

THE REDEEMER RECORD



FROM THE PASTOR

"Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought."

~ John Paul II

Dear Beloveds in Christ,

This year our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It is a remarkable milestone and an opportunity to give thanks for those who first sought to build a nation where freedom could flourish, for the many liberties we enjoy as a result, and for the generations who have worked, sacrificed, and served to preserve those freedoms.

This anniversary will be marked in many ways, from celebrations and parades to historical commemorations and opportunities

(continued on page 2)

Thank You for Supporting Redeemer's Future

The Church Council would like to extend a sincere thank you to the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church for your unanimous approval of the resolution to secure a loan through the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

Your support reflects our shared commitment to Redeemer's long-term vision, **REDEEM: Restoring Environments, Deepening Engagement, and Expanding Mission.** Together, we are taking important steps to ensure that our church remains a safe, welcoming, and vibrant place for worship, fellowship, learning, and service.



The Next Steps: Once we finalize the loan process, the first priority will be to pay off Redeemer's existing mortgage, strengthening our financial foundation. We will then begin several important facility projects, including replacing the church's fire alarm main control box and installing new roofs on the Education Wing and Social Hall. These improvements are more than building projects—they are investments in the future ministry of Redeemer. They will help us care for the resources God has entrusted to us while creating spaces that support our congregation and community for years to come.

Thank you for your prayers, your faith, and your commitment to the future of Redeemer. We look forward to sharing updates as we continue moving forward together in living out our **REDEEM** vision.

New Hearing Assistance System Now Available at Redeemer



Redeemer is pleased to announce the installation of a new Hearing Assistance System to help everyone fully participate in worship services. The system offers several listening options to meet individual needs. Worshipers may use church-provided headphones, a receiver with earphones, or connect directly to their compatible hearing aids using the HearFinder app. This technology provides clear, enhanced audio from the worship service directly to the listener.

We are grateful for this new ministry resource, which helps make worship more accessible and welcoming for all. If you would like assistance using this system, please contact an usher before the service, and they will be happy to help you get connected.

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

to reflect on our nation's past. Such reflection can help us appreciate both the achievements that have shaped our country and the challenges that have tested it.

Yet anniversaries such as this also invite us to think more deeply about what freedom truly means. In our culture, freedom is often understood as the ability to do whatever we want. We prize independence and self-determination, and there is certainly value in having the freedom to make our own choices. Yet freedom is about more than asking, "What do I want?" It also invites us to ask, "What is right?" and "How can I use the gifts and opportunities I have been given to serve others?"

That is why I appreciate the quote above. Freedom is not about being able to do whatever we want; it is about being free to look beyond ourselves, care for our neighbors, and use what we have been given for the good of others. This may sound familiar, because Christians have long understood freedom in much the same way.

Scripture teaches that through Christ's death and resurrection, we are freed from the power of sin, from the need to earn God's favor, and from the fear that death has the final word. Yet Christian freedom is never simply freedom for ourselves. In his work

On the Freedom of a Christian, Martin Luther famously wrote that a Christian is both "a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none" and "a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." At first glance, those statements seem contradictory, but Luther understood something important – because we have already received God's love and grace, we are free to turn our attention outward, loving and serving God and our neighbors.

As we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, we can give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy as citizens while also remembering that freedom carries responsibility. The choices we make affect our neighbors and our communities. Perhaps, rather than beginning with the question, "What am I allowed to do?" we might ask, "How can I use what I have been given for the good of others?"

Through Christ, we have not only been freed from sin, fear, and death, but we have also been freed for loving and serving God and our neighbors. And because we have already received God's love, grace, and mercy, we are free to share those gifts with others.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Lynne

Hurricane PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane Season is upon us. If you have not filled out your Redeemer Hurricane Preparedness Form please click on the link below or see Jim Drinnon for a printed form. The form helps us update contact information, identify special needs, and connect members who may need assistance with those willing to help.

[Hurricane
Preparedness Form](#)

Holy Catholic Church

Now that we are once again using the Apostles' Creed in worship, you may have noticed the phrase: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church ...". For some Lutherans, that wording can sound surprising, since we are not Roman Catholic.

