

# The Valley Evangel

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

June/July 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. (See Pastor Webber for log-on info for this group, or attend in person at his residence.)

**Friday Bible Study:** On hiatus until Sept. 5

## Newsletter Staff

**Editor:** Pastor David Jay Webber  
**Editorial Assistant/Layout and Design:** Erica Olson  
**Production Assistant/Printing and Distribution:** Sarah Kissinger

## From the Pastor's Desk

**O**n July 4, we in the United States will once again observe the primary national holiday of our country, Independence Day. On Independence Day American citizens celebrate the existence of their country. And Christian citizens in particular celebrate the freedom that we have in this country, to worship according to our conscience, to propagate our faith, and in any number of other ways to take advantage of the right to the “free exercise of religion” that our Constitution explicitly guarantees.

It is unfortunately true that there some and perhaps many in our country, and even in the corridors of government, who do not appreciate this right, or the activities that are carried out by believers according to this right. Many seem to think that if the majority of people in the society at the present time do not agree with certain religious beliefs and practices, then they, as the majority, may curtail those unpopular beliefs and practices.

The founding fathers of our republic anticipated the possibility that at some point in the future, a majority may not in fact think that the right to the free exercise of religion is a good thing for America. That’s why this right was explicitly listed in the First Amendment of the Constitution as a right that will be guaranteed, regardless of what the majority in the society at any given time in history may think. As Americans and as Christians, we are grateful for this, as we see ourselves to be living in a society that is increasingly hostile to what we stand for, and to the truths about God, Christ, and humanity that we proclaim.

But even if we are aware of an increasing tension between ourselves, as traditional believers, and American society as a whole, we can still appreciate how free we are in America to practice our faith, when we see and hear about those places in the world where Christians have no such freedom. In our Sunday prayers we regularly pray for these Christians, and for God’s protection of them as they face persecution and even martyrdom in many Communist and Islamic lands.

It was reported in March, that 33 Christians in North Korea, who had been arrested for their activities in promoting the establishment of secret home churches, were now facing execution. Their execution, it is reported, was ordered personally by North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un.

And at the present time, in Sudan, a pregnant Christian woman by the name of Meriam Ibrahim, who was raised as a Christian, and who is married to a Christian, has been sentenced to be flogged and then to be killed by hanging. In prison, in shackles, she now awaits these punishments – which will be carried out after her baby is born and weaned. Her supposed crimes are adultery and apostasy – even though she has always been a faithful wife to the father of her baby, and even though she was never a Muslim. But that doesn’t matter. Her Christian marriage is not recognized as legal, and her lifelong Christian faith is not respected as legitimate.

So, as we mark the anniversary of American independence on July 4, and as we pray for a continuation of the freedom we currently enjoy in this country, let us also pray for our fellow followers of Jesus Christ who are living, and dying, in places in the world where Christians do not enjoy any semblance of that freedom. And let us take advantage of the freedom that we do still have, to gather together in the Lord’s

*Continued on Page 2*



## *From the Pastor's Desk, continued*

House on the Lord's Day; and to share the message of forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Jesus Christ, in our community, in our nation, and in the world.

St. Paul instructs us: "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4, ESV).

– Pastor Webber

## *Redeemer Library News*

Two new children's books have been donated by Nada and John Foede in memory of Helen Macholl and Mary Colville.

One of them is the *Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*, by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jago. The Moonbeam Award Gold Medal Winner in the religion category, *The Jesus Storybook Bible* tells the story beneath all the stories in the Bible, and invites children to join in the greatest of all adventures, to discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of God's great story of salvation – and at the center of their story. The illustrations are whimsical and colorful.

The other one is for little ones 6 and under: *The Beginner's Bible*, by Kelly Pulley. This best-loved Bible storybook introduces children to the stories and characters of the Bible. With vibrant art and compelling text, more than 90 Bible stories come to life. *The Beginner's Bible* was the 2006 Retailers Choice Award winner in Children's Nonfiction.

We have a great start to a children's collection, and will keep the books on a lower shelf so that the children can enjoy them during Bible study or check them out to use at home.

## *Ladies' Guild News*

After a busy April, things have slowed down for the Ladies Guild. We welcomed our newest and youngest member, Corinna, daughter of Brendan and Elena Bates. A cake was provided in celebration of her new life in Christ.

There will be a delay with the new vases of greenery. They were made inappropriately for our needs and will be redone. I will let the congregation know when they arrive, so fresh flowers can be provided to fill them.

We welcome all the ladies to our group meetings which will resume on the third Sunday of the month. Please, if you are coming to our meetings, we would like to start as soon as possible, so you can then enjoy as much of the Bible study afterwards as is possible. For those who are new, we meet in the room on the left just before the fellowship room, as you are heading toward the fellowship room from the sanctuary.

Countless thanks go out to the dedicated people making sure that clean up after fellowship is accomplished. We should not take advantage of these dedicated people, and all take our too. Thanks go out also to those who have been setting up the coffee and treats on Sunday mornings. We appreciate your time and service.

– Lori Wendt, Ladies' Guild President

## *United in Marriage*

"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone...'" (Genesis 2:18a, ESV). Redeemer member Carrie Bonnell and Peter Ratzlaff were married at the church on Saturday, May 24. We wish them every blessing as they begin their journey together through life, under God's grace, and enveloped by his love.



## *Summer Sunday School*

During the months of June, July, and August, Redeemer's Sunday School children will study the parables of Jesus. During his earthly ministry, our Lord did much of his teaching in the form of parables. In fact, Scripture tells us that "all these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable" (Matt 13:34). Although a few of the parables of Christ turn up in the multi-year lesson cycle of our Growing in Christ Sunday School curriculum, a far greater number do not. The summer months provide a wonderful opportunity to delve into this rich and interesting body of Jesus' stories. Reading the various parables from the Bible and Arch Books will be supplemented by review puzzles, singing, games and coloring pages.

Many of us have heard the definition of a parable as "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." Such a format is what makes the parables an ideal educational tool for children, who largely think in "concrete-operational" terms. Young people who have experienced a few Arizona Monsoon seasons will certainly be able to visualize the winds and rushing floodwaters engulfing a home in the "Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders" (Matt.7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49). But features of other parables may require more explanation. With pearl jewelry less in vogue these days, some children may not even know what a pearl is, much less understand why the buyer in "The Pearl of Great Price" (Matt 13:45-46) would sell all his earthly possessions in order to purchase an exquisitely beautiful one!

Whereas during the Fall, Winter and Spring quarters, pupils were divided by age into three groupings, our summer program will be carried out as a single, combined class. This format accommodates the fluctuating attendance we experience due to family travel schedules. But a wider age span of pupils in one room also means it will be important to have a "teacher helper" on hand each week. We encourage you to consider whether you can assist the Sunday School by taking a turn in this role. No prior teaching assistance is necessary. A sign up chart will be available, at the main corridor entry door to the fellowship hall.

Let us as a congregation encourage our young people in their study of Christ's parables this summer. When you see pupils returning from their classroom, perhaps you can inquire what story they learned about that day. Ask them to show you their coloring pages or other papers. And as you pass the classroom, feel free to step inside and view the bulletin board displays.

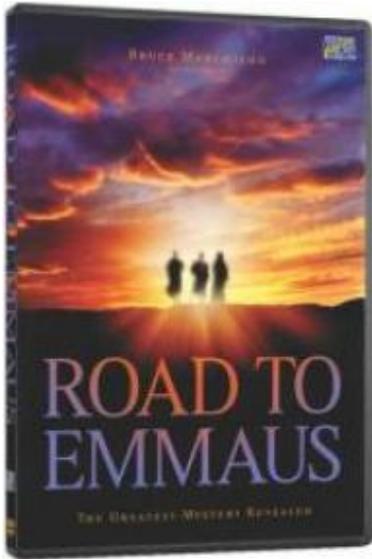
– Carol Webber, Sunday School Coordinator

### *Baptism at Redeemer*

Corinna Marion Bates, daughter of Brendan and Elena (Valle) Bates, was baptized into Christ and into the fellowship of Christ's church during the service on May 11. Godparents were Manuel and Cara Valle. "For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself" (Acts 2:39, ESV).



## *Road to Emmaus*



The congregation recently acquired a case of 100 copies of the “Road to Emmaus” DVD that was produced a few years ago by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. This DVD is intended to serve an outreach/evangelism purpose, but it is not “preachy,” in that it presents the message of Christ by means of a dramatization of the conversation that Jesus had with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on the first Easter Sunday – hence the title of the film. We encourage each household of the congregation (both members and friends) to take a copy for itself; and also to take as many additional copies as you think you will be able to give to friends, as a way of introducing them to your faith and the faith of our church. It is suggested that, along with the DVD, you also give to such friends a copy of the brochure “Worship With Us at Redeemer Lutheran Church,” which can be found in the tract rack in the church narthex.

## *A Special Fathers’ Day Treat*

On June 15, instead of the usual Sunday morning Bible Class, Redeemer member Quinton Callies will share with us a media presentation on his and his wife Anne’s recent tour of many of the important sites related to the life and ministry of St. Paul the Apostle, in Asia and Europe. What a great way to mark Fathers’ Day – by learning about one of the most important spiritual fathers of the early church!



*Ruins at Ephesus*

## *Member Interview: Catharine Webber (Conducted by Erica Olson, Editor Assistant)*



Erica: Well, since you're here to visit so infrequently, there are a lot of new people who have never met you. Would you care to give a brief bio of yourself?

Catharine: Well, my name is Catharine Helen. I'm 21 years old and the youngest of my parents' three children. I live in Mankato, Minnesota, where I am pursuing a degree in Nursing (RN). I share an apartment with three girls who all go to Bethany Lutheran College. In my spare time, I enjoy playing piano and organ, singing, exercising (Zumba!), experimenting with new recipes, cuddling with a book and my cat Agatha, Skyping with my nephew John, watching movies with my roommates, and going on coffee dates with my boyfriend, Andrew...

*Continued on Page 5*

## *Member Interview, continued from Page 4*

While away from Redeemer, I attend church at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato, where I also taught kindergarten Sunday School for the past year.

Erica: How long have you been playing piano and organ?

Catharine: I started playing piano when I was 5, and organ when I was 15.

Erica: Do you play on a regular basis at the church you attend?

Catharine: I do not, because when I'm not working on a given weekend, I'm usually trying to catch up on homework.

Erica: It's probably nice to just play recreationally, then. I'm curious how old you were when your dad started as Redeemer's pastor.

Catharine: I was 12 when we moved to Arizona in 2005.

Erica: Oh, wow. I feel old. Haha!

Catharine: Haha! Me too!

Erica: Where were you born? I know you and your family have lived in a number of places.

Catharine: I was born on Cape Cod, when my father was serving as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Brewster, Massachusetts.

Erica: Ok. When was it that you lived in Ukraine, and for how long were you there?

Catharine: I remember beginning to travel to Ukraine when I was five. At first it was just for the summer months, and then for only half a year, but then we started living there for the whole school year. So, about six years.

Erica: Do you remember much about life there?

Catharine: Oh, definitely. When we first moved there, I remember our 2-bedroom apartment on the 4th floor of a building on Kopernyka street. My mother did our laundry by hand in the bathroom tub. And we shared a phone-line with a neighbor.

Erica: Sounds awkward.

Catharine: Yeah, our neighbor didn't like how much my father used the Internet... It was interesting. My parents slept on the sofa in the living room, [my sister and brother] Sarah and Paul each had their own bed, and I slept on a pull-out chair.

Erica: Oh, gosh! That doesn't sound very comfortable!

Catharine: I was only five; it didn't matter to me. I was a really laid-back kid from what my parents tell me.

Erica: That's good. Where has your favorite place to live been?

Catharine: Oh, that's a hard choice.

Erica: You can have more than one favorite, I guess.

Catharine: I really loved living in Ukraine. I had a bunch of friends and was always enjoying doing something. I was involved in Sunday school and dance class over there. I just loved the experience I had there. It was where most of my memorable childhood was spent. Arizona was a rough transition, but I have always liked Redeemer. I attended Emmaus Lutheran School (in northwest Phoenix) for 7th and 8th grade. I have also lived in Michigan, where I went to Michigan Lutheran Seminary for four years for high school. It's hard for me to pick a favorite. I have had wonderful and different experiences everywhere that I've lived, and I cherish all of the memories.

Erica: That's great. I'm impressed with the fact that you've been able to be in Lutheran schools so long. Has your entire education been at Lutheran schools?

Catharine: For the most part, yes. I was in public school for kindergarten and first grade, then I was homeschooled in Ukraine, then Emmaus, then MLS, and I attended Bethany Lutheran College for one year.

Erica: I thought you were at Bethany longer than that. Where did you continue your college education?

Catharine: After my year at Bethany, I transferred to South Central College to pursue a degree in Nursing.

Erica: And you're still attending classes there, minus the summer breaks, right?

Catharine: Yes! I am half-way done with the nursing program. I will graduate in May of 2015.

Erica: That's fantastic! We are so proud of you!

Catharine: Thank you!

Erica: Have you decided what area to focus your nursing in?

Catharine: I would really love to do my preceptorship (like an internship) in a pediatric unit or neonatal unit.

*Member Interview, continued from Page 5*

Erica: That would be wonderful. Was this decision at all inspired by your nephew John (who spent a significant time in the NICU after being delivered prematurely)?

Catharine: Yes, definitely. I had always thought about being a nurse when I was growing up. I had even looked into the nursing programs at Arizona State University and Wisconsin Lutheran College during high school. However, I was also interested in psychology, and wanted to give Bethany Lutheran College a try, since it had so many connections to my family and my faith. Visiting (my late sister-in-law) Ruth and John in the hospitals in Rochester reaffirmed to me that nursing truly was what I wanted to pursue, and so I did. And because my brother and his family were living in Mankato, and I knew that I should be around to help (I even ended up moving in with my brother to do so), I chose a local college to transfer to.

Erica: I know they appreciated your doing that immensely. And what a wonderful way to bond with your nephew, too!

Catharine: And bond I did.

Erica: Is it hard being away from them since they moved to Utah?

Catharine: It is, but it's really fun to Skype with them, and to still be able to see John grow. He can say our names now! (Sarah, Catharine, Ty [my brother-in-law].)

Erica: Oh, wow. He's growing so fast! He's almost 2 1/2 now, right?

Catharine: Yes. His second birthday was in February.

Erica: Are you planning to come back to Phoenix this summer?

Catharine: I am not. I've been blessed with a very good job, working as a nursing assistant at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato. I work on the Obstetrical and Pediatric wings mainly. I also have a car, apartment, and cat to keep up with here, so I'm pretty tied down to Mankato for the moment.

Erica: Well, as sad as I am that we won't see you for awhile, I'm very glad that things are working out for you there.

Catharine: I'm not sure when the next time will be that I can visit, possibly around Christmas.

Erica: It sure would be nice to have you here then. So, as I understand it, you're currently working the night shift. When have your classes been? That sounds like a very stressful schedule.

Catharine: Actually, no. I work a day/evening rotation at the hospital, and pick up night shifts if they're looking for some extra help, or if I'm looking for some extra hours. I only have "in-person" class two, sometimes three days a week. The rest of my coursework is online. It makes for a very flexible schedule.

Erica: Oh, well that's nice. Do you think you'll stay in the Mankato area after you graduate?

Catharine: I can't say for certain either way. I am going steady with a seminarian out here, and they don't have much of a choice for where their first assignment is. The Lord knows our future, and hopefully by then it will be clearer if we're going to be apart or together, and that will help me determine what I do when I graduate.

Erica: That's so very true. Only God knows for sure. Now, how close are you in proximity to your sister Sarah and her husband? Do you get to see each other very often?

Catharine: Oh they're only a mile or two away. I see her in church on Sundays (when I'm not working) and then we also get together during the week sometimes. It's really nice to have her around.

Erica: I'm so glad! It's wonderful that you can see each other that often.

Catharine: Definitely.

Erica: Well, is there anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself that I haven't asked?

Catharine: I'm very much a people person! If I'm ever home, please feel free to say hello!

Erica: Thanks for talking with me. It was very nice to be able to learn more about you.

Catharine: Thanks for interviewing me! God Bless you all!

Erica: And you as well!

## *The Miracle of Faith in Jesus*

***What is easier: to  
do the right thing  
or the wrong?  
God says,  
“Believe in Jesus”.  
Our sinful nature  
says, “No way!”***

“That sounds too easy. Are you really saying that if I believe that Jesus died for me, my sins are forgiven? That’s just too easy.” Faith in Jesus seems easy, but it is the most difficult thing in the world. In fact, faith is a miracle.

Faith is a miracle because it is contrary to our nature. We naturally do the opposite of what God commands. Just think. What is easier: to do the right thing or the wrong? God says, “Believe in Jesus”. Our sinful nature says, “No way!”

Faith is a miracle because it is a trust in someone else. We want to save ourselves. We expect God to judge us according to our performance. If He were to do that, we would all be in hell. We have failed to keep His law. Faith trusts that our salvation is based on Jesus’ performance. He kept God’s law perfectly. He suffered the punishment that our sins deserve. We trust His work, not ours.

Faith is a miracle because only the Holy Spirit can create it. “No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit” (I Corinthians 12:3). We are spiritually dead. Just as a dead battery cannot recharge itself, neither can we give spiritual life to ourselves. We need someone to help us in our desperation. We need the Holy Spirit to give us life. That is what He does when He creates faith in Jesus.

Sound too easy? Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the miracle of faith in Jesus. Join us for worship and grow in your understanding of all the Jesus has done to save you.

*From the ELS Board for Home Outreach*

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### ***Synod Convention***

The annual convention of our church body, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, will be held at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, June 16-19. Pastor Webber and Delegate Norman Hartigan will attend from our congregation. A live webcast of the proceedings will be available through the synod website: [www.els.name](http://www.els.name)

*Redeemer Lutheran Church*  
*June 2014*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 <b>Easter 7</b> 9 a.m. DS with the confirmation of Amanda Colville 10:45 a.m. AC/SS	2	3	4	5 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	6 Morning Bible Study on hiatus until Sept. 5	7
8 <b>Pentecost</b> 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	9 Monterra HOA annual meeting at Redeemer	10 7 p.m. Church Council meeting at the church (rescheduled from June 9)	11	12 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	13	14
15 <b>Trinity</b> 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	16 ELS Convention in Mankato, MN	17 ELS Convention in Mankato, MN	18 ELS Convention in Mankato, MN	19 ELS Convention in Mankato, MN  Internet Study Group canceled	20	21
22 <b>Pentecost 2</b> 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' meeting after the AC	23	24	25	26 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	27	28
29 <b>Pentecost 3</b> 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	30					

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, and on major festivals

**Service of the Word** – 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*  
*July 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 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	4 Morning Bible Study on hiatus until Sept. 5	5
6 <b>Pentecost 4</b> 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	7	8	9	10 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	11	12
13 <b>Pentecost 5</b> 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	14 7 p.m. Church council meeting at the church	15	16	17 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	18	19
20 <b>Pentecost 6</b> 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	21	22	23	24 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	25	26
27 <b>Pentecost 7</b> 9 a.m. SW with spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' Meeting after the AC	28	29	30	31 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence		

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**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
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**First Class Mail**

**We're on the Internet!**  
[redeemerscottsdale.org](http://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](http://lutheransource.net)**.



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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.

