

The Valley Evangel

Serving the Members and Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale and Sun of Righteousness Lutheran Mission in Queen Creek

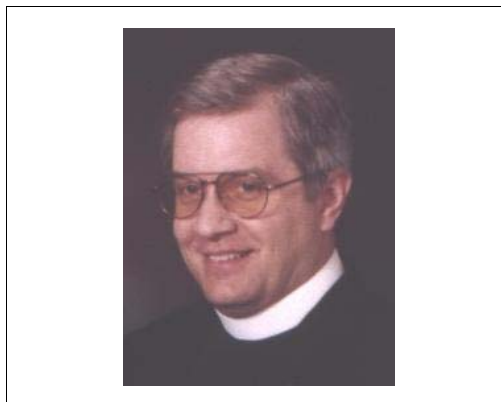


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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we prepare for the celebration of our National Day of Thanksgiving on November 22, it is good for us to consider the things for which we are thankful. We can all no doubt come up with a long list. An item that should be on all our lists is our congregation. We are thankful to God for each other, and for the Christian fellowship we share in the life of our parish.



Pastor David Jay Webber

St. Paul expressed this kind of thanksgiving in his First Epistle to the Corinthians. Earlier, Paul had lived and taught among the Corinthian Christians for a year and a half. He therefore had a personal, pastoral relationship with the people there. He valued the spiritual fellowship that he enjoyed with these people, and he thanked God for it. With joy and confidence he wrote:

“I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge – even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the

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WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Scottsdale:

Sunday Divine Service: 9:00 a.m.
Refreshments after the Service
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday “Bible & Theology”

Study Group: 7:00 p.m.
Loughran home in Scottsdale

Queen Creek:

Sunday Divine Service: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 5:15 p.m.

Thursday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.

Calvin home in Scottsdale

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Table Prayers from the Ancient Greek Church and the Ancient Latin Church

As we prepare for the observance of Thanksgiving Day, it might be interesting for us to know a little bit about the way in which the early Christians offered their thanks to God before and after their meals. Perhaps we can make use of some of the prayers and Bible readings that they employed when we remember the Lord's goodness to us on November 22. The following is excerpted from the **Examination of the Council of Trent** by Martin Chemnitz (Part IV, pages 290-91):

The ancient church used benedictions...at table. Chrysostom [4th-5th century] makes mention a number of times of the blessing of the table that was customary among the monks throughout Egypt, a description of which is also found in Clement [2nd-3rd century]... In the Horologium of the Greek church the whole formula of this benediction is described. First, before the foods are put in place, all of Ps. 145 is read: "I will extol Thee, my God and King, and bless Thy name forever and ever," etc. Then when the food has been put in place, the blessing of the table is recited by the priest, and the things which have been set down are blessed thus: "Christ, our God, bless the food and drink of Your servants, because You are holy, both now and always, throughout all ages. Amen."

Afterward, when they have tasted the food on the table, they rise, and together they all recite the following benediction, of which both Clement and Chrysostom make mention: "Blessed art Thou, Lord God, who takest pity on us, and feedest us from our youth, and givest food to all flesh. Fill our hearts with joy and rejoicing, that always having all sufficiency, or having in all circumstances a contented mind, we may abound in every good work, in Christ Jesus our Lord, with whom be glory, honor, power, and adoration to Thee with the Holy Spirit. Amen."

After the food has been eaten, there is first recited this thanksgiving: "Glory be to Thee, Holy One, glory be to Thee, King, because Thou hast given us foods that we may rejoice. Fill us also with the Holy Spirit, that we may be found accepted in Thy presence, and not be confounded or put to shame when Thou rewardest each according to his works." Then Ps. 122 is read: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord,'" etc. Afterward this verse is added: "As Thou wast present in the midst of Thy disciples as they dined, O Savior, giving them peace, so come also to us, and

save us." Finally Ps. 22:26 is read: "The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him shall praise the Lord," all the way to the end. And the verse: "Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy." Then they conclude with this brief prayer: "Blessed art Thou, O God, who hast had mercy on us, and hast fed us with Thy rich gifts. May we be granted to enjoy Thy rich mercy and goodness now and always, from age to age. Amen."

In the Latin church there was almost the same form of blessing of the table, namely this: "The eyes of all look to Thee, and Thou givest them their food in due season. Thou openest Thy hand, Thou satisfiest the desire of every living thing" [Ps. 145:15-16]. "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning," etc. "Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy." "Our Father, who art in heaven," etc. "Bless, O Lord, us and Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. May the King of eternal glory make us partakers of the heavenly table."

After the food has been eaten: "O Lord, let all Thy works praise Thee, and let Thy saints bless Thee. Glory be to the Father," etc. "We give Thee thanks, almighty God, for all Thy benefits, who livest and reignest for ever and ever." Then Ps. 51 is read: "Have mercy on me, O God", etc. And there are added the verses: "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast of the Lord; let the afflicted hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together" [Ps. 34:1-3]. "Let the name of the Lord be blessed, even from this time forth and forever. God give us His peace."

At dinner these verses are recited: "The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him shall praise the Lord. May their hearts live forever!" [Ps. 22:26]. "He has caused His wonderful works to be remembered, the Lord is gracious and merciful; He provides food for those who fear Him" [Ps. 111:4-5]. "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit," etc. "Blessed be God in His gifts, and holy in all His works, who lives and reigns for ever and ever." "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, praise Him all peoples. For His mercy is confirmed upon us, and the truth of the Lord to eternity. Glory," etc.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:4-8, ESV).

This does not mean, however, that the Corinthians were always exemplary Christians, or that Paul had nothing to worry about in regard to them. Far from it! As this epistle progressed, he dealt with things like the party spirit that was dividing the congregation (ch. 1), the general spiritual immaturity of the Corinthians (ch. 3), their tolerance of sexual immorality in the life of one of their number (ch. 5), the fact that some members had taken each other to court instead of resolving their differences in a Christian way and with the help of the congregation (ch. 6), and their unruly and disrespectful behavior at the weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper (ch. 11).

The apostle was not thankful that the Corinthians never disappointed him or created difficulties for him, because they often did! Rather, he was thankful that *the grace of God* had been given to them; that they had been enriched by *the gift of the Holy Spirit*; and that they were sustained by *the Lord Jesus Christ*. And he was thankful for the fellowship he had with such people in Christ.

If Jesus was willing to love them and be patient with them, then Paul would also be willing, with the Lord's help. He would assist and encourage them, even as they would be expected to grow up in their faith so that they would someday assist and encourage *him* – and each other. Indeed, they would *all* continue to grow together in Christ – weak and strong, ministers and members – serving one another, forgiving one another, and thanking God for one another.

We have a congregation for which to be thankful too. Like the Corinthians, we are imperfect and flawed. We may exasperate or discourage each other from time to time, and we are often in need of each other's forbearance. But we can all still be thankful for each other, and for the Christian fellowship we share, because of Christ and his goodness to us all.

We, too, like the Corinthians, have received the Lord's grace – and we continue to receive it together, through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. We, too, have been enriched together by God's Spirit, who nurtures our faith and keeps us connected to our Savior. We, too, are all sustained by our forgiving Lord, who protects us from the devil's attacks, and covers us with his perfect righteousness.

On Thanksgiving Day we will have a lot for which to be grateful. And chief among the blessings for which we will thank our God will be each other, in Christ and for the sake of Christ!

Pastor Webber



The apostle was not thankful that the Corinthians never disappointed him or created difficulties for him, because they often did! Rather, he was thankful that the grace of God had been given to them; that they had been enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit; and that they were sustained by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Choristers Needed for Christmas Eve

Please speak to Carol Webber if you are interested in singing in the choir for the Christmas Eve service.

Rehearsals will take place at 8:30 a.m. before Sunday morning services during November and December.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge – even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:4-8, ESV).</i></p>				<p>1 No Bible Study this week</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 Divine Service 9:00am Service (S) 10:30 am(S)/5:15pm (Q)Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 4:00pm Service (Q)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 "Bible & Theology" Study Group 7pm at the Loughran residence (S)</p>	<p>8 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence (S)</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Service of the Word 9:00am Service (S) -Ladies Guild after the morning service 10:30 am(S)/5:15pm (Q)Sunday School/Adult Bible Class -Church Cleaning and cookout following Bible Class (S) 4:00pm Service (Q)</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 7:00pm Church Council</p>	<p>14 "Bible & Theology" Study Group 7pm at the Loughran residence (S)</p>	<p>15 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence (S)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Divine Service 9:00am Service (S) 10:30 am(S)/5:15pm (Q)Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 4:00pm Service (Q)</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 7pm Thanksgiving Vespers Service (S)</p>	<p>22 Thanksgiving Day No Bible Study this week</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Service of the Word 9:00am Service (S) 10:30 am(S)/5:15pm (Q)Sunday School/Adult Bible Class -Elders meeting after Bible Class (S) 4:00pm Service (Q)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 "Bible & Theology" Study Group 7pm at the Loughran residence (S)</p>	<p>29 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence (S)</p>	<p>30</p>	

(S) = Scottsdale (Refreshments in Scottsdale immediately follow the morning Service) (Q) = Queen Creek
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

God Forgives Your Trespasses

“No Trespassing!” A sign like this in front of your path should make you stop. “Is there danger? What are the consequences if I keep going? Will I get hurt or will somebody fine me?” These are questions you might consider before proceeding and would probably prompt you to turn away.

In the Bible God gives us many “No Trespassing” signs. Many of these are for our good and protection.

For example God says, “DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY. Don’t go there. Don’t cross that line! Love your wife and protect your marriage.”

Or “DO NOT STEAL. Don’t go there. Don’t cross that line. Love your neighbor and protect his or her goods.”

Our inherent sinful nature prompts us to question the sign. “Should I really not cross the line? Will it really hurt me? It looks good over there. I can see short term pleasure! I can see worldly gain!” So often we ignore God’s signs and we cross the line.



Besides the earthly consequences, unfortunately there are also severe spiritual fines for trespassing God’s moral law – including ultimately, eternal death in hell.

Colossians 2:13 tells us, “**And you, being dead in your trespasses... He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.**”

When God raised his Son Jesus Christ from the dead on Easter Sunday, he demonstrated that he had forgiven all trespasses. His innocent Son Jesus (who had never crossed the line) had made the trespasses of others his own. He died on the cross with our trespasses and paid the fine for them with his own blood.

Believe in Jesus! Trust his message! It is what gives you spiritual life and allows you one day to cross the line that God wants you to cross - into his Heaven.

“**And you, being dead in your trespasses... He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.**”

Colossians 2:13

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

California / Arizona 2008 Women’s Mission Rally Celebrating 25 Years of Mission Gatherings

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 1st, 2008! Plan to attend the Silver Anniversary of the Circuit 10 California/Arizona 2008 Women’s Mission Rally that will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

As keynote speaker, presenting **Mission Work Begins in the Home**, Joslyn Moldstad, author of “*Jesus, Our Family Guest*,” will discuss the importance of mission work relating it to the impact women make daily through their families and friends.

In **Mission Work in Our Communities**, Pastor Jay Webber will offer ideas for grassroots mission opportunities closer to home that have built “sister” congregations.

Pastor Steve Peterson will conclude with **Mission Work Globally** demonstrating how women have made a difference in the lives of other children and families through their support of the Cross-stitch programs.

Our Ladies’ Guild is very excited to be able to host the Mission Rally and would absolutely encourage **all** of the ladies from both Redeemer and Sun of Righteousness to participate in planning, executing and attending the Rally. We pray that this Rally will strengthen and inspire our own mission work, and will be a blessing to us all, and to those near us who do not yet know Christ!

If you’re interested in sharing your time and talents, please send an email to Sherry Ecker at dermaththerapy-inc@cox.net.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Sun of Righteousness Mission
Meeting in the "Multi-Purpose"
Room at Frances Brandon-Pickett
Elementary School
22076 E. Village Loop Road South
Queen Creek, AZ



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
websites 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 Lu-
theran Church; cor-
rectly 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.*



Redeemer Lutheran Church