

The Valley Evangel

Serving the Members and Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, Arizona

October/November 2014

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Worship and Study Times

Sunday Divine Service:

9 a.m., Refreshments after the Service

Sunday School/Adult Bible

Class: 10:30 a.m.

Thursday Internet Study

Group: 7 p.m. (ask Pastor Webber for log-on info for this group, or attend in person at his residence.)

Friday Bible Study: 10 a.m. (see calendars for location)

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Pastor David Jay Webber

Editorial Assistant/Layout and Design: Erica Olson

Production Assistant/

Printing and Distribution:

Sarah Kissinger

From the Pastor's Desk

This issue of the Valley Evangel is a double issue, covering news and events at Redeemer for the months of October and November together. The calendars therefore draw our attention to two special events that are always held in these months, and that involve food and eating: the Oktoberfest on Reformation Sunday (October 26), and the Bread Exchange on Thanksgiving Eve (November 26).

The Oktoberfest has become a tradition here since I arrived as pastor. Our modest luncheon might not be as fun and joyful as an Oktoberfest in Bavaria, but it is fun and joyful in its own way. It gives the cooks and bakers of the church a chance to share their German cuisine dishes, breads, and cakes. It gives the members and friends of our congregation a chance to spend some happy social time together. And it gives Joe Quint a chance to wear his Alpine hat! ☺

The bread exchange, carried out in conjunction with the Thanksgiving Eve service, is a tradition that predates my arrival in the congregation nine years ago. It is a custom that allows the families of the congregation to break bread together, in a sense, on Thanksgiving Day. Each participating church family eats, with its Thanksgiving dinner, the special loaf of bread that it had acquired through the bread exchange at church, from another church family. This interconnected and overlapping sharing of bread among the various families of the church is emblematic of the larger culture of sharing and caring that we seek always to cultivate at Redeemer.

And both of these traditions can also serve as outward illustrations of what happens in our Liturgy on every Sunday and festival, where we regularly partake together, sacramentally, of the “one bread” of our Lord’s true yet glorified body, and are thereby renewed in our spiritual connection to the “one bread” of his body the church. St. Paul writes: “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread” (1 Corinthians 10:17, ESV). This is a fuller and richer sharing of the saving gifts of God than any Thanksgiving bread exchange could ever be.

And let’s not forget that St. Jude refers to the church’s celebrations of the Lord’s Supper as “love feasts” (Jude 12, ESV). To be sure, Jude indicates that those who do not hold to “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (v. 3), or who lead scandalous and immoral lifestyles, are not to be admitted to this feast, since such people would be “blemishes” on the church’s reverent and serious observance of this Holy Sacrament of forgiveness, life, and salvation. But for those who do repent, who do believe, and who do confess the apostolic faith, this sacrament is indeed a feast of love – a feast of God’s love toward us, and of our love toward one another. And it is therefore also a feast of joy. As we commune together, we each can pray to the Lord: “I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation” (Psalm 13:5, ESV). This is a more enduringly meaningful celebration, of things that really matter, than any Reformation Oktoberfest celebration could ever be.

We do look forward to our bread exchange, and to our Oktoberfest. There is no sin, and there is much good, in these congregational traditions. But we can also allow these wholesome and symbolic earthly observances to remind us of deeper and truer realities – the supernatural, sacramental realities to which we have access much more often than once per year; the supernatural, sacramental realities that truly connect us to Christ and his grace.

– Pastor Webber



Ladies' Guild News

August was busy for the Ladies Guild! We celebrated Pastor and Carol's 30th wedding Anniversary on Aug. 3 with a small surprise luncheon following the service. A luncheon was held following a beautiful memorial service for Dan North on Saturday, Aug. 9. Julia Dollarhide became a communicant member on Aug. 10. A cake was provided in celebration of her membership. Welcome, Julia!

Finally the vases with greenery for our altar, which were donated through our memorial fund, have arrived! They look beautiful! Silk flowers have been provided by the guild to be placed in them. If, however, you would like to bring fresh flowers for a celebration or special occasion, please do so, and we can place them in with the greenery. You can then take the flowers home after the service.

We are quickly approaching a busy season. With Reformation and advent services, it keeps us ladies on our feet! An upcoming event, which the ladies have again organized, is our Reformation/Oktoberfest celebration which will be held on October 26. A signup sheet will be provided in the fellowship room. Please take note of the headings. A new heading has been added. For those who wish to bring beer, please state it on the signup sheet. In the past the Ladies Guild has provided this but we have decided it is best for individuals to bring their own.

The ladies have decided to update our Redeemer Ladies Guild Constitution. A Special thanks to our constitution committee, Angie Kohlgraf, Cheryl Hartigan, and Sue Muth. Thank you for your dedication to this task!

Countless thanks go out to the dedicated people who make sure the clean-up after fellowship is accomplished. If everyone would take the time to take their dishes into the kitchen, and help those who are loading the dishwasher and putting away the snacks for the following week, it would be of great assistance to these dedicated and hardworking people. Deep appreciation and thanks go out to those who have been setting up the coffee and treats on Sunday mornings so they are ready once the service has concluded. We truly appreciate the gift of your time and service.

– Lori Wendt, Ladies' Guild President

New Member Interview: Matthew and Lori Wendt Conducted by Erica Olson, Editor Assistant



Erica: Thank you, Matthew and Lori, for taking the time to answer some questions for the church newsletter. First of all, I know you've been members for a number of years. Do you remember when it was that you started coming or when you joined?

Lori: After arriving [in] Phoenix in November of 2006, we searched for a liturgical, orthodox church much like Pastor Maag's (my brother's) church. For weeks we didn't have much luck. We finally found Redeemer and started to attend in January 2007. So we have been members for almost eight years.

Erica: Lori, I remember you saying that your brother is a Lutheran pastor in Canada, and that he recommended Redeemer. Where in Canada does he live? Have he and Pr. Webber ever met, or had they before he suggested you go to Redeemer? What convinced him that this was where you needed to be?

Lori: Yes, my brother is a Lutheran Pastor and has been for as many years as Pastor Webber. He resides in Harrow, Ontario, Canada, which is a small farming town outside of Windsor, Ontario, where we grew up. Windsor is a border city to Detroit. So you can say we are as close to being American as a Canadian could be. My brother had never met Pastor Webber but knew of him through a colleague [who] is a godparent to Paul Webber. So there was somewhat of a connection. He had called upon Pastor Webber at one time in the past but never met him. He warned us before moving that it would be very difficult to find a liturgical church out west. After several weeks searching we made a phone call to him and in our frustration he recommended a website called

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New Member Interview: Matthew and Lori Wendt
Conducted by Erica Olson, Editor Assistant

'lutheranliturgy.org'. At the time Redeemer was the only church close to us (40 minutes). When we found out who the pastor was (Pastor Webber) we told my brother and he was very surprised to hear that Pastor Webber was the pastor and encouraged us to put aside the synod and become members of Redeemer. At the time we were Missouri Synod. Each of us spoke with Pastor Webber for several hours prior to attending and knew this is where God wanted us to be. Upon attending our first service, I could close my eyes and feel as if I was home! Pastor Webber's services are identical to my brother's. Driving 40 minutes to attend Redeemer was so worth it!

Erica: Were you both always Lutheran?

Lori: Yes, we have both always been Lutheran.

Matthew: Well, if you actually want to say ELCA is Lutheran... Ha ha! After meeting Lori and visiting her in Canada and learning more from her brother of what it means to be Lutheran I was more interested in switching synods. I switched when I moved to Michigan to be closer to Lori and Joshua where I took adult confirmation classes with Lori's brother (Pastor Maag) and I then became a member of Lutheran Church—Canada (Missouri Synod).

Erica: Tell me about your family.

Lori: We have three children. Joshua (from my first marriage) is 19 and now resides with his father in Vero Beach, FL; Johanna who is 8 and Isabelle who is 6. Joshua is pursuing a dream for his love of music by writing, producing, and playing for many functions from restaurants, weddings, and social events. Johanna is in third grade and quite the artist. She loves drawing, creating and reading. Isabelle is in first grade and she just loves to read and pretend play. My parents emigrated from Germany in 1951. They were married in 1955 and have lived in Windsor, Ontario since. I have two brothers: Gerhard Maag, whom I've mentioned above, and Robert Maag. I have several nieces and nephews, five to be exact, and all from my brother Gerhard.

Matthew: My parents still live in the house I grew up in. I grew up in a small ranching town in the mountains north of Payson called Pine where my parents still live. I have one sister who is four years older and currently lives here in Phoenix, and one niece and one nephew. My grandparents lived in Phoenix as well, but passed away a few years back.

Erica: Did Pr. Webber baptize both of the girls?

Matthew: No, Isabelle was baptized by Pastor Webber. Johanna was baptized by our pastor in Canada (Lori's brother).

Erica: Backing up a bit, how did you two meet?

Matthew: We met on an Internet singles site. Lori lived in Canada and I lived here in Phoenix. We corresponded for two months prior to physically meeting. Lori flew out here and we met for the first time on August 16, 2002.

Lori: Matthew met me at the airport in Wrangler jeans, a t-shirt, cowboy boots and of course he had on his cowboy hat. Matthew was a true cowboy! In his truck (and a pick up to boot) he had two dozen long stem yellow roses he kept in a cooler. He was the typical redneck cowboy! City girl meets redneck cowboy! After picking me up at the airport we drove up to Pine where I met the entire family! What a welcome! From that point we continued to correspond via letter, email, and phone. We would talk sometimes two to three hours a day. We alternated the traveling back and forth every six to eight weeks until Matthew decided in October 2003 to move to Michigan to be closer to me and Joshua. We were engaged in May 2004. We were married in Payson, Arizona, at Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church and had a beautiful garden reception at his parents' house.

Erica: Beautiful! How long have you been married?

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Member Interview, continued from Page 3

Matthew: We have been married 10 years [as of] August 14.

Erica: Lori, you mentioned to me that Joshua, your son, is engaged. Where is he living now? Tell us about this lucky young lady. Have they set a date?

Lori: Yes, he is engaged to a lovely Christian girl named Holly Heinrich. We have not physically met her but we have talked on the phone and Skyped with her. She is a beautiful girl who shares the same passion for music as Joshua. They met on the TV talent show The Voice. She lives in Minneapolis, MN, and he lives in Vero Beach, FL. They have traveled several times for visits. Joshua is planning to move to Minneapolis to be closer to her and her family where he will also be producing the music for Holly's new CD. They haven't set a date yet, but they are not in much of a hurry. The plan is in a few years.

Erica: Matthew, I know that one of your duties at church has been that of an elder. How long have you been an elder? And have you held, or do you hold any other offices?

Matthew: I have been an elder now for the past four years and am going into my fifth year. I also am the [head] Trustee of the church, which means I am responsible for the physical maintenance and upkeep of the church and the property. I do get help from Mr. Dave Kohlgraf and Mr. Jack Colville when needed. Recently I have also received help from Mr. Norman Hartigan with clearing some of the brush away from the church, keeping the fire hazard cleared away from the building. I would also like to acknowledge help from others who make the sacrifice in donating their time to help keep the church clean: Mr. Kim Carter for his donation of time and tractor every year to help smooth out the parking lot, Dave and Angie Kohlgraf, as well as Jeff and Julie Nelson have donated their time in helping to keep the church premises clean. If there is someone else who has come up to the church to clean on their free time and I am unaware of your donation, I deeply appreciate your kind gift.

Erica: Lori, you're currently the president of the Ladies' Guild, and I know you've been a member of the guild for a long time. What do you like best about it, and what would you like to say to those ladies who don't usually attend meetings?

Lori: I started with the guild immediately upon attending Redeemer. I met some wonderful ladies whom I have built Christian friendships with. I love the talents that ladies bring to our church and I'm thankful to be able to serve with all of them! I love our Ladies' Guild and all the women I have had the blessed chance to become friends with. They have offered advice and support during some very difficult times in my life. Not only is it the Ladies' Guild, but they are my sisters in Christ. To be honest, I wasn't eager to be the president, but God had a different plan for me and I am being blessed far more than I thought I would be. I would encourage all the ladies of the church to take part in this awesome group we have. You don't need an invitation; just come and you will be welcomed with open arms!

Erica: What kind of work do you each do?

Matthew: I am an account executive at a local company in Tempe. I work at MicroAge, where I am a senior account executive. I have a book of clients who look to me for guidance regarding their IT environment. I provide solutions and product in the areas of hardware, software, and services. I create quotes and process orders for clients who need IT equipment on a daily basis, and for larger scale projects I act as a project manager. All in all it is a very interesting and fulfilling profession, and I truly enjoy the relationships I build with some of my clients, some of whom have become close friends. Technology is ever changing and requires an approach of continued learning and staying on top of industry trends while vetting out manufacturers who are best in class and innovative in the technology industry.

Lori: Primarily I am a stay-at-home mom (SAHM). Before being a SAHM, I was working as a senior [computer aided drafting] (CAD) designer for a mold shop in Windsor, Ontario. I was a plastic design engineer, designing molds for car parts for Mercedes and Ford. It was a very stressful job in which I worked 55-60 hour weeks while being a single mom to Joshua. After giving birth to Johanna, I chose to end my career as a mold designer. My desire to be at home with my children was stronger than my desire to work and I have never regretted it! However, I may be a SAHM but I am

Member Interview, continued from Page 4

very busy with other entrepreneurial interests. I'm a consultant for a company called Norwex. I teach people that they can remove chemicals in their home from cleaning products to personal care products. I am a health coach for a company called Isagenix, where I coach individuals on the program and help them make better eating choices and healthy lifestyles to promote weight loss and healthy living and aging. I also take care of a few vacation rental homes where I clean them and make sure they are ready for the next guests to arrive. It's just a small contribution I can bring to the family finances while still spending time with the children at home and in school.

Erica: What part of the Valley do you live in? How long have you loved there? Do you like it?

Matthew: We live in Ahwatukee. Matthew has lived in Ahwatukee since 1992 and when we moved from Windsor in late 2006 we moved back into the house I purchased in 1995. Lori loves living in Ahwatukee and I have to say that if I have to live in Phoenix, Ahwatukee is where I want to be. I prefer to live in smaller towns (specifically in the mountains) as I am not a fan of big cities, however this is where Lori likes being and I can put up with it so long as I get the chance to escape to the mountains from time to time.

Erica: There are a number of newer people at Redeemer now, some who have kids. How have the girls enjoyed having more kids to play with?

Matthew: Johanna and Isabelle definitely enjoy the fact that there are more children their age. We love the fact that the church is growing with younger members and hope to see more.

Erica: Well, thank you so much for letting me interview you! It's been great getting to know you just a little bit better.

Internet Study Group News

For quite some time, Redeemer has sponsored a Thursday evening Internet Study Group. For these classes, members and friends of the congregation have logged on, from various locations in the state and country, for a one-hour Biblical or topical study via the online Skype program. For the study in which the Internet Study Group is now engaged – a review and discussion of the book *Holy People, Holy Lives* by Richard C. Eyer – several members of Hope Lutheran Church in West Jordan, Utah, have been joining us. Their participation has more than doubled the number of participants. This particular course is in fact co-sponsored by both congregations, and is co-led by the pastors of both congregations (who happen to be father and son). The Internet has given people from these two sister churches an opportunity to study together, and grow in their faith together, in a way that would otherwise never have been possible. So, while there is much to be concerned about with respect to the Internet, with many dangers to children and others, the Internet can also be a great tool for spreading God's Word, for extending the kingdom of God, and for wholesome Christian fellowship!

It's not too late to join us for this study. Please speak to the Pastor if you would like to know how to order a copy of the book we are using, and how to log on for the classes, each Thursday at 7 p.m.



*Redeemer Lutheran Church
October 2014*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2 Internet Study Group canceled	3 Bible Study canceled	4
5 Pentecost 17 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	6	7	8	9 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	10 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	11
12 Pentecost 18 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. SS / Congregational Forum	13 7 p.m. Quarterly Voters' Meeting at the church	14	15	16 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	17 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	18
19 Pentecost 19 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	20	21	22	23 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	24 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	25
26 Reformation Sunday 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS 11:30 a.m. Oktoberfest luncheon	27	28	29	30 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	31 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	

Abbreviations:

DS – Divine Service; SW – Service of the Word; AC/SS – Adult Bible Class/Sunday School

Divine Service – Full Word and Sacrament Service with Communion, 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 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

Refreshments are served after the Sunday morning Services

*Redeemer Lutheran Church
November 2014*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 All Saints Sunday 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	3	4	5	6 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	7 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	8
9 Pentecost 22 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. Congregational Forum	10 7 p.m. Church Council meeting at the Anderson residence	11	12	13 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	14 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	15
16 Pentecost 23 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	17	18	19	20 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	21 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	22
23 Last Sunday of the Church Year 9 .m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	24	25	26 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve DS, with Bread Exchange	27 Thanksgiving Internet Study Group canceled	28 Bible Study canceled	29
30 Advent 1 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS						

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Redeemer Lutheran Church

7670 East Jomax Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

Pastor David Jay Webber

Phone: 480-585-7002

Or: 480-621-7394

Email: jaywebber@yahoo.com



First Class Mail

We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

Notice!

Audio recordings of services are available on the church website. Recordings of sermons only are also available through the website, and are archived online courtesy of **lutheransource.net**.



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.

