

# THE REDEEMER RECORD



## FROM THE PASTOR

*“God gave us music that we might pray without words.”*

~ H.L. Mencken

Dear Beloveds in Christ,

Music has always held a unique place in the lives of people of faith. In fact, one of the earliest ways in which people learned their faith was by singing the Psalms. Something happens when voices rise in song together – these songs become musical offerings that express our emotions and our thanksgiving to God in a way that spoken words alone do not. And joining in song together can help us lift our eyes beyond our own concerns and remember that we are part of a community shaped by grace.

(continued on page 2)

## Energy Reduction and Facility Improvements at Redeemer

The Property Committee has been diligently working to lower our costs associated with energy and be better stewards for our environment. Redeemer has partnered with Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) by enrolling in their Solar Wise and Energy Wise programs. We have received several proposals to install solar panels which would reduce our electrical consumption. We have had an Energy Audit conducted of our facility to see where we could implement Energy Conservation Measures. GIPL conducted briefings to Church Council and Property Committee members of findings for both programs. Because of our enrollment in the Power Wise Program, Redeemer is eligible to submit for matching grants from GIPL for the next five years to implement the Energy Conservation Measures recommended in our Energy Audit. Grants could be up to 50% of the cost of the project but will not exceed \$7,000.

Redeemer's Property Committee has also developed a priority list of projects that are needed to improve our facility, reduce energy consumption, and to be better stewards of our facility and environment. This list continues to be revised based on completion of projects. Projects already completed include the repairing the entrance to our parking lot, removal of several trees, new HVAC unit for one room in the education wing, labyrinth renewal, clearing of the land for greater visibility of Redeemer from Wilmington Island Way, security cameras installed, resealing of narthex, sanctuary, and stained glass windows, building a fence behind the Columbarium,

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## ENERGY REDUCTION & IMPROVEMENTS (cont. from page 1)

and having a walkway from the front of the church to the Columbarium. We have accomplished many projects, but there are many more projects to be completed as a part of the long-term vision for our facility.

The Church Council has approved submission for a grant request to GIPL for the replacement of the old, single pane windows in two of our rooms and an exterior door in the education wing used by Explorers Montessori. We will find out if we received a matching grant for \$7,000 in December. There will be a presentation at December's Second Sunday Brunch concerning this initiative and coordinated ministries associated with this long-term vision to

becoming better stewards of our environment and caring for creation. Redeemer has formed a "GREEN TEAM" and if interested to become a member, please contact Jim Heater for additional information.

## 2026 Church Council NOMINEES

On January 8, 2026, the Congregation will elect 5 members to serve 2 year terms on Church Council. If you are interested in a leadership role or want more information concerning serving on Church Council, please Jim Heater or Nancy Goll.

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

In worship, music also forms us. The melodies and lyrics we sing week after week settle into our hearts and help to shape how we understand God. In fact, one of the greatest gifts of music is that a song can lead us to remember what matters and bring us peace, even when our world seems to be spinning wildly out of control. Whether loud and joyful or quiet and meditative, music invites us to come together and enter fully into worship, rather than just observing it.

As we move into the new year in the church – which begins this year on November 30, the first Sunday in Advent – we have multiple opportunities to come together and be uplifted by the gift of music. Yes, we sing together every time we worship, but this is even more true on the upcoming Wednesday evenings, as we will again sing the Holden Evening Prayer service. And, of course, on Christmas Eve and during the Christmas Season, we will once again be singing some of our most beloved Christmas carols. There is just something beautiful about lifting our voices together in joy, thanksgiving, and praise!

In the month of December, we will also have two more opportunities to bring music into our lives – the Hilton Head Choral Society's Christmas Concert that will be held at 7:00 at the First Presbyterian Church on Hilton Head Island on December 5, and

the Cantata that will be held at 3:00 at the Wilmington Island Methodist Church on December 14. No, these are not sing-alongs, but they offer the gift of music in a different way – one that you don't have to feel you can sing to enjoy.

Throughout the Seasons of Advent and Christmas, the music we share in worship helps us slow down, pay attention, and remember what these seasons are really about. Then the music we sing and hear become more than melodies that fill the sanctuary, they become a source of peace that steadies us in our waiting, opens our hearts to God's nearness, and reminds us that the Holy One still chooses to come close. These songs don't need to be perfect to matter – they just need to be sincere as we make a joyful noise to our Lord.

My hope is that the music we sing together will give us a sense of God's presence, encourage us in the weeks ahead, and help us carry the hope of Christ into our everyday lives long after the worship services end. If you would like to have a voice in what songs we sing, please consider joining our Worship & Music team. We would love to have your input!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Lynne

## ADVENT

Preparing the Way of the Lord

This year, there are only three Wednesdays in Advent, as Christmas Eve falls on what would have been the fourth Wednesday. This means that we will have one less opportunity to gather for Advent suppers and Holden Evening Prayer, but we will still celebrate the Season together. Our theme this year is going to be "Grace Arrives in the Flesh," which will be based on readings from the Prologue to John's Gospel. This will allow us to explore John's high Christology – or his understanding of the eternal divinity of Jesus, and what it means that He chose to come in the most vulnerable way possible – as a newborn baby born to a poor family, rather than coming in glory and might. Please come and be a part of these gatherings so that we can learn and grow together as the Body of Christ in this place.



## Grace Ministry Program

Redeemer will be partnering with Ascension Lutheran in their Grace Ministry program beginning in December. Redeemer will sponsor one Tuesday night a month for the next 7 months feeding 60 to 90 homeless folks in downtown Savannah. This is an exciting new outreach ministry! Look for more details and more exciting news at December's Second Sunday Brunch!



**American  
Red Cross  
Blood Drive**

December 30  
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
[Click Here](#) to schedule or go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



## Men's Group Christmas Party

**December 8  
6:30 pm**

Don't miss this fun time at the Men's Group annual Christmas party at Cancun. Bring a \$20 gift to exchange.



## KIDS' Christmas Craft WORKSHOP and BAKE SALE

**DECEMBER 6 • 10:00am - 12:00pm**

One of our favorite events as children from the community make crafts, sip hot chocolate and get their picture taken with Santa. Come out and see the fun. Don't forget to grab some baked goodies!

## Church Council Report

November 2025

- Church Council met on November 18 and approved the monthly financial statement and the Commission reports.
- **Explorer's Montessori Update**- The Building Usage Agreement was discussed and their new monthly fee will increase to \$2750 in June.

### Old Business:

- **ECN** – Pastor Lynne would like to begin forming First Impression Teams soon.
- **Annual Audit Update** has been completed by Jim Drinon and his team. There were no significant findings.
- **The ELCA Youth Protection Policy** is scheduled to be discussed in January.
- **Nominating Committee** - Church Council openings will be presented in December to vote on at the Congregational Meeting to be held in January.
- **2026 Budget Preparation**- Commission budget reports are due November 30.
- **Comcast Business Phones Update** - Waiting for new phones from Comcast.
- **Energy Audit Update** - The Energy Audit plan was presented to all Council members to review. Jim Heater will submit an energy grant.

