

# 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

The First Gospel quotes the Prophet Isaiah as follows:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us)” (Matthew 1:23, ESV)

We hear these words so often, year after year in every Christmas season, that we may lose our sense of awe and wonder at what those words are saying. But in the world in which we live, with all of its trouble, danger, and uncertainty, these words can be very comforting. And especially in regard to all the spiritual deception that surrounds us, we as Christians can be so grateful that the Gospel we are privileged to believe is indeed a Gospel of “God with us.”

In Christ, God is indeed *with* us, as a loving and forgiving companion who continually guides and protects us. This saving truth stands in marked contrast to those religious systems that present God chiefly as a God who is *over* us, with unrelenting demands that cannot ultimately be fulfilled by anyone. It stands in marked contrast to those religious systems that present God chiefly as a God who is *behind* us, constantly pushing us and pressuring us to a life of perfect obedience. And it stands in marked contrast to those religious systems that present God chiefly as a God who is *inaccessible* to us, unknown and unknowable, forcing people always to be searching for true meaning in life, but never finding it.

But the God who is *with* us – Jesus the

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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.

### Thursday Internet Study Group:

7:30 p.m. (see Pastor Webber for log-on information for this group, or attend in person at his residence)

### Friday Bible Study:

10:00 a.m. at the Calvin residence

## A LETTER FROM DANIEL MOREHOUSE

WRITTEN FROM FT. HOOD, TEXAS, ON NOVEMBER 5  
THE DAY OF THE TRAGIC SHOOTING

**B**rothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, as I was resting in my room in the Base Officer's Quarters, I received news that there had been a mass shooting by an unknown gunman on Ft. Hood. As the situation developed and I received more news, mostly through the major news stations' websites, I learned that the shootings had taken place at the pre- and post-mobilization medical station. I had been in that same building on Monday, and was scheduled, along with most of the rest of my unit, to be there on Friday.

Tonight I say a prayer of thanks, thanks that I was not in that small building when Mr. Hasan made his decision to fire on his fellow, unarmed soldiers and tear them away from this body and life. I also pray that the families of these courageous men and women would find solace in the peace that can only be found in Christ Jesus our Lord. There is no doubt in my mind that these soldiers and civilian medical workers in no way earned this treatment from Mr. Hasan.

I would like to relate for you the experience I had on receiving pre-mobilization medical treatment in the building where these men and women were murdered. The building is not very large, perhaps 100 feet long by fifty feet deep. Inside is where our soldiers are lined up to have their vision tested, and then sent for blood draws and immunizations. When I first walked in, I was greeted by a friendly, smiling Specialist who directed me to the lines, instructing me to pick whatever line appeared to be the quickest. I then had my vision tested by a friendly African-American woman, who also briefly interviewed me regarding my family health (in order to decide which immunizations I needed to receive). She then sent me to get my blood drawn for the G6PD Protein Deficiency test. A friendly medic drew my blood without much pain, and then I waited in line to receive my immunizations.

The nurse to whom I was directed was, simply put, a wonderful human being. Instead of treating me as another number in her line, she spent the extra time to explain what the immunizations were for, and what sort of side effects I could expect to experience. We spoke briefly on the necessity for the PPD test (for tuberculosis), and she kindly massaged the injection site after giving me the first dose of my Anthrax vaccines. I left her with a smile and a kind word, she with a reminder that she prayed for our safety and rapid return. From her station, I proceeded to a quick immunization check-out, and into the seats that face the doors where the madman, Mr. Hasan, entered today to begin his slaughter.

There is nowhere in front of those doors to where my fellow soldiers could have run immediately upon the shooting for protection from his bullets. This man picked a shooting gallery for his reign of chaos, and many today paid the price in blood for his self-serving hatred. This was a medical facility – a place of healing and preventative care – not a combat zone.

None in my unit lost their lives today, but my fellow soldiers shed blood and gave their lives today in a senseless act of violence that has shaken us all to our very core. For now we all fear that another soldier will countenance the dark voice of temptation and surrender to murder and mayhem, death and destruction. Trust in our fellow soldiers is the foundation of our training, without which we could not function as we must. I pray that we do not lose it at a time when we need it so much.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
1st Lieut. Daniel Morehouse

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

Son of Mary – is a God who fulfills in our place all the expectations of the divine law that we could never satisfy, and who then credits that fulfillment to us. The God who is *with* us – the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world – is a God who invites us to his rest, as we find, in his wounds, true peace with our Creator and true peace within ourselves. And the God who is *with* us – the Lord and Head of his Church – is a God who enlightens us with his Word, and who bestows upon us his supernatural, divine wisdom.

And so, in this joyous Christmas season – and at all times of the year! – let us rejoice in the salvation that the Lord has provided for us. Let us rejoice in the Lord's gift of himself to us in the coming of Jesus Christ, true God and true man. And let us celebrate together, in the Lord's house and in our individual homes, the wonderful and awe-inspiring Gospel in which we believe: the Gospel of *God with us!*



-- Pastor Webber

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHURCH DECORATING, DECEMBER 6

Members will decorate our sanctuary for Christmas following the service and Bible Class on Sunday, December 6. Please stay to help with this worthwhile task.

### SOUP'S ON!

Wednesday evening soup suppers will precede Midweek Advent Vesper Services. Bring a friend, relative or neighbor. Serving is from 6 to 6:30 pm.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE

The Ladies Guild is preparing Christmas cards featuring a photo of the sanctuary decorated for Christmas. You are welcome to take a few of these to use in inviting friends, relatives or neighbors to our special services in December. They should be available on Sunday, December 13. An insert listing December services will also be available to tuck in the card.

### GRAB YOUR SCARF

...and come caroling with us. Dates and times are to be announced. We'll try to sing on one or more occasions in December at nearby shopping centers, to spread Christmas cheer, and to let neighbors know about our church. Please let Carol Webber know if

you are interested in participating. Everyone should plan to wear some sort of scarf around your neck, to unify our "look." Let Pastor or Carol know what dates and times might work best for you, and any suggestions you have about shopping center venues.



### SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Special music will be provided for the morning service on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20. If certain friends, relatives or neighbors aren't available to come to church with you on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, why not encourage them to attend this special service, the Sunday before Christmas?

(Continued on page 4)

## HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

*“When they had seen Him,  
they spread the word concerning  
what had been told them about this child.” Luke 2:17*

**W**hat traditional holiday comes in November? Thanksgiving? If you go by the decorations in the local department stores you would have seen that the retailers have skipped right to Christmas. Thanksgiving has been reduced to a single isle with Christmas music playing in the background in early November. They were ready for Christmas: colorful ornaments, artificial trees, sparkling lights, Christmas villages, evergreen wreaths, and lawn decorations. Notice anything missing?

Sadly, the world has become so politically correct that “Christ” is clearly and purposely being removed from

our midst. But more importantly, He is missing from the hearts of people who have not heard. *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10:14.*

God desires that you and your families to attend church this Christmas and learn of the Christ child, returning to the “true” meaning of Christmas. The celebration of birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who came into this world, the baby born in Bethlehem who lived a perfect life on our behalf, was crucified on the cross for our sins and rose again for our salvation. Then you also can be like the shepherds, *“When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.” Luke 2:17*

If you want to get a jump on the Christmas season, read the story of Christ’s birth as it is recorded in the Bible (Luke 2). You then can also share what you have learned with others, by placing bible verses in your Christmas card envelopes, packages to loved ones, and even our personal checks this month.

*Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Continued from page 3)*

### CHRISTMAS CHEER AND HOUSE BLESSING

Join Pastor and Carol Webber at their new home on Monday, December 28 at 7:00pm. If you haven’t visited them yet, their home is located at 4837 E. Melinda Ln. in Phoenix.. This is located east of Tatum Blvd. and just north of the 101.

### CHURCH DECORATING

On Sunday, December 6, we will be decorating the church for Christmas after the Bible Class in Scottsdale. This is a fun activity for all, so please come and help! There will be a pizza party immediately after the decorating, provided by the Ladies Guild.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
DECEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us)” (Matthew 1:23, ESV)</i></p>		1	2 6-6:30 pm Soup Supper (S) 7:00pm <b>Advent Vespers Service</b> (S)	3 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor’s residence	4 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	5 Pastor away in Mankato for Doctrine Committee meeting Dec. 5-8
<p><b>6 Advent 2 Service of the Word *</b> 8:30am Choir Rehearsal (S) 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Christmas decorating after the Bible Class (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)</p>		7 Pastor away in Mankato for Doctrine Committee meeting Dec. 5-8	8 Church Council rescheduled to December 9 Pastor away in Mankato for Doctrine Committee meeting Dec. 5-8	9 6-6:30 pm Soup Supper (S) 7:00pm <b>Advent Vespers Service</b> (S) 8:00pm Church Council (S)	10 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor’s residence	11 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence
<p><b>13 Advent 3 Service of the Word</b> 8:30am Choir Rehearsal (S) 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) Ladies Guild after the Service (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)</p>		14	15	16 6-6:30 pm Soup Supper (S) 7:00pm <b>Advent Vespers Service</b> (S)	17 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor’s residence	18 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence
<p><b>20 Advent 4 Divine Service</b> 8:30am Choir Rehearsal (S) 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)</p>		21	22	23	24 7:00pm <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b> (S) Internet Study Group canceled	25 9:00am <b>Christmas Day Divine Service</b> (S) Bible Study cancelled today
<p><b>27 1st Sunday after Christmas Service of the Word</b> 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Elders Meeting after the Bible Class (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)</p>		28 7:00pm Christmas Cheer and House Blessing at Pastor’s new home	29	30	31 Internet Study Group canceled	

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

\* **December 6:** Pastor will be away in Mankato. Pastor Timothy Hartwig will be guest preacher and worship leader. There will be Christmas decorating after the Bible class that morning in Scottsdale, followed by pizza for those who stay to help (courtesy of the Ladies Guild)

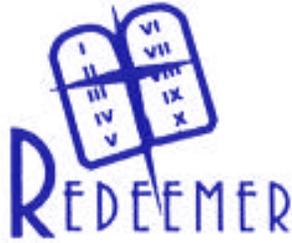
**Redeemer Lutheran  
Church**

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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



**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.

