

THE VALLEY EVANGEL

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



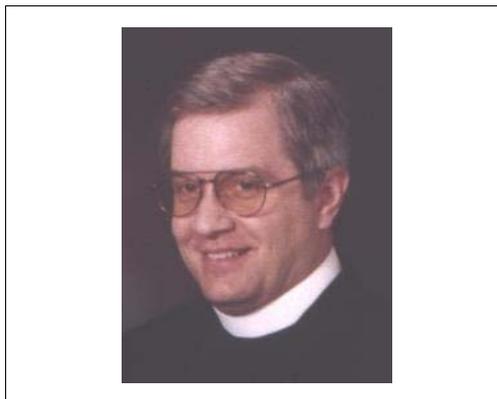
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Martin Luther on "The New Covenant"</i>	2
<i>Personal Money Mgt.</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	4
<i>Devotion: The Compassion and Understanding of Christ</i>	5
<i>About Our Church</i>	6

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

On October 29 we will observe "Reformation Sunday." In our commemoration of the "Reformation" of the church in the sixteenth century, an important aspect of our observance should be to remind ourselves what the word "reformation" actually means. If something is "reformed," this means basically that the material or "stuff" of the thing is preserved, but rearranged into a different order. So, when a troubled youth is sent to "reform school," he comes out as the same person he was when he went it, but hopefully with a rearranging of his attitudes and values so that he is now able to fulfill his role as a productive and responsible member of society.

The institutional church in western Europe had become "deformed" during the Middle Ages. The church's



Pastor David Jay Webber

Public Ministry had become a body of sacrificing priests, rather than a body of preaching pastors. "Faith" was taught to be a matter only of the mind, and not also of the heart. A Christian's standing with God was understood to be based on what God was doing *in* him through the gradual infusion of "grace," rather than on

(Continued on page 2)

WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Scottsdale:

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

Queen Creek:

Sunday Divine Service: 4:00pm
Sunday School & Bible Class: 5:15pm

Wednesday "Bible & Theology"

Study Group: 7:00 p.m.
Loughran home in Scottsdale
(call or e-mail for directions)

Thursday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.

Calvin home in Scottsdale
(Call or e-mail for directions)

**No mid-week study classes
between Oct. 14-28**

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Martin Luther on “The New Covenant” Jeremiah 31:31-34

But Christ, the true paschal lamb, (I Cor. 5:7) is an eternal, divine Person, who dies to ratify the new testament. Therefore, the testament and the possessions therein bequeathed are eternal and abiding. And that is what he means when he contrasts this testament with the other.

“A new testament,” he says, so that the other may become obsolete (Heb. 8:13) and no longer in effect.

“An eternal testament,” he says, not temporal like the other one; not to dis-

pose of temporal lands and possessions, but of eternal blessings.

“In my blood,” he says, not in the blood of a lamb (Heb. 9:12). The purpose of all this is that the old should be altogether annulled and should give place to the new alone.



What then is this testament, or what is bequeathed to us in it by Christ? Truly, a great, eternal, and unspeakable treasure, namely, the forgiveness of all sins, as the words plainly state, “This is the

(Continued on page 3)

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

what God had done *for* him in the cross of Christ. Good works were said to be a cause of justification before God, rather than a fruit of it. All of the original “stuff” of the apostolic faith was still there, but it had been put together in the wrong way. It was like a situation in which a small child has assembled a jigsaw puzzle by forcing mismatched pieces together in ways that were not intended, so that the completed puzzle doesn’t show the picture that it is supposed to show. All the pieces are there, but they are not put together correctly.

That’s the situation that confronted Luther and the other Reformers in the sixteenth century. As pastors who were genuinely concerned about the spiritual welfare of their people - and about their own spiritual welfare - they could see that the mismatched and deformed practices of the institutional church were

harming souls, and were leading people away from trusting in Christ alone for salvation.

But by their renewed commitment to preach and teach the Word of God as the Lord had revealed it, and to administer the sacraments as Christ had instituted them, these men became instruments in the “Reformation” that we now celebrate. They didn’t add any new doctrines, or invent any new religious practices. But they reassembled the pieces of the puzzle, according to the original Biblical plan, so that the picture which resulted was a picture of the saving work that Christ accomplished for us; a picture of the pure means of grace that God brings to us; and a picture of our justification before God by the faith which the Holy Spirit engenders in us.

(Continued on page 3)

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

(ESV)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 2)

But such a "Reformation" is not just an event of the past, or an interesting event in history. It is also an ongoing necessity for the church of our own time. The world, the flesh, and the devil are always at work to *deform* the church whenever they can. Therefore, in the Lord's strength, and with the guidance of the Holy Scriptures, it is always our duty and privilege to be a part of as many "reformations" as are necessary, to keep the ministry and proclamation of the church on track.

If through unintended blunders or deliberate schemes some of the pieces of the puzzle have been disassembled and then forced back together in ways that don't really fit, so that the picture God wants us to see has become distorted, God calls upon us in his name to take those pieces apart again, and put them back together in the right way. May the Lord preserve the pure and saving Gospel of Christ among us to the end of time. But if the Gospel ever becomes distorted or confused among us, may the Lord graciously reform *us* on the basis of his unchanging Word, to the salvation of our souls.

A special feature of the Reformation Day service at Redeemer this year will be the dedication of two new stained glass windows, portraying respectively the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar. These windows have been donated in loving memory of William ("Bill") DeMoss, who was an active member of Redeemer. It is particularly fitting for these windows to be dedicated on this occasion, since the true evangelical meaning of the sacraments was restored to the church by means of the Lutheran Reformation. Each of the sacraments is a divine work for us and a divine gift to us, conveying God's forgiveness and life to his people, and evoking and strengthening the faith that receives what God offers. May we always be reminded of this blessed teaching whenever we gaze upon these windows, and whenever the light of the sun shines down upon us through them.

Pastor Webber

*(If the Gospel ever becomes distorted or confused among us, may the Lord graciously reform **us** on the basis of his unchanging Word, to the salvation of our souls.*

Martin Luther on "The New Covenant"

Jeremiah 31:31-34

(Continued from page 2)

cup of a new eternal testament in my blood, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins."

It is as if Christ were saying, "See here, man, in these words I promise and bequeath to you forgiveness of

all your sins and the life eternal. In order that you may be certain and know that such a promise remains irrevocable yours, I will die for it, and will give my body and blood for it, and will leave them both to you as a sign and as seal, that by them you may remember me."

(Martin Luther: Luther's Works Vol 35: "Word and Sacrament I", page 85)

Ladies Guild News!!

The Redeemer Ladies Guild cordially invites all congregation members and friends to our Reformation / Oktoberfest lunch!

It will be held on Sunday, October 29th immediately following the Bible class.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
OCTOBER 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Divine Service 9:00am Service (S) 10:30am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class (S) 4:00pm Service (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)	2	3	4 7pm "Bible and Theology" Study Group Loughran Home (call or email for directions)	5 10:00am Bible Study Calvin Home (call or email for directions)	6 4:30pm Confirmation Class at Pastor's Residence	7
8 Service of the Word 9:00am Service (S) 10:30am Sunday School/ Cong. Forum (S) 4:00pm Service (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)	9	10 7pm Voter's Meeting	11 7pm "Bible and Theology" Study Group Loughran Home (call or email for directions)	12 10:00am Bible Study Calvin Home (call or email for directions)	13 4:30pm Confirmation Class at Pastor's Residence	14 Pastor Webber leaves for India
15 Divine Service 9:00am Service (S) 10:30am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class (S) 4:00pm Service (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)	16	17	18 No class tonight	19 No class today	20 No class today	21
22 "Reading" Service 9:00am Service (S) 10:30am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class (S) 4:00pm Service (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)	23	24	25 No class tonight	26 No class today	27 No class today	28 Pastor Webber Returns from India
29 Reformation Day / Divine Service 9:00am Service (S) 10:30am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class (S) 11:30 Oktoberfest Lunch 4:00pm Service (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)	30	31	<i>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:33</i>			

(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 (except Oct. 22, see below)
Special Events for October:

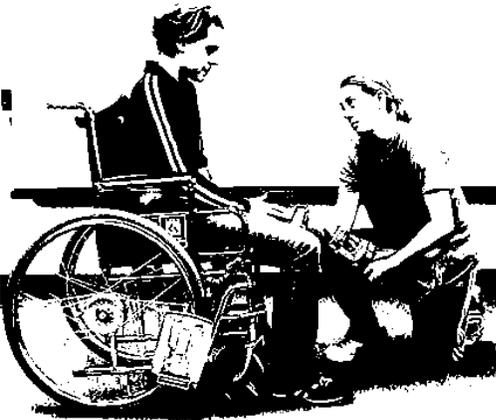
October 15, Divine Service will be led by Pastor Arlyn Schmeling
 October 22, "Reading" Service led by Daniel North—no communion
 October 29, Reformation Day and Dedication of New Stained Glass Windows in Scottsdale, Oktoberfest Lunch following the Bible Class
Choir Rehearsals will be held every Sunday morning in October one half hour before the morning service in Scottsdale at 8:30am. All are welcome!

The Compassion and Understanding of Christ

For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. Hebrews 2:18

Compassion is a word that is slightly misunderstood in our day. Compassion is a sense of shared suffering, most often combined with a desire to alleviate or reduce such suffering. In this way it is slightly different from empathy, in that the compassionate person will seek to actually aid those they feel compassionate for.

Take, for example, the case of Nathan. Nathan was injured in a car accident, and was in the hospital, doing physical therapy, for several weeks. His friend Chris, not only felt sorry for him (empathy), but actually helped him do his physical therapy by helping him get in and out of his wheelchair, walking with him as he struggled to walk, etc. Chris had compassion for Nathan.



On a much grander scale, Jesus Christ has compassion for us. Think of it! He not only feels sorry for us, but actually helps us in our suffering by having suffered Himself. Because of His suffering, we have the inheritance of heaven!

Whatever pain, sadness and suffering we have experienced, we can know that Jesus understands our trials and difficulties, because He has lived here on earth and He was surrounded by sin, just as we are. More than that, He knew sin's effects. He saw his friend Lazarus die, and this caused him to shed tears. In compassion He raised Lazarus from the dead!

Yes, Jesus Himself has suffered. His suffering was at its climax as He hung on the cross for us. Fastened there, He was bearing your sins and mine, in fact, the sins of the entire world.

God the Father was punishing Him there so that we would not have to be punished.

He does, as the passages states, aid us as we are being tempted. He comes to help us and give us strength to fight temptation. And for those times that we have sinned, He aids us by taking our sin from us and by giving us, through the forgiveness

of sins, a clear conscience.

He truly does have compassion for us. Perfect compassion!

Produced by the ELS Board of Evangelism

Pastor Webber to Teach in India this Month!

Pastor Webber will be out of the country from Oct. 14 to Oct. 28, to teach a dogmatics seminary course in Rajahmundry, India, under the sponsorship of the ELS Board for World Missions and in cooperation with the Lutheran Mission of Salvation in India, a sister church of the ELS. Pastor Steven Sparley from Grants Pass, Oregon, will accompany him and will teach a course on Old Testament Introduction.

During his absence, on Oct. 15, Retired Pastor Arlyn E. Schmeling of Sun City, Arizona,

will serve at both services as worship leader, preacher, and celebrant of Holy Communion.

On Oct. 22 there will be "lay reading services" at both locations, with Daniel North leading the service (without Communion) and delivering an approved sermon. Bible class will be held on both Sundays. Dan's class will be more historical, dealing with the 95 Theses of Luther and what led up to them. This would come just a week before Reformation Sunday.



Personal Money Management Seminar

Paradise Valley Lutheran Church

14845 N. 40th St. Phoenix

- **Who?** Anyone ages 14 to 94
- **What?** Learn basic personal financial skills from a Christ-centered perspective
- **When?** Every **Tuesday from Oct 17th through Nov 7th, 2006 from 7-9 p.m.**
- **Why?**
 - ✓ Learn to manage money effectively
 - ✓ Reduce money stress
 - ✓ Gain financial control
 - ✓ Break the shackles of debt
- **Cost:** \$50 which includes all materials (first 10 to register are FREE!)
- NO financial products offered; NO sales pitches!
- Register now, space is limited. **Call 602.992.4981** to reserve your seat. Payment due at first class.

Instructor Biography

Michael Shelton is vice president of finance for Westcor, the leading shopping center developer in Arizona. During his 11-year career with Westcor, Mr. Shelton has secured over \$2 billion of real estate loans. He understands the financial markets and uses those same financial skills to manage his personal accounts. Mr. Shelton graduated from the University of Wisconsin (Whitewater) with a BA in human resource management and obtained an MBA in finance from the University of Arizona. He serves as treasurer of Paradise Valley Lutheran Church where he and his family have been members since 1996.

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

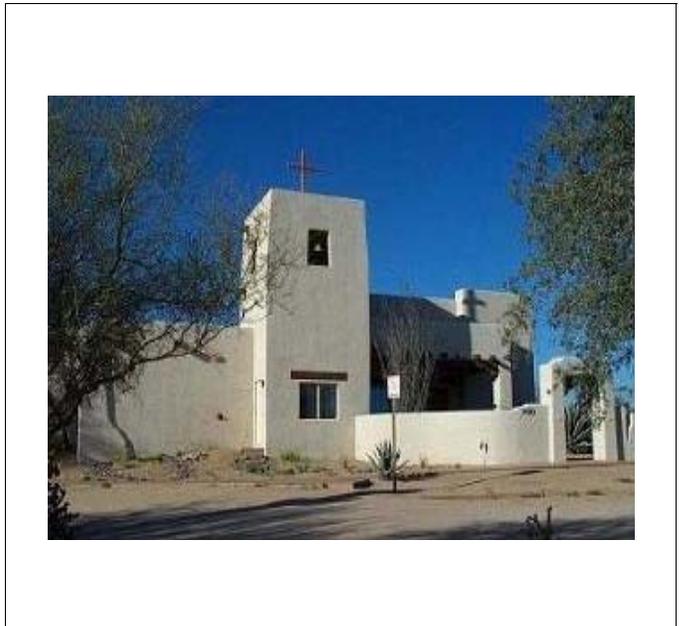
Notice!

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