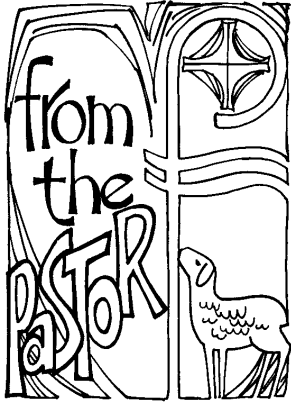




**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**
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April 2024



Message from the Pastor:

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

Looking Ahead – Sunday Worship and Midweek Bible Studies

As the Weeks of Easter unfold for the next seven weeks, our over-arching theme on Sunday mornings will be “*Living the Resurrection.*” Hearing about the resurrection is the work of ears and minds. Believing in the resurrection is the work of our hearts. Living the resurrection is the work of body, soul, heart, and mind as we give witness to the greatest gift God has given us. Our Sunday’s in April will

April 7 – We will be with the disciples and Thomas as they struggle to believe that the one who was crucified and buried was now alive and in their midst.

April 14 – After his resurrection and before his ascension into heaven, Jesus opened the hearts and minds of his disciples to better comprehend the promises of God. He continues to do the same for us.

April 21 – Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd who is willing to lay down my life for my sheep.” On that Sunday we will gather as the flock in need of our beloved and dedicated shepherd.

April 28 – The story of Philip is about a disciple who was able to witness to a traveling Ethiopian. We hear Jesus tell of our life-giving interconnectedness--he is the vine and we are the branches.

Midweek Bible Study reconvenes on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon. Since we did not quite finish our classes before Easter on Wednesday afternoons, we are going to pick up where we left off and finish the conversations we had about our Lutheran and Episcopalian beliefs, practices, and understandings. The time has been moved to 12:00 noon. We will decide a few “housekeeping” matters about future meetings and determine the studies we will undertake as we gather again on Wednesday, April 3rd in the sanctuary. Please bring your Bibles and come with some ideas about the kind of study you would enjoy after we finish the one we are completing now.

Looking Back

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! So many people took on many different important roles during our Lenten and Holy Week gatherings. We are thankful for the **music** and the **hands that played at the keyboards** and the **voices** that filled our sanctuary with praise and thanksgiving. We are thankful to those who week after week **attend to the altar**, set up the Holy Communion, and then clean up and put everything away afterwards. We are thankful for **altar assistance, readers, ushers, greeters** including those distributing the bulletins, gathering the offering, and having everything ready to go each Sunday morning. We thank those who stay behind at the end of a Sunday morning to **count the offering and get it to the bank**. We are grateful for those who help us to **sign up and participate** and take responsibilities for many different aspects of our church life together. This past month we were very grateful for **soup makers, bread bakers, and those who brought desserts** for our Lenten gatherings, and week after week those who provide for our Sunday morning fellowship time enhance that time with their **skills in the kitchen**. We are thankful for **flowers and decorations** both inside and out. The **artwork** is amazing and speaks in a language of its own about the stories of faith that are bringing us together as the people of God. The **Church Council** conducts the business of the church on behalf of us all. Know you are **calling each other, checking-in** with each other, **caring** for one another, and making sure the connections between our members and friends is very strong. **We appreciate every participant**, everyone who comes and is involved. We give thanks for as your **support** of this congregation's ministry as you **attend**, as you **pray**, as you **give financially**, as your **offer your talents and resources**. **Thank you!**

As you join us week after week, invite a neighbor or friend to come with you. May your April be filled with joy!

To God alone be the glory,

The Reverend Murray D. Finck

Bishop Emeritus and Interim Pastor