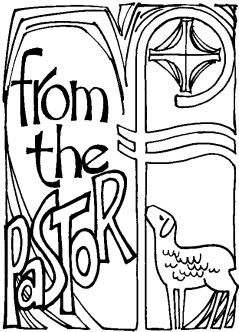




**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church**
13564 St. Andrews Drive; Seal Beach, CA 90740
Phone (562) 598-8697; FAX (562) 598-8697
e-mail: redeemer_lutheran@verizon.net

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

A Month with Moses and James



September 2024 will be an important month for our ministry at Redeemer and Saint Theodore of Canterbury. I am grateful for the many details provided in this newsletter by our parish secretary, Margo Geesing, and congregational president, Kay Pushman. I also want to highlight the New Member Reception on September 29th as several people will be joining the official membership of our community of faith. We give thanks for all who participate--members, associate members, friends, and an increasing number of visitors and guests.

We are thankful for every person and for your presence at Sunday Morning Worship, the Wednesday Midweek Bible Study, and any and all other events happening at this congregation.

I wish to highlight what will be happening in September at two of our weekly gatherings, namely our Sunday Morning Worship and our Wednesday Midweek Bible Study. During these next September weeks, we will be spending some very intentional and concentrated time with Moses and with James. Let me explain...

First, a word about Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. The appointed readings for the five Sundays in September during this waning Season of Pentecost include readings from the New Testament book of James on each of those five Sundays. Many (but not all) biblical scholars believe that the author of this book was James, the son of Mary and Joseph, thus the half-brother of Jesus. He was a very significant figure in the early Christian Church in Jerusalem. The author of this short book wrote an epistle to the Early Christian Church offering them very specific guidelines for living within this emerging faith community. This particular letter to the Church has some very unique characteristics and teachings. I will be focusing the five Sunday morning sermons in September primarily on this book of the Bible. By the 29th of September, we will hopefully all have a better understanding of this New Testament writing, its author, and its message to the Christian community.

Secondly, during our Midweek Wednesday Bible Study (12:00 to 1:15 PM), starting on September 4th we will begin a new study entitled ***“The Decalogue--The Ten Commandments.”*** We will be looking at each of those commandments to better understanding what our Lord God was giving to God's people during their journey to the Promised Land, but, at the same time, during these next weeks we will also explore the ministry of Moses as the leader of the Israelites at the time they were freed of their 430 years of captivity in Egypt. The giving of the 10 commandments is recorded in Exodus 20 and again in Deuteronomy 6. Our study of the Ten Commandments will include an overview of the entire 40-chapter book of Exodus, telling the whole story, the history, and the context of the time when God chose to give these commandments to God's people. We will also discuss and deliberate on modern, 21st century applications for these 10 directives, which were written in stone, and given to the people of God.

Any and all are always welcome to our worship services and Bible studies. Please join us as you are able to spend time in September with Moses and James, and with other people of faith and those inquiring, and mostly with our Lord God and God's Holy Word.

Continually grateful for this ministry here within the Leisure World community,

+ Pastor Murray D. Finck

The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus