



Reflections

VOLUME 30

February 23, 2026

ISSUE 8

Redeemer Schedules Lent, Easter Activities Wednesday Luncheons, Evening Services Set through March 25

Beginning this week on **Wednesday, Feb. 25** and running through **Wednesday, March 25**, Redeemer will hold Lenten services at 7 p.m. here at the church. In addition, Lenten Soup and Conversation will be held Wednesdays 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.

For the complete Lent/Easter schedule for Redeemer, see the “poster” on the last page of this issue of *Reflections*. (Consider printing it off and posting on the refrigerator door!)

Redeemer Welcomes Guest Preachers

On the intervening Sundays before **Pastor Elizabeth** begins on **Sunday, March 15**, Redeemer will welcome the following guest preachers:

- **Sunday, March 1:** **Rev. Emlyn Ott**, Redeemer member and executive director of Healthy Congregations.
- **Sunday, March 8:** **Rev. Teddy Caesar**, Pentecostal pastor at Destiny Church International and teacher at Whitehall City Schools, returns.

Adult Forum Sets Topics for Next Three Weeks

The **Sunday, March 1** Adult Forum will discuss the topic of “The Gift and Challenge of Interim Times” with Redeemer member and Executive Director of Healthy Congregations **Rev. Emlyn Ott**.

Then on **Sunday, March 8** the group will resume the discussion with **Dr. Brad Binau** regarding the Apostle’s Creed that was started on **Feb. 22**.

March 15 will see an abbreviated session of “Getting to Know Pastor Elizabeth” in the Sanctuary on her first Sunday as Redeemer’s interim pastor. That will be followed by a reception in the Narthex.

Spring Ahead on March 8

Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. on **Sunday, March 8**, so set clocks *ahead* one hour **Saturday night, March 7** or risk missing church and all that is going on that day!!!

March 11 Deadline to Order Easter Flowers

Orders are now being taken through **Wednesday, March 11**. Options include white Easter lilies (\$12.50 per pot); or red, yellow, purple or pink tulips (\$7.50 per pot) Envelopes to order are on the bulletin board next to the Library. Folks are asked to complete the envelope, place the money in the envelope, seal and place it in the offering plate. Questions regarding ordering flowers? Contact **Kay Ernsthansen** at KAErnsthansen@gmail.com.

Youth Easter Party Set for March 29

The Easter party for young people will be on **Palm Sunday, March 29** immediately following worship. Join us for crafts and the egg hunt!

RLC Leaders

OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus

Interim 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 Ernsthansen

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.**

Subscriptions to *Living Lutheran* Available

For those who would be interested in receiving their own copy of *Living Lutheran* magazine at home, the church has received donations from the congregation to cover the cost. Please let the church office or **Laura Warren** know if you would like a subscription.

Outreach Team Seeks Response to Signboard Survey

The Outreach Team oversees the signage around Redeemer since it's part of the public face the congregation presents to the community. The signboard on James Road has long been one of the ways the church communicates with passers-by, and many neighbors have commented on the messages over the years.

The current signboard has some limitations, and the Outreach Team has considered going digital several times in the past and is doing so once again. To help in their deliberations, they would like the congregation's input and thoughts. A survey is attached to this newsletter, and copies are also available in the Narthex.

Please share opinions by the end of the month.

Souper Bowl 2026 – *LSS Wins in Redeemer Results*

Kathleen Zwanziger reports that on Feb. 22, several more cans of food were donated as well as an additional \$100. This brings Redeemer's grand total to \$2,358.55 for the 2026 Souper Bowl!!! "Thanks to all of you for making Lutheran Social Services (LSS) the winner in Redeemer's informal poll."

RLC to Serve Dinner at First English on March 12

On **Thursday, March 12**, Redeemer is scheduled to provide the dinner at First English. The menu will be: Sloppy Joe sandwiches, tater tots, corn, fresh fruit and cookies. There will be lemonade and water also available for the dinners. "We will need enough food for 125 dinners which will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Volunteers will need to be at First English by 4:30 p.m. to help," says coordinator **Kay Ernsthansen**.

She added, "First English is serving as a warming center for the winter. If the temperature drops we will have more people than if it stays warm.

"The Sloppy Joes (made with two pounds of ground beef or turkey) need to arrive at First English hot. If you would like them picked up on Thursday, we have drivers who can help with this". Just let Kay know you would like a pick up.

