



Reflections

VOLUME 30

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ISSUE 25

God of Little Things

by David Bjorlin

Editor's Note: Al Rider sang the following Sunday during the worship service but it seemed the message should be spread further than that.

In one of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermons, he preached, "We must not be tempted to confuse spiritual power and large numbers. Jumboism...is an utterly fallacious standard for measuring positive power... A larger membership does not necessarily represent a correspondingly increased commitment to Christ. Almost always the creative, dedicated minority has made the world better." In our age of consumerism / late capitalism, King's words are more relevant than ever. This is my attempt to show the biblical tradition's commitment to, and belief in, the little things of the world that have, can, and will transform it.

God of little things—
the seed we barely see
that sprouts up from a tiny shoot
to form a mighty tree—
accept our seedling faith,
the scarcity we sow;
and God of little things,
come help our smallness grow.

God of little things—
a lunch of fish and bread
that, blessed and broken by our child,
can keep five thousand fed—
receive our meager faith,
the truth we trust the least;
and God of little things,
from smallness make a feast.

God of little things—
the sparrow in her flight
whose rise and fall, though seen by few,
is precious in your sight—
inspire our fledgling faith
to open and take wing;
for God of little things,
you make our smallness sing.

God of little things
who nurtures what seems small
to raise and tend a boundless reign
with room enough for all:
expand our bounded faith
beyond its narrow scope,
for God of little things,
from smallness blossoms hope.

RLC Leaders

OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus
Interim Pastor - Pastor Elizabeth Hoster
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 Don Crosley
Hitoshi Phillips 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

Summer Book Group to Read, Discuss 'Separation of Church/Hate'

Redeemer's summer reading will be *The Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists and Flock-Fleecing Frauds* by John Fugelsang. This was one of the books that was highlighted during the recent Adult Forum "Beach Reads" segment. (See story, May 25 *Reflections*.)

Anyone wishing to discuss the book is welcome to gather here at the church at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, June 24-July 22. The group will be discussing the introduction through chapter 3 on June 24. Thereafter, the reading schedule is as follows:

July 1 - Chapters 4 and 5

July 8 - Chapters 6 and 7

July 15 - Chapters 8 through 10

July 22 - Chapter 11 through the end

We hope to see you!

Summer Basketball Camp Begins This Week; **SMALL 8 Oz. Bottles of Water Needed**

Registration for Redeemer's Basketball Skill Building Camp gets underway this week with 51 campers!! The camp – for both girls and boys, ages 8 to 14 – will run, rain or shine, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, June 15 - July 22. That means now is also time to start bringing **8 oz.** bottles of water. (**That's the small bottles.**) They can be placed in the coatroom, just off the Narthex.

Following the death of founding coach **Larry Jones**, **Thomas Mitchell** becomes primary coach, assisted by **Andre Mitchell**, assistant coach, and **Stan Harris**, camp director.

Besides water, the program needs one or two additional adult volunteers, male or female, from Redeemer to support the coaches and help with supervision of the youth. You may volunteer for all or for part of the sessions. Please see **Mike Benis** or **Larry Trover** if you may be interested.

Next Movie Night to View 'The Gods Must Be Crazy!'

Come, join Redeemer friends for the next movie night on Sunday, July 12 at 5:30 p.m. to watch "The Gods Must Be Crazy!"

Bring a snack to share and join **Xi** on his quest to get rid of the evil thing and battle the anti-christ.

Fans, Fans, and More Fans!

Sister Act is again collecting box fans to give to those in need. In the past, Redeemer distributed the fans during the church's food giveaway with MidOhio Food Collective and LSS Food Pantry. Two years ago the congregation collected 186 box fans. "We know it still gets hot, and people still need fans, so we will partner with local groups to get them distributed," **Julianne Johnson** announced Sunday, with the first group going to Bishop Griffin Resource Center.

"Our goal for this year is 175 box fans, to be distributed ASAP. *Fans, Fans, and More Fans!*"

Calling All Redeemer Baseball Lovers!

The reconstituted Fellowship Team is planning a trip to Huntington Park on Wednesday, July 29. The Clippers will be playing the Toledo Mudhens, beginning at 7:05 p.m. Plenty of food will be available for purchase. As is normal on Wednesdays, some items will be \$1. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway to let us know how many tickets (\$11 each) we will need to purchase. Please sign up by Wednesday, July 15 to allow time for tickets to be purchased, received, and distributed.

Join your fellow baseball fans for an evening of fellowship!

Good Neighbors Picnic Set for Saturday, Sept. 26 at Wolfe Park

The Good Neighbors Picnic will be held this year on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Wolfe Park on the east side of Columbus. Redeemer members and friends are invited to begin donating new or gently used blankets and cold weather clothing and accessories to help provide for our brothers and sisters in the Columbus area.

This all-day event was started in 1999 by Redeemer member **William McCully** along with a few volunteers as part of the National Make a Difference Day.

On the day of the Good Neighbors Picnic, volunteers work to provide a day of celebration including food, music, games, books, family photos, crafts, and shopping at the Free Store. Individuals shopping at the Free Store are able to get coats, blankets, winter clothes, shoes, socks, underwear, and personal hygiene items.

Men, women, and children of all ages from local shelters are transported to the park for this day of celebration and fun.

Redeemer, along with other faith organizations, community leaders, local businesses and organizations work to gather in items for those who are in need of clothing for the cold months ahead. Donations may be placed in the bin located in the Narthex. Cash donations or gift cards are welcome and may be dropped off at the church office.

More information about the Good Neighbors Picnic can be found [HERE](#).

From Laura Warren: Redeemer's Website: Past, Present, Future

Redeemer's Website Past and Present

“Have you taken a look at the church website [HERE](#)? It was created by **Kristi Hildebrand** and a small team several years ago led by **Mary Benis** and has been a wonderful tool to keep the congregation and interested people informed. Did you know that some of our new members have found our church through the website, including **Lynn Belhorn**? Thank you, Kristi!

Redeemer's Website Future

“We need volunteers to help support the church's website for the future. We are in discussions with a firm that would provide ‘under the hood’ platform support and ease in modifications and features. A few volunteers to be the website contact and help drive this effort are needed.

“Please contact the church's office here at info@redeemerluth.com and/or **Laura Warren** at laura.warren214@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.”

Updates to Emergency Contact Numbers

Many of members have given emergency contact numbers to the church office. But times change for all -- it may be time for folks to revisit those contacts and make sure that the list is still accurate. Contact **Kathleen Zwanziger** (kzwanosu69@gmail) or the church office (info@Redeemerluth.com) to make any necessary changes (or be reminded who you listed!).

Garden Giveaway Open for Business on Saturdays

Redeemer's gardeners have now begun the Saturday giveaways, starting at 10 a.m. on the parking lot. Picking begins at 9 a.m. Volunteers to help are always welcome! Check with **Jon Disbro** with questions.

Two Requests from Outreach Team

Corn hole game – Every year Redeemer's Outreach Team staffs a table at Berwick Elementary School for Neighbor Night Out, this year on **Tuesday, Aug. 4**, **Mary Benis** writes. “We'd like to encourage folks to visit our table by offering a fun game – and treats, of course. If you have a corn hole game we could borrow for that evening, please let Mary or any other member of the team know.”

Website monitor – All of the outreach team members oversee various other ministries, so the website sometimes gets less attention than it needs. Mary notes, “We're looking for someone of just about any age who would be able to give the website a careful look every week or so to spot any needed updates, which could then be passed along to the Outreach Team. If you might be or know of such a person, please let **Mary Benis** or any other member of the team know.” (See separate story, this issue, on the website from **Laura Warren**.)

Tuesday Bible Study Continues

Redeemer's Tuesday Bible Study continues on **Tuesdays**, both in-person and online beginning at 1 p.m. Join **Pastor Elizabeth** as she leads the group's discussion.

Treats are solicited if anyone is so inclined.

For Zoom link, see separate “Zoom Links” story this issue.

Noisy Offering to Go to Habitat for Humanity of Ohio

Redeemer's Noisy Offering – the offering of loose change – will now be going to Habitat for Humanity of Ohio, a statewide 501(c)(3) organization whose main purpose is to increase the capacity of Ohio's 46 Habitat for Humanity affiliates to build simple, decent homes in partnership with families in need of affordable housing. Located in Columbus, Habitat for Humanity of Ohio provides resource development, advocacy and training to its affiliates.

According to the organization, its ministry is based on the conviction that to follow the teachings of Jesus, "we must love and care for one another. Our love must not be words only – it must be true love which shows itself in action.

"Habitat provides an opportunity for people to put their faith and love into action. We bring diverse groups of people together make affordable housing and better communities are reality for everyone."

"Habitat for Humanity has an open-door policy: All who believe that everyone needs a decent, affordable place to live are welcome to help with the work, regardless of race, religion, age, gender, political views or any of the other distinctions that too often divide people. In short, Habitat welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds and also serves people in need of decent housing regardless of race or religion. As a matter of policy, Habitat for Humanity International and its affiliated organizations do not proselytize. This means that Habitat will not offer assistance on the expressed or implied condition that people must either adhere to or convert to a particular faith, or listen and respond to messaging designed to induce conversion to a particular faith."

Volunteers Opportunities

Slots Open to Sponsor Flowers for Worship

There are two slots open to sponsor the Sunday flowers moving through Summer. This is an opportunity to remember a loved one, honor someone, acknowledge a special event. Dates open include **Sundays July 19** and **Aug. 9**. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board next to the Library. Flowers are \$20 and payment envelop can also be found on the bulletin board. Just fill out the front and put the envelop with check into the offering plate.

Volunteers Sought to Provide Refreshments after Worship over Summer

The list to provide refreshments following summer worship services is now up. Check now and get the date(s) of your choice! Open dates include most of July and all of August. It doesn't need to be elaborate. Coffee, teas are in the cupboard and packaged cookies are under the counters. Reach out to **Jon Disbro** with any questions.

This is a wonderful time to visit with fellow worshippers and is much appreciated.

Volunteers to Read at Summer Worship Services Needed

Readers for Sunday morning services can now sign up for dates over the summer. The new list is on the bulletin board next to the library. **Readers of all ages, including youth and children, are encouraged to participate.**

Readings are posted next to the sign-up, and also sent out the week before to give folks a chance to go through the lessons ahead of Sunday mornings.

Transportation Assistance Needed

Only three dates in July and August are open for folks to volunteer to provide transportation assistance for **WilFrantz Raymond** to get to his twice-weekly English classes: July 15. If this is something you can do, please sign up on the schedule on the bulletin board next to the Library. For details, see the announcement on the bulletin board or the May 4 issue of *Reflections*.

RLC Food Pantry Team Needs Volunteers for July

Slots are open to volunteer at Redeemer's **Wednesday, July 1** and **Thursday, July 16** dates at the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Food Pantry. Check with **Kathleen Zwanziger** for details.

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.

RLC 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.

Tuesday Bible Study: Zoom can be found: [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 880 0802 1077; Passcode: 338045

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

Summer Book Group: Zoom can be found [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 889 3638 2605; Passcode: 721097

Important Emails

Pastor@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Elizabeth**.

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 or call **Diane Brobeck** at 614-266-6930.

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 **Eileene Welker** who is hospitalized.

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Member Directory Update: **Bill Boys** has a new address: Wexner Heritage House, Rm. 77, 1151 College Ave., Columbus OH 43209.

A Way to Help Kelley/Trina

To assist **Kelley Frank** and **Trina Thornton** as Kelley recovers from surgery over the next weeks, a meal train is set up to help provide them meals. Gift cards are encouraged due to their location but home cooked meals are also welcome. Kelley is now home, able to rest and recover in her own place.

Please contact **Eileen Day** for meal train details, text or email eileenday1@hotmail.com.

‘Orange Bag’ Recycling Available in Narthex

One of the trashcan receptacles in the Narthex has been designated for “orange bag” recycling – that is plastic items that cannot be recycled through the normal processes. This includes plasticware, Solo cups, straws. Just deposit those items and Redeemer members will see that the bag is recycled properly.

