


The Valley Evangel

Serving the members and friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, Arizona

September 2017

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From the Pastor's Desk

We are a small congregation, and we may sometimes wonder how much of an impact we are having in the lives of people. But recently, this “review” was posted by a friend of our church – someone about whom I had never known before – on Redeemer’s Facebook page:

“There aren’t any Evangelical Lutheran Synod churches where I live, so I follow yours online. Redeemer’s Bible teaching is excellent and I learn a lot by listening. I highly recommend your church to anyone living in the greater Phoenix area.”

This humbles us, but also encourages us. Our existence and ministry really do matter to a lot of people. May God bless us in our ability to remain firm and fruitful in what the Lord of the church has called us to be and to do.

“...you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:7-9, ESV).

– Pastor Webber

Regional Reformation Service and Choir

Redeemer members are invited to sing in the special choir that is being organized for the East Valley WELS-ELS Reformation Service that will be held on November 5 at 4:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Tempe. One of the highlighted musical elements for this service will be Johann Pachelbel's setting of Psalm 46 (a motet for double-choir, plus instruments). The choir will also have other material – less ambitious than the Pachelbel piece – to sing. For easier learning, audio files of the music and voice parts will be provided to participants by early to mid September. September 6 is the deadline for indicating your intent to participate. If interested, please speak with Carol Webber, who can provide you with more details. Planned rehearsals – at Emmanuel in Tempe – are as follows:

Sunday, October 22: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 29: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 4: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

New Books in the Church Library

Donated by Pastor Webber:

Gathered Guests by Timothy H. Maschke. In this survey of worship in the Lutheran tradition, Maschke take his cue from Luther's maxim that God gathers people into the church, and as gathered guests, we come to His house to receive His blessing, to pray, praise, and give thanks. In worship, the author argues that life, liturgy, and theology intersect in remarkable and rich ways, and this gathering around Word and Sacrament both creates and defines a genuine evangelical style of worship. CPH

Women Pastors: The Ordination of Women in Biblical Lutheran Perspective, ed. By Matthew C. Harrison and John T. Pless. The essays in this volume represent Lutheran churches throughout the world. The essays are divided into four sections: Biblical studies, historical studies, systematic theology, and pastoral theology. CPH

A History of the Christian Church by Lars P. Qualben. This volume covers four main divisions of church history: 1. the organic relation between Christianity and the Old Testament religion, 2. the formative period of the Early Church, 3. the underlying principles of the Reformation and the Counter Reformation, and 4. the development of American Christianity. Amazon

Other Books New to the Library:

Concordia Self-Study Commentary by Walter Roehrs. This commentary reflects a Christ-centered view of Bible history and prophecy. The book introductions provide the background and important features of the book so readers may see distinctive themes and purposes of the individual writings. Using the Revised Standard Version, the authors offer commentary on key verses, phrases, and words to help readers gain a proper understanding of Scripture. CPH

Illustrated Bible Handbook by Lawrence O. Richards. Including scores of maps, charts, photos, and illustrations, this is a visual guide to interpreting Scripture. Brief essays on historical and doctrinal matters, and concise summaries of every book in the Bible and practical insights

from in the Bible, give you a complete guide to the entire text. Amazon (We would advise caution with respect to some of the theological conclusions in this book.)

ASU Choral Concert – Music of the Reformation: Update

More information has become available regarding the ASU Choral Concert on October 18, “Music of the Reformation.” Combined choirs will perform Bach’s Cantata 80, “Ein’ feste Burg ist unser Gott.” The program will also include “He, Watching Over Israel” and “Heilig” by Mendelssohn, as well as “Geistliches Lied” by Brahms. The event will take place at the Tempe Center for the Arts. General admission tickets are \$10, available at the door or through the TCA website: www.tempe.gov/TC Also, contrary to what was reported in the *August Valley Evangel*, the ASU-sponsored concert that will be held on the following day – October 19 – will not include Lutheran sacred music.

New Luther film to air on PBS

A recently-released feature film, *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*, is set to air nationally on the Public Broadcasting System on September 12. In the Phoenix market this will be on Channel 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. Funded by Thrivent Financial, the film dramatizes the events that shaped Luther’s life and thought, and examines the important spiritual questions with which he wrestled, such as “Who am I?” “What is my purpose?” and “How do I get right with God?” For more information see www.newluthermovie.com



New Member Interview: Bryan and Sandy Carlson *Conducted by Erica Olson, Editor Assistant*



Erica: Hello, Carlsons! It's great to have you as new members of our congregation! What made you decide to join us?

Sandy: We recently moved to the Rio Verde area. Since we were members of the WELS church in Kingman, Arizona, we looked for a similar church.

Erica: Where were you attending church previously?

Sandy: We were members of the Cross of Christ WELS congregation in Kingman.

Erica: Are either of you working?

Sandy: We retired in May. We had lived and worked in Kingman for over 30 years. Kingman is in the northwest corner of Arizona. It is on the way to Las Vegas and is a city on the historic Route 66.

