

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>Update from the Treasurer</i>	2
<i>Cross-Stitch Mission Rally</i>	2
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	4
<i>Devotion: Looking for Something? Jesus is the Answer!</i>	5
<i>Announcements</i>	5
<i>About Our Church</i>	6

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In the sixteenth century, Luther and the other reformers made use of the relatively new technology of the printing press to spread the message of the Gospel throughout Europe. In the first half of the twentieth century, Walter A. Maier, the "Lutheran Hour" speaker, made use of the relatively new technology of broadcast radio to spread the message of the Gospel throughout America. In fact, Maier became one of the best-known religious broadcasters of his time.



Pastor David Jay Webber

connection, that's all you need to be able to say what you want to say to the world.

The new communication technology of today is the Internet. But the Internet is different from both print media and radio, because it is easier for people to gain access to it. You don't need the cooperation of a book publisher, or of a radio studio, to get your message out. If you have an Internet

Because of how easy it is to use the Internet for this purpose, there is indeed a lot of junk out there on the web. But the Word of God is also on the Internet in various forms. For example, my Sunday sermons are placed online each week, in the form of electronic text as well as in the form of a

(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.

Wednesday "Bible & Theology" Study Group: 7:00 p.m.

Loughran home in Scottsdale

Queen Creek:

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

Friday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.

Calvin home in Scottsdale

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Update from the Treasurer

The financial status of our congregation contains mixed news. On the positive side, our giving has been consistent when comparing this year to last. As most of you know, we have an arrangement with the Synod to support us in the form of a loan if we need money to pay our bills. We have not had to use that since early 2007, and our budget allows for only modest spending, and is limited to the necessary things which support the congregation. Our Queen Creek Mission has been blessed with some generous donations both from within and from outside the congregation.

On the not-so-positive side, our expenses in 2007 outpaced our income by about \$14,000. This amount includes a deficit of about \$1,500 for Queen Creek. We used some of our own reserves and, where appropriate, we used money from our designated funds to offset the differences periodically throughout the year. In 2008 that trend is continuing and perhaps at an even faster pace. In addition, we suspended our mortgage and ELS offering payments to Synod early in 2007. We are again at the point of again asking Synod for financial support. This time, thankfully, the amount of support will be smaller than what we had asked for in the past.

We are also expecting to complete some major roof repairs in 2008, which is an added expense we have not had to deal with in past years.

It is good to be aware of the congregation's financial situation. In our case we are almost self supporting, but we are not yet there. The less we need to borrow from Synod, the better it is for all of us. If you have the ability to increase your offerings we ask that you consider doing so - and thank you for your continued support.

John Kissinger
Redeemer Lutheran Church Treasurer

A Word of Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to **Jim Bonnell** for your assistance when all my computer's data was lost due to an internet worm. Your timely help in the restoration of my computer's applications made this newsletter possible!

Julie Martinez

California/Arizona Cross-stitch Mission Rally: "Mission Work Begins at Home"

On Saturday, March 1st, Redeemer Ladies Guild along with ladies from Sun of Righteousness hosted the 25th Anniversary gathering of the California/Arizona Women's Mission Rally. If you were unable to attend, you missed quite an extraordinary event!

Hosting this Rally was a decided blessing for Redeemer in so many ways! It was great to meet the ladies (in all stages of their lives) from other congregations in our Circuit; awesome to see the support from not only Pastor Webber, but from the other Pastors as well. Our synod churches are so spread out that sometimes it seems we are disconnected from others who share our faith. God's hand in bringing all of us together to hear His Word was evident. "With God all things are possible." (Matt. 19:26)

God wants His Gospel proclaimed to the whole world. He offers many opportunities through our families, in our communities and even globally in foreign missions, using each of us according to our gifts in different ways to carry out His mission work. The keynote speaker, author Joslyn Moldstad; our own Pastor Jay Webber; and Pastor Steve Petersen, Missions Counselor from Mankato, inspired and challenged us to make a difference every day! Visit the Mission Rally web page in Redeemer's website at TinyURL.com/yrgeho to download digital recordings of the presentations.

We were blessed with forty-two people in attendance, including our Synod President, Pastor John Moldstad. Ladies represented six out of the ten churches in California/Arizona Circuit 11: Family of God Lutheran Church, Ft. Mohave, AZ; Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu City, AZ; Faith Lutheran Church, Irvine, CA; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bishop, CA; Sun of Righteousness, Queen Creek, AZ; and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, AZ.

Thanks to those who provided the yummy homemade goodies for registration! Thanks to Erika Schmeissing for the stunning embroidered California/Arizona Mission 25th Anniversary bags. The ladies loved them! Comments overheard at lunch were: "beautiful," "scrumptious," "delicious," "Oh good, they gave us the recipe!"

Offerings totaling \$913.50 were given by the ladies to support Cross-stitch's unfunded mission work. Also this year, each congregation's Ladies Group was encouraged to

(Continued on page 3)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

digital audio recording. (Remember to make use of these resources if you ever miss a Sunday in church, and remember, too, to refer your friends to these resources.)

But there is yet another way in which I would like to begin to use the Internet for the sake of spreading God's Word, and proclaiming the Gospel. I think it would be possible for us to have an online Bible study, which would allow people at a great distance from the church, as well as people who live in our immediate area, to join together in studying the Scriptures. At present, it seems to me that there are two options for us to consider in implementing this idea.

At the web site oovoo.com a program can be downloaded which allows a person to participate in a video conference with up to five other people who also have this program in their computers. I have used this program - to teach Internet catechism classes - and can vouch for the fact that it works well. A drawback, though, is that it would limit the size of the class to only a very small group.

At the web site mebeam.com a video chat room can be created which will accommodate up to eighteen people at a time. No program would need to be downloaded, although there would also be less privacy, since anyone who knows the name of the chat room and the time of the class could join in. However, if we would be imaginative in the name we come up with - perhaps a random sequence of numbers and

letters - it would be virtually impossible for anyone who had not been invited to participate to guess the name. And the name of the chat room could be changed for each session, with an email containing the new name being sent to the participants in advance of the class. I have also used this web site - to communicate with my daughter in Michigan - and I can vouch for the fact that it, too, works well.

Both of these options would require participants to have a fairly fast Internet connection and to have a microphone, speakers, and a video camera hooked up to their computers. To eliminate feedback, a headset would be better than a separate microphone and free-standing speakers, but it would not be essential. (I myself do not have a headset.)

If you would be interested in exploring one or both of these options, please get in touch with me by email: jaywebber@cox.net Let me know your preference - oovoo.com or mebeam.com - and ask your friends if they might be interested in being a part of something like this. Once a group of interested people is identified, we can experiment with one or both of these methods, in a "trial run," and see which one works best for our needs.

Jesus tells us to abide in his Word, so that we will truly be his disciples, and he tells us also to go and make disciples of all nations. Through the use of the Internet, these divine commissions can be fulfilled in some new and exciting ways. So, let's give this a try!

- Pastor Webber

California/Arizona Cross-stitch Mission Rally

(Continued from page 2)

come to the Rally prepared to support at least 2 orphan children in the orphanages of the ELS Mission in India. (\$150.00 feeds, clothes and educates one child for a year.)

We were extremely blessed that two congregations, Redeemer and Family of God in Ft. Mohave, took this on and committed to sponsoring two children each!

If you missed this one, don't miss next year's Mission Rally! It will be co-hosted in Irvine, CA, by Faith Lutheran Church of Irvine and Our Savior Lutheran Church of Bishop, on February 7, 2009.

Thanks to all of the ladies of Redeemer and Sun of Righteousness. Ladies, you outdid yourselves! Your hard work was a living testimony that mission work does indeed begin at home. God has truly blessed our congregations with amazing and dedicated women! Sherry Ecker

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
APRIL 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Pastor in Mankato for theological conference and ELS Doctrine committee meetings	2 Pastor in Mankato for theological conference and ELS Doctrine committee meetings	3	4 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence	5
6 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS (S) 10:30am Congregational Forum (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	7	8 7:00pm Voter's Meeting	9 7:00 Bible and Theology Study Group at Loughran residence	10	11 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence	12
13 Service of the Word 9:00am SW (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm SW (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	14	15	16 7:00 Bible and Theology Study Group at Loughran residence		18 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence	19
20 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) Ladies Guild after the service (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	21	22 Pastor in West Jordan, UT for West Coast ELS Pastors' Conference	23 Pastor in West Jordan, UT for West Coast ELS Pastors' Conference	24 Pastor in West Jordan, UT for West Coast ELS Pastors' Conference	25 Pastor in West Jordan, UT for West Coast ELS Pastors' Conference	26
27 Service of the Word 9:00am SW (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Elders Meeting after Adult Class (S) 4:00pm SW (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	28	29	30 7:00 Bible and Theology Study Group at Loughran residence			

Abbreviations:

DS—Divine Service (SW) Service of the Word SS/AC = Sunday School / Adult Bible Class
(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

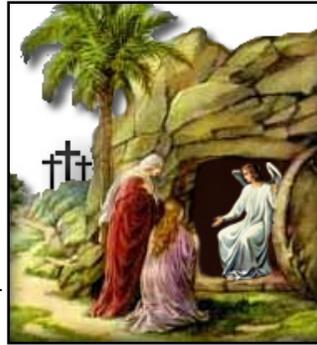
Looking for Something? Jesus is the Answer!

A very talented magician once performed a magic trick where he held up an item so that the whole audience could see it. But after a few waves of his hands and some special words, the item disappeared. It was gone! To some, especially, small children, this might seem frightening. They might think, "What power does this man have that he is able to make things vanish!"

It wouldn't surprise us then to learn that the women who went to the tomb of Jesus on the first Easter were frightened by what they did not see. As they went to anoint the body of Jesus, they fully expected to find his body lying in the grave. I'm sure they thought, "Could this be some sort of trick?"

But it was no trick. It was a miracle. Jesus, the Son of God, had truly risen from the dead. In doing so, He did what He had promised He would do before He was killed. In rising from the dead, He not only showed His power over death but He proved that everything else He had said and done

in His life was true. Do you know what else? Jesus once said that because He has defeated death, we, His brothers and sisters, will live forever with Him in heaven (John 11:25-26).



Just imagine! This is a gift we don't deserve because of our many infractions against God's Law (the Ten Commandments). Yet Jesus, true God and man, tells us that we will live forever with Him, and that this is a gift brought to us through faith in Him. In fact, the very reason Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life and then died on the cross was to secure our entrance in heaven! Jesus is our Savior! Alleluia!

"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified." Matthew 28:5

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

Announcements

Redeemer Ladies Guild

Redeemer's Ladies Guild has been going strong now for almost two years, and with the election of new officers, doesn't show any sign of slowing down! Our Ladies Guild has sponsored Easter brunches, welcomed new members, held soup suppers for Lent and Advent, planned social events including a wine tasting party, and most recently hosted the 2008 Women's Mission Rally for Cross-stitch.

The Bible verse chosen by the ladies to light our path as we do the Lord's work is 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Our objectives are: 1) to support and further missions, 2) to further and promote the Christian spirit of fellowship in the Congregation, and 3) to manage the Altar Guild, the Hospitality Committee and the Fellowship Committee.

We meet on the second Sunday of each month immediately after the service during the coffee hour, and meetings are usually finished by 10:30 a.m. (in time for the adult

Bible class). Typically 8 to 10 ladies regularly attend the meetings. Of course, all of the ladies are welcome to join us, including our visitors!

New officers elected at our March meeting, very graciously agreeing to serve, are Colleen Pawling, President; Marilyn Bonnell, Vice-President; Cheryl Hartigan, Secretary-Treasurer. Committee Chairs are Angie Kohlgraf, Altar Guild; Lucille Calvin, Fellowship Committee; and Erika Schmeissing, Hospitality Committee. Outgoing officers from last year were Erika Schmeissing, Vice-President; Sarah Kissinger, Secretary-Treasurer; and yours truly, President. Thanks to all of you for your faithful service!

God has certainly blessed our congregation with many gifts and talents. All of the ladies of Redeemer are extraordinary in their dedication to God, to the growth of our congregation, and to the fulfillment of the needs of our church community. It has truly been my pleasure to serve you as President of Redeemer's Ladies Guild. Thank you. God's Richest Blessings in Your Future Work,

Sherry Ecker

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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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, and
published courtesy of
lutheransource.net



First Class Mail
Return Service Requested

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.

