

# THE REDEEMER RECORD



## FROM THE PASTOR

*“The early Celtic Christians called the Holy Spirit ‘the wild goose.’ And the reason why is they knew that you cannot tame Him.”* ~ John Eldredge

Dear Beloveds in Christ,

Some of you have heard this story, but I think it's worth sharing again. When I was on internship, the church secretaries and I spent some considerable time decorating the sanctuary during the week leading up to Pentecost with cut-out doves, dove balloons, candles, and even flames over the doorway into the sanctuary. When Pastor John got up to deliver his sermon, he began by thanking us for all of our hard work – but then, he said that he doesn't really think of the Holy Spirit as a dove – and our hearts sank. But he went on to explain that he much prefers the Celtic

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### It's Going to be a Wild Time

We are excited about our upcoming VBS, which will be held at Redeemer from July 7-14. Our theme this year is **True North – learning to trust Jesus in this wild world**, and we need your help. Below are several ways that you can participate to make this a successful event.

#### Funding for VBS

VBS (9am-noon) is free to all students. Our anticipated cost for VBS is \$20/day for each child. This includes (but is not limited to) supplies, teaching materials, snacks, tee shirts, closing celebration and lunch for families. The following are received or anticipated funds:

- A \$500 grant has been approved from the Endowment Committee
- \$250 Trivent Action Plan have been applied for
- \$300 from the Learning Commission budget
- Instead of graduation gifts, Vicar Audra has generously asked that donations go to Redeemer's VBS or other summer programs for children.



#### How You Can Help Sponsor VBS

A graphic on the bulletin board in the narthex will show our progress. Each box represents funding completed for a child for the day indicated. \$20 funds a child for one day of VBS. \$100 funds a student for a week. Any amount is acceptable, so please give as you are able. Envelopes are provided and can be dropped in the offering plate.

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## Assemblying Displays

We will meet on **May 31 and June 21 from 9-12** to construct displays for the Alaskan setting of True North VBS. Following worship on **July 6** we will set up these displays. Come for all or part of the time as you are able. Instructions will be provided and no experience is necessary.

## Volunteer Opportunities

We all know VBS couldn't happen with our generous pool of volunteers. Below are some of the opportunities that need filled.

- Crew Leaders, whose primary task will be to gather the children assigned to them and help them to move from station to station
- Greeters, who make sure the children are checked in and have their name tags each day

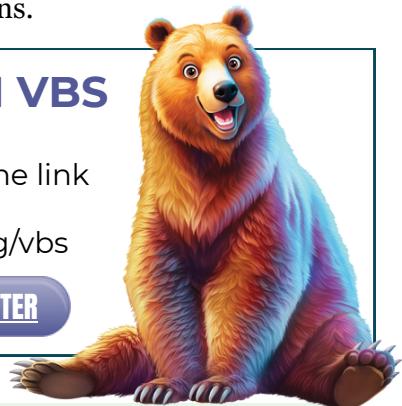
- Snack and Lunch preparers and servers, (recipes and supplies will be provided)
- Extra assistants for the hands-on stations
- After-Care helpers from 12-3 each day

There truly is something that everyone could do. The sign-up sheets for all of these opportunities and more are on the Call-to-Action Table. Please see Heidi Wagstaff with any questions.

## **TRUE NORTH VBS** **July 7-11**

Sign-up or share the link  
to register:  
[RedeemerSav.org/vbs](http://RedeemerSav.org/vbs)

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**



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

representation of the Spirit as a wild goose because He keeps on pecking at you continually until He has steered you in the direction He wants you to go. That, of course, made all kinds of sense – but I have still never seen a sanctuary decorated for Pentecost with wild geese. Maybe someday!

The truth is that the Holy Spirit is the animating and leading force within and around all of us. And yet, I think we are much more aware of this in the church setting than out in the world. Pentecost, after all, is considered the birthday of the church, but the Spirit is not contained in the building – He/She is part of each and every one of us and accompanies us both in church and out in the world every minute of every day. We may not notice or pay attention to the Spirit's direction in our lives, but it is always there. Some people tend to see this guidance as our conscience, or the angel on our shoulder, but the activity of the Spirit goes so much deeper than that. Jesus gifted us with His Spirit so that we would always have access to Him, as well as a live-in reminder of His teachings and direction of His plans for us. With that understanding, the

image of the wild goose has come to make more and more sense to me, because I have personally experienced the Spirit's relentless prodding. I would love to hear about those times when you have experienced the Spirit continuously pecking at you, too!

It is this tenacious nature of the Spirit that leads and directs our churches and our ministries as well. For we need the Spirit to continue to lead and guide us, simply because we can't do any of this on our own. And the same is true in our daily lives – although this is easy to forget as we have so many decisions to make, and we often end up doing so without consulting God first.

The true gift of Pentecost is the Spirit that helps us to know and follow our Lord and leads us to offer Him our praise and worship. And we are tremendously blessed to have the Spirit so active among us! May our hearts and minds continue to be open to following wherever the Spirit is leading us.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Lynne

## Congregational Life Commission

Peggy Alberino, Commission Liaison

Congregational Life Commission is a multi-faceted team that serves and offers fellowship for numerous activities throughout the year.

*"The less Holy Spirit we have,  
the more cake and coffee  
we need to keep the church going."*

~ Reinhard Bonnke

Ain't that the truth! But that doesn't seem to be a problem here at Redeemer. Our Hospitality Table provides weekly coffee and refreshments which offer members time to gather and socialize. This committee offers setup and cleanup every Sunday morning. Our responsibility also includes organizing Advent and Lenten meals, Second Sunday Brunch, and special occasion events such as funerals, baptisms, confirmations and new member celebrations.

Other groups under the Congregational Life Commission that support and share spiritual growth include WELCA, Men's Group, Care Team and First Friday Fun Night. It's wonderful to see Redeemer as a lively, caring church family.

If you have questions on how you can participate in any of these groups, please see Peggy Alberino or call her at 912-547-1462.

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*"Writing hymns is harder than I thought!"*

*I can't think of anything that rhymes with 'Hallelujah' except  
'glad I knew ya' and 'we'll tattoo ya'!"*



## MEAL TRAIN

Help is needed by the Thompson family as Chris continues his chemotherapy. If you can provide a meal for them during this difficult time, it would be greatly appreciated. Please click on this

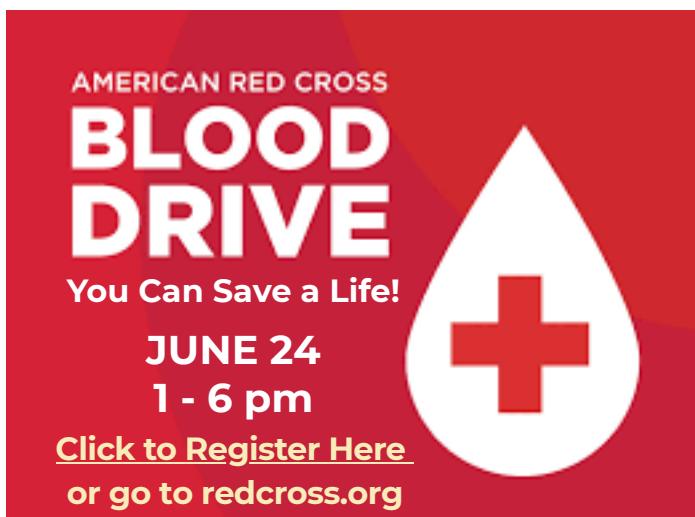
[Meal Train link.](#)

**Savannah  
Banana Tickets  
are Now on Sale!**



Redeemer will have an opportunity to enjoy the Savannah Bananas vs. The Firefighters game on **Thursday, August 21**. Tickets are \$35 each and include entry to the game, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and a beverage.

Members will have the first opportunity to purchase tickets. Sign-up at the Call-to-Action table to receive a link, either emailed or texted to you. We ask that you only buy 6 tickets to give everyone the opportunity to go to the game. All proceeds will benefit a mission of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.



## Caring for Redeemer's Future

### Legacy Giving

Legacy Giving. Bequest. Endowment Fund. Trust Account. Estate Planning. These terms are usually associated with the wealthy and are thought to be too complicated for the average person to consider. Yes, these are actions that wealthy people do implement, but the average person could implement these same actions with proper planning. The purpose of these types of giving is to finance the future and to perpetuate the existence of an organization and its mission.

There is an excellent example here in Chatham County to demonstrate the impact of legacy giving. Thanks to an estate plan and charitable trust, the United Way of the Coastal Empire has been provided with an endowment fund that generates enough income each year to pay all administrative expenses. Therefore, 100% of donations to the United Way are available for distribution to the many charitable organizations it supports. Just imagine the programs that Redeemer could support if all administrative expenses were paid by an endowment fund.

Redeemer must have a financial plan for the future. There are members of Redeemer who have experience with financial planning and these types of legacy giving. A document will be written to provide guidance for legacy giving, bequests, endowment funds, trust accounts, and estate planning. More information will be provided on request.



**May 22 at 6:30 pm**

It's not too late to participate. This 13-week session helps the support group focus on understanding the difficult emotions surrounding grief and how to deal with them. Please see Pastor Lynne if you are interested.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY	
Megan Maner	June 6
Lindy Aiken	June 8
Eileen Lewis	June 13
Kathryn Williams	June 15
Warren Mathieu	June 18
Charlene Altman	June 20
Doug Brassard	June 20
Joey Alberino	June 22

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



The Island's Church Softball League starts soon. If you are interested in playing, call Shay All at (912) 507-6456. Or, just come out and cheer for Redeemer.

#### REDEEMER'S SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	VISITOR	HOME	FIELD
Tue 06/17	7:45 pm	SP(KofC)	at	Redeemer
Thu 06/19	6:30 pm	Redeemer	at	FBCI #1
Tue 06/24	7:45 pm	FBCI #2	at	Redeemer
Thu 06/26	7:45 pm	Redeemer	at	Kirk Presbyterian
Tue 07/08	7:45 pm	SP3	at	Redeemer
Tue 07/15	7:45 pm	FBCI #1	at	Redeemer
Thu 07/17	7:45 pm	Redeemer	at	FBCI #2
Tue 07/22	7:45 pm	Kirk Presbyterian	at	Redeemer
				F1



## A Christian Steward is Loyal

By Robert Fennell, CPA, Endowment Fund Treasurer

In Matthew 6:24, Jesus tells us, “No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” Serving a master requires being loyal to a master. To be a loyal person, one must have qualities of being faithful, trustworthy, devoted, dependable, and dedicated. As humans living on this earth, this can be a challenge as we are always striving to balance the many duties, responsibilities, and activities that are part of our daily lives.

As loyal Christian stewards, we should always be mindful of who we are, whose we are, and why we are here on this earth. Each person is born into a family and can also have a church family. We are here to fulfill God’s plan for his creation, and God has given us talents, abilities, knowledge, and experiences. With the assets that God has provided, we can strive to be loyal and serve God faithfully.

In the church environment, stewardship can be defined as the act of managing God’s money, as well as the act of nurturing God’s creation, and the act of serving God. Although the word “stewardship” is usually associated with money, it should equally be associated with service. To be loyal Christian stewards, let us share our assets, time, knowledge, expertise, talents, and whatever blessings God has provided.

(This is the twelfth in a series of eighteen stewardship messages. Next month’s message will be “A Christian Steward Is Obedient.”)

**Pastor Lynne will be out of the office at a MESS (Mental, Emotional and Spiritual Support) training on June 5 & 6.**



## Gerken and Goodling Education Fund Scholarship Applications Open

Applications for the Gerken and Goodling Education Fund Scholarships are now available to all high school graduates who are members of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Applications may be picked up at the church office beginning May 30, 2025 and the completed application must be returned by June 29, 2025. Redeemer’s Endowment Committee/Scholarship Committee will review all applications and notify all applicants by July 27, 2025.

Those applicants who are awarded a Gerken and/or Goodling Scholarship will be required to attend a Sunday service to be awarded the monetary scholarship on August 3, 2025 (Rally Day). If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Loretta Brandon at 912-536-6447.

## Farewell and Godspeed



It's been a pleasure and a blessing to have Vicar Audra at Redeemer to assist in worship, teach ALOFT Sunday School, and be an active participant in our Thursday dinners and Bible study. Her husband, Jay has been in Sunday School and worked with the Property Team in preparing a new landscape design for the front of the church. Audra graduated May 24 from the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and we look forward to following the next phase of their journey.



# Church Council Minutes

## - May -

### **Explorer's Montessori (EMCC) Update:**

Sylvia gave an update from the Montessori Board. They are in the process of hiring a Peer Coach. Summer dates are set, and Emma, the director, continues to give tours to prospective families.

### **Approvals:**

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

### **Old Business:**

- **Church Constitution Update:** The Constitution/Bylaws/Continuing Resolutions have been typed in the correct format and re-sent to the Synod. We will hold a Special Congregational Meeting June 1<sup>st</sup> to take a second required vote on the Constitution.
- **Get to Know Your Neighbors Update:** This item is still in discussion as we are considering holding the event in August. More information will be forthcoming.
- **VBS Update (July 7-11):** Heidi Wagstaff is the coordinator for this year's VBS. Plans are continuing to be developed and implemented.
- **Visioning Team and Disaster Preparedness Plan Meetings Update:** The Visioning Team met on May 13<sup>th</sup> and listed thoughts and ideas for the future of the church to be discussed at the next meeting. The Disaster Preparedness Team will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 5:30 to develop a plan that follows the ELCA website guidelines. Both teams are still looking for additional members

- **Solar Review Update – GIPL:** Carol Fowler and Jim Heater met with Beth Remmes to learn more about a Power-Wise Energy Audit for Redeemer. Sylvia made a motion to spend \$300 on the energy audit and Robert seconded the motion. All approved and Carol will speak to Jim about proceeding with the audit.
- **Mission Interest Forms:** Mission Interest forms and Faith Promises consecrated on May 11. Commission liaisons were reminded to get in touch with those people wish to serve on their committees by June 1.
- **Wedding Guidelines Update:** There will be further discussion on this item in the fall.

### **New Business:**

- **SE Synod Assembly:** The Drinnons will accompany Pastor Lynne to the SE Synod Assembly in Columbus, Ga. from May 29- 31.
- **Columbarium proposal:** Jim Heater provided a Columbarium Proposal to Church Council. It was decided to turn it over to the Columbarium Committee for further discussion.
- **Monthly Calendar Review:**
  - **June 1**—Congregational Meeting immediately following church service
  - **June 5 & 6**—Pastor Lynne will be attending a MESS (Mental, Emotional and Spiritual Support) Seminar in St. Simons
  - **June 8**—Pentecost Sunday and Second Sunday Brunch
  - **June 25**—Red Blood Cross Drive at Redeemer
  - **July 7-11**—Vacation Bible School from 9-12 (AfterCare from 12-3 for a fee)
  - **July 29**—Boston Butts sale begins. Tickets provided by Men's Group.
  - **August 1**—LifeLine Screening at Redeemer
  - **August 3**—Rally Day
  - **August 21**—Redeemer Night at Savannah Bananas

# June 2025

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

Isaiah 49:13

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00 Worship 11:15 Special Congregational Meeting 11:30 ALOFT Sunday School	<b>2</b> 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	<b>3</b> 12:00 Marketing Team	<b>4</b> 11:30 Book Study 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew 7:00 Choir practice	<b>5</b> Pastor Out of the Office 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings 6:30 GriefShare	<b>6</b> Pastor Out of the Office 6:00 First Friday Fun Night	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  10:00 Worship 11:15 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Brunch	<b>9</b> 6:30 Men's Group (at Cancun)	<b>10</b> 5:30 – Visioning Team 6:30 Finance Committee 7:00 Executive Committee	<b>11</b> 11:30 Book Study 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew 6:00 EMCC Board Meeting	<b>12</b> 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings 6:30 GriefShare	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>  10:00 Worship 11:15 ALOFT Sunday School	<b>16</b> 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	<b>17</b> 5:30 Mutual Ministry 6:30 Church Council	<b>18</b> 11:30 Book Study 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew	<b>19</b> 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings 6:30 GriefShare	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 VBS Workshop
<b>22</b> 10:00 Worship 11:15 ALOFT Sunday School	<b>23</b> 6:30 WELCA (at church)	<b>24</b> 1:00 Blood Drive 5:30 Disaster Preparedness Team 6:30 Property Committee 6:30 Growing God's Gifts Team	<b>25</b> 11:30 Book Study 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew	<b>26</b> 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings 6:30 GriefShare	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00 Worship 11:15 ALOFT Sunday School	<b>30</b>					

**Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
Monthly Financial Summary**

**April 30, 2025**

	<b>April Actual</b>	<b>April Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>	<b>Jan. - Dec. Actual</b>	<b>Jan. - Dec. Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Regular Offering</b>	\$ 11,955	15,476	77%	\$ 51,493	61,904	83%
<b>Misc. Income</b>	2,620	2,733	96%	10,669	10,931	98%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14,575</b>	<b>18,209</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>62,162</b>	<b>72,835</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
<b>Benefvolence</b>	1,375	1,739	79%	5,887	6,956	85%
<b>Ministries</b>	550	884	62%	2,673	3,526	76%
<b>Mortgage</b>	824	824	100%	3,296	3,296	100%
<b>Operations</b>	3,721	4,237	88%	21,854	16,950	129%
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	10,456	10,525	99%	42,230	42,107	100%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>16,926</b>	<b>18,209</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>75,940</b>	<b>72,835</b>	<b>104%</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ (2,351)</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>\$ (13,778)</b>	<b>0</b>	

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

**Special Envelope and Freewill Offering**

Thrivent	\$ 1,145
Second Sunday Brunch	\$ 149
Kroger	\$ 19
Easter Flowers	\$ 255
Vacation Bible School	\$ 29
Lenten Meal	\$ 41
Miller Honorarium	\$ 350
Fresh Air Home	\$ 60



## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

51 Wilmington Island Road  
Savannah, GA 31410  
912-897-1133  
[redeemersav.org](http://redeemersav.org)

Worship in person or stream live on  
Facebook. **Sundays at 10 am**

Pastor Lynne O'Shea  
[pastorlynne@redeemersav.org](mailto: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](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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