

The Valley Evangel

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

March 2011

Inside This Issue

The Transfiguration of our Lord Page 2
Devotion: God Is Gracious to the Brokenhearted!.... Page 3
Ladies' Guild News... Page 3
Calendar Page 5
About Our Church Page 6

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. (Contact Pastor Webber for log-on info, or attend in person at his residence)

Friday Bible Study: 10 a.m. at the Muth residence

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

The season of Lent is once again upon us. But perhaps it would be better to express this in another way, because when something is “upon you,” that could imply that it is a burden or a weight. The season is not a burden, however. It is an opportunity: an opportunity to consider more deeply than usual our need for Christ, and to consider more deeply than usual God’s satisfying of that need through the forgiveness and salvation that his Son provides.

During Lent we think about our sin, and about our repentance of our sin. Of course, we think about that all the time. At the beginning of each Sunday service, during all seasons of the Church Year, we recall our sinfulness, we repent of our sin, and we then hear the words of pardon and grace that are spoken in God’s name by the pastor.

Because we do in fact speak and hear these words so often, it is possible that those words are no longer impacting us in the way they should. Because of their familiarity, we may not be concentrating as well as we should on what we are really saying when we recite those words. We may not be focusing our attention on the deep and important meaning of the words that the pastor speaks in return, as devoutly as we should.

The midweek Lenten Vespers services this year will seek to remedy that problem, to the extent that it is a problem. The messages in these special services – on the Wednesdays between March 16 and April 13 –

will explore and discuss the words and actions of the rites of confession that are found on pages 5-6 and 15-16 of our hymnal, in light of what the Bible teaches us about human sin and divine grace, and about a Christian’s confession of his sins, and the Lord’s absolution of those sins.

These midweek services will be good opportunities for all of us to grow in our understanding of what we say on Sunday mornings throughout the year. May we never again become bored with, or indifferent toward, these oft-repeated texts, just because they are oft-repeated. May we instead learn how to let those words speak to us, and guide us in our thoughts and prayers, in an ever-fresh and powerful way!

– Pastor Webber

Special Sunday Morning Classes During Lent

During the Adult Class hour on the Sundays of Lent, we will go through a special multi-part DVD series entitled “Liturgy: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.” This series comes highly recommended by several of Pastor Webber’s clergy friends. The featured presenter in these sessions is Dr. Arthur Just, a noted authority on the topic of Lutheran worship. On these DVDs, Dr. Just explores various aspects of the Biblical origins, history, theology, and practice of Christian and Lutheran worship. Each of these Sunday morning sessions will also include time for comments and questions. Please join us!



The Transfiguration of Our Lord



Transfiguration is a feast for the eyes and for the ears. What the eyes see is awesome. Jesus suddenly changed. His face, shining like the sun! His clothes, dazzling in their whiteness! Glory beams in bright rays from his body. What the ears hear is the Father's voice proclaiming this glorified and shining person His beloved Son to whose words we must give our attention.

...what Peter, James, and John witnessed...was a glimpse into their own future – and yours and mine too. “Beloved,” wrote St. John to the community of the Baptized, “we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is!” (1 Jn 3:2) “When Christ, who is your life, is revealed” wrote St. Paul, “then you also will be revealed with him in glory!” (Col. 3:4) At the Second Coming of Jesus, all who have lived and died trusting in Him will be raised in bodies that will be like his, shining in glory. ... So on the Mountain Jesus gives the favored three (and us through them) a glimpse of what his finished work in us will look like! It was a vision meant to comfort and sustain them, to remind them of why Jesus was doing what he was getting ready to do. “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead” he orders, as he leaves one mountain behind and journeys toward another: Mount Calvary.

If the vision on top of the Mount of Transfiguration reveals what Jesus wants to accomplish in us, it is Calvary that reveals how he will do it. He will lift you to his glory by entering into your shame. He will clothe you in his brightness by letting his Father clothe him with your sin. He will gain access to the Father for you as beloved sons and

daughters of God by being denied that access Himself – “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?” And having accomplished the Father’s will, having suffered for you and died for you, He was raised to life again, clothed once more in the divine glory that He has given you the right to share with Him forever, clothed in a glory that He will never again hide or take off. And in that we are given the pattern of God’s work in our own lives.

You see, your moment of transfiguration happened on the day of your Baptism, when you were clothed with Christ. That, of course, is the day God looked at you and said: “This is my Child! This is the one I love and in whom I am delighted!” ... But after the transfiguration comes the journey to the other Mount. The journey toward death. For the final glorification of our bodies does not happen without death (except for that generation alive at our Lord’s second coming). Suffering and death with Jesus come first; the glorification with Jesus comes afterward.

...we know that we can do nothing to stop our bodies from falling apart. Not the best diet, not the best exercise program in the world, not the finest clothes or the best makeup will be able to prevent the moment arriving when we can’t do some of the things we always took for granted before, because our bodies are simply giving out on us. But when we remember that these decaying bodies of ours have been marked and tagged by the Redeemer with the promise and guarantee of sharing in his Resurrection glory, we can face our own physical demise and, yes, our deaths with a hope that cannot be quenched! It’s just like St. Paul wrote: “So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen, but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.... So we are always confident.” (2 Cor. 4:16-5:1,6)

(excerpted from a sermon by Pastor William Weedon)

Devotion: God Is Gracious to the Brokenhearted!

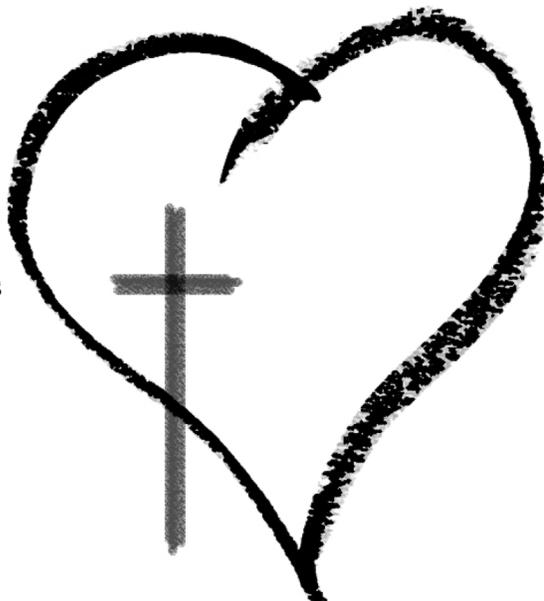
Here is an interesting contrast between the human race and God. The human race, no matter what skin color, culture, gender, social class, religion, considers "the externals" important. God, on the other hand, looks at the heart.

We, being human, are attracted to physical beauty, superior intellectual, athletic skill, and to the external religious activities of generosity and self-sacrifice. We think, "If I could only be like that."

Mended by Christ's blood

But what about the heart? The only thing that really counts is that the heart is in the right place. The person with physical beauty may be "using" that beauty to get what he or she wants. The person with superior intellect or athletic skill might be using that skill to put others down in a mocking way. The religious person might only be doing acts of generosity and sacrifice to win him or herself a place in heaven. We are all guilty of this!

The Lord looks at the heart, sees our every motivation. This is why He cares not for our



garments!" He tells us. Nothing else matters if the heart is not repentant.

On March 9th we celebrate Ash Wednesday. It is the beginning of the church season of Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. It refocuses us on the importance of repentance, that we rend our hearts by the power of God's Law. God's Law, the Ten Commandments, makes us conscious of our sin, so that we do not rely our externals to get to heaven. Rather, we confess our sins, give up on our own efforts, and plead to God to save us! And He does save!

The season of Lent teaches this too! God sent His Son Jesus Christ to live an upright and holy life to save us from our sins. Jesus offered himself as the holy sacrifice to purify us from sin by his blood! It is the message of Jesus, the Gospel that brings us to faith in Him! God will not turn away anyone who cries out for mercy in Jesus' name! He is gracious and merciful and kind, straight from His heart!

"So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm." Joel 2:13

from the ELS Board for Evangelism

Ladies' Guild News

Angie Kohlgraf and Erika Schmeissing attended the E.L.S. Arizona-California Circuit Women's Mission Rally on January 29, 2011. It was held at Family of God Lutheran Church in Fort Mohave, Arizona. The 2012 Rally will be hosted here at Redeemer. The exact date is yet to be determined.

We will be sponsoring a soup supper again each Wednesday during Lent, prior to the midweek service at 7 p.m. These will start on Ash Wednesday, March 9. Serving will be from 6:00-6:30 p.m.

All are welcome! It is a good time for fellowship, and for a humble Lenten meal, all ready for you. Time slots are still available for those who would like to host one of these. Please free to let me know.

Angie Kohlgraf
Ladies Guild President

Redeemer Lutheran Church
March 2011

<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 10 a.m. Bible study at the Muth residence	5
6 Transfiguration 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	7	8	9 Ash Wednesday Soup Supper serving from 6-6:30 p.m.; Imposition of Ashes followed by DS at 7 p.m.	10 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	11 10 a.m. Bible study at the Muth residence	12
13 Lent 1 9 a.m. SW with spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	14 Council Meet- ing at Pastor's residence at 7 p.m.	15	16 Bible Study at ALRC at 10 a.m.; Soup Supper 6-6:30; Vespers 7 p.m.	17 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	18 10 a.m. Bible study at the Muth residence	19
20 Lent 2 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' Meeting after AC (rescheduled from March 27)	21 Pastor Webber in Mankato, MN, for ELS Doctrine Committee ...	22 ... meeting and to speak in a class at Bethany Seminary	23 Soup Supper serving from 6-6:30 p.m. Vespers 7 p.m.	24 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	25 10 a.m. Bible study at the Muth residence	26
27 Lent 3: 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion; 10:30 a.m. AC/SS; 12 noon House Blessing with light lunch & beverages at Tom & Sue Hoback's new house in N. Scottsdale. All members/friends of church invited.	28	29	30 Soup Supper serving from 6-6:30 p.m. Vespers 7 p.m.	31 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence		

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 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

Refreshments are served after the Sunday morning Services

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



First Class Mail

We're on the Internet!
redeemer.vze.com

Notice!

Audio recordings of Pastor Webber's sermons are posted on the Internet weekly and are linked through the church website.

They are published courtesy of
lutheransource.net



**Evangelical
Lutheran Synod**

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.

