



Spirit Filled and Spirit Led

THE VOICE OF REDEEMER

December 2011

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

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

November 15, 2011

Dear Partners in Ministry;

Halloween was two weeks ago and yet Christmas Displays are up in the retail stores. I turn on my favorite oldies' music station and hear Christmas music. Two months of plastic reindeers, fake snow, jolly old elves, bell ringers in front of the grocery stores, and a constant barrage of Christmas songs, ahead of us wherever we go.

Every where we look there are cute little manger scenes with ethnically correct figures for the community in which they are sold. Baby Jesus' ornaments for Christmas trees, doors, and car mirrors. "How the Grinch stole Christmas" on television and its not even Thanksgiving. It's a wonder people are not tired of Christmas by December 25 but that's the miracle of Christmas isn't it?

When we hear the words of prophecies, sing the hymns of incarnation, study the pages of scripture, contemplate the mighty acts of God. We come to realize God is far greater than we could ever imagine, God is more powerful than we have words for, God can do anything God decides, whether we understand it or can even conceive of it. Our concepts are too inferior to God's reality and are limited by our humanity. God goes beyond our limited understandings of reality and moves us into new realms of understanding. It is through our prayers, study, and contemplation that we move from the material to the spiritual and see the reality of being "in the world but not of the world."

As we move through this Christmas season, toward the reception of the one who was prophesied, who came, and who will come again, it is my prayer that the anticipation, hope, and excitement for the future grow in our hearts as we begin to see God's hand in each human life and His work in us.

Luther reminds us that each day we awake anew, a new creation, forgiven, and saved, called to go out and proclaim God's love by acts of good works, acts of love and kindness. You and I have been saved through the birth of a child, the death of a man, and the resurrection of the son. God has done all this for us so that we can in

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WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

- 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 1 December & 10:00 Saturday 3 December

Book Lovers Group 6:30 8 December

Children's Program following the service 11 December

Second Sunday Covered Dish Lunch 12:00 11 December

Decorate the Christmas Tree following lunch 11 December

Young at Hearts 11:30 20 December

Decorate the Sanctuary 10:00 22 December

Christmas Eve Family Service 4:00 24 December

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 11:00pm 24 December

Christmas Day Service 10:30 25 December

Communion Schedule

Table Communion—1st and 3rd, Sunday of the month

Intinction—2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month.

Partners in Ministry *continued*

turn do the same for his creation. Thus as it is written 'with God, all things are possible'.

In this season of miracles God places upon the hearts of his people a desire to feel His presence, to know him better and to come into a right relationship with him. We do that by focusing on the spiritual world without being distracted by the material world. Let the words "Oh come, Oh come Emanuel" be our prayer this season.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Jim Braswell

Jim Braswell, Pastor

FOURTH QUARTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Fourth Quarter Congregational Meeting

14 Nov 2010

Jonas Strecker called the meeting to order. A quorum was declared.

Vic Vankus presented the budget.

Jonas Strecker explained the budget stating that it is a budget to pay current obligations.

There was much discussion that the budget should include money for programs. It was explained that we had tried that for the past several years. It made no difference to giving. Giving continues to fall short of what is budgeted.

Some people expressed interest in being told monthly, how we stand financially.

The budget was approved by a unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted,

Council Secretary

FLOWER CHART FOR 2012

The flower chart for 2012 is in the narthex. Please sign-up early to get the dates you want. The cost of two flower arrangements is \$47.50.

When you sign up, please indicate the people or event you would like to honor or remember.

For more information, contact the church office.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM and SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

Our children will entertain us on Sunday December 11 immediately following the service. Join us that day as we witness our future leaders in action.

December 11 is the second Sunday of the month. So bring you favorite dish to share. And to celebrate the children's performance, bring your favorite Christmas dessert or cookies to share.

BOOK LOVERS GROUP

The Book Lovers Group will meet on Thursday December 8th at 6:30. We will be discussing 'Christmas Cake' by Lynne Hinton. The following is taken from the back cover: "With the holiday season drawing near, the ladies of Hope Springs, North Carolina, are making plans for a cake cook book – a project that will hopefully lift the spirits of a beloved member of their close-knot quartet. But Margaret Peele is downhearted and uninspired now that her cancer has returned. All she wants this Christmas is to visit her mother's Texas hometown . . . and to see their absent friend, pastor Charlotte Stewart, who left Hope Springs to run a battered women's shelter. So impulsive Beatrice Newgarden Witherspoon commandeers a very inappropriate – but comfortable- van to transport Margaret, Louise Fisher, and Jessie Jenkins across the country for a Lone Star State reunion with Charlotte. And over the course of a remarkable journey they will rediscover the greatest Christmas gift of all: eternal friendship."

Our book for January is:

12 January 12

'Sunrise' by Jacquelyn Cook

The Book Lovers Group is open to anyone who enjoys reading books. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Anne Roesel, 474-3555 or 390-3072.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We look forward to the children's program on Sunday December 11th following the service.

