



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

<i>Elaine Lee</i>	<i>February</i>	7
<i>Susan Sinner</i>	<i>February</i>	8
<i>Lisa Rotchford</i>	<i>February</i>	13
<i>Alma Zamzow</i>	<i>February</i>	15
<i>Linda Robertson</i>	<i>February</i>	20

**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 to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study

**February**

**February 1:** 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

**February 2:** 10:00 a.m. Bazaar Crafting

**February 4:** 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

**February 8:** 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

**February 11:** 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

**February 15:** Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Annual Meeting Part 2 Following Service

**February 16:** 10:00 a.m. Bazaar Crafting

**February 18:** 10:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service

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

1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

**February 22:** First Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

**February 25:** 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

4:00 p.m. Lenten Study and Supper

## ***Message from the Interim Pastor:***

February 2026

### ***“Come to the Table for a February Buffet”***

I saw on the news this week that the once very popular buffet (or smorgasbord) dining had really slowed down during and after COVID-19. That is very understandable of course. But now that kind of dining experience is having a comeback and people are again filling buffet restaurants, enjoying the wide variety of foods that are available as they pile high their plates with many different tastes and delights.

**In February, we have a buffet of options at Redeemer and St. Theodore of Canterbury.** On both Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons there will be a rich variety of opportunities to “come to the table” to worship, study, and gather for inspiration, spiritual growth and renewal. The menu of opportunities is wonderfully diverse in February with two liturgical seasons, two special days of worship, Bible studies continuing with the Book of Acts, and Lenten midweek gatherings on Wednesday afternoons. Following is a week-by-week summary of the opportunities to gather around the table with the Word of God and the Holy Sacrament of Communion. Everyone is always welcome and invited. Bring a neighbor or friend. **Come to the table of the Lord, our God!**

**The First Week of February...** February 1<sup>st</sup> is the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany where we will read the first words of Jesus’ Sermon on the mount in Matthew 5. Those words are called **“The Beatitudes.”** In all of our services, Holy Communion will be celebrated, and all are invited to the Lord’s Table. Midweek on Wednesday, February 4th, we will gather around the tables in the Fellowship Hall from 12:00-1:15pm for our ongoing study of Saint Paul’s missionary journeys as recorded in the Book of Acts.

**The Second Week of February...** February 8<sup>th</sup> is the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. **The Reverend Brad Stienstra** will again be our guest preacher and presider as the biblical readings continue with more of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5. On Wednesday, February 11th, the Bible study of the Book of Acts will continue in the Fellowship Hall from 12:00-1:15pm. After that midday study, we will take a Bible Study break for several weeks.

**The Third Week of February...** February 15<sup>th</sup> is the Sunday entitled **“The Transfiguration of our Lord,”** a festival day in the church calendar remembering the wonders of Jesus’ transfiguration on the mountaintop with three of his disciples and two of the ancient Old Testament prophets. On Wednesday, February 18th, another special day in the calendar of the church will gather the congregation for worship at 10:30am in the morning on **Ash Wednesday**, the first day and the beginning of the Lenten season. The imposition of ashes will be offered, and Holy Communion will be celebrated as we

begin this 40-day season that leads us to the cross and the empty tomb of our Lord. There will be no other gathering on Ash Wednesday.

**The 4th Week of February...** February 22<sup>nd</sup> is the First Sunday in Lent. We will go with Jesus into the wilderness where he retreated for 40 days of fasting and prayer. During those days, the tempter tried to lead Jesus away from his divine mission of redeeming the world from its sin and separation from God. On Wednesday February 25th, the congregation will “come to the tables” in the fellowship hall in the basement at 4:00pm for a 50-minute time of Lenten inspiration and conversation, followed by an early evening meal together beginning at 5:00pm. Again, any and all are always invited to one or both of these midweek Lenten opportunities.

February gives us wonderful opportunities to “come to the table.” On **Sunday mornings** we will feast and be fed with the Word of God, and we will gather around the altar (the Holy Table) for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Following our worship, all are welcome downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for a time of refreshment and informal conversation around the tables that offer welcome and hospitality. On **Wednesday afternoons** at 12:00 noon, we “come to the tables” in the Fellowship Hall for Bible study and spiritual inspiration. Beginning on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. we gather for study and Lenten inspiration and 5:00 p.m. with the specially prepared Lenten meals that we will enjoy for our five midweek gatherings during the holy season of Lent. A wonderful buffet awaits us! “Come to the table,” people of God, and allow the spirit of God to fill us with holy and sacred times together!

God’s grace and peace be with you all!

*+Pastor Murray*

+The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Interim Pastor

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

Dear Members and Friends,

As we begin another year at Redeemer and St. Theodore's, we are still so very blessed with the leadership of Pastor Murray. His sermons continue to inform and inspire us. If you don't already attend the Wednesday 12:00 Bible Classes in the Fellowship Hall, don't let this opportunity pass you by.



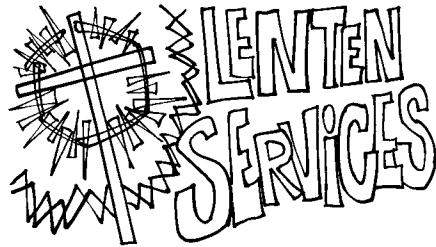
Our **Second Congregational Meeting** is following the **February 15** Worship Service. We will be presenting the Annual Reports for 2025, electing delegates to the Synod Assembly, and installing the Council officers and members. Fellowship will follow. We urge the whole congregation to stay for this important meeting.

Our **Spring Bazaar** is scheduled for **April 30, May 1 and 2**. Carmen Leslie, Chairman and her committee are already planning this event. This is a fundraiser, so please support your church by attending with friends and neighbors.

The Sa-Rang Korean Church has requested signage with times of worship, and the Council has approved a 15x18 plaque to be hung on the front wall near the Redeemer and St. Theodore's signs.



We are still working on the required church upgrades. We have received a definitive list and photos of the electrical requirements, and have put it out to bid. We will also be working on bids for the replacement of the hot water heaters. We will keep you informed as we move to complete these required upgrades.



Ash Wednesday is February 18, and we will have a service at our regular time of 10:30 a.m. We will be having Lenten Suppers which include spiritual study with Pastor Murray followed by a meal together. There is a sheet to sign if you are going to attend, so that our hosts that donate and make the food are able to determine how much to provide. Dates to remember:

**Ash Wednesday February 18 10:30 am Holy Communion Service and Ashes Lenten Reflections and Suppers:**

**Wednesdays 4:00 p.m.** on February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25.

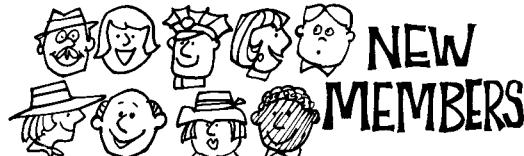
**Palm Sunday** March 29 10:30 a.m.

**Holy Week:** No Lenten Supper

**Maundy Thursday April 2** 10:30 a.m. Hand Washing and Holy Communion Service

**Good Friday, April 3** 10:30 a.m. Passion and Holy Communion Service

**Easter: April 5** 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

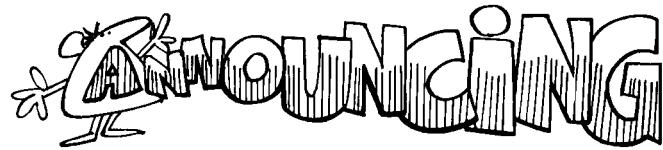


Pastor Murray will be offering another opportunity to officially become a member of our church this spring. Please speak to him about any concerns you may have that may be affecting your decision to join the membership.

May our church and congregation continue to be blessed as we begin another year together.

God's Blessings,

**Kay Pushman**  
Council President



### **Bible Study**

We are currently holding Bible Study on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon until about 1:15 p.m. We are studying the Acts of the Apostles until Ash Wednesday. Remember to bring your Bible; invite a friend or neighbor, and your lunch. To prepare for the class, you are invited to read the following:

**February 4**    Acts 15:36-18:28    Paul's Second Missionary Journey in Asia Minor and Macedonia - Timothy and Silas Join Paul – Lydia - Apollos

**February 11**    Acts 19 – 28    Paul's Third Missionary Journey through Asia Minor and Macedonia – Paul's Return to Jerusalem – Paul Arrested and Brought Before the Jewish Council, then to Felix, the Governor, and Festus, the New Governor - then to King Agrippa, Son of Herod – Paul is Sent to Rome – Shipwrecked – The Island of Malta – Paul in Rome

### **Ash Wednesday Service and Lenten Suppers**

We will be having a **10:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service** on Wednesday, **February 18** in the Sanctuary. Please come and bring your friends, neighbors, and family if you wish. Prepare for the Lenten Season by attending this beginning of Lent Service.

Please join us on February 25, March 4, 11, and 18, and 25 for our **Lenten Reflection Study and Supper** beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Personal Annual Giving Reports**

If we have a record of your giving for the 2025 year, it will be sent to you the first week of February. No need to request it be sent!

If you do NOT receive one and think you should have, please contact the Church at (562) 598-8697 or email the Secretary at: [redeemer\\_lutheran@verizon.net](mailto:redemer_lutheran@verizon.net). Please wait until **FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>** to contact us about not receiving a report.

### **Annual Reports**

ALL REPORTS WERE DUE IN THE OFFICE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026  
Reports must be received in the office [email, mail, left on the desk in the office] **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>** TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PUBLISHED REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ~ PART 2 for FEBRUARY 15, 2026.

Reports are need from: the Pastor, the Council President, the Financial Secretary, the annual financial report for 2025, and the budget for 2026.

All other ministries that wish to submit an annual report are welcome to do so but also need to be in the office as soon as possible. Thank You!!!

## **Annual Congregational Meeting – Part 2**

The Annual Congregational Meeting – Part 2 will be held on **Sunday, February 15, 2026** immediately following our Holy Communion Service. Annual Reports will be presented with the officers of the Church Council and our representatives to the Annual Synod Assembly will be chosen. Fellowship will follow the meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Outside Memorial Cross Wall**

It was decided to turn one wall of the Outside Cross Chapel into a Cross Memorial Wall. 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. 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.



**FINANCE REPORT**  
**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ST. THEODORE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**ACTUAL INCOME & EXPENSES**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2025**

<b>Income</b>	<b>One Month</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Current Offering	\$9,973.89	\$102,144.95
Fundraiser-Boutique	\$117.00	\$449.25
Fundraiser-Bake Sale	\$0.00	\$40.00
Fundraiser-Bazaar	\$60.00	\$5,375.30
Fundraiser-Ralphs	\$0.00	\$163.66
Memorial	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Memorial Wall	(\$96.27) *	\$1,511.31 *
Sa-Rang Church Donation	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,000.00</u>
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$12,054.62</b>	<b>\$120,184.47</b>
* Memorial Wall Net (Income less Expenses)		
Total Operating Income	\$12,054.62	\$120,184.47
Total Expenses	<u>\$9,619.08</u>	<u>\$114,690.44</u>
<b>Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$2,435.54</b>	<b>\$5,494.03</b>
	Exceed Expenses	Exceed Expenses

**YEAR TO DATE BUDGET INCOME & EXPENSES**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2025**

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
<b>Budget</b>	\$107,900.00	\$107,900.00
<b>Actual</b>	<u>\$120,184.47</u>	<u>\$114,690.44</u>
<b>Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>(\$12,284.47)</b>	<b>(\$6,790.44)</b>
	(More than Budget)	(More than Budget)

**OTHER INCOME & EXPENSES**

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
Disaster Relief	\$550.00	\$550.00 (In & Out)
World Hunger	\$300.00	\$300.00 (In & Out)
HVAC		\$60,125.00
B2B2B 10% Tithe		\$3,661.00
Grant: Pacifica Synod ELCA	\$25,000.00	
Grant: Episcopal Diocese of LA	\$12,500.00	
HVAC Fundraising - B2B2B	\$36,610.00	
Church Improvement	\$7,000.00	

Respectfully Submitted  
Doris Weinert, Finance Chair

**CYCLE A – Year of Matthew**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**THROUGH GOOD FRIDAY**

**February 1, 2026 – *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany***  
Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

**February 8, 2026 – *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany***  
Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 112:1-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-16  
Matthew 5:13-20

**February 15, 2026 – *Transfiguration of Our Lord***  
**Last Sunday after Epiphany**  
Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

**February 18, 2026 – *Ash Wednesday***  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**February 22, 2026 – *First Sunday in Lent***  
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

**March 1, 2026 – *Second Sunday in Lent***  
Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

**March 8, 2026 – *Third Sunday in Lent***  
Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

**March 15, 2026 – *Fourth Sunday in Lent***  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

**March 22, 2026 – *Fifth Sunday in Lent***  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

**March 29, 2026 – *Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday***  
*Procession with Palms:* Matthew 21:1-11  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14—27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

**April 2, 2026 – *Maundy Thursday***  
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**April 3, 2026 – *Good Friday***  
Isaiah 52:13—53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1—19:42

## *Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing*

### *"Gospel of Matthew: Cycle A"*

**February 1, 2026 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 5 verses 1-12**

The First Sunday in February we begin the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus begins with the Beatitudes, a new covenant based from the Ten Commandments. We often think God is most pleased with huge events and activities, when often, small acts of justice, mercy, forgiveness, and kindness can show others what a humble walk with God is like. In what small and simple ways is God calling us to act with justice and kindness in your life?

**February 8, 2026 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

**The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 5 verses 13-20**

The second Sunday of February we continue with the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus calls his followers to be salt and light. These are basic necessities of life. We as humans cannot live well without both salt and light. Our bodies need light so we can see in the darkness. We use light to keep us safe. We need vitamin D that we get from sunlight. If we spend too much time without light, we can become sad and depressed. Salt is needed to keep our electrolytes balanced. It is used to flavor our foods. In Jesus's time salt was used to pay people. It's where the term "salary" comes from. A person "worth their salt" was one who could be trusted. Jesus again uses common things to encourage his followers to live lives that bring others closer to God through our example. Jesus ends this with a warning: if you do not fulfill the call to discipleship, you will not receive the rewards of discipleship.

**February 15, 2026 – Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**Last Sunday after Epiphany**

**The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 17 verses 1-9**

The third Sunday in February we have the final Sunday of the Epiphany season; the Transfiguration of Our Lord. We are again on a mountain top! Frequently, encounters with the Divine occurs on mountain tops. We are pulled from the ordinary to go to the mountain to encounter the Divine. Just as at the beginning of Jesus's ministry, at his baptism by John, God the Father claims Jesus as His Son; as we are nearing the ending of Jesus's earthly ministry, we again have God the Father claiming Jesus as His Son. Jesus is presented in his Divinity to a select few of his followers. And they want to stay on the mountain! To remain in the presence of the Divine. But, as much as they want to stay, Jesus calls them down off the mountain to continue on their journey. We are all called to continue on our journey especially after encountering the Divine. It is the way we live our lives: going from Sunday Services and our encounter with the Divine in Word and Sacrament to going out into our communities to share

with others our love and faith to return again to the mountain top to be filled again the next Sunday.

### **February 18, 2026 – Ash Wednesday**

#### **The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 6 verses 1-6, 16-21**

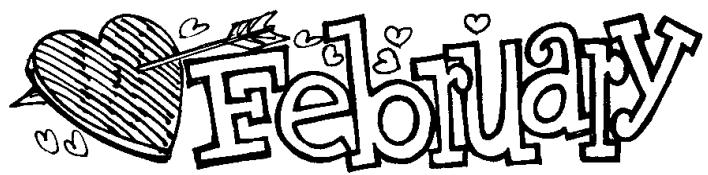
February 18 is Ash Wednesday. We are back to the Sermon on the Mount! This time Jesus gives us the guidelines for what we will be working on during this Lent (and hopefully beyond). It is our annual call to alms giving, prayer, and fasting. Maybe this year, instead of giving up something we should look at DOING something MORE (it might be a little easier!). Perhaps you are able to go for a walk in your neighborhood and you can take the time to smile and say hello to people you haven't seen in a while. Maybe you can make that phone call or send an email or letter to someone else who might be lonely and needs a friendly voice. Maybe you can choose to listen to someone who needs an ear. Or share a meal with another. There is always the choice to fast from harmful things: gossip, complaining, listening to others speak ill of someone else, or doing it yourself. They say exercise is good for the body so this Lenten season lets stretch ourselves and share our own salt and light with someone who need it.

### **February 22, 2026 – First Sunday in Lent**

#### **The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 4 verses 1-11**

The last Sunday in February is the first Sunday in Lent. We are back to that number 40 that is so popular in the Scriptures: the rain of the Great Flood lasted 40 days and nights; Moses fasted for 40 days and nights to prepare himself to receive the Law; Moses was atop Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights receiving the Law; the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years; the manna rained down on the Israelites for 40 years; the Prophet Elijah walked 40 days and nights to reach the Mountain of God, Horeb. *Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights in the desert and was tempted to prepare for His public ministry.* So it is that “40 means something”, as it brings to mind such qualities as **repentance, preparation, self-examination, transformation, escape from bondage or slavery** (such as to sin), **nourishment and growth** (for example, in the spiritual life), and, finally, redemption and salvation, and ultimately, new life. Is it a wonder that the human gestation period for new life is around 40 weeks? As we enter Lent, look at the bolded words above and decide what you, personally, will work on this Lent to bring about your own new life through Jesus’s redemption and salvation.

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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 10:30 Holy Communion Service	<b>2</b> 10:00 a.m. Bazaar Crafting Get together	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Guest Presider</i> <i>The Rev. Brad Stienstra</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b> <b>SUNDAY</b> 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Annual Congregational Meeting Part 2</i> <i>Following Service</i>	<b>16</b> 10:00 a.m. Bazaar Crafting Get together	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 10:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service 1:30 p.m. Council Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 10:30 Holy Communion <i>Birthdays Celebrated</i>	<b>23</b> <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 4:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection and Supper	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

