

# The Valley Evangel

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



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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Feast Day of Sts. Peter and Paul is June 29. With the exception of Jesus himself, Peter and Paul are the two best known people in the New Testament. The experiences of Peter and his relationship with Christ are prominently featured in the Gospels, and his leadership among the apostles after Christ's resurrection and ascension is described in the first part of the Acts of the Apostles. Accounts of Paul's conversion and ministry among the Gentiles fill most of the second part of the Book of Acts. The apostle Peter is the author of two General Epistles, and is understood to be the apostolic authority behind St. Mark's Gospel. The apostle Paul wrote thirteen epistles in the New Testament, and is considered to be the apostolic authority behind St. Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles.



Pastor David Jay Webber

Simon Bar-Jonah was a fisherman in Capernaum, on the coast of the Sea of Galilee, when he was called to be one of our Lord's disciples. Jesus gave him the surname "Peter," which is Greek for "stone" or "rock." But the Gospels portray Peter as someone who often spoke and acted impetuously, and who was in many ways unstable and unreliable. He was the first of the apostles boldly to confess the Messiahship of Jesus: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 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.

**Wednesday "Bible & Theology" Study Group: 7:00 p.m.**

**Friday Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.**

**Notice:** Adult Bible Class and Sunday School will meet through June 8, the Friday Bible Study will meet through June 6, and the Wednesday study will not be held in June. All classes are then on hiatus for the summer and will resume again in September.

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE BOOK OF CONCORD

*First of a three-part series*

A poll was taken of over 2,000 Lutheran pastors, asking them to list the questions they most frequently are asked about the Lutheran Confessions as contained in the Book of Concord. Here are the questions, in the order of frequency. Following the questions, answers are provided.

*What is the Book of Concord?* The Book of Concord is a book published in 1580 that contains the Lutheran Confessions.

*What are the Lutheran Confessions?* The Lutheran Confessions are ten statements of faith that Lutherans use as official explanations and summaries of what they believe, teach, and confess. They remain to this day the definitive standard of what Lutheranism is.

*What does "Concord" mean?* Concord means "harmony." The word is derived from two Latin words and is translated literally as "with one heart."

*What does "confession" mean?* When used in this context, confession means "to say what you believe." The Lutheran Confessions are statements of faith that Lutherans use to say to the world, "This is what we believe, teach and confess."

*What is in the Book of Concord?* The Book of Concord contains the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed, the Augsburg Confession, the Apology [Defense] of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord.

*What are the Ecumenical Creeds?* Creed is from the Latin word *credere*, which means "to believe." The three creeds in the Book of Concord are the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. They are described as "ecumenical," meaning "universal," because they are accepted by the majority of Christians worldwide as correct expressions of what God's Word teaches.

*What is the Augsburg Confession and Apology of the Augsburg Confession?* In the year 1530, the Lutherans were required to present their confession of faith before the Holy Roman Emperor in Augsburg, Germany. The Augsburg Confession was publicly presented on June 25, 1530. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession was written to defend the Augsburg Confession. Apology means "defense" when used in this way.

*What are the Small and Large Catechisms?* Martin Luther wrote two handbooks in 1529 to help families and pastors teach the basics of the Christian faith. The Small Catechism and the Large Catechism are organized around six topics: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar. The catechisms were so universally accepted that they were included as part of the Book of Concord in 1580.

*What are the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope?* Martin Luther wrote a set of doctrinal articles in 1537 for an alliance of Lutheran princes and territories, known as the Smalcaldic League. Luther's articles were widely respected and were eventually included in the Book of Concord. At the same meeting that considered Luther's articles, Philip Melancthon was asked to expand on the subject of the Roman papacy and did so in his treatise, which was also later included in the Book of Concord.

*What is the Formula of Concord?* After Luther's death in 1546, various controversies arose in the Lutheran Church in Germany. After much debate and struggle, the Formula of Concord was adopted in 1577 by over eight thousand princes, political rulers, theologians, and pastors, effectively ending the controversy.

*To be continued*

by Rev. Paul T. McCain  
May 3, 2008

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*(Continued from page 1)*

God" (Matthew 16:16). But at this point in his life Peter did not fully understand the Lord's Messianic mission. So, when Jesus then began to speak of his impending death in Jerusalem, Peter rebuked him: "Far be it from you, Lord; this shall not happen to You" (Matthew 16:22). This outburst, similar to others, necessitated a corresponding rebuke from Jesus to Peter.

After the resurrection and ascension of Christ, Peter did become the acknowledged spokesman of the new Christian community (Acts. 1:15, 2:14, etc.). He demonstrated that he had indeed matured in his faith and Christian character, and accordingly he provided solid and courageous leadership during the time of the Church's infancy. Nor was he jealous of the important role that Paul came to assume after his conversion and commissioning as a missionary. Paul recounted that when Peter, John, and James "perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised" [that is, the Jews] (Galatians 2:9).

Paul, originally Saul, was indeed the specially-chosen apostle to the Gentiles. While Peter was the first to baptize a Gentile convert (Cornelius the centurion, Acts 10), Paul very quickly became the leader in reaching out to the Greco-Roman world with the Gospel of Christ. When the Lord told Ananias to baptize Saul, he said that "he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15).

Paul's background had indeed prepared him for this task. He was a native of Tarsus, a university town and a Greco-Roman cultural center located in present-day Turkey. He was also a Roman citizen by birth. These factors gave him a better understanding of the ways of the Roman Empire, and unhindered access to that empire. In addition, Paul had also received a scholarly rabbinic training in Jerusalem under Gamaliel, recognized as the ablest Pharisaic teacher of the time. This gave him a thorough knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures and of the Jewish religious tradition. Paul's bi-cultural education, combined with his fiery zeal for Christ and the Gospel, show through in all his writings.

According to tradition, Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome on the same day in the year 64 A.D., during Emperor Nero's persecution of the church. Peter was crucified, while Paul, as a Roman citizen, was executed in a more humane way, by beheading. Peter and Paul certainly did have different personal backgrounds and temperaments, and they each had a different focus in the apostolic ministry that was entrusted to them. But through their faithful fulfillment of their respective callings, they contributed together and harmoniously to the one cause of Christ. Even today, Peter and Paul continue to fulfill their special apostolic mission as witnesses to Christ and teachers of the Church, by means of the inspired New Testament documents that they penned, and through which they speak to us.

- Pastor Webber

### Newsletter Volunteers Needed

We need a committee of regular volunteers to help with various aspects of duplicating, collating, and labeling the *Valley Evangel* parish newsletter each month. The deadline for articles and notices to be submitted to the Pastor (who serves as the newsletter editor) for any given month is the 15th of the preceding month. After this material is collected, the layout editor (Julie Martinez) needs to have several days to prepare the master copy. Then, we need volunteers to whom a PDF file of the master copy can be sent by email, and who can then convey this file to the church (by means of a flash drive device) and run off the newsletter on the photocopier, collate the pages, and apply the labels. (The labels will be provided each month by the Pastor.)

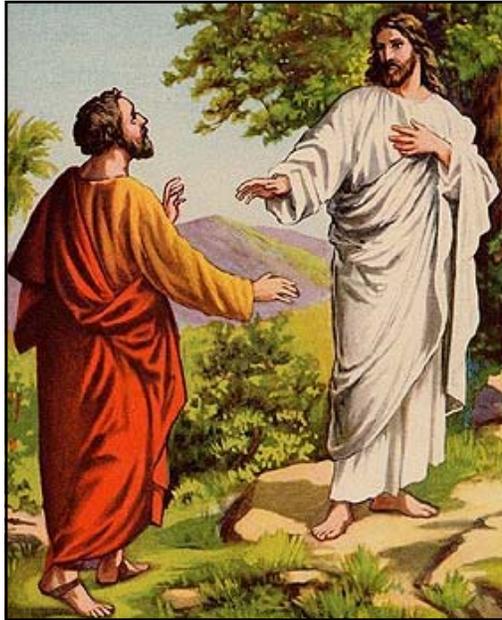
We always strive to be able to distribute the newsletter for a given month at church on the last Sunday of the preceding month, and then on the Monday following mail the remaining copies to those who were not in church on that day. Usually we print up about 80 copies of each issue. Each copy is usually comprised of three sheets of paper, with printing on both sides.

The parish newsletter serves two important purposes. It keeps the members and friends of the parish informed of upcoming events, and it serves as an outreach tool to invite and encourage prospects and visitors to become more involved in the life and activities of our parish. Please inform the Pastor if you are able to be a part of such a committee, and to help with this effort on a regular basis. Thanks!

## The Strength of God's Word

*Simon Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, to what person could we go? Your words give eternal life. Besides, we believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:68-69*

**Y**es, Peter, you speak the truth! This is written as a comfort and example to us. Though one of the twelve would fall, which in itself is an important lesson to us all, God upheld Peter. Everything rests on God's kindness, power, and word to such a degree that we can't even trust the apostles. Though one of them claimed he was so strong that he would never fall, he couldn't make it unless God blessed him and said, "I have chosen you." The reason the apostles were able to prevail was because Christ said, "I have chosen you." Though Judas would fall and remain fallen, Peter, in contrast, was held so tightly by God's Word that he wouldn't stay down. When he stumbled and fell, he stood up again.



You must realize that God allows people to stumble so they will despair of trusting in themselves. God is the one who stamps out inborn arrogance. Moses, Aaron, David, and others fell, yet they found their way again.

Scripture says that though people fall, God's Word will remain firm and never fall. Anyone who falls will be able to stand up again on the strength of God's Word.

Judas, the one who betrayed the Lord, was the first to defect. He was the one who brought harm to God's kingdom, even though he ranked above the other apostles as overseer of the finances. If I, or someone greater, should fall - may God protect me from that - it would certainly be scandalous. But we should stand firm and rest on the foundation of the Word. Jesus said, "I chose all twelve of you. Yet, one of you is a devil" (John 6:70).

This examples shows that we can't rely on people, but we must learn to depend on God's Word.

*From "By Faith Alone, 365 Devotional Readings Updated in Today's Language", by Martin Luther, © 1998 by Word Bible Publishers*

## Announcements

### Valet Car Wash Event

The Redeemer youth will hold a "Valet Car-Wash" throughout the day on Saturday, June 28. The youth will come to your home and wash and vacuum your car *in your own driveway*. You provide a garden hose spigot and electrical outlet, and they will provide the rest! Donations that are received for this service will go to help pay the expenses of the upcoming Synod Youth Convention, to be held in San Antonio, Texas, July 24-27. Four youth from our congregation plan to attend: Jessica Hartigan, Andrew Kissinger, Daniel Kissinger, and Catharine Webber. Carol Webber will also attend, as a chaperone. A sign-up sheet for the valet car-wash will be available in the fellowship room

at Redeemer. You will be able to indicate on that sheet if it would be necessary for your car to be washed at a specific time of the day. (Additional donations from people who are not participating in the car-wash would, as always, also be appreciated.)

### Directory Update

We are updating our "Members and Friends" parish directory. If there has been a change in your contact information since the last edition of the directory was published (such as a new mailing address or phone number), or if you would like to add some additional contact information (an email address, a cell phone number, etc.), please let the pastor know right away.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JUNE 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 Divine Service</b> 9:00am DS (S) Ladies Guild after the service (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) Church cleaning and cook-out after the Adult Class (S) 4:00pm DS (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	2	3	4 Bible and Theology Study Group will not meet in June, and will resume in September	5	6 Bible Study 10am at the Calvin residence (last one for the summer, classes resume in September)	7
<b>8 Service of the Word</b> 9:00am SW (S) 10:30am SS/AC (S) 4:00pm SW (Q) 5:15pm SS/AC (Q)	9	10 7:00pm Church Council	11	12	13	14
<b>15 Divine Service *</b> 9:00am DS (S) 4:00pm DS (Q)  Adult Bible Classes and Sunday School will resume on Sept. 7	<b>16-19 ELS Convention</b> Pastor Webber, Norman Hartigan, and Donald Schmeissing will be attending this convention				20	21
<b>22 Service of the Word</b> 9:00am SW (S) Elders Meeting after Service (S) 4:00pm SW (Q)	23	24	25	26	27	28 Valet Car Washing Event by Youth (See announcements for all the details!)
<b>29 Divine Service</b> 9:00am DS (S) 4:00pm DS (Q)	30					

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

\* Pastor Webber will be traveling to the ELS Convention on June 15th. The Rev. Arlyn Schmeling will serve as guest preacher and celebrant in Scottsdale and Queen Creek that day.

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**

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**Sun of Righteousness Mission**  
Meeting in the "Multi-Purpose"  
Room at Frances Brandon-Pickett  
Elementary School  
22076 E. Village Loop Road South  
Queen Creek, AZ

**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  
websites above, and  
published courtesy of  
[lutheransource.net](http://lutheransource.net)



**First Class Mail**  
Return Service Requested

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## 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.***

