

Redeemer REVIEW



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD CHICO, CALIFORNIA MAR/APR 2025 Vol. 39 No. 2

from the Pastor...

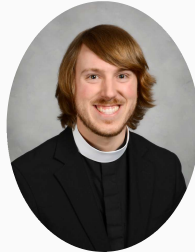
Rev. Brennan DeForest

Dear Saints of Redeemer,

Crux sola est nostra Theologia. “The cross alone is our theology.” During his lectures on the Psalms, Martin Luther spoke these words emphasizing the focus of all of Scripture and all of theology. Though of course, Martin Luther didn’t come up with this focus himself. He merely restated what the apostle Paul had written to one of the early Christian churches. **“As for me, brothers, when I came to you, I did not come with superior speech or wisdom in order to proclaim to you the testimony of God. For I had no intention of knowing anything among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified”** (1 Corinthians 2:1–2).

Jesus Christ crucified. “The cross [of Christ] alone is our theology.” Those words certainly became a theme of the Reformation, in addition to the Reformation slogans of Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone. And those words “the cross alone is our theology” have subsequently remained a theme and focus for our beloved Lutheran church. That’s why we emphasize Good Friday just as much as Easter Sunday. That’s why we still preach Christ crucified week-after-week. That’s why we read the Old and New Testaments with understanding, interpreting everything through the cross of Christ. That’s why we are led to be theologians of the cross, not theologians of glory. That’s why the dominant pieces of art in our sanctuaries and other spaces are crosses, or even better, crucifixes, crosses with the corpus, the body of Jesus on them. All of these, so that among one another we know nothing but Jesus Christ crucified.

With all this in mind, in this installment regarding liturgical ceremonies, we’ll be talking about crosses, specifically, making the sign of the cross upon yourself. At the beginning of each Divine Service setting in our *Lutheran Service Book*, there is a rubric, a suggested instruction, in red italics, which states, “the sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.” Since the cross alone is our theology, and since we know nothing among one another except Jesus Christ and Him crucified, how fitting that we can also mark ourselves with the



sign of the cross. And we can do this in remembrance of our Baptism, for there, in those sanctifying waters, we were crucified and we were raised again to new life with Jesus Christ. Of course on the cross Jesus won forgiveness and life for the world, but the results of Jesus’ cross are delivered to us in a variety of ways, what we call the Means of Grace, which especially includes our Baptism. Thus, we can make the sign of the cross in remembrance of our Baptism because Baptism reinforces that theme that the cross alone is our theology.

All of the above is the “why” behind making the sign of the cross. So what about the “how” and the “when”? Remember, marking yourself with the sign of the cross is a “may” rubric, it may be done or it may not be done, depending on your personal preference. Some may mark themselves with the cross more than others. In general, making the sign of the cross is a reminder of the results of Christ’s cross for you, so feel free to mark yourself with the sign of the cross when salvation is delivered to you, such as during the Absolution, while confessing that you believe in the life everlasting/life of the world to come in the Creeds, when praying to be delivered from evil in the Lord’s Prayer, when the elements are consecrated during the Service of the Sacrament, before you are about to receive the Lord’s Supper, and/or when you have received the Lord’s Supper and are being told to depart in peace. Feel free to also mark yourself with the sign of the cross when you remember your Baptism, such as when the Trinity is emphasized, since you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Instances where the Trinity is mentioned include the Invocation of the Divine Service, trinitarian hymns where one of the stanzas is marked with a triangle, the opening and closing of my sermons, and the Benediction of the Divine Service. As a general rule, if the pastor makes the sign of the cross, feel free to also mark yourself with the sign of the cross. And as for “how” to make the sign of the cross upon yourself, it’s as simple as touching your forehead, touching your sternum, touching the shoulder on the same side of the body as the

Continued on page 4

DIGITAL DAILY DEVOTIONS

Lutheran Hour Ministries: <https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions>

Higher Things: <https://higherthings.org/content/#reflections>

Portals of Prayer: <https://www.l.cph.org/portals/default.aspx>

LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO

Listen to good Lutheran radio programs at Lutheran Public Radio, Issues Etc., KFUO, St. Louis. 94.3 The Bridge.

PASTOR'S SERMONS

KKXX.net - Tunein.com KKXX 930 AM, 103.9 FM
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 & 5:00 PM

THE LUTHERAN HOUR
KKXX.net - Tunein.com KKXX 930 AM, 103.9 FM
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 PM

BIBLE STUDIES



Children's Sunday School is 8:45 a.m.
Adult Sunday Bible class is 8:45 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study is 9:30 a.m.

REDEEMER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CHURCH INCOME/EXPENSE – ACTUAL:

January 1 - January 31, 2025

OFFERING INCOME	13,408.01
SCHOOL LEASE (5%) GENERAL FUND	381.91
REDEEMER HOUSE INCOME	1,650.00
FACILITY USE INCOME	00.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>376.29</u>
TOTAL INCOME	15,816.21
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>15,928.12</u>
NET INCOME	-111.91
RETAINED EARNINGS	<u>95,946.23</u>
CURRENT BALANCE	95,834.32

See the Office Manager for more information.



Submit prayer requests to Pastor by email, text, voice mail, or in writing, using the form in the pew rack. pastorbd4est@gmail.com

(801) 910-6937 or (530) 342-6085 Opt 1



CHURCH STAFF

REV. BRENNAN DEFOREST, PASTOR

JACKIE VIEIRA, OFFICE MANAGER

DAVID BUNTING, ORGANIST

JAY ERWIN, ORGANIST

OFFICERS

JACY KROGH, PRESIDENT

MATT MAGUIRE, VICE PRESIDENT

BRUCE HOLDERBEIN, FINANCIAL
MANAGER

AARON ASHWORTH, SECRETARY

BOARD OF DEACONS

* JAY ERWIN

ROBERT REAN

TIMOTHY WENSLAFF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BRUCE HOLDERBEIN

* KEITH SIEMENS

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

* TIM KRESSIN

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

LINDA ALLEN

SHERRI HARDY

DIANE SCOTT

CAROL VARLEY

SHIRLEY WILSON

BOARD OF YOUTH

*DIANE SCOTT

*BOARD CHAIR

HOMEBOUNDED

William Baving
1200 Springfield #110
Chico, CA 95928

Brenda Bell
678 Buttonwillow Ln #28
Chico, CA 95926

Patricia Bodi
650 Manzanita Ave #115
Chico, CA 95926

Sonya Brown
1351 E Lassen, #112
Chico, CA 95973

Paul DeGarmo
2770 Sierra Ladera
Chico, CA 95928

Jackie Eichelberger
1199 Diablo #232
Chico, CA 95973

Esther Henry
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Chico, CA 95926

Larry Pohlad
2265 Maclovvia Ave Apt 160
Chico, CA 95928

Elaine Rubke
1200 Springfield Dr #213
Chico, CA 95928

Emma Siemens
1770 Humboldt Rd #202
Chico, CA 95928

SERVANTS

ACOLYTES:
NATE GRADO
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

ALTAR GUILD:
BONNIE HUNT
LINDA REAN
HAROLD URNESS
LOUISE URNESS

COUNTER:
PAT LILLIE

DEACON OF THE MONTH
MARCH
TIM WENSLAFF
APRIL
JAY ERWIN

USHERS:
TIM KRESSIN
JACY KROGH
TIM LANGE
TIM WENSLAFF
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

DRIVERS:
JAY ERWIN
BRUCE HOLDERBEIN
TIM KRESSIN



BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

- 03 EUGENE LOFINK
- 10 NATHANIAL GRADO
- 21 CARSON VANDERMATE
- 23 KARL WEINREICH, III
- 24 SVETLANA LITVINENKO
- 25 LACEY VANDERMATE
- 29 ANITA WEINREICH
- 31 PATRICIA BODI

APRIL

- 04 JOSHUA VANDERMATE
- 06 KARL JORDAN
- 08 CHRISTINE THOMPSON
- 09 ABBY DEFOREST
- 10 BOB REAN
- 12 R. J. JOKSCH
- 13 NICOLE WHEELER
- 17 THOMAS HOFFMAN
- 19 JOHN THOMASON
- 21 CAROL WHIPPLE
- 22 PAUL DEGARMO
- 23 DUSTY LOFINK
- 23 MEGAN REES
- 26 CYNDIE HOLDERBEIN
- 27 JOHN DURFEE
- 30 NEALE SIVESIND

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

TIM WENSLAFF:	ALLEN - HOFFIE
JAY ERWIN:	HOFFMAN - RUSTAN
ROBERT REAN:	SAWYER - ZIEGLER

GIVE BLOOD AND SAVE LIVES



Make donations at
Vitalant
555 Rio Lindo Ave.
And tell them to credit
your donation to
Redeemer Lutheran
Church

Visit vitalant.org for information



BAPTISMS

MARCH

- 01 LINDA ALLEN
- 18 EUGENE LOFINK
- 20 DAVID SWEET
- 23 CARSON VANDERMATE
- 24 MARNÉ SIVESIND
- 31 NICOLE WHEELER

APRIL

- 03 XIAO WENSLAFF
- 11 RICHARD THURMAN
- 14 ANITA WEINREICH
- 16 KARL JORDAN
- 17 THOMAS HOFFMAN
- 18 ABBY DEFOREST
- 25 MARGE HOLDERBEIN

Deadline

May/June

Redeemer Review

April 20



FROM THE PASTOR...CONTINUED

hand you're using, and touching the opposite shoulder (so you don't end with your arm like a chicken wing).

I pray that this reflection on making the sign of the cross may be edifying to you whether you already mark yourself with the cross, are considering doing so, or think it's not for you. Remember, this is a true *adiaphora*, so it matters not for your salvation whether you do or don't do this. In fact, I'll confess myself that up until a couple years ago, I felt those who marked themselves with the cross were uber-pious, doing so to demonstrate their self-righteousness, and so I never did the practice. But then, a spiritual father encouraged me to try it for a short amount of time, and when I began marking myself with the cross, I was better able to remember my Baptism and remember Jesus Christ crucified for me. I also took my inward faith and beliefs and became more comfortable expressing these outwardly. Thus, I haven't stopped the practice since, and now I delight to make the sign of the cross to you, reminding you of your Baptism and reminding you of Christ crucified for you.

Until next time, the Lord be with you,

~Pastor DeForest

2025 QUARTERLY MISSIONS

- 1Q Redeemer Charity Fund; Faith Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California
- 2Q Missionary Dennis Meeker, Kenya; Missionary Daniel Conrad, Latin America; Pamela Boehle-Silva, Always Mercy Kenya
- 3Q Lutheran Heritage Foundation; Luther Classical College, Casper, Wyoming; CNH District
- 4Q Women's Resource Clinic; KKXX Sermons; The Lutheran Hour; Issues, Etc

2024 QUARTERLY MISSIONS

- 1Q Redeemer Charity Fund - \$4,092.98; Faith Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California - \$4,092.98
- 2Q Missionary Dennis Meeker, Kenya - \$3,740.80; Missionary Daniel Conrad, Mexico - \$3,740.80; Pamela Boehle-Silva, Always Mercy Kenya - \$3,740.79
- 3Q Lutheran Heritage Foundation - \$3,657.28; Luther Classical College, Casper, Wyoming - \$3,657.28; CNH District - \$3,657.28
- 4Q Women's Resource Clinic - \$3,759.62; KKXX Sermons - \$3,600; The Lutheran Hour - \$3,759.61; Issues, Etc. - \$500

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

Brothers and Sisters,

First, on behalf of myself and the entire Church Council, thank you for electing us to serve you this upcoming year. Your trust to be good stewards of our congregation means a lot to us and we do not take that task lightly.

I wanted to update you on some of the latest business that the Council has been working on. Primarily, our steadfast Trustees are working to spruce up the church not only for our upcoming anniversary celebration but as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that our buildings and grounds are kept in optimal condition. One project that has already been completed is new flooring in some rooms in the Sunday School wing. Coming up when the weather is more amenable will be a new roof on that same wing, as well as a full exterior paint job on our buildings and parsonage. We thank the voters who participated in our special voters' assembly on February 2nd to approve those important projects.

We are also on the quest for more volunteers to serve in various ways around the congregation. Primarily, we would love to see some additional members step up to serve as ushers and greeters for our Sunday service. While we have a few stalwart members that are awesome and always willing to help, filling out our ranks with a few more would help out a lot. There are also some boards, especially the Deacons, who could greatly benefit from another member or two. If you feel called to serve in any capacity or would like more information feel free to reach out to Pastor, myself, Matt Maguire or your Deacon.

Lastly, for updates on Council meetings and Voters' Assemblies, you will find agendas, minutes and other information on the church's webpage under "Announcements." Keeping our membership informed about congregational business is one of my goals this year.

Gratefully in His service,
Jacy Krogh

BABY SHOWER - APRIL 6



Mark your calendars for a baby shower for Pastor and Abby DeForest on Sunday, April 6. If you'd like to help with planning, please see Lori Jordan or Bri Lofink

BABY SHOWER FOR AARON AND ANRRINA ASHWORTH & BAPTISM OF EVAN AUSTIN ASHWORTH

A baby shower was held for Aaron and Anrrina Ashworth on January 12 and just in the nick of time as their baby boy, Evan came into the world on January 13. Evan Austin Ashworth was baptized on February 2. Congratulations!



ASLEEP IN JESUS



Anita Claire Johnson

July 6, 1939 - January 28, 2025

Henry Lee DeGarmo

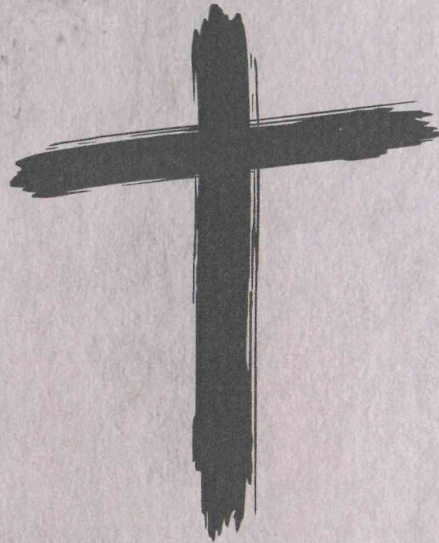
August 6, 1957 - February 9,
2025



Charlotte "Judy" Moreno

September 16, 1950 - February 20,
2025





Redeemer Lutheran Church
Lententide 2025

- Ash Wednesday | March 5 | 12 noon & 7:00 pm
- Lent Midweeks | March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9 | 4:30 pm
- Maundy Thursday | April 17 | 12 noon & 7:00 pm
- Good Friday | April 18 | 12 noon & 7:00 pm
- Holy Saturday | April 19 | 7:00 pm
- Each Sunday | 10:00 am

We Preach Christ Crucified

MISSIONS - VICAR PAUL & COURTNEY MRO CZENSKI - PUERTO RICO



Vicar Paul and Courtney Mroczenski

Paul.Mroczenski@lcms.org
lcms.org/international

lcms.org/Mroczenski

BIRTHDAYS: Paul – Sept. 22,
Courtney – May 7, Jacqueline –
Oct. 21

ANNIVERSARY: Jan. 1
HOME DISTRICT: North
Wisconsin and Rocky Mountain

Vicar Paul Mroczenski serves the Lord in Puerto Rico, where he is spending his vicarage before returning to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., to complete his fourth year of seminary. In this role, Paul serves under the supervision of the Rev. James Neuendorf, missionary to Puerto Rico. Paul's primary responsibility is to teach and preach at various churches and sites in both Spanish and English. Paul also assists with church planting and other evangelism and mercy work efforts.

Please pray for the Mroczenski family as they serve in Puerto Rico. Pray that they may learn Spanish quickly and thoroughly. Give thanks to the Lord for the safe arrival of a healthy baby girl, and pray for peace and provision as they adjust to being a family of three in a new place. Pray that the Lord will bless Paul as he teaches and preaches God's Word, that all may come to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

You can support our work for the LCMS in Puerto Rico.

ELECTRONIC GIVING
To give securely online, scan the QR code or visit lcms.org/mroczenski

GIVE BY MAIL
Send a check to:
The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Memo "Mroczenski-
Puerto Rico"

DEACONESS PAMELA BOEHLE SILVA ALWAYS MERCY

Dear saints at Redeemer,
Thank you for your continued support for our mission work in Puerto Rico! We are making final preparations for our deployment and continuing to study Spanish. We so enjoy our new vocation as parents to baby Jacqueline. Thank you for praying for us!

In Christ, Vicar Paul, Courtney, + Jacqueline



Rejoicing in the gift of Christ's mercy and peace this holy season.

*Remembering your gracious care to those in need in Kenya. Merry Christmas.
Deaconess Pamela Boehle-Silva*

LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

*The shepherds' awe and wonder,
the angels' radiant light...
Wishing you God's love and joy,
born that holy night.*

*Thank you for helping LHF
to share the joy of Christ's birth
throughout the world!*

*Joy To The World
A Child Is Born For You
Providing
A Way In The Manger!
Rev. P. Rubin*

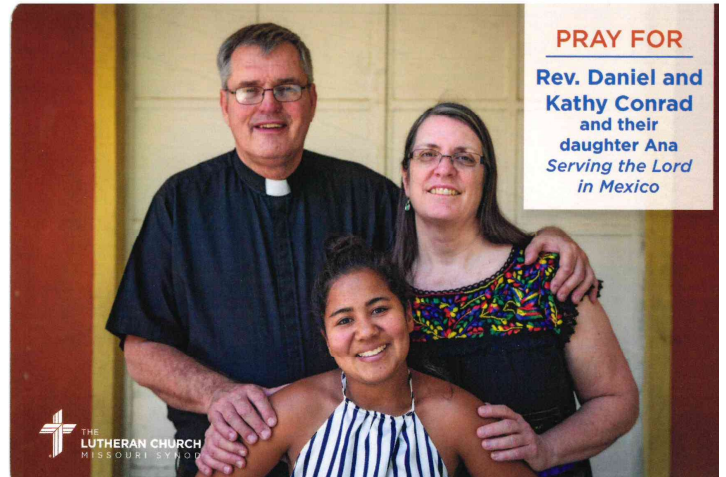


LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION
www.LHFmissions.org

*God's peace at Christmas,
Matthew Heise*

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid;
for see—I am bringing you good news
of great joy for all the people... Luke 2:10

REV. DANIEL & KATHY CONRAD LATIN AMERICA



Rev. Daniel and Kathy Conrad

Daniel.Conrad@lcms.org
lcms.org/conrad

lcms.org/international

BIRTHDAYS:

Daniel - July 6
Kathy - July 30
Ana - Oct. 10

ANNIVERSARY:

May 13

HOME DISTRICT:

California-Nevada-Hawaii

The Rev. Daniel and Kathy Conrad serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Dominican Republic. In this role, Daniel serves as a professor at Concordia the Reformer Seminary in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic. The seminary provides theological education to future pastors who come from 11 countries in Latin America. By the grace of God, Daniel helps prepare pastors who will serve throughout the region.

Pray for the Conrads as they serve in the Dominican Republic. Ask God to give Daniel strength and wisdom as he teaches future pastors, as well as to raise up more pastors to serve His people throughout Latin America. Let us give thanks that the Conrads are serving God's children in this part of the world.

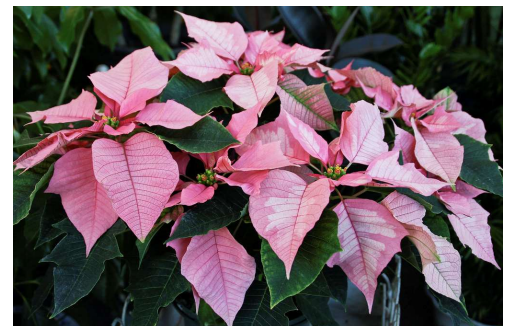
You can support our work for the LCMS in the Dominican Republic.

ELECTRONIC GIVING
To give securely online, scan the QR code or visit lcms.org/conrad

GIVE BY MAIL
Send a check to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
Memo "Conrad-Dominican Republic"

THANK YOU WHO PROVIDED POINSETTIAS DURING CHRISTMAS

Jerry Brandt in memory/honor of Rosemarie Brandt
Jeanette Chevalier
Paul & Kay Eagan in memory/honor of Our Lord and Savior
Bob & Linda Rean
Neale & Marné Sivesind in memory/honor of Leo & Louise Gloeden, Len & Fran Roberts, and Carl & Dina Sivesind



Harold & Louise Urness in memory/honor of Alfred & Agnes Urness
Carol Varley in memory/honor of Keith Varley and her parents
Bernadine Wiggley in memory/honor of Anita Hartwing and William Werner

THANK YOU FROM...



660 Mason Ridge Center Dr. • St. Louis, MO 63141 • 1-800-944-3450

February 5, 2025

Dear Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous \$3,759.61 contribution in support of **The Lutheran Hour** and other ministry programs, at home and abroad. We could not do this work without family members like you beside us.

The Lutheran Hour® remains the longest-running Gospel outreach program on the radio. As I shared in my recent letter, it encourages Christians in their walk with the Savior. God uses the broadcast, as well as our other ministry programs, through all seasons of people's lives. You are part of what God is doing through these vital programs in the United States and beyond.

On behalf of our ministry staff around the globe, thank you for Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church. Thank you for stepping out in His love and sharing that HOPE ABOUND in Him. And remember, you can always give immediately at lhm.org/give.

In Jesus,

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**®

Dear Redeemer Lutheran Church members,

The Epiphany season reminds us that Jesus reveals Who God is, and reconciles us to God:

In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

Your gift to Issues, Etc. has helped us show more listeners Jesus, the Word made flesh. Thank you.

Wir sind alle Bettler,

Todd Wilken, Host

Women's Resource Clinic

115 W 2nd Avenue
Chico, CA 95926
530-897-6101

Donation Statement

Pastor Brennan DeForest
750 Moss Ave.
Chico, CA 95926

Dear Supporter,

February is one of those months that can sometimes be "the calm before the storm" for this ministry because poor decisions made on Valentine's Day many times result in nervous clients in March and April. The simple words, "Will you be my Valentine" are at times, sadly, interpreted to mean "Will you give me what I want--now?". The love of Valentine's Day should be that romantic joy that comes from having a relationship strengthened by commitment and selflessness. Unfortunately, we see those times when this is not the case. Still, when a client comes to see us after the romance is over, we can point her to true love, the love that only comes from Jesus Christ. And you are a key part of this process. Thank you for your gift to this ministry. Because of you, we look forward to offering true love, and true hope, even in the midst of a post-Valentine's Day trial.

Lovingly in Him,

Brenda K. Dowdin
Executive Director

PHONE:	530-342-6085
Pastor's Phone:	801-910-6937
Office Manager's Cell:	530-228-4240
EMAIL:	redeemerchicooffice@gmail.com
PASTOR'S EMAIL:	pastorbd4est@gmail.com
WEB ADDRESS:	www.redeemerchico.org
Facebook:	facebook.com/RedeemerLutheranChico

Our Mission Statement

Welcome to Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, a community of believers saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

As a people enabled by the Spirit, we are committed to regular worship and the use of the sacraments, studying and teaching the Bible, praying, using our gifts and talents in God's service, for the caring and nurturing of others and sharing the message of God's salvation so that God is glorified and all people may know Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

March/April 2025



March/April 2025

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Missouri Synod
 750 Moss Avenue
 Chico, CA 95926