



**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>Jann Shaffer</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Jim Gilbert</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Tee Teclu</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Hiroko Minei</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>21</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 to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study

SEPTEMBER

September 1: Labor Day

September 3: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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

September 7: "God's Work. Our Hands."
Collection

September 10: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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

September 17: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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

1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

September 21: New Members Received

September 22: Newsletter Articles Due

September 24: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

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

September 28: 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.

Discipleship

Jesus said, “Follow me...” Matthew 4:19

The call to “**discipleship**” is at the very heart of Jesus’ ministry and teachings. In all four of the Gospels, Jesus repeatedly called people to “follow him” and imitate his ways of living and loving. Jesus did not seek people to simply admire him or cater to him. He called a group of people to embrace a radically new way of life. The words and actions of Jesus reveal the profound cost, the transformative power, and the enduring purpose of faithful discipleship.

The Gospel readings over the coming weeks emphasize that call of Jesus. The questions we will have before us these next Sundays are these:

- + What was Jesus asking of the men and women whom he called to follow him as he sent them to go out and about in his name and on his behalf and to tell others about him and the kingdom of God?
- + What happened to those who answered the call to be a follower and a disciple of Jesus?
- + What does Jesus’ call to discipleship mean for us today, two thousand years later in a world that is so different in many ways, and much the same in other ways?

In each of the four Sundays during this month of September, we will hear and read biblical passages that speak about “**discipleship**,” and each week we will explore a difference understanding of what it means to hear the call and answer the call of Jesus to “follow me.”

Week One – we will hear Jesus’ very high expectations for those whom he has called to be his disciples, and in so doing to “choose life.”

Week Two – we hear about the power of the cross and how the One who foretold his own crucifixion told his followers they too will “take up their own crosses” and follow him.

Week Three – we will hear Jesus inviting his followers to be creative followers and “children of the light,” rejecting the lifestyle of those who “walk in the darkness.”

Week Four – In one of his most profound parables, Jesus reminded his disciples about the plight of the poorest of the poor and how his followers are called to

faithfully respond to those whose lives have been severely marginalized, neglected, and made virtually invisible.

Like Simon and Andrew, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Suzanna, James and John, we too have been called to follow Jesus. In this month of September, let us gather week after week to hear his call and contemplate the meaning and the privilege of Christian discipleship.

May the joys and promises of God be with you these September days!

+Pastor Murray D. Finck

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” Each year the ELCA invites congregations across the country to participate in God’s Work. Our Hands. a day dedicated to serving others. Our church runs a Community Food Drive to help feed those in need in Orange County.

Date: Sunday, September 7

Time: 1:00-3:00

Location: Outside the front of the church

Our volunteers will be stationed outside to receive your donations. There are T-shirts available for all who volunteer. We encourage everyone to participate by bringing in non-perishable food items-either on the day of the drive or anytime beforehand.

Quarter-page flyers are also available for you to share with your friends and neighbors.

Please help us spread the word and make a difference in the lives of those that are hungry.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse. Our church is participating in this wonderful program. You choose a boy or girl and the age range of 2-4, 5-9; or 10-14. and fill a shoebox to the brim with gifts, and it will be sent to children in 170 countries around the world, bringing them joy this Christmas season. Susan Avila, Chairman, has written an article in this newsletter giving more particulars.

BTBTB has been amazing. We have not only reached our goal, but surpassed it. Many, many thanks to our very generous congregation, friends, and visitors, as we will have heat in the winter and coolness in the summer, and without any debt. Of course, without Pastor Murray, this wouldn’t have happened, so very sincere thanks for his dedication to this venture.

SEAL BEACH SA-RANG CHURCH A contract to use our church has been developed by the Council with help from Pastor Murray, and his attorney friend. The contract has been signed by us, and delivered to their pastor for approval.

OUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE is here to support you in any way you may need during times of difficulty. Along with Pastor Murray, who is always available for spiritual care, we want you to know that you are not alone. If you are experiencing difficulties, please reach out.

If you could use a helping hand, please feel free to call or text me at (818) 470-0480. We want to make sure you have the support you need.

FALL BAZAAR is set for Thursday, November 13 and Friday, November 14. Please support our fundraiser by bringing items for the Boutique, attending, and inviting friends and family. Thank you to Carmen Leslie who is again chairing this very successful project.

God's Blessings,

Kay Pushman

Council President



Blessed To Be Two Blessings — (B2B2B)

We recently voted to move forward with a plan to replace the old and no-longer-working heating system that fills the maintenance room in the basement. The Church Council has begun a special fund-raising appeal, entitled “*Blessed To Be Two Blessings — B2B2B*” to raise **at least** \$15,000. The raised monies will be split 90% to the cost of the heating system and 10% donated to the non-profit Leisure World Cares Fund.

We have surpassed our Fund-Raising Appeal Goal of \$15,000 with many thanks to our very generous congregation and friends. We are applying this overage, and any further gifts, to lower our need for the \$12,500 loan amount offered from the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. It will also be a blessing to donate additional funds to the Leisure World Cares Fund.

B2B2B CAMPAIGN DONORS

We are grateful to our members and friends who have given to our:

“*Blessed To Be Two Blessings — (B2B2B)*” Campaign

*Gloria Curry
Kathy Strole
Shirlene Bradrick
Hiroko Minei
Christa Diesslin
Dale Diesslin
Rod Sciborski
Julia Watson
Darleen Gardner
Annie Williquier
Ann Tegtmeier
Mickey and Carol
Costello*

*Ernie Dinkel
Alma Zamzow
Dale Diesslin
Emiko Uchiyama
Barbara Long
Ellen Larsen
Susan Avila
Donna Cho
Linda Peters
Nancy Anderson
Rev. Murray and Rhoda
Finck
Marianne Goldberg*

*Sylvia Mackus
Kay Pushman
Emil Miorelli
Barbara Schuyler
Wendy Alfageme
Doris Weinert
Catherine Boufford
Christina Paek
Donna Michelson
Sharon Heck
Juanita Townsend
Delbert and Lisa Nunley
(in honor of Gil and*

Lavona Moore)
The Trust of Gilbert C.
Moore and Lavona B.
Moore

John Robinson and Betty
Lucero
Sandra Langdale
Ray Friedrichsen

Nancy Luebben



Choir

Choir practice resumed **Sunday, August 31** at **9:15 am**. Choir Practice is held every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. before our Service. We invite all singers to come join us. We thank all those who shared their talents over the summer to enhance our Holy Communion Services.

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

“God’s Work, Our Hands.”, the ELCA’s annual day of service program will be **Sunday, September 7, 2025, from 1:00-3:00**. We will be collecting food from the community in front of the church as we have in the past years. There will be a sign-up sheet available to sign-up for this annual event. If you have one, please wear your yellow “God’s Work. Our Hands.” t-shirt on September 7th.

New Members Received

Are **YOU** considering membership? We invite any and all friends and associate members to consider officially joining the membership of the congregation. A **New Member Reception** will take place on **Sunday, September 21st**. If you are interested in joining the membership of the congregation, please fill out a form (can be found on the back table) and give it to the Pastor.

Operation Christmas Child

We will be participating in the Operation Christmas Child project sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse this fall. We are asking members to pick up a box, and fill it with one larger “WOW” toy, school and personal care items which will be sent to 170 countries around the world. You can pick a boy or girl and an age range of 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Think ahead, and on your trips to Dollar Tree, start collecting items. Some items **not allowed** are soap, toothpaste, lotion, bubbles or food of any kind. They also ask for \$10 to cover shipping costs. The boxes will be collected by November 17. Please see Kay or me, Susan Avila, for the decorated boxes ready to be filled. More info will be coming, and if you have any questions, please contact me: Susan Avila, Chairman at (516) 459-7640.

Bible Study

The Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at noon in the Fellowship Hall to continue the study of the **Women of the Bible**. You are invited to bring your lunch. There are drinks available and usually some baked goods for a small dessert. Please attend, bring friends or neighbors, and your Bible! Come and see what is happening next! Bishop Murray Finck will be leading the discussion. This is a great way to meet members and friends and to share an understanding of our faith and the Holy Scriptures.

Brass Rubbing Medieval Arts Center

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach is again offering their Brass Rubbing Educational Docent Talk October 7 through November 8. You can make reservations at (email): brass.rubbing.lb@gmail.com. For a little more details you can go online at: www.brassrubbing.org.

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 AND EXPENSES THROUGH JULY 31, 2025

<u>Income</u>	<u>One Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Current Offering	\$6,796.25	\$55,729.06
Fundraiser-Boutique	\$8.00	\$245.25
Fundraiser-Bake Sale	\$0.00	\$40.00
Fundraiser – Bazaar	\$0.00	\$2,518.55
Memorial	\$0.00	\$500.00
Memorial Wall	\$0.00	\$350.00
Total Operating Income	\$6,804.25	\$59,382.86
Total Operating Income	\$6,804.25	\$59,382.86
Total Expenses	<u>\$11,122.01</u>	<u>\$66,155.99</u>
Gain/(Loss)	(\$4,317.76)	(\$6,773.13)
	(Exceed Income)	(Exceed Income)

BUDGET INCOME AND EXPENSES through July 31, 2025

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Budget	\$62,944.00	\$62,944.00
Actual	<u>\$59,342.86</u>	<u>\$66,155.99</u>
Gain/(Loss)	(\$3,601.14)	(\$3,211.99)
	(Less than Budget)	(More than Budget)

OTHER INCOME & EXPENSES

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Disaster Relief	\$500.00	\$500.00 (In & Out)
World Hunger	\$300.00	\$300.00 (In & Out)
HVAC		\$1,000.00
Pacifica Synod Grant	\$25,000.00	
B2B2B Fundraiser	\$6,510.00	

Respectfully Submitted
Doris Weinert
Finance Chair

CYCLE C – Year of Luke
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THROUGH THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025 — *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

October 5, 2025 — *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

September 14, 2025 — *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

October 12, 2025 — *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

September 14, 2025 — *Holy Cross Day*

Numbers 21:4b-9
Psalm 98:1-4
1 Corinthians 1:18-24
John 3:13-17

October 19, 2025 — *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14—4:5
Luke 18:1-8

September 21, 2025 — *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

October 26, 2025 — *Reformation Sunday*

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

September 28, 2025 — *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

October 26, 2025 — *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Sirach 35:12-17 {alternate}
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“Keep Your Eyes on the Goal”

This month it seems that Jesus is focusing us on fulfilling our promises of baptism as we became disciples of Jesus. He reminds us that we have crosses to carry; we have promises to keep. Jesus also reminds us that his way is never the easy way. We are called to a higher standard; to live a better life; to love and care just a bit more. The road of a disciple is not easy or smooth, but the reward at the end is heavenly.

September 7, 2025 — *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 14 verses 25-33

The first Sunday of September we hear Jesus again warning his disciples that the path to follow Him is not an easy one. We are called to give up family and friends if they are keeping us from following him. We are told to pick up our crosses and carry them. We are asked to give up our possessions. We are called through our baptism to give up those things and people who distract us from actually fulfilling our promise. Looking at your life today, what is preventing you from carrying your personal cross? Has your cross changed over your life? Has it gotten easier or harder to carry on as you get older?

September 14, 2025 — *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 15 verses 1-10

The second Sunday of September we hear about the Pharisees and the scribes complaining that Jesus was eating with tax collectors and sinners! He tells two stories in relation to the repentance of a sinner. Jesus compares the joy in heaven to the joy we feel when finding a lost sheep or a lost coin. Jesus talks about the celebration of the return of a sinner. Of course, Jesus is eating and talking with the sinners, that's why he came to earth for! We, also, must remember that we are first, sinners ourselves. Second, that we should try to be examples of Jesus' welcoming of everyone. Third, that we are not the ones to judge others on their state of "sinfulness": little or big; many or a few; all sins damage our relationship with God and one another.

September 14, 2025 — *Holy Cross Sunday*

The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 3 verses 13-17

We have the option to celebrate Holy Cross Sunday on the 14th of September. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, honors the Cross on which Jesus was crucified. The feast commemorates St. Helena's discovery of the True Cross in Jerusalem in 326, its initial exaltation for public veneration in 335, and its recovery from the Persians in 628. It was first observed in Rome before the end of the 7th century. We continue to celebrate the triumph of the cross of Jesus for he has conquered death and has given us the salvation of life everlasting. The sign of the cross is a reminder of our own baptism into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

September 21, 2025 — *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 16 verses 1-13

The third Sunday in September we hear an odd story from Jesus. He tells the story of a dishonest worker who ends up being praised by his master for his “thinking outside the box”. The worker thought he was going to be dismissed and reworked what various people owed his master; this way the people the worker helped would in turn help him if he was in need. Jesus commented that his followers do not act this shrewdly. Jesus wants us aware of our goals and work towards them. If your focus is on a comfortable life with lots of friends and people who admire you, Jesus may not be the goal in reality for your life. If you are focused on using your gifts and talents to bring yourself and others to God, you are focused on Jesus and everlasting life. Jesus is very exact in reminding all of us that there is a difference between serving God and serving money / society.

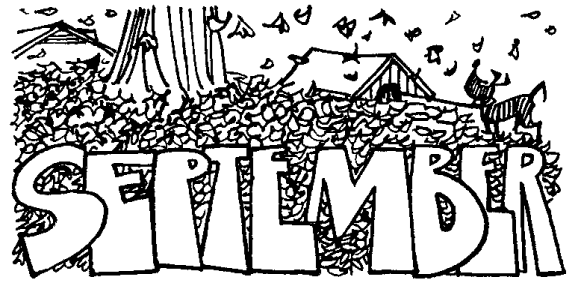
September 28, 2025 — *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 16 verses 19-31

The fourth Sunday of September we hear the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. Again, Jesus is challenging his followers to be counter cultural; to be different; to go beyond. Like the people in the story, we have Moses and the prophets; and more; we have the Risen Savior; Jesus and his life to follow. We, as modern Christians, have less of an excuse for not fulfilling our call for stewardship and caring for others. Our knowledge and awareness need to be greater because we have even more examples and guides for living our lives.

Every Gospel lesson calls us to DO something. It will cost us something. The question that you have to answer is whether you are willing to pay that cost; do that thing; make that change in yourself, the community; the world that Jesus is calling us to do.

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 website: www.redeemerlutheransealbeach.com



Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 LABOR DAY	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>"God's Work. Our Hands" Collection</i>	8	9	10 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	11	12	13
14 HOLY CROSS 10:30 Holy Communion Service	15	16	17 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	18 <i>Secretary out of the Office until September 29</i>	19	20
21 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>New Members Reception</i>	22 Newsletter Articles Due for October NO SECRETARY TODAY	23	24 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study NO SECRETARY TODAY	25	26	27
28 10:30 Holy Communion Service <i>Birthdays Celebrated</i>	29	30				