



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

<i>Robert Bohlig</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Ray Grier</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Darlene Gardner</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Linda Peters</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Christa Diesslin</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>William Kuss</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>20</i>

CALENDAR NOTES

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesdays

12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
12:00 noon Bible Study in the Fellowship
Hall [see the calendar for exact days]

MAY

May 1: NO Bible Study

May 5: The Rev. Scott Fielder Presiding

May 8: NO Bible Study

May 9: Ascension Thursday

May 12: Ascension Celebrated

Mother's Day

May 15: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

2:30 p.m. Council Meeting

May 19: Pentecost Sunday

May 20: Newsletter Articles Due

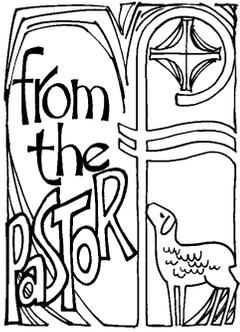
May 22: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

May 26: Holy Trinity Sunday

May 29: 12:00 Noon Bible Study Pastor

Anderson leading

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 Pastor:

From the Interim Pastor – May 2024

Dear Members and Friends of Redeemer and St. Theodore of Canterbury, The Month of May Offers a Rich Variety of Worshipping Opportunities -- The four Sundays in May offer us a wide range of themes and inspirations, along with three major Christian observances* in the liturgical calendar.

Here is an overview.

MAY 5 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

(White) The story of the first days of the Christian Church continues to be told in the Scripture reading as the disciples take the message of Jesus and the Gospel of God's love to both the Jewish people and the Gentiles in and around Jerusalem.

MAY 12 *Ascension Sunday

(White) The day of the Ascension of Jesus to heaven occurred 40 days (on a Thursday) after his Resurrection from the tomb. This year, Ascension Day is May 9th. It is one of the major observances in the Christian calendar. We will focus on that important event in Jesus' life and ministry on the following Sunday, May 12th. Matthew tells us of Jesus' "Great Commission" before his ascension in Matt. 28:16-20. Mark's Gospel has (in some Bibles) 12 additional verses at the end of chapter 16. Verse 19 tells of the Ascension. Luke tells the story twice, in Luke 24:50-53 and in Acts 1:1-11.

MAY 19 *Pentecost Sunday

(Red) The Day of Pentecost is 50 days after the Resurrection of Jesus. "Pentecost" is a word that refers to "fiftieth" (50th). People of the Jewish faith observed a Festival of Weeks fifty days after Passover, so they gathered in great numbers for this observance. It was during this first Pentecost Festival of Weeks after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, that the promised Holy Spirit of God came upon the disciples. We read about it in Acts 2. Pentecost is called "the Birthday of the Christian Church." We will hear about the thousands who heard the Gospel that day and believed, and how 3000 of those believers were then baptized. We will have a baptism that day also at Redeemer/St. Theodore.

MAY 26 *Sunday of the Holy Trinity

(White) The first Sunday following Pentecost Sunday is always designated by the Christian Church as a day to focus on the teaching and doctrine of the Holy Trinity and the mystery of our one Lord God being revealed to us in three distinct personages as Creator Father; as Redeemer, the Son of God; and as Giver of Faith, the Holy Spirit.

Reminder -- Pastor Scott Fielder will be the Guest Pastor presiding over the worship and preaching on May 5th. Thank you, Pastor Scott! I will be back from this "last-minute"

unplanned trip to Nebraska on May 8th, rejoining the congregation on May 12th and May 19th for Ascension and Pentecost Sundays. Pastor Steve Beckham will return again as the Guest Pastor on May 26th for the Sunday of the Holy Trinity. Thank you again, Pastor Steve!

Wednesday 12:00 Noontime Bible Study on the Miracles of Jesus -- The class will resume again after a few weeks of hiatus. On May 15, we will study Chapter 2, *Stilling the Storm* - Mark 4:35-41. On May 22, we will discuss Chapter 3, *Casting Out the Demons* – Mark 5:1-20. Pastor David Andersen will lead the class on May 29 as the group studies Chapter 4, *Feeding the 5000* – John 6:1-15.

