

# The Valley Evangel

*Serving the Members and Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale and Sun of Righteousness Lutheran Church in Queen Creek*



## Inside This Issue

<i>Martin Luther on the Covenant and Sign of the Rainbow</i>	2
<i>Devotion: You are invited to the Lord's banquet</i>	4
<i>Announcements</i>	4
<i>Calendar</i>	5
<i>About Our Church</i>	6

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”*

(Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV).



**T**his passage of Scripture is familiar to most of us, because it is often used by our pastors and Christian friends when they admonish us to make sure we keep going to church. As the summer months are now upon us, with all of the distractions and alternatives to church attendance that they present to us, we would probably benefit from hearing such an admonition once again. It is a valid matter of the law of God, to warn people of the sin of neglecting the services of his house. The Second and Third Commandments clearly

apply to our obligation to honor the Name of God in worship, and to make use of the opportunities that are afforded to us to rest from our earthly labors, so that we can be instructed from God's Word, and so that we can reflect on the deeper questions of our existence.

There is, however, much more to the Hebrews passage than this. Going to church is not just a matter of obeying God's law. We are drawn to the assembly of God's house by the sweet invitation of

*(Continued on page 3)*

Editor:  
Pastor David Jay Webber

Editorial Assistant -  
Layout and Design:  
Julie Martinez

Production Assistant -  
Printing and Distribution:  
Sarah Kissinger

## 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.*  
**Bible class and Sunday School on hiatus for the Summer in both locations!**

### Thursday Internet Study Group:

6:30 p.m. (see Pastor Webber for log-on information for this group, or attend in person at his residence) **This class will continue throughout the summer!**

### Friday Bible Study:

10:00 a.m. at the Calvin residence  
**Class on hiatus for the summer!**

## MARTIN LUTHER ON THE COVENANT AND SIGN OF THE RAINBOW

*And God said: This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will look upon it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. Genesis 9:12-16*

Careful note must be taken of the phrase “for all future generations,” for it includes not only the human beings of that time and the animals of that time but all their offspring until the end of the world.

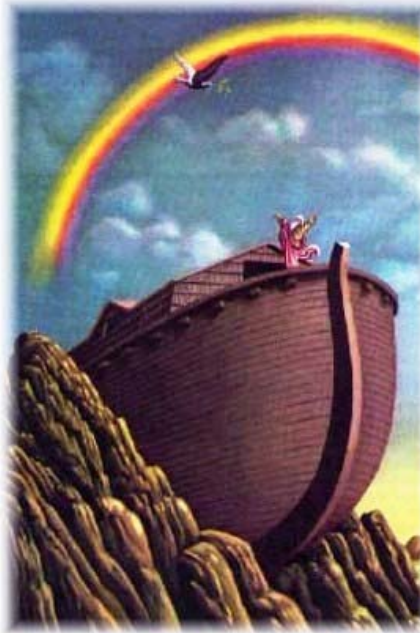
Moreover, this passage also teaches us how God is wont always to link His promise with a sign, just as previously, in the third chapter, we called attention to the garments of skins with which He clothed the naked human beings as a sign that He wanted to protect, defend, and preserve them....

.... For this is the particular nature of signs, that they dispense comfort, not terror. To this end also the sign of the bow was established and added to the promise.

Just as God previously says to Himself that He repents of so horrible a punishment and promises that He will never again use such punishment, because the imagination of the human heart is evil from its youth (Gen. 8:21)—if, therefore He wanted to punish evil, there would be need daily of a new flood—so in this passage, by a word spoken to mankind either by an angel or, as is possible, by the mouth of Noah, He

promises that in the future no flood will come over the earth.

When the same matter is repeated so many times, this is an indication of God’s extraordinary affection for mankind. He is trying to persuade them not to fear such a punishment in the future but to hope for blessing and for the utmost forbearance.



Noah and his people were in great need of such comfort. A man who has been humbled by God is unable to forget his hurt and pain, for affliction makes a far deeper impression than an act of kindness. We observe the same reaction in children. Even though a caressing mother tries to calm them with rattles and other allurements after they have been chastened with the rod, the grief still persists in their heart to such a degree that they have to sigh frequently and sob bitterly. How much more difficult it is for a conscience that has experienced God’s wrath and the terrors of death to let comfort come in! These experiences remain so firmly entrenched later on that a heart becomes fearful and terrified even in the face of kindnesses and comforting words.

It is for this reason that God shows Himself benevolent in such a variety of ways and takes such extraordinary delight in pouring forth compassion, like a mother who is caressing and petting her child in order that it may finally begin to forget its tears and smile at its mother.

This comfort is expressed in many eloquent words and emphasized in various ways, to meet the need of these wretched people who had been watching the immeasurable wrath of God rage for an entire year. Therefore they could not be talked out of their fear and terror by a word or two; a great abundance of words was needed

*(Continued on page 3)*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

the Savior who is present there in his Word and Sacrament, and who offers to us, in the Gospel, many and great blessings. The verses that immediately precede the verses we have already quoted testify to this:

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:19-23).

Your Baptism, with all its forgiving power, draws your cleansed conscience toward the source of that cleansing, namely the Lord Jesus Christ, who is present in the assembly of his people as their great and loving High Priest. He is there also in his true flesh and blood, inviting you in faith to partake of the salvation that he won for you on the cross, by means of the special gift of his Holy Supper.

We come to church for these reasons too, and not just because we would feel guilty if we did not come. In fact, we come to church *chiefly* for these reasons. There is so much that is uniquely available to us only in the ministry of Word and Sacrament! There are so many ways to be built up in our faith, and to help to build others up in their faith, when we make use of God's Word in the public gatherings of the Lord's people. Jesus, the Lord of his church, calls us and draws us. He cleanses us and forgives us. He builds us up as members of his mystical body. He instills in us a living hope that will never fade away.

And so, “let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

-- Pastor Webber



## MARTIN LUTHER ON THE COVENANT AND SIGN OF THE RAINBOW

(Continued from page 2)

to drive back their tears and to soften their grief. Even though they were saints, they were still flesh, just as we are. We, too, need this comfort today, in order that despite a great variety of stormy weather we may have no doubt that the sluice gates of the heavens and the fountains of the deep have been closed by the Word of God. The rainbow makes its appearance even now, to be a sure sign that a universal flood will not occur in the future. Hence this promise demands also from us that we believe that God has compassion on the human race and will not rage against us in the future by means of a universal flood...

...This sign should remind us to give thanks to God. For as often as the rainbow appears, it preaches to the entire world with a loud voice about the wrath which once moved God to destroy the whole world. It also gives comfort, that we may have the conviction that God is

kindly inclined toward us again and will never again make use of so horrible a punishment. Thus it teaches the fear of God and faith at the same time, the greatest virtues. Philosophy has no knowledge of these and carries on a discussion solely about the material and the formal cause; it does not know the final cause of this beautiful creature. But theology points it out...

...Let us, therefore, be reminded by this sign to fear God and to trust Him, in order that, just as we have escaped the punishment of the Flood, we may also be able to escape the punishment by fire. This knowledge is more profitable than (any) philosophical discussions about the material cause.

From Martin Luther's *Commentary on Genesis*, Luther's Works, Fortress Press ©1960

## YOU ARE INVITED TO THE LORD'S BANQUET

A young man who had served in the Navy passed along this story. During his training, he was invited to a formal banquet. He and his buddies arrived at the banquet hall, nervous and unsure, they followed others into the line for menu choice and seating assignments. He heard the other sailors order their meals: "Prime Rib", "Roast Chicken", and "Possum (?)." He thought about it for a minute—he was in Tennessee, the deep south, and all the sailors in front of him with their heavy southern accents seemed to be ordering the Possum (would the Navy do me wrong?). So when his turn came he boldly stepped up and said, "I'll have the possum!" You could have heard a pin drop, it seemed to him as if the whole world had heard his order. He quickly looked down at the menu on the table and saw his mistake. It was Pasta, not Possum! To his untrained ear "Pasta" said with a southern drawl, sounded like "Possum". He entered the banquet hall red faced and embarrassed.



God, our Father, has invited us to a heavenly banquet, but there is a world of difference between earthly banquets such as the one the young sailor attended and God's. Only select people are invited to earthly banquets but God has invited every human. He desires no one to be excluded. There will be no need to be nervous, unsure or embarrassed at God's banquet, everything will be perfect. The stain of sin has been washed away in the blood of Jesus Christ. He lived a perfect life and died a painful death, suffering for our sins. It is only through faith in Him that we will realize this wonderful invitation.

Jesus reminds us, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6)

Once we have been given our seating assignment through faith in Jesus, we have the wonderful opportunity to help others find their way to Jesus, so they too can sit at the eternal banquet in heaven.

*Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastor Webber to be guest on Issues Etc. in July

Pastor Webber will once again be a guest on the Issues, Etc., radio program, on July 1. The topic of discussion will be Abraham Lincoln's religious beliefs, as reflected especially in his Gettysburg Address and his Second Inaugural Address.

The program will be on live beginning at 1 p.m. Arizona time via the Internet, by means of this web site: [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) A digital recording of the interview will also be available for download from this web site after the broadcast.



### ELS Lutheran Youth Association Convention

The annual convention of the ELS Lutheran Youth Association will be held in Seattle, Washington, July 23-26. Jessica Hartigan from our congregation will attend. We look forward to her report of how it went, when she gets back!



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>"I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between me and the earth.</i></p> <p>Genesis 9:11-13 NASB</p>			1	2 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	3	4
<p><b>5 Pentecost 5</b>  <b>Divine Service</b>                      9:00am DS (S)                      4:00pm DS (Q)</p>	6	7	8	9 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	10	11
<p><b>12 Pentecost 6</b>  <b>Service of the Word</b>                      9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S)                      Ladies Guild after the Service (S)                      4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q)</p>	13	14 7 pm Voters Meeting (S)	15	16 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	17	18
<p><b>19 Pentecost 7</b>  <b>Divine Service</b>                      9:00am DS (S)                      4:00pm DS (Q)</p>	20	21	22	23 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	24	25
<p><b>26 Pentecost 8</b>  <b>Service of the Word</b>                      9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S)                      4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q)                      Elders Meeting after the service (S)</p>	27	28	29	30 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	31	

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

Notice: Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes are on summer hiatus until September (S/Q)

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**

7670 East Jomax Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

Pastor David Jay Webber  
Phone: 480-585-7002  
Or: 480-621-7394  
Email: jaywebber@yahoo.com

**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](http://redeemer.vze.com)  
[sunofrighteousness.vze.com](http://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](http://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.

