

THE REDEEMER RECORD



FROM THE PASTOR

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:18

Dear Beloveds in Christ,

The cross is the central symbol of our faith, and yet we typically focus exclusively on the cross only on Good Friday. This year, we have an opportunity to spend some extra time in contemplation of the cross, as we will be celebrating Holy Cross Day on Sunday, September 14 here at Redeemer. This is one of the so-called Lesser Festivals, which means that it does not get celebrated unless it falls on a Sunday, which it does this year.

(continued on page 2)

“God’s work. Our hands.”



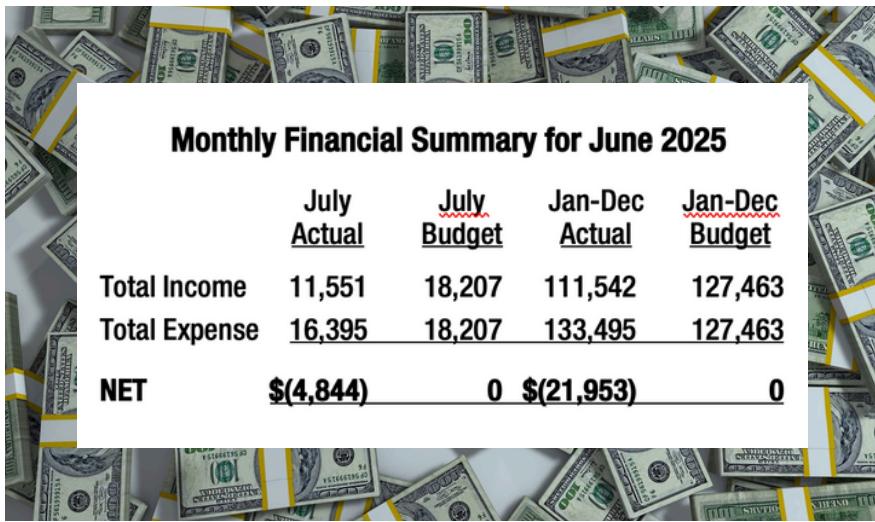
Join us for a day of service!

September 6, 2025

God’s Work. Our Hands is an annual churchwide event that celebrates who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

This year we will be working around Redeemer’s property lines that surround our church - Burn’s Lane and Wilmington Island Road. We will be removing trash and debris from the areas from 10:00 to 12:00. All necessary equipment will be provided, including buckets, grabbers, and garbage bags. Come join us as we celebrate “God’s Work. Our Hands.”



Monthly Financial Summary for June 2025

	July Actual	July Budget	Jan-Dec Actual	Jan-Dec Budget
Total Income	11,551	18,207	111,542	127,463
Total Expense	16,395	18,207	133,495	127,463
NET	<u>$\$(4,844)$</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>$\$(21,953)$</u>	<u>0</u>

(Full financial report available upon request)



We welcome **Kim Donaldson**, our newest member, who joined us through Affirmation of Baptism on July 6th.

FROM THE PASTOR (cont. from page 1)

The ELCA website describes Lesser Festivals as “a kind of festival of Jesus Christ. These occasions mark and celebrate events in the life of Christ, Christ’s presence in the lives of the saints, and prominent festivals of the church. Observing these lesser festivals is a way of recovering and upholding the sense of the communion of saints that is so important to our understanding of the church: ‘I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints ...’ (Apostles’ Creed, Third Article).”

Since every Sunday is designated as a festival day in our church in celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, we will have our regular worship service that morning, and come back that evening for the Holy Cross service, which will be led by me, Father Ian of St. Francis of the Islands Episcopal Church, and Pastor Rahim of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. Pastor Rahim was recently ordained and installed as Pastor at Holy Spirit, and he not only graciously accepted our invitation to be a part of this service, but he also agreed to preach for us that night!

We have also invited the Wilmington Island Methodist and Presbyterian churches to come and take part in this evening with us. And, while their

pastors have chosen not to take leadership roles in the service, they are getting the word out to their congregations, and we have invited their singers to join in the combined choir that will be led by Mary. We are looking forward to a wonderful evening of worship and music that night, and I hope that you will all come and be a part of it!

After the worship service, we will head to the Social Hall for fellowship and a Hot Cross Bun Contest (which will be judged blindly by Pastor Rahim and Father Ian, as I am gluten free), with prizes awarded to the first, second, and third place buns. You can make a favorite recipe or – if you are really brave – you can try one that you find in a cookbook or online! Either way, it should be a lot of fun – and there will be lots of hot cross buns to snack on!

Please mark your calendars and come spend this time in worship and fellowship with us, and help us to welcome our newest ministry partners, Pastor Rahim and the congregation of Holy Spirit.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Lynne



Church Council Report

August 2025

- Church Council met on August 19th and approved the monthly financial statement and the Commission reports.
- Old Business included planning for God's Work, Our Hands Day on September 6th from 10-12 and the new date of our Get to Know Your Neighbors Gathering set for November 1 from 9-11th. Pastor Lynne also reported on her successful trainings from Effective Church Network.
- New Business included developing an audit team by mid-September, review of the monthly calendar, and setting the date of October 11th for the review of Church Policies.
- Other items included the discussion of a Holy Cross Day service to be held at Redeemer on September 14th at 6:30 with other area churches.

