

THE DESERT STREAM



—Isaiah 35.6

August, 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

August 4, 18.

Virtual Bible Study

Thursdays, 7 PM, Skype

**Church Council and
Elders Meeting**

Tuesday, August 13th,
6:30PM at Muths

Ladies' Guild

Next Meeting between
Worship and the Sunday
school hour on Sunday,
August 18th.

All Ladies are Welcome!

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!**

Speak, Lord...

In *The Lutheran Bible Companion* (St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House, 2014), I stumbled across a lovely little prayer for times when you are reading and studying Scripture. It's found in the introductory pages, page xxix. All the words are taken directly from the Bible. It reads like this:

Speak, Lord, for your servant hears. (1 Samuel 3:9). Please show me now Your ways (Exodus 33:13), that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness that is my own that comes from the Law, but that which comes through faith in Christ (Philippians 3:8-9). Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Give me life, O Lord, according to Your Word (Psalm 119.105, 107), and I will declare Your greatness (Psalm 145:6). Amen.

Not through dreams or visions, your feelings or anything else—it is in and through His word the Bible that God *promises* to be heard by You.

To the Jews who did not believe in Him but refused His offer of grace, the Lord said: "*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me,*" (John 5:39).

The Lord Himself says again: "*Thus*

it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." (Luke 24:46-47).

Not ourselves—whether who we are, or what we do, or what we might be—it is **Jesus** at the heart of Scripture, with all He came to do for us, and all He came to suffer for us to win our souls for salvation; to reconcile us to the Father in Heaven by the sacrifice of Himself on **the cross**.

Not a story where we are the hero and salvation is our accomplishment, but where Christ is all in all, and in His Name, God speaks to us from His Holy Scriptures and through His ministry of reconciliation in words of **convicting Law** and comforting and gracious, **sin-forgiving Gospel**. That's *His ways*. Not that we should turn in on ourselves, but live in the world as His own, sent to our neighbors to bear His Word before them—to declare His greatness.

What a lovely way to begin a little time to read your Bible. Please, go ahead. God bless you by His Word. And God grant, I'll see you Sunday.

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**