

The Valley Evangel

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

September 2011

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Worship and Study Times

Sunday Divine Service:
9 a.m., Refreshments after the
Service
**Sunday School/Adult Bible
Class:** 10:30 a.m.
**Thursday Internet Study
Group:** 6:30 p.m. (See Pastor
Webber for log-on info for this
group, or attend in person at his
residence)

Newsletter Staff

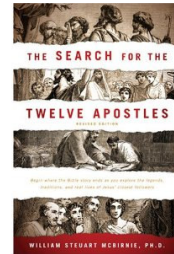
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From the Pastor's Desk

Keeping Sunday School and the Sunday Adult Class going through the summer months has worked out well for us. Attendance and enthusiasm have remained high. There has especially been a lot of interest in the study we are doing in the Adult Class on *The Search for the Twelve Apostles*. That study will continue until we have gotten through the book by William Steuart McBirnie, which is serving as the basis for our classes.

Beginning September 2, the one weekly class that did go on hiatus for the summer will resume. The Friday morning Bible Study will once again be held at the church (until the Muths return to Arizona) on Fridays at 10 a.m. We will pick up where we left off at the end of May, in our study of the Book of Genesis.

The Thursday evening Internet Study Group, which has continued to meet through the summer, will still meet in September. But for now it has become the *Wednesday* evening Internet Study Group, convening at 6:30 p.m. This change has come about because the online course that I am taking this semester, toward the Master of Theology degree on which I am working, meets on Thursday evenings. I am grateful for the flexibility of the participants in the study group in accommodating this. (By the way, if you notice that I start mentioning the theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer from time to time over the next few months, it's because the class I am taking will be on his life and teaching.)



And so, as we move forward into the autumn, we have great opportunities not only for worship, but also for our “continuing education” as

Christians – on Sunday mornings, on Wednesday evenings, and on Friday mornings. Please join us when you can, as we continue to grow together in faith and understanding!

– Pastor Webber

Editorial review from Amazon.com:
Simon Peter, Andrew, James the son of Zebedee, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Jude, Simon, Judas, and Matthias—what happened to the men who answered Jesus' call to follow him? What impact did they have on the world? Where did they go and what did they do after Jesus' resurrection and ascension? In these fascinating profiles, Dr. McBirnie offers readers a snapshot of the lives of each apostle. His information was compiled by traveling to places where the apostles lived and visited, by studying the Scriptures and biblical history, by listening to local traditions, and by engaging in his own original research. Picking up where the book of Acts leaves off, McBirnie brings these men to life as he explores the legends, traditions, and real lives of the Twelve as they built the foundation of Christianity.

Web site of the Month: Issues, Etc.**Issues, Etc.**

**Christ-Centered Cross-
Focused Talk Radio**

The Issues, Etc., web site hosts the Issues, Etc. radio program and webcast. Digital recordings of each day's show are available in an archive on the web site, and can be downloaded and played at any time after their initial airing. The internal links to these recordings are almost always accompanied by off-site links to additional materials on the topics of discussion, or to the web sites or blogs of the guests for that day's show.

The worldview or perspective of the program – and of its host, the Rev. Todd Wilken – is Confessional Lutheran. Wilken is an ordained clergyman of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, but Issues, Etc., is not directly affiliated with the LCMS. Speakers from various Lutheran synods – including Pastor Webber on several occasions! – have appeared on the program. Non-Lutheran speakers are also invited on from time to time, to share expertise on various topics. Issues, Etc., covers a wide range of subjects of interest to Lutherans, and to Christians in general, including doctrinal discussions, the church in society, apologetics, worship and hymnody, faith and spirituality, family and relationships, and church history.

The Issues, Etc., web site, and the Issues, Etc., program, are highly recommended. Nothing but good can come from listening regularly!

***Pastor Webber becomes
Circuit Visitor***

Pastor Timothy Hartwig, who has been the Visitor of the ELS Arizona-California Circuit (Circuit 11), recently accepted a call to another circuit. Previously Pastor Webber was the Alternate Visitor. The synod president has now appointed him to serve as Visitor in place of Pastor Hartwig. Circuit 11 is comprised of congregations in Scottsdale, Lake Havasu City, and Fort Mohave, Arizona; and in Bell Gardens, Bishop, Irvine, Ukiah, and Windsor, California.

Pastor Jan Bygstad

Don't forget to attend the special presentation by Norwegian Pastor Jan Bygstad at Redeemer on Monday, September 19, at 7 p.m. His topic will be "The State of Lutheranism in Scandinavia." For more details see last month's *Valley Evangel* newsletter, or check out the link at the top of the church home page: redeemer.vze.com



***Devotion: How can I be happy if I don't take sides?
"Blessed are the peacemakers." Matthew 5:9***



Who really wants to be a peacemaker anyway? A peacemaker in a marriage is usually the one who has to swallow his or her pride. Who wants to say, “You’re right, and I’m wrong,” to keep the peace in a marriage? A peacemaker amongst neighbors is the one who has to rake more, shovel more, and put up with more. Who really wants to do that to keep the peace between neighbors? To be a peacemaker can be a headache!

And yet, Jesus attaches the blessing of happiness to those who are peacemakers. Jesus can say that from his own experience. He was happy to bring peace to this world. After all, he is the Prince of Peace. This title rightfully describes Jesus because he made peace between God and all the people of the world.

Talk about a headache! It wasn’t easy. He had to resist temptation, he had to resist the urge to strike back, he had to put others first, he had to go the extra mile, he had to suffer, and ultimately he had to die. But all of his sacrifices were necessary to establish peace between his Father and the world. Jesus was a successful peacemaker, and he was happy to do it. And you can be happy that he did it too!

To be a peacemaker is not easy. It wasn’t for

Jesus, and it won’t be for you either. It isn’t easy to be the peacemaker between quarreling siblings. It isn’t easy to be the peacemaker between angry neighbors. It isn’t easy to be the peacemaker in a contentious marriage. It isn’t easy to be the peacemaker when grudges are involved. It isn’t easy to be the peacemaker when that involves saying, “I’m sorry.” But Jesus never said it was going to be easy. He did say, though, that he will bless your peacemaking efforts. Just take one glance at all of the blessings attached to Jesus’ peacemaking—forgiveness, joy, and peace just to name a few.

How can I be happy if I don’t take sides? That’s the point. True happiness comes when you do take a side—God’s side. To be a peacemaker is to be a reflection of Jesus. To be a peacemaker is to take to the world the peace that Jesus has brought to you. And there is no greater joy than that!

“Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.” James 3:18”

*“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then **peace**-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” James 3:17*

*Redeemer Lutheran Church
September 2011*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2 10 a.m. Bible Study at the church	3
4 Pentecost 12 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	5 .	6	7 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	8	9 10 a.m. Bible Study at the church	10
11 Pentecost 13 9 a.m. SW with spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	12 7 p.m Church Council meeting at Pastor's residence	13	14 Pastor in Minnesota Internet Study Group cancelled	15 for ELS Circuit	16 Visitor's Conference Bible Study cancelled	17
18 Pentecost 14 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	19 7 p.m. Special Presentation by Jan Bygstad, "The State of Lutheranism in Scandinavia"	20	21 Internet Study Group cancelled	22 Pastor in Milwaukee for meeting of ELS Doctrine Committee and WELS CICR	23 Pastor in Milwaukee Bible Study cancelled	24
25 Pentecost 15 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' meeting after the AC	26	27	28 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	29	30 10 a.m. Bible Study at the church	

Abbreviations:

DS – Divine Service; SW – Service of the Word; AC/SS – Adult Bible Class/Sunday School

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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First Class Mail

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



**Evangelical
Lutheran Synod**

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.

