



**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:***

January 2025

***“Behold, I Make All Things New”***

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

Happy New Year. May the promises of God who promises to always be with us give us hope and faith as we enter the New Year.

The Church Calendar in January brings us the **Season of Epiphany**, that time as the Christian Church reflects on the early days of Jesus’ ministry. The Epiphany Season will last through the next two months, as it leads us to Ash Wednesday on March 5<sup>th</sup>, the beginning of Lent. Our primary focus on Sunday mornings these next weeks will be the stories told in the Gospel of Luke about the first days and months of the ministry of Christ Jesus.

The New Year will offer us the following:

**The Wednesday Bible Study** at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall will begin again on January 8<sup>th</sup>. For three weeks we will finish our study of the Ten Commandments and then begin a new study, yet to be decided. All are always welcome. Please invite a friend or neighbor to these 75-minute times of study, learning, prayer, and conversation.

**2025 Commitments.** As written about some weeks ago, in January anyone who wishes to make their **stewardship commitment** will have an opportunity to fill out a pledge card for 2025, seal it in an envelope, and place it in a box on the altar. Pledges are between God and the person making the commitment. There are no expectations for this. Each person may or may not choose to make this pledge for the New Year.

**End of Life Preferences.** We also wrote previously that after the New Year we would hold three one-hour gatherings wherein members and friends of the congregation will be able to fill out a form that offers preferences at the time of death. We will be able to choose the Holy Scripture passages, the music and hymns, and other details about a memorial service of thanksgiving that will gather our family and friends together in worship when that time comes. Again, there is no expectation for anyone to do this, but we want to make it available for those who would so choose as it helps family when those decisions are made in advance.

**New Daily Devotionals for 2025.** Two new daily devotionals are now available. *Christ in Our Home* and *Our Daily Bread* are ready to be picked up and used as a daily devotional. Please find copies in the entry way of the church.

If anyone needs to communicate with me, please feel free to email, text, or call. I am normally in Leisure World on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings. Again, a blessed New Year. In the peace and light of Christ,

*+Pastor Murray D. Finck,*

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

