



Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World
 13564 St. Andrews Drive; Seal Beach, CA 90740
 Phone (562) 598-8697; FAX (562) 598-8697
 e-mail: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net

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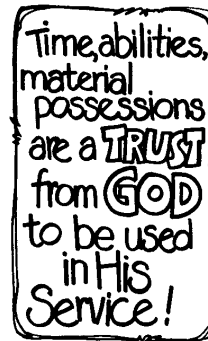
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Happy Birthday
May Birthdays

<i>Robert Bohlig</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Ray Grier</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Linda Peters</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Christa Diesslin</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>11</i>

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.

CALENDAR NOTES

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Communion Service

MAY

- May 4:** National Day of Prayer
- May 5-6:** 2023 Pacifica Synod Assembly
- May 14:** Mother's Day
- May 18:** Ascension of Our Lord
2:30 p.m. Council Meeting
- May 21:** Pastor Lynda Elmer's Memorial Moment at 10:30 a.m. Service
- May 23:** Newsletter Articles Due
- May 28:** Pentecost Sunday

Emergency Pastoral Care: Whenever you are in need of emergency pastoral care give Pastor Lisa a phone call (714) 833-7332.

“Witness to God’s Love”



May 2023 is a month filled with opportunities to witness to God’s love. From the 2nd Sunday celebrating our Mothers who taught and showed us the meaning of love by caring for us, to the last Sunday remembering our brothers and sisters who sacrificed their lives in service to our country on Memorial day, it is a month of loving remembrances. But in our church and May’s Holy Scriptures, we are also called to remember the love of Christ shared and embraced by those who follow our Lord Jesus Christ’s teachings. We are called to remember and live out our faith by sharing God’s love by being witnesses to Christ and recipients of the Holy Spirit.

Our Lutheran Bishop Dave Nagler shared a copy of his sermon that he will be delivering to our church’s Pacifica Synod Assembly on the 1st Sunday of May, and the concluding portion is particularly relevant to our community. After traveling through the Synod since his installation, he finds:

“From being around the synod with you, there is good news to share!...When I see all of you...bearing witness in our Synod....Alleluia! The Gospel is being proclaimed! Brothers and Sisters, Siblings in Christ, we are alive in God’s Spirit!”

When I met with Bishop Nagler a few months ago to discuss with him how Redeemer Lutheran and St. Theodore’s Episcopal churches were naturally merging together (and we will celebrate that with him and the Episcopal bishop in October when we celebrate 60 years of ministry in Leisure World), he shared with me how he and the Episcopal Presiding Bishop had spent a retreat weekend together and saw firsthand how our denominations are so clearly linked and have been living the proclamation of the Gospel together. He quotes the Presiding Bishop in his sermon this Sunday:

“The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal church Michael Curry refers to the Episcopal church as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement. I love that term, so let’s think about ourselves that way. We are the Lutheran branch of the Jesus Movement here in this part of the world, the Pacifica Synod. This beautiful, diverse, complex, wonderful place.

We are a part of this movement going all the way back to Jesus of Nazareth who healed, and raised people to new life, and proclaimed good news in a time when people were talking about bad news. ... So, let’s journey and go together into a new space, trusting that God is with us as he promised to be.”

Bishop Nagler’s Sermon to the Pacifica Synod’s Assembly, 5/7/23

The final Sunday of May 2023 is not just Memorial Day weekend, but one of the holiest days of the year: Pentecost. The day when God’s Holy Spirit descends and unites all of God’s people into one multi-faceted, Jesus-movement-based church. Let us remember the love of God shared through the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ and do as our Bishops encourage us: trusting in a God who loves us now and forevermore through the moving power of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. May our May 2023 be blessed, holy, and empowered by prayerfully uniting us in God’s love.

Pastor Lisa

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends:

Have you noticed?

Our Sunday morning attendance at our Worship Service is steadily going up. In fact, on the Sunday after Easter, our attendance count was 60, a number that we had averaged back before Covid. (The Sunday after Easter is known by all churches as notoriously low). We are also experiencing new faces in our pews, a really good sign. So, praise the Lord and pray that we continue this blessed upswing.

Carmen Leslie will serve as the chair for our 60th Anniversary Committee, assisted by Wendy Alfageme and Phyllis Mackey. The committee will meet in the Conference Room on May 8 at 10:30 a.m. We will need volunteers to do all sorts of different things. Please come to the meeting or volunteer with Carmen, Wendy or Phyllis.

In talking to the Church council and many members of our congregation, everyone was pleased with our guest Pastor, Rev. Jennifer Zahnow a few weeks back. Hopefully, she will serve us again in the near future.

As you all know, the aging process can be humbling. What a blessing it is to know that our caring Lord strengthens and sustains us through all the seasons of our life. Jesus Christ carries us through all the changes and challenges of life until that day when he will carry us through the valley of the shadow of death to our eternal home. While we are here, our mission is to share with others the Good News that Christ is our Lord and Savior.

See you in church!

Jerry Brady

Council President

Pastor Lynda Elmer's Memorial Moment

We will be celebrating the life of Pastor Lynda Elmer on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at our 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service. She was an amazing blessing to us here at Redeemer. She was dedicated to holding her Bible Studies over the years. She sang in our choir and did many solos in her time here. She and her husband, Cedric, would often enhance our various services and with their duet piano playing; and she would always play for our Advent and Lenten programs. She was always willing to preside at our services when the Pastor needed time off. She will be greatly missed by many and by our congregation as a whole.

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.

60th Anniversary Celebration Planning



We are meeting on **May 8th at 10:30 at the church** to discuss the 60th anniversary celebration and set up different committees. The celebration will be October 15, 2023. If you are interested in working on this committee to help plan, please join us!

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.*

FINANCE REPORT
REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCE REPORT
MARCH 31, 2023



Operating Expense of \$8,163.61
 exceeded Operating Income of \$5,822.41
 by (\$2,341.20)

Year to Date: March 31, 2023

we see the following comparing **Actual** to **Budgeted** for the first 3 months of 2023
 Our Budgeted income of \$25,023.00 Our Budgeted Expenses of \$25,023.00
 exceeded our Actual Income of \$16,792.23 exceeded our Actual Expenses of \$23,754.17
 by (\$8,230.77) by \$1,268.83

We took in less than budgeted.

We spent less than budgeted.

We ended these three months spending \$6,961.94 more than we took in looking at the ACTUAL amounts.

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 OF EASTER THROUGH PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 7, 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60
 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
 1 Peter 2:2-10
 John 14:1-14

May 21, 2023 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14
 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
 John 17:1-11

May 14, 2023 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31
 Psalm 66:7-18
 1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21

May 28, 2023 – Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21
 Numbers 11:24-30 (Alternate)
 Psalm 104: 25-35, 37
Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)
 1 Corinthians 12:3-13
 Acts 2:1-21 (Alternate)
 John 20:19-23
 John 7:37-39 (Alternate)

May 18, 2023 – Ascension of Our Lord

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

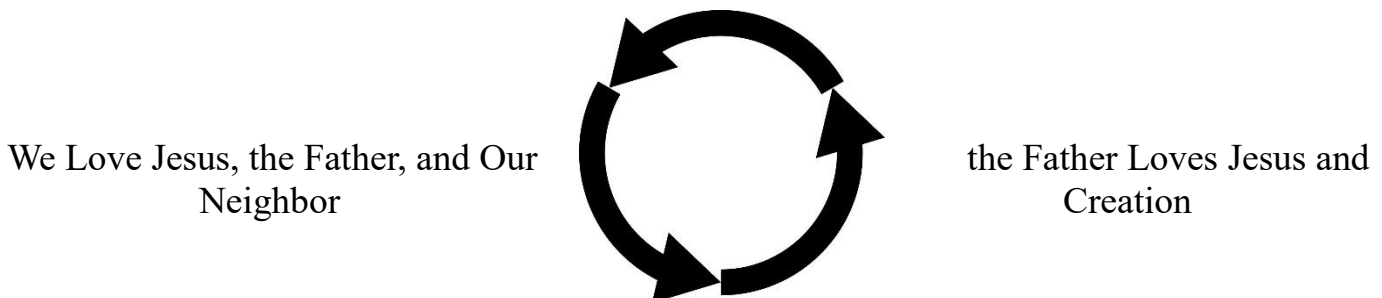
Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing
“Promises, Promises, Promises, and Fulfillment”

It seems odd that during the Easter Season, when we are in celebration mode, we would return in the Gospel lessons to the night of Jesus’s arrest and the night before his crucifixion. In the three Gospel lessons leading up to the final Sunday of May when we celebrate Pentecost [the birthday of the Church], we reflect on the promises that Jesus gave his followers just before his death.

The first Sunday of May Jesus speaks with his disciples before his arrest. He tells them he is going to the Father to prepare a place for them. As usual, there is confusion and doubt. Jesus re-iterates that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. He also reminds them of the requirement of discipleship: to continue the work he has begun to glorify the Father. He ends with the promise that if we ask anything in His name, He will do it.

