



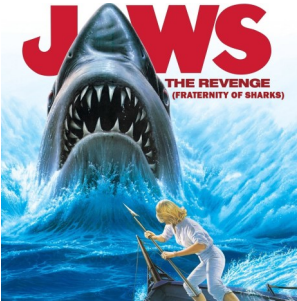
Redeemer Lutheran Church

Voice of Redeemer



Volume 54—Number 08

August 2025



“Jaws at 50: Fear, Faith, and Facing the Deep”

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of *Jaws*, the blockbuster film released in the summer of 1975. I was in junior high back then and the film made me afraid to go swimming at the San Diego beaches! Directed by Steven Spielberg, *Jaws* became a cultural phenomenon. It’s even going to be re-released in theaters this month. But beyond the suspense, the music, and the unforgettable shark, *Jaws* tells a story that still resonates with our lives today—especially through the lens of faith.

The plot is simple: a great white shark terrorizes a seaside town. The local police chief, a marine biologist, and a grizzled fisherman set out to stop it. But as the story unfolds, the real drama is not just about the shark—it’s about how people respond to fear.

In a way, *Jaws* is a modern parable. Fear drives people to deny danger, shift blame, and protect profits over people. Sound familiar? Just like in Scripture, we see how fear distorts judgment and leads to poor decisions. The Bible is full of stories where people, faced with fear, had to make a choice: trust God, or trust in themselves.

Consider the disciples on the Sea of Galilee, caught in a storm, terrified that they will drown. Jesus sleeps through it all. When they wake him in panic, he says, “*Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?*” (Mark 4:40). It’s not so different from Chief Brody’s journey in *Jaws*. At first overwhelmed, he ultimately finds courage not in brute force but in facing the truth and doing what is right, no matter how terrifying the deep may be.

Fifty years later, *Jaws* reminds us of how fear can grow into something monstrous when left unchecked—but also how courage, community, and sacrifice can overcome it. In our own lives, we face many kinds of “sharks”—illness, loss, division, and anxiety about the future. But as Christians, we are not called to run from the water. We are called to step forward in faith, knowing that Christ is already in the boat with us.

So the next time you hear that unforgettable music or see the fin cutting through the waves, take a moment to ask: What am I afraid of? And where is Jesus in that fear?

Here’s to 50 years of *Jaws*—and to a faith that is bigger than whatever swims beneath the surface.

—Pastor Jon Christenson





Applying Bible Principles to Stewardship

When Jesus Christ becomes Savior and Lord of a person's life, a new creation takes place (2 Cor. 5:17). Old things truly pass away, and new things take their place. This is nowhere more visible than with a person's outlook on money and material possessions.

Take Zacchaeus, for example. Here was a man who had made it to the top. He was literally "king of the hill" as he looked down over the city of Jericho. But the respect, friendship and status that Zacchaeus longed for had eluded him as people from all walks of life despised him. After all, he was the chief tax collector.

But when Jesus entered the life of this little man, the allegiance which Zacchaeus knew changed. He was no longer under the control of the world system as defined by Caesar. Now, he was accountable to Christ.

As Ken Gire points out in *Intimate Moments with the Savior*,

... his soul knows that account isn't good. The ledger is filled with entries of money extorted, money under the table, money skimmed off the top, money, money, money. That's the bottom line for Zacchaeus. The bottom line of a bankrupt life. But the Savior isn't looking for an audit. . . .Jesus is moved with compassion. . . .From behind the barriers he has erected around his heart, a flood of repentant feelings bursts forth. . . .What took a lifetime to accumulate, one sentence of devotion liquidates. And not by a token ten percent. Half to the poor. Fourfold to the defrauded. Look closely. Witness the miracle: a camel passing through the eye of a needle.

As Christians, those who proclaim by that title that we are children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, our perspective on life should be different than non-Christians. How we acquire money, how we use it, and how we give it away should mark us as being followers of Christ. And just as Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus into his home gladly following that life-changing encounter at the sycamore tree, we should welcome Christ's presence in our lives gladly, with great joy as He alters the way we give.

J. Alan Youngren wrote, "When we begin to give out of some legalistic need to perform as Christians, we are well on the way toward frustration and defeat in our stewardship. Before long this attitude can lead to carelessness in giving, then reduction in giving and, finally, defeat in other areas of our spiritual lives."

Or as Wayne Watts put it: "Giving is the friend of wealth, for with it comes joy and fulfillment rather than disappointment

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

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IN HIS SERVICE

| Area of Service | August 3 | August 10 | August 17 | August 24 | August 31 |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Pastor's Assistant | Jan | | | | |
| Acolyte | Maia | Leith | Darynne | Leo | Maia |
| Altar Guild | Judy | | | | |
| Lector | Louise | Tammy | Judy | Bruce | Louise |
| Greeter | | | | | |
| Fellowship | | Tammy | Lemley/Clayton/Karen | | |
| Counters | Karen/ | Karen/ | | Karen/ | Karen |
| Flowers | Phyllis | Linda | Lemleys | Becky | |

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025 Financial Report

| | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | Total |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Receipts | 31,956.00 | 15,890.50 | 19,084.00 | 9,335.80 | 18,360.50 | 17,167.00 | | 111,793.80 |
| Budget | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 112,484.19 |
| Difference | 15,886.83 | (178.67) | 3,014.83 | (6,733.37) | 2,291.33 | 1,097.83 | (16,069.17) | (690.39) |
| Expenses | 22,802.93 | 18,314.52 | 13,447.73 | 13,494.11 | 12,976.48 | 15,559.09 | | 96,594.86 |
| Budget | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 16,069.17 | 112,484.19 |
| Difference | (6,733.76) | (2,245.35) | 2,621.44 | 2,575.06 | 3,092.69 | 510.08 | 16,069.17 | 15,889.33 |
| Total Compared to Budget | 9,153.07 | (2,424.02) | 5,636.27 | (4,158.31) | 5,384.02 | 1,607.91 | 0.00 | 15,198.94 |
| Loan Receipts | 1,550.00 | 1,575.00 | 1,575.00 | 1,725.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,450.00 | 1,050.00 | 10,425.00 |
| Loan Payments | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 1,085.00 | 7,595.00 |
| Difference | 465.00 | 490.00 | 490.00 | 640.00 | 415.00 | 365.00 | (35.00) | 2,830.00 |
| Total All | 9,618.07 | (1,934.02) | 6,126.27 | (3,518.31) | 5,799.02 | 1,972.91 | (35.00) | 18,028.94 |

A REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER

Summer continues per the seasonal calendar. With summer comes higher temperatures. That means cooling will probably be needed when attending the church property. Please remember if you turned on fans and AC units while working at the church (and fellowship hall), to turn them back off when leaving.

Appreciate your consideration in this matter. Bruce

The following prayer reminder is from Vera Freebourn, manager of our prayer partner prayer tree in PA.

There are so many needs and hurts in this world. This post is just incase someone needs it.



So many times,
when we reach the end
of our rope, we turn to prayer,
but when our prayers are not
instantly answered, we give up.

Tonight, I want to encourage
you not only to pray, but pray
persistently. Don't stress out trying
to make things happen on your own,
give it all to God as you pray.

Remember, He promises that when
we seek Him, we will find Him.

Let's pray and seek Him
with all our hearts.

Amen

BIBLE WORDSEARCH

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | C | A | W | M | Z | D | C | E | A |
| O | W | R | L | A | G | I | G | G | N |
| T | C | K | F | R | H | O | L | Y | G |
| D | O | L | O | R | D | S | E | V | E |
| R | W | B | A | P | E | B | W | R | L |
| A | D | A | M | K | E | D | E | N | P |
| A | T | J | U | M | T | Z | N | I | Y |
| A | F | A | I | T | H | R | O | J | X |
| I | Q | W | W | S | P | V | A | R | E |
| F | M | L | G | O | D | W | H | Q | X |



WORD LIST

| | |
|-------|-------|
| ADAM | FAITH |
| ANGEL | GOD |
| ARK | HOLY |
| EDEN | LORD |
| EVE | NOAH |

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY



AUGUST 4-8

8:30 am—12:30 pm

Join us on a journey with God





AUGUST HAPPENINGS



LUNCH BUNCH: is cancelled for August, we will meet on Wed., 9/3, 11 am @ El Sombrero, 2731 M St. Reservations with Judy.

QUILTING AND PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet Aug. 13, 9-3pm. Tammy P. will furnish snacks, bring your own lunch. Knitting machine class begins at 9 am. Please join us in these ministries.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE is Wednesday 8/20 @1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss *Relationships That Sustain Us* from the *Bible & Gather* magazine. Judy Olson-Peterson will provide refreshments. All ladies are invited!



WINE & DINE is Thursday 8/28 @6 pm. Chef Lino's Prime, 11350 Ming Avenue. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson.

GAME DAY will be on Wednesday, Aug. 27, 12 noon if you want to bring a sack lunch, 12:30 games begin. Bring a friend.

June 27, 2025



July 26, 2025

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

| | |
|-------|-------|
| Sam | Karen |
| Susie | Zack |

Please know that your Prayers are sincerely appreciated.



Adult Bible Study will begin again in September. Stay tuned for information on where and when.

DATES TO REMEMBER



Worship & Music
will not meet in August.
Next meeting in September.



Sat. August 10, 9 am
"Many hands make light work!"



Church Council will meet
Sunday, August 24
@11 am



| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Jennifer Allen | 07 |
| Brian Haywood | 07 |
| Gary Manes | 11 |
| Lily Dommer | 14 |
| Lyda Barger | 17 |
| Dylan Christenson | 25 |
| Louise Hall | 25 |
| Carlotta Quashnick | 25 |
| Caroline Reid | 28 |
| Randy Fok | 29 |

Happy Anniversary

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Pastor Donella & Bill Silveira | 02 |
| Judy & Andy Cantrell | 07 |
| Jan & John Lemley | 15 |
| Kevin & Hollie Schindler | 26 |

Rally Day Kick off

Save the date!

Sept. 7th

Bring your friends to Sunday School!



Pictured above: Max Wikoff receiving the sacrament of Holy Baptism from Pastor Jon. Mom Audrey was his sponsor, pictured left, Louise holding the



Pictured from left: Chuck Waugh, Mom Autumn; Max; Caiden Calvin—friend; Ashlen—sister; Jennifer; friend. Ready to celebrate Max's Baptism.

Editor's note: *Below is a testimonial that Max wrote and posted on Facebook. Reprinted in part, with his permission.*

"I, Maximus Austin Auzzie Wikoff, was dedicated to God at the age of two at Parkside Church as a Non-Denominational Christian. Now, earlier today, at the age of fifteen, I have been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit at Redeemer Lutheran Church as an Evangelical Lutheran in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on July 20th, 2025, at 10:13 AM by Pastor Jon Christenson.

I am a Lutheran ✠ ☩

I am a child of Christ Jesus ☩ ☩ ☩

I would like to thank everyone for this moment—especially my mother, Autumn Wikoff-Waugh, who has been there for me my whole life. She has affirmed and loved me for who I am, taken care of me, shown me God, and helped shape my outlook on spirituality—which is a gift that is so powerful and important that it cannot be replaced. I lovddde you so much, Mom

To my sister, Ashlen Wikoff—my best friend throughout every hardship—you have stood by me, loved me, not only like a sibling, but as a true sibling in Christ. I love you so much, Sissy.

To The Rev. Jon R Christenson—thank you for making this moment possible.

And most of all, I thank my Lord God Christ Jesus—for everything leading up to this moment, and for everything to come.

Thank you, Father. I love you with all my heart. I pledge my complete and utter allegiance to you. I will always be there for you because I know that you will always be there for me.

To anyone my age—or to anyone who has ears to hear, or knows someone my age—I want to tell you this: faith is alive. God is not distant. In fact, He is closer than He has ever been. For His only Son, Christ Jesus was sacrificed so that God could be with us always. He is near. He is patient. He is present—even when we're not looking for Him.

I am who I am, and I have found that God's grace makes no exceptions. I've been shown that the love of Christ is wide enough for all people—even me. 'The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen' "

(Rev. 22:21)



AUGUST 2025



Purple

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|------------------------------|--------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Coffee hour | 4 VBS daily 8:30-12:30 | 5 Al-Anon 6:30 | 6 | 7 Purple Heart Day | 8 | 9 Garden Club 9:30—1:30 Work Day 9-noon |
| 10 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Coffee hour | 11 | 12 Sing-a-long @ Riverstone Terrace 3pm Al-Anon 6:30 | 13 Quilting and prayer shawl ministry 9-3 pm School Starts | 14 | 15 | 16 Glass Club 9—noon |
| 17 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Coffee hour | 18 | 19 Sing-a-long @ Riverstone Terrace 3pm Al-Anon 6:30 | 20 Afternoon Bible Study 1:30 Riverstone Terrace 10 am | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Council 11 am 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Coffee hour | 25 | 26 Sing-a-long @ River- stone Terrace 3pm Al-Anon 6:30 | 27 Senior Game Day 12 noon Bring your own lunch 12:30 games | 28 Wine & Dine 6:00 pm | 29 | 30 |