

# The Valley Evangel

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

January 2011

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## Worship and Study Times

**Sunday Divine Service:** 9:00 a.m., Refreshments after the Service

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

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

**Friday Bible Study:** 10:00 a.m. at the Muth residence

## Newsletter Staff

**Editor:** Pastor David Jay Webber

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## From the Pastor's Desk



On Sunday, January 2, a processional crucifix for our sanctuary will be dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of Robert L. Pawling. This item was purchased with the memorial gifts that were donated to our church at the time of Bob's passing last December.

A crucifix is a cross with a statue of the suffering Christ affixed to it. It is a work of sacred art which vividly portrays before our eyes the reason for the hope that is in us, namely, the atoning death of God's Son for our sins. It reminds us of the focus and priority of our preaching, and of our faith. St. Paul writes:

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1 Cor. 2:1-2, ESV)

Martin Luther often expressed thoughts such as these regarding the proper use of a crucifix, as a memorial and as a witness:

...according to the law of Moses no other images are forbidden than an image of God which one worships. A crucifix, on the other hand, or any other holy image, is

not forbidden. ...images for memorial and witness, such as crucifixes..., are to be tolerated. ... And they are not only to be tolerated, but for the sake of the memorial and the witness they are praise-worthy and honorable. ...when I hear of Christ, an image of a man hanging on a cross takes form in my heart, just as the reflection of my face naturally appears in the water when I look into it. If it is not a sin but good to have an image of Christ in my heart, why should it be a sin to have it in my eyes? (*Luther's Works*, Vol. 40, pp. 85-86, 91, 99-100)

The Lutheran theologian Francis Pieper also made an interesting observation in this respect. He pointed out, in effect, that a crucifix is not (as is sometimes thought) a Roman Catholic intrusion into the Lutheran Church, but rather that a crucifix is, in a sense, a "Lutheran intrusion" into the Roman Catholic Church! A crucifix visibly testifies to the Gospel of Christ's death for a sinner's salvation, even when that evangelical portrayal might appear in the midst of errors that contradict this testimony. Pieper quoted some comments by Luther regarding the situation in Western Christendom before the time of the Reformation (and before the time of the Catholic Counter-Reformation, which did bring many improvements to the Roman Church), when he wrote:

Luther often recalls that in the

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***From the Pastor's Desk***  
*(continued from Page 1)*

Papacy many, when in the throes of death, were reminded of Christ's substitutionary satisfaction by means of a crucifix held before their eyes, and thus died a blessed death: "Thus I believe that our dear Lord preserved many of our forefathers in the gross darkness of the Papacy. In that blindness and darkness so much still remained that a crucifix was held before the eyes of the dying and that some laymen would urge them, 'Behold Jesus, who died for you on the cross!' This induced many a dying man to turn again to Christ, though previously he, too, believed the lying wonders and was given to idolatry." (*Christian Dogmatics*, Vol. 3, p. 106)

We are truly grateful to have such a wonderful addition to the ornamentation of our sanctuary. May it remind anyone who ever preaches here, and anyone who ever worships here, that "we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:23-24, ESV).

– Pastor Webber

***Ladies' Guild News***

At the December 19 Ladies Guild meeting, the following officers and committee chairs for 2011 were elected:

- President, Angie Kohlgraf
- Vice President, Lori Wendt
- Secretary, Sarah Kissinger
- Treasurer, Marilyn Bonnell
- Altar Committee, Sarah Kissinger and Erica Olson
- Hospitality, Mary Colville
- Fellowship, Erika Schmeissing

The ELS Arizona-California Circuit Women's Mission Society Rally will be at Family of God Lutheran Church in Fort Mohave, Arizona, on Saturday, January 29, 2011. Early registration fee is \$10.00 per person, due by January 14. Please contact Angie Kohlgraf at 480-419-2410 if you need more information. You can also register the day of the rally, but it may be a little more in cost.

Christmas trees and decorations at the church will be taken down on Saturday, January 8, at 9:00 am. Please consider coming and helping out.

– Angie Kohlgraf

***News from Our Church Family***

Lucille Calvin, the wife of Jack Calvin, and an active member of Redeemer, entered into her rest in Christ on December 11. Her funeral was conducted at the church on December 14, with internment at Paradise Memorial Gardens in Scottsdale, and with a funeral dinner following back at the church. On her deathbed, Lucille gave instructions regarding the menu for this dinner. Even at such a time, she was concerned to make sure that proper hospitality would be shown to her family and friends on this occasion!

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'" (Rev. 14:13, ESV)



(More news on Page 3)

## News from Our Church Family (continued from Page 2)



Christian Russell Arnezeder and his sister Aubrey Joan Arnezeder were baptized during the Divine Service on Christmas Day, December 25. They are the children of Elden and Robyn Arnezeder. The sponsor for both of them was RaeAnne Boldt. Special witnesses were Rochelle Senst and Rigo Arnezeder.

Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace!  
 Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all He brings,  
 Risen with healing in His wings.  
 Mild He leaves His throne on high,  
 Born that man no more may die;  
 Born to raise the sons of earth;  
**Born to give them second birth.**  
 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
 "Glory to the new-born King!"  
 (Charles Wesley)

Pastor Webber has been appointed by the Presidium of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to the newly-established "Committee on ELS Worship." This *ad hoc* committee will study, and report to the General Pastoral Conference on, the meaning and application of a provision in the synod bylaws that recommends to the congregations of the synod that they use in their worship either the Danish-Norwegian Church Order of 1685, or the Common Service. (Our congregation uses the Common Service.)

The committee will take into account the concern that has been expressed by many in our synod, that the ELS should continue to guard against the intrusion into our midst of questionable worship practices that do not have their origin in Lutheran theology or in sound Lutheran church practice. It is hoped that the work of this committee will contribute toward the goal of establishing and maintaining a fundamental unity on this question in our synod, so that we can, with the Lord's help, avoid the divisive controversies regarding such matters that have been taking place in other Lutheran bodies. The first meeting of this committee is set for January 17-18, in Apple Valley, Minnesota.

## Epiphany Service



The Epiphany of our Lord will be observed at Redeemer with a Divine Service (including Holy Communion) on Thursday, January 6, at 7pm. This festival is sometimes called the "Day of the Three Kings" – even though the Bible does not tell us that only three magi visited the Child Jesus, and even though the "magi" were not in fact kings, but were astronomers! Colloquially, this day is also sometimes called "Little Christmas," since it rounds out the end of the twelve-day Christmas season. Epiphany is one of the four major festivals of Christ (together with Christmas, Easter, and Ascension).



*Redeemer Lutheran Church  
January 2011*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 <b>Christmas 2</b> 9 a.m. DS with dedication of processional crucifix in memory of Robert Pawling 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	3	4	5	6 Epiphany Day DS at 7 p.m.  Internet Study Group Canceled	7 10 a.m. Bible study at the Muth residence	8
9 <b>Baptism of our Lord</b> 9 a.m. SW with spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Congregational Forum	10 7 p.m. Voter's Meeting	11	12	13 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	14 10 a.m. Bible study at the Muth residence	15
16 <b>Epiphany 2</b> 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	17 Pastor Webber in Minnesota for a meeting of the Committee on ELS Worship	18 Pastor Webber in Minnesota	19	20 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	21 10 a.m. Bible study at the Muth residence	22
23 <b>Epiphany 3</b> 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 am. AC/SS Elders Meeting after the AC	24	25	26	27 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	28 10 a.m. Bible study at the Muth residence	29 AZ/CA Circuit Women's Mission Rally in Ft. Mohave, AZ
30 <b>Epiphany 4</b> 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	31	Abbreviations: DS – Divine Service; SW – Service of the Word; AC/SS – Adult Bible Class/Sunday School <b>Divine Service</b> – Full Word and Sacrament Service with Communion, on 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays <b>Service of the Word</b> – a brief spoken order of Holy Communion follows the public service on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays Refreshments are served after the Sunday morning Services				

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**

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First Class Mail

**We're on the Internet!**  
[redeemer.vze.com](http://redeemer.vze.com)

**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 [lutheransource.net](http://lutheransource.net)



Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod

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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.

