

The Valley Evangel

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

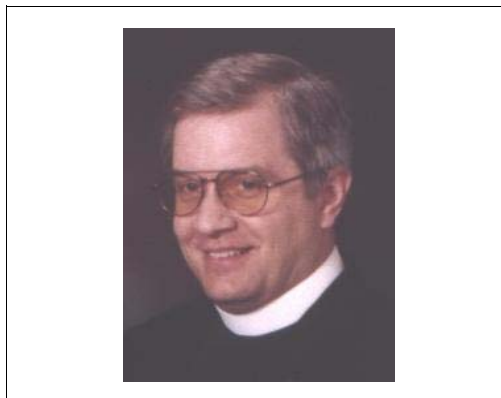


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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas is the celebration of something so profound, and so miraculous, that it might be difficult for us to grasp how important it really is. This is especially so in view of the distortions regarding the meaning and character of Christmas that are continuously inflicted on us by commercialism and secularism.



Pastor David Jay Webber

The genuine meaning of Christmas is that God became one of us. The creator entered into his creation. He who is almighty and eternal took upon himself the frailty and mortality of human flesh. The sovereign Lord against whom fallen humanity rebelled came down to the level of those who had made him their enemy, to offer forgiveness and peace.

The ancient Greeks, and other pagan nations, certainly did have myths

about the gods dwelling among men, and even producing offspring with human women. The mythic character Hercules – supposedly the son of Zeus and a mortal mother – is probably the best-known example of this. The difference, though, is that these stories are indeed simply myths. There was never any attempt to show when in history these fanciful events occurred, because they did not in fact ever occur.

(Continued on page 3)

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.

Wednesday "Bible & Theology" Study Group: 7:00 p.m.
Loughran home in Scottsdale

Queen Creek:

Sunday Divine Service: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 5:15 p.m.

Thursday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.
Calvin home in Scottsdale

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Wishing You A Blessed Christmas!



Luke 2:10-14 *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."*

The Phoenix Art Museum Illuminated Manuscripts

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A FIELD TRIP!

The Phoenix Art Museum, at 1625 North Central Avenue in Phoenix, will be hosting a special exhibition of "Illuminated Manuscripts" from December 11, 2007, to March 9, 2008. The exhibition will include both historic and modern examples of illuminated manuscripts of the Bible, and other rare Scriptural texts.

On Tuesday, January 15, beginning at 7 p.m., Dr. Paul Wegner (a professor of Old Testament at Phoenix Seminary) will conduct a walking tour of the exhibit while lecturing on the literary history of the Bible. The members and friends of Redeemer and Sun of Righteousness plan to attend this event as a group. Following the tour and the presentation by Dr. Wegner, we will gather somewhere for a bit of socializing, although the details of that are not yet set.

If you would be interested in participating in this, please inform the Pastor.

More information about the exhibition can be found online at www.phxartilluminated.org



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

The story of the true God becoming a man in the person of Jesus Christ is, in contrast, anchored down in real history. The incarnation of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity – the eternal Son of the Father – is verified by the personal testimony of real witnesses, who were willing to lay down their lives for the sake of their testimony concerning their experience with Christ.

The inspired testimony of the apostle John serves as a good example: “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, concerning the word of life – the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us – that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us...” (1 John 1:1-3, ESV)

Those who think that Christmas is about “giving” may miss the more fundamental and specific point that it is really about God’s gift of himself to the human race. Those who think that Christmas is about “family” may miss the more fundamental and specific point that it is really about God’s Son becoming a part of the human family, and about our becoming a part of God’s family by faith in his saving promises.

And the babe of Bethlehem did indeed save us. The virgin mother of God who in joy nursed Jesus and laid him in a manger, also looked upon her son and Lord in utter grief three decades later, as he hung upon a cross. He whose birth was hailed by angels in heavenly glory,

later died under the curse of sin, so that sinners like us need not die forever.

And the divine-human Savior who was born and died is also the divine-human Savior who rose again, and who lives forever. He mystically lives among us now, as our brother according to the flesh. He makes himself accessible to us through his Word and Sacraments. With the ears of faith we hear his voice. With the eyes of faith we see him where he has promised to be, as he comes to forgive us, to heal us, and to raise us up in the hope of everlasting life.

This is the true, profound, and miraculous meaning of Christmas. It is about the real incarnation of the real Son of God, to provide a real salvation for real people like us. This is not a myth, but is as true as truth can be. Worship with us during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, and experience this truth for yourself!

