



**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

Message from the Pastor:

From the Interim Pastor – October 2024

A Gift for Those We Leave Behind

I want to write about something we may not always want to address, but it is important that we consider at this time in our lives. One of the best gifts we may leave with our families and all those whose lives go on after we breath our last and final earthly breaths is a document that indicates our preferences for the service or services that will happen as memorials and thanksgivings for our life and faith. There are a variety of important and helpful documents that will help our family members and our survivors before and after we die. Among those are a will or trust, documents indicating the medical and/or physicians' treatment we may or may not want (POLST or MOLST), perhaps a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate), documents about arrangements with mortuaries and cemeteries, and a copy of a form that can be included in your membership file here at the church indicating some of the important details about your preferences for the memorial/funeral/graveside services.

In the past two months, we bid farewell to Jerry Brady and Pastor Gil Moore. I also was asked to lead a third funeral and graveside service for the parent of someone with whom I worked some years ago. In Jerry's file at the church, we found a page with some of his wishes upon his death. Pastor Gil's family clearly knew what he and they wanted. Planning those service with the families went very well and we knew the services would be what their loved one had wanted. In the third situation over which I officiated, there was nothing to go by—no predetermined or chosen hymns, no selected passages of scriptures, no indications of special music or people they wanted to be involved in the services. That family was at a loss. I had no idea what that person may have wanted. We did the best we could and used some of the most well-known hymns and scriptures, but I wondered what really were the most meaningful elements of the services to the person we were memorializing.

We are editing an "End of Life" form and some resources that will be available this month, asking if you have not already done so, that you, (Perhaps along with other family members) might consider filling out and giving a copy to us in the church office. You will have the opportunity to list the hymns you hope the congregation might sing, the scriptures you would like them to hear, and other specifics that will help your family and others and us at the church to best honor your final wishes and make the service(s) a personal witness of your life and faith.

Please accept the form as it become available. Please consider filling it out and returning a copy to us at the church. Please talk it over with family (and perhaps friends) and give them and us some details that will help us to prepare wonderful and meaningful worship and graveside services I assure you; it will be a gift to those we leave behind as we go to rest in the mercies of God.

Thank you in advance for considering taking this important step.

God's peace and love be ever with you.

+Pastor Murray D. Finck

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus