

The Valley Evangel

Serving the Members and Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scottsdale and Sun of Righteousness Lutheran Church in Queen Creek

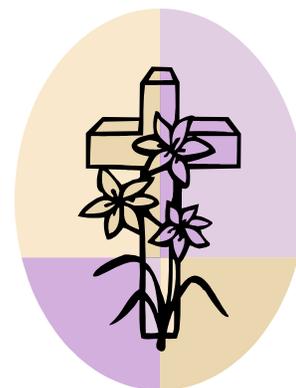


FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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As most of you know, the sermons that are preached at Redeemer and Sun of Righteousness every Sunday are recorded digitally, and are then posted as digital audio files on the Internet, with a link from the church web site. (This is done courtesy of Julie Martinez, who provides for us, within her own web site, the sizeable online storage space that these files require).

The text of each sermon is also made available online, on the church web site. Part of the reason for these postings is to give members who may have been unable to attend a certain service an opportunity to listen to, or to read, the sermon that they missed. In fact, I would strongly encourage those in this circumstance to take advantage of this opportunity! Click



through from the home page of either congregation, or go directly to this page: angelfire.com/ny4/djw/redeemer.sermons.html

But also, we have hoped that, at least on some small scale, the ministry of our congregation can in this way impact the life and faith of other people, who live in other communities and even in other countries, but who have access to the

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WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Editor:
Pastor David Jay Webber

Editorial Assistant - Layout and Design:
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Scottsdale:

Sunday Divine Service: 9:00 a.m.
Refreshments after the Service
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:30 a.m.

Queen Creek:

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

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:

10:00 a.m. at the Calvin residence

See calendar for class schedule in April!

TREASURE IN CLAY POTS

Many ancient scrolls, like those found by the Dead Sea, are known to have been surprisingly well preserved inside jars made from clay – in short, in plain pottery! Such storage was common in the time of St. Paul and throughout centuries before his day. Paul’s comments in 2 Corinthians 4:7 did not, however, refer to such literal forms of “safe scroll storage,” when he said: “...We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves...”

Paul was referring to ordinary human beings, particularly the Apostles; that is, to sinful and warty people like ourselves who served merely as God’s instruments in voicing the Word from and about the saving deeds of Christ. There could be no real “power,” salvation, relevancy or ultimate meaning of any sort without its being the very Word of God, inspired through His own Holy Spirit!

In our own time no “new” Word or revelation is to be expected from God, for His entire message is summed up already in the Holy Scriptures, and in the Person and saving acts of Jesus Himself (Hebrews 1:1-2). We today have been given to rely on what was formerly written so many centuries ago, by and through God’s Prophets and Apostles. Given the authentic and well-preserved condition of virtually countless ancient Bible scrolls and fragments, those in our era who have been privileged to receive accurate interpretive and fully contextual training – and who additionally are committed to its constant use without personal tampering, diminishing, or adding to the original intent of those ancient texts – are those who are now able to convey for our benefit the immense treasure of God’s

Word, preserved so well-intact through all the centuries since. Your own Pastor is just such a pot!

Yes, that last comment was intended to tickle some funny bones, and yet there is profoundly comforting truth in it. [I am] pastorally trained myself, but now [am] often shut-in and personally unable to perform the duties incumbent upon faithful Lutheran Pastors due to disabling health conditions... For years I have searched the Internet’s “world-wide web” for sermons that are faithful to the real meaning of the Bible’s words, as well as for personal guidance and comfort in a life filled with more and greater painful experiences than I could begin to describe or explain. My personal situation is quite beside the point at hand, however. For years I have also listened to innumerable sermons and messages from many besides your own Pastor.

Please believe my telling you here, with no equivocation whatsoever, that I have not found a single person who is a more consistently faithful, forthright and truly Biblically-correct preacher anywhere else and over all those years! To God alone belongs all the glory, of course, since He is the Giver and Enabler. The same messages you are privileged to hear from your church’s pulpit week by week are, however, quite honestly the highlight of my every week. ...Your congregation’s use of media technology to reach beyond your own doors is a vital tool for reaching many more souls across our country and even in places all over the world. People you have never met are dependent on the Gospel proclaimed at *your* church...

