

The Valley Evangel

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



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The New Year is seen by many as a time for resolutions – that is, pledges and commitments to do things that will bring about an improvement in one's life, or in the lives of others. The new year, with the obvious feeling of “newness” that comes along with it, is seen as a good time to begin to do something *new* or *different*.

For us as a congregation, the new year will indeed bring a new situation – a new challenge actually. For the past four years, our synod's Board for Home Missions has been providing financial help to our congregation. We have greatly appreciated this support. But with the new year, this help will no longer be available to us. So, this is a time for us to make resolutions – to pledge before God, with his help, to continue to support the ministry of our own congrega-

tion with a renewed commitment, and with a deeper confidence in the grace of God to sustain us and to move us forward as a family of faith. It's also a good time for me to resolve with the Lord's help to be a more attentive pastor, a more faithful servant of the Lord, and a better preacher and teacher in the coming year.

The chances are, though, that the fervor and zeal of our New Year's resolutions will subside after a time, and that we will disappoint ourselves in our failure to keep these resolutions. That's often the way it is. Because of the weakness of our sinful nature – the “Old Adam” within us – we do not follow through on our commitments as we should. But we do not have to wait until the next New Year to renew those commitments, and start again!

(Continued on page 3)

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WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY TIMES

Scottsdale:

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

Queen Creek:

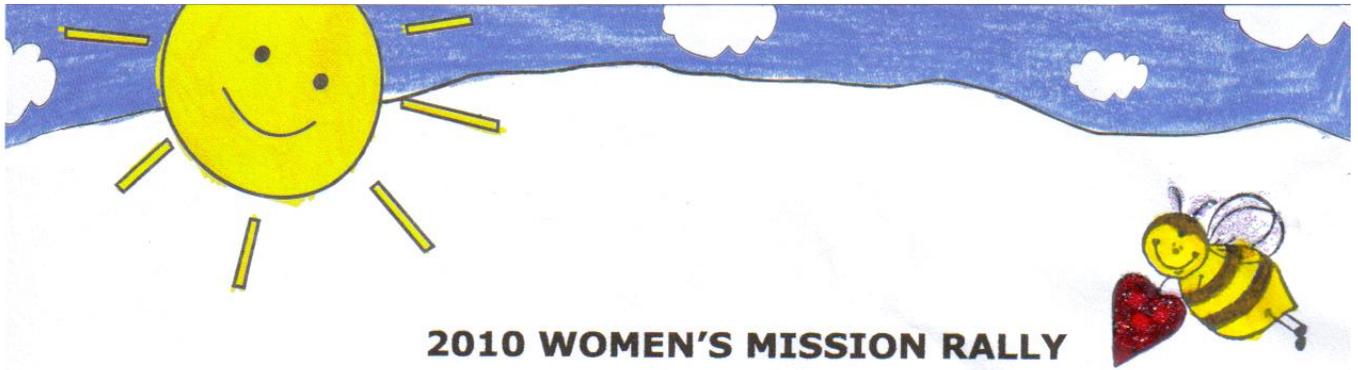
Sunday Divine Service: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 5:15 p.m.

Thursday Internet Study Group:

7:30 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



2010 WOMEN'S MISSION RALLY

SATURDAY JANUARY 30, 2010 9:00 AM

HOSTED BY

**OUR SAVIOUR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3163 MARICOPA AVENUE
LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ 86496
928-855-8811**

"BE ALL YOU CAN BE IN CHRIST"

**"BE IMITATORS OF GOD AS DEAR CHILDREN AND WALK IN LOVE"
EPHESIANS 5:1-2**

JUST A REMINDER TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR

THIS IMPORTANT DATE.

BEE PREPARED FOR A JOYOUS DAY FILLED WITH PRAYER

AND INSPIRATION.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN JANUARY.

GOD'S BLESSINGS

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH LADIES GUILD



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

(Continued from page 1)

If the failure involves a failure before God – that is, a failure to do *his* will – there is no reason to wait until January 1, 2011, to renew our resolution. In our baptism we are invited by the Lord to return to him *every day*, to ask for forgiveness for our failures; to receive by faith the forgiveness for which we ask; and to resolve to do better, with the Lord's help and in his strength. As often as we fail to keep our proper resolutions, we are invited to return to him, and to start over by his grace: not just once a year, or once a month, or once a week, but *every day* – indeed, *every hour* if need be. Our heavenly Father, for the sake of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, is always ready to forgive and help us, to teach and encourage us. Our Small Catechism lays out all of this in words that are as familiar as they are comforting:

What does such baptizing with water mean?

Such baptizing with water means that the old Adam in us

*should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts; and that a new man daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever. **Where is this written?** St. Paul writes, Romans 6:4: "We are buried with Christ by baptism into death, that just as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

May the Lord bless and encourage all of us in the coming year, and may he keep us faithful to the godly resolutions he leads us to make.

-- Pastor Webber



THE LORD'S BAPTISM: HIS WORK FOR US AGAINST THE DEVIL

Christ...was born as it were a few days ago – he whose generation was before all things... Today He is baptized by John, that he might cleanse him [fallen man] who was defiled; that he might bring the Spirit from above, and exalt man to heaven; that he who had fallen might be raised up, and he [the devil] who had cast him down might be put to shame. And marvel not if God showed such great earnestness in our cause: for it was with care on the part of him [the devil] who did us wrong, that the plot was laid against us; [so too] it is with forethought on the part of our Maker that



St. Gregory of Nyssa

we are saved. And he, that evil charmer, framing his new device of sin against our race, drew along his serpent train, a disguise worthy of his own intent, entering in his impurity into what was like himself – dwelling, earthly and mundane as he was in will, in that creeping thing [the serpent]. But Christ, the repairer of his evil-doing, assumes manhood in its fullness, and saves man, and becomes the type and figure of us all, to sanctify the first-fruits of every action, and leave to his servants no doubt in their zeal for that which has been passed on to them. Baptism, then, is a purification from sins, a remission of trespasses, a cause of renovation and regeneration. – St. Gregory of Nyssa, from “A Sermon for the Day of the Lights”

BELIEVE THE ETERNAL WORD FOR ETERNAL LIFE

We have all said it. "In the old days things were built to last." We have said it in regard to home construction, automobiles, appliances and many other things.

"The Good Old Days"

Those of us over thirty years of age have begun to notice that our bodies aren't what were in the "old days." Weight gain, injuries, and fatigue now appear. Even the healthiest lifestyle can only do so much to slow this process.

Even the world around us is groaning. It will groan until the end.

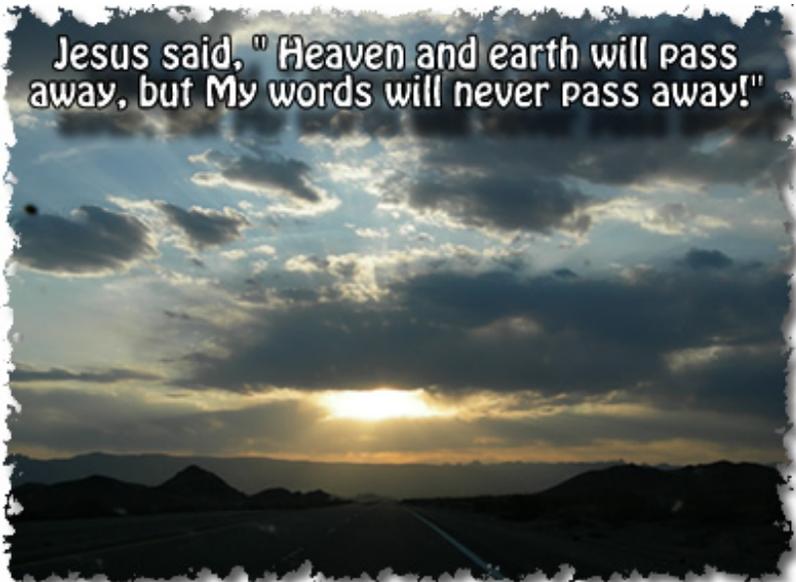
Whom can we blame? Not God! If we go back to the beginning we learn that, indeed, "things were built to last." God created the world in six twenty-four hour days. After his creating work was complete he surveyed all that he had made and saw that it was very good! In this newly created world and universe, there was no decay or death. Nothing was designed to pass away—including human beings. We were designed to live with our Creator forever!

So what happened? Adam and Eve rebelled against God their Creator and ate from the tree. Their sin brought illness, aging, decline, and death into the world. They were to blame, and we are to blame for we have inherited Adam's sinfulness.

Is there any hope? In Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior, there is hope! Believe his Word which tells us about Jesus and there is eternal hope!

Jesus came to bear our sinfulness, the very sinful-

ness, which corrupts everything, we touch and makes us deserving of eternal destruction. At the cross Jesus died for our sins to cleanse our souls! He rose again on the third day to bring eternal life to all who believe in him by his powerful Word!



On the last day Jesus will return. On that day, the heavens and the earth will be destroyed. But all who believe in him through his Word will not be! His return on the last day is the beginning of eternal perfection for all who believe! On that day he will resurrect and perfect

our bodies, reuniting them with our cleansed, saved souls! We will live with our Creator and Savior forever!

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away!" –Mark 13:31

Produced by the ELS Board for Evangelism

ANNOUNCEMENT

We are saddened to report that Robert Pawling, a long-time member of Redeemer, fell asleep in the Lord at his home on Monday, December 21. Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28, ESV).

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Christmas 2 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	4	5	6 7:00pm Epiphany Divine Service (S)	7 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	1 No Bible Study <hr/> 8 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	2 <hr/> 9
10 Baptism of our Lord Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) 10:30am SS/Congregational Forum (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	11	12 7:00pm Voter's Meeting	13	14 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	15 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	16
17 Epiphany 2 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) Ladies Guild Meeting after the service 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	18	19	20	21 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	22 Bible Study cancelled today Pastor is unavailable today	23
24 Epiphany 3 Service of the Word 9:00am SW with spoken Communion (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Elders Meeting after the Bible Class (S) 4:00pm SW with spoken Communion (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	25	26	27	28 7:30 pm Internet Study Group at Pastor's residence	29 10:00 am Bible Study at the Calvin residence	30 AZ/CA Circuit Womens's Mission Rally +
31 Epiphany 4 Divine Service 9:00am DS (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	<i>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are my beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." Mark 1:9-11 (John) saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29</i>					

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

+ The Arizona California Mission Rally will be held January 30th in Lake Havasu City. Pastor Webber will be one of the speakers at this event.

**Redeemer Lutheran
Church**

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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



**Evangelical
Lutheran Synod**

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.

