

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

During the Season of Lent, as is our custom, we will gather as a congregation on Wednesday evenings for special services of prayer and reflection. On Ash Wednesday, the Order of the Holy Communion will be used, supplemented with material from the Order of the Confessional Service. On the succeeding Wednesdays, we will follow the Order of Vespers. The focus, of course, will be on the suffering of Christ. But it doesn't end there. Jesus suffered for a reason – a reason that is very personal for you and me. He suffered in *our* place, under the judgment of his own divine law against *our* sins, so that we can be forgiven and reconciled to God. So, while the focus of our attention will be on Christ, *Christ's* focus of attention, as he went to the cross, was on *us*. Soon before he was arrested, as he prayed for the apostles, he also prayed for you and

me: "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word" (John 17:20, ESV).

In a certain sense, therefore, Lent is about *us*. But it is not about our selfish desires for earthly success and material enrichment in this world. It is about *God's* desire for our salvation in the *next* world. It is about his desire to enrich us daily with his grace in Christ. And so, please come to these services. They are *for* you. And, because of what Jesus was thinking and praying in the hours of his passion, they are, in sense, also *about* you. They are about Jesus, and about everything he did and does for your salvation.

-- Pastor Webber



WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Editor:
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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

PARISH NEWS

On January 17 a special offering was received in both Scottsdale and Queen Creek for our synod's special Haiti Relief Fund. The Ladies Guild also made a contribution on that day to this fund. A total of \$735 was received.

Baby Aiden Morehouse was baptized at Redeemer on January 21. We welcome little Aiden to the family of God, and to our congregation. Aiden's mother Lexine was there, but his father, 1st Lieutenant Daniel Morehouse, was not able to be present, since

he is in the middle of serving a one-year tour of duty with the Arizona National Guard in Afghanistan. We are proud of Dan and of his service on our behalf, even as he is certainly proud (albeit from a distance) of his new son!

Donna Lee and Randy Hoffman were received into communicant membership at the Voters Meeting on January 26. Both have been worshipping with us for some time now, but this makes it official. Welcome!

LADIES GUILD NEWS

At the December 13th, 2009, Ladies Guild meeting the following new 2010 officers were elected:

- President - Angie Kohlgraf
- Vice President - Lori Wendt
- Secretary/Treasurer - Marilyn Bonnell.

Committee leaders for 2010 are:

- Altar - Sarah Kissinger
- Hospitality - Lucille Calvin
- Fellowship - Erika Schmeissing.

Lenten soup suppers will be served from 6:00 to 6:30 P.M. beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 16th, and continuing every Wednesday during Lent. Everyone is welcome to come. Mark your calendars and plan to come and enjoy a hot meal all ready for you to enjoy.

The Ladies Guild voted at the January meeting to change the monthly meeting date to the third Sunday of each month.

Several ladies and Pastor Webber attended the 2010 Women's Mission Rally at Our Saviour Lutheran Evangelical Lutheran Church at Lake Hasvasu City, Arizona, on Saturday January 30th. Our guild donated \$300.00 to the Cross-Stitch fund, which supports the network for ELS Women's Mission Societies.

Yours in Christ,
Angie Kohlgraf,
President, Redeemer Ladies Guild



Raphael: The Transfiguration of Christ

NOTES FROM OUR LISTENERS

Here is a recent unsolicited word of encouragement and thanks from an appreciative East Coast listener to Pastor Webber's online sermons:

Pr. Webber: Another great sermon today! I just don't see how you can so consistently develop these sermon themes as well as you do every week. And your delivery is outstanding! I certainly appreciate your posting them. I usually start "pinging" the web site about 6:00 p.m. E.S.T. every Sunday to have a listen as soon as that day's sermon is posted.

Here is another note, from someone who worships with us in person, but who also finds the sermons posted online helpful:

I'd like to thank you for keeping the web site updated and especially for posting your sermons there. I find that God's Word intersects with my life in very specific ways through your sermons and it is quite handy to be able to revisit them on the church site.



We thank Julie Martinez for providing the space on her web site for the posting of these digital audio recordings: lutheransource.net/Webber.htm (This Internet page is linked also from our church web site.) When you are not able to attend church, please take advantage of this resource, and listen at

home to the sermon you missed. And consider referring your un-churched or under-churched friends to this web page too! *"We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly bear and learn it"* (Small Catechism).



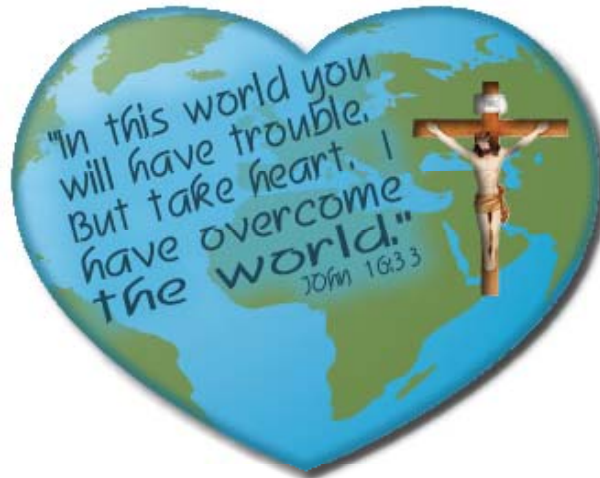
Baptism of Aiden Morehouse, January 24, 2010

LIVING FOR JESUS: IN THIS NEW YEAR IN LIGHT OF HIS PROMISE

Listening to politicians makes one think that a bright future is easy to guarantee. If we follow them, they will lead us into prosperity. What a different story we see in reality! Life is full of struggles and hardship despite their promises. Our elected leaders are no less sinful than we are. The daily news abounds of their unfaithfulness. They say they will fight for us; that they will never let us down. But many of them, to serve their own interests, have forsaken us.

Jesus is very different from our earthly leaders. Jesus is different because He keeps His Word, regardless of the cost. His great love for us caused Him to put us first, even though it cost Him His life. Our sins deserved to be punished. He paid the debt of our sins so that we would have a bright and prosperous life in heaven. We have not been faithful to God. We have left Him at the slightest whim. We frequently choose to do it our way when we find His way too constrictive. We ignore His Word and forget the wonderful promises that

He has given us. However, Jesus continually remains faithful to His Word, forgives all our sins, and works all things for our good.



Jesus is different because He has not promised an easy life for us. In fact, He said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Living for Jesus means that we will face troubles. But we will not face them alone! The writer of the book of Hebrews reminds us of God's promise: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). We can face the uncertainty of the future

with the certainty that God will keep this promise. He will lead us through this valley of sorrow into the eternal prosperity of heaven. In this New Year, live for Jesus, in light of His promise.

Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.
Hebrews 13:5

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

CHURCH HISTORY COURSE

On each Sunday during the season of Lent, in the Adult Class hour after the worship service, Pastor Webber will lead a study of basic church history. This study has been requested by several people. Come and learn about the people, the events, and the movements that gave shape to the institutional church as we know it today.

Do you want to know who wrote the creeds and hymns that we still confess and sing? Do you want to know why they wrote them?

These and other questions will be explored and answered. The dates for this special course are February 21 & 28, and March 7, 14, 21, & 28.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	5 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	6
7 Epiphany 5 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	8 Pastor at Gadsden conference in Southern AZ +	9 Pastor at Gadsden conference + 7:00pm Church Council	10	11 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	12 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	13
14 Transfiguration Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	15	16	17 6-6:30 Soup Supper (S) 7:00 Ash Wednesday Divine Service with Imposition of Ashes	18 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	19 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	20
21 Lent 1 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) Ladies Guild after the service (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	22	23	24 6-6:30 Soup Supper (S) 7:00 Lenten Vespers Service (S)	25 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	26 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	27
28 Lent 2 Service of the Word 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)	<i>As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; but I say to you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at</i>					

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

+ Pastor Webber will be attending the Gadsden conference in Southern Arizona on Feb. 8-9. He will be the main essayist at this conference.

**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

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 web-
sites above, and
published courtesy of
lutheransource.net



**Evangelical
Lutheran Synod**

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.

