Reflections

VOLUME 30 | November 16, 2026 | ISSUE 46

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 or absentee vote option**.

Vice President Lynn Belhorn announced that no additional nominations had been received as of the end of **Sunday, Nov. 15**. Therefore, the slate is as follows:

Vice President – **Brad Dana**
Secretary - **Diane Montgomery**
Education - **Michele Disbro**
Member Care – **Kathy Mimlitch**
Outreach - **Mary Benis**
Special Funds Team 3-year terms – **Toshi Phillips**, **Kelley Frank**

'Pumpkin Goody Sunday' Returns Nov. 22 after-Worship, Elections

Folks are asked to share pumpkin goodies … pies, cookies, bread or anything else … for a tasting adventure during the post-worship service – and post-council election (see below) – fellowship time in the Narthex on **Sunday, Nov. 22**.



A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the library.

Advent Devotional Booklets Now Available

Redeemer's 2026 *Advent Devotional Booklet* is now available in the Narthex in both regular and large print versions. The devotions are also available on the Redeemer website.

If anyone would like a print version mailed to them, please let the office know. ***Those who would like to receive a daily email with that day's devotion, please contact the office.***

Please feel free to take copies to share with family and friends – more can be printed if needed.

Redeemer Donates 91 Thanksgiving Bags Exceeding Goal, Last Year's Total

Kathleen Zwanziger announced Sunday that Redeemer has filled 91 Thanksgiving bags – more than the goal of 65 bags and more than last year's record of 80. ***Thank you!!***



Thanks went out to Redeemer's youth who filled 14 of those bags last Sunday, adding Thanksgiving cards to each. And to the folks who contributed the food items.

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

Noisy Offering' to Go to ELCA's Good Gifts

Kay Ernsthausen reports the Noisy Offering from now through **Wednesday, Jan. 6** will be used to buy items from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. "With the right amount of donations we could buy a Family Farm ($715), a herd of goats ($300), a cow ($500), fish farm ($250), community vegetable garden ($220), an irrigation system ($100), safe water access ($250), latrine ($150) and the list goes on.

To decide what Redeemer will support, the children and confirmation Sunday school classes will vote on **Sunday, Jan. 10**. "The kids will be able to make suggestions of what we should buy and then will vote on what we buy. If we can buy more than item, we will maximize the offering to buy as much as we can," Kay writes.

"So, clean out the bottom of your purses and backpacks, empty out the columns of the car from all the change from the fast food drive thru's. See what you want to help give as a Christmas gift to someone in need.

"If you have something special you want them to pick? Donate then talk to one of the kids. The shopping is up to them. The giving begins this Sunday."

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.\

Two BREAD Events Coming Up

Kristi Hildebrand reminds folks about two upcoming BREAD events: the first, the **Annual Assembly,** will be held today, **Monday, Nov. 16**. Kristi suggests folks plan to sit in the second section from the right, near the front.

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

Upcoming Adult Forums Announced

While the Adult Forum will be on hiatus this week, **Sunday, Nov. 22,** for the council election and Pumpkin Pie Goodies, it will resume on **Sunday, Nov. 29** with a budget conversation with **Finance Officer Laura Warren.** Then the following sessions will be as follows:

Dec. 6 *Visio Divina* for the Season of Advent
Dec. 13 Poetry of Advent: *Bring your favorite poem to share.*
Dec. 20 Budget Conversation with **Finance Officer Laura Warren.**
Dec. 27 and **Jan. 3** On hiatus.

Good Neighbor Picnic Thoughts from Carol Heacock

"As the fall season rolls along and the temperatures begin to drop, folks are digging out their heavy costs, hats and gloves. We look back at the Good Neighbor Picnic, held this past **Sept. 26** at Wolfe Park and we give thanks to our Redeemer Family for all of your donations that are helping our neighbors stay warm and healthy. Your generous gifts of clothing, blankets, cash and time helped to make this another fun-filled day of food, entertainment, and opportunities to shop for warm clothing, books and school supplies.

"Next year, the Good Neighbors Picnic will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 25** at Wolfe Park. Make plans now to join in the fun!!"

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."

Narthex Art *Exciting* as New Exhibit in Place

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.

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 minus 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."

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. 17**.

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 10

Editor's Note: ***Michelle Clemence*** *has been asked to explain some/all of the artwork in the Sanctuary. This is the 10th in a series of articles and talks about the "*Abstract People" *banners.*







"We are in the last two weeks of Ordinary Time. Our focus is the five (six) painted banners depicting stylized people or liturgical rites. I painted these for Epiphany 2014. From left to right across the sanctuary:
- "Dancing before the Lord
- "Greeting one another in peace
- "Circle of life/faith/community
- "Baptism
- "Worship/praise"

A sixth painted banner depicting prayer is currently not on display.

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 **Ruth Murray** who is in the hospital and for **Johnobentz Joseph** who was recently in an auto accident.

Prayers for comfort are asked for **Wendy Stoica** and family on the death of her mother-in-law **Erma Stoica.** Wendy writes, "We're sad that she missed her 98th birthday on Nov. 11 but grateful that she is now at peace. Thank you again for all the prayers and support."

Prayers for comfort and healing, as needed, are asked for **Zak Hinkle-Moore** and his family on a death of his great aunt and the hospitalization of his grandmother.

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Congratulations go out to **John Kennedy** who has been named the interim executive director for Ronald McDonald House!

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John Caron Creates 'Mindfulness Advent Calendar': *A Quieter Way through Advent*

John Caron writes, "December can be the busiest month of the year, and the waiting and watching that Advent asks of us is easy to lose in all the shopping and parties." To help make room for that waiting, John, a mindfulness teacher with a Master of Divinity from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, has created an online Mindfulness Advent Calendar.

"From Dec. 1 through Christmas Eve, a new 'door' opens each morning. Each one holds the day's lectionary readings, a short reflection, and an invitation to pause and breathe. The reflections draw on the Christian contemplative tradition and on mindfulness practice, and they take up the worries that tend to crowd the season: comparison, the restless urge for more, and how hard it is to be present with the people we love. "Each day's practice takes only a few minutes, and you don't need any meditation experience. You can do it on your own, with your family, or alongside a friend or small group. The calendar is free HERE.

"This year, consider making a little space each morning to slow down, notice God's presence, and wait well for the coming of Christ."

November Birthdays

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 turned 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 17 Give thanks for our church's embrace of inclusion and equity, demonstrating that we are one humanity, created by God in wondrous diversity, and that we are called to love one another just as Christ loves us.
18 Praise God for our Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders and adult education leaders, who nurture faith, affirm our gifts and equip us for lives of service that bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.
19 Pray for an end to the war with Iran and for an enduring peace reached through diplomacy and building new relationships between leaders rather than force and threat.
20 In these times, when we might feel surrounded by darkness and despair, lift up prayers of joy and thanksgiving for God's assurance that we have not been abandoned, that we are children of light, loved by Jesus Christ and destined for the kingdom of heaven.
21 Remember our missionaries, our International Women Leaders and those serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program alongside our companion churches in Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Papua New Guinea, South Korea and Thailand. Ask God to bless their work in education, gender justice, leadership development, and music and parish ministries.
22 Pray that our words and actions reflect God's selfless love for humanity as we care for neighbors who endure hunger, homelessness, illness, incarceration, isolation and violence.
23 Pray for men's ministries in congregations and outdoor ministries, that they will heal hurts, deepen faith, nurture healthy gender roles and equip men of all ages for service in their families, the church and the world.

The Community Beyond

SWACO Makes Recycling Easy: No Fee

SWACO announced it is waiving all recycling fees at the Recycling Convenience Center (2566 Jackson Pike) now through Saturday, Nov. 21, including fees for televisions and tires.

Recycle Your Mattress

Many folks have an old mattress or box spring at home that needs to be gotten rid of, but the options can be limited, especially if one wants it to be sustainably recycled. Through the end of November, however, mattresses can be dropped off at SWACO's Recycling Convenience Center at 2566 Jackson Pike where they will be responsibly recycled.

All sizes of mattresses and materials are accepted (no waterbeds), but they must be dry and free of bedbugs, mold, blood, or other excessive staining. Rips, tears, and mild dirt or staining are okay. Click HERE to learn more!

Exhibition of Sistine Chapel Frescoes Now Open at Polaris

Al Rider writes that Columbus-Makes-Art is sponsoring a life-size, close-up projected version of Michaelangelo's Sistine Chapel 34 frescoes in the former Forever 21 storefront at 1500 Polaris Parkway just to the right of the big Polaris Fashion Place archway near Dave & Buster's.

Adult tickets are $33 and youth tickets (ages 4 to 18) are $25 on weekdays, and $2 more on weekends. Go HERE to purchase tickets.

It is now open through **Sunday, Dec. 27**. (It's closed Mondays and Tuesdays, and on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.)

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



Getting Ready for Worship

Christ the King

November 22, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Lessons

Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24: Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Prayer of the Day

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

+ For the people of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Dublin.
+ For Redeemer community member Connie Criswell.

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, Ruth Murray.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Pastor Kayla Hopgood
Assisting Minister	Connie Criswell
Reader	Kathleen Zwanziger
Cantor	Linda Williams
Organist & Senior Choir Director	Kathy Rapp
Pianist & Chimes Choir Director	Karen Kent
Usher	Zak Hinkle Moore
Communion Prep	Becky Fisher, Kelley Frank, Trina Thornton
Producers	Judith Bird, April Smith
Hospitality	***Pumpkin Goody Sunday!***

Flowers are given by Bruce Collins in memory of Karen.
The Noisy Offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Upcoming Events at Redeemer
November 16 - 23, 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 Scout Troop #2462
	7:00 p.m.	Congregation Council
	7:00 p.m.	**BREAD Annual Assembly**
Tuesday	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Team
	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Coffee and Conversation
	2:00 p.m.	Social Justice Conversations/Narthex
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
Thursday	12:30 p.m.	**RLC at LSS Food Pantry**
	3:00 p.m.	Suzuki School
Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM Worship
	11:15 a.m.	IN-PERSON only Congregation Council Election
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