

# Redeemer REVIEW



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD    CHICO, CALIFORNIA    JULY/AUGUST 2024    Vol. 38 No. 4

from the Pastor...

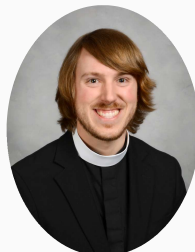
Rev. Brennan DeForest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is now the third installment in a series unpacking our mission statement. Since the last newsletter, as a congregation we've approved our updated Constitution and Bylaws. It was this process of updating the Constitution and Bylaws which led me to begin this newsletter series about our mission statement. Now, because we've approved those updates, this mission statement remains the concise summary of who we are and what we do as a congregation. In other words, we'd better not look to change the mission statement any time soon, else we'll have to go through another long update process for the Constitution and Bylaws. Nonetheless, we also should not look to change the mission statement any time soon, but instead see it as a gift from those who have come before us, a gift which we should live out and apply to our congregation still today, as opposed to accommodating the mission statement to our present circumstances.

Here again is our full mission statement: *"Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church is 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, 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."* In the previous two newsletters, we've expanded on "Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church" and "is a community of believers saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ." For this newsletter, I'd like to focus on the phrase "as a people enabled by the Spirit."

It is fitting that we look at this phrase after celebrating the church festival days of Ascension and Pentecost. Of course on Ascension Day, Jesus Christ ascended into heaven so that He could reign from the throne of God and so that He could be present everywhere. But that also means He is not physically present to help us do the work He has called us to do in the world, to be salt and light in the world. Thankfully, Jesus promised He would not leave us as orphans in the world (John 14:18). He makes multiple promises about the sending of the Holy Spirit. John 14:16 says, **"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another**



**Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth."** John 14:26 says, **"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."** John 15:26 says, **"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me."** And John 16:13 says, **"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."** And on the Day of Pentecost, all these promises came true when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the whole world, upon all people.

Now, in the stead of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit bears witness and teaches about the truth of Christ to the world and He guides and enables us, the children of God, to do the work Jesus has called us to do in the world. The Holy Spirit bears witness and teaches through the Word of God and the Sacraments. And the Holy Spirit guides and enables us to trust in the truth of Jesus Christ, to do the good works God has prepared for us, to work for God in our vocations, and to make known Christ's saving work to the world. All of this is known as sanctification, which is simply a big, theological way of saying that the Holy Spirit makes us holy, even here on earth during our lives, before we reach perfect holiness in heaven, in the dwelling place of God.

There is a special comfort that comes from knowing we don't have to make Jesus Christ known to the world all on our own, that we aren't haphazardly brought together as a community of believers, but that we are enabled by the Holy Spirit to make Christ known, that we are brought together and guided in this community by the Holy Spirit. And there is even more comfort in knowing that we don't have to accept the Holy Spirit or do anything for Him to work through us, but instead He teaches, guides, and enables us because we have been baptized into Him, having been baptized in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thus, next time we'll explore what exactly the Holy Spirit enables us to do.

The Lord be with you, ~Pastor DeForest

## 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 - May 31, 2024

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| OFFERING INCOME   | 74,522.78        |
| SCHOOL LEASE (5%) GENERAL FUND                          | 1,890.40         |
| REDEEMER HOUSE INCOME (includes 2023 income of \$6,876) | 15,126.00        |
| FACILITY USE INCOME                                     | 455.00           |
| INTEREST INCOME   | <u>2,335.82</u>  |
| TOTAL INCOME  | 94,330.00        |
| TOTAL EXPENSES  | <u>87,880.44</u> |
| NET INCOME  | 6,449.56         |
| RETAINED EARNINGS                                       | <u>73,507.37</u> |
| CURRENT BALANCE   | 79,956.93        |

*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. [brennan.deforest@ctsfw.edu](mailto:brennan.deforest@ctsfw.edu)

(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

FRED SHERMAN III, PRESIDENT

JERRY BRANDT, VICE PRESIDENT

BRUCE HOLDERBEIN, FINANCIAL  
MANAGER

AARON ASHWORTH, SECRETARY

### BOARD OF DEACONS

\* JAY ERWIN

ROBERT REAN

DARYL SMITH

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

SERVANTS



BIRTHDAYS

William Baving
1200 Springfield #110
Chico, CA 95928

Brenda Bell
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Chico, CA 95926

Patricia Bodi
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Chico, CA 95926

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

Paul DeGarmo
2770 Sierra Ladera
Chico, CA 95928

Jackie Eichelberger
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Chico, CA 95973

Esther Henry
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Chico, CA 95926

Larry Pohlard
2265 Maclovvia Ave Apt 160
Chico, CA 95928

Elaine Rubke
1200 Springfield Dr
Chico, CA 95928

Emma Siemens
1770 Humboldt Rd #202
Chico, CA 95928

ACOLYTES:
EVERETT LUTHER
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

ALTAR GUILD:
ROBERT ENGELKEN
BONNIE HUNT
LINDA REAN
HAROLD URNESS
LOUISE URNESS

COUNTER:
PAT LILLIE

DEACON OF THE MONTH
JULY
TIM WENSLAFF

AUGUST
ROBERT REAN

USHERS:
TIM KRESSIN
TIM WENSLAFF
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

DRIVERS:
JAY ERWIN
BRUCE HOLDERBEIN
KURT JORDAN
DARYL SMITH

JULY
06 ANITA JOHNSON
09 RACHAEL THOMASON
12 ROBERT ENGELKEN
15 LINDSEY ALLEN
16 DONNA RAMEY
22 LOUISE URNESS
24 ALEXIS WERNER
25 ROLAND LOFINK
26 CAROLINE ZIEGLER

AUGUST
03 CANDACE THURMAN
04 TIMOTHY WENSLAFF
06 HENRY DEGARMO
07 RANDY SIEMENS
08 MICHAEL HOFFIE
11 DIANE SCOTT
11 LUKE THOMASON
11 DIANNE WILKINSON
13 BONNIE HUNT
14 BRIAN MARSHALL
17 MATTHEW THOMASON
19 RYAN GODSIL
19 JANET JOKSCH
19 JEANIE SAWYER
21 REBECCA BERGENDAHL
21 MEGAN GODSIL
23 SHERRY GODSIL
25 SONYA BROWN
25 WALTER GODSIL

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

TIM WENSLAFF: ALLEN - GREGORY
JAY ERWIN: HARDY - KROGH
DARYL SMITH: LANGE - SCOTT
ROBERT REAN: SHERMAN - 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

JULY
00 DR. NORMAN MCCANN
05 ANDREW WEINREICH
14 DUSTIN SIEMENS
AUGUST
01 BRUCE HOLDERBEIN
02 ROBERT ENGELKEN
08 ROLAND LOFINK
09 LACEY VANDERMATE
11 BERYL COTTER
13 JUDY MORENO
16 ALEXIS WERNER
19 WESTON VANDERMATE
21 KARL WEINREICH
24 DIANNE WILKINSON
25 SONYA BROWN
30 CAROLINE ZIEGLER
30 AMANDA SIEMENS
31 JANET JOKSCH

Deadline

Summer
Redeemer Review

August 20



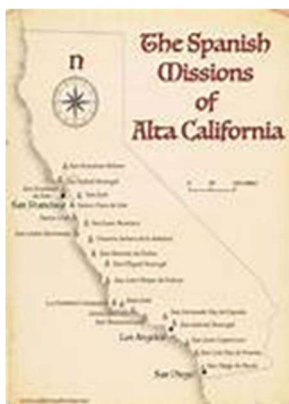


*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deut 6: 6-7 ESV)*

Summer vacation! If you have children in the home you are already into school vacation and have probably heard “there’s nothing to do!” Time to get creative in filling out the rest of the weeks of vacation. If you haven’t planned anything, here’s a suggestion that might involve the whole family including godly use of technology.

Take a minute and think back to your own school days and you probably had a teacher who announced within the first 2-3 days back to school, “write 500 words on what I did on my summer vacation” or some variation of that. Hear the groans especially from those who did not go to their way of thinking on a wonderful, fabulous, fun-filled holiday.

If you live in California there are many places you can go, and not just Magic Mountain and Disneyland. As parents you are always looking for ways to impart knowledge in ways that don’t seem like school and can actually be enjoyable. Have you ever thought of visiting all of the missions in California?



From where we live in Chico, CA many of the missions can be seen in a day trip (ok, a long day). Several could be a weekend trip and going to the missions in southern CA could be combined with something else.

If you grew up in California, or at least went to elementary school, you studied the missions in about the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. You probably drew pictures, or at least colored some. Perhaps you were in a group that made a replica of one of the missions. You learned facts about the missions such as they were about 30 miles

apart which meant a messenger could go from one mission to another in a day.

While you might have learned that the missions were founded by Catholic priests as they worked with the native peoples to bring Christianity. There was also a political agenda going on. A strong at that time Spanish presence kept other European countries from claiming the land.

If your children go to public school they will not get the lessons of God using the missions to do more than just colonize the native peoples. And, the aspect of bringing Christianity may be downplayed.

There is a lot of information you can find out about the missions using your computer. So this becomes a project that can involve your older children in doing some research and helping compile questions to help study about the missions. You might even consider an audio/visual record of your mission explorations.

Be creative! Find joy in the journey! Praise God for how Christ was brought to the native people of California. If you have friends or neighbors of native origins you might even ask them if they have connections back to the mission days and ask them if they will share their stories with your family.

This could be a project that covers several years and will answer that question of what you did on your summer vacation for years to come. For more thoughts read the Technology article.

## 2024 QUARTERLY MISSIONS

- 1Q Redeemer Charity Fund, \$4,092.98 Faith Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California , 4,092.98
- 2Q Missionary Dennis Meeker, Kenya; Missionary Daniel Conrad, Mexico; 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.

*Grants are funded by the Mission Trust Fund interest, 30% school rent income, and your mission gifts.*



# TECHNOLOGY



## Technology... a summer project

If you haven't read the Children's Resources article in this issue of the newsletter make sure to read that, preferably before you read this article as it will make more sense. As always, we look for godly ways to use technology and if your family has children in several age levels finding activities that can actually involve all ages can be challenging. Yes, even grandparents can get involved in this project.

The project is learning about, visiting and recording your thoughts and impressions as your family visits the Missions of California. Yes, all 21 of them.

Doing some internet research about the missions of California brings up a wealth of information. There are many resources for teachers so you can get an idea of what children will be taught, or perhaps not taught.

If your family has older children as well as younger, ask the older children to do some of the research on the missions. If you have relatives who live in various areas of California you might even have your older children contact them to see if they have visited the mission close to them and if not would they like to be part of this project.

To start off the project a family planning night (pizza anyone?) to brainstorm, write down questions and thoughts to research as a first step to get the ball rolling. Friends, relatives and neighbors with children of similar ages could be included to see if they might be interested in joining your family. But don't forget grandma and grandpa at least in the exploration stage.

Here are a few questions to get the research going:

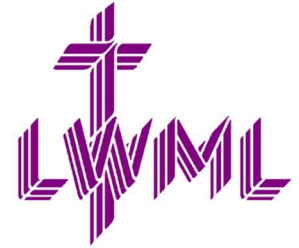
- How many missions are there in California?
- How did the missions get started?
- What was the reason for the missions?
- Are there still church services at the missions?

Have a great summer planning your mission explorations.

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Good News!

Redeemer Lutheran Church was chosen as a recipient of their grant proposal for student outreach. This program will help keep young people steadfast in faith and worship, especially during the college years.



The main focus will be Chico State University and area college students. The amount of the grant is approximately \$4,000.

Our first Sunday of the month mite offerings will enable grants such as this to be possible. Everyone, men, women, and children are encouraged to pick up a mite box in the narthex. Coins may be deposited in the larger box any time of the month.



LWML was established in the 1940's and has added numerous mission endeavors throughout the years.

## QUILTERS

There are no scheduled meetings for July and August. These months will be used for organizing the work/supply room. For the present time, donations of fabrics are sufficient. Thank you to all who have given. More news in September!





Redeemer Lutheran Church

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

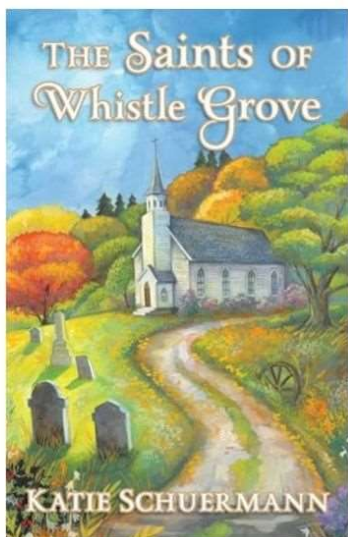
When: the first Saturday of every month at 10 AM  
beginning August 3rd.

Where: Fireside Room

Books: Starting at the first month and then every other month we will do a group book. On the "off" months we will meet and bring an individual book to tell others about.

### First Book

The Saints of Whistle Grove  
by Katie Schuermann



You can get this book from Kloria Publishing or from Amazon for \$15. It is also available as an audiobook.

Abby DeForest will also be making a group purchase. You can give her \$15 and she will order the book for you (this will save you on shipping).



*For those suffering in body and soul*

[www.alwaysmercy.org](http://www.alwaysmercy.org)

11 June 2024

Dear Saints at Redeemer,

It is with great joy that I am writing to you. Thanks to your generous support, Rehema Hospice and Clinic continues to unfold before our very eyes. Christ's mercy is being dispensed daily to those who are in need of care of body and soul.

We are in close contact with Pastor David Chuchu, Director of Rehema. His dedication to serving Christ's poor and needy through Rehema is unwavering. These are his words from a recent email.

*"Dear Always Mercy Team*

*Receive greetings from Rehema Hospice and Clinic. We have begun our week well and we pray that the Lord will continue to shower us with His mercy as Always. We are not alone in this journey. The Lord continues to walk with us in this journey. Over the last few months we have practically seen the mercy hands of God in our work and we moved many steps ahead that we did not believe we would have made without the miraculous gift God has opened for us."*

We want to keep you abreast of all that is going on at Rehema and have included a report reflecting the impact your donations have made just in the past few months. Thank you for partnering with us. You fill our hearts with hope and gratitude.

Always Mercy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela Boehle-Silva". The script is cursive and fluid.

Pamela Boehle-Silva



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Approval of Constitution & Bylaws Revisions

Greetings and God's Blessings to everyone,

On June 9, at a Voters Assembly, our congregation approved proposed revisions of our constitution and bylaws. This was the second of two meetings to present and approve the revised documents. Our next step will be to resubmit the revisions and relay our congregational approval to our LCMS District (CNH) to receive their final signoff.

Some significant areas that were modified in the documents are listed below.

- The office of vice president is no longer identified as a "legal officer", in conformance with California corporate law.
- A call for nominations to fill the positions of officers of the congregation shall be communicated at least 30 days before the voters meeting
- Resolutions, which are approved by the council, shall be brought before the voters assembly at their next meeting.
- Electronic voting by council members is permitted under certain conditions.
- The section on administration of church funds has been moved to its own document, which will be maintained by the church council.
- All changes to the constitution and bylaws shall be reviewed by CNH district as a condition for continued membership in the LCMS
- All references regarding the offices of vicar and teacher have been removed
- The process for calling ordained or commissioned church workers has been rewritten

These revisions of our constitution and bylaws are available for reading on our Website (under Announcements).

If you have any questions regarding the content or the process of approval, contact Fred Sherman.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS' THANK YOU

To the Saints of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
I thank you for the generous gift of money from your scholarship fund to support me in my seminary studies. I used some of it to buy some theological books I otherwise wouldn't be able to afford, and I intend to earmark the rest to purchase a communion set (portable set) and vestments, at the recommendation of Pastor De Forest. Your financial gift was generous, helpful,

From Paul Mroczenski...

and very encouraging!  
Thank you. And thank you for the hospitality and encouragement shown to ~~myself~~ us during our visit to your church. It was much appreciated.

In Christ,  
Paul & Courtney Mroczenski  
(Vicar, CTSFW)



## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS' THANK YOU

From John Kastner...

Dear Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your dear gift. My family is astounded by your generosity and grace. These monies will be put to good use as our family prepares to move from Indiana to Kansas as I am called to plant a church in the Kansas City suburbs. I was born in Palm Springs, CA, and that is where my grandparents still live. Even though it has been many years since I've lived in California (though I have visited often), it still holds a special place in my heart. ~~How~~ How much more now that I know that your congregation is praying for me and my family! Thank you again for your consideration and love. We thank God for you and know that he will certainly bless you for this great offering in love for a fellow member of the body of Christ.

In Christ,

John Kastner

From Cory Willweber...

Hello Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church!

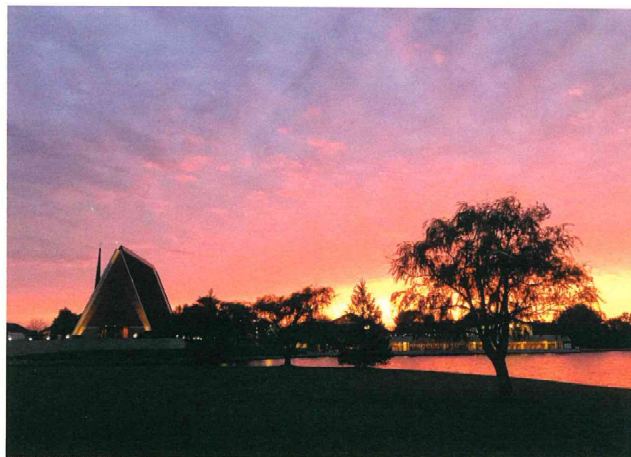
Thank you for the very kind scholarship. I am sure it will be a great help as I go out on vicarage to Messiah in Danville, CA.

I appreciate you thinking of me and for the support. I pray you are all doing well and that you remain ~~the~~ steadfast in the Word of God and the hope of the resurrection.

I look forward to vicarage and perhaps seeing some of you next year while I'm in northern California.

God's blessings to you all.

In Christ,  
Cory Willweber



|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>PHONE:</b>                 | <b>530-342-6085</b>                       |
| <b>Pastor's Phone:</b>        | <b>801-910-6937</b>                       |
| <b>Office Manager's Cell:</b> | <b>530-228-4240</b>                       |
| <b>EMAIL:</b>                 | <b>redeemerchicooffice@gmail.com</b>      |
| <b>PASTOR'S EMAIL:</b>        | <b>brennan.deforest@ctsfw.edu</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.

## July/August 2024



## July/August 2024

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