



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

September Birthdays

<i>Nancy Anderson</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Mike Geesing</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Barbara Long</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Jim Gilbert</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Tee Teclu</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Carol Costello</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Margo Geesing</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Sylvia Makus</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>26</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 Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

SEPTEMBER

September 4: 12:00 Noon Bible Study
September 8: "God's Work. Our Hands"
September 11: 12:00 Noon Bible Study
September 14: 10:00 a.m. Pastor Gil Moore's Memorial Service
September 18: 12:00 Noon Bible Study
1:30 p.m. Council Meeting
September 23: Newsletter Articles Due
September 25: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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: **September 2024**

A Month with Moses and James

September 2024 will be an important month for our ministry at Redeemer and Saint Theodore of Canterbury. I am grateful for the many details provided in this newsletter by our parish secretary, Margo Geesing, and congregational president, Kay Pushman. I also want to highlight the New Member Reception on September 29th as several people will be joining the official membership of our community of faith. We give thanks for all who participate--members, associate members, friends, and an increasing number of visitors and guests. We are thankful for every person and for your presence at Sunday Morning Worship, the Wednesday Midweek Bible Study, and any and all other events happening at this congregation.

I wish to highlight what will be happening in September at two of our weekly gatherings, namely our Sunday Morning Worship and our Wednesday Midweek Bible Study. During these next September weeks, we will be spending some very intentional and concentrated time with Moses and with James. Let me explain...

First, a word about Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. The appointed readings for the five Sundays in September during this waning Season of Pentecost include readings from the New Testament book of James on each of those five Sundays. Many (but not all) biblical scholars believe that the author of this book was James, the son of Mary and Joseph, thus the half-brother of Jesus. He was a very significant figure in the early Christian Church in Jerusalem. The author of this short book wrote an epistle to the Early Christian Church offering them very specific guidelines for living within this emerging faith community. This particular letter to the Church has some very unique characteristics and teachings. I will be focusing the five Sunday morning sermons in September primarily on this book of the Bible. By the 29th of September, we will hopefully all have a better understanding of this New Testament writing, its author, and its message to the Christian community.

Secondly, during our Midweek Wednesday Bible Study (12:00 to 1:15 PM), starting on September 4th we will begin a new study entitled ***“The Decalogue--The Ten Commandments.”*** We will be looking at each of those commandments to better understanding what our Lord God was giving to God's people during their journey to the Promised Land, but, at the same time, during these next weeks we will also explore the ministry of Moses as the leader of the Israelites at the time they were freed of their 430 years of captivity in Egypt. The giving of the 10 commandments is recorded in Exodus 20 and again in Deuteronomy 6. Our study of the Ten

Commandments will include an overview of the entire 40-chapter book of Exodus, telling the whole story, the history, and the context of the time when God chose to give these commandments to God's people. We will also discuss and deliberate on modern, 21st century applications for these 10 directives, which were written in stone, and given to the people of God.

Any and all are always welcome to our worship services and Bible studies. Please join us as you are able to spend time in September with Moses and James, and with other people of faith and those inquiring, and mostly with our Lord God and God's Holy Word.

Continually grateful for this ministry here within the Leisure World community,

+Pastor Murray D. Finck

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that so soon after Jerry Brady's Memorial Service, we are again planning one for our beloved Pastor Gil. The Memorial Service is Saturday, September 14 at 10:00 am with a luncheon to follow. We will setting up on Friday afternoon at 2:00. If you are able to provide transportation to the Memorial, bring a fruit salad, help with the preparation on Friday, setup/serve/cleanup on Saturday, there is sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The GRF Community Swap Meet is being held on the same day from 8:00-12:00. It will be held in the parking lot in front of Clubhouse 6, and you will not be able to park there. The parking lot in front of the Health Center and the Amphitheater lot will be available for our use. However, the people participating in the Swap Meet will be parking there also. If at all possible, please carpool to the Memorial. I am arranging for nonmember drivers to shuttle anyone who has to park in the Clubhouse 4 parking lot. There will be signs in their car windows. I will give the Security office maps to direct our guests to all of the parking options.

Redeemer's long-time involvement in *God's Work, Our Hands* where we collect food from our members and community is on Sunday, September 8 from 1:00-3:00. We will be setting up in front of the church right after Fellowship. If you can help with this project, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Of course, your contribution of food is central to this endeavor, and you can bring your food to church anytime. Call me at 818 470 0480, and I will meet you to bring in your donations. Redeemer has always had a very successful program providing a generous amount of non-perishable food to those in need.

At the last Council meeting, it was decided that we would make our outside wall with crosses a Memorial Wall. The large cross on the wall was made and donated by my son and his wife. I will be removing the plaque under it remembering my husband, and purchase a smaller cross to attach it to. The Brady family has made a donation, and we will be putting up a cross and plaque remembering him. I checked with the family of Pastor Gil, and they were so happy that we would be memorializing their dad in the same way, and they have picked out the cross they would like. I hope to have the cross and plaque on the wall while the family is in town. We will be making this available to all of our members that would like to remember their loved ones in this way, and are finalizing the program.

The Council also has decided to look into improving our sound system, and we will keep you updated on the progress.

I am always overwhelmed with the volunteering at our church. We are indeed blessed by so many helping hands, which makes any task much easier. Many thanks always for your help.

God's Blessings to you all.

Respectfully,

Kay Pushman

Council President

Bible Study

Bible Study will begin a new study September 4th from noon to about 1:30 p.m. when we will begin a 5-week study titled: “*The Decalogue – The Ten Commandments*” looking in-depth at the Ten Commandments. Bishop Murray Finck will be leading the discussion. Please attend: bring friends, your Bible, and your lunch if you wish! There are drinks available to share.

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

“*God’s Work. Our Hands.*” will be taking place on Sunday, September 8th collection time is planned from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will again be collecting non-perishable foods to donate to Lutheran Social Services for their food pantry. We are looking for volunteers willing to help with: getting the word out, setting up, collecting food, counting/weighing the food, delivering the food, and clean-up. EVERYONE is encouraged to get a yellow “*God’s Work. Our Hands.*” shirt to wear, especially on September 8th.

Pastor Gil Moore’s Memorial Service

Pastor Gilbert Moore’s Celebration of Life is on Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with a reception to follow the memorial service at Redeemer Lutheran Church. We hold Pastor Gil’s family, friends, and the many people who knew and loved him in our hearts and prayers. Please, let us know if you are planning on attending, we would like to know how many to plan for. There are slips of paper you can fill out at Church or call the office if you are not attending Sunday Service.

Update

Pastor Lisa is back at home, again. Please keep her and her daughter in your prayers. She can still be contacted by text or cards can be sent to her house.



IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the Family and Friends of:

Gil Moore

September 17, 1927 to August 19, 2024

Memorial Donations

Memorial donations are a lovely way to remember those who have joined the Church Triumphant and rest in the arms of Jesus. Below are those who have donated to our Memorial Fund during this year.

Victoria Louie	Memory of Dondi Buchrucker	Flo Nesland	In Memory of Jerry Brady
Wendy Alfageme	In Memory of Dena Anderson	Cedric Elmer	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Wendy Alfageme	In Memory of Jerry Brady	Barry Thompsen	In Memory of Jerry Brady
Alma Zamzow	In Memory of Jerry Brady	Barry Thompsen	In Memory of Gilbert Moore
Nancy Anderson	In Memory of Jerry Brady	Doris Weinert	In Memory of Jerry Brady

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. THEODORE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FINANCE REPORT
Month Ending July 31, 2024**

FINANCES FOR THE MONTH of July 2024

Operating Expenses of	<u>\$7,766.00</u>	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$6,557.00</u>	
By	<u>(\$1,209.00)</u>	
<i>[we spent more than we took in]</i>		

For the year to July 31, 2024		
Operating Expenses of	<u>\$57,888.00</u>	Exceeded
Operating Income of	<u>\$55,515.00</u>	
by	<u>(\$2,373.00)</u>	
<i>[we spent more than we took in]</i>		

Comparing Budgeted to Actual for 2024:		
Actual Income of	<u>\$55,516.00</u>	Exceeded
Budgeted Income of	<u>\$51,156.00</u>	
by	<u>\$4,360.00</u>	
<i>[we took in more than our budget anticipated]</i>		

Actual Expense of	<u>\$57,888.00</u>	Exceeded
Budgeted Expense of	<u>\$51,176.00</u>	
by	<u>(\$6,732.00)</u>	
<i>[we spent more than our budget anticipated]</i>		

Other Income and Expenses for the Year:

Income:

Memorial	\$250.00 (\$50 July)
Fundraising – Boutique	174.00 (\$30 July)
Fundraising - Pump	663.00
Fundraising – Bake Sale	<u>162.00</u>
Total:	\$1,249.00

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Weinert
Finance Chairman

CYCLE B – Year of Mark
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THROUGH THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 1, 2024 *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

October 6, 2024 — *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 2:18-24
Psalm 8
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

September 8, 2024 *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146 (2)
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

October 13, 2024 – *Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

September 15, 2024 — *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-9
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

October 20, 2024 – *Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost*

Isaiah 53:4-12
Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

September 22, 2024 — *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 11:18-20
Wisdom 1:16 — 2:1, 12-22
Psalm 54
James 3:13 — 4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

October 27, 2024 – *Reformation Sunday*

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

September 29, 2024 — *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

October 27, 2024 – *Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“Challenges”

During the month of August, we got through the whole of John chapter 6 with the discourse on the Bread of Life. We got that, right? Jesus is the Bread of Life. You need to receive him to have [eternal] life within you. We, as people of faith, receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

We are back in the Gospel of Mark for September! Mark is the “GO” Gospel. Jesus is on the go; his followers are on the go. Most of the Gospel lessons begin with where he is going or where he came from. And he gives out challenges constantly. Challenges we are encouraged to fulfill, also.

First Sunday of September Jesus has landed the boat in Gennesaret and is met by the Pharisees who had come from Jerusalem, basically to confront him. His followers were not following all the prescribed “rules” for the faith: this time it was regarding ritual cleaning, but it could have been anything. Jesus reminds them that there is a difference between doing the “right” things without a connection to the why it’s done and doing something with regard for the heart of the matter. Jesus is more concerned with the reasoning behind actions rather than the perfectness of the action. Just following the rules is not living your faith. Living faith, what Jesus calls us all to do, involves not just your outward actions but your inward heart. Spirit versus Letter of the Law. *This could make us reflect on how we judge the faith of others by what we see them do in relation to how we think faith “should be” lived rather than accepting that faith comes in many forms and expressions.*

The second Sunday in September Jesus has an encounter with a woman who was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. Especially in the Gospel of Mark, when Jesus interacts with women they tend to challenge him. He allows them to make him think differently. In a culture that did not give women much power, Jesus allows them to have power to change his thinking. In this case, he goes from addressing only the Israelites to beginning to include some of the Gentiles in his mission. Something similar happens when he encounters the Samaritan woman at the well. *How do you deal with encounters with people who think differently than you do? Do you dismiss them or do you listen to them and evaluate your way of thinking? You may not need to change your way of thinking but perhaps at some points, you might.* This Gospel lesson also has a second part. Jesus does a, “Shhh, don’t say anything.” Which is gleefully ignored. This happens to Jesus on numerous occasions, including when with his own disciples. You would think he would learn that the fastest way to get something spread around is to tell the person to say nothing. *Think about your own encounters with Jesus. Do you keep them to yourself or do you share them?*

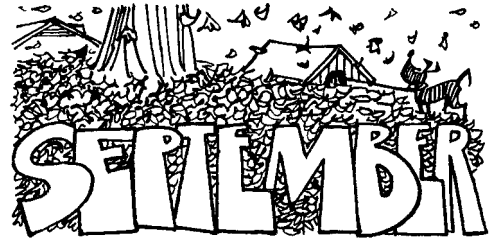
The third Sunday of September we get a story about Peter. You all know I have a special fondness for Peter [and Paul]- They both allow their humanness to show through the passion and the stupid moments. Peter goes all in, all the time. Peter states that Jesus is “*the Messiah, the Son of the Living God*”. Can’t get faith much stronger than that! But the next moment, Peter is rebuking Jesus. Sadly, for us, Jesus brings things back around saying the hard things again and challenging us. Jesus reminds us that we are called to do more and to be more. Then

Jesus sets a blueprint of what we need to do: a) deny ourselves, b) to pick up our cross and c) follow him. None of these are easy things to do. We like our comforts. We would like things easy. Following Jesus is hard. Our belief and love in someone greater than ourselves give us the strength needed to deny ourselves. It gives us the perseverance to pick up our cross and carry on. It gives us the power to follow. Jesus never said it would be easy; in fact, he frequently warns us just the opposite! Jesus looks to the heart and faith of his people and he looks with the eyes of love, compassion, and mercy. *Have you ever felt challenged beyond what you thought you were capable of? What did you do? How did it turn out?*

The fourth Sunday we have Jesus traveling to Capernaum. As frequently happens when a group of people travel together for a while, little irritations start to show up. A bit of bickering. A challenge of who's better than who. The disciples were no different. Jesus calls them out about it. Jesus does a bit of foreshadowing. He states that the person who wants to be greatest needs to be a servant to the others. Jesus does this at the Passover meal when he washes the feet of his disciples. Then, Jesus puts a child in front of them and tells them they must welcome this child. We look at this and think, who wouldn't help a child? Or protect a child? Or welcome a child? But children were not important in society. Even today, children aren't thought of as "important" members of society. Jesus was making a point. We cannot be good followers if we are focused on being important in society. We need to be better than that. We need to be a servant. We need to be aware of those in need; and moreover, do something. Too often we as human beings look around and see someone in need and respond with, "That's SEP [Someone Else's Problem]". Or we look and see the insurmountable issues and throw up our hands and say, "I can't do anything about this; it's too big". You see? Jesus *challenges* us – with small steps, small choices, and even small helping hands. Really, we *can do* the small. And that's where we, as individuals, must begin.

Is it just me, or does Jesus get a little more morbid the closer he gets to Jerusalem? This last Sunday in September he is talking about cutting off body parts to keep from losing eternal life. He talks about being salted with fire. I think he is trying to prepare them for what will follow. They need, as we all do, to hear the hard truths. Ministry is hard. It involves service and sacrifice. Those first followers did not live long, happy, healthy lives. Our Saints and Martyrs are Saints and Martyrs because of the long rough road they walked to follow in Jesus's footsteps. We are lucky that most of us will not have our faith challenged to the point of death. Yet, for others in our current world this is still not quite as true, even today. In some ways, I think the day-to-day relatively "Easy Life" (which most of us enjoy) makes it very challenging to live in faith and ministry. Sounds odd, but bear with me: If someone came into church one Sunday and said, "*If you don't renounce your faith and leave the building, I will kill you. Right now. Right here.*" I would hope, and in my mind, I would stay. It's a quick and powerful decision. The day-to-day living of faith authentically and fully is very hard. It's every day, every hour, every minute, making decisions to act out of love, to see Jesus in the people you encounter, to answer the call of God, and to give water in the name of Jesus. *Jesus challenges each of us in our vocation in life. He challenges us to live as Christians. To give water to the little, the lowly, the unseen, the forgotten, the dismissed, the untouchable.*

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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:30 Holy Communion Service	2	3	4 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	5	6	7
8 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>"God's Work. Our Hands."</i>	9	10	11 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	12	13	14 10:00 a.m. Pastor Gil Moore's Memorial Service
15 10:30 Holy Communion Service	16	17	18 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	19	20	21
22 10:30 Holy Communion Service	23 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	24	25 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours	26	27	28
29 10:30 Holy Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated	30					