



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

March 2025

“The Cross”

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

Saint Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth that *“the message about the cross ... for those of us being saved is the power of God.”* He went on to say, *“I have decided to know nothing among you except the crucified Christ Jesus.”* He repeated those thoughts when he wrote to the Galatians that the primary message he came to bring was *“the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”* by which the world was saved. As the Season of Lent is about to begin, we too will again spend time contemplating the necessity of the cross of Jesus. One of questions we will ask is this: “Do you have a cross or a picture or an image or a memory of a particular cross that has had an impact on your life?”

March is going to be a wonderful month filled with opportunities to gather for worship, inspiration, community and collegiality. At the same time, there will be a number of special times together to observe the disciplines of Lent.

March has five Sundays and four of those, beginning with March 9 through March 30 are the first four weeks of Lent. The biblical reading and the sermons during those weeks will focus on Jesus’ journey toward the cross, where he sacrificed his life for the forgiveness of our sin and the eternal salvation of the world.

One of the long-standing traditions of the Lenten Season within many Christian traditions is the mid-week gatherings during those six weeks. The theme we have chosen this year is **✝CrossWays**. We will gather, starting on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, for a Holy Communion service. Also, during the worship, for anyone so desiring, we will offer the imposition of ashes, either upon our foreheads or on the back of one of our hands.

On this month’s Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday, March 12, 19, 26, we will gather at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall downstairs for a 50-minute time of inspiration from Scripture, music, and devotional moments focusing on the cross of Jesus. During those gatherings, attendees sitting at round tables will have an opportunity to share with others at their table the meaning and the power of the cross in their lives. At each gathering, one person from our congregation will share a five-minute story about the way a particular cross has had an impact on their life. At 5:00 p.m., we will share a meal together and enjoy the friendships and community of all who gather for those events. All are always welcome. We hope to see you

there! And into the first two weeks of April, this same pattern of gathering will continue throughout the remainder of Lent.

In March we will have our Annual Meeting on March 2nd immediately following the worship. On March 16th, we will remember and give thanks for Dee Sessa, and all are invited to a luncheon in Dee's honor following the worship service. That luncheon will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Then, on March 23rd, we will again enjoy a new member reception during our worship service.

March is going to be a month of many opportunities for our congregation. We look forward to being together in worship, fellowship, learning moments, and community the message of God's love through Jesus and the cross reminds us that we are the recipients of grace and forgiveness. Thanks be to God!

+The Rev. Murray D. Finck

+Pastor Murray D. Finck

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus