

The Valley Evangel

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

May/June 2013

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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:** 6:30 p.m. (Ask Pastor
Webber for log-on info for this
group, or attend in person at his
residence)
Friday Bible Study: 10 a.m. at
the Muth residence in May; on
hiatus from June 1 until Sept. 6

Newsletter Staff

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From the Pastor's Desk

Coming as it always does toward the end of the Easter season, the festival of the Ascension of Our Lord – celebrated this year on May 9 – marks the occasion when Jesus, according to his human nature, visibly ascended to the heavens, disappearing from the earth, to be seated on the right hand of the glory of God. This festival reminds us of the necessity of making certain distinction in our understanding of the “who” and the “where” of Jesus, that are unique to him as God in human flesh.

According to his divine nature, Jesus had never stopped being the omnipresent Second Person of the Holy Trinity – present everywhere all the time. Even during those years on earth when he was in his state of humiliation – according to his humanity – his divinity was still just as “divine” as it had ever been. And Jesus, according to his divinity, was always just as omnipresent as he had ever been. The Byzantine text of St. John’s Gospel reports this as one of the things that Jesus said in his conversation with Nicodemus: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man *who is in heaven*” (John 3:13, NKJV). So, in his ascension, Jesus, according to his divinity, did not *go* anywhere. As God he did not leave the earth.

But as man, he did not really leave the earth either! To be sure, his presence among us as the son of Mary would now be different. It would not be a *visible* presence, according to which Jesus would be experienced as being in only one place at a time. During his sojourn on earth, Jesus was either in Galilee or in Jerusalem, but not in both places at the same time. But now, in his ascended glory, that would change.

St. Paul writes that Christ is “the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might *fill all things*” (Ephesians 4:10, NKJV). Jesus in his humanity is no longer in a state of humiliation. As the ascended Lord, Jesus in his humanity – and not just in his divinity – can be and is present, both in Galilee *and* in Jerusalem; both in London and in New York; both in Chicago and in Scottsdale. This means that your genuinely human friend and brother Jesus – who shares your humanity, and who shares your human experiences – is with *you*, wherever you are.

Jesus *before* his ascension, according to his humanity, was in the Holy Land. Anyone who wanted to have human fellowship with him therefore needed to be in the Holy Land too. But Jesus *after* the ascension – in his glorified humanity – is wherever he wants to be. And where he wants to be, is wherever his people are.

With his mediated yet real human voice, he speaks to the minds and hearts of his people, wherever they are, in his Word and Sacraments. With his invisible yet real human arms, he envelops his people, wherever they are, in

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Synod Convention

The annual convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod will be held in Mankato, Minnesota, June 17-20. Redeemer will be represented by Pastor Webber and by lay delegate Norman Hartigan. The convention agenda will include welcoming Redeemer member Fred Lingenfelder (in absentia) onto the clergy roster of the synod; and filling a position on the Board of Trustees, for which Redeemer member Jim Bonnell is one of the nominated candidates.

Summer Sunday School

Sunday School for our young people will again continue through the summer months. We will use the Concordia Publishing House summer curriculum entitled "Even the Wind and Waves Obey Him." Pupils will study Bible lessons that show how God used various elements of His creation (fire, dew, whirlwinds, earthquakes, sun and moon) to dramatically accomplish his purposes for our salvation.

Special emphasis will be given to an ongoing review of Luther's Small Catechism, which all age levels have been gradually learning through Catechism texts set to music, and through reading the illustrated Catechism booklets. Many of us remember hours spent memorizing the Catechism by rote, prior to confirmation, during Junior High School. A wonderful feature of the newer Concordia Publishing House Sunday School programs is that children are systematically introduced to a study of the Catechism at much younger ages. By the time students enter confirmation class, it is hoped that the text of the Catechism will already be committed to memory.

In recent years, Redeemer has offered combined classes for Preschool/Early Elementary and Middle/Upper grades age groups. We are blessed that our Sunday School population continues to expand (with even more babies now on the way!) In view of this growth, summer is a good time to look to the future staffing needs of the Sunday School program. We would like to enlist a "volunteer assistant" to help the regular teacher each week of the summer Sunday School quarter. No prior Sunday School teaching experience is necessary. Training more volunteers will also give us a broader pool of individuals to call upon in the future, should a substitute teacher be needed. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity, and select a date to volunteer on the Summer Teacher Signup sheet. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

– Carol Webber, Sunday School Coordinator

From the Pastor's Desk (continued from Page 1)

love. With his hidden yet real human eyes, he watches over his people, wherever they are, with wisdom. Jesus, as God *and man*, leads all of us along the pathways of life, in faith toward God, and with fervent love toward one another.

He leads us collectively when we are together in one place, and he leads us individually when we are by ourselves. But then again, we are never by ourselves. A Christian who knows Christ, and who is known by Christ, is never alone. Jesus is our constant companion and our constant guardian. This is true for all believers, all over the world, all the time. And this is the great and comforting message and miracle of the Ascension!

– Pastor Webber

New Member Interview: Bill and Sue Muth (Conducted by Erica Olson, Editor Assistant)



During the service on Sunday, April 21, William and Susan Muth were publicly received into communicant membership by profession of faith. They hail from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Before their recent permanent relocation to Scottsdale they were regular seasonal worshippers, so they are not strangers to us.

**How many years have you been traveling back and forth as snow birds?
What made you decide to stay in Arizona, finally?**

We have been coming to Arizona for several years as our daughter moved here about 14 years ago, but started spending winters here when Sue retired. The sunshine and lack of snow and ice and the wonderful people and church convinced us to move permanently.

Where are you from originally?

Bill is from Monroe, Michigan, Sue is from Hayward Wisconsin. We met in Hayward where Bill was working as an engineering intern for the Wisconsin Highway Department.

Is all of your family still living up there?

When we moved to Scottsdale this fall, Bill's 95 year old mother sold her home in Michigan and moved to a nice senior living apartment complex in Delano, Minnesota. Bill's sister and brother-in-law are looking after her along with their 5 children and our son who also lives in the area. She attends a WELS church with Bill's sister and husband. Bill's other brothers and sister live in Washington, Vermont, and Mississippi.

Tell me about your family

Our daughter, who lives in Phoenix, is a librarian who works at the State Library of Arizona designing and managing the library computer databases and the State Library web site. Our son lives in Minneapolis and works as a designer and project manager for a company that installs large commercial

video systems. His job involves a lot of travel.

Sue, you recently started using your library education and experience to help us put together a working library, however small. How do the members and friends of Redeemer go about checking out a book and seeing what's available?

All of the information has been entered online on Librarything.com. The login information was in the April newsletter. The login is Redeemer 1 and the password is Jomax. Cataloging books has become simplified in recent years as much information is available on the web.

What exactly is your experience in library work? What kind of education and work have you done? I find it fascinating.

After working in an art gallery for many years, I went back to school to get an Information and Library Science degree and worked as an adult reference librarian in a public library only one mile from our home. I did most of the book selection for our branch library and was in charge of sending books to the homebound for 18 library branches.

Bill, what kind of work did you do before you retired?

Before I retired in 2007, I was a structural engineer in the Grand Rapids office of URS Corporation, a large international engineering company.

What has kept you coming back to Arizona in general and Redeemer in particular all these years?

We attended many LCMS churches in the area looking for a liturgical church similar to ours in Michigan. Redeemer was the only church we attended with the same qualities, and the wonderful people at Redeemer made us feel very welcome. We are also blessed with a Pastor who is a very gifted teacher.

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New Member Interview (continued from Page 3)

What kinds of hobbies do you have?

We like to travel, and have gone to Europe several times, and traveled in the U.S. by motor home when our children were young. Most of our recent travel has been going back and forth to the Midwest. Bill loves to golf and Sue volunteers at Desert Foothills Library in Cave Creek.

I think I remember you saying you recently bought a house. What town did you decide to settle in? How do you like it?

We live in north Scottsdale, about 5 miles from church. We love the area as it is so typically Western.

How often do you think you'll go back to Michigan to visit now that you've decided to be permanent Arizona residents?

We will still visit Michigan and Minnesota during the summer to visit friends and family. Everyone tells us we will want to avoid the Arizona heat!

Once in a while, you've hosted Bible studies at your home here. Is that something you plan to continue?

We enjoy having Friday morning Bible study at our home and have been alternating months between our house and the Nelson's. As we are now studying the Psalms, it would be easy for members and friends to join us. It is a great time for coffee, Bible study and fellowship!

Devotion: "What's Up?"

Have you ever called a family member or friend on the phone because you had nothing going on and you were just bored, thinking that maybe there might be something interesting happening in their lives. You call and ask, "Hey, what's up?" Only to have them deflate your mood even further with the reply, "Nothing." Your short-lived enthusiasm deflates like a car tire that just picked up a nail. *Nothing* seems to be a word that is often used to describe our lives. For example, we have *nothing* but the same old job, *nothing* but the same old chores, *nothing* but the same old bills to pay, *nothing*....

Wouldn't it be nice if we had something going on? Wouldn't it be nice if we had an exciting life to share? Well, don't let the devil get you down with earthly *nothingness*, there *is* something exciting happening! Jesus said, "*I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life*" John 8:12. Jesus gave His life for the sins of the world. Jesus gave His life for you and me. We do have something going on in our lives; Jesus changed all our nothings, into something. Through Jesus there is a life full of love, instead of staleness. Through Jesus there is a life full of continual receiving, instead of wanting. Through Jesus there is a life full of newfound treasures, instead of boring routines. Does that sound like *nothing*? That love, that receiving, those new found treasures include a complete peace with God, instead of uncertainty. They bring us a life full of forgiveness, instead of fear. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for the sins of the world, not one is left unpaid for. When He rose again from the dead He assured us of our salvation, of our eternal life in heaven; just because we believe. And, it is all a gift from God, isn't that something! Listen to these exciting words from the Apostle Paul, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith. It is not of your own doing; it is a gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one may boast*" Ephesians 2:8.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the next time someone asked you, "What's up?" you would respond with an excited, "Everything! How much time do you have, have I got something to share with you!" For those of us who believe God's Word, we have something exciting going on in our lives all the time and want to share it. On the other hand, there are those who do not believe, those who are confused about faith, or those that find themselves at a crossroad needing; they all need to hear the Good News of salvation. We all need to get together.

"What's up?" "Nothing." If that is the case in your life, come and join us! Together, we'll celebrate what God has for us!

From the Board for Home Outreach

Redeemer Lutheran Church Library

Collection Policy

The Library of Redeemer Lutheran Church provides resources to support and enhance the ministry of the church and the spiritual lives of the church community. These resources may be in the form of printed books, audio books, DVD or Blu-ray movies, and music CDs.

Acquisition priorities:

1. Materials that support the educational programs of the church, particularly Sunday school and Bible study.
2. Materials that foster increased theological understanding and spiritual growth in the lives of the members and friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church, and help fulfill the mission of the congregation.
3. Materials that are consistent with the worldview of the church, such as materials of cultural, aesthetic, or historical importance.
4. Materials that provide accurate information about other faiths, beliefs, or worldviews.

Donations to the library will be assessed by Pastor Webber. If you wish to donate material, please inform the church librarian (Sue Muth) or the Pastor. Donations are welcome, but because of space restrictions, and the limited scope and purpose of our library, we must be selective. Please consider donating an item that is on our wish list. Any donation not on the wish list must be approved by Pastor Webber. Suggestions of items that might be added to the wish list are welcome. Designated monetary gifts can be made to help expand our collection.

Books, DVDs, etc., may be temporarily lent to the library, subject to the assessment of the Pastor as to their suitability for the library. These items will be kept on a separate shelf, and will not be mixed with the materials that are owned by the library. They will not be marked as permanent library material. This option can be utilized if you are willing to allow library patrons to borrow items that you own that are within the parameters of the collection policy of the library, but that you do want to keep as your own property. Such items can be removed from library circulation and returned to the physical possession of the owner at any time the owner wishes. Please write your name in or on an item you are lending to the library.

When borrowing a book, DVD, or other item from the library, please make a notation of the title, the type of item it is, your name, and the date, on the sign-out sheet provided. Please do not forget to return the item after a reasonable period.

Electronic Reports of Offerings Available

Those who would like to receive electronic reports documenting their offerings to the church may now do so, thanks to a spreadsheet Ron Olson has made in Google Drive (formerly Google Documents). In order to better keep track of income received during offerings, Ron has linked the spreadsheet to a new Google email address, at which you may contact him to request either a running or periodic total of your giving.

If you would like to request electronic records via the Google Drive spreadsheet, please email Ron at [redeemer.els.sdl.az@gmail.com](mailto:redemer.els.sdl.az@gmail.com). To view live updates, you must have a Gmail account. Otherwise, to have periodic reports, you may send a request to that email address and he will send you a .PDF of the spreadsheet with your giving listed.

To make sure that all of your giving is able to be documented properly, please *print* your name on your offering envelopes. There has been some difficulty in distinguishing names written in cursive, and as a result, some offerings have not been able to be attributed to those who gave. Printing your name on the envelopes would greatly help the process of attribution, and give you a more accurate record of your own giving.

*Redeemer Lutheran Church
May 2013*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	3 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	4
5 Easter 6 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	6	7	8	9 Ascension Day 7 p.m. DS Internet Study Group cancelled	10 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	11
12 Easter 7 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	13 7 p.m. Church Council meeting at Church	14	15 10 a.m. Bible Study at ALRC	16 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	17 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	18
19 Pentecost 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	20	21	22	23 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	24 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	25
26 Trinity Sunday 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' Meeting after AC	27	28	29	30 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	31 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth 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, 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
June 2013*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 Pentecost 2 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	3	4	5	6 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	7 Friday Bible Study on hiatus until September 6	8
9 Pentecost 3 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	10 7 p.m. Church Council meeting at church	11	12	13 Internet Study Group cancelled	14	15
16 Pentecost 4 9 a.m. DS (Rev. Fred Lingenfelder as guest worship leader, preacher, and celebrant) Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	17	18	19	20 Internet Study Group cancelled	21	22
23 Pentecost 5 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' Meeting after AC	24	25	26	27 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	28	29
30 Pentecost 6 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS						

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Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Or: 480-621-7394

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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



**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.

