

# 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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On December 21, the Queen Creek congregation was able to have an “iconic” moment in its history. What is an “iconic” moment, you ask? The word “icon” means “image.” In the tradition of the Eastern (Greek) Church, the distinctive religious paintings that are used for religious and devotional purposes are called “icons.” At Queen Creek on the Fourth Sunday in Advent, we were able to see and experience an “icon” of the Christian church – a special *image* of God’s mystical family – that inspired us all.



On one occasion Jesus was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.’ But he answered them, ‘My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it” (Luke 8:20-21, ESV). In God’s family, all

who share in the baptism of Christ also share in the status of being children of God through Christ. Generational differences, and other factors that distinguish people from one another in the relationships of this world, do not apply when it comes to the saving relationship each of us has with God. It is certainly true that within the fellowship of the church, the young in general are to have respect for older people in general (cf. 1 Timothy 5:1-2). But the baptism that has been

*(Continued on page 3)*

## WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

**Editor:**

Pastor David Jay Webber

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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.

**Wednesday “Bible & Theology”**

**Study Group:** 7:00 p.m. at the Loughran residence

**Thursday Internet Study Group:**

7:00 p.m. (see Pastor Webber for log-on information for this group)

**Friday Bible Study:** 10:00 a.m. at the Calvin residence

## Felix Mendelssohn Commemoration

Please join us as we celebrate, and thank God for, the life and work of the greatest Lutheran church musician of the nineteenth century, and as we mark the bicentennial of his birth.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009**

For more information, or for directions, call 480-621-7394,  
or visit our web site at [redeemer.vze.com](http://redeemer.vze.com)

### REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

7670 East Jomax Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

#### SCHEDULE:

[The Divine Service](#) for the 2nd Sunday  
after Christmas at 9 a.m.  
*featuring selected pieces of Mendelssohn's  
organ and sacred choral music*

[A Mini-Seminar](#) at 10:30 a.m.  
*featuring a presentation by  
the Rev. David Jay Webber on  
Mendelssohn's faith and character,  
and reflections by Julie Martinez  
on what it is like to be a Jewish  
Christian in the Lutheran Church*

[A Brief Concert](#) at 11:45 a.m.  
*featuring selected Mendelssohn  
compositions for voice and piano*

### SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Meeting at Frances Brandon-Pickett Elementary School  
22076 East Village Loop Road South  
Queen Creek, Arizona

#### SCHEDULE:

[The Divine Service](#) for the 2nd Sunday  
after Christmas at 4 p.m.  
*featuring selected pieces of Mendelssohn's  
sacred choral music*

[A Brief Concert](#) at 5:15 p.m.  
*featuring selected Mendelssohn  
compositions for voice and piano*

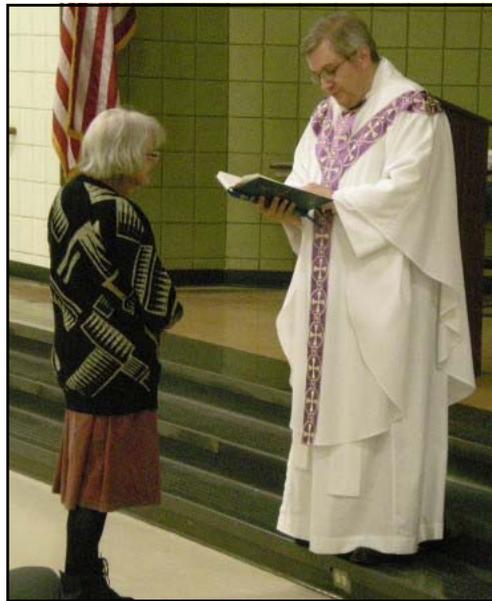
[A Mini-Seminar](#) at 5:30 p.m.  
*featuring a presentation by  
the Rev. David Jay Webber on  
Mendelssohn's faith and character,  
and reflections by Julie Martinez  
on what it is like to be a Jewish  
Christian in the Lutheran Church*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

received by all Christians, whether they are young or old, is the same baptism. And it is a baptism that makes them all children of God: members of God's family, with equal standing before him, and with the same measure of divine love poured out upon them.

In some Lutheran congregations it may seem as if that the only people who are ever baptized are the infant children of members, and that the only people who are ever confirmed are the teenage children of members. But this has not been our experience at Sun of Righteousness Lutheran Church in Queen Creek! Two years ago – in December of 2006 – two adults were baptized. And on December 21, a third adult baptism was added to that joyous list: Lexie Morehouse. Lexie and her husband Dan are the parents of a two-year-old. Lexie is also a recent graduate of Arizona State University. In addition to Lexie's baptism, the first confirmation at Sun of Righteousness was also held on that day. But the confirmand was not a teenager. It was octogenarian Fern Henrie!



Lexie and Fern are now, in every sense of the term, sisters in Christ. They partake together of the same sacramental Table. They belong to the same family of faith. Neither of these ladies was raised in the Lutheran Church, but God providentially used the circumstances of each one's life to bring them into the fellowship of our congregation.

When Lexie and Fern were each in her own way received into communicant membership in the congregation, this presented to all of us who were there a wonderful picture of the universal love of God. Jesus died for all. Jesus invites all to believe and confess his Word, and in faith to become a part of his family. Differences in age and religious background that may exist among us do not make any of us less welcome

in God's household. The pathway of Christian discipleship is open to all.

Those of us who were raised in the Lutheran Church, baptized in infancy and confirmed in youth, may not fully appreciate the wonderful treasure that is ours by the grace of God. There are many people in the world, and in Christendom, who do not know the comfort of the Gospel: that sinners are justified before God, and are made acceptable to him, by grace, through faith in Christ alone. There are many in this world who do not experience the sustaining love of God in their lives, and who are lacking the certain hope of eternal life in Christ.

We can, however, be reminded of the great blessing we have as Christians in the Lutheran Church, on those occasions when we are able to see people like Lexie and Fern confess the Gospel in a special way in our midst, and thereby publicly acknowledge the Savior who in his forgiving love has acknowledged, and embraced, them. They want what we have, not because *we* have it, but because what we have is what God wants *all* people to have! For us, this

is a humbling, but helpful, lesson.

And so, welcome to the family, Lexie and Fern! And thank you. Thank you for enriching the church, and the lives of everyone else who belongs to it, with your presence, and with your faith.

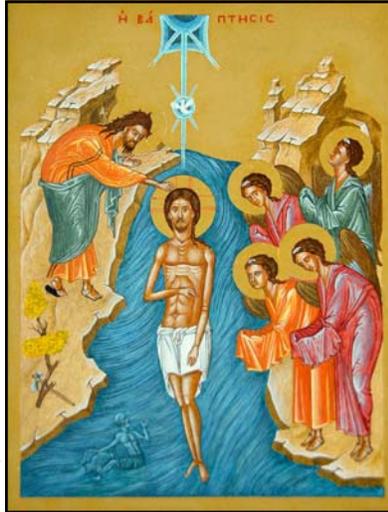
-- Pastor Webber



## Look at Jesus

*Look, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.*  
John 1: 29

After a busy Christmas season, as we enter a new year, it is good to relax and reflect on the past year. What was missing from my life last year and what am I going to change this year? In the Christian Church this is the time of year known as the Epiphany Season. (Epiphany means manifestation, make known) It is the time of the Church year that we are introduced to Jesus Christ our Savior. The assigned readings for this time of year focus on Jesus as He begins His three-year ministry. One of the highlights of this season is learning about the work of a prophet named John the Baptist. He was called by God to announce the presence of Jesus to the people of Israel.



One day John the Baptist and some of his followers were standing on the banks of the river Jordan and John saw Jesus coming in the distance. He cried out, ***“Look, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins***

***of the world.”*** John 1:29 Soon after he made that announcement John was arrested and put into prison by evil King Herod. Jesus’ ministry continued and He showed Himself to be the Son of God.

After three years He also was arrested and put to death on the cross. Jesus died for the sins of the world. Through His death every sin ever committed past, present, and future has been paid for, your sins included. According to God’s plan those who believe in Jesus, as their Lord and Savior will benefit from His death.

The Word of God is recorded in the Bible for the people of today and the words of John the Baptist are still there calling for people to ***“look at Jesus.”*** If

Jesus was missing from your life last year you will find Him in the Bible. Learn of Him there and soon you will find Him in your heart.

*Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism*

## A Quote from St. Ambrose of Milan

“It came to pass when all the people were Baptized, that Jesus also being Baptized, and praying, Heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape, as a dove, upon Him, and a voice came from Heaven, “Thou art My beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased” [Luke 3:21-22]. Thus, the Lord was Baptized, wishing not to be cleansed, but to cleanse the waters, so that washed through the Flesh of Christ which did not know sin, they had the right to Baptism [cf. 1 Cor. 5:21]. And, therefore, he who comes to the Laver of Christ lays aside his sins. (*Exposition of the Holy Gospel According to Saint Luke* [Etna, California: Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies, second edition 2003], II:83, p. 79)



The Baptism of Christ, Giotto, 1304-06, Fresco

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 No Internet Study Group tonight	2 No Bible Class today	3
4 <b>Divine Service ++</b> 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/Seminar (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/Seminar (Q)	5	6	7 7:00pm Bible and Theology Study Group at Loughran Residence	8 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	9 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	10
11 <b>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)	12	13 7pm Voters' Meeting (S)	14 7:00pm Bible and Theology Study Group at Loughran Residence	15 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	16 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	17
18 <b>Divine Service</b> 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	19	20	21 7:00pm Bible and Theology Study Group at Loughran Residence	22 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	23 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	24
25 <b>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)	26	28	28 7:00pm Bible and Theology Study Group at Loughran Residence	29 7:00 pm Internet Study Group	30 10:00am Bible Study at the Calvin residence (S)	31 3:00 pm Hussey-Beil Wedding (S)

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

++ On January 4, there will be a commemoration of the bicentennial year of Felix Mendelssohn's birth at both locations. See announcement on page 2 for additional details

**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

**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

## 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.



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)

