



Reflections

VOLUME 30

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ISSUE 28

ELCA Task Force Seeks Feedback on Human Sexuality Statement Revision

Editor's Note: Redeemer received the following letter from Dr. Ryan Cumming and Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling, co-directors of the ELCA task force reconsidering a portion of the social statement "*Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*."

Dear siblings in Christ,

The task force leading the ELCA in the reconsideration of one section of the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* is excited to share two important opportunities for you and your congregation to engage with this summer.

The task force is releasing a podcast called *Learn and Discern* as an educational tool for this church as we journey together through the reconsideration process. The podcast's episodes will explore the following topics:

- A history of the ELCA's social teachings and ministry policy on human sexuality.
- The nuances of Lutheran theological ethics.
- A deeper look at the history of the Lutheran understanding of "the bound conscience."
- The sources of agreement and disagreement on human sexuality in the church.
- Lutheran approaches to faithful conversation.

This five-episode podcast is a companion to the study "Conscience and Conversation" Individual episodes will be released in audio and video over the summer [HERE](#).

The task force has released a new study to foster conversation across this church and to generate feedback that will guide its work. The study, "Conscience and Conversation: A Study During the Reconsideration of the Social Statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," invites reflection on agreement and disagreement through "the unity of the Spirit" (Ephesians 4:3). It can be found [HERE](#).

Session One looks at what unites us as ELCA Lutherans and explores ways Christians have disagreed faithfully while seeking unity in the Spirit.

Session Two invites deeper reflection on disagreements and agreements regarding sexuality.

Please prayerfully consider leading your congregation or small group in this study. There is a survey link for participants to share feedback with the task force. Your input is essential as the task force prepares a first draft of the reconsidered subsection of the social statement for the church to consider. The survey is open until **Wednesday, Sept. 30**.

We understand this is a short period for feedback during a busy time of year. Please know that feedback, comments and questions can be shared with the task force at any time by emailing Reconsiderations@elca.org. In addition, there will be a longer period for public comment on the draft reconsidered social statement once it is released next year.

Download the study and podcast and learn more about the reconsideration process at the above links.

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 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 Don Crosley

Hitoshi Phillips John Kennedy

Terry Warren Laura Warren [ex officio]

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Emily Ott

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Bill, Ruth Boys' Art on Exhibit in Narthex

Artwork from **Bill** and **Ruth Boys** now is on exhibit in the Narthex. The pieces represent both items that they created and pieces that they purchased over the years.

Take a gander. It is a fascinating collection subject matter and medium.

Join the Redeemer Fan Club!!

Box fans, that is! **Julie Johnson** reports that Redeemer has donated 60 fans far at Bishop Griffen Resource Center. The next goal is 100 fans for the church in Linden that has also had its MidOhio Food Collective end due to funding cuts. Donations to that church will allow them two more food giveaways – one in July and one in August. Redeemer knows what it feels like to lose that vital ministry.

So fans will be building up in the Narthex. Julie reports, “We have collected enough money for the first 30 fans of 100. *Join Redeemer's 2026 Fan Club. Bring in fans or donate to the effort!*”

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, from now through **July 22**. The group will be discussing the book on the following reading schedule:

July 15 - Chapters 8 through 10

July 22 - Chapter 11 through the end

We hope to see you!

Basketball Camp Moves into Final Two Weeks

Registration for Redeemer's Basketball Skill Building Camp is moving into the final two weeks for the 2026 season. A total of 70 campers have enrolled!! The camp – for both girls and boys, ages 8 to 14 – runs rain or shine, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Mondays-Thursdays, now through July 22. The practice on Thursday, July 16 will be held at the 1st Church of God (3480 Refugee Rd.).**

Thomas Mitchell serves as the primary coach, assisted by **Andre Mitchell**, assistant coach, and **Stan Harris**, camp director. Thanks to Redeemer members **Mike Benis**, **Larry Trover**, and **Terry** and **Laura Warren** for volunteering with the program!

Garden Giveaway Open for Business Saturday Mornings

Redeemer's garden giveaway is currently underway, starting at 10 a.m. on the parking lot on Saturdays until further notice. Picking begins at 9 a.m. Volunteers to help are always welcome! Check with **Jon Disbro** with questions.

Calling All Redeemer Baseball Lovers!

The 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 **Sunday, July 19** 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](#).

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.

What RLC's Banners Portray

Editor's Note: Michelle Clemence has been asked to provide background on the artwork in the Sanctuary. This second in the series examines two of Redeemer's banners that are currently on display.



Michelle writes, "**Krista Skipper** designed the banner behind/above the pastor's and assisting minister's seats in the chancel. It portrays the sunrise on Easter as seen through one of the windows in her home. Sunday School kids and a few adults helped glue on all the small pieces of felt according to her design.



"I could not determine the designer or maker(s) of the banner behind the ASL interpreter in the chancel. (If you know who made it, please let me know.) I do know it was made before Fall 1993. With the dominant green color and the sprouting plant, it exemplifies a major theme of the Pentecost Season: growth. Growth of the church and personal growth in one's relationship with God."

