



Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
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Happy Birthday
July Birthdays

Barbara Dykman July 10
Kay Pushman July 14
Erich Obersteiner July 29

August Birthdays

Martha Ziegler August 07
Anne Walshe August 11
Ken Lancaster August 13
Juanita Townsend August 15
Shirlene Bradrick August 16
Bruce Young August 17
Alice Dokter August 20
Flo Nesland August 21
Raymond Friedrichsen August 27
Delrie Hobbs August 30
Ron Robertson August 30

CALENDAR NOTES

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Communion Service

July

July 20: 2:30 p.m. Council Meeting

August

August 17: 2:30 p.m. Council Meeting

August 22: Newsletter Articles Due

Emergency Pastoral Care:

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Lisa at (714) 833-7332.

“Reflect on Romans this Summer”



For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free (Romans 8:2)

Our monthly calendar flips to July and we are reminded to celebrate freedom on our country's declaration of independence on July 4th.

Our summer liturgical calendar flips to July and August and we are instructed to celebrate our freedom found in Christ every day of our lives.

Each Sunday for the next few months has our New Testament reading taken from the book of Romans. Martin Luther's proclaimed Romans the life-changing and essential book of Scripture, describing it this way:

“This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul.”

(From Preface to the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans by Martin Luther, 1483-1546)

Need a good summer read or want to test your memory? Open the middle of your New Testament — the heart of it, if you will — and you'll find your way into the book of Romans. Read portions of it daily and you will find verses to underline, commit to memory and your soul enlightened.

Or follow the Sunday lectionary calendar (printed in this newsletter) and follow along how Christ invites you into the life-expanding freedom that he offers to each of us by his life, death and resurrection.

Let us celebrate our freedom found only by faithfully following God, knowing Christ and letting the Holy Spirit lead us into a free and eternal life. In Jesus name, let us study and pray

~~ *Pastor Lisa*

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends:

Wendy Alfageme has been elected Vice-President of the Council. At our last Council meeting we accepted with regret the resignation of our Vice-President Carl Keene who will be devoting his time with his wife Jessica who has some health concerns. Carl was such a valuable member of our Council. He will be hard to replace. He served as President for two years and as Vice-President for one and a half years. We will certainly miss his outstanding work and hope he can return to the Council in the near future. We will continue to keep Carl and Jessica in our prayers.

Amazing as it sounds, we will have two different Bishops occupying our pulpit during the next several months. Our former Bishop Murray Finck will preach at Pastor Gil Moore's special observance on Sunday, September 17th. It will mark Pastor Gil's 70th Anniversary of being ordained as a Lutheran Pastor (and his 96th birthday). His family, friends, and neighbors will be here for this special occasion. The Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. will be followed by a lunch.

Then, of course, Redeemer's 60th Anniversary Celebration will be held at 10:30 a.m. on October 15 with present Bishop David Nagler delivering God's Word. Again, a luncheon will follow.

We never mention enough our heartfelt thanks for truly one of God's great gifts to Redeemer Lutheran Church, our secretary, Margo Geesing. Her insightful monthly articles in our newsletter and her constant ability to get everything done (including the seemingly impossible) are really impressive and have been for years! Thanks, Margo!

God Bless,

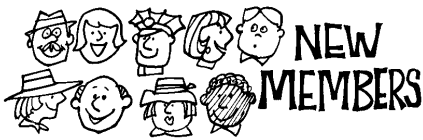
Jerry Brady
Council President

Sunday Services



While we have not reimplemented mask requirements, we do strongly encourage everyone to wear them. We have colds, flus, and other respiratory illnesses that are easily caught. *We thank those who have continued to wear their masks and want everyone to know that masks are available at the entrance of the Church. We **HIGHLY** recommend continuing masking. As we are the most vulnerable population and we have many within the congregation that are immunocompromised, Staff will continue masking with everyone's safety in mind.* Those who elect to wear masks, should do so freely. It is the expectation that individual preferences be respected and supported for either choice with no justification required.

New Members



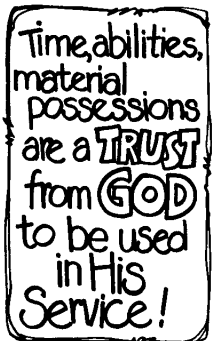
We thank all of the new people who have been joining us in worship and fellowship. While your attendance is a wonderful thing, we would also like to welcome you all as formal members of our congregation. If you are interested in formally joining Redeemer Lutheran Church, please speak with Pastor Lisa. She is starting to plan for an orientation class and a welcome service for new members.

Sharing Communion



Communion — the bread, wine and grape juice of the vine — is offered in the communion cups/chalices. *If you desire to take Communion to share with others, please speak with Pastor Lisa about joining the Eucharistic Ministry team.*

Sharing Your Gifts



In the back of the Annual Report, there is a list of Opportunities for Service that we are asking you to fill out and return. Extra sheets are in the entryway. It can be mailed to the office or turned in on Sundays in the offering plate. Stewardship is not only about money. Stewardship is also about sharing your time and talents in the service of others and the church. God has given you many gifts, how you use them is your gift back to God in thanksgiving. Please consider prayerfully how you can make the Kingdom of God present here.

FINANCE REPORT
REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCE REPORT May 31, 2023



| | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | <i>[included a member's annual donation of \$7,000</i> | <i>Actual for the Month]</i> |
| Operating Expense of | \$12,959.65 | \$5,959.65 |
| exceeded Operating Income of | <u>\$7,142.29</u> | <u>\$7,142.29</u> |
| by | \$5,817.36 | (\$1,182.64) |

Year to Date: May 31, 2023

we see the following comparing **Actual** to **Budgeted** for the first 5 months of 2023 (\$7,000.00 included)

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Our Budgeted income of | \$41,705.00 |
| exceeded our Actual Income of | <u>\$37,884.29</u> |
| by | (\$3,820.71) |

We took in less than budgeted.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Our Budgeted Expenses of | \$41,705.00 |
| exceeded our Actual Expenses of | <u>\$38,616.47</u> |
| by | \$3,088.53 |

We spent less than budgeted.

We ended these five months spending \$732.18 more than we took in looking at the ACTUAL amounts and including the annual gift.

Respectfully submitted by,
 Kay Pushman, Finance Chair

We are trying to include a weekly update of our income in the bulletin so everyone knows our current financial status.



CYCLE A – Year of Matthew
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THROUGH
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 2, 2023 – *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

July 9, 2023 – *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17
Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (Alternate)
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16, 2023 – *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23, 2023 – *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30, 2023 – *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Psalm 128 (Alternate)
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 6, 2023 – *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 13, 2023 – *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20, 2023 – *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

August 27, 2023 – *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

Oh, the Things You Can Think! (Dr. Seuss)

Oh, the Places You Will Go! (Dr. Seuss)

Oh, the Stories You Will Hear! (Jesus)

Yeah, Theodore Geisel! Or maybe you know him as Theo LeSieg; or most likely, Dr. Seuss. I remember my mom reading Dr. Seuss to me and my brothers; and I read his stories to my kids and I anticipate reading them to my grandchildren. Traditions and stories are the way we all have grown up. It's the way we learn about family, life, and what it means to be a "grown up". Jesus told stories. As we continue the long church season of Sundays after Pentecost, we have a collection of stories (parables) from the Gospel of Matthew. But these are not just stories to entertain but lessons on how we are to live our lives.

The first Sunday of July we have all of three verses for the Gospel lesson. Even though it is very short, it continues shortly after last week's Gospel full of warning of hatred, persecution, and betrayal. If you persevere through all of this "stuff" you will receive your reward! But even this is not the whole of it. You get a reward even if you just help out! You will probably go through the same stuff but maybe to a lesser degree and you will still win a prize. Jesus is calling us to hospitality. He is calling for help. He is calling for support. *How are you going to answer his call and what will be your reward?*

The second Sunday of July we hear the comparison between Jesus and John the Baptist. One lived a stoic life eating little and dressing funny the other would eat and drink with anybody. The powers complained about both. There is no pleasing them! So, as we go about our own lives, what we, as followers of Jesus, need to remember is that we are responsible for building that kingdom! It's not enough to have faith; we need to live that faith. We need to take the yoke that Jesus offers us (he never demands that we take it) and surrender ourselves to him. Most of us instinctively resist yokes and laws ~ no one can limit us! But Jesus wants us to look at his yoke as a way of rest and lightness. When we share that yoke with him, it does become lighter; we work in tandem with him and share the load.

The third Sunday we hear about the parable of the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately and what becomes of each type of seed. Jesus goes on to explain what each of the seeds represent – how people take his message and live it in their lives. On my personal faith journey, I think I have gone through all these stages! There have been times when I can hear Jesus's words and had no idea what they meant to my life. Then there were times when I heard and sort of understood but when it was difficult to do the right thing it was easy to lose the momentum of faith. Then life gets busy and Jesus is for later, when I have more time. Time to listen, time to pray, time to worship, time to give but the funny thing is, there is never the right time. It wasn't until I took my faith seriously (actually when I had kids of my own) that I took the time to learn, pray, study, read, and really build a foundation for my beliefs and faith that I could truthfully say that I believe. I took ownership and responsibility for my faith and my faith journey.

Then we get to explore why there is evil in the world. It is always human choice that brings evil into the world. Most of us are not out there doing evil purposefully, usually our evil is omission. Things we could or should have done to help build God's Kingdom but we choose not to do. We need to remember that God did not create evil; evil exists where God is not. It is our choice what we do or don't do. God gave us free will, to make the choice to follow Jesus or not. But there are also consequences of our choices which Jesus also outlines! I remember when my

children were growing up and there would be a point where one of them would not want to do homework or go to school or do chores and I would tell them that was their choice but they would have to also be willing to face the consequences of those choices. I was very lucky that they pretty much always chose to do what they were supposed to do!

The last Sunday in July Jesus tells five quick comparisons of what the Kingdom of God is like. He touches on the most common references for the people: plants, baking, a farmer, a merchant, and a fisherman. Jesus uses what people know and understand to teach. In our own lives, we teach from what we know and understand. It is how we live our lives and our words and actions that help build that Kingdom of God.

August: Prayer and Faith in Action

In August we begin with of the feeding of the multitude. Where else but through Jesus can we actually find something that is free! All Jesus wanted was a little alone time to mourn his cousin's death. Instead, he ends up with a great following of people. And in his compassion, he heals them and probably spent some time teaching also. At the end of the day, he is tired and still sorrowful in his loss. He tells the apostles to feed the people and they only have excuses on why they can't. So, he does it himself, through prayer and trusting in the Father to answer that prayer. Jesus continued to teach through his example. We are called to pray and trust in the Father.

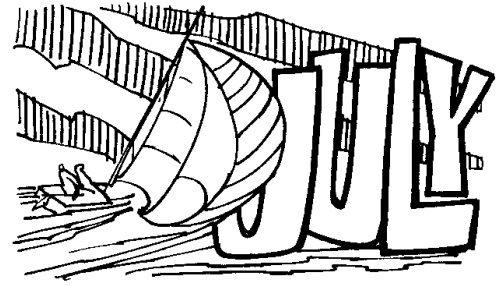
You have got to love Peter! He is so enthusiastic, brash, and headstrong. And, like us, sometimes falls short. And we wonder at Jesus' patience with him and why he never just threw his hands up in the air and said I am done with you! And we are thankful that he never did (with Peter, or with us). The second Sunday of August starts with the disciples in a boat, in a storm, and Jesus not with them. Jesus starts across the water to them. Peter, always impetuous, tells Jesus to command him to come. Jesus does. Then Peter starts out fine but then starts looking around, realizes what he is doing, doubts, panics, and begins sinking. Then Peter, wisely, call out to Jesus again, to save him. When Peter was focused on Jesus he was doing an amazing thing, walking on water! It wasn't until his focus turned away that he began having trouble.

The third Sunday we again have Jesus teaching and traveling. He begins with the difference between outward show and inward conviction. He compares eating with unclean hands with speaking with an unclean mouth. Then in the second part, He is passing through the district of Tyre and Sidon and is approached by a Canaanite woman. She displays her faith even when Jesus tries to dismiss her [because he was sent to work with the Israelites, who would be sent to the rest of the world]. And it is this faith that calls him to action. So, when we go in prayer we need to remember that it is not necessarily that we deserve Jesus's answer but the example of our faith in his ability to answer that we place before him.

The last week in August we have Peter at the forefront again. Peter states that Jesus is "*the Messiah, the Son of the Living God*". Can't get faith much stronger than that! Jesus heaps great praises on Peter and his faith. Then Jesus builds his church on Peter! Jesus understands human weakness and doubt but he still builds his church with human beings. Jesus looks to the heart and faith of his people and he looks with the eyes of love, compassion, and mercy.

We all walk with Peter when we are frustrated with our own failings and inadequacies to be worthwhile hands and feet of Jesus in the world today. But we can take heart, Peter had Jesus physically with him and still messed up. We need to pray, read, share, support one another, and most of all realign our vision on the goal ahead, the Lord, and quit looking around. Jesus never gave up on him and will never give up on us!

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 Pastor: Lisa Rotchford



2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|---|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10:30 Communion Service | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 10:30 Communion Service | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 10:30 Communion Service | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 2:30 p.m. – Council Meeting | 21 | 22 |
| 23 10:30 Communion Service <i>Jerry Brady Preaching</i> | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 10:30 Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated | 31 | | | | | |

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|---|-----------|---|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 10:30 Communion Service | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 10:30 Communion Service | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 2:30 p.m. – Council Meeting | 18 | 19 |
| 20 10:30 Communion Service | 21 | 22 Newsletter Articles Due for September | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 10:30 Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |