



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

February 2025

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

The grace and peace of God be with you as we begin the second month of this year 2025. We are midway through the wonderful Season of Epiphany, those weeks within the calendar of the Christian Church when we read and focus on the ways God revealed the love of God in the earliest days of the ministry of Jesus... his baptism, his first miracle, the beginning of his preaching and teaching, his choosing of his disciples, and as he clarified his eternal and divine mission to bring the grace, compassion, and love of God to all of humanity

February is, of course, the shortest month of the year, but as I look at from the point of view of our congregation, I see it teeming with activities and invitations. Of course, we **worship every Sunday** morning at 10:30 a.m. Our **Wednesday Bible Study** at 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall will study the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) during the four Wednesdays of February. As promised, during this month we will offer several gatherings to allow our members and friends to fill out an “**At the End of Life**” document that will give indications and preferences about the services and memorials that will honor and give thanks for our lives upon our death. Those dates and times are listed at the end of this article and any and all are invited to attend one of those gatherings. A small group of people will be working on the **Ministry Site Profile** of the congregation, a document then shared with the Synod Office and finally, the whole church, that will help us identify a person to more permanently fill the long pastoral vacancy of this congregation. We will be receiving **estimates for a new heating and cooling system** for our campus, with the hopes that in the months ahead, it will be more comfortable during the times when it is uncomfortably cold or hot in our facility.

Along with all that activity within our congregation, we will pause in February, especially around **St. Valentine’s Day** to reflect on the ways God loves us and how we love God and one another. On **Presidents’ Day Weekend**, we will observe and remember those who have faithfully and courageously served in our nation’s highest office. It will be the 99th year since our nation first began, in February, to observe **Black History Month**, and it will be the 49th year since this observance became more formalized through presidential proclamations. We are also encouraged to continue to think how we are able to **support and care for the many Southern Californians** who have lost their homes and livelihoods in the devastating fires of this past month.

The month of February this year is only 28 days long and yet those four weeks offer us many reasons to gather as the people of God. This short month invites us to pray, to worship, to study, to plan, to contemplate, to support, to give thanks, and to love God and one another with heart, soul, and mind. Let us gather together as often as we are able to be the church—the people of God—and receive all that God is offering us day by day.

Here are dates and times for the gatherings to discuss, prepare, and record the information you may wish to leave “**At the End of Life.**” Please notice these gatherings are offered either before or after the Wednesday Bible Study. If another day of the week is needed and requested, we will add at least more offering of this gathering.

Wednesday, February 5th, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 12th, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 12th, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 19th, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

May our Lord God continue to bless you, watch over you, and keep you in the days and weeks ahead.

+Pastor Murray D. Finck,

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

Just a reminder:

New Member Reception in Early March. We are start the conversations and preparations for another New Member Reception for any who desire to join the official membership of the congregation. The form will be available on Sunday mornings. It is also attached to the weekly Communiqué. **If you are interested, please fill out the form** and give it to Pastor Finck on Sunday morning or send it to the church address: 13564 Saint Andrews Drive; Seal Beach, CA 90740. There is never any pressure for people to officially join the membership. We always welcome, include, and love our visitors, friends, associate members, and members.