

The Valley Evangel

Serving the members and friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, Arizona

May 2017

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From the Pastor's Desk

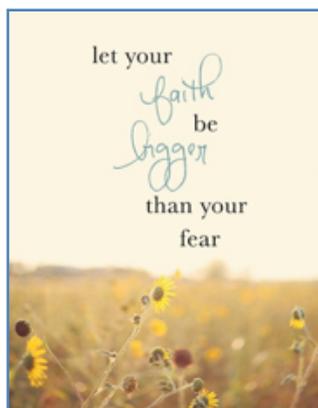
Have you ever noticed that the Sundays in the Easter season are called Sundays of Easter, rather than Sundays after Easter? This is deliberate. Our Lord's resurrection, the events surrounding it, and the immediate effects of his victory over death, are recounted over several weeks. One Sunday - that is, Easter Sunday itself - is not enough time to tell the whole story, with all of its ramifications. The story of the raising of Jesus from the grave, and everything that this means, takes a few weeks to tell, because it is such a "big" story. And it takes a few weeks for the whole story to "sink in" to our minds and hearts, because it is such a powerful story.

Indeed, the message of Easter is not just one story among many in the Bible and in the Church Year. It is the story that causes all other stories to make sense. It is the glue that holds everything else together. It is the hub to which all the spokes of the wheel are connected and held in place. And for you personally, Easter is worth celebrating, stretched out over an entire season, and not just for one day. Easter tells you something immensely important about Jesus, and it also tells you something immensely important about yourself. St. Paul writes that "Jesus our Lord...was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:24-25, ESV). It was because of our sins that Jesus was handed over to be crucified for us. And because his sacrifice for all our transgressions was accepted by God the Father, whereby we have been reconciled to our Maker, Jesus was raised up from death as a declaration of this acceptance. In his resurrection Jesus was vindicated, and the way to everlasting life, by faith in him, was opened up for us.

That's a lot to celebrate. And for this reason, Easter lasts for an entire season, and not just for a day. And so, if you are the kind of person who feels that, at the very least, you should go to church for Easter, remember that there are seven Sundays of Easter. And Easter includes Ascension Day, too. It's all a part of Easter, and not just what follows Easter. And so, over the next several weeks, we look forward to seeing you in church - for Easter!

- Pastor Webber

Devotion: Faith



I suppose you might call it faith if you believe in the sun, even on a cloudy day. We probably all have that kind of faith.

There are places where it might cloud over for weeks at a time. It's easy to get discouraged by the grey sky. Yet, even in cloudy weather, we know the sun is still up there. It's still providing heat and light. It's still making life possible.

What happens if our life should cloud over with troubles? What if we have to live for a while under the cover of dark disappointments? At times like that, we might ask why such things could happen to us. We might question whether or not God is really there, whether or not He cares, whether or not He's able to help.

We can't see Him directly. But God is certainly there. He is doing His work, protecting and providing for us. He causes the sun to shine, and the earth to produce. He provides for our physical needs, making our life possible.

But even more than that, the Son of God shines in His Holy Word. This is God's answer to our spiritual need.

God hasn't left us in darkness, to try to figure out the answers to life all by ourselves. He hasn't left us to the wolves that prey upon our fears and needs. God has given us everything we need in Jesus, His Son.

We were sinful. Jesus came from heaven to be our holiness. We were dying. Jesus came from heaven to be our life. We were lost; Jesus came from heaven and found us. He was punished in our place on the cross, and all our sins are forgiven in Him.

So where we'd desperately try to understand ... where we'd desperately try to get life right, and find comfort against fear and guilt for the wrong we've done ... God breaks in, shows us His Son, and says: "the righteous shall live by faith," faith in Him!

That means forgiveness for sins. That means the exchange of our fate in hell, for eternal joys in heaven. That means help for cloudy days, fears and doubts.

Why not join us this Sunday? God has given us His Holy Word, that we might obtain this faith: assurance that we have a gracious God in Christ.

From the ELS Board for Home Outreach

New Books in the Church Library

The History Of Christianity (a Lion Handbook). A story of people and movements – a global history presented period by period, from the world of Greece and Rome to events in China and

Eastern Europe at the start of the 1900s. More than sixty specialists from ten countries have contributed their expertise to the main chapters and short articles on people, movements and subjects of special interest. Over 400 photographs and thirty maps, charts and diagrams illuminate the story. (Lion Books)

Jerusalem: An Archaeological Biography, Hershel Shanks, Editor. A lavishly illustrated volume traces three thousand years of Jerusalem history from an archaeological perspective, describing the events that surrounded such objects as the bones of a crucified man and Babylonian arrows. (Random house)



Interview with Pastor Dan Basel Conducted by Erica Olson, Editor Assistant

Erica: Hi, Pr. Basel. Thank you for being willing to be interviewed for our church newsletter. I've talked to almost all of our members in previous issues, so I'm working on branching out and talking to those who have various offices within our synod.

What is your position, and what does it entail?

Pr. Basel: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to get better acquainted with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Redeemer. My title is officially "Giving Counselor." But much like [a pastor in] a smaller church, I wear several hats. My primary responsibility is to encourage Christian Giving at all levels in our synod, recognizing that all we are and all that we are a gift from God. In response to His undeserved love for us in Christ, we honor our Lord through the act of worship we know as Christian Giving and as we carry out our individual vocations using our time, talent, and treasures to honor our Lord and to further His Kingdom of grace here on earth.

In a more practical way, my duties involve promoting giving in our congregations for local as well as synodical support, help to promote and maintain home as well as foreign missions, and also seek support for our synod's seminary and its students (Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary). On top of that I'm the chairman of the Anniversary Thank Offering being responsible for the oversight of this offering that supports our Home Missions.

Erica: How long have you been doing this?

Pr. Basel: I accepted the call to serve in December of 2006 and began my training and duties in January of 2007.

Erica: What is your background? How did you get to where you are now?

Pr. Basel: I'm actually a second career pastor, having first operated and managed our family farm in Michigan, having partnered at one time with my parents as well my two brothers. Being in a smaller church I also was very involved in the work there. For example, besides helping with building projects there and other work I was V.P. for several years. I was 19 at the time. Then after a few years, I became treasurer. My vocational background involved graduating from the Agricultural

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Technology program at Michigan State University, and I also served in several leadership roles as the young farmer chairman and served on the state young farmer leadership committee for Michigan Farm Bureau. (I was also responsible for the county young farmer queen's contest, which is how I met my wife.) Later I was involved in the land use planning committee of our township, having developed a land plan for our township. Needless to say, I truly appreciated the importance of planning (including estate planning), having also been involved in setting up my parents' estate and our family partnership. In the fall of 1983 I turned the farm over to my younger brother and moved to Mankato to take my languages to prepare for the seminary and at the same time finished a bachelor's degree at MSU (now MnSU) in Mankato, MN. I then enrolled and attended Bethany Seminary from 1985 - 1988 and graduated in 1989.

Erica: Tell me about your family, and where you're from.

Pr. Basel: I was born in Alpena, Michigan, and was in LCMS from birth to age 13. My family and others began Faith Lutheran Church in Hillman, Michigan, in 1968. I am the sixth child of eight children born to Amos and Marie Basel. I met my wife Lisa in 1976 and we were married in March of 1978. We have been blessed with five children, all now married, and we presently have nine grandchildren. Six of the nine live in Mankato, MN, and 3 live in the Austin, TX area.

Erica: What kinds of things do you enjoy in your spare time?

Pr. Basel: My favorite pastime is fishing and outdoor sports in general, including cruising the highways on my Suzuki Boulevard motorcycle. Even more awesome is including children or grandchildren in these activities. We find that spare time ultimately is extended family time. We hope to work alongside our children as they teach our grandchildren the Christian faith and be responsible and caring individuals in their church and community.

Erica: Have you personally done mission-related trips within as well as outside of the United States? Tell me about some of them, please.

Pr. Basel: Interesting question. I'll simply say I have worked closely with missions for the better part of my life. When we joined the ELS in 1968 we started as a mission church. [When I was]a teenager, [my family] ... bought and refurbished a church in the neighboring town and began work there. My father helped fund a major portion of the purchase price to help start the church as another mission. In the meantime, we were involved in helping with Faith Mission Society and Faith Mission News, the goal being to share the news of our synod's missions. In 1983 I spent several days working with a summer vicar to do outreach in the community. Later that year, after our move to Mankato, I started working with Pastor Richard Newgard and the Evangelism committee at Mt. Olive in Mankato. Not only were we trained for the work but we then did regular follow-up visits to those who visited our worship services or had expressed an interest in Mt. Olive. While I served as the Home Mission board member and served as its chairman for two years, I also served as a parish evangelism consultant working with several congregations and with pastors and parishioners from 2001 - 2006 (Remember this was financed by the 2000 Years of Grace offering). I've also visited our Korean Mission both in 2007 and in 2014.

Erica: Where are our current U.S. mission churches, and who's serving them?

Pr. Basel: Currently we have seven home/U.S. missions. The most recent mission start is a cross-cultural mission reaching out to the predominately Hispanic residents in the community. It is served

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by Missionary Matt Behmer at Christ the King Lutheran Church, in Bell Gardens, California. Another mission is a full mission start, Divine Mercy Lutheran Church, served by Missionary Kyle Madson, located in Hudson Oaks, Texas. A third mission is Hope Lutheran in Leander, Texas, and is served by Pastors Brad Kerkow and Dan Ruiz (Dan served as a Vicar in Mission 2015-2016). They are presently right in the middle of a building program. This is our first attempt to use two missionaries at the same site. Think of it as a double mission in that there are double the prospects and double the staff busy in outreach. Our fourth mission is located in Farmington, Minnesota, and is served by Pastor Dan Oberer. They just recently dedicated their church and are seeing a great amount of new prospects and visitors coming to their church in a fast growing community near the Minneapolis/St. Paul area of Minnesota. Our fifth mission, in the Northwest of Minneapolis, is Redeeming Grace Lutheran Church, Rogers, MN. They are being served by a second Vicar in Mission candidate, Missionary Joshua Mayer, who was called after Pr. Russow took a call. The Vicar in Mission program of our Anniversary Offering is helping us prepare missionaries for our home missions by having students of our seminary learn and be mentored by our existing missionaries. The other two missions are Faith Lutheran Church San Antonio, Texas, and Grace Lutheran Church located in Lincoln, Illinois, and served by Missionary Dan McQuality.

Erica: What are the best ways that we can help support them?

Pr. Basel: As we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and the 100th year of our synod, we are encouraging people to give to the Anniversary Offering of the ELS. These twin important events serve as a reminder of the importance of mission work. Our Anniversary Thank Offering gathered over these two years of celebration is earmarked to help home missions. While we do prayerfully ask for your support, I would pray that we not limit ourselves to just the money we have in our pockets or accounts, but prayerful plan to support ministry at all levels, including our own congregations and churches, and with all the resources our Lord has given us.

Erica: Is there anything that you need, you or the synod, that would make a difference in our home missions?

Pr. Basel: We can all help with our prayers, our offerings/gifts in support of ministry and missions, but also look for ways to plan our whole lives in service to our Lord. For some that is recognizing when a friend moves near our churches or missions. For others it is planning to use all we have and make plans to support missions in our estate planning. I would be honored to help anyone interested to do that, and they can call me at 507-469-9656 for more information.

Erica: I remember that you mentioned when you were at Redeemer a couple of months ago that you do estate planning. What does that involve? Is that something you do just for members of the ELS or for anyone?

Pr. Basel: While I am not a certified financial planner, I can and do enjoy sitting down with God's people to look at what they have and consider good options on how to use them for their own care as well as serving Christ's kingdom through Christian giving. But after the ideas and sharing a few helpful instruments they can use, I would then point them to the professionals who can make that happen. I am more like an idea man with a few key tools serviced by our ELS Foundation. We exist to help you honor our Lord during as well as after your move to your heavenly home in Christ.

Erica: What made you decide to do estate planning in addition to your job with the synod? Or did the estate planning come first?

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Pr. Basel: I chair the committee overseeing the collection of the Anniversary Offering for Home missions. Estate planning is a major part of what I do as the Giving Counselor of the synod serving our congregations, missions and seminary.

Erica: Where do you worship? How long have you been there?

Pr. Basel: I worship at Mt. Olive and about 20 other churches each year in our synod. I served for over seven years at Mt. Olive [as a pastor], and have remained there as a member and helped start a congregational planned giving committee to help encourage and support the ministry there. So in total I have been a member or served at Mt. Olive for 23 years (five years as a student in the 80s).

Erica: What churches have you served as a pastor, and for how long did you serve them?

Pr. Basel: I've served three parishes; Scarville/Center parish in Scarville, Iowa (1989-1992), Peace Lutheran, Deshler, OH (1992-1999), and Mt. Olive Lutheran in Mankato, MN (1999-2007). Roughly about 17 years in parish ministry before accepting the call to my present position as Giving Counselor.

Erica: What do you hope to do in the future that you're not doing now?

Pr. Basel: I always love having time to pursue hobbies, but I will likely continue be involved in the church in some way as long as I am able, having a desire to work in the area of home outreach and missions. In this world today we need to be involved in our churches and support them with our time and talent as long as we are able. That never changes and I look forward to whatever the Lord places before me in service to his kingdom of grace here on earth.

Erica: What would you like our members and friends who read this to know about you that we haven't discussed?

Pr. Basel: My true desire is to help my fellow believers thrive in Christian giving and encouraging them to boldly plan to support ministry in whatever way they can, utilizing the gifts God has given them.

Erica: Thank you very much for your time, sir. I hope we get to see you again in the near future.

Pr. Basel: You are welcome, and I look forward to seeing you and others at Redeemer again soon.



*Join us for the
Ascension Day Divine Service
Thursday, May 25, at 7 pm*

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Scottsdale

May 2017 Calendar

| Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 7 pm Internet Study Group | 5 10 am Bible Study at the Muth residence | 6 |
| 7 Easter 4 9 am DS 10:30 am SS/AC | 8 7 pm Church Council, at the Muth residence | 9 | 10 | 11 7 pm Internet Study Group | 12 10 am Bible Study at the Muth residence | 13 |
| 14 Easter 5 9 am SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 am SS/AC | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 7 pm Internet Study Group | 19 10 am Bible Study at the Muth residence | 20 |
| 21 Easter 6 9 am DS Ladies Guild after the service 10:30 am SS/AC | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Ascension 7 pm DS Internet Study Group canceled | 26 10 am Bible Study at the Muth residence | 27 |
| 28 Easter 7 9 a.m. SW w/Spoken Communion 10:30 am SS/AC | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

Abbreviations:

DS—Divine Service; SW—Service of the Word; SS/AC—Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
Divine Service—Full Word and Sacrament Service with Communion, usually 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 usually on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

Refreshments are served after the Sunday morning Services.

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First Class Mail

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.



We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

Audio recordings of Pastor Webber's sermons, and of entire services, are posted each week on the church website.