

# 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

Inside This Issue	
<i>Music from Bethany</i>	2
<i>Martin Luther on the Ascension of Christ</i>	3
<i>Devotion: Wait for the Gift My Father Promised</i>	4
<i>Announcements</i>	4
<i>Calendar</i>	5
<i>About Our Church</i>	6

The pastor and elders decided last year that, in the future, our congregation would offer worship services on all the major festivals of the Lord in the church year: not only on Christmas and Easter, as before, but also on Epiphany and Ascension. The festival of Epiphany commemorates the visit of the wise men and their worshipping of the Lord, at the end of the Christmas season; and the festival of the Ascension commemorates the Lord's ascending to heavenly glory and his sitting at the right hand of the Father, toward the end of the Easter season.

The Divine Service that was held on Epiphany (January 6) was a nice service, but with a somewhat modest attendance. I think, though, that our inaugural observance of Ascension



Day will be quite a bit different. That's because the service on that day – May 21 – will be an Ascension Day Choral Vespers, with the full choirs of Bethany Lutheran College! The choirs will be on a concert tour in Arizona, and will be putting on performances in a standard concert format at other churches in the region in the days preceding and following Ascension Day. But at Redeemer, since they will be with us for a high church

*(Continued on page 3)*

## WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Editor:  
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**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:**  
6:30 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  
See calendar for class schedule in May!



**BETHANY**  
LUTHERAN COLLEGE

www.blc.edu

# MUSIC FROM BETHANY



**CONCERT CHOIR  
HANDBELL CHOIR  
MARY MARTHA SINGERS**

## **Ascension Day Choral Vespers**

*Featuring works by  
Mendelssohn, Brahms, Byrd, Telemann,  
Luther, Distler, and Mozart*

**Thursday, May 21 • 7:00 p.m.**

*freewill offering*

**Redeemer Lutheran Church  
7670 East Jomax Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85266**

*½ mile east of North Scottsdale Road  
1½ miles west of North Pima Road*

Redeemer.vze.com



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

festival, their musical offerings will be in the format of a Vespers service.

What a wonderful opportunity this will give us, to be uplifted in our own faith, and also to expose friends, relatives, and neighbors to the message of the Gospel and to the hope that is within us. Included in this newsletter is a poster pertaining to this special Choral Vespers, that you can post on a community bulletin board or in some other public place (with the necessary permissions of course), or that you can give to friends, with an invitation to them to join you at this special event. If you need more of these posters, they are available at church.

“And when [Jesus] had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’” (Acts 1:9-11, ESV)

-- Pastor Webber



## MARTIN LUTHER ON THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

**N**ow we must consider the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the first place, it is easily said and understood that the Lord ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God. But they are dead words to the understanding if they are not grasped with the heart.

We must, therefore, conceive of his ascension and Lordship as something active, energetic and continuous, and must not imagine that he sits above while we hold the reins of government down here. Nay, he ascended up thither for the reason that there he can best do his work and exercise dominion. Had he remained upon earth in visible form, before the people, he could not have wrought so effectually, for all the people could not have been with him and heard him. Therefore, he inaugurated an expedient which made it possible for him to be in touch with all and reign in all, to preach to all and be heard by all, and to be with all. Therefore, beware lest you imagine within yourself that he has gone, and now is, far away from us. The very opposite is true: While he was on earth, he was far away from us; now he is very near.

Reason cannot comprehend how this can be. Therefore it is an article of faith. Here one must close his eyes and not follow his reason, but lay hold of all by faith. For how can reason grasp the thought that there should be a being like ourselves, who is all-seeing and knows all hearts and gives all men faith and the Spirit; or that he sits above in heaven, and yet is present with us and in us and rules over us? Therefore, strive not to comprehend, but say: This is

Scripture and this is God's Word, which is immeasurably higher than all understanding and reason. Cease your reasoning and lay hold of the Scriptures, which testify of this being — how he ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God and exercises dominion. ...

