

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

*Annual Report 2019*

GROWING  
**FAITHFULLY**



SERVING  
**BOLDLY**

*Annual Meeting October 11, 2020*

731 Peachtree St NE | Atlanta, GA  
[www.redeemer.org](http://www.redeemer.org)

# Letter from our Senior Pastor



Mark H. Larson  
Senior Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

*Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them  
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell,  
the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house,  
but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.  
Matthew 7*

In writing this report about 2019 so deep into 2020, I struggled with what to say until I read the first paragraph of the Faith Formation Team's report in this book. With slight editing, I totally agree that "given the events of 2020, looking back at 2019 almost feels like opening a time capsule to a distant past, but in fact so much of what happened in 2019 helped Redeemer... be prepared for the enormous changes that 2020 brought." Who could have predicted how well the foundation that we were building would be able to withstand the stormy times we have lived through.

In 2019 we were putting the finishing touches on our Strategic Plan and had just begun to roll out our new tagline: "Growing Faithfully, Serving Boldly." That clarity of vision has been essential to our success in fulfilling our mission to let the world see Jesus through the words and deeds of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. It is truly inspiring to realize how far we have already progressed in all of our strategic areas of focus despite the challenges this year has presented.

In 2019 we were getting ready to launch our new website. That work has proven essential as we have pivoted to a virtual world of worship, bible study, and faith formation.

Adding to that was preparation for the launch of our new church Information System, REALM, which enabled us in 2020 to quickly organize the congregation's membership into our Vineyard Groups as well as remain in close contact with our elder members.

In the middle of 2019 we celebrated the two millionth meal served by our Lutheran Community Food Ministry. With that celebration of our past service came an invigorated vision for the future which included an expansion of services to Lutheran Towers, our local universities, as well as new partnerships with food and social service providers. The passion our entire congregation has for this ministry carried us through the early days of the pandemic when everything around us was shuttered but Redeemer didn't close for a single day.

Finally, our Lenten book study during 2019 was of Diana Butler Bass' *Grateful*. Through our conversations and Ms. Bass' presentation, we learned the skills of noticing the blessings all around us and thanking God for the tailwinds that can carry us through the difficult times. I know that in these stressful times, I need to now, more than ever, look at myself and others with "softer eyes," with patience, forgiveness, and a deeper appreciation for the unique gift that each person truly is. I hope as you read through these reports, you feel that same gratitude. I hope you are grateful for the hard work of our staff, leaders and volunteers in keeping the foundation of Redeemer strong. And I hope you are grateful to our God remembers promises and will bring us to healthy place and a community in which each one of us is beloved.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mark H. Loney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'M' and 'L'.



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# CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

The Children and Family Ministry Team accompanies children and their families in their journey of faith. Through the support of this ministry, they build relationships with God, each other, their church family, our community and the world through worship, study, fellowship and service.



Children learn through active experience and we seek to immerse them through words and actions that grow their faith.

**We learned together** through the weekly Sunday School program; ROAR! Life is Wild. God is Good Vacation Bible School; and Faith Stepping Stones, which marks milestones in a child's journey into a deeper connection with their faith.

**We laughed together** with the joyful and playful Redeemer Dad Band getting everyone moving on Sing & Play Sundays.

**We played together** celebrating the joy of life with events like Monster Mash, the Christmas Pageant, the Family Easter Vigil, and a family retreat.

**We worshipped together** during Redeemer Week at Lutheridge, a family retreat and in every interaction where we came together.



During the Epiphany Sing & Play, children were asked to create a gift they would bring Jesus. Our 5th graders made a diamond out of toothpicks and mini-marshmallows, explaining with this Diamond, Jesus could create cell phones and tell his message to all people in the modern world. The work of this team, and the lives it touches, is clearly seen when children see the connection to how Jesus and His Word are needed today.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

We are called to help deepen our relationships with God, one another and the community. Redeemer has and always will pride itself on being a welcoming congregation, committed to serving our community. This year, we celebrated a huge expansion in how we do this. We opened our doors to welcome people in, and we stepped outside to ask them to welcome us. And they did.



## WORSHIPPING IN COMMUNITY WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

Going beyond opening our doors to step outside and meet people where they are. The **Live Nativity** immersed people in the gift of Jesus's birth. And the **Peachtree Street Prayer Wall** showed us how welcome our message of inviting people into prayer is.

"Fulfill my life with purpose."

"Love us all."

"Pray for us."

We assure you we are. Within and outside Redeemer, as God makes us aware and we are able, we do in His name.



**Christmas giving trees** have become a tradition, welcoming us to share our blessings with others and open our hearts personally to spirit of the holiday.

With **Grace House at Georgia Tech**, we fed and nourished students and gave them a sense of home while being away at college.

**The Summit for Veterans' Suicide Prevention** tackled tough issues to protect the lives of people who dedicated their lives to protecting our freedom.

**The Redeemer Quilters** gathered on Monday mornings to sew together, and in 2019, created, packaged and sent 298 mission quilts for distribution by Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR provides quilts to families in areas hit by natural disasters or war. Quilts are used for bedding, simple tents or floor covers to bring warmth and comfort to our neighbors around the world.



"Help us to love one another as You have loved us." This appeal on Redeemer's Prayer Wall exemplifies the work of the Community Engagement Team.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

With the guidance of Pastor Mary Peters, who retired in November, and interim Pastor Ruth Hamilton, the Congregational Care Ministry Team shared God's love with the Redeemer community throughout 2019.

**Support in times of grief** is one of the most compelling ministries of this team, helping people find a glimmer of light in a time of most severe darkness. We provided grief booklets to console those who have lost a loved one. One recipient wrote:

"This little book you sent has provided me with information pertaining to the beginning of my journeying through grief. All 12 chapters have meaning and have provided me with facts and input, many I did not know, that provide comfort at this stage I am experiencing and my sympathy and words to use while comforting others in need."

**Strengthening relationships through the Stephens Ministry**, a ministry of trained lay persons, provided compassionate Christ-centered care to people in the congregation experiencing life difficulties. Looking back on 2019, one Stephen Minister reflected:

"I began seeing my care receiver shortly after the death of a family member by suicide. My care receiver felt overwhelmed, with few resources to cope. Over time, our conversations have opened up a new space in her to experience not only her loss, but also the memories of her loved one that brought her the most joy. She found the courage to share her journey, and I was honored to accompany her."





# FAITH FORMATION



Fostering coordination and communication amongst the various teams that make up 'Faith Formation' at Redeemer

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY & YOUTH

Our Lenten Book Study saw us reading *Grateful* by Diana Butler Bass, a book which helped us think about what we are thankful for in our lives and helped us to better notice the blessings that God is bestowing upon us each day. Through our small groups and in worship, we practiced the art of giving thanks, and that is something that continues to be of great importance to our entire congregation. We were also blessed to have the author visit Redeemer, preach and lead us through a workshop on gratitude.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Faith Formation Team hosted the Fall Kick-Off. Through this annual event, the team works across all ministry teams to provide a stage to highlight their work and bring the congregation in more closely to the work that is happening across Redeemer. Through this, we hope to see more people actively engage in the vital ministries which are all united in deepening our faith.

## SMALL GROUPS



# WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP US ALL BE BETTER DISCIPLES AT ALL AGES OF OUR LIVES.



After Lent, our theme was  
'The Promise of Peace'  
centered around Christ's promise,  
'Peace I leave to you;  
my peace I give to you.'

And as a congregation we talked about how  
we receive peace through prayer, healing,  
compassion and justice: a theme which has  
served us well in 2020 when we so often  
are looking for peace in the midst of  
apparent chaos. We can draw upon our  
experiences to remember God promises us  
peace in the midst of turmoil and  
uncertainty, a peace which is abundant,  
life-giving and hope-filled.



# FRIENDS OF MUSIC

**SING TO HIM**

**SING PRAISES TO  
HIM**

**TELL OF ALL HIS  
WONDERFUL  
WORKS"**

**PSALM 105:2**

Through lyrics and harmonies, music surrounds us in a language that speaks to our head, heart and soul. Through it, we not only hear the word of God but are enveloped by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Friends of Music is committed to creating experiences that bring our community together to celebrate and grow our faith through music and hospitality.

This year, the team hosted the Redeemer Concert Series: six concerts, each highlighting musical gifts of choral, organ, and instrumental talent. This year was especially special as the team hosted the world-renowned National Lutheran Choir at Redeemer.

These concerts offer Redeemer opportunities to connect with each other and welcome the community to join and hear God's wonderful gift of music.



# REDEEMER LIBRARY



My name is Dewey and I live in the Redeemer Library. I'm that big, lovable dog who sits in the children's section. I see everything that goes on here.

During 2019, I watched the library team make our space more appealing by getting new chairs, tables and comfy cushions. As a result, the library became a frequent meeting space for adult Sunday School and Wednesday night classes and for small groups and book clubs. I learned a lot by eavesdropping on their crucial conversations. Library book displays change often and center on church-wide themes, such as peace and prayer. Our library is rich with materials on these subjects, so we were able to supplement congregants' reading. There was a big deal in October when books and posters showcased the life and work of Martin Luther. We were able to help readers further their education during Reformation month.

A new group was formed this year called Friends of the Library. I watched volunteers "shelf read" to ensure books are where they should be.

## REACHING BEYOND OUR WALLS.

**DURING 2019, OUR TEAM COLLECTED 200 BOOKS TO DONATE TO AN ORGANIZATION THAT DISTRIBUTES CHRISTIAN BOOKS TO PRISONERS. THEIR MISSION ALIGNS WITH OUR VALUES:**

**"ADVANCING CHRIST'S LIGHT IN PRISONS."**

They also helped assess our collection and made recommendations where we have gaps. One gap was mental health and suicide prevention resources. The library team reached out to a mental health professional for suggestions for books with a Christian perspective on this vital topic. Those items were then purchased for our collection. Two other Friends donated "like new" Christian books and DVDs to our collection.

And what happens to these items? I watch the library team gather around the table and computer for many hours of cataloging, stamping, affixing labels, and inserting cards into new books so that more than 100 new items were made ready for check-out during 2019. Redeemer's Library is a busy place, and I think I'll go take a nap now.

**Sincerely, Dewey, the Library Dog**



# LUTHERAN COMMUNITY FOOD MINISTRY



The Lutheran Community Food Ministry makes a difference in the lives of people in Atlanta, especially people facing food insecurity or unstable housing options. This year, we celebrated a major milestone when we shared our two millionth meal. In October 2019, we marked this occasion with Calvin, our neighbor from Lutheran Towers for whom LCFM has become family. He joins us nearly every day. For volunteers across many years, Calvin has been a friend, bringing cheer, hugs and his huge heart.

In 2019, we also had the chance to reconnect with Anthony. We first met Anthony when he was in his twenties and had the opportunity to share meals and ministry with him. Anthony still stops by, as his connection to this ministry and our volunteers is still important to him. He recently earned his CDL license and his working in trucking. We are so proud of the relationship we have built and what we have meant to each other.



Through LCFM, we will continue to invite members of our hometown community to join us, for a meal, for counseling, for support, for a prayer. Through the good moments and the tough times, we are building a place where the love of God meets people when they need it.



# MIDTOWN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



In 2019, the Midtown Lutheran Preschool wrapped up its sixth academic year and began its seventh. With three classrooms at almost full capacity, a first since we opened in 2013, it was exciting to experience consistency in enrollment of families. It was evident we had developed a solid foundation with which to keep moving the school forward!



Welcoming children and families into our building each day, the vast majority who are not members of Redeemer, is a phenomenal way for the preschool, and through it Redeemer, to share the love of Jesus. Some families may never step foot in a church otherwise, yet now they know a place with caring people and resources to support their child's development and growth.

The Spirit is clearly moving in the hearts of these children. We see it when "Twinkle, Twinkle" is played during an organ demonstration and the children break into our Chapel blessing song. We see it when two year olds wait patiently with "prayer hands" at the snack table. We see it when a family is supported and guided during the process of developmental assessment. And we feel it deeply when we hear of children begging to come to school and talking about how much they love the teachers. These stories affirm MTLPS is fulfilling the work of outreach to our neighbors in an impactful way.

