

# 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

Inside This Issue	
Repentance and Lent	2
Announcements	2
Devotion: It is Good for us to be Here	4
Ladies Guild News	4
Calendar of Events	5
About Our Church	6

**W**hat are you giving up for Lent? Giving up a favorite food or an enjoyable activity for the season of Lent is an old custom, designed to remind us of everything that Jesus gave up for us in his suffering and death for our salvation. The Lutheran Reformers did not repudiate this custom, but they did warn against the idea that there is a direct spiritual benefit to be had from such a deprivation. They emphasized that we grow spiritually through faith in the Gospel, and not through the denial of bodily comforts.

In keeping with this emphasis, a uniquely Lutheran way of “giving something up for Lent” developed, namely the giving up of *time*, through going to church for an extra mid-week service. Every Wednesday eve-



ning during Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 25, we at Redeemer will likewise have a chance to give up an hour of our time – time that we might otherwise use for recreation and relaxation, or a family activity – and dedicate that hour instead to the hearing of God’s Word, and to the singing of hymns that will help us reflect on the meaning of Christ’s suffering and death on our behalf.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Editor:  
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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:**  
7:00 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

## REPENTANCE AND LENT

**T**his is God's thunderbolt. By the Law He strikes down both obvious sinners and false saints. He declares no one to be in the right, but drives them all together to terror and despair. This is the hammer. As Jeremiah says, "Is not My work like . . . a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" (23:29). This is not active contrition or manufactured repentance. It is passive contrition, true sorrow of heart, suffering, and the sensation of death.

This is what true repentance means. Here a person needs to hear something like this, "You are all of no account, whether you are obvious sinners or saints (in your own opinions). You have to become different from what you are now. You have to act differently than you are acting, whether you are as great, wise, powerful, and holy as you can be. Here no one is godly."

But to this office of the Law, the New Testament immediately adds the consoling promise of grace through the Gospel. This must be believed. As Christ declares, "Repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15)

That is, become different, act differently, and believe My promise. John the Baptist (preceding Christ) is called a preacher of repentance, but this is for the forgiveness of sins. That is, John was to accuse all and convict them of being sinners. This is so they can know what they are before God and acknowledge that they are lost. So they can be prepared for the Lord (Mark 1:3) to receive grace and to expect and accept from Him the forgiveness of sins. This is what Christ Himself say, "Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in (My) name to all nations" (Luke 24:47)

**Smalcald Articles III III 2-6** (Reader's Edition, CPH)

During the forty days of Lent, God's baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent: repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lent is a time in which God's people prepare with joy for the Paschal Feast (Easter). It is a time in which God renews His people's zeal in faith and life. It is a time in which we pray that we may be given the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

**Treasury of Daily Prayer - Ash Wednesday** (CPH, page 26)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME TO REDEEMER!

Karen Weed was welcomed into communicant membership at the quarterly voters' meeting on January 13, by transfer from King of Kings Lutheran Church (WELS) in Apache Junction, Arizona. Karen is a resident of "The Heritage" assisted living facility in Carefree.

### WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

We rejoice in the recent births of Eva Shae Carlile, daughter of Jerome and Angela Carlile, and of Annaliesa Morgan Preus, daughter of Seth and Vickie Preus. The Carliles and Preuses are members of our

parish who attend services at Sun of Righteousness in Queen Creek. God willing, both babies will be baptized at Redeemer on February 1. May the Lord bless little Eva and little Annaliesa, and their families, with his rich grace!

### WEDDING BELLS!

Our congratulations and best wishes go out to Paul Beil (a member of our parish) and Charlene Hussey, on the occasion of their wedding at Redeemer on January 31.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

In our giving up of time in this way, we are not only reminding ourselves of what Jesus gave up for us – which was a lot more than an hour of recreation and relaxation! – but we are also using that time to expose ourselves to the Gospel of Christ. Only the Gospel, and faith in the Gospel, can draw us closer to Christ, and bring greater spiritual maturity to our lives. A physical deprivation, in and of itself, cannot do that.

So again, let me ask: *What are you giving up for Lent?* We look forward to seeing you on Ash Wednesday, and for the other mid-week Lenten services!

-- Pastor Webber



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Continued from page 2)

### A CHANGE IN OUR MID-WEEK SCHEDULE

The Wednesday Evening "Bible & Theology" Study Group has now merged into the Thursday evening Internet Study Group, held from the Pastor's home at 7pm on Thursdays. Those who wish to participate online from their own homes are invited to contact the Pastor for log-on information. Those who wish to participate in person are invited to come to the Pastor's residence: 7701 E. Osborn Rd., Apartment 4W, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. We have some of both kinds of participants, and the numbers are growing (especially among those who connect through the computer). In the sixteenth century Martin Luther used the printing press to get the Word out, in the form of his many treatises and writings. In the 20th century Walter A. Meier used the radio to get the Word out, in the form of his "Lutheran Hour" program. Today we are using the Internet!

### NO SERVICE IN QUEEN CREEK ON FEBRUARY 1

The Divine Service, Sunday School, and Adult Class will not be held at Queen Creek on February 1. Queen Creek worshipers are invited to attend services at Redeemer in Scottsdale that morning (where, God willing, two babies of Queen Creek families will be

baptized), or to attend the services of a WELS sister church in a neighboring community: **HERITAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH** in Gilbert (421 E. Ray Rd., 9am), **KING OF KINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH** in Apache Junction (812 N. Meridian Rd., 8am and 10:15am), **PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH** in Mesa (3257 E. University Dr., 8am and 10:30am), or **CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH** in Chandler (1270 N. Dobson Rd., 9am).

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Jill Merten, a representative of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, will be with us after the services on March 1 at both Redeemer and Sun of Righteousness, to share information about Bethany, and to answer any questions that prospective students, or their parents or grandparents, may have. Bethany Lutheran College is a fully-accredited four-year liberal arts institution, affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Two members of our congregation, Paul Webber and Sarah Webber, are currently enrolled there. Norman Hartigan, Cheryl Hartigan, and Donna Lee (at Scottsdale), and Tara Roth and Randy Roth (at Queen Creek), are also alumni of Bethany.

## “IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE”

**T**hese words were spoken by the completely stunned disciple Peter, who – along with the disciples James and John – was beholding a sight like nothing he had ever seen before, or would ever see again. His Teacher and Friend Jesus Christ– the One with whom he and the other disciples had traveled and worked for over two years – was being “transfigured” before them. The three disciples had gone up the mountain with the Lord Jesus, who looked as He always did – very human! Suddenly they beheld Him, now displaying His glory and majesty as the eternal Son of God! Peter then spoke the words, **“It is good for us to be here,”** because, we are told, he was afraid and he didn’t know what else to say. It was a sight the three disciples never forgot.

Why was it “good” for them to be there that day, witnessing Jesus’ glory as they did? In the blessing of the Holy Spirit, what they saw that day confirmed what Jesus had been saying about Himself throughout His ministry: that He indeed is true God, and that God the Father had appointed Him to be the Savior of the world. Therefore, nothing less than God Himself, given in amazing love for us, would be the Lamb of Sacrifice to atone for the world’s



sins at the cross. This complete and perfect salvation Jesus came to win for the world is given freely to sinners through faith in his Name.

This is the message Jesus’ disciples, like Peter, were to proclaim – and did proclaim. They witnessed faithfully to what they saw. Their message is God’s message that cheers the sinful heart in the power of Christ’s forgiveness. It gives sinners peace from their sins (which are many) and hope in the midst of the storms of life (which are severe). This message saves Peter, you and me, and all who believe in Jesus!

Therefore it is always good for believers to be “here” with Jesus. Where is “here” for us today? With Jesus when he comes to our hearts through His Word and Sacraments of baptism and Lord’s Supper! We may not see his glory through them, but we do receive what he did for us at the cross, his forgiveness, which will enable us to see him someday in heaven’s glory!

**“It is good for us to be here”**

**(Mark 9:5)**

*Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism*

## LADIES GUILD NEWS

**T**he Ladies Guild recently elected new officers for 2009. The new President is Sarah Kissinger. The Vice-President is Marilyn Bonnell. And the Secretary/Treasurer is Sherry Ecker. The 2009 committee chairs are as follows - Altar: Yvonne Samra; Hospitality: Lucille Calvin; Fellowship: Erika Schmeissing.

Many thanks also go to Colleen Pawling for her past service as President, to Cheryl Hartigan for her past service as Secretary/Treasurer, and to Angie Kolgraff for her service as the Altar committee chair for the past 3 years.

The Redeemer's Ladies Guild voted to support two orphans in India through the ELS Cross-Stitch organization. Some of the women from Redeemer will be attending the California/

Arizona Circuit Women's Mission Rally in Irvine, California, on February 7. For information regarding the Mission Rally, please call Sherry Ecker at 602-510-4296 or email her at [dermathrapy @ cox.net](mailto:dermathrapy@cox.net). (Do not include any spaces in her email address!)

Anyone who is not attending the Rally in Irvine who would nevertheless like to contribute toward the missions that the rally will be supporting are asked to speak with Sherry Ecker or Marilyn Bonnell, who will be attending. They will be able to carry along a check or a monetary donation from anyone who is not able to attend.

-- Sarah Kissinger

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FEBRUARY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 Divine Service ++</b> 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/Seminar (S)	2	3	4	5 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	6 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	7 California/Arizona Circuit Women's Mission Rally in Irvine California
<b>8 Service of the Word</b> 9:00am SW (S) Ladies Guild after the Service (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm SW (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	9	10 7pm Church Council (S)	11	12 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	13 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	14
<b>15 Divine Service</b> 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	16	17	18	19 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	20 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	21
<b>22 Service of the Word</b> 9:00am SW (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Elders Meeting after Bible Class (S) 4:00pm SW (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	23	24	25 7:00pm <b>Ash Wednesday Divine Service</b> with imposition of ashes (S)	26 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	27 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	28

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

**++** There will be no services at Queen Creek on Sunday, February 1. See announcements for more details

**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](http://redeemer.vze.com)  
[sunofrighteousness.vze.com](http://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](http://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.

