

The Valley Evangel

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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Within the span of about one month, four members of our relatively small parish lost a parent in death. The circumstances were different in each case, but the common thread was the vivid and emotion reminder that was brought to each family that life in this world, as it exists now, exists only for a time. We are all mortal. Death will catch up with all of us, sooner or later.

In many cases, when a person knows that death is approaching, he or she looks back on the life that has been lived with a certain amount of regret. Those who are facing their mortality often wish that they had *not* done some of the things they *did*, and they often wish that they *had* done some of the things they did *not* do. When we see people in the last stages of their



mortal life thinking such thoughts, it can remind us of the importance of avoiding, if possible, those kinds of regrets for ourselves. Those who still have some time left on this earth can perhaps complete some of the unfinished business of their lives.

If you have hurt or injured someone else, seek that person out, express your sor-

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WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Editor:
Pastor David Jay Webber

Editorial Assistant - Layout and Design:
Julie Martinez

Production Assistant - Printing and Distribution:
Sarah Kissinger

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.

Thursday Internet Study Group:
7:00 p.m. (see Pastor Webber for log-on information for this group, or attend in person at his residence)

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

THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT

What you Need to Know

More than a year ago, while still a Senator, Barack Obama promised the abortion lobby that, as President, he would sign the Freedom of Choice Act into law. The Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) overturns virtually all federal and state pro-life laws. FOCA would also overturn all restrictions on public funding of abortion and require taxpayers to pay for elective abortions.

What FOCA Does:

- Creates a new federal right to abortion and would repeal the Hyde Amendment by allowing unlimited federal funding for abortion.
- Removes all safeguards (“interferences”) currently in place at the state or federal level. These include:

Full disclosure to the patient (ultrasound images of the unborn child, details about pain inflicted on the baby, any information about long-term complications for the mother)

Parental notification for minors seeking abortion

Waiting periods

Restrictions based on fetal viability, thereby allowing for abortion on demand through the ninth months of pregnancy

Protections for doctors and nurses who refuse to perform, or assist in, an abortion

Protections for religiously-affiliated hospitals as well as public hospitals that currently do not perform abortions

Exclusions for abortion coverage from health care plans of federal employees

- Overturns the partial-birth abortion ban, a gruesome late-term procedure involving the forced extraction of the infant from the mother’s womb, and the insertion of a device to suction the brains from the baby’s skull, thereby allowing for the skull to be crushed to facilitate its removal from the birth canal.

The majority of Americans support these common-sense protections. FOCA is extreme even for many who identify themselves as "pro-choice." God’s Word tells us to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” (Proverbs 31:8). Speak against the Freedom of Choice Act to protect the lives of preborn children.

Reprinted from:

CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES

3070 Helsan Drive, Richfield, WI 53076

800-729-9535 www.ChristianLifeResources.com

(Watch for continued updates on the CLR website regarding FOCA)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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row, and ask for forgiveness. If you have always meant to do something nice for someone who means a lot to you, but haven't found the time to do it until now, find the time! And, what is most important of all, make sure that your relationship with God is what God wants it to be.

On many Sunday mornings there's an empty pew in the Lord's house where you should be. A sermon is being delivered that the Lord would have wanted you to hear. The blessing of God's forgiveness, and the blessing of your Savior's gift of himself in his very body and blood, are available and offered to you at his altar, but you are not there to receive them.

Don't think that getting your relationship with God and his church back on track is something that can

be put off until more important things are taken care of. There is nothing more important. And don't wait until it is too late, when there will be time only to regret that you didn't do what you should be doing now.

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:6-7, ESV).

-- Pastor Webber



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Double Baptism

On February 1 we had the privilege of witnessing two baptisms in the service at Redeemer. Eva Carlile (daughter of Jerome & Angela Carlile) and Annaliesa Preus (daughter of Seth & Vickie Preus) were received into God's kingdom and into the family of faith.



Redeemer Easter Choir

Please speak with Carol Webber if you are interested in singing with the Redeemer Choir for Easter (April 12). Rehearsals will be held every Sunday morning in Lent, beginning March 1. Those participating are asked to arrive at the church early so that rehearsals can begin promptly at 8:30 a.m.

GOD'S TREASURED POSSESSIONS

You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. (Exodus 19:4) This verse expresses God's view of how He rescued the people of Israel from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. As we study the exodus from Egypt we hear of the people complaining about all the hardships they had to endure. First, they were trapped against the Red Sea as the Pharaoh's army approached. Many were ready to go back into slavery. God rescued them by parting the Red Sea, giving them safe passage. Only a few short days later the people of Israel grumbled about the lack of water; and God provided water. Soon after they complained about the lack of food, saying, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and eat all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." God heard them and sent manna and quail so they could eat. It seems that the people of Israel faced one hardship after another but the Lord helped them every step of the way. The people of Israel were God's chosen people and He treasured them.

If we were able to ask the about their trip, about their forty years in the desert, about their hardships do you think they would have described it as being rescued and carried on eagle's wings? Not likely. Every step of the way God was teaching them to trust Him, but because of their sinful nature they looked on it as hardship and burden.



As we reflect on our lives, we know of the many hardships we have faced and we know there will be many more. Each step along the path of life is subject to the many stumbling blocks that sin has placed in our way. Many times we find ourselves complaining about these hardships; blaming God, blaming those around us, and even blaming ourselves. How do we cope with these trials and temptation in our life? On our own we are helpless. Only by the grace of God can we go forward, only by the grace of God can we wake up to face each new day, only by God's grace do we have a peace in our hearts that assures us that He will see us through life's journey.

That peace is the peace of Christ that is ours through faith in Jesus Christ. The peace that Jesus won for us as He suffered and died for the sins of the world and now announces in His Word that our sins are forgiven, that we are His dear Children, and that heaven is our home. We truly are God's treasured possessions.

When the believers are called from this world He will have His holy angels carry them to their heavenly home where they will be united with God forever in that eternal day. In the mean time, as we live out our lives here on earth we are to live as Christian examples to others, we are to tell others about our Savior and the peace He has brought into our lives. What an honor it is to be a messenger of peace.

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

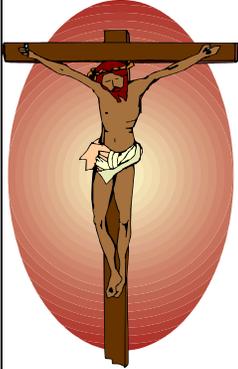
EASTER BRUNCH AT REDEEMER

Members of both the Scottsdale and Queen Creek congregations are invited to join us for the brunch following the 9:00 a.m. festival service at Redeemer. A sign-up sheet will be available during the coffee hour at Redeemer during the weeks preceding the brunch. Members of Sun of Righteousness who would like to attend may contact chairperson Marilyn Bonnell (623-742-6555 or mjbonnell@msn.com) to indicate what they will bring. The event will include an Easter Egg Hunt for children. Please invite your relatives, friends and neighbors to attend church with you on Easter, and to stay for the brunch afterwards.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Midweek Lenten Vespers



Lenten Vespers will continue on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. through the month of March. Please join us for an hour of worship and reflection on the passion of Christ.

Consider offering rides to members of our congregation who might like to attend, but who do not drive at night. The services will *not* be preceded by soup suppers as in previous years.

Wine & Cheese Party

You are cordially invited to attend a congregational “Wine & Cheese Party” at the home of Jack & Lucille Calvin in North Scottsdale on Saturday, March 21, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, and may bring a bottle of wine and some cheese or an appetizer to share. Please consider inviting friends or neighbors to join you for an evening of refreshments and fellowship. Directions to the Calvin home are available from the Pastor at jaywebber@cox.net



LYA 2009: “The Trees of the Lord are Ever Green”

Each summer high school-aged youth from our synod’s congregations come together for a weekend of Bible Study, fellowship and fun during the Lutheran Youth Association conference. This year’s LYA conference is scheduled to take place from Thursday evening, July 23, through Sunday morning, July 26, at Camp Berachah near Seattle, Washington. A website with more information may be accessed at:

web.me.com/akring/something_else/LYA_09.html



The cost (registration, lodging and meals) will be approximately \$200 per person.

Participants attending from congregations in Arizona, Utah, and Southern Oregon will be able to divide \$1,500.00 available from the ELS Board for Parish Education & Youth to offset their travel costs, but are asked to make a preliminary request by April 1, in order to be included in this allocation.

Groups are invited to come a day early to assist with a special service project, packing “care packages” to be shipped to military personnel. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will pay for the extra meals and Wednesday night lodging for these participants.

More details will be provided directly to families of eligible youth in our parish. Please encourage our youth to participate, consider serving as a chaperone, and lend your support when fund-raising efforts are planned in the coming months.

Upcoming Musical Events

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend two special musical events later this spring.

Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* at ASU Gammage

The ASU Symphony Orchestra and combined choirs will present Felix Mendelssohn’s oratorio *Elijah* on Thursday, April 30. The event is free and will take place in the ASU

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Gammage Auditorium. This musical masterpiece recounts the dramatic life of the Old Testament prophet as found in the books of First and Second Kings. The performance will be enhanced by projected images of classical artwork depicting Elijah, provided by the Phoenix Art Museum. A pre-concert lecture by Joel Rivzen of Arizona Opera begins in the auditorium lobby at 6:30 p.m.



Bethany Lutheran College Choirs at Redeemer

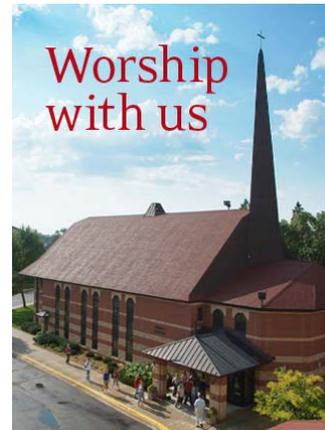
The Concert Choir, Mary-Martha Choir and Handbell Choir of our synod's Bethany Lutheran College (Mankato, MN) are planning a "Grand Canyon Tour" to Arizona in late May. Paul and Sarah Webber will be among the participants. Tentative plans are for the groups to participate in an Ascension Day Choral Vespers service at Redeemer Lutheran in Scottsdale on Thursday, May 21. More details will be available in the coming weeks. Please think about relatives, friends and neighbors you can invite to attend with you.

Bethany Lutheran College Chapel Webcast

Did you know you can listen live to the weekday chapel services from Bethany Lutheran College through the internet? Services begin at 10:00 a.m. (9:00 a.m. for those of us listening in Arizona), and include organ preludes and post-ludes, hymns and a sermon by the college chaplain or a guest preacher. The audio webcast may be accessed through this webpage:

blc.edu/worship/

Once you get to this page, click on the yellow button which reads "On now: chapel webcast." It may take a couple of attempts to connect – sometimes the broadcast goes live a minute or two later than advertised.



A PSALM FOR LENT

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.
O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer;
And by night, but I have no rest.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near; For there is none to help. Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. They open wide their mouth at me, As a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my

tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots. But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance. Deliver my soul from the sword, My only life from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth; From the horns of the wild oxen You answer me.

Psalm 22:1-2; 11-21

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Divine Service ++ 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	2	3	4 7:00pm Lenten Vespers Service (S)	5 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	6 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	7
8 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)	9	10 7pm Church Council (S)	11 7:00pm Lenten Vespers Service (S)	12 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	13 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	14
15 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	16	17	18 7:00pm Lenten Vespers Service (S)	19 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	20 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	21
22 Service of the Word 9:00am SW (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Elders Meeting after Bible Class (S) 4:00pm SW (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	23 Pastor away for ELS Doctrine Committee Meeting in Mankato, Minnesota	24 Pastor away for ELS Doctrine Committee Meeting in Mankato, Minnesota	25 7:00pm Lenten Vespers Service (S)	26 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	27 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	28
29 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	30	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

++ On March 1, Jill Merten, representative of Bethany Lutheran College, will make a brief presentation on BLC after the service at both locations.

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



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.