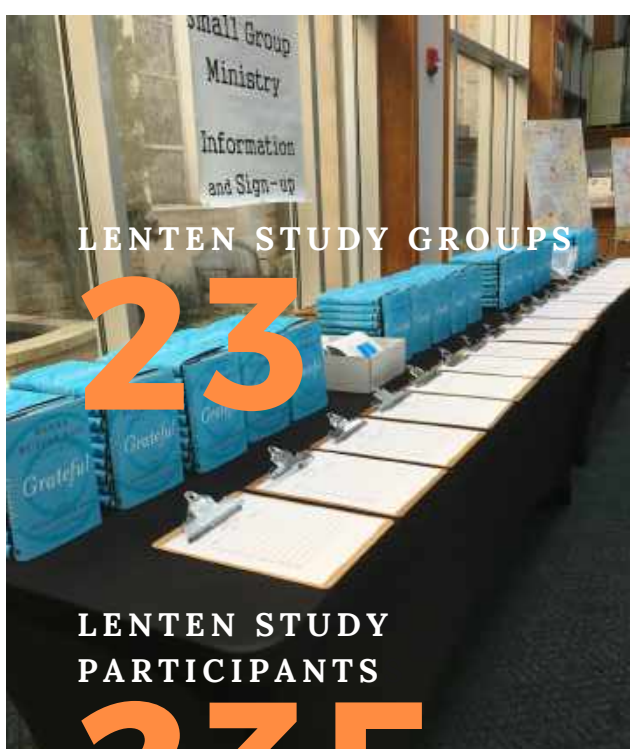


"One of my favorite moments this year came from a story one of our mothers shared with me. She was chuckling about her two-year-old son playing pretend at home. He would gather up some books in a bag and walk around saying "I'm Pastor Mark!" and start singing the silly song he hears Pastor Mark lead in Chapel. Our children are watching us and at MTLPS we embrace the opportunity to be of influence in many facets of their lives during early childhood. Being in the midst of caring adults who express a nurturing love that reflects Christ's acceptance for their families is powerful for children. We won't see all the seeds we sow grow into maturity, but catching glimpses of germination can give us confidence we are doing God's work here. "

by Kate Elkins, MLPS Director

# SMALL GROUPS AT REDEEMER

**Fostering  
Faith Formation,  
Evangelism,  
Outreach, Member  
Care, and Fellowship**



Small groups are perhaps the most dynamic ministry at Redeemer. The Small Group Ministry Team works to support these groups through churchwide offerings and individual support. Each year, one of the biggest highlights is the Small Group Lenten Study. This has been a remarkable way to bring the congregation together in deep relationships in their small groups, while broadly connected across the congregation with the same content. This year, our Lenten study text was *Grateful*, by Diana Butler Bass. In addition to the book studies in the small groups, we came together when we hosted Dr. Bass as a guest speaker.

Our ministry supports a variety of small groups – some meet only at Lent and some meet throughout the year. This year, we had one Bible study group that was founded in the Lenten Small Group ministry mark its tenth year together. A young adult group met at various pubs around Atlanta. Some groups are task focused, some are Bible study focused and others are for fellowship. These small groups form with a specific purpose, like study or service, but they grow to be so much more.

Darla Taylor shared a little about her Small Group experience this year: "Because of the friendships we have formed, we have been there for each other through the grieving process. Illness, broken bones and operations have all been met with strong support through preparation of meals, transportation, phone calls, prayers and other support. Growth in faith through a variety of study material has been a feature of our group. Exploration of other faiths (Christian and others) has been a common theme. We have also visited one of the Hindu temples in Atlanta for a tour and service. During discussions members do not always agree with one another, but with the connections that have been formed it is safe to have differences, express them respectfully and remain friends – a clear strength of our group." Each group has its own unique story to tell.





# WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

**As C.S. Lewis teaches us, “Only in the act of praise and worship can a person learn to believe in the goodness and greatness of God.”**

The Worship Ministry Team works to bring us all together in worship, in praise, and in time together as a community of faithful believers. In 2019, the team dedicated efforts to our worship services. A task force was created to bring more voices into the support of the 9:45 service, engaging people into shaping and leading this service that means so much to so many. Redeemer also welcomed our second organ scholar. As we all know, God’s gift of music shared through talented individuals is integral to our worship, moving people into the quiet of prayer, the joy of celebration, the calling of taking God’s light into the world.

## CELEBRATION IN WORSHIP

In a December Baptism Festival, we welcomed eight people from seven families into Christ’s family. One day at Redeemer, eight individuals accepted Christ, God claimed them as beloved children, and our congregation welcomed them and pledged to support them in their faith. One day in which the goodness and greatness of God was so clearly evident.

## ENHANCED WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

The team also worked to standardize festival Sunday processions, including the recruitment and training of acolytes, torchbearers, Bible bearers and banner bearers. We were also blessed with a new banner: a beautiful blue baptismal banner which has symbols on both sides to reflect the waters of baptism and the Holy Trinity. Through the generosity of memorial gifts, this was done by the Altar Guild and dedicated to the memory of Redeemer member Jackie English.

This year afforded many opportunities to celebrate the splendor of God’s grace shared with us in worship through the Gospel, music, sacraments and community. Redeemer is where we come to worship. Where we come to praise. And through this, we live with the strength of knowing the goodness and greatness of God.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH MUSIC



In 2019, we were blessed to welcome two organ scholars to Redeemer. This exciting program is possible because of generous donors who gave above and beyond, inspired by the initial bequest of the late Dr. Charles Schisler. Andy Jacob, Redeemer's first Organ Scholar, was with us through July, and Martha Barth came at the beginning of August. An Organ Scholar is a church music intern, working under the supervision of Sarah Hawbecker, our Organist and Director of Children's Music, gaining experience in all of the diversity of music ministry that Redeemer offers. Andy and Martha each arrived with different strengths and gaps in their experience. They both left having grown and with confidence that church music is their career path.



Our worship was definitely enhanced through their approach to hymn playing. It is beneficial for us to hear the Word expressed through different interpretations of the hymns and liturgy. Andy was very involved in the Wednesday Lenten services, as well as the Easter Vigil (confetti cannons!). His special project was a Hymn Festival presentation. He said he learned a lot by being involved in the Music and Arts Camp, especially teaching handbells to children. Martha's beautiful piano accompanying skills were put to good use in the fall, in particular in the production of the Harvest Home Concert. Martha says that some of her favorite memories of Redeemer will be the service of installation for our bishop, and the Advent Lessons and Carols service with the children and youth music ensembles. Just as we were blessed with these two young people, they were blessed by the people of Redeemer, who have now sent them out to continue their calling to lead the church's song.



# STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

**Stewardship embodies the love of Jesus we share with others. We know that everything we have comes from God and it is our responsibility to share those gifts with the Church and others.**

The Stewardship Ministry Team had a busy year in 2019. We adopted a year-round approach to outreach and engagement. This included hosting a seminar aimed at helping adult children address issues surrounding aging parents. We also offered an informational workshop to educate families on the importance of financial planning and giving.

The Stewardship Team developed the 2020 Giving Plan with supporting brochures and inspirational materials. We reflected upon the passage from John 14:27: "Peace, I leave with you. My Peace I give to you give to you. I do not give as the world gives" as our inspiration. In September, we hosted a Leadership Dinner where 125 members joined for a night dedicated to faithful giving with Dr. Mark Ellington.

The team provided several Mission Moments in worship services leading up to Commitment Sunday on October 20, 2019 when our new Southeastern Synod Bishop, Rev. Kevin Strickland (and Redeemer member) provided the sermon.

The Stewardship Team continues to ensure "stewardship has a year-round focus at Redeemer."



# PROPERTY TEAM

Home. While the congregation is the church – the people who show the world the loving grace of God – the church facility is our home. It is where we come to replenish, to connect, to be fed, to be in community, to worship, to feel God's active love of each of us. It is where the spiritual becomes physical – the sights, sounds, and touches that give us tangible connections to the faith we share.

The Property Ministry Team is entrusted to care for the church we call home. The team works to identify the operating needs to quite literally keep the lights on. This year, there have been significant investments made to repairs including determining the source of long-standing water leaks, completing repairs to the electrical system, and upgrading the telephone and internet capabilities. The team has also been able to make improvements to the property such as constructing a storage room for the preschool, adding terracing and landscaping to the playground, updating lighting, and installing garden benches and patio stones on our campus.

The challenge of our team's work is if we do it well, our members and visitors do not ever have to think about it. Everything works. Everything is maintained beautifully. And while that is a goal, we cannot take it for granted. It will not always just work. It will not always just be effortlessly beautiful. In 2019, the Property Ministry Team researched, accepted bids, and provided project oversight for expenditures of nearly \$164,000. The projected work for 2020 totals \$250,000. And it expected we will need similar support in 2021 to have the facilities in a good place to serve us in the near future.

We have been blessed by the gift of the Bartholomai Fund, which has supported most of these improvements. But these funds will not last forever; the needs identified for the next two years will exhaust it. It is our hope and prayer people who love this church will see the need and support the work, creating more opportunities like the Bartholomai Fund for the investments in the property. We love Redeemer. We rely on this church. We need this church home, and we cannot forget it needs us, too.

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

Each year we invite our senior high youth to share their experiences with our congregation. Below is one example that shows the servant hearts and connections our youth develop in Youth Ministry at Redeemer.

### I WAS BLESSED

“I was blessed to be able to participate in Redeemer's mission trip to Arecibo, Puerto Rico this past summer. On our last day of the program, we split into groups based on our home churches after the night's worship service to talk about how we'd grown. Our group was largely rising juniors and seniors and we used that time to share both how we'd grown throughout the week and how much we appreciated each other: we've become a tight-knit crew over the last three years or so. From our mission trip to Chicago my freshman year to the Houston Youth Gathering, we've become a unique and very close friend group despite being all from different schools and backgrounds. I grew up with these people, and as we sat there in Puerto Rico, we talked about how we had grown in faith both over the trip, as well as throughout our years in high school, it touched my heart to see that the relationships I'd developed with Redeemer's youth meant just as much to them as they did to me.” –Claire Puckhaber

This response fulfills our mission to empower young people to name the faith they profess, claim their power to make a difference, act in service towards others and celebrate the gifts God has given them.





## YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Ministry Team purpose is to bring together individuals in their twenties and thirties, (and even some forties) to build a supportive community that equips people through faith formation, service and relationships to reflect the love of Christ. We encourage young adults to participate in other ministry teams and leadership opportunities in the congregation and community.

The Young Adults enjoyed 2019. We served with Habitat and stained the deck at Grace House. We gathered for the Lenten book studies, Pride Parade, and Braves tailgating. We balance work and play, fellowship and service, and grow in faith together. There are about 50 young adults in on the active email list and each event averaged about 12 people, so you can come and see friends and meet new people each time. The group loves to gather for great food including for the Superbowl party, the May BBQ and the Christmas Party. After staining the deck at Grace House, we grilled burgers for Georgia Tech students. The Lenten Study met in a different brewery each week. Young adults also serve on many of Redeemer's other ministry teams, bringing their energy and talent to other ministries, including Community Engagement, Faith Formation and worship.





## TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

The Trustee Committee for Memorial Funds and Designated Gifts directs mission and is responsible for making the investment decisions of all funds entrusted to the Committee. We work with professional money managers who invest the funds under the risk and diversification guidelines set by our committee. We balance risk and return to provide earnings for Redeemer to use in support of its mission.

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2018, the committee worked with the financial advisors to make changes in our portfolio. With these and the bull market in 2019, we experienced strong returns and were recorded growth in both the equity and fixed income markets.

The assets under management by the Trustees are as follows (at the end of 2019):

Main account \$3,364,349

Liquidity account \$451,818

Operating Reserve account \$150,133

Returns for our actively managed funds totaled \$606,208, which is an increase of 18.2%. Although our return was not as great as most broad market indices, this is consistent with our overall investment guidance to balance a somewhat conservative approach with our moderate portfolio. While we tend not to participate fully in the market upside, we are buffered from the full effect of a market downturn.

## 2020 PLAN

- Monitor our active manager for compliance with our investment guidelines and their returns.
- Monitor our liquidity portfolio to balance the liquidity needs of the church with maximizing the returns.
- Identify and recruit 1 or 2 new members to the committee with investment knowledge or expertise.
- Execute a smooth transfer of Treasurer responsibilities from the current treasurer (Dewey Ingham) to the new treasurer (Mary Howle).

# Financials

Lutheran Church Of The Redeemer				
UNAUDITED Statement of Activities - Operating Fund				
December 2019				
		2019	2019	
		YTD Spend Plan	YTD Actual	
Unrestricted Revenues				
	Contributions	\$ 1,950,477	\$ 1,994,887	
	Interest Income	\$ 2,700	\$ 3,368	
	Preschool Income	\$ 136,900	\$ 149,164	
	Mission House Rental Income	\$ -	\$ 3,000	
	Other Income	\$ 134,600	\$ 58,025	
Total unrestricted revenues and other income		\$ 2,224,677	\$ 2,208,444	
Net Assets Released from Restrictions*		\$ 81,871	\$ 118,114	
Total unrestricted revenues		\$ 2,306,548	\$ 2,326,558	
Expenses				
	Community Engagement	\$ 292,146	\$ 298,756	
	Hospitality	\$ 38,000	\$ 43,989	
	Media Ministry	\$ 34,750	\$ 32,990	
	Worship	\$ 24,600	\$ 23,405	
	Music Ministry	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,913	
	Faith Formation	\$ 52,975	\$ 55,841	
	Preschool Ministry	\$ 135,071	\$ 144,194	
	Administrative Expenses	\$ 1,441,942	\$ 1,460,601	
	Property	\$ 277,820	\$ 252,514	
	Replacement Reserves	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
	Debt Service	\$ 15,000	\$ 9,559	
Total Expenses		\$ 2,341,304	\$ 2,351,762	
Increase (Decrease) in unrestricted net assets		\$ (34,756)	\$ (25,204)	

**The 2019 Property Expenses below were funded by the the Bartholomai Fund.** These funds were NOT included in the 2019 Property expense above.

	Bartholomai Funds	
Audio/Video	\$ 900	
Masonry	\$ 43,260	
HVAC	\$ 9,892	
Playground	\$ 6,140	
Doors	\$ 3,350	
Electrical	\$ 15,432	
Preschool storage	\$ 986	
	\$ 79,960	
2012 Operating Carryforward	\$ 178,535	
2013 Operating Carryforward	\$ 69,789	
2014 Operating Carryforward	\$ 53,179	
Use of Funds for 2014 HVAC replacement	\$ (114,695)	
2015 Operating Loss	\$ (173,098)	
2016 Operating Carryforward	\$ 3,741	
2017 Operating Carryforward	\$ 127,459	
2018 Operating Loss	\$ (89,600)	
2019 Operating Loss	\$ (25,204)	
<b>Net Unrestricted Operating Carryforward to 2020</b>	<b>\$ 30,106</b>	

# Congregational Reports



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## CONGREGATIONAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

FORM **A**

1. Baptized membership at end of 2018	2113
2. Baptized members received during 2019	
a. By baptism: children (15 yrs. and younger)	17
b. By baptism: adults (16 yrs. and older)	0
c. By affirmation of faith	3
d. By transfer	11
e. From other sources and statistical adjustment	0
f. Total members received this year	+ 31
3. Baptized members removed during 2019	
a. By death	11
b. By transfer	29
c. For other reasons and statistical adjustment	40
d. Total members removed this year	- 80
4. Baptized membership, end of 2019	= 2064
5. Total confirmed membership, end of 2019	1649
6. Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in 2019	22
7. Average weekly worship attendance in 2019	442
8. Total number of people (including children) actively participating in the life of the congregation in 2019	2064

### 9. Race/ethnic origin of ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS.

Must equal active participants on line 8:

African American/Black	African National/African-Caribbean	American Indian/Alaska Native	Arab/Middle Eastern	Asian/Pacific Islander	Latino/Hispanic	Multi-racial	White	TOTAL
20	0	0	0	2	3	4	2,035	2,064

### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CONGREGATION'S FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

(Please round all figures to nearest dollar. Omit cents.)

#### 10. Receipts during 2019

a. Regular giving	\$ 2,014,112
b. Designated giving	\$ 123,604
c. Earned income (any source)	\$ 193,627
d. Grants (any source)	\$ 5,019
e. All other receipts	\$ 52,500
f. TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 2,388,862

11. Total indebtedness as of Dec. 31, 2019 \$ 0

12. Budgeted/projected 2020 Mission Support \$ 121,271

#### 13. Disbursements during 2019

a. Current operating expenses	\$ 2,012,742
b. Capital improvements	\$ 79,960
c. Payments on debts	\$ 0
d. Mission Support (regular synod benevolence)	\$ 119,320

e. Other benevolence sent directly to the synod (for any synod OR churchwide appeal including ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Missionary Sponsorship, etc.) \$ 40,374

f. Other benevolence sent directly to the churchwide office (for any churchwide appeal including ELCA World Hunger, Disaster Response, Missionary Sponsorship, etc.) \$ 566

#### g. Benevolence sent directly to any of the following

1. An activity in another country including a missionary, a congregation, a companion synod, a hunger program, disaster response, etc.	\$ 8,500
2. Camps	\$ 0
3. Campus ministry	\$ 0
4. Colleges	\$ 0
5. Seminaries	\$ 0
6. Social service group, agency or institution	\$ 57,562

h. All other benevolence sent directly to the recipient \$ 78,949

i. Other expenses and realized losses \$ 148,163

j. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 2,546,136

14. Location address describes where the church or place of worship is physically located. This may differ from the mailing address, but must identify a street name. Corrections should be made below:

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
731 Peachtree St NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30308-1203

Verify the following congregation information; correct as necessary:

15. Phone: (404) 874-8664

16. Fax: (404) 874-8228

17. Email:

18. Website: Corrections can be made online  
([ELCA.org/tools/updateCongregation](http://ELCA.org/tools/updateCongregation))

<http://www.redeemer.org>

### 19. Please tell us how each phrase describes this congregation:

	Hardly at all	Some-what	Very well
a. Worship nurtures people's faith.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
b. There is a clear sense of mission here.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
c. There is excitement about the future here.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
d. This congregation is a positive force in the community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
e. This congregation is always ready to try something new.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
f. This congregation works for social justice/advocacy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
g. This congregation helps people deepen their relationship with God.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

### 20. Please tell us how this congregation is at the following:

	Poor	Moderately good	Great
a. Building strong, healthy relationships among members.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
b. Incorporating newcomers into the congregation's life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
c. Seeking out and using the gifts of members of all ages.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
d. Equipping members to share their faith with others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
e. Addressing social concerns (helping those in need).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
f. Managing disagreements in a healthy, respectful manner.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
g. Interacting with the local community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
h. Helping members live out their faith in their daily lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>





**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CONGREGATION'S PROGRAM  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2019**

**FORM C**

30. Educational ministry provided by this congregation:

Did this congregation have Christian education

(Sunday school, Bible studies, confirmation) in 2019? ☒ Yes ☐ No How many students? 178

Did this congregation have vacation Bible school in 2019? ☒ Yes ☐ No How many students? 112

31. Languages in which this congregation regularly conducts liturgies (make 1 the most used language, 2 the next most used language, etc.).

Do not include languages used for special services or by others using the building.

1) English 3) \_\_\_\_\_

2) German 4) \_\_\_\_\_

32. What assistance does this congregation provide to people with disabilities? (*check all that apply*)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair access throughout the building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign language interpreters                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Braille worship materials                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health ministries                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large print worship materials                | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry with people with developmental disabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assistive devices for the hard of hearing    | <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above                                    |

33. Is this congregation engaged in ministry with migrants in the community? ☒ Yes ☐ No

34. Does this congregation teach children how to share, save, and spend money? ☒ Yes ☐ No

35. In the past year, how many activities has this congregation held, participated in, or sponsored outside of the church building/property?

24

36. In the past year, has someone besides the congregational leader shared a personal story during worship about God's activity in their life? ☐ Yes ☐ No

37. Does this congregation have an organized men's ministry? ☐ Yes ☒ No

38. Is this congregation familiar with Lutheran Men in Mission or Project XII? ☐ Yes ☒ No

39. In what type of advocacy does this congregation engage? (*check all that apply*)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education and conversation around issues impacting communities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letters or phone calls to elected decision-makers     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voter registration drives   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation in a regional/national advocacy network |

40. Does this congregation have a disaster preparedness plan? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Congregation's mailing address

(corrections can be made below or emailed to [conginfo@elca.org](mailto:conginfo@elca.org))

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
731 Peachtree St NE  
Atlanta GA 30308-1203

If you do not file electronically, return Forms A and C  
to the synod office at:

Southeastern Synod, ELCA  
PO Box 400  
Decatur GA 30031-0400