Pastor Webber



Those who think that Christmas is about “family” may miss the more fundamental and specific point that it is really about God’s Son becoming a part of the human family, and about our becoming a part of God’s family by faith in his saving promises.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Divine Service 9:00am Service (S) 10:30 am(S)/5:15pm (Q) Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 4:00pm Service (Q)	3	4	5 6:00-6:30pm Advent Soup Supper (S) 7:00pm Advent Vespers Service (S)	6 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence (S)	7	1 <hr/> 8
9 Service of the Word 9:00am Service (S) -Ladies Guild after the morning service 10:30 am(S)/5:15pm (Q) Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 4:00pm Service (Q) See footnote 1	10 Pastor Webber at ELS Doctrine Committee meeting in Mankato	11 Pastor Webber at ELS Doctrine Committee meeting in Mankato 7:00pm Church Council	12 6:00-6:30pm Advent Soup Supper (S) 7:00pm Advent Vespers Service (S)	13 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence (S)	14	15 8:00am to noon Church cleaning and Christmas decorating
16 Divine Service 9:00am Service (S) 10:30 am (S)/5:15pm (Q) Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 4:00pm Service (Q)	17	18	19 6:00-6:30pm Advent Soup Supper (S) 7:00pm Advent Vespers Service (S)	20 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence (S)	21	22
23 Service of the Word 9:00am Service (S) 10:30 am (S)/5:15pm (Q) Sunday School/ Congregational Forum 4:00pm Service (Q) See footnote 2	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols (S)	25 9:00am Christmas Day Divine Service (S)	26	27	28	29
30 Divine Service 9:00am Service (S) 10:30 am (S)/5:15pm (Q) Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 4:00pm Service (Q)	31	<i>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." Luke 1:30-33</i>				

(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

Footnote 1: Dec. 9 Guest Preacher and Worship Leader will be Rev. Kirby Spivacek

Footnote 2: Dec. 23 we will have a Circuit visitor, Rev. Timothy Hartwig. There will be a congregational forum during the Adult Bible Study class in Scottsdale and Queen Creek.

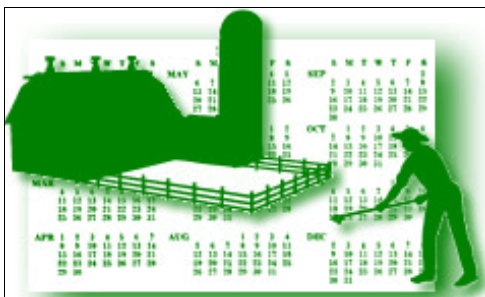
The Patience of a Farmer

Patience is essential for the farmer. A farmer must continue looking positively toward the future during dry spells, unpredictable weather and equipment failures. Patience is essential because a farm does not produce cash on a daily basis, it may take months or years for the farmer to get paid.

Patience is essential for you and me, just to get through this life. Life comes with many hard spells, unpredictable losses and disappointing failures. God wants us to be patient. He promises to be with us in times of trouble. There are many times, however, when you and I have not been patient – when we have doubted God and his presence. We even *blame* God at times when trouble comes to us.

Patience comes to us when we understand that God is in control and that He has made promises about our future. God promises that our future is secure in heaven because Jesus suffered for us. Jesus, God's one and only Son, patiently endured the hardship of

the crucifixion. Even though He was innocent, He suffered for you and me, making our sin and guilt His own. He died and rose to life again. On account of His Son, God forgives us for our failures and our impatience. God promises that all who believe in His Son have eternal life in heaven – guaranteed!



A frightened Kindergartener can endure the first day of school because she knows that her mother will return again in the afternoon – she is reliable. You and I can be patient, waiting for the Lord's return, because He is *perfectly* reliable. The Bible demon-

strates that He has never gone back on his word and assures us that He never will. Come, Lord Jesus!

“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.” James 5:7

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

Announcements

ADVENT VESPERS

Midweek Vespers will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church each Wednesday during Advent (December 5, 12, and 19) at 7 p.m. Each service will be preceded by a soup supper, hosted by the Redeemer Ladies' Guild, serving from 6 to 6:30 p.m. If your work hours would not give you enough time to go home, eat supper, and make it to church by 7 o'clock, but if you could get to the church directly from work by 6:30, then your problem is solved!

Please join us for these special opportunities to pray, learn, and grow in your faith. For midweek services like this, the pastor follows a more “conversational” style of preaching, which perhaps could be described as something halfway between a formal Sunday sermon and a Bible class.

CHRISTMAS

Join us for the Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m., and for the Christmas Day Divine Service (Word and Sacrament) at 9 a.m. And bring a friend! Christ is born! Let us praise him!

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals for the Christmas Eve service continue to be held every Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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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