Erica: Where are you living now?

Sandy: We moved to the Trilogy Community, Verde River. That is near 174th Street on Dynamite.

Erica: Are you permanent residents here, or are you snowbirds?

Sandy: We are permanent residents. We love the hot weather and that is one reason we moved to the Phoenix area.

Erica: What kind of work did you do when you were working?

Sandy: Bryan was a dentist and I worked full time in the office. We worked together for 30 years.

Erica: What do you like to do for fun?

Sandy: Bryan enjoys golfing and playing bridge. I enjoy studying nutrition and creating healthy meals. Together, we enjoy ballroom dancing, swimming, and playing music.

Erica: Tell me about your family.

Sandy: We have one daughter who lives in Houston, Texas. She and her husband gave us a grandson a year ago, and she is pregnant again with our second grandchild. We visit them often to babysit when they are out of town. I'm originally from Kentucky and frequently visit my father, who is our only living parent.

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Bryan's brother and sister-in-law also live in the Phoenix area, and we are enjoying being able to see them more often.

Erica: How long have you been married?

Sandy: Thirty years.

Erica: What are you most looking forward to as members of our congregation?

Sandy: We enjoy the Pastor's Bible studies and the worship services.

Erica: Thank you very much for agreeing to this interview! I'm sure I can speak for everyone when I say welcome! We're happy to have you with us!

Devotion: "Let His Light Shine!"

"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)



When the author and poet, Robert Louis Stevenson, was 12 years-old, he found himself, one evening, looking out into the dark from his upstairs window, watching a man light the streetlamps. When his governess walked by, she asked, "What are you doing?" He replied, "I am watching a man cut holes in the darkness."

That's not a bad picture of what the Lord is asking of us, as He tells His followers, to "Go, and make disciples of all nations..." which means sharing with others, "the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." Or put another way: As Christians, our task is to be sharers of God's light ...to be people who are busy cutting holes in the spiritual darkness of this world.

Ever since Adam disobeyed God and took a bite of that forbidden fruit, he, and all of creation was cast into a spiritual darkness that was so thick that it permeated the very souls of all mankind, and brought sin, death, and everlasting damnation to every human being.

It was a darkness, of which no mere mortal could ever escape. As Paul once revealed: "All have sinned [are lost in spiritual darkness] and have fallen short of the glory of God." (Ro 3:23)

But the same God, who, in the beginning said, "Let light shine out of darkness," had such a love for fallen mankind, that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to rescue us from that condemning darkness.

It was Jesus, who fulfilled God's will and commandments perfectly, and who purposely sacrificed His sinless life on the Cross so that the debt of sin would be paid. And it was Jesus, who rose victoriously from the grave so that we, too – now forgiven – would rise to a new life ...and a life everlasting!

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That heart-felt knowledge and understanding of Jesus, and the salvation He accomplished for us, is the Gospel light, which broke through our darkened hearts, and brought us into His marvelous light of life!

By God's amazing grace, He created this life-giving light in our hearts, not merely for ourselves to enjoy, but that we – children of light – might be instruments of His will in spreading that Gospel-light to others.

As Christians, that's our purpose: To be ever growing in our faith; growing in the "knowledge of God's glory," so that, through God's Word, the Holy Spirit makes the light of Christ shine brightly in our lives, revealing Christ to others, and bringing glory to our Heavenly Father!

As the children sing: "Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine!" – May God enable us to be and do what His light does: dispels the darkness, by bringing saving light to the lost!

From the ELS Board for Home Outreach



Redeemer Lutheran Church of Scottsdale September 2017 Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 Bible Study on hiatus until September 8	2
3 Pentecost 13 9 am DS w/ reception of new members 10:30 am SS/AC	4	5	6	7 7 pm Internet Study Group	8 10 am Bible study at the Muth residence (on the Psalms) resumes	9
10 Pentecost 14 9 am SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 am SS/AC	11 7 pm Church Council at the Muth residence	12 Luther Film Airs on PBS	13	14 Pastor in Eagan, MN, for ELS Visitors Conference Internet Study Group canceled	15 Bible Study canceled Pastor at Visitors Conference	16
17 Pentecost 15 9 am DS w/ baptism of Jonathon Chasty Ladies Guild after the service 10:45 am SS/AC	18	19	20	21 7 pm Internet Study Group	22 10 am Bible study at the Muth residence	23
24 Pentecost 16 9 a.m. SW w/Spoken Communion 10:30 am SS/AC	25	26	27	28 Pastor in Waukesha, WI, for meeting of ELS Doctrine Committee and WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations Internet Study Group canceled	29 Bible Study canceled Pastor at ELS-WELS meeting	30

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, usually 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 usually on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

Refreshments are served after the Sunday morning Services.

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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.



We're on the Internet!
redeemerscottsdale.org

Audio recordings of Pastor Webber's sermons, and of entire services, are posted each week on the church website.