

Desert Reflections

Desert Reflections

October † 2011

Issue 142

The Official Newsletter of Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior—Green Valley, Arizona

Features in this Issue

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Parson's Paragraphs | 2 |
| Light in the Darkness | 4 |
| Operation Christmas Child | 6 |
| LWML | 7-8 |
| English District Prayers | 11-12 |
| October Birthdays | 13 |
| Financial Summary | 14 |

Church Contacts:

Phone: (520) 625-2612
Fax: (520) 625-2635
E-Mail:
info@risen-savior.org
Website:
www.risen-savior.org

Sunday Worship Themes - October

2nd: "Friend or Foe of the
Cross?"

Philippians 3:17-21

9th: "Joy - Peace - Trust"

Philippians 4:4-13

16th: "Being with Jesus—
Living on the Edge"

Readings

23rd: "Truly Loving the
Neighbor"

Matthew 22:34-40

30th: "The Foolishness of
Playing 'Religion'"

Matthew 11:12-19

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

jws

Special Voters' Assembly - October 9th

A Special Meeting of the Voters' Assembly has been called for Sunday, 9 October, after the second service. This will be held in Fellowship Hall, and a light lunch will be provided.

The two (and only) items of business will be: proposed changes to our congregation Bylaws, and proposed affirmation of two additional Elders. Please remember that a quorum of 25% of "voters" is required for action to be taken. This should not be a lengthy meeting.

Printed copies of the proposed changes will be available two weeks prior to the meeting. If you have questions, please contact congregation chairman, Mr. Mac MacGowan.

Greeter - Usher Orientation - October 12th

Wednesday, 12 October at 10:00AM, Pastor Stieve will conduct a basic orientation/training for the host ministry areas of "usher" and "greeter." The Church is not a "social club," but God has made us to be social creatures. We enjoy being needed and recognized. Workers are needed for the Saturday and both Sunday services.

Risen Savior members generally do a good job with this, but we urgently need people to "step up" and volunteer for "formal" ushering and greeting. We know the "first impression" is important; in addition, you can provide valuable information and guidance for worship guests.

Please join us—we will meet for an hour in the Sanctuary. If you are interested, but unable to attend, please notify the church office or the pastor.

2011-2012 Risen Savior Concert Series Presents Paloma Winds Quintet

Risen Savior will open its 2011-2012 Concert Series on October 23rd, Sunday, at 3:00PM with **The Paloma Winds Quintet** (Deena Reedy, flute; Sara Fraker, Oboe; Andrew Braden, clarinet; Rebecca Cain, Bassoon; Victor Valenzuela, horn).

All five ensemble members are active in the Tucson community as orchestral performers, chamber musicians, and teachers. Their repertoire spans from the Renaissance to Classical to American popular music and contemporary works.

The Paloma Winds have been featured on numerous concerts throughout Arizona, including a recent broadcast on KUAT radio. Admission is by donation (suggested donation- \$10).

If you have any questions, please call 625-2612 or e-mail JisunL@risen-savior.org

The Parson's Paragraphs

Noted theologian and preacher Charles Spurgeon, said, "Faith goes up the stairs that love has built and looks out the window which hope has opened." That is a wonderful "bridge" verse between this year's *Hope* theme and next year's theme verses! By this time next year (if not before), I expect you'll be saying, "Mercy, mercy, mercy!" Yes --- that's it: **Mercy** is the focus for our verses and year.

As it happens, this ties in nicely with our Synod president's focus on "Witness - Mercy - Life Together." For many years, Synod President has promoted "mercy" as central to what we and who we are in Christ. My prayer is that we appreciate and expressing of mercy year.

Nineteenth-century Danish philosopher and Kierkegaard wrote, "Mercy has converted more eloquence, or learning or all of them together." We know and profess that by the grace of God through faith, we trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. How is this possible --- given we are undeserving sinful people? God's mercy! He has punished His only Son for our sins and now spares us the everlasting separation from Him we deserve.

The mercy of God allows us to stand before Him as free, forgiven and saved people. As we interact with others in mercy, we display the love of God and His concern for people. This makes a major difference in homes, neighborhoods, churches, societies and nations. English poet William Blake wrote, "Mercy is the golden chain by which society is bound together." It is sad that we must confess this chain in broken daily by us sinful individuals.

In the freedom won for us by Christ, I hope and pray you will resolve to worship together regularly, be in God's Word daily, pray mightily for all sorts and conditions of people, and use the gifts God has entrusted to you. May all of this be to His honor and glory.

We welcome back those who "fled" for the summer months. You were missed, and we rejoice that we will be in physical fellowship again ... even as we enjoy the fellowship of the saints throughout the world.

John Wm Stieve

"Following Christ into People's Lives"



Rev. Matthew Harrison have been given by God will grow in our knowledge, throughout our 2011-2012

theologian Søren souls than zeal, or

Light in The Darkness

The Lord who Heals: Jehovah- Rapha

“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.” Jeremiah 17:14

As a nurse, knowing the Lord as ‘healer’ has been very important to me. It is a blessing to see someone recover from a serious illness and know that the Lord chose to use me as a small component to provide comfort to someone who is suffering and be a part of the healing process. But, what about those who leave the hospital without having their health restored? What about those who die?

We know and trust that “God is in control”. We have learned that He is almighty, all powerful, ever present, all knowing, and ultimately wants the very best for those who call on His Name. Disease and suffering are rooted in Original Sin. Though the Lord knew before creation that humans would sin, He did not intend for the resulting suffering and death to be a part of our lives. Yet, they did sin, we are sinful, and all of creation was and is affected.

One of my favorite Bible narratives is in Luke 5. It is about the paralyzed man who is brought to Jesus by being lowered through a roof by his friends. What I appreciate most is that Jesus does not separate the physical and spiritual healing. He approaches humanity holistically. Jesus tells the man “your sins are forgiven”(v 20). He is not recorded as having said “you are now healed” only “rise, pick up your bed and go home” (v24) an indication that what was humanly impossible is a current reality. The man’s response was that he “...went home, glorifying God” (v 25).

There are 35 different miracles of healing recorded in the Gospels as well as the many through the Old Testament and the remainder of the New Testament. Many of us know people who have received physical healing, with or without medical intervention. Does it shake your faith when you or someone you know is not healed of their disease?

Remember that the miracle of physical healing is only temporary. Eventually these bodies will die (unless Jesus returns first). It is the spiritual healing that is both perfectly complete and eternal. It is the spiritual that is of greater importance: the forgiveness of sins and being drawn into a right relationship with our Creator, Savior and Comforter.

I pray that you begin (or continue) to draw comfort from our God’s promise as says to us “...for I am the LORD, your healer.” Exodus 15:26

First Tuesday Women’s Bible Study

Annegret Gilmore will show the slides of her trip to the Holy Land. Deaconess Jeri will be out of town to visit family in NY.

All women are invited and encouraged to meet on Tuesday, October 4th at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Tip of the Month:

Alzheimer’s Association.
Southern Arizona Regional Office
3003 S Country Club Road, Ste 209
Tucson, AZ 85713
520.322.6601
24 hour Hotline: 1.800.272.3900
Website: www.alz.org

Our Purpose

To empower and support individuals, families, care partners & communities affected by dementia in Arizona and southern Nevada.

This non-profit organization provides care consultation, support groups, safety services (Safe Return ®), and a variety of education programs. These programs include information about the diagnosis, home safety, communication techniques, etc.

November 8: Caregiver Conference
Valley Presbyterian Church, Green Valley. Call 520.322.6601 for more information or to register.

“No one needs to go through this journey alone.”

Together in His service,
Deaconess Jeri Morrison

Christian Education Opportunities

Sundays @ 9:25 AM

October 2-23: The "Walther" movie and discussion Fellowship Hall

I'm sure many of you have researched your family history. It's important to know your roots. Here is an opportunity to learn about the roots of this faith community. How did Lutheranism get started in America? What trials and struggles did they have? What were the major successes? This year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of C.F.W. Walther- the first president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In honor of this, Concordia seminary, St Louis has been able to produce a feature- length movie divided into 4 parts and includes discussion by LCMS professors and historians. This will be presented on Sunday mornings in October.

October 30- November 20: "A Life Alive Unto God" Fellowship Hall Led by: Stewardship Team

"This Bible study is based on 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Paul's intent in writing these two verses was to help the Corinthians realize that their bodies were not to be used for immoral purposes. However, there is a wider application that can be made of this truth- that we Christians belong to God with all that we are and have." The session titles are: 1. It is a life that belongs to God; 2. It is a life purchased by God to be His; 3. It is a life that has been enabled to serve Him; 4. It is a life dedicated to living to His glory.

Mid-Week (on Campus)

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesdays 10 AM | Living Discipleship | Choir Room |
| 1 st Tuesday (Oct 4) | Women's Bible study | Fellowship Hall |
| Tuesdays 6 PM | The Divine Drama: Our Narrative | Choir Room |
| Thursdays 8AM | Men's Bible Breakfast | Fellowship Hall |

Saturday s @ 3:15 PM

Ongoing: Today's Light Library Led By George and Evie Klammer

This is an excellent Bible study that will help you read through the Bible in about 2 years. But, you don't have to do it alone. This group has a reading plan then meets weekly to discuss what they have read. It is a small group so you can feel free to ask questions and make comments!

CPH Bible Sale: Order Now!

Concordia Publishing House has begun a fall Bible Sale. Included are the ESV Study Bible, the NIV Self-Study Bible, and children and youth Bibles. You can save \$5.00-\$20.00 on a given book. In addition, you will not have to pay for postage.

If you wish to place and order, please visit or phone the church office during office hours (not Sunday!). We will give you details and then place your order. The plan is to place the total order in early December. If you have questions, please visit with us.



The return of "Oktoberfest"

Sponsored by the Women's Retreat Committee

Friday, October 21, 2011 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall & Courtyard

Freewill offering will support the February, 2012 Women's Retreat

**Bring your friends and neighbors and join us for good
German food, good fellowship, and good music!
Sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex**

