

Desert Reflections

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**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
THE RISEN SAVIOR**
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Sunday Worship Themes -

June

2nd: The Ascension of Our
Lord

“One God - One Lord -
One King”

Psalm 47

5th: “It’s Time for Humility”

1 Peter 5:6-11

12th: “Prophets - All!”

Numbers 11:29

19th: “Trinity in Unity”

Acts 2:32-33

26th: “The Work of the Law”

Romans 7:7-12

*We invite you to read, pray
and prepare for each time of
worship.*

jws

Ji Sun and Michael in Concert

Sunday, June 5 at 3:00PM, our music director Ji Sun Lee and her husband, Michael Lich will give a concert. The program will include an eclectic mix of classical, South American and original music for piano and classical guitar and Banjo.

The concert will also feature a premier of Sonata (*for guitar and piano*) by composer David Isaac, a resident of Sahuarita, whose music was premiered by the Tucson Pops Symphony Orchestra in 2010.

A free will offering will be taken, and all of it will go towards Risen Savior's upcoming Concert Series. Come, and enjoy a beautiful spring afternoon with enchanted music; and support our concert series, which focuses on outreach to the Green Valley community.



Amanda Schwarz – Valedictorian

Miss Amanda Schwarz, daughter of Dwight and Margaretha Schwarz, and member of Risen Savior (soon Gracepoint), graduated as class valedictorian from Sahuarita High School. She plans to major in architecture and minor in performing arts.

We congratulate her on using her Godly gifts and talents. In addition, she was given an award by the Green Valley-Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce. She plans to attend the University of Arizona. Amanda has acted with the Christian Youth Theater, and recently had the lead role in *The Legend of Pocahontas*.

May the Lord continue to guide and bless her, as she serves Him and others.

Men’s Bible Breakfast

This group of men in Christian Fellowship has met weekly for nearly twenty years. The gathering place, most popular, was the Continental Feedlot Café (Pauline’s Café) that is no more. Other restaurants were tried with mixed results.

We are planning a venture using our new Fellowship Hall facilities for the first time on June 2nd at 8:00 AM. This will be hosted by our LHM Ambassador, Paul Gilmore. Please encourage your neighbors to join us.

June is time for “Something old, Something new, Something borrowed.....” and this may fit our needs for the summer.

We will be taking a look at the new DVD, **The Bible on Trial** produced by Concordia Publishing More about this in can be found in Facebook page www.facebook.com/lhmmen and also in *The Lutheran Layman* issue of May – June 2011.

The Parson's Paragraphs

How are the initial days of your "R & R" going? Remember? I suggested that members of Risen Savior take 100 days - until about Labor Day - to "Rest and Reflect." I hope and pray that this invitation and suggestion resonates with you and will be central to your summer.

Maybe you wonder how one "rests" and "reflects" when life continues ... and for many, duties and responsibilities do not go away. Working or retired, many are involved with the ministry of our church, with family, with friends --- and with a host of volunteer involvements. So: where or when does the "R & R" fit in or occur? What does one "do"?

It would be easy to say, "Nothing," but that is not the goal. I will suggest a few things that a Christian might "do" during this type of "R & R" time. Then - I hope you will share other ideas with me (and others).

(1) Set aside a few *extra* minutes each day and through the week simply to consider and give thanks for God's creation. We often reference our climate and setting --- take some time to look, listen, feel and "connect" with the Creator (not simply His creation!).

(2) Read one book by a Christian author with a Christian theme each month. This could be biography, poetry, a novel, theology, Scripture study, devotional or history. You could begin with our church library or staff libraries, and then our local library.

(3) Focus on one person per month for special, concentrated, specific prayer. This could be a neighbor, unbeliever, family member or friend. It could be someone in authority or one in need. Your choice - -- but think about that one and pray regularly through the month.

(4) Consider what God wishes at and from Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior in the next 1-3 years (these days, that is mid / long-range planning!). Are there new areas of ministry to "birth" . . . do we need to do more with other circuit ministries (beginning with Gracepoint) . . . is there a community need we could fill . . . should we plan mission trips - for witness and service . . . ?

Your turn: to REST—let summer feel different from the rest of the year; and to REFLECT—alone, with God's Word, in prayer, quietly, taking notes, ready to share what God brings to mind.

A blessed summer in the Name of our Lord Jesus, the Christ!

John Wm Stieve

"Following Christ into People's Lives"

June 2011

Light in The Darkness

All Sufficient One- El Shaddai

"We cannot imagine the power of the Almighty; but even though he is just and righteous, he does not destroy us." Job 37:23 (NLT)

The verse above is a much needed reminder of God's power and mercy. We can often become worried about our circumstances or those of our friends and loved ones. We seek to be in control of the situation and be the one who helps to rectify the problem and eliminate suffering. We then find ourselves frustrated because we don't have all the answers, we don't have the cure. It's even likely that our actions can make the situation more complicated.

But, you and I are blessed to know the ONE who has the answers, cures, infinite resources. The Lord God lives to help our need, heal our diseases and above all, to save and guard our souls.

I have a calendar called *365 Days to Jump-Start Your Prayer Life*. As I was writing this article, I read "If I not only seek an answer but seek after the God who gives the answer, then I receive the power to know I have obtained what I have asked."

I am thankful for the power of the Holy Spirit who intercedes for us with the Father. I am thankful for the Father knowing our true need, not merely what is asked. I am thankful for Jesus, whose life, death and resurrection gives forgiveness when we doubt God's power and willingness to help. He forgives when we lack patience for His timing or being so focused on what we think He should do when we miss what He does.

In July, we will have a 4 week DVD series called "The Heart of Passion" by Pastor Louis Giglio that paints a picture of what our lives look like when we live for something larger than ourselves. Watch for more information!

What a precious gift to know that the Creator of all that exists cares passionately for you and promises to be with you, always.

We give thanks to You, Lord God Almighty." Revelation 11:17 (NLT)

ARIZONA WOMEN'S RETREAT 2011, sponsored by LWML Zone 27/30.

September 23-25, 2011 at Camp ALOMA, Prescott AZ

"Living and Learning Heart to Heart" led by Speaker: Melissa Salomon, (featured in the Winter 2007 "Quarterly"), music led by Mia Koehne (Relative of Lois Kasten), and worship led by Rev. Jeff Ehlers.

Cost: \$100 per person, includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals & materials.

Registration begins August 1, 2011. For questions please contact

Chris Mahler at 602-237-3622 cemahler@hotmail.com or

Eydie Oppedal at 602-321-5857 eydieoppedal@hotmail.com.

Peace,

Chris Mahler

First Tuesday Women's Bible Study

Our study will be "Risky Business" on June 7 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. You may begin to prepare by reading all 7 Chapters of the book of Esther.

The Book of Esther has all the elements of a good movie: a heroine, a villain, wealth and decadence, political intrigue, and suspense. Esther learned that living at the heart of the Persian Empire as an exiled Jew was indeed risky business. She risked her **security**, **rejection from the king**, and yes, her very **life!** She became an **advocate** for the Jewish nation living on the brink of annihilation.

God also calls each of us to take risks, yet He prepares, equips and stands by us as we take them.

Tip of the Month: **Casa de Esperanza Senior Community Lunches** are served in the Social Center. For just \$2 a meal you get a hot, nutritious lunch, opportunity to socialize and convenient access to a variety of activities before and after lunch. You **MUST** call ahead so they can make sure there are enough meals for everyone, and space is limited.

For more information please contact Ellen March at 625-2273 ext. 40

Sunday Bible study 10:30 AM

Please join us as we study 11 of Jesus' Miracles this summer. Each lesson is 'self-contained' so you won't be behind if you need to miss a week, or a few weeks.

6/5	9. Sight for the Blind Mark 8: 17-33, 9:2-8
6/12	11. The Incarnation John 1, Matthew 1, Luke 1-2
6/19	10. The Centurion's Servant Matthew 8:5-13
6/26	4. Jesus Feeds 5,000 People John 6:1-15

*Following Christ into People's Lives,
Deaconess Jeri Morrison*

What's on God's Refrigerator Door?

If you are a parent or grandparent or even just an admirer of a young child, your refrigerator door may be the showcase of one or more paintings or drawings. To a visitor, that work of art may be just a mass of scribbles, but to the one who loves the child it is a masterpiece. We love the gift because of the person who made it and gave it to us. It is precious to us because it was a gift from the heart. The motive of the child was pure and loving.

Perhaps our gifts to God are similar. We're such amateurs, such babies. God could accomplish His work so much more efficiently by Himself. Our works, even if monumental by human standards, are just scribbles if God would judge them in relation to His ability. Because He loves us, though – and loves us far more than a parent or grandparent loves a child – He looks at our works with eyes of love. He sees our hearts and knows we are motivated by love and faith, and He is pleased. He is so pleased that, if He had a refrigerator, He'd use it to display our works done for His glory.

God has given us gifts to use for this purpose – to glorify Him by serving others. In 1 Peter 4:10 we read, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."* God has seen to it that each of us has something to offer. He gives us the privilege of serving and then provides all that we need to do so.

Just as the budding art student improves with the help of a teacher and with appropriate tools to create his work, so does God teach us through His Word how to fulfill our purpose and how to improve our service. So also He gives gifts of time and money and talents and then His Word and Sacrament to strengthen us for service.



**“Walk in the Footsteps of Paul”---
Tour – with Pastor Bob Feller**

A ten-day tour, October 10-19, 2011, will be conducted by Pastor Bob Feller. Tour sights will include stops in Greece, Turkey and Italy. This will include Biblical sites Thessaloniki, Philippi, Athens, Ephesus and Corinth. Travelers will take an ocean cruise to Kusadasi, Patmos, Crete and Santorini.

There is an optional three-day extension to Pompeii and Rome. Cost from Phoenix is \$3295/ person, and includes shore excursions to Patmos and Ephesus.

If you wish further information, please contact Rev. Robert Feller at 1limitup@comcast.net or by local phone at 531-0928. There is a travel brochure in the church office for your perusal.

The English District Story

A reprint from the English District *Witness* Supplement of March 7, 1961, tells much of the history of the English District. Having celebrated our centennial day, May 15th, we begin a year of thanking God for what He has accomplished through us, and looking forward to what He would yet have us do.

Mr. John Krueger is a member of our district's 100th Anniversary Committee, and various items and emphases will be shared throughout the next twelve months. If you wish a copy of *The English District Story*, please contact the church office.

We give thanks for our partnership in ministry with 158 other congregations, plus many schools and other ministries in eighteen states and Ontario. Please pray that we will be faithful in our local callings, even as we serve the Lord together.