I have been thinking and praying (a lot) about the Holy Land. The conflict there has become a worldwide tragedy. I am thinking we may wish to talk about it, and pray together about it, and continue to cry out for peace.

I have been to the Middle East quite a few times over the years, having served on an ELCA team that championed peaceful resolutions for the ongoing tensions in the Middle East. For a number of years, I chaired that team. I traveled to Palestine, Israel, and Jordan several times with our ELCA Presiding Bishop and other times with colleagues from the ELCA Conference of Bishops. I was privileged to go there with a US Congresswoman, and on that journey we meet with ambassadors, top leaders of both the Israeli government and with the Palestinian Liberation Organization in the West Bank, the Jewish mayor of Jerusalem and the Palestinian mayor of Bethlehem. The Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Holy Land and Jordan and I became good friends, and I have been an advocate for the ongoing support of Augusta Victoria Hospital, sitting on the top of the Mount of Olives, which is operated by the Lutheran World Federation. I have been thinking that with all the news about the latest tragedies in the Holy Land since October 7, 2023 and how it has spilled over into the rest of world, including on our university campuses here in the US, that perhaps we, as a people of faith, should set aside some time and talk together about all that is happening around this most challenging time in world history. Perhaps one day in May we could sit together for a couple hours to better understand the background, the past and the present, and the issues that have led up to this devastating time in the lands that are so important for three of the world's major religious groups. And then we could pray together for a lasting peace.

Again... Thank you! Thank you for remembering my birthday and the others of us who observed our annual milestones in April. It was wonderful as you celebrated with Sharon and me on April 14 after the service. You warmed my heart! Thank you and God bless you!

As you are able to join us for worship, please invite a neighbor or friend to come with you. I pray your May will be filled with joy!

To God alone be the glory,

+Murray D. Finck

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

It was such a glorious Easter Season, and I hope you were able to attend our many services with Bishop Murray Finck offering such inspirational messages. We are so blessed that he has offered to lead us in Bible Study on Wednesdays at 12:00. He and Rhoda have to be away over the next few months, and he has arranged for guest pastors for Sunday worship in his absence. The last Sunday in April, Pastor Steve Beckham preached, and will be with us on June 2 and June 9. On May 5 Pastor Friedman will lead our Sunday worship. Please watch your email and Sunday bulletin for the Wednesday Bible Study, which will be dark on the Wednesdays the Bishop is away. Many thanks to our Interim Pastor Finck for all he did to make arrangements for his absence.

We were overjoyed to see that Jerry Brady, our long-time former President, has recovered from his recent surgery enough to attend our April 28 Worship Service. Pastor Lisa had a promising MRI which showed less inflammation, and continues physical therapy. Pastor Gil has decided to get an apartment in the Assisted Living Section of Rowntree Gardens. Alma Zamzow is recovering from a fall at the UCI Hospital in Los Alamitos, and will transfer to a rehab facility. They all are so appreciative of our prayers, cards and calls.

On April 14, we had a special celebration for Bishop Murray Finck's 75th birthday, and Music Director Sharon Heck's 87th birthday. It was a wonderful time for these outstanding leaders of our church. We have fellowship after our Sunday service with coffee, tea, and treats. We celebrate birthdays the last Sunday of the month. Join us and get to know everyone. We did have another issue with flooding in the Fellowship Hall as we are so close to the beach and the ground water levels are so high. The portable submersible pumps we recently purchased, and with the help of Sylvia Makus, did keep us dry until Orange County Pump arrived the next morning and installed a new pump. The cost of the pump was \$1,174.06. We had a fundraiser bake sale, and several people have contributed toward the cost of the pump. Thus far, we have received \$613.46 to offset this expense. Many thanks to Sylvia and the members that have contributed toward this cost.

With thanks for allowing me to serve our church.

Respectfully,

Kay Pushman

Council President

Announcements

Office Hours

As noted already in the newsletter and Sunday bulletin, our Church Office Hours have changed. The office is open on Wednesdays from noon to 2:00 p.m. The Bishop will be available after the Bible Study class for a short time. Our secretary, Margo Geesing, will be in the office and available during the entire office hours.

Bible Study



Please see below details of our schedule for Bible Study. We are planning to meet in the Fellowship Hall, 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.

Remember, the disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread and Jesus gives us real food in Holy Communion, so it is appropriate to have food and the Bible! We are looking at 10 of the miracles of Jesus for this 10-week study.

Wednesday Dates	Leader	<i>“Ten Miracles of Jesus”</i>
May 1	No Class	---
May 8	No Class	---
May 15	Bishop Finck	Chapter Two
May 22	Bishop Finck	Chapter Three
May 29	Pastor Andersen	Chapter Four
June 5	Pastor Andersen	Chapter Five
June 12	No Class	---
June 19	Bishop Finck	Chapter Six
June 26	Bishop Finck	Chapter Seven

Council Meeting

With the change of Office Hours and the Bishop’s schedule for the Bible Study, it has been decided that the Church Council Meeting will also change to the third Wednesday of the month at the usual 2:30 p.m. The time may end up changing depending on the needs of the Council members and the Bishop. As congregation members, you are always invited to attend the meetings if you wish.



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. THEODORE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FINANCE REPORT
March 31, 2024**

FINANCES FOR THE MONTH of March 2024

Operating Income of	\$8,580.00	Exceeded
Operating Expenses of	<u>\$7,221.00</u>	
by	\$1,359.00	

For the year to March 2024

Operating Expenses of	\$\$25,203.00	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$\$20,343.00</u>	
by	(\$4,860.00)	

[we spent more than we took in]

Operating income includes \$150.00 from Fundraising for March and \$162.00 year to date.

Comparing Budgeted to Actual for 2024:

Budgeted Income of	\$21,924.00	Exceeded
Actual Income of	<u>\$20,343.00</u>	
by	(\$1,581.00)	

[we took in less than our budget anticipated]

Actual Expense of	\$25,203.00	Exceeded
Budgeted Expense of	<u>\$21,924.00</u>	
by	(\$3,279.00)	

[we spent more than our budget anticipated]

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Weinert
Finance Chairman

CYCLE B – Year of Mark
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
THROUGH FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

May 5, 2024 – *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 9, 2024 – *Ascension of Our Lord*

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47
Psalm 93 (Alternate)
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 12, 2024 – *Seventh Sunday of Easter*

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 19, 2024 – *Day of Pentecost*

Acts 2:1-21
Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Alternate)
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
Acts 2:1-21 (Alternate)
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 26, 2024 – *The Holy Trinity*

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

June 2, 2024 *Second Sunday after Pentecost [ELCA]*

Deuteronomy 5:12-15
Psalm 81:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23—3:6

June 2, 2024 – *Third Sunday after Pentecost [Semi-continuous]*

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23—3:6

June 9, 2024 – *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost [ELCA]*

Genesis 3:8-15
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1
Mark 3:20-35

June 9, 2024 – *Fourth Sunday After Pentecost [Semi-continuous]*

1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15] 16-20; [11:14-15]
Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1
Mark 3:20-35

June 16, 2024 – *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost [ELCA]*

Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

June 16, 2024 – *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost [Semi-continuous]*

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13
Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“The Turning of the Seasons”

We are coming to the end of the Sundays of Easter and beginning the long Pentecost season in May. All the Gospel lessons are from the Gospel of John, except for Ascension Thursday, all occur the night of the Last Supper and before his arrest, except Trinity Sunday. It seems odd that the Church would pick Gospel lessons for the end of Easter Time from the beginning of The Three Days. Perhaps it is to emphasize the need to go through the one to get to the other.

May 5, 2024 – *Sixth Sunday of Easter* John 15:9-17

In the Gospel lesson we have new definitions for words we use commonly that give us new directions. The word COMMANDMENT now means LOVE. *Don't blame me – talk to Jesus!* Jesus states that if you love him, you will show this love by following his commandment. What was Jesus' commandment? Love one another. This is also the core of the Ten Commandments, the eight Beatitudes, and the Greatest Commandment. It is what it means to be Christian.

May 9, 2024 – *Ascension of Our Lord* Luke 24:44-53 [We will be celebrating the Ascension of Our Lord on May 12th]

On Ascension Thursday Jesus leaves his followers with a commission, a blessing, and a promise. He commissioned them to preach the Gospel – that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached to all nations. This is continuing today through the works of the church and each of us. He blesses them as he does us at baptism and when we join in the Holy Sacrifice of the Liturgy and Communion. And he made the promise to send the power from on high [the Holy Spirit] which we were blessed to receive at baptism. The commission, blessing, and promise has continued throughout the ages because of the power of Jesus to fulfill them.

May 12, 2024 – *Seventh Sunday of Easter* John 17:6-19

The second Sunday of May is Mother's Day! Happy Mother's Day to all. We again hear Jesus praying, not for himself before his death, but for his people. He reminds the Father that these were entrusted to him and he has kept them faithfully. Jesus believed in the truth and love of the Father for both himself and his followers. He prayed not for the absence of problems or harm but rather for protection of their faith in him, in his teachings, and in the promise of eternal life; and by extension in the Father. He prays that they will remain obedient and faithful especially through challenges to their faith, evil times, and suffering. We too are blessed by this prayer. God gives us strength and love and faith to depend on during good times and bad.

May 19, 2024 – Day of Pentecost John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

The third Sunday of May is Pentecost Sunday. Happy Birthday to the Church! Jesus promises to send THE Advocate [the Holy Spirit]. Advocate: one who pleads for or in behalf of another; intercessor. When the Spirit speaks, he speaks with the direction of the Father and the Son. There are 32 names of the Spirit in Scripture. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, knowledge, right judgment, understanding, courage, piety, and fear of the Lord. The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The Spirit is a powerful guide in our faith life.

May 26, 2024 – The Holy Trinity John 3:1-17

The fourth Sunday of May is Trinity Sunday. This is one of those great and simple mysteries of faith, like the Eucharist, that cannot be explained or proved, it just has to be believed. There is one God. There are Three Persons in God. Each Individually God. All together God. But not three gods. According to legend, Saint Patrick used a shamrock to explain about God. The shamrock has three leaves on each stem. Saint Patrick told the people that the shamrock was like the idea of the Trinity, that in the one God there are three divine beings: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. But it doesn't EXPLAIN God. You really can't prove or explain God. It is simply an act of faith to believe in God. This Sunday reminds us that there IS a Trinity and our belief in the Trinity that is God, makes us children of God through our baptism.

So, we end Easter Time with two great celebrations, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. As we go out of Easter Time, we are again reminded, through the Gospel lessons, of the directives that are repeated from the beginning of every Lent: care for others and practice loving others (almsgiving), preach the Gospel in all you do and say and encourage repentance, and pray in faith, always. They are guidelines to continue as we enter the time after Pentecost.

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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	2	3	4
5 10:30 Communion Service The Rev. Scott Fielder Presiding	6	7	8 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	9 ASCENSION DAY	10	11
12 ASCENSION SUNDAY MOTHER'S DAY 10:30 Communion Service	13	14	15 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 2:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	16	17	18
19 PENTECOST SUNDAY 10:30 Communion Service	20 Newsletter Articles Due for May	21	22 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	23	24	25
26 HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY 10:30 Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated	27 MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATED	28	29 12:00 p.m. Bible Study Pastor Andersen Leading 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	30	31	