

# The Valley Evangel

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

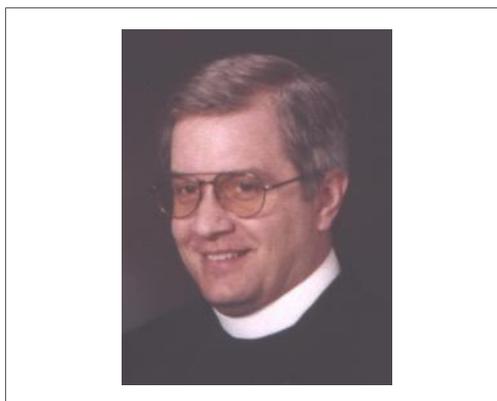


**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>Martin Luther on Psalm 119</i>	2
<i>Youth Gathering Report</i>	4
<i>Congregational Social: Mt. Kilimanjaro</i>	4
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	5
<i>Devotion: God's Persistence, Our Repentance</i>	6
<i>Announcements</i>	6
<i>About Our Church</i>	7

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As we prepare to celebrate the festival of the Reformation next month, let me tell you a few things about an important person in church history. He was a member of a religious order and a professor of Biblical Studies at a recognized European university, during a time of much turmoil in the church. He believed that it was important to study the Scriptures in the original languages – Greek for the New Testament and Hebrew for the Old – in order to have an accurate understanding of the sacred text. He was therefore willing to criticize the accepted Latin translation of the Bible when that translation distorted the meaning of the original. He also rejected the careless methods of Biblical interpretation that were common in his day. These methods included the imposition of fanciful and far-fetched allego-



Pastor David Jay Webber

ries onto a text, to make it say things it did not really say. These methods also included the thoughtless quoting of old opinions concerning a text that had been put forth by various Fathers and scholars of the past, without doing any fresh study of that portion of Scripture. In rejecting these methods, he emphasized the importance of following the literal sense of a passage of

*(Continued on page 3)*

## WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

**Scottsdale:**

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

**Queen Creek:**

Sunday Divine Service: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 5:15 p.m.

**Wednesday "Bible & Theology"**

**Study Group: 7:00 p.m.**  
Loughran home in Scottsdale

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

Calvin home in Scottsdale

Editor:  
Pastor David Jay Webber

Editorial Assistant - Layout and Design:  
Julie Martinez

## Martin Luther on Psalm 119

Excerpt from Luther's Works

**Psalm 119:174-176** *I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy law is my meditation. My soul will live and will praise Thee, and Thy judgments will help me. I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; seek Thy servant, because I have not forgotten Thy commandments*

174. *I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy law is my meditation.* It is not given to the disdainful. "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness" (Matt. 5:6). "But he fills the hungry with good things, and sends the rich away empty" (Luke 1:53). "Everyone who asks, receives, and he who seeks, finds" (Matt. 7:8). What else follows from this but that he who does not ask does not receive and that he who does not seek does not find? But he who longs, seeks, and hungers for God's salvation without doubt disdains, is fed up with, and hisses off what is of the world. The flesh is tasteless to him because he savors the spirit. O happy craving, blessed thirst, and holy hunger, for it will be abundantly satisfied and become Elizabeth (that is, the fullness of God). On the contrary, unhappy fullness, for it will hunger eternally.

But as they longed for Christ in the flesh, so we now long for Him in spirit. For He is the "desired of nations" (Hag. 2:7), "the desire of the everlasting hills" (Gen. 49:6).

175. *My soul will live and will praise Thee, and Thy judgments will help me.* How concerned he is for the spiritual life, for he mentions the soul, not the body. For the body already lives, but the soul is dead like the girl in her house. But "I have longed for Your salvation to come." And so the soul will live and rise again. These two verses almost express the words of the story about the synagogue chief's daughter who was raised (Matt. 9:18 ff.). For as the ruler of the synagogue longed for Christ that his daughter who was dead might live, so the people longed for the coming Christ to give them life from spiritual death. But what shall I render to the Lord after He has come and has given life? "My soul will praise Thee," he says. It cannot render anything but love and praise, so that thus this report might go out into that whole region (Matt. 9:26). And what

seems wonderful, even false to men, "Your judgments (which I will bear in the flesh, since my soul has been made alive and justified) will not only not do harm, but they will help." So it comes about that for those who live in the soul and love God, even sufferings and evils will work together for good, but for those who do not live and do not love God, the judgments will hurt all the worse. Therefore he says: "Let Your judgments be only punishment to me and not merit, give me a living soul. For then they will benefit me all the more for salvation, because out of them Your praise increases."

