

# Redeemer Record



## PASTOR'S COLUMN

What makes the parables mysterious, or difficult, is that they challenge us to look into the hidden aspects of our own values, our own lives.

*Read More on Page 2*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for a new take on VBS! Put on your sleuthing cap and dive into the Mystery of the Parables. Begins June 19th.

*Read More on Page 5*

## MENTAL HEALTH FOCUS

Our Spring mental health focus ended with support for mental health services right in our own backyard.

*Read More on Page 19*



# Pastor's Column

BY PASTOR KATIE HINES-SHAH



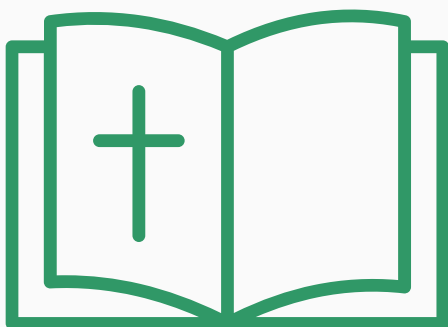
Who doesn't love a good mystery? Whether in books or on TV, at the movies or in true crime podcasts, there's something about a mystery that calls to us. Mysteries transport us to new places, they engage our minds with tricky puzzles, they (usually) follow a formula that gives us a satisfying ending – one where everything is explained and justice is done. Mysteries help us explore modern conundrums and problems. The best mysteries don't stop there. They might even interpret our lives.

Which is exactly what the parables do.

The parables are Jesus' great mysteries – short stories Jesus tells to explain the complicated concept of God's kingdom and our role in it. Many of us may have grown up with the notion that parables are straightforward. We are so familiar with these stories we no longer hear the scandal of the “good” Samaritan, the father who welcomes his wastrel son home, or God being compared to a sower who plants a weed (mustard) rather than good grain, for the benefit not of his pocketbook but for the birds to make homes. If we pay attention to the parables we might notice, Jesus' audience was more often offended than delighted hearing his stories. It's too bad they didn't stay to listen longer. At the root of Jesus' parables so often there is grace, for each of us and for our world.

*What makes the parables mysterious, or difficult, is that they challenge us to look into the hidden aspects of our own values, our own lives.*

*– Amy-Jill Levine Short Stories by Jesus p. 3*



# Pastor's Column

BY PASTOR KATIE HINES-SHAH



This summer we will be exploring the Mystery of the Parables.

Vacation Bible School will be held this year June 19-23rd from 6-8PM and will be open to everyone ages 3-103. There will be a meal, time for adult study, children's fun, and a coming together for worship around the camp-fire. See more details on page 15. Plan on joining us!

Wednesday Night Worship resumes June 7th from 7-7:30PM. We'll be outside under the porte-cochère (in the parish room in case of rain). Each week we will hear one parable and a short sermon by one of Redeemer's members on their favorites. Communion will also be offered.

We hope the spirit of the parables will enter into all the places where Redeemer worships and serves, studies and celebrate. As we celebrate Refugee Sunday - June 25th we have a chance to consider the parable's question, "Who is my neighbor?" As we work in the church yard we might contemplate the tiny seed and how large it grows - are we attending to our faith in the same way? As we welcome home college students, snowbirds, and new members, we celebrate like the shepherd who found his sheep, or the woman who found her coin, or the father who found not a stranger but his son. The parables come alive in us as they show us how to give and receive grace.

I look forward to exploring the mystery with you this season!

Thanks be to God!

*But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our Glory....As it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him."*

*- 1 Corinthians 2:7 & 9*



# Vicar's Column

BY VICAR KELSEY JOHNSON

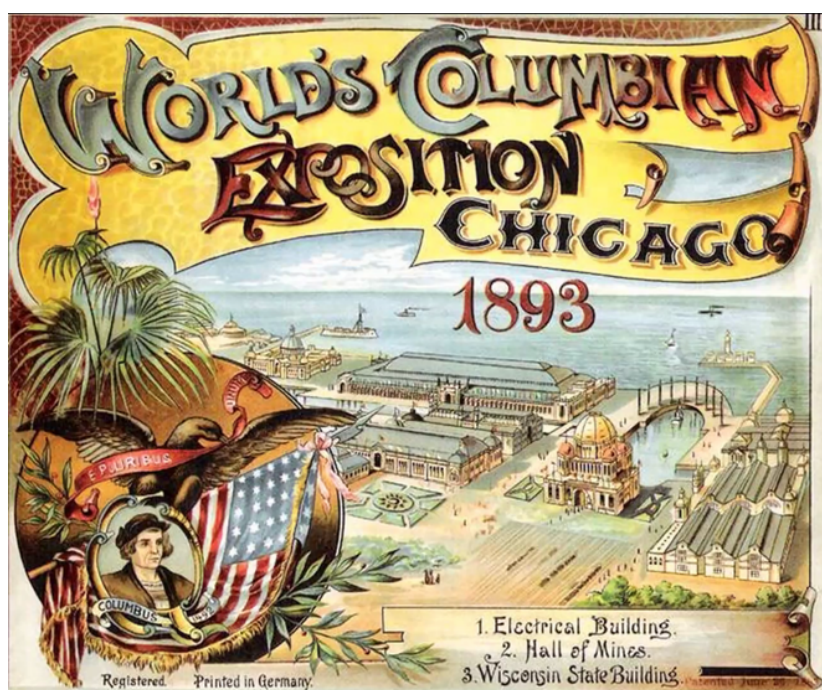


In May, I took a class about the history of the Parliament for the World's Religions at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). Learning from Rev. Dr. Mark Swanson and a cohort of Lutheran and Unitarian Universalist co-learners, we gained insight into the history and dynamics of the Parliament, and organized ourselves for attending this international interfaith conference Chicago is hosting at McCormick Place Lakeside Center August 14-18, 2023. I'm organizing a group from Redeemer to go on a day trip for one of those afternoons. Learning about other faith and spiritual traditions is a profound way to deepen our own faith, and to witness to our beliefs with and among our neighbors. I hope you'll join me!



Read on for some history and information about what's to come at this year's convening....

The Parliament was first held at the World's Fair in 1893, as a "coming together of the great religions of the world." It was a three week-long conference held mainly at the Art Palace (now: The Art Institute of Chicago), with international attendance. Hosted by Western mostly Christian hosts, the Parliament attempted to affirm universal inclusivity for religious thought. Speakers included Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim leaders.





It was at the Parliament that the Baha'i faith was first publicly affirmed. A plaque at the entrance of Fuller Hall at the Art Institute still hangs in commemoration.

The dynamics of the 1893 World's Fair were complicated. There was critique of the racial dynamics, and only two speakers were African American. Frederick Douglass, who attended the Parliament but did not speak, commented that the construction of the World's Fair as a "White City" did not accurately represent the inclusive spirit the Parliament attempted to portray. Fannie Barrier Williams, civil rights and women's rights activist, spoke poignantly on the call of the church to care for the African Americans being oppressed and lynched at the time, calling it "monstrous" that the evangelical Christian churches of the time denied African Americans membership and fellowship.

Women's rights were also openly addressed at the Parliament. Antoinette Brown Blackwell, the first ordained female minister in America, spoke in regards to women in ordained ministry stating, "Women are needed in the pulpit as imperatively and for the same reason they are needed in the world—because they are women." Elizabeth Cadt Stanton, called for dignity for all, including those who were poor and outcast.



There were no Indigenous American attendees at the conference, though there were cultural artifacts and people from this community on display on the fair's Midway. Indigenous Spirituality was not recognized as a valued perspective at this time, though the Parliament promoted universal acceptance.

This is all to say though the Parliament was a step in a positive direction towards religious and spiritual dialogue, it was rife with issues that represented complex and problematic societal dynamics of its time period.



## 1993

The Parliament was reorganized in 1993, recognizing the value of interfaith perspective and dialogue among the great religious and spiritual diversity in an even more globalized world. The Parliament met in Chicago, and 250 leaders worked together to write “Towards a Global Ethic: An Initial Declaration.” In response to the issues of the 1893 convening, discussions included “voices of spirit and tradition, voices of the dispossessed, and the next generation.” The 1993 Parliament attempted to speak directly to community and global issues, in the same spirit as the original Parliament, perhaps guided with some wisdom of hindsight from the 1893 Parliament’s shortcomings.

## Now

The Parliament for the World’s Religions convened eight times in total, hosted by various international cities. The most recent convening was in 2021, and was virtual due to the global spread of COVID-19 and risk/travel restrictions.



# 2023 PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS



CHICAGO, USA

Chicago is hosting the 2023 Parliament, and the theme is ‘Call to Conscience: Defending Freedom and Human Rights.’ According to the Parliament’s website, [parliamentofreligions.org](http://parliamentofreligions.org), “Parliament Convenings attract participants from more than 200 diverse religious, indigenous, and secular beliefs and more than 80 nations. Registrants enjoy access to all the plenary sessions, hundreds of breakout sessions, art & cultural exhibits, performances, a film festival, and countless opportunities to connect with individuals and organizations committed to justice, peace, and sustainability at the world’s largest and most inclusive interfaith conference.”

Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA will be speaking at the Parliament, among a rich panel of global leaders. I'm extremely excited to attend, and it's a wonderful opportunity to continue on the Lenten theme of “our neighbor’s faith, deepening our faith.” Though my time as intern will be coming to an end in mid-August, I am committed to organizing a group from Redeemer to attend one of the conference days, to build on the learning and community we have already grown together. I hope you'll join me – please be in touch if you are interested. What an incredible opportunity to gain a global perspective on the ways God is working in the world!

With Peace,  
Vicar Kelsey

# Thursdays 2-gather

BY VICAR KELSEY JOHNSON



Thursday's 2Gather with Vicar Kelsey continues through the summer! After a hiatus in June, we will reconvene in July. We meet from 10am-11:30am on the second Thursday of the month. All ages are welcome!

This year, we have enjoyed the following activities: learning about Lutheranism, volunteering at HCS, a visit to the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Arts, greeting card making, hymn singing, food drive can sorting, lunch and fellowship. If this sounds like fun to you, please join us! It's a great time to join old friends and to make new friends.



This summer we will be going to the College of DuPage to see the Andy Warhol exhibit. If you have summer activity suggestions, or would like to participate, please contact [vicarkelsey@redeemerhinsdale.org](mailto:vicarkelsey@redeemerhinsdale.org)







## CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT OPPORTUNITY

Save the date – **September 2nd** – for the Redeemer Congregational Retreat!

Please join us on Saturday, September 2nd from 10am to 4pm in beautiful Oregon, IL on the campus of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC).

We are putting together a one-day retreat that will give all Redeemer members, attendees, and staff a chance to spend time together, deepening friendships and making new friends, as well as planning for the year ahead.

Our retreat will include team building activities, lunch, outdoor activities for children, youth and adults, as well as structured time for ministry members to plan for the year ahead. Members of the Men's Connection and the Women's Connection, the Church and Community Ministry, Mission Outreach, Quilters and the Children, Youth and Family Ministries will have time for fellowship and planning. Children, youth and adults that are not part of a ministry will have time for additional outdoor activities. Our retreat will close with a short outdoor service led by Pastor Katie.

A "Show of Interest Sign Up Sheet" will be posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you are interested and available for this retreat. Signing the sheet helps us with the planning process and does not mean you're committed to attending.

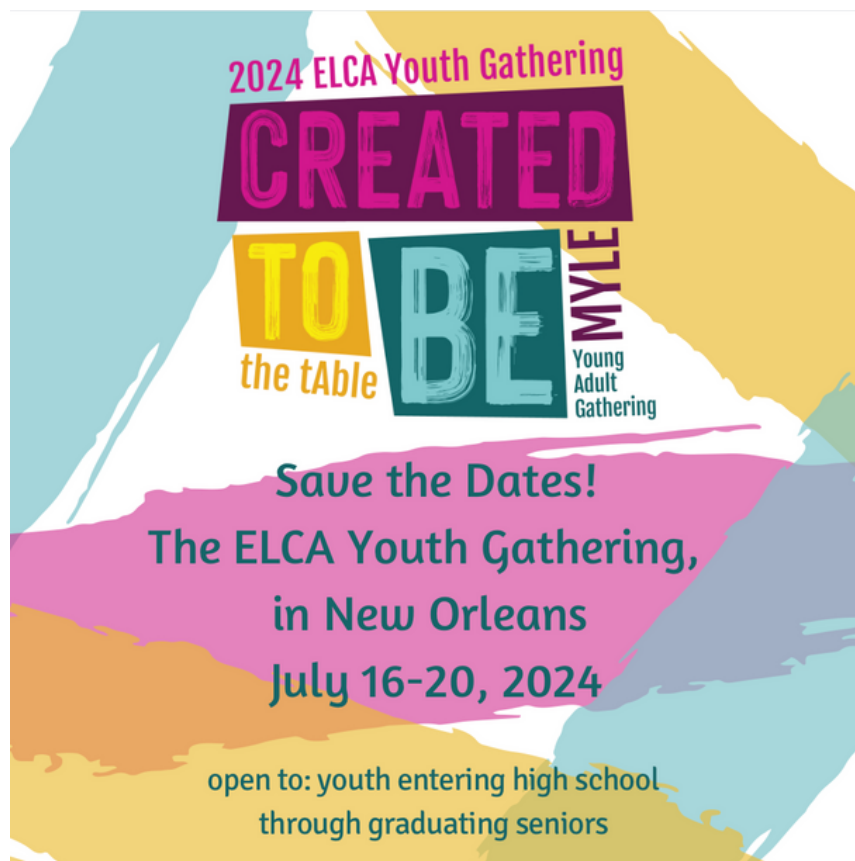
Join us for this opportunity to connect with each other, with Nature, and with our Redeemer!

A poster for summer activities. The word "Summer" is written in a large, red, cursive font with a blue outline. Below it, in a smaller red font, are the words "youth + families activities" and "5th through 8th grade". The background is a yellow sun with rays, and there are blue leaves on the sides. At the bottom, there are blue waves. The text "June 10: roller skating" and "July 4: walk in the Hinsdale parade" is in a green font. At the bottom, in a green font, is the text "More information will be available in the e-blast, or you can email vicarkelsey@redeemerhinsdale.org".

**Summer**  
youth + families  
activities  
5th through 8th grade

**June 10: roller skating**  
**July 4: walk in the Hinsdale parade**

More information will be available in the e-blast,  
or you can email  
[vicarkelsey@redeemerhinsdale.org](mailto:vicarkelsey@redeemerhinsdale.org)

A poster for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. The text "2024 ELCA Youth Gathering" is in a pink font. Below it, the word "CREATED" is in a large, pink, blocky font. Below that, "TO BE" is in a large, yellow, blocky font, and "MYLE" is in a large, blue, blocky font. Below "TO BE" is the text "the tAble" in a small, yellow, lowercase font. Below "MYLE" is the text "Young Adult Gathering" in a small, blue, uppercase font. The background is a colorful, abstract landscape with yellow, blue, and pink areas. The text "Save the Dates!" is in a green font. Below it, in a green font, is "The ELCA Youth Gathering, in New Orleans" and "July 16-20, 2024". At the bottom, in a green font, is the text "open to: youth entering high school through graduating seniors".

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering  
**CREATED**  
**TO BE** MYLE  
the tAble Young Adult Gathering

**Save the Dates!**  
**The ELCA Youth Gathering,**  
**in New Orleans**  
**July 16-20, 2024**

open to: youth entering high school  
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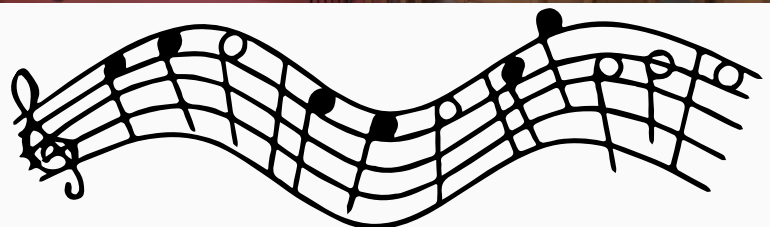
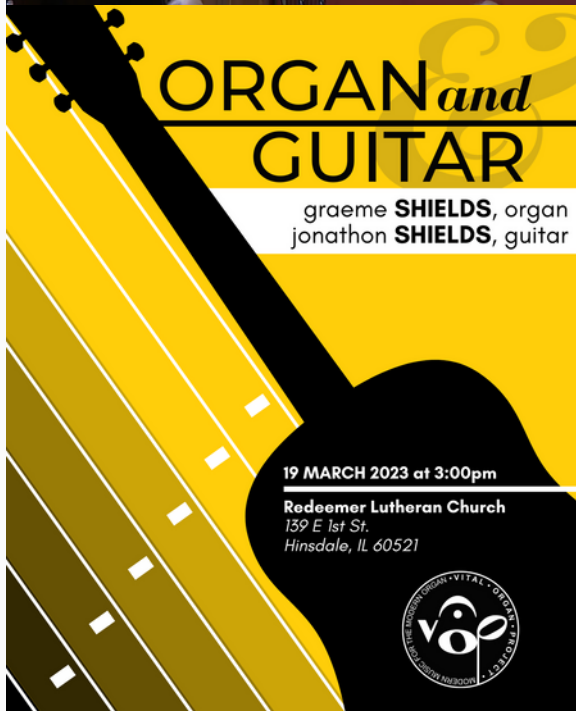
# Music & Worship

BY GRAEME SHIELDS



So much has happened at Redeemer since the last newsletter!

