



Voice of Redeemer

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EPIPHANY: A SEASON OF LIGHT AND REVELATION

As we enter another new year, in the Church year, we also enter a new season—the season of Epiphany—the season of light.

This is when the wise men found the baby Jesus and offered Him gifts; we observe Jesus' baptism; and the miracle at the Wedding of Cana. Epiphany is also called the season of light. We focus especially on the light shining in the darkness, and the true light that enlightens all people. In holy baptism we hand the newly initiated a candle, saying, 'let your light so shine before others...."

And so it is with the coming New Year at Redeemer. We need the light of Jesus' love to guide and direct us as we face the challenges before us. We need the Season of Light.

Right now we are in "transition" - that period of comfort when for 22 years, we had Pastor Jon as our leader and now we must transition to new and unsure conditions—from what may seem as the darkness to the light. Rest assured that we are not alone. First of all the S W Synod with offices in Glendale, under the leadership of Bishop Brenda Bos, has our back. We have been assigned a transition coach and the Redeemer Council has formed a transition team; Laura Haywood, Dakota Warren, Julie Griffith and Jack Clayton. The coach is Pastor Jon Gathji who is an interim pastor in Omaha. Not to worry about distance, with the availability of technology, digital meetings such as zoom are easily arranged.

The Christmas season slowed the process a bit, but now we can press forward. First off, Pastor Bryan will be available the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the months through March—those dates are flexible. If we get an interim before March, Pastor Bryan will step aside. The other Sundays will be lead by supply Pastors and/or lay-led worship. (If anyone knows of speakers, retired Pastors, etc., please let us know and hopefully we can schedule them for a service.)

The transition team will have work for you as your thoughts and opinions are an important part of this process. As a congregation, we have to determine our objectives for the future, such as what our budget can handle, are we looking for fulltime or part-time leadership, etc. While this is taking place the Synod will be searching for an interim pastor for us.

When the results of the transition are satisfactory to our congregation, a Call Committee will be formed and with the help of the Synod, the process of locating a Pastor will begin.

As you can see this is quite a process. We need your prayers, continued support and the guidance of God's Light as we walk this journey in search of a Pastor to lead us. We ask for God's Blessings as we greet a new year and most certainly a new year filled with challenges.

Jan Lemley

Council President





AMERICA'S ANNIVERSARY

In recognition of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the church council has designated the monthly charity as the Kern Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

The SAR honors our patriot ancestors and all veterans, serves our communities and educates the future generations of our country's founding principles.

Some examples of these activities include the following. The SAR has partnered with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation (a national organization focused on helping veterans, especially those struggling with suicide.) They participate in various parades and ceremonies honoring our veterans, such as Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. They also are a supporter of the Wreaths Across America program, placing wreaths and honoring veterans that have passed. They also award and recognize local veterans.

The SAR presents awards and recognizes local law enforcement, fire fighters, and other first responders. The group participates in honorable flag retirement on Flag Day.

The SAR presents at school assemblies. Giving live education to the students. They provide a number of awards, scholarships, and competition for students of all ages. Some examples are poster contests for 5th grade, brochure for 8th, plus essay and oration contests for high schoolers. A youth Video Contest exists for 6th-12th grade. There are even scholarship contests for school teachers of American History, and educators in general.

Bruce



Your Church Council asked for your help throughout the year to share our gifts with those needing help, and you folk always step up to the plate! Some of these gifts are shared locally, some goes to Lutheran World Relief, some to Mercy Ships which serves the medical needs of children in Africa, to name a few. We, as members of your council appreciate your contributions . God's richest blessing to you and wish for you a very rewarding new year!

**ANNUAL MEETING DON'T FORGET—SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
POT LUCK LUNCH—SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX**

In the next few days you will be receiving by email, the update of our Constitution and a copy of the 2026 budget. Please read both of these documents carefully, write down any questions you might have for discussion as the documents need to be approved at the Annual Meeting, January 18.



JANUARY ACTIVITIES



LUNCH BUNCH is Wednesday 1/7/26 11am at Denny's, 4440 Gosford Road. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 14th from 9 am to 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us for knitting/crocheting prayer shawls, blankets or quilts. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy fellowship with friends. Jan will provide snacks.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE is Wednesday 1/ 21/26 @1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall . We will discuss Imagining God's Future for Us from the *Bible & Gather* magazine. Judy Olson-Peterson will provide refreshments. All ladies are invited



WINE & DINE is Thursday Wine & Dine is Thursday 1/22/26 6pm at Chalet Basque, 200 Oak Street. Please make reservations with Tammy Smith.



SENIORS GAME DAY is Wednesday, January 28/26 @ 12:00 if you want to bring your own lunch or 12:30 if you just want to join in the games. Bring a friend.



A heart felt Thank You to all who were willing to step up as a volunteer in 2025. Redeemer needs so many helpers to keep us going and your volunteering is indeed appreciated. Blessings to you and yours in 2026!

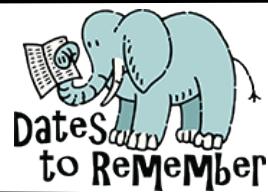


ANNUAL MEETING

**SUNDAY JANUARY 18
AFTER 9:30 WORSHIP**

PLAN TO ATTEND

Potluck lunch before meeting
Please sign-up in the Narthex .



Sat. January 10
9 am



WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM
Thursday, January 8@10 am.
Everyone is welcome.



Wyatt Griffith	06
James Spillers, Jr.	07
Jerry McKnight	15
Richard Rivers	15
Kathy Allen	24
Mark Rice	27
Gracelynn Uecker	29
Jethro Griffith	31
Judy Cantrell	31



Rodney & Suzie Bruce **17**



EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 11

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Total
Receipts	31,956.00	15,890.50	19,084.00	9,335.80	18,360.50	17,167.00	15,757.00	15,424.45	15,022.00	15,465.00	20,120.26	193,582.51
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	176,760.80
Difference	15,836.83	(178.67)	3,014.83	(6,733.37)	2,291.33	1,097.83	(312.17)	(644.72)	(1,047.17)	(604.17)	4,051.09	16,821.64

Expenses	22,802.93	18,314.52	13,447.73	13,494.11	12,976.48	15,559.09	16,480.98	18,563.09	12,885.52	15,845.99	13,981.00	174,351.40
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,067.17	176,758.80
Difference	(6,733.76)	(2,245.35)	2,621.44	2,575.06	3,092.69	510.08	(411.81)	(2,493.92)	3,183.65	223.18	2,086.17	2,407.43

Total	9,153.07	(2,424.02)	5,636.27	(4,158.31)	5,384.02	1,607.91	(723.98)	(3,138.64)	2,136.48	(380.99)	6,137.26	19,229.07
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Compared to Budget

Loan Receipts	1,550.00	1,575.00	1,575.00	1,725.00	1,500.00	1,450.00	1,400.00	1,600.00	1,200.00	1,230.00	2,050.00	16,855.00
Loan Payments	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	11,935.00
Difference	465.00	490.00	490.00	640.00	415.00	365.00	315.00	515.00	115.00	145.00	965.00	4,920.00

Total All	9,618.07	(1,934.02)	6,126.27	(3,518.31)	5,799.02	1,972.91	(408.98)	(2,623.64)	2,251.48	(235.99)	7,102.26	24,149.07
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NEW YEAR - NEW OPPORTUNITIES
Please stop by the sign-up table
in the Narthex to select areas where you can
offer your talents for the coming year.





1



2



3



4



5

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS AT REDEEMER

1. JETHRO'S BAPTISM
2. JETHRO INTRODUCED AS OUR NEWEST MEMBER
3. CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ACTORS
- 4&5. CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
- 6&7. PASTOR JON'S FAREWELL DINNER



6



7



Just a friendly
reminder...

IN HIS SERVICE

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGNUP FOR VARIOUS
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES SIGN UP SHEETS ARE IN THE
NARTHEX. WE NEED YOUR HELP

Area of Service	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Altar Guild	Phyllis & Jan			→
Flowers	Sue Anderson			
Assistant Minister				
Lector	Nate		Judy	
Greeter				
Coffee Hour	Phyllis	Judy	Pot luck	
Acolyte				
Counters (3)	Sue	Sue	Sue	Sue

PLEASE NOTE THIS SCHEDULE DOES NOT REFLECT CHANGES MADE AFTER DECEMBER 27



The new
flower chart is
up... please
select a Sunday
you can provide
flowers.
(\$40.00)



Christmas Eve worship included Children's sermon, not many children available, so Pastor Bryan enlisted the adults to use the face paddles representative of the visitors to the baby Jesus. Below you can see the delighted actors.

The Blessings of the
Creche by Pastor
Bryan, was part of the
children's sermon.



November 27, 2025



December 28, 2025

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

Linda Cohan

Family of Mel Dreggar

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, P O BOX 13132-93389, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304

Phone..... 832-7881 Secretary: Phyllis Elrod

E-mail address: rlcbakersfield@gmail.com

Web site address: www.bakersfieldlutheran.org



January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2	3
4 Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11	5	6 Epiphany Riverstone Terrace 3 pm	7 Lunch Bunch 11 am Riverstone Terrace 10 am	8	9	10  Garden club 9am to noon
11 Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11 Council 11 am Epiphany Sunday	12	13 Riverstone Terrace 3 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	14 Prayer Shawl & Quilting 9-3	15	16	17
18 Worship 9:30 am Potluck 10:30 Annual meeting 11:00	19 	20 Riverstone Terrace 3 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	21 Afternoon Circle 1:30 pm Riverstone Terrace 10 am	22 Wine & Dine 6:00	23	24 Glass Club 11-2pm
25 Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	26	27 Riverstone Terrace 3 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	28 Sr. Games 12 noon	29	30	