Rev. Roger Disbro

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE



Maundy Thursday Divine

Service at Redeemer,

April 9, 7pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service at Redeemer,

April 10, 7pm

Easter Service at Redeemer and Queen Creek

April 12 at usual times (see calendar)



Easter Brunch at Redeemer

April 12 after the service

(Sunday School & Adult Class canceled that day.)

Whom can you invite to come to church with you on Easter?

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

Internet and therefore to these sermons. Over the years I have in fact learned of several people, in various states of the United States, in Canada, and in various countries of Europe and Africa, who do listen to, or read, these messages.

It is humbling for me personally to think that others are interested in what is said from the pulpits of Redeemer and Sun of Righteousness here in Arizona. But at the same time, I think it is beneficial for the members of our parish to know that the ministry of our church is indeed reaching other people, to the glory of God and for the extension of his kingdom. We can be encouraged by this, even when we might occasionally be a little bit discouraged by the relatively small numbers that we see in person in our own Sunday services!

The Rev. Roger Disbro is a Lutheran minister in Illinois who unfortunately is no longer able to serve as a pastor due to a serious physical disability. I have never had the privilege of meeting him, but I did learn that he is a regular listener to the sermons we post. So, with the idea that it may be of encouragement to the members and friends of our parish to hear from someone beyond Arizona who benefits from this ministry in this way, I asked him to pen a few lines for the *Valley Evangel* about the fact that he listens to the messages, and to add any thoughts that he might think would be of interest to us in that respect. Some excerpts from what Pastor Disbro sent

along to us appear in this issue of the *Valley Evangel*. When you read what he said, please know that I did not suggest any specific content to Pastor Disbro, but simply asked him to express his own thoughts in his own words. And please believe me when I say that I was surprised – and maybe a little embarrassed! – by some of the things he chose to say.

As we celebrate, in this Easter season, our Lord's victory over sin and death, and through him our own victory over sin and death, may we all be comforted to know that our living Lord will never abandon us. He will always see to it that the promises of his saving Gospel are continually brought to us, in one way or another, for the strengthening of our faith and hope.

Please invite your friends to come to church with you, on Easter and on every Sunday. But if they don't do that – at least not at first – then invite them at the very least to go online, and listen to the preaching of the Gospel that takes place among us as it is available in recorded form through the Internet. The Lord promises us: "my word...shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11, ESV).

-- Pastor Webber



EASTER BRUNCH

Members of both the Scottsdale and Queen Creek congregations are invited to join us for the brunch following the 9:00 a.m. festival service at Redeemer. A signup sheet will be available during the coffee hour at Redeemer during the weeks preceding the brunch. Members of Sun of Righteousness who would



like to attend may contact chairperson Marilyn Bonnell (623-742-6555 or mjbonnell@msn.com) to indicate what they will bring. The event will include an Easter Egg Hunt for children. Please invite your relatives, friends and neighbors to attend church with you on Easter, and to stay for the brunch afterwards. A service on Easter Sunday will still be held at Queen Creek at the usual time (4 p.m.)

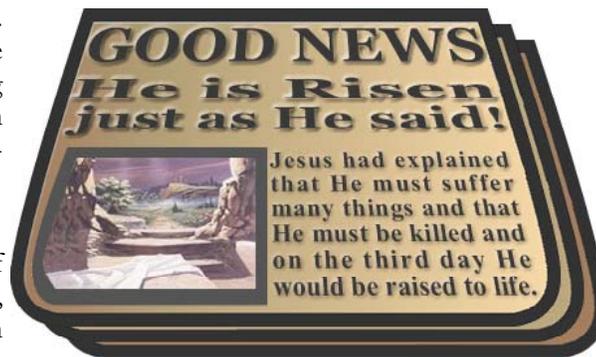
THE GOOD NEWS REALITY

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!”
Mark 16:6

We all have expectations. Expectations can be dangerous. If we expect something to happen—and it doesn’t—we can feel disappointed, confused, or angry (even at God).

