



Reflections

VOLUME 30

February 9, 2026

ISSUE 6

Krista Skipper Reports on Beginning of Call Process

The Call Committee charged with searching for Redeemer's new pastor has had its first meeting and is beginning its months-long task. I was chosen as chair and the various initial tasks were quickly divided up according to the varied talents brought by the other members of the committee: **April Smith, Sheryl Owens, Kathy Zwanziger, Emily Ott, Zak Hinkle-Moore, Joss Dana, and Al Rider.**

So far, we of the committee have been hard at work on our "*Congregational Profile.*" It means collecting data on members, the community, the unique mission that we seem to be called to in this place where we live, and our vision for where we perceive God might be leading us next. While many aspects of the committee's work will of course be kept in confidence, the Congregational Profile packet is largely public – open publicly both among us and to any candidates.

A "*Demographic Report*" is a part of the profile packet. We've got that report about half-done now, with some of it posted in the Narthex. It's well worth a look when you are there. It shows graphically who we are. Here are some take-aways:

- The ELCA wants to know our style - whether we are *urban/suburban/regional*. It turns out *we are all three*. One look at the little green dots on the map in the Narthex discloses that about two-fifths (~40 percent) of Redeemer's active members live in a compact circle around the church building. Another third of us (~35 percent) are spread all over the rest of the Columbus Metro in every kind of neighborhood; and another very significant chunk of our members (~25 percent) actively commute in from the countryside and other towns, some of them coming amazingly from 20-30-50 miles away. It's quite a remarkable and unique population.
- The ELCA also wants to know about our nearby community – whether we have a *special community focus* such as campus/retirement/inner-city/industrial/resort focus, or whatever. And once again, Columbus and Redeemer seem to defy the usual categories. Columbus is the 16th-largest metro area in the U.S. We are a "college town," with OSU and Capital/Trinity as nearby neighbors, and about a dozen other higher education and research centers also clustering in the area. We therefore have a significant number of students and campus staff as members. Next, Columbus is both a thriving working-class industrial town that *makes things*, and also a cutting-edge data-driven digital center, the so-called "*Silicon Heartland.*" Columbus is the third-largest fashion and design center in the USA (after New York and L.A.). It's one of the Midwest's centers for the performing arts, a health care and a medical research center, Ohio's state capital, a corporate headquarters city, and also a highly diverse "*world-city*" that's home to people from all over the planet, who bring their cultures, languages, colorful styles, active sports, and tasty menus with them. Does Redeemer reflect all that...? We think so, at least a bit.
- Our *age and mission* profile also defies expectations. Churches with a large elder membership typically have "slowed down" and settled into a familiar, predictable template for church life. Not Redeemer. While ~40 percent of us have passed the 65-year mark, the list of impactful service projects and creative visions that we work on and keep adding to our parish agenda continues to grow ... out in the community and beyond. Within the Synod, we are seen as one of their leading-edge outreach and mission centers in Ohio. *cont'd on p. 5*

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 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, 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



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, contact **Council President Ashley Bird** at 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 **Thursday, Jan. 22.**

Council Meets with Interim Pastor Candidate

The Congregation Council had a fruitful hour+ discussion with interim pastor candidate **Pastor Elizabeth Hoste** on **Saturday, Feb. 7.** Pastor Elizabeth, an ordained Episcopal priest, has extensive experience working with congregations in times of transition. She was recommended to Redeemer by the synod.

She is just concluding serving as the interim for Ascension and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Wyoming OH and is willing to serve as a full-time interim pastor.

Next steps involve council's meeting to discuss/approve her appointment.

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 in the Fellowship Hall. **Folks are asked to bring a dessert to share.**

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.

The following outgoing members of council will also be recognized: **Brad Binau**, council president; **Rich Pautsch**, secretary; **April Smith**, property; and **Kathy Denhard**, stewardship. **Emily Kent**, Special Funds Team.

The 2025 Annual Report is available in the Narthex as is the Financial Report/Proposed 2026 Budget, the report from the Columbus Foundation regarding Redeemer's investments with that group and a copy of the church's constitution showing the proposed changes.

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

Questions? Contact Ashley at 614-257-7779 or at jamnbird@aol.com

Variety of Lenten Services, Activities Planned Beginning Feb. 18

Yes, Lent is not that far away, beginning on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18** when Redeemer will hold worship services at both 7 a.m. (in-person only) and 7 p.m. (both in-person and livestream).

Then from **Wednesday, Feb. 25** through **Wednesday, March 25**, Lenten Soup and Conversation will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Narthex. The sign-up sheet to provide soup, bread or a dessert is on the bulletin board next to the Library.

Midweek Lenten services run those same Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Souper Bowl Results 2026 – Part 1

Kathleen Zwanziger writes, "I am agog! I am aghast! Ads did not win our small contest!

"Although the ads raised a sizable amount (\$223.28), beating the Patriots (\$160), the big winners were **Bad Bunny** with \$678.27 and the Seahawks with \$1,115. Five food items were also donated!

"Redeemer members raised \$2,176.55 to benefit our neighbors. Thanks to all of you for this outpouring of support! "

"The bowls will be available the next two Sundays for those who forgot their offering yesterday."

How did Redeemer do predicting the outcome of Super Bowl LX? The Seattle Seahawks won 29-13 over the New England Patriots.

Redeemer Welcomes Guest Preacher Sunday

Redeemer has welcomed a series of guest preachers over the last several weeks. The final guest in the initial round of visiting preachers is **Rev. Emily Krause Corzine**, presbyter for congregational life and transitions, Presbytery of Scioto Valley, Presbyterian Church USA, who will be here at Redeemer on **Sunday, Feb. 15.**

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.”

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 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 being 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. 5th 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. 17th 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 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 Ernsthausen 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."

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."

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: 883 2879 6239; Passcode: 890127.

Tuesday Bible Study: On hiatus.

Sister Act Zoom can be found [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 876 9207 1033; Passcode: 812325

Krista Skipper Reports on Beginning of Call Process *cont'd from p. 1*

You're invited to check out the membership map (thanks to AI for this!) and the profile statistics that will be posted in the Narthex. Opportunities for your input will be coming. Members of the committee are available for conversation at any time; and within the limits of confidentiality that we're pledged to keep, all eight of us are eager to listen and engage.

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

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.

+ + +

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

14-Kurt Goshen

15-Nancy Ehrich 16-Heidi Carman

24-Linda Williams 24-Sue Yehling

26-Diane Brobeck 26-Wally Jacobs

28-Colton Day

The Wider Church

Concordia College to Perform in Columbus

The Concordia Choir from Moorhead, MN, under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton, will perform in Peace Lutheran Church (455 Clark State Rd.) on **Thursday, March 5** at 7 p.m. The concert by this 68-member a cappella choir will include numbers from the music of J.S. Bach to familiar hymn arrangements.

This choir is featured on the PBS in the Concordia Christmas Concerts.

Tickets, which run from free student tickets to \$44.52 for adult premium seating, can be purchased online [HERE](#).

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

February 10 “The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail” (Isaiah 58:11). Give thanks and praise to God who is ever-present and sustains our faith, spirit and strength so that we can navigate times of adversity and uncertainty.

11 Give thanks for your synod staff who help equip, support and encourage congregations and leaders to share the good news of Jesus Christ, serve neighbors in need and do God’s work in the world.

12 As ELCA members, we are called to respond to our neighbors in need here and around the world. Pray that the impact we have with individuals and communities will grow with the work we do together through ELCA World Hunger, HIV and AIDS Ministry, Lutheran Disaster Response, AMMPARO Migrant Ministry and social ministry organizations.

13 Remember in prayer unsheltered neighbors and siblings in Christ, that they will have safe, secure and consistent places to live each day. Give thanks and pray for those who are part of the Homeless and Justice Network of the ELCA, a coalition of ministries called to serve people on the margins who are struggling with homelessness, poverty and justice issues.

14 Pray for the members of your congregation, their relationships and marriages, that they will experience love, forgiveness, joy, respect and mutual care.

15 Transfiguration of Our Lord “While [Peter] was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him’” (Matthew 17:5). Praise God for revealing to us that Jesus Christ is the son of God, the promised messiah, savior and bearer of God’s love and mercy, who delivers us from the darkness of our sins and weaknesses.

16 Give thanks for Mission Builders, an ELCA ministry that uses a nationwide network of faithful and active men and women who eagerly use their diverse skills to support congregations, outdoor ministries and schools with construction projects that help grow the ministry and outreach of the church.

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 Transfiguration of Our Lord February 15, 2025 – 10 a.m. Lessons

Readings: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; Matthew 17:1-9

Prayer of the Day

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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 St. Luke Lutheran Church in Gahanna.
- + For Redeemer community member Wendy Stoica.

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

Pastor	Rev. Emily Krause Corzine
Assisting Minister	Karen Rider
Cantor	Scott Steiner
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Mike Benis
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Judith Bird, April Smith
Communion Prep	Diane Brobeck, David Williams
Hospitality	Annual Meeting Luncheon and Dessert Potluck

*Flowers are provided by Kathleen Zwanziger celebrating Jeremy’s birthday
The Noisy Offering will go to Lutheran Social Services CHOICES.*

**Upcoming Events at Redeemer
February 9– 16, 2026**

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	6:30 p.m.	A Brewing Faith at Milo’s Deli/401 W. Town St.
Wednesday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	6:30 p.m.	Sister Act – Pursuing Advocacy
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
Saturday	10:00 p.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Worship IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Annual Congregation Meeting and Dessert Potluck</i>
Monday		President’s Day Holiday
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts #2462

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