"The tater tots come frozen in a bag. They can be put in the freezer upstairs or downstairs. The most economical packages I found were the five-pound family fun bag. Both Giant Eagle, Kroger and Gordon Food Service carry the five-pound bags. The corn should be family-size bags. The fresh fruit we are looking for are cuties/Clementines or mandarin oranges – small citrus that is easy to peel – and bananas. We will break them down into small bunches. Remember for all the food, we are serving 125 dinners."

A total of 240 or 20 dozen cookies are also needed.

"There is also a need for servers. Five to six servers will be good to have. For any questions contact Kay.

The sign up for food and helping can be found on the bulletin board next to the Library.

"Following is the recipe for Sloppy Joes – from **Kathy Mimplitch** – that has been used in the past.

"Thank you all for your commitment to this ministry."

- 2 lb lean ground beef or ground turkey
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tsp prepared yellow mustard
- 1 1/2 cups ketchup
- 6 tsp brown sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a medium skillet over medium heat, brown the ground beef, onion and green pepper. Drain off liquids. Stir in garlic powder, mustard, ketchup and brown sugar. Mix thoroughly. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

This makes ~ 12 servings.

Notes from Kathy: "I usually omit the green pepper (I don't like it)! I sometimes use ketchup and barbecue sauce instead of just ketchup. I almost double the brown sugar as I like it sweet."

Sister Act Changes Dates, to Meet March 22

Sister Act will now hold its March meeting on "Finding Your Passion – Cooking" on **Sunday, March 22** here at the church immediately following the Adult Forum. **Kay Ernsthause**n, who is organizing the event, writes, "Since the menu is a surprise, I do need some guidance ... If anyone has any food allergies or foods they absolutely don't eat, please let her know.

"Second: I need a head count. If you will be joining us, please let me know by email or text by **Saturday, Feb. 28**.

"I will be letting attendees know what I would like them to bring no later than **March 15**.

"So you can plan, we will be doing the cooking in the church basement. I'm looking at vegetarian options ... looking thru a cookbook from **Bill Boys** and watching America's Test Kitchen and Milk Street. The options are wide open!"

Narthex Art on Break until Easter

In keeping with a "spare" theme during Lent, the Narthex art will be on break until Easter as the exhibit "rests and resets."

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 is 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

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 **Holly Ragland**, daughter of **Kathy** and **Tom Mimitich** who is due to begin chemotherapy; and for **Han Stabler**, the eight-year-old grandson of **Laura Warren's** cousin, who had extensive surgery at Nationwide Children's Hospital recently. Prayers are also asked for **Nate Bird**, son of **Ashley** and **Judith Bird**, as he undergoes medical tests this week and for both Nate and his wife **Alyssa** as they continue to live under ICE presence in Minneapolis.

Prayers of comfort are also asked for **Kristi Hildebrand**, whose beloved **Baxter** died last week. She wrote that Baxter “was a good boy” and had been in her life since 2020.

February Birthdays

24-Linda Williams 24-Sue Yehling
26-Diane Brobeck 26-Wally Jacobs
28-Colton Day

March Birthdays

1-Todd Darst 1-Kathy Denhard
3-Ranel Hoddinott 3-Larry Trover
4-Petra Williams 7-Earl Bradley*
8-Helen Brunston 8-Al Rider
13-Dave Engel 14-Laura Warren
14-Tim Watson 15-Kristi Hildebrand
17-David Williams 24-Carol Heacock
27-Margie Farnham 30-Colin Young

***Earl Bradley** celebrates his 92nd birthday on March 7!!!

If folks want to send him a card, his address is 5688 Notre Dame Pl., Columbus 43213-1490

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 24 Pray for our 65 synod bishops gathered at the Conference of Bishops meeting for worship and study, mutual sharing and encouragement, and to conduct business on our behalf for the purpose of being responsible stewards of the church, sharing the gospel and doing God’s work in a world that is always changing.

25 “Prayer must not be based on or depend on your personal worthiness or the quality of the prayer itself; rather, it must be based on the unchanging truth of God’s promise” (**Martin Luther**, *Faith Alone*). Pray for whatever is on your mind today; be in conversation with God and trust that your words — imperfect, spoken and silent — are heard and attended to.

26 Gun violence continues to afflict our society. In 2025, there were 38,741 deaths related to gun violence and 408 mass shootings (www.gunviolencearchive.org). Ask God to give us the strength to be diligent in our work and advocacy to end such violence and care for those who suffer grief and trauma due to gun violence and accidental shootings.

