



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**
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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. Communion Service

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

MARCH
March 6, 13, 20:
3:00 p.m. New Member / Re-Affirmation of Faith Meeting Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Lenten Midweek Study and Soup Supper Fellowship Hall

March 10: Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 21: 2:30 p.m. Council Meeting
March 24: Palm Sunday
March 26: Newsletter Articles Due
March 28: Maundy Thursday
March 29: Good Friday
March 31: Easter Sunday



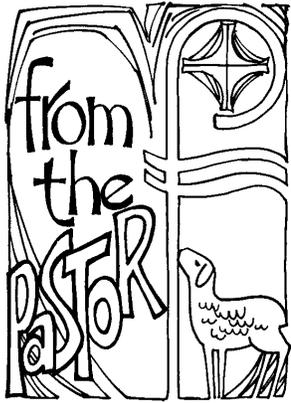
Happy Birthday
March Birthdays

<i>Sandra Langdale</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Dee Sessa</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Joan Schwichtenberg</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Gail Henderson</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Phyllis Mackey</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>31</i>

Spring Forward

March 10 begins Daylight Savings Time.

Do remember to move your clock **AHEAD** 1 hour before you go to sleep on Saturday night!
[otherwise, you will miss Sunday Service]



Message from the Pastor:

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

I don't remember who said it or where I might have read it, but in my childhood I either heard or read that the reason March winds blew strong like a roaring lion was nature's way of removing old bird nests that had been built in the treetops the year before. Thus, the birds would need again to busily weave new nests of sticks, string, and straw. As they skillfully crafted their new homes, they would sing their little hearts out, and the air was filled with joyous chirping and cheeping, truly nature's choir bringing joy-filled melodies to the outdoor temples and cathedrals of trees.

There are many quotes about the month of March being a time of new beginnings, new life, hope, and re-creation. It promises the same for us.

This month of March 2024 for the Redeemer/St. Theodore of Canterbury community will be like those birds in the trees--a month filled with many opportunities, perhaps the busiest month of this year.

- **Sunday Morning Worship.** There will be five Sunday mornings to worship, and one is Palm Sunday, and another is the Day of Resurrection, Easter Sunday. (**And please remember on March 10th to reset your clocks the night before as we lose that hour moving back to Daylight Savings Time.**)
- **Pastor David Anderson, the United Methodist pastor** who has been worshipping with us, will be our preacher on March 17, (which is also St. Patrick's Day.) Thank you, Pastor Anderson.
- **Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion is March 24th,** during which we will receive new members and give existing members an opportunity to re-affirm their baptismal covenants.
- **Easter Sunday, one of the church's highest and holiest days of celebration and praise as we break forth again our glad "alleluias."**
- **Theology Classes.** There will be three more Lutheran/Episcopalian theology classes on Wednesdays (March 6, 13, 20) meeting in the sanctuary at 3:00 p.m.
- **Lenten Study, Song, and Soup.** On those same three Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m., we will continue to gather in the Fellowship Hall downstairs for our study of the Passion Narratives as recorded by the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Then we will sing and enjoy soup suppers together, continuing our conversations and fellowship.
- **Maundy Thursday.** On March 28, we will gather at 10:30 a.m. for a special **Maundy Thursday worship service**, remembering the day Jesus gathered with his disciples for the Passover meal "on the night in which he was betrayed." It is the day Jesus first gave his followers the **Lord's Supper.**

- **Good Friday.** We will be participating with other community churches for a Good Friday observance beginning at 12:00 p.m. through 3:00 p.m. hearing reflections from local church leaders and clergy, including brief homilies on the **Seven Words of Jesus** spoken from the cross. More details are forthcoming. People are welcome to come and go as you are able during the three-hour service.

On my calendar that is no fewer than 13 different reasons and opportunities to gather as the people of God... a very full month giving us wonderful opportunities to worship our Lord who sacrificially gave his life for us and the world that God so dearly and deeply loves. It also offers us many times to be together with friends and fellow believers. Like the birds in the treetops, weaving their nests, we will have or opportunities to nurture our relationships with God and one another. And we will have many opportunities to sing joyful melodies of praise to our good and gracious God.

Please join us. Invite a neighbor or friend to come with you. May your March be filled with hope!

To God alone be the glory,

The Reverend Murray D. Finck

Bishop Emeritus and Interim Pastor

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

California needs rain for sure, but as of the writing of this article, we are in the midst of another 3 days of it. We have had an ongoing problem for years with the basement flooding. We do have sump pumps that work correctly. However, this water is coming through the walls if the ground is too saturated. For the first two storms, we had cleanup from Wendy Alfageme, Carol and Mickey Costello, Sylvia Makus, and, her son, Dave, who brought over portable pumps. Many thanks to all of them. They are truly appreciated. The Council has voted to purchase two of these portable pumps, which we hope will help with the current cleanup, and avoid some of the need to use the wet vac.

On February 11, after our second Congregational Meeting, during our coffee hour, we had a thank you celebration for Jerry Brady. Jerry served Redeemer for 20 years, 8 of those years as President of the Council. This last year, after Pastor Lisa became ill, he kept our church going finding Pastors to preach, and filling in himself. We are also blessed that he asked Bishop Finck to accept the position of Interim Pastor. We are so thankful for his dedication to our church.

We had 30 attend our Ash Wednesday Service with Bishop Finck presiding. So many people remarked that it was such a beautiful service. Bishop Finck is offering five New Member and Re-affirmation Classes at 3:00 on Wednesdays followed at 4:00 with our Lenten Soup Suppers with songs, bible study and fellowship at in the Fellowship Hall. As of this time, we have 25 that are attending. Our members have been so gracious to sign-up for making soup, desserts, setting up, serving and cleaning up. Many thanks to these wonderful volunteers.

Looking forward to our times together worshipping at Redeemer Lutheran and St. Theodore's Episcopal Church during Lent, and Holy Week.

Respectfully,

Kay Pushman

Council President

New Member Orientation, Baptism Preparation, and Belief Refresher

At 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Conference Room, we began classes in preparation for the reception of new members, for the Sacrament of Baptism, and as an opportunity for any others to have a brief “refresher course” in what we teach and believe, and why. There are five one-hour classes. You can still come and join us!

Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. February 21: An Overview of Lutheran & Episcopal Theology – Part One – *How We Read the Bible and What We Believe About God.*

Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. February 28: An Overview of Lutheran & Episcopal Theology – Part Two – *The Ten Commandments, Prayer, Confession, and Worship.*

Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. March 6: An Overview of Lutheran & Episcopal Theology – Part Three – *The Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.*

Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. March 13: A Brief History of the Lutheran and Episcopal Churches and of Redeemer and St. Theodore of Canterbury.

Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. March 20: The joys and privileges of being a member of the Body of Christ and of one of his churches.

Any and all are welcome. After a one-hour time of conversation about the topics listed above, the attendees are invited and encouraged to join the 4:00 p.m. Lenten Midweek gatherings for a 45-minute time of song and study followed by the traditional soup supper and fellowship.

Lenten Journey, Study, and Soup Supper

We are again having Lenten Midweek Service, Study, and Soup Supper on Wednesdays (March 6, 13, and 20) at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We had 32 people attend our first Soup Supper. These gatherings begin with a biblical study of one of the stories of Jesus’ passion during his final days before his crucifixion. We read stories as told by each of the four Gospel writers -- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In the weeks ahead, we will continue reading more of those passion narratives written by the four evangelists. We also sing Lenten Hymns, and have delicious homemade soups. We enjoy fellowship with one another. Come and join us on our Lenten journey!

New Member Welcome and Re-Affirmation of Faith

A **New Member Reception and Re-affirmation of Faith Liturgy** will be woven into the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on **Palm Sunday**, March 24, 2024. Please join us as we begin Holy Week.

Good Friday

The Leisure World InterFaith Council will be holding the Good Friday Service of the Last 7 Words on Friday, March 29 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. here in the Sanctuary. You may join for the whole service or come for part of it. People will be allowed to move during the musical interlude between Words.

Easter Sunday

Please join us on Sunday, March 31st at 10:30 a.m. for our beautiful celebration of Easter! Feel free to bring family and friends as we remember the reason for our faith: the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!



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

**FINANCES FOR
THE MONTH OF
JANUARY 31, 2024**

Operating Expenses of	\$11,120.00	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$5,451.00</u>	
by	(\$5,669.00)	

For the year of 2024

Operating Expenses of	\$11,120.00	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$5,451.00</u>	
by	(\$5,669.00)	

[we spent more than we took in]

Comparing Budgeted to Actual for 2024:

Budgeted Income of	\$7,308.00	Exceeded
Actual Income of	<u>\$5,451.00</u>	
by	(\$1,857.00)	

[we took in less than our budget anticipated]

Actual Expense of	\$11,120.00	Exceeded
Budgeted Expense of	<u>\$7,308.00</u>	
by	(\$3,812.00)	

[we spent more than our budget anticipated]

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Weinert
Finance Chairman

CYCLE B – Year of Mark
ASH WEDNESDAY
THROUGH SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

February 14, 2024 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Isaiah 58:1-12 (Alternate)
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18, 2024 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 25, 2024 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

March 3, 2024 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 10, 2024 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 17, 2024 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Psalm 119:9-16 (Alternate)
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 24, 2024 – Sunday of The Passion / Palm Sunday

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL
Mark 11:1-11 OR John 12:12-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1—15:47
Mark 15:1-39 [40-47] (Alternate)

March 28, 2024 – 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

March 29, 2024 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 (Alternate)
John 18:1—19:42

March 31, 2024 – Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

April 7, 2024 – Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1—2:2
John 20:19-31

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“Covenants”

Now that we have entered the time of Lent, I'm going back just two weeks to cover the entire Lenten saga. This Lent, pay particular attention to the first lessons. We will be going through the covenants that God has made with his people. God always initiates these covenants, man responds, then man breaks his part of the agreement, God retries in a different way, and it goes on. During this Lent we will be looking at these various covenants and their connection to the Gospel.

The first Sunday of Lent the first lesson is from the end of the flood story. In this story God saves a small portion of people and agrees to be their God if they will follow him. God allows it to rain for 40 days and nights. At the end he places his bow in the sky as a promise to never destroy the earth again in water. This is the first of many covenants God will make with man. That theme of 40 days and nights is reflected in the Gospel of Mark when Jesus is sent into the desert for that same amount of time. 40 as a time period reoccurs often in the Bible. It usually signifies a time period of cleansing as it did in both these stories. And so also is Lent 40 days and is our time of cleansing.

The second Sunday of Lent's first lesson is the story of Abraham's encounter with God and God's promise that he would have children even in his old age. This was a life changing encounter for Abraham and Sarah. In the Gospel lesson Jesus tells his followers that he was going to have to go to Jerusalem to die. This was a life changing moment for his followers also. Take a moment in your own life and look at your own encounters with God. *How have they changed your life?*

The third Sunday of Lent begins with the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. This is the third major covenant that God has given man and the first to the whole of the Jewish people. It is so important that we still follow it. It was a sign of God's power and promise. It is the basic of how to treat God and one another in the simplest form. Jesus came and also gave us the Beatitudes which is the how to put the Law into action. In the Gospel we have Jesus consumed with zeal and causing a ruckus in the Temple! Jesus was fighting against the "laws" put on the people. "They" had turned the worship of God into a money making, follow the rules, marketed, manipulative farce. Jesus was trying to get back to the basics! Jesus knows that HE is the way to the Father, not following all the rules and regulations. Rules and regulations are supposed to be there to guide people not keep them from knowing God's love and mercy. *In what ways do we still create barriers to God in our own lives and for others? What presently enables you to follow Jesus: the laws, his signs, his words? Why? How? What makes it difficult for you to follow Jesus: the laws, his signs, his words? Why? How?*

Fourth Sunday of Lent we have direct references in the Gospel lesson to the first lesson (see, it's not just me making this stuff up!). We start with God healing the Israelites. It is again one of those moment that we hear about, especially in the Old Testament, where the people of God (and that includes us, also BTW) started grumbling and complaining. They "forgot" about the fact that God had brought them out of slavery and was feeding them on their long journey (made longer by their own actions). It was a case of "yes, but what have you done for me lately" so they turned away from Moses and God. God gets a little ticked off and punishes them (what any good parent would do!). The Israelites change their ways and repent. God accepts them back and gives Moses a way to heal them. Moses is told to make a snake and raise it up on a staff and all who looks on it will be healed. So, it is also with Jesus. Those who look believe in the Christ on the cross will also

be healed, but more than that, they will have eternal life. God does not take away the snakes that were biting the Israelites, nor did he take away the cross that Jesus was to die on, nor does he take away our own trials and pain. Instead, God gave them a way to live with these issues as he does for us also. *What are some of the issues you are dealing with in your own life that needs God's healing? How do you see, or can you see, Jesus walking with you during these times? Is this the time to deepen your prayer life or is it a time that prayer is hard?*

