



Volume 54—Number 11

# Voice of Redeemer

Redeemer Lutheran Church



November 2025

Pastor's  
Thanksgiving  
Message



## Giving Thanks in All Seasons

### From the Pastor's Desk

November is always a month of gratitude. The harvest is gathered in, the air turns crisp, and Thanksgiving invites us to pause and remember God's blessings. Yet this year, our hearts hold a mix of emotions—gratitude and sadness, thanksgiving and anxiety—as our congregation prepares for a pastoral transition.

It's natural to feel uncertain when a chapter comes to a close. Change—especially in the life of a congregation—can stir up questions and worries: *What will come next? Who will lead us? How will things change?* These are faithful questions, because they come from love for this community and a deep desire to see it thrive.

But even in seasons of uncertainty, God's Word reminds us, "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God*" (Philippians 4:6). Notice that St. Paul links thanksgiving with trust. Gratitude isn't only for the easy seasons; it's an act of faith in the midst of change. When we give thanks, we proclaim that God has been faithful in the past—and will continue to be faithful in the days ahead.

As I prepare to step away after these many years together, my heart overflows with thanksgiving for you—the people who have prayed, served, laughed, and worshiped alongside me. I give thanks for the baptisms and funerals, the confirmations and pot-lucks, the quiet prayers and joyful songs that have filled these years with meaning. Most of all, I give thanks for the steadfast presence of Christ who has walked with us every step of the way.

This congregation belongs to God. Christ is the true Shepherd of the Church, and he will guide you through this time of transition toward a new season of ministry and mission. Give thanks for what has been, and trust the One who makes all things new.

May this Thanksgiving be filled with peace that passes understanding, gratitude that steadies anxious hearts, and faith that looks forward with hope.

In Christ's love and peace,

Pastor Jon Christenson



# Applying Bible Principles

## Stewardship and Thanksgiving Day: Living with Grateful Hearts

As the leaves fall and Thanksgiving Day approaches, we are reminded that gratitude is more than a moment at the dinner table—it's a way of life. For Christians, thanksgiving is not just an annual holiday; it is the posture of a faithful heart. Every prayer, every act of service, and every gift we offer becomes a reflection of our gratitude to God, who has given us everything we have and are.

Stewardship is, at its core, thanksgiving in action. When we speak of “stewardship,” we often think of budgets, pledges, and church finances. But true stewardship begins long before the offering plate is passed. It starts in the recognition that all we have—our time, talents, possessions, and even our very breath—are gifts from God, entrusted to our care. We are not owners but caretakers, invited to use God's gifts for God's purposes.

Thanksgiving calls us to remember how richly God has blessed us. In Deuteronomy, the people of Israel were told to bring the first fruits of their harvest and present them before the Lord with these words: “*Now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me*” (Deuteronomy 26:10). Their offering was not payment, but praise. Likewise, our offerings—whether given in worship, in service, or in kindness to others—are expressions of gratitude for the abundance of God's grace.

This season, as we gather around our tables and give thanks for family, food, and fellowship, let us also pause to consider how we might live thankfully every day. How might we share our blessings with those in need? How might we give our time to strengthen our community of faith? How might we make gratitude visible through generosity?

Thanksgiving and stewardship are two sides of the same coin: one recognizes the gifts, and the other puts them to work. Together, they form a life shaped by grace—a life that joyfully responds, “Thank you, Lord, for all you have done.”

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.” — *Psalm 107:1*



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025 Financial Report

January    February    March    April    May    June    July    August    Sept.    Total

Receipts	31,956.00	15,890.50	19,084.00	9,335.80	18,360.50	17,167.00	15,757.00	15,424.45	15,022.00	157,997.25
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	144,622.53
Difference	15,886.83	(178.67)	3,014.83	(6,733.37)	2,291.33	1,097.83	(312.17)	(644.72)	(1,047.17)	13,374.72
Expenses	22,802.93	18,314.52	13,447.73	13,494.11	12,976.48	15,559.09	16,480.98	18,563.09	12,885.52	144,524.45
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	144,622.53
Difference	(6,733.76)	(2,245.35)	2,621.44	2,575.06	3,092.69	510.08	(411.81)	(2,493.92)	3,183.65	98.08

Total	9,153.07	(2,424.02)	5,636.27	(4,158.31)	5,384.02	1,607.91	(723.98)	(3,138.64)	2,136.48	13,472.80
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Compared to Budget

Loan Receipts	1,550.00	1,575.00	1,575.00	1,725.00	1,500.00	1,450.00	1,400.00	1,600.00	1,200.00	13,575.00
Loan Payments	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	9,765.00
Difference	465.00	490.00	490.00	640.00	415.00	365.00	315.00	515.00	115.00	3,810.00

Total All	9,618.07	(1,934.02)	6,126.27	(3,518.31)	5,799.02	1,972.91	(408.98)	(2,623.64)	2,251.48	17,282.80
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**IT'S TIME TO ROLL THE DICE  
WE'RE TALKING BUNCO!**

**Friday, November 7th—5:30**

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—2525 Belle Terrace**

**FOOD, FUN, PRIZES ALL FOR \$15.00**

**RAFFLES—TICKETS 1/\$1.00 OR 6 FOR \$5.00**



**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](mailto:rlcbakersfield@sbcglobal.net)      Web site address: [www.bakersfieldlutheran.org](http://www.bakersfieldlutheran.org)**



# NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS



Sat. November 8th  
Please help if possible.



**LUNCH BUNCH:** is Wednesday, Nov. 5th. at Old River Grill Marketplace, 9000 Ming Ave. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson.



November 16  
6:00 pm



- |                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Leo Olson</b>        | <b>01</b> |
| <b>Jillian Uecker</b>   | <b>02</b> |
| <b>Maia Olson</b>       | <b>04</b> |
| <b>Becky Grove</b>      | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Hudson Hairfield</b> | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Mark Smith</b>       | <b>22</b> |
| <b>Taryn Grove Watt</b> | <b>24</b> |



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|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Bill &amp; Lucy Saltzman</b>      | <b>02</b> |
| <b>Pastor &amp; Katy Christenson</b> | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Mark &amp; Louise Hall</b>        | <b>17</b> |
| <b>Mark &amp; Tammy Smith</b>        | <b>21</b> |
| <b>David &amp; Christa Schroeder</b> | <b>27</b> |

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY & QUILTING** will meet on Wednesday, 11/12/25; 9 am— 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us for knitting/crocheting prayer shawls, blankets or quilts. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy fellowship with friends. Tammy Poyner will provide snacks.

**AFTERNOON CIRCLE** will be on Wed., Nov. 19 at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Stewardship from Luke 12:48 & Gather Magazine. Phyllis Elrod will provide refreshments. All ladies are invited!

**WINE & DINE:** will not meet in Nov. & Dec. due to the holidays.



**SENIOR GAMES** are Wednesday 11-26-25 Noon for Bring Your Own Lunch & 12:30pm for games.

Remember to turn  
your clocks back  
one hour  
Saturday night—  
November 1



Thanksgiving

AS THIS NEWSLETTER GOES TO PRESS , THANKSGIVING WORSHIP IS UNCERTAIN. PLEASE WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR INFORMATION. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED !



THE SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS  
NOVEMBER 30  
Evening Vespers  
Dec. 3, 10 and 17  
6:45 pm

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Christmas Eve is Wednesday, Dec. 24

## A NOTE FROM YOUR COUNCIL:

“So what happens now?”, a phrase that we hear a lot regarding Redeemer. We want to assure you that we are already working on that very thing. First of all, contact with the Synod office is set in place and they are there to help us—there is procedure for this which Bishop Bos will explain to the council Monday, Oct. 27, to answer our questions and get the ball rolling. She is also going to be here on Dec. 14th and will be available to take your questions then. Pastor Bryan Woken will be doing our worship on Christmas Eve and Sunday Service, Dec. 24 and 28.

Redeemer is a strong congregation. We can do this, and with the help and guidance from those whom God has placed to show us the way, we will! Please pray for your council and Redeemer.

Jan Lemley, President

## CHARITY FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

*ENDLESS HOPE AND CARE TO GIVE* is the motto of Mercy Ships—since over 50% of the world’s population lives near a coast, ships are the best way to reach people in need with personalized, state-of-the-art medical care. The care is free and most of the hospital staff either donate their time and talent or do so at much less than average wages for their profession. Make your checks out to Redeemer with a note to Mercy Ships.



## IN HIS SERVICE—NOVEMBER

**ALTAR GUILD:** Louise & Phyllis

**PASTOR’S ASS’T:** Louise Juracek-Hall

**FLOWERS:** Nov. 2—Olson family  
Nov. 9—Laura Haywood  
Nov. 16—Julie Griffith  
Nov. 23—Smith family  
Nov. 30—Louise Hall

**READER:** Nov. 2—Judy  
Nov. 9—Judy  
Nov. 16—Bruce  
Nov. 23—Karen  
Nov. 30—Louise

**COFFEE HOUR:** Nov. 2— .....  
Nov. 9—Judy  
Nov. 16— .....  
Nov. 23—Phyllis  
Nov. 30—Tammy & Mark

**ACOLYTE:** Nov. 5—Maia Olson  
Nov. 9—Darynne  
Nov. 16—Leo  
Nov. 23—Leith  
Nov. 30—Emily

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

Sept. 27, 2025



Oct. 25, 2025

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

Rosie Baker	Robert and Arlene	Greg
Jennifer’s Dad	Nicco	Phyllis
Frances (Phyllis)	Zach	Cassidy, Lex &
Gary Manes	Louise	baby

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

**PASTOR JON BLESSED THE FURRY FRIENDS PICTURED BELOW AS WE REMEMBER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND HIS LOVE OF ANIMALS**



Mickey and Sunka



Jan and Gigi



Dakota and Money Penny



Sue and Reno



Caitlin and Tobias



Boo at the Zoo, Sat., Oct. 25 was attended by Marlana (front) Dakota (left), Judy, next -who knows? And John. A lovely day, lots of costumes, fun times.

# November 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>9:30 worship Fellowship 10:30 S.S. 11:00-11:30</p>	3	4	<p>5</p> <p>Lunch Bunch 11 am</p> <p>Riverstone Terrace 10-11 am</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Bible Study 1:30</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>Work day 9 am Garden Club 9am—noon</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30 worship Fellowship 10:30 S.S. 11:00-11:30</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>Sing A-long Riverstone Terrace 3 pm</p> <p>Al-Anon 6:30</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Quilting 9 am—2 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Worship &amp; Music 10 am</p> <p>Bible Study 1:30</p>	14	15
<p>16</p> <p>9:30 Worship Fellowship 10:30 S.S. 11:00-11:30</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>Sing A-long Riverstone Terrace 3 pm</p> <p>Al-Anon 6:30</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Afternoon Circle 1:30 pm</p> <p>Riverstone Terrace 10-11 am</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Bible Study 1:30</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>Glass Club 11am—2 pm</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30 Worship Fellowship 10:30 S.S. 11:00-11:30</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>Sing A-long Riverstone Ter- race 3 pm</p> <p>Al-Anon 6:30</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 pm - pie Watch bulletin for information</p>	<p>27</p>	28	29
<p>30</p> <p>Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 S.S. 11:00-11:30</p>	<p>First Sunday of Advent</p>		<p>NATIONAL B I B L E W E E K</p> <p>Nov. 23-29</p>			