

The Valley Evangel

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

June/July 2011 Double Issue

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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: 6:30 p.m. (Contact Pastor Webber for log-on information, or attend in person at his residence)

Friday Bible Study: On hiatus until September 2.

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Pastor David Jay Webber
Editorial Assistant/Layout and Design: Erica Olson
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Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

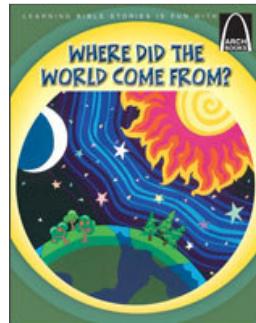
Sunday School News

This year Sunday School classes will be held throughout the summer, as will the Sunday morning Adult Class. This development is in response to a request from several members of the congregation. One combined-age class will be offered for the children of the congregation.

As at other times of the year, we will use materials from Concordia Publishing House's *Growing in Christ* series. The 2011 summer curriculum is entitled "Journey with Jesus." During June, July, and August, our children will "visit" such Biblical locations as Eden, Bethany, and Malta, and travel with companions like Elisha, Jehoshaphet, and Onesimus. The *Growing in Christ* summer curriculum is designed in such a way that all pupil materials can be photocopied from the Teacher Guide, with no need to purchase additional student lesson packets. This approach offers more economical and flexible options for congregations to plan their summer education programs.

During class the pupils will also make use of some new creation-themed materials which have recently become available. One of our church families donated to the Sunday School a "Days of Creation" nesting ball. Designed similar to a "Matryoshka" doll, this ball consists of six colorful layers, each of which portrays the things God created on that respective day of the creation week.

The children will also be reading a new CPH "Arch Book" entitled *Where Did the World Come From?*



Karyn Lussky Lukasek, who graduated from our synod's Bethany Lutheran College in 2009 with a degree in studio art, prepared the artwork and poetic text. (Members of Redeemer may remember Karyn's grandfather, Rev. Norman Madson, who served as a vacancy pastor here during 2004–2005). The book's illustrations are derived from large colorful creation murals Karyn created using torn paper, and which were on display for a time at the college. More information about

Karyn and her other artistic pursuits can be found in the April 2011 edition of the *Bethany Report* magazine.



We gratefully acknowledge those who have served either as regular or occasional Sunday School teachers this year: Carrie Bonnell, Carole Clingan, Lexie Morehouse, Erica Olson, Carol Webber, and Lori Wendt. Your efforts are appreciated!

– Carol Webber

From the Pastor's Desk

During the summer months things usually slow down here in Arizona. Because of the heat we are usually less busy. We stay inside and are less active. But in the church year, there is no corresponding break from important activity! And so in our worship life as a congregation, several important things will be happening – just in the month of June.

On June 2 the Ascension of our Lord will be observed in a Divine Service at 7 p.m. This is the last of the four great festivals of Christ that we mark each year – the others being Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter. Ascension Day does not celebrate the Lord's absence from us, but it celebrates a new kind of presence – an exalted presence of our divine-human Savior everywhere, with the saints in heaven and with all his people on earth.

*“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore *exalted at the right hand of God*, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing” (Acts 2:32-33, ESV).*

On June 12 we will mark the Day of Pentecost – the festival of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Christ dwells among us and within us. He brings Christ to us, even as he is sent to us by Christ from the right hand of the Father. He is the Lord, and the giver of life. He is always at work through the Gospel, regenerating fallen humanity and renewing us in faith.

“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing” (Acts 2:32-33, ESV).

The first Sunday after Pentecost is the festival of the Holy Trinity. Every Sunday is, of course, an acknowledgment of the Trinity, because the only God we ever worship, on any day of the year, is the God who makes himself known to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. On Trinity Sunday, however, we focus in

on this mystery in such a way as to be reminded that we do not worship a God of our own imagination, or a generic deity who can assume whatever form people prefer. We worship instead a God who has revealed his existence, and his saving work, in some very specific and concrete ways.

“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing” (Acts 2:32-33, ESV).