During the Lenten season, Festival Choir collaborated with Union Church to present Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living. There was a good representation of Redeemer folks in the audience; thank you for your support! The following week, a Guitar and Organ concert took place at Redeemer featuring Graeme's brother Jonathon Shields.



## HOLY WEEK RECAP!

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday depended a little on repetition from last year (much of the same music for Easter Sunday and a repeat of 2022's cantata) but were all strong services, especially with a new procession on Palm Sunday and the inclusion of Gargoyle Brass on Easter. Worship and Music hosted a special Easter coffee hour between Sunday services – a special thanks to Jo Changelian for organizing and to Kate Howell, Candy Hamilton, and Annette and Steve Patterson for providing such wonderful treats.

It was also a treat to bring the butterfly hoops into the sanctuary which would not have been possible without all of the decoration helpers on Holy Saturday. Many thanks to them, and to Daina Giesler for facilitating and hosting one of her famous “egg fights” afterwards.





## ENTERING INTO THE SUMMER SEASON

With summer around the corner, some academic year programs are coming to the end of their season including our trial run of Wednesday Night Meals. These meals fell right between Children's Choir, Alleluia Ringers, and Confirmation. With an average attendance of 13 and a rotation of food from Panera, Portillo's, Jimmy John's, and Domino's, this inaugural run was a success but left room to improve if it returns in the fall. The last meal for the season was on May 3rd.



## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS

The single service 10am Sunday Worship schedule this summer will begin on Pentecost, May 28th. We've been singing variations on the ELW Setting 4 of the liturgy since February, so a refreshing change is in order. For the summer, we'll utilize Setting 10 which makes use of a handful of familiar hymn tunes.

## WEDNESDAY WORSHIP IS BACK!

Wednesday Worship will start up again on June 7th with the theme Parables of Jesus. Worship will take place from 7:00pm-7:30pm outside under the porte-cochere or in the Parish Room during inclement weather. Homilists will preach on one of the many parables of Jesus while we enjoy music, liturgy, and readings that support the theme. This summer's theme will line up nicely with Vacation Bible School's The Mysteries of the Parables from June 19-23.



## REDEEMER'S MUSIC GROUPS

Festival Choir, Alleluia Ringers, and Children's Choir are all finishing out their seasons before a well-deserved summer break. Children's Choir sang at the 11am service on Mothers Day, May 14th, Festival Choir will sing on Pentecost, May 28th at the single 10am service, and Alleluia Ringers will ring a handful of their anthems from this year at the Holy Trinity service on June 4th. I am so proud of all of these groups and the heavy lifting they've each been doing all year long. The Children's Choir collaborated with a number of Redeemer's musicians and were great leaders for the Christmas Pageant. Alleluia Ringers are playing at a notably higher level and had an extra showcase this year peeling for midweek services throughout Advent. Festival Choir pulled through a very busy string of events: Savior of the Nations, Come for Christmas, Requiem for the Living for Lent, and The Shadow of the Cross for Good Friday followed by two big Easter services with Gargoyle Brass. What a challenging and rewarding year it's been for our musicians!

There will be a number of opportunities this summer to "sing and ring" in a low-stakes casual environment. Keep your eyes peeled in the weekly email blast for dates to learn about some handbell and hand-chime techniques, singing through a few anthems in Redeemer's Choral library, and exploring some of the church's variety of percussion instruments. If you are interested in being on the email lists for some (or all) of these events, please let Graeme know at [music@redeemerhinsdale.org](mailto:music@redeemerhinsdale.org) to get more information.



## CALL FOR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Finally, after a long COVID-induced hiatus, we plan to bring Worship Assistants back this Fall! Worship Assistants are lay people that spend the service in the chancel helping throughout worship (for example, assisting during communion and leading the prayers of the people). This is an important (and hopefully fun!) role to fill and I know there are a few congregants who are excited to return to this work. We will be looking for volunteers this summer and will hold a training in August.

If you are interested, please reach out to Graeme at [music@redeemerhinsdale.org](mailto:music@redeemerhinsdale.org) to get more information.





# Welcome Jeffery

BY JEFFERY MOSELEY

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Jeffery attended Indiana University where he graduated with both a bachelor's and master's degree. Jeffery comes to Redeemer with a wide range of experience having worked in project management, information technology, financial management, organizational development as well as facility maintenance.

Jeffery truly believes that good stewardship is important. From a young age, he was taught the importance of proper stewardship and it is now as a working professional that stewardship takes on more meaning and a greater purpose especially as it relates to God's resources. Outside of keeping busy with various work projects, Jeffery has his hands full with the family and raising two amazing little boys. In Jeffery's free time, he enjoys traveling, working-out and racing fast cars of which he's currently working to set a new top speed. The current top speed is 147 mph!

# Education Updates

BY PASTOR KATIE HINES-SHAH



## VBS BEGINS JUNE 19!

Get excited about a new VBS experience! This summer we explore **The Mysteries of the Parables**. The evening opportunity offers a chance for all ages to gather for dinner, fun, and the chance to learn more about the stories that Jesus told. Bring your best sleuthing skills to Redeemer in the third full week of June. We meet Monday through Friday, June 19 – 23 from 6pm–8pm. Adults will get to participate in Amy Jill Levine’s video series on the Parables while kids group up for games, scavenger hunts, and more. Come for dinner at 6pm and stay through 8pm. Registration is OPEN on the Redeemer website VBS page. Sign up soon and we look forward to a wonderful opportunity to grow and delight in the mystery of following Christ together.



## Vacation Bible School

**Redeemer**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS

### **The Mysteries of the Parables** **June 19 – 23, 6:00pm until 8:00pm.**

**All ages invited!** Have dinner as a family then join your group to explore the Parables. Games and art projects for kids, a video series and book club for adults.

