



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

#### **July Birthdays**

<i>Barbara Dykman</i>	<i>July 10</i>
<i>Kay Pushman</i>	<i>July 14</i>
<i>Richard Gould</i>	<i>July 15</i>
<i>Rhoda Finck</i>	<i>July 25</i>
<i>Erich Obersteiner</i>	<i>July 29</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

#### **JULY**

**July 3:** 12:00 Noon Bible Study

**July 10:** 12:00 Noon Bible Study

**July 17:** 12:00 Noon Bible Study

1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

**July 24:** 12:00 Noon Bible Study

**July 31:** 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:***

**July 2024**

### ***Sabbath = Taking A Break***

Jesus said, “*The sabbath was made for humankind, and humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.*” Mark 2:27

The word “*sabbath*” is defined most accurately as “a day or a time of rest.” Some might say, “taking a break” from the daily routines. The word found its way into our language from the Hebrew word, “*Shabbath*” meaning “rest.” *Shabbath* appears with some frequency in the Old Testament. The New Testament writers, writing in the Greek language of that day, used the word “*Sabbaton*,” from which we get the word “sabbatical.” Both words in the Old and New Testaments refer to a “time set apart for rest” and in both cases the word took on the added meaning of “a time set apart for worship.”

In the first few pages of the Book of Genesis we are told that after God created everything that exists, then God rested on the seventh day, blessing that day of rest and making it holy (Genesis 2:2-3). In the Book of Exodus when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sanai, we know the Third Commandment carved in those stone tablets said “Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8-11) “Holy” is biblical word that means “set apart.”) In giving the commandments, we are told God’s people were take a rest from their labor and God consecrated the holy day. It was in the mind and heart of God that we take one day each week and allow that day to be a holy time of worship and thanksgiving, and also a time of rest, relaxation, refreshment and renewal. The biblical writers tell us that God set the pace for us, carrying out sabbath rest from the very beginning of the creation of the universe. After all was set in motion, God took time to rest. (Genesis 2:2)

It is interesting that the three Abrahamic faiths each lift up the importance of *sabbath* time. Each of them worships on a different day of the weekend as they fulfill their Sabbath obligations and opportunities. Most Christians, of course, observe the Sabbath on the first day of the week, Sunday. The Jewish faith observes Saturday as their Sabbath. Islam sets Friday aside as their Holy Sabbath to worship and pray. Many of the other world religions have a day or a time of day for rest, reflection, and prayer.

Week after week, I see many of you, the members and friends of Redeemer Lutheran and St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal, “remembering the Sabbath day and keeping it holy.” It is wonderful to see how consistent so many are as you set the Sunday morning aside to gather to pray, praise, and give thanks to God, to listen to the Word of the Lord, and to share in Christ’s Holy Meal. God loves us so much that God even gave us a commandment telling us “to take a break,” to rest, and to have a holy day. God was also caring for our well-being, so God asked us to set time aside to rest from the busyness of our day-to-day living. God wants us to routinely nurture our faith, our bodies, and our lives by leaving behind all the other never-ending demands for our time and energy to be renewed... to rest... to be refreshed... to worship... to take a break... to meet God face to face in Word and Sacrament.

It has been a joy watching this congregation truly honor the Sabbath Day and listening to the voice of God. Oftentimes congregations noticed that a significant number of the membership “disappears” for the summer. People have for some reason decided to “take a break from their weekly spiritual disciplines.” That is not a correct understanding of “Sabbath.” Many congregations report that worship attendance and giving often declines somewhat significantly during the summer weeks. So far, as we are moving into the summer weeks, we are seeing the participation at Redeemer and St. Theodore of Canterbury remain steady and faithful. What a wonderful witness that is one to another. It speaks volumes to first-time visitors, who come and find the church filled with people heeding the call of God and gathering in God’s Holy Name. I hope that pattern continues for you and for the congregation throughout these summer days and weeks.

May we continue to be a people who are thankful each week for the gift that God gives us to rest and worship... a time every seven days to be especially renewed by the presence of God, by the promises of Jesus and his compassionate love, by the ongoing outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and by Christian community one with another.

I look forward to seeing you in the summertime Sabbaths. God’s grace and peace be with you.

*+Murray D. Finck*, Bishop Emeritus

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Interim Pastor

## *Message from Our President...*

Dear Members and Friends,

While we were very fortunate to have excellent Pastors filling in for Bishop Finck, we are so happy that he is back. It was so wonderful that he came out of retirement to serve as our Interim Pastor, and we are very grateful for that, so we wrote in his contract that he has one Sunday a month off, and, since he didn't take those Sundays off, he has used them for the trips he and Rhoda took in April and June. They spent a wonderful two weeks with their daughter and her family which included a darling one-year old grandson. Yes, there are pictures that I'm sure they will love to share. As you know, he continued to send us his mid-week communiques. Also, while away, he was kept abreast of news at Redeemer, and made pastoral phone calls. Upon his return, he started making personal calls. Please remember to keep Jerry Brady, Erich Obersteiner, Dee Sessa, Alma Zamzow, and Pastor Lisa in your prayers.

