



Reflections

VOLUME 30

August 3, 2026

ISSUE 31

Coming Up at Redeemer

'Getting to Know' Pastor Kayla Set for Aug. 15

Ahead of the Special Congregational Meeting to vote on calling **Pastor Kayla Hopgood** to be Redeemer's next pastor set for Sunday, Aug. 23, a "getting to know you" with her will be held on **Saturday, Aug. 15** from 2-4 p.m. here at the church.

Please join us in greeting Pastor Kayla as she learns about us and we learn about her in a setting much like the Adult Forum's "Getting to Know ..." sessions. **Past President Brad Binau** and **Call Committee Chair Krista Skipper** will co-host.

This will also be live-streamed and, of course, refreshments will be served.

RLC Summer Clean-Up Set for Sat., Aug 8

Spring has come and gone but it's never too late for a much needed clean up at church!

*Let's get the church sparkling for the "Getting to Know" Pastor Kayla on Aug. 15. Join us on **Saturday, Aug. 8** at 11 a.m. to help pitch in on a variety of projects.*

If you can give us an hour or two, we've got a job for you from doing some dusting in the Sanctuary organizing the pew racks to sweeping the basement steps to tidying up the nursery to weeding some beds outside.

Maybe you've noticed something that's bugging you? Feel free to bring your favorite cleaning supplies and then, volunteer to take on a simple task. Hope you can join us!

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."

Tuesday Bible Study Continues

Redeemer's Bible Study continues on **Tuesdays**, both in-person and online beginning at 1 p.m. Join **Pastor Brad Binau** as he leads the group's discussion this week in **Pastor Elizabeth's** stead. He said the group will look at the Gospel story "where we learn **Jesus** can't swim" but must walk on the water.

Treats are solicited if anyone is so inclined.

For Zoom link, see separate "Zoom Links" story this issue.

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

1555 S. James Rd.

Columbus 43227

614-237-1263

www.redeemerluth.com



The Redeemer Community

Redeemer Fan Collection **Ends** – Total 261 Fans!!



Fans are stacked up in the Narthex: A visible sign of your caring!

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 261! “You will see 121 bought or given in the Narthex – with money received (with rebates) for 80 more. Deepest thanks for all of your generosity and support.”

So far, Redeemer has donated 60 fans at Bishop Griffen Resource Center. The next round will go to Linden Lutheran Church that has also had its MidOhio Food Collective end due to funding cuts. That church will distribute the fans on **Wednesday, Aug. 19. Volunteers who would like to help transport and/or distribute fans on that day should contact Julie or the church office for details.**

Basketball Camp Concludes; *Thanks to Everyone Who Helped!!*



Redeemer’s 2026 Basketball Skill Building Camp has concluded. A total of 70 campers were enrolled!! The camp – for both girls and boys, ages 8 to 14 – ran rain or shine, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays.

Mike Benis Sunday thanked the congregation for its ongoing support of the program. **Thomas Mitchell** served 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!

A Note from Ashley Bird, Council President

On Sunday morning, July 19, 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. [See separate story, this issue of *Reflections*.] 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](#).

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.

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.

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](#).

What RLC's Banners Portray ... Part 3

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

She writes, "About 20 years ago, **Donna Schmidt** (may she rest in peace), who worked at the Augsburg Fortress Bookstore at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, gave me the book *Raise the Banners High*, by **P.T. Hardiman** and **J. Niemann**, and set me on a path of creating processional banners for Redeemer.

"We haven't carried them in procession in 10 years, but maybe we will start again with a new pastor.

"From the left: I made **Redeemer Tree** for our 60th anniversary in 2017. There are 60 pieces of colorful 'fruit' in the tree, one for each year. **Donna Voelkel** helped me work out the design.

"I adapted **Festive Cross** from the *Banners* book. Debuted on Easter, it's one of the first three I made.

Tree of Life is a traditional quilt block which was also suggested in the *Banners* book. Along with Festive Cross, it debuted on Easter. (The last of the first three had been **Carolina Lily**, which was up in June and July.)"



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 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 of thanksgiving are asked on behalf of **Holly Ragland**, daughter of **Kathy** and **Tom Mimplitch**, whose recovery is going well as her numbers continue to improve.

+ + +

Prayers for comfort are asked for **Pastor Elizabeth** whose brother **Mark** died recently.

+ + +

Prayers of comfort are also asked for the family of former Redeemer member **Rev. Ronald Willmann** who died **Saturday, July 25**. Funeral services were held **Wednesday, July 29**. He is survived by his wife **Barbara** and his children **Matthew**, **Sarah** and **Andrew**.

+ + +

Prayers for healing are asked for **Eileene Welker** is now at home recuperating but she is not allowed visitors as yet. Prayers for healing are also asked for **Carol Heacock** who is now home recuperating after knee surgery last week, for **David Steiner**, brother of **Scott** and son of **Nancy**, who is recovering from blood clots; and for **Paul Johnson**, brother of **Julianne Johnson**, who is having heart issues.

Pastor Elizabeth Gone through Friday, Aug. 7; Pastor Ceasar to Preach

Pastor Elizabeth will be gone through **Friday, Aug. 7**. During that time, **Pastor Brad Binau** will be on call for pastoral emergencies.

Sunday, Aug. 9, **Pastor Theodore “Teddy” Ceasar**, Pentecostal pastor at Destiny Church International and teacher at Whitehall City Schools, returns to preach.

Pastor Teddy earned his Bachelor of Arts in psychology at the University of Cincinnati and Master of Divinity at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.

He fills diverse roles within education and athletics, coaching high school football and serving as a social studies teacher. He further serves on the Board of Directors for CelebrateOne, a city of Columbus initiative to combat infant mortality. In 2012, Pastor Teddy relaunched the Destiny Church International in Columbus, Ohio -- an outgrowth of the ministry founded by his late mother in 2004. Under his leadership, the church remains a beacon of hope and transformation.

Since 2014, he has been happily married to **Attorney Kathleen Ceasar**. Together, they are the proud parents of their daughter, **Atarah**, who remains a great source of joy.

August Birthdays

3-Kathy Pautsch 3-Chelsea Hood
5-Julie Denniss 6-Clayton Ullman
8-Jessica Marquez 9-Justin Marquez
15-Sarah Kirkman 15-Seth Harms
16-Cathy Oldham 17-Thelma Johnson
22-Emily Crosley 23-Scott Steiner
25-LaVern Reinoehl 26-Brad Binau
27-Matthew Bird 27-Jon Disbro
31-Lynn Belhorn

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

August 4 Remember in prayer those who are suffering in the aftermath of earthquakes in Venezuela, that they will find comfort as they grieve lives lost and receive support and resources to address their needs for medical care, shelter, safety, basic necessities and spiritual encouragement. Pray for Lutheran Disaster Response, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela, the Lutheran World Federation and other partners who are responding to immediate needs as well as undertaking the long-term work of recovery.

5 Praise God for being gracious and merciful toward us, present with us throughout life, slow to anger in response to our imperfections and attentive to our human needs and suffering.

6 Give thanks for the generosity of ELCA members, congregations and synods expressed through Mission Support, which helps us do God’s work in our country and around the world — accomplishing more together than any one person or congregation can do alone.

7 Remember in prayer those who are incarcerated, imprisoned and leaving prison on parole to reenter our communities and rebuild their lives. Pray for the work of the ELCA Prison Reentry and Advocacy Network and Prison Congregations of America, which help us support, accompany and care for our neighbors and siblings in Christ in ways that exemplify God’s compassion, justice and mercy for humankind.

8 “Earth is full of wit and wisdom, woven into harmony. Every creature has a purpose, every flower and bumble bee. Spider, human, redwood, gecko, monkey, chicken, mouse and snake live within a single fabric: cloth that only God could make” (*ACS* 1064). Lift up praise and thanksgiving to God for the wonders, wisdom and beauty of creation! Pray for God to open our eyes to the inextricable and intentional connection we have to creation and the environment.

9 Give thanks and praise to God for *always* being with us on our journey of following Christ, proclaiming the gospel and loving our neighbors, especially when we feel ill-equipped, fearful and even terrified.

10 Give thanks for deacons — rostered ministers of Word and Service — who use their diverse gifts in response to Christ’s call to serve our neighbors and embody the gospel in acts of justice, mercy and accompaniment in the church and society.

The Community Beyond

National Night Out Set for Tuesday, Aug. 4

The Berwick community is joining with neighborhoods across Columbus in celebrating the annual “National Night Out” on **Tuesday, Aug. 5** at Berwick Alternative School, at the corner of Roosevelt and Scottwood. This annual campaign promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

“National Night Out is more than just a single event,” said **Kym Douglas**, director of the city of Columbus Department of Neighborhoods. “It’s a powerful statement about the strength and unity of our neighborhoods. It’s a chance for us to come together as neighbors, build trust with our local police officers and show that we are committed to creating a safe and vibrant community for everyone in Columbus. We’re incredibly proud of the grassroots efforts of our residents and community groups who make these events possible.”

Columbus community liaison police officers will be actively participating in events throughout the city, providing opportunities for residents to meet and interact with the officers who serve their neighborhoods.

Reynoldsburg Community Band to Play Aug. 17

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! The band will next play on **Monday, Aug. 17** at 7 p.m. at the Reynoldsburg Senior Center.

Getting Ready for Worship

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Prayer of the Day

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Faith Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon.

+ For Redeemer community member Mary Bowling.

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, 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, Julianne Johnson’s twin brother Paul, and his wife and family on the death of her brother Joe, Carol Heacock, Redeemer Call Committee.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Elizabeth Hoster, Pastor
Preaching	Pastor Teddy Ceasar
Assisting Minister	Michelle Clemence
Cantor	Al Rider
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chimes Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Jon Disbro
Communion Prep	Diane Brobeck, Kathryn Ott, Karen Rider
Producers	Sue Yehling, April Smith
Hospitality	Melissa Hackim

*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

August 3-10, 2026

Monday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	4:30 p.m.	ZOOM Executive Team
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts #2462
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	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	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:00 p.m.	TOPS

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