

THE REDEEMER RECORD



FROM THE PASTOR

“Shall We Gather at the River – Called, Gathered, Sent”

Dear Beloveds in Christ,

Our Synod Assembly gathered in Columbus, Georgia, on the banks of the Chattahoochee River, under the theme of “Shall We Gather at the River – Called, Gathered, Sent.” This was a very fitting focus, not only because of our location, but also because we were gathering as the larger church that is lived out in the four states that make up the Southeastern Synod – Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Such gatherings are a great opportunity to see and learn from old and new friends from different congregations. And it also gives us a chance to see once again how interconnected we are and how we support one another in daily Christian

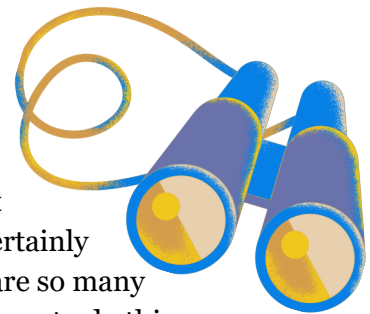
(continued on page 2)

RALLY DAY

Explore Your Faith

As we prepare to welcome lots of children to our VBS next week, we are also preparing our Rally Day worship and events. Our hope is that many of the families who bring their children to VBS will consider trying us out as their new church home, so we are inviting all of them to Rally Day so that they can “come and see” what we have planned for the coming year and get their backpacks blessed. Of course, it is also important for all of you to be here to celebrate this kick-off event and simply enjoy being part of the loving community that makes Redeemer so special.

This year’s theme – **Explore Your Faith** – is meant to be a continuation of the VBS journey, which focused on learning to trust Jesus in this wild world. That is certainly one aspect of our faith, but there are so many more to explore. One of the best ways to do this is through the many learning opportunities that go on here each week, including our book and Bible study groups, our adult Sunday school – ALOFT (Adults Learning Our Faith Together) – and our newest addition, a children’s Sunday school – GIFT (Growing In Faith Together). It is our hope that each of these groups will be engaging and something the participants look forward to attending each week.



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EXPLORE YOUR FAITH *(cont. from page 1)*

So please put Rally Day – **August 3** – on your calendar. We will also have a cook out after the worship service. It'll be an exciting day to celebrate the start of a new school year. And – teachers and students – don't forget to bring your backpacks!



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

living, in our joint mission, and in our loving response to the disasters that happen all too frequently in our Synod.

In addition to the fellowship, we were blessed to hear from the Churchwide Representative to our Assembly, ELCA Churchwide Treasurer Lori Fedyk, Bishop Felix Malpica from the La Crosse Area Synod, and Dr. Lisa Kimball, our Keynote Speaker, who introduced herself as a layperson and part of the priesthood of all believers. All of these different messages and perspectives were impactful and thought provoking, as each addressed the theme of being called, gathered, and sent in different ways. (If you want to learn more, you can pick up summaries of my notes of what they said in the Narthex.)

Of course, we were also gathered to do the business of the Synod, which included elections for our Bishop, Synod Secretary, Synod Council members, and more, hearing from our churchwide partners, and adopting two memorials (For an End to the Occupation and Recognition of Palestinian Statehood in the United Nations, and To Affirm Transgender, Nonbinary, Gender Expansive, Two-Spirit, and Genderqueer People of God). Bishop Kevin Strickland was re-elected on the first ballot – which is a resounding affirmation of his ministry as the voting members simply wrote in the name of the person they felt was best suited for this call. The Rev. Ruth Hamilton was elected as Synod Secretary, and

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL >>>> MEETING <<<<

July 13

immediately after the worship service

A brief meeting is needed to vote on accessing resources from the building contingency fund to caulk the narthex windows, sanctuary windows and the stained-glass windows to prevent the leaks.

the new Synod Council members are Beth Ford and Sarah Stewart. Elections are always exciting as we come together to discern and celebrate the people who will lead the church forward.

The next big gathering will be the Churchwide Assembly, which will meet from July 28 - August 2, 2025, in Phoenix, Arizona under the theme of Church for the Sake of the World. According to the ELCA website, "Early in her tenure, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton set forth her own convictions to guide the members of the ELCA in understanding our unique identity: we are church; we are Lutheran; we are church together; we are church for the sake of the world ... Rooted in the ancient creeds, we are called to live boldly in service to a world longing for healing, justice and hope. We will continue to faithfully pursue God's mission of reconciliation for the life of the world."

As you can see, we belong to an active and engaged church in all three of its expressions – our local congregation, our Synod, and our Churchwide organization. And I would love for every one of you to experience a Synod – or even a Churchwide – Assembly at some point! If you are interested in this, please let me know!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Lynne

Learning Commission

Brian Woods, Commission Liaison

Vacation Bible School, Bible Study Groups (2), Aloft (Adult Sunday School) and GIFT (Children Sunday School) all fall under the umbrella of the Learning Commission.

To all our brothers and sisters in Christ, the bible says that knowledge begets faith and faith begets good works. From these good works we are not saved, however, we know how pleasing it must be to God to see us doing his will. In our bible study classes and Sunday school classes we build each other up with exchanges of thoughts and interpretations. This can be a very uplifting experience for all who attend.

Our Vacation Bible School is already approaching and will run from July 7 thru 11. Our theme this year is TRUE NORTH. Decorations and crafts have been created and put up by members of the Church and this committee. Classes are full and we are truly happy with the growth of this program again this year. We still could use your help, especially with After Care from the 12 - 3 PM hours. At VBS and at Rally Day Aug. 3, we will be introducing our new Children's Sunday School program. We are anticipating considerable interest from families who participated in our VBS program.

All committees in the Learning Commission offer very rewarding opportunities for anyone looking to increase their faith and knowledge of the one true God and the Son he sent forth. Please contact Pastor, Jodi Groover, the Church Administrator, or myself at 912-667-2088 if interested.



The Men's Group will be
selling Boston Butts

July 27 - August 24

Whole \$30-\$35
Half \$18-\$20

(cost will depend on market price)

Pick up August 29
10am - Noon

Last Chance to purchase Savannah Banana Tickets



Savannah Bananas vs.
The Firefighters game is
on **Thursday, August 21.**

Tickets are \$35 each and include entry to the game,
hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and a beverage.

Please email the office at admin@redeemersav.org. if
you, your family or friends would like to purchase
tickets.

Visioning Team

The Visioning Team is up and running! The team envisions a growing and vibrant community in which all members are engaged in some form of ministry, regular fellowship outside of Sunday worship, and other activities to engage the broader Island communities. As part of making this vision a reality, we listed a number of specific ideas, including building a multi-purpose gathering space, youth ministry, blended worship, community gardens, etc. With the understanding that each of our goals have near, medium, and long-term actions to take in order to realize the goal, John Mason is creating a simple form we can use to index our goals, and capture and catalog the actions necessary to achieve that goal.

In the meantime, the team came up with some items we can make happen in the next six months – and introducing new worship music sprang to the top of the list. Since music can either welcome or exclude, we decided to work with the Worship & Music Team to move toward a better blend of traditional and more contemporary songs in our worship service.

If you would like to share your vision with us, please consider joining us at 5:30 on the second Tuesday of each month. Or simply let John Mason or Pastor Lynne know, and we will bring your idea(s) to the team.



A Christian Steward is Obedient

By Robert Fennell, CPA, Endowment Fund Treasurer

Obedience of a Christian steward is demonstrating a commitment to God's commands and instructions as presented in the Scripture. An obedient steward is someone who acknowledges God's ownership of everything; who faithfully manages God's gifts of time, talents, and possessions; who follows God's will; who serves God and others; and who is focused on God's glory. We must be willing to sacrifice our personal desires or possessions for God's purposes.

Being obedient includes being a steward. Deuteronomy 14:22 states, "Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year." Later in Deuteronomy, we read that all the tithes would be shared with those who have no allotment or inheritance and that the Lord will bless those who provided the tithes. In Malachi 3:7, the Lord Almighty says, "Return to me, and I will return to you."

An obedient Christian steward sets aside part of his or her income for others. As Christians, we have been blessed with the gifts of God. In obedience to the commands of God, we should reinvest a portion of our gifts in the work of the Lord. In business, the reinvestment of capital will yield a growing and prosperous company. Likewise, we should reinvest in the church for the growth and prosperity of Christianity. Although different people have been blessed with different gifts, we should all make a sincere effort to follow God's command by returning that portion of our income as we are able. An obedient Christian steward is one who releases control of possessions and dedicates a portion of his or her blessings to reinvest in the Kingdom of God.

(This is the thirteenth in a series of eighteen stewardship messages. Next month's message will be "A Christian Steward Is Prayerful.")



Lucas Engel	July 1
Lois Elmgren	July 10
Peggy Alberino	July 12
Elsie Evans	July 12
Shane Alberino	July 15
Brianne All	July 17
Evelyn Bristow	July 18
Shay All	July 19
Jordan Groover	July 19
Dewey Mosher	July 21
Jim Heater	July 22
Tresa Arias	July 24
Ivana Day	July 24
Aiden Reynolds	July 24
Ahmad Jones	July 28
Edward Engel	July 29
Mike Alberino	July 30

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



REDEEMER'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>VISITOR</u>	<u>HOME</u>	<u>FIELD</u>
Tue 07/08	7:45 pm	SP3	at Redeemer	F1
Tue 07/15	7:45 pm	FBCI #1	at Redeemer	F4
Thu 07/17	7:45 pm	Redeemer	at FBCI #2	F4
Tue 07/22	7:45 pm	Kirk Presbyterian	at Redeemer	F1

Church Council Minutes

- June -

Explorer's Montessori (EMCC) Update:

EMCC will be closed from July 2nd to July 5th. There are 17 students currently enrolled in the school.

Approvals:

- **Minutes from May Church Council Meeting:** David motioned and Brian seconded. All members of the Council approved.
- **May 2025 Monthly Financial Statement:** Sylvia motioned and Robert seconded. All members of the Council approved.
- **May 2025 Commission Reports/Pastor's Report:** Peggy motioned and Sylvia seconded. All members of the Council approved.

Old Business:

- **Ministry Interests** – Council Contact/Committee Chair Liaisons are reminded to contact the members who signed up for their committees.
- **Get to Know Your Neighbors Update** – This Meet and Greet has been scheduled for August 23rd from 9-11. It will be held in our Social Hall. Community members will be invited for coffee and pastries to get to know each other.
- **VBS Update (July 7-11)** – There is a total of 37 registered for this great event. It is still not fully funded, and volunteers are still needed. Please look at the chart in the narthex and the sign-up sheet on the Call-to-Action table to see how you can help.
- **Visioning Team meeting update** – This committee has conducted two meetings, and an action plan is being developed to present to the congregation at a later date.
- **Disaster Preparedness Plan update** – This committee has met once. Jim Drinnon is looking into the CEMA guidelines and the Synod information.
- **Columbarium Proposal**– The Columbarium Committee is continuing to review the proposal.

- **Solar Review Update - GIPL** – Jim Heater has provided us with the information concerning the solar panels. It was discussed that we would wait on this until the windows in the narthex are repaired.
- **SE Synod Assembly update** – Pastor Lynne provided a short update of her trip to the Synod Assembly with the Drinnons. Bishop Strickland was re-elected on the first ballot and a new Synod Secretary was also elected.

New Business:

- **Effective Church Network** – This is the oldest church consulting company in the United States. The Council voted to pay the \$99 monthly fee to provide Pastor Lynne (and others as invited) some additional training and coaching to assist in relationship building and church growth.
- **Upward Sports - Be the Neighborhood Church** – It is an additional way to reach out to the community and its youth. It was decided that it will be something to review in the future.
- **Camp in the City** – This is a program sponsored by Holy Spirit Lutheran Church for underprivileged youth. It was voted to donate \$200 to the camp that will be held from June 24th to July 1st.
- **St. Andrews Choir** – St. Andrews Choir director has contacted Pastor Lynne to see if they could use our building to perform 2 or 3 times a year. It was discussed that additional information needs to be obtained, but it was voted upon and approved.

August Calendar

August 1—Lifeline Screening
August 3—Rally Day
August 23—Get to Know Your Neighbors meeting (9-11am)
August 25—Red Cross Blood Drive (1-6pm)
August 29—Boston Butt Sale

July 2025

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free.
But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather,
serve one another humbly in love. - Psalm 118:24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:00 Marketing 5:30 Care Team 6:30 Worship & Music	2 11:30 Book Group 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew	3 5:00 Dinner at Papa's BBQ 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings 6:30 GriefShare	4  OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 10:00 Worship 11:15 ALOFT Sunday School 11:15 VBS Setup	7 9:00 VBS 12:00 Aftercare 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	8 9:00 VBS 12:00 Aftercare 5:30 Visioning Team 6:30 Finance Committee 7:00 Executive Committee	9 9:00 VBS 12:00 Aftercare	10 9:00 VBS 12:00 Aftercare 5:00 Dinner at Papa's BBQ 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings 6:30 GriefShare	11 9:00 VBS 11:30 VBS Closing Celebration	12
13 10:00 Worship 11:15 Special Congregational Meeting 11:30 2nd Sunday Brunch	14 6:30 Men's Group (at Cancun)	15 5:30 Mutual Ministry 6:30 Church Council	16 11:30 Book Group 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew	17 10:30 Dave Postal Committal Service 5:00 Dinner at Papa's BBQ 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings 6:30 GriefShare	18	19
20 10:00 Worship 11:15 Special Congregational Meeting 1:00 Andy Fulp's Installation	21 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	22 5:30 Disaster Preparedness Team 6:30 Property Committee 6:30 Growing God's Gifts	23 11:30 Book Group 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew	24 5:00 Dinner at Papa's BBQ 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings 6:30 GriefShare	25	26
27 10:00 Worship 11:15 ALOFT Sunday School Boston Butt Sale begins thru Aug. 24	28 6:30 WELCA	29 6:30 Endowment Committee	30 11:30 Book Group 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew	31 5:00 Dinner at Papa's BBQ 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings 6:30 GriefShare		

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Monthly Financial Summary

May 31, 2025

	April Actual	May Budget	% of Budget	Jan. - Dec. Actual	Jan. - Dec. Budget	% of Budget
Income						
Regular Offering	\$ 21,333	15,476	138%	\$ 72,826	77,380	94%
Misc. Income	2,394	2,733	88%	13,063	13,664	96%
Total Income	23,727	18,209	130%	85,889	91,044	94%
Expense						
Benevolence	2,290	1,739	132%	8,177	8,694	94%
Ministries	666	884	75%	3,329	4,409	76%
Mortgage	824	824	100%	4,120	4,120	100%
Operations	3,215	4,237	76%	25,069	21,187	118%
Payroll Expenses	10,658	10,525	101%	53,195	52,634	101%
Total Expense	17,653	18,209	97%	93,890	91,044	103%
Net	\$ 6,074	0		\$ (8,001)	0	

Ministries include: Worship, Learning, Social Ministry, Hospitality, Stewardship, and Council

Special Envelope and Freewill Offering

Altar Flowers	\$ 200
Second Sunday Brunch	\$ 74
Vacation Bible School	\$ 324



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
912-944-8126

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.

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**
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

51 Wilmington Island Road
Savannah, GA 31410-3704

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED