



Reflections

VOLUME 30

August 31, 2026

ISSUE 35

Pastor Kayla Accepts Call; Installation Set for Oct. 4!

Pastor Bob Abrams of the Southern Ohio Synod informed Congregation Council President Ashley Bird that Pastor Kayla Hopgood has accepted Redeemer's call to be the next pastor. Abrams will officially install her on **Sunday, Oct. 4.**

Her official starting date is **Thursday, Oct. 1**; the Executive Committee is in the beginning stages of assembling a Transition Team.

Adult Forum: *The Gospel According to Gander*

Beginning on **Sunday, Sept. 13** and continuing for the next two Sundays and following the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, **Pastor Brad Binau** will be leading the Adult Forum in a discussion of "The Gospel According to Gander." Gander was the town in Newfoundland where 38 planes were diverted when U.S. airspace closed that Tuesday. Almost 7,000 "plane people" landed in Gander, nearly doubling the size of the community.

This adult education series will provide an opportunity to revisit the memories of 9/11 and the impact it had on our lives. But the group will also explore the extraordinary hospitality shown to those who had "come from away."

If you can see the musical play "Come From Away" (or if you have seen it already) it will greatly enrich your understanding of the grace that is experienced in welcoming the stranger. The final session will explore how the play functions as a vehicle for telling the good news story of Gander much as the biblical gospels related the Jesus story – some things exaggerated, some omitted, some conflated, but still trustworthy conveyors of good news.

"In their national anthem Canadians sing 'O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.' At this important moment in North American history we will come together to appreciate how our neighbors to the north stood on guard for thousands of strangers for a few dark days 25 years ago."

Session #1 – Sept. 13, 2026 "Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning?: Memories of 9/11"

Session #2 – Sept. 20, 2026 "Embodied Knowledge: Good News in Newfoundland"

Session #3 – Sept. 27, 2026 "Telling the Story: Come From Away and the Christian Gospels"

RLC to Raffle Bill Boy's Art Collection

The most recent Narthex art display was a representation of some of the art that **Bill and Ruth Boys** had in their home. When they needed to move, some of the artwork went with them but the rest has been displayed in the Narthex over the last several weeks.

Now, looking ahead to the next Narthex art display, this art display needs to find a new home, **Michelle Disbro** announced Sunday.

Some of the artwork will be added to the Redeemer permanent art collection. However, if folks are interested in taking home any of the art, please fill out a form on the bookshelf in the corner of the Narthex by the art display. **"Please complete a different form for each individual artwork you're interested in.** We will draw a name for each piece of artwork on **Sunday, Sept. 20."**

Any unclaimed art will be donated to charity.

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

CROP Walk Set for Oct. 4

Coordinator Connie Criswell announced Sunday that the 2026 CROP Walk for the alleviation of world and local hunger is on **Sunday, Oct. 4**. This year the Redeemer Team has six walkers: **Connie Criswell, Kelley Frank, Heidi Sherer, Wendy Stoica, Trina Thornton, and Kathy Zwanziger**.

Online donations are preferred, but checks made out to CWS/CROP or cash are also gratefully accepted. Redeemer's team page can be found [HERE](#):

RLC to Serve Dinner at First English Sept. 10

Coordinator Kay Ernsthausen reports that Redeemer is scheduled to serve dinner at First English on **Thursday, Sept. 10**. The menu will be: Sloppy Joe sandwiches, tater tots, corn, watermelon and cookies. There will also be lemonade and water available for the diners. "We will need enough food for 80 dinners. Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and we will need to be at First English at 4:30 p.m."

The Sloppy Joes need to arrive at First English hot. "If you are making Sloppy Joes and 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 corn should be frozen family size bags." The fresh fruit is watermelon with three whole melons needed. "We will cut them at church."

Dessert will be cookies.

Contributions are also welcome.

There is also a need for five to six servers. Sign up is on the bulletin board in the hallway. Those considering making Sloppy Joes with two pounds of ground meat, there is a recipe available in the office.

For any questions contact Kay.

Thank you all for your commitment to this ministry.

Blessings of Backpacks, First Day of Sunday School Set for Sept. 13

Redeemer will celebrate another school year with the Blessing of Backpacks (and workbags) on **Sunday, Sept. 13**. Kids and adults are encouraged to bring their backpack or workbag to worship that day to receive a blessing for a great year.

It is also the first day of Sunday School for the youth and adults.

Deadline Approaches to Donate Items for Good Neighbors Picnic

Carol Heacock, Redeemer's liaison to the Good Neighbors Picnic, reported Sunday that items for donation need to be brought in over the next couple of Sundays as the "last sort" will be done on **Saturday, Sept. 12** for the picnic set for **Saturday, Sept. 26**. It will be held at Wolfe Park on the east side of Columbus. Redeemer members and friends are invited to donate 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.

Carol had also suggested earlier that folks can shop the secondhand thrift stores to purchase items to donate.

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

Sister Act to Hold Poetry Slam!

*Come one, come all -- bring words that sing,
A rhyme, a rhythm, a meaningful thing!
A poem that's funny, thoughtful, or sweet,
A few lines, a sonnet -- whatever's your beat!*

*In Redeemer garden, we'll gather with glee,
To listen and share in a poetry spree!
Bring a poem or two -- or even a few
To share with the group, I encourage you to.
And one more thing before you make your way:
Bring along a chair and plan to stay!
So gather your poems and pull up a seat --
For an evening of words - a fellowship treat!*

Hope to see you there on **Wednesday, Sept. 9** at 6:30 p.m. Reach out to **Michele Disbro** with any questions! Feel free to bring a snack to share. Don't forget a lawn chair as the group is hoping to gather in the Community Garden. If it's raining or beastly hot, they will gather in the Narthex.

We'll use the sound system like we do for the Sister Act summer retreat so everyone can hear the great poems! So start looking for a poem to share!

BCA Recognizes Redeemer

Mary Benis, outreach chair, reported Sunday that the Berwick Civic Association recognized Redeemer with a trophy at the recent National Night Out. It reads, "Special Recognition and Appreciation to Redeemer Lutheran Church. dedication to excellence and the many years of support in our community. You have made a difference."

The trophy is on display in the Library.

Redeemer: *Fans-tastic!!!*



Calling Redeemer a "fans-tastic" congregation, **Julie Johnson** reported Sunday that the church has given away a total of 263 fans this year – "way beyond the previous record!"

Last week Redeemer members gave 185 fans out at Linden Lutheran Church's final food giveaway. In addition, 60 fans went to the Bishop Griffin Center and 15 to Faith Mission.

Many thanks to the loading crew at Redeemer (Coffee and Conversation attendees **Diane Brobeck, Carol Heacock, Sue Yehling, Brad Binau, Sara Auman, Pastor Elizabeth** and **Kay Ernsthausen**) as well as **April Smith, Brad Phillips** and **Al Rider** – a fan brigade that filled to the brim the U-Haul Redeemer rented.

Redeemer givers at Linden were **Tamara Wawrosch, Tom Mimplitch, Larry Trover, Jon** and **Michele Disbro, Kay Ernsthausen** and **Sue Yehling**, most of whom are pictured above. Julie herded cats at both locations.

Congregation Gives Izzy Skoog Blanket to Take to College

To mark her transition to college, the congregation, with the help of its youth members and **Michelle Disbro**, presented Mt. Holyoke-bound **Isabella (Izzy) Skoog** with a blanket that she can wrap around herself to remind her that Redeemer is supporting her next stage in life.

She told the congregation that she is contemplating majoring in math.

Her twin, **Sophie**, has already matriculated to the University of Cincinnati so she will receive her blanket on a visit home.



Tuesday Bible Study Continues

Redeemer's 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.

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.

What RLC's Sanctuary Art Portrays ... Part 5

Editor's Note: Michelle Clemence Michelle Clemence has been asked to explain some/all of the artwork in the Sanctuary. This is the fifth in a series of articles.



The altar hangings change with the seasons of the church year. The current season is the Time after Pentecost, also called Ordinary (i.e. non-festival) Time. The color is green, and the season runs 24-28 weeks, depending on when Easter falls. Redeemer has two green altar hangings, and they are switched back and forth over the long season (also sharing with the Time after Epiphany).

The current one evokes both creation and the raw ingredients for the elements of Holy Communion. God feeds us both physically and spiritually so that we can grow.

The one on the table in June and July is composed of fabrics donated by members of the congregation about 30 years ago for the express purpose of making them into an altar hanging. "I worked with **Dick Ellis** (rest in peace) and **Larry Gallick** on the arrangement and construction. We decided on spreading light from the center outwards as a fitting representation of God ... church ... world.



Volunteer Opportunities

Healing Prayer Volunteers, Crucifers Sought

Folks interested in learning more about Redeemer's monthly Healing Prayer and perhaps offering the prayer or providing the blessing, should sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board outside the Library. **Michelle Clemence** is planning to hold a training session at some time in the future.

She explained that the prayor places their hands on the head of the congregant and prays while the assistant places their hands on the person's shoulders or upper back.

Michelle also announced Sunday that they are looking for folks willing to serve as crucifer for worship. Each week someone carries the cross in procession at the beginning and end of worship. "This used to be assigned to confirmands and youth group members. Not so anymore.

"This is not a scheduled duty but on an as0-needed basis each Sunday."

That volunteer list, too, is on the bulletin board.

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.

Wanted: Curator for Narthex Information Locations

A curator for the kiosk, bulletin board, and Narthex info tables is sought. This individual would discard outdated information, neaten up displays, and keep the office informed when something needs to be replenished.

This could probably be done occasionally during snack time after church. For more information, contact the church office.

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

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 comfort are asked for **Julie Boreman** and the entire **Boreman Family** on the death of Julie’s father **James Swanson** on Aug. 1. A memorial service was held this past Saturday, Aug. 29.

+ + +

Prayers for healing are also asked for **LaVerna Reinoehl** who was recently hospitalized and for **Seth Harms** who had a medical procedure last week.

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Pastor Elizabeth’s Last Sunday Set for Sept. 13

Plan to attend worship on **Sunday, Sept. 13** to celebrate **Pastor Elizabeth’s** time with Redeemer over the transition time between pastors. This will be her last Sunday as her final day as RLC’s interim pastor is **Tuesday, Sept. 15.**

August Birthday

31-Lynn Belhorn

September Birthdays

1-Joanie Engel 5-Trina Thornton
8-Julie Boreman 8-Johnobentz Joseph
8-Tom Kent 8-Andrea Steiner
13-Ashley Bird 14-Elyce Herring
15-Kris Kauffman 16-Michele Disbro
16-Shanaell Saint Felix 20-Paula Carson
21-Jenny Peresta 24-Adam Darst

24-Sheryl Owens 25-Don Crosley
26-Sarah Binau 27-Becky Fisher
27-Karen Rider 29-Jennifer Young

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

September 1 National Suicide Prevention Month Suicide impacts people of all ages, especially youth and young adults. Pray for hope, relief from suffering and skilled, compassionate care for people who struggle with loneliness, depression and mental illness. Pray that they will find comfort and encouragement in knowing that God abandons no one. Ask God to bless and further the work of Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry and other organizations engaged in suicide awareness, education, collaboration and advocacy.

2 Pray that we will remember and affirm the diverse contributions of those who have helped shape and reform our nation throughout its history, especially as we celebrate its semiquincentennial. Ask the Spirit to help us learn from and change the laws, decisions and attitudes that oppress our neighbors, our siblings in Christ and all children of God.

3 Remember in prayer children whose families lack safe, consistent shelter, that they will find care, stability and security in school among their peers, teachers and school staff.

4 Ask God to stir nations and their leaders to seek peace where there is conflict and war, no matter how complicated or unattainable peace seems. Pray that peace accords, ceasefires and negotiations will prioritize those who are displaced, terrorized and treated unjustly.

5 Pray for congregations' fall programs and ministries, that their leaders and volunteers will strengthen people's faith, deepen their understanding of Scripture, discern their gifts and nurture their sense of community.

6 Pray for the Spirit to give us patience, wisdom and an open mind when we clash with others, including our siblings in Christ. Pray that we will use wisdom and care in forging agreements, creating solutions and reaching compromises that are respectful and forgiving of one another.

7 Labor Day On this day, pray for the work people do to sustain themselves and their families and to benefit their communities and society. Pray that all people will receive fair wages and benefits and work in safe environments; that they will know respect, gratitude, joy and fulfillment through their labor; and that they will be renewed through times of sabbath. Remember in prayer also those who seek employment or who cannot work.

The Community Beyond

First English Discussion Series Returns

The First English Lutheran Church Discussion Series "Impacting Community ... Discussion. Action. Change." returns on Sundays at 4:30 p.m. with the next ones featuring a representative from the MidOhio Workers Association on **Sunday, Sept. 27** and a speaker from the League of Women Voters on **Sunday, Oct. 25**.

The sessions, which run from 4:30 to 6 p.m., are sponsored by First English and Urban Connections. They will be held at First English, 1015 E. Main St., Columbus.

Questions should be emailed to info@urban-connections.org.

Getting Ready for Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

A Prayer for Schools

O God, bless our schools, that they may be places of learning and safety where teachers challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students. Grant that teachers and students may work together in mutual respect and find joy in the challenges of academic life. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Gary Brose.

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, 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, Karen Rider's friends Nancy McGinnis and Eileene (Judith) Welker, Cora Marquez, LaVerna Reinoehl, Drusanne Shaulis, Pastor Elizabeth, Pastor Elizabeth's niece Olivia and her family and the family of her brother Mark and her Aunt Mary, Julianne Johnson's twin brother Paul.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Elizabeth Hoster, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Cantor	Mary Benis
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chimes Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Helen Brunston
Communion Prep	Diane Brobeck, Kathyrn Ott, Karen Rider
Producers	Judith Bird, Tom Mimplitch
Hospitality	OPEN

Flowers are given by the Steiner Family in celebration of Andrea's birthday!

The Noisy Offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Upcoming Events at Redeemer August 31 – September 7, 2026

Monday	3:00 p.m. Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m. TOPS
Tuesday	1:00 p.m. Bible Study
	3:00 p.m. Suzuki School
	4:30 p.m. Zoom Executive Team
	5:15 p.m. Zoom Outreach Team
Wednesday	12:30 p.m. RLC at LSS Food Pantry
	3:00 p.m. Suzuki School
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	Labor Day – Office Closed
	5:00 p.m. TOPS
	5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 2462

Redeemer's mission: To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all

Redeemer's vision: To foster understanding and healing in community

Redeemer's Values: Inclusion, Compassion, Justice