

The Valley Evangel

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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Time Change!

The Internet Study Group will now be meeting at **7:00 pm** on Thursday Evenings!

Election Day is coming up on November 4. On that day our church's neighbors will actually be voting in our fellowship room, since Redeemer is an official Maricopa County polling place.

Every time Election Day is held, pundits and spin-masters of all ideological stripes will say that it is an "important" election. But this time it really is! The world in which we live is very unstable, militarily and financially. Within our borders, important issues need to be addressed. This is especially so as activist courts do an end-run around the democratic process in the various states, and decree policies that go against "the laws of nature and of nature's God," to quote the Declaration of Independence.

The Christian faith does not give us unique, dogmatic insight into all the



Pastor David Jay Webber

details of the economic or military policies that we should support. In strictly political matters, each of us needs to use our sanctified judgment, and come to the conclusions we think are best for our country when we mark our ballots. But embedded within many "political" issues is a clear moral element, which transcends legitimate political divisions, and on which God's Word very definitely does give us direction.

(Continued on page 3)

WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Editor:

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Scottsdale:

Sunday Divine Service: 9:00 a.m.

Refreshments after the Service

Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:30 a.m.

Queen Creek:

Sunday Divine Service: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday "Bible & Theology"

Study Group: 7:00 p.m. at the Loughran residence

Thursday Internet Study Group:

7:00 p.m. (see Pastor Webber for logon information for this group)

Friday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. at the Calvin residence

Redeemer Lutheran Church Needs Your Help!

There is good news and bad news. I will give you the good news first. The roof has been completed and it now has a 10 year warranty against defects. So, we will no longer have to worry about those rainy days, and the leaks finding their way into the church to distress the inner walls and damage the drywall and paint. The funding for the roof repairs was provided by an ELS subsidy loan, since the cost for the roof repair (\$17,845.00) was more than the congregation could have raised itself. The bad news is that two other issues have now come to light with the church structure. 1) The sprinkler heads for the fire suppression system have reached a point in age where they have started showing signs of corrosion; and 2) the church now has some new tenants: termites!

In regards to the fire suppression system inside the church, the concern is that there could be an inadvertent rupturing of one or more of the valves, resulting in substantial water damage to the church structure or church contents. The second concern is if there were to be a fire, and the sprinkler heads malfunctioned as a result of their age, the insurance carrier could refuse coverage and withhold payment because of negligence in regard to the aged sprinkler heads. Benson Security Systems has inspected the sprinkler heads and has recommended the replacement of a number of older heads, and of a couple valves that show signs of aging.

The second issue of concern – the termites – is something we do need to address at some time in the future, although it is not as high on the prioritization scale as the fire suppression system problems. The termites are slow and methodical, and the likelihood



of the church falling down around the congregation is not very great. But the termites are not likely to go away on their own. So, at some point, we will need to pay an exterminator to come and disinvite them from our premises!

In view of the fact that we just approached the synod for help with the leaky roof, we really do need to try to raise the funds needed for the repairs of the fire suppression system on our own. Those repairs are going to cost \$3,185.00. And of course, as we look ahead to the future eradication of the termite problem, we are anticipating an additional cost at that time of about \$1,400.00. We are not going to concern ourselves with the termites

at this point in time, though, as the Church Council decided to take care of the most pressing issue first, namely the fire suppression system. Quite simply, then, what the church needs is some extra financial generosity from our members – above and beyond ordinary weekly offerings. If you are able to contribute something extra toward the repairs of the fire suppression system, please indicate in some way on your check or on your offering envelope that your funds are to be designated for this special purpose. Once we have taken care of the fire suppression issue, we can then attack the termite issue.

If you have any thoughts or concerns about these needs, or about any other aspect of the maintenance of our physical plant, please share them with me. Thank you, and may God richly bless you!

Matthew Wendt

Trustee, Redeemer Lutheran Church
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

So, as citizens with consciences that are attuned to the natural law that should govern all nations, we can debate among ourselves what the best policies might be for the preservation of marriage and family in our society. But we cannot debate whether or not it is proper for our society to preserve and strengthen the divine institution of marriage. We can debate among ourselves what the best ways might be to prevent abortions, and to protect the lives of all weak and vulnerable people in our land. But we cannot debate whether or not it is proper for our society to preserve and defend human life.

On the Sunday after Election Day, this verse will be included in the Old Testament lesson: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24, ESV). As far as the civil life of our society is concerned, may our consciences be at peace on that day, that with our vote we did the best we could, with God's help, to bring about a fulfillment of these words in our nation and world.

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34, ESV).

-- Pastor Webber

Luther on Democracy

As citizens of a democratic society, in which we choose our own leaders, we should recognize not only the great blessing that we enjoy, but also the great responsibility that has been placed upon us. On the basis of the New Testament, the Lutheran Reformers always taught that God's Word does not establish a particular form of government under which Christians must live, and that Christians should therefore seek to be law-abiding and fruitful citizens in whatever society in which they may find themselves. Still, Martin Luther was able to recognize the value of a democratic system as the preferred form of government, even though he wrote at a time in history when there were few examples of democracy for him to point to. He expressed himself in this way in a commentary on Deuteronomy 1:13, "Choose wise men."



Beasts are managed by power and skill. Men should be ruled by wisdom and understanding, since man

thrives on reason, which cannot be assaulted with a rope or brandished sword but through a word directed to the ear. And when reason has been grasped through a word, the whole man is moved and led wherever you wish. Here you see that the magistrates should be chosen by the votes of the people, as reason also demands. Therefore this nation, too, is taken in charge by this means through the word of Moses, and it gladly follows and praises Moses. For to thrust government upon a people against its will is dangerous or destructive. He calls them "known" because they should be known among the people; much more, however, because they should be experienced and acquainted with affairs, so that you may understand *well-known* and *knowledgeable* to be the same. They are the wise men who understand affairs divine and human, especially those who know the statutes and laws and all that is necessary for the life of the people. (*Luther's Works* 9:18)

Announcements

We rejoice with Daniel and Alicia Schaar in the baptism of their infant son Collin Frazier, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale on October 19.

Godparents were the Rev. Matthew Brooks and his wife Rebecca. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14, ESV).

We Await the Final Victory

“They tell how you . . . wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues from the coming wrath.” 1 Thessalonians 1:10

words nearly 2,000 years ago. But still believers wait!

This is the time of year when the Christian Church has historically focused on Jesus’ promise to return to earth one day as the Lord and Judge of all. The Bible says that on that day *“every knee should bow . . . and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,”* Philip-
 pians 2:10-11. That’s a day Christians are really excited about. Not only has Jesus promised to take us to be with Him forever in heaven. How thrilling it will be to see Jesus honored by all as King of kings and Lord of lords. It’s the honor Jesus deserves even now. On the day He returns He has promised that it will happen indeed!



How much longer? It’s just not known.

In the meantime, there are a couple of things that need to be done. First, we can be living the blessed life Jesus speaks of in the Beatitudes (see Matthew 5:1-12). Jesus describes that blessed life as confessing that we have disobeyed God’s 10 Commandments (see Exodus 20) and are sorry for our disobedience, and then trusting that Jesus’ perfect life and innocent suffering and death have won full forgiveness for all our sins. Secondly; with our found faith, we can share the joy of Christ’s resurrection with who ask. We know the answer... Jesus will return in glory!

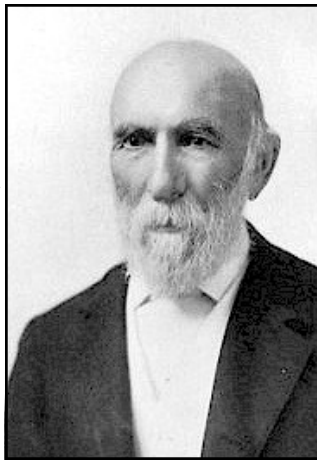
But until then, the Church waits. Notice how the passage at the beginning talks about *“wait(ing) for His Son from heaven.”* Paul, one of Jesus’ Apostles, wrote those

They tell how you . . . wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues from the coming wrath.”

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

Quote regarding All Saints Day (November 1)

The Lutheran Church has never despised or even disregarded the traditions that have come down from the ancient fathers of the Church. What has been preserved by the teachings and doings of Christian men from the apostles’ time down to the present day is precious.



fellowship with men of God who lived and suffered in the same glorious cause in which she is still engaged with the same assurance of faith which made believers strong in other days. But she knows that some professed to be Christians who were not such, and that Christians could err in the past as in the present, and therefore she applies to the Christians of other times the same unerring rule that she applies now, and holds fast as God's truth only what is declared in God's Word.

The light which it gives in regard to the faith and the labors of love which the Holy Spirit wrought in other days, the lives which were rendered luminous by rays from heaven - as others were rendered dark by obscuring blackness from hell, in its rage against the Anointed of the Lord - the Church is not willing to forget. She desires to learn the lessons of history and rejoices in her

(Matthias Loy, *The Augsburg Confession* [Columbus, Ohio: Lutheran Book Concern, 1908], p. 179)

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Divine Service + See Notes 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	3	4	5 7:00pm "Bible and Theology" Study Group at the Loughran residence (S)	6 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	7 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	1 All Saints Day <hr/> 8
9 Service of the Word 9:00am SW (S) Ladies Guild after the Service (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm SW (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	10	11 7pm Church Council	12 7:00pm "Bible and Theology" Study Group at the Loughran residence (S)	13 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	14 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	15
16 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	17	18	19 7:00pm "Bible and Theology" Study Group at the Loughran residence (S)	20 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	21 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	22
23 Service of the Word 9:00am SW (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Elders Meeting after Bible Class (S) 4:00pm SW (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	24	25	26 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Vespers Service	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	<i>O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods, in whose hand are the depths of the earth, the peaks of the mountains are His also. The sea is His for it was He who made it, and His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Psalm 95:1-7a (NASB)</i>					

Abbreviations:

DS—Divine Service (SW) Service of the Word SS/AC = Sunday School / Adult Bible Class

(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

+ On November 2, the Rev. Daniel Basel, the synod's giving counselor, will preach at both services and make a presentation on deferred giving during the Adult Bible class in both locations. After this presentation, there will be a church cleanup event followed by a cookout at the Scottsdale location only.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Sun of Righteousness Church

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Notice!

Audio recordings of
Pastor Webber's sermons are
posted on the Internet
weekly and are available
through both church web-
sites 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 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.

