

# Redeemer REVIEW



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD CHICO, CALIFORNIA APRIL 2021 Vol. 35 No. 4

from the Pastor...

Rev. Donald Jordan

## HOLY WEEK

Last year we did not hold services for ten weeks, under the state restrictions imposed upon our church. This time included most of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter time. The command of God is clear and I succumbed to the pressure of the government, thereby sinning against God by not offering the essential means of grace to the flock. The devil, world, and my sinful flesh overcame me in my cowardice and fear. I thank God for his forgiveness of my sin and through the Gospel and sacraments He has forgiven me. I also ask for your forgiveness, as I did not fulfill the duties of my call to be your pastor, and to serve you faithfully under all circumstances. This is my confession to you and I pray your forgiveness.

Now, we have opportunities before us as God allows during this Time of Easter, which began on Ash Wednesday and extends through the Day of Pentecost. During this special time of Lent we are meditating, praying, and hearing of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, and all that he did and said for our salvation.

Holy Week, the week before Easter, begins on Palm Sunday and ends with midday prayer on Holy Saturday. Our Lenten preparation and repentance deepen as we focus on the events of Jesus' life from his entrance into Jerusalem until his death on the cross and burial in the garden tomb.

Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week, commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21). Because the complete account of the Lord's Passion from Matthew, Mark, or Luke is often read, this Sunday is called the Sunday of the Passion.

On Holy (Maundy) Thursday, the church gives thanks to Jesus for the institution of His Supper. This is a Feast Day. The Holy Thursday service



closes with the stripping of the altar. This reminds us of how our Lord was stripped to the waist to wash His disciples' feet – and how He was stripped and beaten before His crucifixion.

Good Friday is the most solemn of all the days in the Christian Church; yet a note of joy remains, as the title of the day indicates. On Good Friday, as we remember that because of our sin the Lord was crucified and died, we give joyful thanks to God that all sin and God's wrath over sin falls on Jesus and not on

us, and that by His grace we receive the benefit of this most sacrificial act.

During Holy Week, we worship our Lord, who gives His life for us, according to Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, and John 18-19.

In many churches the color for Holy Week continues to be purple.

Many congregations read the Passion narrative during special midweek services of Lent. But on each day of Holy Week, the whole story of the event leading to Jesus' death and burial is read from a single Gospel.

While in Lent, we forgo using the joyous Alleluia response, and we do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis. In Holy Week, we go a step further as we give up singing the Gloria Patri – our joyful response to the Holy Trinity at the end of all the Psalms we use in worship. Omitting these joyous words makes our worship even more reserved and somber.

Holy Week is a special time as we gather for several services throughout the week.

Come, receive the gifts of Jesus as we assemble in the church to hear His Word, pray, praise, and give thanks.

*Pastor Jordan*



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 04 JOSHUA VANGARMO
- 06 KARL JORDAN
- 07 SOPHIE COLLINS
- 08 CHRISTINE THOMPSON
- 10 BOB REAN
- 12 R. J. JOKSCH
- 13 NICOLE WHEELER
- 15 BARBARA THOMAS
- 17 THOMAS HOFFMAN
- 19 JOHN THOMASON
- 21 CAROL WHIPPLE
- 22 PAUL DEGARMO
- 23 DUSTY LOFINK
- 23 MARIAN MAY
- 23 MEGAN REES
- 24 LA VERA HANSEN
- 26 CYNDIE HOLDERBEIN
- 27 JOHN DURFEE
- 30 NEALE SIVESIND



## APRIL BAPTISMS

- 03 XIAO WENSLAFF
- 11 DON THURMAN
- 13 RYAN YOUNG
- 14 ANITA WEINREICH
- 16 KARL JORDAN
- 17 THOMAS HOFFMAN
- 18 ROBERT THOMAS
- 21 ELAINE MIRAMONTES
- 25 MARGE HOLDERBEIN
- 27 WANDA AMES
- 27 ROY HOLDERBEIN

## APRIL SERVANTS

- ACOLYTE:  
YUHUAN WENSLAFF
- ALTAR GUILD:  
LORI JORDAN  
LINDA REAN  
MARNÉ SIVESIND  
KATHY SWEET  
LOUISE URNESS
- ELDER OF THE MONTH  
DARYL SMITH
- COUNTER:  
PAT LILLIE
- VAN DRIVERS:  
JAY ERWIN  
BRUCE HOLDERBEIN  
KURT JORDAN  
DARYL SMITH

## THANK YOU

*My sincere thanks to everyone at Redeemer who prayed for me during my recent medical challenge. I am doing much better, and look forward to returning to worship with you. Thank you, too, for the get-well cards and phone calls. Continued prayers for regaining strength would be appreciated. In Christian love and with much gratitude, David Wilkinson.*

## ELDER ASSIGNMENTS

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| ROBERT REAN:      | Aberg - Crane        |
| TIM WENSLAFF:     | DeGarmo - Holderbein |
| JAY ERWIN:        | Hunt - May           |
| MATTHEW THOMASON: | McCann - Schukei     |
| ROBERT ENGELKEN:  | Scott - Thompson     |
| DARYL SMITH:      | Thorson - Zimmer     |

## CHURCH STAFF

- REV. DONALD JORDAN, PASTOR  
JACKIE VIEIRA, OFFICE MANAGER  
REV. DAVID BUNTING, ORGANIST  
JAY ERWIN, ORGANIST SUB

### OFFICERS

- FRED SHERMAN, III, PRESIDENT  
JERRY BRANDT, VICE PRESIDENT  
VACANT, TREASURER  
R. J. JOKSCH, SECRETARY

### BOARD OF ELDERS

- ROBERT ENGELKEN  
\* JAY ERWIN  
ROBERT REAN  
DARYL SMITH  
MATTHEW THOMASON  
TIMOTHY WENSLAFF

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- \* BRUCE HOLDERBEIN  
ROBERT REAN  
KEITH SIEMENS

### BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

- WALTER GODSIL

### BOARD OF EVANGELISM

- WILLIAM BAVING  
\* DARYL SMITH

### BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

- SHERRY GODSIL  
DIANE SCOTT  
CAROL VARLEY  
SHIRLEY WILSON

- BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
& BOARD OF YOUNG PEOPLES WORK  
\*DIANE SCOTT

\*BOARD CHAIR

## SERMONS, BULLETINS

Sermon audio, bulletins, and children's bulletins are available at [redeemerchico.org](http://redeemerchico.org).

Partake of the Word of God and invite others.

## HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Jordan will serve individual communion upon request. Contact him by text or voice message at 530-513-1284 or [pastordonaldjordan@gmail.com](mailto:pastordonaldjordan@gmail.com) and he will be glad to serve you The Sacrament of the Altar. This is also a good time to review The Small Catechism, so please read, prepare, and learn more about how essential the Lord's Supper is to us Christians.

### Newsletter Submission Deadline

Submit articles and pictures for inclusion in the next Redeemer Review by the 20th of each month.

Email submissions to:  
[redeemerchicooffice@gmail.com](mailto:redemerchicooffice@gmail.com)

Sign-up to sponsor a candle (\$15.00), or provide altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or an occasion.

Signup sheets are on the wall in the narthex.

**Most 2021 Sundays open.**



## HOMEBOUND

### Brenda Bell

1901 Dayton Rd #106  
Chico, CA 95928

### Irene Bevers

1803 Parkview Dr  
Twin Falls, ID 83301

### Eleanore Bingen

1199 Diablo Ave #115  
Chico, CA 95973-7893

### Patricia Bodi

650 Manzanita Ave #115  
Chico, CA 95926

### Sonya Brown

1 Donali Lane  
Chico, CA 95926

### Ann Carney

1200 Springfield Dr  
Chico, CA 95928

### Paul DeGarmo

2770 Sierra Ladera  
Chico, CA 95928

### Jackie Eichelberger

1199 Diablo #117  
Chico, CA 95973

### Ursula Fratallone

1369 E Lindo Ave #42  
Chico, CA 95926-7396

### Evelyn Graham

121 Dorsey Dr #605  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

### LaVera Hansen

31741 Rancho Viejo Rd. #106  
San Juan Capistrano  
CA 92675

### Esther Henry

14 Discovery Way  
Chico, CA 95926

### Margean Huwe

188 Cohasset Lane  
Chico, CA 95926

### Deborah Kressin

2180 Humboldt Rd  
Chico, CA 95928

### Joanne Martin

1351 E Lassen Ave #139  
Chico, CA 95973

### Marian May

1741 Citrus  
Chico, CA 95926

### Donald Miller

2590 Sierra Sunrise Ter. #106  
Chico, CA 95928

### Carol Nelson

7800 S Windermere St  
Littleton, CO 80120

### Betty Rollag

4145 Nord Hwy  
Chico, CA 95973

### Rosemary Smith

1200 Springfield Dr. #222  
Chico, CA 95928

### Bella Thorson

10 Ilahee Lane #27  
Chico, CA 95973

### Kathleen Weaver

2270 Ridge Run Rd  
Quincy, CA 95971

*For our shut-in's  
phone numbers,  
contact Pastor Jordan  
or the office manager.*



Submit prayer requests to Pastor Jordan by email, text, voice mail, or in writing, using the form in the pew rack.

[pastordonaldjordan@gmail.com](mailto:pastordonaldjordan@gmail.com)

(530) 513-1284

(530) 342-6085 Opt. 1



## REDEEMER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1, 2021 - February 28, 2021

INCOME/EXPENSE – ACTUAL:

ORDINARY INCOME:	\$31,005.11
EXPENSES:	<u>\$30,171.62</u>
NET ORDINARY INCOME	\$ 833.49
FACILITY RENT INCOME	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 833.49
RETAINED EARNINGS	<u>\$36,452.42</u>
BALANCE (Total Equity)	\$37,285.91

For more details, see the office manager.

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

*Thank you to all who continue to support the work of our Lord Jesus Christ by giving your tithes and offerings. Below are...*

### Six Ways to Give Your Tithes and Offerings

✠ Offerings are received in the Narthex.

✠ Mail or deliver a check to Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, 750 Moss Ave, Chico, CA 95926. Mail is checked daily.

✠ Bill pay through your bank allows an automatic check to be mailed at no charge. Contact your bank or set up with your online bank account.

✠ Simply Giving pre-authorized withdrawals from your bank account to the church bank account. Obtain form in person or from the church website, redeemerchico.org

✠ PayPal credit card payment on the church web site, redeemerchico.org

✠ Vanco Mobile app. Go [here](#) for a short video about Vanco Mobile. Download from the app store and select Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chico.

✠ GivePlus+ app. Select Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chico.

## PASTOR ON THE RADIO



Pastor Jordan is a regular guest on "Live Talk with Jerry Olenyn" Thursday and Friday on KKXX radio. 8:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. AM 930, FM 103.9. [www.tunein.com](http://www.tunein.com)

## LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO

Listen to good Lutheran radio programs at Lutheran Public Radio, Issues Etc., KFUD, St. Louis. 94.3 The Bridge.

## DIGITAL DAILY DEVOTIONS

From Lutheran Hour Ministries:

<https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions>



From Higher Things:

<https://higherthings.org/content#reflections>

Portals of Prayer: <https://www1.cph.org/portals/default.aspx>

Our youth group is supported by your plastic and aluminum CRV beverage containers. Remove the caps from plastic. Sort aluminum and plastic, place in bags, then place in the bins located in the Parish Hall storage closet. Thank you for your support.



## Ride the Van

An accessible van with a wheelchair lift is used each Sunday morning to transport those who need a ride to the Divine Service.

Call Jerry Brandt at 636-4392 before Saturday noon to arrange a ride for the following Sunday service.



PASTOR JORDAN'S SERMONS  
KKXX.net - Tunein.com KKXX 930 AM, 103.9 FM  
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 & 5:00 PM

THE LUTHERAN HOUR  
KKXX.net - Tunein.com KKXX 930 AM, 103.9 FM  
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 PM



# TECHNOLOGY



## Technology caution...

Have you noticed lately that you are getting more and more phone calls and email that might be questionable even if it appears to be from a friend, relative or a business entity? Do you automatically answer the call or click on the email? You might want to consider your automatic responses.

If it is a phone call it is easy to disconnect from the call as soon as you realize it is not your friend. What about if it is from a business service you use? If you are being asked questions requesting personal information, hang up. Do not ever give out information to an unsolicited phone caller (even if the caller says they are calling on behalf of a friend or family member). If, for example, the caller says they are from PG&E or another service you use and they need to update your personal information on file (a frequent scam) hang up immediately. Then call directly to PG&E or other service and inquire if they are trying to contact you regarding updating information because you received a call asking for information.

Today telephone scammers are posing as calling from your bank, your credit card company, public utilities, your medical facility, your church, social security, IRS, even the police department, etc. And remember, do not ask the caller for “the company number” so you can verify this request as you will just be given the scammer’s number who will then request personal information. Get the customer service number from your latest statement or the back of your credit card.

Not too long ago it was fairly easy to recognize an email scam or spam. The attempt at replicating the legitimate company’s logo was amateurish; the text of the email often had misspelled words or questionable grammar but not so today. Today’s email scam is very often highly sophisticated and even the logo looks legitimate and the link you are asked to click on looks convincing. Again, don’t click on any link that you have not requested.

Most legitimate businesses take spam very seriously. If you get an email from your bank or other company that you have not requested **DO NOT CLICK ON IT**. Go directly to the company website and see if you can find their “fraud, spam, phishing” contact link or at least their customer service contact info. Frequently they will have a list that comes up asking for your query information. Click on spam or

some variation of that and then an information notice may come up telling you what to do and where to forward the suspicious email. If this is not available, just delete the email remembering to not open it or click on any link in the email.

A hot topic right now is COVID-19. There are all kinds of scams, spam, and fraudulent pleas circulating right now. The common thread is asking for gift cards to help victims or families of victims cope with their losses. You are asked to give out bank information or purchase these cards directly through an email or a phone call. **Do not do this.**

**HELPFUL HINT:** There are many who use their debit card for just about everything. However, did you know that if you use a credit card and you were caught by one of these scams you probably can get all charges reversed? Make sure to check with your credit card company and your bank on your liability regarding this issue.

**HELPFUL HINT #2:** Set up an alert for your credit cards so that you see right away when a charge has been made and if it was not legitimate you can contact them immediately. These alerts can be set for text or email, or both, and can be set for any amount you choose, even as little as \$1.00.

One more thing...if you find some information that you think a friend would like and you are not in the habit of sharing information from the internet, send them an email or call them and tell them that you are sending them a link. You might even arrange to have a “code word” in the subject line that verifies it is from you.

While we all agree that technology is a wonderful thing, there are too many who are using it for harm or with evil intent. Be vigilant, trustworthy, careful and... **WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T!**

## SERVANTS PLACED PLANTER BARK



Bruce Holderbein, Keith Siemens, Bob Rean, Aaron Ashworth



*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deut 6: 6-7 ESV)*

What's your favorite musical style to listen to? Who is one of your favorite composers? Do you listen to primarily one style of music or do you match your music selections to your mood?

However you answered the above questions probably has its roots in what you heard as a child and what was taught to you as a child as well as the kind and style of music that was played in your home. Did you ever talk about music and composers in your home?

What music is played in your home that you are teaching your children? Whether you realize it or not the music in your home or in your car as you drive influences your children. How can you be deliberate about musical selections?

Even if you have no specific music training you can recognize various types of music and teach these to your children. Remember going to 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnics where there might have been a bandstand in the park. Very probably some of the music played was from John Phillip Souza and people tapped their toes and may have even gotten up and marched around or even danced.

Start with some easily identifiable styles of music. Say for instance *Onward Christian Soldiers*. Play this for your children (without lyrics if possible) and ask them what their body wants to do then let them move that way. More than likely they will get up and march around perhaps even swinging their arms. Then play something like *Beautiful Savior* and ask them to move to the music.

While both of the above mentioned hymns are in 4/4 time, meaning 4 beats to each measure, the feel of the music is very different. Now play those selections again but this time with lyrics and ask your children how each song made them feel. Now play a lullaby such as *All Through the Night* and see what response you elicit. Again in 4/4 time but very different physical responses naturally happen.

Over the next few weeks in church pay particular attention to the hymns, lyrics as well as music. Pick

one or two that particularly made you respond in whatever way. Then ask the rest of the family which hymn they liked best (probably a more appropriate question for children) and why? Was it the lyrics (words) or the feel of the music? Was it the way the organist made the organ sound? Keep notes on the responses from the family.

If you are able after a few weeks contact your church organist and ask if you could have a few minutes of time to talk about how he or she decides how to play certain hymns. Make sure to pick ones that you and your family have identified. Tell the organist that you are trying to be deliberate in teaching your children about how music affects our responses and our moods, etc. Remember the organist is not there to just fill in the time before and after the service, but is an integral part of the worship of the congregation.

There will be more to come about teaching music at home but an interesting blog you might want to read is: [https://blog.cph.org/worship/why-christians-need-pop-music?utm\\_campaign=CPH%20Blog%20Posts&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmt=98347448&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8EJJRbhorNTTM3GLnBMFuky-WeF7w9dUB9oC\\_ZCOQ\\_Q\\_eLj5gN55vdFpE6nj-5EpnYzHnVI8S-HarK\\_gAdw2MYaoEEQQ&utm\\_content=98347448&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://blog.cph.org/worship/why-christians-need-pop-music?utm_campaign=CPH%20Blog%20Posts&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=98347448&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8EJJRbhorNTTM3GLnBMFuky-WeF7w9dUB9oC_ZCOQ_Q_eLj5gN55vdFpE6nj-5EpnYzHnVI8S-HarK_gAdw2MYaoEEQQ&utm_content=98347448&utm_source=hs_email)

REDEEMER EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2021 LENTEN  
HOLY WEEK, EASTER SERVICES

HOLY THURSDAY  
April 1, Divine Service 7:00 p.m.  
Sermon: *Take Jesus at His Word*

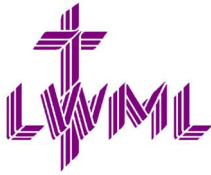
GOOD FRIDAY  
April 2, Chief Service 12:00 p.m.  
Sermon: *Your High Priest Sacrificed*  
April 2, Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.  
Sermon: *It is Finished*

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD  
EASTER SUNDAY  
April 4, Divine Service, 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Class, 8:45 a.m.  
Sermon: *Risen, Believing, and Telling*



## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Thank you to everyone who has helped support the mission projects of LWML. The narthex has a box for offerings to fund worthwhile mission projects submitted by the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of LWML. This biennium includes around 20 grants. The current grant for the amount of \$10,000 is to fund an inner-city program in the Hayward area to develop leaders in cross culture communities for the ministry



Since our local LWML has not been in an active mode for some time, mite offerings are still a way Redeemer Mary/Martha Society is able to participate in mission work. Our boxes for coins/offerings, along with a prayer, are certainly a way we are able to contribute. Every member, man, woman or child is welcome to have a mite box. These are available in the narthex as well. Please take one. Since the large mite box is permanent, offerings can be deposited any Sunday.

## MERCY/HEALTH MINISTRY

Ephesians 4:32 comes to mind as one of the commands we have to care for one another. *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."*

We all realize that this past year has been difficult for everyone but especially for those who live alone. The Redeemer Mercy Workers and others are doing an excellent job. And we know there are others of us at home with time to spare that we could use for making another's day a bit brighter. If it is not possible to make calls in person, a phone call will certainly be appropriate. If this sounds like a "servant project" for you and you would like some guidance regarding calls, leave a message with the church office. Someone will return your call.

A little Christian love can go a long way. Glory be to God!

## QUILT DONATION

This quilt was given to Harold and Louise Urness by cousins Dean and Marion Puckett who live in Sedro Woolley, Washington. After the Paradise fire, the Puckett's church started fund raisers and sent the money to Butte County Fire Fund. There was a lady in the Puckett's church who made this quilt a fund raiser. Our cousin Marion won it. She sent it to Louise to give to someone who could use it. She said it didn't have to be someone from the fire. So Louise has had it for over a year, not finding anyone to give it to. Then it dawned on her that we had someone in our church. Carolyn Fiorillo has a little boy that it would be perfect for. So, Louise presented the quilt to Carolyn and Oliver after church on December 2, 2020.



Carolyn Fiorillo, Oliver Fiorillo, Louise Urness

## Our Mission Statement

Welcome to Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, a community of believers saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

As a people enabled by the Spirit, we are committed to regular worship and the use of the sacraments, studying and teaching the Bible, praying, using our gifts and talents in God's service, for the caring and nurturing of others and sharing the message of God's salvation so that God is glorified and all people may know Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Sunday Bible Study - 8:45 a.m.  
I, II Timothy, Titus



Thursday Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.  
Book of Matthew

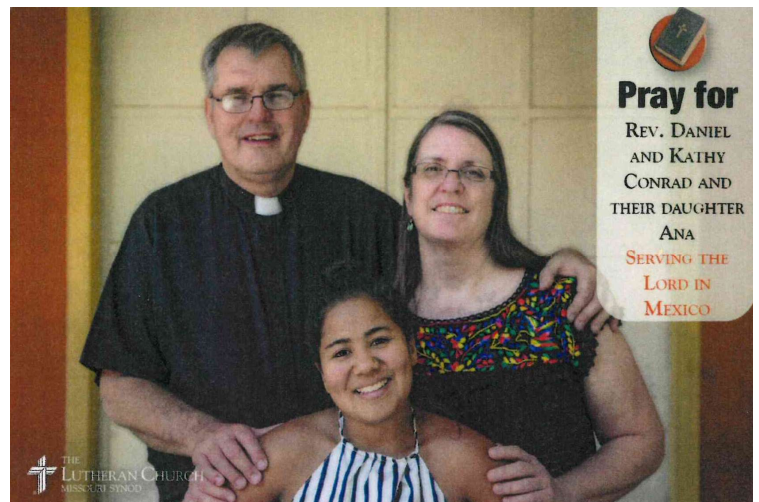


## REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MISSION FIELDS

REV. MARK RABE, ETHIOPIA



REV. DANIEL CONRAD, MEXICO



Almighty and gracious God, You want all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people that Your Church may spread the good news of salvation. Protect, encourage, and bless all missionaries who proclaim the saving cross that Christ, being lifted up, may draw all people to Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## 2020 4Q MISSIONS SUPPORT

4Q Women's Resource Clinic \$3,632.28; KKXX Sermons \$2,400; The Lutheran Hour \$1,200; Issues, Etc. \$500.00

### THANK YOU FROM WOMEN'S RESOURCE CLINIC:

Dear Supporter,

Sophia came in for a pregnancy test with her two friends that she attends college with. She told us she had been in a relationship with her boyfriend for two years, but when he found out she might be pregnant he told her to get an abortion ended the relationship. She wants to keep her baby. The Client Advocate gave her pre-natal information, a list of OB's for her to contact and a pair of baby booties. The Client Advocate was able to pray for her and she said she was so glad she had come here. She came back the next week for her ultrasound appointment and was eight weeks pregnant. She is excited to parent, even though the father won't be in the picture. She was encouraged to start our Earn While You Learn parenting program and we are praying she will come back so we can support her and that she will be blessed for choosing life for her baby.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our ministry so we can pour out to these women.

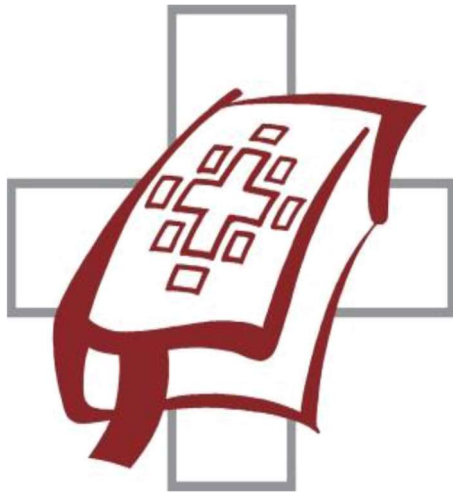
Lovingly in Him,  
Brenda K. Dowdin, Executive Director

## 2021 MISSIONS SUPPORT

- 1Q Redeemer Charity Fund; Faith Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California
- 2Q Missionary Mark Rabe, Ethiopia, Missionary Dennis Meeker, Kenya, Missionary Daniel Conrad, Mexico
- 3Q Lutheran Heritage Foundation; Lutheran Deaf Ministry, Pastor Seeger
- 4Q Women's Resource Clinic,; KKXX Sermons; The Lutheran Hour; Issues, Etc.

*Grants are funded by the Mission Trust Fund interest, 30% school rent income, and your mission gifts.*

## What you sing about influences what you believe. . .



Music is not neutral. It is a medium that evokes images, feelings, and an idea. But even when music is not the issue, the words are. You cannot sing words that detract from the faith without those words detracting from YOUR faith. You cannot sing words that speak of the symbolism of baptism without affirming its sacramental gift without your understanding of baptism changing, shifting away from what God does to what you did. You cannot sing words that speak of bread and wine and very special little meal between you and Jesus without eroding your faith in Christ's real presence and it becomes only a special meal of bread and wine. That is simply how it works.

Rome is only beginning to wake up to the damage done by the hymns of recent years long on imagery but light on theology. Some Lutherans have woken up but others refuse to believe that it matters what you sing as long as you love singing it. This is especially egregious since hymns are kind of a Lutheran thing. We sort of re-invented hymnody and congregational song and without it

the Reformation may not have actually happened. The Gospel was literally sung into the hearts and minds of the faithful until that was the only thing they would settle for. When that Gospel and orthodox doctrine are no longer being sung into the hearts and minds of the faithful, something else is. And that is a problem.

No pastor wants to know the favorite hymns of the folks in the pews. Inevitably you will have somebody or more than one somebody insisting that *In the Garden* is not only their most favoritist hymn of all but the best one every written and it just sends goosebumps up their spine and puts tears in their eyes every time they sing it. The problem is that *In the Garden* probably fits a lot of their theology -- me'n'Jesus against the world, Jesus loves y'all but He loves me bestest, and nature is the place where God speaks to me more than anywhere else. Folks don't even think about what they are singing. Or maybe they do.

Even pastors have crazy hymn favorites. I have been at pastors' funerals where we sang terrible hymns because the pastors said that is what they wanted. They were not in our hymnals and did not express the faith we confess and these pastors promised to confess at confirmation and ordination, but so what? They are only hymns, right? They really do not matter. It is all up to personal preference -- what we like to sing, what speaks to our inner soul, and what makes us feel better.

Well, I am just going to say it. If we confess it in words (creed and Confessions) then we ought to be singing it in hymns. If the Scriptures teach it, then we ought to be singing it in the Church's song. Because the more we sing it, the more we believe it -- while that is true of bad theology, it is equally true of good theology! Hymns that confess have a salutary catechetical function and one that accords well with the other places where the faith is taught, learned, confessed, and witnessed. We ignore this to our peril.

Just like folks who listen to contemporary Christian music all day long will see their *catholic and apostolic* theology diluted and distorted by evangelicalism's focus on feelings, earthly goals, and worldly oriented pursuits, so will folks who listen to, memorize, and pray the great hymns of the faith (especially the Lutheran chorale) will find their *catholic and apostolic* theology strengthened, affirmed, and supported. This makes the biggest difference when trouble, trial, sorrow, and struggle come along and the Christian must rely upon the firm foundation of Christ crucified and risen for their salvation. When you have these hymns within you, they serve as a compass and anchor amid life's storms and changes.

When I was in Seminary I would visit a blind Lutheran lady in the nursing home. All she wanted of me was to read the hymn stanzas from *The Lutheran Hymnal*. After a few times I looked up and saw her lips moving. She was repeating them as I read them, building up her memory, strengthening her faith, and edifying her soul. Now remember, this was *TLH*, a hymnal that sometimes included 25 or 50 stanzas and not modern day hymnals written for the faint of heart, with 10 or less stanzas. She had already memorized them and since she could not read them, my reading of them into her ears supported their place within her heart and mind. This cannot happen with vague hymns written for emotional highs or praise choruses that say nothing a dozen times in a row or hymns that speak about everything but that which has a reference in Scripture.

*Lex ordandi lex credendi* applies to hymns as well. What you sing about influences what you believe. Not every hymn in *Lutheran Service Book* is equally weighty but every one of them is better than what most people have as their playlist from contemporary Christian music. In our Lutheran service books, a bad hymn is rare but in the CCM playlist, a good hymn is exceptional.

March 14, 2021 Pastoral Meanderings





# “HERE I STAND”

The 500th Anniversary  
of Luther’s Confession at  
the Diet of Worms  
Sunday, April 18



## Luther’s Answer at the Diet of Worms:

It could have all ended the evening of April 18, 1521. The sun was beginning to set on the city of Worms. The heat was stifling in the packed room of the bishop’s palace where emperor, electors and German princes all waited with anticipation to hear the answer Martin Luther would bring. Would Luther recant? Would he retract what he had written and said against abuses in the church and against papal tyranny? Most of all, would he give up on the Gospel he had preached and taught, giving comfort and certainty to consciences in Christ?

“Martin, answer clearly and without any double-talk: Do you or do you not recant your books and the errors in them?” If Luther were to recant and admit that he was wrong, all would be well before the emperor and the Roman Catholic Church. On the other hand, if he did not recant, his own life would be at risk. He could be burned as a heretic.

This was it: recant or stand firm. With beads of sweat on his face, Luther responded:

**“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe**

**nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen”** (LW 32:112–13).

At this bold confession, the room erupted in noise. Some rejoiced; some demanded fire! Yet, in the midst of such commotion, the truth of Jesus Christ rang forth. The gates of Hades had not prevailed over the confession of the Gospel. The proclamation of justification by grace through faith on account of Christ’s work alone did not bend to spiritual tyranny.

## 500 Years Later:

Today, we stand in the footsteps of Martin Luther 500 years later. We stand boldly, proclaiming the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. We stand boldly, renouncing the devil and all his works and all his ways. We stand, by the grace of God, steadfast and ready to suffer all rather than fall away. We do not stand on Luther, but we will gladly stand with him, firm on the testimony of the Holy Scriptures to confess the saving Gospel of Christ, our Good Shepherd, who died and rose, in whose name is forgiveness of sins for all people. Here we stand; we can do no other. God help us. Amen.

**Find more at** [lcms.org/here-i-stand-sunday](http://lcms.org/here-i-stand-sunday), including giving opportunities for providing a thank offering.



# April 2021

April 2021

May 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3
The Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter (W/Go) - Mites 10:00am Divine Service 1:00pm Sermon, KXXX 1:30pm The Lutheran Hour	Easter Evening/Monday (W/Go) Office Closed - Pastor's Day Off	7:00am [C] Lucas Cranach and Albrecht Durerer, Artists Easter Tuesday (W/Go)	Office Open Easter Wednesday (W/Go)	Office Open 12:00pm Holy (Maundy) Thursday (alt.) (W/S/M) 8:30am Live Talk KXXX 9:30am NO Bible Class (FR) 2:00pm Live Talk KXXX 7:00pm Divine Service	Good Friday (Bk) Office Closed 8:30am Live Talk KXXX 12:00pm Chief Service 2:00pm Live Talk KXXX 7:00pm Tenebrae Service	Holy Saturday (Bk) 1:00pm KXXX Sermon 1:30pm Lutheran Hour 5:00pm KXXX Sermon
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Easter Evening/Monday (W/Go) Office Closed - Pastor's Day Off	7:00am [C] Lucas Cranach and Albrecht Durerer, Artists Easter Tuesday (W/Go)	Office Open Easter Wednesday (W/Go)	Office Open 12:00pm 8:30am Live Talk KXXX 9:30am Bible Class (FR) 2:00pm Live Talk KXXX	Office Closed 8:30am Live Talk KXXX 2:00pm Live Talk KXXX	1:00pm KXXX Sermon 1:30pm Lutheran Hour 5:00pm KXXX Sermon
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2nd Sunday of Easter (W) - Mites 8:45am SS/ABS (PH) 10:00am Divine Service 1:00pm Sermon, KXXX 1:30pm The Lutheran Hour	Office Closed - Pastor's Day Off	7:00am [C] Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor Redeemer Review Deadline	Office Open 9:30am Bible Class (FR)	Pastor @Enloe Safety Training 8:30am Live Talk KXXX 2:00pm Live Talk KXXX	Office Closed 8:30am Live Talk KXXX 2:00pm Live Talk KXXX	9:00am Council Meeting 1:00pm KXXX Sermon 1:30pm Lutheran Hour 5:00pm KXXX Sermon
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
3rd Sunday of Easter (W) - Mites 8:45am SS/ABS (PH) 10:00am Divine Service 1:00pm Sermon, KXXX 1:30pm The Lutheran Hour	Office Closed - Pastor's Day Off	7:00am [C] Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor Redeemer Review Deadline	Office Open [C] Anselm of Canterbury, Theologian	Office Open 12:00pm 8:30am Live Talk KXXX 9:30am Bible Class (FR) 2:00pm Live Talk KXXX	Office Closed 8:30am Live Talk KXXX 2:00pm Live Talk KXXX	[C] Johann Walter, Kantor 1:00pm KXXX Sermon 1:30pm Lutheran Hour 5:00pm KXXX Sermon
25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
[F] St. Mark, Evangelist (R) 4th Sunday of Easter (W) - Mites 8:45am SS/ABS (PH) 10:00am Divine Service 1:00pm Sermon, KXXX 1:30pm The Lutheran Hour	[Other] Missouri Synod organized (1847) Office Closed - Pastor's Day Off	7:00am	Office Open	8:30am Live Talk KXXX 9:30am Bible Class (FR) 2:00pm Live Talk KXXX	Office Closed 8:30am Live Talk KXXX 2:00pm Live Talk KXXX	

**OFFICE MANAGER'S HOURS**

**TUE - THU 8:30AM - 4:00PM**

**PHONE:**

**530-342-6085**

**Pastor's Cell:**

**530-513-1284**

**EMAIL:**

**redeemerchicooffice@gmail.com**

**PASTOR'S EMAIL:**

**pastordonaldjordan@gmail.com**

**WEB ADDRESS:**

**www.redeemerchico.org**

**Facebook:**

**facebook.com/RedeemerLutheranChico**

**April 2021**



**April 2021**

**Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Missouri Synod**  
**750 Moss Avenue**  
**Chico, CA 95926**