

The Valley Evangel

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

April 2012

Inside This Issue	<i>From the Pastor's Desk</i>	
<p><i>Devotion / Holy Week schedule..... Page 2</i></p> <p><i>Interview with New Member.....Pages 3, 4</i></p> <p><i>Good Friday Homily....Page 5</i></p> <p><i>Ladies' Guild News.....Page 6</i></p> <p><i>Calendar Page 7</i></p> <p><i>About Our Church Page 8</i></p>	<p>“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”</p> <p>According to the “western” ecclesiastical calendar that we follow, the church year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent reminds us of those things that prepared the way for Christ's coming. This season is followed by Christmas, which marks the birth and childhood of Jesus; which is followed by Epiphany, which marks his manifestation to the world. The season of Lent comes next, which centers on the Lord's suffering and eventual death for our redemption. And then comes Easter, when we celebrate our Savior's victory over sin and death for us.</p> <p>The first Easter was a new beginning for Jesus – the beginning of a new and glorified existence. And for us who know Christ by faith, Easter is a new beginning for us too. The resurrection of Christ is God's vindication of his Son, and the sure sign that Jesus' sacrifice was accepted. From God's perspective, in Christ, humanity's sins are fully paid for.</p>	<p>“Byzantine” church traditions. In this ecclesiastical calendar, Easter Sunday is understood to be the <i>first</i> day of a new church year. In the section of the historic service book of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church that gives the appointed lessons for each Sunday, the lessons for Easter are at the very top of the list.</p> <p>Even though you are not in Ukraine, Easter can be a “first day” and a new beginning for you. A lot of you who receive this newsletter have become inactive in your participation in worship. For whatever reason, you have been living your life in this world without the kind of input from God – through his ministry of Word and Sacrament – that God wants to bring to you on a regular basis. You are becoming increasingly trapped in a rut of sin, because you are not listening to God's law and accepting correction from him. And what is most tragic of all, your faith is not being strengthened and renewed through the proclamation of God's forgiveness in Christ, his crucified and risen Son.</p>
Worship and Study Times		
<p>Sunday Divine Service: 9 a.m., Refreshments after the Service</p> <p>Sunday School/Adult Bible Class: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Friday Morning Bible Study: 10 a.m. (See calendar for locations.)</p>	<p>In this way, Easter shows us the way back to God. God is at peace with us because of Christ, and he invites us to be at peace with him, by repentance and faith, and to find our true life and destiny in the God who created us, and who now reclaims us as his own.</p> <p>The character of Easter as a “new beginning” is reflected in a very interesting way in the “eastern” church calendar used by our sister church in Ukraine, and by other</p>	<p>But that can change. It can change on Easter Sunday, on the 8th of this month, when you come home to God and to his church. Let Easter this year be a new beginning for you with the Lord. Let it be the first day of the rest of your life with God. Jesus died for you. Jesus rose again for you. Come and rejoice in what this means for you, in time and eternity – on Easter Sunday, and on every Sunday.</p>
Newsletter Staff		
<p>Editor: Pastor David Jay Webber Editorial Assistant/Layout and Design: Erica Olson Production Assistant/Printing and Distribution: Sarah Kissinger</p>		



– Pastor Webber

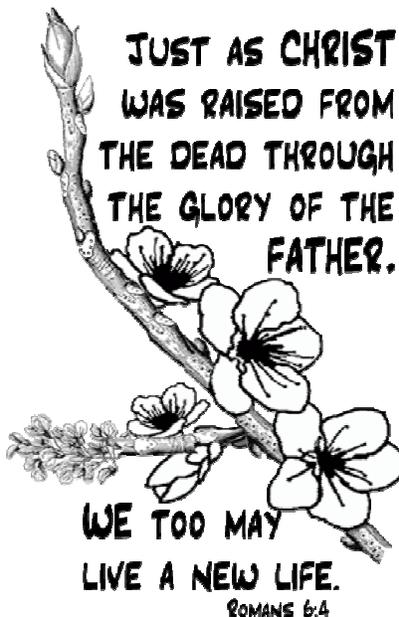
Devotion: Spring Has Sprung, New Life Has Come

Spring is here!

You can feel it. Winter's cold grip is slipping from the earth. New life is breaking free. People, fleeing the confines of their shelter, are excited to be outside, drinking in the energy of the sun. Hidden within the spring season is a different type of new life, one more powerful than any force of nature. It flows from Jesus' empty tomb. Just as spring excites and energizes so too does Easter.

Easter excites us because Jesus' resurrection proves that our sins are forgiven. You see, we deserved to suffer and die because of our frosty and unloving actions, words and thoughts. But God, in love, sent Jesus to live and die in our place. He took the punishment that we deserve. After Jesus had been in death's cold grip for three days, God raised him so that we would know that He has accepted Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. By raising Jesus, God was telling you that your sins are forgiven. Now that's exciting.

Easter is also energizing. The Bible teaches us



were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

Through baptism, God drowns our cold selfish nature, warms us with His love and makes us alive in Jesus. He changes us so that we reflect His warm love to those around us. He energizes us with His love so that we warm this world, held in sin's winter, with acts of kindness. The power to live a new life flows to us from Jesus' empty tomb.

Hidden in the midst of the spring-cleaning, walks in the park, and the like, Christians are celebrating new life in Jesus. Excited and energized, they cry out, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed."

Join us on Easter morning to learn more about the resurrection of Jesus and the new life that is yours through faith.

Holy Week Schedule

Worship with us in Holy Week and on Easter. The services are:

Palm Sunday Divine Service on April 1 at 9 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Divine Service on April 5 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers on April 6 at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Divine Service on April 8 at 9 a.m.



Interview with New Member: Shawn Buot
(conducted by Erica Olson, *Valley Evangel* editorial assistant)



Erica: Ok, and your name is Shawn... How do you say your last name?

Shawn: It's Buot, in English. It's a French-Filipino last name, as I was adopted by a French-Filipino family midway through my life at the age of 22. In the French version, the "t" is silent.

Erica: Oh, ok. Well, very cool! Is it still spelled the same way?

Shawn: Yes. And on June 16, 2004, my name was legally changed as a tribute to my Godson. His first name is now my middle name, and I bear his last name.

Erica: Wow! Well, that's pretty cool! How old is your Godson now?

Shawn: He just turned 10 this past January 5.

Erica: Very cool! So, are you originally from this area? From Arizona?

Shawn: No, but I've been here long enough! Since I was age 7, in August 1973, when I was 7. Before that, I lived in Ohio for five and a half years, and before that, I lived for 18 months in Detroit, since I was born there.

Erica: Wow! You've really been all over! Where is your favorite place to live out of all of those places?

Shawn: The Phoenix metropolitan area.

Erica: Ok. Well, very good! So, have you been Lutheran your whole life?

Shawn: I have, but I have also delved into [other] churches. It wasn't until I revisited my faith through the book, "The Spirituality of the Cross" [by Gene Edward Veith] that I recognized that I had my faith, that I had been saved the traditional way, as opposed to just through my ears. So, through the years, I've been saved traditionally, since Christ bore my sins on the Cross 2000 years ago.

Erica: Very good! Now, as a Lutheran, were you always part of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, or were you once a part of a different Synod?

Shawn: Well, like three years ago, I started going to the other evangelical Synod, but I'm more inclined to go to the evangelical Synod I am now.

Erica: Ok. So, when did you start attending Redeemer?

Shawn: During the Advent season a year and a half ago.

Erica: Ok. Well, what do like best about Redeemer?

Shawn: Well, the people are nice and giving. And even though I can't always participate in singing the music, I know the liturgy. I always take home, with each service I attend, I always take something tangible home.

Erica: If there was one thing you could change, would you, and what would that be?

Shawn: Well, what do you mean? About the church?

Erica: Yes.

(continued on Page 4)

Interview with New Member (continued from Page 3)

Shawn: I would like to see her bigger than she is now. That's probably out of my hands, though.

Erica: Well, we are experiencing some pretty good growth. There's lots of people who have been joining lately.

Shawn: Yeah, that's great!

Erica: We're heading in the right direction.

Shawn: Good.

Erica: So, what kinds of things do you like to do for fun?

Shawn: Well, I've gone to college: community college and university college, ASU, since the spring semester of 1984. I did walk with my class at ASU in the class of 2010, with a baccalaureate degree in interdisciplinary studies, with emphases in French and global business. And I still have three classes to continue that degree. I also, ever since my injury happened in 1980, I've studied things both formally and informally. Multiple things, multiple fields. I'm talking nearly 50 career paths. Some of them are defunct, of course, but a lot of them are still active.

I really don't place too much trust in online dating services, even eHarmony.com, which was founded by a Christian believer. ... With that service, I found myself sifting through more than 3,000 profiles, and I was left in the dust most of those times. And, although I did have the opportunity to date online for nearly a year or more with a professor of Macedonian things, who comes from New England, I think. And she at least had the decency, when she wanted to break up, she at least had the decency to do it cordially, compared to the other match I had on eHarmony.com. I'm no longer taking much trust in that kind of service, because for one, my good friend John Kyle, a contemporary of Billy Graham, whom I've known since December of 1987, told me, "Shawn, you don't need to rely on such services. If you're ready and the time is right, and it's in the Lord's favor, then that woman will automatically and spiritually walk into your life."

So, in addition to that, I also try to keep up with

keeping physically in shape. To do that, I take time to go swimming most every week, and I need to do it more than I have been recently so that I can have a prolonged life. It's the only way to be fair to my family and my Godson and Goddaughter, both my families – adoptive and biological, to God and to me. It's the only way. And so, I look forward to getting back into shape by way of the pool. My record is 92 laps in 3 hours. Now, it may take me forever to get back up to that point, but I'm at least willing and devoted to that.

For my free time, I like to play chess, online chess. It took me forever to learn to be a grand master of chess. I enjoy playing it online at the master level, and I usually win, 75 percent of the time. And for fun, on occasion, I like to play chess with friends of mine.

...I [also write] songs, and I composed... I don't know the notations for songs, but I can read music to some extent. And I've written just a handful, maybe eight to ten songs since the spring of 1984. They're a variety of songs. I do not compose country, however. And recently, I thought of a song that might appeal to Lady Gaga. Now, I don't necessarily agree with all her views, but hopefully I can befriend her and share my faith with her.

Erica: That's very admirable.

Shawn: Thank you.

Erica: I hope you get the chance to do that. Well, is there anything we haven't discussed that you would like the family and friends of Redeemer to know about you?

Shawn: I can be very devoted to my passions, and I value friendships, and I look forward to making more friends at Redeemer. And even though Redeemer is my parent church right now, I may feel inclined once in a while to go to my Godchildren's church just to visit. And going forward, I don't see myself changing denominations anytime soon. I'm also very thankful that the pastor and Carol, and the rest of the congregation there have been so open and kind and giving to me, and I wanted to reemphasize that.

Good Friday Homily

“Tetelesthai.” One word in Greek. Three in English: “It is finished.” More literally: “Fulfilled, Completed, Accomplished, DONE.” Strange words to hear from the mouth of a man who is preparing to give Himself up into death. They are the words one expects to hear when the artist has finished the masterpiece, when the poet lays down her pen after writing the perfect poem, or when the craftsman runs his hand along the table he’s been laboring over and at last is satisfied that it’s all he intended it to be. “It’s finished.”

Friday. Good Friday. But Friday. Day number six of the week. This day recalls the first Friday there ever was. “And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth *were finished* and all the host of them.” And we recall how like a craftsman or an artist, God had been inspecting his work all along those first six days, and had declared: “Good. Good.” And at the very end: “Very good.” *Tov maod*, in Hebrew. Which is to say, exceedingly, overflowing bang on. And so, it is finished.

The Craftsman of the first creation, “through whom all things were made and without whom nothing was made that has been made”, is today finishing up a new project as He hangs upon the Cross and its dejavu all over again. A creation that had fallen from its perfection, its good and very good, by the deceit of the devil and the sin of humanity, now restored.

Here is a good and a very good Friday. For here we meet not only the Carpenter through whom the world was made, but we meet Him as a man, the Carpenter from Nazareth. As the new Adam born of the Virgin soil of Mary. He stands in the place of the first Adam to whom dominion over this world had been entrusted, and who surrendered it all to the devil and brought in sin and death and placed this world out of joint with God, under wrath and judgment. Here we meet the new Adam. And unlike the old, this one has no truck with the devil. This one has come to destroy the works of the devil, to expose his lies and to deliver humanity from his clutches and to hand back to His Father.

Satan had implied that God was holding out on Adam and Eve and so they’d best look out for themselves, and we’ve been doing it ever since. But

here for once stood a man, true man, our very brother, who refused the lie. Who knew that His Father was not holding out *on* man, but holding out *to* man more hope and life than man could ever desire or deserve. And He was that gift in our flesh.

So *Good Friday*. For on this day in our flesh He completes the task given. Obedience. Human obedience. The unbroken yes of His life in our flesh. Obedience to death, even death upon a cross. The obedience which man owes his Creator and which we have failed to render in countless ways, He, the Creator Himself, comes into our flesh to offer for us, on our behalf, to His Father, that He might give it to us as our very own.

Tetelesthai. Finished. Done. Perfect human obedience rendered in our place and now offered to us as our own. And so a new creation. And in this creation, the verdict of “good and very good” rests secure upon you, for its basis is not in YOU, but in HIM. In His finished, completed work of obedience, exquisitely rendered to the Father on your behalf.

How can you know it was on your behalf? By the blood and water. They run together from His riven side. And they testify to you that God “has given you eternal life and this life is in His Son.” This water, rich in blood, has splashed your life in Holy Baptism. That’s where He lavished on you His perfect “yes” to the will of the Father, His unbroken obedience, gave it you as your own, covering all your disobedience and death, breaking sin’s power in your life. And this blood, rich in the water of life, He pours down your throat in the Eucharist, toxic to sin, rich in the Spirit, imparting life. And both cry out together: “For you! Offered in your place! Your sins forgiven, forgotten and gone. Hidden and dissolved beneath this blood and water. It is *finished!*”

The old liar, Satan, wars against the Lord’s *tetelesthai*, His “it is finished.” He screams at you: “No, it’s not over. It’s not finished. You can’t rely on Him and His work. Don’t believe Him!” Satan gladly entices you into sin and then hands the sin squarely back into your arms and tells you: “Oh, my. Deal with it! It’s yours. You’ve made the mess, haven’t you, and you’re going to have to face Him and He’s a meanie and worse!”

(Continued on Page 6)

Good Friday Homily (continued from Page 5)

Against his lying mutterings, learn to take up the deep joy of the Lord's "tetelesthai." To remind the evil one and your own doubting heart: "No, you see, it really is finished. A perfect obedience that is mine as a gift. In my Baptism and in His Eucharist God has given me the blood in which is life because it was the blood of the perfect "yes" to the Father's will - the blood that atoned for my sins not in part, but in whole - and not mine only, but the sins of the whole world."

Good Friday, people loved by God! Good because on this day a goodness was brought to perfection in human flesh by our Lord Jesus in which we may all live forevermore. Tetelesthai!

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You for by Your Holy Cross You HAVE redeemed the world.

*Pastor William Weedon
(reprinted with permission)*

Ladies' Guild News

On Easter Sunday April 8th, there will be the traditional Easter Brunch. The Ladies' Guild will be providing the ham. A sign-up sheet will be provided for food contributions in the kitchen for the event.

Donations in the amount of \$10 for the purchase of Easter lilies are needed. If donating by check, please make it payable to Redeemer Ladies' Guild. Donations may be given to Marilyn Bonnell or Angie Kohlgraf. Please make your donation by Sunday, April 1st.

Decoration the church for Easter Sunday will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 7th.

The California/Arizona ELS Women's Mission Rally will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church on

Saturday, April 28th, 2012. Please pre-register by March 31st. Registration forms are available at the church. Registration fee is \$15. Please make checks payable to Redeemer Ladies' Guild and submit them to Marilyn Bonnell.

Registration on Saturday, April 28th will be from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. The rally will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

Our speakers will be Kerry and Nicholas Laper from the "Gift of Life" program in Ukraine, and Rev. Steven Peterson, ELS Mission Counselor.

Please try to attend this enjoyable and interesting event!

Angie Kohlgraf
Ladies Guild President



*Redeemer Lutheran Church
April 2012*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 Palm Sunday 8:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	2	3	4	5 Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. DS Internet Study Group canceled	6 Good Friday 7 p.m. Tenebrae Vespers Morning Bible Study canceled	7
8 Easter Sunday 8:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal 9 a.m. DS Brief Congregational Forum, then Easter Brunch after the service AC/SS canceled	9 7 p.m. Voter's Meeting at the church	10	11	12 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	13 10 a.m. Bible Study at the church (Note the new location)	14
15 Easter 2 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	16	17	18 10 a.m. Bible Study for residents of ALRC	19 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	20 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Anderson residence (Note the location change)	21
22 Easter 3 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' Meeting after the AC	23	24	25	26 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	27 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Anderson residence	28 ELS AZ/CA Circuit Women's Mission Rally at Redeemer
29 Easter 4 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	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

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

7670 East Jomax Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

Pastor David Jay Webber

Phone: 480-585-7002

Or: 480-621-7394

Email: jaywebber@yahoo.com



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.

