

THE DESERT STREAM



—Isaiah 35.6

January, 2024

Redeemer Lutheran Church

redeemerscottsdale.org

7670 E. Jomax Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Tel.: 480-585-7002

Sunday Worship... 9a

Sunday School... 10:30

Holy Communion

Jan. 7, 21.

Virtual Bible Study

Thursdays, 7 PM on
Skype

Church Forum

Sunday, January 7th

**Christmas Take Down
& Lunch to Follow**

Voters

Monday, January 8th
6:30PM at Redeemer

Ladies' Guild

Sunday, January 28th

Also available to you,
Please Contact Pastor—

- **Private Confession**
- **Christianity 101**
- **Jr. Confirmation**

**The Congregation
Prays:
A Guide to
Daily Devotions
In Sunday's Bulletin!**

Persistent Memories of Dick Clark

I have a schmalzy view of New Year's Eve celebrations from watching Dick Clark drop the ball on TV as a kid.

Some things are apparently a must. You have to be up till midnight. You have to have a paper hat and a noise-maker of some kind. Costume glasses framed with huge plastic numbers are a plus but not absolutely necessary. You need cheap champagne. At just the right time you're supposed to kiss somebody for some reason. And cheer. You have to cheer.

Nobody has reason to cheer the passage of time like the Lord's Christians. He brings hope and certainty to our times.

We look back on the year just spent, and we know that we have been spared by the grace of God. We've been spared and we've been helped—not for no reason. Not randomly. Not by some unexplained act of whim—but for the sake of His Son. And, for the purposes of our blessedness in His Kingdom.

Moses the man of God wrote in Psalm 90.1: "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations."

We are not immune to regrets, which all people have, to some extent or another. We remember some things that happened this past year and we cringe.

Through God's Word, though, we are learning a godly repentance which leaves no regret. God's Law exposes my sins which sends my running to the open arms of Jesus. That's what the New Year means to us if we have it right. As Moses says in Psalm 90.12: "So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

We don't live—this life—forever. We don't ignore the aches and pains as if we aren't growing older and closer to the end of this life and the end of the age. We thank God that He has brought us this far. We learn to pray: Lord, be with us. Lord forgive us and help us!

Or as it's written in Psalm 90.16-17: "*Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands.*"

With these thoughts in mind, and in these ways, dear Christians, Happy New Year of Our Lord!

God bless you all—See you Sunday!

With Love,

Pastor Hamilton

January 14th

Dr. Gene Pfeiffer, Bethany College
President, at Bible Class

January 21st

Pastor Schroeder guest preaching, Dan
Basel at Bible Class

January 20-21st Evangelism Workshop at Our Savior, Lake Havasu City. RSVP to church@havasulutherans.com

January 28th

Guest Pastor Tom Naumann