

THE DESERT STREAM



—Isaiah 35.6

January, 2025

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

Sundays in January

Virtual Bible Study

Thursdays, 7 PM on
Skype

Packing Decorations

Sunday, Jan. 5, 10 AM

ELS Counsellor Visit

January 11-12.

Ladies' Guild

Sunday, Jan. 19, 10 AM

January Forum

Sun., Jan. 26, 10 AM

Voters

Tues., Jan. 28, 6:30 PM

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!

Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?

In those days—the days of Herod the Great, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem. They were Gentile strangers who spoke a different language. They dressed differently, and had strange customs. They came from far away, bearing gifts for a newborn King—that somehow no one seemed to know about except themselves.

This is the Epiphany of our Lord: it comes with surprises. It comes with unexpected reversals. It comes as a very Jewish Messiah is proved to be a Savior for strangers and for people from far away, even for all nations—when *His own did not receive Him*.

How did they know to come looking for the Christ child? How did they know where to go? How can we know the things that they knew—where and when to find the Christ, and what His coming means for us?

The star they saw in the East appeared at just the right time, matching the written Scriptures and the tradition they inherited from Daniel—a Jew, who was living in Babylon, who rose to prominence during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel long ago had become chief of the Magi. Now his heirs—who were Gentiles, non-Jews, who held to the Word that was passed down to them—came to the Holy City bearing their gifts, asking the questions

no one else was asking: **Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him.**

It happened right under their noses—the scribes and teachers and priests and Levites who should have been waiting and praying. Instead not only were they *not* watching, they got nervous and troubled over news of the newborn King—just the way King Herod in his jealousy was troubled at the news the Magi were bringing, and started scheming to protect his throne.

The Magi, though, got word from the Bible that the Christ Child was to be born in Bethlehem in Judea—that's what the Prophet said. They made their way to Him, and when they found Him they bowed down to worship, and gave their gifts.

The Bright heavenly Word shines for you too, over the place where the Christ is to be found by you: in the preaching of the Christ crucified for sinners. He is there to be found by you in His Washing and in His Word and in His Holy Meal, for you to know Him by faith in the forgiveness of all your sins. Thank God!

See you Sunday!

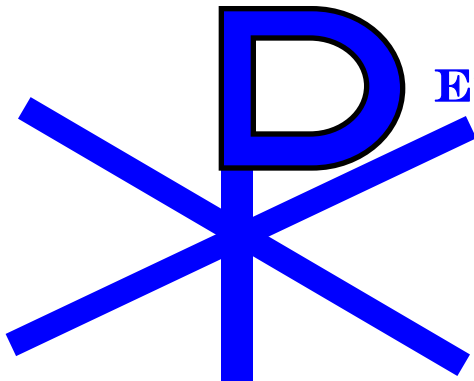
With Love, Pastor Hamilton

Please plan to talk with Pastor Ed Bryant! Let's assess our challenges, opportunities, and options.

ELS Congregational Counsellor Rev. Ed Bryant consults with us

• **Saturday, January 11th** (meeting with individuals and small groups)
Sign up in the Narthex

• **Sunday, January 12th**—At Bible Class and Lunch 10:30-12:30 PM



DESERT STREAM CLASSIFIEDS

January, 2025

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

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and Facebook:*

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Church of Scottsdale**

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Worship Services and
any Online Content*

**THANK YOU ALL
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

**THANK YOU TO
THE ELDERS,
MUSICIANS,
CHURCH COUNCIL
MEMBERS,
LADIES GUILD
MEMBERS,
OFFICE
VOLUNTEERS,
KITCHEN
WORKERS,
VOTING MEMBERS**

**& ALL WHO PRAISE
GOD AND DECLARE
THE CROSS
OF JESUS
ON SUNDAY!**

- Thank you to all our **Carolers** this Christmas Season! Seven of our members were welcomed to sing at four locations in town. We were well received!
- **Visitation with Pastor Ed Bryant:** Please mark your calendars for a visit from Rev. Ed Bryant, ELS Congregational Counsellor, to consult with our congregation, planned for Saturday and Sunday, **January 11 and 12**. Please plan to visit with him on Saturday sometime, and be on hand for his presentation on Sunday during Bible Class and over lunch.
- **Worship Plans:** As announced in November and December, we return to *The Lutheran Hymnal* as our primary resource for liturgy and hymns. We will still make occasional use of the Hymnary. We will return to a weekly schedule for Holy Communion. 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.*
- **Redeemer Ladies' Guild** Met last month. All the ladies in our congregation are invited and encouraged to participate. Please consider our need for more volunteer help for the Altar Guild. Thank you to the Ladies for all their efforts!
- **Voters Met on December 8th** and approved the proposed budget for the coming calendar year. For the Voter's Assembly: We need husbands, dads, brothers and sons to join our Voters. Please be a part of the discussion and decisions that help guide our congregation!
- **The Board of Elders and Church Council** met in joint session last month. Treasurer's, Trustee, and Pastor's Reports were provided.
- **Elections** will be held at the Voters Assembly on **Tuesday, Jan. 28th**. **New Leadership** for the congregation is under consideration—both new individuals, and new positions. 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*, and not just fill positions. Please consider whether you might be willing to serve!
- If anyone would like to help prepare and distribute a little **spiritual gifts inventory**, please let Pastor know.
- Reminder: New **Altar Guild** and **Communion Assistant** volunteers are needed. Please let Pastor know if that might be you!