



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**  
13564 St. Andrews Drive; Seal Beach, CA 90740  
Phone (562) 598-8697; FAX (562) 598-8697  
e-mail: [redeemer\\_lutheran@verizon.net](mailto:redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net)

***Message from the Interim Pastor:***

August 2025

***Decisions, Decisions***

We find ourselves in a hopeful and important time of making several significant congregational and personal decisions and plans for the days and years ahead. It is good to have before us new possibilities that may move us in new ways into the days ahead or re-affirm what we are currently doing. God made plans for the future. According to Jeremiah 29, God spoke through the prophet, saying...

***“For surely I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give a future with hope.”***

God was telling the people of God that new days were dawning. Here are four decisions our congregation and our friends and members have before us these summer days.

**ONE -- A CONGREGATIONAL DECISION...** We recently voted to move forward with a plan to replace the old and no-longer-working heating system that fills an entire room in the lower level of the building. When the City of Seal Beach gives us the permits (and green lights) to move forward, **new heating and air conditioning (HVAC) units will be installed** in the sanctuary, the fellowship hall, the meeting room, and both offices in the back of the building. Each area will be zoned in such a way that they may be turned on or off completely independently. Thank you for helping us make that decision several weeks ago.

**TWO -- A PERSONAL DECISION...** As we have shared earlier, the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles have given us a total of \$37,500 in ministry grants and another \$12,500 in an interest-free loan that will allow us to dedicate some of our current operating funds toward the purchase of the new HVAC system. Now we individually have the ability to cover the rest of the needed funding for this system with over-and-above giving. **The Council is extending a special fund-raising appeal, entitled B2B2B—Blessed To Be Two Blessings, to the friends and members of the congregation to raise at least \$15,000.** That amount, along with the \$50,000 in grants and loans will allow us to complete the project with a very low monthly payment to repay the interest-free loan. Please prayerfully consider making a decision to support this effort as you are able.

**THREE – ANOTHER CONGREGATIONAL DECISION...** On August 10<sup>th</sup>, following worship, the congregation will be asked to **consider the request of Seal Beach Sa-Rang Church to use parts of our campus for their congregation.** Currently, this Korean-speaking congregation is meeting in Clubhouse 3. They wish to use our facilities on Sunday afternoon for worship, Wednesday evenings for Bible Study, and Tuesday through Saturday from 6:00-7:00 a.m. for prayer. None of those times conflict with the current use of our facilities by our congregation. The Council is bringing this before the congregation for discussion, sharing of additional information, and a congregational vote on August 10, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

**FOUR – YET ANOTHER PERSONAL DECISION...** A wide variety of people participate regularly in the life and ministry of this congregation, and we give thanks for each and every one of you. Some are members of either the Lutheran or the Episcopal congregations. Some are associate members. Some are friends. Each person is a blessing to our community of faith. **Are some of you considering membership?** When people choose to become members, they then are able to serve on the Council and help us make the monthly decisions that govern the congregation between Congregational Meetings. They also are considered Voting Members who then are welcomed to attend all Congregational Meetings to approve congregational decisions, budgets, and other ministry and mission plans upon which the congregation is deciding. **If you are not a member, but wish to become one, there will be a gathering in the Meeting Room on Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. to talk together about that.** A New Member Reception will take place during the worship service in mid-September. We invite any and all friends and associate members to consider officially joining the membership of the congregation. Attending the information meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> would hopefully be helpful toward making that important decision.

**Decisions, decisions...** much to think about these summer days as God is moving among us, challenging us, giving us opportunities to grow and move forward as the Body of Christ. During the days of Jeremiah, God had plans for God's people's future. During these days, God also has plans for us now and in the days before us. May God bless our discernment and decision-making!

*+Pastor Murray D. Finck,*

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus