



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**
13564 St. Andrews Drive; Seal Beach, CA 90740
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March 9 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]



Happy Birthday
March Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Sandra Langdale</i> | <i>March 15</i> |
| <i>Anne Tegtmeyer</i> | <i>March 17</i> |
| <i>Joan Schwichtenberg</i> | <i>March 26</i> |
| <i>Gail Henderson</i> | <i>March 29</i> |
| <i>Emiko Uchiyama</i> | <i>March 30</i> |
| <i>Phyllis Mackey</i> | <i>March 31</i> |

CALENDAR NOTES

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Wednesdays

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

4:00 Lenten Reflection and Supper

MARCH

March 2: Transfiguration of Our Lord
Annual Meeting Part 2

March 5: NO Secretary Office Hours

10:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion Service and
Imposition of Ashes

March 9: First Sunday in Lent

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS

March 12: 4:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection and
Supper

March 16: Second Sunday in Lent

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 19: 4:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection and
Supper
1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

March 23: Third Sunday in Lent

March 24: Newsletter Articles Due

March 26: 4:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection and
Supper

March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent

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.

Commented [MG1]:

Message from the Interim Pastor:

March 2025

“The Cross”

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

Saint Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth that *“the message about the cross ... for those of us being saved is the power of God.”* He went on to say, *“I have decided to know nothing among you except the crucified Christ Jesus.”* He repeated those thoughts when he wrote to the Galatians that the primary message he came to bring was *“the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”* by which the world was saved. As the Season of Lent is about to begin, we too will again spend time contemplating the necessity of the cross of Jesus. One of questions we will ask is this: “Do you have a cross or a picture or an image or a memory of a particular cross that has had an impact on your life?”

March is going to be a wonderful month filled with opportunities to gather for worship, inspiration, community and collegiality. At the same time, there will be a number of special times together to observe the disciplines of Lent.

March has five Sundays and four of those, beginning with March 9 through March 30 are the first four weeks of Lent. The biblical reading and the sermons during those weeks will focus on Jesus’ journey toward the cross, where he sacrificed his life for the forgiveness of our sin and the eternal salvation of the world.

One of the long-standing traditions of the Lenten Season within many Christian traditions is the mid-week gatherings during those six weeks. The theme we have chosen this year is **✠Cross Ways**. We will gather, starting on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, for a Holy Communion service. Also, during the worship, for anyone so desiring, we will offer the imposition of ashes, either upon our foreheads or on the back of one of our hands.

On this month’s Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday, March 12, 19, 26, we will gather at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall downstairs for a 50-minute time of inspiration from Scripture, music, and devotional moments focusing on the cross of Jesus. During those gatherings, attendees sitting at round tables will have an opportunity to share with others at their table the meaning and the power of the cross in their lives. At each gathering, one person from our congregation will share a five-minute story about the way a particular cross has had an impact on their life. At 5:00 p.m., we will share a meal together and enjoy the friendships and community of all who gather for those events. All are always welcome. We hope to see you there! And into the first two weeks of April, this same pattern of gathering will continue throughout the remainder of Lent.

In March we will have our Annual Meeting on March 2nd immediately following the worship. On March 16th, we will remember and give thanks for Dee Sessa, and all are invited to a luncheon in Dee’s honor following the worship service. That luncheon will be served in the

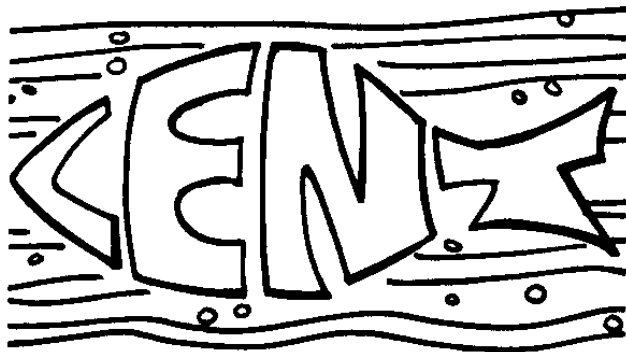
Fellowship Hall. Then, on March 23rd, we will again enjoy a new member reception during our worship service.

March is going to be a month of many opportunities for our congregation. We look forward to being together in worship, fellowship, learning moments, and community the message of God's love through Jesus and the cross reminds us that we are the recipients of grace and forgiveness. Thanks be to God!

+The Rev. Murray D. Finck

+Pastor Murray D. Finck

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus



Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

It has been a busy month for our Church Council, and quite a few decisions have been made. Many thanks for these dedicated members.

We decided to hire a janitorial service for \$140 a month and a gardener for \$200 a month to give our hard-working volunteers that have been doing this work some well-earned time off. The janitor will clean once a month, alternating between spending the major amount of time in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The gardener will come 2-3 times a month. These figures were not figured into the 2025 Budget that was approved, so the accounts for these items will have a negative balance.

