



Reflections

VOLUME 30

August 24, 2026

ISSUE 34

Redeemer Votes to Call Pastor Kayla!!

With 99 percent of the vote, Redeemer members present for the special congregational meeting **Sunday, Aug. 23** approved the calling of **Pastor Kayla Hopgood** to be the church's next – and first full-time woman – pastor.

The congregation went on to approve, on a unanimous voice vote, the compensation package that was distributed Sunday to the members present.

Once Pastor Kayla accepts the call, which she has 30 days to do so, her official start date will be **Thursday, Oct. 1**.

Pastor Bob Abrams, assistant to the Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod has overseen Redeemer's call process since the beginning of the year and oversaw Sunday's vote. He also presided at the worship service in **Pastor Elizabeth's** absence.

A special thank you goes out to the Call Committee, chaired by **Krista Skipper**, and including **Joss Dana, Zak Hinkle-Moore, Emily Ott, Sheryl Owens, Al Rider, April Smith** and **Kathleen Zwanziger** for their excellent work guiding Redeemer through the call process. Thanks, too, goes out to **Finance Officer Laura Warren** for her work developing the compensation package under the direction of the Congregation Council and to the members of the council for keeping the process moving along: **Ashley Bird**, president; **Lynn Belhorn**, vice president; **Jon Disbro**, secretary; **Michelle Clemence**, worship; **Karen Rider**, education; **Mary Benis**, outreach; **Kathy Mimplitch**, member support; **Sue Yehling**, property; **Brad Phillips**, stewardship; and **Kay Ernsthausen**, treasurer.

And a special thank you goes out to Redeemer's office manager, **Becky Trover**, for all her work preparing the materials for Sunday's meeting!



Pictured at left are Redeemer Congregation Council President **Ashley Bird** and Council Secretary **Jon Disbro** holding the signed Call Letter Monday morning. It now must be signed by the Ohio Synod Bishop before it is sent to Pastor Kayla, who has 30 days to accept or reject the call.

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 Ernsthausen

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

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 Ernsthause**) 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 Ernsthause** 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.



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.

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](#).

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.

RLC to Serve Dinner at First English Sept. 10

Coordinator **Kay Ernsthause**n 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.

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.

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.



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 remains of a beloved person or pet simply needs to speak with the pastor, who will facilitate the process to best suit the individual's preferences and desires. The pastor can be contacted through the church office at 614-237-1263 or info@redeemerluth.com.

RLC Policy on Payments to Individuals

The Redeemer Congregation Council has adopted a policy of not disbursing funds directly to individuals with the exception of funds requested by individuals for reimbursement of church related expenses and funds requested in payment for personal services. This was prompted because council has received requests from some members about designating contributions from a particular donor to the Immigration Support Fund or other funds of the church designated to benefit a particular individual. They refer folks to the following article for more information [HERE](#).

“If you need additional information about this matter, consult your tax preparer.”

Zoom Links

The following regular Zoom links to Redeemer’s Sunday Adult Education Forum and weekly Tuesday Bible Study.

Tuesday Bible Study: Zoom can be found: [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 880 0802 1077; Passcode: 338045

Sister Act Zoom can be found [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 876 9207 1033; Passcode: 812325

Summer Book Group: Zoom can be found [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 889 3638 2605; Passcode: 721097

Important Emails

Pastor@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating directly with **Pastor Elizabeth**.

Info@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the office, *Reflections* newsletter, **Office Manager Becky Trover**, healing prayer requests or for general information.

MemberCare@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with the Member Care team about needs for personal ministry such as in-home communion, a home visit, meals, etc.

FinSec@RedeemerLuth.com – use for stewardship campaigns.

Itgroup@RedeemerLuth.com – use for communicating with Redeemer’s IT Team for items related to the website.

Property@RedeemerLuth.com – use to report items that need repair in the church building.

SundaySchool@RedeemerLuth.com – use to offer suggestions for our Sunday School ministry.

NeedARide@redeemerluth.com – use to request temporary transportation assistance or call **Diane Brobeck** at 614-266-6930.

Communications@redeemerluth.com – use to send church related announcements or pictures for sharing on Redeemer’s social media sites. Another way is to tag Redeemer in the posts.

Publishing Deadlines for *Reflections*, Sunday Bulletins

For *Reflections*

- PLEASE SUBMIT PRIOR TO **5 P.M. ON SUNDAYS**.
- Send to info@RedeemerLuth.com and put *Reflections* in subject line.
- Or leave a note in the *Reflections* mailbox at the top of the stairs outside the church office.

For Sunday Bulletins

The deadline for information to be published in Sunday bulletins is the **Wednesday morning** before. That information can be sent to the above email: just put “Bulletin” in the subject line.

Prayers and Personals

Prayers for healing are asked for **Kathy Rapp** who recently had knee surgery, for **Julie Johnson’s** twin brother **Paul** who is having open heart surgery and for **Don Crosley’s** mother **Wanda** who fell and badly broke her foot and ankle.

+ + +

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 has been in Chicago over the weekend for the funeral and will return **Tuesday, Aug. 25**.

August Birthdays

25-LaVerna Reinoehl 26-Brad Binau

27-Matthew Bird 27-Jon Disbro

31-Lynn Belhorn

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

August 25 Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers who accompany global partners in Europe as they serve others in a diverse world and bear witness to the presence and work of a loving and merciful God. Pray that they may be emboldened to work for peace and justice and to care for those who suffer during this time of turmoil in parts of Europe.

26 Pray that our ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries flourish in their ministries of preparing students for lives of faith and vocation, equipping them to use their gifts in response to God's call to share the gospel and love and serve neighbors in need.

27 Give thanks for the impact of congregations that celebrate a long history and presence in their community. Pray for the Spirit to help them grow, evolve and discern what God is calling them to be and do in their community.

28 The Lutheran Campus Ministry Network (LuMin) serves over 175 colleges and universities through ELCA and ecumenical campus ministry organizations, including congregations near campuses. Pray that students, faculty and staff are blessed by the work of LuMin, which builds community, deepens faith, expands minds and inspires service.

29 "When schools flourish, all flourishes" (**Martin Luther**, *Table Talk*). The Lutheran church has a long, rich history of commitment to faith-based and public education. Pray that we support and encourage education for all ages, abilities and backgrounds for the sake of nurturing students to become confident, skilled, wise, creative, compassionate and service-minded citizens and disciples of Christ.

30 "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are" (Romans 12:14-16). Paul seems to have written this for us today. Ask God to help us live by these words, which denounce vengeance, arrogance, indifference to neighbors and divisive conflict. Encourage us to be humble, forgiving, empathetic and to love our adversaries and those who are different from us.

31 Gift thanks for new members of our congregations. Pray that they experience belonging, growth, encouragement and opportunities to use their gifts together with those of siblings in Christ to do God's work in the church, their communities and the world.

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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of First English Lutheran Church in Columbus.
- + For Redeemer community members Diane Brobeck and Tammy DeNune.

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 Mary, Julianne Johnson's twin brother Paul.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Elizabeth Hoster, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Mary Benis
Cantor	Connie Criswell
Reader	Mary Benis
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chimes Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Mike Benis
Communion Prep	Diane Brobeck, Kathryn Ott, Karen Rider
Producers	Toshi Phillips, Sachio Phillips
Hospitality	Ashley and Judith Bird

*Flowers are given by the Bird Family in celebration of Matt Bird and Alyssha Jordan-Bird's birthdays!!
The Noisy Offering will go to Habitat for Humanity of Ohio.*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer August 24-31, 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
Wednesday	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
	5:30 p.m.	Movie Night: <i>Come From Away</i>
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 Enjoy Sunday's Picnic

Sunday, following the special congregational meeting to vote on a call for Redeemer's next pastor, members enjoyed the weather and each other's fellowship at a picnic on the lawn and in the Narthex. Thanks to Fellowship Team for organizing and providing the corn, hot dogs and sloppy joe mix. *A good time was had by all!*

