



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**  
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## ***Message from the Interim Pastor:***

December 2024

### ***“Light!”***

The first page of the Bible begins with these four verses...

*In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light!” and there was light, and God saw that the light was good. Genesis 1:1-4*

***“Let there be light!”*** are the first words of God as recorded in Genesis, and so with this divine mandate, the universe, including our tiny planet, began. And the story of “light” continued down through the ages.

The Gospel of John, telling the story of Jesus from the vantage point of one of his closest disciples, begins with these four verses...

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-4*

There is a wonderful connection between the story of *God’s creation* and the story of *Jesus’ incarnation*... Light exploded into the darkness and chaos as God chose to fling and bring our universe into motion and magnificence. Divine Light, coming (adventing) in human form, entered a world that has been clouded, shadowed, and darkened by the imperfection and brokenness of humanity, giving our world and each of us the hope and promise of new and renewed life.

***“Let There Be Light!”*** will be the theme of our Advent and Christmas days during the month of December as we gather on Sunday mornings and also on Wednesday afternoons on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. On Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus at 10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary. During this season, we will give thanks for the many ways God shines forth in brilliant love and compassion, and we will meditate on the ways the light of God has opened our eyes, touched our hearts, and given us courage and faith throughout our lives.

I hope and pray that everyone reading this page will again be showered with the Light of God in these coming days as we celebrate the gifts and outpouring love of God! All are always welcome at Redeemer Lutheran and St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church!

*Let there be light!*

*+Pastor Murray D. Finck,*

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus