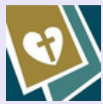


THE REDEEMER RECORD



FROM THE PASTOR

“There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning.”

~ Louis L'Amour

Dear Beloveds in Christ,

As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter together, this quote spoke to me because the cross must have looked like the end to those who loved Jesus most. Yet God was already preparing the greatest new beginning of all.

Holy Week is the most emotional week of the church year – the hardest and most beautiful time when we see Jesus' love on full display. We enter it on Palm/Passion Sunday, which begins with the celebration of

(continued on page 2)



CONSECRATION SUNDAY

On April 26, we will celebrate Consecration Sunday by giving thanks for the many ways members of this congregation share their time, talents, and resources, and by offering these gifts back to God. As you know, we have moved from pledges to faith promises, which are commitments made in faith between you and God alone. We have done this because, rather than starting with budgets or financial needs, we have begun by paying attention to what God is calling us to do. For stewardship, at its heart, is not first about funding the church – it is about responding to God's grace with our whole lives.

On Consecration Sunday, members of our Growing God's Gifts Team will bring forward the stewardship packet materials that have been returned. The Faith Promise Cards, offered in sealed envelopes, will remain unopened. The Ministry Interest Forms reflect the many ways people are ready to serve and help connect our ministry leaders with those who feel called to serve alongside them, while the Getting to Know You Forms help us continue to grow as a connected and caring community.

As these items are brought forward and blessed, we are reminded that the time, gifts, and resources we offer are all part of God's ongoing work among us. This day is not about obligation, but about invitation, as we each respond in faith to God's call. Thank you for the many ways you continue to share your time, talents, and resources.



Pastor Lynne will be having surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff on

April 8, and will be recuperating at home through April 19. She will welcome our prayers for successful surgery and recovery! In her absence, our worship services on the two Sundays following Easter will be led by Pastor Jill Henning and Pastor Matt Henning. Call Fr. Ian Lasch, 912-421-9555, or Jim Heater, 912-695-8332, with any pastoral emergencies.



FROM THE PASTOR *(cont. from page 1)*

Christ's entry into Jerusalem and then draws us fully into the Passion story.

The practice of including the Passion of our Lord on Palm Sunday began a few decades ago, and some still mourn the all-out celebratory feeling the day once had. Yet the change was made for good reasons. One that you may be familiar with is that fewer people were attending Holy Week services, so they missed the Passion and the cross entirely and moved instead from celebration to celebration. But there is also a deeper reason. Palm/Passion Sunday serves as the hinge between Lent and Holy Week, allowing us to begin with celebration and then move toward the sacrifice Christ endured for us. The reading of the Passion sets the tone for the days that follow, preparing us for the services of Holy Week, each of which invites us to enter more deeply into the story of Jesus' final days.

Later in the week, we gather on Maundy Thursday to remember Jesus' last supper with His disciples. According to John's Gospel, it was during this final time together that Jesus washed their feet, predicted that one of them would betray Him, told Peter that he would deny Him, and gave them the commandment to love one another as He had loved them. In remembrance of that night, our worship service includes footwashing, communion, and the stripping of the altar – one of the most moving reminders that the time for celebration has ended.

The following evening, we commemorate the

crucifixion of our Lord in a solemn Good Friday service that includes several powerful elements. The bidding prayers lift up the church, believers and non-believers, and all of creation. Then, a large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed against the altar. This is especially moving, as it is the only time anyone enters the chancel that night. Finally, following the procession, in the solemn reproaches, we hear Christ ask again and again, "O my people, O my church, what more could I have done for you? Answer me," each one followed by a reminder of what He has done for us.

The Easter Vigil bridges the time from the Passion to Easter, beginning outside with the lighting of the Paschal candle and the carrying of that new light into the sanctuary. Then, as we hear the story of God's saving work throughout Scripture, the sanctuary gradually fills with light as the joy of Easter begins. Of course, this does not replace our Easter morning celebrations, which start with our joint sunrise service with the Moravian Fellowship, followed by our Festival Worship, brunch, and an Easter egg hunt.

It is my hope and prayer that you will join us for these Holy Week and Easter services so that we may share this sacred journey and grow in faith and love together.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Lynne

Redeemer is Going GREEN!

Just when you thought we were done celebrating St. Patrick's Day and wearing green, Redeemer is going green for more than just a day. The Green Team met this month and made several proposals to Church Council to help our congregation focus on being better stewards for our environment.

Green Team Initiatives

The Green Team recommended several actions to reduce waste and encourage recycling at Redeemer. These included eliminating the use of Styrofoam products and using silverware for meals, except during special events. They also suggested securing recycling bins for plastic cups, exploring the use of recyclable communion cups, and offering collection of eyeglasses, printer cartridges, and alkaline batteries. The last three items would be gathered at Redeemer and then transported to the Hard To Recycle Center (H2RC) on Tybee Island. All these recommendations were approved by the Church Council, and the Green Team will continue to promote these initiatives to the congregation.

If you are interested in additional information concerning recycling, please contact Jim Heater or other members of the Green Team. An excellent resource can be found at Lutherans Restoring Creation.



Upcoming Earth Day Event

Earth Day is April 22nd, and Redeemer will host an Electric Vehicle Car Show.

Representatives from the Hard to Recycle Center will also be present with collection bins for various items. Please see the list below for items that will be collected at Redeemer from **4:00 to 6:00 PM** on Earth Day.

- **#5 plastics:** must be clean with no label. Best practice: place soiled #5 on the top rack of the dishwasher when ready to run to ensure complete cleanliness.
- **Oral Care products:** Toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes, toothpaste cartons, toothbrush outer packaging, and floss containers – please, no floss!
- **Pet food bags: all brands**
- **Plastic film, packaging & grocery bags:** please remove paper labels
- **Corks:** only real cork, not plastic or rubber
- **Brita filters & pitchers:** only Brita brand
- **Razor blades and packaging/handles of any brand**
- **Bottle caps:** plastic or metal
- **Diary tub flexible, plastic lids**
- **Printer cartridges:** any brand and size
- **Alkaline & watch batteries**
- **Flip flops**
- **Beach toys:** useable
- **Coffee bags:** all brands
- **Prescription Eyeglasses and Readers**



MomCo is short for Mom Community, and that is what this group is all about. It is a faith-based non-profit organization that “encourages and equips moms of young children to realize their

potential as mothers, women and leaders, in relationship with Jesus and in partnership with the local church.” This mission was initially intended to bring mothers of preschoolers together, but it has since expanded to include mothers of children of all ages.

We are excited to be launching a group of our own in September, as it will be a wonderful way to reach out into our community. In the meantime, we will be getting the word out to our community and looking for two moms to be trained as group leaders, within or outside our congregation. One of the beautiful things about this is that MomCo provides everything we need – advertising, social media posts, training for our leaders, and full curriculums, and discussion questions for mothers and for their children. Please see Pastor Lynne for more information or if you are interested.



Fellowship over a meal before the Lenten Service



SIGNS YOU'RE PARTICIPATING IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY WITHOUT EVEN REALISING!

- Borrow books from the library
- Swap and share with a friend
- Donate items carefully where they're needed
- Refuse to buy new
- Reimagine a new purpose instead of throwing it away
- Compost food waste for gardens
- Repair something instead of throwing it away
- Support local growers and purchase locally made
- Cook food for a neighbour
- Collect materials from tips or roadside
- Engage in your community
- Set up your own street library

imq

What is a Circular Economy?

A circular economy is a system that aims to reduce waste by keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible, unlike the traditional “take-make-dispose” model. It focuses on designing durable, repairable, and recyclable products, reusing and recycling materials, and restoring natural systems. Basically, waste from one process becomes input for another, reducing environmental harm while creating economic opportunities.

Many of us are already putting these practices into action without even realizing it—but greater awareness makes them all the more meaningful. Here at Redeemer, we are committed to doing our part.



BACK: Anthony Jones and A'mari Jones, FRONT: A'miya Reynolds, Aiden Reynolds accepted his sister, Arianna's, Bible while she recovers from getting her tonsils out), and Lily Kaltenberg

Milestone Ministry

Bibles were given to our children in the 4th grade or above. It is a joy to have them among us as part of our church family.

Spring Clean Up



Thanks to all who came out to help spruce up the property



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

(for Rising PreK-5th grade)

VBS: July 6-10, 9am-12pm (free)

Aftercare (optional): July 6-9, 12pm-3pm
\$40/child for the week, \$75/family

At the Rainforest Falls, the children will explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God and a safe place in life's storms.

REGISTER AT:

www.redeemersav.org/vbs

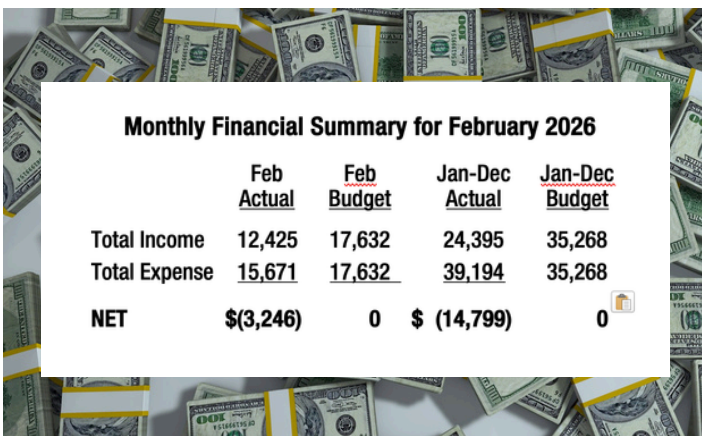
Church Council Report

March 2026

- **Minutes from February 17, 2026**, Church Council Meeting were approved.
- **Explorer’s Montessori Update** – EMCC will close April 3 to allow the installation of new a door and windows in the classroom.
- **January 2026 Monthly Financial Summary** was approved. *Collections continue to be down.*
- **SYNOD Benevolence Discussion** –
- **Resolution #1:** Council approved the money we receive quarterly from the recycling bin will now go into the General Funds account.
- **Resolution #2:** Council approved that the Thrivent Choice Dollars received from Thrivent donations will go into the General Funds.
- **External Audit Update** – All documents were sent into Synod and we are waiting for a response.

Old Business

- **Growing God’s Gifts Campaign** – Packets are still coming in. Consecration Sunday has been moved to April 26.
- **Property Team Priority List** was developed with projects to be completed.
- **Mortgage, Line of Credit, and Capital Campaign** items were discussed. Steve Cannon will contact the banks to explore the possibility of a line of credit. Additional alternatives were discussed by the Finance Committee and will continue to be researched.



Monthly Financial Summary for February 2026				
	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Jan-Dec</u>	<u>Jan-Dec</u>
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Income	12,425	17,632	24,395	35,268
Total Expense	<u>15,671</u>	<u>17,632</u>	<u>39,194</u>	<u>35,268</u>
NET	\$(3,246)	0	\$ (14,799)	0

(Full financial report available upon request)

- **Grace Ministry** – 12 Redeemer members packed the bags on March 20 and 6 members handed them out on March 21. The next date to pack is April 17, and the bags will be passed out on the 18th. Men’s belts are being collected.
- Redeemer has signed up for MomCo and its curriculum. It is set up to begin in September.
- **The digital sign** is scheduled to be installed mid-May.
- **The 3rd Sunday Birthday Celebration** went very well in March. It was suggested that the names of the people celebrating their birthday be printed in the bulletin the week of the celebration (if there is room).

New Business

- **Turner’s Cove residents** have requested to use our parking lot for their yard sale. They are willing to pay a fee for the usage. Council approved it. A date is yet to be determined.
- **The Sexual Misconduct Policy and Child Protection Policy** were approved.
- **Earth Day** activities are scheduled for April 22 from 4pm-6pm. EV vehicles and the Hard to Recycle group will be present.

(Church council minutes available upon request)



Joe Warren (left), and Dottie and Don Murphy (right) at a visit with one of our shut-ins, Eileen Lewis. ❤️

April 2026

⁴Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew	2 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service	3 6:30 Good Friday Service	4 6:30 Easter Vigil at St. Francis of the Islands
5 7:00 Sunrise Easter Service at the Boathouse 10:00 Easter Sunday Worship 11:15 Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7 12:00 Marketing Team 6:30 Worship & Music Committee	8 6:00 EMCC Board Meeting 7:00 Choir	PASTOR OUT FOR SURGERY		
12 10:00 Worship 11:15 2 nd Sunday Brunch	13 6:30 Men's Group (at Cancun)	14 5:30 – Visioning Team 6:30 Finance Committee 7:00 Executive Committee	15 7:00 Choir	PASTOR OUT FOR SURGERY		
19 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday School 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21 5:30 Mutual Ministry 6:30 Church Council	22 7:00 Choir	23 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	24	25
26 9:30 Choir 10:00 Consecration Sunday 11:15 Sunday School	27 Pastor's Sabbath 6:30 WELCA	28 5:30 Disaster Preparedness 6:30 Property Committee 6:30 Growing God's Gifts	29 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew 5:30 Social Ministry 7:00 Choir	30 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings		



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

51 Wilmington Island Road
Savannah, GA 31410
912-897-1133
redeemersav.org

Worship in person or stream live on Facebook.

Sundays at 10 am

Pastor Lynne O'Shea
pastorlynn@redeemersav.org

We are an inclusive congregation of
disciples who follow Jesus in hope, joy, and peace.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



We are a
RECONCILING IN CHRIST
Congregation

This newsletter is published monthly by the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Deadline for articles is the 15th of month before publication. Submit to secretary@redeemersav.org.

The Redeemer Record is distributed in Redeemer's weekly e-News, or can be sent by mail upon request through the church office. If you have news, information, or questions, please contact the Church Administrator at the number or address above.



**Lutheran Church
of the Redeemer**
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED