


The Valley Evangel

Serving the members and friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, Arizona

August 2017

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From the Pastor's Desk



“Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.” (Psalm 102:18, ESV)

For several years we have been posting audio recordings of the sermons delivered during worship services at Redeemer on the church website. For a while now we have also been posting audio recordings of the entire service. I have often thought of some of the people who can benefit from these recordings, and will list some of them now.

First, people who have no church, and who perhaps have no faith in Christ, may stumble across these recordings and listen to one of them. This is evangelism and a fulfilling of the great commission in the purest sense – using technology to reach people with the gospel who otherwise may not be reached by it.

Second, Christians who live at a distance from their church, or who are impaired in their ability to attend church because of sickness or infirmity, have often benefitted from listening to the recordings of sermons or entire services. Over the years I have known of several Christians in this kind of situation, including some in other states and even in other countries, who make use of

the recordings we post. Listening to them can take the edge off the discouragement they may feel in not being able to gather with a real flesh-and-blood congregation due to their difficult life circumstances – which is, of course, what they would wish to be able to do.

Third, pastors and church workers in developing countries who can be helped in their own sermon preparation through listening to the sermons preached by others, may be able to benefit from these recordings. Over the years several such pastors have communicated with me, and have told me that they have appreciated being able to do this.

Closer to home, when Redeemer members miss church, either occasionally or due to a long-term incapacitation, listening to the recorded sermons or services can serve to bridge the gap, so that the regular nurturing with God’s Word that we crave on a weekly basis can still occur. It is true, of course, that nothing can fully replace the experience of being with fellow believers in person, participating in the Liturgy, and receiving the Lord’s Supper. We do not stay at home and listen to a recording even when it is possible to go to church. But, when it is not possible to go, for one reason or another, listening to the recordings at home is better than nothing.

Also closer to home, when Redeemer members have been able to attend church, but were distracted by the needs of small children, or by something else, so that they were not able to hear all of the sermon, or pay attention to it as intently as they would have wanted to, listening to the recordings at home can be a helpful review and reminder. Because the audio files are in an easily portable format – mp3 – they can be downloaded into a device and listened to while driving, while working out or jogging, while doing housework, or while relaxing.

So, please consider the ways in which you, or people you know at your recommendation, can use the sermon and service recordings that are available through our congregation’s website. Recordings of the service are kept online for a couple months, and sermon recordings are permanently archived. And they are easy to find. On the left side of the homepage, glance down the list of internal links. Look for the ones marked “Recordings of the Service” and “Sermon Recordings” and click on them. And then listen!

– Pastor Webber



Bus Trip to ApacheLand

Pastor Kirby Spevacek invites Redeemer members to participate in a two-day bus trip on October 18 and 19 to visit some of the historic WELS Lutheran congregations on the Apache reservations in eastern Arizona. The cost is \$115 per person for double occupancy in the hotel accommodations the night of October 18, or \$155 for single occupancy. This price does include one night of lodging, as well as transportation and three meals. Brochures with more details are available in the church narthex, or ask Pastor Webber to send you a brochure by mail or email.



ASU Choral Concert – Music of the Reformation



The Arizona State University Choirs are planning a two-day Fall Choral Festival celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The program on October 18 – involving the ASU Choral Union, Chamber Singers, and Gospel Choir – will feature Bach’s Cantata 80, “Ein’ feste Burg ist unser Gott.” The concert on October 19 – involving the Arizona Statesmen, Barrett Choir, Concert Choir, and Women’s Chorus – will include Bach’s Cantata 79, “Gott der Herr ist Sonn’ und Schild.” Both events will be held at the Tempe Center for the Arts, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Ticket price for general admission to each performance is \$10. For more information see the TCA webpage at www.tempe.gov/TCA



Guest Article – Sort Of (adapted and expanded from a column by Pastor Paul Webber, West Jordan, Utah)

One thing that makes our way of interacting with each other very different from previous generations is that, by using modern social media, we are able to stay in touch with each other much more easily than used to be the case. We are able to keep up with the happy events that occur in the lives of the people we care about, even from a distance. We are also able to know of the sad things that are happening in the lives of others, including fellow-members of our own congregation. But why would that latter knowledge be something that we or other Christians would want to have? Why is it beneficial for us to learn about the difficulties our fellow believers are facing? Wouldn’t it be better for them to share only positive experiences, so that they don’t come off as complaining to the world?

Even though our natural instinct might be to keep our sadnesses to ourselves, this isn’t a healthy thing – not for us as individuals, and not for the greater body of believers of which we are all part. Probably the Bible verse that most quickly comes to mind when thinking about this is Galatians 6:2: “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” The “law of Christ” of which St. Paul writes here is, of course, the law of love. As we bear one another’s “burdens” in times of joy, we are able to rejoice and give thanks to God for the myriad ways in

which God blesses us. And as we bear one another's burdens in times of sadness, we are able to pray for one another, with God's sure promise that he hears our prayers and answers them – since "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16).

Another benefit of sharing our griefs with others, is that the simple act of sharing them helps us not to become consumed by them. If the devil had his way, we would always keep everything to ourselves. We would never advertise – in person or on social media – any of the things that are going on in our lives that make us happy, and that by extension could make others happy to know about them. And we definitely wouldn't share anything for which we need healing and relief. The longer we keep something that is troubling us bottled up inside, the greater harmful effect that thing can have on us. And when it comes to a sin we have committed, for which we naturally and rightly feel guilt, if we hold onto that and keep it to ourselves in this way, then we are giving the devil that much more of a grip with which *he* can hold onto us.

All of this is why, when we have sinned, we should regularly confess these sins – to God, and to the people whom we have wronged – and ask for forgiveness. And this is why, when we have experienced some great sadness in our lives, we shouldn't be afraid of sharing it with others. Instead of being *afraid* that other people will find out what has happened to you, and trying to hide it from them, let your brothers and sisters in Christ *know* about it, so that they can pray for you and encourage you. Instead of their unknowing silence possibly adding to your pain, their kind words and actions can help restore you to the peace and gladness that God wants you to have.

To be sure, we should not talk about everything on social media. But we can talk about some things on social media. And the other things, which are not suitable for public forums but which we should talk about with someone, somewhere, we can share in appropriate ways with the appropriate people, so that they can encourage us and build us up with God's Word, and with their love.

"For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that...we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, ESV)



Help to carry one another's burdens.

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Scottsdale

August 2017 Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3 7 pm Internet Study Group	4 Bible Study on hiatus until September 8	5
6 Pentecost 9 9 am DS 10:30 am SS/AC	7 Pastor Webber in Minnesota for ELS Doctrine Committee	8 Pastor Webber in Minnesota	9	10 7 pm Internet Study Group	11	12
13 Pentecost 10 9 am SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 am SS/AC	14 7 pm Church Council at the Muth residence	15	16	17 7 pm Internet Study Group	18	19
20 Pentecost 11 9 am DS Ladies Guild after the service 10:30 am SS/AC	21	22	23	24 7 pm Internet Study Group	25	26
27 Pentecost 12 9 a.m. SW w/Spoken Communion 10:30 am SS/AC	28 Pastor Webber in Utah for continuing education and vacation	29 Pastor Webber in Utah	30 Pastor Webber in Utah	31 Pastor Webber in Utah		

Abbreviations:

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

Divine Service—Full Word and Sacrament Service with Communion, usually 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 usually on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

Refreshments are served after the Sunday morning Services.

August 2017

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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.



We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

Audio recordings of Pastor Webber's sermons, and of entire services, are posted each week on the church website.