

The Valley Evangel

Serving the Members and Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale and Sun of Righteousness Lutheran Church in Queen Creek



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Outreach has always been an important emphasis in our congregation. As your pastor I have, as you know, often encouraged you to make use of the opportunities that the Lord gives you, to speak to your friends and relatives about Christ and the blessings of faith in him; and to invite your friends and relatives to come to church with you, so that they can experience the Divine Service for themselves.

An equally important thing for us to think about is that when visitors do in fact attend our church for the first time, we should do what we can to make sure they know that they are welcome, and to help them to understand our way of worship. We deeply value the Liturgy and hymns of the church, for a host of reasons. At the



same time, we need to be sensitive to the fact that some people who visit our church may never have experienced a traditional Lutheran worship service before, so that they might have a lot of questions about why we do what we do.

To help answer some of those questions, and to assist first-time visitors in following the order of service that we use, I recently prepared special bulletin inserts – one for Redeemer in Scottsdale, and one for Sun of Righteousness in Queen

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WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Scottsdale:

Sunday Divine Service: 9:00 a.m.
Refreshments after the Service
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:30 a.m.

Queen Creek:

Sunday Divine Service: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 5:15 p.m.
Bible class and Sunday School on hiatus for the Summer in both locations!

Thursday Internet Study Group:

6:30 p.m. (see Pastor Webber for log-on information for this group, or attend in person at his residence) **This class will continue throughout the summer!**

Friday Bible Study:

10:00 a.m. at the Calvin residence
Class on hiatus for the summer!

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THOSE WHO ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US FOR THE FIRST TIME

If you are visiting our congregation today for the first time, we want you to know how glad we are to have you with us. We also want to take this opportunity to explain our worship service to you, so that you will know what is happening, and why.

Our congregation follows a “liturgical” order of service. This means that there is a basic framework or structure in our worship that remains essentially the same each Sunday. This also means that there are many elements in our worship that change from week to week, according to a pattern that repeats itself every year. This kind of service, which has been used by the historic Christian Church for 2,000 years, provides a proper balance of continuity and variety in each Sunday’s service.

The specific orders of service that we follow are found in the front part of *The Lutheran Hymnal*, where the pages are numbered at the bottom of each page. The bulletin and the hymn boards at the front of the church will tell you whether we are following the “Order of Morning Service,” which begins on page 5, or the “Order of the Holy Communion,” which begins on page 15. You will notice that the Pastor sings or speaks some of his parts of the service according to a slightly updated wording, but the parts of the service that are sung or spoken by the congregation always follow the wording as printed in the hymnal.

The hymns that are appointed for today’s service are indicated in the bulletin and on the hymn boards. They are from the back part of the hymnal, where the pages as such are not numbered, but where the *hymns* are numbered. The hymn numbers usually appear in the upper outside corner of each page.

An insert with Scripture lessons and other “propers” is included in the bulletin each week. Worshipers are invited to sing the “Introit” and “Gradual” from this insert when we come to those parts of the service, according to the instructions that are provided in the bulletin.

God is – or should be – the primary actor and speaker in worship. In the Liturgy he speaks to us through the Scripture readings and the other components of the service that enshrine and convey his dual message of judgment against

sin and forgiveness in Christ. And as God speaks to us in these ways, his Word molds and shapes our response, so that we then say back to him the things that he would want us to say. We come to church, not so much to tell God what we think, or to express ourselves to God, but in humility to learn from God, and to be instructed and guided by his Word in how we should call upon him. This is why the prayers and hymns that we use have an objective and “doctrinal” quality about them.

The Lord’s Supper is available in our congregation on every Sunday. On the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month, when we follow the “page 15” service, it is offered as a part of the main public service. On the second and fourth Sundays of the month, when we follow the “page 5” service, it is offered in a brief, spoken service following the main public service.

We believe that participation in the Lord’s Supper should be preceded by a course of instruction in the teachings of Scripture and of our church, concerning this sacrament and other important articles of faith. We also believe that such participation serves as a public testimony of unity in faith among those who are communing together. We therefore do not follow an “open Communion” practice. But even if you are not communing with us today, God’s grace is still offered to you through the Gospel, as it is proclaimed in the Scripture readings, in the sermon, and in the hymns.

Gathering before the Lord to hear his Word and to offer our prayers to him is a very serious matter. It is not to be done in a frivolous or light-hearted manner, but with reverence and sobriety. When we enter into the Lord’s presence in worship, we are, in a sense, transported into a realm of eternal realities. Our use of symbolism and ceremony serves as an expression of our conviction that the worship of Almighty God is something special, and unlike anything else we may do in other arenas of life.

We hope and pray that you will be blessed by the ministry of God’s Word during your time with us today. And we hope that you will come and worship with us again next week. You will always be most welcome in our midst, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

Creek – to be given to such visitors along with their worship folder. As I was telling an active member of Redeemer about this a couple weeks ago, she suggested that those who already belong to our parish could also benefit from reading such an explanation of the unique character of a Confessional Lutheran Divine Service, so that they, too, could be reminded of the reasons why the services in our church are the way they are.

In keeping with this suggestion, the text of the insert that I prepared for first-time visitors at Redeemer is included in this newsletter. (The text of the corresponding insert for Sun of Righteousness differs only slightly from the text of the Redeemer insert, due to the fact that we don't have hymn boards in Queen Creek, and also due to the fact we use the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* in Queen Creek, rather than *The Lutheran Hymnal*. But otherwise, the two inserts are essentially the same.)

As we think about the various ways in which we can demonstrate to our visitors how welcome they truly are, and as we consider how we might help our visitors to understand and appreciate the great blessings that are available to them in the Gospel of Christ, let us ponder these words of the apostle Paul:

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ... And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God... (Ephesians 2:13,17-19, ESV)

-- Pastor Webber



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME Daniel Morehouse and daughter Ashlie as new members of our congregation! Daniel was received as a communicant member by profession of faith on July 19, and Ashlie was received as a baptized member. Dan's wife and Ashlie's mother, Lexie Morehouse, is already a member of our parish. (see photo)

AT THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD CONVENTION held in Mankato, Minnesota, June 22-25, Wayne Anderson was re-elected to another three-year term on the ELS Board of Trustees, and Pastor Webber was re-elected to another three-year term on the ELS Doctrine Committee.

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. (2 Corinthians 4:5, ESV)



CHRISTIAN ENCOURAGEMENT AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY

It is easy to be negative. It is difficult to remain positive. Why? The world in which we live is evil. We see it in our neighborhoods and in our nation and in our world. It drives the internet news sites and the around-the-clock cable news. Some days are so evil that we say to those around us, "Forget it. I have had it. I give up. I am moving to a faraway mountaintop." But that won't do us any good either. Evil will seek us out there too. It is difficult to remain positive that a better day will ever come.

Why be positive at all? As much as we see evil at work around us and in every corner of the world, evil fills our lives, even inside the heart—our thoughts, the anger, the jealousy, the lust, the dishonesty, the laziness. We add to the evil of the world. (Yes, we do.)

Without God there would be no reason to be positive. Yet, with Him, there is every reason! He sent His Son into the world, born the sinless Jesus Christ from the Virgin Mary. He came into the world which was as evil as today. But He didn't succumb to it. He came to push back and defeat the evil around us, the evil in us, and the devil himself. Make no mistake: evil attacked Jesus as He attacked it. (No, evil never retreats quietly.) The world's sins attacked, our sins attacked,



the devil attacked. Jesus felt their pain fully at the cross, where He bore the punishment we deserve for our sins. He even died. But this does not mean that He lost. On the third day, He rose again to victory over sin and the devil. Because He overcame evil, He offers all people salvation: **"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).**

When we believe in this, a powerful, new attitude comes to live in us, planted by Jesus. We no longer want to grovel in negativity and bring others down with us. We want to be positive and lift up those around us at every opportunity. We lift them up by encouraging them with the good news of Jesus' victory over sin and evil and the devil. By the power of the good news they too can believe in Jesus for salvation! With the new attitude of faith, they too can join with us in pushing back against every evil with the message of eternal life in Jesus' name. So the Bible encourages every believer in Jesus: **"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15,16).**

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
AUGUST 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Pentecost 9 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 4:00pm DS (Q)	3	4	5	6 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	7	1 <hr/> 8
9 Pentecost 10 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) Ladies Guild after the Service (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q)	10	11 7 pm Church Council (S)	12	13 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	14	15
16 Pentecost 11 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 4:00pm DS (Q)	17 Pastor in Mankato for ELS Doctrine Committee Meeting	18 Pastor in Mankato for ELS Doctrine Committee Meeting	19 Pastor in Mankato for ELS Doctrine Committee Meeting	20 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	21	22
23 Pentecost 12 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q) Elders Meeting after the service (S)	24	25	26	27 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	28	28
30 Pentecost 13 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 4:00pm DS (Q)	31	<i>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ... And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God... (Ephesians 2:13,17-19, ESV)</i>				

Abbreviations:

DS—Divine Service (SW) Service of the Word SS/AC = Sunday School / Adult Bible Class

(S) = Scottsdale (Refreshments in Scottsdale immediately follow the morning Service) (Q) = Queen Creek

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

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

Notice: Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes are on summer hiatus until September (S/Q)

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Sun of Righteousness Church

Meeting in the "Multi-Purpose"
Room at Frances Brandon-
Pickett Elementary School
22076 E. Village Loop Road
South



First Class Mail

Return Service Requested

We're on the Internet!

redeemer.vze.com
sunofrighteousness.vze.com

Notice!

Audio recordings of
Pastor Webber's sermons are
posted on the Internet
weekly and are available
through both church web-
sites above, and
published courtesy of
lutheransource.net



ABOUT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is to preach the Word of God, both Law and Gospel, faithfully 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.

