



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**
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March 2024

Message from the Pastor:



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

I don't remember who said it or where I might have read it, but in my childhood I either heard or read that the reason March winds blew strong like a roaring lion was nature's way of removing old bird nests that had been built in the treetops the year before. Thus, the birds would need again to busily weave new nests of sticks, string, and straw. As they skillfully crafted their new homes, they would sing their little hearts out, and the air was filled with joyous chirping and cheeping, truly nature's choir bringing joy-filled melodies to the outdoor temples and cathedrals of trees.

There are many quotes about the month of March being a time of new beginnings, new life, hope, and re-creation. It promises the same for us.

This month of March 2024 for the Redeemer/St. Theodore of Canterbury community will be like those birds in the trees--a month filled with many opportunities, perhaps the busiest month of this year.

- **Sunday Morning Worship.** There will be five Sunday mornings to worship, and one is Palm Sunday, and another is the Day of Resurrection, Easter Sunday. (And please remember on March 10th to reset your clocks the night before as we lose that hour moving back to Daylight Savings Time.)
- **Pastor David Anderson**, the United Methodist pastor who has been worshipping with us, will be our preacher on March 17, (which is also St. Patrick's Day.) Thank you, Pastor Anderson.
- **Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion is March 24th**, during which we will receive new members and give existing members an opportunity to re-affirm their baptismal covenants.
- **Easter Sunday**, one of the church's highest and holiest days of celebration and praise as we break forth again our glad "alleluias."
- **Theology Classes.** There will be three more Lutheran/Episcopalian theology classes on Wednesdays (March 6, 13, 20) meeting in the sanctuary at 3:00 p.m.

- **Lenten Study, Song, and Soup.** On those same three Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m., we will continue to gather in the Fellowship Hall downstairs for our study of the Passion Narratives as recorded by the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Then we will sing and enjoy soup suppers together, continuing our conversations and fellowship.
- **Maundy Thursday.** On March 28, we will gather at 10:30 a.m. for a special **Maundy Thursday worship service**, remembering the day Jesus gathered with his disciples for the Passover meal “on the night in which he was betrayed.” It is the day Jesus first gave his followers the **Lord’s Supper**.
- **Good Friday.** We will be participating with other community churches for a Good Friday observance beginning at 12:00 p.m. through 3:00 p.m. hearing reflections from local church leaders and clergy, including brief homilies on the **Seven Words of Jesus** spoken from the cross. More details are forthcoming. People are welcome to come and go as you are able during the three-hour service.

On my calendar that is no fewer than 13 different reasons and opportunities to gather as the people of God... a very full month giving us wonderful opportunities to worship our Lord who sacrificially gave his life for us and the world that God so dearly and deeply loves. It also offers us many times to be together with friends and fellow believers. Like the birds in the treetops, weaving their nests, we will have or opportunities to nurture our relationships with God and one another. And we will have many opportunities to sing joyful melodies of praise to our good and gracious God.

Please join us. Invite a neighbor or friend to come with you. May your March be filled with hope!

To God alone be the glory,

The Reverend Murray D. Finck

Bishop Emeritus and Interim Pastor