



Redeemer Lutheran Voice of Redeemer



April 2025



As the rays of sunlight first appear on Easter morning, we gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This tradition, the Easter Sunrise Service, is a powerful symbol of the dawn of new life and the triumph of light over darkness. But where did this practice originate?

While the Bible doesn't explicitly mandate a sunrise service, the imagery of the women going to the tomb "very early in the morning" (Mark 16:2, John 20:1) has long resonated with Christians. This early morning journey, undertaken while it was still dark, mirrors our own journey towards the light of Christ's resurrection.

The modern tradition of the Easter Sunrise Service, as we know it, is believed to have its roots in 18th-century Moravian communities in Herrnhut, Germany. In 1732, the Moravians held an early morning service on Easter Sunday at their cemetery, God's Acre, to commemorate Christ's resurrection. This simple act of gathering at dawn, in a place of remembrance, became a powerful expression of their faith.

The story goes that the young men of the community, filled with the joy of Easter, wished to celebrate in a special way. They gathered at the cemetery before dawn, singing hymns and proclaiming the resurrection. This practice spread throughout the Moravian communities and eventually reached the United States in the 18th century. In America, the tradition gained popularity in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, particularly in the Southern states. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it had become a widespread practice across various denominations. The symbolic significance of the sunrise is profound. Just as the sun rises, dispelling darkness and bringing new light, Jesus' resurrection brought light and hope to a world shrouded in sin and despair. The sunrise service serves as a tangible reminder of this transformative event.

On Easter Sunday (7:00 am this year), as we gather in the cool morning air, we join a long line of believers who have celebrated the resurrection at dawn. We remember the women who bravely went to the tomb, the Moravians who gathered in their cemetery, and all those who have found hope in the rising sun on Easter morning. This Easter, as the sun rises, let us remember the light of Christ that shines in our hearts. Let us rejoice in the new life we have in him, and let us carry that light with us throughout the year. May the dawn of Easter fill you with hope, joy, and the unwavering assurance of Christ's victory over death.

Pastor Jon Christenson

He is Risen



Applying Bible Principles

" . . . Whatever you do, whether you eat or drink, do it all for God's glory" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Shortly after World War II came to a close, Europe began picking up the pieces. Much of the Old Country had been ravaged by war and was in ruins. Perhaps the saddest sight of all was that of little orphaned children starving in the streets of those war-torn cities.

Early one chilly morning, an American soldier was making his way back to his barracks in London. As he turned the corner in his jeep, he spotted a little lad with his nose pressed to the window of a pastry shop. Inside, the cook was kneading dough for a fresh batch of doughnuts. The hungry boy stared in silence, watching every move. The soldier pulled his jeep to the curb, stopped, got out, and walked quietly over to where the little fellow was standing. Through the steamed-up window, he could see the mouth-watering morsels as they were being pulled from the oven, piping hot. The boy salivated and released a slight groan as he watched the cook place them ever so carefully into the glass case. The soldier's heart went out to the nameless orphan as he stood beside him.

"Son, would you like some of those?"

The boy was startled. "Well, yes, I would."

The American stepped inside and bought a dozen doughnuts, put them in a bag, and walked back to where the lad was standing in the foggy cold of the London morning. He smiled, held out the bag, and said simply, "Here you are."

As he turned to walk away, he felt a tug on his coat. He looked back and heard the child ask quietly, "Mister, are you God?"

There's an old saying that says, "Money talks." It does, you know. It speaks volumes about our priorities, about the things we think are most important, about our values. Money never speaks more clearly than when we use it to minister to someone in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. When that happens, money sends forth a radiant, powerful message about the love of Christ as we demonstrate our Christian faith in action.

The admonition from God's Word is clear: Whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we are to do it for the glory of God. As you consider what God would have you give, and as you consider the commitments about money and giving you have made to him, are you doing what you are doing for his glory?

Remember the young boy's question of a man who befriended him: "Mister, are you God?" It's just possible, you know, that someone may experience your faith in action by how you use your money today and ask the very same question about you.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024 Financial Report

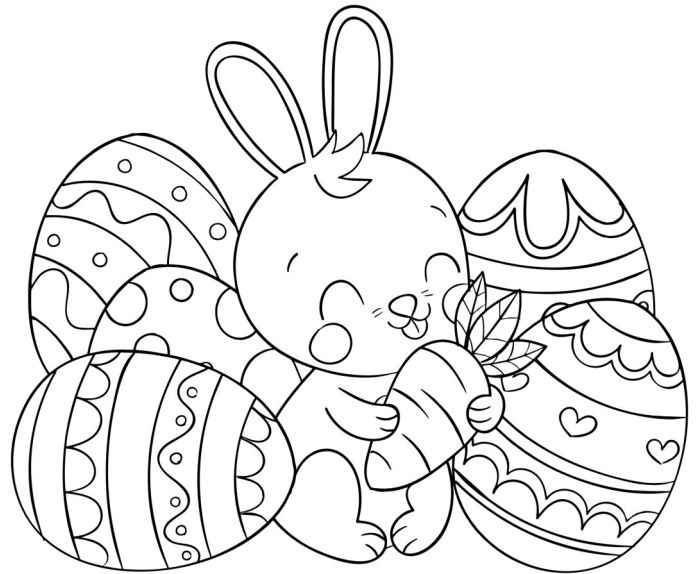
	January	February	Total
Receipts	31,956.00	15,890.50	47,846.50
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17	32,138.34
Difference	15,886.83	(178.67)	15,708.16
Expenses	22,802.93	18,314.52	41,117.45
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17	32,138.34
Difference	6,733.76	2,245.35	8,979.11
Loan Receipts	1,550.00	1,575.00	3,125.00
Loan Payments	1,085.00	1,085.00	2,170.00
Difference	465.00	490.00	955.00

ARCHIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friday, April 11—9:30

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall

Please call 664-9404 (Jan)



Symbols of Easter



The whole life cycle of the butterfly symbolizes the life of Christ. Stage 1: caterpillar stands for His life here on earth. Stage 2: the cocoon stage symbolizes the crucifixion and burial. Stage 3: the mature butterfly represent Christ's raising from the dead in a glorified body.



Easter eggs and baby chicks represent new life, just as new life is celebrated at Easter. Rabbits were also a symbol of abundant new life... some of these traditions date back to pagan times, and were kept when people turned to Christianity as a means of keeping something they were familiar with and then took on a religious meaning.



The white blossoms of the Easter Lily symbolize the purity of Jesus. As the lilies emerge from the earth in spring, they also symbolize new life and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



APRIL ACTIVITIES



LUNCH BUNCH is Wednesday, 4/2/25; 11am at Milt's Diner, 6112 Knudsen Drive. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson.

QUILTING/PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: is Wednesday 4/9/25 @9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Phyllis Elrod will bring snacks. Please bring your own sack lunch. Knitting machine class with Karen Musgrove is at 12:30.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE : Wednesday 4/16/25 @1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Faithfulness from Acts 10 & Gather magazine. Judy Olson-Peterson will provide refreshments.



SENIOR GAME DAY : is Wednesday 4/23/25 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch at noon & we will start games at 12:30pm.



WINE & DINE : is Thursday 4/24/25 at 6pm. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mark Benson	09
Arlene Hamstreet	09
Rodney Johnson	16
Dick Fischer	18
Linda Cohen	20
Ethan Petty	20
Nancy Ashby	23
Robert Hamstreet	23
Karen Manes	24
Suzie Bruce	26
Sara & Kelly Gelhaus	01



THURSDAY, APRIL 10- 10AM
IN THE LIBRARY
EVERYONE IS WELCOME



CHURCH WORK DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 12
9AM - NOON



CHURCH COUNCIL
SUNDAY, APRIL 27 @11:00
VISITORS WELCOME



**EASTER EGG
HUNT,
BABY GOAT
PETTING ZOO
LITE LUNCH
SATURDAY, APRIL 19
10 A.M.**



Join us for a
yummy
pancake &
sausage
breakfast

after Sunrise Service on
Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service 7a.m.—
breakfast 7:45
April 20th



Palm Sunday—Worship 9:30
Good Friday—Noon—
(Emmanuel 6 pm)
Saturday- Egg hunt/Petting
zoo—10:00
Easter Sunday—7 am Sunrise
service
7:45—Pancake breakfast
Easter Worship—9:30 am

Easter Word Search

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

APOSTLES
CROWN
LAMB
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
SON

CHURCH
FAITH
MARY
REDEMPTION
RISEN
SUNDAY

CROSS
JESUS
MIRACLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
TOMB



CHARITIES FOR 2025

YOUR COUNCIL HAS SELECTED THE FOLLOWING NON-PROFITS FOR OUR CHARITIES FOR 2025.

April - May: Magdalene Hope.

Financial donations requested

June - July: Evergreen School

School supplies, hygiene items, \$

August– September : Jamison Center
donations of underwear, hygiene items, craft kits, games, etc.

October: Salvation Army - accept money, used items for the store (Ming Ave)

November/December: - Mercy Ships
Donations: Cash



Your thoughts, prayers and cards are so very much appreciated and give us support as we grieve the loss of my sister, Lois.

The Lemley's



Prayer requests from Feb. 26—Mar. 26

*Rosie Baker
Debbie Liebzeit
Karen Musgrove
Lori Hughes
Maggie Spillers*

*Lyn (Dick's daughter)
Lon Jr. Olson
Cleta
Condolences to the Shawn
Hunter family*

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

IN HIS SERVICE

AREA OF SERVICE	APRIL 6	APRIL 13	APRIL 20	APRIL 27
ALTAR GUILD	Becky	_____	_____	_____→
GREETER	Phyllis	Karen	Phyllis	Karen
ACOLYTE	Leo	Darynne	Maia	Leith
PASTOR'S ASSISTANT	Jan Lemley	_____	_____	_____→
LECTOR	Tammy	Judy	Nate	Karen
FLOWERS	Sue	Smith family	Easter Lilies	Judy
COFFEE HOUR	Tammy & Mark		Easter Breakfast J	Nate
COUNTERS		Julie		

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@sbcglobal.net

Web site address: www.bakersfieldlutheran.org



April 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Pacifica Sing Along 2:30 	2 Lunch Bunch 11 am Pacifica 10 am Soup Supper 6 Lenten vespers 7	3 Bible Study 1pm	4 Stations of the Cross 12:00	5
6 WORSHIP 9:30 Coffee 10:30 Sunday School—all ages	7	8 Pacifica Sing Along 2:30 pm Al-Anon	9 Prayer shawl & Knitting 9-3 Knitting classes 1 pm Soup Supper 6 Lenten vespers 7	10 Worship & Music 10am Bible Study 1pm	11 Stations of the Cross 12:00	12 Work day 9am Garden Club 9-noon
13 PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 Coffee 10:30 Sunday school	14	15 Pacifica Sing Along 2:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 –7:30	16 Afternoon Circle 1:30 Pacifica 10am	17 Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday Worship at 12:00— noon	19 Easter Egg hunt 10:00 Petting zoo 10:30
20 Easter Sunday Sunrise 7 am Breakfast 7:45 WORSHIP 9:30	21	22 Pacifica Sing Along 2:30  Al-Anon 6:30 –7:30	23 Game Day 12/12:30 	24 Bible Study 1pm	25	26
27 WORSHIP 9:30 Coffee 10:30 All ages S.S.	28	29 Pacifica Sing Along 2:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 –7:30	30			