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.”

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Sought to Provide Refreshments This Sunday, July 19

A volunteer is needed to set up refreshments for this coming Sunday, July 19. Call the church office if that is something you can do. Also other dates are open later this summer. Check now and get the date(s) of your choice! 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.

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 **Drusanne Shaulis** who was recently discharged from Grant Hospital and is now at Wexner Heritage House, 1151 College Ave., Room 79 for rehabilitation.

Prayers for healing are also asked for **Toshi Phillips** who continues to recover after recent eardrum surgery and for **Holly Ragland**, daughter of **Kathy** and **Tom Mimlitch**, who was released from the hospital.

Several Ways 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.

In addition to prayers for healing for Kelley, prayers are also asked for her mother **Charlotte Frank** who fell and has had a partial hip replacement.

‘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.

July Birthdays

16-Kandice Hoddinott 17-Cora Marquez
18-Kelley Frank 19-Terry Warren
21-Grace Jones 22-Alta Boreman
22-Noah Gosnell 23-Drusanne Shaulis*
25-Tracy Hoddinott Ervin 27-Tom Mimlitch
29-Kathy Mimlitch 29-Becky Trover
31-Marilyn Roberts

**Drusanne Shaulis turns 92 on Thursday, July 23. Her address for those wishing to send her a card is Wexner Heritage House, 1151 College Ave., Rm. 79, Columbus OH 43209.*

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

July 14 Give thanks for ELCA Racial Justice Ministries. Ask God to bless and further its ministries, which equip leaders, provide anti-racism education, build relationships across differences, and develop resources to help congregations address racism and move toward reconciliation and healing.

15 Praise God for our life in Christ, which sets us free from the darkness and despair of sin and death, and for the Spirit, which dwells in us and keeps us focused on what pleases God -- faith, humility, love, mercy and caring for our neighbors in need.

16 Remember in prayer the women gathering for worship, advocacy, inspiration, learning, service and relationship-building at the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Des Moines. Ask God to bless and advance the organization’s mission to mobilize women of all ages to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

17 Emanuel Nine Commemoration and Day of Repentance Reflect on the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, killed by a self-proclaimed white supremacist on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC Ask the Spirit for the power to be agents of change in society, confronting racism and injustice and living as children of God who value, respect and love one another.

18 Ask God to strengthen and expand the work we do together through Lutheran Disaster Response as it provides emergency relief, supports disaster recovery and helps communities develop disaster preparedness and resilience. Give thanks that this work -- our work -- is mindful of people's spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs, including food security, shelter, self-sufficiency and community.

19 Who prompts joy in your life these days? What causes you to smile and laugh? Lift up prayers of gratitude and celebration for those people and things that lighten your spirit when life feels heavy and dark.

20 Remember in prayer those who serve in the military and are currently deployed overseas to areas of conflict and war. Pray for their safety, for the Spirit to strengthen their faith and hope, and for the support of their families and faith communities to comfort and renew them.

The Wider Church

Lutheran Disaster Provides Update Venezuela Earthquakes

Lutheran Disaster Response reports it is closely monitoring the situation in Venezuela following the two strong earthquakes that struck on June 24. The ELCA is in communication with the ELCA's companion church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (IELV), and with the Lutheran World Federation to assess conditions on the ground and identify emerging needs.

"We ask you to keep in your prayers all those impacted by these earthquakes, as well as the rescue workers and the people of Venezuela. You can also support this response by making a gift to Lutheran Disaster Response [HERE](#), which enables them to accompany affected communities and provide critical assistance as needs unfold."

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:

- **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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Clinton Heights Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community members Brad Binau and Ann Palmerton, Martin, Sarah, and Trevor Binau.

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 Mimlitch'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 (Judith) Welker, Cora Marquez, LaVerna Reinoehl, Maddie Sutphin's friends Jan and Jerry, Drusanne Shaulis, Pastor Elizabeth's niece Olivia and her family, Redeemer Call Committee.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Elizabeth Hoster, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Kathleen Zwanziger
Reader	Ruby Jacobs
Cantor	Emily Kent
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chimes Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Communion Prep	Katie Jacobs, Ruby Jacobs, Kay Ernsthausen
Producers	Scott Steiner, Sue Yehling
Hospitality	

*Flowers are given by Julianne Johnson in memory of her mom, Dody Johnson.
The Noisy Offering will go to Habitat for Humanity of Ohio.*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer July 13-20, 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. A Brewing Faith at Budd Dairy Food Hall
	6:30 p.m. Basketball Camp
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
	3:00 p.m. Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m. Basketball Camp
	7:00 p.m. Summer Book Group
Thursday	12:30 p.m. RLC @LSS Food Pantry
	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	1:00 p.m. Bexley/Berwick Dementia Support Group
	3:00 p.m. Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m. TOPS
	5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts #2462
	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