27 Give thanks and praise to God for strengthened faith, blessings and the confidence we receive through God’s word, water, bread and prayer, which equip and encourage us to go out into the world and do God’s work — together.

28 Pray for the ELCA’s directors for evangelical mission, the leaders who help coordinate the partnership between churchwide ministries and the 65 synods of our church. Pray for the work we do together to develop new-start ministries, revitalize congregations, practice stewardship and generosity, and develop and equip leaders for mission and ministry.

March 1 Give thanks to God for the faith and gifts of hymn writers, musicians, choir members and directors of music ministries who help us express our praise, thanksgiving, joy and petitions to God.

2 Women's History Month Remember, celebrate and give thanks for the contributions, achievements, leadership, wisdom and gifts of women and girls in the church, our communities and the world throughout history. Remember in prayer women who have been present and influential in your life, including parents, grandparents, pastors and deacons, teachers, youth ministers, outdoor ministry staff, neighbors and friends.

The Community Beyond

Miles Smith to Perform in Gahanna District Band Concert

Miles Smith recently earned first chair trombone in the Gahanna 8th Grade District Band! The band's concert is **Sunday, March 1** at 4 p.m. at Gahanna Lincoln High School Auditorium. Following the 8th grade band, the Gahanna Lincoln Gold Band will also perform. Admission is free!

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

Second Sunday in Lent March 1 2025 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Genesis 12:1-7; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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. Mark's Lutheran Church in Delaware.

+ For Redeemer community members and sisters Melissa Hackim, Maddie Suptkin, and Debbie Turner.

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, Greg Williams, Kathy and Tom Mimplitch's daughter Holly Ragland.

Worship Leaders

Pastor	Emlyn Ott
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Cantor	Mary Benis
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chime Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Judith Bird
Verger	Michelle Clemence/Wendy Stoica
Producers	Michele Disbro, Sue Yehling
Communion Prep	Sara Auman, Julianne Johnson, Kathleen Zwanziger
Hospitality	Sara Auman, Julianne Johnson

*No altar flowers during Lent
The Noisy Offering will go to Lutheran Social Services CHOICES.*

**Upcoming Events at Redeemer
February 23–March 2, 2026**

Monday	1:00 p.m.	Bexley/Berwick Dementia Support Group
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
Wednesday	12:00 p.m.	Lenten Soup and Conversation
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM
Thursday	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 & ZOOM
Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki
	4:30 p.m.	Executive Team
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts #2462

Signboard Survey

The Outreach Team oversees the signage around Redeemer since it's part of the public face we present to the community. The signboard on James Road has long been one of the ways we communicate with passers-by, and many neighbors have commented on our messages over the years.

The current signboard has some limitations due to the number of available letters and the space constraints, and it must be changed manually—a less-than-simple process even in the best of weather conditions. The Outreach Team has considered going digital several times in the past and is doing so once again. Part of the challenge is that we like the look of the current sign and “going digital” would be quite expensive.

To help in our deliberations, we'd like the congregation's input and would greatly appreciate hearing your thoughts. Please share.

When thinking about the existing sign on James Road . . .

- How important is our ability to post general messages to the community?
Very ___ Somewhat ___ Slightly ___ Not at all ___
- How important is it that those messages are timely?
Very ___ Somewhat ___ Slightly ___ Not at all ___
- How important is it to maintain the current look of the signboard?
Very ___ Somewhat ___ Slightly ___ Not at all ___

Regardless of future decisions, the current signboard needs some help. One need is for brief message ideas—informational, inspirational, motivational, clever, fun, etc. Another need is for help with the physical process of changing the message. Please let us know if you (or someone in your family) would consider helping in either of these areas. Guidance and approval would be provided for help with any message ideas, and instructions and training would be provided for help with changing the actual messages. We'd also welcome any helpful ideas.

(Name) _____ might help with message ideas.

(Name) _____ might help with changing the messages.

(Name) _____ suggests the following:

2026 Lenten Worship

Lenten Wednesdays

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

Soup and Conversation

Noon



Evening Prayer

7:00 pm

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM



Palm Sunday

March 29 – following worship

Youth Easter Party – crafts and egg hunt



Maundy Thursday

April 2

7:00 pm with Foot- and Hand- Washing

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM



Good Friday

April 3

7:00 pm Worship – The Gospel of John

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM



Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 5

8:30 am Worship

IN-PERSON

9:45 am Easter Brunch

11:00 am Worship

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM



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