Reflections

VOLUME 30 | November 2, 2026 | ISSUE 44

Laura Warren Updates RLC on Financial Status

Finance Officer Laura Warren writes, "As 2026 is heading into the fourth quarter, here is a summary of the church's financial status through Sept. 30, 2026.

"The bills have all been paid, the church's balance sheet is strong with money in the bank and Columbus Foundation and the ministries including outreach have been able to step up to address the increasing needs of our congregation and community.

"Redeemer's Net Operating Income (income – expense) is -$47,293. It isn't unusual for the third quarter to reflect a negative value. Traditionally, the fourth quarter includes greater offerings to the church as members and friends complete their pledges, donate required distributions from investments and/or provide holiday giving. Council appreciates your generosity to Redeemer Lutheran Church to help maintain the church day to day and carry-on our great ministries.

"If you have further questions, Council minutes and reports are available in a notebook near the cloak room in the Narthex. On **Sundays, Nov. 29** and **Dec. 20**, during the Adult Forum, I will provide a budget overview for 2027."

Collections for Thanksgiving Bags Underway

Thanksgiving is coming! To make it a joyful holiday for many neighbors, Redeemer will again be assembling Thanksgiving bags that will be distributed by Lutheran Social Services. Please use reusable shopping bags or the thicker plastic bags like the Kroger Click List style bag. (Paper bags tend to rip while being stored and distributed.) DO NOT include any item in glass jars.



Kathleen Zwanziger reports that approximately 32 bags have been delivered to Lutheran Social Services with supplies for about 10 more available. The goal is 65 bags.

Bags are now being accepted until **Monday, Nov. 16**. Just like last year, the foods needed are the following:

- 13.75 oz box mashed potatoes (or one box)
- 2 cans of mixed fruit (suggestions: peaches, applesauce, pears)
- 2 cans of corn
- 3 cans of green beans
- 2 cans of pumpkin
- 1 can of cranberry sauce
- 1 box (or pouch) of stuffing mix
- 1 gravy packet
- 1 box dessert mix

Youth to Pack Thanksgiving Bags

Katie Jacobs announced that for the Youth Sunday School in November, the kids will put together some Thanksgiving bags. They are seeking food donations (see above) from folks who may not want to provide an entire bag of Thanksgiving provisions. "That way, if people come across a great sale on corn or pumpkin, etc., they can still help out." The class will be held on **Sunday, Nov. 8** so items should be brought by then.

RLC Leaders

Our Congregation

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus
Pastor - Pastor Kayla Hopgood
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 Ernsthausen

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

Congregational Meeting Set to Elect Officers

The November Congregational Meeting to elect council officers for the next year will be held **Sunday, Nov. 22**. The meeting will begin immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary.

Current **Congregation Council President Ashley Bird** notes, "As specified in the constitution, this meeting will be held in person only. Therefore, to have a quorum (20 percent of our voting membership), we encourage you to attend. **There will not be a Zoom option**."

The slate will be announced later.

Deadline for Advent Devotional Entries Is Nov. 9

Thanks to everyone who has already sent in an Advent devotion to **Mary Benis** for editing. For those who have not yet sent one in, the deadline is **Monday, Nov. 9**. They can be sent to Mary at MKBenis@yahoo.com.

Just a reminder: The meditations should be fewer than 350 words, include a title and conclude with a short prayer. It will be available on **Sunday, Nov. 22**. Redeemer member **Donna Voelkel** has provided original art for the cover.

Adult Forum to Look at AI

Pastor Kayla announced Sunday that the Adult Forum will explore the topic of artificial intelligence (AI) for the next two Sundays, beginning to look at what it means for the world … and church … today.

The class begins after worship service, at approximately 11:15 a.m. in Room 2.

Sign Out Sheets for Historical Files Now Available

Kathleen Zwanziger reports that some of the content files of Redeemer's history are missing. "It might seem that a particular bulletin or copy of ***Reflections*** would not be missed, but that might be the very one that someone else needs for their project.

"If you have borrowed a folder or two from the filing cabinets in the basement, please remember to return it/them. (I remember how elated I was when cleaning out my parents' house to find the bulletin from the day I was baptized!)

"There is now a 'sign-out sheet' posted on the cabinets should you want to borrow a folder in the future."

RLC to Serve Dinner at First English on Nov. 12

Redeemer's next opportunity to feed those in need will be on **Thursday, Nov. 12** at First English Church from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. According to coordinator **Kay Ernsthausen,** "We will be preparing our much requested Sloppy Joe and tater tots menu. First English has asked that we prepare for 80 people."

The sign-up is on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Library. There are aluminum pans on the rack in the coatroom that can be used for sloppy joes or cookies or brownies, for those wanting to bake.

Questions should be directed to Kay at kaernsthausen@gmail.com.

First English is located at the corner of E. Main St and 22nd Ave. (1015 E. Main St, Columbus, 43205).

'Come From Away' on Stage at Wagnalls Community Theater

Experience the heartwarming and inspiring story of "Come From Away" at Wagnalls Memorial **Friday-Sunday, Nov. 6–8** and **Nov. 13–15**. This award-winning musical tells the remarkable true story of nearly 7,000 stranded airline passengers and the small Newfoundland town that welcomed them in the wake of **Sept. 11, 2001**.

Filled with music, humor, and humanity, "Come From Away" celebrates kindness, community, and the connections that bring people together during extraordinary times.

Check with **Brad Binau** about possibly going down for a performance together.

Sister Act to Explore 'Taste of SoulCollage'

Sister Act will gather **Saturday, Nov. 7** from 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Redeemer for a **Taste of SoulCollage**. According to **Kelley Frank,** "SoulCollage is an intuitive, creative collage journey to embrace self-discovery and deepen your relationships with your inner self, your community, and your higher power (however you name it). No artistic talent is necessary! The SoulCollage process utilizes 8x5 cards, a variety of images, and your intuition and

imagination. Please bring a notebook or journal and a pen. You are welcome to bring any of your own images as well.

"As this gathering will be reflective and contemplative, it will be an in-person only gathering. All supplies will be provided, thanks in large part to the generosity of Thrivent Financial. Feel free to bring a snack to share if you want. You can reach out to Kelley at kelleynotez@yahoo.com or 740-475-8498 for any questions, as well."

Excitement Builds … *Literally* as Narthex Art Switches Out

Inspired by the installation of Redeemer's new pastor and the upcoming holiday season, the new Narthex art theme is "Excitement," Stop by to view those pieces of art Redeemer members believe exemplifies "excitement." It runs the gamut from places visited to not so "every day" experiences.

Two BREAD Events Coming Up

Kristi Hildebrand reminds folks about two upcoming BREAD events: the first, the **Annual Assembly,** will be held on **Monday, Nov. 16**. Then, on Monday, Dec. 14, the **Research Kick-off** will take place here at **Redeemer Lutheran Church**. ***"Please mark this on your calendar and try to come if you can, to help welcome the Network Members to our church.***

"The Research Kick-Off is just what it sounds like, a kick-off for the research teams. The structure is that everyone meets together for general updates. Then we split into campaign groups for campaign specific updates.

"At Redeemer, they would like to do the first part in the Sanctuary. For the second part, the larger group will stay in the Sanctuary, and the smaller group will go to another location, such as Room 2.

"The more Redeemer folks that we can have available to welcome people, point out the restrooms, answer questions, etc., the better.

"And of course, you will get important updates and next steps from our two campaigns:

- "Trees protect us! We protect trees!
- "A Brighter Future Starts Today! We Need Pathways to Better Pay!"

Upcoming Dates for Network Members

- Annual Assembly: **Monday, Nov. 16** at 7 p.m. Location: St. Josephine Bakhita Catholic Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd.
- Research Kick-Off: **Monday, Dec. 14** at 7 p.m. Location: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1555 S James Rd.
- Rally: **Monday, March 29, 2027**: Location TBD.
- RLC Network Meeting: **Wednesday, Feb 27, 2027** (Room 2 & Zoom) -- *The big date for everyone*:
- Nehemiah Action: Monday, **April 26, 2027**: Location TBD

Time to Order Poinsettias!

Yes, it is that time to order poinsettias for Christmas! They are $8 per plant and can be ordered in red, white or pink. The order is due the **Sunday, Nov. 22**, before Thanksgiving. The envelopes are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Complete the envelope with your name and the dedication. Put cash or check in the envelope and drop it in the offering plate. The dedications can be: "in Memory" of a loved one, "in Honor" of loved ones or "To the Glory of God". There will be a dedication page included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Don't wait…Don't forget…Order Now!!

Questions should be directed to **Kay Ernsthausen** at kaernsthausen@gmail.com or contact the church office.

Tuesday Bible Study

Pastor Kayla will lead Redeemer's Tuesday Bible Study as it continues, both in-person and online, beginning at 1 p.m. on **Tuesday, Nov. 3**.

Treats are solicited if anyone is so inclined. For Zoom link, see separate "Zoom Links" story this issue.

Next Movie Night Set for Nov. 15

"The Holiday" with **Kate Winslet** and **Cameron Diaz** will be shown at Redeemer's next Movie Night on **Sunday, Nov. 15** at 5:30 p.m. here at the church. Two women who are fed up with love find each other's homes on a home swap website and decide to get away for the holidays. They are both trying to forget their troubled love lives, but love finds them anyway!

What RLC's Sanctuary Art Portrays … Part 9



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

The church calendar's "Ordinary Time" was been interrupted by a festival: Reformation Sunday! The "color" of the day was red, as is the Day of Pentecost.

"I designed the multi-tone altar hanging with Pentecost Day in mind. 'When the day of Pentecost had come, they [the disciples] were all together in one place. …Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.' (Acts 2:1,3)"

"This idea is duplicated in the left processional banner.

"The right processional banner picks up Acts 2:4: 'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.' The Holy Spirit being depicted as a dove comes from Jesus' baptism by John in Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, and John 1:32.

"The center processional banner is the reverse side of Redeemer Tree. It is a cross using the colors of the Pride flag (before it was expanded to include Trans, Aro/Ace, and racially marginalized people).

"Finally, the red poncho that **Pastor Kayla** donned just before Holy Communion is called a "chasuble." It is a liturgical vestment worn by the main celebrant during Holy Communion. It is not 'necessary' but can be a fun addition on any Sunday, but especially for festival days. The color follows the season.

"Members of Redeemer made several chasubles (including this one) using material and orphrey banding from a liturgical supply company in the mid 1980's."

Remembrance Garden Update

There are now a few permanent pages in the Memorial Book, as well as a sign by the door to the garden that gives helpful information and guidelines. Please take a look.

Mary Benis, council liaison for outreach, reminds the congregation, "Just as we welcome 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. Memorial pages can be included in the Memorial Book regardless of whether the person's or the pet's cremains are included in the garden. Just contact the office for more information or guidance.

"Congratulations to us all for bringing this dream to fruition. Beyond fulfilling its intended purpose, the Remembrance Garden has greatly enhanced the appearance of the north side of our building."

Noisy Offering to Go to Lutheran World Relief!

For now until the Advent season, Redeemer's Noisy Offering will be given to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). According to LWR, its mission is "affirming God's love for all people." They do this by working with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. LWR's vision is "a healthy world forever flourishing in dignity and justice" and its values include the following: "Disruptive, Interconnected, Agile, Inclusive." More information on LWR can be found HERE.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers to Read at Fall Worship Services Needed

Readers for Sunday morning services can now sign up for dates over the fall. 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.

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
Adult Education Forum Zoom can be found HERE. Meeting ID: 883 2879 6239; Passcode: 890127.

Important Emails

Pastor@RedeemerLuth.com – use for directly communication with **Pastor Kayla**.
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 and strength are asked for **Kathie Ehrich** who is awaiting heart surgery as she recovers from an infection. Prayers for strength and patience are also asked for Kathie's caregiver, her sister **Nancy.** Prayers are asked for **Kathy Pautsch** who is having surgery this week and for **Shirley Cannon** who had surgery last week. Prayers for healing continue to be asked for **Bill Boys** who is now home following a recent hospitalization. Prayers continue to be asked for **Michelle Clemence** as she recovers from knee surgery.

Prayers for comfort are asked for **Wendy Stoica's** mother-in-law **Erma Stoica.**

November Birthdays

2-Danica Denniss 2-Barbara Hairston
2-Neil Hoddinott 4-Felix Hopgood
9-Ruth Murray* 9-Bryce Harms
12-Emlyn Ott 13-Emily Ott
20-Zak Hinkle-Moore 21-Andy Jacobs
24-Judith Bird 24-Sarah Highland
24-Mathewoodson Raymond 26-Grace Montgomery
26-Dereck Stewart 28-Greyson Brush
29-Mary Bowling

**Ruth Murray turns 93 on Monday, Nov. 9. Her address for those wishing to send her a card is 23032 Buena Vista Road, Rockbridge OH 43149-9657*

RESOURCES

Latest Church Directory Available

Hard copies of Redeemer's latest directory are available in the church office. Folks interested in a digital copy, should email the church office at info@RedeemerLuth.com .

Prayer Concerns from ELCA

November 3 Election Day - On this day of electing leaders for our nation, ask the Spirit to guide our discernment as we choose people who will work for unity, justice, equity, peace and the well-being of *all* people, especially neighbors and communities in need.

4 Pray for God to be our enduring refuge who delivers us from our fears, guilt, pessimism and suffering. Ask the Spirit to strengthen our faith and help us face the challenges we encounter within and outside ourselves.

5 Pray that we will focus not on when and how Christ will come again but on how we will live today as his followers, called to share the gospel, praise our Creator, love and serve our neighbor, and stir hope and joy among those who yearn for good news.

6 Remember in prayer members of the ELCA Leadership Circle as they witness God's work firsthand in Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. Pray for our partners in Central Europe, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic and the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland. Give thanks for God's work of justice, compassion, peacemaking and nurturing leaders, which is furthered through generosity and global partnerships.

7 It is far too easy to carry within us anger, grudges and judgment of others who, we believe, have wronged us. Pray that God might forgive us and free us from those feelings and memories that prevent us from loving, caring for and encouraging one another.

8 "The vitality of a church is not measured by how many members it has, but by its commitment and willingness to serve God and neighbor, by its readiness to walk the talk," says the **Rev. Anne Burghardt**, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation. Pray that the Spirit will renew our vision of who we *are* and what we are called to *do* as communities of faith in a world that often prioritizes financial security, membership numbers, physical buildings and resources over faith and serving our neighbors in need.

9 Remember in prayer leaders gathering for the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries conference in Giddings, Texas. Ask God to bless their time together, strengthening their mutual support and equipping and renewing them for ministry with people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

The Wider Church

Capital University Installs New Campus Pastor



Capital University's new campus pastor, Rev. Ian McMichael (center), was installed Sunday, Oct. 25. Redeemer's Pastor Kayla Hopgood was among those who participated as well as the Rev. Dr. Miles Hopgood and former RLC Interim Pastor Leslie Fox.

ELCA Looks to Update Social Message on 'Homelessness'

As National Homelessness Awareness Month approaches in November, the ELCA is looking to update its 1990 social message "Homelessness: A Renewal of Commitment." This social message has guided the church's advocacy and public witness for nearly four decades.

But much has changed in those years, in the church and the world. "Our understanding of homelessness, including the words we use to describe homelessness, has grown and deepened. Emerging ministries with and among people who are unhoused have challenged our perspectives on housing, homelessness and what it means to be a neighbor.

"Given these changes, the ELCA Church Council, at the request of the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, has authorized reconsideration of two sections of "Homelessness: A Renewal of Commitment." A reconsidered draft of the social message is now available for public comment from all ELCA members until Nov. 30.

To learn more and to download the draft social message HERE (See separate story, this issue on the Adult Forum examination of this social message.)

The Community Beyond

Election Day Arrives Tuesday

Absentee voting in-person is now over and Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. through 7:30 p.m. Not sure where you can vote? Go to VoteOhio.gov.

Additionally, completed absentee ballots from those voting by mail must be received by boards of elections by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3.

The election protection hotline phone number is 1-866-OUR VOTE.

Join RLC's Scott Steiner on Dec. 12 for Singing Buckeyes, Dinner at Valley Dale



Getting Ready for Worship

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Amos 5:18-24: Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Messiah Lutheran Church in Reynoldsburg.
+ For Redeemer community member Heather Coffman.

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 and Nancy 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, LaVerna Reinoehl, Drusanne Shaulis, Don Crosley's mother Wanda, Bob Rapp, Shirley Cannon, Michelle Clemence.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Kayla Hopgood
Assisting Minister	Julianne Johnson
Cantor	Connie Criswell
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chimes Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Nate Ott
Communion Prep	Becky Fisher, Kelley Frank, Trina Thornton
Producers	Tom Mimlitch, Sue Yehling
Hospitality	Ruth Murray

Flowers are given by the Steiner family in memory of loved ones.
The Noisy Offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Upcoming Events at Redeemer
November 2 - 9, 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 Scout Troop #2462
Tuesday	**6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.**	**Election Day**
	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
	5:15 p.m.	ZOOM Outreach Team
Wednesday	**12:30 p.m.**	**Redeemer at LSS Food Pantry**
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Sister Act – ***Taste of SoulCollage***
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON and ZOOM Adult Education
	11:15 a.m.	Sunday School for All
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