



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**
13564 St. Andrews Drive; Seal Beach, CA 90740
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Happy Birthday
February Birthdays

<i>Elaine Lee</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Susan Sinner</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Dena Anderson</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Lisa Rotchford</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Alma Zamzow</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Linda Robertson</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Mary Kelly</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>26</i>

CALENDAR NOTES

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Communion Service

FEBRUARY

- February 4:** Annual Meeting Part 2
- February 14:** Ash Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
in the Sanctuary
- February 15:** 2:30 p.m. Council Meeting
- February 18:** 1st Sunday in Lent
- February 21:** Lenten Midweek Service,
Study, & Soup Supper 4:00
p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- February 22:** Newsletter Articles Due
- February 28:** Lenten Midweek Service,
Study, & Soup Supper 4:00
p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**THE CONGREGATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING PART 2
WILL BE SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 4TH AFTER OUR
REGULAR SERVICE.**

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 Lutheran and St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Churches,

God's grace and peace be with you. It was suggested my first newsletter article share a few details about my life. I do so with the hope that in the weeks ahead, I will learn more about you, your lives, and your stories.

I was raised on a dairy farm in St. Charles Missouri, near St. Louis. My father's parents and one of his sister's family also lived on that farm, where we milked cows, raised beef and chickens, harvested our own crops and gardens to feed the animals as well as our family. A mile from our farm was the Lutheran Church and school, and also the parsonage where my other grandparents lived. In my youth, I was surrounded by loving Christian family members. Three of my uncles and one cousin were Lutheran pastors along with my grandfather on my mother's side. I attended Lutheran grade school for eight years, public high school for four years, Lutheran college for four years and Lutheran seminary for four years. When my grandfather retired, our next pastor and his family came to our community. His children went to the Lutheran grade school where I was attending. A few years later, that pastor left to become a college professor. Some years later I attended that college and reconnected with his family. I met one of his daughters who had been my childhood schoolmate. We fell in love. Rhoda and I were married 52 years ago after she finished college and while I was in my first year of seminary. She worked as a special Ed teacher, then took some years to be a full-time mother. She returned to elementary education when our children were older, serving in a variety of teaching capacities. She retired in 2015.

I was ordained in 1975 and served three different congregations, all in California. I had also done my one year of internship (vicarage) in 1973-74 in this state. Rhoda and I we were delighted to return to serve and live on the West Coast after my final year of seminary. We have three children, all in their 40s, all married to wonderful spouses, and together they have given us 5 delightful grandchildren, one girl and four boys. The oldest is 17 and the youngest is 7 months. To them we are Mimi and Papa. Two of our children's families live in Southern California (Encinitas and Seal Beach) and the other lives in Williamsburg VA.

In 1993. Bishop Robert Miller invited me to join the staff of the Pacific Synod-ELCA as his Assistant to the Bishop. When Bishop Miller retired in 1998 as the first Bishop of the Pacifica Synod, I was elected to be its second Bishop. I served in that capacity for 18 years, retiring in 2016. In my "so-called retirement," I served Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Fullerton for most of 2019 during their pastoral vacancy. When the Southwest California Synod, our neighboring synod to the north, experienced a vacancy in the Bishop's office in 2020 and 2021, I was asked by our Presiding Bishop to fill that vacancy until a new Bishop could be elected.

For six months in 2022-2023, I provided pastoral ministry at Christ Lutheran Church in Orange after the sudden resignation of their pastor. In September of 2023, I came to Redeemer\St. Theodore to preach for Pastor Gil Moore's 70th anniversary of his ordination. I learned of your pastoral vacancy here. One thing led to another, and now for a season of time, I have agreed to be with the two congregations that worship together here in Leisure World.

It has been a delightful time for both Rhoda and me to be with you. Besides the pastoral ministry I have agreed to do for this season, I am committed to working with the Pacifica Synod and the Los Angeles Episcopal Diocese, their bishops and staff members, to help this worshipping community again have a more permanent pastoral ministry. Besides family and serving in interim capacities as I have, I do volunteer work on behalf of the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministries. I also enjoy woodworking, and I have taken up the hobby of archery again, which I did as a boy on the farm many years ago. Rhoda and I are appreciative of your warm hospitality, open arms and open hearts, and your affirming and caring reception as we have come into your community of faith. We especially thank you for your prayers and care and the beautiful flowers you sent to our home following Rhoda's recent successful surgery. Thank you. God bless and keep you.

The Reverend Murray D. Finck

Bishop Emeritus

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

Redeemer Lutheran Church and St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church are so honored that The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus has agreed to be our Interim Pastor. He and his wife, Rhoda, have brought so much to our church, and we thank him profusely for coming out of retirement to help us as the Pacifica Synod searches for a permanent Pastor for us.

We have been so fortunate to have had Jerry Brady as President of the church Council for a total of eight times over his 20 years as a member. He always has done a remarkable job, but especially this last term when Pastor Lisa became ill, and he accepted so many extra responsibilities. I am so honored to be elected as your Council President, and with your help, I will work diligently to keep our church a vital part of Leisure World, that welcomes all who want to hear the Word of God.

We will begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. For the next five [5] Wednesdays through Lent, beginning February 21 through March 20, we will again be having Lenten service, study, and the soup suppers at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Please join us, as we begin having Bible Study again every Wednesday after Lent. There will be more details to come.

Kay Pushman
Council President

Sunday Services

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 recommend continuing masking. As we are the most vulnerable population and we have many within the congregation that are immunocompromised. 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.*

Interim Pastor

We are honored that Bishop Murray Finck has agreed to work with our community as our Interim Pastor. We welcome him to our shared community and are blessed by his presence.

Holy Communion Changes

Starting on January 28, 2024, we will return to celebrating Holy Communion every week. The Church Council has considered the feedback on the change to every other week and considered the budget in making this change back.

Annual Meeting Part 2

We will be holding our **Congregational Annual Meeting Part 2 on Sunday, February 4** immediately following the Communion Service. Please plan on staying for this important meeting. The Annual Report will be presented and a decision of who will be representing us at the Annual Synod Assembly will be taken.

Personal Annual Giving Reports

If we have a record of your giving for the 2023 year, it was sent to you on January 26th. If you do NOT receive one and think you should have, please contact the Church at (562) 598-8697 or email the Secretary at: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net. Please wait until **FEBRUARY 10th** to contact us about not receiving a report.

Lenten Journey and Devotion

We will begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 14 with a Holy Communion Service and Imposition of Ashes at 10:30 a.m. Please join us and bring friends!

We will again be having Lenten Midweek Service, Study, and Soup Supper on Wednesdays (February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20) in Lent at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Welcome New Members

We are again trying to plan an acceptance of new members! Bishop Finck has agreed to accept new members for us so please speak to him. We need to plan a date so please pick up a member's form from the entryway and return it as soon as possible.

Church Council Officers

Officers for the Church Council were chosen at the first Church Council meeting on Thursday, January 18. They are: President Kay Pushman, Vice-President Wendy Alfageme, Secretary Nancy Anderson, Treasurer Phyllis Mackey, Finance Chair Doris Weinert. Carmen Leslie was also appointed by the Council to finish the term of Anne Walshe.



In Memoriam

Please pray for the family and friends of

Dondi Buchrucker

January 28, 2024

May She Rest in the Peace of Christ



FINANCE REPORT

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

Income and Expense Statement

for the Month Ending December 31, 2023

Operating Income of	\$14,863.00	Exceeded
Operating Expenses of	<u>\$4,883.33</u>	
by	\$9,979.67	

For the year of 2023

Operating Expenses of	\$97,661.70	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$87,138.79</u>	
by	(\$10,522.91)	

[we spent more than we took in]

Comparing Budgeted to Actual for 2023:

Budgeted Income of	\$100,092.00	Exceeded
Actual Income of	<u>\$87,138.79</u>	
by	(\$12,953.21)	

[we took in less than our budget anticipated]

Budgeted Expense of	\$100,092.00	Exceeded
Actual Expense of	<u>\$97,661.70</u>	
by	\$2,430.30	

[we spent less than our budget anticipated]

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Pushman
Finance Chair

**CYCLE B – Year of Mark: FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER ADVENT
THROUGH EASTER SUNDAY**

February 4, 2024 – *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 11, 2024 – *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 14, 2024 – *Ash Wednesday*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Isaiah 58:1-12 (Alternate)
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18, 2024 – *First Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 25, 2024 – *Second Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

March 3, 2024 – *Third Sunday in Lent*

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 10, 2024 – *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 17, 2024 – *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Psalm 119:9-16 (Alternate)
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 24, 2024 – *Sunday of The Passion / Palm Sunday*

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL
Mark 11:1-11 OR John 12:12-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1—15:47
Mark 15:1-39 [40-47] (Alternate)

March 28, 2024 – *Maundy Thursday*

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 29, 2024 – *Good Friday*

Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 (Alternate)
John 18:1—19:42

March 31, 2024 – *Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day*

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing
“Rest, Transformation and the Lenten Journey”

The first Sunday in February Jesus just wants a little down / alone time but was hard pressed to get it. He has spent the day first preaching in the synagogue (with authority), then goes to Simon’s house for a little food. But first, he cures Simon’s mother-in-law so she can deal with the guests in the house. But it doesn’t end there, people keep bringing others that Jesus needs to heal and cure and drive out demons from. It’s been a full day. Rather than sleeping in, he gets up early so he can have a few minutes to himself and pray. But, of course, his disciple’s go hunting for him. I am sure we can all relate to the level of exasperation Jesus felt. If you ever had to deal with a small child – you know how he felt! Even if you haven’t, there are those times when you have given your all to every one else and you need to rest and recharge; but there’s just – one – more – thing/person – that – needs – your – attention. And you take that deep breath, and continue on. We do need to be sure to take time to care for ourselves: pray, sleep, relax, do something fun; but, like Jesus, we also need to take that deep breath and continue the faith journey.

Second Sunday of February is Transfiguration of Our Lord. We began the time after Epiphany with the Baptism of Jesus and end it with the Transfiguration of Jesus. The presence of the Trinity on both occasions includes the Father claiming Jesus as His own and giving us directions: to listen this time! How did Peter, James, and John react? Fear but wanting to stay on the mountain. To dwell here. Instead, Jesus brings them down the mountain and tells them not to speak of what happened – until after the resurrection. This is one of the issues when you decide to become a follower of Jesus – what we want to do verses what Jesus want you to do. The “yes” to follow the call comes with a price: usually involving pain and sacrifice but definitely fear and confusion. We don’t get to hang out on the mountain top with God; we have to go down and deal with the nitty-gritty of reality and people.

February 14 is Ash Wednesday. Jesus gives us the guidelines for what we will be working on during this Lent (and hopefully beyond). It is our annual call to alms giving, prayer, and fasting. This year, as we dedicate ourselves to those Lenten practices again, instead of giving up something maybe we should look at DOING something MORE. Perhaps you are able to go for a walk in your neighborhood and you can take the time to smile and say hello to people you haven’t seen in a while. Maybe you can make that phone call or send an email or letter to someone else who might be lonely and needs a friendly voice. Maybe you can choose to listen to someone who needs an ear. Or share a meal with another. Alms giving isn’t just about sharing your wealth but also sharing yourself. Sharing your time and talents, too. Take time to pray. Connect with God. But unlike those January resolutions that may have gone by the wayside already, let’s start small. Add 5 minutes to your prayer time. You don’t have a “prayer time”, Lent is a great time to start; pray before all your meals; say a Lord’s Prayer at bedtime; re-read the Gospel from the previous Sunday and see how you can apply it to your life; just take a moment before falling asleep and thank God for the gift of today (yes, even with all it’s aches and pains and frustrations); attend the Lenten Devotions at Redeemer. The opportunities to pray are there – you just have to see and use them. Fasting is not just about not

getting that coffee at a shop or not eating candy. Those are choices you may make BUT what are you doing with the money you are saving from not doing these habits? This could be added to your “alms giving” practice. Donate your “savings” to the church or another worthy cause. There is always the choice to fast from harmful things: gossip, complaining, listening to others speak ill of someone else, or doing it yourself. They say exercise is good for the body so this Lenten season lets stretch ourselves and share ourselves with someone who needs it.

Third Sunday of February is the First Sunday of Lent. The Gospel is a condensed version of Jesus’s baptism, 40 days in the desert being tempted, and the beginning of his ministry. The first part of the Gospel is a reminder that Jesus is claimed by the Father. It is also one of the manifestations of the Trinity. The second part of the Gospel is a statement of Jesus’s temptation by Satan. These are presented in other Gospel passages as: turn stones into bread, throw himself from a temple, and submit to Satan in exchange for power. Each of these are temptations we face: the temptation to have more; the temptation to challenge God; and the temptation to worship things other than God for worldly power. In the final part of the Gospel lesson, Jesus begins with the statement: the kingdom of God has come near and then calls us to repentance and belief. The kingdom of God is what we are working towards throughout our lives and during our faith journey. It is a gift that is given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We became adopted sons and daughters. We can’t earn it or buy it. As with any gift we have to accept or reject it. The call to repentance is simply: deep sorrow, compunction, or contrition for a past sin, wrongdoing, or the like or regret for any past action. In our case, if we are truly sorry it is shown in our actions – changing our ways. Lent is a time for us to re-examine our lives and how we are living. What do we need to change. What do we need to strengthen. The final part is belief. We are called to believe in the good news. What is the good news?!? It is simply that we were created by a loving God to love Him and one another. The good news is the Gospels. The good news is that Jesus loves us enough to come and show us the way the Father through his living example. God made man by choice, came and dwelt among us SHOWING us the way back to the Father. The good news is the Jesus died for us all: each and every individual who has lived, is living, or will live to open Heaven for us. The good news is that through his resurrection he conquered death.

The fourth Sunday in February we continue on our Lenten journey. We hear Jesus refer to Peter as Satan! This occurs just after Peter names Jesus as the Messiah. Got to love Peter. He has such passion! Peter goes all in, all the time. Sadly, for us, Jesus also calls us a) deny ourselves, b) to pick up our cross and c) follow him. None of these are easy things to do. We like our comforts. We would like things easy. Following Jesus is hard. This is where grace and faith come in. Grace, faith, and belief is what makes us able to do these things. Our belief and love in someone greater than ourselves give us the strength needed to deny ourselves. It gives us the perseverance to pick up our cross and carry on. It gives us the power to follow. Jesus never said it would be easy; in fact, he frequently warns us just the opposite! But that reward at the end; that promise; that gift that Jesus purchased for us: eternal life with him, is worth the pain and suffering we go through in this life. And, we know Jesus understands – he went through it, too. This Lent, embrace your cross and follow him; he will not abandon you.

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 website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com
 Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus



2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	1 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	2	3
4 10:30 Communion Service <i>Annual Meeting Part 2 after Service</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:30 Communion Service	12	13	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes <i>St. Valentine's Day</i>	15 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 2:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	16	17
18 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT 10:30 Communion Service	19	20 Newsletter Articles Due for March	21 3:00 p.m. New Members Meetings, Preparation for Baptism, and Re- affirmation of Faith 4:00 p.m. Lenten Midweek Service, Study, & Soup Supper	22 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	23	24
25 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT 10:30 Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated	26	27	28 3:00 p.m. New Members Meetings, Preparation for Baptism, and Re- affirmation of Faith 4:00 p.m. Lenten Midweek Service, Study, & Soup Supper	29 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 		

