



**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>Sophia Kim</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Patricia Aarsvold</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Kathy Stropole</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>30</i>

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

May

April 30: Spring Bazaar 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May 1: Spring Bazaar 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May 2: Spring Bazaar 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

May 3: 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

May 6: 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

May 10: 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

May 13: 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

May 17: 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

May 20: 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

May 24: 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

May 25: Memorial Day Celebrated

May 27: 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study

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

May 31: 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Birthdays Celebrated at Fellowship

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 Interim Pastor:
“What a Month is the Month of May!”***

May is a remarkable month in the Christian Church’s liturgical year—a month when the Church seems to stand on tiptoe, watching the story of salvation unfold in real time. It is a month that gathers up the joy of Easter, lifts our eyes to the Ascension of Jesus, sets our hearts ablaze at Pentecost, and invites us into the deep mystery of the Holy Trinity. Few months of the year carry so much theological weight and spiritual beauty.

We begin May still firmly in the Easter season as we continue to sing the glad “alleluias” and proclaim, *“He is risen indeed!”* The readings continue to echo an empty tomb and resurrection hope. The Church lingers intentionally in this season because the resurrection is not a moment—it is a reality that reshapes our faith and relationship with God, reminding us that Christ’s victory over death is not merely proclaimed; it is lived!

Then comes Ascension Day, forty days after Easter, when we will go to the mountaintop with Jesus as he returns to the Father. Far from signaling absence, the Ascension proclaims Christ’s victorious reign over sin, death, and power of evil. The One who walked dusty roads now sits at the right hand of God, interceding for the world He loves. His last words were, *“I am with you always to the end of time.”* The Ascension teaches us that Jesus is not gone—He is enthroned.

Ten days later, the Church is swept into the wind and fire of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descends, the apostles speak with boldness, and the Christian Church is born. Pentecost is not simply a commemoration of something that happened long ago; it is a celebration of what God continues to do. The Spirit still breathes life into weary hearts, still gathers diverse people into one communion of saints, still sends us as the one, holy, and apostolic Church into the world with courage and love.

Then, as if to crown the month, we arrive at The Sunday of the Holy Trinity. This day does not focus on a particular story or event, but it brings us to the wonder and mystery of our God—the very identity of God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God in three persons. Trinity Sunday reminds us that the stories we have traced through Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost are the stories of joy, adoration, new life, and the fullness of a God of compassion and grace offering us the hope and the promise of our salvation.

What a month indeed is the month of May! We are invited to gather week after week to rejoice, to wonder, and to worship the one true God who raises us up, reigns over us, breathes into us, and binds us together in love. Let us gather week after week to pray, praise, and give thanks in this most amazing month!

+Pastor Murray

+The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Interim Pastor

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

HOLY WEEK: Our services were truly inspirational and beautifully done, and we thank, and are so very blessed by Pastor Murray for his untiring, faithful leadership and dedication. We are so grateful to our Altar Guild who prepared our beautiful altar and the sacrament for each service. Thank you to Carmen Leslie and Sylvia Makus for the beautiful floral display on our outdoor cross, and the hanging of the special painting by Carmen Leslie and Barbara Simundza.

Just in time for Holy Week, we were able to light the cross on the top of the church, and the stained-glass window of Jesus, thanks to generous donations from Dale Diesslin and Carol and Mickey Costello. Indeed, our church was a reminder to our community of the true meaning of Easter.

BISHOP'S SERVICE AND DINNER: This was such an extraordinary time for our church. We always feel very blessed to have Bishop Finck with us, but to have three amazing Bishops in our presence was beyond our expectations. Many thanks to Pastor Murray for arranging this special time for us. Many hands went into making this event so successful, and we thank each one of you for helping to make this a meaningful time for our church.

I had many requests for the name of the caterer. The owner's name is John, and, if you go there, please mention that you are from our church.

Frantone's Pizza and Spaghetti Villa
10808 Alondra Blvd.
Cerritos CA. 90703
562 924 9494

NEW MEMBERS: We are so happy that Ellen Larson and Julia Watson have joined our church this past month. They are such a welcome addition to our membership!

BAZAAR: Mark your calendars for March 30, April 1 and 2. This is our major fundraiser, so come and bring your friends. Pastor Murray and Rhoda will be participating and bringing some of their treasures, which is always a favorite. Our thanks to Carmen Leslie, and her committee of Wendy Alfageme, Nancy Anderson, Susan Avila, Carol Costello, Karen Ford, Rhoda Finck, Ray Friedrichsen, Deborah Hodge, Sandy Langdale, Elaine Lee, Barbara Long, Sylvia Makus, Christina Paek, Linda Peters, Jann Shaffer, and Doris Weinert who have been working in different areas to make this a successful event. Many thanks to those that will pitch in to help after the printing of our newsletter, and, of course, your participation by coming and bringing your friends. We are so appreciative of your support.

God's Blessings,

Kay Pushman

Council President



Special Service and Dinner

The Bishops' Service and Dinner on Wednesday, April 8 was such a memorable time. -We had three Bishops at our church answering our questions and giving us insight to the future plans of the church as a whole. The hands that went into this venture were many, and I am so very grateful for every one of them. This day was indeed a wonderful experience.

Special Congregational Meeting

The Council called a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 12 after our Holy Communion Service where the congregation was presented the Sa-Rang Korean Church's offer to install an audio-visual system. After the presentation and discussion, it was decided by the congregation too accept their offer to pay for and install both a sound system and projection screen to our Sanctuary.

Spring Bazaar

Join us for our **Spring Bazaar** on **Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. AND Saturday, May 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.!** This is a fundraiser, so please support your church by attending with friends and neighbors. There will be lunch available for purchase. There will be plants, crafts, boutique, and baked goods for purchase. There will also be a gift basket raffle!!

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.



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

**ACTUAL INCOME & EXPENSES
March 31 2026**

<u>Income</u>	<u>One Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Current Offering	\$8,083.00	\$23,503.72
Fundraiser-Boutique	70.00	154.00
Fundraiser-Bake Sale	0.00	0.00
Fundraiser-Bazaar	0.00	0.00
Fundraiser-Ralphs	0.00	0.00
Memorial	0.00	0.00
Memorial Wall	72.46 *	72.46 *
Sa-Rang Church Donation	2,000.00	6,000.00
Total Operating Income	\$10,225.46	\$29,730.18
Total Expenses	<u>9,238.84</u>	<u>27,769.94</u>
Gain/(Loss)	\$986.62	\$1,960.24
	Less than Income	Less than income

* Memorial Wall Net (Income less Expenses)

YEAR TO DATE BUDGET INCOME & EXPENSES through MARCH 31, 2026

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Budget	\$10,621.00	\$10,621.00
Actual	<u>10,225.46</u>	<u>9,238.84</u>
Gain/(Loss)	(\$395.54)	\$1,382.16
	(Less than Budget)	Less than Budget

OTHER INCOME & EXPENSES

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Donation - Church Improvements	\$1,200.00	
		Lighted Cross
Fixed Asset - Building Contents	\$11,045.00	
		Electrical Panel - Hot Water Heaters

Respectfully Submitted,
Doris Weinert
Finance Chair

CYCLE A – Year of Matthew
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
THROUGH FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

May 3, 2026 – *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 10, 2026 – *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 17, 2026 – *Ascension of Our Lord*

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 24, 2026 – *Day of Pentecost*

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

May 31, 2026 – *The Holy Trinity*

First Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 1:1–2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 7, 2026 – *Second Sunday after Pentecost*

Complementary Series
Hosea 5:15—6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
Semi-continuous Series
Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:1-12

June 14, 2026 – *Third Sunday after Pentecost*

Complementary Series
Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]
Semi-continuous Series
Genesis 18:1-15[21:1-7]
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

June 21, 2026 – *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

Complementary Series
Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39
Semi-continuous Series
Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

June 28, 2026 – *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

Complementary Series
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42
Semi-continuous Series
Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing
“Time of Easter to Pentecost”

May 3, 2026 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 14 verse 1 – 14

The first Sunday in May’s Gospel lesson has much to do with the disciple’s (and our own) fears and hesitation in our own relationship with Jesus, our own faith journey, and to understanding the relationship between the Father and the Son. They (and we) want a road map with every obstacle, turn, challenge, and fork in the road to be marked and which choice to make. We are so concerned with being on the right track that we do not want to just trust in He who is: *“the way and the truth and the life.”* (Jn.14:6) We do not want to give up our perceived control. There is a beautiful morning prayer [*Matins* page 304] and evening prayer [*Vespers* page 317] in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book [the Red Book] to help us to rely on God’s guidance: *“O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

May 10, 2026 – Sixth Sunday of Easter [also Mother’s Day]

The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 14 verse 15 – 21

The second Sunday in May we continue from last week’s Gospel lesson where Jesus is telling his followers that he will be going away. He is continuing the thoughts from last week about the relationship between himself and the Father. He also states what it means to love Jesus: to keep his commandments. Jesus’s commandment is to love one another as he loves them. Jesus is speaking of the fullness of love; the possibility of laying down one’s life for another just as he is doing. This week Jesus adds us into the mix of that relationship. Jesus loves the Father. The Father loves Jesus. Jesus loves us. We love Jesus. Jesus BRINGS us to the Father to share His love. We love the Father. It’s important to remember that everything involving Jesus is in relationship of love. So, when Jesus says he will not leave us alone and will send the Advocate we now have another level of love for us to share. Ultimately, Jesus commands us to love. This is what the Ten Commandments is about (love of God; love of others); the Eight Beatitudes is about how we live love in community and how we should be acting as his followers; it is what the Greatest Commandment is about: LOVE. Even Jesus’s prayer in the garden before his arrest is about love: the willingness for Jesus to do the Father’s will out of love for the Father and for us in spite of his fear. Jesus’s final acts on the cross were about love and forgiveness: Father forgive them; you will be with me in paradise; woman behold your son /son behold your mother are all statements of love. *So, the question for us through this Gospel is how do we share our love with our God; with Jesus; with our community; with others?*

May 17, 2026 – Ascension of Our Lord

The First Lesson is from Acts chapter 1 verses 1-11

Thursday, May 14 is the Ascension of Our Lord. We will be celebrating it on Sunday, May 17. For this day, I'd like to look at the first lesson from Acts. It begins with an explanation of what has occurred. Jesus gives them a final commission: go be witnesses to the ends of the earth. Let us reflect on the word choice of "witness". We go beyond the idea of someone who just saw and are not affected by what happened: a bystander. Rather a witness is someone who saw, experienced, and is now stating the truth. This is what we are called to do: to continue that witnessing. As Jesus ascends to heaven, the disciples cannot help but stare upward in awe of what they are seeing. Suddenly two men, appear and push them out of their lethargy. They are kindly telling them, "There's nothing more to see here; get to work." The issue is similar to people who say, I love Jesus and I go to church and leave it at that point. Our primary witnessing **does not** come in gathering together. Why do you come? Habit or duty? To receive Communion? To sing the hymns? To hear Scriptures? To listen to the sermon? To see friends? Do you come to worship because it satisfies your needs? Sorry to break it to you, you're like the disciples who are staring up at the sky. We need community to strengthen us for the journey, but we are **sent** at the end of our celebration. We come together to praise and worship God. We come to satisfy Jesus's desire to be with us on the journey. *So, go and WITNESS to what Jesus has done in your life. Go and share Jesus.*

May 17, 2026 – Ascension of Our Lord

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 24 verse 44 – 53

In Gospel lesson for this day, just as Jesus did on the Road to Emmaus, he opens the Scriptures to all of the followers. Jesus shows them how his life and death is a fulfillment of Scriptures. He then commissions them to continue preaching about repentance and forgiveness of sins. He, again, promises to send the Holy Spirit and blesses them before ascending to heaven. In this Gospel they are said to have returned with great joy and were in the temple. It is interesting that in the Gospel of Luke they are in the temple and are filled with joy but in next week's Gospel from John, they are hiding out behind locked doors waiting for the Spirit to come. *Either way, we are still called to live out our own repentance and forgiveness both when we are filled with joy or filled with fear.*

May 24, 2026 – Day of Pentecost

The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 20 verse 19 – 23 or John chapter 7 verse 37 – 39

The fourth Sunday in May is Pentecost Sunday. The birthday of the Church. The day the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. There are various views of how the Spirit was given to them. In the Gospel of John, the Spirit is given before the Ascension. Jesus appears to them in a locked room where they were hiding in fear that they would be next to be arrested. The first thing Jesus says is, "Peace be with you." Jesus then commissions them, breathes on them to give them the Holy Spirit and tells them to GO. In the alternate Gospel for Pentecost Sunday, also from John, Jesus only gives a foreshadowing of the Spirit. Here Jesus refers to the Spirit as a river of living water that will flow from the hearts of believers. In Acts there is wind and fire.

The disciples are accused of being drunk. In 1 Corinthians the gifts of the Spirit are named. We don't really hear a lot about the Spirit except on Pentecost. That's really a reflection on the Holy Spirit. Although the Spirit can be violent wind and fire, usually the Spirit is peace and breath. The Spirit manifests to do good. The Spirit is guidance. The Spirit is strength. The Spirit is inspiration. The Spirit is what let the disciples come out from behind the locked door, let their fears go, and allowed them to witness to who Jesus is. *The Spirit is what renews the face of the earth. The Spirit is what moves US out of our fears and encourages us to witness to our own faith.*

May 31, 2026 – The Holy Trinity First Sunday After Pentecost
The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 28 verse 16 – 20

The last Sunday of May is Holy Trinity Sunday, we have Jesus commissioning the eleven: *“¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”* Matthew 28:16-20. This is the continuing action of the church. Jesus's followers, just as we, are sent to be and make disciples. The way we do that is through our actions and our words. I can **tell** you all about Jesus, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit but that will not convince you that faith in the Trinity is a good thing. My actions, how I treat others; my words, how I speak about and to others; shows how my faith in the Trinity changes me. *Having faith is hard. Living faith is harder. All those warning and such that Jesus constantly speaks of to his followers – they still happen. Living your faith can be dangerous – just look at who we follow and where he ended his human life. Faith, living faith, is not for the faint of heart [but the final reward is great!].*

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 website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com



Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				APRIL 30 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Spring Bazaar	1 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Spring Bazaar	2 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Spring Bazaar
3 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	4	5	6 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	7	8	9
10 MOTHER'S DAY 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	11	12	13 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	14	15	16
17 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	18	19	20 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Council Meeting	21	22	23
24 PENTECOST 10:30 Holy Communion <i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	25 MEMORIAL DAY Newsletter Articles Due	26	27 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	28	29	30
31 HOLY TRINITY 10:30 Holy Communion <i>Birthdays Celebrated at Coffee Fellowship</i>						