



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**
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In This Issue ... July 2025

Article	Page
Birthdays	1
Emergency Pastoral Care	1
Calendar Notes	1
Message from the Pastor	2
President's Message	3-4
Finance Report	5
Announcements	6
Lessons to Study	7
Worship and Discipleship	8-9
Monthly Calendar	10

Happy Birthday ***July Birthdays***

<i>Beatriz Zorrilla</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Annie Willequer</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Barbara Dykman</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Sue Sloan</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Kay Pushman</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Carmen Esquivel</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Rhoda Finck</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Erich Obersteiner</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>29</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 to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study

JULY

July 2: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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

July 4: Independence Day

12:00 Noon Bible Study

July 6: 4th of July Hot Dog Potluck

Luncheon

July 9: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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

July 13: Special Congregational Meeting

July 16: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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

1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

July 21: Newsletter Articles Due

July 23: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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

July 27: Birthdays Celebrated at

Fellowship

July 29: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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

Message from the Interim Pastor:

July 2025

Freedom

Saint Paul wrote: “For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1

The Apostle Paul wrote a number of times about “freedom” in his letters to the Romans, Corinthians, and Galatians. He was writing about freedom from the slavery of sin that tempts us away from God. He wrote about freedom from laws and codes that would only condemn humanity and yoke us with shame and guilt. He wrote about freedom from the judgment of others. He was talking about the freedom we have through the love of God and sacrifice of Jesus to live as forgiven and redeemed people of faith. Jesus said, **“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”** (John 8:36) Freedom has a wide range of understandings and dimensions... spiritual, personal, individual, social, national, historical, and more.

This month we observe the 249th anniversary of our nation’s independence as we became a people freed from the rule of British kings and parliaments. Last month we observed on Juneteenth the freedom in this country of a people who had been brought to the Americas in chains and enslaved for 246 years, from 1619-1865. While we enjoy these freedoms today, we know there are still people who do not feel free or live freely. Some find it difficult to believe they are forgiven and set free by the grace of God. Some continue to be victims of racism and bigotry. Some live in fear each day that their liberties and rights will be taken from them. Some are oppressed by nations warring against them and destroying their lands and lives. Freedom is a precious but oftentimes fragile gift.

God intended all of the people God created to be free—free to live with God today and forever as a people reconciled to God through the life and sacrifice of Jesus. God intended that we would be free to live and to love God with heart, soul, and mind, and free to then love all of our neighbors as we love ourselves. God intended us to live in peace with those both near and far. God has given the world abundance and calls upon us to share and distribute that bounty so all people may freely live without hunger and poverty. God intends us all to be free in every dimension of freedom.

Freedom is a wonderful gift. God has done God’s part. We have made some significant strides, and yet we still have a long way to go. We give thanks that God has set us free, and we pray that we will live and share in that freedom with all.

+Pastor Murray D. Finck

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

Reverend Finck's 50th Ordination Anniversary



June 29, 2025 was a truly special day, as not only did we celebrate the June birthdays of our congregation, but the special anniversary of Reverend Finck; a tribute to a man whose life has been devoted to serving God. The milestone was marked with a beautiful reception hosted by his loving wife, Rhoda, who orchestrated a memorable event.

Members, family and friends were treated to a delicious spread of fruit and desserts, and an inspiring look back at Reverend Finck's remarkable life and ministry. Rhoda arranged a thoughtful photo display and a video which chronicled his journey from his early days to his many years of dedicated service. We will have the photos available for a few more weeks for those of you that couldn't attend Sunday.

Our congregation also honored this momentous occasion with several heartfelt gifts. A plaque and cross were presented, and will be added to the Memorial Cross Wall, and a plaque that will be placed above the Jerusalem Cross that he made, donated, and that now hangs in the Fellowship Hall. In appreciation of both Reverend Finck and Rhoda, the congregation also gifted them a dinner at a nearby popular restaurant-a small token of gratitude for all they have given, and continue to do.

Special Congregational Meeting-July 13

We will be holding a special congregational meeting immediately following our 10:30 am church service. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Bishop Finck has worked diligently with Greenwood Heating and Air Inc., our Lutheran Synod and Episcopalian Diocese on the problem that we are unable to heat our church. After much discussion, Council passed a motion to solve our lack of heating and cooling, and it will be presented at this meeting for the congregation's approval.

A Generous Gift

On Sunday morning, we discovered that our refrigerator was no longer functioning. Without hesitation, one of our members generously stepped in and purchased one from Golden Rain for the church. We are so grateful for her kindness and quick action to meet this unexpected need--thank you.

Hot Dog Roast-July 6

Mickey and Carol Costello are bringing back a beloved tradition--the hot dog roast. Join us Sunday, July 6 in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the service for food and fellowship. Members have signed up to bring side dishes, so come hungry and ready for a fun time together. Thank you, Mickey and Carol.

A Word of Gratitude

I am so happy to be back with all of you following my recent surgery. I want to express my deepest thanks to Bishop Finck for his prayers and hospital visits – they meant so much, and helped me through this difficult time. I am also truly grateful for each of you. I really appreciate everyone that filled in for me while I was away. Your prayers, visits, cards, calls, meals, errands, and thoughtful gifts were an incredible support during my recovery. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Yours in faith,

Kay Pushman

Council President



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

ACTUAL INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR MAY 31, 2025

<u>Income</u>	<u>One Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Current Offering	\$6,728.00	\$40,228.81
Fundraiser-Boutique	\$100.25	\$209.25
Fundraiser-Bake Sale	0.00	\$40.00
Fundraiser – Bazaar	\$2,518.55	\$2,518.55
Memorial	0.00	\$500.00
Memorial Wall	0.00	\$200.00
Total Operating Income	<u>\$9,346.80</u>	<u>\$43,696.61</u>
 Total Operating Income	 \$9,346.80	 \$43,696.61
Total Expenses	<u>\$7,755.36</u>	<u>\$44,679.68</u>
Gain/(Loss)	<u>\$1,591.44</u>	<u>(\$983.07)</u>
	(Exceed Expenses)	(Exceed Income)

BUDGET INCOME AND EXPENSES through May 31, 2025

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Budget	\$44,960.00	\$44,960.00
Actual	<u>\$43,696.61</u>	<u>\$44,679.68</u>
Gain/(Loss)	<u>(\$1,263.39)</u>	<u>\$280.32</u>
	(Less than Budget)	(Less than Budget)

OTHER INCOME & EXPENSES

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Disaster Relief	\$500.00	\$500.00 (In & Out)

Respectfully Submitted
Doris Weinert
Finance Chair



July 6th Hot Dog Potluck Luncheon



In celebration of July 4th, the Church Council has decided to bring back our “July 4th Hot Dog Potluck Luncheon” that will be held on Sunday, July 6th after Holy Communion Service in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide the hot dogs and buns and has a sign-up sheet for people to bring side dishes and desserts.

Please note, this is for our congregation and our guests and not really open for the community so will only be announced in the newsletter and our Sunday bulletin.

Special Congregational Meeting-July 13

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Bible Study

The Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at noon in the Fellowship Hall to continue the study of the **Women of the Bible**. You are invited to bring your lunch. There are drinks available and usually some baked goods for a small dessert. Please attend, bring friends or neighbors, and your Bible! Come and see what is happening next! Bishop Murray Finck will be leading the discussion. This is a great way to meet members and friends and to share an understanding of our faith and the Holy Scriptures.

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,

CYCLE C – Year of Luke
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THROUGH THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 6, 2025 — *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13, 2025 – *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 20, 2025 — *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15 (1)
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 27, 2025 — *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138 (8)
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

August 3, 2025 — *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12 (3)
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 10, 2025 — *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22 (22)
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 17, 2025 — *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82 (8)
Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 24, 2025 — *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8 (4)
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 31, 2025 — *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

Proverbs 25:6-7
Sirach 10:12-18 {alternate}
Psalm 112 (4)
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 7, 2025 — *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1 (3)
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“Always Expect the Unexpected”

Throughout this month of Gospel Lessons Jesus calls his followers to do and live the unexpected. Jesus challenges us all to let go of our comfort; to think beyond; and while doing this, even today, we may not understand. Often, we answer Jesus’ challenges with, *“That doesn’t make sense!”* or *“That’s not how the real-world works!”* or *“That’s not right!”* or *“That’s too hard!”* Just as the disciples 2,000+ years ago did not fully understand what Jesus was asking of them when called to follow, we still do not have a full understanding of our personal call to discipleship. As all who came before, we continue to walk in faith and trust that we are living the call to follow in Jesus’ footsteps.

July 6, 2025 The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 10 verses 1-11, 16-20

The first Sunday of July we hear of the sending of the seventy-two from the Gospel of Luke. Jesus is sending them out without anything, *“Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road.”* [Lk. 10:4]. Not only does Jesus expect the seventy-two of his followers to go and do unexpected things (healings, casting out demons, and such); he also expects an additional 36 families to support the people he had sent out, *“Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.”* [Lk. 10:7]! *The question for today is, how would you react to either being sent out with nothing and depending on the kindness of others; or having to be the one to take in the stranger? We can also consider how a similar issue is being addressed in our own communities.*

July 13, 2025 The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 10 verses 25-37

The second Sunday of July we have the story of the Good Samaritan. It begins with a simple question, *“what must I do to inherit eternal life?”* [Lk. 10:25] The answer given by the lawyer, *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.”* [Lk. 10:27] comes from Deuteronomy 6:4-5. This story always asks the question, *“Who is my neighbor?”* The demonstration of love of a neighbor comes not from the people you expect: the priest or the Levite, but rather from the foreigner and enemy: the Samaritan. Sadly, that question is still asked today. And, the answer is still the same for the Christian. We are always called to show mercy. And, just like the Jewish lawyer, the answer is both easy and infinitely difficult.

July 20, 2025 The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 10 verses 38-42

The third Sunday in July we hear the story of Martha and Mary. Again, this is a Gospel lesson that is difficult for many. It reminds me of the Paradoxical Son story and feeling for the son that stayed. I, personally, feel for Martha! I’m one of those people that show love by feeding you. You come to me with your woe or problems or just to visit and I will offer you food and drink. So, Martha being busy preparing food and drink for Jesus and his followers makes sense to me. I’m also sure that if, at the end of the day there was nothing to eat, people would be unhappy. In that time and culture women prepared the food and it was time and labor intensive so

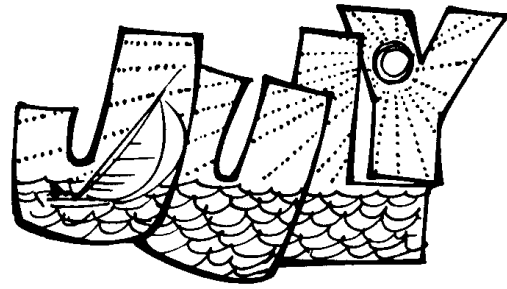
expecting her sister to help would be reasonable. But, instead of supporting Martha, Jesus rebukes her saying that Mary has chosen the better part. Petty me would have probably thought about just sitting down at that point and listening to Jesus and not caring about feeding people. And that, also, would have been wrong because I would not be listening to Jesus out of love or wanting to abide in the presence of God but in pettiness and anger. Both the work of Martha and the attention of Mary are needed in each of our lives. We are called to feed the hungry, visit the sick, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, and visit the imprisoned. We are also called to abide in the presence of God. It is finding that balance that will bring us closer to one another and to God.

July 27, 2025 The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 11 verses 1-13

The final Sunday in July we have one of the disciples asking Jesus to teach them to pray. They all should know how to pray already. Faithful Jews prayed a lot and there were set prayers they would say at different times of the day and for different reasons. So, the question was an odd one. Jesus' answer was to teach them something simple, direct, and focused. And if Jesus ended there, I would be fine. He then told them that they needed to be persistent in prayer. That if they asked, it would be given. If they knocked, it would be opened. If they searched, they would find. And this is something I have struggled with for a while. Why? I prayed for things and did not receive, knocked and was not allowed to enter, searched and did not find. Was I not good enough? Were my prayers not good enough? Did God not listen? Or did God just not care? Many struggles later, I realized that God did answer. Sometimes, He said NO. All good parents say no when something is not good for their child. Sometimes, He waited to answer both to encourage persistence and learn patience. Many times, He answered in a way that was not obvious and the answer was missed. At times, His answer was not what I wanted so I ignored it. One thing I have learned about prayer: God answers in His own time, in His own way, often His answer is unexpected but always for our good. So, pray unceasingly and be open to the unexpected!

*It seems awkward to both address and not address what is currently going on within our nation, state, and city. These Gospel lessons are not just about what Jesus did 2000+ years ago in a different time, place, and culture; they are also a call for us to respond in this time, place, and culture guided by His teachings. As with all things to deal with faith, your answer is your own. Jesus acted out of mercy, caring, kindness, reaching out, healing, forgiveness, peace, and love. He also stated that there is a duty to render unto Ceaser what is due to Ceaser; and what is God's is due to God. What that looks like in your life is your own decision. **Faith calls us to be kind and respectful to one another as we journey together.***

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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	3	4 <i>4th of July</i>	5
6 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>"July 4th" Hot Dog Luncheon</i>	7	8	11 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	10	11	12
13 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Special Congregational Meeting</i>	14	15	16 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	17	18	19
20 10:30 Holy Communion Service	21 Newsletter Articles Due for July	22	23 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	24	25	26
27 10:30 Holy Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated	28	29	30 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	31		