



# Reflections

VOLUME 30

February 2, 2026

ISSUE 5

## Coming Up at Redeemer

### Annual Meeting, Luncheon Set for Feb. 15

Redeemer's Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for **Sunday, Feb. 15** immediately following the worship service. As before, it will be held in the Sanctuary with a light lunch from Subway to follow. **Folks are asked to bring a dessert.**

The agenda remains the same as previously announced in *Reflections* articles and in letters from **Council President Ashley Bird**: approval of Redeemer's 2026 spending plan, required changes to the constitution and distribution of the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) interest.

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

Questions? Contact Ashley at 614-257-7779 or at [jambird@aol.com](mailto:jambird@aol.com)

## RLC to Celebrate 'Souper' Bowl Sundays in February

Now that the line-up for Super Bowl LX is set with the Seattle Seahawks taking on the New England Patriots on **Sunday, Feb. 8**, it is time for the annual *Souper Bowl* fundraiser benefitting Lutheran Social Services (LSS) which is also set for Feb. 8 and the following Sundays in February.

If folks wish, they can give cans of soup such as tomato, chicken noodle, or vegetable. Other frequently requested items are 16 oz. jars of peanut butter (in plastic jars) or 15 oz. cans of fruit. However, LSS will use ANY food items that are contributed!

On the other hand, folks can also "vote" for their favorite team (*or the ads*) by placing their contributions in the proper bowl which will be found in the Narthex. LSS can leverage \$1 to purchase \$4.50 worth of food.

Please note: For those who write a check, make it out to Redeemer and put LSS or Souper Bowl in the memo line.

*This is a fun way to help neighbors in need!!*

## Sunday School for All Ages to Meet Feb. 8

**Sunday, Feb. 8** marks Redeemer's Monthly Sunday School for all ages. Preliminary plans for the youth will see **Emily Ott** teaching signing for parts of the worship service.

The topic for the Adult Forum will be announced.

Both sessions begin at 11:15 a.m.

## 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

### 2026 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 Mimplitch

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, Chair

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

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

[www.redeemerluth.com](http://www.redeemerluth.com)



# The Redeemer Community

## Direct Questions over Transition to Council President

Want to know who is doing what here at Redeemer? Who's in charge? What is happening? during this transition period until Redeemer gets an interim pastor, then contact **Council President Ashley Bird** at [jamnbird@aol.com](mailto:jamnbird@aol.com); 614-257-7245; or 614-239-9380. If he doesn't know, he will be able to direct you to the person who does.

To better understand the call process, go [HERE](#). The initial planning meeting of the Call Committee was held this **Thursday, Jan. 22** at 4:30 p.m. here at church.

## Narthex Art to Come Down, Will Be on Break until Easter

In keeping with a "spare" theme during Lent, the Narthex art will be on break until Easter. That means those who loaned an item for the *Blue or Purple* exhibit are now being asked to take it home as the exhibit "rests and resets."

## 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, 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.

## Transportation Team Ministry Looking for Some Help!

**Michelle Disbro** writes, "Did you know that Redeemer provides transportation to people who might need a ride to a doctor's appointment? Members can simply email [NeedARide@redeemerluth.com](mailto:NeedARide@redeemerluth.com) and volunteers on this team respond if they're able to help with that request.

"We're looking for more members to be added to this helpful ministry. It really doesn't require anything more than adding your name to the email group. Then, if a request to the Transportation Team comes into your email, respond if you're available and willing to help. If you're not available or able for that request, you simply do not respond. No commitments – just a willingness to help out if you're able. If you're interested in be added to this transportation ministry team, please contact the church office to be added to the email group.

"On a more specific transportation request, **Grace and Ken Jones** are looking for someone to bring them to church for Sunday worship. [They live north of Broad and west of I-270.] We're hoping to put together some volunteers who might commit on a regular basis (for example, the first Sunday of the month). That person would be responsible to pick the Jones up and bring them to church OR take them home after church. We're going to put together a schedule based on the volunteers' preferences and availability (one way transportation or both, specific Sunday of the month, etc.)

"The Jones will be given the schedule and contact their driver if for some reason they need to cancel that ride for that Sunday. Please contact the church office if you're willing to sign up on a regular transportation schedule for the Jones."

