



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

### **August Birthdays**

<i>Emil Miorelli</i>	<i>August 1</i>
<i>Juanita Townsend</i>	<i>August 15</i>
<i>Shirlene Bradrick</i>	<i>August 16</i>
<i>Bruce Young</i>	<i>August 17</i>
<i>Flo Nesland</i>	<i>August 21</i>
<i>Delrie Hobbs</i>	<i>August 30</i>

## **CALENDAR NOTES**

### **Sundays**

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

### **Wednesdays**

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

### **AUGUST**

**August 7:** 12:00 Noon Bible Study

**August 14:** 12:00 Noon Bible Study

**August 21:** 12:00 Noon Bible Study

1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

**August 26:** Newsletter Articles Due

**August 28:** 12:00 Noon Bible Study

**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:***

### **August 2024**

*“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20*

According to Saint Matthew, this is the last word Jesus spoke before he ascended into heaven 40 days after his resurrection. It is often called the Great Commission as Jesus was now sending his followers out into the world with five final instructions...

**Go** therefore

**Make disciples** throughout all the nations of the world

**Baptize** them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**Teach** them to follow what I have taught you

**Remember** I am with you wherever you go until the end of time

For 2000 years, the Christian Church has endeavored to follow Jesus’ commission in a variety of ways. This month's I wish to write about the ways that the Christian Church has addressed the command to “make disciples.” Disciples are those who believe in Christ’s saving grace, and share it with others, making them disciples, thus spreading the Good News to more and more. Not everyone who is part of Christ’s Church is necessarily a disciple. We define those who follow Jesus and become part of his church in a variety of ways. Some are definitely modern day “disciples.” Many of the people connected with Christ’s Church are referred to in other ways, i.e., the “faithful,” or “believers.” Some congregations, especially those who are governed by the clergy and a board of directors refer to their people as “partners in ministry.” Roman Catholics and Episcopalians often call their people “parishioners.” Many denominations call them “congregants.” Lutherans tend to refer to them as members and they often divide that category into several subdivisions. One is the “baptized members,” made up of all those on the roster of the congregation who have been baptized. They also sometimes refer to some of their people as “confirmed members,” meaning those who have affirmed their membership as young and older adults by affirmation of faith. Some congregations have yet another sub-category of “voting members,” indicating who it is that may hold an office in the leadership of the congregation and those who are eligible to vote in congregational meetings. There is also the category of “associate members,” namely those who regularly participate and attend but have not formally joined the official membership of the congregation. Finally, some congregations also include a list of “congregational friends” who are connected in a variety of ways with the congregation and may or may not be regularly involved in weekly activities, participation, and

support. Normally, the constitutions of a congregation will clearly define what it means to be a member or parishioner, who is able to vote and hold an office in the church, and how decisions are made. Episcopal congregations are typically governed by the Vestry, a group of elected lay members who work alongside rector (the priest or pastor in charge of the congregation). In the Lutheran Church, the highest governing authority is the baptized voting membership who meets periodically in Voters' Assemblies to make the needed and necessary decisions for the congregation. They normally elect the members of the Congregational Council which typically meet once a month to carry on the day-to-day ministry of the congregation throughout the year.

We always invite people to consider becoming a member of the congregation. In so doing, these people are pledging themselves to regularly participate, commune frequently, support the congregation as they are able with volunteer service and financially as well, hold office if nominated and elected, and vote in congregational meetings which approve annual budgets, elect officers and board members, and make major decisions on behalf of the faith community.

We give thanks for all of the people involved in the life of Redeemer Lutheran and St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal churches. We truly believe that making disciples, baptizing, and teaching is our primary calling, as commissioned by our Lord Jesus Christ. At the same time, however, if anyone reading this article wishes to inquire about or pursue membership in the congregation, please speak with me or one of the Congregational Council members listed below.

I give thanks for all of you... friends, occasional guests and visitors, associate members, members, and parishioners of Redeemer and St. Theodore of Canterbury.

May God continue to bless your summer weeks and your health,

*+Pastor Murray D. Finck*

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

Church Council: Kay Pushman, Wendy Alfageme, Nancy Anderson, Phyllis Mackey, Doris Weinert, Sandy Langdale, Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, Michael Vanvales

## ***Message from Our President...***

Dear Members and Friends,

We so mourn the loss of Jerry Brady, who had been an outstanding leader of our church for many years. Plans are underway for a Memorial Service sometime in August.

We have had an unusual amount of our people having medical issues. We are so blessed that Bishop Finck is making sure that each person is receiving pastoral care. We are so thankful for his excellent care of our congregation. Please be sure to let the church know if you are having problems, as we want to pray for your recovery, and offer support during your difficult times. At the time of this writing, Pastor Lisa has been admitted to UC Irvine with Covid. Please keep her in prayer for a fast and healthy recovery.

“*God's Work. Our Hands.*” an ELCA church-wide program in its 10th year is scheduled for Sunday, September 8 after our church service. Our Lutheran churches donate food for the needy, and in Leisure World, we open it up to the whole community. To publicize it, I will take a picture on August 25 after church with everyone wearing one of the “*God's Work, Our Hands.*” t-shirts, and send it into the LW newspaper with an article telling the community that we will be in front of the church on September 8 to collect their donations of non-perishable food. Please let me know if you will help with this worthwhile project.

Bible Study on Wednesdays at noon is so well-received. There are so many questions and thought-provoking discussions. It is a wonderful time to study the Bible, and we are so grateful that Bishop Finck is here to guide us. Come join this inspirational time.

We are working on getting back to pre-covid times. One of the ways is to have a Reader of the Scriptures and a Prayer Leader. Several people have agreed to help with this part of Sunday's worship. The schedule is set up for each person to do it for a month. If you would be willing to be part of this committee, please let me know.

Our Boutique is in need of new items when you are cleaning out your closets and cupboards. Dust it off, and bring it to church so it can find a new home. We are planning another Bake Sale Fundraiser in September. Both of these events are helping to support the financial needs of the church.

God's Blessings to you all.

Respectfully,

***Kay Pushman***

Council President



### **Bible Study**

Our Bible Study of the Book of Jonah on July 24th. It is never too late to join in! We are meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon, but check the front doors for any changes before going downstairs! We invite everyone to attend. Bring your Bible and a friend or two or three or more! Feel free to bring your lunch and be able to eat and study. There are drinks available to share.

### **“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday**

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday will be September 8<sup>th</sup>. The Church Council will be finalizing our participation at the next Council meeting. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please speak to a Council member: **President** Kay Pushman, **Vice-President** Wendy Alfageme, **Secretary** Nancy Anderson, **Treasurer** Phyllis Mackey, **Finance Chair** Doris Weinert; **Members at Large:** Sandy Langdale, Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, and Michael Vanvales. If you don’t know a Council member, they also wear nametags at Church on Sunday!

### **Update**

Pastor Lisa is in UCI because she is dealing with Covid again. Please keep her and her daughter in your prayers. She can still be contacted by text or cards can be sent to her house.

### **Office Hours and Council Meeting**

The secretary is available during Office Hours noon to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The Church Council Meeting is the third Wednesday of the month at **1:30 p.m.** As congregation members, you are always invited to attend the meetings if you wish.



### **IN MEMORIAM**

*Please pray for the Family and Friends of:*

*Dena Anderson*

*February 10, 1942 to June 30, 2024*

*Jerry Brady*

*June 23, 1936 to July 28, 2024*



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ST. THEODORE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
FINANCE REPORT  
Month Ending June 30, 2024**

**FINANCES FOR THE MONTH of June 2024**

<b>Operating Income of</b>	\$14,476.00	<b>Exceeded</b>
<b>Operating Expenses of</b>	<u>\$9,643.00</u>	
<b>By</b>	\$4,833.00	

*[we spent less than we took in]*

*Operating income includes \$44.00 from Boutique Fundraising for May.*

**For the year to June 30, 2024**

<b>Operating Expenses of</b>	\$50,220.00	<b>Exceeded</b>
<b>Operating Income of</b>	<u>\$48,959.00</u>	
<b>by</b>	(\$1,261.00)	

*[we spent more than we took in]*

**Comparing Budgeted to Actual for 2024:**

<b>Actual</b> Income of	\$48,959.00	<b>Exceeded</b>
<b>Budgeted</b> Income of	<u>\$43,848.00</u>	
<b>by</b>	\$5,111.00	

*[we took in more than our budget anticipated]*

<b>Actual</b> Expense of	\$50,220.00	<b>Exceeded</b>
<b>Budgeted</b> Expense of	<u>\$43,848.00</u>	
<b>by</b>	(\$6,372.00)	

*[we spent more than our budget anticipated]*

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris Weinert  
Finance Chairman

**CYCLE B – Year of Mark**  
**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**THROUGH THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**August 4, 2024 *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost***

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15  
Psalm 78:23-29  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35

**August 11, 2024 *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost***

1 Kings 19:4-8  
Psalm 34:1-8  
Ephesians 4:25—5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51

**August 18, 2024 *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

Proverbs 9:1-6  
Psalm 34:9-14  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58

**August 25, 2024 *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18  
Psalm 34:15-22  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 6:56-69

**September 1, 2024 *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9  
Psalm 15  
James 1:17-27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**September 8, 2024 *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
Psalm 146 (2)  
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

**September 15, 2024 — *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost***

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

**September 22, 2024 — *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Wisdom 1:16 — 2:1, 12-22  
Psalm 54  
James 3:13 — 4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

**September 29, 2024 — *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
Psalm 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

**October 6, 2024 — *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost***

Genesis 2:18-24  
Psalm 8  
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

## ***Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing***

### ***“The Bread of Life”***

Starting the last Sunday of July and continuing through the end of August we hear pretty much the entirety of (a few verses are skipped here and there) chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. This is the discourse on Jesus being the bread of life. The Gospel of John focuses on the Divinity of Jesus, Salvation through Him, and this comes to the front especially in this chapter. An interesting note as you read through the August Gospel lessons – each one begins with the ending verse(s) of the previous Gospel lesson. This discourse is broken up into small steps by Jesus in the hope that the people will come to believe. Step one: feed the people. Step two: Set the request for belief and begin the idea of being the Bread of Life, come down from Heaven; sent by the Father; one with the Father. Step three: Restate being sent by the Father; being one with the Father; and the way to eternal life is through him. Step four: State the fact that they need to eat of him for eternal life. Step five: Accept the reality that not everyone who has followed are willing to fully believe leading to a confession of faith by Peter, *“Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”*

So, a quick recap of the final Gospel lesson from July – Jesus feeds the 5,000 with two fish and five loaves. Well, that was exciting and hey, everybody loves free food!

Now we come to the first Sunday of August where the people who had been fed are still following him. Jesus sees that the people following him just want more. They ask for more food, for more signs, more works. The fact that he just fed them was not enough. They have been fed and now want to know what to do! Jesus puts it to them directly: BELIEVE. Believe in God. Believe in Jesus who was sent by God. He gently reminds them that Moses didn’t feed the Israelites in the desert but the Father. He ends with the statement that he IS the Bread of Life!

Which leads to the next Sunday where he starts with the statement that he is the bread of life. This is the moment where the doubting begins! Who is this guy? What does he mean? Don’t we already know who he is? Don’t we already know all about him? Jesus reminds them of the prophets and the promises made to them: that they shall be taught by God. He ends going a step forward: not only is he the bread of life but that his own flesh is that bread.

The third week begins with this statement and continues with more questions from his followers. That step further has them all questioning his sanity. For them, it makes no sense. Jesus is THE connection to eternal life. We have the advantage that we know the whole story so we can understand that connection.

The fourth Sunday of August comes the big question from Jesus. This lesson begins with the promise that He IS the Bread of Life and by partaking of this, we get eternal life. He recognizes that what he is saying is difficult and he is compassionate and sorrowful with his followers. He tries to walk them slowly through the logic of his statements. He does a little foreshadowing but realizes that not all of them will continue with him. He finally goes to his stalwart twelve and asked if they would continue with him. Our favorite passionate disciple,



Peter, gives him the perfect answer: *“Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”* [John 6:68-69]

As Christians, we believe in the True Presence of Christ in Holy Communion. Exactly how, why, and the naming of the process for the True Presence of Christ, body and blood, present in Holy Communion may differ but the core statement of Jesus: I am the Bread of Life; and the directive: <sup>54</sup>*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day;* <sup>55</sup>*for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.* <sup>56</sup>*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.*” [John 6:54-56] is being given in our Church each time we have Holy Communion. And it is in this promise of Jesus that is at the core of our faith.

The Lutherans have given expression to the reality of the Eucharistic presence by speaking of presence of *Christ's Body and Blood in, with and under bread and wine*. Here they see real analogy to the Lord's incarnation: as God and man become one in Jesus Christ, Christ's body and blood, on the one hand, and the bread and wine, on the other, give rise to a sacramental unity.

The statement I could find for the Episcopal Church is: *“The elements are not mere signs; Christ's body and blood become really present and are really given. But they are really present and given in order that, receiving them, believers may be united in communion with Christ the Lord.”* *“The Body and Blood of Christ given to his people and received by faith.”* (BCP, p. 859).

And, I'm going to throw in the Roman Catholic understanding [because that's what I am] to mitigate any errors I may have made! *“By the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation.* (CCC, 1376)

*This month take a look at your own reactions to these passages. When have you doubted? What brought you back or answered your questions? Or, do you still have doubts? Do you believe or are you still questioning like those in the first weeks of Gospel lesson? Who is Jesus for you? Do you believe that Jesus is the Bread of Life? What do you believe about Holy Communion? What does the Church teach about the Presence of Jesus in Holy Communion? Do you have doubts about the Presence of Jesus in Holy Communion? What can you do to answer them?*

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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 10:30 Holy Communion Service	5	6	7 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	8	9	10
11 10:30 Holy Communion Service	12	13	14 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	15	16	17
18 10:30 Holy Communion Service	19	20	21 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	22	23	24
25 10:30 Holy Communion Service  Birthdays Celebrated	26 <b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	27	28 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	29	30	31