

# The Valley Evangel

Serving the members and friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, Arizona

March 2016

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## Worship and Study

### Sunday Divine Service

9 am; Refreshments after the service

### Sunday School/Adult

**Bible Class:** 10:30 am

### Thursday Internet Study

**Group:** 7 pm (Ask Pr. Webber for login info.)

**Friday Bible Study:** 10 am  
at the Muth residence

## Newsletter Staff

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## From the Pastor's Desk

In our "Western" or "Latin" church tradition, our Church Year begins on the First Sunday of Advent. That's understood to be the beginning of the story of our Christian faith, which we retell every year, throughout the year, in the festivals and seasons of the Christian calendar. It all ends with the season of Pentecost. After the Last Sunday of that season, we go back to the beginning again.

In the "Eastern" or "Byzantine" church tradition, however, the church year is understood to have a different ending point and a different beginning point. Holy Saturday – the day when Jesus' body was resting in the tomb – is understood to be the last day of the Church Year. The end of his earthly life, is the end of the religious calendar. And Easter – the day of our Lord's resurrection – is understood to be the beginning of a new year, and of a new cycle of festivals and seasons.

There is an appealing logic to this, and also a deeper theological point. At the beginning of our secular calendar year – January 1 – we often have the custom of making a New Year's Resolution, concerning a change for the better that we vow to ourselves to implement in our lives, beginning on that day. When there is a new beginning of a new year, there will also be a new beginning in our personal life in some way. Or so we intend, until we fall away from fulfilling our New Year's Resolution, and go back to our old, undesirable habits until the next time January 1 rolls around. But Easter, as the beginning of a new Church Year (according to the Eastern or Greek calculation), can also be a time to make a "New Year's Resolution" regarding our spiritual life. A difference between this and the January 1 custom, however, would be that the resolution would not require the mustering up of our own will-power for its fulfillment, but would be a resolution to hear and believe the Word of God more attentively, more regularly, and more reverently; and thereby to let the Holy Spirit do *his* work, *in* us and *through* us.



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As Jesus rose again on the third day after his death, which inaugurated for him a new kind of glorified life and existence, so too can Easter – which commemorates his victorious resurrection over the power of sin and death – become the occasion for the beginning of a new life of faith for us. If, until now, you have been justifying, and trying to ignore, a certain sinful attitude; or if you have been making excuses as to why you need not be reconciled to someone you have offended or hurt, this would be a good time to have a new beginning in your relationship with God and with your brothers and sisters in the faith, and to listen with humility to what God’s law is telling you. After three days in the sleep of death, God – in the resurrection – lifted up his Son to be your Savior from sin and death. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (James 4:10, KJV).

And if your participation in the worship of the church has been lax, and your partaking of the means of grace infrequent, the risen Christ is here now, alive and calling you to himself and to the fellowship of his saints. Easter is a great time to come back to church – and to *stay* in church, where you and all of us together can hear and believe the gospel. The only way to know what your standing with God is, and to know what your eternal destiny with God will be, is to listen to God as he tells you. And the place where you can most un-distractedly listen to the Lord – as he speaks through Scripture and song, through sermon and Supper – is in the Lord’s house, and among his people. The blessings of salvation are enjoyed here like nowhere else; and the discipline of our Christian life in this world is re-formed and reinvigorated within us here, by the grace of Christ’s forgiving and renewing Word, like nowhere else. “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4, ESV).

Unlike a secular “New Year’s Resolution,” a new beginning in these things does not involve human achievement and success. These are divine gifts, in which we rest. These are divine promises, in which we trust. These are divine workings for us and in us, and are not human strivings. “Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old” (Lamentations 5:21, ESV).

– Pastor Webber

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### *Visit from Rev. Daniel Basel*

Rev. Daniel Basel, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Giving Counselor, will be our guest preacher and worship leader on Sunday, March 13. He will also make a presentation after the service that day, during the Adult Class hour, on “The Eight Pitfalls of Estate Planning.” As ELS Giving Counselor, Pastor Basel does encourage support of our seminary and missions. But his *chief* goal has been to help God’s people thrive in their individual callings to be faithful stewards of all that our Lord has entrusted to their care; and to use those resources to provide for themselves, for their families, and for the spreading of the Gospel to all people and to all generations. A critical part of this work has been to emphasize the importance of sustaining, both while we live and beyond our lifetimes, our local parish’s preaching and teaching ministries. That encouragement also involves joining together with the other congregations of our synod to support the work of missions at home and around the world, as well as the teaching ministries of our synod (e.g. Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary).

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## *Choir Rehearsals*

Choir rehearsals will be held in the organ alcove at 8:20 a.m. on March 6, 13, 20, and 27, in order to prepare an anthem for the Easter service on March 27. All voice parts are needed, and new singers are welcome. If you wish to participate, please arrive at church by 8:15 a.m. so that rehearsals can promptly begin at 8:20. Thank you, in advance, for your efforts – which will beautify our Easter Service!

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## *Ladies' Guild News*

Throughout March, there will be sign-up sheets on the narthex counter for Easter lily donations and for dishes for the Easter Brunch. A church clean-up will be held after the Adult Bible Class on March 20. The Ladies Guild will provide a luncheon of cold cut sandwiches, potato chips and salad for all who stay to help. On Saturday, March 26, beginning at 9:00 a.m., volunteers are asked to help decorate the church, and tidy up, for Easter. The following day – Sunday, March 27 – the traditional Easter Brunch, hosted by the Ladies Guild, will be held after the Festival Divine Service. Candy-filled Easter baskets will be given to all attending children. (There will be no Easter egg hunt this year).

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## *2016 Arizona-California Women's Mission Society Rally Report*

This year's Rally at Redeemer was blessed by the attendance of 61 people from ELS and WELS congregations throughout Arizona, Southern California, and Utah. The offering received at the rally will go to Cross-stitch – the ELS network of women's mission societies – for the funding of special mission needs. The attendees voted that 25% of this collection will go directly to the support of orphans in India.

Wearing a traditional Indonesian shirt, WELS Pastor Bruce Ahlers educated the audience about the climate, geography, demographics and cultural background of a country that is 87% Muslim. Christianity is tolerated, but conversion often means a loss of livelihood and rejection by family and community. Despite these challenges, Lutheran church membership has increased to over 1,000 people in six districts on the Indonesian Island of Java alone.

Pastor Ahlers described Albania as a country sandwiched between Western and Eastern traditions. Muslims are concentrated in the southern part of this mountainous country, while Christians are dominant in the north. However, most Albanians of any faith are only nominally religious. WELS missionaries have been successful in establishing congregations comprised of believers who are learning the Word of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Our next Rally speaker, Mr. Sean Scheele, was inspired to become involved in mission work even before he became a Lutheran, through the Scriptural message of Romans 10 and Matthew 28. And in conjunction with Evangelical mission projects he made mission trips to India, Rwanda, and a country in the Islamic world. Although he found the people in India very

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spiritual, Jesus was viewed (by the Hindu population) as one god among a plethora of other gods. In Rwanda Sean found most of the people to be very devout Christians. The Christians in this country held fast to their faith in spite of the genocidal terrors of just one generation ago. Sean would be happy to discuss his work in the Islamic country – and in the other countries, too – in person, with anyone who would like to know about it.

Our final speaker was Pastor Steven Petersen, ELS Administrator for World Outreach. Pastor Petersen displayed ELS mission literature with which all Redeemer members are familiar: the mission calendar, Cross-stitch newsletter, Mission News, and the Thoughts of Faith newsletter. He continued his discussion by highlighting some of the accomplishments of our ELS missions abroad:

- + Ukraine - Gift of Life Medical and Dental clinics in vans.
- + India - Supporting 300 orphans and 3 Christian schools; training pastors in the US and India
- + Czech Republic - in the most atheistic of the Soviet satellites, the ELS has established St. Paul's Lutheran School.
- + South Korea - A congregation of 300 members established Canaan Lutheran Academy.
- + Latvia - men serving as pastors who are also working in professional vocations

After Pastor Petersen's presentation, our Rally Mission offering was received. His talk on ELS mission work must have been inspiring because the contributions raised \$2,627.84 for Cross-stitch projects. Next year, the ELS Arizona-California Circuit Women's Mission Rally has been invited to hold its annual gathering at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bishop, California.

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## *Redeemer Library News*

### **New Books in the Church Library, Donated by the Mary Colville Memorial Fund**

#### **The Narrow Lutheran Middle: Following the Scriptural Road** by Daniel Deuschlander

While reading the Bible, many people make the mistake of favoring one teaching over another. In this book in the Impact Series, the author examines a number of seemingly contradictory teachings in the Bible and shows us how to apply them to our lives by letting each teaching stand alone, without trying to resolve them. Some topics covered in this book include the right and wrong uses of reason in religion; predestination, God's providence, and human responsibility; doubt and presumption; carnal security and despair; God's will and human will; royal priesthood of believers and public ministry; the Great Commission and the doctrine of election; and finding the middle in worship wars. Northwestern Publishing House

**Grace abounds: The Splendor of the Christian Doctrine** By Daniel Deuschlander A thorough examination of Christian doctrine, this book demonstrates the splendor of our faith as revealed in Scripture. Using a solid Lutheran framework, author Daniel Deuschlander builds two key arguments throughout the text: (1) that every Christian doctrine is related to God's saving grace in Christ and (2) that each of these doctrines is practical for the Christian's faith and life. NPH

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**Family Vocation** by Gene Edward Veith and Mary J. Moerbe Ed Veith joins forces with his daughter Mary Moerbe to explore life's questions in light of Christian vocation and its applications for family life. They show how the Christian faith is lived out precisely in our ordinary relationships, and how a biblical understanding can equip us to move away from common confusions and dysfunctions to persevere in love. Written with sensitivity and wisdom, *Family Vocation* addresses the perennial problems and joys of family life and provides a compelling paradigm for creating loving families in the face of cultural pressure. Crossway

**The Mother of the Reformation: The Amazing Story of Katherine Luther** by Ernst Kroker Kroker paints an intimate picture of Katie and of family life in the Black Cloister during the formative years of the Reformation, showing how Katie's marriage to Martin Luther was a multifaceted vocation, with such tasks as household brew mistress, cloister landlady, property overseer, gardener, cow- and pig-herder, and fishwife. Indeed, Katie oversaw their home much like a "lord" in her kingdom, yet in the midst of it all stood the man to whom her work, concern, and duty were directed. Concordia Publishing House

**Standing Firm** by Jesse Yow Christians encounter hostility and subtle persecution in the U.S. and face open persecution in other parts of the world. We are called to turn the other cheek, but in what other ways would God have us respond? This book provides biblical perspectives to help understand the challenge of persecution and how God promises to guide, use, and sustain us. CPH

**Luther: Echoes of the Hammer** by Susan Leigh Read the story of Martin Luther, a man who led a revolution that changed the world. From a small town in medieval Germany, the Reformation resulted in dramatic, sweeping change that still echoes today. Here is Luther's story of adventure, courage, and faith told for the first time in graphic novel style. Scattered throughout the book are informational call-outs of key supporters and enemies of Luther including Frederick the Wise, Katherine von Bora, Charles V, and many others. Also included is a comprehensive explanation of Luther's Seal and an extensive history timeline that gives broad context to Luther's life. CPH

**Best Loved Parables of Jesus, Best Loved Christmas Stories, Best Loved Easter Stories, Best Loved Miracles, and Arch Books Treasury: Vintage Collection.** Many illustrated and rhyming stories from the popular Arch Book series for children, compiled into five thematic hardcover books. CPH

**Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service** by Arthur Just This book is an introduction to the liturgy and its importance. It makes it easy for the layperson to understand that the New Testament church service brings God's presence, in Jesus the Christ, to the people of God who have been cleansed of their sins. This is a holy meeting made possible by the blood of Christ that cleanses the believer. This understanding of the church service helps one to understand that the church service is more than a meeting place; it is the manifestation of the New Testament church on earth as Christ calls His bride around Word and Sacraments. CPH

**The Big Book of New Testament Questions and Answers** by Michael Eschelbach *The Big Book of New Testament Questions and Answers* is an easy-to-follow Q&A handbook with vast

insight into the entire New Testament. Michael Eschelbach draws from thirty years of experience counseling and teaching in parish and university settings to create a handy resource for students, Bible studies, and personal devotions. With countless references to parallel biblical texts, discover again and again how all of Scripture is connected. CPH

**Faith and Science in a Skeptical Age** by Jesse Yow People remain thankful for science, but they also recognize that science does not hold all the answers. In fact, they see that science can raise more questions than it answers, driving people on further quests for understanding truth, and contentment. *Faith and Science in a Skeptical Age* shows Christians how to respond to a world focused on finding answers to life's mysteries by exploring current topics and their impacts on our culture. CPH

**Martin Luther: Visionary Reformer** by Scott H. Hendrix The sixteenth-century German friar whose public conflict with the medieval Roman Church triggered the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther was neither an unblemished saint nor a single-minded religious zealot – according to this provocative new biography by Scott Hendrix. The author presents Luther as a man of his time: a highly educated scholar and teacher and a gifted yet flawed human being driven by an optimistic yet ultimate unrealized vision of “true religion.” Yale

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## *New Member Interview: Marci McGuire*

*Conducted by Erica Olson, Editor Assistant*



Erica: I'm so happy excited to see you and your family at our church, and to know that you and your son have joined us! You'll have to remind me: When did you first start visiting Redeemer?

Marci: I believe we first started visiting Redeemer sometime in September 2015.

Erica: What made you decide to keep visiting, and then to join?

Marci: I loved how friendly everyone is, and how traditional the hymns and liturgy are. It reminded me of the small town church I grew up in back in Nebraska.

Erica: What do you like best about our church?

Marci: I like the fact that the congregation is a little bit smaller. It allows me the opportunity to get to know everyone on a first name basis.

Erica: Have you always been a Lutheran?

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Marci: Yes, I was baptized and confirmed in a WELS church in Nebraska where I grew up. I was a member of that church until I graduated and left home. After that, I always attended a WELS church in whatever city I was living in.

Erica: I couldn't help but notice that your husband didn't join with you and your son. I'm glad he attends with you. Does he belong to another church or faith?

Marci: Brian is a confirmed Catholic, and attends service at a Catholic church in Phoenix.

Erica: Okay. Please tell me about your husband and your son.

Marci: My husband Brian grew up in Colorado with his parents and two brothers. They moved to the valley when Brian was in high school. Brian attended college at ASU where he got his degree in Industrial Design. He is very creative, adventurous, loves to travel, likes to be outside hiking, and enjoys going to the movies. Brian and I will be married seven years this November.

My son Jonas just turned five in January. He loves riding his new bike very fast around our community. It gives me quite the workout some days. He loves going to the zoo and train park. His favorite thing to talk about right now are his favorite animals: rhinos, monkeys, whales and penguins. He loves exploring outside, and likes playing with trains, cars and helicopters.

Erica: You said you moved here from Nebraska? Some of our snowbirds are also from there. Where in Nebraska, and how long ago?

Marci: I am originally from Geneva, Nebraska. It is a small town of 2,200 people in south east Nebraska. I moved to Arizona a little over twenty years ago.

Erica: Do you and/or your husband still have family in the area?

Marci: I do not have family in this area. My parents still live in Nebraska, and my sister is living in Kentucky. Brian has family in the area though. His parents live in Phoenix.

Erica: That's good. It's nice to have some family around. What kind of work do you and your husband do?

Marci: I am currently a stay-at-home mom. I have been doing that for five years now. Prior to that I worked for the Mesa Police Department where I worked in the records department for twelve years. I used to data enter all the police reports into the system, processed bond outs, entered stolen vehicles, and a variety of other interesting things. Brian is a Senior Industrial Designer at Ping Golf. He has worked there for over ten years. He designs golf bags and accessories for them, and enjoys going to China several times a year to check on how the bags are being made.

Erica: That sounds like an interesting job! And I know from personal experience that being a stay-at-home mom is also fun, as well as demanding. In what part of the Valley do you live?

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Marci: We live in north Phoenix near Dove Valley and I-17. We moved to this area a year ago from south Phoenix, and absolutely love it.

Erica: Is Jonas in school? Kindergarten?

Marci: Jonas currently attends a preschool near our house four days a week, for a couple hours each day. He will be starting kindergarten in August, which I am a little sad about. Time goes by so fast, it is hard to believe he will be in kindergarten already.

Erica: I know how that goes. What kinds of things do you like to do for fun or in your spare time, on your own or as a family?

Marci: I love spending time as a family in our backyard. We do a lot of swimming in the summer. I also like gardening, doing a variety of crafts, going to the movies, and I just recently got a new bike, so I am looking forward to trying out some of the bike paths near the nature preserve that is near our house. I also love to watch my Nebraska Cornhuskers play football. I never miss a game, so during football season you will find me in front of the television.

Erica: Nice! Do you like to travel? Where have you gone that's been the most interesting?

Marci: I love to travel! I have been very lucky to have been able to travel to many places over the years. It is hard to pick just one place that is most interesting, but I would say Cancun was one of my favorites. We were able to visit the ruins, swim in the underwater caves, and zip line through the trees. It is a very beautiful place!

Erica: That sounds lovely! Thank you so much for your time, and for agreeing to let me interview you! We are so thankful to have you and your family with us! Welcome!

Marci: Thank you, Erica for interviewing me! I am very happy to be a member at Redeemer, and look forward to getting to know everyone.

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# Triduum



March 24: Maundy Thursday Divine Service at 7 p.m.

March 25: Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers at 7 p.m.

March 27: Easter Sunday Festival Divine Service at 9 a.m.



<i>Redeemer Lutheran</i>			<i>March 2016</i>			
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper  7 p.m. Vespers with Spoken Communion	3 7 p.m. Internet Study Group	4 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	5
6 <b>Lent 4</b> 8:20 a.m. Choir 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. SS/AC	7 7 p.m. Church Council at the church	8	9 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper  7 p.m. Vespers with Spoken Communion	10 7 p.m. Internet Study Group	11 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	12
13 <b>Lent 5</b> 8:20 a.m. Choir 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. SS/Presentation on Stewardship and Estate Planning (Rev. Daniel Basel)	14	15	16 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper  7 p.m. Vespers with Spoken Communion	17 7 p.m. Internet Study Group	18 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	19 Richard Norris-Ellen Georges wedding (in Tempe)
20 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:20 a.m. Choir 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting 10:30 a.m. SS/Mission presentation (by Sean Scheele)	21	22 7 p.m. Elders meeting	23	24 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7 p.m. DS  Internet Study Group canceled	25 <b>Good Friday</b> 7 p.m. Tenebrae Vespers  Bible Study canceled	26
27 <b>Easter</b> 8:20 a.m. Choir 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. Brunch (SS/AC canceled)	28	29	30	31 7 p.m. Internet Study Group		

**Abbreviations:**

DS—Divine Service; SW—Service of the Word; SS/AC—Sunday School/Adult Bible Class  
**Divine Service**—Full Word and Sacrament Service with Communion, on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, and on major festivals

**Service of the Word**—A brief spoken order of Holy Communion follows the public service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Refreshments are served after the Sunday morning Services

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**The Valley Evangel**  
**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
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### **First Class Mail**

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## *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.



**We're on the Internet!**  
[redeemerscottsdale.org](http://redeemerscottsdale.org)

Audio recordings of Pastor Webber's sermons, and of entire services, are posted each week on the church website.