Christmas is not far off. If you would like to donate money to help cover the cost of our Christmon tree, our wreaths, and the greenery, please contact Anne Roesel in the church office or by her phone at 390-3072 or 474-3555.

Our services Christmas Eve are as follow:

The service for families will begin at 4pm.

The Candlelight service will begin at 11pm.

There will be a service at 10:30 Christmas morning.

If you have any concerns or questions about our services, contact any member of Worship and Music: Anne Roesel, Beau and Gaye Wood, and Thomas Williford.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We will start practicing for our annual Christmas program in the upcoming weeks, so try to have kids at Sunday School every week. Our Christmas program this year will be Dec. 11th during the worship service.

We are looking for Sunday school teachers for the upcoming quarter. The quarter will start after the first of the year and end at the end of May. Hours of SS are 9:15-10:15. We are using curriculum from Augsburg that is fun & easy to follow. If interested, please contact Amie Craig or Pastor Braswell.

Jasmine Strecker will be dancing in the Nutcracker as a mouse. This is an honor and requires a lot of dedication and hard work on her part. Consider coming to watch one of the performances in December. The dates are December 9th-13th.

We are having a great year so far. Thanks,
Amie, Jeryl, & Jay

Recycling News

Remember that you can bring your recyclable white paper and drop it in the blue bin in the Narthex. White paper can include the envelopes that your mail comes in. Shred any paper that has your personal information on it.

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

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

During the last five weeks we have helped 100 families with food and clothing. That is over 400 people that we have helped. When you look at the food pantry, 50 cans of corn looks like a lot for food. But with the number of people we serve, it doesn't go far.

Thanks to those of you who have made monetary donations, we have been able to go shopping to help augment what is in our pantry. But we still need your contributions.

DECORATING NEWS

We are accepting reservations for poinsettias, that will adorn our sanctuary on December 24 and 25. See the reservation form on page 7.

We will set up and decorate our Christmas tree on Sunday December 11th following the meal.

We will decorate our Sanctuary on Thursday December 22 at 10am.

I hope a lot of people will show up to help on both days. If you have any questions please call me on my cell, 390-3072, or at home, 474-3555.

Thanks in advance,
Anne Roesel

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Redeemer Family,

Over Oktoberfest brats and beer, another congregation member asked me what reasons someone might have to join our congregation. Besides the two tasty reasons in front of me, I had to think about it for a second. Why did my family and I join Redeemer? For one, it's the only "European" Lutheran church in town, so in a way, it was the default church to join since we baptized our children in a Lutheran church in Germany. However, we would not have joined if it hadn't been for other reasons, so let me name a few:

- Redeemer is a small congregation. I would not want to be part of a congregation that is so big that I wouldn't recognize a member when I ran into him or her at the grocery store.
- Our church (the congregation as well as the building itself) feels comfortable or "cozy" (to borrow my conversation partner's term).
- Despite our small size, we are a pretty active congregation. Jazz Class, Young at Hearts, Crafty Ladies, Grace Place, VBS, Choir, and Book Lovers among others are groups/activities that everyone can join and have fun which while serving the church and the community.
- We are a congregation that allows every member to speak his or her mind. Sunday school classes are extremely communicative, and everybody feels comfortable expressing opinions and showing emotions. Even when the discussion turns somewhat political, die-hard conservatives and bleeding liberals sit side-by-side without ever taking somebody else's opinion personally.
- We are an inclusive congregation. We are black and white, old and young, gay and straight, and we come from all over the country and even the world. While other churches try to exclude certain people, we welcome them. I'm very proud of that.
- Talent. We have one of the best (maybe even *the* best) organists in town. Our choir is small but brilliant. Our pastor speaks from the heart (always without notes) and cares.

I could go on, but now I would like to ask you for your input. Why did you join Redeemer? What makes you happy about being part of our congregation? What would you tell someone else about Redeemer? Look for an insert in an upcoming bulletin to share your thoughts.

Peace,

Jonas Strecker, President

Comments and Chuckles

A farmer was in town at noon and went into a restaurant for a hamburger and french fries. When he was served, he quietly bowed his head and gave the Lord thanks for his food.

Some rough-looking fellows at the next table saw him and thought they would give him a hard time. One of them called out, "Hey, farmer, does everyone do that where you live?"

"No, son," answered the farmer, "the pigs and donkeys don't"

An ocean liner was sinking and the captain yelled, "Does anybody know how to pray?"

A minister on board said, "I do."

"Good," said the captain. "You start praying. The rest of us will put on the life vests. We are one vest short."

Preacher: Please take it easy on the bill for repairing my car. Remember I am a poor preacher.

Mechanic: I know; I heard you Sunday!

There is one thing Democrats and Republicans have in common—our money. - *Woody Allen*

A pessimist complains about the noise made when opportunity knocks.



Poinsettias 2011

Cost: \$10.00 per plant

Deadline: Sunday, December 18

The Decorating Team is asking for your assistance in helping to adorn the chancel and nave with poinsettias on Christmas Eve. If you would like to place a plant at the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend, please complete the information below and attach your check made payable to Redeemer. Please place both items on the offering plate or send to the church office.

Number of Plants _____ at \$10.00 each

Total \$ _____

Provided By: _____

NAME OR NAMES AS YOU WANT LISTED IN THE BULLETIN

Plant 1 _____ In honor of _____ In memory of

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Plant 2 _____ In honor of _____ In memory of

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Plant 3 _____ In honor of _____ In memory of

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

I _____ will / _____ will not be taking my plant(s) following the service. If possible, please leave your plant(s) until after the service on Christmas Day.

NEWS, REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Those serving this month DECEMBER

Acolyte

4 Molly Craig
11 Zack Lambert
18 Matthew Kraft
24 4pm Molly Craig
24 11pm Margaret Peth

Crucifer

Matthew Kraft

Niko Anderson
Melissa Smith
Corley Peth
Jacob Kraft BB
Matthew Kraft TB
Niko Anderson TB
Jacob Kraft

Asst. Minister

Jay Kramer
Raymond Lawton
Amy Harmon
Teri Kramer
Joe Kraft

Reader

Jacob Kraft
Joe Kraft
Matthew Kraft

Betty Phillips

25 Zack Lambert

Jay Kramer

LeeAnne Purvis

Usher

4 Vic & Phiffie Vankus
11 Randy & Sue Blank
18 Dan & Desiree Erthal
24 4pm Terry & Donna Rohn
24 11pm Dave & Jennifer Peth
25 Stan Purvis & Bill Lober

Altar Guild

Beau & Gaye Wood
Debbie Phillips & Eileen Carlson
Donna & Terry Rohn
Joanne Hutchinson & Beth Perry
Joanne Hutchinson & Beth Perry
Teri Kramer & Beverly Mercado

Flower Delivery

4 Beppie Lyles
11 George Saunders
18 Desiree Erthal
25 Poinsettia pick-up

Council Closing for the month December

Bo Phillips & Kelly Lambert



Sponsoring Altar Flowers

4 The Peths
11 Betty Phillips
18 The Harmons
25 Poinsettias

Reminder

The children's program will be December 11th following the service.

This day is also the second Sunday. Bring a covered dish and join us for lunch.

Stay around and help decorate the Christmon Tree.

Reminder

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

All girls are welcome to



Young At Hearts

Young at Hearts will meet at the church on Tuesday December 20. We will travel to lunch at the Greek Island on Riverside Parkway. Don't forget your wrapped ornament to exchange and socks for the Rescue Mission. 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!

	December		
2	Jackson Bohling	22	Dan Erthal
	Beppie Lyle	23	Evelyn McBride
	Margaret Peth	24	Evelyn Ruffin
6	Christina Lewis		Liz Bohling
	Christopher Lewis	25	Mike Payne
8	Vincent Skilling	27	Matthew Beitz
9	Lee Anne Purvis	29	Andy Kaczmarek
10	Kyle Butler	31	Franz Eitel
11	Garrett Strong		Mary Meadows
12	Charles Merroth		
13	Lib Menger		
14	Tyler Ward		
15	Daniel Hursey		
16	Jalaine Ward		
20	Judy Schultz		

PRAYER REQUESTS



Redeemer Worshipers

Anna Allen, Culas Hutchinson, Bill Loyd, Tammy Semmler, Stephen Lober

Friends of Redeemer-

Carlton Crews, Ben Mitchum, Annie Phillips, Haley Adams, Lois Carlson, Steve Toland

Military: Chandler Kramer, Ben Morris

NOTE: All prayer request will be recited for two weeks in church and will appear for one month in the newsletter.

ANNIVERSARIES



December

13	Chris & Shannon Strong
15	Chris & Amy Harmon
29	Lake & Kelly Lambert

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

COUNCIL VISION TEAM

OFFICERS:

President/Jonas Strecker; Vice President/to be filled, Secretary/ Anne Roesel; Treasurer/Paul Lyles

MEMBERS & TEAM APPOINTMENTS:

Evangelism/vacant; Treasurer-Finance/Paul Lyles; Worship and Music/Anne Roesel and Amy Harmon; Property/Bo Phillips; Christian Education/Church Office, Social Ministry/vacant; Stewardship/Vic Vankus and Kelly Lambert

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

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CHURCH STAFF

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

TELEPHONE / 478-742-4281

FAX / 478-742-4408

PASTOR'S HOME / 478-757-9975

PASTOR'S CELL / 478-342-0277

WWW.REDEEMERMACON.ORG

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

11:30 A.M.—GATHERING TIME