Sylvia Makus has found a company that believes they can fix our furnace. So, the Council voted to have them come out to diagnose the problem, and give us an estimate of what it would cost to repair it. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have heat in the church again?

The Bishop, Doris Weinert and I were privileged to attend the Pacifica Synod Assembly on May 18 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Dana Point, and on June 15 via a zoom call. For Doris and me, it was especially interesting as we found out how much the Synod accomplishes. In order for the Synod to exist and perform all that it does, it relies on donations from the church congregations. We had always tithed to the Synod through November 2021. I would like to mention that we continued to tithe even through the Covid years. However, in 2022, our contributions were not enough to cover our church's expenses, so we had to discontinue. Since our finances have been on the positive side for quite a while, at our June 19, 2024 Council Meeting, we passed a motion to start giving 10% of our contributions to the Synod again.

The church council also decided to implement "Sharing the Peace" starting in July to see if this will work well in our congregation. It is meant, as it states, to take a moment to share the peace verbally with the people directly in front, beside, and behind you.

We are so very blessed to have a wonderful congregation that is very quick to fill in when someone is away. Volunteerism gives a good feeling to both the recipient and the giver. I do hope, if asked, that you will seriously consider giving a little extra time to your church. You won't regret it.

As always, I am so very grateful that you are allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President.

Respectfully,

***Kay Pushman***

Council President



### **Bible Study**

Our Bible Study of the Ten Miracles of Jesus is coming to a conclusion is coming to a conclusion on July 17th. 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! The move to the Fellowship Hall was to accommodate anyone who wished to bring their lunch and be able to eat and study. There will be a decision in the next several weeks on how to continue and when.

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

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday will be September 8<sup>th</sup>. The Church Council will be discussing 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!

### **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.

### **Updates**

Pastor Lisa appreciates all your prayers. She can be contacted at her house: 2041 E. Fruit St.; Santa Ana, CA 92701 or she can be reached by phone at (714) 833-7332.

Pastor Gil Moore is in his new apartment at 12151 Dale St. Apt. C 235; Stanton, CA 90680. His direct line at Rowntree Gardens is (714) 971-6700.

Jerry Brady has transferred to Barr House, 8556 Barr Lane, Garden Grove CA 92841 (714) 583-8634.



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

**FINANCES FOR THE MONTH of May 2024**

<b>Operating Income of</b>	<u>\$7,067.00</u>	<b>Exceeded</b>
<b>Operating Expenses of</b>	<u>\$6,574.00</u>	
<b>By</b>	\$493.00	

*[we spent less than we took in]*

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

**For the year to May 31, 2024**

<b>Operating Expenses of</b>	\$40,577.00	<b>Exceeded</b>
<b>Operating Income of</b>	<u>\$34,483.00</u>	
<b>by</b>	(\$6,094.00)	

*[we spent more than we took in]*

*Operating Income includes \$953.00 from Boutique, Pump, and Bake Sale Fundraising.*

**Comparing Budgeted to Actual for 2024:**

<b>Budgeted Income of</b>	\$36,540.00	<b>Exceeded</b>
<b>Actual Income of</b>	<u>\$34,483.00</u>	
<b>by</b>	(\$2,057.00)	

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

<b>Actual Expense of</b>	\$40,577.00	<b>Exceeded</b>
<b>Budgeted Expense of</b>	<u>\$36,540.00</u>	
<b>by</b>	(\$4,037.00)	

*[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**

**July 7, 2024** *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

Ezekiel 2:1-5  
Psalm 123  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

**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

**July 14, 2024** *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

Amos 7:7-15  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

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

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

**July 21, 2024** *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**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

**July 28, 2024** *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

2 Kings 4:42-44  
Psalm 145:10-18  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

**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

**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

**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

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

### ***“The Long Walk of Faith”***

I like these Gospel lessons simply because they are about walking through life with faith. They are about the everyday human stuff. They are about fellowship, kindness, loss, sleep, illness, healing and food. They are about the real and the nitty gritty.

