



Redeemer Lutheran Church

# Voice of Redeemer



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## Lifted Up in Glory: What Ascension Thursday Means for Us

On the 40th day of Easter, the Church pauses to celebrate something that can feel like a footnote in the story of Jesus—**His ascension into heaven**. But **Ascension Thursday** is far more than a final farewell. It's a moment packed with promise, power, and purpose.

**“While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.”**

—Luke 24:51

After the cross and the empty tomb, Jesus doesn't just fade into the background. He **ascends**—not to escape the world, but to reign over it. He returns to the Father, not to leave us behind, but to prepare a place for us. His ascension isn't the end of the story; it's the continuation of his work—through us.

### What does the Ascension mean for us today?

- **Jesus reigns.** He didn't retire—he rules. The Ascension reminds us that Christ is alive and enthroned at the right hand of God. In a world that often feels chaotic or out of control, Ascension anchors us: *Jesus is in charge*.
- **We are His witnesses.** Just before ascending, Jesus gave His final instructions: “*You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). The Church was not left without a mission. In fact, the mission *begins* here—with us carrying Christ's love, the gospel, and peace into the world.

**He will come again.** As the disciples stared into the sky, two angels told them, “*This same Jesus... will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven*” (Acts 1:11). The Ascension points us forward. Jesus will return in glory—and until that day, we live in hope.

### So how do we observe Ascension Thursday?

It's easy to let it pass by. It falls on a Thursday (this year, May 29th), and it doesn't come with trumpets or lilies or chocolate bunnies. But maybe that's the point. Ascension is a quiet, powerful reminder that **Jesus is present even when unseen**, working through His Word, His Spirit, and His people—you and me.

So this Ascension Thursday, take a moment to look up—not just physically, but spiritually. Lift your eyes from the chaos of life and remember: *Our Savior is risen, ascended, and still at work in the world.*

**He is risen. He is reigning. And He is returning.**

Happy Ascension Day! We will celebrate with an outdoor worship service that day at 7:00 pm, with pie to follow!

Pastor Jon Christenson





# Applying Bible Principles

April 26, 2025

"Strategic planning" is a two-word term that can best be described as a "buzz word." It's in vogue. It's trendy for businesses (and churches) to talk about and engage in strategic planning.

Similarly, when it comes to giving, Christians are to develop a "strategic plan." We are instructed to set aside funds systematically, regularly, for support of the Lord's work. In that way, when we come to worship each week, we'll be prepared to give. We will have "planned" our giving under the divine leadership of the Holy Spirit. Then, by giving that which we have set aside, we will put our plan to work as the offering is received.

Consistent givers (the kind who generally plan their giving), described as the "backbone of the church." Such people do not miss giving to the Lord's work, even when they are unable to attend.

Be ready to give as the Spirit of God leads, even on a moment's notice. Be ready to give when a special need arises. But most of all, develop a "strategic plan" to give by seeking God's direction concerning your giving and by putting aside funds in preparation for giving. Then "work your plan" by giving those funds as you gather at Redeemer Lutheran Church with other Christians each Lord's Day. And when you can't be present for worship, plan carefully to be sure that your giving follows your plan. Remember, the work and ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church go on week after week, even when you are unable to be present.

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

March. 26, 2025 *In Our Thoughts & Prayers* April 26, 2025

Dianne Ladd  
Joe and Judy (friends of Mickey)  
Debbie Liebzzeit  
Lilian Powell

Karen Musgrove  
Anita Costamagna  
Mark Rice

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

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**2525 BELLE TERRACE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, P O BOX 13132-93389,**  
**Pastor: Rev. Jon Christenson ..... 832-7881 ..... Secretary: Phyllis Elrod**  
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REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

## 2025 Financial Report

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial Services?

Did you know you can make a personal donation or direct some of Thrivent's charitable funds to a favorite nonprofit organization?

Redeemer Lutheran Church is now a Thrivent designated organization and, as a member, you can now donate Thrivent Choice Dollars to the church!

If you would like more information on Thrivent or how to become a member, please contact Mark and Tammy Smith.

	January	February	March	Total
Receipts	31,956.00	15,890.50	19,084.00	66,930.50
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	48,207.51
Difference	15,886.83	(178.67)	3,014.83	18,722.99
Expenses	22,802.93	18,314.52	13,447.73	54,565.18
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	48,207.51
Difference	6,733.76	2,245.35	(2,621.44)	6,357.67
Loan Receipts	1,550.00	1,575.00	1,575.00	4,700.00
Loan Payments	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	3,255.00
Difference	465.00	490.00	490.00	1,445.00

**IN HIS SERVICE**

AREA OF SERVICE	MAY 4	MAY 11	MAY 18	MAY 25
ASSISTANT	LOUISE			→
ACOLYTE	LEO	LEITH	MAIA	DARYNNE
ALTAR GUILD	TAMMY			→
LECTOR	JAN		KAREN	JUDY
FLOWERS	NATE	DICK FISCHER	LEMLEY	LAURA
COUNTER	LINDA	SUE	LINDA, SUE	LINDA., SUE
COFFEE HOUR	KAREN	LINDA		





## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AT COFFEE HOUR

Pictured left:  
Dick Fischer  
celebrating  
97 years!

Pictured right:  
Arlene Hamstreet  
and her husband  
Robert  
celebrating  
birthdays that are  
just 2 weeks apart!

**CONGRATULATIONS**



Pictured left: Busy Bunny Helpers  
stuffing Easter eggs with candy for  
the egg hunt , Saturday, April 19th.  
From left to right: Lyda, Jan, Mary  
Ellen, Karen, Pastor Jon and Mark.  
(Tammy was the photographer).



Darynne  
feeds the  
baby goat.



Owners of the  
petting goat zoo



Egg hunt is started!





4-19-25  
Darynne's mom  
holding baby goat  
as it fass asleep! CUTE



Watching the  
bottle feeding

Pictured above  
left: Liz,  
Karen's daughter  
loved the  
baby goats and  
wanted to take  
one home!

Above, the  
crew is ready to  
get out and  
hunt for those  
Easter Eggs.



4-19-25  
Wyatt Griffith  
winner of the  
Golden Egg



Pictured above: A tiny Jesus that was  
placed on the overhead rafters in the  
Fellowship Hall and to the left is Wyatt  
holding the golden egg that he got for  
being the first to find the Jesus statue.



The baby goats loved their milk and  
kids enjoyed feeding them from the  
bottle.



# MAY HAPPENINGS



**LUNCH BUNCH** will meet at 11 am, May 7, at Knotty Pine Cafe, 1530 Norris Road. Please make reservations with Jan Lemley.

Quilting/Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday May 14 9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Snacks will be provided by Jan, but please bring your own sack lunch.

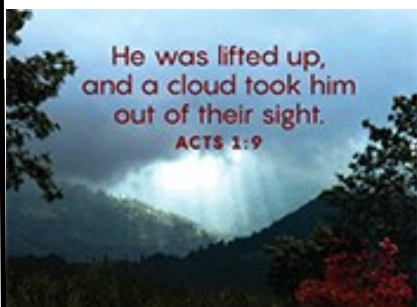
**AFTERNOON CIRCLE** is Wednesday 5-21-25 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Spiritual Gifts In the Life of the Church from Gather magazine. Lyda Barger will provide refreshments. All ladies are invited!



Senior Games are Wednesday May 28th, 12pm bring your own lunch, games at 12:30.



**WINE & DINE** is May 22 6pm. At The Black Angus, 3601 Rosedale Hwy. Please make reservations with Judy..



## ASCENSION DAY

Thursday,  
May 29, 7 pm  
Bring your favorite pie for  
Pie fellowship  
following worship

**CHARITY FOR APRIL & MAY**  
Magdalene Hope  
Local rescue shelter for  
human trafficking victims.

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

## DATES TO REMEMBER



Thursday, May 8th  
10 am  
Everyone is Welcome



Sat. May 10— 9 am—noon  
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED  
AND APPRECIATED !



Sunday, May 18  
11am



<b>Lacey Almeida</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>Andy Cantrell</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Jack Clayton</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>Bruce Wearda</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sheri Hunter</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Rachel Hairfield</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Marlana Lemley</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Karli Christenson</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Janet Bayman</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Nori Eakes</b>	<b>29</b>

*Happy Anniversary*

<b>Mickey &amp; Richard Rivers</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Mike &amp; Karen Musgrove</b>	<b>25</b>





# May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Bible study 1 pm ★NATIONAL★ DAY of PRAYER	2	3
4 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee hour 10:30	5	6 Riverstone Terrace Sing along 3 pm	7 Lunch Bunch 11 Riverstone Terrace 10 am	8 Bible study 1 pm Worship & Music 10 am	9	10  9 am—noon  Garden Club 9am-noon
11 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hr. 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Happy Mother's Day	12	13 Riverstone Terrace Sing along 3 pm	14 Prayer Shawl & Quilting Ministries 9am-3pm	15 Bible study 1 pm	16	17 SCA Event All day
18 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hr. 10:30 Sunday School Council 11 am	19	20 Riverstone Terrace Sing along 3 pm	21 Riverstone Terrace 10 am	22 Bible study 1 pm	23	24 Glass and China  11am—2 pm
25 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hr. 10:30 Sunday School 10:30	26 	27 Riverstone Terrace Sing along 3 pm	28 Senior Game Day 12:00	29 Bible study 1 pm 	30	31