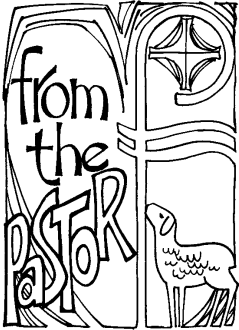




**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
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June 2024

Message from the Pastor:
From the Interim Pastor – June 2024



As I write this article for the June Newsletter, it is Memorial Day, a day we honor those who gave their lives in service of this country, those protecting the freedoms of the citizens of the United States and others around the world, and allowing us to live in this democracy. One of my uncles, my father's younger brother, is the first person that comes to my mind on this day. He fought in Europe during World War II. When the Korean War began, he reenlisted and served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. His name was Roy. He was my godfather. He died when his plane went down in 1951. I imagine many of you reading this page, also have stories to tell about family members, friends, and others that you may have known who made the sacrifice that we are remembering especially during the Memorial Day weekend.

We put our flag out this morning. We will put it out again on June 14th, Flag Day and leave it out through June 19th, Juneteenth, our newest Federal holiday. We will, of course, fly it again to celebrate the 4th of July. Between the third Saturday in May, Armed Forces Day and the 4th of July, U.S. citizens have a number of significant days and holidays reminding us that many people made huge sacrifices, lived in precarious situations, and all too often paid the ultimate sacrifice.

We Christians, of course, remember day after day, and we observe every Sunday the core teaching of our faith, namely that God so loved humanity that God gave God's beloved Son for the sake of the world. Jesus, the very Son of God, willingly gave up his life to free us from the sin and brokenness that would have otherwise eternally separated us from our Creator God. We say in our creeds that he was "crucified, died, and was buried" paying the ultimate sacrifice. We are able to continue the story and tell the Good News that "on the third day he rose again," promising resurrection for all the people he redeemed.

In December, at Christmas time, we celebrated Jesus' birth. In January we remembered his baptism. In February we began to retrace his steps toward Jerusalem as he journeyed toward the cross. In March we especially remembered his sacrificial death and resurrection. During every Sunday in April, we were encouraged to "live as a people of the resurrection," clinging to the promise that we too will be raised by him on the last day. In May the Holy Scriptures we read told us of Jesus' Ascension into heaven and then the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. On the last Sunday of this past month, we also lifted up the mystery of our Triune God. We Lutheran and Episcopal Christians have had a busy first half of the liturgical calendar which we follow along with many other Christian denominations.

Now beginning in June, during what is known as the Pentecost Season, we will begin to follow Jesus through his three years of public ministry. We will hear his preaching and his teaching. We will read about the signs and wonders and miracles that he performed as he cared for the people who gathered around him. When they were sick, he healed them. When they were hungry, he fed them. When they were in danger, he protected them. Because it was important that the people understand that the Kingdom of God was and is at hand, he became their rabbi and taught them and showed them the way. Now for the next six months, we will walk with Jesus through Galilee and Judea, and witness how he touched the lives of so many people because he loved and cared for them then, and for us now.

In the days ahead for these next two months, the Christian calendar will remind us of the way that God gave us God's heart, God's love, God's life. Our national calendar will also remind us during these next weeks, of the sacrifices so many made which allow us to live freely, worship freely, remember often, and give thanks as we are a people blessed by God; and as we are citizens of this land who enjoy our freedoms because of those who have gone before us and paid dear prices on our behalf. We have much for which to be thankful!

God bless and keep you these days of June,

+Murray D. Finck

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Interim Pastor, Bishop Emeritus