

Redeemer REVIEW



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD CHICO, CALIFORNIA MAR/APR 2026 Vol. 40 No. 02

from the Pastor...

Rev. Brennan DeForest

Dear Saints of Redeemer,

The season of Epiphany concludes with a climactic, mountain-top experience: Jesus transfigured and talking with Moses and Elijah about His upcoming “exodus,” His death and resurrection in Jerusalem. Maybe the Transfiguration was to encourage Jesus as He set His face to go to Mount Calvary. Maybe the Transfiguration was to teach the disciples about the glory of God. Whatever its purpose, the usual final hymn on Transfiguration indicates a transition from Epiphany into Lent. *Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below... for the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.*”

Lent was one of the earliest church “seasons” that developed. Early church fathers saw a need for a solemn time of repentance and fasting before the great, joyous feast of Easter, and so they took the 40 days (plus Sundays) before Easter to prepare. Thus Lent begins with a climactic experience and a mountain-top experience. Climactic in that on Ash Wednesday, by means of a dusty cross on your forehead, you are reminded of the climax of your life, that you are going to die one day. Then a mountain-top experience in that on the first Sunday in Lent, we hear of Jesus overcoming the devil on the mount of temptation. And from there Lent continues on, emphasizing themes of repentance, discipleship, catechesis, giving, praying, fasting, and overcoming temptation.

Even the Divine Service feels restrained during Lent. Gone are the Hymn of Praise and the Alleluias. There are fewer hymns. Returning to the simple faith of our Baptism, we confess the Apostles’ Creed instead of the Nicene Creed. There are no flowers on the altar. And there are additional midweek services to aid meditation and prayer. Some may fast to focus their attention on Jesus and His sufferings and to allow more time for prayer or Bible reading. This year I also plan to offer specific time for private confession and absolution, where you can meet me in the sanctuary and confess your sins to directly hear Jesus’ words of forgiveness for those sins. And while the services might feel restrained, what the church wears during Lent is rich: purple, the color of kings and royalty, pointing us to our king Jesus reigning from the throne of His cross.

Lent becomes intensified in the final two weeks before Easter. Things feel more somber. The crucifixes



in the church are veiled. The *Gloria Patri* at the end of psalms and canticles is omitted, as we continue to strip away elements of praise from our services. If we had them, we’d switch to scarlet paraments, a deep red color symbolizing the blood of Jesus. Some may fast for 24 or 36 hours, or longer, during these two weeks. And of course during Holy Week we remember again and even rehearse the events from the final days of Jesus’ life, His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His last supper with His disciples, His betrayal, arrest, trials, sufferings, crucifixion, death, burial, and rest in the tomb. I will be available every day during Holy Week for private confession and absolution. And I will commend as always our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil services. The Easter Vigil service is a personal favorite of mine, rehearsing salvation history from Creation to Easter, reminding you of your Baptism, and marking the transition from Lent and Holy Week to the overwhelming joys of Easter. And best of all, it only lasts about an hour.

Where Lent is somber and restrained, Easter of course is jubilant and vibrant. All the ceremonies and praises return to the Divine Service. Flowers on the altar, processions and recessions, Gospel processions, Alleluias and the Hymn of Praise, and the famous line “Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!” There is truly not enough praise and thanksgiving we can give for God the Father raising His Son from the dead. Even the church building and furniture joins in the praise by wearing white, a color symbolizing God’s glory and purity, emphasizing that though our sins were as scarlet, now because of Christ we are white as snow. Although, if we had gold paraments, the church would wear those for the first and second Sundays of Easter, emphasizing the importance and value of the resurrection of our Lord. The Gospel reading on Easter tells of Jesus’ resurrection. The Gospel reading on the second Sunday of Easter is always the account of “doubting Thomas” from John 20, which proclaims how salvation is delivered. The fourth Sunday of Easter is also particularly beloved, being labeled “Good Shepherd Sunday” due to the reading from John 10 that day. Other readings from John, particularly Jesus’ farewell discourse and His high priestly prayer in John chapters 13–17 fill out the remaining Sundays in Easter.

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 - January 31, 2026

CHURCH INCOME/EXPENSE – ACTUAL:

OFFERING INCOME	13,689.51
SCHOOL LEASE (5%) GENERAL FUND	461.44
REDEEMER HOUSE INCOME	1,650.00
FACILITY USE INCOME	200.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>244.05</u>
TOTAL INCOME	16,245.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>17,980.07</u>
NET INCOME	-1,735.07
RETAINED EARNINGS	<u>74,080.13</u>
CURRENT BALANCE	72,345.06

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

RACHAEL THOMASON, SECRETARY

BOARD OF DEACONS

* JAY ERWIN

FRED SHERMAN, III

TIM WENSLAFF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JAY ERWIN

TIM LANGE

KEITH SIEMENS

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

* TIM KRESSIN

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LINDA ALLEN

MARILYN BROWNFIELD

SHERRI HARDY

ROBIN MAGUIRE

DIANE SCOTT

CAROL VARLEY

SHIRLEY WILSON

BOARD OF YOUTH

*DIANE SCOTT

HOMEBOUNDED

SERVANTS



BIRTHDAYS

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Chico, CA 95926

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theresteriburch@gmail.com

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Chico, CA 95928

Esther Henry
14 Discovery Way
Chico, CA 95926

Larry Pohlrad
2265 Maclovvia Ave Apt 160
Chico, CA 95928

Elaine Rubke
1200 Springfield Dr #213
Chico, CA 95928

ACOLYTE:
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

ALTAR GUILD:
BONNIE HUNT
THEISA MARTIN
LINDA REAN
HAROLD URNESS
LOUISE URNESS

COUNTER:
PAT LILLIE

DEACON OF THE MONTH:
MARCH
JAY ERWIN
APRIL
FRED SHERMAN

USHERS:
TIM KRESSIN
JACY KROGH
TIM LANGE
MATT MAGUIRE
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

MARCH
02 EUGENE LOFINK
10 NATHANIAL GRADO
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 DEFEST
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



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 DEFEST
25 MARGE HOLDERBEIN

MISSED LAST EDITION:
2/10 REV. DONALD JORDAN

Deadline

May/June

Redeemer Review

April 20



FROM THE PASTOR...CONTINUED

And since the season of Easter, being 50 days long, falls in the months of April and May this year, I can talk more about Easter in the next newsletter.

God's richest blessings to you as we walk the Lenten road together this March and April and celebrate with joy the feast of Easter on April 5th!

~Pastor DeForest

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

This is how one may make the Sign of the Cross

1st, Touch you forehead

“My Lord Jesus came down from Heaven”

2nd, Touch your breast

“And he was incarnate for me”

3rd, Touch first shoulder

And he was crucified for me”

4th Touch second shoulder

“By his Word, he cleanses my heart”

The Sign of the Cross is a remembering of your Baptism. In Baptism Jesus has made you his child. He has given to you his cross and his resurrection.

Romans 6:3-6

Jesus wants no one kept from his Name given in Baptism - he gives this Holy Gift for all - young and old, adults and children, all nations, no one left out.

Acts 2:38-39; Matt. 28:18-20

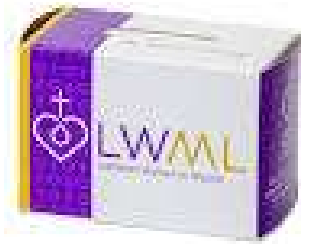
In making the sign of the cross, you rejoice in the knowledge that you belong to Jesus because he has baptized you into his Name.

Luther greatly esteemed this ancient tradition of the Church (a tradition so ancient that it came many centuries *before* the Roman Catholic Church of the Pope was even brought into existence.) Luther placed it prominently in *The Small Catechism* as a good Christian tradition which “the head of the household” teaches the family to do at *Daily Prayers* (sometimes informally called “Family Devotions”).

The *Sign of the Cross* extolls not only your Baptism but also the gifts of the Lord's Supper. At the Lord's Supper the cross is once again given into your life. For while Jesus shed His blood *for* you on the cross, He did not give His blood *to* you there (for you were not there). He gives His blood *to* you at the Holy Table (where He calls you to be), so that the Blood He gives to you at the Supper is the same Blood shed *for* you at the cross.

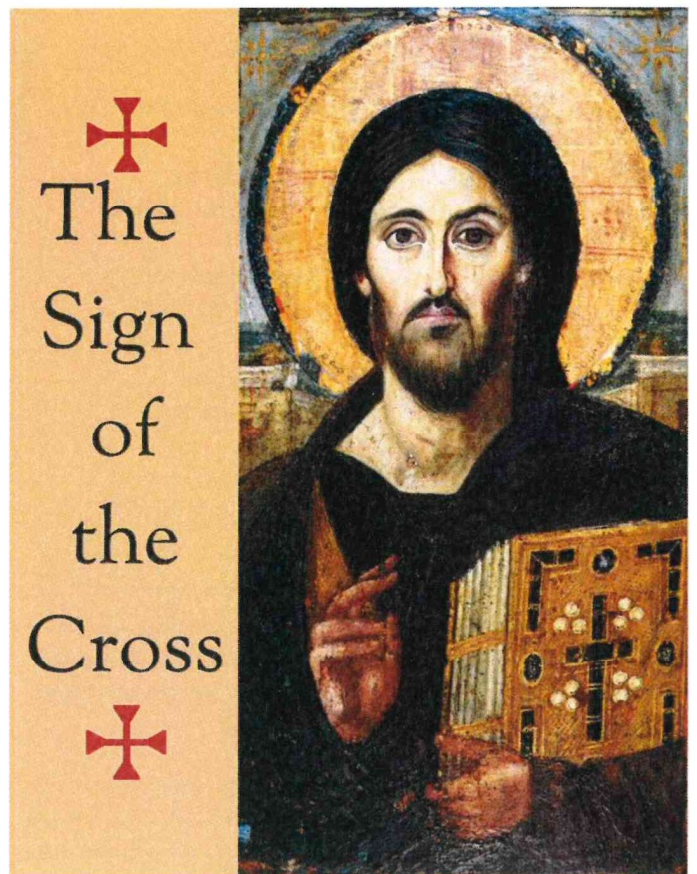
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

In an ever-changing and very diverse region of our country the CNH District has made it a point to reach new people with the lifesaving Good News of Jesus. The CNH District has set a goal to start a new mission or ministry in each of its 18 circuits ahead of the 2026 district convention. The District Mission Agency provides coaching, resources, and financial help in seeing these missions get off the ground and changing lives. This grant seeks funds to seed those new missions and ministry through 5 "Spark Grants" as part of the mission goal.



Mite box offerings from our Redeemer congregation, together with many others, have attained the goal of \$8,500. Thank you for continued support. The CNH District is made up of California, Nevada and Hawaii.

Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of the month but donations are accepted anytime in the big blue box in the Narthex



BAPTISMS

HARPER JO JORDAN
CHILD OF KARL & BRIANNA JORDAN
BORN SEPTEMBER 18, 2025
BAPTIZED JANUARY 17, 2026

ELISHA JAMES DURFEE
CHILD OF TANNER & GILLIAN DURFEE
BORN JULY 15, 2025
BAPTIZED JANUARY 24, 2026

MABEL MAE MASTERS
BORN OCTOBER 11, 2025
BAPTIZED FEBRUARY 15, 2026



CONFIRMATION

ABBY ELIZABETH EASTMAN
FEBRUARY 8, 2026

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS YOUNG



Shirley Wilson
was celebrated
Sunday,
February 22.

2026 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; Rev. Johnathan Anderson, Panama
- 4Q Women's Resource Clinic; KKXX Sermons; The Lutheran Hour; Issues, Etc

2025 QUARTERLY MISSIONS

- 1Q Redeemer Charity Fund - \$4,445.02; Faith Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California - \$4,445.02
- 2Q Missionary Dennis Meeker, Kenya - \$3,860.42; Missionary Daniel Conrad, Latin America - \$3,860.42; Pamela Boehle-Silva, Always Mercy Kenya - \$3,860.43
- 3Q Lutheran Heritage Foundation - \$3,716.38; Luther Classical College, Casper, Wyoming - \$3,716.38; St. Mark Lutheran Church, Ferndale, CA - \$3,716.37
- 4Q Women's Resource Clinic - \$4,514.14; KKXX Sermons - \$4,100.00; The Lutheran Hour; Issues, Etc - \$4,514.14

REV. TIMOTHY ROSSOW LUTHER CLASSICAL COLLEGE

Rev. Rossow gave a presentation about Luther Classical College during Bible Class on February 22.



Needed:

Someone to immortalize Pastoral Acts for the newsletter.
Send photos to redemerchicooffice@gmail.com or text to 530-228-4240.

Thank you!

THANK YOU FROM QUARTERLY MISSIONS RECIPIENTS



Winter Greetings!

On behalf of everyone here at Lutheran Hour Ministries, THANK YOU for partnering with LHM to continue to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ around the world! The link below is safe and to see your church's name, you may have to click on "see more" on the Facebook post. <https://www.facebook.com/photo?>

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

February 4, 2026

Dear Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous \$4,514.14 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. It encourages Christians in their walk with the Savior and helps introduce Him to those who do not yet believe. 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®**



Issues, Etc.

Dear Redeemer Lutheran Church members,

Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now,
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee

At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.
(Lutheran Service Book 394:1)

What a great Epiphany prayer that is asking grace from the Lord to see Him present and mirrored *in His holy Word*.

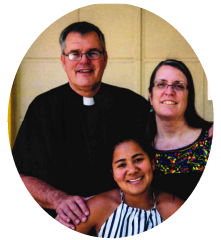
Thank you for your support of Issues, Etc., dedicated as it is to spreading the joy of that enduring Word and the endless life it promises.

Wir sind alle Bettler,

Todd Wilken, Host

SUPPORT OUR MISSIONARIES

REV. DANIEL &
KATHY
CONRAD, LATIN
AMERICA



PAUL &
COURTNEY
MROZENSKI,
PUERTO RICO

Keep up with the missionaries we support by reading their newsletters on our website.
https://www.redeemerchico.org/New_Website/category/missions-outreach/

ARE YOU MANAGING MONEY GOD'S WAYS OR YOUR WAY?

One of the biggest sources of stress in people's lives - including their spiritual lives - is MONEY

On April 6, your financial journey begins.

We're going to walk step by step through the biblical principals of handling money so you can experience *real* peace with your finances.

MONEY is mentioned over 2000 times in the Bible...it must be an important thing to talk about!

Stay tuned...!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

THE MOUTARD FAMILY

MITCHELL & JESSICA
CONSTANTINE
KATARINA
CYPRIAN
ANASTASIA

~

CRAIG RYAN POTTER

"My earliest memories attending church were in Windsor, Connecticut at Our savior Lutheran Church in the late 1970's. In the winter time, I would often attend church in my full hockey attire, (without shoulder pads), because we would have only near minutes to spare before I had to be on the ice.



When I was ten years old we moved back to Corvallis, Oregon where I attended Santiam Christian High School. At 16, we relocated, for the sixth time, to a wonderful city called San Clemente, California where I graduated from a surfer High School.

My other residences have included Western Pennsylvania, Orange County, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Chico.

One of my greatest accomplishments was as a background actor on CSI Las Vegas for Seasons 11, 12, 13, and a few months of 14. I was fortunate enough to have a few feature scenes.

In 2021, I left Southern California for better weather where my parents, two younger brothers, and one of my two older sister still call home."

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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 2026

March/April



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