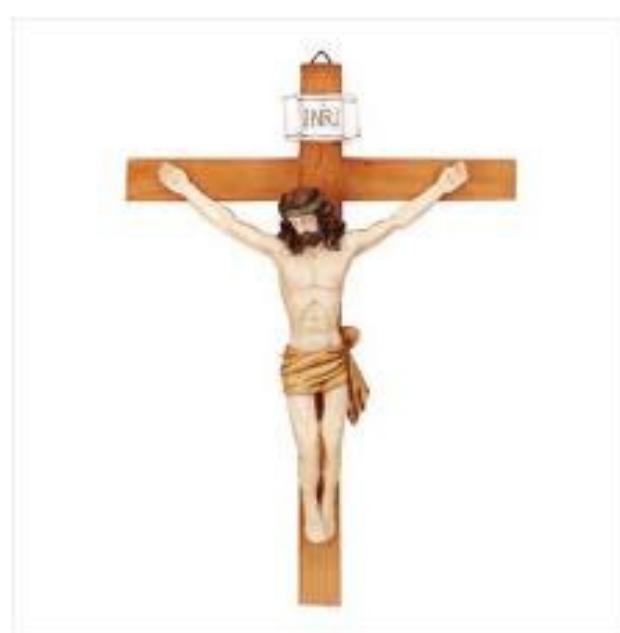
So, while things may be slowing down in our Arizona culture, things are not slowing down in our ecclesiastical and liturgical culture. There is much to learn, and much to be involved with, as Redeemer Lutheran Church presses forward – or rather, as we are drawn forward by the loving Lord of the church – into important celebrations of our faith and salvation.

– Pastor Webber

New Members

On May 1 we publicly received four new members into our congregation: Shawn Christian Buat; and Keven, Brenda, and Noah Ficken. Welcome!



<i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i>	<i>Ladies' Guild News</i>
<p>The Elders have approved a slight modification to the Sunday morning worship schedule. Until now, the full public Divine Service of Word and Sacrament has been held on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month, and a public Service of the Word followed by a spoken service of Communion has been held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.</p>	<p>During the Lenten mid-week soup suppers that preceded our services, the Ladies' Guild collected donations for the Alpha Pregnancy/Counseling Center in Phoenix. This organization provides counseling and options for pregnant women facing difficult situations resulting from their pregnancies.</p>
<p>An exception to this has been that the Service of the Word with spoken Communion has also been held whenever there has been a guest pastor (even if there would otherwise have been a full Divine Service on that day).</p>	<p>Through our collections during the suppers, we were able to raise \$57. An additional \$100 will be donated from the Ladies' Guild's fund, for a total of \$157. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.</p>
<p>The new modification is that the full public Divine Service of Word and Sacrament will now be held whenever a festival falls on a Sunday (even if there would otherwise have been a Service of the Word with spoken Communion on that day). In the coming months this will mean that the full public Divine Service will be celebrated on Pentecost and Christmas Day, which will fall this year on what otherwise would have been spoken Communion Sundays.</p>	<p>Thanks also to a generous donation by Jack Calvin, our church kitchen has a new refrigerator. Jack was kind enough to donate his own refrigerator to replace the one that had stopped working. We have already found great use for it, and are very appreciative of it.</p>
<p>So let us keep the festival Whereto the Lord invites us; Christ is himself the Joy of all, The Sun that warms and lights us. (Martin Luther)</p>	<p>Respectfully submitted, Erica Olson and Lori Wendt</p>
<p>Congratulations to Our Graduates!</p> <p>Jessica Hartigan, from Valley Lutheran High School in Phoenix.</p> <p>Daniel Kissinger, from Pinnacle High School in Phoenix.</p> <p>Catharine Webber, from Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan.</p> 	

Redeemer Lutheran Church
June 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2 7 p.m. Ascension Day Divine Service	3	4
5 Easter 7 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	6	7	8	9 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	10	11
12 Pentecost 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	13 Church Council meeting at Pastor's house 7 p.m.	14	15	16 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	17	18
19 Trinity 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	20 Pastor Webber	21 in Mankato for ELS	22 Convention and	23 vacation Internet Study Group cancelled	24 Pr. Webber on vacation	25 Wedding of Sarah Webber and Matthias Leyrer in Mankato, MN
26 Pentecost 2 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion Rev. Paul Siegler , guest preacher 10:30 a.m. AC/SS (Elders rescheduled to July 3)	27 Pr. Webber on vacation	28	29	30 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence		

Abbreviations:

DS – Divine Service; SW 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
July 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1					1	2
3 Pentecost 3 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' Meeting after AC	4	5	6	7 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	8	9
10 Pentecost 4 9 a.m. SW with spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Congregational Forum	11 7 p.m. Voters' Meeting at church	12	13	14 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	15	16
17 Pentecost 5 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service	18	19	20	21 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	22	23
24 Pentecost 6 9 a.m. SW with spoken Communion 10:30 AC/SS	25	26	27	28 6:30 p.m. Internet Study Group at/from Pastor's residence	29	30
31 Pentecost 7 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. AC/SS Elders' Meeting after AC						

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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



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.

