

The Valley Evangel

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

May 2015

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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. (Ask Pastor Webber for log-on info for this group.)

Friday Bible Study: 10 a.m. at the Muth residence

Newsletter Staff

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From the Pastor's Desk

We read in the Acts of the Apostles that forty days after Jesus' resurrection, after he had given some final directions to his disciples, "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'" (1:9-11, ESV). The "two men" were angels, and were very likely the same two angels who had appeared on the first Easter morning, to announce to the women that Jesus had risen from the dead: On that occasion, when the women saw that the tomb was empty, "While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen'" (Luke 24:4-6, ESV).

In both cases, the people who were addressed by the angels were looking for Jesus, but were not finding him in the place where they were looking. On Easter, he was not visible in the tomb. And now, after his ascension, he was not visible in the sky either. On both occasions, the two angels told the people to whom they were speaking that they were not going to find Jesus where they were looking for him.

Today we too might be able to benefit from such an angelic visitation, when we look for Jesus in a place where he will not be found – in the world of nature, in the vacillating emotions of the heart, or anywhere other than his Word and sacrament, to which he has attached the promise of his presence. We abide in Jesus by abiding in his Word. And Jesus pledges that he is with his church always, to the very end of the age, as his church administers his baptism and teaches all that he had commanded.

It is not likely that in this day and age, the two angels described by St. Luke in his Gospel and in the Book of Acts will actually appear to us, and correct us at those times when we are looking for Jesus "in all the wrong places." But maybe your Christian friends can serve in this role, as they remind you of the promise and pledge that the Lord has attached to his external means of grace. And if your Christian friends – or anyone else – need to have it pointed out to them that Jesus is not to be found in the places they are mistakenly looking for him, you can serve in that role for them. Maybe you can be an angel in the life of someone else, not only to turn them away from where Jesus is not present, but to turn them toward where he is to be found: in the fellowship of his church, in the preaching of the gospel, and in the administration of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Let the ...

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From the Pastor's Desk, continued from page 1

stories of the two angels on Easter, and on Ascension Day, serve as encouragements to you in this respect – for yourself, and for your own faith; and for friends and relatives to whom you can speak, and whom you can invite to join you at the services of God's house.

– Pastor Webber

Ladies' Guild News

First of all, thank you to everyone who helped with the set up and clean up for the Easter brunch that was held on April 5. It was very well attended, and we had wonderful participation. Thank you, also, to everyone who attended, as you made all this effort well worth it and so much fun!

Going into the summer, our Redeemer Ladies' Guild will be less busy, but we still have a lot of things going on, some of which will take many months of preparation. I'm talking, of course, about the Women's Mission Rally, which will be held at Redeemer in early 2016. The date for the rally is still being debated, and will depend somewhat on the availability of featured speakers. A sign-up sheet will be provided along with information for those ladies who would like to join us, as well as other ELS ladies in Arizona and California, numbering around 50 participants in years past.

In either June or July, the Ladies' Guild will be purchasing a set of books on the topic of sex education, which will be kept in our church library. The books, published by CPH, are designed to help parents of children of various ages teach their children about the changes in their bodies and about their responsibilities in the areas of puberty and sex, with a distinctly Christian model. Pr. Webber has reviewed these books and has left it to the Ladies' Guild to make their purchase. We would buy them sooner, but the books have been revised and will be published in another edition, but not until June at the earliest. Please be on the lookout for these books once they hit our shelves, so you can check them out and use them if you need them.

We still need more volunteers to assist in the set up for refreshments during the fellowship after the service. In an effort to make it easier for new volunteers to help set up these refreshments, Carole Clingan has been working to label the kitchen cabinets and drawers so everyone will know what goes where. If you typically arrive early for church, or are able to do so, your assistance would be most welcome. We are also in need of more snacks for this fellowship time. If you have extra or would like to make something to share, it would be most appreciated.

Volunteers are also needed to assist in the set up for Communion on the Sundays and other special days during our church year when we have the full Divine Service. If you would like to help out, please see or contact Angie Kohlgraf.

The Ladies' Guild continues to support the Alpha Pregnancy Center, which offer counseling and support for women in crisis pregnancies, as a way to dissuade them from abortion and to help them get the help they need, regardless of whether they decide to keep their babies or let them be adopted. If you have extra clothing, diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, or supplies for moms, including maternity clothes, that you would like to donate, please leave them in the Sunday school room nearest the fellowship hall, and Lori Wendt will personally take them to Alpha Pregnancy Center (in Phoenix). A more detailed description of the services Alpha provides is in the April newsletter, which can be accessed on our church's website.

Erica Olson, Ladies' Guild Secretary

Snowbird Interview: Tom and Sue Hoback
Conducted by Erica Olson, Editorial Assistant



Erica: Thank you so much for taking time to let me interview you! I'd hoped to have done this while you were still in the Valley, but you're still part of our extended family while you're home in Indiana. How long have you been snowbirds?

Tom: We started coming for a week each March about ten years ago. Then in 2009 we began talking about buying a home [here], but we did not buy until 2010. It was after that we began taking longer periods of stays.

Erica: Very good! It must be nice to have a house here. I know you live in Indiana, but where in Indiana do you live? How long have you been there?

Sue: I was born in Bloomington, Indiana and grew up there. My family moved to Indianapolis when I was an infant and I have lived there all my life. For me, Indiana is truly home.

Tom: I moved to Indiana in 1985 to begin operating a railroad company and lived there ever since.

Erica: What made you decide to spend your winters in Arizona?

Tom: I always wanted to go see the Cubs during spring training season. We came our first year for a weekend and enjoyed Arizona and the baseball! We began to find more and more things that we enjoyed and would stay longer each year.

Erica: That sounds like fun! I like baseball, too. What made you decide to make Redeemer your church while visiting?

Sue: ... We are accustomed to a very traditional service. ... We came one Sunday and immediately felt welcome, comfortable, and knew we had found our church home.

Erica: When do you usually come to the Valley, and how long do you typically stay?

Tom: We usually come out after Christmas and stay until the end of March. We hope to stay longer next year.

Erica: That would be nice. We'd love to have you here as long as we can. What part of the Valley do you live in while you're here?

Sue: We purchased a home north of the church in Scottsdale.

Erica: I know you still work, Tom, and I know you do something for the railroads, but would you mind telling us what kind of work you do, and how long you've done that kind of work?

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Snowbird Interview: Tom and Sue Hoback, continued from page 3

Tom: I have been in the railroad business my whole career, and my father was in the railroad business. I got my education in San Francisco and started my career there with The Western Pacific Railroad in economic analysis and marketing. Then I worked for the Illinois Central Railroad in Chicago. In 1985 I bought a 110-mile railroad from Indianapolis to southwestern Indiana that was going to be abandoned by its owner. Since that time I have made two continuous acquisitions that now provide a 505-mile railroad connecting Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville and central Illinois. The railroad is now the 11th largest railroad, in terms of revenue, in the U.S., and moves appliances for GE, sugar and corn sweetener for Hershey, petroleum and petroleum products, raw materials for aluminum cans, and plastics and other goods.

Erica: That's fantastic! Sue, do you work, too?

Sue: I have always done accounting work and also managed human resources for the railroad. But I found it necessary to retire to be able to travel with Tom as I did not have the vacation time available to me that he had.

Erica: That's important. You need to be able to spend time together. Do you have any hobbies?

Tom: My hobbies involve travel, and model railroading.

Sue: My hobbies [include] gardening, so it is important to be back in Indiana starting the end of April and spring. Hand sewing, cross stitch, and quilting.

Erica: How fun! What kinds of things do you like to do when you're here? How does that differ from when you're home in Indiana?

Sue: I do a lot reading and hand sewing.

Tom: Watching the Cubs

Erica: Oh, yes. There's nothing that compares to watching baseball from the stands. How did you decide to become snowbirds?

Sue: It was easy, the winter of 2010, was terribly snowing and Tom drove his car down the driveway into the street, approximately 40 feet. He got stuck. Very stuck. It took several neighbors to help him get the car back into the garage. Upon walking into the house he proclaimed, "Next year we are not going to be in Indiana during the winter!" That did it!

Erica: What a story! I can't say I blame you! Tell me about your family. Where do they live?

Sue: I have siblings living in Seattle, Florida, and Illinois. I have two sons, each married with four children. One son lives in Carmel, Indiana, and one son lives in Austin, Texas.

Tom: I have one sister who lives with her husband in Cincinnati, and my daughter and her husband live in Corona, California.

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Snowbird Interview: Tom and Sue Hoback, continued from page 4

Erica: Do you ever do any other traveling besides coming to Arizona in the winter months? Where do you like to go and what do you do when you're away?

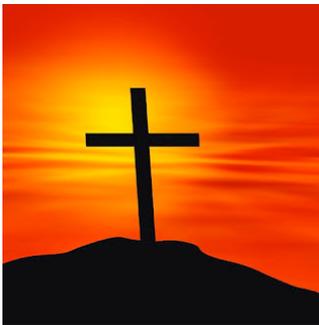
Tom - we are getting ready to take a trip to Amsterdam, where Sue's family is from, and then on to England. We enjoy England. Any country that has trains is a wonderful country to visit!

Erica: What would you like people to know about you that I haven't already asked you about?

Sue: We are cat lovers and have two cats.

Erica: I'm so glad you agreed to this interview. It's always so much fun to learn more about people. We look forward to seeing you again next winter!

Devotion: Accommodations for the Afterlife



Sometime very soon, you -- yes, you -- will be whisked away into eternity for your afterlife.

The afterlife -- that's more than just a weekend away. That's more than just a short vacation lasting a week or two, or even a month. That's something that will last forever and ever!

It would seem like everybody should be thinking about their accommodations for the afterlife. After all, we're fussy about where we spend even just our weekends. We're fussy about where we go for those little vacations that only last a week or two.

We're fussy about what seat we have on the airplane. We're fussy about what hotel we stay at, and how big the room is, and whether the linens and towels are clean. We're fussy about what meals we eat, what attractions we see, and whether or not we get good photos of the whole thing.

Why then would anyone be careless about their *eternal* accommodations for the afterlife? Well, maybe some people think they're doing fine in preparing for the afterlife themselves.

A look into our lives and into our hearts shows otherwise. We are greedy, proud, lustful, disrespectful, impatient . . . Those are *sins*.

People who die in their sins will not be happy with their accommodations in the afterlife. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 8.12), where the fire is not quenched (Mark 9.48). And there's no front desk in hell where people can phone in their complaints.

That was going to be our fate. How can we possibly face death and judgment, and the afterlife?

There are good accommodations for us in the Lord Jesus. He lived out the life for us that we should have lived. He gave Himself into suffering for us, even to the point of dying our death in order to pay for our rooms in heaven.

Our sins are forgiven in the Lord Jesus who died for us. Without Him there's nothing good. But when we're in Him, we have forgiveness for all sins and a home in heaven to look forward to.

All of us need that. So please come at the Lord's invitation, to receive His forgiveness and new life!

--The ELS Board for Home Outreach

Ascension Day



Please join us for the Divine Service on Ascension Day,
Thursday, May 14, at 7 p.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
May 2015

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

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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Notice!

Audio recordings of sermons
and of entire services are
available on the church
website.



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.

