

# THE VALLEY EVANGEL

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



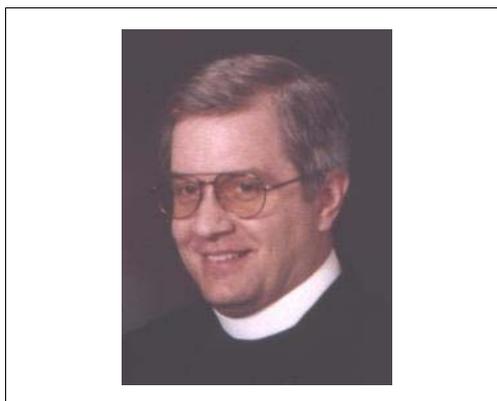
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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first issue of the "Valley Evangel," a parish newsletter for the members and friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale and Sun of Righteousness Lutheran Mission in Queen Creek. The word "Valley" refers to the Valley of the Sun in Arizona, where we live and work, and which our two-point parish currently spans from top to bottom. The word "Evangel" is Greek (the original language of the New Testament), and means "Gospel" or "good news." This newsletter is indeed dedicated to the spreading of the Gospel of Christ - the "good news" of our salvation from sin, death, and the devil, by the life, death, and resurrection of God's Son. Jesus truly is humanity's "Redeemer" (Job 19:25), who atoned for our sins and reconciled us to our heavenly Father. He is also the "Sun



Pastor David Jay Webber

of Righteousness" (Malachi 4:2), from whom rays of grace and spiritual healing continually descend upon us. May the Lord bless and guide this humble effort, by which we hope to stay in touch with the Christian brothers and sisters with whom we worship, and by which we hope to encourage one another in our most holy faith.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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## WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

**Scottsdale:**

Sunday Divine Service: 9:00 a.m.  
 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.**

(call or e-mail for location & directions)

**Thursday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.**

(call or e-mail for location & directions)

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## MARTIN LUTHER ON THE “BREAD FROM HEAVEN” (JOHN 6)

If we, however, rightly appropriated the words of Christ, they would be of much greater comfort to us. By faith we partake of this bread that has come down from heaven, Christ the Lord, when we believe on him as our Savior and Redeemer.



Martin Luther

refers to the Lord's Supper. Why should Christ here have in mind that Sacrament when it was not yet instituted? The whole chapter from which this Gospel is taken speaks of nothing but the spiritual food, namely, faith.

In this light I now remind you that these words are not to be misconstrued and made to refer to the Sacrament of the Altar; whoever so interprets them does violence to this Gospel text. There is not a letter in it that

When the people followed the Lord merely hoping again to eat and drink, as the Lord himself charges them with doing, he took the figure from the

*(Continued on page 5)*

*By faith we partake of this bread that has come down from heaven, Christ the Lord, when we believe on him as our Savior and Redeemer*

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I want you to think for a moment about all the new things that are going on in our small congregation. It is encouraging if you think about it. Take this newsletter for example. For as long as I remember we have never really had one. My hope is that it will serve to connect the members and friends of Redeemer, some who are far away, and keep everybody informed about what is going on here. I hope you find the information in here useful.

We have also formed a youth program. Did you know that? Over the summer there have been a couple of outings and 3 of our youth spent 4 days in Salt Lake City attending our Synod's youth rally. This group is now in the process of transforming one of our former classrooms into a room of their own, an atmosphere that is comfortable for them.

The women of our congregation have organized a valuable group who will plan social functions, take care of the altar, and make our visitors welcome. I am impressed at the organization and size of this group.

You all know about Queen Creek don't you? Pastor, his family and others have put in a lot of energy to get this preaching station off the ground.

Have you seen our website [www.redeemer.vze.com](http://www.redeemer.vze.com)? Chances are good that you can find a picture of yourself there. There are 5 of me.

I know that some of you are probably yawning about now because you already know about everything I'm talked about. So why am I listing all these things? The reason is simple.

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*(Continued from page 1)*

"DIDN'T YOU GUYS EVER GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL?"

I have always remembered this line from the 1981 film "Raiders of the Lost Ark." With this question, Indiana Jones expressed his surprise that the government men to whom he was telling the story of the Ark of the Covenant did not seem to know what he was talking about. In the 1930s - the time period in which the movie was set - it was very rare to find people in America who had not gone to Sunday School as children, and who were not familiar with the basic stories of the Bible.

In today's America, however, things are very different. After several decades of societal rebellion against the ways of God, and of societal indifference to the Word of God, there are many, many people in our country who have never gone to Sunday School. And when they grow up and have children of their own, they do not send them to Sunday School either. These friends, neighbors, and coworkers do not know those beloved stories about what God did in ancient times to rescue, guide, and protect his people. And, worse of all, they do not know about their Savior, who died and rose again for them. "Didn't you guys ever go to Sunday School?" The honest and sad answer to that question today, in a very large number of cases, would have to be "No."

But it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. And the humble Sunday School programs that we operate in Scottsdale and Queen Creek

are small "candles" that we light, with the Lord's help, in the darkness of the religious ignorance and unbelief that surrounds us. Sunday School in both locations will begin on September 3, at 10:30 a.m. in Scottsdale and at 5:15 p.m. in Queen Creek. We will be using a new curriculum from Concordia Publishing House, which is designed to convey the stories of the Bible in an accurate and interesting way, and to divide law and Gospel faithfully, so that the students will be aware of their sin and need of a Savior, and also so that the message of God's grace and forgiveness in Christ will be lavished upon them each week.

As we plan for the start-up of our Sunday School programs, humble though they may be, I would encourage you to invite your neighbors, friends, and relatives, and to come yourself! In both locations there will also be an adult class, taught at the same time as the classes for children and youth. And remember what God himself has promised about his Word as it is taught and learned: "*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth..., so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it*" (Isaiah 55:10-11, ESV).

David Jay Webber, Pastor

*And, worse of all,  
they (our friends  
and neighbors) do  
not know about  
their Savior, who  
died and rose again  
for them.*

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SEPTEMBER 2006**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. <b>John 6:51</b>					1	2
3 9:00am Worship (S) 10:00am Refreshments 10:30am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class (S) 4:00pm Worship (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)	4	5	6 7pm "Bible and Theology" Study Group (call or email for location)	7 10:00am Bible Study (call or email for location)	8	9
10 9:00am Worship (S) 10:00am Refreshments 10:30am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class (S) 11:30am Elders 11:30am Ladies Guild 4:00pm Worship (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)	11	12 7pm Church Council	13 7pm "Bible and Theology" Study Group (call or email for location)	14 10:00am Bible Study (call or email for location)	15	16
17 9:00am Worship (S) 10:00am Refreshments 10:30am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class (S) 4:00pm Worship (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)	18	19	20 7pm "Bible and Theology" Study Group (call or email for location)	21 10:00am Bible Study (call or email for location)	22	23
24 9:00am Worship (S) 10:00am Refreshments 10:30am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class (S) 4:00pm Worship (Q) 5:15pm Bible Class (Q)	25	26	27 7pm "Bible and Theology" Study Group (call or email for location)	28 10:00am Bible Study (call or email for location)	29	30
(S) = Scottsdale (Q) = Queen Creek						

**Sunday  
School  
Begins  
Sept. 3**

*Your family  
is welcome!*



**Redeemer  
Lutheran Church**

(Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

7670 E. Jomax Road, Scottsdale  
(between Scottsdale Rd. & Pima Rd.)

<http://redeemer.vze.com>

**Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.**

*Featuring the new  
"GROWING IN CHRIST"  
Curriculum (from CPH)*

Questions? Call 602-388-4980

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*(Continued from page 2)*

All of these groups, organizations and activities take time, energy and commitment to start and maintain. There's no rocket science in that statement, that's for sure. While all the things I have listed are real accomplishments, there is so much more to do. For example, church officers are really needed. Guys, those who are able, are you really too busy? There is mission work to be done that does not involve calling people or knocking on doors. Perhaps you simply have some ideas or input. Eve-

rything helps when there is a commitment to making things work.

For all you have done, please accept a sincere thank you from me. For all that can be done please prayerfully consider how you can participate.

President John Kissinger

*Everything helps  
when there is a  
commitment to  
making things work.*

## Martin Luther on "The Bread of Life"—John 6

*(Continued from page 2)*

temporal food they sought, and speaks throughout the entire chapter of a spiritual food.

He says: "The words that I have spoken unto you are spirit, and are life." Thereby he shows that he feeds them with the object of inducing them to believe on him, and that as they partook of the temporal food, so should they also partake of the spiritual.

Now let us here notice that the Lord approaches us so lovingly and graciously, and offers us himself — his blood and flesh — in such gentle words that it should in all reason move the heart to believe on him; to believe that this bread, his flesh and blood, born of the Virgin Mary, was given because he had to pay the penalty of death and suffer in our stead the torments of hell, and, besides, to suffer the guilt of sins he never committed, as if they were his own. This he did willingly and received us as brethren and sisters. If we believe this

we do the will of the heavenly Father, which is nothing else than that we believe on the Son. Christ says, just before our text: "This is the will of my Father, that every one that beholdeth the Son, and believeth on him, should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:40.

*From Martin Luther's "Sermon on Pentecost Wednesday", 1528*

*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." **John 6:51***

## Redeemer Lutheran Church

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We're on the internet!  
[www.redeemer.vze.com](http://www.redeemer.vze.com)



## MORE INFORMATION 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.*



Redeemer Lutheran Church