The Fire Department did an inspection, and we are required to replace 10 of our Exit Signs, as they don't fully light up. New bulbs would not improve that situation, so new signs have been

purchased. Many thanks to our members, Ray Friedrichsen and Emil Miorelli who have said they will install the new signs for us.

Carol and Mickey Costello, along with Bishop Finck, have volunteered to represent us at the Pacifica Synod Assembly on May 16 and 17. Wendy Alfageme has also volunteered to be one of two alternates. We will ask for any other volunteers at the Congregational Meeting, and will then vote to approve all of our representatives.

The Council passed a motion to purchase two tables that will be placed behind the last pew to hold any church material that needs to be passed out, clipboards, cards, and possibly the name tags.

We have been approached by a National Prayer Group to use our conference room once a week for an hour, and we will be meeting with them to ensure this would be a group that follows our teaching.

We are so happy that Carmen Leslie has agreed again to chair our Spring Bazaar on May 1 and 2. We will be following the same format as the Holiday Bazaar except we will be offering lunch for sale.

Karen Ford graciously agreed to represent us at the Spring WELCA Luncheon March 1. Someone from the Women of the ELCA would like to speak to our congregation regarding this special program.

Susan Avila and Doris Weinert have been researching Thrivent, and the ways we, as members, can bring more income into our church. They will be giving a short talk on how we can accomplish that at the Congregational Meeting.

March 16 we will be having a Memorial Lunch remembering Dee Sessa hosted by Juanita Townsend. The church will be providing tableware, coffee and tea. There is a sign-up sheet to help with the setup on March 15, and to serve and cleanup on March 16.

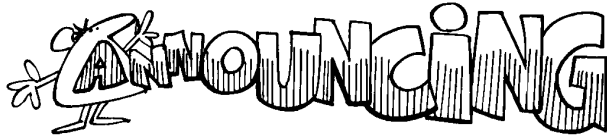
Our Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 10:30 am with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes. We then will have Lenten Devotion and Supper at 4:00 the following 5 Wednesdays; March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9. We are also planning an Easter morning brunch. There are sign-up sheets to help with the suppers, and brunch. As we get closer to Easter, there also will be a sign-up sheet if you would like an Easter Lily.

I know there are so many sign-up sheets over the next few months, and I hope you can find some way to help, and thank you in advance for volunteering.

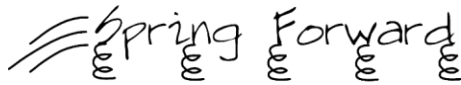
God's Blessings,

Kay Pushman

Council President



Daylight Savings Time



A reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 2:00 a.m. It is the spring so we set our clocks ahead 1 hour before bed on Saturday night. Otherwise, you may miss our Sunday Service entirely!

New Members Reception

We will be receiving new members in the month of March. If you are interested in officially joining either Redeemer Lutheran or St. Theodore's Episcopal congregations, please fill out the form that is available on the back pew of the church or attached to the emailed Pastor's Communique and give it to Pastor. There is never any pressure for people to officially join in membership. We always welcome, include, and love our visitors, friends, associate members, and members.

Lenten Reflection and Supper

Please join us on Wednesdays during Lent, March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having a Lenten Reflection called **+CrossWays** a reflection on the meaning of the cross from the writings of Martin Luther and will include time of discussion and sharing. It will be followed by a shared Supper.

Sealed Pledge Drive



Our Sealed Pledges will be dedicated at the March 2 Holy Communion Service. We are encouraging you to share your time, talents, and treasures with the Church to further the work of the Lord. You have received a pledge card to be returned, a copy of that pledge card for you to keep as a reminder, and a return envelope that can be mailed back or returned in the offering plate. **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.

Annual Congregational Meeting Part 2



The Annual Congregational Meeting Part 2 will be held on March 2, 2025 immediately following our Sunday Holy Communion Service in the Sanctuary. 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.



In Memorium

Please pray for the family and friends of

Dee Sessa

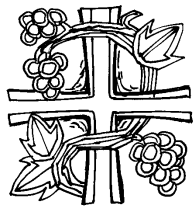
Who joined the Church Triumphant on February 5, 2025

And

Alice Dokter

Who joined the Church Triumphant on February 24, 2025

May they rest in the Peace of Christ



Outside Memorial Cross Wall

The Council has been discussing a way to honor members, friends, family, and other loved ones. It was decided to turn one wall of the Outside Cross Chapel into a Cross Memorial Wall. Currently we will be placing a cross and plaque for Pasto Gil. The Church is providing the plaque and the Moore family have chosen a cross. We will also be putting up a plaque and cross for Jerry Brady with a donation provided by Jerry's family. 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. To date this year, we have received \$84.89 with only 4 households participating. 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 have received \$863.00 from Thrivent Choice this year. 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 January 31, 2025**

FINANCES FOR THE MONTH of January 2025

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Operating Expenses of | \$10,028.00 | Exceeded |
| Operating Income of | <u>\$8,825.00</u> | |
| By | (\$1,036.00) | |
| <i>[we spent more than we took in]</i> | | |

For the year to January 31, 2025

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Operating Expenses of | \$10,028.00 | Exceeded |
| Operating Income of | <u>\$8,825.00</u> | |
| By | (\$1,036.00) | |
| <i>[we spent more than we took in]</i> | | |

Comparing Budgeted to Actual for 2025:

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Budgeted Income of | \$8,992.00 | Exceeded |
| Actual Income of | <u>\$8,825.00</u> | |
| by | (\$167.00) | |
| <i>[we took less than our budget anticipated]</i> | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Actual Expense of | \$8,992.00 | Exceeded |
| Budgeted Expense of | <u>\$10,028.00</u> | |
| by | (\$1,036.00) | |
| <i>[we spent more than our budget anticipated]</i> | | |

Other Income and Expenses for the Year:

| <u>Income:</u> | <u>January</u> | <u>YTD</u> | <u>Expenses:</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| Disaster Relief | \$450 | \$450 | | |
| Fundraising – Boutique | \$62* | \$62 | | |
| Fundraising - Bake Sale | <u>\$40*</u> | <u>\$40</u> | | |
| Total: | \$552 | \$552 | | |

* Included in Operating Income

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Weinert
Finance Chairman

CYCLE C – Year of Luke
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD THROUGH
EASTER SUNDAY

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
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 16, 2025 – *Second Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
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 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 30, 2025 – *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

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

April 6, 2025 – *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

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

April 13, 2025 — *Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday*

Luke 19:28-40, Procession with Palms
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16 (5)
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14 — 23:56
Luke 23:1-49 {alternate}

April 17, 2025 — *Maundy Thursday*

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (13)
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18, 2025 — *Good Friday*

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

April 20, 2025 — *Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day*

Acts 10:34-43
Isaiah 65:17-25 {alternate}
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (24)
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Acts 10:34-43 {alternate}
Luke 24:1-12
John 20:1-18 {alternate}

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“Lent”

March 2 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 9 verses 28-43

Third Sunday of February is the last Sunday after Epiphany. It is the Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday. We began the time after Epiphany with the Baptism of Jesus and ends with the Transfiguration of Jesus. The presence of the Trinity on both occasions includes the Father claiming Jesus as His own and giving us directions to listen this time! How did Peter, James, and John react? Fear but wanting to stay on the mountain. To dwell here. Instead, Jesus brings them down the mountain and tells them not to speak of what happened – until after the resurrection. This is one of the issues when you decide to become a follower of Jesus – what we want to do versus what Jesus want you to do. The “yes” to follow the call comes with a price: usually involving pain and sacrifice but definitely fear and confusion. We don’t get to hang out on the mountain top with God; we have to go down and deal with the nitty-gritty of reality and people. Which brings us back to being Salt and Light to the world.

It’s Lent again! It was a long time coming this year, but Lent is finally here! I love Lent. Really. I love the lessons, I love the solemnity, I love the hymns, I love the fact that there’s not a lot of hoopla surrounding it, I love the encouragement to give and do more, I love that people pray more, I love the disciplines, most especially I love that it’s a time to slow down and reflect.

March 5, 2025 – Ash Wednesday

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

On Ash Wednesday we begin the season of Lent; we hear from the Gospel of Matthew. This Gospel lesson is a continuation of the Sermon on the Mount. In it we are given the outline of how we should live Lent, and the rest of our lives. We are called to do righteous deeds, give alms, spend time in prayer, fast and thereby build treasures in heaven. Jesus also gives us the warning: don’t do these to show off; don’t brag about what you do; do it simply, in our ordinary everyday lives, looking only for God to approve.

Sunday, March 9, 2025 – First Sunday in Lent

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 4 verses 1-13

The second Sunday of March which is the First Sunday in Lent, we, again, have one of those great understatements in the Gospel: “... *was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, ... During that time, he ate nothing, and at the end of it he was hungry.*” (Lk. 4:2). One may think, gee, Jesus is God therefore if he follows the Holy Spirit nothing could go wrong. Oops. Not quite. Jesus goes into the desert to prepare for his ministry and there meets the devil who then proceeds to tempt him. The temptations that Jesus faces are the same general ones that we face: material comforts being foremost in our life; to achieve power and influence for our own purposes; being dependent only on ourselves and prideful in our self-sufficiency. This Gospel lesson brings into direct view those ideas and wants that are in direct opposition to the actions that we are called to do on Ash Wednesday. It is a good guideline for what to do

(righteous deeds, give alms, spend time in prayer, fast, build treasures in heaven) and what not to do (seek material comforts, power, and influence, be prideful) as we journey through Lent.

March 16, 2025 – Second Sunday in Lent

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 13 verses 31-35

The second Sunday of Lent we have a foreshadowing of Jesus' own death and resurrection – 3 days reflection – *“I cast out demons and I perform healings today and tomorrow, and on the third day I accomplish my purpose.” (Lk. 13:32)*. Jesus also laments over Jerusalem. It ends with a call for all to recognize that the Lord sent him: *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” (Lk. 13:35)*. During this time perhaps we can more fully recognize who Jesus was and is and will ever be.

March 23, 2025 – Third Sunday in Lent

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 13 verses 1-9

The third Sunday of Lent we have a call to repentance and a reminder that we need to bear good fruit. This Gospel lesson also addresses that idea that bad things happen to sinners – and even worse things if they are big sinners. Jesus reminds us about a couple of important things in his response: we are not to judge others, suffering has a purpose, obedience to the will of God should be foremost in our actions. And about that bearing fruit, please note: there is no limit to when this bearing of fruit ends. In fact, there is the implication that if that tree stops bearing fruit there is a very real possibility of it being uprooted.

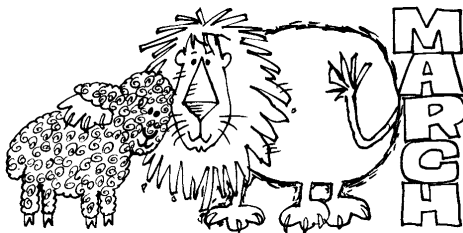
March 30, 2025 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 15 verses 1-3, 11b-32

The last Sunday of March we begin with the accusation of Jesus eating with sinners; which is true! Jesus came for the sinners and outcasts. That was one of his purposes. It continues with the story of the prodigal son. In this story, a man gives one of his sons half of his treasure. The son then goes and spends it all. Then goes through bad times before deciding to return to his father and ask for forgiveness. The father not only forgives him, welcomes him back as his son, and throws a party for him. The other son is a bit jealous of all this attention lavished on the “bad” son. How often do we share those feelings? How often do we cry, “not fair” when we learn about good things happening to “bad” people? How often do we limit God's forgiveness and mercy? But the father's response is a reminder to us all that we do need to be grateful for what we have: for the people in our lives, for the relationships we have and built over years, for the love we have shared.

During this month let us look at the mountains we need to climb to encounter Jesus. What obstacles do we need to overcome? What do we place in front of ourselves that keep us from the pinnacle of the mountain? How are we planning to spend this Lenten season? How are we responding to the call to do righteous deeds, give alms, spend time in prayer, and fast? What temptations keep you from responding? Where are we encountering Jesus in our daily lives? How are we presenting Jesus to others? What fruits are you growing? How are you planting and cultivating your own little patch? How are we asking for God's forgiveness and mercy? How are we sharing it with others?

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
 St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church
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 Office (562) 598-8697 Fax (562) 598-8697
 E-Mail: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net
 website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com
 Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop



Emeritus

2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------|--|----------|--------|---|
| | | | | | | 1 MOVE CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR BEFORE BEDTIME |
| 2 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD SUNDAY 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Sealed Pledge Dedication and Part 2 Congregational Meeting</i> | 3 | 4 | 5 NO Secretary Office Hours 10:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> | 10 | 11 | 12 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 4:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection and Supper | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Memorial Moment for Dee Sessa Luncheon in Memory of Dee Sessa by Juanita Townsend</i> | 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY | 18 | 19 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:30 p.m. Council Meeting 4:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection and Supper | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>New Member Reception</i> | 24 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE | 25 | 26 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 4:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection and Supper | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:30 Holy Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated | | | | | | |



2025 Church Council Members

Terms expire December 31, 2025

Nancy Anderson

Carmen Leslie

[appointed January 2024 to fill Anne Walshe's seat]

Mike Vanvales

[appointed August 2023 to fill Carl Keene's seat]

Terms expire December 31, 2026

Phyllis Mackey

[resigned November 2024]

Betty Lucero

Kay Pushman

Doris Weinert

Terms expire December 31, 2027

Susan Avila

Carol Costello

Linda Peters

Continuing on Council

Wendy Alfageme

Sandra Langdale

Sylvia Makus

Officers

Ex-officio

The Rev. Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

President

Kay Pushman

Vice-President

Wendy Alfageme

Secretary

Nancy Anderson

Treasurer

Doris Weinert

Finance Chair

Doris Weinert