

# THE REDEEMER RECORD



FROM THE  
PASTOR

*“Nevertheless, the central affirmation of the Reformation stands: through no merit of ours, but by his mercy, we have been restored to a right relationship with God through the life, death, and resurrection of His beloved Son. This is the Good News, the gospel of Grace.” ~ Brennan Manning*

Dear Beloveds in Christ,

As we prepare to celebrate another Reformation Sunday, we look back on the 16<sup>th</sup> century beginnings of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. Neither he nor the other reformers intended to cause a church split that would

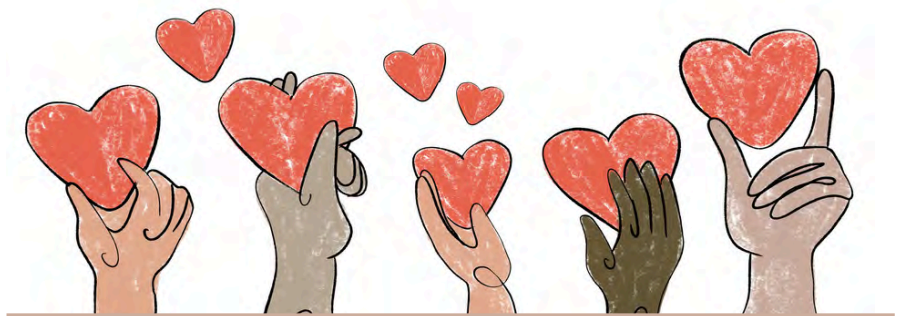
(continued on page 2)

## Acting in Christian Love

As you all know, we pray every Sunday for our enemies and those we find hard to love. But it can't stop there – we have to carry that care and concern for everyone into the rest of the week too. Regardless of where your political heart lies, your Christian heart must remain stronger. For we follow Jesus, who taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. And all of this plays into us living out our mission statement, which is that “We are an inclusive congregation of disciples who follow Jesus in hope, love, joy, and peace.”

And yet, we are living in a political climate of polarization and demonization of people who don't share the same point of view. In fact, it has gotten to the point that it seems as though there are only two extremes, and you feel compelled to choose one or the other. And that leads to an us-or-them mentality, with people on both sides lobbing verbal grenades – or worse – at people on the other side. But a better practice, taught as a mediation strategy, is to get everyone on the same side of the table. This means finding something that we can all agree on and using that as a starting point to explore what else we might be able to come to terms on.

(continued on page 2)



## **ACTING IN CHRISTIAN LOVE** *(cont. from page 1)*

This tends to work well, for the truth is that there is still a lot of gray area in between the two extremes, and many people are still trying to figure out how best to live there. So, there may not be as much actual disagreement as we are projecting there to be.

Of course, there will still be those on the fringes – those whose views are so extreme that finding common ground can be difficult at best – but that does not mean that we are free to engage in the same kinds of destructive speech and behavior that we see from some of them. Instead, we need to re-learn how to disagree with one another while still loving – or at least being cordial to and respectful of – those whose views we oppose.

As Christians we are called to speak truth to power, but we are to speak that truth in love. This means that we will not engage in hate-speech, labeling, or expressing a wish for something bad to happen to those we disagree with.

We are blessed to have a growing congregation and visitors on a regular basis. But the truth is that, if we want that trend to continue, we must always project our love for one another and our welcome to everyone in our community in all that we say and do. For we may not be able to change the big things that are going on in our nation and the world, but we can change our community for the better, one little loving step at a time.

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

create new denominations – their intent was to point out where they saw that the Roman Catholic Church had strayed from the teachings of the Bible and help to bring them back into proper practice. This, of course, was not well received by the Pope, and it did end up with Martin Luther being labeled a heretic and excommunicated in January of 1521 – and the protestant church was born. Of course, there was never just one united protestant church because each of the reformers had their own followers, so different denominations were formed – and new denominations are still being formed today.

All of this is important church history, but it is equally important to look at where the church is today and where it may be headed, because the thing is that reformation – even The Reformation – is never a one-and-done kind of a thing. We need to constantly be paying attention and reforming as the Holy Spirit leads us to better understandings of our faith and how we are to live out that faith in the world. This clearly fits in with the Explore Your Faith theme that we announced on Rally Day. The beautiful truth is that, as Brennan Manning put it, “through no merit of ours, but by his mercy, we have been restored to a right relationship with God through the life, death, and resurrection of His

beloved Son.” Taking this seriously and then exploring what it truly means for us is a powerful starting point for our own personal reformations. Once we start down that path – whether through attending Bible studies or personal times of devotion and prayer – not only will our faith grow, but we will be better able to share that faith with others. And that is how a church grows.

But church growth takes even more than that – it takes some reformation as well. For following Jesus means that we have to step out of our comfort zones and into new territory. I know that sounds risky – and sometimes it is – but when we take those steps, we not only share what we believe, but we learn from others as well. And that learning can help us to see what we may need to change to become an even more relevant church for our community. This is not to say that we are to become wishy-washy about our beliefs, but updating some of our language and practices may make it easier for those who have never been to church to feel like they could belong here too.

As always, I would love to hear your thoughts on this!

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Lynne

## Redeemer Welcomes the Braxton Family



**Simmie, Nolan and Willow Munn** were baptized on September 21 and made their first communion. Their parents, **Erin and Braxton**, affirmed their baptism.

## Blessing OF THE Pets FESTIVAL

**October 4**

**10:30am - 12:00pm**

**Blessing at 11:00 am**

Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Blessing of the Pets is on Saturday the 4th. Sign up to help with this community event at the Call-to-Action table or see Kathryn Williams. **Bring food, cleaning supplies or beds to donate to local animal organizations.**

## Thank You from the Men's Group

You may think because the Men's Group meets at Cancun each month they are all quesadillas and margaritas, but this group gets a lot done between their chips and salsa. Their fellowship includes devotions along with prioritizing their duties at Redeemer. They are the first to be called on for cookouts and pancake dinners, and their fundraising has become essential to Redeemer's Ministries. So, while the Men's Group may want to thank us for supporting them, we want to THANK THEM for all they do for Redeemer and our community!

### Savannah Bananas Ticket Sales for the August 21<sup>st</sup> Game

**SOLD:** 200 tickets

**PROCEEDS:** \$1,400

**ALLOCATION:** \$1,000 will be donated to Inspiritus, an organization dedicated to supporting refugees immigrating to the United States. The remaining funds from this event will be contributed to the church's Building Fund.

### Boston Butt Sale for Labor Day Weekend

**SOLD:** 105 Boston Butts

**PROCEEDS:** just under \$1,300.

**ALLOCATION:** To enhance the church's security camera systems (two more cameras, two camera doorbells, and a monitoring hub for the system). Any surplus funds leftover after the upgrades will be donated to the church's Building Fund.

## Calling Cards

You will soon see something new here – calling cards that we will be asking you to carry and hand out to people you meet. They are a kind of church business card, with a place for you to put your name – and phone number if you choose to include it. The point is to make personal connections with our neighbors and extend invitations to them to “come and see” all that we have to offer here.



Pastor Lynne will be out of the office from October 20 - 23 to attend the Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) Community of Practice in Washington D.C.





## Church Council Report

### September 2025

- Church Council met on September 16<sup>th</sup> and approved the monthly financial statement and the Commission reports.
- The Boston Butts sale was very successful, and all of the Savannah Bananas tickets were purchased, with \$1,000 of the proceeds to go to Inspiritus. The remainder will go to the building fund.
- Get to Know Your Neighbors will take place here on November 1 from 10:00-12:00.
- Jim Drinnon, Lisa Snyder, and Jamie King have agreed to serve on the Annual Audit team.
- The window caulking is still not finished.
- The solar update is on hold until we get an estimate on a generator for the Social Hall and kitchen.
- We are waiting on the Zoning Board to approve the new digital outdoor sign.
- 2026 Budget Prep will begin in October and the new budget prepared by December.
- It was approved to order two waterproof envelopes and one fireproof container for the red membership record books and other important documents.

(Church council minutes available upon request)

AMERICAN RED CROSS

# BLOOD DRIVE

**OCTOBER 22**  
1-6pm at Redeemer

Sign up at  
[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)





## Children's Sunday School and Confirmation Classes are in full swing.



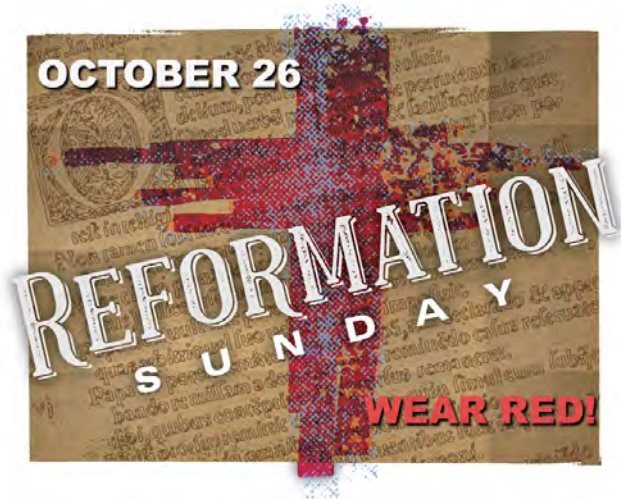
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



Augusta Livingston	October 1
Lauren Groover	October 3
Ty'Shawn Reynolds	October 9
Marjorie Harrison	October 19
Chris Thompson	October 26

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



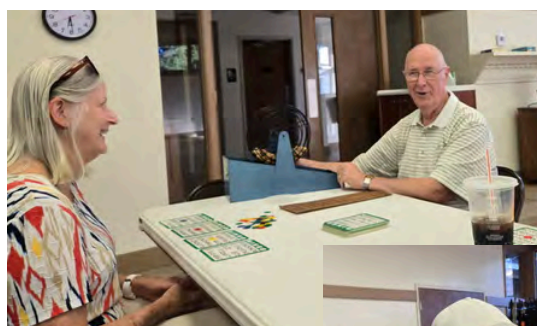


## Backpack Buddies demonstrate service in action

This fall the Backpack Buddies (BPB) volunteers at Redeemer are serving an increased number of students. At Hubert Elementary the numbers have risen from 15 to 24, and at Coastal Middle School from 10 to 11. Each week we purchase food, pack, and transport backpacks filled with weekend food for students. Our volunteers are also beginning to plan the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals that we send to these families: turkey, cornbread stuffing, string beans, and other traditional foods.

Two things to consider:

1. This year, Backpack Buddies is requesting donations of money only. This way allows us to purchase food from the food bank to avoid inconsistencies in the size and amount.
2. BPB welcomes volunteers who have the ability to lift and carry, and those who have vehicles large enough to transport the food we purchase and pack. You can learn, one-on-one, from any volunteer. Contact Sandi Brassard or Kathi Bernat to learn more about the program.



**First Family Fun Night Bingo**



Monthly Financial Summary for August 2025				
	Aug Actual	Aug Budget	Jan-Dec Actual	Jan-Dec Budget
Total Income	16,367	18,210	127,907	145,673
Total Expense	17,746	18,210	151,251	145,673
NET	<b>\$(1,379)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$(23,344)</b>	<b>0</b>

**(90% of the budgeted income amount was collected this month. Full financial report available upon request)**





**GOD'S WORK.  
OUR HANDS.**



**HOLY  
CROSS  
DAY**



## **A Christian Steward Sacrifices**

*By Robert Fennell, Endowment Fund Treasurer*

The greatest sacrifice of all times is found in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This is truly an incredible sacrifice. Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the entire world. By sending Jesus into the world and by sacrificing his life, God demonstrated his love for us.

The sacrifice of a Christian steward is the surrendering of something of value to fulfill God's will. Personal sacrifices occur in numerous ways. Stewardship is not just the sacrifice of money, but also the sacrifice of time, talents, and energy. A Christian steward shares financial resources with those less fortunate, dedicates time to volunteer their services, uses talents to serve the church or other charitable needs, and any act that comforts, assists, or supports others in accordance with our commitment to serve God's world. These sacrifices are part of our stewardship journey.

The sacrifice should not be made by a Christian steward for the purpose of receiving recognition, but rather should be made freely and willingly without any subsequent consideration. Based on the teachings of Jesus, Christian stewards should give thanks to God and sacrifice with gratitude for their many blessings. Sacrifices of money, time, talent, and energy are appreciated.

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



# October 2025

"Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth".

1 John 3:18

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew  6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	<b>2</b>  5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	<b>3</b> 6:00 First Friday Fun Night	<b>4</b> 10:30 Blessing of the Pets
<b>5</b> 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday Schools & Confirmations	<b>6</b> 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	<b>7</b> 5:30 Visioning Team 6:30 Finance Committee 7:00 Executive Committee	<b>8</b> 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew  6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	<b>9</b> 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	<b>10</b> 1:00 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship with Baptism 11:15 2nd Sunday Brunch	<b>13</b> 6:30 Men's Group (at Cancun)	<b>14</b> 12:00 Marketing Team 5:30 Visioning Team 6:30 Finance Committee 7:00 Executive Committee	<b>15</b> 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew  6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	<b>16</b> 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday Schools & Confirmations	<b>20</b> Pastor at LDR Gathering 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	<b>21</b> Pastor at LDR Gathering 5:30 Disaster Committee 6:30 Property Committee 6:30 Growing God's Gifts	<b>22</b> Pastor at LDR Gathering  6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	<b>23</b> Pastor at LDR Gathering	<b>24</b> 1:00 Bible Study  5:00 Trunk or Treat (at Brookes Field)	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday Schools & Confirmations	<b>27</b> 6:30 WELCA (location TBD)	<b>28</b> 5:30 Mutual Ministry 6:30 Church Council	<b>29</b> 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew  6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	<b>30</b> 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	<b>31</b>	



## 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)

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.



**Lutheran Church  
of the Redeemer**  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

51 Wilmington Island Road  
Savannah, GA 31410-3704

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED