

The Valley Evangel

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



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Our church's Sunday and Friday religious education classes – on hiatus for the summer – will resume in September. We do indeed value the importance of learning from God's Word and growing in our faith, supplementing and expanding on the things we learn from the readings, sermons, and hymns in the worship service. And we are thankful for the resources and opportunities we have for such learning.

In his Second Letter to St. Timothy, St. Paul wrote to his young protégé: "from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15, ESV). We should realize, though, that Timothy, as a child, did not have the opportunity to sit down with an open Bible before him, in order to read it and study it. During the time when he grew up in the synagogue, copies of the Sa-

cred Scriptures were very rare. Only in the most exceptional of cases did someone other than a rabbi or religious scholar have in his possession a scroll of Scripture.

But Timothy's mother and grandmother, Eunice and Lois, did the best they could to instill in Timothy a knowledge of God, of God's redemptive acts for his chosen nation, and of God's Messianic promises for the salvation of all peoples (cf. 2 Timothy 1:5). They saw to it that he was educated in the message of God's Word. They brought him to public worship, and they no doubt rehearsed with him at home, from memory, the familiar stories they had heard from the rabbi about Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David.

What advantages we have today! All of the students in our Sunday School have their own printed lesson folders.

WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Editor:

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Sunday Divine Service: 9:00 a.m.

Refreshments after the Service
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:30am

Thursday Internet Study Group:

6:30 p.m. (see Pastor Webber for log-on information for this group, or attend in person at his residence)

Friday Bible Study:

10:00am at the Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Classes Resume

Our normal schedule of Christian education classes resumes in September. The Internet Study Group, which is held from the Pastor's residence, has been going through the summer, and will continue to meet at 6:30pm.

The Friday Bible Study will resume on September 3 at 10am. We will pick up where we left off at the end of May in our study of the Book of Genesis. We are very grateful to Jack and Lucille Calvin for hosting the Friday Bible Study in their home since it was begun in 2005, but they are no longer able to do this. The study is currently scheduled to be held at the church. If the location changes, this will be announced.

Sunday School and the Sunday Adult Class will resume on September 5 at 10:30am. A major change in our Sunday School program this school year is that there will now be *two* classes: one for preschool age children, and one for elementary school age children. Several people will be taking turns teaching the younger children. Carol Webber will continue on as the primary teacher for the older children. This development is a good sign for our church! The ever-increasing presence of younger children in our worship services, and in our Sunday School classrooms, testifies to a lively and vibrant future for our congregation.

Conference on Christianity and Culture

Pastor Webber has been invited to be a formal reactor at the Seventh Annual Conference on Christianity and Culture, to be held October 23, from 9am to 3:45pm, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, at 1418 Bear Valley Parkway in Escondido, California. The featured speaker will be Dr. Stephen A. Hein, Director of the Concordia Institute for Christian Studies in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He will talk on the theme: "Double-Crossed: The Way of the Cross in the Church and World." The other reactor will be

Pastor Steven Brockdorf of Reformation Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, Oregon. There is no charge for attendance at the conference. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:30am, and lunch will also be served. A free-will offering will be received to help offset the cost of those meals. For more information, contact Pastor Robert Lawson (Telephone: 760-743-4440; Email: rlawson0651@att.net).

Golf Outing



A Family Golf Outing for members and friends of Redeemer has been scheduled for September 25 at the Bellair Golf Club, located at 17233 North 45th Avenue and Bell Road. The green fee (with cart) is \$25. Starting tee time is 9am (mix foursome). After 18 holes those who wish to stay for lunch at the Iron Works Restaurant, at the course, are invited to do so. If you would like to participate, please place your name on the sign-up sheet in the church fellowship room by Sunday, September 5, or tell Jack Colville by Saturday, September 11. Speak to Jack also if you have any questions.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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They are able to take home their own copy of a CD, with songs that help them to continue to learn through the week. They, and their parents and grandparents, have their own Bibles, and other religious literature, so that it is so easy for all of us to learn something from God in any spare moment at home. We also have access to innumerable resources on the Internet, so that with a couple clicks of a mouse we can be reading an educational online essay on a theology web site, or listening to an informative interview on the "Issues, Etc." web site, or watching an inspiring video of a worship service or a performance of sacred music on the YouTube web site.

God uses the technology of the day to communicate his Word to people. A long, long time ago, when documents were inscribed on clay tablets, that's the way his Word was preserved and passed on. When things started to be written on parchment or vellum, it made it a little bit easier for God's Word to be copied and disseminated. The printing press in the fifteenth century brought about revolutionary changes in people's access to all kinds of literature, including

most especially religious literature. And today, our modern digital technologies are allowing us to learn and grow in the knowledge of God's truth in amazing ways.

May it be said of *our* children and grandchildren – just as it was said of Eunice's son and Lois's grandson – that from childhood they, too, have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make them wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. And may it be said of all of us, in all generations, that we too are all still deeply acquainted with this sacred and saving truth!

-- Pastor Webber



ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Continued from page 2)

Coins of the New Testament

There will be no Adult Bible Class on Sunday, September 12. Instead, a gentleman in our community who is an avid collector of ancient coins, and a personal friend of Pastor Webber, will share with the members and friends of our congregation a *hands-on* presentation on "Coins of the New Testament," beginning at 10:30am. He will bring with him actual samples of the various ancient coins that are referred to in the Four Gospels, such as a widow's "mite," a *Denarius* with Caesar's image on it, and a silver *Siglos* for which the Lord was betrayed. He will also describe the history and economic significance of these coins. Make sure you stay after church on September

12, for what will definitely be a most interesting presentation!



(Continued on page 4)

DEVOTIONAL

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:6 NKJ

Christians believe in Jesus. What does that mean? Christians trust that God the Son, Jesus Christ, exchanged His own perfect life on the cross for the guilt and punishment all people deserved because of their sinful lives. Jesus was punished in their place. Because of Jesus, God forgives their sins and promises to bless them.

That doesn't seem fair! So claims our human reason. However, this is what the Bible teaches and what Christians believe. Because it is contrary to our human way of thinking, faith or belief in Jesus cannot be created by our decision or effort. People become believers through the work of God the Holy Spirit. He uses the powerful means of Baptism and God's Word to create faith in their hearts. Their salvation is God's work. Jesus lived and died for them. God the Holy Spirit creates faith in their hearts so that they believe and are saved.



God the Holy Spirit continues to do important work in the believer. Paul wrote to the Christians at Philippi, expressing his great joy at the work the Holy Spirit had done in them. They had come to know the peace that Christ gives, and were making their peace known by sharing it with others. When Paul writes, ***He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6b)***. The good work he is talking about is their saving faith that is showing itself in their desire to share the message of salvation.

God the Spirit was *completing* the good work of the faith He had begun in them. Throughout their lives, He continued the good work as He does in all believers. He promised to maintain it until they saw Jesus, either through death or the day of Christ's return.

God's promise stands still today. And it is for you. Jesus died for you. Your sins are forgiven. The Holy Spirit continues "make Christians" through God's Word and Baptism. He continues to strengthen them through His Word and Supper. He will strengthen you until you see Jesus face to face.

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Online Version of our Newsletter

A full-color version of each month's edition of the *Valley Evangel* newsletter is always available online, at the church web site, in Portable Document Format. If you would find it more convenient to download and read the PDF version each month, rather than receiving the black and white printed version in the mail or picking it up at church, please let the Pastor know (email: jaywebber@yahoo.com). He will add you to the email notification list, so that you will be informed when each new

online version is ready, and he will remove you from the mailing list for paper copies of the newsletter.

We're on Facebook!

If you are on Facebook, did you know that our church also has its own Facebook page? Do a search for "Redeemer Lutheran Church of Scottsdale," and it will bring you there. Then let us know if you "Like" the page, and feel free to post a comment on our "Wall."



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	3 10:00am Bible Study at the church resumes	4
5 Pentecost 15 Divine Service 9:00am DS 10:30am SS/AC resumes	6	7	8	9 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	10 10:00am Bible Study at the church	11
12 Pentecost 16 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion 10:30am SS/Presentation of Coins of the NT	13	14 7:00pm Church Council	15	16 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	17 10:00am Bible Study at the church	18
19 Pentecost 17 Divine Service 9:00am DS 10:30am SS/AC Ladies Guild after refreshments	20	21	22	23 6:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	24 10:00am Bible Study at the church	25 9:00am Family Golf Outing
26 Pentecost 18 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion 10:30am SS/AC Elders meeting after refreshments	27 Pastor away in New York	28 Pastor away in New York	29 Pastor away in New York	30 Pastor away in New York Internet Study Group cancelled		

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 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

Refreshments are served after the Sunday morning services

**Redeemer Lutheran
Church**

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We're on the Internet!
redeemer.vze.com

Notice!

Audio recordings of
Pastor Webber's sermons are
posted on the Internet
weekly and are linked
through the church website.

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 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.

