



Redeemer Lutheran Church



## Voice of Redeemer

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“Whether the weather be fine, or whether the weather be not,  
Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot,  
We'll weather the weather, whatever the weather,  
Whether we like it or not.”

People have a near obsession with the weather. It probably dates back to a time when we were at the mercy of the weather without any of the climate control abilities we moderns have. If it was cold, one had to start a fire. If it was hot, the best one could do was sit in the shade. Nowadays, we merely adjust the thermostat in our house, office, or automobile. But you'll still hear folks talk about how hot it is this summer, as if it is totally unexpected! Bakersfield summers will be hot.

The Bible frequently references weather, often as a metaphor for God's power and presence, as well as a literally impacting the lives of humans. In some cases, weather is seen as a manifestation of Divine power. The Great Flood illustrates God's ability to use the natural elements to enforce his will and cleanse creation from evil. In the plagues of Egypt (Exodus 9:23-26) God sends hail as a judgment against the Egyptians. (That doesn't mean that every time it hails that God is sending judgment upon the earth.) Also, the prophet Elijah proclaims a drought in Israel as a punishment for the people's idolatry (1 Kings 17:1), which lasts for three and a half years. God has control over the weather and sometimes uses it to influence human affairs.

Weather is often seen as a symbol of God's majesty and his care for us. Psalm 107 declares: “He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.” God has ability to calm the storms: to bring peace and order out of chaos. The Book of Job (37:5-6) illustrates God's omnipotence and the wonders of his creation: "God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.'"

Weather also can provide spiritual lessons to us. The importance of integrity is highlighted in Proverbs (25:14): “Like clouds and wind without rain is one who boasts of gifts never given.” The rain and snow (Isaiah 55:10-11) remind us of God's care and ability to accomplish great things. "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

My mom always likes to say “Whether it's cold or whether it's hot, there will be weather, whether or not.” We will continue to talk about the weather to each other, but the next time you complain about a hot day, maybe you can remember that throughout the Bible, weather serves as a symbol of God's power, providence, and the spiritual lessons woven into our natural world.

Pastor Jon Christenson



# Applying Bible Principles to Stewardship

In the 1970's, the world was thrown into confusion and chaos. The Middle East had oil, and the rest of the world wanted that oil. This was a crisis situation. The perception was that we were running out of oil. In reality, that wasn't the situation at all. We were not running out of oil. As Larry O'Nan described it, "The core problem was a matter of imbalance, greed, and selfishness. Competition had created an environment where we thought we needed to get something before someone else got it."

Just as perception created an illusion that the world was running out of oil, perception has created an illusion when it comes to giving to the work of the Lord and to His ministry at Redeemer Lutheran Church. The perception is that our financial resources are insufficient to enable us to give. Some of us think that we simply cannot afford to give.

But that's not the situation at all. Even poverty (something which is probably not descriptive of anyone in our midst) is not a reason for not giving to the Lord. The Christians in Macedonia were very poor. As 2 Corinthians 8:2 describes them, they were "very poor." Yet, even in that situation, they were full of joy and gave as much as they were able "and more." How could they do that?

The reason they gave abundantly, eagerly and willingly out of their extreme poverty was that "First they gave themselves to the Lord." That's the secret of giving that honors God. When we give ourselves to Him wholeheartedly and without reservation of any kind, then our financial resources will follow.

During the reign of Oliver Cromwell, the government ran out of silver with which to make coins. Cromwell sent his men everywhere to see if they could find more of the precious metal. They returned to report that the only silver they could find was in the statues of the saints which were on display in various cathedrals. "Good," replied Cromwell. "We will melt down the saints and put them into circulation."

As you consider the offering which will be received next Sunday at Redeemer Lutheran Church, and as you consider the resources God has placed at your disposal, will you be "melted down" for His service and His glory? Like the Macedonian Christians, will you first give yourself to the Lord and then allow your financial resources to follow?

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## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Our charity of the month continues to be Lutheran World Relief through June. More accurately known as Relief and Development, it is one of several benevolent services of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA has a long history of being present in communities, working to help where the needs are the greatest.

The Relief and Development work is pursued and accomplished through a variety of bold, active ministries and initiatives: (services are worldwide, USA disasters included.)

[ELCA World Hunger](#)

[HIV and AIDS Ministry](#)

[Lutheran Disaster Response](#)

[Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](#)

Each effort strives for justice, peace and change in the world, and draws its strength and effectiveness from working in partnership with others who share a common vision of serving and loving our neighbor and restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name.


# CHURCH BUSINESS

	January	February	March	April	Total
Receipts	21,416.00	13,162.00	25,963.05	13,619.00	74,160.05
Budget	16,750.83	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	67,003.35
Difference	4,665.17	(3,588.84)	9,212.21	(3,131.84)	7,156.70
Expenses	11,832.90	12,631.49	13,829.76	13,354.43	51,648.58
Budget	16,750.83	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	67,003.35
Difference	(4,917.93)	(4,119.35)	(2,921.08)	(3,396.41)	(15,354.77)
Loan Receipts	1,250.00	950.00	1,725.00	900.00	4,825.00
Loan Payments	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	4,340.00
Difference	165.00	(135.00)	640.00	(185.00)	485.00



Join us in the Fellowship Hall  
 Sunday, June 30th.  
 Dakota is treating us to an  
 Ice Cream Social!  
 SEE YOU THERE!!



I've seen better days,  
 but I've also seen worse.  
 I don't have everything that I want,  
 but I do have all I need.   
 I woke up with some aches and pains,  
 but I woke up.  
 My life may not be perfect  
 but I am blessed.

- Lessons Learned In Life

# June Activities



**LUNCH BUNCH** is Wednesday 6/5/24 @11am. Old River Grill 9000 Ming Ave. (The Marketplace). Please make reservations with Judy. All are welcome.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY AND QUILTING** are Wednesday 6/12/24 - 9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Karen will provide snacks. Please bring your own sack lunch.

**AFTERNOON CIRCLE** is Wednesday 6/19/24 @1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Mental Illness & Dementia starting with Ruth 1. Judy Olson-Peterson will bring refreshments. All ladies are invited!



**SENIOR GAME DAY** is Wednesday, June 26@ 12 noon, if you bring lunch. Games begin @ 12:30. All are welcome, (no age limits). Bring a friend!



**WINE AND DINE** is Thursday 6/27/24 @ 6pm, at The Woolgrowers Café, 620 East 19th Street. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson.



## AN INVALUABLE USE FOR YOUR WEDDING DRESS

Ladies do you have a wedding dress that has been in your closet or attic for years, taking up space—waiting for you to decide what to do with it?

There are several places that will take your wedding dress to make “Angel Gowns”, (infant burial gowns) and give them to families who have to say a final good-bye to their precious baby.

Google *Angel gowns*, or *gowns made from wedding dresses*, and you will find several places who offer this service. It’s a win-win for everyone.

## DATES TO REMEMBER



Sat. June 8  
9am



Worship & Music  
June 13 10 am  
All are welcome!



Sunday, June 23



June Evans	01
Bill Silveira	10
Mara Ziegler	10
Karen Musgrove	11
Trulaine Woken	11
Hannah Shellgren	13
Laura Haywood	16
Jamie Spillers	17
Sue Anderson	20
Dianne Ladd	23

## Happy Anniversary

Guy & Rachel Hairfield	07
Scott & Susan Petty	21
Robert & Arlene Hamstreet	23
Jack & Sherry Clayton	26

## JUNE CHARITY

Lutheran World Relief  
Please make your check payable to Redeemer with a note Lutheran World Relief.

## SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 5-9

Join us for VBS week - ask your friends to join you for a fun filled week learning about God’s Love!





**May 9th Ascension Day.** After worship Pastor Jon (on the ladder) Leith and Jack (right) tried their kite flying skills. Pie and coffee were served.



Celebrating new members Chad Evans and daughter Emily Evans-Thomas, (Pastor Jon) and Julie Griffith



← Harper and Jaxx Spillers were baptized on Sunday, May 19th.

On the right: We all celebrated this special baptism and welcomed Harper and Jaxx to our Redeemer family.



# IN HIS SERVICE

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS—JUNE 2024

Area of service	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30
Altar Guild		—————→			
Assistant to Pastor	Jan	—————→			
Flowers	Sue	Phyllis	Louise	Clayton family	Julie
Lector	Nate	Laura	Dakota	Judy	Karen
Fellowship		Judy		Nate	Dakota
Acolyte	Darynne	Emily	Maia	Darynne	Emily
Greeter	Karen	—————→			
Counters	Sue/Laura/Dakota	Sue/Laura /Dakota	Tammy /Dakota	Karen/Sue /Laura	Tammy/Sue/Laura

This schedule does not reflect changes or additions made after May 26th,



Sunday School students from left”

Emily, Darynne, Jethro, (in front), Leith, Maia, Wyatt (in front), Jaxx, Leo and Luke on the last day of Sunday School. See you all again in September.



April 24, 2024 *In Our Thoughts & Prayers*  May 26, 2024

Following is a list of our friends who have been lifted up in prayer by our faithful Prayer Warriors.

- |       |       |        |       |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| Diane | Debby | Dennis | Steve |
| Rosie | Nancy | Tim    |       |

Please know that your prayers are so very much appreciated. Thanks and Blessings to all!

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
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 Pastor: Rev. Jon Christenson ..... 832-7881 ..... Secretary: Phyllis Elrod  
 E-mail address: rlbakersfield@gmail.com



# JUNE 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1		1 A.A. 5:30
2 Worship 9:30 Coffee 10:30	3	4  Hymn sing Pacifica 3 pm	5 Lunch Bunch 11 am Pacifica worship 10-11 am	6	7	8 9 am—noon   A.A. 5:30
9 Worship 9:30 Coffee 10:30	10	11 Hymn sing Pacifica 3 pm	12 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9-3	13	14  	15  A.A. 5:30
16 Worship 9:30 Coffee hour 1030 	19  	18  Hymn sing Pacifica 3 pm	19 Pacifica worship 10-11 am	20 Wine & Dine 6:00 pm  	21	22  Glass Club - 11-1pm  A.A. 5:30
23 Worship 9:30 Coffee 10:30 Council 11:00	24	25  Hymn sing Pacifica 3 pm	26 Senior Game Day Noon	27	28  	29
30 Worship 9:30						