

The Valley Evangel

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

May 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

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From the Pastor's Desk

The Ascension of Our Lord will be celebrated at Redeemer with a Divine Service at 7 p.m., on Ascension Day (May 29). The ascension of Jesus marked an important transition for him. When the eternal Logos of God – the Second Person of the Holy Trinity – took to himself a human nature from the Virgin Mary, this was a miracle that will never be undone. Jesus will always be God and man in one person – our Savior and our Brother. That will never change. But the *form* that his existence as the divine-human Savior takes, *does* change, according to the stage that Jesus is at in his work as our Savior.

When the incarnation happened, something that also happened was that Jesus then immediately humbled himself, and took “the form of a servant” (Philippians 2:7). This means that he lived as a man among men, and generally refrained from the use of his divine powers and knowledge. He was born under the Law of Moses, and submitted himself to it as a true Israelite. In his state of humiliation, Jesus got hungry and thirsty, he got tired and slept, he laughed and cried. And he suffered and died for the sins of the world.

Beginning with his resurrection, however, and especially in his ascension, the limitations of the form of a servant were set aside, and Jesus assumed a glorified and exalted form that now fully reflects the characteristics of his divinity. He always was God, but now he is once again in “the *form* of God” (Philippians 2:6). He still is man, but he is no longer in a form of existence that conforms to the characteristics of his humanity. Jesus is no longer walking the earth bodily. Instead, as the ascended Lord, his body fills the heavens. And since Jesus fills the heavens as God and man, he as God and man is capable of being present wherever he wants to be present. And he *is* present wherever he wants to be present. “He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things” (Ephesians 4:10, ESV).

Jesus' ascent into heaven does not mean, therefore, that he is now absent from us. It means that he is with us in a different way – a way that allows him to be with *all* his people, all around the world, all the time. In his ascended state, Jesus keeps specific promises to Christians all around the globe, such as “I am with you always, to the end of the age”; and “This is my body, which is given for you” (Matthew 28:20; Luke 22:19). And in his ascended state, Christ is “seated at the right hand of the power of God” (Luke 22:69, ESV), from where he governs the universe for the benefit of his church.

The Ascension of Our Lord truly is something to celebrate. It is something that we as a congregation *will* celebrate, on May 29, at 7 p.m.!

– Pastor Webber



Ladies' Guild News

Thank you to the ladies of our congregation for providing the delicious soups for Wednesday Lenten services. Our Easter brunch, as always, was a huge success. I wish to thank all of you who brought your favorite dish to help make it so fabulous.

The Easter lilies were purchased with generous donations. Thank you for providing them, to beautify our altar for the Easter service. A special thank you goes out to all who helped set up for Holy Week and Easter, including the set-up of the cross for the Good Friday service and the decoration of the altar with lilies for the Sunday service.

With donations from our memorials, new flower arrangements were purchased for the altar. The vases of greenery will allow individuals to bring fresh flowers, to be placed into the greenery for special occasions such as baptisms, confirmations, anniversaries, birthdays, etc. Water tubes should be placed on the ends of the stems to ensure freshness. The fresh flowers can then be taken by the individual who brought them to be enjoyed at home. We will provide a sign-up sheet for those who wish to provide fresh flowers for a certain service.

Again, to all who have been bringing the delicious goodies for our coffee fellowship after service, and to those who set up and stay to assist with the clean up after the Bible study, I'd like to extend our appreciation. If you would like to participate in bringing a treat of your choice for coffee fellowship, prior to Bible study, please sign up for a particular Sunday on the sign-up sheet that is located on a table at the back of the fellowship room. Or just bring something whenever it is convenient for you!

Our Ladies group is for all women of our congregation. If you haven't approach me on how to participate, our next meeting will be on May 18. We will be returning to third-Sunday-of-the-month meetings, so please feel free to join us.

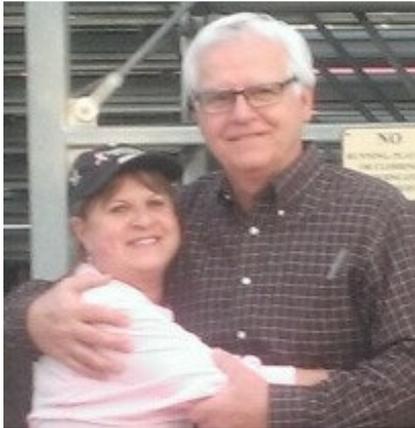
Thank you,
Lori Wendt
Ladies Guild President

Matching Challenge

Another anonymous donor has offered to our congregation another \$5,000 matching challenge, to encourage us in paying down our congregation's interest and principal debt to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. According to the arrangement we have with the synod, the first \$6,000 of what we pay to them during the course of the whole year, will go toward interest. Any payments beyond that amount will go directly toward reducing the principal of the mortgage loan. According to the terms of the new matching challenge, special gifts to Redeemer (beyond regular offerings) that are designated for debt reduction through the end of the month of May will be matched, up to \$5,000. We are grateful for this generosity, and for this encouragement.

Member Interview: Jim and Marilyn Bonnell

(Conducted by Erica Olson, Editorial Assistant)



Erica: Thank you both for agreeing to let me interview you! First of all, how long have you been members at Redeemer?

Marilyn: We joined Redeemer in 2000, after moving back to Arizona from Tampa, Florida. In May it will be 14 years.

Erica: Were you both always part of the ELS?

Marilyn: I was born and raised Lutheran (WELS) Jim joined the Lutheran church shortly after we were married.

Erica: What made you decide to join Redeemer?

Marilyn: We had always attended WELS churches, but had visited this church in the 90's when we lived right down the street. We didn't join at that time as we were members of Paradise Valley Lutheran, and John our son attended pre-school there.

Erica: You both have been pretty active in the life of our church here. What offices have you held and for how long, and what kinds of things do you currently do at Redeemer?

Marilyn: I have been a member of the choir and the ladies guild. I was secretary of the Ladies Guild for a year, and Vice President of the guild for a year, and served as treasurer for two years. I have taken a break for this year. Jim has served as treasurer, Vice President and President of the church council, but I'm not sure for how long of each. He has served for a total of nine years. He is currently Vice President of the council. We help around the church by cleaning, and helping wherever there is a need. Jim also helps with the outside yard work.

Erica: I know that you both are still working. Where do you work, and what do you do?

Marilyn: I am currently employed at Albertsons bakery as the head cake decorator. I have been with them for 10 1/2 years and started just as a part time job. I also worked at American Express, prior to having our daughter Carrie. After she was born I was a stay-at-home mom. When the kids were in school I also worked as a receptionist and bookkeeper at a grading company in Phoenix. Jim was employed by Microsoft until last October, when he retired. He now works at Home Depot part time.

Erica: Are you native to Arizona?

Marilyn: No, Jim and I both grew up in Michigan. We met when we were both employed at Citizens Bank, in Flint, Michigan (home to General Motors). Shortly after we were married we decided to relocate somewhere warm. Jim's cousin lived here, and we came out for a visit. We went back and packed up and moved here in 1978.

Erica: Tell me about your family.

(continued on p. 4)

Member Interview (Continued from Page 5)

Marilyn: We have two children, Carrie our daughter is the oldest. John our son [just turned] 25... They were both born here in Arizona and we moved them around when they were young. We moved to California in 1990 and Carrie started kindergarten there. We moved back to Arizona in 1993, and were here until Jim's job took us to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1996 just in time for the summer Olympics. In 1998 we made another move to Tampa, Florida, all for Jim's job at Microsoft. Finally able to return to Arizona in May of 2000. We still have family back in Michigan and try and get there at least once a year. Jim's parents and two brothers are there, and my mother and brother and his family are all there.

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

Marilyn: We like to hike, especially this time of year when the weather is so wonderful. Jim likes to golf, work in the yard and attend to our two desert tortoises. I enjoy working out, doing yoga and walking with my walking team. I am active with my 3Day walking team and we are getting ready for training walks for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3Day. This year we will be walking in San Diego in November. I have been doing the 3Day walk every year since 2008.

Erica: I know that most of the members have known you for some time, but as you know, we have a number of newer members who haven't gotten to know you quite as well yet. Is there anything that you would like us to know about you that I haven't asked?

Marilyn: I can't think of anything. I am sorry that Jim wasn't able to participate in this interview. I think I have answered most of his questions. This seems to happen when you have been married as long as we have. It will be 37 years in July!

Erica: Wow! Congratulations! Well, for those who may be thinking about joining our church, or have recently joined, what would you like to tell them?

Marilyn: I would tell them to get involved with church activities, and get to know the other members. We have made some great friendships here and think of most of the congregation as an extended family. When we first joined there were fewer members and it was easier to get to know people. We are glad that the church is growing and that there are so many families with children attending now.

Erica: Thank you so very much for taking the time to answer my questions! I appreciate the opportunity to get to know you just a little bit better.



*Redeemer Lutheran Church
May 2014*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 Internet Study Group cancelled	2 Bible Study canceled	3
4 Easter 3 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	5	6	7	8 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	9 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	10
11 Easter 4: Good Shepherd Sunday 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	12 7 p.m. Church council meeting at the church	13	14	15 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	16 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	17
18 Easter 5 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Ladies Guild meeting after the service	19	20	21	22 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	23 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	24 Carrie Bonnell – Peter Ratzlaff wedding
25 Easter 6 9 a.m. SW with spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' Meeting after the AC	26	27	28	29 Ascension Day 7 p.m. DS Internet Study Group Canceled	30 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	31

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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We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

Notice!

Audio recordings of services are available on the church website. Recordings of sermons only are also available through the website, and are archived online 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.

