

1.1 STRATEGIC FOCUS AND DIRECTION - *(ALIGNED STRATEGIC VISION describes in detail the future congregation. It is the cautiously optimistic view of the long-term result of honoring the values, living the vision focusing on the outcomes and accomplishing the mission.)*

1.1.1 CORE VALUES *(abiding shared principles of the culture which inspire personal involvement)*

Scripture Based: We value the Scriptures as the foundation for all that we do and all that we are.

Worship, Prayer & Bible Study: We value participation in praising God through worship, prayer and Bible study.

Outreach: We value a culture that shares the good news as defined in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Service: We value the sharing of individual gifts in support of one another and the growth of God's Kingdom.

Spiritual Growth: We value a journey of lifelong learning in God's Word with a commitment to our mission and vision.

1.1.2 MISSION STATEMENT *(the unique reason or purpose for the existence and efforts of the congregation)*

To proclaim the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through word and sacrament which enable us to serve others. In short, we are by grace "Chosen in Christ ... Gifted to serve."

1.1.3 VISION *(snap shot of the future in the hearts and minds of the leaders that simply will not fade away)*

Reaching out to families and communities so the whole world will know how God chose them in Christ and gifted them for service.

1.1.4 DESIRED OUTCOMES (PILLARS – See Constitution Article II) *(description of a preferred future condition with regard to each critical target that contributes to an effective pursuit of the mission)*

MAKE DISCIPLES

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is actively engaging members and our community to follow Jesus, studying His teachings, living a life of faith at all stages of development, witnessing, and fulfilling the great commission.

FELLOWSHIP

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church celebrates our unity in Christ by connecting, interacting, supporting, and loving each other across generations. We actively encourage opportunities to enthusiastically welcome, to all activities, members, and non-members from all walks of life, in person and virtually.

YOUTH

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has an ever-increasing number of youth who are growing as disciples for Christ, serving now and always as responsible members of the community. There is active engagement of all church members as they mentor, pray for, and encourage youth and their families. Recognizing their unique gifts and interests, we provide a wide variety of opportunities for youth to grow and serve.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has a deeper understanding of the needs of people in our community and is organized to respond with a pool of volunteers and resources. Our community knows us as a “Go To” resource that reflects the love of Jesus.

WORSHIP

Celebrate and share God’s gracious presence and peace among us through Word and Sacraments and mutual witness in corporate worship and maintain a personal worship life.

1.1.5 KEY OBJECTIVES

Our Redeemer will continue to foster outreach by welcoming new members through all its programs and encouraging existing members through a continued focus on small group ministries.

Our Redeemer will develop sustainable youth ministry programs.

Support disaster planning initiative to complete an official Disaster Plan for the congregation to give to Richmond County fire/police departments outlining where we believe we can be of assistance in the case of a community disaster. Assist other congregations in the CSRA with this type of work if they are interested.

Undertake long-term fiscal planning for major expenses anticipated for the ministry facility.

ADDENDUM VI – STATEMENT OF BELIEF

This congregation, Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church (ORLC) of Augusta, Georgia is part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS or Synod). The LCMS is a mission-oriented and Bible-based denomination that confesses the historic, orthodox Christian faith in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a faith built on the “foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20). With the universal Christian Church, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches and responds to the love of the Triune God, who created all that exists; became man to suffer, die, and rise again for the world’s redemption; and brings people to faith and new life through His Word and Sacraments. The three persons of the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - are coequal and coeternal, one God.

LCMS congregations voluntarily choose to belong to the Synod, and, although diverse in many ways, all hold to the shared confession of Jesus Christ as taught in the Holy Scriptures. We believe without reservation that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice. In addition, the Synod accepts without reservation the writings contained in the *Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*.

Believing in the authority of the Holy Scripture and that the Lutheran Confessions are a correct interpretation and presentation of biblical doctrine; our congregation agrees to conform all their teaching and practice to the Scriptures and the Confessions. See Article III – Confessional Standard of The Constitution of Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Inc., Richmond County, Augusta, Georgia.

The Synod “is not an ecclesiastical government, exercising legislative or coercive powers” (LCMS Constitution, Article VII) concerning its member congregations and ministers. However, the voluntary association of member congregations and ministers including their agreement to respect and honor and uphold (By-Laws 1.7.2, 1.8.1) decisions (resolutions) made by the Synod in its national conventions regarding the understanding of the teachings of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and practices that are consistent with such teaching. The Synod in convention is the “principle legislative assembly” of the LCMS (By-Law 3.1.1) and its resolutions and statements are the position of the Synod in matters of doctrine and life. The Constitution and By-Laws of the LCMS provide specific guidance for the implementation and supervision of the teaching and practice of its members (congregations and rostered church workers).

Congregations of the LCMS, while upholding teachings and practices that are consistent with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and while honoring Synod convention resolutions, are self-governed and establish policies based on local circumstances and expediency. An LCMS congregation or ministry operates according to its own constitution and By-Laws - which are required by the Synod By-Laws to be reviewed by the District through which the congregation holds membership in the Synod - and therein establishes an orderly way of making decisions and determines which individuals or entities in the congregation (e.g., the Sole/Senior Pastor, Board

of Directors) will have authority to act on behalf of the congregation in specific circumstances. The Constitution and By-Laws of this congregation and the ORLC Policy Manual for Board of Directors govern our decision-making and policies. A copy is available upon request.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18, 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of ORLC as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the ORLC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by ORLC in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Act 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of ORLC.

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps. 139).