

The Valley Evangel

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

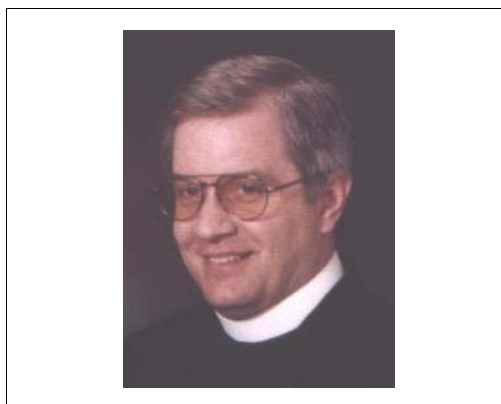
<i>Martin Luther on Luke 21:25-36</i>	2
<i>Lutheran Schools of America</i>	4
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	6
<i>Devotion: In Christ, you are a saint now!</i>	7
<i>About Our Church</i>	8

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Christmas shopping season has begun. Parents and grandparents in particular are in the process of purchasing those presents that will make their children's and grandchildren's holiday celebration as joyous as possible. They are searching the store shelves and mail order catalogues for that special something that will make young eyes light up on Christmas morning.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with wanting to brighten the lives of our children and grandchildren on Christmas, with gifts that will be valued and treasured. But for how long will they be valued and treasured?

When I look at old photographs of the Christmas celebrations of my own early years, I see images of myself



Pastor David Jay Webber

opening the presents that my parents and grandparents gave me, and smiling from ear to ear as those gifts emerged from the wrapping and boxes. I am reminded by these photographs of the cowboy boots and Hotwheels cars that were so important to me back then, and that I did appreciate very much. My parents and grandparents through the years of my childhood brought a

(Continued on page 3)

WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Scottsdale:

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

Queen Creek:

Sunday Divine Service: 4:00pm
Sunday School & Bible Class: 5:15pm

Wednesday "Bible & Theology"

Study Group: 7:00 p.m.

Loughran home in Scottsdale
(call or e-mail for directions)
No classes in December

Thursday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.

Calvin home in Scottsdale
(Call or e-mail for directions)

Editor:
Pastor David Jay Webber

Editorial Assistant - Layout and Design:
Julie Martinez

Luke 21:25-36

Excerpts from the *Second Sunday in Advent Sermon* by Dr. Martin Luther

The first thing for us to understand is that although the signs preceding the judgment day are many and great, they will all be fulfilled, even though none or very few men take note of or esteem them as such. For two things must take place according to the Word and prophecy of Christ and the apostles: first, that many and great signs will be made manifest; and secondly, that the last day will come unawares, the world not expecting it, even though that day be at the door.



MARTIN LUTHER

Though men see these signs, yea, be told that they are signs of the last day, still they will not believe, but in their security mockingly say: "Thou fool, hast thou fear that the heavens will fall and that we shall live to see that day?"

Some, indeed, must see it, and it will be those who least expect it. That there will be such security and indifference among men, let us prove by the words of Christ and the apostles. Christ says in the 34th and 35th verses: "Take heed to yourselves, lest haply your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come on you suddenly as a snare: for so shall it come upon all them that dwell on the face of all the earth." From these words it is clear, that men in great measure will give themselves over to surfeiting and drunkenness and the cares of this life, and that, drowned as it were in these things, they will rest secure and continue to dwell on the earth as if the dreadful day were far away. For, were there no such security and heedlessness, that day would not break in unawares. But he says, it will come as a snare by which birds and beasts are caught at a time when most concerned about their food and least expecting to be entrapped. In this figure he gives us clearly to understand that the world will continue its carousing, eating and drinking, building and planting, and diligently seeking after earthly things, and will look upon the day of judgment as yet a thousand

and more years off, when, in the twinkling of an eye, they may stand before the terrible judgment bar of God.

For the history of the centuries that have passed since the birth of Christ nowhere reveals conditions like those of the present. There has never been such building and planting in the world.

In addition men are so delving into the mysteries of things that today a boy of twenty knows more than twenty doctors formerly knew.

There is such a knowledge of languages and all manner of wisdom that it must be confessed, the world has reached such great heights in the things that pertain to the body, or as Christ calls them, "cares of life ... that every one must see and say either ruin or a change must come. It is hard to see how a change can come. Day after day dawns and the same conditions remain.

Therefore, my dear hearer, examine your life, probe your heart to ascertain how it is disposed toward this day. Do not put your trust in your own good life, for that would soon be put to shame; but think of and strengthen your faith in order that the day may not be a terror to you as to the damned, but be your joy as the day of your salvation and of the kingdom of God in you. Then when you think or hear of the same, your heart will leap for joy and earnestly long for its coming.

The Scripture says, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," and so let it be. Meanwhile there will arise a new heaven and a new earth, and our bodies will be revived again to eternal salvation.

If we knew just how the soul would be kept, faith would be at an end. But now we journey and know not just whither; yet we put our confidence in God, and rest in his keeping, and our faith abides in all its dignity.

Read the entire sermon on the web at:
http://www.godrules.net/library/luther/129luther_a2.htm

Luke 21:25-31 (ESV)

And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,

people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near.

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

lot of joy into my life on each Christmas morning through such gifts.

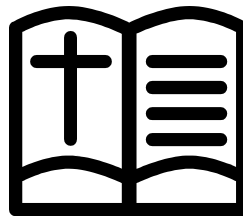
But I don't have those cowboy boots or Hotwheels cars anymore. And without the old pictures to remind me, at this point in my life I would probably not even be able to remember them, and to remember how much I valued them back then. Their usefulness to me, and my interest in them, have not endured into adulthood. Those gifts, so important to me back then, are not a part of my life any more. And that's the way it will be with most if not all of the presents that today's children receive this Christmas. In several years, most of these gifts, as important as they seem now, will be forgotten.

But there is one gift that parents and grandparents can give to those whom they love that can always remain important and vital in the lives of those who receive it: for years, for decades, and even for eternity. It is the gift of the Word of God. "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6, ESV). "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children..." (Acts 2:38-39). "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well" (2 Timothy 1:5).

All of you can afford to give this gift to your children and grandchildren – and indeed to anyone – because this gift does not cost you anything. Through others God has given it to you, so that through you God can give it to those you love. The only person who had to pay for this gift is God himself. The salvation that is conveyed to us in his living and life-giving Word was purchased by Jesus Christ when he died for our sins on the cross. It's now free for us to receive, and to pass on to others.

During the Advent and Christmas seasons there will be plenty of opportunities to give this gift to the young people who are important to you. Read the Bible to them and pray with them at home. Bring them to church and Sunday School. Take them along as you attend Wednesday evening Vespers during the three weeks preceding Christmas. And join them in celebrating the incarnation of their Savior at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. What you give on these occasions, and what you also receive for yourself on those occasions, truly will last for a lifetime and beyond.

Pastor Webber



But there is one gift that parents and grandparents can give to those whom they love that can always remain important and vital in the lives of those who receive it: for years, for decades, and even for eternity. It is the gift of the Word of God.

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

BY WAYNE ANDERSON

The congregation of Redeemer Lutheran church Scottsdale has been blessed in countless ways. One of the ways, now having a profound impact on the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) was a memorial presented to the 2003 Annual Synodical Convention. The memorial *Calling for the Establishment of Parochial Schools* was conceived out of a vision our congregation was contemplating to start a parochial school but lacking the proper information and resources to proceed. Here we were in the midst of a growing upper income area of Scottsdale, a church location surrounded by prime real estate, an excellent location for a private (parochial) school, but we were a graying congregation, with few school aged children in our midst on Sundays, our membership was small, and, consequently, not enough money to make it happen.

What were we to do?

Pastor Brumble, Jim Reith and I started kicking around some ideas, surely there are other ELS congregations who find themselves in similar situations, and the synod itself is a graying synod, the synod needs an influx of young families to survive and we need to provide them with an alternative to an increasingly secularized public school system. So we began the process of writing a memorial for consideration by the delegates assembled at the 2003 Annual Synod Convention in Mankato Minnesota.

Pastor Brumble, recognized by his peers as a theological scholar, with unique teaching skills, and a member of the ELS Board of Regents, Mr. Jim

Reith a retired educator and founder of Christ Lutheran School in Phoenix Arizona and I co-authored the memorial which among other things, called for “the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to declare the elementary education of all it’s children to be the second highest priority, after the preaching of salvation.” And that “the Synod commit itself to establish and operate parish elementary schools at a minimum of (10) per five year period for the next fifty (50) years,”

Quite an undertaking for our small (in number) synod, but moved by the Holy Spirit, and the persuasiveness of Pastor Brumble, the delegates assembled in 2003 passed the memorial resolution. This endorsement of the synod set into motion a flurry of events resulting in further resolutions at the 2004 and 2005 conventions, the hiring of a President and CEO and culminated at the 2006 convention with the establishment of a new Synod corporate entity called Lutheran Schools of America and the election of a nine member Board of Directors comprised of three clergy, one from each of the Eastern, Midwestern and Western districts of the synod, two teachers, one from the Midwest and one from the Western areas of America (we have no schools in the Eastern segment of the United States) and three lay members from congregations within the same geographical areas (*see photo on page 5*). I serve as the ninth member of the LSA Board representing the ELS Board of Trustees which has jurisdiction over the Lutheran Schools of America Corporation.

(Continued on page 5)

*The memorial **Calling for the Establishment of Parochial Schools** was conceived out of a vision our congregation was contemplating to start a parochial school but lacking the proper information and resources to proceed.*

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

(Continued from page 4)

As many of you recall, November 12, 2006 was designated Lutheran Schools of America Sunday throughout the synod and was the official start of a two year synod wide offering entitled ***For You and Your Children*** (Acts 3:39)

This offering is extremely critical to the success of LSA because as a separate corporation of the synod, the LSA is required to operate from it's own funding sources and not from the synods general fund.



Read this paragraph again, contemplate it, add LSA to your prayers asking the Holy Spirit to continue to guide the role of each of us in our support of His work through Lutheran Schools of America.

In that Lutheran Schools of America began right here at Redeemer Scottsdale, it is my prayer that our congregation will lead all others in our synod in bringing the Gospel to untold num-

The forefathers of our synod recognized the importance of parochial schools and did what they could to bring Christian education to our children, but now it's our turn to do the same for our children and in many cases for our grandchildren as well.

Dr. Martin Luther reminds us in his *Large Catechism* explanation of the fourth commandment; "The reason He [God] has given children into our charge is that we might train and govern them according to His will, as He commanded us to do; otherwise God would have no need for father and mother (or grandma and grandpa) my words. Therefore let everyone know that he is required, as a matter of highest duty and upon pain of losing the favor of God, to bring up his children (and grandchildren) my words in reverent fear and knowledge of God, and, if they are talented, also let to them become educated so that their services can be eventually used where needed."

bers of children all across America through our generous financial support of Lutheran Schools of America (LSA).

Informational packets are available in the narthex of the church, and if I can answer any questions you may have about LSA or be of assistance to you in any way, such as regarding matching corporate contributions, planned giving through your estate or foundations, periodic gifts over the next two years, or other giving mechanisms that work for you, your friends and neighbors, please call me at 480-990-2095 and I'll be delighted to share with you the excitement of this glorious adventure for our kids, grandkids and other children churchd and un-churchd alike.

**"Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring;
For His grace and power are such
None can ever ask too much."**

TLH 459, v. 2

The forefathers of our synod recognized the importance of parochial schools and did what they could to bring Christian education to our children

Members of the LSA Board, starting on the lower left of the photo:

Allen Labitzky,
John Tetzloff,
Brian Brudvig,
Rev. Alex Ring,
Rev. Ed Bryant,
St. Timothy, Chairman,
Jim Murphy,
Curt Mantey,
Rev. Ken Mellon,
Mike Butterfield,
Herb Berg,
Wayne Anderson,

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. Micah 5:2-5a</i></p>					1 4:30pm Confirmation Class at Pastor's Residence	2
<p>3 Divine Service 9:00am Service (S) 10:30am Sunday School/Adult Bible Class (S) 4:00pm Service (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)</p>	4	5	6 7:00pm Advent Vespers (Scottsdale)	7 10:00am Bible Study Calvin Home (call or email for directions)	8 4:30pm Confirmation Class at Pastor's Residence	9
<p>10 Service of the Word 9:00am Service (S) 10:00am Ladies Guild 10:30am Sunday School/Adult Bible Class(S) 11:30 Tree Decorating 4:00pm Service (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)</p>	11 Pastor At Doctrine Committee Meeting	12 Pastor at Doctrine Committee Meeting 7pm Church Council (S)	13 7:00pm Advent Vespers (Scottsdale)	14 10:00am Bible Study Calvin Home (call or email for directions)	15 4:30pm Confirmation Class at Pastor's Residence	16
<p>17 Divine Service * 9:00am Service (S) 10:30am Sunday School/Adult Bible Class (S) 4:00pm Service (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)</p>	18	19	20 7:00pm Advent Vespers (Scottsdale)	21 10:00am Bible Study Calvin Home (call or email for directions)	22 4:30pm Confirmation Class at Pastor's Residence	23
<p>24 Service of the Word 9:00am Service (S) 4:00pm Service (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q) 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service (S)</p> <hr/> <p>31 Divine Service (scheduled as 12/3)</p>	25 9:00am Divine Service Christmas Day Service to be held in Scottsdale for all members	26	27	28	29	30

(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

* This Sunday we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in the Queen Creek Service at 4:00pm (Angela Carlile and Estreia Roth)

IN CHRIST, YOU ARE A SAINT NOW!

Who are the saints? How did they get to be saints? Even before answering these questions, we might find ourselves saying, “What does it matter? I know I am NOT one, and will NEVER be one.” But it does matter. In fact, God wants you to be a saint! In his Word, He tells us how this is possible!

Don’t get nervous. It is not what you think. You don’t have to go off and live in a mountaintop monastery to do this. While we have the impression that sainthood is something earned like a student earns a degree, that’s not how anyone becomes a saint. If sainthood is something earned there would be no saints at all. For God says, **“Be holy, as I am holy.”** Among all the people who have walked the face of this earth, only Jesus Christ was truly holy. In him we find the answers to our questions.

The Bible tells us, **“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”** This tells us that Jesus, the Son of God, came in human flesh, without sin, to trade places with us. He came to do for us what we could not do for ourselves, that is, be holy.



The Gospels record for us the holy life which Jesus lived while under great spiritual hardships. The devil was tempting him. The world was rejecting him. One of his own disciples betrayed him. The rest of them fled when He was arrested and put on trial. **BUT HE NEVER SINNED ONCE.** He did it for each of us. Then, Jesus, the Holy One, went to the cross to die for our sins!

How does this enable us to be saints, even while we fumble about in our daily sins? Through faith, we receive Jesus’ holiness, his righteousness, as if we had lived it ourselves. Through faith, all our sins are removed, forgiven, wiped from our account. In Christ, we sinners are holy and righteous. We are saints without ever having done a single, purely good thing. So, who are the saints? Everyone who believes in Jesus. How did they become saints? By faith alone, apart from their works.

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

—2 Corinthians 5:21

Produced by the ELS Board of Evangelism

A Reading For Advent Micah 5:2-5a (ESV)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

7670 East Jomax Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Pastor David Jay Webber
Phone: 480-585-7002
Or: 602-388-4980
Email: jaywebber@yahoo.com

Sun of Righteousness Mission
Meeting in the "Multi-Purpose"
Room at Frances Brandon-Pickett
Elementary School
22076 E. Village Loop Road South
Queen Creek, AZ



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
websites 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 Lu-
theran Church; cor-
rectly 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.*



Redeemer Lutheran Church