

THE DESERT STREAM



—Isaiah 35.6

May, 2026

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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

Sunday Worship... 9a

Sunday School... 10:30a

Kids: **Bible History**

+ Adults: **Hebrews** +

Wednesday Bible

Class..... 5p

+ **Bible Study Skills** +

At Redeemer & Teams

Congregational Forum

Sunday, May 3rd at
10:30 AM

Voter's Assembly

Monday, May 4th at
5:30 PM at Church

Ladies' Guild—

Sunday, May 10 after
worship at the Church.

Please Contact Pastor—

- Private Confession
- Christianity 101
- Jr. Confirmation

The Congregation
Prays:
A Devotional Guide
In Sunday's Bulletin!

Jonah and... the Gourd

Jonah is usually associated with “the whale.” What it really was, was a “great fish” that the Lord provided, by which He accomplished much. Several things in fact: God redirected his hard-hearted prophet; He depicted death and the grave in the belly of the fish; He prefigured the Resurrection of Christ beforehand when Jonah came up from the belly of the fish. Jonah—fresh from the fish’s belly—was given a message intended to work repentance and faith in the mercies of God.

It’s always “Jonah and the Fish.” It’s Hardly ever “Jonah and the Gourd.” In more recent versions, it’s a “plant.” It amounts to a little desert tree.

You see, Jonah—much like us—was afraid to deliver the message he was given. There is one big difference. With us, we are sometimes afraid that we’ll say the wrong thing. Sometimes we are afraid that we might lose friends or suffer rejection, or bear some consequences for speaking up about human sin and God’s love for sinners in Christ, crucified for us. We may be afraid that it won’t work.

Jonah was afraid that it *would*: That the Lord would actually help and save those people who were enemies of God and of His people. Up from the fish, Jonah finally delivered the message God gave him for Nineveh. To Jonah’s great displeasure, *it worked*.

The people of Nineveh repented. Still hoping to see the fireworks, Jonah sat down at a distance to see what would happen. **The LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.** God first gave relief to Jonah against the sun and the scorching desert wind. But then God provided a worm to devour the gourd, and it withered. Jonah said: **I am angry enough to die.** But God said to him: **You pity the plant. You did not labor for it. You did not make it grow... and should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than 120,000 persons who don’t know their right hand from their left?** (By this He seems to mean *little ones*.)

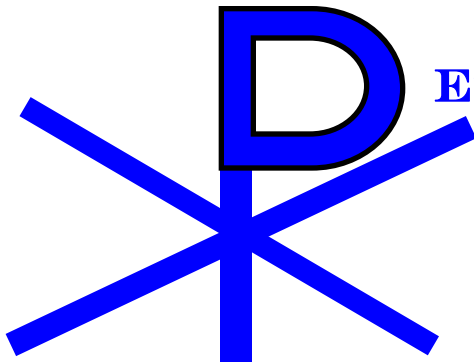
Any time He comforts us, it’s mercy! Somehow He teaches us too in the things we suffer and lose: to consider our thoughts and our ways; to hope in Him for the life to come. This too is mercy! After all, God’s mercy alone, in the forgiveness of sins, is how we live. Jonah’s *complaint* is truly saving grace for us all! **I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.**

*Visit us, Lord Jesus, with your mercy—
and let your mercy swiftly accomplish its
purposes everywhere! Amen.*

God Bless You, See You Sunday!

**Mother’s Day
May 10th, 2026
Happy Mother’s Day, Mom!
We Love You!**

**Book Club meets again
On June 16th.
Book: *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*
By Nabeel Quereshi**



DESERT STREAM CLASSIFIEDS

May, 2026

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

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**Redeemer Lutheran
Church of Scottsdale**

*Please Promote our
Worship Services and
Online Content*

**Thank you to all our
Volunteers: Music,
Altar Guild, Ladies
Guild, Kitchen,
Properties—And
Volunteers for our
Sunday School!**

**Please Pray for all
these efforts!**

**Thank You to
All!**

A special **Thank You**
to all of the **Ladies of
Redeemer** for your
volunteer efforts!

Come to Church!

Come to Bible Study!

Bring a Friend!

***Watch Bulletins for
More Info on the
Spring Festival***

- **Elders & Council met on Monday, April 6th at 6 PM.** Unofficial minutes:

President Mike McIver called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. In attendance were Mike McIver, Pastor Hamilton, Jim Bonnell, John Colville, Bryan Carlson, Dick Welling and Dave Richards.

Pastor Hamilton opened the meeting with a prayer. **Pastor's Report:** There are 2 new members, Peter Ratzlaff and Dennis Schmitz. Average Church attendance: 42. Average Communion attendance: 32. Good attendance in Bible Class and at special meetings. Online presence project complete.

Bryan Carlson presented the **Financial Report:** Bryan has provided a list of the Church Treasurer duties. \$66,000 in the checking account including monies for designated funds. \$96,000 in the savings account for total liquidity of \$162,000. Bill Muth has been acting as the Financial Secretary on an interim basis.

Jim Bonnell presented the **Trustees Report:** The roof has been patched. The alarm system is old and parts to repair it aren't available. It will have to be replaced this year. Jim is seeking a variance from the City of Scottsdale for the digital sign we had originally planned. Jim submitted an application and site plan for the sign to the City of Scottsdale. We need to pay the application fee. We need to have the HVAC system serviced. Jim replaced a motion sensor for the alarm system.

Elders Report: The elders are pleased with the Acolyte program.

Evangelism Report: Pastor is meeting with new attendees to Church. We need to encourage congregation members to sit with new attendees.

Old Business: There was a workday in March. The weather was hot, so we won't do another workday until fall. John, Jim and Mike have an app that controls the low voltage lights. They look good. Just Pastor Hamilton will attend the Synod Convention this year. Dave Richards will speak with Vicki Richards about helping with the Church's social media accounts. Pastor Hamilton will speak with Vicki Richards about outreach with new Church attendees. We need a member to coordinate visits to new attendees by a congregation member. Norm Hartigan had forwarded an email he received from the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). There is a report from the Church due to the ACC in 90 Days which identifies Church leadership. Mike reached out to Norm regarding access to the Church's ACC account.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.

Midweek Bible Class continues on **Wednesdays at 5PM, at Redeemer** and on **MS Teams**. Please join us as we work through **Bible Study Skills**.

Your Link to join online:

<https://teams.live.com/join/9367419412339?p=3VieYxdvLBUh2dpyl>