

THE DESERT STREAM



—Isaiah 35.6

July, 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

July 7, 14, 28

Virtual Bible Study

Thursdays, 7 PM, Skype
(No Class on 7/4, 7/18)

Open Forum Meeting

Sunday, July 14th after
the Service

Voters Assembly

Tuesday, July 16th at
Redeemer, 6:30p

ELS Board for Home

Outreach meets 7/18-
19 in Mankato.

Ladies' Guild

Next Meeting on or
around August 18th.

All Ladies are Welcome!

Also available to you

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

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

From Germany—500 Years Ago: A Timely Drought Warning

500 years ago this year, Luther put pen to paper and wrote a letter: *To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They Establish and Maintain Christian Schools*. The following is adapted from what he wrote:

“[Dear Arizonans], Buy! As long as the market is in front of the door. Gather together! As long as the sun shines, and there is good weather.

Make use of God's grace and word, as long as it is there! For you ought to know this: God's Word and grace is a swiftly passing downpour, which does not come back again to where it once was. It came to the Jews—but gone is gone. They now have nothing.

Paul brought it to the country of Greece. Gone is also gone. They are now controlled by the Turks. Rome and the Latin-speaking lands have had it as well—gone is gone...

And you, [Dear People of Arizona], need not bother thinking that you will have it forever, for thanklessness and scorn will not allow it to remain.”

God help us against our thanklessness and scorn in taking so lightly His grace and His Word. God help us to see how great and wonderful is His

visitation, announced to us still, announced to us yet again!

As people of Arizona, we get dry. We understand thirst. Rainfall is most welcome! If only we believed from the heart the spiritual realities that Luther pictured for us with these things! Sin and guilt bearing fruit for death—that's a real parch we can't answer for.

Luther knew that the gospel was a heavenly rainfall. He also believed the danger that he warned against, that *Gone is Gone*. Germany—where Luther first wrote—neglected the Word. The churches got empty. Something else rushed in to fill the spiritual void.

While there's still a dayspring for us in the desert, *"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!"* -Is 55:1. In fulfillment, John chapter 7, Jesus cried out, **"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."**

The gospel you hear—that your sins are forgiven—cost Him dearly. He was opened up to pour it out for you and on you. And to fill the cup you drink. Since these things are true, let's consider how to *make the best use of the time*, as St. Paul says, Ephesians 5.16. But before all else, for God's sake, *drink*.

With Love, Pastor.

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 Summer**