



Redeemer Lutheran Church



Voice of Redeemer

Volume 55—Number 07

July 2026

PRAYERS WE PRAY

Often times, prayers that are familiar to us, are the prayers we pray. They have endured for generations and yet we find they say the exact words that we need at the moment. These prayers give us words for surrender, trust, repentance, peace, worship, and dependence on God when our own words feel inadequate. There is something in these prayers that speak to us and touch our soul, as they have done for years and continue to do so today.

Jesus taught us to pray and of course *The Lord's Prayer*, that He taught the disciples and has been handed down for centuries, is the most widely used prayer recited by Christians. Jesus encourages us to “pray without ceasing.”

Another famous prayer is the Serenity Prayer written by Reinhold Niebuhr:

A Prayer for Acceptance, Courage, and Wisdom

“God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardship as a pathway to [peace](#);
taking, as Jesus did,
this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.”

The Serenity Prayer, originating in the early 1930's, is pertinent to all of us. To accept what cannot be changed, to have the courage to accept responsibility where needed, and to receive the wisdom from God to know the difference is discernment and wisdom. To enjoy the moment, but to focus on heaven is also a deep knowledge of what matters most.



Applying Bible Principles to Stewardship

One of the most misquoted verses in the entire Bible is First Timothy 6:10. Most people misquote this verse as follows: "Money is the source of all evil." Actually, the Scripture says, "For the love of money is a source of all kinds of evil." There's quite a difference between the two.

Money in and of itself is not wrong. The Scripture gives no indication that it is wrong to have money. In fact, many people in the Bible who sought to put God first in their lives were people of wealth. Names like Abraham, Esther, Job, David, Solomon, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea come to mind. Money is not the source of all evil; money is simply a commodity that enables us to buy and sell goods and services. Money is neutral; it is neither good nor bad.

What counts is how we view money. Paul wrote to Timothy that " . . . The love of money is a source of all kinds of evil." What does it mean, then, to love money? To love money is to desire it above all else in your life. It is to make it your primary focus. It is to seek to acquire it at any cost. The only problem with that philosophy is that it does not work.

Remember this: God is our source! All that we have comes from His bountiful hand. For our good, God wisely instructs us to put Him first in all things, including how we obtain and use money. However, when we make money our primary focus, and when

we spend our waking hours planning, scheming and laboring to acquire more and more money, it becomes the main object of our affection. Our love for God then takes second place to our love for money.

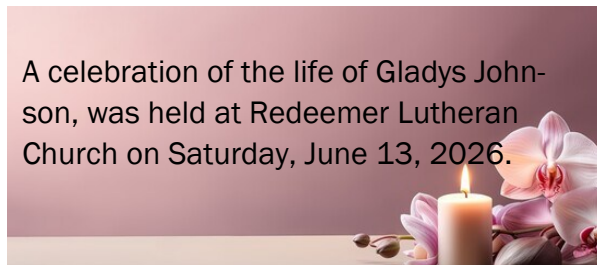
Solomon gave some advice concerning those who love money. He said, "If you love money, you will never be satisfied. If you long to be rich, you will never get all you want." In contrast, Solomon observed that it is better to have only one handful of material possessions accompanied by peace and tranquillity than always to be struggling for more, which he said is sort of like chasing after the wind.

So, you see, money can be a blessing or a curse, depending on our attitude toward it. If we view it as merely a means to an end, then it can be used of God to be a blessing in our lives and in the lives of those around us. It can be used of God in our lives to glorify Him. However, if we see money as an end in and of itself, something to be grasped and hoarded, then it will become a curse in our lives and will adversely affect us and others.

Listen to this solemn warning found in First Timothy 6 " . . . those who want to get rich fall into temptation and are caught in the trap of many foolish and harmful desires, which pull them down to ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a source of all kinds of evil. Some have been so eager to have it that they have wandered away from the faith and have broken their hearts with many sorrows."

How do you view money?

A celebration of the life of Gladys Johnson, was held at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Saturday, June 13, 2026.





Join us at the
JUNK YARD
(REDEMPTION)

REDEEMER LUTHERAN
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 3rd –7th.
8:30am–12:30pm
2525 Belle Terrace

BRING A FRIEND



LUTHERAN AND EPISCOPAL NIGHT AT THE DODGERS

Thursday, September 3rd. 7:10 pm

Tickets are \$48—first come , first served. Deadline July 15

Call Dakota for more information



BIRTHDAYS

Linda Gaenicke	01
Kathy Hairfield	01
Mickey Rivers	05
Kelly Gelhaus	17
Judy Olson-Peterson	17
Andrew Cohen	18
David Schroeder	20
Aaron Ornoff	23
Clayton Schindler	23
Sharon Vieyra	29
Pr. Donella Silveira	30



Laura & Brian Haywood	07
Nate & Sarah Olson	08
David & Linda Gaenicke	10
Gary & Karen Manes	19



MAY 26, 2026– JUNE 26, 2026

Phyllis
Jim Lovgren
Jim & Sandra Nichols
Christa

Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

HAPPY

FOURTH OF JULY

HAPPENINGS IN JULY



You're invited to
Lunch Bunch!



LUNCH BUNCH: is Wednesday 7/1/26 - 11 am @ Old River Grill, The Marketplace, 9000 Ming Ave. Everyone is welcome. Make reservations with Judy.

QUILTING/PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY is Wednesday 7-8-26 9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Judy will provide a snack, please bring your own sack lunch.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE is Wednesday 7-15/26 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss *I Am Created In God's Image* from Genesis 1:26 & *Gather* magazine.



WINE & DINE is Thursday 7/23@6 pm. More information to follow in the bulletin.



GAME DAY will be on Wednesday, July 2 12 noon if you want to bring a sack lunch, 12:30 games begin. Bring a friend.

DATES TO REMEMBER



Saturday, July 11
**WE NEED MORE
HELPERS !**

Church Council

Sunday, July 19

EVERGREEN SCHOOL

JUNE & JULY CHARITY

ITEMS NEEDED

PENCILS—CRAYONS—ERASERS SCISSORS—PAPER—
RULERS— BACK PACKS— HYGIENE ITEMS—
ANY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

GIFT CARDS: TARGET (\$10) TO PURCHASE ITEMS IN
EMERGENCIES, ALSO ACCEPTED: CASH (CHECKS
PAYABLE TO REDEEMER)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Pictured above: Leith graduated from elementary school and will be in Jr. High starting in August. Congratulations, Leith!

Pictured right: Darynne graduated from Jr. High and will be in High School come August. Congratulations, Darynne!



A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

Summer has just started 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 return them to hold when leaving. Appreciate your consideration in this matter.

BRUCE



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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

832-7881 Secretary: Dakota Warren

E-mail address: rlcbakersfield@sbcglobal.net

Web site address: www.bakersfieldlutheran.org



July 4, 2026—Happy 250 years Birthday, USA!

Bruce Wearda has shared the following historical information :

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, here are some things happening locally and nationwide.

Also including some information regarding the Declaration of Independence.

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) are celebrating a decade of the 250 history of our country. Each year a signature event is highlighted. This year of course is 250th of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

2023 Boston Tea Party

2024 The First Continental Congress

2025 Battles of Lexington and Concord

2026 Declaration of Independence

2027 Battle of Saratoga

2028 French Alliance

2029 Siege of Vincennes/Fort Sackville Battle of Kettle Creek

2030 Battle of Kings Mountain

2031 Siege of Yorktown

2032 Battle of Blue Licks

2033 Treaty of Paris

Locally there will be events at River walk park starting at 10 am on the 3rd. The mayor will be making a proclamation, other speakers, and fireworks.

On the 4th there will be events at Jastro park beginning at 9 am. A parade around the park followed by music.

Nationally, in Philadelphia, a parade will take place at noon (EDT).

For coverage of parade in Philadelphia.

NBC 10 PHILADELPHIA will be broadcasting the parade LIVE from Noon to 4:00PM non-stop....yes I said....non-stop!

***In addition, their LIVE broadcast can be found on parade day, via the NBC 10 Philadelphia News Streaming Channel, across the nation and the world via the following services:

Roku, Peacock, Samsung TV, Google TV, TCL, Prime Video, Amazon Fire TV, Fubo TV, LG TV, Local Now, Flex, Pluto TV, XUMO, <http://www.NBC10.com>, the free NBC10 Philadelphia APP, and the NBC10 Philadelphia youtube page <https://www.youtube.com/@NBC10PHILADELPHIA>

Later in the month, the DAR and C.A.R. will be giving history presentations at Beale Library on **Saturday, July 25** starting at 11 am. The SAR will kick off activities at 2 pm at Beale Library. Bakersfield winds will provide music. After the music presentation, the SAR will read the Declaration of Independence, much like how the original reading was done in 1776.

(More History information continued on next page)

Con't. from previous page.

Information on the famous document which we celebrate this July 4th!

Declaration of Independence

By the time the Declaration of Independence was adopted in July 1776, the Thirteen Colonies (New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia) and Great Britain had been at war for more than a year.

Throughout the 1760s and early 1770s, the North American colonists found themselves increasingly at odds with British imperial policies regarding taxation and frontier policy.

Britain began to prepare for war in early 1775. The first fighting broke out in April in Massachusetts. In August, the King declared the colonists “in a state of open and avowed rebellion.” For the first time, many colonists began to seriously consider cutting ties with Britain.

Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but the most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence.

The colonists were aided by the January publication of Thomas Paine’s pamphlet *Common Sense*, which advocated the colonies’ independence and was widely distributed throughout the colonies.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution “that these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states,” acting under the instruction of the Virginia Convention. The Lee Resolution contained three parts: a declaration of independence, a call to form foreign alliances, and “a plan for confederation.”

The 2nd Continental Congress appointed a Committee of Five (John Adams (MA), Benjamin Franklin (PA), Thomas Jefferson (VA), Robert R. Livingston (NY), and Roger Sherman (CT)) to write an announcement explaining the reasons for independence. Thomas Jefferson, who chaired the committee and had established himself as a bold and talented political writer, wrote the first draft.

On June 11, 1776, Jefferson holed up in his Philadelphia boarding house and began to write. Jefferson’s writing was influenced by George Mason’s Virginia Declaration of Rights, as well as by his study of natural rights theory and the writings of John Locke, including *Two Treatises of Government*.

Jefferson later explained that “he was not striving for originality of principal or sentiment.” Instead, he hoped his words served as an “expression of the American mind.”

On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to declare independence. Two days later, it ratified the text of the Declaration. It was read publicly on July 8, 1776.

The most important and dramatic statement comes near the end: “That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States.” It declares a complete break with Britain and its King and claims the powers of an independent country.

About the Signers :Fifty-six men from each of the original 13 colonies signed the Declaration of Independence - they mutually pledged “to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”

Nine of the signers were immigrants, two were brothers and two were cousins. Eighteen of the signers were merchants or businessmen, 14 were farmers and four were doctors. Twenty-two were lawyers and nine were judges.

The average age of a signer was 45. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest delegate at 70. The youngest was Thomas Lynch Jr. of South Carolina at 27.

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/kettle-creek>

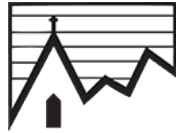
Our sincere thanks to Bruce for furnishing this history lesson and scheduling information, as we celebrate 250 years of our democracy.

IN HIS SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for your help—there are sign-up sheets in the Narthex if you would like to volunteer for any of these areas,

Area of Service	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Assistant	Louise			
Altar Guild	Becky			
Acolyte	Emily	Jaxx	Jethro	Darynne
Lector	Rodney	Karen	Louise	Dakota
Flowers	Julie	Sara	Sue	Caroline
Greeter	Karen			
Counters	Sue, Karen	Sue, Karen	Sue	Karen
Fellowship	Julie	Ice cream social	K B	

REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH
2026 Financial Report



January February March April May Ju Ju Au Se Oc No De Total

Receipts		11,945.00	19,753.00	17,244.00	18,093.37	18,486.40								85,521.77
Budget		16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00								80,730.00
Difference		(4,201.00)	3,607.00	1,098.00	1,947.37	2,340.40	##	###	##	##	##	##	##	4,791.77

Expenses		8,509.31	12,044.73	6,930.35	9,888.87	12,491.64								49,864.90
Budget		16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00	16,146.00								80,730.00
Difference		7,636.69	4,101.27	9,215.65	6,257.13	3,654.36	##	###	##	##	##	##	##	30,865.10

Total		3,435.69	7,708.27	10,313.65	8,204.50	5,994.76	##	###	##	##	##	##	##	35,656.87
-------	--	----------	----------	-----------	----------	----------	----	-----	----	----	----	----	----	-----------

Compared to Budget

Loan Receipts		1,480.00	1,530.00	1,720.00	1,400.00	1,450.00								7,580.00
Loan Payments		1,085.00	6,420.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00								10,760.00
Difference		395.00	(4,890.00)	635.00	315.00	365.00	##	###	##	##	##	##	##	(3,180.00)

Total All		3,830.69	2,818.27	10,948.65	8,519.50	6,359.76	##	###	##	##	##	##	##	32,476.87
-----------	--	----------	----------	-----------	----------	----------	----	-----	----	----	----	----	----	-----------

Loan

\$
21,602.32





JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
			1 Lunch Bunch 11 Riverstone Terrace 10 am	2 Order of the Dragon 5:30 - 8:30	3	4 
5 Worship 9:30 Coffee hour 10:30	6	7 Riverstone Terrace 3 pm Al Anon 6:30	8 Pray Shawl Quilting 9-3	9 Order of the Dragon 5:30 - 8:30	10	11 
12 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hr.	13	14 Riverstone Terrace 3 pm Al Anon 6:30	15 Afternoon Circle 1:30 Riverstone Terrace 10	16 Order of the Dragon 5:30 - 8:30	17	18 Garden Club 9-1 pm
19 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hr.	20	21 Riverstone Terrace 3 pm Al Anon 6:30	22 Senior games	23 Wine & Dine 6 pm Order of the Dragon 5:30—	24	25 Glass Club 9-1 pm
26 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour	27	28 Riverstone Terrace 3 pm Al Anon 6:30	29	30 Order of the Dragon 5:30 8:30	31	