



Reflections

VOLUME 30

July 20, 2026

ISSUE 29

A Note from Ashley Bird, Council President

On Sunday morning, I announced to the congregation that the Congregational Council has selected **Pastor Kayla Hopgood** as our candidate for pastor of Redeemer. The unanimous vote came at a special council meeting last Thursday, July 16. This followed a unanimous decision from the Call Committee that we consider her for the full-time position here at Redeemer.

Pastor Kayla was ordained on Sept. 9, 2023 to the ministry of Word and Sacrament and has been serving Ascension Lutheran Church in Newtown, PA on a part-time basis since that time. Prior to discerning a call to ministry, she worked as a fundraiser for nonprofits focused on educational equity. She completed her Masters of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary and is trained as a spiritual director through Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development.

Pastor Kayla lives in Ewing, NJ with her husband, the **Rev. Dr. Miles Hopgood** and their two young children.

The Call Committee, which interviewed Pastor Kayla both on Zoom and in-person session, described her as intelligent, gracious, passionate for justice, open, collaborative, and spiritually grounded.

Krista Skipper, chair of the Call Committee, described Pastor Kayla as joyful, warm, and connected to conversations. Krista said she never had an awkward moment during the whole day with Pastor Kayla.

Additional impressions included her being well prepared and asking probing questions. She was raised in the Church of the Nazarene but sampled many denominations while in college. She met her future husband who was a member of the ELCA and was comfortable immediately with Lutheranism and the ELCA. She feels very strongly about choosing the Lutheran Church after trying many other churches.

Krista reported that Pastor Kayla has done some spiritual training, and you can feel that when interacting with her. She is ready for a full-time position after working a part-time call and feels she can balance family and work. She is married to **the Rev. Dr. Miles Hopgood** and they have with two young children. They are moving to Bexley from Ewing, NJ because her husband will become a full-time professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

Following council's interview with her, some of their comments included wise beyond years, fresh ideas, emphasis on listening, building community, seems mature even though young. There was no hesitation supporting her as primary candidate.

So what is next?

Council is in the process of setting up dates both for the congregation to meet Pastor Kayla and for a special congregational meeting to vote on her call. Because of their move, those dates will probably happen later in August with an anticipated start date of Oct. 1, should the congregation agree to her call.

Additional information will be distributed in the coming weeks. In the meantime, feel free to ask members of the Call Committee and Congregational Council about her. Pastor Kayla's sermons at Ascension can also be accessed [HERE](#).

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 Mimlitch

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

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Summer Picnic on Lawn Set for Aug. 23

It's time for a summertime favorite – the Redeemer Picnic on the Lawn! (Sadly, for the kids, it will be a good-bye to summer as schools will already be starting up.) **Michele Disbro** announced, "Mark your calendars for **Sunday, Aug. 23**. Following the 10 a.m. service, folks can move out onto the lawn to enjoy food and fellowship.

"Hot dogs, corn on the cob, and beverages will be provided. If you are able to provide a side dish or dessert, please bring something to share. We will have some tables and chairs, however, please bring some lawn chairs.

"If you are interested in helping set up or clean up, please let Michele know.

"We've got our fingers crossed for good weather, but if the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll move the picnic to the basement."

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!! Deadline Set for Aug. 2

Box fans, that is! **Julie Johnson** reported Sunday that Redeemer has more than met its goal of being able to distribute 175 fans, with enough funds now to distribute 230!! But, given the weather, the fan drive will continue!

So far, Redeemer has donated 60 fans far at Bishop Griffen Resource Center. The next round will go to the church in Linden that has also had its MidOhio Food Collective end due to funding cuts. That church has received funding for two more food giveaways – Aug. 5 and 19. Volunteers who would like to help distribute fans on those days should contact Julie for details.

As a result, the remaining donations should be in by **Sunday, Aug. 2**.

So, fans will be building up in the Narthex. Julie reports. *Join Redeemer's 2026 Fan Club. Bring in fans or donate to the effort!"*

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

Redeemer's summer reading will conclude its discussion of *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 Wednesday, July 22! The discussion will cover Chapter 11 to the end.

