



**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>Darleen 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>Rod Sciborski</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Jacklyn Shaw</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Patricia Aarsvold</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Kathy Strople</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>30</i>

### ***May Anniversary***

*Mike and Margo Geesing*      *May*    *25*

**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.



### ***Spring Fling Bazaar***

*Our Spring Fling Bazaar will  
be held in the Fellowship Hall  
on May 1 and May 2 from  
9:00-2:00. Lunch will be sold  
starting at 11:00.  
Come, join the fun!*

### **CALENDAR NOTES**

#### **Sundays**

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

#### **Wednesdays**

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

#### **MAY**

**May 1:** 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Spring Fling Bazaar; 11:00 Lunch

**May 2:** 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Spring Fling Bazaar; 11:00 Lunch

**May 11:** Mother's Day

**May 26:** Newsletter Articles Due

**May 26:** Memorial Day

**May 28:** 1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

## *Message from the Interim Pastor:*

May 2025

### *“A Festival Day in May”* (Often Missed and Sometime Neglected)

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

There is an important day in May that we will want to remember. Please read on...

One of the primary messages of the Christian Church during this month of May is that we are blessed as the people of God to “live the resurrection,” with all of the promises, joy and hopefulness that Jesus gave to the world. During the month of May, we are between two of the major festival days in the Christian calendar. We celebrated the Easter Day of Resurrection on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Fifty days later, on June 8<sup>th</sup>, it will be the Day of Pentecost—the day remembering the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is considered to be the birthday of the Christian Church. The four Sundays in May this year are called the “Sundays of Easter,” the middle days in a season of seven weeks that continue to tell the story of Jesus’ resurrection and his appearances to his disciples and followers for the forty days between his rising from the grave and his return to his heavenly throne. There is one very special day in the Church calendar during May...

In the Nicene Creed, we profess

***On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***

**Ascension Day** this year will be remembered and observed on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Saint Luke tells us the story of the ascension of Jesus at the end of his gospel and then again in the first chapter of his book, *The Acts of the Apostles*. Here are a few of the verses from that story in the Book of Acts, wherein Luke articulates some of the most important understandings and teachings about Jesus’ interactions with humanity...

Saint Luke penned, “...<sup>1</sup>*I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning* <sup>2</sup>*until the day when he was taken up to heaven...* <sup>3</sup>*After his suffering (Good Friday) he presented himself alive (Day of Resurrection) to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God... Jesus told his followers* <sup>4</sup>*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; (Pentecost) and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*’ <sup>9</sup>*When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, (Ascension) and a cloud took him out of their sight.* <sup>10</sup>*While he was going, and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.* <sup>11</sup>*They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come (Day of Judgment) in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”* (Acts 1, selected verses NRSV)

Years ago, many congregations worshipped on the Day of Ascension, often with an evening service. When I was young, our family always attended Ascension Day services year after year, remembering that very special day in the earthly life of Jesus. Our pastor told us that we Christians crowd into our churches to celebrate Christmas, the day Jesus came into our world as the Incarnate Son of God. How important it is that we also remember the day that Jesus physically departed to return to his heavenly home. Today, some churches still gather and worship on Ascension Day, but in many denominations and congregations, that practice has diminished. This month you will be provided a few resources to help remember and observe Ascension Day in whatever ways might be meaningful for you. There will be some things written in the Midweek Communiqué and toward the end of the month, there will be a handout on Sunday and an attachment to the Communiqué.

The most important part of the story, in my opinion, is the last and final words of Jesus as he was being lifted up into the clouds... *“Remember,”* he said, *“I am with you forever to the end of time.”* (Matthew 28:20)

May God be always with each of us as we *“live the resurrection”* these holy Easter days!

*+Pastor Murray D. Finck*

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus  
(714) 345-2791

## *Message from Our President...*

Dear Members and Friends,

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Bishop Finck for the beautiful and meaningful Ash Wednesday, Lenten Reflections and Holy Week Services. The spirit, reverence, and care that went into each gathering were truly felt by all who attended. Thank you for leading us so thoughtfully through such a sacred time in our church calendar.

Special thanks to our Altar Guild who performed extra duties during this busy time. Many thanks also to Sylvia Makus for picking up the lilies for the altar and the flowers for the outdoor cross-and for arranging them so beautifully.

The Lenten Reflections Suppers were well attended and deeply appreciated by all. Bishop Finck delivered an inspirational talk, and several members shared brief reflections on crosses that hold deep personal meaning. I am so thankful to everyone who contributed food, gave a donation, and helped with setup, serving and cleanup. It was a meaningful way for us to reflect on the cross, and share a meal with our fellow members.

The Orange County Fire Authority recently cited us for having exit signs that were not adequately illuminated. I believe the originals were installed in 1965! While it was a significant expense, we purchased 10 new exit signs, and hired Golden Rain for their installation. I'm pleased to report that we have since passed inspection, and our facility is now approved.

On a technical note, my son has repaired the lectern microphone so that it can now be adjusted using the center portion. He's also working on repositioning one of the sanctuary speakers, which will help improve sound distribution throughout the space.

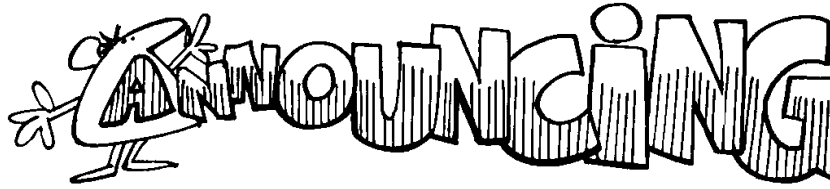
I am writing this article just ahead of our Spring Fling Bazaar, and I am confident it will be a great success. A big thank-you to Carmen Leslie and her hard-working committee, who have devoted so much effort to making this event a wonderful day for all. Please be sure to attend on May 1 and May 2 to support your church. This important fundraiser will help offset the cost of installing a new heating/cooling system.

Lastly, I am so grateful for your continued prayers and kind well wishes as I prepare for another back surgery on April 30. Your love and support mean the world to me.

As always, God's blessings,

***Kay Pushman***

Council President



### **Spring Fling Bazaar**

Our Spring Fling Bazaar will be held in the Fellowship Hall on May 1 and May 2 from 9:00-2:00. Lunch will be sold starting at 11:00. Come and bring a neighbor. You must be sure to see all of Reverend Finck's treasures. They were a hit at the Fall Bazaar. We still need donations of cookies, hangers, boutique items, clothing, green tea, and bags for sold items. Any questions, call Carmen Leslie @ 562 430 6950.

### **Lent and Easter Thank You's**

We thank all those who worked so diligently to make our Lenten and Easter Seasons so fulfilling. Thanks go to our Altar Guild who kept up with our changing paraments; our Flowers team for their appropriate Lenten environment, palms for Palm Sunday and lilies for Easter; those who set up, cooked, served, and cleaned up after our Lenten Reflection gatherings; those who welcomed visitors to our Services and gatherings; those who planned so many of our activities; and our Interim Pastor Bishop Finck for his constant care and shepherding of this flock.

### **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.



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

**ACTUAL INCOME and EXPENSES MARCH 31, 2025**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>March</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
Current Offering	\$8,549.81	\$24,864.81
Fundraiser-Boutique	\$10.00	\$102.00
Fundraiser-Bake Sale	\$0.00	\$40.00
Memorial	\$500.00	\$500.00
Memorial Wall	\$200.00	\$200.00
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$9,259.81</b>	<b>\$25,706.81</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$9,954.49</u></b>	<b><u>\$28,187.57</u></b>
<b>Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b><u>(\$694.68)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$2,480.76)</u></b>
	(Exceed Income)	(Exceed Income)

**BUDGET INCOME and EXPENSES YEAR to DATE: MARCH 31, 2025**

	<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>Expenses</u></b>
Budget	\$26,976.00	\$26,976.00
Actual	<u>\$25,564.81</u>	<u>\$28,187.57</u>
<b>Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b><u>(\$1,411.19)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$1,211.57)</u></b>
	(Less than Budget)	(More than Budget)

**OTHER INCOME & EXPENSES**

	<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
Disaster Relief	\$500.00	\$450.00	(In & Out)

Respectfully Submitted  
Doris Weinert  
Finance Chair

**CYCLE C – Year of Luke**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**THROUGH FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**May 4, 2025 — *Third Sunday of Easter***

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19

**May 11, 2025 — *Fourth Sunday of Easter***

Acts 9:36-43  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30

**May 18, 2025 — *Fifth Sunday of Easter***

Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

**May 25, 2025 — *Sixth Sunday of Easter***

Acts 16:9-15  
Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5  
John 14:23-29

**May 29, 2025 — *Ascension of Our Lord***

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47  
Psalm 93 {alternate}  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

**June 1, 2025 — *Seventh Sunday of Easter***

Acts 16:16-34  
Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21  
John 17:20-26

**June 8, 2025 — *Day of Pentecost***

Acts 2:1-21  
Genesis 11:1-9 {alternate}  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:14-17  
Acts 2:1-21 {alternate}  
John 14:8-17 [25-27]

**June 15, 2025 — *The Holy Trinity / First Sunday after Pentecost***

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  
Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15

**June 22, 2025 — *Second Sunday after Pentecost***

Isaiah 65:1-9  
Psalm 22:19-28  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39

**June 29, 2025 — *Third Sunday after Pentecost***

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21  
Psalm 16  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9:51-62

**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

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

### **“We are an Easter People”**

In the month of May, as we are still in the Easter Season, we hear from the Gospel of John. John's Gospel was written for those who already believed in the Divinity of Jesus as proof and to strengthen their faith. We, as believers in the resurrected Jesus, should also grow in faith as we listen to the words from the Gospel of John.

#### **The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 21 verses 1-19**

Who doesn't like a good fresh fish fry on the beach? In today's Gospel lesson Jesus repeats some of the highlights of his journey with the disciples. The first part of the Gospel begins with recommendations on where to find fish, which led them to producing a great catch (the great catch in Luke 5/calling of the disciples), and ending with Jesus feeding the disciples with fish and bread (miracle of loaves and fish/Last Supper). The last part of the Gospel is a reflection of Jesus abundant mercy and forgiveness. Rather than calling Peter out for denying Jesus three times during the Passion, Jesus gives Peter a chance to renew Peter's love of Jesus by asking Peter if he loves Jesus, three times. After each affirmation of his love, Jesus gives Peter a directive: feed my lambs, tend my sheep, and feed my sheep. Jesus ends with, follow me. We as Christian believers and with love for Jesus are also given these directives: to feed the lambs and sheep, to tend to them, and to follow Him.

#### **The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter John 10 verses 22-30**

We hear a lot about sheep and being a shepherd in the Gospel of John. This is an image that continues on the second Sunday of May. Jesus is at the Temple and, again, is being questioned about “who are you?” This passage is one of the few occasions where Jesus states outright that he and the Father are one. This passage is also a challenge for us. While Jesus promises his sheep eternal life, it requires us to hear his voice, to listen, to follow him. Over Easter we had family and friends over. This included all four grandchildren. I realized that I could listen and distinguish first, who was crying; and if it was the “I'm hurt” or the “I'm frustrated” or “I'm overwhelmed” cries. We also need to distinguish Jesus's voice over all the other ones we hear: family, friends, society, and our own selfishness.

#### **The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 13 verses 31-35**

The third Sunday in May we have the sad situation that Judas has left the others to betray Jesus – and Jesus's knowledge that it is about to happen. How much harder is it for Jesus, with the foreknowledge of exactly what he is about to willingly go through, not for his own sins or wrong doing but for EVERYONE ELSE. When he addresses his followers, it is not to condemn Judas or anyone. Rather, Jesus calls his followers to love. It seems such a simple



request but it is one of the hardest to truly fulfill. To love in spite of as opposed to because of. In spite of how you are treated. In spite of what they say about you. In spite how they look, act, how they are different. It's easy to love those who agree with you, who love you back, who praise you. It is said that the greatest love is to lay down one's life for a friend. Actually, the greatest love to lay down one's life for an enemy. This is what Jesus did. He laid down his life for sin and death – to conquer both for the sake of all.

### **The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 14 verses 23-29**

The fourth Sunday of May we hear of a few different ideas. First, Jesus speak of the love of the Father and the Son for those that love them. We show that love in how we treat one another. The way we fulfill the request of Jesus to keep his word. For us to answer the call to love, forgive, repent, pray, and listen. The second part is the promise of the Advocate. This is the promise that is fulfilled to each person at baptism. We receive the Holy Spirit to come and dwell within us and, hopefully, to guide us. Again, we need to listen. We will celebrate the coming of the Advocate in two weeks (second Sunday in June is Pentecost Sunday). The third gift that Jesus leaves with his disciples is his peace. It is not the peace of no troubles or problems, it is the peace of his love. The knowledge that you are love by God. You have an inheritance with Jesus. You have a place, and this is not the end.

### **The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 24 verses 44-53**

The last Sunday of May we hear the beautiful prayer Jesus makes to the Father. Jesus not only prays for his followers to be united at that time but also prays for those who will follow because of their word to be united. Jesus is praying for us! In the here and now! He ends with the hope that the love he and the Father share, is shared with those who follow him.

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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1			1  <b>Spring Fling Bazaar</b> 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch beginning at 11:00 a.m.	2  <b>Spring Fling Bazaar</b> 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch beginning at 11:00 a.m.	3
4  10:30 Communion Service	5	6	7  12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	8	9	10
11  <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> 10:30 Communion Service	12	13	14  12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	15	16	17
18  10:30 Communion Service	19	20	21  12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	22	23	24
25  10:30 Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated	26  <b>Newsletter Articles Due for May</b>	27	28  12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours  1:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	29	30	31