



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**
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***Happy Birthday
March Birthdays***

<i>Beverly Anderson</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Lynne Retmier</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Sharon Heck</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Murray Finck</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>15</i>

CALENDAR NOTES

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesdays

12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
12:00 noon Bible Study in the Fellowship
Hall

APRIL

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

April 22: Newsletter Articles Due

Welcome New Members!

*We were very happy to welcome
new members on Palm Sunday:*

Lynn Retmier

John Robinson

Jean Thompson

Thank you for joining us as official
members of Redeemer Lutheran and St.
Theodore's Episcopal Churches!

Emergency Pastoral Care: Whenever you
are in need of emergency pastoral care,
please call the office and leave a message
(562) 598-8697 or contact Interim Pastor
Finck at (714) 345-2791.



Message from the Pastor:

Dear Members and Friends of Redeemer and St. Theodore of Canterbury,

Looking Ahead – Sunday Worship and Midweek Bible Studies

As the Weeks of Easter unfold for the next seven weeks, our over-arching theme on Sunday mornings will be “*Living the Resurrection.*” **Hearing** about the resurrection is the work of ears and minds. **Believing** in the resurrection is the work of our hearts. **Living** the resurrection is the work of body, soul, heart, and mind as we give witness to the greatest gift God has given us. Our Sunday’s in April will

April 7 – We will be with the disciples and Thomas as they struggle to believe that the one who was crucified and buried was now alive and in their midst.

April 14 – After his resurrection and before his ascension into heaven, Jesus opened the hearts and minds of his disciples to better comprehend the promises of God. He continues to do the same for us.

April 21 – Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd who is willing to lay down my life for my sheep.” On that Sunday we will gather as the flock in need of our beloved and dedicated shepherd.

April 28 – The story of Philip is about a disciple who was able to witness to a traveling Ethiopian. We hear Jesus tell of our life-giving interconnectedness--he is the vine and we are the branches.

Midweek Bible Study reconvenes on **Wednesdays at 12:00 noon**. Since we did not quite finish our classes before Easter on Wednesday afternoons, we are going to pick up where we left off and finish the conversations we had about our Lutheran and Episcopalian beliefs, practices, and understandings. The time has been moved to 12:00 noon. We will decide a few “housekeeping” matters about future meetings and determine the studies we will undertake as we gather again on Wednesday, April 3rd in the sanctuary. Please bring your Bibles and come with some ideas about the kind of study you would enjoy after we finish the one we are completing now.

Looking Back

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! So many people took on many different important roles during our Lenten and Holy Week gatherings. We are thankful for the **music** and the **hands that played at the keyboards** and the **voices** that filled our sanctuary with praise and thanksgiving. We are thankful to those who week after week **attend to the altar**, set up the Holy Communion, and then clean up and put everything away afterwards. We are thankful for **altar assistance, readers, ushers, greeters** including those distributing the bulletins, gathering the offering, and having everything ready to go each Sunday morning. We thank those who stay behind at the end of a Sunday morning to **count the offering and get it to the bank**. We are grateful for those who help us to **sign up and participate** and take responsibilities for many different aspects of our church life together. This past month we were very grateful for **soup makers, bread bakers, and those who brought desserts** for our Lenten gatherings, and week after week those who provide for our Sunday morning fellowship time enhance that time with their **skills in the kitchen**. We are thankful for **flowers and decorations** both inside and out. The **artwork** is amazing and speaks in a language of its own about the stories of faith that are bringing us together as the people of God. The **Church Council** conducts the business of the church on behalf of us all. Know you are **calling each other, checking-in** with each other, **caring** for one another, and making sure the connections between our members and friends is very strong. **We appreciate every participant**, everyone who comes and is involved. We give thanks for as your **support** of this congregation's ministry as you **attend**, as you **pray**, as you **give financially**, as your **offer your talents and resources**. **Thank you!**

As you join us week after week, invite a neighbor or friend to come with you. May your April be filled with joy!

To God alone be the glory,

The Reverend Murray D. Finck

Bishop Emeritus and Interim Pastor

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

We have been so blessed this Lenten Season with the very informative New Member and Reaffirmation Classes that were held on Wednesdays before the Soup Suppers by Bishop Finck. It was attended by as many as 25 people, and was well-received by all. Many times, there were so many questions that we couldn't complete the lessons for that session. On Palm Sunday we welcomed Lynn Retmier, John Robinson and Jean Thompson as they joined our church. Reaffirming their faith, were Shirlene Bradrick, Betty Lucero, Carmen Leslie, Barbara Long, Jann Shaffer, Doris Weinert and myself. Bishop Finck then led us in a glorious celebration of the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning. It has been a blessed 6 weeks.

We were thirsting for more, so Bishop Finck is going to lead us in Bible Study on Wednesdays at 12:00, so please mark your calendars, as I know you will not want to miss this special offering.

We have decided to change our office hours for the Bishop and the church secretary from Thursdays to Wednesdays. If you would like to meet with either, they are available on that day starting at 12:00.

Our Lenten Soup Suppers with song, Bible study, delicious suppers and fellowship were attended by 25-32 of us. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with their time, delicious cooking and generous donations to make this time together so successful.

Sunday fellowship also is being well received, and, we are so grateful for the delicious goodies that our members have signed up to bring. This time together is so beneficial to our well-being. As well as fellowship, Susan Sinner and Barbara Long have implemented a Boutique, and Barbara also did a Bake Sale. Both of these projects have done well. Thanks to these special ladies.

A special thank you to Sylvia Makus, who readied the church for Easter by cleaning, decorating the cross outside, preparing the altar, hanging the painting outside, setting up the lilies, and much more. We are so very appreciative of her dedication to our church.

All organizations need volunteers to do well, and according to studies, are part of a healthy lifestyle. I have had some members lament that they can no longer help. These people are the very ones that, in the past, had given so much to our church and the LW community. If you looked at our photos at our 60th Anniversary, you will have recognized all of these special people.

With thanks to all of you, as I have never been involved in an organization that has everyone contributing some of their time and talents when asked, and I thank you so much for helping in any capacity.

Respectfully,

Kay Pushman

Council President



Office Hours

As noted already in the newsletter and Sunday bulletin, our Church Office Hours have changed. The office is open on Wednesdays from noon to 2:00 p.m. The Bishop will be available after the Bible Study class for a short time. Our secretary, Margo Geesing, will be in the office and available during the entire office hours.

Bible Study



Our new Bible Study began on Wednesday, April 3 at noon as planned. Moving forward, we are going to meet in the Fellowship Hall. We invite everyone to attend. Bring your Bible and a friend or two or three or more! The move to the Fellowship Hall was to accommodate anyone who wished to bring their lunch and be able to eat and study. Remember, the disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread and Jesus gives us real food in Holy Communion, so it is appropriate to have food and the Bible!

Council Meeting

With the change of Office Hours and the Bishop's schedule for the Bible Study, it has been decided that the Church Council Meeting will also change to the third Wednesday of the month at the usual 2:30 p.m. The time may end up changing depending on the needs of the Council members and the Bishop. As congregation members, you are always invited to attend the meetings if you wish.

Pastor Gil

We have received word that Pastor Gil Moore is probably coming home later this week or next week. We do still want to keep the phone calls going for him as he begins to return to his activities as he is able. Please, speak to Kay Pushman if you wish to be included on the call list. She is coordinating it so we don't tire him out too much!

Pastor Lisa

Pastor Lisa is still going through with physical therapy and is slowly regaining a little movement in her legs. Not quite to standing on her own but some few steps with her walker and caregivers. Please feel free to give her a call, also. Again, she does tire so be aware of that when calling! She would love to hear from you!



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. THEODORE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FINANCE REPORT**

**FINANCES FOR THE MONTH OF
February 2024**

Operating Expenses of	\$6,862.00	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$6,312.00</u>	
by	(\$550.00)	

For the year of 2024

Operating Expenses of	\$17,982.00	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$11,763.00</u>	
by	(\$6,219.00)	

[we spent more than we took in]

Comparing Budgeted to Actual for 2024:

Budgeted Income of	\$14,616.00	Exceeded
Actual Income of	<u>\$11,763.00</u>	
by	(\$2,853.00)	

[we took in less than our budget anticipated]

Actual Expense of	\$17,982.00	Exceeded
Budgeted Expense of	<u>\$14,616.00</u>	
by	(\$3,336.00)	

[we spent more than our budget anticipated]

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Weinert
Finance Chairman

CYCLE B – Year of Mark
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
THROUGH THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

April 7, 2024 – *Second Sunday of Easter*

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1—2:2
John 20:19-31

April 14, 2024 – *Third Sunday of Easter*

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 21, 2024 – *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

April 28, 2024 – *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 5, 2024 – *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 9, 2024 – *Ascension of Our Lord*

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47
Psalm 93 (Alternate)
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 12, 2024 – *Seventh Sunday of Easter*

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 19, 2024 – *Day of Pentecost*

Acts 2:1-21
Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Alternate)
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
Acts 2:1-21 (Alternate)
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 26, 2024 – *The Holy Trinity*

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

June 2, 2024 *Second Sunday after Pentecost [ELCA]*

Deuteronomy 5:12-15
Psalm 81:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23—3:6

June 2, 2024 – *Third Sunday after Pentecost [Semi-continuous]*

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23—3:6

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“We are an Easter People”

We have made it through Lent and we are now in the time of Easter! We are an Easter People. Our faith tells us that Jesus, risen from the dead by his own power, is the reason for our faith. We celebrated the Lord's birth at Christmas, we celebrated the Lord's presentation to the world at the Epiphany, we celebrated the Lord's baptism by John and the beginning of his ministry with the calling of the disciples, we celebrated the Lord's temptation in the desert, we celebrated the Lord's transfiguration, we celebrated the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we celebrated the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, we celebrated the Lord's death on Good Friday. All of these, although special times, are not why we have faith in Jesus Christ. We are all born, we all celebrate milestones in our lives, we all are tempted, and, one day, we too, will die. So did Jesus. The thing that Jesus did that made him different was that he rose from the dead by his own power. None of us can do that. No one in history has done that; except Jesus. Easter. The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus is what is the absolute core of our faith. When we were baptized, we were baptized into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, it's time to celebrate! It's time to sing “Alleluia!”

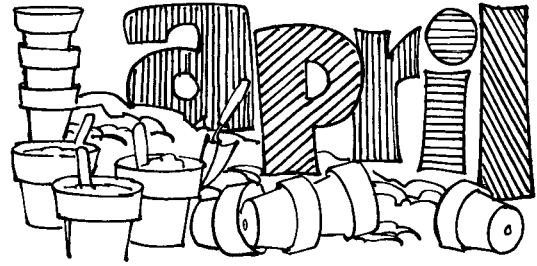
First Sunday in April we hear the story of Doubting Thomas from the Gospel of John. I can identify with Thomas. He thinks: *I know that Jesus died, how can you have seen him? This is a hoax, and one in very poor taste.* So, yes, I would want to see it myself. I would want to touch him. We have an advantage over his followers of the time, we have their witness to the resurrection. What does that mean to us today? If we believe in the resurrection, if we embrace faith in the Risen Lord, if we call Him Lord and Savior, if we call His Father, “*Father*”, if we have the Gifts of the Holy Spirit within us, if we have the gift of faith, if we have the Breath of Life within us, if we allow Him to have a claim on us then there needs to be a response from us. The one thing we cannot say; we should not say is, “*Yes, I believe*” and then walk through our lives as if we did not. *The other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.”* The difficulty of trying to go it alone in faith is that we only see ourselves – our own thoughts, reflection, wants, and needs. For Church to happen, we need a community. There are times in our own lives where we do not see the Lord working and we need the community to say, “*We have seen the Lord.*” And sometimes we need to be the one to say it to others.

The second Sunday in April we have a similar story from the Gospel of Luke. Jesus appears to the disciples and they are all in turmoil. He bids them peace and goes on to prove he is not a ghost by eating. He calls them to touch him. Touching Jesus. How can we dare? Even when He says we should. We need to. We need to so we can come to an understanding, flawed as it may be, of the Risen Lord. We need to be Word and Sacrament to one another in the world. **YOU** may be the only way someone else has of touching Jesus. Jesus bids us all peace in our lives. Not necessarily the peace of the world, but the peace that comes from being loved absolutely. The peace that can only come from Jesus.

Shepherd vs Hired Hand. The third Sunday of April we are again in the Gospel of John. Jesus is doing a discourse on what a good shepherd would do. These are a people who understand what a shepherd is and does. Jesus goes as far as to tell them that a good shepherd is willing to die for his sheep. Other than my children and grandchildren; and my husband [maybe] am I really conscience of being willing to die for anyone. Not really what one tends to think about. But, having someone who is willing to do that; that's is an amazing sign of love. And Jesus did not just *say* he would but **actually died** for each and every one of us, individually. So, the question then is: who do we look to be our shepherd? What do we look for? We need a shepherd who is just; protective; understanding; brave; looking out for the weak, poor, outcast, and lost; the one willing to lay down his life for the smallest sheep. There are a lot of people in leadership positions that give minimal effort, pursue their own agenda, ignore the common good, to whom the poor, weak, infirmed are invisible, get out when the getting is good for them – these are hired hands. We are looking for and need a good shepherd! We have found one in Jesus. Now is the time for us to go and introduce others to THE Good Shepherd!

The last Sunday of April we are still hearing from John. This is Jesus' story of the vine and the branches. Jesus again tells us the requirement for discipleship: remain in him and allow him to remain in us. He directs us to ask for what we need, and it will be done. This is done repeatedly in the Gospels. Jesus wants us to depend on him. To pray. To trust that that the Father will give us what is good for us. I have a grape vine in my yard. Actually, it's my husband's. I do nothing with it except water it occasionally when it's been a while between rains and he forgets to. It goes crazy occasionally when it hasn't been pruned. When it doesn't get watered enough, the leaves fall off, the fruit is small and bitter. If it gets too much sun, the branches get brittle and break if you look at them funny. But the stock, that vine, just keeps going year after year in spite of neglect, not enough attention, and just plain old forgetfulness. Jesus is that vine. We are the branches and need a lot of attention and most of all, we need to stay close to the vine. And what of the fruit we bear? Are we sweet or bitter? Are we tiny and shriveled or plump and juicy? Are we straggly little stick branches or are we strong and robust and able to weather storms and winds? Are we connected closely with the vine or are we just hanging on at the edges?

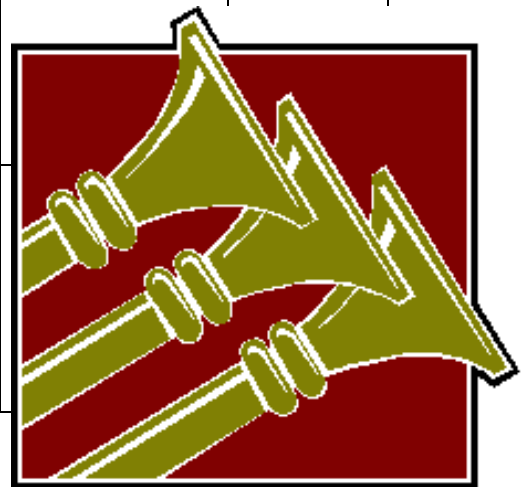
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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	4	5	6
7 10:30 Communion Service	8	9	10 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	11	12	13
14 10:30 Communion Service	15	16	17 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 2:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	18	19	20
21 10:30 Communion Service	22 Newsletter Articles Due for May	23	27 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	25	26	27
28 10:30 Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated	29	30				



ALLELUIA