



**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
April 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>
<i>Julia Watson</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>20</i>

Welcome New Members!

*We were very happy to welcome new
members on March 30:*

Cathy Boufford

Donna Michelson

Emil Miorelli

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

CALENDAR NOTES

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Wednesdays

12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

APRIL

April 2: 4:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection and
Supper

April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 9: 4:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection and
Supper

April 13: 10:30 a.m. Palm-Passion Sunday
Holy Communion Service

April 15: Tax Day

April 17: 10:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion Service

April 18: 10:30 a.m. Good Friday Service

April 20: 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Holy
Communion Service

April 23: 1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

April 27: Second Sunday of Easter

April 28: Newsletter Articles Due

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 Interim Pastor:

April 2025

“He Is Risen”

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

Saint Luke tells us toward the end of his Gospel that when some women came to the garden tomb early on Sunday morning to anoint the crucified body of Jesus, two men in dazzling white garments asked them,

“Why do you seek the living in this place from the dead? He is not here. He is risen.”

Starting on March 5th, Ash Wednesday we have been on a Lenten journey with Jesus that led him to Jerusalem, to Calvary Hill, to a cross, and to the sacrifice he made for the sake of the world. That story of grace and love now brings us to the celebrations of resurrection joy and wonder on Easter, April 20th. However, between now and then, the journey with Jesus continues as we join the throngs shouting “Hosanna” on Palm Sunday (April 13), the day Jesus entered Jerusalem. Then on Maundy Thursday of that Holy Week, (April 17th), we go with him to the upper room to receive the Last Supper, the sacrament of Holy Communion. The next day, Good Friday, (April 18th) we will go with our Lord to his humiliations first before the High Priests; then the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate; and the cruel king, Herod Antipas, all of whom decided he should be sacrificed on Calvary Hill. Our creed says, “for our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.” Three days later, Easter morning, (April 20th) we will go to the tomb with the women and hear the most amazing news the world has ever heard.

Everyone who is reading this page is invited to take that journey with us this month as we gather to worship, sing, pray, and read the sacred stories. These are solemn, holy, and also joy-filled days, some of the highest moments in the Christian calendar. Please join us! Bring a neighbor or friend. A pilgrimage with Jesus to the cross, to a grave, and from an empty tomb assures us over and over again of God’s love and grace, forgiveness and compassion, eternal promises and new life.

Below is the April schedule that will bring us together at Redeemer Lutheran/St. Theodore Episcopal Church. All the services will be at 10:30 a.m. The sermon titles are also listed.

April 6 th	The Fifth Sunday of Lent	<i>“An Extravagant Gift from A Beloved Friend”</i>
April 13 th	Palm Sunday	<i>“How Can I Keep from Singing?”</i>
April 17 th	Maundy Thursday	<i>“A New Commandment”</i>
April 18 th	Good Friday	<i>“It is Finished”</i>

April 20th Easter Sunday

“Where We Find New Life and Hope”

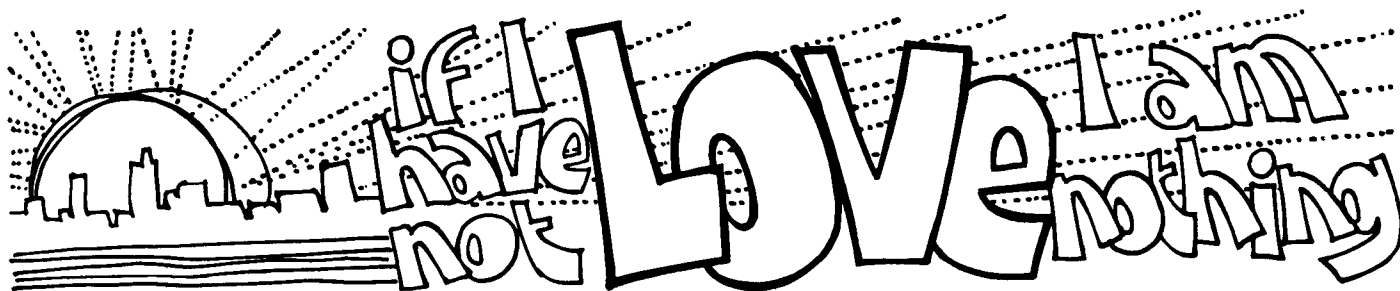
April 27th Second Sunday of Easter

“Seeing and Believing”

All are always welcome. May these be holy days, filled with the presence and promise of God’s abounding love,

+Pastor Murray D. Finck

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus



Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

I'm praying this message finds you all in good health or recovering quickly from any recent illnesses, falls or surgeries. Please be sure to let us know when you are having any health challenges so we can include you in our prayers, and offer spiritual support.

Our congregation was delighted to welcome Cathy Boufford, Donna Michelson, and Emil Miorelli as they officially joined our congregation during a special service on March 23. Some of the benefits of church membership include eligibility to vote and hold office, as outlined in our by-laws. We encourage regular attendees to consider becoming members so that you can formally share your thoughts and opinions on the administration of our church, as we work together to meet the needs of everyone who attends. Reverend Finck will be offering another opportunity to join after Easter for anyone who would like to take that step. Whatever you decide, everyone who attends is a welcome and integral part of our church family, and we are

grateful that you have chosen Redeemer Lutheran and St. Theodore's Episcopal as your place of worship.

On a bittersweet note, the Memorial Service for our dear Dee Sessa was both beautiful and deeply appreciated by her family and friends. We are grateful to Juanita Townsend who generously hosted the luncheon, Barbara Long for providing a luscious display of desserts, and Carmen Leslie for decorating the tables with such lovely flower arrangements. Many thanks also to the volunteers that setup on Saturday, and served and cleaned up on Sunday. It was truly a meaningful day of remembrance.

A heart felt thank-you to Reverend Finck for leading a beautiful Ash Wednesday Service, which was well attended. We have been having very successful Lenten Reflections and Suppers at 4:00 on Wednesdays through Lent. Members have been sharing reflections on the crosses that have touched their lives offering us all deep and thoughtful inspiration.

We are grateful to those who have signed up to provide the main dishes, bread, salads and desserts, including Barbara Long, Dale Diesslin, Julia Watson, Rod Scidorski, Carol Costella, Betty Lucero, Elaine Lee, and Doris Weinert. Your contributions have been truly delicious! There are still a few openings for those who may want to help, and we are always thankful for the many hands that setup, serve and cleanup each week. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and generous congregation.

Our Lenten evenings will continue on Wednesday at 4:00 through April 9. Please mark your calendars for these upcoming Holy Week services.

+**April 13** Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 am.

+**April 17** Maundy Thursday Service at 10:30 am.

+**April 18** Good Friday Service at 10:30 am.

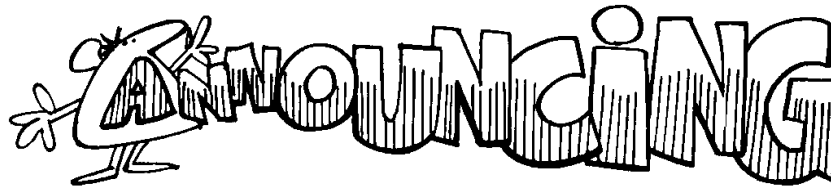
+**April 20** Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 am, followed by a time of fellowship.

Our Spring Bazaar will be held in the Fellowship Hall on May 1 and May 2 from 9:00-2:00. Lunch will be sold starting at 11:00. Come and bring a neighbor. You must be sure to see all of Reverend Finck's treasures. They were a hit at the Fall Bazaar. We still need donations of cookies, hangers, boutique items, clothing, green tea, and bags for sold items. Any questions, call Carmen Leslie @ 562 430 6950.

Thanking you all for the trust you place in me as your president. May God be with you always.

In faith,

Kay Pushman, Council President



New Members Reception



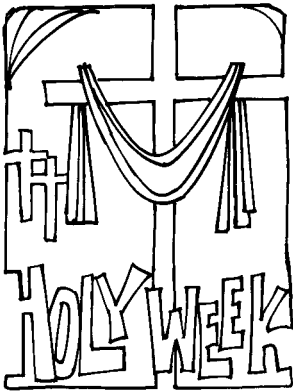
We received new members on March 23. We received Cathy Boufford, Donna Michelson, and Emil Miorelli into membership. We always welcome, include, and love our visitors, friends, associate members, and members.

Lenten Reflection and Supper



Please join us on Wednesdays during Lent, April 2 and 9, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having a Lenten Reflection called *+CrossWays* a reflection on the meaning of the cross from the writings of Martin Luther and will include time of discussion and sharing. It will be followed by a shared Supper.

Holy Week

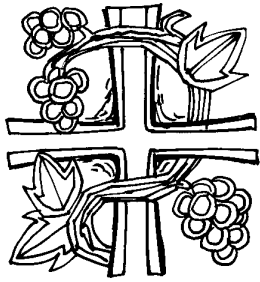


April 13 will begin Holy Week with **Palm-Passion Sunday** on April 13 at 10:30 a.m. remembering *Jesus's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem*. We will be having a **Maundy Thursday** Holy Communion Service at 10:30 a.m. on April 17 remembering *the Institution of the Lord's Supper*. We will be having a meditative service on **Good Friday**, April 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the morning in our Sanctuary remembering *Jesus's Death on the Cross*. **Easter Sunday** will be celebrated on April 20 at 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service remembering *the Resurrection of Our Lord*.

Spring Bazaar



Our Spring Bazaar will be held in the Fellowship Hall on May 1 and May 2 from 9:00-2:00. Lunch will be sold starting at 11:00. Come and bring a neighbor. You must be sure to see all of Reverend Finck's treasures. They were a hit at the Fall Bazaar. We still need donations of cookies, hangers, boutique items, clothing, green tea, and bags for sold items. Any questions, call Carmen Leslie @ 562 430 6950.



Outside Memorial Cross Wall

The Council has been discussing a way to honor members, friends, family, and other loved ones. It was decided to turn one wall of the Outside Cross Chapel into a Cross Memorial Wall. Currently we will be placing a cross and plaque for Pasto Gil. The Church is providing the plaque and the Moore family have chosen a cross. We will also be putting up a plaque and cross for Jerry Brady with a donation provided by Jerry's family. We are opening this up to our membership if they would like to include a loved one on this wall. Because we do want to keep it somewhat uniform, the Church will order the plaques but you will have options for the symbol on it of a Lutheran Rose, an Episcopal Flag (like the one on the bench for Betty Hobbs in the Cross Chapel), a simple Cross, or no symbol at all. We also have appropriate options for a cross to be hung if you do not want to go through finding and ordering your own. The suggested donation if you provide the cross is a minimum of \$150.00 or if the Church also provides the cross the suggested donation is \$200.00. The Church will place the cross and plaque on the wall. If you would like more information about this project, please feel free to speak to the Council President, Kay Pushman.

Free Dollar Donations

We work with Ralph's to be one of their choices for their community giving program. To date this year, we have received \$84.89 with only 4 households participating. If you shop at Ralph's, even just occasionally, we would like to invite you to participate in this free program to help the church financially. There are flyers on the bulletin board on how to sign up for this program and there are members willing to help you to sign-up, if you need it. You can speak to Kay Pushman if you want more information on this no cost to you program. There is also Thrivent Choice Dollars that Redeemer Lutheran can be designated to receive if you bank with Thrivent. We have received \$863.00 from Thrivent Choice this year. We thank all who have participated in these programs and have designated Redeemer as their charity of choice.

Memorial Donations

Memorial donations are a lovely way to remember those who have joined the Church Triumphant and rest in the arms of Jesus. Below are those who have donated to our Memorial Fund during this year.

In Memory of Dee Sessa

Wendy Alfageme

Nancy Anderson

Eileen Dohl

Kay Pushman

Gary and Rose Sprague

Alma Zamzow

In Memory of Alice Dokter

Kay Pushman



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. THEODORE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
February 28, 2025**

**FINANCES FOR THE MONTH OF
February 2025**

Operating Expenses of	\$8,205.00	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$7,622.00</u>	
by	(\$583.00)	

For the year of 2025

Operating Expenses of	\$18,233.00	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$16,447.00</u>	
by	(\$1,786.00)	

[we spent more than we took in]

Comparing Budgeted to Actual for 2025:

Budgeted Income of	\$17,984.00	Exceeded
Actual Income of	<u>\$16,447.00</u>	
by	(\$1,537.00)	

[we took in less than our budget anticipated]

Actual Expense of	\$18,233.00	Exceeded
Budgeted Expense of	<u>\$17,984.00</u>	
by	(\$249.00)	

[we spent more than our budget anticipated]

Other Income and Expenses for the Year:

<u>Income:</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Fundraising – Boutique	\$30*	\$92*	
Fundraising – Bake Sale	\$40*		
Disaster Relief	<u>\$50</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>\$450</u>
Total:	\$80	\$632	\$450

* Included in Operating Income

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Weinert
Finance Chairman

**CYCLE C – Year of Luke
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
THROUGH ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

April 6, 2025 – *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 13, 2025 — *Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday*

Luke 19:28-40, Procession with Palms
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16 (5)
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14 — 23:56
Luke 23:1-49 {alternate}

April 17, 2025 — *Maundy Thursday*

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

April 18, 2025 — *Good Friday*

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

April 20, 2025 — *Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day*

Acts 10:34-43
Isaiah 65:17-25 {alternate}
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (24)
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Acts 10:34-43 {alternate}
Luke 24:1-12
John 20:1-18 {alternate}

April 27, 2025 — *Second Sunday of Easter*

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29 (8)
Psalm 150 (6) {alternate}
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

May 4, 2025 — *Third Sunday of Easter*

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
Psalm 30 (11)
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

May 11, 2025 — *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23 (1)
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 18, 2025 — *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148 (13)
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 25, 2025 — *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67 (4)
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
John 14:23-29
John 5:1-9 {alternate}

May 29, 2025 — *Ascension of Our Lord*

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 (5)
Psalm 93 (2) {alternate}
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“Lent to Easter and Beyond: We are an Easter People”

We are nearing the end of Lent and then we will go through the Three Days so we can get to Easter and then continue into the Season of Easter. This is an important process. While we will go with Jesus as he enters Jerusalem to the glad cries of followers, go to the table with his closest friends for his Last Supper, and travel through the trial, road to Calvary, the Crucifixion, and finally the burial of Jesus we need to get to Easter: the empty tomb and beyond simply because otherwise, if we stay at any of those other places, our faith will be useless. We are all born. We all, at some point in our lives do something that we are praised for. We all eat. We all go through trials and tribulations. At some point we will all die. What we do not do, what we cannot do, is rise from death by our own power. Even though there are numerous stories of resurrections in both the Old and New Testaments they ALL involved someone else praying to God and/or touching the person. Jesus did it all on his own! Even if we stay at the empty tomb, which is a wonderful place, we don't get to NOW. We need to continue to the after Easter point. So, let's get started...

Have you ever done an act of kindness that someone else misinterprets? The first Sunday of April has just that happen in the Gospel of John. Mary (of the Mary and Martha / raising of Lazarus fame) anoints Jesus's feet with costly perfumed oil. This was just after Jesus raised Lazarus. It was a kind way of thanking him for the gift of her brother back. Judas chose to complain about her “wasting” the oil. *Perhaps this week we can work on what we assume about the actions of others.*

The second Sunday of April is Palm-Passion Sunday. This is the beginning of Holy Week. We have two Gospel Lessons on this day, both from Luke. The first is from chapter 19 and tells of the entry into Jerusalem and the praising of God by the people because of the powerful things that Jesus had done. It includes the admonishment from the Pharisees for Jesus to quiet his followers. The second Gospel Lesson begins in chapter 22 with the Last Supper and continues through to the end of chapter 23 with the burial of Jesus. These Gospel Lessons take us on a wild ride. We begin with Jesus being praised as a king, then he is a priest, a servant, a man in prayer and agony, a betrayed man, a healer, an arrested man, a man denied and abandoned, a man on trial, a “criminal”, a man who still forgives, and finally, a man who has died. One of the things we can take from this is a realization that Jesus, although God, loved us and the Father so much that he was willing to endure this, as a man, for our sake. *This week be conscience of those moments of our own pains: accept them without complaint or anger; join them with Jesus's own pains as a gift back to God.*

Then we come to Easter! There are two choices for the Gospel for this day. In the Gospel of Luke, we have the women returning to anoint the body of Jesus and finding it empty. They are first puzzled, then fearful, and finally, amazed. They then go to tell the disciples who don't believe them until Peter goes and checks. In the Gospel of John, it is again Mary of

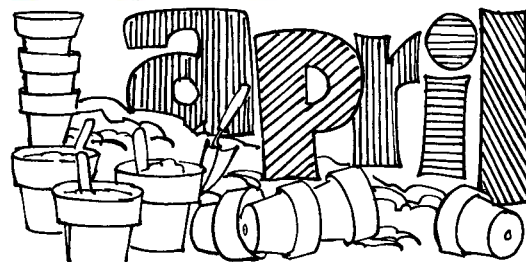
Magdala that begins the announcement of Jesus's resurrection. In this Gospel Jesus actually appears to Mary and sends her to the disciples. *This week, be conscience of those moments of amazement in your own life, those moments of a miracle happening (they still happen although they are usually small things) and thank God for them.*

The last Sunday of April we have the story of Jesus's first appearance to his disciples and the second one when Thomas is with them. We all have those moments of doubt when we say, I won't believe it until I see it! We are like Thomas in those times. 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. Like Thomas, we also should be crying out to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" We are blessed simply because we do believe without actually seeing Jesus in person! This is what faith is: belief in what is unseen. *This week it is time to focus on our own belief in the Risen Jesus. We need to remember that our belief is in Jesus and his redemption. We need to remember that people come and go throughout our lives but the love of Jesus is constant.*

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!"



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 website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com



Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	1	2 4:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	3	4	5
6 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:30 Communion Service	7	8	9 4:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	10	11	12
13 PALM – PASSION SUNDAY 10:30 Communion Service	14	15 Tax Day	16 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	17 10:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday Service	18 10:30 a.m. Good Friday Service	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY 10:30 Communion Service	21	22	23 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	24	25	26
27 10:30 Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated	28 Newsletter Articles Due for May	29	30 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours			

