

The Valley Evangel

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

May 2012

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<p>Worship and Study Times</p>		
<p>Sunday Divine Service: 9 a.m., Refreshments after the Service</p> <p>Sunday School/Adult Bible Class: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Thursday Internet Study Group: 6:30 p.m. (See Pastor Webber for log-on info for this group, or attend in person at his residence)</p> <p>Friday Morning Bible Study: 10 a.m. at Anderson residence</p>		
<p>Newsletter Staff</p>		
<p>Editor: Pastor David Jay Webber Editorial Assistant/Layout and Design: Erica Olson Production Assistant/Printing and Distribution: Sarah Kissinger</p>		
<p> Evangelical Lutheran Synod</p>	<p>(Continued on Page 2)</p>	

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

would be of obvious help – suggest that your friend might benefit from talking to the pastor of your church. And ask if you can help to set up a time for your friend and me to talk or get together.

I will call or visit *anyone* who is open to a call or a visit. Many un-churched people, in their ignorance of the missionary thrust of the church, assume that a pastor's counsel and ministry are available only to the "paid-up" members of his congregation. Assure your friend that this is not so. Put the Great Commission into practice right there and then.

And please do remember that each Sunday sermon preached at Redeemer is available online – by means of the church web site – in text form and also as a digital recording. These sermons are there for both inreach and outreach. They are there for you, if you miss church on a particular Sunday, or if you were distracted in church during the sermon in such a way that you were not able to listen attentively to it. But those sermons are there also for your friends. Invite them to read, or listen to, a

sermon that you found particularly helpful or interesting. If they don't take your suggestion, so be it. But no harm can come from inviting them. Be encouraged to know, too, that some of the current members of our congregation were first exposed to our church's ministry through the website, and through the sermons on the website.

When he ascended to the right hand of his Father in glory, Jesus left us with the commission to take his saving message to everyone. And he promised that he will be with us always, as we go forth in the fulfillment of this joyous privilege. In his ascension, he is not *absent* from his disciples. Rather, he is with *all* of his disciples, all over the world, all the time. In his love for us, he is blessing us in our faith, in the fellowship of his church. And he is opening doors for us – in countries all around our planet, and in communities and neighborhoods all around our valley – for the spreading of that faith to others, whom he also loves.

– Pastor Webber

Ascension Day Divine Service

The Ascension of Our Lord is one of the four great Festivals of Christ in our liturgical calendar – together with Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter. Lutherans in America, in recent generations, have unfortunately often neglected this observance. But at Redeemer, we do have an opportunity to mark this special day of the church year in an appropriate way. An Ascension Day Service of Word and Sacrament will be held on Thursday, May 17, at 7 p.m. So please come, and invite your friends – from both inside and outside the congregation – to join you!



Trinity Sunday Choir

A Special Choir will be assembled for Trinity Sunday (June 3) to sing an arrangement of the classic Trinitarian hymn commonly called "St. Patrick's Breastplate." If you would like to be a part of this choir, please speak to Carol Webber. A few rehearsals will probably be held during the month of May.



Interview with New Members: Kim and Lynn Carter (conducted by Erica Olson, *Valley Evangel* editorial assistant)



Erica: Now, the information I have says your names are Kim and Beri Lynn Carter. Do you go by Beri Lynn or just Lynn?

Lynn: I go by Lynn.

Kim: We've been with the church for years, we just started going to Redeemer about 3 ½ or 4 years ago, and before that we went to Emmaus (WELS).

Erica: Have you been in Arizona your whole lives?

Kim: I've lived here since I was 2 years old. Lynn came here in 1953 from Muskegon, Michigan.

Erica: So, you were in the WELS before?

Kim: Well, Lynn started out in the WELS. I was originally a Mormon.

Erica: Oh, really? What made you leave the Mormon Church?

Kim: Pretty much that they wanted to study the Book of Mormon, and the Bible says "No words after these words." I couldn't get answers when I was younger and decided that wasn't the way I wanted to go.

Erica: Was it after you got married that you joined the WELS?

Kim: That's correct.

Erica: When did you get married?

Kim: 1969

Erica: Can you tell me a little bit about your family?

Kim: We had two natural children – Kim Carter Jr. and Alan – and then we adopted two daughters, twins, named Tracy and Amber. They all became Lutherans.

Erica: Where do they live?

Kim: They all live in Phoenix.

Erica: Well, that's nice that you get to live so close.

Kim: Yeah, the same state. About 15 miles away.

Erica: Do you have grandchildren?

Kim: We have five. One is 18, one is 14, one is 10, 7 and 1.

Erica: Do you get to spend a lot of time with them?

Kim: Oh, yes. The 18-year-old lives with us.

Erica: What do you like to do in your spare time?

Kim: Go to Montana. We go about three or four times a year. I play the violin for a hobby. And Lynn spends money for a hobby.

Erica: That sounds like a fun hobby!

Kim: She also likes to play on the computer.

Erica: How long have you played the violin?

Kim: I've been working on it for about a year and 6 months. But it's been a hobby I've been dreaming about for a long time.

Erica: What kind of jobs do you have?

Kim: I'm the general manager at [Bill Luke] Chrysler Jeep and Dodge. I've worked there since I was in high school. I've been there for 43 years. And my wife works there, too.

Erica: What does she do?

Kim: She's the warranty administrator.

Erica: That sounds like a cool business.

Kim: Well, that's the only thing I know.

Erica: What kinds of things do you like about Redeemer?

Kim: It's close to the house. I like the Pastor and the people. Basically everything. There's nothing I can think of that I dislike.

Erica: That's good. Would you change anything about Redeemer if you could?

Kim: No. Being Vice President of the Congregation, I wouldn't hesitate to tell the Pastor if there was.

Erica: Oh, I didn't realize you were the Vice President.

Kim: Most people don't know who the Vice President is.

Erica: Is there anything else that you would like the members and friends of Redeemer to know about you that we haven't already talked about?

Kim: No, I'm a pretty ordinary guy. Lynn's pretty ordinary, too.

Erica: Well, we're very glad to have you.

Special Event

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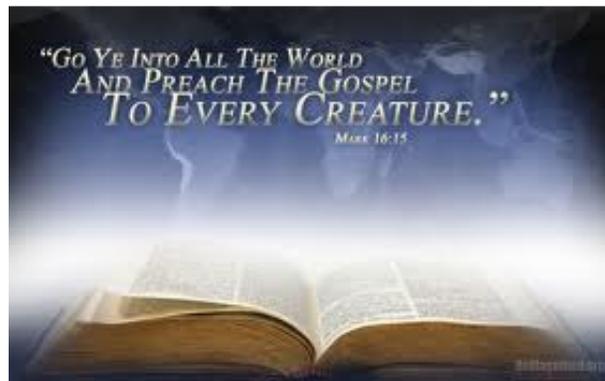
From a Sermon by Martin Luther on the Ascension of Christ

Now this is the commission: “Go ye and preach the Gospel to the whole creation” [Mark 16:15]. Christ looks far into the future. He does not want his message hidden in a corner. He does not wish them to have any fear concerning it, neither to go about it secretly nor deceitfully. He wants it proclaimed so publicly that even the sun in the heavens, yea forests and stones might hear it if they had ears. And so it has been proclaimed, though the world has opposed it for so many centuries. It has steadily advanced.

There never has been in the world a like force and power; nothing of equal sway and authority. This message, then, must be of divine power. It pertains not to insignificant, vain, or sinful things of the world – such as robbing, stealing, lying, deceiving, murdering, violence, oppression and tyranny – but to pure, heavenly and divine things. Thus it cannot be of human origin but is God’s own message. Both word and work, then, harmonize and openly testify to Christ’s authority before all creatures under heaven, on land and sea.

Christ thus sends forth, not a decree to stir up rebellion in the world, or to overthrow the legal power of kings, princes or other temporal authority, but he simply puts his word and command into the mouths of the disciples that they may carry into effect his own power by their speech and ministry.

They shall speak not of worldly institutions, worldly authority or earthly riches, nor of the glory of the Jewish people, their laws, religious rites and priesthood – though it was the expectation of all Jews that these should be world-honored – but the import of the message shall be to teach nobler things, namely how we may be reconciled to God, how be redeemed from sin, death and all evil, and be saved; how to obtain everlasting righteousness, life and glory.



This, indeed, was a new message, of which the world knew nothing. It differs greatly from all other preaching and teaching. Yes, heaven raises it above all that can be taught on earth. All other teaching must give way to it, for it alone ministers the power to be saved. When Christ says, “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation,” he desires none to be excluded; but he shows that the whole world knows naught of his doctrine:

In spite of all its wisdom, it is blind concerning these things, no matter how learned and holy it pretends to be. His own people, the Jews, though they have not the light and knowledge of salvation to which the prophet Zecharias refers in his Benediction, Luke 1:77: “To give knowledge of salvation unto his people in the remission of sins.” If the Jews had known this before, or could have

discovered it for themselves, it would not have been necessary to preach it to them. Christ would not have had to descend from heaven and send forth his servants into the whole world with the message.

All the world is here sent to school, to hear and learn of Christ’s kingdom and confess that it did not know anything about it. Men may know well how to build, how to care for their property, to rule, to be outwardly pious, and how to lead a decent, honest life, and they may be able to teach others what they know; but of things pertaining to God’s kingdom, and how to escape sin and death, they know nothing. Christ sets aside all teachings, even that of Moses, and of the ten commandments. The order is given to the disciples to go forth and tell all men what they do not know – that all must hear and accept, by God’s command, this message, if they would be saved.

Source:

www.godrules.net/library/luther/129luther_c15.htm

Devotion: A Gracious God's Gift for a Sinful World

Do you know what a foundling child is? A foundling child is not a runaway. The runaway child chooses to leave. A foundling is a child abandoned by his or her parents.

Today's media and yesterday's history is full of too many stories of parents abandoning their children, leaving them as foundlings. Forty-two states in our nation, for the safety of the foundlings, have designated places like hospitals, emergency medical services, fire stations and police stations where parents can leave their children as foundlings. These states will not prosecute parents who "relinquish" unharmed infants as young as 72 hours and to 30 days old.

It is hard for us to imagine a parent having to abandon a child for any reason. The mother-child relationship is, perhaps, the closest bond found on earth, but the stain of sin on the world is deep and touches all walks of life, even the bond of motherhood. God's Word both asks and declares, "*Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See I have engraved you on the palms of my hands...*" Isaiah 49:15-16.

What a good God! His love for us is constant. It doesn't change like fickle human emotions. In love for us, God abandoned His one and only Son, as He hung upon the cross where He died paying for the sins of the world. In love, He declared all mothers and all their children not guilty and forgave their sins. He sealed them as His own, engraving their names where He'd always see them. In love, He moves the hearts of mothers to love their children and their children to love their mothers.

Join us on Mother's Day as we honor our Mothers and the God of love who gave them!

From the ELS Board for Evangelism



A Letter of Thanks to Members of Redeemer

Dear Members of Redeemer Lutheran,

Greetings to you from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Thank you so much for your gift of \$500.00 to the Webber Family. We are very grateful for this gift in their time of need. John Wilde Webber, the son of Paul and Ruth Webber, was born February 7, 2012. He was baptized into the Christian faith the same day at the hospital. Both Ruth and John have been released from the hospital and are now home. Ruth continues treatment for the cancer on an outpatient basis. Continue to remember Ruth, Paul and John in your prayers.

The Lord is our refuge in all burdens of life. He is like a cave in a mountain in which we can hide in all the stormy blasts of life. We can fly as a dove and hide in the cleft of the rock (Song of Solomon 2:14) as Gerhard prays (*Daily Exercise* p. 31), that is, take refuge in the wounds of the Savior... until the wrath of God passes. Thus we pray in the old Communion prayer: O Lord Jesus, now unite Yourself with me so that I remain in You and You in me, ever undivided both here in time and forever in all eternity. May Your holy body, Lord Jesus Christ, nourish me; Your rose-colored blood quench me, Your bitter suffering and death strengthen me. O Lord Jesus Christ, hear me, and in Your holy wounds hide me, that I never be separated from You. From the old evil foe redeem me, and in the true faith keep me. Then I, together with all the elect, may joyfully sing Your praises both here and hereafter in eternity. Amen.

In this Eastertide we find amazing comfort and joy in the Risen Lord. His resurrection is the public declaration of forgiveness of sin for all and it offers us resurrection life right now free from Satan's tyranny. This resurrection life, born in Baptism and nourished through the Word and the Holy Supper, will climax in the resurrection of our body. Then this very body will break forth from the grave glorified like unto Christ's glorified body and so shall we ever be with the Lord, for death has been swallowed up by the Lord of Lords and King of Kings (Philippians 3:21).

Yours in our Risen Savior,

Gaylin R. Schmeling

President, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

*Redeemer Lutheran Church
May 2012*

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

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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.