#### **July 7, 2024 – *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost* Mark 6:1-13**

Crazy people! Crazy people are told about in today’s Gospel. I just came back from a trip to Yosemite National Park. It has been a year in planning [because to get campsites, you have to book a year and a day in advance]. Actually, it’s been two years in the planning since we had some of it planned for last year, before it was canceled because of the flooding there. We packed [and some of us re-packed], we planned meals, we planned what to take with us, we planned some of the activities we wanted to do, we even planned where to stop on the way there to eat and get gas. Even when there are emergencies, we usually get a least a little warning. California has its share of emergencies, especially earthquakes and wildfires, but we have time to prepare for these things. Jesus sent out his disciples with NOTHING. They had the clothes on their backs and a staff. They had to depend upon others for a place to sleep and to eat. And what of the householder who decided to take them in? They are footing the bill for these itinerant preachers for an undetermined amount of time. *“I have always depended on the kindness of strangers.”* is a quote from the Tennessee Williams play *“A Streetcar Named Desire”*. Unlike the disciples that Jesus sent out to “depend on the kindness of strangers”, Blanche DuBois has been reliant on the kindness of strangers, and this is largely due to her inability to accept reality. The disciples went prepared with Jesus’s teachings and authority. These disciples fully inhabited reality. They, and I assume the householders, had complete faith and trust in Jesus and the message that the disciples were sharing. Who of us would be willing to do something like this? Many of us don’t walk out the front door with keys, wallet, water bottle, cell phone, credit card, money, etc. The idea of walking out on family, job, friends, and other commitments to go somewhere, don’t know where or for how long, with NO planning to share the Gospel of Jesus is, to me, pretty impossible to comprehend. But today I am grateful to those disciples who did go out and those disciples who continue to go out and share the Gospel of Jesus. Without them, the story of redemption would have never been told.

#### **July 14, 2024 – *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost* Mark 6:14-29**

Today’s Gospel of the beheading of John the Baptist is quite a reflection of Jesus’ own death. In both the man in power, Herod and Pontius Pilate, did not want to be responsible for the death of the man they were called to kill. In both the man in power chose to do it anyway because of external pressures. After both deaths the followers of the dead men took the body to bury it. After both men died, their followers continued in community. They continued the leader’s mission. And today we are blessed because they did. We have received a faith that has stood the test of time. This is a faith not exclusively for the strong and powerful but for the poor, weak, tired, lost, unsure, and sinful. We are blessed by a God who has walked with us in faith. Who understands loss, pain, fear, loneliness, and abandonment. Our faith continues and grows stronger because of this.



**July 21, 2024 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost** Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

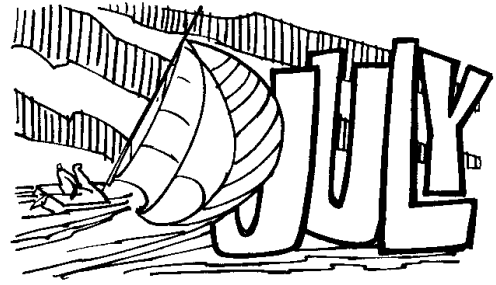
This Sunday's Gospel is about rest, healing, compassion, and pure faith. The range of emotions that are displayed in this short passage is manifold. We begin with the excitement of the disciples reporting back to Jesus about what they had done and what they had taught. I'm sure they were amazed by what they had done in his name. It's like a child coming home after an exciting time away from their parent and the child tries to tell them EVERYTHING. I even remember telling my most sharing child, "What you are telling me is important but Mommy's ears are tired." Jesus was the same. He wanted them to eat and maybe sleep a little but there were so many people around. Then we have Jesus' meeting with the crowd and having compassion for them, to a point where, rather than resting, he continued to teach them. Then we have the part where people had such pure faith in Jesus that they believed they would be healed just by touching his cloak. I am exhausted just thinking about being pulled in so many directions at once. Families do get this to an extent. Children wanting or needing attention, work, relationships, chores, shopping, dishes, food, and the list goes on. But Jesus was not just being responsible for himself, or a small family, or even a large extended family; he was trying to care for an entire nation, and by extension, the world. So, tonight, in prayer don't ask for anything more; just take a moment and just thank him for giving so much of himself for the world. Maybe tonight, he can get something to eat and a little rest.

**July 28, 2024 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost** John 6:1-21

You know what I really don't like when dealing with the miracle of the loaves and fishes of Jesus? I don't like it when people say, that it didn't happen. It was just that once people saw that the little boy shared his food, they all pulled out food to share. No. Jesus had a plan. It says it right there: *"When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?'"* ***He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.*** [John 6:5-6]. Then Jesus sent out his disciples to collect the leftovers; they collected twelve baskets. It was a plan! It had to be. 1) Jesus prayed over the food before having it passed out. In the Gospels, Jesus specifically prays for people to see for a reason. Jesus prays so that those with him will know that the Father sent him. 2) Bread and a connection to the Hebrew Scriptures. The Father fed the Israelites in the desert with manna. Jesus fed the people with bread. Jesus feeds us with his Body and Blood in the Eucharist. 3) Collecting exactly twelve baskets. Jesus knew that he was sending his disciples out to collect the Twelve Tribes of Israel back together. Jesus did not do things for no reason. There was always a plan. When people discount Jesus's miracles they are discounting his Godhood. They are making him just this guy who said nice things and encouraged people to care for each other. But Jesus did not actually give us this option. One cannot be a good man and a liar. Jesus said he was the Son of the Father; the Father and He were One; thus, Jesus is God. He did true miracles. I shall leave you with this last thought ...

*"You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. We are faced, then, with a frightening alternative. This man we are talking about either was (and is) just what He said or else a lunatic, or something worse. Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God. God has landed on this enemy-occupied world in human form."* C. S. Lewis, in **Mere Christianity**

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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2024

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