



Reflections

VOLUME 30

September 7, 2026

ISSUE 36

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.

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

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.

RLC to Serve Dinner at First English Sept. 10: Three 2-lb Batches of Sloppy Joes Needed

Coordinator Kay Ernsthause announced Sunday that **three more 2-lb batches of Sloppy Joes are still needed** for **Thursday, Sept. 10** when Redeemer is scheduled to serve dinner at First English. Besides Sloppy Joe sandwiches, the menu includes tater tots, corn, watermelon and cookies – but all those items are now covered. 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." Call the church office for a recipe.

Contributions are also welcome. For any questions contact Kay.

Thank you all for your commitment to this ministry.

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 Narthex, 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. Given the temperatures, rain and mosquitoes, the group will gather in the Narthex.

So start looking for a poem to share!

Garden Giveaway Concludes 2026 Season

Michele Disbro announced Sunday that Redeemer's garden giveaway has concluded for 2026. Thanks go out to the many volunteers who helped both the giveaways and the gardening: **Master Gardener Jon Disbro, Misato In, Sachio and Toshi Phillips, Shirley Meyer, Kampbell Turner, Kay Ernsthausen, Sue Yehling, Helen Brunston, Kathy Zwanziger and Dave Lippert!!!**

Sister Act Plans Fall Retreat

Sister Act will hold its fall retreat at HopeWood Pines/Lutheran Memorial Camp on **Friday-Sunday, Oct. 9-11**. The theme for this year is "Rest and Receive: A Sabbath of Gratitude."

The retreat will be held in the Priebe Center, which has a large meeting room, kitchenette and 10 bedrooms, each with two twin beds.

Cost for the weekend is \$105 and \$17 for Saturday only. (Checks should be made out to HopeWood Pines.)

There is also a \$25 fee to cover the cost of meals for the weekend or \$15 for Saturday only. This is in addition, to the above cost.

Questions should be directed to **Carol Heacock, Michele Disbro or Kay Ernsthausen**.

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](#): So far, Redeemer has raised over \$12,000.

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.

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 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

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 **Bob Rapp**, husband of Redeemer's organist **Kathy Rapp** (who also needs healing prayers following knee surgery). Bob is having heart issues. Prayers for healing are also asked for **Wendy Stoica** who fell while running and had to have surgery for wrist and tendon repair. The surgery was successful but there are many weeks of recovery ahead and she can't drive at this time.

+ + +

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.**

***Christ in Our Home* for October - December Available**

The latest edition of the daily devotional booklet *Christ in Our Home* for October through December is now available on the kiosk in the Narthex. Copies are free for anyone who would like one.

A Note of Thanks

Redeemer received the following note from **Maddie Zimmer's** sister **Ingrid Meyer** who said she "was a long-time member and recipient of your love. May God continue to bless you all and the wonderful ministry you provide."

An Update

Former Redeemer member Hans Schwarz writes that, "Having taught for 60 years I stopped teaching this year. Also, having authored 40 books, not counting translations, I have stopped writing books. Yet I am still preaching (for free) quite regularly and contribute to books and journals if asked. Fortunately, my spouse **Hildegard** and I are relatively healthy but we notice our years."

His letter is posted on the kiosk for those who wish to read it in its entirety.

Link Available for Sunday Adult Forum on Transitions

Members interested in hearing the **Sunday, Sept. 6** Adult Forum with **Pastor Elizabeth** on transitions and the role of pastors and interim pastors in serving congregations, should call the church office for the link.

September Birthdays

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 8 Remember and pray for young adults who forego higher education in favor of skilled trade work, military service or volunteering. Give thanks for programs that engage young adults in volunteer and work opportunities, including Urban Servant Corps, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, outdoor ministries and Young Adults in Global Mission.

9 “Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre” (Psalm 149:3). There are many ways to praise God through song and music; some are passed down through church tradition and others are created in response to culture and context. Give thanks to God for endowing us with diverse gifts and creativity to express our faith, love and awe.

10 Remember in prayer immigrants, asylum seekers and families pulled apart by immigration issues and political division. Give thanks for ministries that help us provide hope, relief, compassion, advocacy and accompaniment, including Global Refuge, Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA’s AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).

11 Pray for youth, adults and volunteers participating in the Gathering Expedition event at Carol Joy Holling Camp in Nebraska, a time for them to explore faith, purpose and leadership together in their journey toward the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

12 Ask the Spirit to renew our faith and give us strength that we might tirelessly bear love, hope, peace and justice into the world.

13 Rejoice in the ELCA’s history of proclaiming that we are one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor every day.

14 Give thanks for special education teachers, school psychologists and others who help children and youth develop skills and confidence in academic settings.

The Wider Church

‘Trinity Days’ Features Former RLC Member

“Trinity Days” this year at Trinity Seminary features former Redeemer member, **the Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell**, who will explore “Surprising New Insights into the Social and Political Teaching of Jesus.”

Trinity Days starts on Thursday, Oct. 1 with registration at 8:30 a.m. at the seminary. Session topics on Thursday will cover the following: “Jesus Takes Sides”; “At Work in the World for Nearly 200 Years!”; and “Jesus Thinks Twice.” Powell will present new insights into the teachings of Jesus that are currently taking hold among biblical scholars – things that he himself was surprised to discover: 1) Jesus claimed that God especially favors people who have lost their faith or simply given up on God. 2) Jesus insisted that those who were regarded as the most wicked people of his day would enjoy all the benefits of God’s salvation even if they did nothing to change their ways (in a manner required of everyone else). 3) Jesus used “undocumented” or simply “unwanted” immigrants as role models for his followers and insisted that the harshest condemnation of God would fall on those who fail to welcome such people.

Participation in these sessions requires registration.

Friday topics include “The Bible on Borders and Immigration: New Testament” and “Equipping Church Leaders to Care for Refugees and Immigrants: What Church Leaders Should Know about Immigration.” These sessions, which begin at 9:30 a.m., are open to the public.

Go [HERE](#) to register. Cost is \$75 for both days.

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.

The Wider Community

'Big Table' Discussion Comes to Berwick Community

"Berwick: Celebrate the Past. Envision the Future" is the theme for a community event to be held on **Tuesday, Sept. 29** from 6 to 7 p.m. at Brookwood Point Senior Living (2687 E. Livingston). This event is part of the Columbus Foundation's "Big Table" where groups around Columbus will be meeting to get to know each other and discuss ways to encourage more participation in the community.

Getting Ready for Worship

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

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, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

- + For the people of Grace Lutheran Church in Pickerington.
- + For Redeemer community member Helen Brunston.

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 Mimlitch'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, Don Crosley's mother Wanda, Bob Rapp.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Elizabeth Hoster, Pastor
Assisting Minister	Julianne Johnson
Cantor	Linda Williams
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chimes Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Nate Ott
Communion Prep	Lynn Belhonor, Nancy Magargal
Producers	Michele Disbro, Sue Yehling
Hospitality	Maddie Sutphin

*Flowers are given by the Bird Family in celebration of Ashley's birthday!
The Noisy Offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Response.*

Upcoming Events at Redeemer
September 7 - 15, 2026

Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	A Brewing Faith, Budd Dairy Food Hall, 1086 N. 4 th St.
Wednesday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	6:30 p.m.	Sister Act Poetry Slam
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	4:30 p.m.	RLC at First English Lutheran Church
Saturday	10 a.m.	Chime Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
		Celebration of Pastor Elizabeth's Time at Redeemer
	11:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	11:30 a.m.	Adult Education
Monday	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