

The Valley Evangel

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

December 2014

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Worship and Study Times

Sunday Divine Service:
9 a.m., Refreshments after the Service

Sunday School/Adult Bible Class: 10:30 a.m.

Thursday Internet Study Group: 7 p.m. (ask Pastor Webber for log-on info for this group, or attend in person at his residence.)

Friday Bible Study: 10 a.m. at the Nelson residence

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Pastor David Jay Webber
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Christmas Concerts

The annual Arizona Lutheran Academy Christmas Concert will be held at the ALA campus on Friday, December 19, at 7 pm. ALA is at 6036 South 27th Avenue in Phoenix.

The Bethany Lutheran College Music Department will present its annual *Christmas at Bethany* concert several times during December. Each performance will include participation by the Concert Band, directed by Adrian Lo; the Concert Choir and Chamber Choir, directed by Dennis Marzolf; and the Mary Martha Singers and Handbell Choir, directed by Ann Fredrickson. Performances on Dec 3. and Dec. 7 will be streamed live on the internet, beginning at 2:30 pm Arizona time. To log-on to one of those streamed concerts, go to the appropriate page in the BLC website:

www.blc.edu/events/christmas-bethany-concert-2014-12-03-220000#.VG0hXDTF-kI

www.blc.edu/events/christmas-bethany-concert-2014-12-07-220000#.VG0hgTTF-kJ

(or click through from the homepage: blc.edu)

New Topic for Thursday Evening Study Group

The Thursday evening Internet Study Group, which meets each week online at 7pm, will begin a new topic of study on December 4: selected chapters from the Book of Judges. We will once again welcome the participation of several members of our sister congregation (Hope Lutheran Church) in West Jordan, Utah, and of their Pastor. Please consider becoming a part of this study group. If you have an internet connection, and have a Skype account, we will bring you on! You can also come in person to the Pastor's home for the class.

Special Services for Advent and Christmas

Wednesday evening Advent Vespers will be held on December 3, 10, and 17, at 7 pm. Each service will be followed by a spoken order of Communion for those who wish to commune, and will be preceded by a Soup Supper, serving from 6 to 6:30 p.m. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Vespers service will be held on Wednesday, December 24, at 7 pm, and the Christmas Day Divine Service will be held the following day at 9 a.m. Think of a friend or relative you can invite to accompany you to one or both of these special services, as we together celebrate the joy of God's personal entrance into our human story – becoming one of us, in order to save us.



Choir Recruitment

The choir will sing special music during the service on the Fourth Sunday in Advent (December 21) and on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be held at 8:15 am – before the Sunday service – on December 7, 14, and 21. If you would like to participate, please speak with Carol Webber. If you think you might want to participate but you're not sure, also speak with Carol Webber, so that she can talk you into it.

A Note on Offering Envelopes

The cost last year for boxed offering envelopes, and for the envelopes that are placed in the pews for visitors to use if they wish, was around \$200. Instead of getting a new supply of envelopes for this year, the church is going to distribute boxes of envelopes from previous years that were never used. You may also use whatever envelopes you may have left from last year's box, or from earlier years. It doesn't matter that the dates printed on these old envelopes do not match the dates when you give your offering. Just write your name on the envelope, and your offering will be credited to you in the giving statement you receive at the end of the year for tax deduction purposes, for the date on which you give it. If you make your contribution in the form of a check, your name as printed on the check is enough identification for you to receive credit for that offering.

– Don Schmeissing, Financial Secretary

Ladies' Guild News

September was a slow month for our ladies. However, we are now approaching our festive season, which keeps us busy!

October was the month to celebrate Reformation, and we do this quite well with an Oktoberfest feast. Oktoberfest was very well attended and not only did we enjoy a plethora of food, but as always we enjoyed the fellowship with one another as well. The fellowship of our congregation is a blessing to many of us! We have a wonderful church family of which I'm very thankful to be a part. Thanks to all of you who supplied a delicious dish/dessert, and special thanks to those who contributed their time and talents for the preparation for this event.

December will be the start of our Advent season, in which the ladies have always provided a soup supper for our Wednesday evening services. This allows those individuals who wish to attend to enjoy a meal and a bit of fellowship. If anyone would like to participate in bringing a soup for any of these evenings, please contact Lori Wendt and choose a date. The dates for the soup suppers will be Dec 3, 10, and 17.

Our church decorating and cleaning for Christmas will be held on Saturday, December 13, at 9am. Anyone who wishes to help is welcome. Our altar will be adorned with beautiful poinsettias which will be purchased by our Ladies Guild. You may contribute to the purchase of them with a suggested donation of \$10. A sign-up sheet will be provided in the fellowship hall, with donations to be given to Erika Schmeissing, Ladies Guild treasurer.

Save the date, ladies! The ELS Arizona-California Women's Mission Rally will be held on February 7, 2015, at Family of God Lutheran Church, Fort Mahave, AZ. Further details to come!

(Continued on Page 3)

Ladies' Guild News (continued from Page 2)

We are experiencing a shortage of goodies for our coffee/fellowship time (between the Sunday service and the Bible class). Any goodies purchased or made would be greatly appreciated. We freeze what we don't use and use it the following week.

Deep appreciation and thanks to those who have been setting up the coffee and treats on Sunday mornings, and to those who have contributed the yummy treats. We truly appreciate the gift of your time and service.

– Lori Wendt, Ladies' Guild President

Ushering Schedule

The church is going to be organizing its usher schedule in a more formal way. Donald Schmeissing will continue as head usher of the congregation, and will, as before, serve in that role on the Sundays when he is present. But we are also encouraging other men to sign up on the new sign-up sheet that will now be available, to serve as second usher for the various services that are scheduled. Ushers' duties include folding and stuffing bulletins before the service; passing out bulletins to worshipers as they enter the church (and special guest bulletins to all first-time visitors), while greeting worshipers (especially first-time visitors) as they arrive; helping people get to a seat, and go to and from Communion, if that help is needed; receiving the offering, and putting the center crossbar of the chancel railing in place for Communion services; answering questions from visitors, or directing visitors to the pastor or elders if their questions should be addressed to them; directing people who ask to restrooms and to the childcare room; lighting and extinguishing candles; counting and recording the numbers of people attending worship, Communion, Bible Class, and Sunday School; and so forth. We want to encourage any and all capable men to take a turn from time to time in helping in this way. Both members *and friends* of the congregation are invited to sign up. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10, ESV). Thanks!



Devotion: "You May Have Already Won TEN MILLION DOLLARS!"

. . . But probably not.

You may have just won a new car!

But don't sell the old one just yet.

You may already be a finalist in a contest for an all-expense paid vacation to Aruba!

But please, don't start packing.

I remember the story of a woman who, some time ago, believed what she received in the mail. It was telling her that she was already a WINNER!

She instantly saw dollar signs -- millions coming her way! She bought all kinds of expensive things, believing she just struck it rich. Later she found out: they tell everybody they're Already a Winner. She found herself deep in debt and facing an uncertain future.

The world's wisdom says: "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." "There's no such thing as getting something for nothing."

Yet, when it comes to spiritual things, the world's wisdom is: You're already sitting on a gold mine! You have spiritual wisdom and potential within! They tell us this, even though our world is plunged into death, darkness, confusion, and sin.

Life, Light, Truth, and Grace, on the other hand, are in Jesus Christ. There are no terrible open-ended "ifs" with Him: "You may have already won ten million dollars, IF . . ." "You may be blessed for life with God, IF . . ." No!

Our sins have been paid for by the blood and death of Jesus! It was our sin He carried, and our death He died. So then, He Himself is our worthiness in God's sight. It's guaranteed by His resurrection from the dead. Without Him, we die -- lost forever in darkness. But whoever believes in Him is not condemned -- he has eternal life.

It's not something for nothing. There was a price paid. At the same time, it's not hanging by any terrible "Ifs." Jesus has paid the price, to give us the gift. That's what comes to us, packaged in preaching and Sunday worship. Please join us! See you Sunday!



*Redeemer Lutheran Church
December 2014*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper ; 7 p.m. Vespers followed by Spoken Communion Guest Pastor: Joshua Stahmann	4 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	5 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	6
7 Advent 2 8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	8 7 p.m. Church Council meeting at the Muth residence	9	10 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers followed by Spoken Communion	11 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	12 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	13 9 a.m. Christmas decorating and cleaning at the church
14 Advent 3 8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. SS/Presentation by a representative of the H.E.L.P. Foundation	15	16	17 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers followed by Spoken Communion	18 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	19 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	20
21 Advent 4 8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	22	23 7 p.m. Elders Meeting at the Anderson residence	24 Christmas Eve 7 p.m. Candlelight Vespers	25 Christmas 9 a.m. DS Internet Study Group Canceled	26 Bible Study canceled	27
28 Christmas 1 9 .m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	29	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, and on major festivals

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
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Or: 480-621-7394
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First Class Mail

We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

Notice!

Audio recordings of services are available on the church website. Recordings of sermons only are also available through the website, and are archived online courtesy of **lutheransource.net**.



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.

