

The Valley Evangel

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

February 2015

Inside This Issue

*Bethany's and Synod's Loss /
Lenten Observation / Elders and
Officers*Page 2

Special GuestPage 3

Snowbird InterviewPages 3-6

Calendar Page 7

About Our Church.....Page 8

Worship and Study Times

Sunday Divine Service:

9 a.m., Refreshments after the
Service

Sunday School/Adult Bible

Class: 10:30 a.m.

Thursday Internet Study

Group: 7 p.m. (See Pastor
Webber for log-on info for this
group, or attend in person at his
residence.

Friday Bible Study: 10 a.m. at
the Muth residence

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Pastor David Jay Webber

Editorial Assistant/Layout and

Design: Erica Olson

Production Assistant/

Printing and Distribution:

Sarah Kissinger

From the Pastor's Desk

Pretty soon, we will be in Lent. The routine of the church will change, with extra services on Wednesday evenings, and with noticeable Lenten themes on Sundays. We will cease singing "Hallelujah," and will omit the *Gloria in Excelsis* canticle from the Liturgy. Starting on Ash Wednesday, we will be *in Lent*.

But will Lent be *in us*? Lent is not a time just for a different set of outward rituals and liturgical practices. It is a time for a necessary inner transformation. St. Paul writes:

"Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage.

Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death – even to death on a cross" (Philippians 2:5-8, HCSB).

Lent is not only a time for humbling gestures and symbols. It is a time for a humble mind, and a humble heart. As Jesus humbled himself in order to suffer and

die for our salvation, so we also humble ourselves – in repentance and faith – in order to receive this salvation. Our sins pulled Jesus to his cross, which should actually have been our cross. By our sins, we have hurt God, other people, and ourselves. Thinking about this, and admitting this, is genuinely humbling. Lent is genuinely humbling.

As God's law finds its proper mark in our conscience, we are humbled. And as the message of Christ crucified for sinners also finds its mark in our conscience, we

are soothed and comforted in our humility. To be sure, there is joy in Lent. It is the joy of knowing that Jesus was indeed willing to bear the cross for us, and to shed his blood upon it for our redemption and forgiveness. But this Lenten joy is a subdued joy. It is a humble joy.

As will soon be made clear by the distinctive Lenten themes of the Wednesday and Sunday services we will attend, and by the special Lenten symbols of those services, we will be *in Lent*. And may it also be so, that through the repentance for sin, and the faith in Christ, that God's Word and Spirit will work in us within those Lenten services, Lent will be *in us*.

– Pastor Webber



A Loss to Bethany and to Our Synod



Professor Mark Harstad, a much-beloved professor at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, ended his battle with cancer on January 17, and was received into the rest of Christ his Savior. As a professor at the college, and previously at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Harstad left a lasting impression for good on many laymen and pastors of our synod. He was devoted to Christ and his Word, to his family, and to his church. He will be greatly missed. “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!’” (Revelation 14:13, ESV)

Lenten Observance

Our observance of the Season of Lent will begin on February 18, with an Ash Wednesday Divine Service at 7 p.m. The imposition of ashes will be offered at the beginning of this service for those who wish to receive this symbol of humility and penitence. (The ashes are optional – but not the humility and the penitence.) On the Wednesdays following this, throughout the rest of the season (until March 25), a Lenten Vespers service (with spoken Communion afterwards) will be held at 7 p.m. The Vespers services will be preceded by a soup supper, serving from 6 to 6:30 p.m. (There will be no soup supper preceding Ash Wednesday.)



Officers and Elders

At the quarterly Voters' meeting on January 19, Sean Scheele was elected to be the new Head Trustee, and Norman Hartigan was elected to be the new Head Elder. Jim Bonnell was elected to fill the remainder of the term as President from which Norman Hartigan stepped down, to accept election as Head Elder. In a special meeting of the Church Council, also on January 19, Wayne Anderson, Daniel Morehouse, and Matthew Wendt were appointed to one-year terms on the board of Elders. We thank Wayne Anderson, who concluded his service as Head Elder, and Matthew Wendt, who concluded his service as Head Trustee, for their work on behalf of the congregation. Officers whose terms have not expired, and who continue to serve, are Treasurer Bill Muth, Financial Secretary Don Schmeissing, and Secretary Daniel Morehouse.

Special Guest



On Sunday, February 8, the Rev. Jonathan Stern will be our guest preacher and Bible Class teacher. Pastor Stern is a full-time Christian Giving Counselor for our sister synod – the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. His ministry among us on February 8 will focus on how the grace of God in Christ, and the faith that God gives us through the gospel, inspire and motivate us in love to support the work of the Lord’s church with our time, talent, and treasure – as the Lord guides and enables us. This is more than just a matter of “paying the bills” – although that is obviously a very practical and necessary part of our stewardship. But more fundamentally, in these matters we want to be thinking in the way St. Paul is thinking, when he writes:

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace...” (Philippians 1:2-7a, ESV)

So, make sure you give Pastor Stern a warm welcome when he is here, as he encourages us in these things.

Snowbird Interview: John and Nada Foede (Conducted by Erica Olson, Editor Assistant)



Erica: Where do you live when you aren’t here?

John: We’ve lived on a lake in southern Minnesota for the past 20 years, and on a hobby farm before that. We liked the hobby farm, but about 4 years after our last child left home, as we were mowing the lawn 8 hours a week, plowing a long driveway all winter, feeding horses, maintaining outbuildings, etc., we realized our kids weren’t coming back to enjoy it (or help) anymore. Time for a change! We enjoy living at the lake and spend lots of time tooling around on a pontoon with family and friends.

Erica: That sounds like fun. But yeah, the hobby farm sounds like it was a lot of work. Is all your family back home or do you have relatives here, too?

John: We don’t have many relatives in Minnesota; we don’t think we have any in Arizona. (Or, not many people admit to being related to us.)

Erica: What made you decide to be snowbirds?

John: Have you ever spent a winter in Minnesota?

(continued on Page 4)

Snowbird Interview (continued from Page 3)

Erica: No, actually. Ha! I suppose you wanted to be somewhere warm, and I don't think anyone could blame you for that! How long have you been coming here during the winters?

John: We came down for a week in the winter for a dozen years and when we retired in 2006, we began coming for the winter.

Erica: Where in the valley do you live?

John: Just east of Apache Junction, two miles from the Tonto National Forest which encompasses the Superstition Mountains.

Erica: Oh, that sounds beautiful!

Nada: Our little cabin is very rustic, but has a view of the Flat Iron which John climbed a couple times. (Only John can fall flat on his back on a boulder on the way down and give himself a chiropractic treatment that totally resolved a nagging back problem!) We are so far out in the boonies that when Paul Webber visited us, he said, "Even people who live in the boonies would think *this* is the boonies!"

Erica: Oh, that's funny! What do you like best about being here?

John: Warmth.

Erica: Naturally. Ha! When do you usually come down here and how long do you typically stay?

John: First of November, stay 4.5 months total (return to Minnesota for a month for Christmas).

Erica: Back home you attend a church where Pastor Webber's son, Paul, did his vicarage, right? Or at least where he was when he was going through the seminary.

John: We have been members of Mount Olive Lutheran Church [ELS] in Mankato since 1996. For the prior years we attended a conservative LCMS church and when we moved from the hobby farm to the lake home, we were used to supporting a Christian Day school and the ELS doctrine was in line with what we believe, so it was a perfect fit at Mount Olive. We particularly enjoy all the trained and enthusiastic voices from Bethany College in church every Sunday morning.

Nada: We got to know Paul, Ruth and John Webber when Paul was in seminary and vicarage. Now we are delighted to know Marta and Helen, too, and hope we can visit them this winter in Utah.

Erica: And I'm sure they would be very happy to see you, too! What made you to decide to worship at Redeemer?

(Continued on Page 5)

Snowbird Interview (continued from Page 4)

John: Our brother-in-law, Mark Faugstad, was a seminary student and said we absolutely *had* to connect with Pastor Webber – at that time the [Loop] 101/202 were not completed and our first trip to Redeemer took almost two hours – but we felt so welcomed and included by the members and always learn so much from Pastor Webber’s services that we feel we are missing something important if we miss church and Bible class.

Erica: How long have you been married?

John: I’ve been married 47 years; I’m not sure about Nada.

Nada: If John says 47 years, then that’s what it is. I hate numbers, so I take care of our social calendar and help John find his lost tools, and John takes care of numbers (which includes putting enough money in the bank and remembering my social security number and how old I am).

Erica: You two are so funny. Usually it’s the wife who tells the husband how many years it’s been. Tell us about your family.

Nada: We have two daughters who each brought a great son-in-law into our family. Kaarin is an attorney and she and Ron live about an hour north of our Minnesota home. Sue works in publishing and she and Tom live about a half hour south of us. We raised the girls on a small hobby farm in southern Minnesota, which included an old fashioned large red barn that housed horses, dogs (puppies), cats (kittens) and sometimes baby chicks. The hayloft was a work in progress for the girls and their friends as they moved hay bales and wood planks to form forts, castles, houses, whatever. You needed to alert the hayloft residents if you were entering, or you might find yourself in the way of a kid on a long rope swinging from one castle turret to another. We were only a half mile from town, so the kids rode their bikes back and forth, as did their friends. With all that attention, the animals developed personalities and we have fond memories of them (well, most of them). Kaarin and Sue attended a parochial school through eighth grade and we are so glad they had this opportunity. John enjoyed putzing around the property on his red tractor (“Emily”), but for the most part our hobby farm was a labor of love, with a strong emphasis on labor. It was a great place to raise children and we had lots of escapades and near misses, all of which must have kept our guardian angels on a dead run, but which created great memories for us. John has a younger sister and grew up on a dairy farm. I grew up in town and have four siblings. Our nieces and nephews are now having children of their own and since we have no grandchildren, they are kind enough to share their lives with us, for which we are most grateful.

Erica: Sounds great. What kinds of hobbies do you have?

John: I like almost anything related to cars, particularly sports cars and road racing. We’ve had a little red convertible for 26 years. Prior to that was a 15 year hiatus between sports cars because most of them don’t accommodate children.

Nada: My favorite pastime is gathering people for meals around our large old “threshing table,” and each house we’ve lived in has had a dining room large enough to accommodate it and the huge old oak buffet housing all the dishes.

Erica: Very nice. What kind of work did you do and for how long?

(Continued on Page 6)

Snowbird Interview (continued from Page 5)

John: Electrical Controls Engineer for 46 years, all for the same employer, doing lots of traveling including three trips to the jungles of Indonesia and elsewhere. My job was always interesting because there was always something new.

Nada: Legal secretary for about a hundred years and loved it, and was blessed to only work part-time. I felt I was at work enough to feel productive and home enough to almost meet my family's needs. I had the best of both worlds.

Erica: What advice would you give to others considering becoming snowbirds?

John: No advice required. You can't do it wrong if you come to the valley.

Erica: It is pretty wonderful here. What would you like people at Redeemer to know about you that hasn't already been asked?

John: Since we don't have grandchildren, we're very receptive to taking in strays.

Nada: I always tell John that if a little kid follows me home, I get to keep him!

Erica: Oh, that's too funny! Well, we are so glad to have you here for as long as we get you.

ASH WEDNESDAY
 Prayer **FASTING**
WAY OF THE CROSS
REMEMBER YOU ARE
DUST AND TO DUST
YOU SHALL RETURN
ALMSGIVING
Abstinence 40
CRUCIFY HIM! Days
 good friday

*Redeemer Lutheran Church
February 2015*

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Epiphany 4 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence | 6 Bible Study canceled | 7 Circuit Women's Mission Rally in Ft. Mohave |
| 8 Epiphany 5 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS | 9 7 p.m. Church Council meeting at the Muth residence | 10 | 11 | 12 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence | 13 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence | 14 |
| 15 Transfiguration 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS | 16 | 17 | 18 Ash Wednesday 7p.m. DS with the Imposition of Ashes | 19 7 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence | 20 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Muth residence | 21 |
| 22 Lent 1 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS | 23 | 24 7 p.m. Elders' meeting at the Anderson residence | 25 6-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Vespers with Spoken Communion | 26 7 p.m. Internet Study Group | 27 Bible Study canceled | 28 |

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, and on major festivals

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!
redeemerscottsdale.org

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



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.

