

Desert Reflections

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RISEN SAVIOR

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Sunday Worship Themes - July

3rd: "Rescued!"

Romans 7:14-25

10th: "Our 'Foster' Father's
Family"

Romans 8:12-17

17th: "Esperanza!"

Romans 8:18-25

24th: "Trust - the Essence of
Faith"

Romans 8:28-30

31st: "The True Israel"

Romans 9:1-8

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

jws

Church in Green Valley Begins New Early Childhood Program

*But Green Valley doesn't have
children. Are you serious? Yes!*

Furthermore, it's OUR church.

"Little Lambs Worship" will begin in July for children who are ages 3-5 years. Children will go to the Martin Luther Room when the Sermon Hymn begins, and return to their families when the Communion Liturgy begins.

For approximately 25 minutes, the children will have an opportunity to worship at their own developmental level. There will be prayers, songs, Bible lesson and an activity that is related to the lesson. They will even get a take home page that retells the Bible lesson and gives parents ideas for activities that will reinforce that lesson through the week.

The donation of a lamb puppet would be helpful. We currently have enough volunteers so one would only teach once a month or less. We will need to start a nursery time, too for children under 3 years.

Additional volunteers are still welcome. All volunteers will submit the application and watch the child safety video. Contact Deaconess Jeri if you have any questions or are interested in participating.

"The Heart of Passion" Study - Sundays in July

Our Sunday topic study for July is a four-part DVD series by Pastor Louie Giglio. It paints a picture of what our lives look like when we live for something larger than ourselves.

Indescribable is the focus of the first week. It takes us on an image-rich journey through the cosmos, allowing us to peer into God's universe to discover the amazing magnitude of His greatness and grace.

How Great Is Our God is the second week study. Our life is a miracle, and the Creator of the universe knows each of us by name. He holds onto you and holds you together, giving strength to those who hope in His unfailing love.

For our "HOPE" Sunday, the third week's theme is *Hope: When Life Hurts Most*. Life is not easy. God offers Himself and His cross as an anchor of hope no matter what we face in life.

Week four is *Fruitcake and Ice Cream*. This story breathes hope for the spiritually searching while providing a massive kick-start for those within the Church who carry the unrivaled story of God's grace and truth in a dark world.

Join us in Fellowship Hall (or stay after treats) twenty minutes after each Divine Service. You are sure to be "moved" by every session you attend!

The Parson's Paragraphs

"Fire" seems to be the subject of the day. Along with New Mexico and Texas, Arizona is "ablaze." Created greenery is brown and black; play areas are decimated; houses destroyed; plans changed; great amounts of money spent; and lives rearranged. Why? Usually, because one of God's human creatures has been careless or thoughtless. While some fires are from the "dry lightning," most are credited to "human" activity.

Of course, fire is a precious gift – used by humans throughout time. Before electricity, fire was a main source of light and heat. We continue to use fires for basic needs, and we enjoy the "glow" of a campfire or one in a fireplace. Sadly, some become 'addicted' to fire: cannot get enough of it, are always ready to go to see something burning ... and, in some cases, have an unhealthy need to start fires. We give thanks for firefighting public servants!

In contrast to human fires – which can sometimes lead to harm, damage and great loss – we are now into the season of Pentecost, celebrating the **Fire** of the Holy Spirit! In Acts 2 we read, "When the day of Pentecost arrived ... there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind ... and tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit"

What is that "fire" of the Holy Spirit doing in and through us today? Beyond our wearing "red" for a Sunday, what difference does Spirit-filling make in our lives? You and I know and give thanks that this Spirit works through God's Means of Grace – the Word and Sacraments – to create faith within us and build us up in the faith. In Holy Baptism, we were forgiven, Spirit-filled and saved!

Now --- what about our daily lives? We speak of a daily rebirth in the Spirit because of our baptisms. Praise God. But, what does that mean for your life? Do others know of your faith, your God, your everlasting *Hope*? For whom are you praying this month (remember: that one person for whom to pray?) --- and for whom will you pray next month? I am waiting for someone to share his/her prayer-concern-person with me!

New life in God's Holy Spirit is a life of freedom in Christ while being slaves to Christ. We were born into Sin and slaves to the Devil, but Jesus freed us to be His people, and to be His slaves/servants to the glory of God. I pray you will use your Christian freedom to worship, serve, and bear witness to the one, true and only Savior of the world – our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As we pray for containment and extinguishing of our physical fires, may we pray for spread and growth of the spiritual fire of God's love and the expansion of His Kingdom, here and throughout the world. A blessed Pentecost Season!

John Wm Stieve

"Following Christ into People's Lives"

LWML /Ladies Guild News

Now that Fellowship Hall and Kitchen restoration is completed, we are planning an event Saturday, November 12. This will be our bean soup/bake sale. More details in the months to come. In the past, these Spring and Fall events were for mission grants funding. Praying for the people that lost family, homes, pets and belongings in the tornadoes, fires and floods and thanking our Father for our many blessings.

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Light in The Darkness

The Lord- Adonai

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

Psalm 16:2

One of my favorite hymns is "Lord of Glory, You have Bought Us", it continues "with Your lifeblood as the price" (LSB 851). This gives us the mental picture of a slave being purchased by an owner. Is it ironic that Jesus, one who was sold for 30 pieces of silver- the price of a common slave, purchases us to be His. Furthermore, Isaiah 43:1b says "*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; ...*" Since it is God, our Creator and Lord who has redeemed us, we have no need to fear. He is not a harsh master who, like Pharaoh demanded that the Israelite slaves make more and more bricks with fewer ingredients supplied to them (Exodus 5).

Best of all, as Isaiah 43:1 continues, we are not mere slaves. He has "called us by name". Not just any name, we are called by His Name, in Baptism. Not only have we been redeemed/purchased by a gracious Master, no other master can own us! Additionally, like many Gentile slaves of Jewish masters, we have become part of the family. The master is expected to treat the slave well and provide for all of his needs. Galatians 4: 4-7 explains how we were slaves and have 'moved up the ranks' so to speak.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

The explanations to the articles of the Creed in the Small Catechism give us further teaching, understanding and, ultimately, Hope.

The Second Article: "... [Jesus} has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person... from all sins, from death and from the power fo the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness...

The First Article further explains that not only has God made me and all creatures, but that "He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life, He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me against all evil." Why? Not because I am such a beautiful, wonderful, hardworking, effective servant but because of His Divine goodness and mercy. "For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

At the same time that it is my duty to serve and obey the Lord God, it is also my privilege and His delight. How are you serving God and His people? There are many volunteer opportunities to use many different gifts and talents. Pastor and I would love to help you grow in your faith.

First Tuesday Women's Bible Study
July 5, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall
We will study "Speak the Truth"

Tip of the Month: The **Home Handyman** ministry will have a new coordinator team beginning July 1. We thank Bob Call for his time and efforts the past several years. This change takes place at his request. The new Coordinators are Georgia Hansen and Ron McInnis, both are longtime member of LCRS. Call **Georgia** at **625-1283** if you need any minor fix-ups at your home. She will send out a volunteer who can help and give you a referral for a reputable professional when necessary. Since women and older people are more likely to be scammed, she will gladly call a volunteer to be with you while a professional is at your home for the estimate, and while the work is being done.

More volunteers are always welcome.

A seed to sow: There is a growing number of people in Green Valley/ Sahuarita who are homeless, and on the verge of becoming homeless. LCRS can allow use of our kitchen and fellowship hall to provide a hot lunch as well as various life skills (depending on volunteers available). le: GED prep, resume and interview skills, also partner w/ LSS, VAS and other churches.

I will gladly receive your **written** ideas and input.

Together in His service,
Deaconess Jeri Morrison



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