

The Valley Evangel

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

September 2014

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

Friday Bible Study: 10 a.m. (see calendar for location)

Newsletter Staff

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From the Pastor's Desk

In the United States, Labor Day will be observed on September 1. This is an unusual civic holiday. Some of the other days on our national holiday calendar commemorate specific historical events, such as the signing of the Declaration of Independence on Independence Day; or the end of the Civil War and World War I, on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day respectively. Other days honor a specific person or category of persons, such as Martin Lutheran King Day or Presidents' Day. But Labor Day is unique, because it is so non-specific. What are we supposed to remember or think about on this day? Who are we supposed to honor?

I can't speak for everyone in America, but as a Christian, I do have a distinctly Christian view of labor. This Christian view of labor is tied very closely to the Biblical doctrine of vocation. St. Paul writes: "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches" (1 Corinthians 7:17, ESV). If this is the Apostle's rule for all the churches over which he had supervision, then it is the rule for our church too. Our stations in life, and the relationships we have with others in and through those stations, are places where God has placed us so that we can, in an orderly way, serve our neighbors; and also so that our neighbors can serve us through their vocations.

It is not just pastors, or people with a "religious" occupation, who have a divine calling in their life. Publicly preaching the message of Christ crucified for sinners is certainly important, and has an eternal significance for those who believe this message. The Christian laity should accordingly be supportive of the spiritual work that their pastors, and the missionaries of the church, perform on their behalf. But the work of the laity in the world is also important, in its own way. The first Article of the Creed leads us to see that God cares about the material world that he created. And he takes care of the world, and of the people in it, by means of the work that he calls all of us to perform.

Our secular labor, therefore, is a sacred task, because God – in love for his creation – has called us to it. When we are tired or fatigued in our work, we can therefore call upon God for strength, and we can ask him to uplift our spirits. And he will answer that prayer, because he takes a direct interest in our labors – and in us, as we carry them out. Depending on the circumstances of our life, we can also pray for a new vocation, or a new job, if it is God's will. But until he opens a new occupational door for us to walk through, or creates a new employment opportunity of which we can take advantage, he can and will teach us, in our current jobs, the virtues of patience and humility.

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From the Pastor's Desk, continued

And in our jobs – even if they leave something to be desired – he can and will show us how to be sensitive to the needs of others, and how to find joy in the fulfilling of those needs. He promises, too, that he will never abandon us, even when our labors are difficult, or not as remunerative as we would wish. We are encouraged with these words: “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’” (Hebrews 13:5-6, ESV).

St. Paul sometimes performed secular labor, when financial support for his apostolic ministry was lacking. And those times were often difficult for him. But he knew that the Lord would protect and encourage him in those times. He wrote: “...and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat” (1 Corinthians 4:12-13a, ESV). And he also says this to us, as we do what we have been called to do in this world: “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14, ESV).

So, for us as Christians, these are the kind of thoughts we can have on Labor Day. These are the kind of prayers we can offer, and these are the kind of things for which we can be thankful.

– Pastor Webber

Magazines Available

Various church-related organizations and educational institutions regularly send to our congregation complementary copies of their respective periodicals. These magazines and newsletters are placed in a magazine rack located on the counter in the narthex. After a while they are thrown away. Anyone who might be interested in browsing through these publications, and reading some of the articles found therein, is invited to do so. Please feel free to borrow anything that looks interesting to you!

New Member

Julia Dollarhide was welcomed as a communicant member of the congregation through the Rite of (Adult) Confirmation during the Sunday service on August 10. A reception for Julia was also held after the service. Jesus says: “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10c, ESV).

New Member Interview: Julia Dollarhide *Conducted by Erica Olson, Editor Assistant*

Erica: Welcome to communicant membership in our church, Julia! And congratulations! Adult confirmations are so beautiful to see, I think. You've been attending our church for some time. What made you decide to become a Lutheran and join our church?

Julia: I have been looking for the truth for a long time. I now feel at peace and confident in the hope I have through Christ Jesus.

Erica: What was your religious background before now?

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New Member Interview, Continued from Page 2

Julia: Protestant, non-denominational.

Erica: What do you like best about our church?

Julia: The unwavering commitment to remain faithful to the Scriptures, the traditional reverent format for worship, and the genuine love of God emulated in its members.

Erica: I know exactly what you mean. Now, I know that you have a family, even though we haven't seen them. Tell us about your family!

Julia: I am married, have 4 children, and 2 grandchildren (2.5 yrs and 8 months old).

Erica: Where does everyone live?

Julia: Arizona and Pennsylvania

Erica: Are you native to Arizona?

Julia: I was born and raised in rural Pennsylvania, among the gentle rolling hills of Amish and Mennonite dairy farms.

Erica: Sounds lovely! I know that you've kind of had a difficult time in your career path lately. Have you found a good job?

Julia: I am a 27-year veteran of the banking industry. My last employment was with a small commercial bank in Phoenix as the COO until it was acquired [by another bank] and all the senior executives were let go in March and April 2014.

Erica: I'm sorry to hear that. I hope things settle for you soon. Do you have any hobbies?

Julia: I love to bake and cook for family and friends.

Erica: That's wonderful! I'm sure they love that! What kinds of things do you like to do for fun?

Julia: Crossword puzzles, care for and ride horses, go antiquing, play with the grandchildren, and travel with my husband.

Erica: Sounds wonderful! Well, thank you so much for taking time to talk with me and allowing me to interview you.



Redeemer Library News

New additions to the library:

What They Need to Hear by Klemet I. Preus

“This is the captivating, real-life story of how one man returned to faith through the witness of his son-in-law. Written over a period of almost two years, Rev. Preus’s letters to his father-in-law, Lloyd, contain devotional and doctrinal insight. Preus offers personal anecdotes and advice to help readers who are struggling to reach out to friends or family members who have questions about Christianity.” (CPH)

Lutheran Bible Companion (2 volumes)

“*The Lutheran Bible Companion* is a highly visual two-volume handbook that welcomes Christians to a deeper exploration of the cultural and historical contexts of the events captured in Scripture and the Apocrypha. Including Law and Gospel themes, comments from prominent Lutheran theologians, practical application, answers to popular questions, and in-depth articles, *The Lutheran Bible Companion* helps Christians study God’s Word in greater context.” (CPH)

Sunday School News

The Sunday School Fall Quarter will begin on September 7. According to the CPH “Growing in Christ” curriculum which we use, pupils study Old Testament lessons during the autumn months, in a cycle which repeats every four years. This year we return to the start of the sequence, focusing on important stories from the book of Genesis. The curriculum suggests the following weekly notes, to aid parents in continuing to review and talk about key concepts at home during the week following each lesson:

September 7, 2014

We begin the fall with God’s account of the beginning of all things in “God Creates the World.” During the week, point out to your children some of the wonderful things in our world God made and praise Him for these creations. Consider asking, “How did God create the world? What is your favorite part of God’s creation?”

September 14, 2014

Today in Sunday School, our students will hear how “God Creates Adam and Eve,” including providing them with perfect physical attributes and a lush garden in which to live. God created the world’s many natural resources so it would be a wonderful place for His most treasured creation, human beings, to live. Parents might ask, “How were Adam and Eve different from the rest of God’s creation?”

September 21, 2014

Today our children will study Scripture’s account, “Sin Enters the World,” as the devil successfully tempted Eve (and through her, Adam) to sin. With the fall into sin came God’s punishment of death . . . but also His promise of a Savior. You might discuss, “How does sin affect us as a family? How does God’s promise of a Savior give us comfort?”

September 28, 2014

Do your kids get jealous? Today in Sunday School, our children will study the story of “Cain and Abel”

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Sunday School News, continued

which tells about the first murder, as caused by jealousy. Consider discussing, “How does jealousy affect relationships in a family? Why is it important to forgive each other in our family?”

We have recently concluded our summer quarter, studying the Parables of Jesus. Here are reflections on these stories from a few of the pupils:



Ashlie (age 8)

The Workers in the Vineyard – The owner went and got some people in the morning, noon and evening. He agreed to pay each and every one of the men one silver. When they got their pay, one of the men from the first group asked why they all got the same pay. The man said “At the time when I hired you, we agreed you would get one silver.”



Christine (age 12)

The Rich Fool – In this story there was a rich man who would walk to his crops each day and watch over them. All he cared about was his riches. One night he died and no one was sad because he had no family or friends. We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.



Taylor (age 9)

The Wise and Foolish Builders -- The story was about two men and one man was going to live on a rock and one wanted to live on sand. There was a flood and the man who lived on sand his house had a flood, the man who lived on a rock was okay and was happy. The man on the rock helped people who lived on sand get to safety. Jesus was trying to teach us that if you build your house on a rock it cannot fall down but if you build your house on something weak like sand it will. When you have Jesus he is your rock and he'll give you everything you need so you should have Jesus because he rocks!



Weekday Study Groups

The Friday morning Bible Study resumes on September 5 at 10 a.m., at the Jeff and Julie Nelson residence. We will resume our examination of the Book of Psalms, and will pick up with Psalm 28 in this first hour-long session. Please bring your Bible along, and join us! You can ask Jeff or Julie for directions if you are new to the group.

On Thursday, September 4, the Internet Study Group will begin a study of the book *Holy People, Holy Lives: Law and Gospel in Bioethics*, by Richard C. Eyer. The participants will be asked to read a designated chapter before each hour-long session, and then during that session this chapter will be discussed. The book's "Introduction," and the first chapter – on "Making Ethical Decisions" – will be reviewed on September 4. Everyone who would like to acquire a better understanding of the special value of human life, of medical ethics, and of ethics in general – from a Biblical and Confessional Lutheran perspective – is invited to join us. A new copy of the book can be obtained from Concordia Publishing House, and new and used copies are also available through various online book-selling sites. The Internet Study Group meets at 7 p.m. Arizona time. Participation is not limited to members of the church. Literally anyone in the world who has an internet connection is welcome to join us. We use the online Skype program. Please ask the Pastor for the necessary log-on information. Individuals can also participate by coming in person to the Pastor's residence during the time of the study.

Devotion: "Hatred for the Math Teacher"

Some kids hate the math teacher in grade school. Looking back, there was only one answer he would accept for our papers and tests. It had to be "the right one."

It didn't matter who you were. It didn't matter how hard you worked, or how much time you spent. It didn't matter how close you got. Anything but the right answer was just wrong.

Talk about intolerance. Talk about exclusivity. Talk about closed-mindedness. Talk about unfair! How unfair is it that he didn't take it into account at all how much effort you put in? How unfair is it that the people with the "right answers" got the "A's", even if they were the same people who got the "A's" last time?

How unfair is it that on a paper with twenty questions, each question had only one right answer? Even if you tried hard, meant well and were sincere . . . no matter how discouraged you were getting? But if we hated the math teacher, we were wrong. Math is the search for right answers. And if you couldn't find them, you had tutors and parents and teachers to help.

The study of God's Word is like that. God's Word teaches one truth: One set of right answers. God is concerned about bringing them home to your heart. It doesn't matter who you are, how hard you've worked, or how sincere you are. The right answer that comes from God is what matters. He wants you to have it!

So He gave the Scriptures. It says what it says: "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." He gave the Ministry of His Word, to lead you to the right answers, for your comfort.

If our gospel is hidden, then, it's hidden in plain sight, as St. Paul says, Cor. 4.3: "And . . . if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." We're Christians committed to God's right answers; however that seems to the world. God's answers are there, for us to have them, believe them and find peace in them. Come & see!

From the ELS Board for Home Outreach

*Redeemer Lutheran Church
September 2014*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3	4 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	5 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	6
7 Pentecost 13 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	8	9	10	11 Internet Study Group canceled	12 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	13
14 Holy Cross 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS 7 p.m. Church Council meeting at the Muth residence	15	16	17	18 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	19 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	20
21 St. Matthias 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	22	23	24	25 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	26 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence	27
28 Pentecost 16 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	29	30				

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, and on major festivals

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

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First Class Mail

We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

Notice!

Audio recordings of services are available on the church website. Recordings of sermons only are also available through the website, and are archived online courtesy of **lutheransource.net**.



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.

