



**DESERT CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
SHARING · LOVING · SERVING

480-730-8600
info@desertcross.org
www.desertcross.org



Tempe Campus
(Church Office)
8600 S. McClintock Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85284

Gilbert Campus
3225 S. Lindsay Rd. #101
Gilbert, AZ 85297

****Currently, ALL Worship is Virtual****

Tempe // Saturday
5pm - Worship

Tempe // Sunday
8:00am - Traditional Worship
9:00am - Fellowship
9:30am - Contemporary Worship
10:30am - Education

Gilbert // Sunday
9:00am - Contemporary Worship
10:00am - Fellowship
10:15am - Education

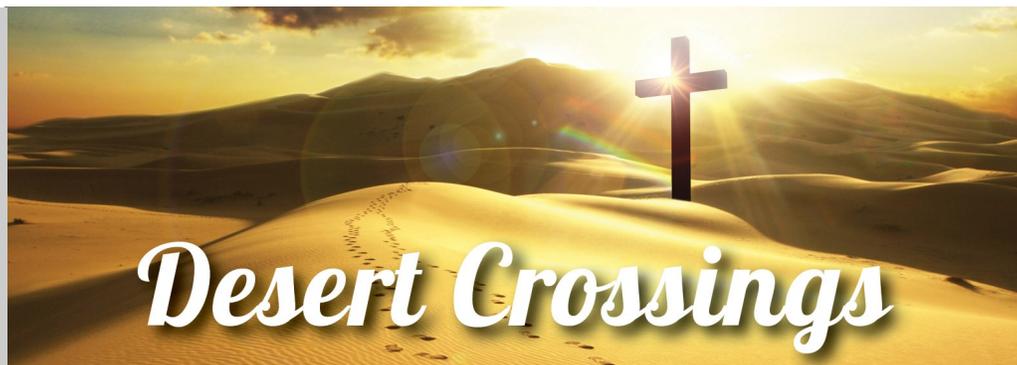
As a missional congregation, we celebrate Christ's presence, invite people into a growing relationship with Jesus and equip them to serve in a broken world.

Are you in need of prayer?

Send prayer requests to
prayerchain@desertcross.org
or fill out a prayer request form.

All newsletter submissions are due the 15th of the month prior to the month that an article is to be advertised.

***Please note that there will be one newsletter for the months of March and April 2021. This newsletter will be published at the end of February. The next newsletter will be May 2021.**



A Newsletter of Desert Cross Lutheran Church • February 2021

Renew Our Hearts: DCLC Retreat @ Home

Pastor Andrea Cain

This year we will treat the 40 days of Lent as a spiritual retreat that offers us the opportunity to renew our hearts with a focus on God, worship, and prayer. The early church began in the homes of the early followers of Jesus. This is a new opportunity for us to do the same in 2021!

The church season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday and concludes 40 days later (not counting Sundays) on Easter. We journey from the reminder of our human morality to the joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Lent is a holy 40 days of spiritual preparation and return to the Lord.

Please join us for our DCLC Retreat @ Home: *Renew our Hearts*



"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts."
Deuteronomy 6:4-6

DAILY DEVOTIONAL:

During Lent we will be using the Book of Psalms as our daily devotional. