

The Valley Evangel

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

February 2022

Worship and Study

Sunday Divine Service: 9 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 10:30 a.m.

Thursday Internet Study Group: 7 pm (ask Pastor Webber for log-on information)

Newsletter Editor: Pastor David Jay Webber

From the Pastor's Desk

February will be a busy month for us. Redeemer is hosting the circuit mission rally this year, on February 19, with Rebecca DeGarmeaux as the featured speaker. The following day we will host Rebecca for another presentation to our congregation. So, we look forward to welcoming her, and also to welcoming the visitors from other congregations who will be joining us that weekend.

The Epiphany season will also continue to play out during the month of February. In the run-up to Lent, as the Gospel texts for each Sunday carry us back into the earthly ministry of Jesus, we will continue to welcome Christ into the world and into our human story, as he manifests his glory among us and reveals to us who he is and what he plans to do for our salvation. And on Transfiguration Sunday, on February 27, we will even welcome Moses and Elijah into our worship service, as the Gospel for that day brings them to the mountain with Jesus.

And finally, during the month of February, we look forward to welcoming you – all of you! – to the Lord's house, on each Lord's day. We seek to follow the example of our Savior, as St. Luke describes that example:

*When the apostles returned, ...Jesus...took them along and withdrew privately to a town called Bethsaida. When the crowds found out, they followed him. **He welcomed them**, spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing. (9:10-11, CSB)*

Again, St. Luke reports that on another occasion

*Jesus...took a little child and had him stand next to him. He told them, "**Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me.** And whoever welcomes me welcomes him who sent me." (9:47-48, CSB)*

Young and old are welcome. Members and guests are welcome. Those who have often attended services, and those who have never done so – or have not done so for a long time – are welcome. The strong and the weak are welcome. Indeed, St. Paul specifically directs the church to "Welcome anyone who is weak in faith" (Romans 14:1, CSB). And so, whoever you are, you are welcome, because God welcomes you, invites you, and offers to you gifts and blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that you cannot receive anywhere except in those places where his Word and Sacraments are in use. That's what happens at Redeemer. That's why Redeemer exists. And that's why you are welcome here!

– Pastor Webber

Welcome!

Ladies Guild News

Save this date! On Saturday, February 19, the Ladies of Redeemer Lutheran Church will be hosting the annual Circuit 11 (California, Arizona, Utah) Women's Mission Rally. This year our speaker will be Rebecca DeGarmeaux, Director of the ELS Ottesen Historical Museum, in Mankato, Minnesota. Her topic will be "Katie Luther: A Historical Perspective." Credited as a stabilizing force in the life of her husband Martin Luther, Katie administered their home and finances, allowing Luther the time to write, preach and lecture. More importantly she was hostess to many visitors to the Luther home, and to theological student boarders who would eventually leave and become missionaries throughout Europe. Also at the rally Pastor Thomas Heyn will present an ELS Mission Update, showing the progress of specific projects in India, Peru, and Texas. Our Women's Mission Rallies raise funds for these and similar projects through Cross-Stitch, the Synod-wide network which unites the various circuit rallies.



Registration for the rally will begin at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and pastries. The program begins at 9:00 a.m. and should adjourn by 3:00 p.m. The registration fee is only \$10.00, which includes a luncheon served by the Ladies Guild. Registration forms for the rally are located on the counter in the church narthex, and can also be downloaded from the Internet at tinyurl.com/2022MissionRally Please give your completed form and fee to Carole Clingan, Marilyn Bonnell, Sandy Carlson, or Carol Webber. You can also respond by email to carolwebber@hotmail.com, or mail your registration to the church address, and pay the fee at the registration table on the day of the rally.

At the rally we will provide face masks, but they are not mandatory. We will serve pre-wrapped sandwiches and pre-packaged side dishes to comply with COVID precautions. As always, gentlemen are also invited to attend the rally. If you need transportation, then we can arrange a ride. If you would like to attend but cannot afford the registration fee, the fee will be waived. Just speak with Carole Clingan or send her an email at cfc85213@gmail.com

Thank you for your support of Ladies Guild activities. May God bless and protect you and your loved ones.

– Carole Clingan, Redeemer Ladies Guild President



Ottesen Museum Presentation

In conjunction with her visit to Arizona for the purpose of making a presentation on Katie Luther at the Circuit Women's Mission Rally on February 19, Rebecca DeGarmeaux will also be making a special presentation to the congregation after the service on Sunday, February 20, at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of a Bible Class that day, she will share with us a multimedia presentation on the Ottesen Museum, in Mankato, Minnesota – operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Historical Society – with pictures and descriptions of the various historical displays that can be seen there. Rebecca is the director of this museum. Most of the members of Redeemer have never

had an opportunity to visit Mankato, and to go to the museum in person. This presentation will in a sense allow us to have a virtual visit to this important and interesting place. Please join us!

And make sure you read the article about Rebecca, her work at the museum, and her research on Katie Luther, elsewhere in this newsletter (This is a reprint of an article written in 2018 by a Bethany Lutheran College student who is now my son's sister-in-law!).



Becky DeGarmeaux: Preserving a Heritage

An Inkwell Article from 2018

While most people have to find a work–life balance in their lives, Becky DeGarmeaux is free of that problem. In the Ottesen Museum, a small building located by the Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Becky DeGarmeaux is in her element, surrounded by rich church and synodical history. When I arrive at the museum, I'm not completely sure I'm in the right place, as it nearly resembles a house more than a museum. However, the Ottesen Museum sign does not lie, so I step inside to be warmly greeted by DeGarmeaux. The museum is filled with church history books, twentieth century period clothing, an altar, and more – all shedding some light on the Evangelical Lutheran Synod's (ELS) history. It is also DeGarmeaux's work space. She is intimately familiar with most of the pieces in the collection – she is in the process of cataloging them, after all. The space is dedicated to preserving artifacts and knowledge in the history of the ELS, something not many people know about. A few minutes into polite conversation, I

mention that I have never been in the museum.

"I can give you a tour right now if you like, or we can talk first," she offers, and we decide to talk, then take a full tour. She leads me to her office located down a hall with walls featuring paintings of church founders and old photographs of ELS churches in Iowa. In her office, I ask her what exactly her job is since I, like most people, am unfamiliar with the nature of her work. "That is a good question – I do everything," she replies with a laugh.

DeGarmeaux catalogs donations to the collection, leads tours of and promotes the museum, and gives presentations on synod history. "I am constantly doing research. I'm doing research on the 1918 meeting at Lime Creek so I can put together a display in the museum in time for Synod Convention." She

points to one of the books on her desk, and tells about the storyboards she is making about that church's history.

I'm curious to know about how she landed this involved job, and whether or not someone asked her or if she chose to do it. She hesitates for a moment before saying an all-encompassing: "Yes." The job almost fell into her lap after the former museum director retired. Not knowing the fate of the museum, she asked what would happen with the museum and who would run it. Next thing she knew, she was offered the job. She took to it effortlessly, eager to explore and share how congregations in the ELS could preserve their own heritage, as well as teach synodical and church history. Though it is only nine hours a



week, that time is easily filled.

“There’s a line in the history of the doctrine. It’s not just ‘We say this.’ No, Koren said it. Luther said it,” she begins, her assured tone revealing of how important she views preserving church history. “It’s not just us making up stuff because this is what we feel like – it’s what the Bible says. So that to me is really important in encouraging places [churches] to preserve their own history as well.” Through history, congregations are able to share a sense of connection with those who came before them and look to them for guidance.

As she talks about the work she does and how she is involved at the museum, it becomes clear to me that even though this is a job, she hardly considers it “work.” Even when she is not working, she will read synod history books for a refresher. At this point, I have not had to ask her a single question other than “What is your job?” – she is more than willing to discuss other relevant topics that arise. Despite this, she doesn’t ramble, but speaks deliberately, showing a deep understanding of these topics.

Our discussion of her work in the museum slowly shifts into a conversation on Katie Luther, wife to Lutheran reformer Martin Luther. DeGarmeaux’s interest in her began when she was first married and had plenty of free time during the day while her husband, Mark, worked as a pastor in his congregations. To fill the time, DeGarmeaux started reading up on Katie for fun. Flash forward, and DeGarmeaux has presented on Katie nineteen times in the past year and a half. DeGarmeaux is invested in Katie’s life and has put effort into learning all that she can about her. The amount of work she puts in would make it seem like hard work, but to DeGarmeaux, while it can be challenging, it is also a hobby—one she is devoted to and loves.

Her work on Katie Luther, much like the Ottesen Museum, came about through her natural interest in the subject, but also by a few other things falling into place. In 1992, she and her husband traveled to Germany, and in a used bookstore, DeGarmeaux recognized a book by an author who was an established authority on Katie Luther. “I don’t know what this costs but I need this book,” she urgently said to Mark. The book was written in German. Luckily, her husband, being fluent in German, had no trouble translating the book. A few years later, when church history scholars started developing an interest in Katie Luther, some approached Mark, wondering whether or not he had done any research on her. Mark pointed them to Becky. “A lot of it was circumstances and accident, and a lot of it fell into place,” she says.

What started out as a way to pass the time at home snowballed into part of the work that she does today – a job researching, writing, or presenting on Katie Luther if asked. “I have not promoted it. It’s all been word of mouth and people asking me to do it,” DeGarmeaux says, and tells me about the connections she has made through giving presentations or running the Katie Luther Facebook page, on which she posts every day or two, writing short paragraphs about clothing that Katie would have worn, food she would have cooked, or how she would have raised her children. She travels a fair amount for Katie Luther presentations, most of it is local, though she’s gone to Washington and Florida, two far corners of the United States. And though this was not for a presentation, DeGarmeaux also traveled to Germany this past summer, with a long list of cities and destinations she wanted to visit. She’d presented this list to Dennis Marzolf, the Bethany choir director, family friend, and the one organizing the trip, and he shut her down with a quick “Too bad,” in a good-natured way. Despite this, she was able to visit the house where Katie Luther died, among some other iconic sites.

As we discuss Germany, I direct my attention to her bookshelf, filled with Lutheran-related objects, a few of them from Germany. She tells me the story of a Luther Rose, a symbol of the Reformation and tenets in Christianity, where the seller also threw in a small, die-like ball that children would have played with around the time of the Reformation. I point to what looks like a unique wine jug commemorating the Reformation, and ask for the story behind that. “Oh, that,” she laughs. “The Marzolfs got that for us from Sam’s Club.”

Because a fair amount of her time is spent working in the museum or researching, I’m curious as to how she spends her free time. She pauses for a moment, struggling to find a hobby that does not involve her work, serving others in some way, or being productive. Eventually she comes up with a few.

“I do hand sewing, but it’s stuff to give away, so there’s always deadlines,” she says, and mentions that she is currently working on an afghan for a nephew who will be confirmed. She also makes baby bibs, ornaments, and wedding shower presents, among other things. “I do relax, it’s just busy relaxing,” she says.

I get the sense that this mentality is a defining trait of DeGarmeaux’s – she constantly looks for new things to learn, and this is why the work she does never feels like a chore. My suspicions are further confirmed when she mentions that she is also trying to learn German through the Duolingo app. Perhaps the most casual hobby she enjoys is reading – everything from Jane Austen to books on church history. I find out she recently finished *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, so we take the necessary time to discuss the ending of the series, something on which we have common ground. Even DeGarmeaux’s vacations are productive. For Spring Break, she has plans for traveling to colonial Williamsburg’s historical sites. This strikes me as a fitting example of the “busy relaxing,” DeGarmeaux referred to earlier.

We make our way out of her office, and she gives me a tour of the museum. The museum is filled with pictures, paintings, books, clothing – whatever enriches the Lutheran tradition. As we go into a room filled with pews and an altar, she answers my questions about the Lutheran relics, and even offers to let me make a bookmark. I find myself wanting to ask more and more, knowing she will have some interesting take, or a story to tell. She leads me downstairs, which is essentially a makeshift cabin filled with home items from the mid-nineteenth century. Some churches with young confirmands ask her to do presentations on Synod history, and sometimes she even presents on Laura Ingalls Wilder, donned in clothes she would have worn in order to add to the authenticity. I have a feeling that though seventh and eighth graders might not be initially interested in the home life of ELS church founders, DeGarmeaux manages to engage them.

As we return to the main floor of the museum, she is stopped by one of her coworkers with a beautiful, intricate necklace for her to catalog. She asks about its origin and history, and I once again am struck by how invested she is in her work, a luxury many do not have. Her work–life balance operates in a unique way, as both of those things seem to effortlessly blend together. She views her work as worthwhile, not simply because she enjoys doing it, but because she knows it will be invaluable for those who come after her. She understands the need for preserving history and looking to those in the past for guidance to understand ourselves today. Being a part of the rich church history of the ELS is priceless to her, as is sharing that history, even from this small building in Mankato.

– Emeline Ring Gullixson

inkwellblc.com/2018/09/20/becky-degarmeaux-preserving-a-heritage

Observations and Reflections on the Divine Service

A Guest Article

Attending services at Redeemer is a serious blessing.

The gift being offered by God in the Divine Service is consequential. It is critical that it be received and respected on a regular basis, and not be permitted to dissipate as if it were but a temporary mist; as if it were merely the imparting of a brief happy thought that sustains for a few days; or as if it were a touch of clever humor resulting in a chuckle or two. Short-term stints of happy times are nice, and can be fun. Brief moments of reflection on our sins and needs are also okay. But such things fill the services in too many churches, too often. Far better is the somber sorrow and the enduring sober joy that are instilled and brought forth by what is supposed to be presented and received in the Divine Service.

Adiaphora’s outer limits, and church growth motives, can still allow Christ to be present; and believers can still be brought to faith in such worship services. Praise



God! However, reverent preaching of God’s Word, and reverent liturgy and Sacrament in the Divine Service, have an enduring strength and a gravitas that more deeply bring these deep truths to us: truths that are often paradoxical to our mind; truths that can seem very simple and yet are also astonishingly profound. Such things can penetrate to the heart and bring peace to the mind. But it is only through the Great Physician’s Word alone – through fidelity in the linking of Scripture with Scripture in the liturgy – that this occurs.

Among my favorite parts of a sermon is the phrase, “And so.” Why? The context of Scripture has been established, and the foundation of its essential message – prepared for the heart – has been laid. The message itself is then delivered and received – with praise to God, and thanks to Jesus. This is a miracle. “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).

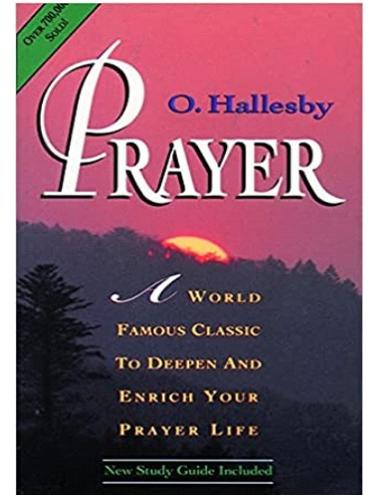
– Peter Bockoven

New Book in the Church Library

Prayer by Ole Hallesby (donated by Peter Bockoven)

A Christian classic that is a must-read for those wanting to understand prayer, its purpose, and its power. The author understands the complexity and the simplicity of prayer, relaying that prayer is not using God for our own means but rather prayer is dependence, openness, trust, and listening. (Goodreads)

Ole Hallesby was one of Norway’s leading Christian teachers and devotional writers. During World War II he was imprisoned for his resistance to the Nazi regime.



**Join us for the Divine Service for the Transfiguration
of Our Lord: Sunday, February 27, 9 a.m.**

Redeemer Lutheran Church

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Pastor Webber at a continuing education course in Catalina, AZ	3 Pastor Webber at a continuing education course in Catalina, AZ Internet Study Group canceled	4 Pastor Webber at a continuing education course in Catalina, AZ	5
6 Epiphany 5 Divine Service 9am; Sunday School & Adult Class 10:30am	7	8	9	10 Internet Study Group 7pm	11	12
13 Epiphany 6 Divine Service 9am; Ladies Guild meeting after the service; Sunday School & Adult Class 10:30am	14 Church Council meeting 7pm	15	16	17 Internet Study Group 7pm	18	19 ELS Southwest Circuit Women's Mission Rally at Redeemer
20 Epiphany 7 Divine Service 9am; Sunday School & special presentation by Rebecca DeGarmeaux on the ELS Ottesen Museum 10:30am	21	22	23	24 Internet Study Group 7pm	25	26
27 Transfiguration Divine Service 9am; Sunday School & Adult Class 10:30am	28					

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Redeemer Lutheran Church

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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.



We're on the Internet!

redemerscottsdale.org | facebook.com/redemerscottsdale | tinyurl.com/YouTubeRedeemer

Video recordings of our services are posted each week
on our YouTube and Facebook pages.