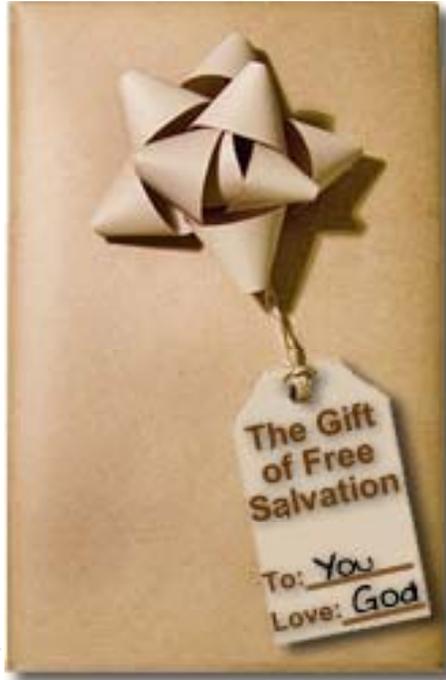
***“What is man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him but little lower than God, and crownest him with glory and honor. Thou makest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.”*** Psalm 8:4-6

...Hence, these are majestic and powerful words. They afford the heart great comfort, so that they who believe this are filled with joy and courage and defiantly say: My Lord Jesus Christ is Lord over death, Satan, sin, righteousness, body, life, foes and friends. What shall I fear? For while my enemies stand before my very door and plan to slay me, my faith reasons thus: Christ is ascended into heaven and become Lord over all creatures, hence my enemies, too, must be subject to him and thus it is not in their power to do me harm. I challenge them to raise a finger against me or to injure a hair of my head against the will of my Lord Jesus Christ. When faith grasps and stands upon this article, it stands firm and waxes bold and defiant, so as even to say: If my Lord so wills that they, mine enemies, slay me, blessed am I; I gladly depart. Thus you will see that he is ascended into heaven, not to remain in indifference, but to exercise dominion; and all for our good, to afford us comfort and joy.

## “...WAIT FOR THE GIFT MY FATHER PROMISED”

ACTS 1:4

**W**e all know what it is like to wait for a gift. Most often, it is a time of great anticipation. Our reaction to the gift may vary. Sometimes it is the best gift ever and other times, we may be disappointed. Some gifts may be thought of as life changing, while others of little consequence. The gift Jesus was speaking about not only changes our earthly life but our eternal life as well. After His death and resurrection Jesus spent forty days on earth showing Himself to many people and preparing His disciples to carry on the message of salvation. *“On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”* Acts 1:4-5



Just as Jesus had promised, ten days after He ascended into heaven, the Apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit. According to God’s plan of salvation the gift of the Holy Spirit has been passed along from

one generation to another and now He is here as a gift to all who believe. In light of this truth we must change the question from, **“Are you waiting...?”** to, **“Why are you waiting...?”** The gift is there for you! Unfortunately, some seek their righteousness and God’s gifts through their own means.

People compare themselves to others or try to do two good things for every bad thing that is done. Or they try asking the Holy Spirit in on their terms. That simply is not God’s plan.

If you are waiting and wondering how to receive this great life changing gift, here is the key; The gift comes only through God’s holy Word, *“...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.”* Romans 10:17

Only through hearing the Gospel message of Jesus’ death and resurrection for our sins, does the Holy Spirit enter the sin sick heart, and this leads to eternal salvation. *Hallelujah!*

*Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Devotion Christian Store

The Devotion Christian Store, at Suite 110 in the shopping plaza at 32531 North Scottsdale Road (north of Redeemer, on the way to Carefree), offers a 15% discount on any non-sale item to customers who present their church’s most recent Sunday service bulletin at the time of check out. The store’s web site is [www.devotionchristianstore.com](http://www.devotionchristianstore.com) (Disclaimer: We would not agree with all the theology that is taught in all the books they sell there, so shop with caution.)

### Choir Rehearsals

There will be choir rehearsals every Sunday in May, at 8:30am at Redeemer, to prepare for a Trinity Sunday anthem on June 7. If you are a member of the choir, or would like to sing with us, please plan to come to these rehearsals.



**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.

