

The Valley Evangel

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

March 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: 10 a.m. at
the Nelson residence

Newsletter Staff

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From the Pastor's Desk

The season of Lent is almost upon us once again. Does this really make a difference to us? The secular world does not notice that it is Lent. You won't get any days off from work or school. There will be no relaxation of what is expected from you as an employee or as a student.

And even in church, Jesus is not going to be "more" with us than he is at any other time. His absolution will not be any more powerful, and his sacraments will not be any more effective, than they are during other seasons of the church year. To be sure, there will be some slight alterations in the Liturgy. "Hallelujah" will not be chanted. The "Gloria in Excelsis" canticle ("Glory be to God on high...") will not be sung. And the Proper Preface before the celebration of Holy Communion will have a uniquely Lenten text. Extra evening services, each Wednesday, will also be held, for those members of the congregation who choose to attend them. But these changes in what goes on at church will hardly be noticed, if you're not looking for them. What difference will it really make, then, to be in the season of Lent?

Objectively, and externally, there is very little difference between Lent and any other time of the year. It is possible for Lent to come and go almost without being noticed. But Lent *can become* something special to you, and it *can become* something beneficial for you, if you, in faith, *want* it to be. No one will compel you to spend more time than usual reflecting on your sinfulness, on your mortality, and on your inability to be – by your own moral and spiritual strength – everything that you know in your conscience you should be. And no one will force you to spend more time than usual meditating on the innocence of Christ, the perfection of Christ, and the death of Christ – for your redemption and salvation, and for your reconciliation with God by the power of his forgiveness. But if you, as a Christian, commit yourself to such a discipline of reflection and meditation, God will certainly bless it. If you listen to God's Word, God will speak to you in his Word. If you call upon him, he will hear you, and help you. Lent is not a time when anyone is going to make something special happen to you. But Lent is a time when you will have an *opportunity to receive* special blessings from God – good and beneficial blessings; spiritually uplifting and strengthening blessings – by means of his gospel and sacraments.

"Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered" (Psalm 105:4-5, ESV).

"What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people" (Psalm 116:12-14, ESV).

– Pastor Webber



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chorus in Arizona



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, in Mequon, Wisconsin, is the seminary of our sister-synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. For 82 years, the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chorus – comprised of seminary students – has appeared regularly in WELS congregations, to proclaim the Word of God in song, and to represent the ministry of the seminary. The 2014 tour (March 21-30) will take the Chorus to congregations in Nevada, Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. The Chorus's appearances in the Phoenix metro area will include concerts at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Tempe (715 W. Southern Ave.) on Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m.; and at Calvary Lutheran Church in Chandler (1270 N. Dobson Rd.) on Saturday, March 29, at 6 p.m. Redeemer members are invited and encouraged to attend one of these events. A free will offering will be received at each performance.

Professor James P. Tiefel has directed the Seminary Chorus since 1985. He is a member of the seminary's Practical Theology Department and teaches courses in worship and preaching. As the school's dean of chapel he is responsible for campus worship and also serves as director of student field services. From 1987 to 2013 he served as a member of the WELS Commission on Worship and is presently serving on the Executive Committee of the new WELS hymnal project. He also serves on the Commission for Congregational Counseling and is a member of the Institute on Worship and Outreach. Besides his work for the seminary and synod, he is pulpit assistant and director of music at Grace Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Synod Giving Counselor to Visit

The Rev. Daniel Basel, the planned giving counselor of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, will be at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 16. He will conduct the service, deliver the sermon, and lead the Bible study that day. The advice and Biblical instruction that he will offer – especially during the Adult Class hour – can guide us not only in considering the possibility of long-range support for our church body and its institutions, but also in considering how we might be able to provide for our own congregation, and for its ongoing mission in our community, even beyond the time of our earthly life.



Ukrainian Speaker



Volodymyr Kostlyvy, a member of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church congregation in Kam'yanets'-Podil's'kiy, Ukraine, and a student at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin, will be at Redeemer on Sunday, March 23. After the service he will share a presentation with us about his country and his church. (The Adult Class will be canceled that day.)

The Passing of a Much-Beloved Member



Helen Macholl, age 90, the wife of Roger Macholl, and a member of Redeemer, passed to her rest in Christ on February 5. A memorial service was held at the church on February 13. An MP3 audio recording of the service will be available on the “Recordings of the Service” page of the church website for the next several weeks: www.redeemerscottsdale.org/recordings.html

Jesus said: “Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die” (John 11:25b-26a, ESV).

Ash Wednesday

The First Day of Lent will be observed with a Divine Service, accompanied by the imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them, on Wednesday, March 5, at 7 p.m.



Member Interview: Don and Erika Schmeissing

(Conducted by Erica Olson, Editor Assistant)



Erica: Thank you so much for agreeing to let me interview you both. I think this is the first time I've interviewed someone with the same name as me! Ha ha! Hopefully the readers won't get confused here. I know you've been members here a long time. When did you start attending Redeemer? Do you remember when it was that you joined?

Erika: We joined in 1998.

Erica: Who was the pastor then?

Erika: Pastor Brumble.

Erica: What was your first reaction to Pr. Webber? Has your view of him changed at all over the years?

Erika: Very intelligent. Our view over the years has not changed.

Erica: Don, how long have you been the financial secretary?

Don: Five + years.

Erica: Have you ever held another office at Redeemer?

Don: Trustee and usher.

Erica: Erika, I know you've been active in the Ladies' Guild for a very long time. What kinds of roles have you served as part of the guild?

Erika: I don't know the date, but from the beginning, offices: VP and on different committees.

Erica: Has there ever been one project you particularly enjoyed being involved with?

Erika: We really don't do many projects. The last I remember, we knitted baby hats for a newborn.

Erica: You also run your own business, right? Tell me about that.

Erika: We have an embroidery business that was started in 1986.

Erica: Was it something you always wanted to do?

Erika: I always wanted my own.

Erica: Don, do you still work, too?

Don: Retired.

(Continued on Page 5)

Member Interview (continued from Page 4)

Erica: How and when did you meet? How long have you been married?

Erika: Met in Chicago, through friends. Married in 1957.

Erica: Where did you each grow up?

Erika: Don in Chicago. I did in Germany.

Erica: How did you end up in the Valley?

Erika: We hated shoveling snow.

Erica: Tell me about your family.

Erica: We have two children and three grandchildren, and also a great-grandchild.

Erica: We're you always part of the ELS, or did you come from another Lutheran or other denominational background?

Erika: We came to the ELS from the LCMS.

Erica: What made you want to come to Redeemer?

Erika: The LCMS became too liberal.

Erica: What has kept you here all these years?

Erika: The traditional services.

Erica: What kinds of things do you like to do for fun? Do you have any hobbies?

Erika: Travelling, reading and crafts.

Erica: I know that probably most people in our church know you pretty well, but as you know, we have a lot of new faces. Is there anything you'd like to tell us about yourselves that I haven't already asked?

Erika: You did a great job with your questions.

Erica: Well, thank you so much for your time. We really appreciate all the things you do for the church. It's been great getting to know you better, too! Thank you.

Ladies' Guild News

On February 8 some of the ladies from Redeemer retreated to Lake Havasu for the 2014 ELS Arizona-California Circuit Women's Mission Rally at Our Saviour Lutheran Church. This was well attended, and many of us do enjoy the fellowship with the women from our circuit congregations.

A luncheon was held following the beautiful memorial service for Helen Macholl on Thursday, Feb.13. Special thanks to those who served in their preparation for the luncheon, and to the church council for setting up tables and chairs. Helen's name will be added to the Memory Tree.

We are quickly approaching Lent. The Ladies Guild will be hosting soup suppers, preceding each of the Wednesday Vespers services. This allows many of us who live a great distance to attend the service, plus it's another opportunity for fellowship. To the young ladies of our congregation or those who have never participated in bringing soup: Please consider teaming up with someone else in providing soup for one of the services. We currently have dates available for sign up: March 12, 19, and 26; April 2 and 9. Please contact Lori Wendt if you would like to provide soup for any of these dates. Thank you!

Thanks go out to the people who have been setting up the coffee and treats on Sunday mornings. We still need more people to sign up. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the fellowship room, and a new sign-up sheet for March will be provided. Also, we thank those who have brought the "goodies" that have been served on Sunday mornings. More help is also needed in cleaning up after Bible study, before everyone goes home! If you can stay to help with that too, your help will be so welcomed!

The Ladies Guild activities include Lenten and Advent soup suppers before Wednesday Vesper services, the Easter brunch, the Reformation Sunday Oktoberfest, Sunday coffees, and arranging for the purchase of Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias. We also provide the special cakes for new members, baptisms, and other special occasions. We encourage all women in the congregation to consider attending a Ladies Guild meeting. We are especially asking the younger generation to join our group. As once a new mother and a new member, I was welcomed into this group and became very close to many of the wonderful women in this congregation. It allowed me a chance to be more involved in our church family and responsibilities. We all help each other out and delegate where necessary. If you have not yet attended a meeting and would like to do so, we welcome you!

Thank you,
Lori Wendt
Ladies Guild President

*Redeemer Lutheran Church
March 2014*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 Transfiguration 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday 7 p.m. DS with imposition of ashes	6 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	7 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	8
9 Lent 1 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	10 7 p.m. Church Council meeting at the church	11	12 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers service	13 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	14 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	15
16 Lent 2 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	17	18	19 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers service	20 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	21 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	22
23 Lent 3 9 a.m. SW with spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. SS/Presentation on Ukraine	24	25	26 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers service	27 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	28 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	29
30 Lent 4 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders meeting after AC (rescheduled from March 23)						

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, and on major festivals

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

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Email: jaywebber@yahoo.com



First Class Mail

We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

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



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.

