



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**
13564 St. Andrews Drive; Seal Beach, CA 90740
Phone (562) 598-8697; FAX (562) 598-8697
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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>Rev. 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>

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.

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

FEBRUARY

February 5: 10:45-11:45 a.m. At the End of Life Gathering

12:00 noon Bible Study

Annual Reports Due

February 12: 10:45-11:45 a.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m. At the End of Life Gathering

12:00 noon Bible Study

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 19: 10:45-11:45 a.m. At the End of Life Gathering

12:00 noon Bible Study

1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

February 23: Annual Meeting Part 2

February 26: 12:00 noon Bible Study

Church Secretary will be gone February 23 to March 9

Message from the Interim Pastor:

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

The grace and peace of God be with you as we begin the second month of this year 2025. We are midway through the wonderful Season of Epiphany, those weeks within the calendar of the Christian Church when we read and focus on the ways God revealed the love of God in the earliest days of the ministry of Jesus... his baptism, his first miracle, the beginning of his preaching and teaching, his choosing of his disciples, and as he clarified his eternal and divine mission to bring the grace, compassion, and love of God to all of humanity

February is, of course, the shortest month of the year, but as I look at from the point of view of our congregation, I see it teeming with activities and invitations. Of course, we **worship every Sunday** morning at 10:30 a.m. Our **Wednesday Bible Study** at 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall will study the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) during the four Wednesdays of February. As promised, during this month we will offer several gatherings to allow our members and friends to fill out an “**At the End of Life**” document that will give indications and preferences about the services and memorials that will honor and give thanks for our lives upon our death. Those dates and times are listed at the end of this article and any and all are invited to attend one of those gatherings. A small group of people will be working on the **Ministry Site Profile** of the congregation, a document then shared with the Synod Office and finally, the whole church, that will help us identify a person to more permanently fill the long pastoral vacancy of this congregation. We will be receiving **estimates for a new heating and cooling system** for our campus, with the hopes that in the months ahead, it will be more comfortable during the times when it is uncomfortably cold or hot in our facility.

Along with all that activity within our congregation, we will pause in February, especially around **St. Valentine’s Day** to reflect on the ways God loves us and how we love God and one another. On **Presidents’ Day Weekend**, we will observe and remember those who have faithfully and courageously served in our nation’s highest office. It will be the 99th year since our nation first began, in February, to observe **Black History Month**, and it will be the 49th year since this observance became more formalized through presidential proclamations. We are also encouraged to continue to think how we are able to **support and care for the many Southern Californians** who have lost their homes and livelihoods in the devastating fires of this past month.

The month of February this year is only 28 days long and yet those four weeks offer us many reasons to gather as the people of God. This short month invites us to pray, to worship, to study, to plan, to contemplate, to support, to give thanks, and to love God and one another with heart, soul, and mind. Let us gather together as often as we are able to be the church—the people of God—and receive all that God is offering us day by day.

Here are dates and times for the gatherings to discuss, prepare, and record the information you may wish to leave “**At the End of Life.**” Please notice these gatherings are offered either before or after the Wednesday Bible Study. If another day of the week is needed and requested, we will add at least more offering of this gathering.

Wednesday, February 5th, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 12th, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 12th, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 19th, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

May our Lord God continue to bless you, watch over you, and keep you in the days and weeks ahead.

+Pastor Murray D. Finck

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus
murraydfinck@gmail.com
714-345-2791

Just a reminder:

New Member Reception in Early March. We are start the conversations and preparations for another New Member Reception for any who desire to join the official membership of the congregation. The form will be available on Sunday mornings. It is also attached to the weekly Communiqué. **If you are interested, please fill out the form** and give it to Pastor Finck on Sunday morning or send it to the church address: 13564 Saint Andrews Drive; Seal Beach, CA 90740. There is never any pressure for people to officially join the membership. We always welcome, include, and love our visitors, friends, associate members, and members.

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope this article finds you well and filled with the peace and joy of God's Love. I am reaching out today with gratitude as we begin a new year to continue to work together to build a stronger, more vibrant church community.

We remain deeply thankful for the spiritual leadership of our interim pastor, The Rev. Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus who continues to bless us with his Sunday messages and Bible Study sessions on Wednesdays. His teachings and wisdom inspire us all, and we encourage everyone to take advantage of every opportunity to learn from him as he guides us in faith and understanding.

I am pleased to announce that the Church Council has elected new officers who will serve our congregation in the coming term. These dedicated individuals have accepted their call to lead and serve our church community with faith and commitment.

The newly elected officers are:

President: Kay Pushman, **Vice President:** Wendy Alfageme, **Treasurer:** Doris Weinert and **Secretary:** Nancy Anderson. Doris Weinert has agreed to continue as **Finance Chair**, and the rest of the Council consists of Susan Avila, Carol Costello, Sandra Langdale, Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, Linda Peters and Michael Vanvales. This group of dedicated Church Members play a vital role in our congregation. These leaders not only chair and serve on committees, but also help guide decisions about the workings of our church, ensuring that our ministry thrives and our mission is fulfilled. This new Council will be officially installed during the **Second Congregational Meeting**, which will take place on Sunday, **March 2** immediately following the worship service in the Sanctuary.

During this meeting, we will also:

- *Elect two members to represent our congregation at the Pacifica Synod Assembly 2025, which will be held on May 16-17, 2025, at Gloria Dei Lutheran in Dana Point California. This assembly provides a wonderful opportunity for our representatives to engage with others in the Pacifica Synod, participate in decision-making, and be part of shaping the wider ministry of our church. We invite all members to prayerfully consider representing our congregation at this important assembly. If you feel called to serve in this capacity, please let me know before the meeting.

- *Receive and review the Annual Reports from our various committees, highlighting all the wonderful work accomplished in the past year.

We encourage everyone to attend this important gathering of our congregation as we reflect on the past year, plan for the future and affirm our commitment to serving God together.

With heartfelt thanks for the privilege of serving this congregation,

Kay Pushman
Council President

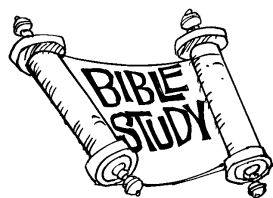
ANNOUNCING

Annual Congregational Meeting Part 2



The Annual Congregational Meeting Part 2 will be held on March 2, 2025. This is a date change. Annual Reports will be presented at that time along with the choosing of delegates to the 2025 Pacifica Synod Assembly to be held on Friday, May 16 to Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Dana Point.

Bible Study



Bible Study will meet in the Fellowship Hall from noon to about 1:15 p.m. on all Wednesdays in February. You can bring friends, your Bible, and your lunch, if you wish! There are drinks available to share. There is also, usually, a sweet treat or two to share. We will be spending the next weeks studying the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew beginning with Matthew 5:1-26 on February 5; Matthew 5:27-6:15 on February 12; Matthew 6:16-34 on February 19; and Matthew 7:1-28 on February 26 (all subject to changes depending on the discussions). Bishop Murray Finck will be leading the discussion. This is a great way to meet members and friends to share an understanding of faith and the Holy Scriptures.

Sealed Pledge Drive



Once again, we are bringing back our Sealed Pledge Drive. We are encouraging you to share your time, talents, and treasures with the Church to further the work of the Lord. You should have received a white pledge card to be returned, a goldenrod copy of that pledge card for you to keep as a reminder, and a return envelope that can be returned in the offering plate or mailed back enclosed in another envelope. If we have a record of your giving for the 2024 year, it was included in this mailing. We would like them returned before **Sunday, February 23** as we are planning to dedicate them at the Service on **March 3** before our Annual Meeting Part 2. **Do not include any gifts in the envelope** because they are not opened, it's a SEALED pledge; it is between you and God. It will include a space for you to put in how you would like to share your time and talents, a space for evangelization, and a financial commitment. Please, pray about what commitments you can make. It will be mailed to you, if we have your mailing address. We are reaching out to everyone, member or visitor, because we are all called to share through our belief in the Christ.

Personal Annual Giving Reports



We included your 2024 donation report in with the Sealed Pledges this year. If you have NOT received one and think you should have, please contact the Church at (562) 598-8697 or email the Secretary at: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net. They were mailed on January 24th.

ANNUAL REPORTS



ALL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025** TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PUBLISHED REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ~ PART 2 ON March 2. 2025.

Reports are need from: the Pastor, the Council President, the Financial Secretary, the annual financial report for 2024, and the budget for 2025.

This year, **we would like to include reports again from all the Committees** that have been so active this year. This would include: **Interfaith Council, Outreach Committee, Property Team, Counting Team, Hospitality**

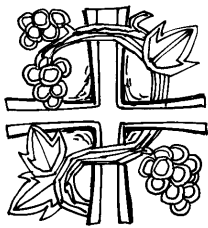
Committee, Altar Guild, WELCA, Worship Committee [which includes **Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Communion Assistants, and the Choir**]. This is your chance to tell us about what your committee has been doing and get out information about the various committees active within the Church! Please submit your report so it is in the office by Wednesday, February 5th. They can be dropped off in the office or emailed to **redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net**. Thank You!!!

Women of the ELCA—Pacifica Synod Spring Gathering



The Women of the ELCA Pacifica Synod Spring Gathering will be Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 9am - 3pm at King of Glory Lutheran Church; 10280 Slater Avenue; Fountain Valley, CA 92708. If you are interested in attending this gathering, please pick up a registration form and other information from the bulletin board in the entryway, they will be available starting February 5th. **Registration is \$30.00 by February 23, 2025.**

Outside Memorial Cross Wall



Our membership is invited to include a loved one on our Outside Memorial Cross 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. 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. Flyers are available in the entryway to be filled out and returned. 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. 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 thank all who have participated in these programs and have designated Redeemer as their charity of choice.

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. THEODORE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FINANCE REPORT
Month Ending December 31, 2024**

FINANCES FOR THE MONTH of December 2024

Operating Expenses of	<u>\$11,906.00</u>	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$8,189.00</u>	
By	(\$3,717.00)	
<i>[we spent more than we took in]</i>		

For the year to December 31, 2024

Operating Expenses of	\$106,539.00	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$102,499.00</u>	
by	(\$4,040.00)	
<i>[we spent more than we took in]</i>		

Comparing Budgeted to Actual for 2024:

Actual Income of	\$102,499.00	Exceeded
Budgeted Income of	<u>\$87,696.00</u>	
by	\$14,803.00	
<i>[we took in more than our budget anticipated]</i>		

Actual Expense of	\$106,539.00	Exceeded
Budgeted Expense of	<u>\$87,696.00</u>	
by	(\$18,843.00)	
<i>[we spent more than our budget anticipated]</i>		

Other Income and Expenses for the Year:

<u>Income:</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Memorial	\$	\$8,790		\$257
Memorial Wall	\$	\$600		\$86
Disaster Relief	\$	\$40		\$40
Fundraising – Boutique	\$1	\$333		
Fundraising - Pump	\$	\$663		
Fundraising - Other	\$	\$62		
Fundraising - Bake Sale	\$	\$162		
Fundraising – Bazaar	<u>\$1</u>	<u>\$1,461</u>		
Total:	\$2	\$12,111		

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Weinert
Finance Chairman

CYCLE C – Year of Luke
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY THROUGH
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

February 2, 2025 – *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalms 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

February 2, 2025 – *Presentation of Our Lord*

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalms 84 or Psalms 24:7-10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

February 9, 2025 – *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]
Psalms 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 16, 2025 – *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalms 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

February 23, 2025 – *Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

March 2, 2025 – *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalms 99
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

March 5, 2025 – *Ash Wednesday*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa 58:1-12
Psalms 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9, 2025 — *First Sunday in Lent*

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (11)
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 16, 2025 — *Second Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27 (5)
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 23, 2025 — *Third Sunday in Lent*

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8 (1)
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 30, 2025 — *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32 (11)
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-3

April 6, 2025 — *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126 (5)
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“Being a Prophet”

February 2, 2025 – *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 4 verses 21-30

This first Sunday of February continues last Sunday’s Gospel lesson. Jesus is still in his home town of Nazareth and is preaching in the synagogue. People are amazed and in awe of his preaching, until they stop and think, this is Joseph’s son; we watched him grow up; how can **HE** be telling us anything?!? Then they get angry, to the point where they try to throw him from a cliff. Why? Because he reminds them that God is not “owned” by them. God’s love and care cannot be limited to just them. God loves and cares for the “other” in this world. We are called to do the same. We are challenged to love and care for those we don’t understand, who are seen as “less than”. We are called to care for and to share God’s love with the poor, ill, hurting, disregarded, shunned, and the different. We are called to something higher than society’s judgement; we are called to live and care and work and love by God’s judgement which is always layered with love and mercy.

February 9, 2025 – *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 5 verses 1-11

In this Gospel passage we have the calling of Simon, James, and John. This is different from the other Gospel’s telling of the story. This time Jesus begins by preaching and using Simon’s boat to preach from. He then sends them out to fill their nets again. They receive a great catch and Simon in his humility, begs Jesus to leave him since he is a sinful man. Jesus tells Simon to come with him and he will make him a catcher of people. And they lift with Jesus. This is the same thing that occurs at Worship. Jesus calls us to community, so we come to the church. We greet one another in hospitality just as Simon welcomes Jesus into his boat. We take time in humility and sorrow to ask Jesus for forgiveness just as Simon does. We follow Jesus in obedience as we pray and partake in Holy Communion just as Simon did in going out to fish again. Then we are called to risk all we have to follow Jesus just like Simon. We are told each week at the end of the service to, **“Go in peace, share the good news.”** in some form and this is what we try to do when we live out the Gospel message of love, mercy, forgiveness, and compassion and share this message with others.

February 16, 2025 – *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 6 verses 17-26

The third Sunday of February we hear Luke’s version of the Beatitudes. Luke places Jesus on a plain rather than a mount as he is in Matthew’s Gospel. Living in Arizona, I can understand that Jesus could be both on a mount and a plain at the same time. The mesas of the southwest are found as a flat place on the top of a hill or mountain. Luke focuses on four themes within his presentation of the Beatitudes and he pairs them with four “woes” to show counterpoint to the blessings: poor vs rich, hungry vs full, weeping vs laughing/mourning, hated vs being spoken of well. Both the blessings and the warnings end with the idea of how prophets were treated: good prophets got the blessings false prophets got the warnings. Just as Jesus was

rejected as a “prophet” in his hometown at the beginning of the month, we need to be aware of when we are being a good prophet and how we are treated. But we also need to be mindful when we are being addressed by a good prophet, even when they are not who we would expect.

Sunday, February 23, 2025 – *Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 6 verses 27-38

Jesus can be quite radical in his teachings. Today’s Gospel is just one example. He starts out telling his followers to turn the other cheek, and to give up their shirt. These are actually quite radical for the times. There were limits on how you could punish those under you. You could only hit with the back of an open left hand. By turning your cheek, it prevents a second hit. It was sinful for a person, other than a spouse, or doctor, etc., to see someone unclothed. The sin would be on the one seeing not the one unclothed. Therefore, if someone takes your cloak removing your shirt also, now becomes a problem. Jesus does not want his followers to be doormats. He wants them to be like him. Jesus was strong, forgiving, merciful, understanding, and loving. Jesus was also willing to stand up for what is right in God’s eyes, give his life for others, and address social issues of the time. Jesus calls all of us to that radical love where we love and pray for our enemies, where we do not judge a person, where we are kind, forgiving and merciful. And because we believe in a God of abundance: we will receive more kindness, forgiveness, and mercy from God. So, go, be a prophet of a kind, loving, forgiving, and merciful God.



YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Kay Pushman, **Vice President:** Wendy Alfageme, **Secretary:** Nancy Anderson,
Treasurer and Finance Chair: Doris Weinert

Members at Large: Susan Avila, Carol Costello, Sandy Langdale, Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, Linda Peters and Michael Vanvales

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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 10:30 Holy Communion Service	3	4	5 10:45-11:45 a.m. At the End of Life gathering 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study <i>Annual Reports Due in the Office</i>	6	7	8
9 10:30 Holy Communion Service	10	11	12 10:45-11:45 a.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m. At the End of Life gathering 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15
16 10:30 Holy Communion Service	17 PRESIDENTS' DAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	18	19 10:45-11:45 a.m. At the End of Life gathering 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting	20	21	22
23 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Please turn in your Sealed Pledges Birthdays Celebrated at Fellowship</i>	24 <i>Church Secretary gone until March 9</i>	25	26 NO Office Hours 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	27	28	