**\$75 for kids, \$50 for adults  
(\$175 max per family)  
Includes meals and books**



more information and registration at:  
**[www.redeemerhinsdale.org](http://www.redeemerhinsdale.org)**



# Easter Focus: Mental Health

BY SARA CHARLES



Redeemer truly did "Walk the Walk" for Mental Health on May 21st! In the days leading up to the event, Redeemer was in the running against Hinsdale Central Track and Field for the top fundraising team overall. Not only was Redeemer a sponsor, staffing a celebration station, and a table at the Health Expo, but as a congregation we fundraised \$3,132 to increase access to mental health services right here in our community. We had 60 participants, between walkers and donations, and in total supported the Community House Counseling Center at an impressive \$5,632. Members turned out that morning to get showered with color and support this important cause. The Community House is grateful for our support and partnership, as the Walk had almost double the participation as the previous year. Thanks, Redeemer family, for supporting mental health in your own backyard!



# Redeemer Engaging Refugees (RER)

BY KRIS MAHON



After a strong start in early 2023 with a 3 week series of educational opportunities, the committee met to see how to move forward serving our new refugee neighbors.

On February 12th, a meeting was held for the congregation to join RER members to discuss the next steps which include:

- Investigate being a partner with another church already serving refugees
- Volunteer and build relationships with both Exodus and World Relief Chicagoland and others
- Tutoring at Redeemer possibly in future
- Follow up with congregation for a Refugee Sunday in June

The committee was quite excited to move forward and accomplished the following:

- RER members (Jay and Rodney) attended a U of Chicago online lecture about Refugees and Trauma Therapy
- World Relief Chicagoland luncheon at Christ Church: 2 members attended
- Ethnic grocery shopping and delivery took place in April: one for a family of 9 and one for a family of 3
- 1 partial apartment set up in April with 3 beautiful quilts donated by the Redeemer quilters.
- Four Redeemer members attended Exodus World Relief's Annual gathering of 700 refugees and volunteers on April 13th
- Committee looked for a partner church with no results yet

Moving forward-The committee is committed to:

- Educating church members on different refugee and immigrant status categories
- Supporting ethnic groceries and apartment set up, up to four times per year as needed
- Individuals working with tutoring and refugees and being "New Neighbors" program: Dirk Landis, Linnea Wilson, and Vicar Kelsey. Looking for other members who may be interested.

## SAVE THE DATE:

World Refugee Sunday, June 25th at the 10:00am service.

Each year, Christians around the world observe World Refugee Sunday, a meaningful time to bring awareness of God's heart for refugees.

Please contact Kris Mahon or Jo Changelian if you are interested being part of the committee, delivering apartment supplies or food, tutoring a refugee.

We are all God's children no matter our status or station. Redeemer is grateful for the support and proud to serve in this outreach mission.



# Refugees and Mental Health



BY DIRK LANDIS

As part of Redeemer's Lenten Adult Ed focus on Mental Health we welcomed Mary Moss, a refugee mental health counselor at World Relief. On April 23rd she came to speak during Adult Education Hour.

Refugees and other immigrants endure profound physical and psychological trauma after leaving their home. A summary of that discussion is as follows.

- Potential sources of trauma for UN designated refugees include:
  - The events in their homeland that qualified the person for refugee designation
  - The events during their departure/escape journey
  - Trauma in refugee camps which are frequently under-resourced and violent and involve typically 17 years on average of not knowing where your future will be. This makes it hard for individuals (including children) to learn the language of their future home country
  - Traumas related to arriving in new home country with only limited 3 months support include the need to find a job, pay back transportation costs, learn a new language, get children into school and see to their wellbeing while likely working many hours, and generally significant alienation from the language, customs and culture.
    - Depending on the refugees' original home country, the experience of complete separation and isolation is similar to if not worse than that which has resulted from COVID in the US.
  - Aside from the refugee specific traumas above, refugees and their children are vulnerable to the same mental health issues as are in our general population here, but the need to work and the lack of transportation usually make it a challenge to get proper support.
  - Some cultures have even more stigma around mental health issues than we do here, making it difficult for those refugees to seek help.
  - The effects of trauma can be passed on from the refugees to their children both behaviorally and biologically due to the epigenetic effects on genes.



# Thank You! From Cindy Cimo



## THANK YOU REDEEMER!

Thank you so much for your generous financial retirement gift, fun farewell reception, kind words, and love! I feel blessed to be part of Redeemer's faithful and caring community.

Thank you to everyone who worked and contributed to the beautiful farewell reception (Jen Moeller, Camille Pryber, Marge Chapello, Marcelle Vogel, Sue Graunke, and Mary Landis).

Thank you! Cindy Cimo



## OFFICE MANAGERS: PAST AND PRESENT



We welcome Jeffery to Redeemer as the new office manager. Here he is pictured with Cindy (left) and Sandy (right).





# Mission Outreach Updates

BY KRIS MAHON



## DIAPER AND WIPE DRIVE JUNE 18-25

Vacation Bible School and Mission Outreach have teamed up to support parents and foster parents by donating any size diapers or wipes.

Lutheran Child and Family Service (LCFS) is the second-largest community-based child welfare agency in Illinois, dedicated to improving the well-being of people across the state by protecting children, strengthening families, and building futures for those who have experienced trauma.

Their vision is a world where all of God's children have the opportunity for safe, healthy and meaningful lives.

Please drop off donations in the box provided.



## THANK YOU!

BY KATE SAHLAS

A huge loving **THANK YOU** for all the prayers, texts, calls, cards and food that helped me recuperate from burns and shingles (again). To be part of a hopeful, helpful community was essential to my healing. God bless everyone!

*Thank You*

- Kate Sahlas

# Program Assistant Search Update

BY SUE GRAUNKE



The proposed “Program Administrator” job description was approved by the Church Council at their January meeting. The two primary focus areas of this new position will be Christian Education and Congregational Life/Fellowship with supporting responsibilities in technology and administration. The job description has now been posted on Redeemer’s website [HERE](#), as well as on a variety of job search platforms.

We are grateful for the congregation’s support and ask for continued prayers as the search process for this important leadership position moves forward.

Program Administrator Search Committee

Sarah Charles, Sue Graunke, Steve Patterson, Mark Rosland, Pastor Katie

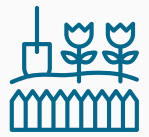
## Save the Date: Redeemer Annual Picnic!





# Faithful Gardeners

BY CONNIE BOTHEN



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## GARDENING SEASON IS IN FULL SWING!

All help is welcome and needed to keep our Redeemer gardens beautiful and welcoming for all. Redeemer's Faithful Gardeners are trying a new approach this season. We will be working on our own time rather than a set group date.

We do light weeding, clean up, and watering as necessary.

We currently need some help on the South side of the church with the rose bushes, otherwise contact Connie Bothen or the church office for a space to work on when you have time. A yard waste bag is kept open in the garbage closet.

Current gardeners, gardening Saturdays or on their own time are:

Connie and Tom Bothen, South and West, on our own time  
Bruce Forbush, rock areas  
Pat Quast, East  
Pastor Linnea, North, on own time  
Natalie and Iris, North, on own time  
Gwen Entsminger, West/North, on own time  
Pat Quast could use help on the East side.

We also need help with twig and trash pick-up. Please consider helping when you can, even a few minutes after church on Sunday makes a difference.

Thank you to all our gardeners who give their time and energy to keep our grounds tidy!



# Redeemer Quilters

BY CONNIE BOTHEN



## QUILTERS NEED SHEETS!

Redeemer quilters are in need of cotton or cotton blend sheets in good condition:

Twin flat  
Full, Queen, and King sheets flat or contour  
Pillow cases  
Cloth shower curtains  
Duvets

All colors/patterns accepted, except solid white.  
Please leave in the office or kitchen marked “for quilters.”

Vicar Kelsey chose her keepsake quilt on Palm Sunday.

The quilters want to thank everyone for purchasing quilts on April 2, which was Quilt Sunday. Thank you also for donating extra funds, sheets on recycling day, and continuing to support Redeemer Quilters in our mission.





# Financial Update

BY KIM ENDERS



## REDEEMER LUTHERAN 2022-23 THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REVIEW

Redeemer's third quarter of the 2022-23 ended on March 31, 2023, and Redeemer achieved a Net Income of \$51,013. This is holding steady from the second quarter Net Income of \$51,457. Offerings were down \$31,347 for the nine months of the year in comparison with the first nine months of the 2021-2022 year. However this year Easter occurred in April, so the results are skewed. I am told that Easter offerings were generous and the differential will be narrowed. Expenses were also less than expected. Expenses for the year to date were \$22,962 less than the 2021-2022 year and were 93% of the budgeted amount. Much of the lower expenses are due to the open Program Director position. We don't foresee any extraordinary expenses for the rest of the 2022-2023 annual period.

The church continues to stand in a strong financial position. The Balance Sheet shows total Equity figures at \$1,351,905. As a percentage of Total Assets, the third quarter-end year to date distribution was as follows: \$674,721, 50%, in Restricted Funds, \$458,790, 34%, in Special Designated Purpose Funds, and \$218,394, 16%, in Unrestricted/Undesignated Funds. We have 4.8 months of cash reserves at the current expense rate. This amount of Unrestricted Funds is about the average amount that we have held in the recent past. Recent market fluctuations have had the effect of reducing overall equity, and in particular, the Unrestricted/Undesignated funds. However, investments have been rebounding.

### 2022-23 Third Quarter Financial Results Summary:

Through Mar. 31, 2023	Revenue (All Sources)	Expenses	Net Surplus/Deficit
July 1, 2022 – Mar. 31, 2023	\$461,756	\$410,743	+\$51,013
July 1, 2021 – Mar. 31, 2022	\$503,515	\$433,705	+\$69,811
2022-23 % of Budget	80.2%	69.7%	
2022-23 Total Budget	\$575,600	\$589,516	
Total Assets	\$1,351,904		

To date we have 77 pledges recorded for a total of \$467,477.00. This compares slightly higher than recent years. We are working on a budget for the July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 annual period, and are projecting gross revenue of \$621,800. Expenses will also increase once the Program Director position is filled. Finance Committee held an informational session regarding the 2023-2024 budget on Sunday, May 14 during the Adult Education hour.

On Sunday, May 21 at the 11 am service there was a Congregational Meeting, at which time the budget was presented for approval.

Kim Enders, Treasurer

# Church News and Updates

BY JEFFERY MOSELEY



## Loss in the Church Family

### MARIAN BALSTER

Marian Balster, age 90, born Marian Emily Holsten of Concordia, Missouri passed away on April 7, 2023.

She is survived by her husband Donald Balster, husband of 68 years, and their children Linda (Bryan) Roberts, Timothy (Robin) Balster and Tony Balster; grandsons Douglas and William Balster, and her sister Helen (Mel) Heinz and Helen's daughter, Debbie (Joe) Gaglio. She was preceded in death by son Mark Balster.

Marian met her husband Don in Concordia, Missouri while he was there attending the pre-seminary. They were married on June 5, 1955. She earned a nursing degree and also supported his ministry, initially in Layton, Utah, followed by 37 years in Hinsdale, Illinois at Redeemer Lutheran.



After their son Mark died in 1973 both Donald and Marian were instrumental in launching all the US based chapters of "The Compassionate Friends", a bereavement group for parents who have lost a child.

Marian was in a leadership role for ten years until the mid-1980s, and the organization now has over 600 chapters in the US and abroad. One of Marian's greatest legacies with TCF was influencing Congress to approve and establish an annual remembrance ceremony which is held at 7:00 pm on the second Sunday in December in the U.S. and globally.

Upon their retirement and after snow-birding for several years, Marian and Donald chose Village on Isle, Venice, Florida in 2014 as their home. They enjoyed the friendship of many people in Village on the Isle and their church, Emmanuel Lutheran. Marian was active in the Dorcas Quilting Mission and was their most senior "quilt finisher".

