

THE DESERT STREAM



—Isaiah 35.6

July, 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

Leadership Meetings

Monday July 6th

Elders—6p

Council—6:30p

Ladies' Guild—

Sunday, August 2 after
worship at the Church.

Book Club—

Monday, July 27th, at
Mary Ellen Olsen's.
Thank you Mary Ellen
for hosting at 3p!

Please Contact Pastor—

• Private Confession

• Christianity 101

• Jr. Confirmation

The Congregation
Prays:

A Devotional Guide
In Sunday's Bulletin!

There is a Balm in Gilead

I recall them singing it to us in the chapel at Bethany College while I was there in the Seminary. *There Is a Balm in Gilead*. Where is that exactly? And this medicinal salve—what does it do?

I've been thinking about that lately—as someone who is particularly pale-skinned and recently fried to a crisp in the Arizona sunshine.

What kills me is, *I know better!* As a beach lifeguard who spent one summer after another in the sun, I was slathered from head to foot in sunscreen, down to the telltale chalk-white pool-cue nose treatment I gave myself. Always. I'd never hazard those hours on the beach, facing the sunset over the water at Lake of the Woods unprepared—hat down low, sunglasses on.

Now I was waking up every three hours feeling like I was the buffet at a midwestern mosquito family reunion. I tried just everything: Calamine, Aloe, Noxzema, Benadryl, compresses, and whatever I could get my hands on. At last I took it to the doctor. She told me that there is a condition that sounded a lot like what I was describing. She called it: *Hells Itch*.

Really.

It made me think about how many times I thought nothing of exposure to temptation—since it was no big deal.

Has that ever happened to you? How often have you felt like just a little of those old, familiar, favorite, secret sins were no big deal; you wouldn't be there that long; whatever else would come of it, it wouldn't burn you?

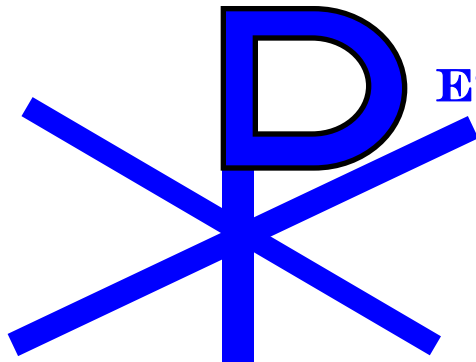
Jeremiah was God's spokesman to announce God's judgment against Israel because of their sins. Jeremiah cried out, **8:22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?** (His question expects: Yes, there is!) **Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?**

Like a wound, like stings and bites, like a burn, and dry irritation that does not let up, sin hurts us. It stings our hearts and consciences. Trying to scratch the itch only makes it worse. *There's balm.*

Gilead lay beyond the Jordan River. It is associated with the *wilderness*. It was the place where Christ, still wet from Baptism, went defenseless and exposed. He went to face temptation for us. He won! That's only part of the story. There was no sunscreen to protect Him from the blows of men; no cream to soothe the hurt God's wrath brought Him when He gave Himself once and for all to take our sins away. Paul wrote: **1 Cor 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.**⁵⁷ **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** There is real relief in the forgiveness He brings.

Book Club meets again
On July 27th, 3PM at Mary Ellen's.
Book: *The Case for Christ*
By Lee Strobel

Thank you & God Bless
Our retiring Synod President
Rev. Glenn Obenberger



DESERT STREAM CLASSIFIEDS

July, 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
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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!

No regular congregational meetings were held in the month of June. Elders and Council will meet again on the 6th of July, 6 and 6:30 pm respectively.

A Note from the Hamiltons:

Thank you everyone for your generosity and kindness toward us at our Anniversary and Birthday celebrations in June! Thank you for the wonderful meal, togetherness, and for celebrating with us! We love you all!

Congratulations to Levi and Emma (McIver) Kinn on their wedding! Thank you to the McIvers! God bless your growing family!

We are reminded: Belated Congratulations to Shubham and Mandy (Richards) Trivedi on their wedding earlier this year also. Thank you to the Richards's, and God bless your growing family as well!

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod met in convention in June.

- Rev. Michael Smith was elected to the ELS Presidency.
- Rev. Peter Faugstad was elected Vice President.
- Our Pastor was elected as Circuit Pastor for Arizona, California, and Utah, and not to the Doctrine Committee.
- Rev. Alexander Ring presented an exceptional essay on Fatherhood, which is under consideration for how we might use it in Scottsdale.

Please pray for the unity of our synod, for God's blessing on its decisions, and for peace, patience and concord among the congregations and pastors.

The Lutheran-Church Missouri Synod meets for their convention in Phoenix during the week of July 19th. Please pray for our temporarily separated brothers. Warm Congratulations to the Rev. Matthew Harrison on winning re-election to the Presidency of the LC-MS.

Our Midweek Bible Class continues on Wednesdays at 5PM, at Redeemer and on MS Teams. Please join us for Bible Study Skills. **Your Link to join online:**
<https://teams.live.com/join/9367419412339?p=3VieYxdvLBuNh2dpyl>