

# THE DESERT STREAM



—Isaiah 35.6

December, 2024

## Redeemer Lutheran Church

[redeemerscottsdale.org](http://redeemerscottsdale.org)

7670 E. Jomax Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Tel.: 480-585-7002

**Sunday Worship...** 9a

**Sunday School...** 10:30

**Holy Communion**

Dec. 1, 15, 25, 29

**Virtual Bible Study**

Thursdays, 7 PM on  
Skype (No Class 12/26)

**Voters (Budget)**

Sunday, Dec. 8, 10AM

**Ladies' Guild**

Sunday, Dec. 8, 10AM

**Elders & Council**

Tuesday, December 10,  
6 PM at Muths

**Christmas Decorating**

Sunday, 12/1/24

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!**

## *Reflections on the Christmas Tree*

Year after year, early in the month of December, a race was on at our house in Michigan.

You see, if we were not quick about it; if we didn't make our plans, take the time for a family outing, pick out a Christmas tree, bring it home and drag it in and set it up in time, my Grandpa (who lived less than a five minute drive up the road) would supply one.

Year after year, a tree would magically appear out on the redwood deck, just outside the sliding glass door where we used to throw our littlest brother out into the snow. Year by year, now, we would shake our heads, irritated by the little present that somehow always seemed to be a joke at our expense.

It seems to me that maybe—just on account of *not being able to pick it out ourselves*—the quirks of the tree were more pronounced to us. But I can recall the Christmas grumbling, the sarcastic laughing, and the holiday head-shaking as we decorated and basked in the glow of some of the most lopsided, misshapen trees any Michigan forest or tree farm ever produced.

Of course, the biggest complaint: *we wanted to do it ourselves*. My Grandpa has been gone now for several years. I can't tell you how much I wish I could decorate one of the trees he would pick

out for us. I can't help smiling now as I remember the worst one, so bent we had to prop it against the wall so it wouldn't fall on us as we decorated it!

But now it's early December again. The race is on for us—to decorate our lives and our homes. We would like to *do it ourselves*. We'd like to guarantee our own choices. Take charge.

But outside in the cold is the gift God the Father has chosen for us, one we would not have chosen for ourselves and which we would still refuse were it not for His call and His work in our hearts by grace.

The poor, Virgin-born, Manger-laid Christ Child is His gift to you. Wrapped in swaddling clothes like the Scriptural promises that told us He was coming, foreshadowing His burial cloths in His death for us, in place of us. He came to fulfill the promise the angel made to Joseph: *He will save His people from their sins*. Finding Him out in the cold, *for us*, the race was on, but, *You win*. Thank you dear Father in heaven. Thank you, dearest Jesus.

Thank you to all of you for the chance to share these memories with you.

Merry Christmas! See you Sunday!  
With Love, Pastor Hamilton

### **Wednesday Night Advent Service:**

- December 4th, 4PM

### **Would anyone care to go Caroling?**

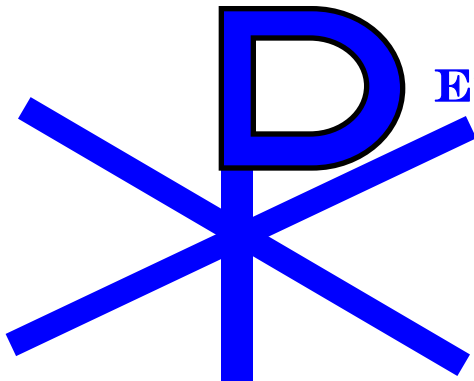
- Sunday, December 15, 1-3PM  
If we have enough voices.  
Sign up in the Narthex

### **Christmas Eve—Sunday, Dec. 24th**

- Christmas Eve Service, 4 PM

### **Holy Christmas Day— Dec. 25th**

- Christmas Day Service, 9AM



## DESERT STREAM CLASSIFIEDS

December, 2024

*In response to various requests from some of our membership to stay informed about meetings, plans and projects, this back page of our newsletter is provided. Please let Pastor know if there is more that we can do to keep everyone in touch and informed!*

**Redeemer  
Lutheran Church**  
*redeemerscottsdale.org*

*On YouTube  
and Facebook:*

**Redeemer Lutheran  
Church of Scottsdale**

*Please Promote our  
Worship Services and  
any Other Content  
Online*

*Redeemer is YOUR  
CHURCH and the BEST  
KEPT SECRET in  
NORTH SCOTTSDALE!*

**THANK YOU TO  
ALL OUR SUPPORT!**

**THANK YOU TO  
OUR ELDERS,**

**MUSICIANS,**

**CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEMBERS,**

**LADIES GUILD  
MEMBERS,**

**OFFICE  
VOLUNTEERS,**

**KITCHEN  
WORKERS,**

**& ALL WHO PRAISE  
GOD AND DECLARE  
CHRIST'S CROSS  
ON SUNDAY!**

- **Redeemer Ladies' Guild** Met in November. The minutes are not yet official. All the ladies in our congregation are invited and encouraged to participate. Thank you to the Ladies for all the efforts to serve the congregation and the world with the Gospel and for the support for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Redeemer!
- **Joint Church Leadership Meeting:** The Board of Elders and Church Council met in joint session in November. Treasurer's, Trustee, and Pastor's Reports were given. A draft of a budget was presented which will be brought for discussion and voter's approval on December 8th.
- **The Board of Elders** is tasked with care of incumbents in the ministry (taking care of our pastor and his family), worship, and membership matters (including our affiliation with our synod). Pastor and his family are doing well.
- **Worship Plans:** After recent discussions with the ladies' guild, and in the joint meeting this month, it was decided to make greater use of the Lutheran Hymnal as our primary worship resource, and return to a weekly schedule for Holy Communion starting in January. We will still make occasional use of the Hymnary. Regarding the Communion schedule, please remember: each is free to follow their own piety. *Please don't judge each other; please do not worry that you are being judged by one another; please wait for one another.* Rejoice together!
- For the **Voter's Assembly:** calling any & all potential voting members! We need husbands, dads, brothers and sons to join our congregational Voter's Assembly. Please join and be a part of the discussion and decisions that help guide our congregation!
- **New Leadership** for the congregation is under discussion—both new individuals, and new posts. Thank you to all who have been serving the congregation in leadership! Let's also help train in some new leaders for the work of Evangelism and Hospitality, Stewardship and Properties, and God willing, eventually Christian Education. We will also hope to focus on *events* and *tasks*, not just "jobs."
- New **Altar Guild** and **Communion Assistant** volunteers are needed. Please let Pastor know if that might be you!
- If anyone would like to help prepare and distribute a little **spiritual gifts inventory**, please let Pastor know.
- Blessed Advent and Joyful Christmas to Everyone!