Christ in Our Home for July-Sept. Available

The latest edition of the daily devotional booklet *Christ in Our Home* for July through September is now available on the Kiosk in the Narthex. Copies are free for anyone who would like one.

Copies of 'Living Lutheran' Available

Copies of the latest issue of *Living Lutheran* are available in the Narthex (under the TV) for anyone to take home.

June Birthdays

23-Nathaniel Bird

24-Andy Day 26-Eric Reinoehl

27-Micheline Saint Felix 30-Julie Brush

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

June 23 Every day is a day to celebrate and proclaim the risen Christ! Give thanks for the undeserved gift of God's enduring love and forgiveness that we receive through Jesus Christ, our Savior, shepherd and teacher.

24 Pray that we will not accept violence as normal or too complex to confront and change. Thank God for the power and resources we have when communities work together to prevent violence and address its root causes.

25 God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit in us. Give praise and thanks to God!

26 Remember in prayer refugees, immigrants and asylum-seekers who fear war, violence, injustice, and political and religious persecution, and who seek safe, welcoming communities where they can flourish.

27 Pray that we will inspire others by exemplifying peace, justice, forgiveness, love and service in our communities, nation and world. Give thanks for ELCA justice and peace ministries and for resources, advocacy and initiatives that deepen our understanding of God's justice.

28 Pray for the Gathering Expeditions, regional retreats for youth and their adult leaders to delve into questions of faith, purpose, identity and calling as they prepare for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN.

29 Lift up prayers of thanksgiving for the certainty of God's presence and grace, evident from the love and forgiveness we know in Jesus Christ. Resolve to share, far and wide, the message of God's love and care for us.

The Community Beyond

Reynoldsburg Community Band Announces Additional Concert Dates

You've heard them as soloists here at Redeemer, come hear **Linda Williams** and **April Smith** play their flutes as part of the Reynoldsburg Community Band! June concert dates are as follows:

- **Sunday, June 28** at 6:30 p.m. Concert on the Lawn at the Livingston House, 1792 Graham Rd., Reynoldsburg.
- **Monday, July 13** at 7 p.m. at the Reynoldsburg Senior Center.
- **Sunday, July 26** at 7 p.m. at the Park of Roses.
- **Monday, Aug. 17** at 7 p.m. at the Reynoldsburg Senior Center.

Getting Ready for Worship

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Prayer of the Day

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of Bethel Lutheran Church in Grove City.
- + For Redeemer community members Kevin Bailey and John Kennedy.

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, Becky and Larry Trover's son-in-law Brandon James, Skye Andree, Kris Kauffman, Kathie Ehrich, Dottie and Larry Bird, Kelley Frank and Trina Thornton, Kelley's mother Charlotte Frank, Sue, Tim, and Lisa Watson, Heidi Carman, Debbie Turner's friends Sherrie and Jim Tompkins, Grace and Ken Jones and their son Dan Jones, Emily Crosley, Bill Boys, Ranel and Neil Hoddinott's sister and brother-in-law Paulie and Jerry Shaffer, Barbara Hairston; WilFrantz Raymond's sister Cheslie; Don Luck, Greg Williams, Kathy and Tom Mimplitch's daughter Holly Ragland, Nate and Alyssa Bird, Linda Williams' sister-in-law Georgeann Neuzil, David Williams, Karen Rider's friends Nancy McGinnis, Karen McCune, and Eileene Welker, Cora Marquez, LaVerna Reinoehl, Maddie Sutphin's friends Jan and Jerry, Redeemer Call Committee.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Elizabeth Hoster, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Julianne Johnson
Cantor	Connie Criswell
ASL Interpreter	Nancy Boone
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chimes Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Mike Benis
Communion Prep	Kathleen Zwanziger, Krista Skipper, Karen Rider
Producers	Tom Mimplitch, Miles Smith
Hospitality	Sara Auman and Julianne Johnson

*Flowers are given by Earl Bradley in memory of Edwina.
The Noisy Offering will go to Habitat for Humanity of Ohio.*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer

June 22- June 29, 2026

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Wednesday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
	7:00 p.m.	Summer Book Group
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	6:30 p.m.	Basketball Camp

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