(Church council minutes available upon request)



A Christian Steward is Responsible

By Robert Fennell, Endowment Fund Treasurer

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus presents the Great Commission to his disciples in Galilee. Jesus tells the disciples, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” The burden of responsibility was now passed on to the disciples. The disciples are now responsible for making disciples not just in their neighborhood, in their city, in their state, in their nation, but in all nations in the world. The disciples are now responsible for teaching everyone to obey everything commanded by Jesus. This profound responsibility has been transferred from generation to generation. We are now the responsible stewards.

The Great Commission issued by Jesus is an ongoing task. In addition to the responsibility of caring for God's creation and for the wise management of God's resources, a Christian steward is responsible for spreading God's Word and making disciples in all the nations. As 21st century Christians, we are contractors with work to be done. Although we will never complete the contract, we are responsible for receiving and working on the contract, and passing it on to the next generation. As God's contractors, we must be responsible Christian stewards.

A Christian steward must first recognize that everything belongs to God. Following God's will and instructions, a Christian steward is responsible for faithfully managing and wisely caring for all that God has provided. This responsibility includes using time, talents, and assets to make disciples and to teach them to go our and make disciples too.

(This is the fifteenth in a series of eighteen stewardship messages. Next month's message will be “A Christian Steward Sacrifices.”)

Narrative Lectionary

Beginning in September, we are moving from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) – the three-year cycle of lessons read each week – to the Narrative Lectionary – a four-year cycle of lessons that has a year for each Gospel. This lectionary is different in that it only includes two lessons per week, which will allow us to focus more effectively on them, and a different part of the biblical story is emphasized in different seasons of the year. So, other than the number of readings, the biggest change you will notice is that we will not have a Psalm to read responsively every week. We are coming in right at the beginning of Year 4, which is dedicated to the Gospel of John. This is great, because John's Gospel does not have a year in the RCL – we only read from John on Festival Sundays or special seasons of the year. We are anxious to give this a try, and we look forward to hearing what you think – hopefully, after you have experienced it a few times. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about this, please see Pastor Lynne.

HANDBELL PRACTICE

The handbell choir will reconvene on **Wednesdays, starting September 3 at 6:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome to learn more about playing the handbells and/or join the choir.



John Brassard	September 3
Heidi Wagstaff	September 6
Lindsay Wetherington	September 7
Karen Jerald	September 13
Lyndal Kennedy	September 20
Greg Fowler	September 21
Steve Williams	September 22
Carol Fowler	September 26
Nancy Goll	September 26

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

Caring for Your Spiritual Health

Our spiritual health is something we often don't pay enough attention to. According to Carrie Wester, a chaplain with Banner Behavioral Health Hospital in Scottsdale, AZ, "Spirituality is a sense of internal wellbeing and how you connect with something greater than yourself ..." That is a pretty broad definition, but it does point out that spiritual health is dependent on us maintaining our connection with God. This can be done by reading your Bible, making prayer an intentional part of your day, stopping to notice the beauty God has built into our world, journaling, or simply taking quiet time to sit and be open to God's presence. And, of course, one of the easiest ways to stay connected is to come to church, where we are fed and strengthened during worship, and we have multiple opportunities for fellowship. Building these two relationships – with God and with one another – are essential!

The great benefit of these spiritual practice is that they bring us closer to God. And that connectedness helps us to experience greater joy when things are going well and hope when we are struggling. And yet, we all know that there are times when we just don't feel it – or when it seems as though God is hard to find. If you find yourself feeling that way, please know that it is not a failing on your part or the result of something you have neglected to do – it is part of the faith journey. So, please let us know so that we can help to carry you through it. That is what we do for one another, and how we collectively – as the Body of Christ in this place – stay spiritually healthy together.

If you have any favorite ways that you maintain your spiritual health, please share them with us so that we might benefit from them too!



First Friday Fun Night
September 5, at 6:00 pm

September 2025

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. - John 1:4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 5:30 Care Team 6:30 Worship & Music	3 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	4 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	5 6:00 First Friday Fun Night-BINGO	6 10:00 God's Work. Our Hands. (Meet at Redeemer)
7 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Adult and Children's Sunday Schools 11:15 Confirmation Class	8 6:30 Men's Group (at Cancun)	9 12:00 Marketing 5:30 Visioning Team 6:30 Finance Committee 7:00 Executive Committee	10 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew 6:00 EMCC Board Meeting 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	11 4:30 EMCC Parent Info Session 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 nd Sunday Brunch 6:30 Holy Cross Day Service	15 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	16 6:30 Church Council	17 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew 6:00 Handbells 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 Adult and Children's Sunday Schools, and Confirmation Class	22 6:30 WELCA (at Redeemer)	23 5:30 Disaster Committee 6:30 Property Committee 6:30 Growing God's Gifts	24 1:00 Bible Study-Matthew 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	25 5:00 Dinner at Papa's 6:30 Bible Study-Sunday's Readings	26	27
28 9:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Adult and Children's Sunday Schools 11:15 Confirmation Class	29 6:30 Savannah Moravian Fellowship	30 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.

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.



51 Wilmington Island Road
Savannah, GA 31410-3704

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED