



**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

September 2025

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing

“Keep Your Eyes on the Goal”

This month it seems that Jesus is focusing us on fulfilling our promises of baptism as we became disciples of Jesus. He reminds us that we have crosses to carry; we have promises to keep. Jesus also reminds us that his way is never the easy way. We are called to a higher standard; to live a better life; to love and care just a bit more. The road of a disciple is not easy or smooth, but the reward at the end is heavenly.

September 7, 2025 — *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 14 verses 25-33

The first Sunday of September we hear Jesus again warning his disciples that the path to follow Him is not an easy one. We are called to give up family and friends if they are keeping us from following him. We are told to pick up our crosses and carry them. We are asked to give up our possessions. We are called through our baptism to give up those things and people who distract us from actually fulfilling our promise. Looking at your life today, what is preventing you from carrying your personal cross? Has your cross changed over your life? Has it gotten easier or harder to carry on as you get older?

September 14, 2025 — *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 15 verses 1-10

The second Sunday of September we hear about the Pharisees and the scribes complaining that Jesus was eating with tax collectors and sinners! He tells two stories in relation to the repentance of a sinner. Jesus compares the joy in heaven to the joy we feel when finding a lost sheep or a lost coin. Jesus talks about the celebration of the return of a sinner. Of course, Jesus is eating and talking with the sinners, that's why he came to earth for! We, also, must remember that we are first, sinners ourselves. Second, that we should try to be examples of Jesus' welcoming of everyone. Third, that we are not the ones to judge others on their state of "sinfulness": little or big; many or a few; all sins damage our relationship with God and one another.

September 14, 2025 — *Holy Cross Sunday*

The Gospel Lesson is from John chapter 3 verses 13-17

We have the option to celebrate Holy Cross Sunday on the 14th of September. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, honors the Cross on which Jesus was crucified. The feast commemorates St. Helena's discovery of the True Cross in Jerusalem in 326, its initial

exaltation for public veneration in 335, and its recovery from the Persians in 628. It was first observed in Rome before the end of the 7th century. We continue to celebrate the triumph of the cross of Jesus for he has conquered death and has given us the salvation of life everlasting. The sign of the cross is a reminder of our own baptism into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

September 21, 2025 — *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 16 verses 1-13

The third Sunday in September we hear an odd story from Jesus. He tells the story of a dishonest worker who ends up being praised by his master for his “thinking outside the box”. The worker thought he was going to be dismissed and reworked what various people owed his master; this way the people the worker helped would in turn help him if he was in need. Jesus commented that his followers do not act this shrewdly. Jesus wants us aware of our goals and work towards them. If your focus is on a comfortable life with lots of friends and people who admire you, Jesus may not be the goal in reality for your life. If you are focused on using your gifts and talents to bring yourself and others to God, you are focused on Jesus and everlasting life. Jesus is very exact in reminding all of us that there is a difference between serving God and serving money / society.

September 28, 2025 — *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 16 verses 19-31

The fourth Sunday of September we hear the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. Again, Jesus is challenging his followers to be counter cultural; to be different; to go beyond. Like the people in the story, we have Moses and the prophets; and more; we have the Risen Savior; Jesus and his life to follow. We, as modern Christians, have less of an excuse for not fulfilling our call for stewardship and caring for others. Our knowledge and awareness need to be greater because we have even more examples and guides for living our lives.

Every Gospel lesson calls us to DO something. It will cost us something. The question that you have to answer is whether you are willing to pay that cost; do that thing; make that change in yourself, the community; the world that Jesus is calling us to do.