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Brenden Harrell, Pastor

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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## FROM THE PASTOR

I would like to tell you the story of my first sermon.

As the clock rewinds, what you should know is that I don't really like being the one up front. I am not a natural communicator. I have always had a certain sense of entrapment within my own mind, unable to find adequate words of expression. In fact, preaching and teaching were the biggest factors that made me question if being a pastor was the right choice for me. But preaching in particular is kind of a big deal, so I had to learn how to at least muddle through it in seminary.

I had a long runway up to this first sermon. They don't let seminarians preach until we finish all our introductory classes. So I had been studying for over a year before my fieldwork supervisor put me on the preaching schedule for the very first time.

When the time approached, it was with a decent amount of internal agony and angst I wrote that sermon, scrawled on a few sheets of wrinkled note paper. In class, they had been impressing on us the benefit of preaching from memory. And so like all students who take their lessons too literally, I stepped into the pulpit without a single note in front of me.

I can still picture those three steps up into the pulpit: one, two, three....

Then looking up from high in the pulpit out into the congregation felt a lot like balancing on a highwire. At that moment, everything in my mind shut off. My outline and points just flew away and left me standing there.

The furious internal search ensued with a mumbling and babbling of some incoherent points. I stretched them out as long as I could. Sitting down after a horrible and horrifying... two minutes... feeling every heartbeat in-between like a war drum before battle.

I am sure many of you have had similar moments of "I don't know if I can do this." Being asked to step outside your comfort zone means things can go down in flames

quite spectacularly. That day made me swear I would never be a sole pastor, and yet here I am.

It is easy to tame the call to follow Jesus to fit inside our comfort zone. No big failures, no anxious nerves, a certain sense of predictability. We can forget the Jesus who said:

"Follow me and leave the dead to bury their own dead." And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. - Matthew 8:21-23

Following Jesus looks a lot more like dying than it does taking a victory lap. God works the most powerfully when we are holding onto Him for dear life. He called Moses with a stutter and asked him to speak (with a little help, but he still had to do it). He called short, overlooked David to become a warrior and king. He called crabby Jonah to extend a warning and then blessing to Nineveh. It is often in the things we are convinced we can't, don't want to, or will mess up that Jesus calls us to follow him.

Dying to your own self-worth is terrifying. Failure is embarrassing. But following Jesus is not about personal achievement, it is about life in and through Him. With that in mind:

What part of you needs to die so that something else can grow?

What comfort zone needs stretched so that you get on the boat with Jesus?

Take some time to sit with those questions honestly. If you find any easy answer, it's probably a copout. If you don't feel like you might have to die a little inside you haven't quite found it yet. Because when we finally come to the end of ourselves, in that place where we finally feel small, is the place Jesus has always met His disciples and said: "Follow me."

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit,

*Pastor Brenden Harrell*



- Apr 03 Drew Schofield
- Apr 03 Marleen Williams
- Apr 04 Eric Davis
- Apr 04 Julie Hahn
- Apr 07 Alexander Foley
- Apr 09 Becky Zielke
- Apr 11 Riley Olney
- Apr 13 Nahlani Galeana
- Apr 16 Jeremiah Mayes
- Apr 19 Ever Amador
- Apr 19 True Amador
- Apr 20 Julie Martin
- Apr 22 Jill Murdock
- Apr 23 Todd Martin
- Apr 25 Art Atrops
- Apr 26 Margaret Payne
- Apr 27 Krimsin Amador
- Apr 29 Shaena Allred



- Apr 02 7:00 pm – Maundy Thurs Comm. Svc.
- Apr 03 7:00 pm – Good Friday Service
- Apr 04 Mowing: Hathaway, Mayes
- Apr 05 6:30 am – Easter Sunrise Svc.
- Apr 05 7:30 am – Easter Breakfast
- Apr 05 9:00 am – Easter egg hunt
- Apr 05 10:00 am – Easter Communion Service
- Apr 07 3:00 – 4:30 pm – Shelter prep (SH)
- Apr 09 4:30 pm - Elders' Mtg.
- Apr 11 Mowing – Williamson, Tate, Oliver
- Apr 12 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
- Apr 12 10:00 am – Worship Service
- Apr 12 2:00 pm – Keinert memorial
- Apr 13 6:00-8:00 pm – Men's Group
- Apr 14 9:30 – 11:30 am – Quilters
- Apr 15 9:00 am –Ministry Availability Due
- Apr 17 6:00 – 8:00 pm – Parents' Night Out
- Apr 18 Mowing – Williamson, Weiting
- Apr 19 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
- Apr 19 10:00 am – Praise/Communion Service
- Apr 19 11:30 am – Council Meeting
- Apr 19 2:00 pm – Adult Fellowship
- Apr 20 9:00 am – May Newsletter Deadline
- Apr 21 5:30 pm – P/S Board Mtg.
- Apr 25 Mowing – Riddiough, Schofield
- Apr 26 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
- Apr 26 10:00 am – Worship Service



- Apr 11 Paul & Debra Mattson

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**MOWING for APRIL**



- Apr 04 – Hathaway, Mayes
- Apr 11 – Williamson, Tate, Oliver
- Apr 18 – Williamson, Weiting
- Apr 25 – Riddiough, Schofield

**Ten (10) Easter lilies will be available** this year. Traditionally, these are purchased in memory of a loved one or for blessings received. **Cost: \$15.00** Make checks payable to: LCOS (with "Altar Guild" on memo line). *Plants may be picked up after the service on Easter Sunday.* Please call Diana at the Church Office (805-937-1116) to reserve your plant(s) no later than March 31st. **First come—first served!!** ❁





# PARENTS Night Out

**Apr 02 – Maundy Thurs. - Comm.**

**7:00 PM** – Kelly Olney

**Flowers:** - Lent (no flowers)

**Apr 03 – Good Friday**

**7:00 PM** – Peggy Payne

**Flowers:** - Lent – no flowers

**Apr 5 – Easter Comm. Svc.**

**10:00 AM** – Sara Chaney

**Flowers:** - Michael Southern

**Apr 12 – Worship Svc.**

**10:00 AM** – Stephanie Clavin

**Flowers:** - Jim LaBelle

**Apr 19 – Praise/Comm. Svc.**

**10:00 AM** – Marianne Heuchert

**Flowers:** Escobedos

**Apr 26 – Worship Svc.**

**10:00 AM** – Becky Zielke

**Flowers:** OPEN

Thank you to all the volunteers that played with 23 kiddos at Parents Night Out on March 20th! We enjoyed the preschool playground to stay cool and played inside with some of our friends from preschool and church. Don't miss out on the last two PNO of the school year! Come play with us on April 17th and May 15th. Sign up on the patio or with Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443.

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## CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS

Celebrating the Resurrection with Flowers—An Easter cross will be displayed outside in the terrace Easter morning. You are asked to decorate this cross with fresh flowers from your garden. Make sure the stems are long enough to insert into the wire and remain on the cross. Please bring your flowers Easter morning (April 5) for this traditional beautiful symbol of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. ✿

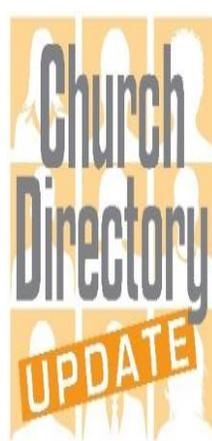


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**MARCH 29 - PALM SUNDAY - 10AM**  
**APRIL 2 - MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7PM**  
**APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY - 7PM**  
**APRIL 5 - EASTER SUNRISE - 6:30AM**  
**APRIL 5 - EASTER COMMUNION - 10AM**



**Thank you to everyone** who has already added their photo and updated their information — we truly appreciate it! Our deadline is approaching fast! Please visit [instantchurchdirectory.com](http://instantchurchdirectory.com) or download the Instant Church Directory app to make your updates or see Lisa DiModica before or after church on April 19. She will gladly take your picture and enter your information for you if you'd like!

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**ELDER'S CORNER**

**There and Back Again**

By

August Selby

From our Lutheran Hour Ministry,

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led Him away and delivered Him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And He answered him, "You have said so." And the chief priests accused Him of many things. And Pilate again asked Him, "Have You no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against You." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. (Mark 15:1-5)

It's pretty clear that Pilate's time with Jesus was centered around one charge only: "Are You the King of the Jews?" That is the only question Jesus was willing to answer with a polite first-century way of saying "Yes." The other charges didn't matter, and Jesus didn't dignify them with an answer. But King of the Jews? That mattered.

To Pilate, the question probably meant "Are You an upstart political leader who is planning to rebel against the Roman Empire?" Pilate was a practical man; he wanted to know if he was facing another rebellion.

But to Jesus? The Old Testament makes it very clear who the King of the Jews, the King of Israel, was: God Himself. God calls Himself by this Name several times: "I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King" (Isaiah 43:15). (See also Isaiah 44:6, Zephaniah 3:15). Is Jesus this King? Oh yes! He is the Lord who rules everything; and who will give up everything to save His people, even when they reject Him.

This is the King we have;—a King who reigns from the cross, whose crown is made of thorns and whose royal robes are His own blood. He is our King as well, whether we are Jews or Gentiles. And He has become our Savior.

Have a blessed Easter,        Todd

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Janice and I travelled to Redeemer Lutheran Church, located at 4500 El Camino Real, Atascadero CA, on our continued journey to visit all LCMS churches on the Central Coast.

When we arrived, Pastor James was beginning his Bible study on the book of Matthew. For it was not only Valentine's Day weekend, but also day of Transfiguration. Pastor James taught an informative class that was both fun and easily understood.

When the service started, Redeemer immediately gave me a sense of comfort and of family. As if I had been going to this church my whole life. I felt relaxed in the pews while the people sang, confessed and prayed. Redeemer is a small family, but it is small and mighty as we sang hymn after hymn, I think in all 6-7 hymns, and participated responsively. Pastor James then came to pulpit and delivered a lighthearted but then straight forward sermon about the meaning of love. How the word "love" is so often overused that it loses its meaning. Giving humorous examples such as, "I love pizza" or "I love sunsets." It had me chuckling but then kidding aside he brought us back to a "love" with meaning. The perfect love rooted in God demonstrated through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. I found his sermon masterfully done by a man who has likely delivered many.

Then the next pleasant surprise hit me. As Pastor James prepared the gifts he began to chant the Words of Institution. His rich, beautiful singing voice was enough for me to consider taking communion from him every week!

Saving the best for last, married couples in the congregation were asked to come to the table to renew their vows. In the spirit of Valentine's Day this moment reminded me of an important reason for our gatherings. The feeling of commitment to one another, of family and of community. Then each couple sealed their vows with a kiss. It was very sweet. In fact, I am tearing up thinking about it all over again.

What a great time I had at Redeemer, and I am so thankful to be on this journey. Two wonderful experiences with Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Orcutt and now Redeemer in Atascadero. Next stop, Peace Lutheran Church in Arroyo Grande.

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July 13th-16th  
9:00am-11:30am

**VOLUNTEER FOR VBS!**

Family Night: July 17th  
6:00pm

Preschool-5th Grade  
\*must be potty-trained  
unless parent present



**APRIL 2026**

**CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>	<b>LESSON READER</b>	<b>MEDIA</b>	<b>ALTAR GUILD/FLOWERS</b>
<b>2 Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>7:00 PM Communion</b>	Kirsten Escobedo	Trevor Schofield	Rudy Stowell Dennis Payne	Paul Mattson	Michael Southern	Diana Brown	Kelly Olney
<b>3 Good Friday</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	Gary & Anita Lange	Drew Schofield	Mark Hathaway	Michael Southern		Dennis Payne	Peggy Payne
<b>5 Easter Sunrise Service</b>	<b>6:30 AM</b>	Elder		Todd Martin	Elder			<b>Court of All Saints</b>
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 AM Communion</b>	Jeremiah Mayes	Ali Mayes	Art Atrops Tom Heuchert	Bill Williamson	Melanie Mayes	Estelle Schofield	Sara Chaney
								<b>FLOWERS: M. Southern</b>
<b>12 Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Melissa Crawford	Piper Chaney	Todd Martin	Sarah Ganschow	Brent Clavin	Julie Martin	Stephanie Clavin
								<b>FLOWERS: J. LaBelle</b>
<b>19 Praise Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 AM Communion</b>	Dawn Schofield	Trevor Schofield	Dennis Payne Mark Hathaway	Paul DiModica	Lisa DiModica	Terry Murdock	Marianne Heuchert
								<b>FLOWERS: Escobedos</b>
<b>26 Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Sally Symonds	Lucy Chaney	Rudy Stowell	Jim LaBelle	Trista Fry	Estelle Schofield	Becky Zielke
								<b>FLOWERS: OPEN</b>
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		<b>GREETERS</b> *Art Atrops 937-0485	<b>ACOLYTES</b> *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	<b>ELDERS</b> *Todd Martin 801-3873	<b>USHERS</b> *Art Atrops 937-0485	<b>READERS</b> *Todd Martin 801-3873	<b>MEDIA</b> *Dennis Payne 934-1101	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b> Becky Zielke 598-6924 <b>FLOWERS</b> Connie Hathaway 937-9675 <b>FLOWER MINISTRY</b> Debbie Heuchert 264-4599

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ANY CHANGE(S) BY TRADING WITH ANOTHER MINISTER

2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT OF ANY CHANGE(S).

3. INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES(S) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE - 937-1116

## April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Palm Sunday Comm. Svc.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00am Preschool Egg Hunt & lunch	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Maundy Thursday communion	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Good Friday	<b>4</b> Mowing: Hathaway, Mayes
<b>5</b> 6:45am Sunrise Service 8:00am Easter Breakfast 9:00am Easter egg hunt 10:00am Communion Svc. Easter Sunday	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 3:00pm SH in use (Shelter)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 4:30pm Elders' Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Mowing: Williamson, Tate, Oliver
<b>12</b> 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc. 2:00pm Keinert memorial	<b>13</b> 6:00pm Men's Group	<b>14</b> 9:30am Quilters 5:30pm P/S Board Mtg.	<b>15</b> Ministry Availability Due	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Parents' Night Out	<b>18</b> Mowing: Williamson, Weiting 11:00am Meyer memorial
<b>19</b> 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Praise/Comm. Svc. 11:00am Council Mtg. 2:00pm Adult Fellowship	<b>20</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Mowing: Riddiough, Schofield
<b>26</b> 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Mowing: Atrops, LaBelle, Allred