

# Redeemer REVIEW



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD CHICO, CALIFORNIA JAN/FEB 2026 VOL. 40 No. 01

from the Pastor...

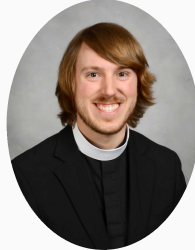
Rev. Brennan DeForest

Dear Saints of Redeemer,

As I sat at my desk, staring at my computer screen, wondering what to write here, I pondered whether I wanted to do another series of “notes from the pastor” that have the same theme throughout the year, or just pick random topics and themes whenever it’s time for a new article. Since nothing in the church is random or haphazard, but everything has a meaning and a purpose, I decided that sticking with one topic for the whole year is most helpful.

But what topic? Let’s keep it simple: brief discourses on the seasons of the church year. And such a topic pairs well with questions I received throughout the past year, questions like, “why are we confessing the Apostles’ Creed during Lent, instead of the Nicene Creed?” or “why was the Festival Day of Pentecost not built up more?” or “what’s the purpose of the candles during Advent?”. Just as the calendar year has seasons and festival days during which we humans do things or expect things because that’s just the way it is, so too with the church year. But, so that our hearts are not far from God when we celebrate the church’s seasons and festival days, let’s revisit and explore these to grow in wisdom and knowledge of the Lord.

The season of the church year that will occur during the months of this newsletter (January & February) is Epiphany (except for the first week of January and the last week of February; we’ll reflect on those seasons in future newsletter notes). You’ve probably heard and even used the word “epiphany,” in the sense of an insight, a revelation, or a realization. For example, “I just had an epiphany about what to write in this newsletter article.” The season of Epiphany accomplishes exactly what it means as a part of the church year. Epiphany gives us insight and helps us realize that Jesus, the baby born in Bethlehem on Christmas, is the Christ, the Son of



God. As we sing at the end of every stanza of Hymn 394, “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise,” the season of Epiphany causes us to realize that Jesus Christ is “God in man made manifest.” In the Christmas season we see that Jesus Christ is true man, born of the Virgin Mary. And then in the Epiphany season we see that Jesus Christ is true God.

How is this truth manifest to us? How do we arrive at such an epiphany? The events and readings, especially the Gospel readings, of the Epiphany season lead us to realize that Jesus Christ is true God. Epiphany begins, of course, with the visit of the magi, who gave to Jesus gifts fit for a king and worshiped Him. Whether the magi worshiped Jesus as simply a king or as true God is unknown, but their worship shows us that we too worship Jesus as our King and our Lord. The first Sunday of Epiphany is always the Baptism of our Lord, in which Jesus was Baptized in the Jordan River, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and God the Father declared of Him, “**this is my beloved Son.**” Thus Jesus’ Baptism especially affirms for us that He is truly the Son of God. The remaining Sundays in Epiphany, we hear accounts of Jesus’ preaching and teaching, calling disciples, and performing miracles. In all of these, but especially by performing miracles, Jesus peels back the curtain of His human nature to reveal His divine nature, further declaring to us that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And the final Sunday of the Epiphany season is Transfiguration Sunday, when Jesus’ divine nature is especially put on display and when God the Father again declares of Jesus, “**this is my beloved Son.**” Week after week during Epiphany the Scriptures have testified that Jesus Christ is true man AND true God, strengthening our faith in that confessional truth. By the end of the Epiphany season, we are ready for Lent, to see how Jesus Christ, true God and true man, sacrifices Himself on 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

January 1 - November 30, 2025

### CHURCH INCOME/EXPENSE – ACTUAL:

CREDIT CARD POINTS EARNED	500.00
OFFERING INCOME	150,725.98
SCHOOL LEASE (5%) GENERAL FUND	4,204.99
REDEEMER HOUSE INCOME	18,150.00
FACILITY USE INCOME	1,110.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>3,318.89</u>
TOTAL INCOME	178,009.86
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>207,200.20</u>
NET INCOME	-29,190.34
RETAINED EARNINGS	<u>98,913.34</u>
CURRENT BALANCE	69,723.00

*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](mailto: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

RACHAEL THOMASON, SECRETARY

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FRED SHERMAN, III

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\*DIANE SCOTT

HOMEBOUNDED

SERVANTS



BIRTHDAYS

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Chico, CA 95926

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theresteriburch@gmail.com

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Granite Bay, CA 95661

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Chico, CA 95926

**Larry Pohlrad**  
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Chico, CA 95928

**Elaine Rubke**  
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Chico, CA 95928

ACOLYTE:  
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

ALTAR GUILD:  
BONNIE HUNT  
LINDA REAN  
HAROLD URNESS  
LOUISE URNESS

COUNTER:  
PAT LILLIE

DEACON OF THE MONTH:  
JANUARY  
FRED SHERMAN  
FEBRUARY  
TIM WENSLAFF

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

DRIVERS:  
JAY ERWIN  
BRUCE HOLDERBEIN  
TIM KRESSIN

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

FRED SHERMAN: ALLEN - HUNT  
TIM WENSLAFF: JOHNSON - RUBKE  
JAY ERWIN: SAWYER - ZIEGLER

JANUARY  
02 LINDA ALLEN  
02 REV. DONALD JORDAN  
03 MARY SIEMENS  
06 NOEL KROGH  
10 DAVID SWEET  
14 ANDREW JORDAN  
14 BRI LOFINK  
16 BERYL COTTER  
20 LINDA ROWE  
30 TODD THOMPSON

FEBRUARY  
05 AURORA PONCI  
06 THERESA BURCH  
11 AMANDA SIEMENS  
24 DUSTIN SIEMENS  
15 MICHELLE SWEET  
28 JULIE MCCANN



BAPTISMS

JANUARY  
01 LINDA ROWE  
14 JERRY BRANDT  
14 BRANDON SIEMENS  
19 DIANE SCOTT  
FEBRUARY  
01 KATHY SWEET  
02 MICHELLE SWEET  
03 STEPHEN FRATALLONE  
06 LAYLA HOFFMAN  
06 LIAM HOFFMAN  
11 AURORA PONCI  
13 ALICE DURFEE  
17 ANDREW JORDAN  
19 GLEN BERGENDAHL  
23 LINDSEY ALLEN  
24 CAROL VARLEY  
27 MICHAEL THOMPSON

Deadline

March/April  
Redeemer Review  
February 20



## FROM THE PASTOR...CONTINUED

cross as the substitutionary atonement offering for us.

Epiphany may be an important season of the church year theologically, yet it doesn't overemphasize itself. Aside from the Festival of Epiphany, the Baptism of our Lord, and Transfiguration Sunday, the church "wears" green during the Epiphany season (meaning the chancel furniture, the altar, the lectern, the pulpit, are all clothed in green paraments, and the banner is green; on the other three days just mentioned, the church wears white). Green cues us in that Epiphany is like "ordinary time" (the Sundays after Pentecost, which we'll reflect on about halfway through the year). There's nothing to add or take away from the Divine Service. There's not a special emphasis on repentance, fasting, preparation, etc, as in other seasons. During Epiphany we bask in the light of God in man made manifest, our faith is strengthened, and we grow in wisdom and knowledge that Jesus Christ is true God and true man.

And if you've heard of Epiphany traditions, things like Twelfth Night celebrations or King's Cake, perhaps the most important one is House Blessings. House blessings traditionally occur during the Epiphany season because the magi visited the house of Jesus, as celebrated on the Feast of Epiphany. In a house blessing, basically the pastor comes to your home and prays in various rooms. If you desire a house blessing this Epiphany season, I would be glad to come to your home and provide that!

The Lord be with you as we move from Christmastide into Epiphanytide! ~*Pastor DeForest*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Brothers and Sisters,

As we head into 2026, I wanted to take a moment to recognize two individuals who have served our congregation faithfully and will be transitioning out of their roles. Deacon Robert Rean and Secretary Aaron Ashworth have both contributed their time and talents to serve the Lord in our church. I am thankful to both for the years they volunteered to ensure that our congregation had leaders who were ready and willing to step up when needed.

In that same spirit, I am pleased to announce that at our Voters' Assembly on December 7, 2025, we were blessed to have some new (and in some cases returning) volunteers to round out our leadership rosters. Rachael Thomason will be serving as Secretary, Fred Sherman III will join the Board of Deacons, Tim Lange is now on the Board of Trustees, and Marilyn Brownfield and Robin Maguire are joining the Board of Fellowship. I am thankful that these members have heard the call and stepped up to serve.

I also want to thank all our members (27 of them I believe) who attended the Voters' Assembly. The meeting was spirited with good questions, discussions and some debate. For those of you who know anything about my background, you know I love a lively local government meeting. The Church Council is your government; we are here to serve at your pleasure and do the work of the congregation. I welcome any of you to reach out at any time with concerns, questions or feedback about what is going on at Redeemer. As a reminder, the current Church Council and Voters' Assembly meeting information can be found on the church's website under the Announcements tab.

May the Lord continue to bless our congregation, our Pastor and our community in the coming year.

In His Service, Jacy Krogh

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

The mite offerings collected over the last two months have been applied to others in California/Nevada/Hawaii districts to further God's work. Members of Chico and others are collecting mite offerings to aid this program. Grant number Fourteen is entitled Know, Like, Trust, Outreach. The sum of money needed for this grant is \$10,000 and is located in Hayward, CA. Good Shepherd Lutheran is a congregation of immigrants and working class families who do not have a large budget to fund their Kingdom dream.



The staff and charter school's after-school program on their campus have begun to build relationships and establish trust with the student body and their families. To share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the unchurched, funds are needed for event supplies/materials, training, Bibles, Catechism books, and staff leadership development (skills training). The grant will provide the needed start-up funds to reignite this ministry. We members of Redeemer can be a part of this endeavor. Our monthly Mite Offerings do really help. Thank you for using your little blue box or large one in Narthex. **Mite Box Sunday is the First Sunday of the month.**

THANK YOU FROM ST. MARK LUTHERAN  
CHURCH - FERNDALE

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR DEFOREST

Therefore encourage one another &  
build up one another, just as you are  
doing. — 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Dear members of Redeemer Lutheran Church,

We extend our sincere gratitude for your  
gracious & thoughtful support. Your  
congregation has demonstrated a spirit  
& Christian encouragement that has  
greatly blessed our church. We are truly  
thankful for your most generous gift. We  
have voted to use the money to help  
pay for new front doors, as ours are in  
desperate need of repairs.

May Christ continue to guide your ministry  
as we labor together for His glory.

In Christ, St. Mark Lutheran, Ferndale

THANK YOU FROM DAVID BUNTING

12-16-2025

Dear Pastor DeForest and members  
of Redeemer Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the music scholarship

for 2026. This allows me to  
continue lessons with Dr. Jeffrey  
Cooper. He is his 9 concert  
organist and has taught me  
a lot about playing the organ.

Thank you for the generous  
Christmas gift. Your  
thoughtfulness is greatly  
appreciated. It is a pleasure  
to be your organist.

In Christ,

David Bunting

David Bunting



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We just want to take a minute to say thank  
you for your gifts to our family this Christmas  
season! We were humbled by your generous  
monetary gifts and enjoyed all the cards, treats,  
and outfits for Jasper we also received! We also  
wish to thank you for your prayers for our  
family not only during the Christmas season,  
but all year long. We rejoice that we have such  
a wonderful family here at Redeemer and we  
look forward to what 2026 brings us. The Lord  
be with you all!

With love, Pastor, Abby, & Jasper DeForest

THANK YOU FROM JACKIE VIEIRA

I wish to express my deepest and sincerest  
appreciation to the members of Redeemer for  
their generous gifts. You all have been so good  
to me for all of these almost 23 years that I  
have been here. I am truly blessed. Thank you  
so very much.

Jackie Vieira, Office Manager

THANK YOU FROM REV. DANIEL AND KATHY CONRAD, LATIN AMERICA

November 21, 2025

Dear Members of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church,

We pray that you had a blessed Thanksgiving celebration. The season of advent is about to begin and the prophet Isaiah's words call out to us: "Comfort ye comfort ye my people." (Isaiah 40:1) These divine words gave comfort to the nation of Israel who had fallen away from the one true God. The Lord then comforted His people with the promise of forgiveness. These same words continue to comfort and console us today. Moreover, we proclaim these words of comfort to all nations.

The last few weeks of the seminary fall semester are winding down. The seminarians are busy with their assignments and their preparation for final exam week. They are also busy doing their field work which include visitation, helping in the Sunday worship services, and helping in chapel. We give thanks to God for the great assistance that they are providing. Our resident seminarians represent the countries of Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, and Venezuela.

The Dominican Republic was not affected greatly by hurricane Melissa. Unfortunately, many people in Cuba suffered the effects of this hurricane. One of our Cuban seminarian's family lost their home and went without electricity and clean water for several weeks. In response to this disaster, the Lutheran churches in the Dominican Republic took up a free will offering consisting of dry goods and medicines. These donations were then taken to Cuba via an airline flight by the wife of one of our Cuban seminarians.

Our daughter Ana who lives in Detroit, has been diagnosed with bronchial cysts. She does not have a lot of details concerning these cysts and will not know anything until her appointment with a specialist. Please keep Ana in your prayers as she awaits her appointment with a specialist.

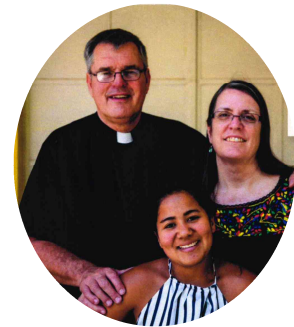
We thank you for your support and prayers that make God's mission in Latin America possible. Attached please find our prayer card and a photo of the missionaries, professors, national pastors and seminarians who participated in our Latin American regional study conference. Professor Gerson Linden of Brazil served as the presenter and gave an excellent presentation on the gospel of John.

We pray that the Lord blesses your Advent, Christmas, and New Year's celebrations abundantly. Let us all continue to proclaim the coming of the Christ Child to all nations.

*"...To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen." (Revelation 1:5,6)*

In Christ,

*Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad*  
Rev. Daniel and Kathy Conrad



Keep up with the missionaries we support by reading their newsletters on our website.  
[https://www.redeemerchico.org/New\\_Website/category/missions-outreach/](https://www.redeemerchico.org/New_Website/category/missions-outreach/)

THANK YOU FROM LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION



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Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church  
The Rev. Brennan T. DeForest  
750 Moss Ave  
Chico, CA 95926-2900

Wednesday, October 15, 2025


Dear Rev. DeForest,

**“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.” Hebrews 13:7 (ESV)**

The weather in the North is becoming cooler and school has already begun. Recently, I found my old first grade class photo and marveled... it was 60 years ago! This passage from Hebrews came to mind as I looked at the faces of my teachers, most of whom are now in heaven.

Several generations have come and gone through Guardian Lutheran in Dearborn, Michigan since that time. But a new generation of leaders, who teach the Word of God and highlight our Lord’s Great Commission, remain. We thank you for your generous support of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation as you assist us in missions, sharing His life-giving Word with the world in a multitude of languages. We are truly grateful!

In Christ,


  
Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise  
Executive Director of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation

*Thank you so much, Redeemer Evangelical, and Rev. DeForest,  
for your kind and generous missions support.  
We are truly grateful!  
God's blessings, Rev. Heise*

**LHF BOOK OF THE MONTH:**

**Swahili – Book of Concord**

With your help, LHF is producing a new edition of our Lutheran Confessions for pastors in East Africa!



THIS IS YOUR GIFT RECEIPT. Please retain for tax purposes. No goods or services were exchanged for this charitable donation. Your tax-deductible contribution: **\$3,716.38** received on **10/3/2025** to **General Mission Fund**

## MISSIONARIES PAUL, COURTNEY, AND JACQUELINE MROCZENSKI, PUERTO RICO

To the Saints of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for faithfully supporting the Lord's work in Puerto Rico through us! We would like to invite your congregation to attend the **Puerto Rico Foro, MARCH 6-8, 2026**. The Foro is an opportunity for missionaries to meet face to face with supporters like your congregation, in the hopes of fostering long-term partnerships in the gospel. At a Foro, you will **SEE** where the ministry is done, **EXPERIENCE** a bit of culture, and **LEARN** what missionaries are actively doing to spread the gospel, plant Lutheran churches, and show mercy in Puerto Rico.

Our family will be leaving the mission field next spring and returning to Fort Wayne for Paul to finish his seminary studies. However, the Lord's work in Puerto Rico will continue, and we will continue to support that work prayerfully, financially, and by spreading the word. Through the Foro, your church can do the same! When our service comes to an end, we humbly ask that your congregation continue your support of the mission work in Puerto Rico by giving the same gift to the Puerto Rico Foro. We know it doesn't feel as special as giving to someone you know, but it is support that is desperately needed to keep the mission here going.

The ministry in Puerto Rico is growing, but it is also currently facing a shortfall in Foro funding and the resulting budget cuts. None of our missionaries are going hungry. Each of our LCMS missionaries in Puerto Rico and their families are supported by their own network of supporters, much like your congregation has supported us. However, there are still significant expenses related to *doing* mission work. Those expenses are covered from the Puerto Rico Foro budget which comes primarily from the support of churches like yours. When your church supports the Puerto Rico Foro, you are equipping the missionaries here with the resources they need to do the work of spreading the gospel, planting Lutheran churches, and showing mercy.

All that to say, *what the PR mission needs more than anything right now is **faithful, long-term, financial supporters***. We also need **ambassadors of mission**—supporters who are willing to **stay put** in their own communities, **stay informed** about the PR mission, and **spread the word** about so that others can pitch in too. Your congregation can be that for Puerto Rico. The best way to multiply your mission impact in this way is to become a Foro supporter and attend a Foro in person. Send your pastor and/ or a few congregation members to Puerto Rico this March. **Hearing and seeing the ministry first-hand** is a unique experience. It will **EMPOWER you to share about the Lord's work** in your own church, **INVIGORATE your passion for mission**, and it will **KINDLE a partnership in the gospel** which, by God's grace, will bear fruit unto eternal life for many in Puerto Rico.

So please **come and visit us** and learn about the Puerto Rico mission. We would LOVE to see you! If you cannot make plans for the Spring Foro, make plans for the next one (October 2026). It's never too late. *The Puerto Rico mission needs faithful supporters like your congregation.* Please do not hesitate to reach out with your mission or Foro related questions. We hope to see you in March!

In Christ,

Missionaries Paul, Courtney, and Jaqueline Mroczenski

Paul & Courtney



## MROCZENSKI CONTINUED

Mroczeni Year 4: Vicarage

The year began with an anniversary/ goodbye party with friends and family in Wisconsin. We moved to Santiago, Dominican Republic January 13 to begin full time Spanish training and orientation in preparation for our missionary service in Puerto Rico. In March, we moved to Ponce, Puerto Rico where Paul serves as an international missionary and vicar. Since arriving in Ponce, Paul has been leading the liturgy, teaching catechism classes and Bible study, and preaching—all in Spanish! Courtney has been making homemade bread, raising backyard chickens, and staying home with Jacqueline (which she loves). Jacqueline has already learned to walk and is exploring everything. We've enjoyed many beach days and plenty of local food. Although at times it can be difficult, we consider it a great joy and privilege to live in a foreign culture and share the gospel with the people here. We praise God for his worldwide church and the faithful here and abroad who support us. Above all, this Advent season we give thanks to God for sending his son Jesus to be born as one of us, to die on the cross for our sins, and to rise again, that we might again be his own and live under him in his kingdom forever.

## THANK YOU - POINSETTIAS

Thank you to all who provided poinsettias to grace our chancel during this Christmas season.

JERRY BRANDT IN MEMORY

OF ROSEMARIE BRANDT

PAUL & KAY EAGAN

WALT & SHERRY GODSIL

BONNIE IN MEMORY OF ELLIS HUNT

GALEN JOHNSON IN MEMORY OF

HILDE JOHNSON

BOB & LINDA REAN

KEITH & MARY SIEMENS IN MEMORY OF

EMMA JANE SIEMENS

DOTTIE TEFELSKI

HAROLD & LOUIS URNESS IN MEMORY OF THEIR  
PARENTS



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

### 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.

# January/February 2026

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