

The Valley Evangel

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



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I was caught totally by surprise on the morning of October 5 when I received a telephone call from my friend Pastor David Thompson, who serves as the Visitor of our synod's Circuit 11 in northern Minnesota, and who informed me that a divine call had been issued to me the previous evening by Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hawley, Minnesota, and Calvary Lutheran Church in Ulen, Minnesota. These congregations, which are yoked together in one parish, were asking me in the Lord's name to come and be their pastor.

This reminded me of the fact that God works through means in bringing the Gospel of his Son to the church, and in governing the affairs of his church. Jesus told his disciples: "if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are

gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:19,20, ESV) We understand one of the applications of this statement to be that when a Christian congregation gathered in the name of Christ solemnly elects a man to be their pastor, such an action has divine authority. This is the kind of mechanism Jesus uses to place people in office in his church. He doesn't speak in a booming voice from the clouds. He speaks in a still small voice, through the voice of his body, the church.

Of course, if a man who receives such a call is already a pastor somewhere else, this means that the voice of Christ had already, at some point in the past, spoken to him through the church in regard to that ministry as well. That was the situation in which I unexpect-

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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.

Queen Creek:

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

Thursday Internet Study Group:

6:30 p.m. (see Pastor Webber for log-on information for this group, or attend in person at his residence)

Friday Bible Study:

10:00 a.m. at the Calvin residence

THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY!

BY WAYNE ANDERSON

We've all heard the old saying, "Thank God it's Friday." That phrase is usually expressed with a resigning sigh to indicate that another hectic, frustrating, and extraordinarily long week is finally coming to an end. But for me – and I know it would be for you too, if you were there with us – it means: Thank God it's time once again to be edified by delving into the truth of God's Word, as only Pastor Webber's scholarship, experience, and expertise can do.

All who attend the Sunday morning Bible class can attest to this too. But what is different about the Friday morning Bible Study (which is held at a member family's home) is that the class is smaller, is a bit more conversational, and is a continuing study of a particular book of the Bible. (Currently we are studying the Epistle to the Hebrews.) This approach enhances Pastor's ability to bring out the precise context and circumstances of the writing, which is neces-

sary in determining the true meaning of the particular Scripture we're studying. We learn about what was going on at the time this Scripture was written; to whom it was originally written; what the writer was trying to achieve; and how these events applied to the coming of the Messiah, the growth of the early church, or the return of Christ. We are exposed to an array of interesting insights into a variety of related topics, generated by the flow of questions and answers. It really is a special learning opportunity for each of us and our friends. And every Friday morning is indeed a "bring a friend Friday," for Bible study at Jack and Lucille Calvin's home in North Scottsdale!

Jack and Lucille are marvelous hosts. There's always a pot of fresh hot coffee awaiting us when we arrive. The class meets from 10 to 11 a.m. (unless otherwise noted in the Sunday bulletin). You can ask the Calvins for directions to their home, or get directions from the Pastor. Please join us, and you too will soon be saying "Thank God it's Friday" – and for all the right reasons! I'll see you there!

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

BY CAROL WEBBER

The upcoming Christmas holiday offers us wonderful opportunities both to beautify our worship services, and reach out to our neighbors with the Christmas Gospel. Please speak with Carol Webber if you are interested in participating in one or both of the following activities.

First: It has been proposed that we form a "Caroling Choir" to sing in nearby shopping centers on one or more Saturdays when there may be special holiday shopping events. Because of our church's location on a side road, many neighbors are probably unaware of our congregation's presence in North Scottsdale. Carol singing could be one way to increase our community visibility, so that neighbors

without a current church home will know that we are here. Even if you are not able to sing, please assist in this project by sharing with the pastor your ideas for specific shopping centers or other possible venues that we might visit. (Telephone numbers for management offices, etc., from which we might need to seek permission, would also be appreciated.)

Second: Church Choir rehearsals will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays in December (and possibly following the Wednesday Advent services) in preparation for the Christmas Eve service. We welcome new singers in all voice parts. Please consider joining us for this important effort to beautify our celebration of the Lord's birth!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

edly found myself. I was now a man with two calls to the pastoral ministry: one in Arizona, in which I had been serving for four years; and one that had now been issued to me from Minnesota. Because both of these calls had been issued by God's people in God's name, they were both divine. In principle, then, God would have been equally satisfied if I had stayed where I was, or if I had gone to a new field of labor. And he would have added his blessing to the administration of the means of grace in either place.

But again, just as the Lord speaks through his church in the issuing of such calls, so too, I believe, does he speak through his church in giving direction to someone like me regarding how to respond to such calls. The advice and counsel that I received from many members of Redeemer and Sun of Righteousness led me to conclude that Arizona is where I should stay, and that the pathway of mission and outreach that lay open before us here in the Valley of the Sun, is a pathway down which we are to walk together.

Our Scottsdale-Queen Creek parish does indeed face many challenges, as we look to the end of this year and

the beginning of the next. But God himself has guided us and encouraged us, by means of the guidance and encouragement that we have spoken to each other in his name. He has thereby led us to see, with renewed clarity, that with his help we are going to face those challenges together, as we press ahead in the mission that he has assigned to his church of all times and places: "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). Arizona is as good a place as any to start!

And in the meantime, we will pray for our brothers and sisters in Hawley and Ulen, and will ask the Lord of the church to arrange things for them in such a way that they will indeed receive a new pastor in the nearest future – not from here, but from somewhere else according to the Lord's will. May God bless them with his grace through the means of grace, and through the pastor whom he will send to them!

-- Pastor Webber



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PILGRIMS AND PLYMOUTH COLONY

Pastor Webber will once again be a guest on the "Issues, Etc." radio program, in a pre-recorded show that will be broadcast (and webcast) on Thanksgiving Day, November 26. Check the "Issues, Etc." web site (issuesetc.org) for the exact time. An audio file of the broadcast will also be made available for on-demand download from the web-



Pilgrims going to Church, a painting by George Henry Boughton

site's archive. Pastor Webber will speak about the Mayflower "Pilgrims," and about the Plymouth Colony that they founded in 1620. He and his wife Carol are actually direct descendants of several of the original Pilgrim families. He has been an avid student of the history of these early New England settlers for many years.

QUEEN CREEK POT-LUCK

A pot-luck fellowship meal will be held at the Schaar residence in Queen Creek after the Service and Bible Class on either November 8 or November 15. We're still (as of the publication deadline for the *Valley Evangel*) trying to figure out the best option for the most people. Stay tuned to the Sunday bulletins for details!

YOUR GOD HAS COME

..say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you." Isaiah 35:4

Three years later Jesus was taken to the cross as a sacrificial Lamb to die for the sins of the world. As He suffered on the cross He suffered our punishment for us. The work is done, our sins are forgiven and eternal salvation belongs to all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

These words of Isaiah the prophet were written seven hundred years before Jesus came into the world. These words were a comfort to God's people because they were the promise of their salvation, beautiful words of encouragement, for their sin stained and fearful hearts. "Do not fear" your Savior is coming to save you from your sins and to take you to be with Him for all eternity.

Much has changed in the last two thousand seven hundred years. We no longer wait for the Savior to appear. He has come into the world, His birth in Bethlehem was announced by the angels, thirty years later John the Baptist announced Jesus to the Savior as He began His earthly ministry, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29



The one thing that hasn't changed... the sinful nature of God's people. We are born into sin and sin every day; we are no different than the people of old. Thanks be to God the message of the forgiveness of sins is a timeless message for all sin stained and fearful hearts.

Your God has come to save you from your sins. Today He comes to us in His holy Word, the Bible. He brings His Word into our hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit. Rejoice! Salvation belongs to all who believe. Your God has come.

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

THANKSGIVING AT REDEEMER

We will be having our Thanksgiving Vespers Service on Wednesday evening, November 25, at 7:00 pm, at the church in Scottsdale.

We will be having our traditional bread exchange, so that we might share our bounty with each other. Each family is encouraged to bring a loaf of bread to share. There will be a table set up at the front of the sanctuary for this bread, and the loaves will be shared at the end of the service. You will be taking home a loaf of bread as a gift from another family!



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Day Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Church cleaning after the Bible Class (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	2	3	4	5 Internet Study Group canceled	6 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	7
8 Pentecost 23 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) Ladies Guild after the service (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	9	10 7:00 Church Council (S)	11	12 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	13 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	14
15 Pentecost 24 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	16	17	18	19 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	20 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	21
22 Pentecost 25 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Elders Meeting after the Bible Class (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	23	24	25 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Vespers Service (S)	26 Internet Study Group canceled	27 Bible Study cancelled today	28
29 Advent 1 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	30	<i>...say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear, your God will come. He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you." Isaiah 35:4</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

**Redeemer Lutheran
Church**

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Sun of Righteousness Church

Meeting in the "Multi-Purpose"
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22076 E. Village Loop Road
South



First Class Mail
Return Service Requested



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.

