



Reflections

VOLUME 30

August 17, 2026

ISSUE 33

Vote on Call of Pastor Kayla Set for Next Sunday, Aug. 23

On **Sunday, Aug. 23**, the Redeemer family will hold a special congregational meeting to vote on whether to call **Pastor Kayla Hopgood** to be the church's next pastor. The meeting will follow the worship service and come before the congregational picnic, at about 11:15 a.m. It will be held in the Sanctuary.

Members must be present to vote both on the call and, depending on the outcome of that vote, the compensation package. There is no option for an absentee ballot.

Pastor Bob Abrams, who has been overseeing Redeemer's call process for the Southern Ohio Synod, will be in attendance and will both preach and preside over the service in **Pastor Elizabeth's** absence.

On **Saturday, Aug. 15**, upwards of 75 members and friends gathered for a "getting to know you" session with Pastor Kayla with another 43 views online. Introduced by **Call Committee Chair Krista Skipper**, **Past President Brad Binau** led the hour-plus discussion with Pastor Kayla of her upbringing, her faith journey, what drew her to "swipe right" when reading Redeemer's profile and so much more!



The time period ended with an opportunity for those in attendance to ask their own questions.

Those who want to watch the "Meet and Greet" can find it [HERE](#).

Pastor Kayla was ordained on Sept. 9, 2023 to the ministry of Word and Sacrament and had 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 just moved to Columbus from Ewing, NJ with her husband, the **Rev. Dr. Miles Hopgood** and their two young children, first-grader **Felix** and preschooler **Alma**. Her husband just recently accepted a position as a full-time professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

Should the congregation choose to call her, Pastor Kayla would begin the new position on **Oct. 1**.

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 Ernsthause

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

Thank You, Sue Yehling, Tom Mimplitch, Property Team!

Thanks go out to **Property Chair Sue Yehling**, Redeemer's Internet/livestream guru **Tom Mimplitch** and the whole property team for their yeoman efforts over the past week to get Redeemer back up and functioning after the ensuing power outages following the severe storms that struck Columbus.

They hung in with the first responders and electric workers who labored to get power back on at the church and the electronics back online.

Redeemer Fan Collection **Ends**; Distribution Help Needed on Aug. 19



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 Griffin 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.**

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."

Movie Night Coming Up Sunday Aug. 30

The next Movie Night will be held **Sunday, Aug. 30** at 5:30 p.m. to view "Come From Away," the movie about how the town of Gander, Newfoundland took in and cared for over 6,600 passengers and crew from 38 planes diverted to their town on 9/11/01. This is a lead up to the Adult Forum that **Brad Binau** will lead on the 25th anniversary of 9/11 and the hospitality shown by Gander. It will run for three weeks from **Sunday, Sept. 13** through **Sept. 27**.

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.

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.

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 4



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



She writes, "About 15(?) years ago, **Pastor Al Debelak** set a Lenten theme of (roughly) "out of darkness into light." I painted these banners to go with that theme. I tried to show that the transition may be clean or jagged or sloping or up or down; that for each person the path looks different. God is always a lamp unto our feet and light unto our path, but our paths are unique. It's not Lent now, but we are always growing and changing, and God is always with us as we do."



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

Healing Prayer Volunteers Sought

Folks interested in learning more about Redeemer’s monthly Healing Prayer and perhaps offering the prayer or providing the blessing, should contact **Michelle Clemence**. She is planning to hold a training session at some time in the future.

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 of thanksgiving are asked on behalf of **Emily Crosley** who recently had successful surgery and was in church Sunday!

+ + +

Prayers for healing are asked for **Kathy Rapp** who had knee surgery last week, for **Rosemary Collins, Larry Trover's** cousin, who is hospitalized with heart issues and for **Julie Johnson's** twin brother **Paul** who must have open heart surgery.

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Prayers for comfort and peace are asked for **Pastor Elizabeth** and her family on the sudden death of her Aunt Mary, whom she describes as a "second mother." She heads to Chicago next weekend for the funeral.

Pastor Elizabeth to Be Away Aug. 21-24

Pastor Elizabeth will be away from the church Friday-Monday, August 21-24 as she journeys to Chicago for funeral of her aunt who died suddenly. **Pastor Bob Abrams**, assistant to the Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod, will preside and preach **Sunday Aug. 23** as well as oversee the congregation's vote on the call for **Pastor Kayla Hopgood**.

August Birthdays

17-Thelma Johnson
22-Emily Crosley 23-Scott Steiner
25-LaVerna Reinoehl 26-Brad Binau
27-Matthew Bird 27-Jon Disbro
31-Lynn Belhorn

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

August 18 Give thanks and pray for ELCA Racial Justice Ministries and ELCA Ministries of Diverse Cultures and Communities, that their advocacy, resources and work will help us, individually and as a church, understand and repent of our brokenness, seek reconciliation and healing, and strive to change laws, policies and behaviors that marginalize people of color, neglect those who suffer poverty and vilify immigrants and asylum seekers.

19 Pray for those with whom we serve to do God's work in the world, including other denominations and ecumenical ministries, global companions, the Lutheran World Federation, social ministry organizations, the World Council of Churches, interfaith organizations and faith-inspired networks.

20 Persist in praying that the efforts of peacemakers, mediators and world leaders, imperfect as they may be, will bear fruit in lasting peace, justice and an end to the suffering of those affected by war and conflict.

21 Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with the United Church of Christ, a full communion partner since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength and resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbors, especially in these challenging times for the church and society.

22 Remember in prayer faith-based day care centers and preschools in our congregations and the leaders, teachers and volunteers who care for children, support parents and nurture faith in Christ.

23 “He asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’” (Matthew 16:13). Who do you say Jesus Christ is? How do you respond when someone asks about your faith? Lift up your questions and uncertainties to God and ask the Spirit to give you confidence and clarity when you share your faith story and proclaim Jesus Christ as the true savior whom you love, trust and follow.

24 Give praise to God and thanks for people, things and experiences that give you hope, joy and strength today.

The Community Beyond

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.

First English Discussion Series Returns

The First English Lutheran Church Discussion Series “Impacting Community ... Discussion. Action. Change.” returns next **Sunday, Aug. 23** at 4:30 p.m. with guest speaker **Michael Wilkos**, vice president for community engagement at the United Way of Central Ohio.

He will be followed by 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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Fellowship Lutheran Church in Columbus.

+ For Redeemer community member Earl Bradley.

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 and her aunt, Julianne Johnson’s twin brother Paul, Carol Heacock, Redeemer Call Committee.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Rev. Bob Abrams
Assisting Minister	Lynn Belhorn
Cantor	Emlyn Ott
Reader	Kelley Frank
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chimes Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Ashley Bird
Communion Prep	Diane Brobeck, Kathryn Ott, Karen Rider
Producers	Tom Mimlitch, Miles Smith
Hospitality	Congregation Picnic

*Flowers are given by the Steiner family in honor of Scott's birthday
The Noisy Offering will go to Habitat for Humanity of Ohio.*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer August 17-24, 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
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Congregation Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	1:30 p.m.	Give away Fans, Fans, and More Fans
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
Thursday	12:30 p.m.	RLC at LSS Food Pantry
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Giveaway
	12:00 p.m.	Hymn Pickin' Team
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Congregation Meeting to vote on Calling Pastor Kayla Hopgood – Members must be present to vote.
	After meeting	Congregation Picnic and Potluck
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

Redeemer Members Gather to Meet Pastor Kayla

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Saturday, Aug. 15 “Getting to Know Pastor Kayla” to all those, especially **Kathleen Zwanziger** and **Kathy Mimplitch** as well as members of the Congregation Council and Call Committee, who planned the gathering and provided the wide array of goodies!