The meets here at the church at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, from now through **July 22**.

Basketball Camp Moves into Final Week

Redeemer's Basketball Skill Building Camp for the 2026 season concludes this week. 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. **now through Wednesday, July 22** with the Basketball Camp Banquet set for **Monday, July 27**.

Mike Benis Sunday thanked the congregation for its ongoing support of the program.

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 are to help are always welcome! Check with **Jon Disbro** with questions.

Tickets Are In for Clippers Game!!

Tickets are in for Redeemer's trip to Huntington Park on **Wednesday, July 29** to see the Clippers play 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. If you did not receive your ticket(s) Sunday, please check with the church office.

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.

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.

Redeemer's coordinator for this event, Carol Heacock, Sunday suggested that now is the time folks can shop the secondhand thrift stores to purchase items to donate.

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

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 cremains 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 now at Ohio Health Rehabilitation Hospital, 3805 Emerald Pkwy., Dublin OH 43014.

Prayers for healing are also asked for **Carol Heacock** who is having knee surgery this week, for **David Steiner**, brother of **Scott** and son of **Nancy**, who is recovering from blood clots; for **Paul Johnson**, brother of **Julianne Johnson**, who is having heart issues; and for **Hal Wood**, brother of **April Smith**, who had a pacemaker implanted this past week.

'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

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 21 "Nothing helps more powerfully against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts than occupying oneself with God's Word, having conversations about it, and contemplating it" (**Martin Luther**, the Large Catechism). Ask the Spirit to stir our desire to study and reflect on Scripture together with our siblings in Christ to find encouragement, guidance and strength for our lifelong baptismal journeys and doing God's work in the world.

22 Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries who return to the United States every two years for two months to gather with friends and family, renew themselves and engage with congregations that support them. Give thanks that the Spirit works through their witness, inspiring others to do God's work in the world.

23 Pray for the Spirit to help us better understand God's ways and wisdom and incorporate them into our daily lives as we strive to follow Christ, love and serve our neighbors and reflect God's truth in everything we say and do.

24 Remember in prayer church musicians, music directors and worship leaders gathering at Augsburg Fortress Summer Music Clinics across the country, that the experience might nurture their skills, stir their creativity and enthusiasm, deepen their theology of worship and equip them with new resources to use in their congregations.

25 Give thanks and pray for our LGBTQIA+ neighbors and siblings in Christ — our children, parents, siblings, elders, friends, co-workers and leaders. Pray that we will be persistent advocates and catalysts for intentional inclusion, full participation, and the valuing of diverse gifts and perspectives in the church and society.

26 Remember in prayer newly elected synod bishops, that God will grant them wisdom and strength for their ministry with their synods' leaders, congregations and special ministries.

27 Pray for Stephen Ministries, which minister one-on-one with people experiencing grief, illness and other crises. Give thanks for Stephen Ministries lay volunteers in communities of faith, caring and supportive companions who walk alongside those in need, embodying Christ's call to love and serve our neighbors.

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:

- **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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings 1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of David Lutheran Church in Canal Winchester.
- + For Redeemer community members Judith and Ashley Bird, Matthew Bird and Sara Sed and Nathaniel Bird and Alyssa Rose Jordan-Bird.

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, 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, Toshi Phillips, Redeemer Call Committee.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Elizabeth Hoster, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Joss Dana
Reader	Katie Jacobs
Cantor	Jennifer Young
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chimes Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Ruth Murray
Communion Prep	Katie Jacobs, Ruby Jacobs, Kay Ernsthausen
Producers	Tom Mimplitch, April Smith
Hospitality	Judith and Ashley Bird

*Flowers are given by Larua and Terry Warren in celebration of Terry's birthday
The Noisy Offering will go to Habitat for Humanity of Ohio.*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer July 20-27, 2026

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
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
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
	6:00 p.m.	Basketball Camp Closing Banquet

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