

The Valley Evangel

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

October 2017

<p><i>Inside this issue...</i></p> <p><i>New Members / Passing of a Member / Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center.....Page 3</i></p> <p><i>Academic Lecture / Choir Rehearsals / Fall Concert Page 4</i></p> <p><i>Calendar.....Page 5</i></p> <p><i>About our Church..... Page 6</i></p>	<p><i>Worship and Study</i></p> <p>Sunday Divine Service 9 am; Refreshments after the service</p> <p>Sunday School/Adult Bible Class: 10:30 am</p> <p>Thursday Internet Study Group: 7 p.m. (Ask Pr. Webber for login information)</p> <p>Friday Bible Study: 10 am at the Muth residence</p>	<p><i>Newsletter Staff</i></p> <p>Editor: Pastor David Jay Webber</p> <p>Editorial Assistant/ Layout and Design: Erica Olson</p> <p></p>
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From the Pastor's Desk

We are going to observe Reformation Sunday in a little bit of a different way this year – which is a special anniversary year. As most of you probably know, this year's observation marks the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses – which inaugurated the Lutheran Reformation – in Wittenberg, Saxony, on October 31, 1517. On Sunday, October 29, we will have a Divine Service at 9 a.m. marking the Festival of the Reformation – as usual. But this year, following the service, instead of Sunday School, we will join together in an Oktoberfest brunch, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Ladies Guild is planning this meal. Some parts of the menu will no doubt be the same as in previous years, when we had an Oktoberfest lunch, but some parts of the menu will no doubt be different. Following this special brunch, at 11:30 a.m., we will reconvene in the sanctuary for a special anniversary hymn festival, on the theme “Walking the Old Paths.” This title is taken from Jeremiah 6:16: “Thus says the Lord: ‘Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls’” (NKJV).

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Worship Committee has prepared a special commemorative booklet for these hymn festivals, which are being held all across the synod. This special song-and-music event marks both the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation in 1517, and the 100th anniversary of the organization of our church body in 1918. The ELS was organized to perpetuate the tradition and doctrinal position of the Norwegian Synod, which had been formed by orthodox Lutheran Norwegian immigrants in 1853. The majority of the Norwegian Synod had unfortunately entered a merger based on compromise in 1917, which a

October 2017

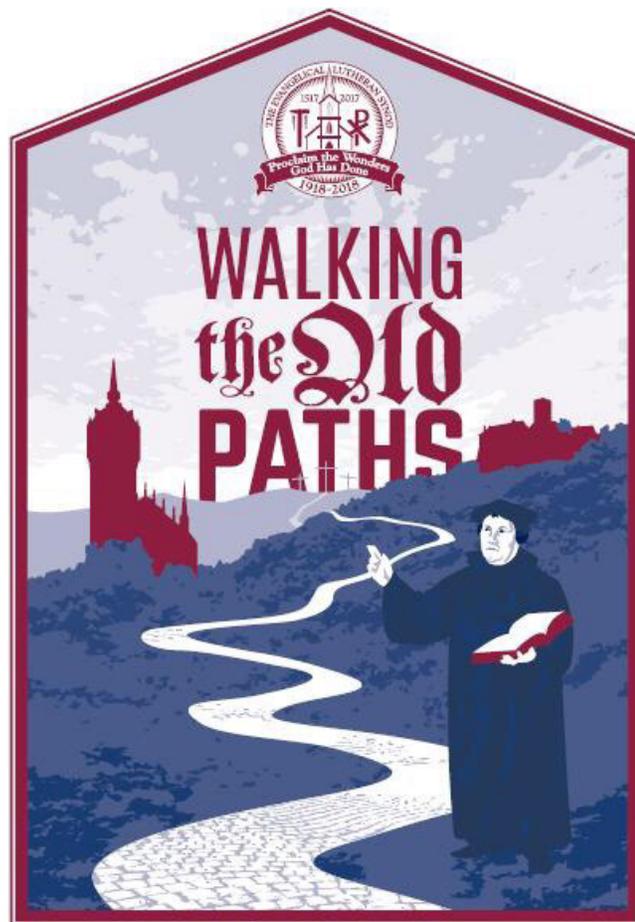
minority of pastors and congregations declined to enter for reasons of conscience and faithfulness to their confession. That minority then formed the ELS the following year.

Our congregation's musicians and choristers are already working on the special music for this hymn festival. It will include hymns from the Reformation era as well as hymns that have been written and sung throughout Lutheran history, all of which testify to our faith, and strengthen us in that faith as we sing them. For almost four centuries these hymns have helped us to remain on the "old paths" of God's unchanging truth in Christ, even when that truth is attacked or dismissed by an increasingly hostile and superstitious world. Informative historical commentary for each hymn, and pertinent passages of Holy Scripture, will also be read.

The chance to participating in this hymn festival will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so make sure you don't miss it. Consider inviting relatives or friends to join you for some or all of the special events of that day – the service, the meal, and the hymn festival.

(This year's special Reformation anniversary will be marked also on Sunday, November 5, with the annual area WELS-ELS Reformation Service at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Tempe at 4 p.m.)

– Pastor Webber



New Members



On Sunday, September 3, Redeemer Lutheran Church received three people into communicant membership: John Colville by profession of faith, and Dr. Bryan and Sandy Carlson by transfer.

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God” (Romans 15:7, ESV).

The Passing of a Member



John Null, a communicant member of Redeemer, passed into the rest of Christ on September 9 at the Phoenix Mountain Nursing Center, where he resided. A memorial service will be held in Pennsylvania, where his remains will be interred, at the convenience of the family. John’s wife Molly entered into her rest in Christ on April 5. “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!’” (Revelation 14:13, ESV).

Help Support Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center

Our church, along with other congregations with which we are in fellowship, have been supporting the Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center in Phoenix for a long time, and they are indeed in need of our help once again. Earlier this year we held a drive to collect items for babies. Many of those items have been given out to families in need, and Alpha is once again asking us for assistance. Needed items include baby formula, used clothing for boys and girls in sizes 3 and 4, new onesies and layettes, towels and bibs; as well as volunteers to help sort the clothing, perform receptionist duties, and be advocates. For more information or to see how you can help, talk to Carole Clingan. The Alpha website is alphaaz.org

Public Academic Lecture in Scottsdale on an Important Reformation Subject



At 10 a.m. on Friday, October 27, Phoenix Seminary in Scottsdale will host a public lecture by visiting scholar Charles Lee Irons, on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This presentation, “The Righteousness of God: Was Luther Right?,” will address a key aspect of Martin Luther’s theology. At the heart of Martin Luther’s theology was the belief that the “righteousness of God” is God’s gift of righteousness to needy sinners rather than his punishment of them. But Luther’s bold interpretation has been criticized by many scholars in the last century, who argue that the “righteousness of God” in Paul is actually God’s saving covenant faithfulness. This interpretation has grown increasingly influential, especially among advocates of the “New Perspective on Paul” who reject the Reformation doctrine of imputed righteousness. In this public lecture, Dr. Irons weighs this new view and finds that it was Luther, and not his modern critics, who stands closest to Paul. The seminary is located at 7901 East Shea Boulevard in Scottsdale. Register for a seat at this lecture on this webpage: www.ps.edu/irons

Charles Lee Irons (Ph.D., Fuller Theological Seminary) teaches New Testament at the California Graduate School of Theology in Garden Grove. His dissertation was published in 2015 as *The Righteousness of God: A Lexical Examination of the Covenant-Faithfulness Interpretation*. He lives in Los Angeles with his family, and is a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in America.

October Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals are planned before the morning service each Sunday of October (October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29) in order to prepare music for the service and hymn festival on Reformation Sunday (October 29). New voices are welcome! Please let Carol Webber know if you are able to participate, and plan your arrival so that practices can begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. The children will learn the hymns they will sing on Reformation Sunday during the regular Sunday School hour. Thank you for considering this unique and edifying opportunity. Your investment of time and talent will be much appreciated.

Fall Concert

The Arizona Lutheran Academy band and choirs will present a concert on Sunday, October 8, at 4 p.m. in the ALA gymnasium. All are invited to this free concert, the first of the school year. ALA is located at 6036 South 27th Avenue in Phoenix.



*Redeemer Lutheran Church of Scottsdale
October 2017 Calendar*

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Pentecost 17 8:30 am Choir 9 am DS with Baptism of Jonathon Chasty 10:30 am SS/AC	2	3	4 Pr. Webber in Bloomington, MN, for ELS General Pastors' Conference	5 Pr. Webber in MN Internet Study Group canceled	6 Pr. Webber in MN Bible Study canceled	7
8 Pentecost 18 8:30 am Choir 9 am SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 am SS/AC 4 pm ALA concert	9	10	11	12 7 pm Internet Study Group	13 10 am Bible study at the Muth residence	14
15 Pentecost 19 8:30 am Choir 9 am DS 10:30 am SS/ Congregational Forum	16 7 pm Quarterly Voters' Meeting at the Church (rescheduled from October 9)	17	18 7:30 pm ASU Reformation concert	19 7 pm Internet Study Group	20 10 am Bible Study at the Muth residence	21
22 Pentecost 20 8:30 am Choir 9 am SW with Spoken Communion Ladies Guild after the service 10:30 am SS/AC	23	24	25	26 7 pm Internet Study Group	27 Bible Study canceled 10 am Phoenix Seminary Lecture	28
29 Reformation 8:30 am Choir 9 am DS 10:30 am Oktoberfest Brunch 11:30 am Hymn Festival	30	31				

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.

October 2017

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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.