

The Valley Evangel

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

August 2012

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<p>Worship and Study Times</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>Pastor's Essay Published</i></p> </div>			
<p>Sunday Divine Service: 9 a.m., Refreshments after the Service</p> <p>Sunday School/Adult Bible Class: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Internet Study Group: 6:30 p.m. (Ask Pastor Webber for log-on info for this group, or attend in person at his residence)</p>			<p>Earlier this year, Pastor Webber prepared an essay for the ELS West Coast Pastors' Conference entitled "Walking Together in Faith and Worship: Exploring the Relationship between Doctrinal Unity and Liturgical Unity in the Lutheran Church." He also submitted a slightly altered version of this essay for academic credit as part of a Master's course he took through the Institute of Lutheran Theology, on the "Theology of Lutheran Worship." This essay has now been published in <i>Lutheran Synod Quarterly</i>, the theological journal of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. It can be accessed online</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(continued on Page 2)</i></p>	
<p>Newsletter Staff</p> <p>Editor: Pastor David Jay Webber Editorial Assistant/Layout and Design: Erica Olson Production Assistant/Printing and Distribution: Sarah Kissinger</p>				



Pastor's Essay (continued)

as well, at redeemerscottsdale.org/pdf/WebberWalkingTogether2012.pdf The members and friends of the congregation are invited to study this essay. It explains why our Confessional Lutheran church worships in the way we do, and why we do not do the kinds of things that are done in churches that hold to a different theology of worship – and to a different theology of how people are saved from sin. Pastor Webber was also interviewed regarding this essay on the “Issues, Etc.” radio/internet program. A recording of this interview, which was broadcast/webcast on July 20, can be downloaded from the “On-Demand Archives” section of the program’s website: issuesetc.org/archive/

The Passing of a Member and Friend

Pamela Lingenfelder, a member of our congregation, entered into her rest in Christ on Tuesday, July 10, at her home in Sun City. A memorial service was held at Redeemer on Saturday, July 14. Our sympathy is with Fred, Pam’s husband of 48 years, and with their family, as we are all comforted by the promise of Jesus our Savior: “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die” (John 11:25b-26a, ESV).



The Rest of the Story...

The late radio commentator Paul Harvey was famous for his segments in which he told “the rest of the story.” Several months ago I wrote an article about the bankruptcy of the Crystal Cathedral in California, and forced sale of the signature building after which they are named, which was the biggest religious news story of 2011. Now it seems “the rest of the story” is that the bankruptcy and subsequent split of the Crystal Cathedral was partly due to a struggle over contemporary vs. traditional worship.

After television preacher Robert Schuller turned the leadership of the Crystal Cathedral over to his daughter Sheila Schuller Coleman, she introduced changes into their services. When the Crystal Cathedral was built in the 1980s they installed one of the largest, most prestigious pipe organs in the world, but it fell silent and was no longer used. Their traditional choir was disbanded and longtime choir director let go. They also had their own orchestra that was likewise shut down and the conductor dismissed.

These changes contributed to a sharp decline in attendance and donations, and following the bankruptcy Sheila Schuller Coleman left with a

group of members to form her own church. The Crystal Cathedral is trying to rebuild their congregation during the three years that they are allowed to remain in their former building, and the congregation’s new president recently commented in a letter to members:

Following Sheila Schuller Coleman’s recent decision to leave the Crystal Cathedral with . . . the praise music team . . . We have been listening to you. Based on your comments, we’re making changes . . . to bring you the very best Sunday service . . . The mighty . . . organ and most loved hymns will be, once again, part of the great musical tradition at the Crystal Cathedral . . . Over the months, as we received feedback expressing increasing displeasure over the new direction of the music during Sunday services, Sheila and Jim Penner were asked by the congregation and the board to change the format of the service. Sheila felt very strongly about the music and her ministry direction, and she and Jim have moved their ministry . . . to another location... Choir Director Don Neuen is back,

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The Rest of the Story... (Continued from Page 2)

along with Orchestra Director Marc Riley! . . . See for yourself how this ministry is returning to its tradition.

A news story added:

The church’s new president . . . told The Christian Post . . . his focus is returning the church to the traditional worship style . . . “We’re going back to the tradition of excellent worship . . . and sacred music” . . . Crystal Cathedral congregants are looking forward to the changes in worship . . . “They are very excited to be going back into the traditional services again and to hear the great music and choral music.”

Like the members of the Crystal Cathedral, a survey of Lutherans some years ago revealed a strong majority prefer traditional worship:

Lutherans overwhelmingly prefer traditional to contemporary worship services, according to a national poll of nearly 1,700 Lutherans . . . 77% of survey respondents said they favor traditional worship services, while 23% said they prefer contemporary services (*Reporter*, December, 1995).

Some may look at those figures and think, “That’s fine for those who are already Lutheran. But what about the unchurched? Don’t we have to have contemporary worship, if we’re going to reach them?”

But, according to church growth expert George Barna the surprising answer is that the unchurched also prefer traditional worship. Barna is not a minister or theologian, but a successful advertising and marketing consultant who began focusing his expertise on the subject of churches. In his book *Evangelism that Works: How to Reach Changing Generations with the Unchanging Gospel* (Gospel Light, 1995), he summarizes his exhaustive research on the subject of worship and the unchurched:

Most unchurched adults would prefer a service that incorporates traditional hymns rather than contemporary Christian music. This surprises many people, who assume that anything that smacks of tradition is automatically rejected by those who are outside the church. The truth is that nonchurched adults are twice as likely to say they would prefer traditional hymns to contemporary forms of music.

Like the Crystal Cathedral prior to their bankruptcy and split, many Lutheran congregations have downplayed traditional liturgy, music, and hymns, with good intentions, because they were erroneously told that is necessary to reach the unchurched. But, it turns out not only do existing Lutherans – like the members of the Crystal Cathedral – prefer traditional worship; that is also what the unchurched want too.

“And now you know the rest of the story.”

Pastor Kevin D. Vogts
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Dakota Dunes, SD

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“Open Letter” Signed by President Moldstad and Other Religious Leaders

Included in this issue of the *Valley Evangel* is an “Open Letter” signed by many religious leaders in our country, including the president of our synod, John A. Moldstad, and the president of the Wisconsin Synod, Mark Schroeder. This letter addresses a troubling threat to religious liberty in America that requires a response from those whose First Amendment rights are now at risk. The issue addressed in this letter is not whether contraceptives are sinful or not, but whether an agency of the civil government has the right to decree, in effect, that church institutions which reach beyond the four

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“Open Letter” Signed by President Moldstad ... (Continued from Page 3)

walls of a congregation – such as colleges and human care organizations – need not be respected by the government *as church institutions*. The issue is whether the secular values of a government agency may be imposed on such an institution – contrary to the spiritually-based values of the church that owns and operates the institution – so as to curtail the church’s ability to carry out the free exercise of religion in the larger society by means of that institution, in accordance with its own doctrinal and moral beliefs.

An open letter of this nature is unprecedented in the history of our synod, and in the history of our synod’s relationship with the civil authorities under which we live. But this is because the threat to our religious liberty that exists in the current regulatory pronouncements of the Department of Health and Human Services is likewise unprecedented. No government of the past, whether Republican or Democrat, has attempted to issue such mandates to churches and other religious organizations in the United States.

The ELS as such takes no position on the strictly political question of whether the general idea of health care reform as embodied in the “ObamaCare” legislation is good or bad. Each Christian citizen may and should form his own judgments in this respect. But the leaders of our ELS do oppose the specific regulation, related to the ObamaCare program, that the “Open Letter” addresses. At the very least, we want *this particular regulation* to be overturned or revised, because it impinges on the Constitution’s guarantee that the federal government will not interfere with the free exercise of religion in our country.

Putting Beliefs into Practice

An Open Letter from Religious Leaders in the United States to All Americans

Dear Friends,
Religious institutions are established because of religious beliefs and convictions. Such institutions include not only churches, synagogues, mosques, and other places of worship, but also schools and colleges, shelters and community kitchens, adoption agencies and hospitals, organizations that provide care and

services during natural disasters, and countless other organizations that exist to put specific religious beliefs into practice. Many such organizations have provided services and care to both members and non-members of their religious communities since before the Revolutionary War, saving and improving the lives of countless American citizens.

As religious leaders from a variety of perspectives and communities, we are compelled to make known our protest against the incursion of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) into the realm of religious liberty. HHS has mandated that religious institutions, with only a narrow religious exception, must provide access to certain contraceptive benefits, even if the covered medications or procedures are contradictory to their beliefs. We who oppose the application of this mandate to religious institutions include not only the leaders of religious groups morally opposed to contraception, but also leaders of other religious groups that do not share that particular moral conviction.

That we share an opposition to the mandate to religious institutions while disagreeing about specific moral teachings is a crucial fact. Religious freedom is the principle on which we stand. Because of differing understandings of moral and religious authority, people of good will can and often do come to different conclusions about moral questions. Yet, even we who hold differing convictions on specific moral issues are united in the conviction that no religious institution should be penalized for refusing to go against its beliefs. The issue is the First Amendment, not specific moral teachings or specific products or services.

The HHS mandate implicitly acknowledged that an incursion into religion is involved in the mandate. However, the narrowness of the proposed exemption is revealing for it applies only to religious organizations that serve or support their own members. In so doing, the government is establishing favored and disfavored religious organizations: a privatized religious organization that serves only itself is exempted from regulation, while one that believes it should also serve the public beyond its membership is denied a religious exemption. The so-

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“Open Letter” Signed by President Moldstad ... (Continued from Page 4)

called accommodation and the subsequent Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) do little or nothing to alleviate the problem.

No government should tell religious organizations either what to believe or how to put their beliefs into practice. We indeed hold this to be an unalienable, constitutional right. If freedom of religion is a constitutional value to be protected, then institutions developed by religious groups to implement their core beliefs in education, in care for the sick or suffering, and in other tasks must also be protected. Only by doing so can the free *exercise* of religion have any meaning. The HHS mandate prevents this free exercise. For the well-being of our country, we oppose the application of the contraceptive mandate to religious institutions and plead for its retraction. Sincerely yours,

Leith Anderson
President
National Association of Evangelicals

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Sister Loraine Marie Maguire, l.s.p.
Provincial Superior, Baltimore Province
Little Sisters of the Poor

Gary M. Benedict
President
The Christian and Missionary Alliance U.S.

Bishop Harry R. Jackson Jr.
Senior Pastor, Hope Christian Church
Bishop, Fellowship of International Churches

The Rev. John A. Moldstad
President
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Bishop John F. Bradosky
North American Lutheran Church

The Very Rev. Dr. John A. Jillions
Chancellor
Orthodox Church in America

Deaconess Cheryl D. Naumann
President
Concordia Deaconess Conference
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis

The Most Blessed Jonah
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All American and Canada
Orthodox Church in America

The Rev. Samuel Rodriguez
President
NHCLC
Hispanic Evangelical Association

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of New York
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Imam Faizul R. Khan
Founder and Leader
Islamic Society of Washington Area

Sister Joseph Marie Ruessmann,
R.S.M., J.D., J.C.D., M.B.A.
Generalate Secretary
Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan

Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, S.V.
Superior General of the Sisters of Life

The Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky
Director of External Affairs
and Interchurch Relations
Orthodox Church in America

The Rev. Mark Schroeder
President
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Sister Barbara Anne Gooding, R.S.M.
Director, Department of Religion
Saint Francis Health System

The Most Rev. William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore
Chairman
USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty

L. Roy Taylor
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church in America

Sister Margaret Regina Halloran,
l.s.p.
Provincial Superior, Brooklyn Province
Little Sisters of the Poor

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Member Interview: Joe Quint
(Conducted by Erica Olson, Valley Evangel Editorial Assistant)



Erica: So, how long have you been a member at Redeemer?

Joe: I believe we were accepted into membership, actually, at Son of Righteousness Lutheran Church in Queen Creek [a former preaching station of Redeemer] [on May 4, 2008].

Erica: Ok, so you've been here for a while now.

Joe: Yeah.

Erica: Were you always part of the ELS?

Joe: No, actually, I was born and raised in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, up to about my 20's, and then I kind of drifted away, and then in the mid-1990s ... I'd been going to an LCMS church and just didn't feel comfortable. It certainly wasn't the way the church was when I was growing up in the 1970s. But I moved to Prescott, and we did join an LCMS church up here, and it was certainly a lot different than the one I had experienced when I was a small child. ...

Erica: ... So you're still living in Prescott.

Joe: Yes, that's correct. My wife Lisa and I kind of wanted to retire in the California area, but California was just getting out of hand. She, at the time, owned an art supply store, and we kind of looked at a map and drew out to see how far it would be about 400 miles radius, see how far it would go ... what towns were in that [range], which is about a day's drive to get back to San Diego, where she would have occasion to go back and help run her art supply store. Prescott was within the radius, and we kind of went and visited and saw some of the other towns in the Arizona area, and Prescott seemed to be the best one for us. It seemed to have a good medical center, the people were friendly, there's lots of mountains, and they even have a Costco. ...

Erica: ... And you said you moved there from where?

Joe: San Diego. My wife and I, about 20 years ago, met at what was called a classical music society. We both enjoyed classical music. We'd been friends for quite a while, and then we got married just a little over 12 years ago.

Erica: Ok. Do you two have kids?

Joe: Well, we do, but we don't have any kids together. I have a son, and Lisa has three living children, all daughters. ...

Erica: So, do you see yourself staying here for retirement and beyond?

Joe: Yeah, I would say in the Prescott area. I would say so. But you know, life is full of interesting cliffs, so you never know where I might end up.

Erica: True. So, what do you do for a living?

Joe: I originally had an electrical engineering degree, but I've kind of moved into computer sciences and what they call a management science area. But right now, I've been doing a lot of computer programming throughout my years. But right now, I'm semi-retired with doing computer repair and building computers.

Erica: Ok. Does that keep you pretty busy?

Joe: Oh, yeah. Really busy.

Erica: That's very interesting work.

Joe: Yeah, I've been interested in electronics pretty much all my life. I think I built my first crystal set when I was

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"Open Letter" Signed by President Moldstad ... (Continued from Page 5)

Sister Maria Christine Lynch, l.s.p.
Provincial Superior, Chicago Province
Little Sisters of the Poor

Sister Constance Carolyn Veit, l.s.p.
Communications Director
Little Sisters of the Poor

Dr. George O. Wood
General Superintendent
The General Council of the Assemblies of God

Member Interview: Joe Quint (continued from Page 6)

in fourth grade, and I think by the time I was in sixth grade, I had a five-tube radio. I thought that the technical end of the electronics was really interesting, so I went to junior college and became an electronic technician and went into a four-year college and graduated with an electrical engineering degree. And then, I found the computers at the time, in the '60s and '70s. I looked at the designs of the electronic circuits a lot, and it kind of spurred my interest in the computer area. ...

Erica: Jumping a little into church, what do you enjoy about Redeemer? What's kept you there for so long?

Joe: Pretty much the liturgical, traditional services. When I was involved with the LCMS, [I started noticing things that bothered me], and I did some research and saw that the LCMS was starting to drift from its traditional roots. I was also noticing more contemporary worship being practiced in the church, and [other issues]. That caused me to rethink the LCMS. And during my [online] research, I saw a lot of things pointed toward a particular website being maintained by Pastor Webber when he was a [seminary] rector in Ukraine, and it was really a rich source for a lot of information that helped me make my decision to leave the LCMS and go into the ELS. And then I got a notification from another member, that I had corresponded with over the Internet, that Pr. Webber had moved from Ukraine to the Scottsdale area, and I figured that Scottsdale was pretty much in the neighborhood. While it was a longer distance, it was still something I could do occasionally [to attend]. ...

Erica: Now, is it just you who's a member, or is it your wife, too?

Joe: Yes, my wife is also a member. My wife is currently in the Good Samaritan facility over at Prescott Valley. She has Parkinson's-like dementia, which has been coming on for about the last five years, and in the last year or so, we've just been getting a much-needed handle on it, so we were lucky to get her in over at Good Samaritan. It's probably one of the better [facilities] in the area. And I try to visit her every day, making sure she's getting fed and taken care of over there. She seems to be pretty happy there. . . . It was pretty difficult, over maybe the last two or three years, to have her travel down there [to Scottsdale and Queen Creek]. We were going pretty consistently to Son of Righteousness in Queen Creek for quite a while, especially after May of 2000, but eventually, it got to where it was pretty hard for us to travel that distance.

Erica: How long does it take you to get to church when you come?

Joe: Basically, it's about an hour and a half. I believe it's

about 90 miles and about 3,500 feet [in elevation].

Erica: That's quite an elevation shift! I'll bet your ears pop!

Joe: They do! Sometimes when I get down there, it's about the middle of the service and my ears will clear up.

Erica: Well, no wonder you don't make it here all the time.

Joe: Yeah, I try to make it there about once a month, especially for the [special] services, so it's really a change. When I'm not going to Redeemer, I do attend a WELS church here. ... Coming down to Redeemer is always a special thing. I get to see the liturgical style, and the way the service is conducted, and also the Bible class is really interesting. But when I'm not able to attend the service, it's really nice to listen to the service over the Internet. It's posted on the church's website. Plus Pr. Webber has a mid-week [online] study group which I attend, so it allows us to interact that way. ... The topics are certainly interesting. It seems like Pr. Webber has a wealth of knowledge in so many different areas.

Erica: Yes, and that's not something that a lot of churches offer. ... I'm really glad he does that. It has a way of being able to connect those who are not able to make it, especially the snowbirds, who only attend a few months a year.

Joe: Yeah, in the past, there have always been people from all over the United States that were attending via Skype, so sometimes we've had up to about ten people listening to him and interacting with him over their computers. It's wonderful that he's taking advantage of all these technologies. It's kind of like a revolution, like back in the 1500s with Martin Luther and the printing press. We now have Pr. Webber and the Internet.

Erica: Yeah, he does make very good use of it! Is there anything about Redeemer that you would change if you had an opportunity to do so?

Joe: Change? Probably not. If I were to change [something], probably have it moved up to the Prescott area! (chuckling) But, this basically satisfies my desire for a liturgical, traditional type service, and the theology is all there. The Law and Gospel seem to be a very present piece of the service. The people are very friendly, but that's kind of beside, you know, like a subplot, a bonus off the side.

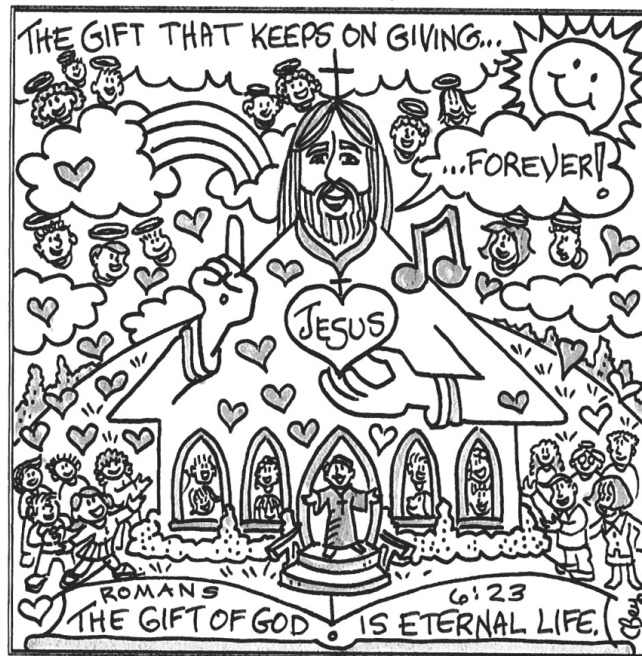
Erica: Well, I'm very glad that we've been able to get to know you, and through this interview, maybe a little bit better. ...

Devotion: "A Gift to Enjoy"

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

My first paycheck. \$100! A ONE with two zeroes behind it! It didn't matter that I spent a week pulling weeds with thistles in a 45-acre field. It didn't matter that I sweltered under a hot July sun. It didn't matter that I earned minimum wage. It had my name on it. I earned it. Some people put the first dollar they earned in a frame and hang it on the wall, but mine, mine was going straight into the bank.

There is another paycheck that I'm not so excited to take to the bank or to see hanging over my head. It comes in the form of guilt pricking my conscience far deeper than a thistle could ever penetrate my skin. Sometimes I see it when my temper flares hotter than the summer sun. I feel it when I know I should be more considerate, more caring and more loving toward others around me. So I work harder to



do what's right and try harder to do better than before, but still it never seems to be enough. And it isn't enough, because the Bible tells me the wages of my sin is death—and it's your paycheck, too.

But there is another way, and it doesn't come by earning, but by receiving. It's not a paycheck. It's a gift that has been bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus, earned by his death on the cross and shared freely with you. The Bible says, "The gift of God

is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." In Jesus, we are given what we don't deserve: eternal life. We have something that will last forever. It will never run out, be used up or be taken away.

That takes all the pressure off, doesn't it? Instead of the failures of our past, we can look to Jesus' perfect life of love. Instead of the pressures of tomorrow, we can look to the promise of eternal life that is already won for us by Jesus' dying and rising from the dead. As a result, life is not a burden, but a gift to enjoy always.

*Redeemer Lutheran Church
August 2012*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	2	3	4
5 Pentecost 10 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	6	7	8 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	9	10	11
12 Pentecost 11 9 a.m. SW with spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	13 Pastor Webber	14 in Minnesota for	15 vacation and ELS Internet Study Group Cancelled	16 Doctrine Committee	17 Pr. Webber in MN	18
19 Pentecost 12 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	20 Church Council @ Pr. Webber's residence (rescheduled from Aug. 13)	21	22 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	23	24	25
26 Pentecost 13 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' meeting after the AC	27	28	29 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	30	31	

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

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

Redeemer Lutheran Church

7670 East Jomax Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

Pastor David Jay Webber

Phone: 480-585-7002

Or: 480-621-7394

Email: jaywebber@yahoo.com



First Class Mail

We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

Notice!

Audio recordings of Pastor Webber's sermons are posted on the Internet weekly and are linked through the church website.

They are published courtesy of
lutheransource.net



**Evangelical
Lutheran Synod**

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.