## BREAD Roadmap Updates

**Kristi Hildebrand** provides the following update from BREAD:

"**Protect Renters Now:** The Columbus City Council, especially **Council Member Nick Bankston**, is committed to adding a new Rental Registry in the city of Columbus. The rental registry will provide transparency of landlord contact information to renters. BREAD recommended this course of action to protect renters from unsafe conditions. BREAD is still pushing for one extra step, which is "proactive rental inspections". The City Council's proposal is dependent on complaints from renters, who may be reluctant to report unsafe conditions due to fear of retribution.

"**We Protect Trees:** The City of Columbus is committed to a goal of a 40 percent tree canopy by 2050. However, to achieve the goal, the Columbus City Council needs to enact protections for trees on private property which they are failing to do. At the December Research Kickoff, the Trees Protect Us! We Protect Trees! Committee laid out a plan to increase the heat on city leaders to honor that commitment. Over the next four months, the committee will take steps to highlight the negative health impacts loss of tree canopy will have on our community.

At the May 12 Nehemiah Action, they will be calling on city leaders to honor their commitment and draft legislation to protect trees on private land that incorporates 70 percent of all existing tree canopy.

“**Livable Wage:** The new problem that BREAD adopted at the November Annual Assembly is the lack of a livable wage. Watch this space for information on what specific issue the committee chooses to combat this problem.

“**Bonus issue: Non-Police Crisis Response.** While this is no longer a BREAD issue, they have advocated for it since 2019. In November 2025, **Mayor Andrew Ginther** announced that he was including \$1.0 million in his 2026 Budget Request to City Council to expand Right Response operations and to create a non-police crisis response mobile unit pilot.

Please remember to mark your calendars for the 2026 Nehemiah Action on **May 12, 2026!**

### **Upcoming BREAD Dates for Network Members**

- RLC Network Meeting: **Wednesday, March 18** at 6 p.m. at Redeemer (Room 2).
- Rally: **Tuesday, April 14** at 7 p.m. at Corinthian Missionary Baptism (3161 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.)
- Celebration: **Monday, June 22** at 6 p.m. Location TBA.

### **Upcoming BREAD Date for EVERYONE**

- Nehemiah Action: **Tuesday, May 12.** Doors open at 6 p.m. at the Celeste Center (717 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.)

## **Noisy Offering to Go to LSS Choices**

The Noisy Offering from now until Ash Wednesday will be collected for LSS Choices. The holidays can be a very stressful time. As a result, the number of people (both men and women) abused by their spouse increases.

Many will stay with a spouse because it's the holidays. But once the beginning of the year comes around they find the courage to leave. Even though Choices is under the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) umbrella, they can use extra funds in the beginning of the year when their numbers go up.

**Kay Ernsthansen** writes, “The funds are so needed. Along with the increase in spousal abuse is the increase of human trafficking. Because of these two facts, we will be collecting noisy offering for LSS Choices.”

## **Youth Decide Recipients of ‘Noisy Offering’ through ELCA’s Good Gifts**

The Sunday School Class did some late Christmas shopping! The noisy offering collected during Advent and Christmas totaled \$425.36. **Shanaelle, Ruby, and Caroline** enjoyed looking through the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog together. After much browsing, the girls selected the following gifts to purchase:

- Sunday School Starter kit: \$ 65
- Fruit Tree Farm: \$150
- Send a Girl to School: \$ 40 purchased three/one for each of the girls.
- Water Filter: \$ 10
- Goat: \$ 50
- Chicks: \$ 10 (enough left for three broods)

The pictures of the gifts are on a poster in the Narthex by the coat room. Check it out! ‘Thank you to all who donated. The gifts are very much needed.’

## **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.”

## 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.”

## 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](mailto: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.

**Sister Act** Zoom can be found [HERE](#).

## Important Emails

[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

### *Member Care Request*

There are more and more members of the Redeemer community who are home bound to some extent. A new small group is being developed by the Member Care Team to reach out to these folks. Folks willing to be part of a group that connects with these individuals with a meal and a visit, please contact **Kathy Mimplitch** at 614-439-7739.

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Prayers for comfort are asked for the family of **Steve Sherer**, “youngest and favorite uncle” of **Heidi Sherer**, who died Monday, Jan. 26. Heidi writes, “My dad and all of us are incredibly sad.”

+ + +

Prayers for healing are asked for **Greg Williams**, son of **Linda Williams**, who is having knee replacement surgery this week. Prayers for healing and comfort continue to be asked for the sister of **Wilfrantz Raymond’s** sister, **Cheslie Raymond**, who had a portion of her leg amputated following a very serious accident, for **Don Luck** who is facing health challenges, for **Barbara Hairston** who recently had surgery, for **Kelley Frank** who faces further cancer treatment, and for **Drusanne Shaulis** who has had a stroke. Prayers are also asked for **Emily Crosley** who is struggling with health issues.

## February Birthdays

3-Joss Dana

3-Karen Kent 4-Donna Voelkel\*

5-Georgene Slagle 6-Richard Amon

6-Sara Auman 8-Robin Stokes

8-William Goshen 14-Kurt Goshen

15-Nancy Ehrich 16-Heidi Carman

24-Linda Williams 24-Sue Yehling

26-Diane Brobeck 26-Wally Jacobs

28-Colton Day

\***Donna Voelkel** will be 92 on Feb. 4. Cards can be sent to her at 23032 Buena Vista Rd., Rockbridge OH 43149-9657

## The Wider Church

### Prayer Concerns from ELCA

**February 3** Pray for nations experiencing violence and war, including Venezuela, Ukraine and Russia, the Middle East, South Sudan and others. Ask God to guide leaders, diplomats and peacemakers as they seek lasting solutions and peace. Pray for the Spirit to inspire us to be advocates and bearers of peace, hope and justice in our communities and the world.

**4** The Lord “has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8)? Ask God to help you understand the depth and breadth of justice, kindness, humility and love, which we are asked to exemplify in every aspect of our life and baptismal journey.

**5** Pray for young adults who are discerning whether to say yes to serving in an outdoor ministry summer program. Ask God to give them confidence in their faith and the gifts that the Spirit has nurtured in them for service and ministry with children, youth and adults.

**6** Ask the Spirit to provide us encouragement and guidance for our life and baptismal journey through Scripture, faith communities, the counsel and example of siblings in Christ, church leaders, people of faith who have gone before us, and prayer.

**7** Give thanks and pray for the ELCA’s partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the challenging and hope-filled work of its school and ministries that serve both Christians and Muslims.

**8** “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Give thanks for those who have inspired your faith. Pray that you are also a light for others, giving glory to God and shining bright with love, mercy and hope.

**9** Pray for the ELCA’s Congregations Lead Initiative, which equips and inspires congregations with innovation and tools that renew their ministry and community partnerships to create adaptable, relevant and thriving faith communities.

## 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, Feb. 24**.

# Getting Ready for Worship

## Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

### February 8, 2025 – 10 a.m.

#### Lessons

**Readings:** Isaiah 58:1-9-12; Psalm 112:1-10; Matthew 5:13-20

#### Prayer of the Day

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

#### Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of St. John Lutheran Church in London.

+ For Redeemer community members Damon and Derek Stewart.

***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 and Trina Thornton and Kelley's mother Charlotte Frank, the family of Karen Rider's niece Tammy and Karen's 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, Barbara Hairston, Drusanne Shaulis, WilFrantz Raymond's sister Cheslie Raymond, Don Luck, Barbara Hairston, Greg Williams.

#### Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	<b>Dr. Emlyn Ott</b>
Preaching	<b>Rev. Teddy Ceasar</b>
Assisting Minister	<b>Julianne Johnson</b>
Cantor	<b>Connie Criswell</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>Miles Smith, Tom Mimplitch</b>
Communion Prep	<b>Diane Brobeck, David Williams</b>
Hospitality	<b>Laura and Terry Warren</b>

*The Noisy Offering will go to Lutheran Social Services CHOICES.*

**Upcoming Events at Redeemer  
February 2 – 9, 2026**

<b>Monday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	4:30 p.m.	Zoom Executive Team
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts #2462
<b>Tuesday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	5:15 p.m.	Outreach Team
<b>Wednesday</b>	12:30 p.m.	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
<b>Thursday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
<b>Saturday</b>	12:00 p.m.	Hymn Pickin' Team
<b>Sunday</b>	8:45 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Worship IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM
	11:15 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Ed
<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