

THE DESERT STREAM



—Isaiah 35.6

October, 2025

Redeemer Lutheran Church

redeemerscottsdale.org
7670 E. Jomax Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
Tel.: 480-585-7002

Sunday Worship... 9a

Sunday School... 10:30

Midweek Bible Study:

+ 1 Peter +

Thursdays, 6PM
On Microsoft Teams
And at Redeemer
(No Class 10/2/25)

ELS General Pastors Conference—10/1-3

Please call Pr Schroeder
in case of emergency:
928-293-0642.

Forum: Sunday 10/5,
10:30 AM

Voters: Monday 10/6,
6:30 PM at the Church.

Ladies' Guild Meets
Saturday, October 18, at
Rudy's Restaurant at 12
Noon.

Book Club—at Erika's,
Monday, 10/20 at 6 PM.

Please Contact Pastor—

- **Private Confession**
 - **Christianity 101**
 - **Jr. Confirmation**
- The Congregation
Prays:
A Devotional Guide
In Sunday's Bulletin!

A Little Story from History

Dear Saints,

Here's a little story from history.

Back in 1517, the second largest collection of religious relics belonged to Fredrick the Wise of Wittenberg. (The largest collection, you might guess, was in the Vatican.) The "inventory" of 1518 listed 17,443 items, including a thumb from St. Anne, a twig from Moses' burning bush, hay of the holy manger, and milk from the Virgin Mary.

Money was paid in order to venerate these relics and thus escape years in purgatory. A diligent, pious person who rendered appropriate devotion to each of these relics could merit 1,902,202 years worth of penance. (Marty, *Martin Luther: A Life*, p.18.)

Once a year on All Saints' Day, the first of November, Fredrick would display these relics in the Castle Church, and pilgrims by the thousands would flood into Wittenberg to visit the relics in hope of receiving the spiritual graces they would offer.

Now imagine the night before this grand opening of the relic display, October 31, Martin Luther, a 34-year-old monk and professor, pressing through this crowd of pilgrims to post his *Ninety-Five Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* on the doors of the same relic-filled Castle Church.

All the people would be presented with a challenge. What was it? Were we making salvation too difficult, or too easy? Luther Himself was still fighting his way out of the Medieval penitential system, with its merits, rewards, and punishments.

It was too easy—in that it allowed loopholes and the purchase of grace by deeds or with money. *If you could purchase forgiveness, then why did Jesus need to suffer and die?*

At the same time, it was too hard—in that even by these things, no one could attain certainty of salvation and find a clear conscience. The Gospel of Christ crucified was beginning to take central place in Luther's theology, and it shows through for example **Thesis 62: The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.**

Luther speaks to the heart and life of the believer, and the hope of salvation. He begins his theses: **When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said "Repent," (Mat 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**

With these 95 Theses Luther changed the theological conversation of the church, and brought forward the importance of repentance, that is, the certainty that (1) we are sinners, who are (2) forgiven and rescued by Jesus and by Him alone.

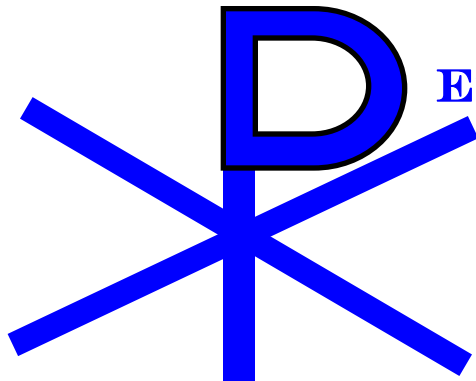
This is what we remember and celebrate on Reformation Day—customarily on the Last Sunday in the month of October: the clarity of Christ for sinners! It is what we will remember and celebrate.

This little article was adapted from a brief written by Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Austin TX.

God bless you all this Reformation season,
and God grant it, I'll see you Sunday!
Pastor Hamilton

**Come to Church.
Come to Bible Study.
Bring a Friend!**

**Men's & Women's
Church Work Day
Saturday, October 25, 9 AM
Pizza Lunch Provided!**



DESERT STREAM CLASSIFIEDS

October, 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

Find Us

On YouTube

and Facebook:

**Redeemer Lutheran
Church of Scottsdale**

*Please Promote our
Worship Services and
any Online Content*

**Thank you to all our
Volunteers: Altar
Guild, Music, Ladies
Guild, Kitchen,
Properties—
Everyone!**

**From a Blurb from
Google Books:**

Flavius Josephus (born 37AD) wrote the only remaining account of the fall of Jerusalem and the Second Temple in the year 70, and the heroic battle at Masada waged three years later. His position as a Jewish leader and then as the Roman court historian during the reign of Vespasian ensured that his historical works would be read and preserved by Jews and Romans alike. His narrative is not a mere chronicle; it is, in the best historiographical tradition, an attempt to make events intelligible... He examines the past in order to elucidate the underlying origins of the war.

- **Elders and Council** did not meet in September. Our last meeting was quite late in the month of August, and unofficial minutes appeared in the September edition of the newsletter.

- Let's get together on **Sunday, October 5th** at the **Bible Class Hour** to have a **Church Forum** (in advance of the Voters Assembly planned for Sunday October 6th, 6:30PM at Redeemer.)

The following items are Anticipated for Discussion:

10/25 Church Work Day Event

Plans for Upcoming Fall Festival

Organizing for Outreach

Any Calendar Issues

- **Midweek Bible Class** continues on **Thursday Evenings at 6PM, in person at Redeemer** and on **Microsoft Teams**. Please join us as we continue to study the **book of 1 Peter** between now and December. (Please note: Class will not meet on October 2 due to the ELS General Pastors Conference.) Class is planned for 10/9 and following Thursdays. Your Link to join online:

<https://teams.live.com/join/9367419412339?p=3VieYxdvLBuNh2dpyl>

- **Thank you to Erika Schmeissing** for hosting the **Book Club for us!** The book: **Flavius Josephus, Eyewitness to Rome's First-Century Conquest of Judea** by **Mireille Hadas-Lebel**. The Book Club is for men and women, members of the church as well as family, friends and neighbors. We will meet at Erika's home on Monday, October 20th at 6PM. The book is available from Amazon.
- **Ladies' Guild** is scheduled to meet on **Saturday, October 18th at 12 Noon Ruby's Restaurant**. Thank you to all of you for all your volunteer efforts! Regular reports are given in the meetings:

Treasury

Alpha Pregnancy Center

Fellowship

Hospitality

Altar Guild

Sunday morning Fellowship

Sue Muth continues to make coffee for us. Vicki Richards and Susan McIver are taking care of the kitchen. We currently have Judy, Marilyn, Vicki, and Erika doing communion preparation: Thank you!