



# Voice of Redeemer

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## WHY LENT?



Lent is a valuable time for God’s people to focus on Christ and his suffering and death. That’s the essential element of Lent. Lent sharpens our focus on what God has given to us through the cross of Christ.

That starts when the law of God brings into stark view what has caused his bloody death: our sins. We bow our heads as the publican in the temple did and pray, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner” ([Luke 18:13](#)).

But Lent does not leave us in anguish and hopeless fear. The gospel raises our eyes to the cross where we see that Jesus has paid fully for our sins. Jesus said, “It is finished” ([John 19:30](#)). Recognizing that we are sinners, we go home with the comfort that we are justified—loved and forgiven by God because of Jesus. We offer God our praise and are filled with a renewed desire to serve him as dear children.

But sin does not disappear from our lives. Like children we find the law accuses us daily for careless failures as well as for unloving and defiant disobedience. We discover that once we hear the gospel we struggle to be obedient children. Sin still lives within us. Like Paul we know, “I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing” ([Romans 7:19](#)). We are forgiven children but still disobedient—saints and sinners at the same time. So we return to the gospel—the Savior’s cross—for forgiveness and strength to renew our efforts to be the children God has made us.

We cannot earn his love and acceptance. Peter stumbled miserably, and so did all the other disciples as they fled into the night. But Jesus embraced them in forgiveness. That forgiveness made them ready to serve. Reminders of his forgiveness sustained them in the years ahead as they, like us, struggled to live as disciples and children of God. Each Lenten season, we come to the cross, humbled by our sins but then rejoicing that God has done what we could not do even after we know Jesus. Only the cross brings forgiveness and strength to live as God’s children.

Here’s where the distortion of Lent comes into view. “What are you giving up for Lent?” If you give something up for Lent so that you can think more often and more clearly about what Christ has done, there is no distortion. But if you think that giving up something for Lent makes you worthy of forgiveness and God’s approval, your picture is blurred. Your vision shifts from the cross and God’s undeserved gift.

Lent is a human practice; it’s not an ordinance from God. When we think that we can offer God anything for the gift of the cross, we are mistaken. Lent helps us focus not on what we can do for God but on the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation that God freely gives to all sinners.

When we understand this, we come back to the cross for comfort and strength, not just at Lent, but regularly in our worship throughout the church year.

Author: John A. Braun



# Applying Bible Principles

The vast majority of people like to excel at something. Most of us like to do what we do in a manner that is truly first-class. Whether we are involved in one of the trades, or whether we are working in a profession, we like to excel in what we do.

Similarly, in the Christian life, most of us like to demonstrate our love for the Lord in ways that will reflect properly on Him and that will bring honor to Him. As His servants, we take great care that our Christian service is of such quality that what we do for His sake is first-class. Thus, whether we sing a solo in a worship service at church, prepare a meal for someone who is a shut-in, or teach a Bible class, we strive to do what we do for God in the very best way possible.

The Apostle Paul indicates we are also to excel in the grace of giving. "You are so rich in all you have: in faith, speech, and knowledge, in your eagerness to help and in your love for us. And so we want you to be generous also in this service of love" (2 Cor. 8:7). In other words, just as we might seek to excel in other ways which demonstrate our Christian faith in action, we are also to excel in the "service of love" through giving.

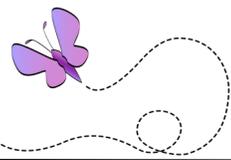
In the context of the verse we just read, Paul commends the Macedonian Christians for giving as much as they were able and more. When we follow their example, we experience "grace giving" in action, not only giving as we are able, but also, giving beyond our ability. This is possible only as we demonstrate the fruit of the Christian life by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. As we step out by faith (which is one of the signs of a Spirit-controlled life), we are able to give in ways which might seem improbable or impossible at first. The Spirit of God thereby motivates us and compels us to excel in the grace of giving!

One anonymous writer penned these powerful words: "God has a storehouse of blessings. Prayer is the key to that storehouse. But faith both turns the key and unlocks the door." Are you excelling in the grace of giving? If not, why not take God at His Word, by faith, and begin today?

## IN HIS SERVICE

Service	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Altar Guild	Becky Grove	—————→			
Acolyte	Emily	Leo	Darynne	Maia	Leith
Assistant	Louise	—————→			
Flowers	Lemley family	Linda Cohen	Sue Anderson	Judy Peterson	Nate Olson
Reader	Nate	Randy	Laura	Jan	Louise
Greeter	Karen	—————→			
Coffee Hour	Nate	Tammy	Jan		
Counters	Sue	—————			

**NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE DOES NOT REFLECT CHANGES MADE AFTER FEB. 26**



# MARCH NOTES

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**BUNCO—March 13, 5:30 pm**



**LUNCH BUNCH** : is Wednesday 3/4/26 11am at Mossman's Kitchen, 3300 Buena Vista Road. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson.



**WORK DAY**  
Sat. March 14 - 9am



**WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE** is Thursday, 3/12 @10 am in the Library. All are welcome.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY/QUILTING** will meet on Wednesday, 3/11 from 9-3 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us in making quilts, knitting, crocheting prayer shawls. Enjoy fellowship with friends. Karen will furnish snacks bring your own lunch.



March 15  
11am

**AFTERNOON CIRCLE:** Afternoon Circle is Wednesday 3/18 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Praying with the Body of Earth from Daniel 3 & Gather magazine. Lyda Barger will provide refreshments. All are invited.



- David Gaenicke 04**
- Christa Schroeder 05**
- Jillian Hunter 07**
- Dakota Warren 09**
- Lilly Christenson 10**
- Greyson Fitzgerald 13**
- Kevin Schindler 16**
- Shawn Hunter 27**



**SENIOR GAME DAY** : is Wednesday 3/25/26 @noon if you bring your own lunch & 12:30pm to play games in the Fellowship Hall.



**Wine & Dine** is Thursday 3-26-26 @6pm. Please watch the church bulletin for place & host.

## TABLE PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

Blessed are you, O God, giver of all.  
 You adorn our tables with food  
 and give companionship for our journeys.  
 Be present with us as we are fed in body and  
 spirit that our sharing of this meal may be a  
 sign of your life broken and  
 shared for the world.  
 In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



**SET YOUR CLOCK AHEAD BEFORE YOU GO TO BED MARCH 14**



**SAVE THESE DATES**  
Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25  
We will have soup suppers at 6 pm, followed by Lenten vespers at 6:45



Pictured above are Wyatt, Luke, Penelope, and Daphne, who delighted us with their musical gifts at Sunday service, singing: *This Little Light of Mine*. Good job!, enjoyed by all!



Pictured above: Pastor Bryan introduces and Blesses, Jack Clayton, Laura Haywood and Dakota Warren, (along with Julie Griffith pictured below with her granddaughter,) the newly appointed Transition Team—the first step in the process of finding a Pastor.



Redeemer is currently blessed with 7 Acolytes. From left to right, above: Jaxx Spillers, Leo Olson, Jethro Griffith, Lieth Coomer, Maia Olson, Darynne Coomer and Emily Evans. Karen Musgrove is the coordinator and instructor.



Pictured above is our newly elected Council: Randy Fok, Becky Grove, Julie Griffith, Vernon Fike, Mary Ellen Saldana, Jan Lemley, Bruce Wearda and Sue Anderson. Pastor Bryan installed the Council on Sunday, Feb. 1st.



Members ready to enjoy pancakes at our first Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper, held Feb. 17th. We hope to make this a tradition always on Fat Tuesday—also known as: Shrove Tuesday, and Mardi Gras - the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.



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

**Join Us Friday, March 13—5:30 pm**

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

**Raffle tickets 6 for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each**

**Raffles—Game prizes**

**FUN!!!!**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS!**

**A WORD FROM YOUR TRANSITION TEAM**

Questionnaires that you responded to, were gathered and evaluated. The Team shares the results with you:

1. Majority believes we cannot afford a full time Pastor.
2. You request updates by email or news letter, monthly.

**BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS**

When Pastor Jon cleaned out his office, he left most of his books with instructions to do what we want with them.

His office will be open every Sunday in March. Please feel free to stop in and see if there are some books that you need in your library.



**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@gmail.com Web site address: www.bakersfieldlutheran.org**



# Jesus gives us *life*

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

*Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.*

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)

Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)

Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)

This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)

Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)

Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)

Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)

While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)

This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)

These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)

These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)

Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)



Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, linens, silver coins



Prayer requests from Jan. 25—Feb. 26

Carol

Rosie

Frank

R.L.

Leticia

Pam

Judi

Elmo

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



# MARCH 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship 9:30 am S.S. 10:30 Coffee Hr. 10:30	2	3 Sing along Riverstone Terrace 3 pm Al-Anon 7 pm	4 Lunch Bunch 11 Soup Supper 6 pm Vespers 6:45 pm 	5	6  World Day of Prayer	7  Spring Forward
8 Worship 9:30 am S.S. 10:30 Coffee Hr. 10:30 Daylight time	9	10 Al-Anon 7 pm	11 Prayer Shawl/ guilting 9-3 pm Soup Supper 6 pm Vespers 6:45 pm 	12	13 BUNCO 5:30 PM 	14 Work Day 9 am
15 Worship 9:30 am S.S. 10:30 Coffee Hr. 10:30	16	17 	18 Afternoon Bible Study Soup Supper 6 pm Vespers 6:45 pm 	19	20	21 Garden Club 9-2 
22 Worship 9:30 am S.S. 10:30 Coffee Hr. 10:30	23	24 Al-Anon 7 pm	25 Soup Supper 6 pm Vespers 6:45 pm 	26 Wine & Dine 6 pm	27	28 Glass Club 10:30-2:30
29 Worship 9:30 am S.S. 10:30 Coffee Hr. 10:30 Palm Sunday	30	31 Al-Anon 7 pm				

