johnson Details Recent ICE Activity

Redeemer's Congregation Council approved policies and procedures governing the use of the church's Immigration Support Fund at its recent meeting on **Tuesday, Dec. 16**. The draft policy was submitted by Redeemer's Immigration Support Task Force, **Julie Johnson**, chair.

Julie also updated the congregation regarding recent ICE activity here in Columbus following worship on Sunday.

According to the statement, the mission reads as follows:

"Grounded in the biblical call to love the immigrant and refugee in our midst, the Immigration Support Fund of Redeemer Lutheran Church serves as a ministry of compassion and justice. It provides targeted financial and practical support to immigrants and refugees for housing, legal, educational, medical, and personal safety needs. Expenditures will be made in accordance with approved policies and procedures."

The vision reads as follows:

"We envision a community where all are met without barriers and welcomed with open hands -- where every person, regardless of origin, can live with safety, purpose, and independence. As a congregation, we aspire to embody God's beloved community by ensuring that compassion is guided by clear policies, faith is expressed through action, and generosity is practiced with good stewardship."

The policy further states that contributions to the Immigration Support Fund will be restricted, with expenditures based on need as determined by the task force. Council approval is required for all expenditures over \$500. "If a congregant wishes to pay for a need and have it reimbursed, prior approval is strongly recommended for reimbursement."

The funds can cover the following expenses: educational, rent or housing costs, legal and living expenses including food. The fund will not cover cars or car insurance, home or renter's insurance or any property "that would require church ownership."

In addition, Julie reported Sunday that ICE agents knocked on every door of the apartment building of Redeemer's immigrant family this past week. She encouraged members to get a whistle to blow if folks "see something happening." She added that folks don't need to intervene or get closer but this draws attention to what is going on.

She also suggested calling this hotline -- 855-435-7693 -- which reaches a group that will do its best to respond. For now, Julie said prayers are needed as well as additional funds for immigration related expenses.

"This is how we attempt to provide sanctuary here at Redeemer."

In This Issue

[Immigration Support Fund Policies;](#)

[Recent ICE Activities](#)

[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 Ernsthansen

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

Today's Reflections Covers Two Weeks

To give Redeemer staff a break, this issue of *Reflections* covers to two weeks of activities at the church. The next issue will be published on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026.

'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."

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.

Council has appointed **Kay Ernsthansen** to serve again as treasurer for 2026. In addition, the treasurer is also now a non-voting member of the council. **Jon Disbro** has been appointed to serve as secretary for 2026, filling out the term of **Rich Pautsch**, who resigned.

Council has approved the 2026 Spending Plan to be discussed by the congregation before the annual meeting. The Adult Education time on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, will be devoted to discussion of the proposed Spending Plan. **Laura Warren** will lead that discussion.

The Immigration Support Task Force has completed a draft of policies and procedures for the disbursement of Immigration Support Funds. The council has approved those policies pending some final minor editing. The chair of the Immigration Support Task Force, **Julie Johnson**, can approve disbursements up to \$500, while disbursements over \$500 will require the approval of council.

At the annual meeting on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026, in addition to approving the Spending Plan for 2026, council will be asking the congregation to ratify synod required amendments to our constitution.

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."

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.

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 cremains 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 for healing are asked for **Mary Bowling’s** mother who was life-flighted this past week after a medical emergency.

+ + +

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

Guest Pastor to Preach Jan. 4

Rev. Dr. Jeff Jaynes, a Presbyterian pastor and retired professor of church history at Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio, will be guest preacher on **Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026**. Redeemer member **Rev. Al Rider** will preside.

Pastor Dave Appreciation Video Available Online

The appreciation video of **Pastor Dave’s** years here at Redeemer that played throughout his celebration on **Sunday, Dec. 14** is available on Redeemer’s YouTube channel [HERE](#). Thanks to **Kristi Hildebrand**

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

24-Julianne Johnson 24-Wilfrantz Raymond
26-Emily Kent 31-John Kennedy

January Birthdays

1-Connie Criswell 2-Don Luck*
4-Kristen Ullman 5-Tamara Wawrosch
9-Marques Highland 11-Rich Pautsch
13-Michelle Skoog 20-David Detweiler
20-Corinne Montgomery 20-Tony Naess
21-Elizabeth George 21-Shirley Miller**
22-Maureen Callahan 22-Shirley Cannon
24-Sophie Brush 24-Marshall Edgington
24-Kathy Rapp 25-Rosalie Highland
26-Jeff Montgomery 28-Bebe McCoy

***Don Luck** will be 93 on Jan. 2! *Cards can be sent to him at Kensington Place 314, 1001 Parkview Blvd., Columbus 43219-2274.*

****Shirley Miller** will be 91 on Jan. 21. *Cards can be sent to her at 4050 Wiston Dr., Groveport 43125-8910.*

The Wider Church

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

December 23 Pray that our hearts and minds will be receptive when the work of the Spirit surprises us.

24 Christmas Eve “**Jesus’** voice from lowly manger softly thus calls to us: ‘You are safe from danger; come and see; from all that grieves you you are freed; all you need I will surely give you’” (“All My Heart Again Rejoices” *ELW* 273). Praise God for knowing what we yearn for most and responding with generous, tender mercy. Let your hearts overflow with thanksgiving.

25 Christmas Day Oscar Romero, the martyred Roman Catholic bishop of San Salvador, wrote, “The more simple and humble, the more poor and detached from ourselves, the more full of troubles and problems we are, the more bewildering life’s ways, all the more must we look up to the skies and hear the great news: ‘A Savior is born to you.’ And let us listen in chorus to that great news, sung throughout the universe: ‘Glory to God in the heavens, and on earth peace to those whom God loves.’” Give praise and thanksgiving to God!

26 Kwanzaa Pray for our African-descent neighbors and siblings in Christ who observe Kwanzaa, a weeklong celebration of African culture and tradition that emphasizes family, community and culture. Give thanks for the rich and enduring practices of our siblings of African descent and of the global African community.

27 Pray for those who are often forgotten, including neighbors who are incarcerated, are held in immigration detention centers, live in institutions, move from shelter to shelter or are unable to leave their homes.

28 Pray that we might express the life-giving joy of Christmas and that Jesus Christ will continue to bring light, hope and salvation into the world for all people.

29 Lift up prayers of thanksgiving and praise that God illuminates our dark times, gives us strength to endure and surrounds us with love and mercy when we need it most.

30 Give thanks for our siblings in Christ and for our divine parent, who created all that exists and gathers us together.

31 New Year's Eve Our baptism sets us on a lifelong journey of thanksgiving, hope, generosity, learning, service and sharing the gospel. Pray for the Spirit to stir our faith in the year ahead and prepare us to continue our journey even though we don't know where it will take us.

The Community Beyond

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

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 9:2-6; 11:1-4a; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:1-7; Luke 2:8-20; John 1:1-5, 14

Prayer of the Day

As once you came in the hush of darkness, O God, still our hearts now by the wonder of this night. Make us wise with the wisdom of a child, that truth might be born afresh in us. Let our hearts not be busy inns with no room, but doors opened wide to welcome a Holy Guest, who is Jesus Christ, alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

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, Kathy Zwanziger.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Michelle Clemence
Cantor	Jennifer Young
Readers	Ruby Jacobs, Michelle Clemence, Kathleen Zwanziger, Brad Binau
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Ushers	Diane Brobeck, Tammy DeNune
Vergers	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Sue Yehling, Tom Mimplitch

*The Noisy Offering will go to ELCA's Good Gifts.
Poinsettias are given by members and friends of Redeemer*

Christmas Morning December 25, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Informal Worship with Holy Communion

First Sunday of Christmas December 28, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Luke 2:41-52

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, 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 Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Columbus.
- + For Redeemer community members Dave Shull and Mike Allen.

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, Kathy Zwanziger.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Dave Shull
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Cantor	Al Rider
ASL Interpreter	Marilyn Floyd
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Judith Bird
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Scott Steiner, April Smith
Communion Prep	Becky Trover, Michele Disbro
Hospitality	Laura and Terry Warren

*The Noisy Offering will go to ELCA's Good Gifts.
Poinsettias are given by members and friends of Redeemer*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer

Dec. 22- Dec. 29, 2025

Monday	3:00 p.m. Suzuki
	5:00 p.m. TOPS
Tuesday	3:00 p.m. Suzuki
Wednesday	7:00 p.m. <i>IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Christmas Eve Worship</i>
Thursday	10:00 a.m. <i>Christmas Day Worship IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM</i>
Sunday	8:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m. Worship IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM
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