Did you know that the disciples of Jesus were feeling disappointed, confused and maybe a little angry on the day that Jesus burst from the tomb ALIVE? They were feeling this way, even on this happy day, because the expectations they had for Jesus’ ministry that did not square with what had happened. *How powerful expectations can be.*

Now, Jesus had told His disciples ahead of time that He was, in reality, going to suffer and die and THEN rise again. When the disciples heard this, it didn’t square with their expectations. (They expected that He would take up



His throne again without suffering or dying.) They argued with him, **“Never Lord! This shall never happen to You.”** When Jesus suffered and died (on the cross) just as He told them, their unfulfilled expectations left them disappointed, confused, even angry. When He rose again on Easter, an angel was sent to calm them: **“Don’t be**

alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!”

Even then, they did not believe. Aren’t we just like them? When our lives don’t turn out as we “hope” we act as if Jesus is still dead.

But, He is risen just as He said! When Jesus appeared to the

disciples later than day, he gave them the faith to receive the best of all realities: through His death at the cross all sins ARE forgiven and by the power of His resurrection there IS eternal life for all who believe! What momentary disappointment, confusion or anger can compete with this? AMEN.

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE

The *Lutheran Study Bible*, a major publishing project of Concordia Publishing House, will be available in October of this year. Conservative Lutheran Biblical scholars from the LCMS, ELS, and WELS, and from Lutheran churches in several other countries, have collaborated in the preparation of what promises to be the best study Bible that will be available in the English language. The translation used is the English Standard Version. This is our parish’s liturgical Bible, from which we read in our worship services, and it is also the translation on which our Sunday School curriculum is based. Samples of the notes, introductory materials, and other kinds of resources that will be included in this Study Bible can be examined online at this web site: cph.org/lutheranbible

If three or more people from our parish agree to prepay for a copy of the *Lutheran Study Bible*, the shipping would be free when the Bibles are eventually sent in October. The prepub-

lication price for the basic hardcover edition is \$34.99, which represents a savings of \$20 off the regular price.

It is also possible to order one of the more expensive special editions (leather-bound, large print, etc.) at a reduced prepublication price. The web site gives the cost for these editions. This Bible would be a great Christmas gift – of enduring value – for your loved ones, and would be a very helpful and edifying resource for your own life of faith. If you would like to order one (or more than one) at the prepublication price, please make out a check for the appropriate amount to “Redeemer Lutheran Church” – with the phrase “Study Bible” and any necessary notes about the edition that you want written on the memo line – and give the check to the Pastor. The Bibles need to be ordered together, before the end of May, in order to get the free shipping.

CHRIST WAS RAISED FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION (ROMANS 4:25)

You have heard in the story of the Passion how Christ is portrayed as our exemplar and helper, and that he who follows him and clings to him receives the Spirit, who will enable him also to suffer. But the words of Paul are more Christian and should come closer home to our hearts and comfort us more, when he says: “Christ was raised for our justification.”

Here the Lamb is truly revealed, of whom John the Baptist testifies, when he says in John 1:29: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” Here is fulfilled that which was spoken to the serpent: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed: he shall bruise your head,” which means that for all those who believe in him, hell, death, and the devil and sin have been destroyed. In the same manner the promise is fulfilled today which God gave to Abraham, when he said in Genesis 22:18: “In your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” Here Christ is meant, who takes away our curse and the power of sin, death and the devil.

All this is done, I say, by faith. For if you believe that by this seed the serpent has been slain, then it is slain for you; and if you believe that in this seed all nations are to be blessed, then

you are also blessed. For each one individually should have crushed the serpent under foot and redeemed himself from the curse, which would have been too difficult, nay impossible for us. But now it has been done easily, namely, by Christ, who has crushed the serpent once, who alone is given as a blessing and benediction, and who has caused this Gospel to be published throughout the world, so that he who believes, accepts it and clings to it, is also in possession of it, and is assured that it is as he believes. For in the heart of such a man the Word becomes so powerful that he will conquer death, the devil, sin and all adversity, like Christ himself did. So mighty is the Word that God himself would sooner be vanquished than that his Word should be conquered.

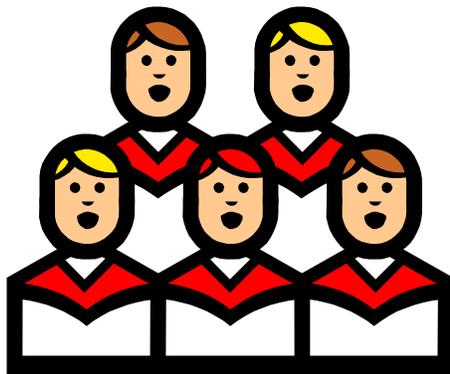
This is the meaning of the words by St. Paul: “Christ was raised for our justification.” Here Paul turns my eyes away from my sins and directs them to Christ, for if I look at my sins, they will destroy me. Therefore I must look to Christ who has taken my sins upon himself, crushed the head of the serpent and become the blessing. Now they no longer burden my conscience, but rest upon Christ...

– Martin Luther

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bethany Lutheran College Choir and Handbell Choir

The Concert Choir, Mary-Martha Choir and Handbell Choir of our synod’s Bethany Lutheran College (Mankato, MN) are planning a “Grand Canyon Tour” to Arizona in late May. Paul and Sarah Webber will



be among the participants. The choirs will be featured in the Ascension Day Choral Vespers service at Redeemer Lutheran in Scottsdale on Thursday, May 21, at 7:00 p.m. Our Ladies Guild will provide a meal for the students prior to the service. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce our

congregation to your relatives, friends and neighbors – and to be uplifted in your own faith. Please prayerfully consider people whom you can invite to attend with you.

Your friends elsewhere in the valley may be interested to know about other planned tour concerts:

Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
715 W. Southern Ave., Tempe 85282

Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
5600 W. Palmyra, Glendale 85301

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ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 5)

Easter Lilies



Redeemer Ladies Guild is taking orders for lilies which will be used to decorate our altar or Easter, and which may be taken home after the Easter Day service. Please contact one of the officers if you are interested in purchasing a lily plant.

Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Thursday, April 30

The Arizona State University Symphony Orchestra, combined choirs and faculty soloists will present Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah* on Thursday, April 30. The event is free and will take place in the ASU Gammage Auditorium in Tempe. The performance will be enhanced by projected images of classical artwork depicting the story of Elijah, provided by the Phoenix Art Museum. A pre-concert lecture by Joel Revzen of Arizona Opera begins in the auditorium lobby at 6:30 p.m. Free parking is available in the ASU Gammage lot.



This musical masterpiece recounts the dramatic life of the Old Testament prophet as found in the books of First and Second Kings. The sung texts wonderfully proclaim the message of God's grace and mercy, as well as his judgment against sin and unbelief. Why not invite friends or neighbors to attend this performance with you? Doing so may provide very natural opportunities to discuss spiritual matters afterwards, when reflecting upon the performance and its message.

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." And they remembered His words, and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

Luke 24:1-9



Photo Courtesy Julie Martinez

Taken in Northern Israel near Kibbutz Deganya

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00pm Lenten Vespers Service (S)	2 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	3 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	4
5 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)	6	7	8	9 7pm Maundy Thursday Service (S)	10 7pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service (S)	11
12 Easter Service ++ 9:00am SW (S) Easter Brunch following the service (S) 4:00pm SW (Q)	13	14 7 pm Voters' Meeting (S)	15 Pastor away for ELS West Coast Pastors' Conference and Emmaus Conference in Tacoma, WA	16 Pastor away for ELS West Coast Pastors' Conference and Emmaus Conference in Tacoma, WA	17 Pastor away for ELS West Coast Pastors' Conference and Emmaus Conference in Tacoma, WA	18 Pastor away for ELS West Coast Pastors' Conference and Emmaus Conference in Tacoma
19 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	20	21	22	23 6:30 pm Internet Study Group	24 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	25
26 Service of the Word 9:00am SW (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Elders Meeting after Bible Class (S) 4:00pm SW (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	27	28	29	30 Internet Study Group cancelled this evening		

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

++ An Easter Brunch will be served immediately following the Easter morning service in Scottsdale. Bible class and Sunday school are cancelled in both locations

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Scottsdale, AZ 85266

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Or: 480-621-7394
Email: jaywebber@yahoo.com

Sun of Righteousness Church

Meeting in the "Multi-Purpose"
Room at Frances Brandon-
Pickett Elementary School
22076 E. Village Loop Road
South



First Class Mail
Return Service Requested

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 web-
sites above, and
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.