The second Sunday of May is Mother’s Day. In the Gospel we are reminded that God’s love is unconditional. With that said, for many, love for God tends to be conditional. If God does whatever, then I will love him and believe in him. Jesus calls his followers to a greater love. To love unconditionally. How do we show that we love him: we keep his commandments. Simply put, Jesus’s commandment is: to love God, love ourselves, and love our neighbor. The Gospels are full of the “how to” live that commandment. We fulfill the Ten Commandments and we live the Beatitudes. Through our faith in Jesus, we are called to feed the hungry, we give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, give shelter to the travelers, we visit the sick and imprisoned, and we bury the dead. We are given the example of prayer and alms giving. We find in Jesus many examples of forgiving, healing, and being merciful. But Jesus also promises that he will never leave us unsupported in these actions. He promises to send the Advocate. There is a huge circular gift of love that is presented in this Gospel:

Jesus Loves the Father and Humanity



And we are graced to be in this circle. We show our gratitude by continuing the circle.

Thursday, May 18 is the Ascension of Our Lord. For this day, I'd like to look at the first lesson from Acts. It begins with an explanation of what has occurred. Jesus gives them a final commission: go be witnesses to the ends of the earth. Let us reflect on the word choice of "witness". We go beyond the idea of someone who just saw and are not affected by what happened: a bystander. Rather a witness is someone who saw, experienced, and is now stating the truth. This is what we are called to do: to continue that witnessing. As Jesus ascends to heaven, the disciples cannot help but stare upward in awe of what they are seeing. Suddenly two men, appear and push them out of their lethargy. They are kindly telling them, "There's nothing more to see here; get to work." The issue is similar to people who say, I love Jesus and I go to church and leave it at that point. Our primary witnessing **does not** come in gathering together. Why do you come? Habit or duty? To receive Communion? To sing the hymns? To hear Scriptures? To listen to the sermon? To see friends? Do you come to worship because it satisfies your needs? Sorry to break it to you, you're like the disciples who are staring up at the sky. We need community to strengthen us for the journey, but we are **sent** at the end of our celebration. We come together to praise and worship God. We come to satisfy Jesus's desire to be with us on the journey. So, go and WITNESS to what Jesus has done in your life. Go and share Jesus.

On the third Sunday of May we have Jesus praying for his disciples the night before his crucifixion. This is not a prayer of "never let anything bad happen to them" but rather a prayer of remembrance. Father, remember these people who love me and love you. Jesus KNOWS that following him will be a life of suffering, hardship, disasters, pain, and tragedy. Most of his early followers ended up in jail or suffering painful deaths. Jesus doesn't ask that they are spared these things. He asks for the gift of strength to preserve during these trials for his followers. Jesus knows that their belief in him makes them one with him and through him, one with the Father. This unity will always triumph.

The final Sunday in May is Pentecost Sunday. The birthday of the Church. The day the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. There are various views of how the Spirit was given to them. In the Gospel of John, the Spirit is given before the Ascension. Jesus appears to them in a locked room where they were hiding in fear that they would be next on the hit list. The first thing Jesus says is, "Peace be with you." Jesus then commissions them, breathes on them to give them the Holy Spirit and tells them to GO. In the alternate Gospel for Pentecost Sunday, also from John, Jesus only gives a foreshadowing of the Spirit. Here Jesus refers to the Spirit as a river of living water that will flow from the hearts of believers. In Acts there is wind and fire. The disciples are accused of being drunk. In 1 Corinthians the gifts of the Spirit are named. We don't really hear a lot about the Spirit except on Pentecost. That's really a reflection on the Holy Spirit. Although the Spirit can be violent wind and fire, usually the Spirit is peace and breath. The Spirit manifests to do good. The Spirit is guidance. The Spirit is strength. The Spirit is inspiration. The Spirit is what let the disciples come out from behind the locked door, let their fears go, and allowed them to witness to who Jesus is. The Spirit is what renews the face of the earth. The Spirit is what moves **US** out of our fears and encourages us to witness to our own faith.

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 E-Mail: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net
 website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com
 Pastor: Lisa Rotchford



2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 National Day of Prayer	5 <i>2023 Pacifica Synod Assembly</i>	6 <i>2023 Pacifica Synod Assembly</i>
7 10:30 Communion Service	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 MOTHER'S DAY 10:30 Communion Service	15	16	17	18 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD 2:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	19	23
21 10:30 Communion Service <i>Pastor Lynda Elmer's Memorial Moment during Service</i>	22	23 Newsletter Articles Due for June	24	25	26	27
28 PENTECOST SUNDAY <i>Happy Birthday to the Church</i> 10:30 Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30	31	<i>I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7</i>		

