



Volume 54—Number 10

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Voice of Redeemer



October 2025



Paws & Praise!

St. Francis and the Blessing of Animals

Each year in early October, many churches around the world hold a *Blessing of the Animals*. Dogs on leashes, cats in carriers, even birds, rabbits, or goldfish in bowls are brought forward to receive a prayer of blessing. It is a joyful and sometimes noisy reminder that God's love extends to all creation.

This tradition is tied to **St. Francis of Assisi (1181–1226)**, whose feast day is celebrated on October 4. Francis is remembered for his deep devotion to Christ and his profound care for the poor, the sick, and the marginalized. He also had a special love for animals and nature, seeing all creatures as brothers and sisters under the care of one Creator. His famous *Canticle of the Sun* praises God through “Brother Sun” and “Sister Moon,” and tells of a world where all creation sings together in harmony.

The Blessing of Animals is not just a sweet ceremony—it's a witness. It reminds us that God called the world “very good” in creation, that Jesus taught us about trust and provision by pointing to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, and that Scripture promises all creation will be renewed in Christ. When we bless our pets, we give thanks for the companionship and joy they bring, and we are reminded of our calling to be faithful stewards of God's creation.

This year, we invite you to bring your pets—whether furry, feathered, or scaled—for a special Blessing of the Animals service. If your pet can't travel, you are welcome to bring a photo instead. Together we will give thanks for the gift of creation and rejoice that God's love embraces every living thing.

Our blessing this year will be at **10:45 a.m. on October 12th**. Feel free to bring your pets to church with you and we will praise God with paws (or fins, or...)!

Pastor Jon Christenson





Applying Bible Principles

The Steinway piano has been the instrument of choice by masters of the keyboard for many years. Pianists such as Rubinstein, Cliburn, Horowitz, Rachmaninoff, and Liszt knew that a skillfully crafted instrument such as the Steinway produces a rich, wonderful sound.

Steinway pianos are built today the same way they were when Henry Steinway started the company in 1845. Two hundred craftsmen and 12,000 parts are required to produce one of these instruments. Most crucial is the rim-bending process where 18 layers of maple are bent around an iron press to create the shape of a Steinway grand. Five coats of lacquer are applied and hand-rubbed to give the piano its outer glow. Each key is tested 10,000 times to ensure quality and durability.

In a similar manner, Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, are being "handcrafted." We are pressed, formed and shaped to make us more and more like Him. We are polished until we "glow." We are tested in the laboratory of human experience to ensure quality and durability.

One of the ways in which we are made in Christ's image concerns our giving. 1 John 3:17 (why not take time to look it up in your Bible?) says that we demonstrate God's love when we see our brother in need and give to meet that need. In fact, the Lord Jesus said that we are to love our neighbor just as we love ourselves, and the illustration He provided was that of the Good Samaritan.

Yes, we are to give to the Lord's work here at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Yes, we are to place a priority in our lives on supporting this ministry financially. But let's not limit ourselves and our service for Christ to the walls of our church. Instead, let's be alert to opportunities to demonstrate God's love to fellow-travelers on the road of life. When we do that, we are demonstrating to ourselves and to all who observe that we have been "handcrafted" in the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ.



VOICES OF THE REFORMATION

"There is not — nor can there be! — any reason for tearing oneself away from the church in schism. Rather, the worse things become, the more one should help her and stand by her, for by schism and contempt nothing can be mended."

—Martin Luther, German pastor whose "95 Theses" sparked the Protestant Reformation



★ **December 13, 2025** ★
National Wreaths Across America Day

Help Sons of the American Revolution,
Kern County Chapter honor local heroes!



Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a
veteran's grave this December at the
Bakersfield National Cemetery

Scan the QR code to make a donation online
or visit wreathscrossamerica.org/CA0802P



KEEP MOVING FORWARD





Sons of the American Revolution California SAR



Kern Chapter Liberty Tree Project

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) a nonprofit, nonpartisan, lineage society, whose mission is to honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country, is conducting a Liberty Tree Campaign to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence/ founding of our country.

The 250th SAR Liberty Tree Program was rolled out at the Spring 2023 Leadership meeting by the NSSAR History 250 Committee's goal of planting 250 Liberty Trees for the 250th Anniversary with at least one tree in each state on or before July 4, 2026. We feel with by planting a Liberty Tree that it will help educate the public of the importance of the American Revolution and the sacrifices that were made to become our nation. Trees are installed with a dedication plaque.

Let's ensure that California, and Kern County in particular, is part of this effort to commemorate the 250th birthday of our country. Please join us by considering a tax-free donation to the Kern Chapter SAR local Liberty Tree efforts. You can be part of history and part of the celebration honoring our country's founding by help bringing this to fruition. We will be rededicating the existing Liberty Tree in Bakersfield. It is near the Veterans Memorial near Beale Library, the Amtrak station and the visitor's center. A bench in commemoration will also be dedicated. The Kern SAR will be dedicating a Liberty Tree with a bronze plaque for future generations to remember. Checks can be made out to Kern SAR and mailed to:

Kern SAR

c/o Liberty Tree

14726 Redwood Vally Dr.

Bakersfield, CA, 93314

History of the "Liberty Tree": The Liberty Tree (1646–1775) was a famous elm tree that stood in Boston, Massachusetts near Boston Common in the years before the American Revolution. In 1765, Patriots in Boston staged the first act of defiance against the British government at this tree. The tree became a rallying point for the growing resistance to the rule of Britain over the American Colonies, and the ground surrounding it became known as Liberty Hall. The Liberty Tree was felled in August 1775 by Loyalists. The Liberty Tree is a testament to the power of unity, resistance, and the enduring pursuit of freedom from tyranny.

Sincerely,

Bruce Wearda

Kern Chapter SAR America 250 Chair

CASSAR Youth Video Chair



OCTOBER ACTIVITIES



LUNCH BUNCH: Wednesday 10/1/25 - 11am, at New Vintage Grill, 9901 Hageman Rd. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY & QUILTING will meet on Wednesday, 10/8/25; 9 am— 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us for knitting/crocheting prayer shawls, blankets or quilts. Karen and her daughter Aimee teach knitting machine use after lunch. Judy will provide snacks. Please bring your own sack lunch.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE will be on Wed., October 15@ 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Money, Stewardship, & Generosity from Matthew 6:19-21 & Gather magazine. Lyda Barger will provide refreshments. All ladies are invited!



SENIOR GAME DAY will be on Wednesday, Oct. 22 in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00—if you bring your own lunch, 12:30 if you come to play games. Bring your friends....the more the merrier.



WINE & DINE: is Thursday 10/23/25— 6 pm at Sonder, 9500 Brimhall Rd. Please make reservations with Linda Cohen.



BRING YOUR PETS TO CHURCH
OCTOBER 12th
Blessing of the Animals
Blessings of the Animals
Following Worship.



Mark your calendar: Dec. 21st— S.S. Christmas Pageant



For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God.
Ephesians 2:8 Oct.. 26, 2025



Sat. October 11
9 am



Thursday, October 09
@ 10 am
Everyone is Welcome



October 19 11am



Pastor Jon	03
Maximus Wikoff	02
Rhett Spillers	06
Annalisa Lipes	06
Margaret Niebel	08
Tammy Smith	08
Darynne Musgrove-Coomer	14
Sarah Elrod	17
Colby Christenson	23
Silesia Johnson	23
Debby Liebzeit	23
Sherry Clayton	27
Audrey Albitre	29
Kathy Griffith	31



Jerry & Kathy McKnight 14



HAPPY
HALLOWEEN



FYI
NOVEMBER
2, 2025

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 Financial Report

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	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	142,975.25
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	128,553.36
Difference	15,886.83	(178.67)	3,014.83	(6,733.37)	2,291.33	1,097.83	(312.17)	(644.72)	14,421.89

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	131,638.93
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	128,553.36
Difference	(6,733.76)	(2,245.35)	2,621.44	2,575.06	3,092.69	510.08	(411.81)	(2,493.92)	(3,085.57)

Total	9,153.07	(2,424.02)	5,636.27	(4,158.31)	5,384.02	1,607.91	(723.98)	(3,138.64)	11,336.32
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Compared to Budget

Loan Re- ceipts	1,550.00	1,575.00	1,575.00	1,725.00	1,500.00	1,450.00	1,400.00	1,600.00	12,375.00
Loan Pay- ments	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	8,680.00
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)	15,031.32

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER

Brothers and sisters in Christ, thank you for your generosity.

Let us remember:

We love because he first loved us.

We give because he first gave to us. God also likes a cheerful giver.

All we have is because Christ has first blessed us. Let us remember we are custodians, stewards, if you will, of his gifts.

As one travels, remember that carrying out the mission and ministry still goes on and that there are expenses.

Bills still need to be paid, salaries provided for. These do not go on vacation. Please be mindful of any

Contributions that may have been skipped. Understand if unexpected circumstances arise, the Lord will provide.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration on this matter.



Sons of the American Revolution
California SAR
Kern Chapter



The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) a nonprofit, nonpartisan, lineage society, whose mission is to honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country, is conducting a Liberty Tree Campaign to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence/ founding of our country.

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Sincerely,

Bruce Wearda

Kern Chapter SAR America 250 Chair

CASSAR Youth Video Chair



CALIFORNIA LIVING MUSEUM

CALM

Oct. 15 - 19
9am - 4pm

Boo at the Zoo

FREE GAMES & PRIZES

\$2 TRAIN RIDES

\$5 PUMPKINS

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT CALMZOO.ORG

We encourage all ages to wear costumes during Boo at the Zoo!

CALM MEMBERS, CHILDREN 2 & UNDER, MILITARY & VETERANS CAN ATTEND FOR FREE

REGULAR ADMISSION FOR ADULTS & SENIORS. KIDS 3-12 YEARS OLD, ONLY \$5 (MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT)

BUNCO ★

FRIDAY—November 7

5:30 pm—Fellowship Hall

\$15.00

includes lite supper and play

Join us for good fun—good food—good fellowship and great prizes

Raffle prizes!

Redeemer Lutheran Church

2525 Belle Terrace



NEEDED FOR BUNCO:

Prizes for winners; Raffle baskets; Invite friends!

Lunch and Craft Faire

Hosted by the *Grace Lutheran Church Ladies Guild 2025*

Grace Lutheran Church, 2530 Drake St., Bakersfield, CA - 661 324-4315
gracebakersfieldca@gmail.com

Saturday, November 1, 2025 - Lunch 11:00-2pm
Crafts & Baked good sold from 10 am to 3 pm

Lunch includes: Swedish meatballs on Rice, salads, bread, drinks

Donation: \$15.00 adults, \$10.00 Children

Homemade Items for Sale:

Baked Goods ✦ Craft Items ✦ Christmas ✦ Raffle Baskets



MARTIN LUTHER : 1483-1546

Catholic Priest—Protestant Reformer— Hymnodist

In 1520, Martin Luther, an Augustinian priest, found himself in a serious controversy with the Catholic Church for publicizing his objections to the practice of selling indulgences. Eventually, Luther was excommunicated and threatened with being arrested and extradited to Rome for trial. He was placed in protective custody by a sympathetic German official and locked in a castle near Eisenach, Germany for over a year.

During his time being locked for his own safety, Martin Luther started to translate the Bible from Greek to German. He felt very strongly that people ought to be able to read the Holy Scriptures in their own language and also have the ability to speak directly to God through hymns in their own language. For this reason, he composed a hymn book for use by German congregations. With the translation of the New Testament in German in 1522, the publication of a hymn book in 1524, and the completion of the Old Testament translation in 1534, the foundation for the Protestant Reformation in Germany was set. In honor of Martin Luther, German Protestants became known as Lutherans.

If there was a theme song of the Reformation, it would have been *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, Luther's powerful hymn based on the first verse of Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength". This hymn has been used in various settings, is translated into almost every language in the world and is the national hymn of Germany.

Martin Luther knew the power of congregational singing and saw it as a powerful tool for bringing all people closer to God. He wrote: "If anyone despises music, as all fanatics do, for him I have no liking; for music is a gift and grace of God, not an invention of men. Thus it drives out the devil and makes people cheerful. Then one forgets all wrath, impurity, and other devices."

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world".

Martin Luther



A Native American Prayer



O great spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds
And whose breath gives life to everyone,
Hear me.
I come to you as one of your many children;
I am weak. I am small.
I need your wisdom and your strength.
Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever
Behold the red and purple sunsets.
Make my hand respect the things you have made,
And make my ears sharp so I may near your voice.

Make me wise, so that I may understand what you
Have taught my people and
The lessons you have hidden in each leaf and each rock.
I ask for wisdom and strength,
Not to be superior to my brothers, but be able
To fight my greatest enemy, myself.
Make me ever ready to come before you with
Clean hands and a straight eye,
So as life fades away as a fading sunset,
My spirit may come to you without shame.

IN HIS SERVICE

Area of Service	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Altar Guild	Tammy			
Acolyte	Maia	Emily	Darynne	Leo
Assistant to Pastor	Jan			
Flowers		Lemley family	Phyllis	Haywood family
Reader	Max	Judy	Tammy	Jan
Greeter	Karen			
Coffee Hour				Phyllis
Counters				

NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE DOES NOT REFLECT CHANGES MADE AFTER SEPT. 26

IN OUR PRAYERS

Aug.25, 2025



Sept. 26, 2025

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

Robert Hamstreet, Sherry Clayton
Rodney Johnson and family

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



CHARITY FOR OCTOBER

Your council has determined that our charity for October is The Salvation Army.

Captain Trimmer of the Bakersfield Salvation Army will be at church on Sunday, October 5th, to inform us about the work of the S.A. world wide, and what type of donations are needed.

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



October 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Sunday, October 12			1 Lunch Bunch 11 am Pacifica 10-11	2	3	4
5 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Sunday School 11:00	6	7 Al-Anon 6:30	8 Prayer Shawl & Quilting 9-2	9 Worship & Music 10 am	10	11  9 am—? Garden Club 9– noon
12 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Sunday School 11 <i>Blessing of Pets</i> 	13 Observed  	14 Al-Anon 6:30	15 Pacifica 10-11 Afternoon Circle 1:30	16	17	18
19 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Council 11 am	20	21 Al-Anon 6:30	22 Senior Game Day 12:30	23 Wine & Dine 6 pm	24	25 Glass Club 11 - 2 pm
26 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 	27	28 Al-Anon 6:30	29	30	31 Reformation Day 	 HAPPY HALLOWEEN OCTOBER 31