



Reflections

VOLUME 30

January 12, 2026

ISSUE 2

Annual Meeting Set for Jan. 25, Lunch to Follow

The Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held **Sunday, Jan. 25** following the worship service. Business items include adopting the 2026 spending plan and approving both synod-required constitution revisions and the Mission Endowment Fund distribution.

According to a letter from **Congregation President Ashley Bird**, the constitution changes are required and the result of the last three churchwide assemblies in 2019, 2022 and 2025. A copy of the changes was sent to all friends and members of Redeemer last month, together with a cover letter explaining the edits.

Currently, the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) is soliciting suggestions for the distribution of the approximately \$7,117 available to donate from 2025. (See separate article, this issue and the form at the end of this *Reflections*.) That distribution will be approved at the meeting.

Also on the agenda for the annual meeting is approval of Redeemer's 2026 spending plan. **Finance Officer Laura Warren** walked attendees of the Jan. 4 Adult Forum through the details, explaining how the transition in the pastoral leadership this year affects the budget, reflecting both the need to pay additional supply pastors as well as a reduction in the salary line to reflect an interim pastor for only 10 months.

She stressed that the budget is a "point in time" and will need to be adjusted as the year plays out.

Another area that is very fluid concerns the proposed line item for immigration support, with \$20,000 budgeted for the year and "additional needs covered by donations." She noted Redeemer currently assists two families and may take on a third.

Other highlights of the spending plan include the following:

- Staff (custodian, office manager and directors of music) were given a 4 percent increase.
- Distribution of assistance through the Good Samaritan Fund is currently on hold until an interim pastor is secured.
- Property allocations are lower for 2026 because in 2025 the parking lot was repaved and the Remembrance Garden was established.

Copies of the proposed constitutional changes and 2026 proposed spending plan are available on the table in the rear of the sanctuary and will be available at the annual meeting along with the Annual Report highlighting the many ministries of Redeemer.

Members must attend in person in order to vote, per RLC's constitution.

The meeting will be followed by a light lunch with sandwiches from Subway, chips and beverages. **Members are asked to bring desserts.**

RLC Leaders

OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Pastor -

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 - Ashley Bird

Vice President - Lynn Belhorn

Finance Officer - Laura Warren

Secretary - Jon Disbro

Worship - Michelle Clemence

Education - Karen Rider

Outreach - Mary Benis

Member Support - Kathy Mimitch

Property - Sue Yehling

Stewardship - Brad Phillips

APPOINTMENTS

Treasurer - Kay Ernsthausen

CALL COMMITTEE

Joss Dana Zak Hinkle-Moore

Emily Ott Sheryl Owens

Al Rider Krista Skipper

April Smith Kathleen Zwanziger

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

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Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Council, Special Funds Team, Call Committee Installed/Commissioned



Members of the 2026 Congregation Council and the Special Funds Team were installed by **Congregation Council President Ashley Bird** while **Pastor Brad Binau**, past president of the congregation, commissioned the members of the Call Committee **Sunday, Jan. 11** during the worship service.

The congregation was asked to support these leaders' work over the year and to "share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized."

Members of all these groups are listed on the front page of *Reflections*.

Distribution Recommendations Sought for MEF Funds

Every year, the Redeemer congregation donates 4 percent of the year-end market value of the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) on behalf of the congregation. The 2025 third quarter market value was \$178,907.77 which would provide a total of \$7,117.31 for distribution. (The final amount will be adjusted depending on the actual value that will be available in this month.)

The guidelines for distribution are established in Redeemer's constitution and are as follows:

- To establish and support ministries of outreach within or on behalf of the congregation.
- To further partnerships in mission through the synod and other arms of the ELCA.

Examples of prior recipients are the LSS Food Pantry, the Lutheran Memorial Camp/HopeWood Pines, Mid-Ohio Food Collective, Lutheran Social Services, BREAD, Ronald McDonald House and Bishop Griffin Resource Center.

To meet the MEF's guidelines, the Special Funds Team (SFT) is seeking suggestions for the use of the funds for 2025. Please use the form included with today's *Reflections* to nominate possible recipients.

Complete it and place it in the Sunday offering plate or leave it in the church office by **Sunday, Jan. 18**. The SFT will then make its recommendation and forward that to the council for action by the congregation at the Jan. 25 Annual Congregational Business Meeting.

Souper Bowl Coming to Redeemer Feb. 8

Once again Redeemer will participate in the "Souper Bowl" on **Sunday, Feb. 8** – the date of the NFL Super Bowl -- to benefit Lutheran Social Services.

Due to the buying power of the food pantries, each \$1 donated translates to the ability to purchase \$4.50 in food. Contributions will be collected based on the teams in the Super Bowl or the ads.

Food can also be brought to the church and placed in the shopping cart in the coatroom off the Narthex. The best soups to donate are tomato, chicken noodle, vegetable. In addition, the most needed items include 16 oz plastic jars of peanut butter or any canned fruit approximately 15oz. "However, the LSS Food Pantries will be able to use any and all collected food items."

Youth Decide Recipients of 'Noisy Offering' through ELCA's Good Gifts

Redeemer's youth Sunday decided which specific programs under the ELCA's Good Gifts program will receive the Noisy Offering collected over the last several weeks. Those Good Gifts programs include the following: a goat, a Sunday School start-up kit, "send a girl to school," a fruit tree farm, a water filter and chicks.

Check out the poster hanging in the Narthex.

The next recipient of the Noisy Offering is the Lutheran Social Services CHOICES program.

New Goals for New Year: *Reduce/Reuse*

In an effort to be kinder to the environment, folks at Redeemer want to provide an opportunity to do more reducing and reusing. To that end, coffee cup racks have been hung in the hallway by the drinking fountain to encourage members and friends to bring in their own coffee mug to hang on these racks.

Then, as **Michele Disbro** points out, “Whenever you want a cup of tea or coffee, *reduce* the amount of paper products used by *reusing* your coffee mug! Dirty mugs can be placed in the green dish tub on the table outside the kitchenette. Volunteers will wash the mugs and replace them on the coffee racks.

“We also have a row of mugs available for visitors. (Feel free to guide our visitors to these guest mugs.) There is space to hang more mug racks if we need more space for coffee mugs in the future.

“Continuing with the Reduce and Reuse goal: you are always encouraged to bring your own table service for potluck dinners at church. Paper products will always be available as well.”

Redeemer Welcomes Guest Preachers

Over the next several weeks, Redeemer will welcome a series of guest preachers until an interim pastor can be appointed. The following is the list of those individuals Redeemer can expect to hear from now through Feb. 15:

- **Sunday, Jan. 18:** **Chaplain Kerstin Hedlund**, director of contextual and experiential formation at Trinity Lutheran Seminary and chaplain/Lt. Col. in the U.S. Army Reserve.
- **Sunday, Jan. 25:** **Rev. Karen Chakoian**, recently retired pastor of Granville Presbyterian Church.
- **Sunday Feb. 1:** **Rev. Grant Eckhart**, pastor of Jacob’s Portch Campus Ministry at Ohio State University.
- **Sunday, Feb. 8:** **Rev. Teddy Caesar**, Pentecostal pastor at Destiny Church International and teacher at Whitehall City Schools.
- **Sunday, Feb. 15:** **Rev. Emily Krause Corzine**, presbyter for congregational life and transitions, Presbytery of Scioto Valley, Presbyterian Church USA.

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.”

Narthex Art Reflects ‘Blue or Purple’ Theme

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 the Christmas season.

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.**

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.

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."

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: On hiatus.

Important Emails

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 **Don Luck** who is facing health challenges and for **Barbara Hairston** who recently had surgery. Prayers for comfort are asked for **Steve Sherer**, uncle of **Heidi Sherer**, who is in the late stages of cancer. Prayers for healing continue to be asked for **Kelley Frank** who faces further cancer treatment and for **Drusanne Shaulis** who has had a stroke.

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.

January Birthdays

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

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

The Wider Church

Mother of Bishop Dillahunt Dies

The Southern Ohio Synod this week announced that the mother of **Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt**, Carol R. Darcy, died on Dec. 30, 2025, in Marysville, OH at the age of 92. Carol Darcy was a graduate of the nursing program at Capital University and the Francis Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University where she received her MSN.

She was an instructor of nursing at Aultman Hospital, and one of the first Clinical Nurse Specialists in Obstetrics in Canton. She was an innovator for new educational programming at the hospital including the first Grand-parenting and Sibling classes for families with new babies.

A celebration of life will be held on **Sunday, Jan. 18** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Upper Arlington) beginning at 4 p.m. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

January 13 “Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere” (*WOV* 754)! Give thanks for the Spirit who creates and nurtures unique gifts in each of us that help us serve our neighbors and share the good news of Jesus Christ far and wide.

14 Pray that we awaken each day with renewed wonder, awe and respect for the complexity and beauty of God’s creation, from microscopic organisms and human beings to towering mountains and vast oceans.

15 Ask the Spirit to help us grow more resilient so that we can navigate change and situations that are stressful, discomfoting and overwhelming. Pray that our efforts to teach children and youth skills that lead to greater resiliency will be fruitful and effective.

16 National Religious Freedom Day Give thanks that our nation supports the freedom to embrace religion, to worship and to share our faith according to our personal beliefs. Pray that we will respect the religious beliefs of our neighbors and support their right to practice their faith openly, without constraints, persecution or unfair advantage.

17 “A life steeped in generosity pours out love unconsciously” (**Rev. Peter W. Marty**, *Living Lutheran*, 2015). Pray that we exercise a generosity that is not defined by financial wealth but flows from us as a daily expression of faith, with a spirit of gratitude for God’s abundant grace and the belief that our gifts contribute to God’s work in the world.

18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:4-6). Pray with our siblings in Christ around the world that we will find strength and joy in knowing that we are of one body in Christ that is not confined or divided by individual institutions or leaders, religious traditions, cultures or denominations.

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Give praise and thanks to God for courageous saints of the past and present who help bring about change. Pray that we value one another as children of God and that we are bold and persistent in confronting racism, injustice and inequity.

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](#).

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. and can be found [HERE](#). 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, Jan. 27**.

Getting Ready for Worship

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; John 1:29-42

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Dublin.

+ For Redeemer community member Georgene Slagle.

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, Kathy Zwanziger.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Al Rider
Guest Preacher	Chaplain Kerstin Hedlund
Assisting Minister	Kathleen Zwanziger
Cantor	Heidi Sherer
ASL Interpreter	Emily Ott
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Jon Disbro
Vergger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Sachio Phillips and Toshi Phillips
Communion Prep	Wendy Stoica, Maddie Sutphin
Hospitality	Ashley and Judith Bird

The Noisy Offering will go to Lutheran Social Services CHOICES.
Flowers are given by Ashley and Judith Bird in memory of her father Oscar Tieman on his birthday.

**Upcoming Events at Redeemer
January 12- January 19, 2025**

- Monday** 3:00 p.m. Suzuki
5:00 p.m. TOPS
- Tuesday** 3:00 p.m. Suzuki
6:30 p.m. Brewing Faith at Budd Dairy <https://budddairyfoodhall.com/>
- Wednesday** 3:00 p.m. Suzuki
- Thursday** 12:30-4 p.m. **RLC at LSS Food Pantry Another 2 or 3 volunteers are needed!!**
3:00 p.m. Suzuki
- Sunday** 8:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM
11:15 a.m. Adult Ed IN-PERSON and ZOOM
- Monday** *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*
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 #2462

Mission Endowment Fund
2025 Distribution Nomination

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Web Site Address: _____

Organization's Purpose: _____

Amount or Percentage of Available Funds Requested _____

Redeemer member(s) involved with the organization: Yes _____ No _____

If yes, who? _____

Redeemer member submitting the request: _____

Please submit to church office or put in offering plate on/before **January 18, 2026.**

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