

The Valley Evangel

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

November 2017

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From the Pastor's Desk

On November 12, the Sunday morning Adult Class will begin a series of Biblical and historical studies, on the basis of materials prepared by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Doctrine Committee, entitled *Proclaiming God's Truth*. These studies were prepared as a part of our church body's dual commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation (being observed this year), and the 100th anniversary of the reorganization of the Norwegian Synod – now the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (to be observed next year).

The topics in this series of studies are: Objective Justification and Absolution, the Election of Grace and Conversion, the Divine Call, Church Fellowship, Adiaphora and Ceremonies, Mission Work, and Christian Education. Most of these subjects had been matters of controversy during the history of the old Norwegian Synod, which existed from 1853 to 1917. Because of those controversies, these various subjects were thought through more carefully than they might otherwise have been. And the Holy Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions were studied more intently with respect to these topics, than might otherwise have been the case. In this way, a greater clarity in understanding these matters, and a greater precision in explaining them, were beneficial results.

St. Augustine explains how this kind of process has worked in the larger history of the Christian church, as the faithful pastors of the church have always sought to fulfill their calling to teach and defend the apostolic faith – especially at times when that faith had been challenged and distorted by error. He writes:

“Many points pertaining to the catholic faith have been stirred up by the cunning trouble making of heretics, so that we have had to defend these points against them, consider more carefully, define more clearly, and preach more powerfully. The question has been raised by the adversary, and the opportunity is present for better learning.”

The clarity and precision that came about in the old Norwegian Synod, regarding those theological topics, were then passed on to the reorganized Norwegian Synod, as a part of its legacy and heritage from the original body from which it emerged in 1918.

Please plan to participate in these informative studies, on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. (again, beginning on November 12). It is important to know what you believe, why you believe it, and how best to explain this faith to others. These special classes will certainly be helpful to you for these purposes.

St. Paul said to the Ephesian elders: “I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ...for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:20-21, 27, ESV)

St. Peter writes: “...in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience...” (1 Peter 3:15-16, ESV)

St. Jude writes: “Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3, ESV).

– Pastor Webber



Thanksgiving

Please join us at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22, for the Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service. As is our custom, a bread exchange will also be included. Those families that wish to participate in the bread exchange are invited to bring a special loaf of bread, wrapped and tagged with their name, and place it on the table that will be in the front of the nave before the beginning of the service. At the conclusion of the service, each family that brought a loaf should go forward before leaving the sanctuary to pick up a loaf from the table (other than the one they brought themselves), so that they can use that bread as a part of their Thanksgiving meal the following day. And each participating

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family is encouraged to remember the family whose bread they took, in their Thanksgiving Day prayers.

Participation in the bread exchange is voluntary. If you just want to attend the service, without bringing any bread, that is fine!

“Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!” (1 Chronicles 16:8, ESV)

Holy Baptism

Jonathon Thomas Chasty, son of T. J. and Jennifer Chasty, was received into the holy Christian church and into membership in Redeemer Lutheran Church, by the rite of Holy Baptism, on October 1. Sister Caris, and Grandma Marylou, were also happy to be present. “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27, ESV).





A Thankful Thanksgiving in Jesus

As Thanksgiving approaches and especially on Thanksgiving Day individuals and families reflect on what they have to be thankful for in the past year. There are many families that have had significant events that have taken place. For instance a loved one who was in serious condition and was not expected to survive. But with God's guiding grace the doctors and the nurses were able to pull them through. Or perhaps the family that by the grace of God survived a head on collision with only minor injuries. There are also many families and individuals that have had just an "ordinary" year. They too were blessed by God's loving hand as He provide for their daily needs. All of God's children can give thanks for the blessing that God provides in this earthly life. Not a single one is forgotten; we learn in from God's Word that he watches over every aspect of our lives, even the minutest details, **"even the hairs of your head are all numbered"** (Matthew 10:30 EHV). Dr. Martin Luther explained it this way. Included in our daily blessing are *"everything that we need to for our bodily welfare, such as food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home, land and cattle, money and goods, God-fearing spouse and children, faithful servants and rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, order, honor, true friends, good neighbors, and the like."* (Martin Luther's Small Catechism) Everyone has much to be thankful for! The Apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the Colossians, **"Everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"** (3:17 EHV). However, far above and beyond giving thanks for the earthly blessings that God daily provides is the spiritual blessing that God blesses us with. We are to be especially thankful for the gift of His dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ. **"For God so loved the world that He gave [us] His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life"** (John 3:16 EHV). Out His great love for us Jesus came and lived among us. He lived a perfectly sinless life in our place and at the appointed time He shed His holy blood on the cross as He died paying for the sins of the world. Those who believe in Him enjoy the forgiveness of all their sins and can live with a clean conscience and will be with Him and all who believe in heaven for eternity. Yes, we have much to be thankful for, more than we can ever imagine. Please join us this Thanksgiving as we praise God giving thanks for our blessings!

From the ELS Board for Home Outreach

*Redeemer Lutheran Church of Scottsdale
November 2017 Calendar*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 Pr. Webber in San Diego, CA, for a church worker conference	2 Pr. Webber in CA Internet Study Group canceled	3 Pr. Webber in CA Bible Study canceled	4 Pr. Webber in Escondido, CA, for a visitation
5 All Saints 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. SS/AC (Pastor Allen Schroeder)	6	7	8	9 7 p.m. Internet Study Group	10 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	11
12 Pentecost 23 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. SS/AC	13 7 p.m. Church Council at the Muth residence	14	15	16 7 p.m. Internet Study Group	17 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	18
19 Pentecost 24 9 a.m. DS Ladies Guild after service 10:30 a.m. SS/AC	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Eve 7 p.m. DS with Bread Exchange	23 Thanksgiving Internet Study Group canceled	24 Bible Study canceled	25
26 Last Sunday of the Church Year 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. SS/AC	27	28	29	30 7 p.m. Internet Study Group		

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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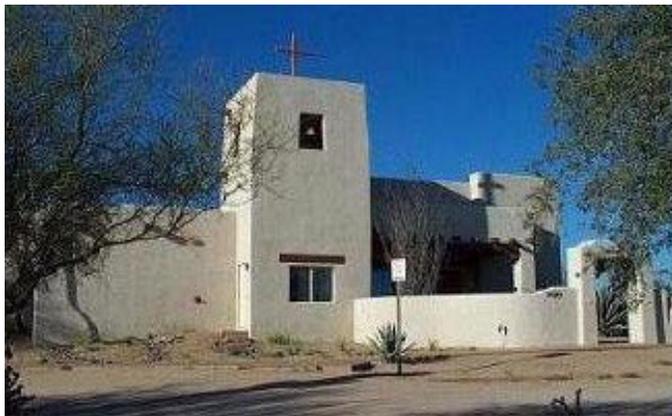
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First Class Mail

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.