



Redeemer Lutheran Church



Voice of Redeemer

Volume 53—Number 3

March 2024



It's that time of year when some folks on social media and some magazine writers will try to equate Easter with pre-Christian pagan traditions and claim that Christian understandings of resurrection have to do with new life and re-birth in Springtime.

It is true that the English word "Easter" is believed to have originated from the Old English word "Ēastre" or "Ēostre," which refers to a pagan festival celebrating the goddess Ēostre or Ostara. This festival was held in honor of the spring equinox, marking the arrival of spring and the renewal of life. Ēostre was associated with fertility, renewal, and the dawn. However, there is no mention of her until the 7th century. Also, German and English are the only languages that refer to the Resurrection holiday as "Easter." In many languages, the word for the Feast of the Resurrection is tied directly to Passover: *Pâques* (French), *Pascua* (Spanish), *Pask* (Swedish) and *Pascha* (Latin) all come directly from *Pesach*, the Hebrew word for Passover.

St. Paul connected the risen Christ to Passover. In 1 Corinthians 5:7, he refers to Jesus as the paschal lamb who has been sacrificed for his people's salvation. Add to that the fact that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples during Passover and it makes sense that the Feast of the Resurrection is connected with the Jewish holiday.

So why do English speakers call the Resurrection "Easter?" The honest answer is that no one knows for sure. Just as current months often have the names of pagan gods, so the Christians of old Germany and England celebrated the Resurrection most often in the month associated with Eostre: Eosturmonath (now known as April). That's the most likely reason.

The important point to remember, however, is that Easter is not a pagan festival and we aren't commemorating a Germanic goddess, just as we don't celebrate the god Janus every New Year's Day or worship Thor every Thursday!

Most of the anti-Christian social media posts and magazine articles are silly attempts to claim Christians are just aping pagan customs. Historians are never going to figure out exactly where or when Easter was first used. It is one of the oldest Old English words and has been in use for over a millennium, making it impossible to detangle the strands of its history. And, in the end, it is unimportant whether Easter comes from the goddess of the dawn. In whatever language, Easter is a time of resurrection, a time to celebrate the risen Christ and God's promise of eternal life.

Pastor Jon Christenson



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."



PALM SUNDAY 9:30
MAUNDY THURSDAY, 6:00 PM AT EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH—1900 BAKER ST.
GOOD FRIDAY, NOON AT REDEEMER
EASTER SUNDAY:
SUNRISE SERVICE 6:30
WORSHIP AT 9:30
EASTER BREAKFAST FOLLOWING THE SUNRISE SERVICE
7:30 to 8:45



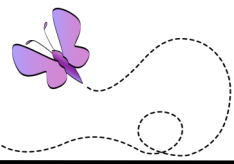
Jan. 26, 2024

Feb. 26, 2024

Prayers offered for the following during this month.

Lindsey Matthews	Debbie Liezeit
Theresa	Sara's mom
Stevan Saldana	Beth
Vera & Ron Freebourn	Family and friends of
Mark Rice	Beth

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



MARCH NOTES

DATES TO REMEMBER



LUNCH BUNCH: is Wednesday 3/6/24- 11am at Black Bear Diner 4102 California Avenue. Please make reservations with Judy Peterson.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY/QUILTING will meet on Wednesday, 3/13 from 9-11 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us in making quilts/ knitting/crocheting prayer shawls. Bring your own lunch. Enjoy fellowship with friends. Judy will furnish snacks.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE: is Wednesday 3/20/24– 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Scripture & Nature: Teachers of Faith emphasizing rivers from Revelation 22:1&2 & *Gather* magazine. Carlotta Quashnick will bring refreshments. All ladies are invited!



WINE & DINE is Thursday, 3/21, 6 pm @ Black Angus Restaurant, 3601 Rosedale Highway. Please make reservations with Carlotta Quashnick.

SENIOR GAME DAY : Wednesday, March 27, bring your own lunch 12:00, games @12:30.

CHARITY FOR MARCH & APRIL

Alliance for Family Violence and The Homeless Center merged to become **The Open Door Network**, which will be our charity for March and April. Besides cash they always need non-perishable food, clothing, and household items.



SET YOUR CLOCK AHEAD BEFORE YOU GO TO BED, SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH.

We need your information for an updated church directory. Please email or text : ALL FAMILY NAMES, BIRTH-DAYS, ANIVERSARY, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS to: (LEMLEYJANICE@GMAIL.COM) TEXT: 661 706 4834.



JOIN US WEDNESDAYS March 6, 13, & 20, @ 6 pm, for Soup Suppers during Lent. Vesper service at 7 pm. Sign up sheets in the Narthex.



WORK DAY
Sat. March 9th - 9am



WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 7 @ 9am



CHURCH COUNCIL

March 17
noon



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

EASTER WORDSEARCH

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



- WORD LIST**
- | | |
|-------|-------|
| ANGEL | GOD |
| BIBLE | HOLY |
| CROSS | JESUS |
| FAITH | LAMB |
| GLORY | PALM |





Pictured above is your 2024 Council: L-R Carlotta Quashnick; Dakota Warren; Sue Morton; Linda Cohen, Secretary; Laura Haywood; Bruce Wearda, treasurer, (non-voting member); Nate Olson, VP.; Jan Lemley, Pres.; Pastor Jon , installing the council



Picture left : George Stilwill who has been ur treasurer for many years, is moving to Texas to be with his son. Bruce has been elected to be our new treasurer.

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Jan Lemley, President	lemleyjanice@gmail.com	664-9404
Nate Olson, V.P.—Education & Youth	natewolson@hotmail.com	202-374-2211
Laura Haywood, Secretary	lauraedits@aol.com	661-204-0305
Linda Cohen– Fellowship	linmar@bak.rr.com	599-0799
Sue Morton-Worship and Music	salighthouse24@gmail.com	588-8754
Rhett Spillers—Property and Grounds	text cell	661-888-0177
Carlotta Quashnick	tquashnick@bak.rr.com	661-399-5691
Dakota Warren	warreda421@aol.com	661-864-6019
Bruce Wearda, Treasurer (non council)	brucewearda@gmail.com	661-776-5229

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

“THE CHURCH IS A PEOPLE CREATED BY GOD IN CHRIST, EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, CALLED AND SENT TO BEAR WITNESS TO GOD’S CREATIVE, REDEEMING, AND SANCTIFYING ACTIVITY IN THE WORLD.”

We ask for your prayers as we, the elected council members, have been given the responsibility to carry out the work and Mission of Redeemer.
2024 Congregation Council



SAVE THE DATE



Great News- We will be having some special guests join us for our Easter egg hunt on March 23! *GOLDEN MEADOW FARMS* will be sending some baby goats our way. From 10-10:30, everyone will have the chance to play with (and maybe even bottle feed) some Nigerian dwarf dairy goats. Children and adults alike won't want to miss out on getting to know these fun and friendly little critters.

Be sure to bring the kids, grandkids, friends and anyone you want to join in the fun of baby goats and an Easter Egg Hunt!



PLEASE JOIN US ON MARCH 17TH!



Long-time Redeemer member George Stilwill will be leaving us in April to move to Texas. George has served as Treasurer of Redeemer for many years - let's show our appreciation. There will be a potluck on March 17th following worship in his honor. Please bring a dish (maybe something green?) and we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day and George. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex and a basket for cards in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you,
Fellowship Committee



IN HIS SERVICE

Area of Service	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Flowers	Julie	Sue Anderson	Smith family	Judy Peterson	Easter Lilies
Assistant	Jan	Louise	—————→		
Acolyte	Darynne	Maia	Darynne	Maia	Darynne
Lector	Nate Olson	Tammy	Louise	Judy Peterson	Karen
Greeter	Karen				
Counters	Mark & Bruce	Dakota & Bruce	Tammy & Jan	Tammy & Jan	Dakota & Mark
Coffee Hour	AnneMarie	Smiths	Potluck	Carlotta	Easter Breakfast



Pictured above, Maia Olson with her new study Bible presented to her for memorizing the books of the Bible. In the next picture Maia and Darynne's brother Lieth are in the pew, as Darynne receives her study Bible from Pastor Jon. Congratulations girls!



JUST A REMINDER

When you sign up for Altar Flowers, to pay for them, please make your check payable to Redeemer with a note "flowers". (\$40.00)

Thanks.




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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 St. Patrick's Day Mar. 17		 LENT JOURNEY TO THE CROSS			1  World Day of Prayer	2 AA 5:30-6:30
3 Worship 9:30 Coffee hr. 10:30  Girl Scout Sunday	4	5 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	6 Lunch Bunch Pacifica 10 am  Lent Soup Supper 6 Worship 7	7	8	9 Work Day 9 am Garden Club 9-noon AA 5:30-6:30
10 Worship 9:30 Coffee hour 10:30  DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	11 Worship & Music 1 pm		13 Prayer Shawl quilting 9-11  Lent Soup Supper 6 Worship 7	14 Worship & Music 10 am	15	16 AA 5:30-6:30
17 Worship 9:30 am Pot Luck 10:30 St. Patrick's	18	19 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30  Hello Spring!	20 Afternoon Bible Study Pacifica 10 am  Lent Soup Supper 6 Worship 7	21	22	23 AA 5:30-6:30
24 Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30	25	26 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	27  Lent Soup Supper 6 Worship 7	28 Maundy Thurs. 	29  Worship @ noon	30
31 Sunrise service 6:30 Breakfast 7:30-8:45 Easter Worship 9:30  Easter SUNDAY <i>He is Risen</i>						