

THE DESERT STREAM



—Isaiah 35.6

May, 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

May 5, 12, 19, 26

Virtual Bible Study

Thursdays, 7 PM on
Skype. (No Class 5/30)

Leadership Meeting

Tuesday, May 14th at
Muths???

Ladies' Guild

Sunday, May 19th, after
the Divine Service

All Ladies are Welcome!
Seeking New Recruits for
Altar Guild!

Thank you to all of our
Volunteers, the Ladies,
Altar Guild, Musicians,
and Church Leadership
for all you do!

Also available to you

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

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

Stumbling on the Fortress Stairway

I didn't know this! Did you know this—? That castles used to be built with narrow, uneven spiral staircases for defensive purposes? (I heard this on the internet so it has to be true.)

When an advancing army breaches the wall, or breaks through the gate, they advance into the enemy's territory and head toward the stairs. But the stone stairway is narrow—only one person can come up at a time. He has to watch his step, because the stairs are deliberately built to be uneven. And as he goes up he has trouble with his sword. If you're right handed (as most of us are) the column up the middle of the stairway is in the way of your sword hand and you can't fight well.

All this together makes a brilliant defense of the castle.

Jesus, the Captain Who has come against the devil's fortress, asked his friends: **Who do you say that I am?** One of them, Simon Peter replied: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus blessed him and said: **On this rock** (the confession that Peter just made) **I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

How blessed it is to hear His voice and to be part of His church! Then

again—how narrow the stairway before us, how clumsy we prove to be in the fight, how much fear and trouble in wielding the sword. How often we stumble!

The Lord's own word, however, is this: **I will build my church!** And in doing so He has gathered us from the dungeons of sin and death, and laid claim to us and our whole life.

It's written: [Christ] has *appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself*, Hebrews 9:26. The enemy castle is fallen. The walls are breached. The gate is broken. The Lord Jesus Himself has done it!

Now the clumsiness and the weakness we have in the fight that has claimed us actually help us—to serve to remind us that we are *given* the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ; to remind us to call out to Him and that we *depend* on Him in His Word and Sacramental gifts to sustain us; to be assured *by Him* that we are not alone in the fight: so we do not fall before the enemy's sword and defenses. The fight is already won! And the victory is ours. Because it is His. And He is ours—and we belong to Him.

See you Sunday!

The Christian Crash Course

A Community-Based Study
on The Bible—Story by Story,
Subject by Subject
Come as you are!

Course Materials,
Refreshments and Babysitting
Provided

**Ongoing Sundays
This Spring**