

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

On June 25, 2010, the Lutheran Church will observe the 480th anniversary of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession. This event is more important than many people realize. The custom has developed in more recent generations of celebrating “Reformation Day” on the anniversary of Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses, which occurred on October 31, 1517. This was indeed the beginning of an important reform movement. What happened on June 25, 1530, however, was the beginning of the enduring historical phenomenon known as “The Evangelical Lutheran Church.”

The divisions in western Christendom that had been brought about through the sale of indulgences (as authorized

by the pope), and through Luther’s pastoral protest against this practice, had alarmed the German Emperor, Charles V. He asked all parties in this religious dispute to come to an imperial meeting that was scheduled to be held in the city of Augsburg, and there present a summary of their beliefs and practices, with the hope that these differences could be settled. The confession of faith that was presented by the Lutherans at this gathering was written chiefly by the theologian Philip Melancthon, but he wrote it on behalf of the seven German princes and two city councils in whose name it was formally read to Emperor Charles on June 25.

It is significant that Luther was not present for this meeting, and it is also significant that he was not the author of the document. This demonstrates

WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Editor:
Pastor David Jay Webber

Editorial Assistant -
Layout and Design:
Julie Martinez

Production Assistant -
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Scottsdale:
Sunday Divine Service: 9:00 a.m.
Refreshments after the Service
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class on hiatus for the summer.

Queen Creek:
Sunday Divine Service: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday School/ Bible Class on hiatus

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)

Friday Bible Study:
On hiatus for the summer



HOLY COMMUNION

*The Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ*

Part Three - Protocol

Who, then, is properly prepared to receive this sacrament?

Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words "for you" require nothing but hearts that believe. (Luther's Small Catechism, The Sacrament of Holy Communion, Part Four)

Nothing we can do outwardly or physically will prepare us to receive Communion worthily. God makes us worthy by giving us a prepared, penitent and trusting heart.

But it's still true that our demeanor on the outside reflects the spirit of our heart on the inside. Jesus noted (in Matthew 12:33,34) that what's in our heart comes to light in what we say ("For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks") and in what we do ("Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit").

Receiving Holy Communion is not meant to be ritualistic or formalistic, but it is an awesome and wondrous experience, to be approached with devotion and respect. Ladies and gentlemen, younger and older, let your reverence and devotion to God be evident in your demeanor and in your dress.

As you prepare at home for worship, how will you present yourself to your King? Will you reserve your nice clothes for worldly doings and schlump into God's presence with your appearance as an afterthought?

Dress nicely. Not formally or to put on airs, but with dignity and respect becoming the one you worship. Ladies, dress modestly, as you are instructed in Scripture (1 Timothy 2:9,10). The house of God is not a place to display your fancy jewels, baubles or clothes; nor is it a place to display your physical charms.

Gentlemen, when you come into church, take off your hat. Everyone: Turn off your cell phone. Get rid of your chewing gum. You have entered the sanctuary of God. Reflect, meditate, pray. You are in a place for refreshment and spiritual renewal. Prepare to have your soul delightfully fed and the thirst of your spirit quenched.

Before the Liturgy of the Sacrament – perhaps during the offering – take some more time for personal preparation. Scottsdale worshipers may wish to use the questions and answers on the light blue card in the pew rack as they complete their preparation to commune. Queen Creek worshipers can find these questions and answers on pp. 38-39 of *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*.

As you commune at the altar, think about where you are kneeling or standing – in the very presence of God! Contemplate the mystery of God's grace. The pastor will hold up the host before your eyes, allowing you to gaze upon the body of Christ you are receiving. There is no better visual aid! He will place the host into your open hand or directly into your mouth – whichever you prefer.

If you prefer to receive the individual cup, some subtle decorum is in order. It's not a shot glass, and there's really no need to toss it down as such. If you drink from the common cup, take hold of the base of the chalice with one hand and assist the pastor to guide it to your lips. He'll make sure that the chalice is wiped and cleaned before you're served.

(Continued on page 3)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

that the Lutheran Reformation was not based merely on the personality or private opinions of Luther, but on the divinely-revealed Gospel that Luther confessed – and that others could also confess just as effectively. It is also significant that the Augsburg Confession was presented *by laymen* (the princes and city councilors) *to a layman* (the Emperor). It was deliberately written in such a way that it could be understood by Christians in general, and not just by trained theologians. It is therefore not only a creedal statement for Lutheran pastors to study and confess, but for *all* Lutherans – for *the whole Lutheran Church*. This is also one of the reasons why the constitutions of our synod and congregation explicitly bind us to this confession as a formal and official statement of what we believe and teach.

Because the Augsburg Confession was written specifically with laymen in mind, there is no excuse for any of us to avoid reading it and seeking to learn from it, with the idea that it is “over our heads.” It is not! So, if you haven’t read the Augsburg Confession in a while, why don’t you read it during the week of

June 25? If you have a copy of the *Book of Concord* – the “Concordia” – it is in there. It is also online, linked from the Redeemer home page: redeemer.vze.com (click where it says “Our beliefs as summarized in the Augsburg Confession”).

We’ll close with these words, which appear in the concluding paragraph of the Augsburg Confession:

Nothing has been said or brought up for the rebuke of anyone. We have mentioned only those things we thought it was necessary to talk about so that it would be understood that in doctrine and ceremonies we have received nothing contrary to Scripture or the Church universal. It is clear that we have been very careful to make sure no new ungodly doctrine creeps into our churches.

-- Pastor Webber



HOLY COMMUNION: PROTOCOL

(Continued from page 2)

As you are dismissed by the pastor, you may wish to make the sign of the cross over your heart. In so doing you remember your baptism – and you recall that the only reason you are worthy to receive such a precious gift as the body and blood of Christ is because you have been washed in Baptism and welcomed into God’s holy family.

When you return to your pew, offer a silent prayer of thanksgiving. Use your own words, or pray something like this:

I give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed me through these salutary gifts, and I implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen me through them, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward all; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

In the sacrament you have been refreshed and renewed and strengthened. Christ is in you, and you are in Christ. God will go with you. His angels will fight for you, as you go back into the world with its struggles, temptations, challenges and failures. The spiritual victories are yours in Christ. In the sacrament God has sealed and delivered to you all the blessings of his salvation. Rejoice and give thanks. Depart in peace!

– Rev. Jon Buchholz,
Pastor, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tempe, AZ
President, Arizona-California District, WELS

Text slightly adapted to the usage of our parish.

LIVING FOR CHRIST: IN LIGHT OF OUR TRIUNE GOD

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all
(2 Corinthians 13:14)

The three-leaf clover is not just a symbol of the Irish or of good luck. It also has strong connections to the Christian Church. Tradition holds that St. Patrick used the three-leaf clover to explain that teaching of the Trinity: God is three Persons in one Divine Being.

Historically, Christian Churches celebrate Trinity Sunday at this time of year. It is an opportunity to focus on the unique God revealed in the Bible: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We call Him “the Triune God” because the Bible teaches that He is three Persons yet only one God. That is difficult to understand, and it certainly distinguishes Him from other gods. But there is so much more we are told about Him in the Bible, and it completely separates Him from all others.

For instance, this Triune God knows you very intimately and personally. In fact, He made you specially, and has used the choices and circumstances in your life – all to make you the one-of-a-kind person you are.

The Bible also says that this Triune God requires from all people – including you and me – perfect obedience to His Law, the 10 Commandments.

Failure to meet this requirement will be met with His wrath and eternal punishment.

But His Word also reveals that the Triune God loves you like you have never been loved before. His love for you moved Him to come to earth in the Person of Jesus, and to live and die in your place, in order to provide you with perfect forgiveness and peace with Him through faith in the Savior Jesus. And the resurrection of Jesus from the dead proves that His work on your behalf was accepted and complete!



Perhaps you already know the Triune God of the Bible and all He has done for you in Jesus. If so, then remember to thank Him. If this is news to you, then we invite you to join your friends at our church this Sunday, to get to know this Triune God and all He has done for you, and how much He truly loves you!

The three-leaf clover is much more than a symbol of good luck or an Irish heritage. It also illustrates the one true God who loves you, sent His Son to die for you, and promises to work all things for your good. The Apostle Paul concluded his Second Letter to the congregation at Corinth with this beautiful prayer: **“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all,”** (2 Corinthians 13:14). This is our prayer for you!

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOCIAL EVENT IN JULY

On July 16, at 7pm, there will be a social event at the John and Sarah Kissinger residence, at which slides from their recent trip to Europe will be shown. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The Sunday Adult Class and Sunday School, and the Friday morning Bible Study, will be on summer hiatus during the months of June, July, and August. The Thursday evening Internet Study Group will *not* be on hiatus during the summer, but will continue to meet.

There will be some additional changes in the schedule just for June. During June only, the full Divine Service (Word and Sacrament) will be held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month (June 13 & 27), rather than on the first and third Sundays of the month as usual. The Service of the Word, with spoken Communion, will be held in Scottsdale on June 6 and 20, when Pastor Webber will be away, and when guest pastors will be filling in for him. *No services will be held on June 6 and 20 in Queen Creek.* Our members and friends in Queen Creek are invited to visit Redeemer in Scottsdale, or another sister congregation, for worship on those days.

SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our usual religious education offerings on Sundays and Fridays will go on hiatus during the summer months of June, July, and August. But this doesn't mean that your religious education needs to go on hiatus as well. You can still log on, or come in person, to the Thursday evening Internet Study Group, which will continue through the summer months. (Ask the Pastor if you want to know how you can participate in this hour-long study through the Internet.)

Also, for summer reading, you might be interested in a newly-published book from Northwestern Publishing House entitled *Here We Stand: A Confessional Christian Study of Worldviews*, edited by Curtis A. Jahn. Pastor Webber is the author of three of this book's eleven chapters. The publisher describes the book in this way:

Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther said 'Here I stand!' when confronted with the heresies of his day. Not much has changed. Christians are still confronted with faith-destroying teachings that now seem to come from every direction. Today the entire Christian worldview is under attack. Even the notion of truth itself is denied. How is a

Christian to respond in the face of such non-Christian worldviews? We need to understand those views as well as our own faith and worldview based on Scripture and firmly say, 'Here we stand!' In this book, the authors use the truth of God's Word to examine such worldviews as Darwinism, Islam, New Age, atheism, pantheism, post-modernism, and the moral relativism that says anything and everything is 'OK.' By learning about other worldviews, Christians can better understand and witness to the people who hold those views. Readers will also see how such non-Christian worldviews influence their own beliefs, attitudes, and actions without their realizing it.

This book can be ordered from the Bethany Lutheran College Bookstore: online at bookstore.blc.edu or by email at bookstor@blc.edu. The cost is \$20.50 per copy.

UPCOMING TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

A tour of the Holy Land (with optional Egypt extension) will be hosted by Pastor Paul Schulz (WELS) of Safford, AZ, departing on February 21, 2011. The members of our congregation have been invited to participate. Pastor Schulz writes:

Very few can say they have ever walked where our Savior walked and had the Bible come alive before their very eyes. It is indeed a religious experience. We will have devotions and read from Scripture at every holy site. We will begin our tour in Jerusalem and Bethlehem and see the very sites where our Savior walked, lived and died. There is a trip to the Dead Sea, to the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, and to Masada, where the Romans came to defeat the Jewish resistance in 72-73 A.D. Other sites in Jerusalem will include the Western Wall, as well as the Upper Room, the house of Caiaphas, and the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was betrayed. We will also spend some time in the northern part of Israel, Galilee, and see the more pastoral sites of Jesus' ministry: Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi, and other places. We will also see the Old Testament sites of Mt Carmel, Tel Dan – where the first king of the Northern Kingdom set up his idolatry. The tour will be full of places and sites and sounds of the Holy Land. It is truly an amazing opportunity. The Bible will come alive for you in a way that will be memorable indeed.

The cost for the basic trip (not including taxes and gratuities), with a Phoenix departure, is \$2,597. Brochures with more detailed information are available on the counter in the church narthex in Scottsdale. Queen Creek worshipers may ask Pastor Webber for one of the brochures. Or, Pastor Schulz can be contacted directly at peschulz@cableone.net

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	4	5
6 Pentecost 2 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) No service in Queen Creek Rev. William Bein guest preacher and worship leader, Scottsdale only. Pastor Webber will be in Lancaster, CA, where he will preach at the ordination of Candidate of Theology Brian Diring.	7	8 7:00pm Church Council (S)	9	10 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	11	12
13 Pentecost 3 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 4:00pm DS (Q)	14	15	16 Pastor on vacation and attending ELS convention in Mankato, MN through June 25	17 Pastor on vacation Internet Study Group cancelled	18 Pastor on vacation	19 Pastor on vacation
20 Pentecost 4 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) Ladies Guild after refreshments (S) No service in Queen Creek Rev. Roger Sprain guest preacher and worship leader, Scottsdale only. Pastor on vacation	21 Pastor at ELS Convention	22 Pastor at ELS Convention	23 Pastor at ELS Convention	24 Pastor at ELS Convention Internet Study Group canceled	25 Pastor at ELS Convention	26
27 Pentecost 5 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) Elder meeting after refreshments (S) 4:00pm DS (Q)	28	29	30			

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	2	3
4 Pentecost 6 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 4:00pm DS (Q)	5	6	7	8 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	9	10
11 Pentecost 7 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q)	12	13 7:00pm Voters Meeting (S)	14	15 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	16 7:00pm Social event at Kissingers	17
18 Pentecost 8 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) Ladies Guild after refreshments (S) 4:00pm DS (Q)	19	20	21	22 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	23	24
25 Pentecost 9 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) Elders meeting after refreshments (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q)	26	27	28	29 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	30	31

Abbreviations:

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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
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.

