

The Valley Evangel

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

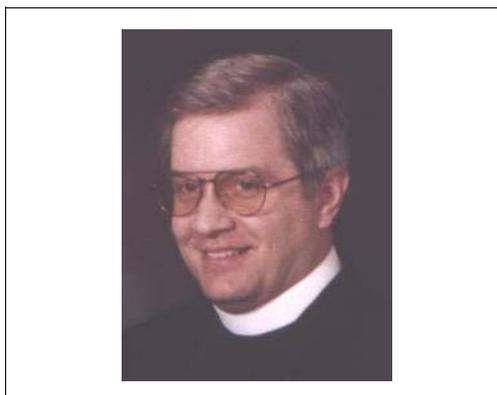
<i>Excerpts From the Easter Sermons of Martin Luther</i>	2
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	4
<i>Devotion: Share the Message of Salvation!</i>	5
<i>Announcements</i>	5
<i>About Our Church</i>	6

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain” (1 Cor. 15:14, ESV)

In these few words, St. Paul indicates how important the resurrection of Christ is for our Christian faith. Christianity is not, at its heart, a system of morals or metaphysics. It is not, at the most fundamental level, a philosophy of life or an explanation of why things are the way they are. In its essence, Christianity is a living hope. We cling in faith to the living Christ, and through that faith we receive the life that Jesus gives us. He forgives our sins, and he promises that the fellowship with God that we now enjoy will continue forever.

His resurrection from the grave accomplished all this for us. His resur-



Pastor David Jay Webber

rection from the grave also makes him accessible to us, as he now lives among his people, and as he now instructs and comforts us in his Word and Sacraments. But if Jesus did not rise from the dead, none of this is true. If the resurrection did not really happen, none of this *can* be true.

Let's also consider St. Paul's statement in the form of its "mirror image": For

(Continued on page 3)

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.

Wednesday "Bible & Theology" Study Group: 7:00 p.m.

Loughran home in Scottsdale
Note: This Study will not be meeting during Lent

Friday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.

Calvin home in Scottsdale

Editor:
Pastor David Jay Webber

Editorial Assistant - Layout and Design:
Julie Martinez

Excerpts From the Easter Sermons of Martin Luther

Mark 16:1-8

Here the Lamb is truly revealed, of whom John the Baptist testifies, when he says in John 1:29: ***“Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.”*** Here is fulfilled that which was spoken to the serpent: ***“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: he shall bruise thy head,”*** which means that for all those who believe in him, hell, death, and the devil and sin have been destroyed. In the same manner the promise is fulfilled to-day which God gave to Abraham, when he said in Genesis 22:18: ***“In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”*** Here Christ is meant, who takes away our curse and the power of sin, death and the devil.



All this is done, I say, by faith. For if you believe that by this seed the serpent has been slain, then it is slain for you; and if you believe that in this seed all nations are to be blessed, then you are also blessed. For each one individually should have crushed the serpent under foot and redeemed himself from the curse, which would have been too difficult, nay impossible for us. But now it has been done easily, namely, by Christ, who has crushed the serpent once, who alone is given as a blessing and benediction, and who has caused this Gospel to be published throughout the world, so that he who believes, accepts it and clings to it, is also in possession of it, and is assured that it is as he believes. For in the heart of such a man the Word becomes so powerful that he will conquer death, the devil, sin and all adversity, like Christ himself did. So mighty is the Word that God himself would sooner be vanquished than that his Word should be conquered.

This is the meaning of the words by St. Paul: ***“Christ was raised for our justification.”*** Here Paul turns my eyes away from my sins and directs them to Christ, for if I look at my sins, they will destroy me. Therefore I must look unto Christ who has taken my sins upon himself, crushed the head of the serpent and become the blessing. Now they no longer burden my conscience, but rest upon Christ, whom they desire to destroy. Let us see how they treat him. They hurl him to the ground and kill him. O God; where is now my Christ and my Savior? But then God appears, delivers Christ and makes him alive; and not only does he make him alive, but he translates him into heaven and lets him rule over all. What has now become of sin. There it lies under his feet. If I then cling to this, I have a cheerful conscience like Christ, because I am without sin. Now I can defy death, the devil, sin and hell to do me any harm. As I am a child of Adam, they can indeed accomplish it that I must die. But since Christ has taken my sins upon himself, has died for them, has suffered himself to be slain on account of my sins, they can no longer harm me; for Christ is too strong for them, they cannot keep him, he breaks forth and overpowers them, ascends into heaven (takes sin and sorrow captive, Ed. 1531), and rules there over all throughout eternity. Now I have a clear conscience, am joyful and happy and am no longer afraid of this tyrant, for Christ has taken my sins away from me and made them his own. But they cannot remain upon him; what then becomes of them? They must disappear and be destroyed. This then is the effect of faith. He who believes that Christ has taken away our sin, is without sin, like Christ himself, and death, the devil and hell are vanquished as far as he is concerned and they can no longer harm him.

Luther's Second Easter Sermon, German text: Erlangen edition vol. II, 213; Walch edition vol. II, 849; St. Louis edition vol. II, 622.

http://www.godrules.net/library/luther/129luther_b21.htm

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

those whose preaching is vain and whose faith is vain, it is as if Christ has not been raised. In spite of the fact that Jesus has most assuredly been raised from the dead, many spiritually-minded people today have constructed a religion that does not require a belief in his resurrection. But such a religion is ultimately without meaning.

When someone's theological efforts ignore the most important saving event in human and cosmic history, we can't expect those efforts to result in anything that has real and enduring value. The noblest of ethical systems by which people may seek to live, and the most sublime of mystical experiences that people may seek to have, will get them nowhere – absolutely nowhere – if the resurrection of Christ is not at the heart and center of it all. Apart from the resurrection, and apart from a living faith in the resurrection, there can be no genuine hope for a true spiritual transformation, or for a true union with God. Any religious scheme that bypasses the risen Christ is a deceptive dream. Any religious scheme that overlooks the victory of God's Son over the power of sin and death is in vain.

But Christ did indeed rise. And he offers the blessings of his resurrection to all – including those whose preaching and faith are now still in vain. He calls us all to come to where he can be found, in the fellowship of his church. There he is miraculously present – on Easter Sunday, and on any other occasion when his Gospel is preached – to enlighten our darkened minds, and to fill our empty hearts with his Spirit. Our preaching and faith, if they are in vain now, need never be in vain again, because the Author of Life himself fills us with the life and grace of his resurrection. As the Victor over all our enemies, he says these inviting words to us:

"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son" (Rev. 21:6-7, ESV).

Pastor Webber

Holy Week March 16-23

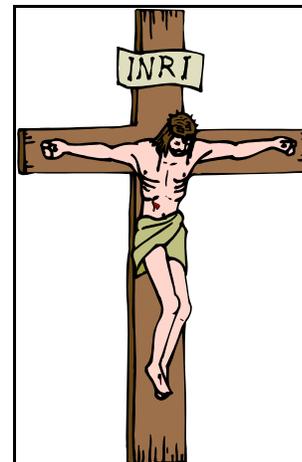
See Calendar for Service Times and Places

Palm Sunday March 16

Maundy Thursday March 20

Good Friday March 21

Easter Sunday March 23



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
MARCH 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Divine Service * 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	3	4 7:30pm Online Catechism Class	5 6:00-6:30pm Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Vespers Service	6	7 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence	1 9:30am—4:00pm AZ/CA Women's Mission Rally (S)
9 Service of the Word ** 9:00am SW (S) Ladies Guild after the service (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm SW (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	10	11 7:00pm Church Council (S)	12 6:00-6:30pm Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Vespers Service	13 7:30pm Online Catechism Class	14 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence	15 <hr/> 8
16 Palm Sunday Divine Service ** 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	17	18	19	20 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Divine Service (S)	21 Good Friday 7:00pm Tenebrae Service (S)	22
23 Easter Sunday Service of the Word 9:00am SW (S) 10:30am Easter Brunch after the Service (S) 4:00pm SW (Q)	24 Pastor gone for theological conference and ELS Doctrine committee meetings through April 2.	25 →	26 →	27 →	28 →	29 →
30 Divine Service *** 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	31 Pastor gone for theological conference and ELS Doctrine committee meetings through April 2.	<i>And He said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He is risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He said to you.'" Mark 16:6-7</i>				

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

* March 2, Presentation by ELS President John A. Moldstad during Adult Bible Class at both locations

** March 9 and 16, Adult Bible Class on the Augsburg Confession at both locations

*** March 30, Pastor Timothy Hartwig will be preaching and teaching Adult Bible Classes while Pastor Webber is out of town

Share the Message of Salvation!

Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but He will heal us; He has injured us but He will bind you our wounds. Hosea 6:1

In his reference to being “torn to pieces” and being “injured” the Prophet Hosea, is referring to the damage done to the Israelites in war. In His reference to “healing” and “binding” the people of Israel are looking forward to future victories and deliverance from their oppression. But God had something else in mind, earlier we read that the Lord was waiting, “until they admit their guilt.” (Hosea 5:15)

The Lenten Season is a time for us today to admit our guilt to God Almighty. Yes, God still waits patiently for us, but too many times we try to do it our own way.

As it was for the Israelites of old, so also it is for us. The only way is God’s way and the only way to true repentance is through faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Faith comes to us through the Holy Word of God.

There are many in the world around us that do not know God’s plan. We have been called to share the message of

salvation through our faith in Christ Jesus. “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9) How many people do you know that are in need of God’s gracious forgiveness? Maybe a friend, co-worker, your hair dresser, or a neighbor.

By sharing your faith you are unlocking the truth of their salvation. What a wonderful message– the unending love of God for all His children and how He showed that love by sending His Son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us from our sins. Jesus accomplished this task by living a perfect life in our place. Then according to God’s will He gave His life for us as He was nailed to the cross, carrying with Him the sins of the world. Yes, your sins. Only those who believe this message of salvation will reap the benefit and have eternal life before the throne of God in the eternal day.



“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

Announcements

Pastor Webber will be gone from March 24 through April 2. During that time, he will be attending a theological conference in Bloomington, MN as well as the ELS Doctrine Committee meeting in Mankato, MN.

On Sunday, March 30, Pastor Timothy Hartwig, from Lake Havasu City, AZ, will be leading our worship services and adult Bible classes in both Scottsdale and Queen Creek.

Mark 16:6-7 ***And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. "But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He said to you.'"***



Photo by Julie Martinez, near Deganya Kibbutz, Israel

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 Mission
Meeting in the "Multi-Purpose"
Room at Frances Brandon-Pickett
Elementary School
22076 E. Village Loop Road South
Queen Creek, AZ



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
websites above, and
published courtesy of
lutheransource.net



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 Lu-
theran Church; cor-
rectly 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.*



Redeemer Lutheran Church