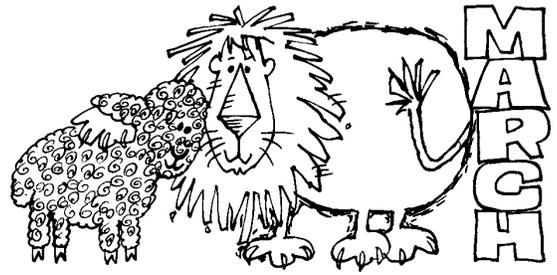
On the fifth Sunday of Lent, we hear from the prophet Jeremiah and the promise of a new covenant from God. The people of Israel are in exile, again, because they turned away from God, again. God is promising to take his people back and to write the covenant on their hearts. A promise to forgive. A promise to forget. God has made the covenant simpler. I will be your God; you will be my people. This covenant is fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus gives us the requirements for eternal life: hate your life, follow him, serve him, and glorify the Father's name. He also says we need to be like grains of wheat. We must die to ourselves to produce much fruit. We use wheat in our communion bread. This is actual grain that has died and is used to produce much fruit when we receive it. Jesus in communion comes to strengthen us and through that communion, we are to go and produce much fruit. *Is the covenant of God written in your heart? If so, how is this directing your life? Is God your God or is something else taking His place? Are you producing much fruit from your communion with Jesus or is he lying dormant in you? How are you doing with those requirements for eternal life (some of it seems quite hard to me!)? Is now the time you need to take to redirect parts of your life?*

Then we have the pageantry of Palm/Passion Sunday. We get two Gospel stories today. We begin with the Gospel of Mark or John and that triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Crowds cheering and waving palm branches. Jesus comes and is cheered as **King**. In the first and second lessons we hear of Jesus as the **Servant**. He empties himself of his power and protection. Jesus trusts in the Father and His plan. He doesn't fight back. He isn't looking for status or glory. He is here to do the Father's will. And the Passion follows from the Gospel of Mark. In this Gospel account we see Jesus as a helpless **Victim**. In this telling of his death Jesus only speaks four times from the time they came to get him in the garden until his death. He is done in. *So, which is the true Jesus? Is he a King, a Servant, or a Victim? Or is he all three? How do you see Jesus during these moments? How do you see yourself in relation to Jesus? How do you present Jesus to others in the way you live your life?*

The last Sunday of March is Easter Sunday! This is THE day of our faith life. Everybody is born, everybody dies, NOBODY else has risen from the dead by their own power, only Jesus! Terror and amazement, these are the two words that come to the forefront in this Gospel from Mark. This Gospel passage ends with: "...they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." [Mark 16:8]. For how many of us, is this our own response to Jesus? How often do we, after everything we know and have experienced with Jesus, are too afraid to say anything? We do, as good Christians and, by definition, followers of Christ, need to speak out about our faith. In word. In song. In actions. In care. In love. In story. The same things that Jesus did!

We have the Passion of Jesus from Mark on Palm Sunday (and John on Good Friday – you can find the Scripture reference in the list of Lessons for the month); the institution of the Eucharist (2nd Lesson) and the washing of the disciples' feet (from John) for Maundy Thursday. Take time to see the path that Jesus and we went on to get to Easter Sunday.

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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT 10:30 Communion Service	4	5	6 3:00 p.m. New Members Meetings 4:00 p.m. Lenten Midweek Soup Supper	7 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	8	9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS AT 2:00 AM SUNDAY! <i>Clocks go <u>FORWARD</u> 1 hour</i>
10 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:30 Communion Service	11	12	13 3:00 p.m. New Members Meetings 4:00 p.m. Lenten Midweek Soup Supper	14 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	15	16
17 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:30 Communion Service	18	19	20 3:00 p.m. New Members Meetings 4:00 p.m. Lenten Midweek Soup Supper	21 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 2:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 10:30 Communion Service Reception of New Members and Re-affirmation of Faith	25	26 Newsletter Articles Due for April	27	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday Service 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	29 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 NOON TO 3:00 p.m. Interfaith Service	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY 10:30 Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated						