

Redeemer REVIEW



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD CHICO, CALIFORNIA MAR/APR 2024 Vol. 38 No. 2

from the Pastor...

Rev. Brennan DeForest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a result of the ongoing updates to our Church Constitution and Bylaws, I've been paying a lot more attention to the "fine print" of what makes us a church. Of course, Jesus says in Matthew 18:20, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them," which makes for a very basic definition of a church. Adding a little bit more structure, Article 7 of the Augsburg Confession says this, "the Church is the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught, and the Sacraments are rightly administered." So, while our Constitution and Bylaws don't make us a church in the right-hand kingdom of God, they are a necessary part of what it means to be a church in the left-hand kingdom of God, that is, in the eyes of our nation, our state, and even our synod and district.

And in the "fine print," right at the beginning of the Constitution and Bylaws in fact, we have adopted this mission statement. "Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church is 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, 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." This mission statement may seem like a mouthful, but there is a lot of really good stuff to unpack here—so much, in fact, that I plan to spend the next few Redeemer Review newsletters to fully unpack this mission statement.

For this newsletter, I'll simply start with our name: "Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church." Over 100 years ago, our ancestors and church founders thought it good to emphasize Christ's attribute as our Redeemer in the name of our church. To redeem means to buy, to buy back, or to assign value, especially to something which previously had no value or had lost its value. Famously in the Old Testament, Boaz redeemed Ruth, in which Boaz assigned value to Ruth and married her, despite Ruth having lost her value when her first husband died. And of course, Jesus is our Redeemer since He bought us back from sin, death, and the devil by shedding His blood on the cross and assigned value



to us by giving us His righteousness.

The word "Evangelical" is not often found in names of churches these days, but it is an important word because "evangelical" means "gospel." Now sometimes, gospel means simply the good news of Christ's death for forgiveness and life. Other times, however, the word gospel is used in a wider sense, meaning both God's law and His gospel, that is, His commands to us and His promises to us in Christ. Altogether, as we emphasize "Evangelical" in our name, we make known to the world that here at Redeemer, both God's law and God's gospel are proclaimed for our life and salvation.

The word "Lutheran" of course proclaims to the world that we follow in the tradition of Martin Luther. Even more, this also proclaims to the world that we hold to Martin Luther's five Reformation *solas*, that is, we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone to the glory of God alone and we know this by Scripture alone. Today, some churches have opted to remove "Lutheran" from their name, usually saying that nobody knows what a Lutheran is anyway. But doing so erases a rich theological heritage, a heritage and foundation which some people are looking for to escape post-modern society.

Finally, as discussed, a little earlier, the word "Church" means that we gather in the name of Jesus and we hear His Word and receive His Sacraments, that is, we rejoice in His Means of Grace. "Church" also proclaims to the world that our building is a holy place, and we are a holy people, having been saved and made holy by Jesus Christ. The church is also the body of Christ, and thus as a church we are united with other members of Christ's body. The church is certainly not perfect, but since the church has Christ as its head, it is always being led in the right direction and is always seeking to do God's will in the world.

So much more could be said simply about the name of our church, but as you can hopefully see, our name already says so much about us. And our church name only comprises the first four words of our mission statement. Thus, stay tuned in future newsletters for more reflections on our mission statement!

The Lord be with you, ~Pastor DeForest

DIGITAL DAILY DEVOTIONS

Lutheran Hour Ministries: <https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions>

Higher Things: <https://higherthings.org/content/reflections>

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

LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO

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

PASTOR'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

BIBLE STUDIES



Children's Sunday School is 8:45 a.m.
Adult Sunday Bible class is 8:45 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study is 9:30 a.m.

REDEEMER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CHURCH INCOME/EXPENSE – ACTUAL:

	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2023	Jan 1 - Jan 31, 2024
OFFERING INCOME	167,276.94	11,153.69
SCHOOL LEASE (5%) GENERAL FUND	9,918.95	378.08
FACILITY USE INCOME	1,340.00	75.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>5,107.63</u>	<u>472.88</u>
TOTAL INCOME	183,643.52	12,079.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	200,303.98	19,909.39
NET INCOME	-16,660.46	-7,829.74
RETAINED EARNINGS	<u>83,880.43</u>	67,219.97
CURRENT BALANCE	67,219.68	59,390.23

See the Office Manager for more information.

Submit prayer requests to Pastor by email, text,
voice mail, or in writing, using the form in the
pew rack. brennan.deforest@ctsfw.edu

(801) 910-6937 or (530) 342-6085 Opt 1



CHURCH STAFF

REV. BRENNAN DEFORD, PASTOR

JACKIE VIEIRA, OFFICE MANAGER

DAVID BUNTING, ORGANIST

JAY ERWIN, ORGANIST

OFFICERS

FRED SHERMAN III, PRESIDENT

JERRY BRANDT, VICE PRESIDENT

BRUCE HOLDERBEIN, FINANCIAL
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AARON ASHWORTH, SECRETARY

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* TIM KRESSIN

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

LINDA ALLEN

SHERRI HARDY

DIANE SCOTT

CAROL VARLEY

SHIRLEY WILSON

BOARD OF YOUTH

*DIANE SCOTT

*BOARD CHAIR

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Chico, CA 95926

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Sonya Brown

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Chico, CA 95928

Sharon Schaffert

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Chico, CA 95926

Emma Siemens

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Chico, CA 95928

SERVANTS

ACOLYTES:

EVERETT LUTHER
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

ALTAR GUILD:

ROBERT ENGELKEN
BONNIE HUNT
LINDA REAN
HAROLD URNESS

LOUISE URNESS

COUNTER:

PAT LILLIE

DEACON OF THE MONTH

MARCH

TIM WENSLAFF

APRIL

ROBERT REAN

USHERS:

TIM KRESSIN
TIM WENSLAFF
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

DRIVERS:

JAY ERWIN
BRUCE HOLDERBEIN
KURT JORDAN
DARYL SMITH



BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

02 EUGENE LOFINK
06 ROY HOLDERBEIN
10 NATHANIAL GRADO
21 CARSON VANDERMATE
23 KARL WEINREICH, III
24 SVETLANA LITVINENKO
25 LACEY VANDERMATE
29 ANITA WEINREICH
31 PATRICIA BODI

APRIL

04 JOSHUA VANDERMATE
06 KARL JORDAN
07 SOPHIE COLLINS
08 CHRISTINE THOMPSON
09 ABIGAIL DEFOREST
10 ROBERT 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 MEGAN REES
24 LA VERA HANSEN
26 CYNDIE HOLDERBEIN
27 JOHN DURFEE
30 NEALE SIVESIND

GIVE BLOOD AND SAVE LIVES



Make donations at
Vitalant
555 Rio Lindo Ave.
And tell them to
credit your donation
to

Redeemer Lutheran Church
vitalant.org for information



BAPTISMS

MARCH

00 SVETLANA SMITH
01 ALLEN THOMPSON
01 LINDA ALLEN
15 OLIVER FIORILLO
18 EUGENE LOFINK
20 DAVID SWEET
23 CARSON VANDERMATE
24 MARNÉ SIVESIND
31 NICOLE WHEELER

APRIL

03 XIAO WHENSLAFF
11 RICHARD THURMAN
14 ANITA WEINREICH
16 KARL JORDAN
17 THOMAS HOFFMAN
18 ROBERT THOMAS
18 ABIGAIL DEFOREST
21 ELAINE MIRAMONTES
25 MARGE HOLDERBEIN
27 ROY HOLDERBEIN

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

TIM WENSLAFF: ALLEN - GREGORY
JAY ERWIN: HANSEN - KROGH
DARYL SMITH: LANGE - SCOTT
ROBERT REAN: SHERMAN - ZIEGLER

Deadline

May/June Redeemer Review

April 20



TECHNOLOGY

Technology... great use!



Recently a great and godly use of technology came to light that is worth passing on.

Make a playlist of the favorite song/hymn of the person you ask and when this song plays it is a reminder to pray for that person.

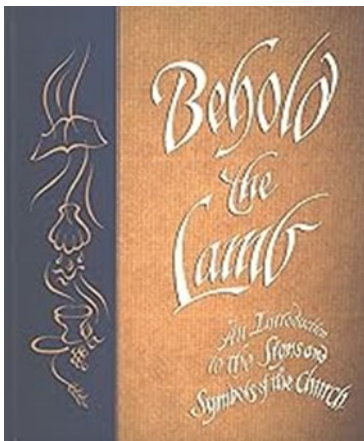
Too often we pray for somebody in need but neglect to pray for friends, family, ourselves, co-workers, neighbors etc. What to pray if you don't know a *need*? Pray for a blessing on that person, pray for God to use them in some way, pray that they have peace in their spirit and whatever else the Holy Spirit brings to mind.

Why not start your list with your family and close friends (remember to add your own favorite song or hymn) and then be alert for those that cross your path. Remember not everybody will respond if you request their favorite song, and for some the song might be questionable; however, those that mention a song that is questionable might just be in need of the revealed love of Christ. That's between you and the Lord whether or not the song should remain on your playlist.

If you don't know how to create a playlist on your phone your grandchildren will know how. A great way to interact with them! And, don't forget to tell them what you are doing and encourage them to do the same.

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)

In the last newsletter the first book in this series was mentioned as a good resource for learning about why we do the things we do in church. And while it is listed in the children's section of Concordia Publishing House it is by no means childish.



The book pictured above is an *Introduction to the Signs and Symbols of the Church*. Again while the category falls in the section of books for children, this is by no means a childish book. It is a great family resource, a roadmap for those new to the church and a refresher for those who have been members for many years.

There is a great Glossary of the terms used. Sometimes we use these various words but forget the exact meaning of the term. For example: *fair linen*. Do you know what this means and can you explain it to your children or a new believer?

The book is available at Amazon as well as Concordia Publishing but is not an electronic book, only hardcover. It is, however, a worthy addition to your family library.

MITE BOX SUNDAY



The first Sunday of each month is Mite Box Sunday.

Your loose coins in the offering plate benefit the missions of the LWML.



THANK YOU...

...FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lenten Greetings,

On behalf of everyone at Lutheran Hour Ministries, we can't thank you enough for your continued support of our mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church*. I have attached the latest edition of the Lutheran Hour radio program's newsletter for you to post on your church bulletin board or distribute to your members. Again, thank you so much for your prayers and support. Without your congregation's continued gifts, we are unable to make **His** mission a reality. May your church thrive and grow as you share God's blessings with all you meet.

Blessings for a terrific Tuesday!

Robin Forsythe

Organizational Stewardship Coordinator

Read Lutheran Hour Ministries newsletter on our website at [Mission Newsletter – Lutheran Hour Ministries / Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod \(redeemerchico.org\)](#)

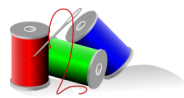
...FROM WOMEN'S RESOURCE CLINIC

Thank you for giving to WRC in 2023. Because you gave, we were able to help over 700 women this past year. We had many desperate situations and because of your faithfulness we are here to help those in great need, especially women in unplanned pregnancies.

We are excited for our 2024 Walk for Life, themed: "Be the Light." Please save the date - Saturday, April 27th. Visit the events tab on our website at partner.womensresourceclinic.org to register for the Walk.

Our banquet this year will on Friday, October 11th, so please save the date. More information will be forthcoming on the 2024 Banquet.

QUILTERS



Dates for March and April meetings are March 11, 25, April 15, and 29. These Monday sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. and end around noon. Anyone interested in the mission project of providing lap quilts for our homebound members are welcome to join us in the Parish Hall. We have a coffee break at 10:30 a.m.

Stop by and see what is happening. No special sewing ability is necessary.



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024

Fourteen women were in attendance at a luncheon with Martha Dubke, zone president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, who spoke to the group regarding changes to the LWML.



Martha encouraged our presently inactive society to attend the spring district convention in Redding.



Abby DeForest has been chosen to be the young person delegate. More information will be available closer to the date.



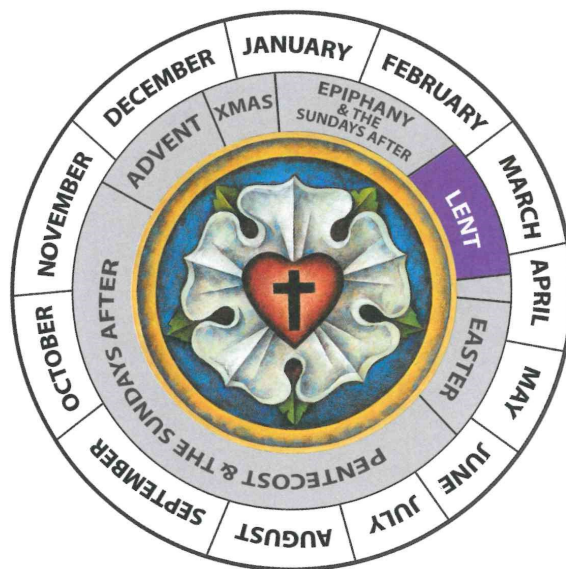
THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PASTORS

1. They love God and you a lot. (be mindful.)
2. They are painfully limited human beings. (be realistic.)
3. They probably have a pretty low view of their “performance”. (be kind.)
4. They wish they were a better preacher. (be awake.)
5. They really do want God’s best for you and your family. (be open-hearted.)
6. Their work knows no time or locational boundaries. (be patient.)
7. They hear much more negative information than positive. (be encouraging.)
8. They have chosen a vocation in which few remain. (be praying.)
9. They have chosen a highly leadership-intensive call. (be lead-able.)
10. They need help. (be available.)
11. Their God-given vision is bigger than themselves and the church. (be faith-filled.)
12. They want to personally meet all the needs, but know they can’t. (be understanding.)
13. They are going to say some dumb things every now and then. (be forgiving.)
14. They are greatly encouraged by your faithfulness. (be there.)
15. They are passionate for God’s word to be made practical to you. (be hungry.)
16. They long for church to be your spiritual oasis. (be loving.)
17. They dream for you and your family’s spiritual health. (be receptive.)
18. They need to hear that you pray for them. (be interceding.)
19. They are just regular people. (be real.)

PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS. 🙏

THE TIME OF EASTER LENT

Begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with midday prayer on Holy Saturday.



The Time of Easter invites us into the story of Jesus’ sacrificial death and His glorious resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus gives proof that our salvation has been completed and that our hope for eternal life with God is secure.

Easter was the major celebration of the Early Church, which also set aside a period of preparation to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter). Lent was a period of preparation first prescribed for baptismal candidates. During this period, the candidates were examined in preparation for Baptism at the Easter (or Paschal) Vigil. Later, these forty days were associated with Jesus’ forty days in the desert prior to His temptation (Matthew 4:1–11) and with the forty years the children of Israel spent in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34), becoming a period of preparation for every Christian.

The Sundays during this season are not “of Lent” but “in Lent.” Thus the Sundays retain an Easter tone and may be less solemn than the mid-

week services that congregations typically offer. The observances of Lent are concrete reminders of the greater solemnity of this season, yet Lutherans emphasize the Gospel of Christ as central even to this penitential season.

In Lent, we prepare our hearts to receive our crucified and risen Lord.

Psalm 51

Matthew 4:1–11

Isaiah 58:6–12

Matthew 6:1–18

Joel 2:12–13

Romans 6:1–4

LENT PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

- ◆ The church is decorated in violet, the color of royalty and repentance. This period of repentance is marked by a purposeful turning away from our sin and turning toward Christ for His mercy and forgiveness.
- ◆ Ash Wednesday begins the observance of Lent. Ashes on the forehead is a sign of penitence and a reminder that we, too, shall die and therefore need forgiveness from Jesus. Black may be used to decorate the church on Ash Wednesday.
- ◆ *Alleluia* is the Hebrew word for “Praise the Lord.” It is a joyous expression of faith in God. During Lent, we forego using this joyous response in order to focus on our need for repentance and faith.
- ◆ As in Advent, so in Lent, we do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis in the Divine Service. We do this to focus our worship on repentance.
- ◆ Fasting is giving up eating at a particular meal or time in order to devote that time to prayer and meditation on the Word of God.
- ◆ Many churches observe Lent by gathering for midweek services. These additional times of worship and gathering around God’s Word help us prepare to observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter.

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holy Week Services



Maundy Thursday | March 28 | 12 noon & 7:00 pm

Good Friday | March 29 | 12 noon & 7:00 pm

Vigil of Easter | March 30 | 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday | March 31 | Easter Breakfast & Flowering of Cross @ 8:30 am
Divine Service @ 10:00 am



We Preach Christ Crucified



View Full Calendar and More Information at:
https://www.redeemerchico.org/New_Website/

2023 QUARTERLY MISSION REPORT

- 1Q Redeemer Charity Fund \$4,746.09 - Faith Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California: \$4,746.09
- 2Q Missionary Dennis Meeker, Kenya \$3,598.84, Missionary Daniel Conrad, Mexico \$3,598.84, Pamela Boehle-Silva, Always Mercy Kenya \$3,598.84
- 3Q Lutheran Heritage Foundation, \$3,598.84, Lutheran Deaf Ministry, Pastor Seeger \$3,598.84
- 4Q Women's Resource Clinic, \$4,068.93; KKXX Sermons, \$3,400.00; The Lutheran Hour, \$4,068.93; Issues, Etc. \$500.00

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

2024 QUARTERLY MISSIONS

- 1Q Redeemer Charity Fund; Faith Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California
- 2Q Missionary Dennis Meeker, Kenya; Missionary Daniel Conrad, Mexico; Pamela Boehle-Silva, Always Mercy Kenya
- 3Q Lutheran Heritage Foundation; Luther Classical College, Casper, Wyoming; CNH District
- 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.

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WEB ADDRESS:	www.redeemerchico.org
Facebook:	facebook.com/RedeemerLutheranChico

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.

March/April 2024



March/April 2024

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
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