All are welcome to join the family in celebrating Marian's life at a memorial service which will be conducted at 11:00 am on April 19th, 2023 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice, Florida. In lieu of flowers, donations to Emmanuel Lutheran (to the Dorcas Quilting group in memory of Marian Balster) 790 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice FL 34285, or to Redeemer Lutheran (Covenant Endowment Fund in memory of Marian Balster) Redeemer Lutheran, 139 E. First Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521, would be welcomed.





## Confirmation: Aria Greenwald



CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS

ARIA GREENWALD  
2023 REDEEMER CONFIRMAND



Redeemer congratulates Aria Greenwald on her confirmation. Aria was confirmed on Sunday, May 7th at the 11am service. We are honored to welcome and support her in continuing a spiritual journey.



# Congratulations 2023 Graduates

BY VICAR KELSEY JOHNSON



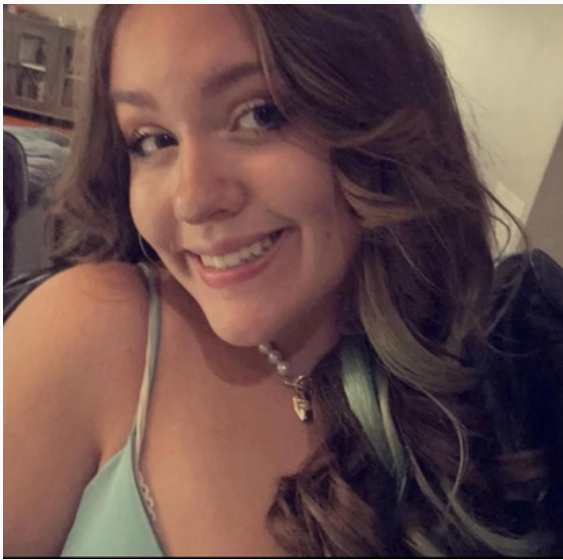
# Congratulations

## — Class of 2023 —

Redeemer congratulates all of our graduates from high school and beyond who have completed programs. We are proud to support all of our students and especially happy to highlight the Class of 2023!







**Abby Cavelle**

Graduating from: Plainfield Central High School

Attending: Illinois State University

She is working toward a degree in education.

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**Layne Dale**

Graduating from: Riverside-Brookfield High School

Attending: Great Lakes Naval Training Center, for a  
Five Year Enlistment

He will be in training for Fire Suppression and  
Salvage.

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**John Hines-Shah**

Graduating from: Hinsdale Central High School

Attending: Carleton College

John plans on majoring in Political Science/ International  
Relations

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**Kelsey Johnson**

Graduating from: The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Masters of Divinity with interfaith emphasis

Future plans: Seeking a first call as a Pastor in the Chicago area



**Catie McCabe**

Graduating from: Hinsdale Central High School

Attending: Indiana University

She is undecided as to what her major will be, but she has an interest in business. She will also compete in Cross Country and Track and Field as a Hoosier.



**Paul W Rosland III**

Graduating from: District 205 Transition Services





**Tim Rosland**

Graduating from: Westmont High School

Attending: Western Carolina University-Cullowhee, NC

Tim plans to study Engineering Technology.

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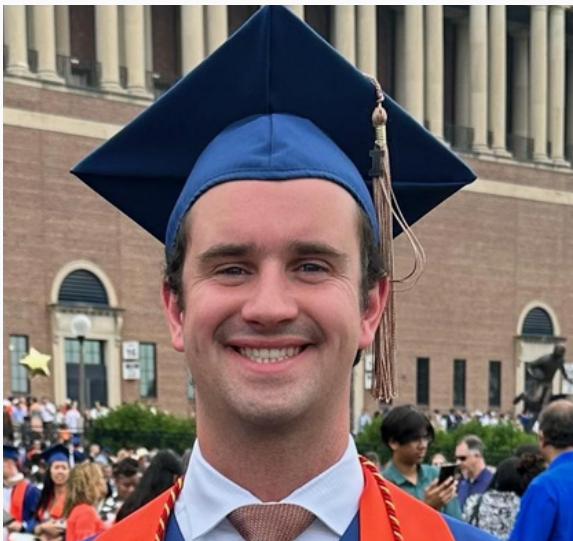
**Sarah Rusthoven**

Graduating from: Elon University

Major: Communication Design, Minors: French and Art

She is planning to teach English in France next year with TAPIF (Teaching Assistant Program In France).

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**Brian Schwab**

Graduating from: University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Major: Accounting and Supply Chain Management

This fall he will begin work at Grant Thornton in Chicago doing Transformational Consulting.

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**Eric Seppanen**

Graduating from: Hinsdale Central High School

Attending: The United States Air Force Academy

Eric plans to study political science.

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**Alex Sheppel**

Graduating from: Hinsdale Central High School

Attending: UW Milwaukee

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**Preston Sieben**

Graduating from: Lyons Township High School

Attending: Valparaiso University

Preston will be studying health sciences.

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**Steven Vogel**

University of Minnesota Law School, JD degree

Future plans: Traveling to SE Asia with Justin (older brother) this summer. Working full time at Winthrop & Weinstine, a law firm in downtown Minneapolis.

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## NAMI Metro Suburban: Mental Health First Aid

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Redeemer will be hosting a Mental Health First Aid workshop conducted by NAMI Metro Suburban on June 24, 2023 from 8:30am until 4:00pm. This training is designed to teach participants how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. This class is appropriate for anyone over the age of 18 who wants to learn more about mental health conditions and how to help.

There are several topics that will be covered:

- Depression and mood disorders
- Anxiety disorders
- Trauma
- Psychosis
- Substance use disorders

To learn more about NAMI Metro Suburban click [HERE](#). Additionally, more information can be found through the National Council for Mental Well-being at [MentalHealthFirstAid.org](https://MentalHealthFirstAid.org).

Space is limited so Sign up today! Deadline to register is June 10, 2023

# Welcome New Members!

BY VICAR KELSEY JOHNSON



On Sunday May 7th, Redeemer welcomed new Associate and Voting Members. Please add their addresses to your phone book and be sure to say hello when you see them at Redeemer!

**Rodney Holmes** – You’ve seen Rodney around as founder and tuba player for the Gargoyle Brass, who play for Redeemer’s most festive services. Rodney is married to Valarie Holland who is also pictured.





**Natalie, Case, and Iris** – Natalie, Case, and Iris moved to Hinsdale just before the pandemic and worshipped with us once or twice before worship moved online. Case works for Boeing and Natalie homeschools Iris who just finished Kindergarten. You'll see Natalie and Iris out helping with the Faithful Gardeners of Redeemer and the whole family out in Hinsdale on their bicycles.

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**Ernest and Katie Ricketts** – Ernest and Katie are returning to Redeemer after raising their children here. Redeemer's RIC membership is very important to Ernest and Katie. They look forward to getting reacquainted with friends at Redeemer.

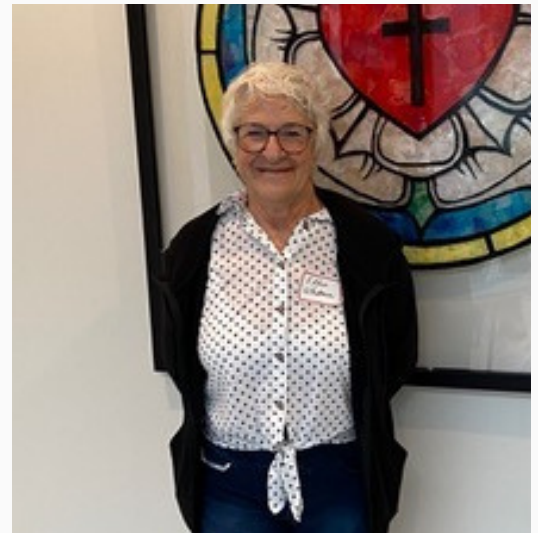


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**Hank and Nancy Schwabauer** – Hank and Nancy are Augustana College alumni who have lived all over Illinois, most recently in Wheaton. When they moved to Oakbrook they started looking for a church and ended up at Redeemer. Hank is a retired banker and Nancy a retired nurse. They have two daughters and six grandchildren.



**Ellie Whitmer** - Ellie moved to Oakbrook a couple years back and was invited to Redeemer by a neighbor. She's been active in Redeemer's Quilters ever since. Ellie has five grown children and a number of grandchildren, two of which live locally.



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**Nate, Sonja, Aubrey, and Ellie Will** - The Will Family came to us through an introduction from Nate's childhood babysitter who is a Redeemer member. Nate is a trained chef who now works for US Foods and Sonya works at Northwestern Memorial Hospital as a Program Manager for student nurses. Aubrey and Ellie sing in the kids choir and just started T-Ball.



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## Member Address Update

Long time members Scott and Sue Graunke are moving. Please update your member directory with the new address and phone numbers.

Please contact the church office for updated contact information.



# Healthy Spiritual Journey

BY LANNY WILSON



## FLOWERS. GIFTS. GOD.

Do you remember when you first noticed flowers? Okay, I may not remember when I first noticed them either, but as I sit here on the verge of the month of May, I believe that it happened during my first year of school, in the spring of 1957. Maybe in harmony with Mother's Day, it was the tradition in my hometown to honor Jesus's Blessed Mother, Mary, with a procession into church that ended by crowning the statue of Mary with a glorious crown of flowers. My aunt, Sister Dorothy, said that one of the thrills of her life was being chosen, as a high school senior, to crown the Blessed Mother. One of my nieces, Allison, was also chosen for that honor. My mom, Mary Magy, cut the flowers from our home garden that year. Accompanied by well-practiced songs, devotional prayers, and springtime flowers that were fragrant, colorful, and glorious, the May procession was memorable. The marvelous beauty and the aroma of those flowers, no perfume could ever match – free gifts from God!

As the years have passed, I have gained a greater appreciation for the color, diversity, and usefulness of flowers. Valentine's Day must include flowers, otherwise love is not 'in the air'. Flowers are an essential part of weddings.

*Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.*

*- Luke 12:27*



They help us to celebrate the end of life, or maybe ease some of the pain, at funerals. Poinsettias decorate homes and altars at Christmas. In early springtime, the fields around our Kentucky farm are filled with wild daffodils, which we call 'Easter flowers'. White lilies, representing purity, are found on most Easter altars. As I drive around Hinsdale, Illinois, where I live, the flowering trees are magnificent. A couple of my favorites are the magnolias and the redbuds – all gifts from God!



Linnea and I traveled to Holland this April to experience the tulips in bloom, and were gifted with a beautiful day to see them at the Keukenhof Gardens. There were tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and other spring flowers in many garden spaces around Amsterdam and throughout Holland; but at Keukenhof, we saw such a delightful array of colors, sizes, shapes, and decorative landscaping patterns that, when I dream of heaven, I will have those memories to guide me. As we walked and enjoyed the flower gardens, we could not help but notice the joy on the faces of those who were visiting with us. Young and old, family and friends, we put aside the troubles of the world that day to simply enjoy the flowers. Flowers, those amazing gifts from God, will certainly be featured in paradise!

In joy or sadness, flowers  
are our constant friends.  
-Okakura Kakuza

As we continue our healthy spiritual journey together, let us take time to smell the roses. Let us consider the lilies, how they grow. Let us take time to appreciate the flowers that people have planted for their pleasure and our amazement. Let us remember to share the gift of flowers during all of the right occasions. Let us be grateful for all of the flowers that God has so graciously gifted to us and be glad. For these are the gifts that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in them!

In God's Love,

Lanny F. Wilson, MD



"A tulip doesn't strive to impress anyone.  
It doesn't struggle to be different than a  
rose. It doesn't have to."

-Marianne Williamson