In this case, however, the word catholic does not refer to the Roman Catholic Church. The lowercase c is important because the word catholic simply means "universal", so we are really saying "the universal Christian church." By speaking these words, we join Christians throughout the world and across the centuries in confessing our shared faith. It is a reminder that the Church is larger than any one congregation, denomination, or nation, and that we are part of the people God is continually gathering to Himself.



**Pastor Lynne will be
on vacation
from July 15 - July 25.**

*Pastor Rahim Brown,
912-220-2630, will cover
any emergencies in Pastor
Lynne's absence.*



**You are
Invited!**

Decorations are up, supplies are bought and our volunteers are ready for an exciting week with our VBS participants. At the end of the week after all the fun, we want to share it with all of you! Come see what the kids have done and learned throughout the week. Lunch will be provided.

**RAINFORST FALLS
VBS PROGRAM
Friday, July 10 at 11:30am**



**August 29
The Countdown Has Begun!**

We will be setting up for the Thrift Sale beginning immediately after Rally Day (August 2). All items, large and small, clean and working properly, will be accepted from that day until August 23.

In the near future, a sign-up sheet will be at the Call-to-Action table for those **who can unpack, organize and/or price items, and those who can work the day of the sale.** More details to come on work days for the upcoming event. We will need all hands on deck!

*Proceeds will go towards making our sidewalks
ADA compliant so everyone can easily get
to the Columbarium.*



a worship service, and fellowship over lunch. Whether your interest is worship, discipleship, hospitality, or simply learning alongside Lutherans from across our Synod, this day offers an opportunity to be encouraged and inspired as we explore new ways to welcome others, nurture faith, and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

On September 19, Redeemer will host one of the Southeastern Synod's Revival Days from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. These gatherings are designed to encourage and equip congregations as the synod and local congregations seek new ways to share Christ's love and engage our communities.

The day will include three Learning Labs: Reviving Worship, Reviving Discipleship: Surviving to Thriving, and Reviving Hospitality: New Ways of Welcome. There will also be opportunities for collaboration with members of other congregations,

The Synod hopes that each congregation will send at least five participants. As the host congregation, we encourage members of Redeemer to take part, and we would love for you to be one of them! The registration fee is \$15 per person, but the congregation will cover the cost for the first ten people who sign up. If you would like to attend, please let us know and we will take care of the registration for what promises to be a meaningful day of learning, worship, and fellowship.

Redeemer's June 13 Recycling Event a Great Success

Thank you to everyone who participated in Redeemer's Green Team Recycling Event on June 13. Together, we demonstrated our commitment to being faithful stewards of God's creation by keeping hard-to-recycle items out of landfills and promoting environmental responsibility in our community.

The event was held in partnership with Tybee Island's Hard2Recycle Center, collecting 16 different hard-to-recycle items. Boy Scout Troop 876 was also on hand to collect worn and damaged American flags for honorable retirement.

A special thank you goes to Savannah Bee Company for joining us and sharing information about bees, pollinators, and the important role they play in protecting our environment.

This event was one of several recent actions supported by Redeemer's Green Team as we continue to care for God's creation. We are grateful for the volunteers, community partners, and participants who helped make the event a success. Every item recycled makes a difference, and every effort helps us live out our call to be good stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us.



Opening Our Doors for Mission Work

Ever walk into Redeemer during the summer months to find a stranded flip flop, a lonely guitar propped up against a chair in the narthex, or a couple dozen sleeping bags in the sanctuary? If you have, you know that we have been invaded by YouthWorks. Redeemer has been blessed to be partnering with YouthWorks by providing housing for youth groups serving our community through mission work. Recently, we welcomed a group from Lynchburg, Virginia, and the week before Redeemer was able to respond to an emergency request by providing overnight accommodations for 25 young men.



As part of this partnership, YouthWorks provides a donation to Redeemer for each group housed at our facility. These contributions help offset expenses and support the ongoing ministry and mission of our congregation.

This year YouthWorks will be available to help Redeemer's Vacation Bible School. During the week of July 6, a youth group serving in the area will be assisting us with activities and helping make the week a fun and meaningful experience for the children we are serving.

It is exciting to see our facilities being used in ways that support ministry, strengthen faith, and meet important needs. By opening our doors and collaborating with mission teams, Redeemer is helping young people experience Christian service while making a positive impact in our community. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this hospitality ministry possible.



The group above was from Wisconsin and Minnesota. After their work in the community they helped EMCC clean up both playgrounds by washing the mulch and putting more in. They also moved all the raised beds, put in fresh dirt, and planted a couple of tomato plants.



Lois Elmgren	July 10
Elsie Evans	July 12
Brianne All	July 17
Evelyn Bristow	July 18
Shay All	July 19
Jordan Groover	July 19
Margaret Ohsiek	July 21
Dewey Mosher	July 20
Jim Heater	July 22
Aiden Reynolds	July 24
Ivana Day	July 24
Ahmad Jones	July 28
Ed Engel	July 29

June 2026 Church Council Report

- **Explorer's Montessori Update** - The Board met June 10th. DECAL made a visit and recommended that additional mulch be added to the playgrounds, which has been ordered. The school will be closed for the Juneteenth holiday.
- **External Audit Update** - Hope to receive the audit by the end of the month.
- **Jaime King** was voted in as Financial Secretary.

Old Business

- **Growing God's Gifts** will meet June 23rd.
- **The Grace Ministry group** continues to meet on the 3rd Friday to pack the bags and then serve them the next morning at Ascension Lutheran.
- **The MOMCO** curriculum has arrived. Pastor Lynne is currently looking for volunteers to run the program. She will share the information at the next EMCC Board meeting.
- **Digital Sign** - still working with the country on installation
- All Church Council members were given a current list of their **Commission members**. They were asked to reach out to those on their lists.
- **VBS** - 32 children have been registered. She is still looking for Crew Leaders.
- **Rally Day** is August 2. The theme for Rally Day is "Plant Seeds of Faith." There will be Backpack Blessings, a cookout, and activities following the service.
- **The Thrift Sale** will be held August 29th. Set up for the sale will begin August 2.
- **The Marketing/Social Media reports** show we currently have 364 followers on our Facebook page (up 11 additional followers). The Boston Butts Sale is now online.
- **Special Called Congregational Meeting** - Thirty members attended and unanimously approved the loan agreement. The \$1250 loan installment fee is due now.
- **The Funeral and Wedding Policies** were reviewed by the Worship and Music Committee and are ready to be produced.
- Reconciling In Christ was contacted about our website welcome. Their suggestion was to add "gender expression" to our Welcome statement.

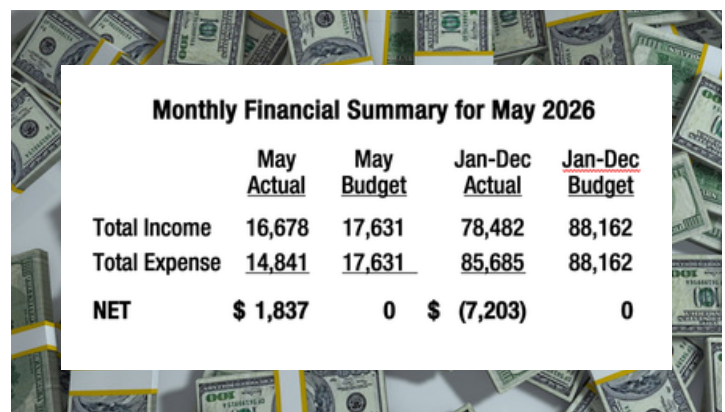
New Business

- **YouthWorks** - 33 youth will be staying at the church from June 25-29.
- **Blessing of the Pets** will be held in conjunction with a Recycle Event on October 3. Co-leaders are needed to organize this event. If interested, see Jim Drinnon or Sylvia Wallis.
- **The Sunday School Curriculum** was discussed. We are looking for 2 teachers. If you are interested, please see Megan Maner,
- **The Ordination Service for Audra Gehler** will be held on July 12 at Redeemer at 4:00. There is a 3:00 rehearsal prior to the service. Chris Thompson will be coordinating the reception.
- **The old brass items** recently found stored away were approved by Council to sell.
- **A SYNOD Revival Day** will be held at Redeemer on September 19.
- **SYNOD Leadership Academy** is being offered as an online continuing education to #Refresh #Revive #Renew #Reform your faith ministry. Classes begin September 13. If interested, please see Pastor Lynne.

Additional Items

- **Thank you notes** will be sent out to those community members who assisted with our Recycling event.
- **A hearing assistance device** has been ordered to help during our services.
- **Church Circuit** - Pastor Lynne has asked for additional funds to participate in this online church growth program, which was approved.

(Church council minutes available upon request)



	May Actual	May Budget	Jan-Dec Actual	Jan-Dec Budget
Total Income	16,678	17,631	78,482	88,162
Total Expense	14,841	17,631	85,685	88,162
NET	\$ 1,837	0	\$ (7,203)	0

(Full financial report available upon request)

Step Up to the Plate for a Great Cause!

July is the final month to secure your tickets for the **Savannah Bananas game on September 11!**

Sponsored by Redeemer's Men's Group, this exciting fundraiser combines an unforgettable evening of fun with an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



Tickets are just \$35 each and include the Savannah Bananas' famous all-you-can-eat food and beverages. Each person may purchase up to six tickets, making it easy to invite family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to join the excitement. To order your tickets, simply send your email address to Jodi at admin@redeemersav.org, and she will provide the link for purchasing. For each ticket Redeemer sells, **the Savannah Bananas will donate \$7 back to Redeemer's Men's Group.** The proceeds will be sent to Inspiritus to help refugees within our community.

This is more than a baseball game—it's an opportunity to share God's love through hospitality, compassion, and generosity. Join us for an evening of laughter, fellowship, and purpose as we cheer on the Bananas and support those seeking hope and a fresh start. Get your tickets today and help us knock this fundraiser out of the park!



Synod Assembly Recap

The theme of this year's Synod Assembly was "Revive Us, God: Church for the Life of the World." Throughout the three days, participants were reminded that revival

is not about creating something new, but about God breathing new life into His people. As Bishop Kevin Strickland put it, "Revival is not noise, it is courage—the courage to become the people we are, the people of God." He also reminded us that revival is resurrection work. God is continually raising His people to new life and renewing the Church for the sake of the world.

That theme was woven throughout the Assembly. Each day included worship, Bible study, keynote presentations, and Leadership Labs focused on different aspects of renewal and discipleship. We also heard reports from synod and churchwide ministries, as well as "revival moments" from congregations across the Southeastern Synod that highlighted the many ways God is at work through local churches.

Of course, the Assembly also included the business of the church. Voting members elected Synod Council members, approved the synod spending plan and compensation guidelines for the coming year, and adopted resolutions encouraging renewed support for youth ministry and addressing concerns related to the Palestinian homeland in the West Bank and Gaza.

There was also time for fellowship and celebration, including a banquet with music and dancing on Friday evening. One of the gifts of Synod Assembly is the reminder that we are not serving Christ alone. Redeemer is part of a larger church, joined with congregations across the Southeastern Synod in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and serving our neighbors. It was a rewarding three days of worship, learning, discernment, and fellowship.



Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner (center), pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Conyers, GA, with the church's former interns including our own Pastor Lynne.

July 2026

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	3 6:00 First Friday Fun Night	4 
5 10:00 Worship 12:00 VBS Setup 6:00 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	6 9:00 VBS	7 9:00 VBS 5:30 pm Care Team 6:30 Worship & Music Committee	8 9:00 VBS 5:30 EMCC Board Meeting	9 9:00 VBS 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	10 9:00 VBS 11:30 VBS Program	11
12 10:00 Worship 11:15 2nd Sunday Brunch 3:00 Ordination Rehearsal 4:00 Vicar Audra's Ordination & Reception	13 6:30 Men's Group (at Cancun)	14 12:00 Marketing Team 5:30 - Visioning/ Growing God's Gifts/Finance Teams 6:30 Executive Team	15	16 PASTOR ON VACATION	17 2:00 Grace Ministry Packing	18 7:00 Grace Ministry Handing Out Bags
19 10:00 Worship with Pastor Henning 6:00 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	20	21	22 5:30 Social Ministry	23	24	25
PASTOR ON VACATION						
26 10:00 Worship	27 6:30 WELCA	28 5:30 Disaster Preparedness 6:30 Property Committee 6:30 Church Council	29	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
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.

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED