

The Valley Evangel

Serving the Members and Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, Arizona

April 2014

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Worship and Study Times

Sunday Divine Service:
9 a.m., Refreshments after the Service

Sunday School/Adult Bible Class: 10:30 a.m.

Thursday Internet Study Group: 7 p.m. (Ask Pastor Webber for log-on info for this group, or attend in person at his residence.)

Friday Bible Study: 10 a.m. at the Muth residence

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Pastor David Jay Webber
Editorial Assistant/Layout and Design: Erica Olson
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From the Pastor's Desk

St. Paul writes: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, ESV).

We will be marking two of the most important events in the history of the universe this month: the death of Jesus, and the resurrection of Jesus. These events are obviously important for us who believe in him as our Savior. But they are also important for every other member of the human race, all of whom are likewise invited in the gospel to believe in Jesus; to know what Jesus reveals; and to receive what Jesus gives.

When Christ suffered under the wrath of the divine law in place of all sinners, a way out of hopelessness, meaninglessness, and damnation was opened for humanity. When Jesus was raised from the grave by God the Father, as the vindication and justification of his beloved Son, a way back to God was opened for humanity. And now, as the message of these events goes forth into the world, the Holy Spirit goes with it. He presses these truths deep into the hearts and minds of people of all nations, languages, and tribes who hear it, and who are transformed by it.

If you want your friends, neighbors, and relatives to know the eternal joy that you know through your crucified and risen Lord, there is only one way for this to happen. Someone has to speak the message of Christ's death and resurrection to them. And that can be us – in readings and canticles, in sermon and song – at Redeemer Lutheran Church! So, invite the people you care about to come to church with you on Good Friday. Invite them to come to church with you on Easter Sunday. Invite them to hear, and to believe, and to know, and to receive.

– Pastor Webber

Easter Choir

Choir rehearsals will be held in the organ alcove at 8:20 a.m. on April 6, 13, 20, in order to prepare special music for the Easter service on April 20. Singers in all voice parts are welcome. If possible, try to arrive at church by 8:15, so rehearsals can begin promptly. Thanks!

– Carol Webber



Ladies' Guild News

A luncheon was held following a beautiful memorial service for Mary Colville on Saturday, March 8. Again, special thanks go out to the ladies of our congregation for preparing the well-attended and abundant luncheon. Mary's name will be added to the Memory Tree, along with Helen Macholl's. On behalf of the Ladies Guild, I would also like to extend our thanks for the memorial donations that have come in.

As we are currently in the Lenten season, the ladies of our congregation will be providing soup suppers, preceding the Wednesday evening services, for the following dates: March 19 and 26, April 2 and 9. No need to go home for a meal before church. You are welcome to join in the fellowship of sharing a modest yet tasty supper.

We are fast approaching Easter Sunday, and will celebrate with an Easter brunch after the service. A sign-up sheet will be provided in the fellowship hall for those who wish to bring a dish. The Ladies Guild will be purchasing lilies for the altar. For those who wish to assist with a donation toward paying for the lilies (\$10.00), there will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall on one of the rear tables. After the service, the lilies that were purchased in this way can be taken home.

Thank you again to all who have been bringing the delicious goodies for our coffee fellowship after service; and to those who set up, and who stay after the Bible study to assist with the clean-up. If you would like to participate by bringing treats of your choice for the coffee fellowship prior to the Bible study, please sign up for a particular Sunday on the sign-up sheet located in the fellowship room.

Ladies Guild activities are many, as I mentioned in the last newsletter. We encourage all the ladies of our congregation to participate, but especially I'm reaching out to the younger generation of our congregation! Our next meeting will be April 6, since the Sunday following will be Palm Sunday (with a congregational forum) and the Sunday after that will be Easter. In the past we have had meetings on the third Sunday of each month, but we have decided to have them usually on the second and sometimes the third, depending on church events. So please check your bulletin and the calendar from month to month. We would love you to join us! We could use your service!

Thank you.
Lori Wendt
Ladies Guild President

Long-Time Member Departs this Life



Mary Colville, the wife of Jack Colville, passed to her rest in Christ at her home in Phoenix on March 5, after a long battle with cancer. The funeral was held at the church on March 8, with interment at the National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix on March 11. Mary was one of the original members of the congregation established by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Scottsdale in 1984 – the predecessor congregation of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, ESV).

Good Friday and Easter Publicity

Through an anonymous financial gift, the church will be sending out to approximately 2,500 of our neighbors in North Scottsdale a special postcard inviting them to attend Redeemer on Good Friday and Easter. The graphics and layout of the postcard were designed for us by Matthias Leyrer. So, if you see some new guests in church on either of those days, make sure you give them a warm welcome! Here is the text that appears on the invitational postcard:

This is real.

John the apostle, one of Jesus' closest friends, wrote these words:

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, ... we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1,3, ESV).

John heard Jesus. John saw Jesus. He saw him die. And then he saw him alive again.

The death of Jesus, for the forgiveness of your sins, is real. The resurrection of Jesus, through which eternal life is offered to you and to all people, is real. The spiritual fellowship of those who know Christ and his love, on earth and in heaven, is real.

This is all real.

Experience this reality with us! Join us for the Good Friday service on April 18 at 7 p.m., and for the Easter Sunday service on April 20 at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella at ALA

Arizona Lutheran Academy students will perform Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical retelling of the classic fairy tale *Cinderella* during the first weekend in May. Admission at the door is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Performance dates and times are: Friday, May 2, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 3, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, May 4, at 3 p.m. ALA is located at 6036 South 27th Avenue in Phoenix.

Martin Luther on "Two Pictures": Christ Suffering, and Christ Glorified

If we desire to comprehend the benefits of the resurrection of Christ, we must keep in view two distinct pictures. The one is sombre, full of distress, misery, and woes; it is the scene of blood presented to us on Good Friday – Christ crucified between murderers and dying with excruciating pain. This scene we must contemplate with much earnestness, ...to realize that it all happened on account of our sins, yea, that Christ as the true High Priest sacrificed Himself for us and paid with His death our debts. ... Therefore, as often as we remember or view this doleful, bloody scene, we ought to bear in mind that we have before us our sins and the terrible wrath of God against them, a wrath so dire that no creature could endure it, that all atonement became impossible except the one made by the sacrifice and death of the Son of God. ...

But this picture of sorrow is changed... Yea, ere three days had gone by, our Lord and Saviour presents to us another picture, beautiful, full of life, lovely and cheerful, in order that we might have the sure consolation that not only our sins were annihilated in the death of Christ, but that by His resurrection a new eternal ...

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Martin Luther on “Two Pictures”: Christ Suffering, and Christ Glorified

righteousness and life was obtained, as St. Paul says, Rom. 4: “Christ was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” And 1 Co. 15: “If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” As in the former scene we saw the burden of our sin upon Him and bringing Him to the cross, so in this other scene of the resurrection we witness no longer sin, pain and sorrow, but only righteousness, joy and happiness. It is the victory of life over death – a life everlasting, with which this temporal existence on earth cannot be compared. Of this we have reason to rejoice.

Merely to view the former scene would be terrible, but when we view it in connection with the glad event of the resurrection, and when we bear in mind why our Lord suffered thus, we will derive from such a contemplation much benefit and consolation. It will become apparent to us how inexpressibly great the love of God toward us poor sinners was, as He had compassion on our misery, even to such an amazing extent that He did not spare His beloved and only Child, but gave Him up for us, to bear upon the cross and in death the burden of our transgressions, which were too heavy for us and would have crushed us to the earth. This load was taken from us and placed by God Himself upon His Son, who, as God from eternity, could alone bear the heavy weight of sin. Upon Him we now find our burden. Let us leave it there, for there is no one else to be found who could better relieve us of it.

The other scene presents to us Christ no longer in woe and misery, weighed down with the ponderous mass of our sins, which God has laid upon Him, but beautiful, glorious and rejoicing; for all the sins have disappeared from Him. From this we have a right to conclude: If our sins, on account of the sufferings of Christ, lie no longer upon us, but are taken from our shoulders by God Himself and placed upon His Son, and if on Easter, after the resurrection, they are no more to be seen, where then are they? Micah truly says: They are sunk into the depth of the sea, and no devil nor any body else shall find them again (Mic. 7:18-19).

This article of our faith is glorious and blessed; whoever holds it not is no Christian... If we desire to be true Christians it is necessary for us firmly to establish in our hearts through faith this article, that Christ, who bore our sins upon the cross and died in payment for them, arose again from the dead for our justification. The more firmly we believe this, the more will our hearts rejoice and be comforted. For it is impossible not to be glad when we see Christ alive, a pure and beautiful being, who before, on account of our sins, was wretched and pitiable in death and in the grave. We are now convinced that our transgressions are removed and forever put away.

– Martin Luther, “First Easter-Sermon,” *Dr. Martin Luther’s House-Postil* (second edition) (Columbus, Ohio: J. A. Schulze, Publisher, 1884), Vol. II, pp. 268-71.



New Member Interview: Sean Scheele

(Conducted by Erica Olson, Editorial Assistant)



Erica: Sean, welcome to Redeemer! I'm so glad you decided to be confirmed [on March 2] and join us! Please tell us a little bit about yourself and about your religious background, since we know you're new to the Lutheran faith.

Sean: Thanks, it's good to be a part of Redeemer finally. Well, I grew up in Michigan and went to an ELCA church, but my family was not Lutheran in their theology; they were more baptistic. So I grew up thinking that Lutheran theology was wrong, especially infant baptism. So I was baptized much later when I was nine years old. My family eventually moved to Lake Havasu City, Arizona, where we joined a Baptist church. I went to High School there and when I graduated, I moved to Riverside, California, to go to California Baptist University where I studied theology. When I graduated I served at a church helping out in various ministries. I eventually moved to the Middle East teaching English and lived there for about a year. I was planning on staying longer, but I did not get my visa renewed in time. So I had to decide what to do next. A friend of mine told me about an opportunity to go to school out in Phoenix to get my M.Div. So I decided to move to Phoenix and go to school at Phoenix Seminary. As you can see I was still not Lutheran at this point. However, I had been studying Lutheran doctrine for about 6 months prior to my move to Phoenix in 2012. As I was studying at school and on my own I slowly became convinced of Lutheran doctrine. This was not an easy road however; it took about two years of study for me to start trying Lutheran churches. It felt like I was abandoning friends and family, but the more I learned from Lutheran teachers and pastors, I saw the beauty of the Gospel in a way that I have never seen nor understood. So I am happy to be here at Redeemer where I know I'll hear the Law and the Gospel in its fullness and receive the forgiveness of sins.

Erica: Pr. Webber tells me you've been on mission trips before. Where have you gone, and what did you do?

Sean: Yes, I have. When I was attending California Baptist University, I went on a summer mission trip to New Delhi, India. On that trip we wanted to build relationships with other university students that were attending a local university in New Delhi. We had many great conversations and we were able to tell the Gospel story to many students. The year after that, I went to Rwanda and taught English and led Bible studies. A couple years later I went to Ghana and helped one of my teachers minister to several churches. And as I mentioned earlier, I lived in the Middle East for a while teaching English, but our main reason for being there was to help a missionary couple further the work they were doing.

Erica: That's fascinating! Is there any place you'd like to return to, or somewhere you'd like to go that you've never been to before?

Sean: Yes, I would love to go to India again. The culture and history of that country is fascinating to me. Though there are a lot of strange smells and sights, the people there are very welcoming and love to talk about spiritual things. I would love to go to Europe, but mainly for selfish reasons.

Erica: What would you do there?

Sean: I would love to do some sort of church history tour through Europe. But on a more nerdy side, I would love to do this tour called "The Original Band of Brothers Tour." If you have seen the HBO show "Band of Brothers" then you know what I mean. This tour follows the journey of the men of Easy Company...

New Member Interview (Continued from Page 5)

(of World War II) through Europe. I know it sounds strange, but I love that show and I think it would be awesome to see where they went.

Erica: That would be pretty cool! Do you ever travel just for fun?

Sean: I don't travel much anymore, due to being a student and working full time, but I have traveled to Dubai with some of my friends when we were living in the Middle East. So it wasn't a long flight from there, but it was a fun experience. We got to go skiing at the mall! I mean how cool is that? Traveling now consists of a road trip now and then to Sedona or Jerome, two of my favorite Arizona places.

Erica: Skiing at the mall sounds like a lot of fun! But Sedona and Jerome are really interesting places, too. Tell me about your family. Do they live in the area?

Sean: My family lives in Southern California now. Once I graduated from college my parents moved to California where my brother and I were living. I also have a brother and a sister who live in Louisiana, but I do not see them much. So I'm the only one in my family in the Phoenix area.

Erica: What have they said, if anything, about your decision to become a Lutheran? Are they supportive and understanding about it?

Sean: My parents are very supportive, even though they do not agree with the theology. They even bought me my first *Lutheran Study Bible*. My brother, who was very influential for me becoming Lutheran, actually goes to a Lutheran church in California. So he is very supportive and helps me with a lot of my questions.

Erica: That's wonderful! I'm so glad they've shown that level of support even though they don't agree with it. How did you come to the decision that the Lutheran faith was what you wanted to be a part of?

Sean: Well, there is a lot I could say to this question. For me it was sacraments, the distinctions between the Law and Gospel (which I still have a lot to learn about), the hymns, and the overall reverence of the divine service. It actually felt like I was at church and not at a concert. I remember thinking to myself this past Sunday after partaking of the Lord's Supper, "How amazing is Christ's forgiveness!" I was trying not to laugh and smile while I was at the altar. But I was overwhelmed with Christ's forgiveness. How awesome is it that he gives us His body and his blood for the forgiveness of sins!

Erica: It can be kind of overwhelming to ponder, but it sure is incredible. What was your impression when you visited us for the first time?

Sean: I remember thinking to myself the first time I went, "Wow I am being told that I am forgiven over and over and over again." I have never experienced that before. I was used to hearing some type of moralistic teaching that was supposed to make me feel better.

Erica: When was it that you started visiting?

Sean: My first visit was in October, and for the most part, I have been going ever since then.

Erica: What made you decide to have Pr. Webber catechize you?

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New Member Interview (Continued from Page 6)

Sean: I wanted to learn more about Redeemer, but I also wanted to learn more about the Lutheran Confessions. I had a lot of questions and he was very helpful for me in understanding certain things about Lutheran theology.

Erica: What do you see as some of the greatest strengths of our church?

Sean: I see one of Redeemer's greatest strengths is our pastor. I remember seeking out Lutheran churches before I went to Redeemer, but most of them looked like the evangelical churches I wanted to leave. I remember asking him if he felt any type of temptation to be like those churches to attract more people and he told me that he honestly had no temptation. I can't remember his exact answer and I wouldn't do justice to it anyway, but I remember thinking how awesome it is to have a pastor to stick to the Confessions. I hope to get to know the Confessions better through his teaching as the years go by.

Erica: I'm sure you will. Yeah, there are a lot of us who joined Redeemer because we wanted a more reverent service, not one that resembled a concert or general evangelical church. It's good that you ended up here. You'll learn a lot, especially from Pr. Webber. What kind of work do you do?

Sean: Right now I'm a student and I work full time in retail. When I'm not at work I'm either at school or writing a paper for school.

Erica: Where are you going to school?

Sean: I [still] attend Phoenix Seminary.

Erica: Are you still studying theology, or have you changed your degree focus?

Sean: Yes, I still study theology. There are, however, many things that I would like to study, and sometimes do in my free time.

Erica: What made you decide to study Lutheran doctrine when you'd previously thought it was wrong?

Sean: When I came back from the Middle East, I lived with my brother for a few months. At this time he was a Lutheran and wanted to help me understand Lutheran doctrine. So when I was there, I read and listened to many Lutheran pastors and teachers online. If it wasn't for my brother, I probably wouldn't have bothered trying to understand Lutheranism.

Erica: Do you have any hobbies, or other things you like to do in your spare time?

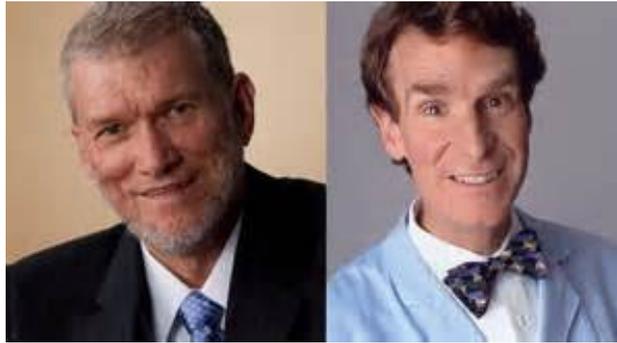
Sean: When I have any free time I like to have friends over for a barbeque or just spend some time with people that I haven't seen in awhile. Sometimes I like to play golf when I get the chance. I used to play all the time so when I get some time it's always fun.

Erica: What would you like the members and friends of Redeemer to know about you that I haven't asked?

Sean: I'm a bit of an introvert, but that doesn't mean that I don't like to spend time with people or talk. In fact I love both of those things. It just takes me longer to get to know people, but once I do I can be more outgoing.

Erica: Well, there are a lot of us at Redeemer who would classify ourselves as introverts, so you're not alone. Thank you so much for taking the time to answer my questions! I think I can speak for us all when I say we look forward to getting to know you better. And again, welcome! We are so glad to have you as a member!

Devotion: "There is a book..."



John 17:17 "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

Have you ever been excited to recommend a book to someone? You just loved the story, the characters, and the author's style. Maybe you appreciated the help or direction a book provided concerning money management, relationships, health, etc. Whatever your reason for liking it, you liked it so much you recommended it to others in hopes they would have the same positive experience.

Not so long ago there was debate between two men. Bill Nye a scientist, TV personality, and host of "Bill Nye the Science Guy". And Ken Ham founder and CEO of Answers in Genesis, an organization dedicated to creation science. Maybe you were one of the several million people who watched it. If you were, who did the better job? They both had compelling arguments. They both had fancy slide presentations. They both had what each believed to be conclusive evidence to prove their point of view. Despite all of those things though, it all came down to one thing, faith. Each of them believed in something they could not see or completely understand.

At one point, Bill Nye was asked how matter and human consciousness came to be without a creator. His response was, "This is a great mystery". Ken Ham responded by saying, "Bill, I do want to say, there is a book out there..." In his excitement, Ken Ham couldn't resist recommending a book. A book that changed Ken's life forever. A book which gave him direction, hope, and purpose. The book he was so excited to recommend was the Bible. The bestselling book in history. The book written through men, but inspired by God himself. The God who created everything in six twenty-four hour days. The God who is with you and loves you twenty-four hours a day.

Through the Bible, God wants you to know this. To know that you have direction, hope, and purpose. He wants you to know that you are forgiven and your guilt is gone. There is a book out there that assures you of this. There is a pastor out there who is more than excited to tell you more about the God who loves you so much he sent his Son Jesus to be your Savior.

From the ELS Board for Home Outreach

*Redeemer Lutheran Church
April 2014*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1	2 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers service	3 Internet Study Group canceled	4 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	5
6 Lent 5 8:20 a.m. Choir rehearsal 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	7	8	9 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers service	10 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	11 Bible Study canceled	12
13 Palm Sunday 8:20 a.m. Choir rehearsal 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. SS and Congregational Forum	14 7 p.m. Voters' meeting at the church	15	16	17 Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. DS Internet Study Group canceled	18 Good Friday 7 p.m. Tenebrae Vespers Bible Study canceled	19
20 Easter 8:20 a.m. Choir rehearsal 9 a.m. DS Easter brunch after the service AC/SS canceled	21	22	23	24 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	25 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	26
27 Easter 2 9 a.m. SW with spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' Meeting after the AC	28	29	30			

Abbreviations:

DS – Divine Service; SW – Service of the Word; AC/SS – Adult Bible Class/Sunday School

Divine Service – Full Word and Sacrament Service with Communion, on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, and on major festivals

Service of the Word – a brief spoken order of Holy Communion follows the public service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

Refreshments are served after the Sunday morning Services

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First Class Mail

We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

Notice!

Audio recordings of services are available on the church website. Recordings of sermons only are also available through the website, and are archived online courtesy of **lutheransource.net**.



About Redeemer Lutheran Church

Our mission is faithfully to preach the Word of God, both Law and Gospel, in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; correctly to administer the Holy Sacraments for the forgiveness of sins; and to reach out to those who have not yet come to faith in Christ Jesus.