176. *I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; seek Thy servant, because I have not forgotten Thy commandments.* "I have gone astray," namely, in Adam, in whom all have sinned. "Like a sheep," he says, because it goes astray in the most dangerous way, since it is an animal that is weak, timid, and the prey of many beasts, especially wolves. Therefore at the end of the psalm he especially calls to mind the divine pity out of the greatness of his wretchedness. For if he strayed like a lion or a wolf, he would not need to be grieved, but because it is a little lamb that goes astray, it is a wretchedness that needs a shepherd, pasture, watchmen, a sheepfold, and many other household cares, and the straying one lacks all of them. Indeed, what is most wretched of all is that it does not know how to come back on the way but (the Shepherd) needs to seek it. Thus this verse is extremely emotional and full of tears, for truly we are all thus going astray, so that we must pray to be visited, sought, and carried over by the most godly Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God blessed forever. Amen.

Luther's Works, Vol. II, *First Lectures on the Psalms, Psalm 76-126*, © Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*(Continued from page 1)*

Scripture, and of avoiding any mystical interpretations or applications that did not have a basis in the literal meaning. And because he believed that the Word of God has supreme authority in the church, he was even willing to criticize the teaching of the pope of his day when that pope departed from the doctrine of Scripture in his public teaching. He wrote several books and commentaries, so that later generations would be able to benefit from his scholarship, and to be influenced by his ideas.

Do you think you know about whom I am speaking? Would you have guessed Nicholas of Lyra? Nicholas lived from 1270 to 1340. He was a Franciscan, and taught in the theological faculty of the Sorbonne in France. When Pope John XXII preached that the souls of departed Christians now in heaven do not have a "beatific vision" of God, Nicholas was among the theologians who opposed him, and who eventually influenced the pope to withdraw this teaching. The Biblical commentaries that Nicholas wrote and left to posterity had a great influence on another university professor who lived 200 years later. Throughout his lifetime that later professor often referred to these commentaries in his own lectures and writings, and he described Nicholas on one occasion as an "excellent man." That later professor *was* Martin Luther.

Even the *Catholic Encyclopedia* of 1911 says this about Nicholas of Lyra: "In the famous controversy on the Beatific Vision he took sides with the professors against John XXII. He labored very successfully, both in preaching and writing, for the conversion of the Jews. He is the

author of numerous theological works, some of which are yet unpublished. ... In...his monumental work, *Postillae perpetuae in universam S. Scripturam*, after stating that the literal sense of Sacred Scripture is the foundation of all mystical expositions, and that it alone has demonstrative force, ...he deplores the state of Biblical studies in his time. The literal sense, he avers, is much obscured, owing partly to the carelessness of the copyists, partly to the unskillfulness of some of the correctors, and partly also to our own translation (the Vulgate), which not infrequently departs from the original Hebrew. ... Another reason for this obscurity, Nicholas goes on to say, is the attachment of scholars to the method of interpretation handed down by others who, though they have said many things well, have yet touched but sparingly on the literal sense... Nicholas utilized all available sources, fully mastered the Hebrew, and drew copiously from the valuable commentaries of the Jewish exegetes... His exposition is lucid and concise; his observations are judicious and sound, and always original. ... Luther owes much to Nicholas of Lyra..."

When the Lutheran Reformation is criticized as an unhistorical revolt, and when the principles upon which it was based are criticized as innovations, one of the ways in which we can respond is to tell the story of Nicholas of Lyra. As a faithful scholar and servant of Christ, he truly was an "excellent man." Through the people whom he influenced, he is still teaching us today. There is a lot of truth in a little jingle that comes to us from the sixteenth century: "If Nicholas had not played on his lyre, Luther would not have danced."

-- Pastor Webber

*When the Lutheran Reformation is criticized as an unhistorical revolt, and when the principles upon which it was based are criticized as innovations, one of the ways in which we can respond is to tell the story of Nicholas of Lyra.*

## L.Y.A. REPORT

By Jessica Hartigan

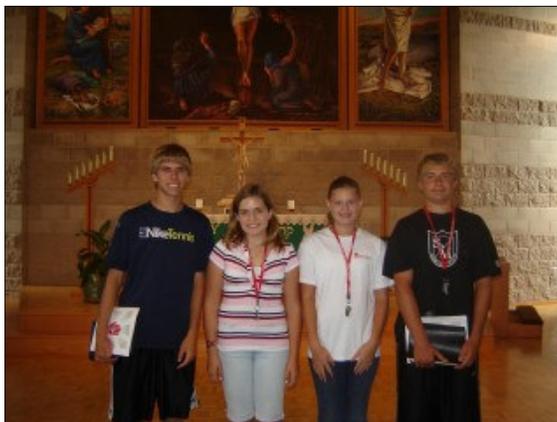
The following is what Andrew and Daniel Kissinger, Catharine Webber, and I did while at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, for the ELS youth gathering from July 26 to 29. We all had a great time, with very little sleep. Our days began around 7:15 a.m. and ended at 1:30 a.m. Each of us got to choose two classes to attend, so we could get the feel of what it is like in college. For example, I chose a biology and a history class, and Catharine, my roommate, chose a psychology and a music class. The first day we heard Pastor Steven Petersen give a presentation on India. Every evening, chapel was from 11 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., followed by two hours of recreation time.

The food was pretty good too – almost like home cooked meals! There were about 250 youth attending, and one night 65 pizzas were ordered. We had religion classes, where we divided into groups, and the theme was about our vocation and praising

God while doing our jobs. One day we took a bus to an amusement park called Valley Fair.

One evening back at the Bethany campus, we heard a band called Mid-Life Crisis. The band was comprised of professors and pastors. Pastor Don Moldstad was the lead singer and played the piano. Another band consisted of students, and was called Squirrel Master. They were both very good. On another day we took a tour of the campus and also created “Commercials for God.” Each group had to make a short movie to explain Christian living, or something that advertised Bethany Lutheran College.

On Sunday morning, before we left to go home, we walked to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church for worship, and after the service we were served a Mexican dinner. The sad part of the trip was saying Goodbye to all our friends. However, we are looking forward to the next LYA Youth Gathering, next year in San Antonio, Texas.



## Special Event!

### Mt. Kilimanjaro Evening at the Kissingers'

This past February John Kissinger had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania and climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. It is the highest point on the African Continent and considered one of the "seven summits" of the world. This month, John will be hosting a video presentation of his journey, consisting of photos and video clips and a basic geography lesson of East Africa. Please join us at the Kissinger home on September 29th, 2007 at 7pm. Appetizers will be provided by the Redeemer Ladies Guild. Guests are welcome!

21710 N. 78th St. in Scottsdale  
Call 480-585-6017 if you need directions



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**SEPTEMBER 2007**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<p><b>Psalm 119:174-176</b> <i>I have longed for Thy salvation, O Lord, and Thy law is my meditation. My soul will live and will praise Thee, and Thy judgments will help me. I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; seek Thy servant, because I have not forgotten Thy commandments</i></p>						
<p><b>2 Divine Service</b> 9:00am Service (S) 10:30 am(S)/5:15pm (Q) Sunday School/Adult Bible Class (Judaism) 4:00pm Service (Q)</p>	<p><b>3</b> 8:30– 10:30 a.m. “That I May Know Him” Course (S)</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> “Bible &amp; Theology” Study Group 7pm at the Loughran residence (S)</p>	<p><b>6</b> Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence (S)</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9 Service of the Word</b> 9:00am Service (S) 10:30 am(S)/5:15pm (Q) Sunday School/Adult Bible Class (The Occult) 4:00pm Service (Q)</p>	<p><b>10</b> 8:30-10:30 a.m. “That I May Know Him” Course (S)</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7:00pm Church Council</p>	<p><b>12</b> “Bible &amp; Theology” Study Group 7pm at the Loughran residence (S)</p>	<p><b>13</b> Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence (S)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16 Divine Service</b> 9:00am Service (S) Ladies Guild after the morning service 10:30 am(S)/5:15pm (Q) Sunday School/Adult Bible Class (Eastern Religions) 4:00pm Service (Q)</p>	<p><b>17</b> 8:30– 10:30 a.m. “That I May Know Him” Course (S)</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> “Bible &amp; Theology” Study Group 7pm at the Loughran residence (S)</p>	<p><b>20</b> Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence (S)</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23 Service of the Word</b> 9:00am Service (S) Elders after the service (S) 10:30 am(S)/5:15pm (Q) Sunday School/Adult Bible Class (Islam) 4:00pm Service (Q)</p> <hr/> <p><b>30 Divine Service</b> Same schedule as Sept. 2 Adult Bible Class (Mormonism)</p>	<p><b>24</b> 8:30– 10:30 a.m. “That I May Know Him” Course (S)</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> “Bible &amp; Theology” Study Group 7pm at the Loughran residence (S)</p>	<p><b>27 Bible Study Canceled</b>  Pastor Webber in Milwaukee for joint meeting of the ELS Doctrine Committee and the WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations</p>	<p><b>28</b>  Pastor Webber in Milwaukee</p>	<p><b>29</b> Congregational Social at the John &amp; Sarah Kissinger residence: Video presentation of John’s trip to Kilimanjaro (S)  See page 4 for details</p>

(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

## God's Persistence, Our Repentance

In Luke chapter 18 Jesus told a parable about two men: a Pharisee and a tax collector. The Pharisee was proud and felt that he did not need to repent of, or feel sorry about, anything. In fact, he thought he was better than other people, including the tax collector. The tax collector, on the other hand, beat his breast and cried out, "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner."

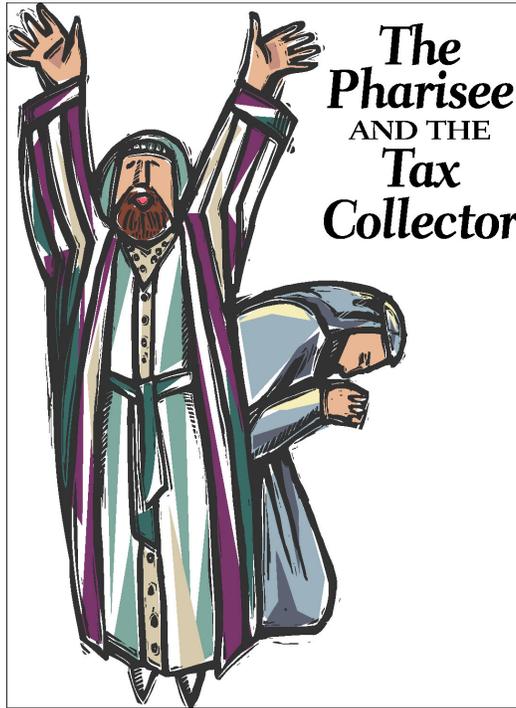
Which of these two do you think was repentant? Of course, the correct answer is the tax collector. To repent is to be sorry about our sins and to trust that Jesus is our Savior from sin. He wants us to confess our sins to Him and to trust in Him for the forgiveness of our sins.

The passage below reveals that the residents of heaven are happy when a sinner repents and has faith in Christ for his salvation. We are not to trust in ourselves, as the Pharisee did, but in Christ alone for our hope of heaven. It makes God happy when, by the Holy Spirit's work, people own up to their sin and have faith in Jesus.

It can be difficult to focus on ourselves and confess our own sins. For those who are faithful churchgoers, it is easy to think of the absentees not in God's house. For those who have been faithful ministers, it is easy to think of those who appear to be lacking in zeal and loyalty. For those who are tireless workers in

their employment, it is easy to think of those who appear to be slacking off and wasting time.

However, the tax collector provides a good example for us. He focused only on himself and what he had done wrong, not what others were doing wrong.



For those who do as he did and are willing to confess their sins, they should know that God is persistent about saving them. In fact, God is joyful whenever one of His blood-bought children trusts in Jesus' perfection—that His perfect life is credited to them. It gives Him great happiness whenever someone hears and believes that Jesus died on the cross in their place.

The tax collector directed his attention to the proper place. He said, "**God**, have mercy on me..." He knew that only God could save him. He knew God would do what His

Word says He is happy to do...save us!

**"I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."**

**Luke 15:7**

*Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism*

## Announcements

Sunday School will resume on September 2, following the worship services. In Scottsdale two classes are planned, one for the primary grades, and another for teenagers.

In Queen Creek a single class for the primary grades will be offered. Please prayerfully think about children you know whom you can invite.

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**7670 East Jomax Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85266**

**Pastor David Jay Webber**  
**Phone:** 480-585-7002  
**Or:** 602-388-4980  
**Email:** jaywebber@yahoo.com

**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. They are  
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**