



Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
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Happy Birthday

September Birthdays

<i>Nancy Anderson</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Barbara Long</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Gilbert Moore</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Jim Gilbert</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Carol Costello</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Margo Geesing</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Sylvia Makus</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Kathy Aldstadt</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>29</i>

CALENDAR NOTES

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Communion Service

September

September 4: Labor Day

September 17: Pastor Gil Moore's
Anniversary Celebration

September 21: 2:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Emergency Pastoral Care:

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

Message from Our President...

Dear Redeemer Family:

To bring you up to date on the status of our beloved Pastor Lisa Rotchford. A special meeting of Redeemer's Church Council was held on Thursday, August 24. At that point, Pastor Lisa's health was improving, but not helped at all by her contracting Covid, so at this writing, both she and Collette were in quarantine. She also had two more appointments with specialists the following week.

The Council placed her on sick leave. We don't know at this point when she will be able to return, but please send her a get-well card. If you've sent one already, send her another one. I know, from personal experience, how tremendously uplifting they can be.

We have lined up an impressive list of guest preachers for the month of September. They are:

September 3 – Kelly Frankiewicz, M. Div.

(Lay Minister at Community Church in Leisure World)

September 10 – Pastor Brad Stienstra

September 17 – Bishop Murray Finck

(to celebrate Pastor Gil Moore's 70th Anniversary as a Lutheran Pastor)

September 24 – Kelly Frankiewicz, M. Div. will return.

Our Church Council has welcomed Michael Vanvales as a new member. Michael is a 12-year member of St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church and is a great addition to our Council.

Pray in earnest for Pastor Lisa and for our congregation in this difficult time. We have the Lord on our Side! What could be better?

See you in Church,

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.

Choir Returns in September

Choir rehearsal began, Sunday, August 27th, at 9:15 a.m. If you are interested in joining the choir, please speak to Sharon Heck, our organist.

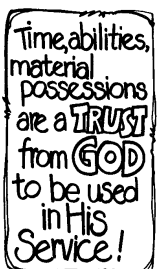
Pastor Gil's 70th Ordination Anniversary Celebration

We are in need of help with a very important celebration: Pastor Gil Moore's 70th Ordination Anniversary Celebration on September 17th! We will need help with the set-up on Saturday, September 16th. We will also need some help with clean-up on the 17th. If you are unable to help with this, we also need people to bring pot luck side dishes! Potlucks are a Lutheran tradition that we are proud to continue! The Church is providing the main dish and cake for dessert. There are sign-up sheets at church for these. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to call Kay Pushman at (818) 470-0480. Correspondences can be sent to: Kay Pushman; 13560 Saint Andrews Dr. # 3-C, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

60th Anniversary Celebration

Our 60th Anniversary Celebration will be Sunday, October 15th beginning with our Holy Communion Service. It will continue with a pot luck luncheon. As always, many hands make for lighter work. We will be setting up on Saturday, October 14th. There is a sign-up sheet in the entryway for those who want to volunteer. We also need people willing to bring food for this event. The Church will be providing the main dish. Sign-up sheets are also available for this.

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 July 31, 2023



Operating Expense of	\$16,732.48
exceeded Operating Income of	<u>\$4,921.50</u>
by	\$11,810.98

The reason for the excessive expense was due to the invoice of \$6,159.65 for the repair of our pump, and quarterly payroll tax of \$1,258.00. Even with that though, our Income of \$4,921.50 was not enough to cover our normal Operating Expenses for the month.

Year to Date: July 31, 2023

We see the following comparing **Actual** to **Budgeted** for the first 7 months of 2023

Our Budgeted income of	\$58,387.00
exceeded our Actual Income of	<u>\$48,036.29*</u>
by	(\$10,350.71)

We took in less than budgeted.

Our Budgeted Expenses of	\$58,387.00
was under our Actual Expenses of	<u>\$63,451.98</u>
by	(\$5,064.98)

We spent more than budgeted.

We ended these seven months spending \$15,415.69 more than we took in looking at the ACTUAL amounts and including the annual gift.

*In these annual figures in income, we received \$12,400 from St. Theodore's, \$122.08 Fundraising, \$1,240.00 Memorials and \$7000.00 annual donation from a member.

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
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THROUGH
REFORMATION SUNDAY

September 3, 2023 – *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10, 2023 – *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 17, 2023 – *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, 2023 – *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

October 1, 2023 – *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October 8, 2023 – *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 15, 2023 – *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 22, 2023 – *Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 29, 2023 – *Reformation Sunday*

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

God's Ways are NOT Our Ways

All the Gospel lessons for the month of September have at least one continuous theme: we and God do NOT think the same way! We all know this in our heads but the Gospels bring this point home in realistic ways. God asks more, God listens more, God forgives more, and God is more generous than we ever are. That's one of the ways God is different from humans. God is a God of abundance!

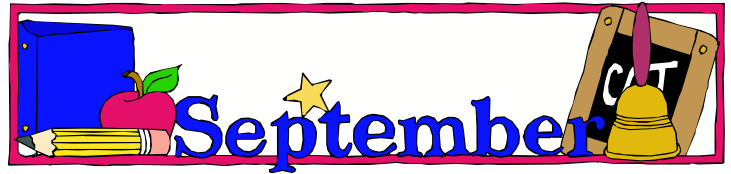
The first Sunday's Gospel immediately follows the last Sunday in August's Gospel, literally, it starts at the next verse. In August, Peter proclaims Jesus is the Messiah. In September, Peter wants Jesus to turn away from the path he is on. Jesus recognizes that Peter is voicing his dismay over what the Father is calling Jesus to do, Peter is thinking in human ways. Jesus, after a pretty strong rebuke of Peter, goes on to explain that God's way is not always easy or simple but it is for a greater reward. Jesus talks about denying one's self, taking up and carrying a cross, of losing one's life as a pathway that his followers are called to. But I understand Peter. We are humans. We think like humans. We really don't like pain or hardship or troubles. We would rather a life of ease with happy family and friends around, where people like us, where we have enough and are willing to share our extras. We would like to be comfortable. Alas, God really, really doesn't do that. We don't hear of believers that got an easy life where they were well liked, had no troubles, and got to do what they wanted. Makes you wonder sometimes, why?!? Why do we CHOOSE this life? Oh, yeah, that reward later!

Second Sunday in September Jesus is giving relationship advice! It makes sense. If you are having a problem with someone, go talk to them! Don't go complaining to twenty other people first. Don't call them out in public. Go, speak to them in private. Show them respect, and they will probably be more respectful to you. If that doesn't work, then you try again with a couple of neutral people. This way you both have witnesses and, the third parties may be able to help negotiate a workable response. Only after this, do you bring it before the community. And even this, is done with respect for both parties involved. And the community determines the appropriate response. The parties accept the community's decision or not. And the community deals with it. After this, it is done. Jesus doesn't say you need to bring it up every time you meet or continue to complain about it with others! The ending of this Gospel for the second Sunday in September has to do with prayer. Prayer is powerful. God answers prayers. Jesus is always with us when we gather in prayer. This is one of the reasons that attending and participating in Sunday Worship is so important. There are a few issues that Jesus does not address about prayer. Sometimes God says no [remember, God's way is not always our way]. Sometimes God does not answer our prayers the way we want. Sometimes we need to continue to ask, persistence does count. Sometimes God works through others to answer prayers. Sometimes you are the answer to another's prayer.

Third Sunday in September [Pastor Gil's Ordination Anniversary and birthday ☺]
Jesus talks about forgiveness and mercy. 539. That's the number of times we need to forgive someone. Jesus does not go into detail about how to count that number. He does not say: per person per offense per times you think about it but really, that's what it is. So, someone offends you. You are supposed to forgive them for that offense, 539 times right now! You think about it later, you are supposed to forgive them another 539 times. Think about it a second time, another 539 times. Same person offends you a different way or a different time, the count begins again. See where this is going. Because we follow Jesus, we are called to forgive like Jesus. Actually, Jesus does not keep count. You sin [offend him] and he forgives you. He does not think about it later. For him, it is done. Jesus gives a number because we are supposed to "forgive your brother or sister from your heart". This is our sticking point. We do not let it go. We think about it. We hold grudges. We take it out and polish it and put it on a shelf so we can see it. That's on us. Please note, Jesus does not say: after they apologize or after they make up for it or after they ask for it or only if they forgive you for something first. He just says forgive. And this is why following Jesus: walking in Jesus's footsteps, being the hands, feet and heart of Jesus to others is sooooo hard. If it was easy, everyone would do it! By the way, it is also healthier for you!

The fourth Sunday in September we have the parable of the generous landowner. I am always of two minds with this Gospel. Part of me thinks, well, that just teaches the earlier workers not to try to get hired early with this landowner, just wait until the end and still get paid the same! But then again, what if next time, the landowner only goes out the one time in the early part of the day. Then you are out a whole day's wages just waiting around. And he did pay them what was agreed upon. God's generosity is nothing like ours. God does not quantify his generosity. He is a God of abundance: abundant love, abundant grace, abundant faith, abundant forgiveness, abundant patience, abundant mercy, and abundant justice. God gave his gift of his Son, Jesus, to all the world throughout all time for all people. There is not a limit on how much God can give. There is not a limit on how big heaven can be. This parable is for all of us. It is a reminder that we who have been blessed with faith at an earlier time in our life, are still going to get our reward. But we do not have the power to limit who gets the reward. We don't get to decide who gets to heaven and who doesn't. Not our job! Our job is not to stand in the way of others coming to faith. Our job is to work in God's Kingdom the best we can so others can join in the work. It's like the people who come to faith later in life. The reward promised you at baptism through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ is not diminished by the sharing with others. In fact, it is strengthened and made more perfect because there are more people who share the journey with us. And a final thought, who says which set of workers we are? We always assume that we are the first group; but what if we are the last? Makes you think a little different about it, huh?

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Pastor: Lisa Rotchford

2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 10:30 Communion Service <i>Kelly Frankiewicz, M. Div. Preaching Jerry Brady Presiding</i>	4 LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 Communion Service <i>Pastor Brad Stienstra Presiding</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:30 Communion Service <i>Pastor Gil Moore's Anniversary Celebration Bishop Murray Finck Presiding</i>	18 Secretary	19 is gone this	20 week until	21 2:30 p.m. – Council Meeting Tuesday	22 September	23 26th
24 10:30 Communion Service <i>Kelly Frankiewicz, M. Div. Preaching Jerry Brady Presiding Birthdays Celebrated</i>	25	26 Articles for October Newsletter Due!	27	28	29	30