### New Business:

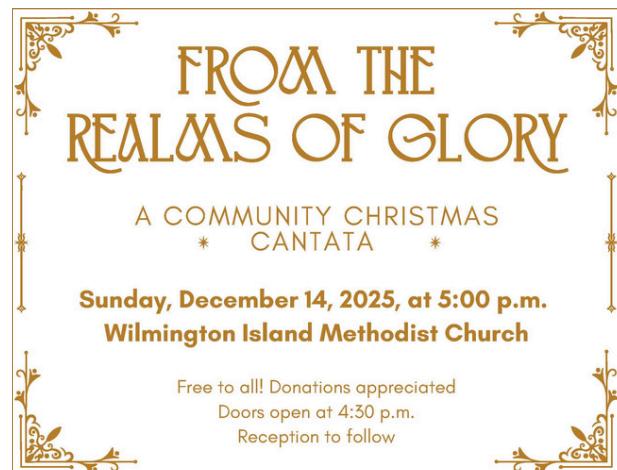
- **Council Member Resignation**- Brianne All has resigned from the Church Council and her position as Worship and Music Committee Liaison.
- **Moravian Fellowship** request sanctuary usage on Sunday evenings. The motion was approved.
- **Annual Reports** - The Commission and Team reports are to be completed and sent electronically to Jodi by December 16.
- **Grace Ministry** - Redeemer will sponsor one dinner the first Tuesday each month at Ascension Lutheran Church's Grace Ministry program beginning December 2025 through June 2026.
- **Second Sunday Brunch** - Visioning Team and Pastor Lynne will make presentations at the brunch to be held on December 14.
- **Hearing Impaired Adapters** for those who need assistance in hearing the worship service is being looked into.

(Church council minutes available upon request)

## Community Benevolence Fund

Did you know that Redeemer has funds available for outreach ministries for our community? Several years ago, Church Council suggested and the Congregation approved this fund to be created and overseen by the Endowment Committee. The Community Benevolence Fund has over \$5,000 to be used for outreach.

The most recent request was approved by the Endowment Committee for \$500 to be used to pay for musicians for the December 14, "From the Realms of Glory", a community Christmas Cantata, held at Wilmington Island Methodist Church. Redeemer choir members have participated in this event for many years. Do not miss this wonderful cantata, which is a ministry outreach event, Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm, at Wilmington Island Methodist Church.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!	
Joe Warren	December 4
Sean Thompson	December 5
Barbara Rupnik	December 8
Ann Grant	December 11
Sylvia Wallis	December 12
Chris Fowler & Gene Oetgen	December 24
Butch Elmgren & Lily Kaltenberg	December 25
Sandy Brassard	December 26
Jodi Groover	December 28

If your birthday does not appear on our calendar, please contact the church office.

## Stewardship of Seasonal Focus

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). In the third chapter of Ecclesiastes, we read that everything has its time. The main seasons of our church year are Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Each season has a distinct theme which has been handed down through the years. So, it is helpful to pay attention to which season we are in.

Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and Pentecost are well known seasons in liturgical churches like ours, but not so much in the outside world. So, one way to be a steward of these seasons is to share their meaning with those who have not experienced them before. The same is not true for Christmas and Easter. Most people do not know that both of these seasons last more than one day. By letting others know why we do what we do, our own faith is strengthened, and the Good News is shared.

Christian stewardship is our commitment to wisely use our whole lives to generously serve others with what God has provided to us: our money, our talents, and our time. So, while there is no “Stewardship” season designated on the church calendar, stewardship should be the focus of every season as we maintain and apply wisely the gifts that God has graciously given to us.

## Kroger Can Donate to Redeemer through your Shopper's Card

With the Kroger Community Rewards program you can donate to Redeemer by doing your everyday shopping there. Once you have linked your Kroger card to Redeemer, all you have to do is shop at any Kroger store and swipe your Shopper's Card. Then annually, Kroger will mail a check to Redeemer based on your percentage of spending. So sign up today! See Jodi if you need help in signing up.

[CLICK HERE](#)

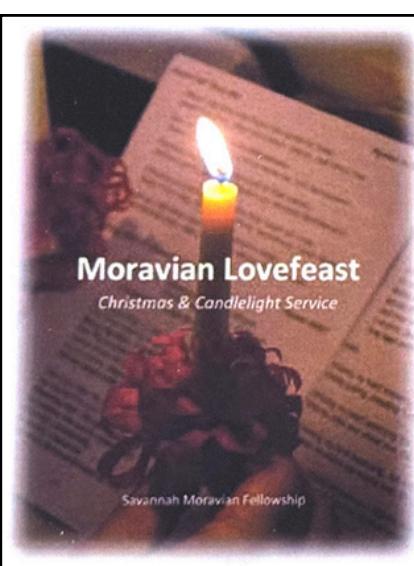
or go to

[www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards](http://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards)



Monthly Financial Summary for October 2025				
	Oct Actual	Oct Budget	Jan-Dec Actual	Jan-Dec Budget
Total Income	17,867	18,207	156,917	182,088
Total Expense	16,690	18,207	183,970	182,088
NET	\$ 1,177	0	\$ (27,053)	0

*(Full financial report available upon request)*



## Moravian Christmas Lovefeast and Candlelight Service

Enjoy the Christmas Story and Hymns, a Moravian Bun, Coffee (Yoohoo for the kids), and a Beeswax Candle.

Sunday, December 07, 2025, at 6:00pm

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
51 Wilmington Island Road

[www.savannahmoravian.org](http://www.savannahmoravian.org)



## BACKPACK BUDDIES DELIVERING THANKSGIVING MEALS

Thank you to all who donated, packed and hauled 55 meals to Coastal Middle and Hubert Middle Schools. Many thanks to Kroger for donating \$500 to purchase items.



## A Christian Steward is Trustworthy

*By Robert Fennell, Endowment Fund Treasurer*

In Exodus 18:20-21, Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, gives him some advice about selecting judges for the people. Jethro tells Moses, “You should look for able men among all the people, men who fear God, are trustworthy, and hate dishonest gain; set them as officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.” The key advice given by Jethro is that those he selects must be trustworthy. If someone is trustworthy, they will make wise decisions that will be fair and equitable for all parties involved. All leaders of groups of people must be trustworthy, or their leadership will be unsuccessful.

In Daniel 6:3-5, we learn that the king planned to appoint Daniel to govern the whole kingdom because of his exceptional qualities. Upon hearing this, there were other governors and administrators who tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel to discredit him. However, they could find no corruption in him because he was trustworthy. Daniel’s trustworthiness guaranteed his successful position of leadership. Our world leaders of today should have the same exceptional qualities as Daniel.

While on this earth, we are all stewards of God’s creation. God has placed trust in us to be responsible caretakers. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 states, “Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” Christian stewards are required to make intelligent decisions concerning the resources placed within their care. All Christian stewards should be compassionate, content, generous, grateful, loving, loyal, obedient, prayerful, responsible, and trustworthy.

*(This is the eighteenth in a series of eighteen stewardship messages. This is the final stewardship message of this series.)*

# December 2025

And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1 John 5:11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 Worship & Music	2	3 5:45 Advent Dinner 6:30 Advent Service 7:00 Choir	4 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	5 6:00 First Friday Fun Night	6 10:00 Kid's Christmas Craft Workshop and Bake Sale
7 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday Schools and Confirmation 6:00 Moravian Lovefeast	8 6:30 Men's Group Christmas Party (at Cancun) 6:30 WELCA Christmas Party (at Heidi Wagstaff's)	9 5:30 Visioning Team 6:30 Finance Committee 7:00 Executive Committee	10 6:00 EMCC Board Meeting 5:45 Advent Dinner 6:30 Advent Service 7:00 Choir	11 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	12	13
14 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Brunch 12:00 Chrismen Tree Decorating 5:00 Cantata (at WI Methodist)	15 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	16 5:30 Mutual Ministry 6:30 Church Council	17 5:45 Advent Dinner 6:30 Advent Service 7:00 Choir	18 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	19	20
21 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday Schools and Confirmation	22 5:30 Disaster Committee 6:30 Property Committee 6:30 Growing God's Gifts	23	24 6:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday Schools and Confirmation	29 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	30 1:00 Blood Drive	31 5:30 Endowment Committee			



## 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  
pastorlynne@redeemersav.org

We are an inclusive congregation of  
disciples who follow Jesus in hope, love, 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](mailto: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.



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Savannah, GA 31410-3704

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED