



Redeemer Lutheran Church



Voice of Redeemer

Volume 55—Number 09

September 2026



It's hard to believe that we are starting our 9th month of worship and activities at Redeemer without a full-time pastor—and we have so much to be thankful for!

Reflecting on our journey, first and foremost is the willingness of our supply pastor's to step-up and continue being our worship leaders. Pastors Bryan, Max and Donella have continued to be our faithful Supply Pastor's since day-1, and we do so very much appreciate their dedication to Redeemer.

Our Fellowship Hall and Little Chapel continue to be shared with other organizations in need of space to carry out their activities.

We continue to enjoy Lunch Bunch, the first Wednesday, Quilting and Prayer Shawl Ministry the 2nd. Wednesday; Ladies Bible study, the 3rd. Wed. and game day the 4th. Wednesday of each month. Also Wine and Dine continues to meet the 4th Thursday, as does a small group pot-luck/Bible Study, which meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings. All of these groups are open to any and all who are interested .

Your Congregation Council continues to work at keeping Redeemer strong. The Transition Team is working with Pastor Gathje, in Nebraska, in the pre-work needed to facilitate a Call Committee in search of a Pastor for Redeemer. Our new office secretary, Dakota, has been and is efficient and so helpful as we "transition".

We are delighted to welcome new members; Benny and Gisella Thomas, River Navarro and baby Maverick, baptized member.

With sorrowful hearts, we have said good-bye to Gladys Johnson and Becky Grove.

We are thankful that you have continued to faithfully attend and support Redeemer. Attendance is stable, financially we appreciate your continued support. (Please see page 2). Bishop Bos is pleased with our "State of Redeemer" , as we continue moving along . We give thanks to God for His guidance and sending supply Pastor's to lead worship, and we thank YOU for your continued faithfulness and support!



Pictured to the left are the kiddos enjoying Pastor Bryan's Children's Sermon.

Peace and Blessings!

Jan

FROM THE TREASURER

[REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH](#)

2025 Financial Report

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	Total
Receipts	11,945.00	19,753.00	17,244.00	18,093.37	18,486.40	15,984.03	25,910.00	127,415.80
Budget	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	113,022.00
Difference	(4,201.00)	3,607.00	1,098.00	1,947.37	2,340.40	(161.97)	9,764.00	14,393.80

Expenses	8,509.31	12,044.73	6,930.35	9,888.87	12,491.64	9,618.86	11,805.71	71,289.47
Budget	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	113,022.00
Difference	7,636.69	4,101.27	9,215.65	6,257.13	3,654.36	6,527.14	4,340.29	41,732.53

Total	3,435.69	7,708.27	10,313.65	8,204.50	5,994.76	6,365.17	14,104.29	56,126.33
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Compared to Budget

Loan Re-ceipts	1,480.00	1,530.00	1,720.00	1,400.00	1,450.00	1,300.00	1,400.00	10,280.00
Loan Pay-ments	1,085.00	6,420.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	12,930.00
Difference	395.00	(4,890.00)	635.00	315.00	365.00	215.00	315.00	(2,650.00)

Total All	3,830.69	2,818.27	10,948.65	8,519.50	6,359.76	6,580.17	14,419.29	53,476.33
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Loan

\$ 21,602.32



CHARITY FOR SEPTEMBER IS DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) was founded in 1971 in France by a group of doctors and journalists in the wake of war and famine in Biafra, Nigeria. Their aim was to establish an independent organization that focused on delivering emergency medical humanitarian aid quickly, effectively, and impartially.

Three hundred volunteers made up the organization when it was founded, including doctors, nurses, logistics experts, and other staff, including the 13 founding members. MSF was established on the belief that all people should have access to high quality health care, regardless of gender, race, religion, creed, or political affiliation. From the start, our teams made a commitment not just to care for patients but to bear witness to their experiences and speak out to call attention to the problems driving emergency needs.

Donations: Checks to Redeemer with note: "Doctors Without Borders"

CELEBRATING AMERICA

The following pictures are from Bruce Wearda and all centered around the 4th of July and the 250th Birthday of America! Bruce, attending the celebration with members of SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) enjoyed being a part of our 250th birthday, in spite of extremely hot and humid weather.

He shares his pictures with us and in so doing reminds us of our great history !

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Thank you, Bruce!



Reading of the Declaration of Independence at Independence Hall, July 2. 250 years after the vote was made to separate from Great Britain.

I am holding the General Washington Command flag. It went wherever Gen. Washington was.

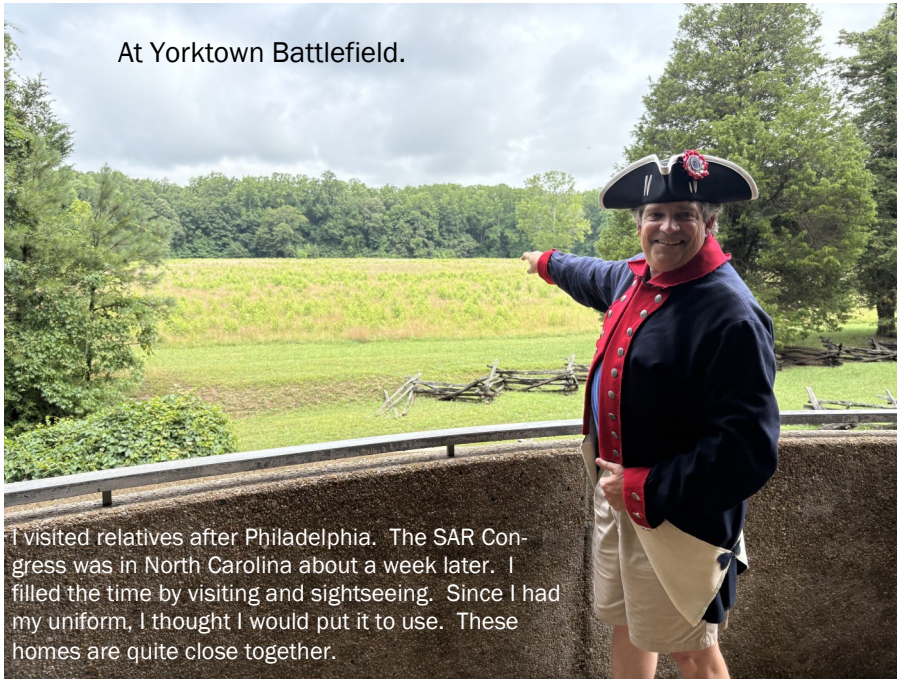


Philadelphia canceled the parade, the SAR did a small parade from Independence Hall to Independence Mall (where the Liberty Bell is).



President General addressing visitors/tourists/Philadelphians during our makeshift parade.

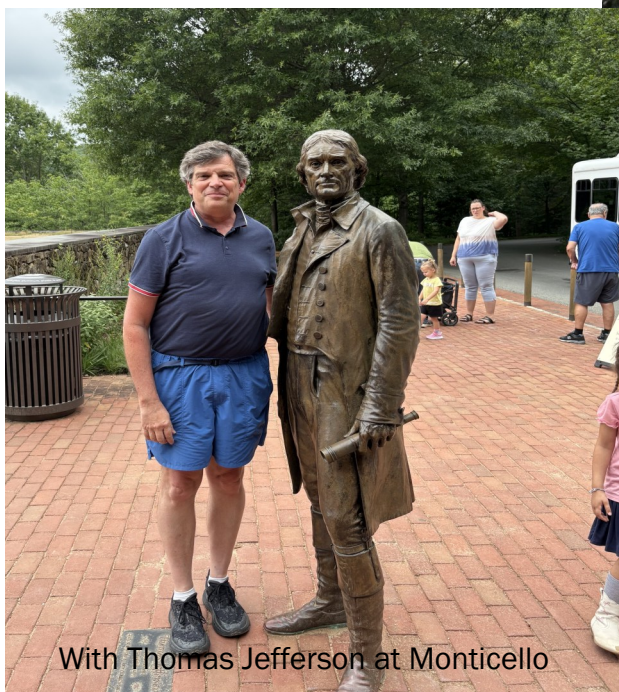
At Yorktown Battlefield.



I visited relatives after Philadelphia. The SAR Congress was in North Carolina about a week later. I filled the time by visiting and sightseeing. Since I had my uniform, I thought I would put it to use. These homes are quite close together.

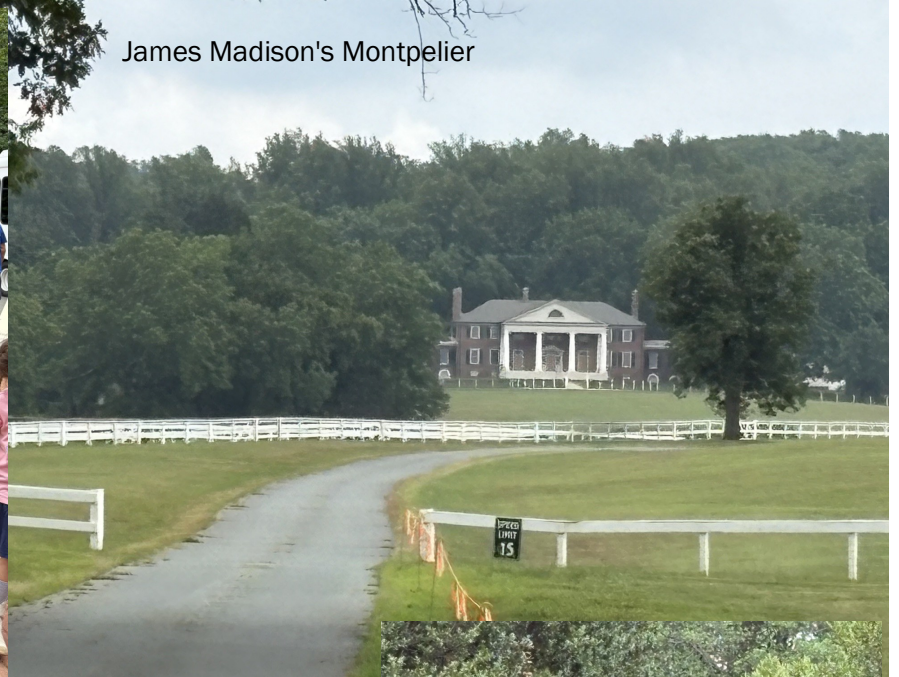


This is a great - great-etc. granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson



With Thomas Jefferson at Monticello

James Madison's Montpelier



← The annual meeting (Congress) always starts with a memorial service. Recognizing all the SAR members who passed the previous year. I am carrying New York's flag. My 5th great grandfather was from New York.



James Monroe at Highlands. His house burned a few years after his death.

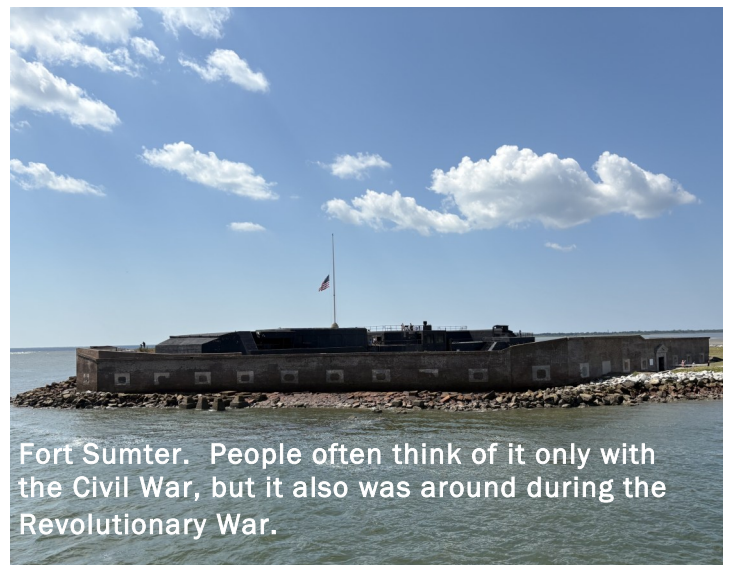


On Sunday (7/5), the church service was modified. The sermon was essentially the reading of the Declaration of Independence. A few SAR members read some, then some of the church council members, then some other members (ie youth, women's org, etc.) read portions. Afterwards two of the Pennsylvania SAR Society wanted a picture of the flag in the church. I was a late comer and had to sit in the front pew seen on the right so they drafted me to help hold. That turned into a big photo op. As the congregation was leaving, a couple turned around and saw this. That halted the procession out the church and everyone started coming back in for pictures.

Christ Church. Many patriots attended this church while they were in Philadelphia. This is George Washington's pew. Members of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) seated with me. Girl in the middle is from Bakersfield, Betsy Ross Society. Ben Franklin sat a few pews back. On the other side of the divider, behind the pillar behind the woman was where Betsy Ross sat.



General Washington's pew in Charleston, SC.



Fort Sumter. People often think of it only with the Civil War, but it also was around during the Revolutionary War.



Too hot to walk from the hotel to the parade start. So, like in 1776, we took the subway.



Ben Franklin's original Post Office (still operational). To the right is (was) his print shop.



Marked the graves of 5 of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. This is Ben Franklin's grave.



This is John Ross, uncle to Betsy. The local Children of the Revolutionary War (CAR) Society's name is Betsy Ross Society.



The house Thomas Jefferson stayed when he penned the Declaration of Independence.



Applying Bible Principles

When Samuel was seeking someone to succeed Saul as King of Israel, he examined the sons of Jesse. In that process, he considered their stature and physical characteristics in great detail, only to be told by God, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart."

That modus operandi on God's part has not changed over the centuries of time. He still looks at the hearts of men and women. He is not as interested in how things appear on the outside, but what they are really like on the inside. And God's scrutiny extends to every area of our lives, including our giving.

Specifically, He wants to know not just what or when we are giving, but why. He is not so concerned about the amount or the percentage but with the reason or motive why we give. It's not that amounts or percentages are not important, for they certainly are. But what is of greater importance is why we give.

If we only give out of a sense of duty, to impress someone, to keep a commitment we made, or to "do our part," we've missed the point. If we only give a certain amount or percentage because we've always given that way, we've missed the point. If we parcel out money to help "poor ol' God pay His bills," we've missed the point.

God owns it all! He doesn't need our money to pay His bills. He doesn't want us to give out of a sense of obligation or duty or habit. Nor does He want us to give to impress someone else. He wants us to give out of hearts motivated by love for Him in response to His love for us. He wants us to give as part of our worship and praise to Him. He wants us to give because giving is part of His way of growing Christians.

There's an old Indian fable about a mouse who, like all mice, was afraid of cats. A wizard felt sorry for him and offered to help him lose his fear. With the mouse's approval, the wizard turned him into a cat. The cat, however, was afraid of dogs, so the wizard turned the cat into a dog. But the dog was afraid of tigers, so the wizard turned the dog into a tiger. When the wizard discovered the tiger was afraid of hunters, he exclaimed in disgust, "You're hopeless. What you need is a change of heart. And that I cannot give you."

If our giving is motivated by anything other than a heart of love for God, we need a change of heart. We need to realize afresh that God owns everything and that we are just managers and stewards. We need to realize that when we give, we are only giving back to God what was rightfully His in the first place. And we need to understand that when we give out of love for God and not out of habit or duty or obligation, we are giving in a way that truly honors and glorifies Him.

LEGACY

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." - Pericles



July 26, 2026

August 25, 2026

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

Billy Newcomb
Daphne
Melanie

Carlee Munn
Greg (Anne Marie)
Linda (Mary Ellen)

Ray (Mickey Rivers)

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

"and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and
to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

IN HIS SERVICE

AREA OF SERVICE	SEPTEMBER 6	SEPTEMBER 13	September 20	SEPTEMBER 27
ALTAR GUILD	Tammy			→
LECTOR	Laura	Maia	Judy	Louise
ASSISTANT	Jan & Laura			→
ACOLYTE	Leo	Leith	Emily	Jethro
FLOWERS	Sue	Laura	Lemley	Judy
GREETER	Karen			→
COFFEE HOUR		Potluck Rally Day	Mary Ellen	Judy Olson-Peterson
COUNTERS	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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

832-7881Secretary: Dakota Warren

E-mail address: rlcbakersfield@gmail.com

Web site address: www.bakersfieldlutheran.org



SEPTEMBER

save these dates



LUNCH BUNCH will meet at Knotty Pine Café, 1530 Norris Rd. Wed., 9/2/26. All are welcome, please let Judy know if you plan to attend.



QUILTING is cancelled for September but will resume in October.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet Wednesday, September 9@ 9 -3 pm. Jan will bring snacks. Please bring your own sack lunch.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE is cancelled for September but will resume in October.

SENIOR GAME DAY is Wednesday, September 23 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch at 12, or come to play at 12:30. Join the fun playing games (mostly dominos) for a couple of hours!



WINE & DINE is Thursday 9/24/26@ 6pm . Please watch the church bulletin for place & host

RALLY DAY

We will be celebrating the start of a new Sunday School year on September 13th . Teachers will meet and greet students to acquaint them with their rooms.



JUMP HOUSE FUN

POTLUCK

Please plan to join us, bring your kids, grandkids, friends and neighbors.

Food sign up in the Narthex.

SEE YOU THERE!!!

Sunday. 9/13/26
after worship.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Thursday , Sept. 10th @10 am



Work day: Sat. September 12
9 am—noon



September 20
11 am



Erica Dommer	03
Nate Olson	03
Daphne Griffith	04
Scott Petty	05
Gisella Thomas	10
Jenny Martinez	20
Rick Schroeder	24
Maiai Johnson	26
John Lemley	27



Anne & Mark Benson	10
Kathy & Robert Hairfield	13
Sheri & Shawn Hunter	27



SAYING GOOD-BYE TO BECKY GROVE



The following pages are pictures of various activities during Vacation Bible School. The kids enjoyed the week, as did the staff. We wish to thank all the volunteers who made this week possible!



AnneMarie and Bill enjoying a break!





fun in the sun!

The last day is always special with a water slide and outdoor fun!



Join In On The Fun!

BUNCO

game night



September
26th @
5:00PM

Redeemer
Fellowship Hall

RSVP by
September 23rd

\$15 to play-includes supper.
Raffle: \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5



Pictured left: August 9, Baptism of Maverick Navarro



Accepting new members Benny and Gisella Thomas and River Navarro, Aug. 9th.



WELCOME TO REDEEMER



Pastor Bryan Benny Thomas Gisella Thomas River Navarro Maverick Jason



SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Riverstone Terrace sing along 3:30	2 Lunch Bunch 11 am Riverstone Terrace	3	4	5
6 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Potluck lunch 	7 	8 Al-Anon 6:30	9 Quilting & Prayer shawl 9 am—3 pm	10 Worship and Music 10 am	11 	12  9 am—noon Garden Club 9 am-noon
13 Worship 9:30 Coffee time 10:30 S.S. 11 am	14	15 Riverstone Terrace sing along 3:30	16 Afternoon Bible study Riverstone	17	18	19
20 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Council 11 am	21	22 Riverstone Terrace sing along 3:30 	23 Senior Game Day 12:30	24 Wine & Dine 6 pm	25	26 Glass Club 11 am– 2 pm
27 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30	28	29  Sept. 8th	30			
						