



Spirit Filled and Spirit Led

THE VOICE OF REDEEMER

August 2011

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
390 Pierce Avenue
Macon, Georgia 31204
Website: www.redeemermacon.org

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

July 25, 2011

Dear Partners in Ministry;

Each year in July, I spend time reflecting on the previous twelve months and plan for the next twelve months. As I sit reflecting and planning it dawned on me we are beginning our seventh year in this ministry, together, here in Macon. A lot has happened over the last six years.

When I came to Macon the United States was at war, the economy was in a downturn. Well we are still at war and the economy while faltering is beginning to recover. The biggest problem in the Church was a proposed discussion on a statement on Human Sexuality. Since then the subject was discussed, argued over, and ultimately became a Social Statement of the ELCA.

This past Sunday I had the opportunity to preach and preside at one our previous calls, the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Jacksonville, N.C. During the service I baptized our two Great-Grandsons. Most of our grandchildren were baptized at LCOS and it meant a lot to us to continue the tradition. As I walked around the font to the altar, I thought about the world they would be inheriting and the hope for the future they provide. With all the dissonance the Social Statement caused, the Church that Jesus the Christ died to create will remain, the grace he so freely gives will continue to be bestowed, the forgiveness he showed will continue to be seen and felt.

No matter what decisions the National Church decides and no matter what direction the National Church moves, God's love and mercy remains true and for all. You

WORSHIP IN AUGUST

- Sunday 9:15 a.m. Educational Hour
Teens~Adults~Children
10:30 a.m. Worship / HC
11:30 Gathering Time
One Service Only / Nursery Provided

Coming-

*Jazz Appreciation 6:30
Thursday 4 August & 10:00
Saturday 6 August*

*Second Sunday Covered-
Dish Lunch 12:00 14 August*

*Council Meeting 12:00 21
August*

Communion Schedule

Table Communion—1st and 3rd, Sunday of the month
Intinction—2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month.

Partners in Ministry *continued*

see, in baptism God's parenthood is recognized, His Spirit bestowed, and His love freely given. While we the people of God may make mistakes about His desire for creation, He never deserts us. While we the people of God may choose to move in unloving ways to one another and the rest of creation, He never stops loving us. While we the people of God may be unforgiving of those who are different or think different from us, He is still forgiving.

Although the United States is still at war the economy faltering, God is in control and His will shall prevail through His children. God is so vast and beyond human understanding and as our two great-grandsons lay in my arms, uncomprehending what was going on around them, God was planning their and our futures. As our great-grandsons knew they were safe in my arms so too can we be assured our safety in God's arms.

No matter what happens in our world or in the Church, know that God is in control, you are loved, and forgiven. Know that God always keeps His promises and that your future is secure in the Kingdom with Him.

Your Partner in Ministry

Jim Braswell, Pastor
Pastor Braswell

ZUMBA CLASS

Zumba class has been suspended while Julie Strecker recovers from a sprained ankle. We will let you know when classes resume.

CRAFTY LADIES

The children's clothes and quilts, that the Crafty Ladies have made in the last couple of months, are on their way to Haiti. The material to make the clothes and quilts was donated by church members and friends.

BOOK LOVERS GROUP

The Book Lovers Group will not meet again until September 8th. Here is a list of the books we will be reading this fall:

- 8 September—"Cathedral of the Sea" by Ildefonso Falcones
- 13 October—"The Extra Large Medium" by Helen Slavin
- 10 November—"Whisper to the Black Candle" by Jaclyn Weldon White
- 8 December—"Christmas Cake" by Lynne Hinton
- 12 January—"Sunrise" by Jacquelyn Cook

For more information contact Anne Roesel at 474-3555 or 390-3072

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

It is time for the choir to begin rehearsals again. We will start rehearsals on Wednesday August 24. The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing.

Beginning this month, you do not have to sit in the choir loft. You may sit in the congregation, and join the choir at the appropriate time. We will ask that you wear a robe while singing. This way we look more uniform.

If you have any questions or concerns about our services or music, please contact one of the members of the Worship and Music team, Anne Roesel or Beau or Gaye Wood.

CORRECTIONS TO 2011 DIRECTORY

If you see any corrections to be made, contact the church office.

If you do not have a copy of the 2011 Directory, they are available in the Narthex.

Recycling News

Please rinse all bottles and cans and plastic items before placing them in the recycle bins.

The church council is looking into using plates and cups that are more ecologically friendly.

If you have any recycling tips, please contact the church office. We will then pass the information on to everybody.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are already planning for Sunday school for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year. The education committee has decided to have teachers rotate on a quarterly basis. We will need 3 teachers to commit to a 12-week teaching session. We currently have 3 age groups:

- 1) Pre-K & kindergarten
- 2) 1st grade-3rd grade
- 3) 4th grade and up

Teaching on a short-term basis for 12 weeks is a great way to share your time & talent with Redeemer. If you have a conflict with any particular Sunday during that 12 weeks, we will have a list of substitute teachers that can fill in during your absence. We have a wonderful curriculum that is simple and easy to follow. No teaching experience required!! The first 12-week term will begin September 18th and will end sometime in mid- December. Please contact Amie Craig or Pastor if you are interested in volunteering.

Food Pantry

Our food pantry is in need of everything. You don't have to wait until the Second Sunday to bring items for the pantry.

Stop by anytime to see what else is needed.

Comments and Chuckles

The less a man thinks, the more he talks.

The reason some of us find it difficult to think is that we haven't had any previous experience.

Talk is cheap because the supply is greater than the demand.

Some persons won't suffer in silence because that would take the pleasure out of it.

Be reminded of the whale: When it's spouting off, that is when it is in the most danger of being harpooned.

Customer: Waitress, why is my doughnut all smashed?

Waitress: You said you wanted a cup of coffee and a doughnut, and step on it.

Golfer: Pardon me, but would you mind if I played through? I've just heard that my wife has been taken seriously ill.

"That was a great speech, sir . . . I liked the straightforward way you dodged those issues."

First person: His last speech had the audience in the aisles.

Second person: Applauding?

First person: No, stretching and yawning.

He can wrap up a one-minute idea in a one-hour vocabulary.

He's an expert at handing out baloney disguised as food for thought.

SOMETHING BORROWED

If you have borrowed anything from the church, please return it as soon as possible.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Redeemer Family,

On July 22, I was peacefully grading papers at my desk, listening to German radio when the news broke that a bomb had gone off in Oslo, Norway. Early reports mentioned two dead and dozens injured. Within a few minutes, German as well as American news channels spoke of Islamic terrorism as the likely source of the attacks. For international terrorism to arrive in Norway, a country so peaceful that most police officers do not even carry a gun and the worst sentence a criminal can receive is 20 years in prison, would have been shocking enough. What transpired on the paradise island of Utøy only an hour and a half after the bombing in Oslo is beyond comprehension and words.

I sat at my desk in disbelief as the scope of the horrific event became more and more apparent by the hour. Like many other people, I was reminded of what I felt on September 11, 2001: shock, horror, disbelief, anger, helplessness, profound sadness. Then came the news that there was only one offender, and he was not an Islamic terrorist after all. He was a Christian. Yes, I did not say a *radical* Christian or *right-wing* Christian *fundamentalist*, I said *Christian*, just like most people called the 9/11 hijackers *Muslims*. This time we cannot vilify a whole other religion or ethnic group; we have to look in the mirror to see what this monster looks like. How can anyone who calls himself a Christian commit such unspeakable atrocities? The same way someone who calls himself a Muslim can. No religion is evil in itself, but every religion can be abused to justify just about anything in a deranged mind. So do we just accept that as an unchangeable fact and move on?

"We will retaliate with even more democracy and openness," said Norway's Prime Minister Stoltenberg. What a remarkable response, one that would ring hollow in our society that is used to retaliation by force, an eye for an eye, but one that gives hope to a country that prides itself in being progressive and open. Before July 22, even high-ranking politicians regularly walked the streets without bodyguards around them. Tourists didn't have to fear for their life or even belongings in the streets, the parks, or buses of Oslo, no matter what time of the day or night it was. Sounds too good to be true? Maybe. Maybe now everything will change because of one "Christian." But maybe, just maybe Norway will not change. Maybe true Christians and Muslims will come together and show one another and themselves what their religions are actually about. Maybe we can even learn a lesson from all this horror. Maybe I will pay a little more attention to the reason I call myself a Christian. Maybe I will love my neighbor even more from now on. While I cannot help the victims in Norway simply by texting \$10 to the Red Cross to feel good about myself, I can start acting like a true Christian and hope someone else will pay it forward. It will take work and dedication, and by no means can I be sure that I will succeed, but I can try everything in my power to make sure that this monster, who by no means is a Christian in my book, did not succeed either. I hope Norway will not change, except to become even more open and friendlier, as Stoltenberg said. I hope the US embassy in Oslo will remain the only building in the city with iron fences and a high-tech security system. I hope you'll join me in becoming even more Christian.

Peace,

Jonas Strecker, President

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH

2012 ELCA Youth Gathering

Who is interested in attending the ELCA Youth Gathering? The event is July 18-22, 2012, in New Orleans. It is five days of service, workshops, concerts, worship in the Superdome. HOWEVER, registration opens on October 9, and it fills quickly. Youth entering 9th grade and through high school graduation are eligible to attend. The event cost is \$315. If you are interested in attending, talk to Bailey Lambert or Lake Lambert. Call us at 254-5977 or email at lambert_1@mercer.edu

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Death, Dying and the Afterlife—A New Adult Class

Beginning Sunday, September 11, Lake Lambert will begin an adult education class on death, dying and heaven. It will be a little Bible, a little Christian theology, a little study of other religions plus some history and sociology too. It will be an opportunity to explore what our Christian faith says about death and the hope Christians have in the face of death. If you ever wanted to understand the difference between resurrection and reincarnation, this is the class for you!

HOW CAN I HELP?

A lot of people don't have much money to give to the church. You can't afford to bring much to our food pantry. But there are plenty of ways you can donate your time. We are looking for people to teach the children during Sunday School. If you know what weeds look like, you can weed the beds around the church. You can collect the recycled paper from the various rooms around the church and put all of that paper in the blue bin in the Narthex. You can go through the children's activity bags and throw out the broken crayons and toys, and other trash. There is a box under the shelf in the Narthex, in which there are toys, books and other items that can be used to fill the activity bags.

The Crafty Ladies would welcome other people to help make clothes and quilts that are donated to needy children.

Another way you can donate your time is to join the choir or volunteer to serve as an acolyte, crucifer, lay reader, assisting minister, usher, or Altar Guild member. You can also sign up to provide refreshments after the service.

Become more active. Volunteer your time.

NEWS, REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED



Those serving this month AUGUST

Acolyte

7
14 Margaret Peth
21 Molly Craig
29 Zack Lambert

Crucifer

Matthew Kraft
Corley Peth
Niko Anderson
Melissa Smith

Asst. Minister

Teri Kramer
Joe Kraft
Jay Kramer
Raymond Lawton

Reader

Matthew Kraft
Raymond Lawton
Betty Phillips
LeeAnne Purvis

Usher

7 Vic & Phiffie Vankus
14 Jennifer & Dave Peth
21 John & Frankie Butt
29 Terry & Donna Rohn

Altar Guild

Frankie & John Butt
Gaye & Beau Wood
Debbie Phillips & Eileen Carlson
Donna & Terry Rohn

Flower Delivery

7 Donna Rohn
14 Jonas & Julie Strecker
21 Randy & Sue Blank
29 Beppie Lyles

Council Closing for the month August

Bo Phillips & Kelly Lambert

Sponsoring Altar Flowers

7 Bo & Sherry Phillips
14 Jennifer & Dave Peth
21 Eukie Evans
29 Randy & Sue BLank



School Starts Soon

Bibb County- August 9

Houston County- August 19

Mercer University - August 24

Weslyan College- August 24

Reminder

The Girl Scouts meet in our fellowship hall on Tuesday at 6pm.

All girls are welcome to attend.



Young At Hearts

Young at Hearts will meet on Tuesday August 16. Fellowship time is 11:30-12:00. Lunch will be served at 12:00. Let us know if you plan to attend.

If you are scheduled to serve, and cannot serve that Sunday, please let the church office know as soon as possible. It is easier to find a replacement prior to Sunday morning.

Likewise, if you are in charge of a function at church, and you need to cancel that function, contact the church office in person, by phone, or by e-mail.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August

- 1 Teri Kramer
- Julie Strecker
- 3 Jay Ruffin
- 4 Rose Barnette
- 7 Jean Brown
- 8 Ashley Harmon
- Barbara Mercer
- 9 Florence Hallman
- Fay Wilhelm
- 14 Joseph Wood
- 16 Jacob Kraft
- 18 Peggy Esnard
- 19 Brian Meggs
- Wayne Roquemore
- 24 Amie Craig
- 25 Carson Craig
- 26 Raleigh Faircloth
- Culas Hutchinson
- 28 Bill Barulsen

PRAYER REQUESTS



Redeemer Worshipers

Anna Allen, Culas Hutchinson, Bill Loyd

Friends of Redeemer-

Jay Lorenz, grandson of Gene and Johnnie Lorenz, Janet Hamlin, Dr. Bob Parris, Jack Eubanks, Johanna Jernigan and family, Connie Menendez, Charles Karcher

Military: Chandler Kramer, Ben Morris

NOTE: If we have missed your birthday and / or anniversary, or if you are not sure that we have the correct dates, please call

ANNIVERSARIES



August

- 4 Dale & Sherri Moeller
- Beau & Gaye Wood
- 6 Bo & Sherry Phillips
- 10 Lars & Annette Anderson
- 29 Randy & Suzanne Blank
- 30 Mike & Melissa Payne

COUNCIL VISION TEAM

OFFICERS:

President/Jonas Strecker; Vice President/Donna Rocker, Secretary/Anne Roesel; Treasurer/Paul Lyles

MEMBERS & TEAM APPOINTMENTS:

Evangelism/Donna Rocker, Treasurer-Finance/Paul Lyles; Worship and Music/Anne Roesel and Amy Harmon; Property/Bo Phillips and Doug Malloy; Christian Education/Church Office, Social Ministry/Raymond Lawton; Stewardship/Vic Vankus

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
390 Pierce Avenue
Macon, Georgia 31204

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Macon, Georgia
PERMIT 54

CHURCH STAFF

THE REV. JIM BRASWELL, PHD / PASTOR
THOMAS WILLIFORD / ORGANIST
ADAM LOCKAMY / DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
BRIDGET WARD / SEXTON
OFFICE HOURS 9:00 AM—12:00 MON.-THURS.
 * * *

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PASTOR'S CELL / 478-342-0277
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EMAIL / REDEEMER@REDEEMERMACON.ORG
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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 A.M.—EDUCATION HOUR
FOR CHILDREN~TEENS~ADULTS
9:30 A.M.—GRACE PLACE SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 A.M. CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
10:30 A.M.—WORSHIP / HOLY COMMUNION
ONE SERVICE ONLY—NURSERY PROVIDED