



Redeemer Lutheran Church



Voice of Redeemer

Volume 53—Number 07

July 2024



“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32) Truth is important for us as disciples of Christ. Of course, Jesus was speaking here of a deeper truth beyond facts, figures, and objective knowledge, but we believe that the Creator of the universe delights in our knowledge of the creation.

Johannes Kepler, the famous mathematician and astronomer, was a devout Lutheran who described his science as “merely thinking God's thoughts after him. Since we astronomers are priests of the highest God in regard to the book of nature, it benefits us to be thoughtful, not of the glory of our minds, but rather, above all else, of the glory of God.” (He is most famous for discovering that the orbits of the planets are elliptical.) Kepler is a good reminder that there is no conflict between science and religion. They both seek truth, but operate in different realms.

In preparation to a trip to Italy six years ago, Katy read a fascinating book entitled *The Sun in the Church: Cathedrals as Solar Observatories*. (One of the Cathedrals is in Milan, an exquisitely beautiful place.) Between 1650 and 1750, four Roman Catholic churches were the best solar observatories in the world. Built to fix an unquestionable date for Easter, they also housed instruments that threw light on the disputed geometry of the solar system, and so, within sight of the altar, questioned the Roman church doctrine about the order of the universe.

The book tells the tale of politically clever astronomers, priests, and bishops with a passion for mathematics. (In fact, Nicholas Copernicus, who started the ‘scientific revolution’ was a priest.) *The Sun in the Church* tells how these observatories came to be, how they worked, and what they accomplished. As you may know, the date of Easter is moveable, and is the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. These solar observatories/churches helped the church calculate those dates correctly.

The book tells of an amazingly enlightened perspective on astronomy by many in the church that is a needed corrective to oversimplified accounts of the supposed hostility between religion and science. There were many areas within the church (both Roman and Protestant) where science was well financed and astronomy and mathematics thrived. Yes, there was the famous Galileo trial, but that is only a part of the story.

The measurements at the cathedral in Milan are still so accurate that locals set their time to it. I look forward to viewing God’s wonderful creation this summer, and as you do I hope you too will reflect on Johannes Kepler’s words: "Can I find God, who in the contemplation of the entire universe I can almost feel in my hands, also in myself?"

Yours in Truth,

Pastor Jon Christenson



Applying Bible Principles to Stewardship

There are some wonderful principles in the Old Testament which apply to present-day Christians. One of these is in Deuteronomy 8:10-18. Stated in contemporary language, it says, "When you have eaten and are full, and when your cars, houses and bank accounts multiply, don't forget where it came from: Remember the Lord your God."

In truth, all that we have comes from God. He determines what we will receive, whether it be money, gold, silver, houses, land, bank accounts, stocks, bonds, etc. It all belongs to Him in the first place, and He entrusts it to us. According to David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29, riches, honor, power, and wealth all come from God.

That's why there is no such thing as a self-made man or woman. Oh, we have to do our part. God's plan is not that we just sit around praying and reading the Bible all day long so that what we need to survive will miraculously drop into our hands. We're not just to pray for our "daily Apostle Paul stated clearly, "Whoever refuses to work is not allowed to eat" (2 Thes. 3:10). But in reality, the amount of money and wealth which we receive is determined by God. According to His divine will and knowledge, He entrusts to each of us the amount which He knows will be best for us.

What should be our reaction to our financial state? Some might pray, "Dear Lord, you must have made a mistake concerning me and my finances. Please give me more money." Others might try to circumvent God's design for their lives by trying to win the lottery or to obtain large sums of money through some other means. Mature Christians, however, will realize God's infinite wisdom far surpasses their limited perspective. They will accept with a thankful spirit what God has entrusted to them and seek to honor God by their living and by their giving.

Church Directory
UPDATE →

NEW DIRECTORY

Please pick-up your copy of the latest update of our church directory, located in the Narthex. A big **THANK YOU** to Laura Haywood for many hours of work! **Good Job!!**





Come join us at camp!
Redeemer Vacation Bible School
August 5 - 9, 2024
8:30am - 12:00pm
Redeemer Lutheran Church
2525 Belle Terrace

Grades Pre-K
 through 6th

Call 661-832-7881 for
 more information

Snack and lunch
 provided!

Crafts, games, songs,
 and more!



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024 Financial Report

	January	February	March	April	May	Total
Receipts	21,416.00	13,162.00	25,963.05	13,619.00	20,898.05	95,058.10
Budget	16,750.83	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	83,754.19
Difference	4,665.17	(3,588.84)	9,212.21	(3,131.84)	4,147.21	11,303.91
Expenses	11,832.90	12,631.49	13,829.76	13,354.43	17,436.20	69,084.78
Budget	16,750.83	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	83,754.19
Difference	(4,917.93)	(4,119.35)	(2,921.08)	(3,396.41)	685.36	(14,669.41)
Loan Receipts	1,250.00	950.00	1,725.00	900.00	2,800.00	7,625.00
Loan Payments	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	5,425.00
Difference	165.00	(135.00)	640.00	(185.00)	1,715.00	2,200.00



Fellow Redeemer brothers and sisters in Christ, as summer gets underway and you find yourself elsewhere, remember the Church's mission and expenses do not go on vacation.



July 21—10:30
POTLUCK TO HONOR SCHUYLER AND SAY GOOD-BYE.

Please plan to attend to let him know how much we have appreciated his awesome talent that he has shared with us for the past 15 years!





**ARE YOU READY FOR SOME
BUNCO???**

Join Us Friday, July 12

**\$15—includes sandwiches, drinks,
snacks, dessert and BUNCO!**

Raffle tickets 6 for \$5.00

\$1.00 each

Game prizes

FUN!!!!

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

2525 BELLE TERRACE, P O BOX 13132-93389, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304

Pastor: Rev. Jon Christenson 832-7881 Secretary: Phyllis Elrod

E-mail address: rlcbakersfield@sbcglobal.net

Web site address: www.bakersfieldlutheran.org



BIRTHDAYS

Linda Gaenicke	01
Kathy Hairfield	01
Mickey Rivers	05
George Stilwill	06
Lilian Powell	15
Kelly Gelhaus	17
Judy Olson-Peterson	17
Andrew Cohen	18
David Schroeder	20
Aaron Orloff	23
Clayton Schindler	23
Carolyn Schonewise	23
Jade Gallegos	25
Sharon Vieyra	29
Pr. Donella Silveira	30



Laura & Brian Haywood	07
Nate & Sarah Olson	08
David & Linda Gaenicke	10
Gary & Karen Manes	19

HAPPENINGS IN JULY



DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, July 13
WE NEED MORE
HELPERS !

Church Council
To be announced

You're invited to
Lunch Bunch!



LUNCH BUNCH: is Wednesday 7/3/11 am @ the Black Bear- 4102 California Ave. Everyone is welcome. Make reservations with Judy.



WINE & DINE is Thursday 7/25@6 pm. More information to follow in the bulletin.



GAME DAY will be on Wednesday, July 24. 12 noon if you want to bring a sack lunch, 12:30 games begin. Bring a friend.



August 11, 2024

*Bishop Brenda Bos—SW CA Synod
will be leading worship at Redeemer.
Please plan to attend this service.*

In Our Prayers



MAY 26, 2024- JUNE 26, 2024

- DEAN WHEELER
- PAM (MICKEY'S FRIEND)
- CAYLIN
- JAMIE
- SHARON
- NANCY
- JERRY MCKNIGHT
- THE FAMILY OF LISA PIERCE

Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

CHARITY FOR JULY & AUGUST

It's soon time for school and your council has selected Evergreen School to be our charity recipient for July and August. You can bring School supplies throughout July & August.. The office workers at school call Redeemer members their special "angels" !



The VBS team is looking for volunteers to reach out to the neighborhood for VBS. The job is pretty easy— requires walking the neighborhood, placing door hangers on doors. Interested? Contact Phyllis at the church office. 661-832-7881 or Nate Olson 202-374-2211.

EVERGREEN SCHOOL

CHARITY CHOICE
JULY AND AUGUST

ITEMS NEEDED

PENCILS—CRAYONS—ERASERS

SCISSORS—PAPER—RULERS

BACK PACKS—ANY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

GIFT CARDS: TARGET (\$10) TO PURCHASE
ITEMS IN EMERGENCIES)

ALSO ACCEPTED: CASH (CHECKS PAYABLE TO
REDEEMER)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Your Council has been busy creating a wish list of projects that need addressing.

- ◆ Replace carpet in Fellowship Hall
- ◆ Replace flooring in secretary's office
- ◆ Replace lighting in kitchen, library, office and sacristy
- ◆ Routine upkeep of our facility
- ◆ Contributions Welcome!



Bunco fundraiser

Friday, July 12

VBC

August 5th—9th

Bishop Bos

Sunday, August 11

Rally Day

Sunday, September 8th

A NOTE FROM: BISHOP EATON, ELCA HEADQUARTERS—CHICAGO

Have you heard the phrase “May you live in interesting times”? Many would say we live in uncertain times, with a world experiencing war and famine, and the stress and lingering effects of the pandemic. But Bishop Eaton reminds us that, as people of the resurrection, we also live in hope. God’s love sustains us even in the most difficult times.

We live in interesting times because God’s love is always real.



AREAS OF NEEDED VOLUNTEERS



Vacation Bible School—various positions—see Nate Olson
 Church workers for work day—2nd Sat. every month—show up
 Sign-up sheets in the Narthex for monthly duties.

Gifts and raffle items for Bunco fund raiser—see Linda Cohen
 Plan to attend Bunco (7/12) - food, raffle and fun!

Sunday offering counters—Sunday coffee hour- Altar Guild (sign up in Narthex)

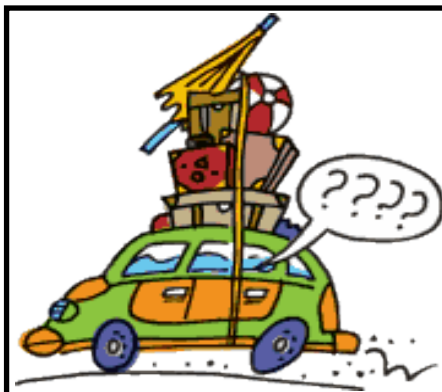
Always strive to keep the church tidy—

LAST ONE OUT BE SURE THERMOSTATS ARE OFF , DOORS LOCKED!

IN HIS SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for your help—there are sign-up sheets in the Narthex if you would like to volunteer for any of these areas,

Area of Service	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Assistant	Louise			→
Altar Guild	Louise			→
Acolyte	Emily	Darrynne	Maia	Emily
Lector	Louise	Dakota	Jan	Laura
Flowers	Haywood family	Lemley family	Phyllis	Phyllis
Greeter	Karen			→
Counters	Laura,Dakota	Karen, Dakota	Karen , Dakota	Karen, Tammy, Laura
Fellowship	Phyllis	Karen		Louise



Vacation Time!

Enjoy yourself and get some rest

Be careful -and stay safe

Come back, and join us at church!





JULY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Hymn sing at Pacifica 3 pm	3 Pacifica 10 am Lunch Bunch 11 am	4 	5	6 A.A. 5:30 pm
7 Worship 9:30 Coffee hour	8	9 Hymn sing at Pacifica 3 pm	10 Prayer Shawl Ministry & Quilting 9 am-2 pm	11	12	13 Glass Club  A.A. 5:30 pm
14 Worship 9:30 Coffee hour	15	16 Hymn sing at Pacifica 3 pm	17 Pacifica 10 am Afternoon Circle	18	19	20 Garden Club 11 am-1 pm A.A. 5:30 pm
21 Worship 9:30 Pot luck going away for Schuyler 10:30	22	23 Hymn sing at Pacifica 3 pm	24 Senior game day noon to 3 pm	25 Wine & Dine 6:15 pm	26	27 SCA 9-4 A.A. 5:30 pm
28 Worship 9:30 Coffee hour	29	30 Hymn sing at Pacifica 3 pm	31	DUE TO VACATION CONFLICTS THE COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND TIME WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER		