

The Valley Evangel

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

February 2013

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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 information for this group, or attend in person at his residence)

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

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The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 13. As is our custom, special Wednesday Vespers services will be held during this penitential season (beginning February 20), beginning at 7 p.m., and preceded by a soup supper serving from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Also as is our custom, the Sunday morning Adult Class during Lent (beginning on February 17) will follow the format of a special multi-part topical study, rather than the format of a separate textual study each Sunday.

Our topical study for Lent this year will be: "Communion Frequency in the Lutheran Confessions and in the Lutheran Church." This study will explore two closely-related but different questions: 1. How often should the Lord's Supper be offered, or made available to potential communicants? and 2. How often should an individual communicant receive the Lord's Supper, and what factors should he or she consider when making such a decision? This study will combine elements of exegetical/Biblical theology, systematic theology, historical theology, and practical/pastoral theology. It will be based very closely on the (recently-passed) thesis that I researched and wrote for my Master of Sacred Theology degree program, of the same title.

So, if you want to know why we offer the Lord's Supper at Redeemer as often as we do, this will be the place to find out. If you are not sure how often you should receive the Lord's Supper (apart from the question of how often other people may receive it), this can be an opportunity for you to reflect on this. This study can be a time of personal growth and theological maturation for all of us, as we ponder together the seriousness and reverence with which we should approach this sacrament; and even more so as we think together about the great blessings and joys that come to us from a regular partaking of this sacrament. Please join us!

– Pastor Webber



Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Ladies' Guild News

The Ladies Guild will again be serving soup suppers during Lent, preceding the 7 p.m. Wednesday Vespers services, from February 20 to March 20. The soup supper will be served from 6 to 6:30 p.m. There will be no a soup supper on Ash Wednesday. Please plan on joining us. It's a great time for Christian fellowship.

We still need volunteers for the set-up/clean-up coffee hour on Sundays. Please contact Erika Schmeissing if you can help.

In the January newsletter it was incorrectly reported that Yvonne Samra was the new treasurer for the Ladies Guild. Erika Schmeissing is actually the new treasurer. I apologize for the confusion.

The church library is still in progress. This will take some time to organize.

The ELS Arizona/California Circuit Women's Mission Rally will be held on Saturday, February 9, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 16700 Green Tree Blvd., Victorville, California, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration forms and information are available in the church narthex. (Registration cost is \$18.) If you have any questions please call me (Angie Kohlgraf) at 480-419-2410. The rally this year is co-sponsored by the ELS congregations in Irvine, California, and in Bishop, California. (It is being held at a WELS church located between Irvine and Bishop.) The theme is "A Present Help." Speakers will be Rev. Steve Petersen (ELS World Missions Counselor); Rev. Bill Stehr (Pastor at Faith Lutheran in Irvine); and Rev. Sam Gullixson (Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran in Bishop). Pastor Webber, the Visitor of the Arizona/California Circuit, will also conduct one of the devotions.

The Ladies Guild is open to all the women in the congregation. Please think about attending a meeting. We meet the third Sunday of every month following the church service.

– Angie Kohlgraf
Ladies Guild President



Devotion: "Are You Sorry?"



Your perfect golf outing is ruined when you receive a \$200 ticket for going 65 mph in a 45 mph zone. What most closely describes your emotions?

- A. Disgust at yourself for being careless, getting caught, and wasting money.
- B. Abject sorrow for breaking the law, mixed with a desire to never speed again.

I'm pretty sure that every driver is going to identify with point "A" above. But the scenario above shows us that there are two types of remorse. The regret that comes the most easily, both to children and adults, is the type that stems from consequences – imagine that terrible feeling when you spot the policeman's lights in your rearview mirror! It's very easily felt any time one gets caught for doing something wrong.

But the next kind of remorse, shown in point "B" above, is actually real sorrow based on the failure to meet God's "speed limits" – His rules for living. Have you ever taken time to think about His many rules you've sped past? Even the simple ones like, "Love your neighbor as yourself" are impossible to keep! How in the world could sinners like us ever enter heaven? This is a deeper, introspective issue that all people consider at some time, whether they admit it out loud or not. It can feel scary, even worse than the feeling of being pulled over by the police, because it is actual dread over one's eternity after death. Do you ever feel this kind of "sorry"?

In the Bible, this kind of sorrow is called repentance. Jesus understood that many people try to think about "religion" later. He knew that the people like to shelve those larger, uncomfortable issues for later in life. That's why He urged everyone, "***The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News!***" (Mark 1:15) TODAY is the day to repent! Don't plan to meet Him with a "man, I got caught!" but with confidence! How can a person do that?

God wants you to be truly sorry for your sins, but He does not want anyone to despair. The good news is this: God took away the eternal consequences of your sins by punishing Jesus instead of you. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection you are forgiven, right now! There's no need to wait. Run; don't walk, to Jesus' cross, where your eternal reward awaits. Heaven is yours!

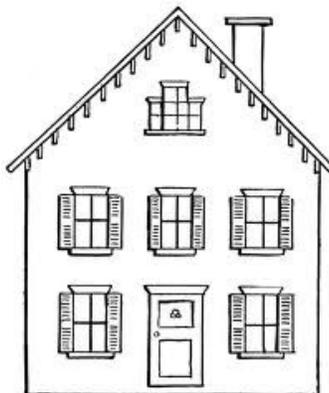
Matching Challenge

An anonymous donor pledged a match, up to \$5,000, for any special designated donations toward debt retirement, received during the months of October, November, and December. During those three months, \$10,875 was received! Combined with the \$5,000 match, this adds up to a total special offering for debt retirement of \$15,875. This level of support for our church, and for its efforts to move forward in becoming debt-free, is very encouraging. Thanks to everyone who contributed toward this special effort.



House Blessing

The members and friends of the congregation are invited to a house blessing at the new home of John and Sarah Kissinger in Tempe on Sunday, February 24, after the worship service. The blessing ceremony will be held at 12:30 p.m., followed by a light lunch. If you plan to attend, R.S.V.P. to John or Sarah. This will help them in their planning. They will also be able to give you directions if you need them.



**Redeemer Lutheran Church
February 2013**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	2
3 Epiphany 4 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	4 7 p.m. Church Council (rescheduled from Feb. 11)	5 4:30 p.m. Catechism Class	6 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	7	8 Bible Study canceled	9 Circuit Mission Rally in Victorville, CA
10 Transfiguration 9 a.m. DS (Rev. Fred Lingenfelder) 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	11	12 4:30 p.m. Catechism Class	13 Ash Wednesday 7 P.m. Divine Service	14 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	15 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	16
17 Lent 1 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' Meeting after AC (rescheduled from Feb. 24)	18	19 4:30 p.m. Catechism Class	20 10 a.m. ALRC Bible Study 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers	21 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	22 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	23
24 Lent 2 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS 12:30 p.m. House blessing at Kissinger residence in Tempe	25	26 4:30 p.m. Catechism Class	27 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers	28 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence		

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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First Class Mail

We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

Notice!

Audio recordings of Pastor Webber's sermons are posted on the Internet weekly and are linked through the church website.

They are published courtesy of
luthersource.net



**Evangelical
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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.

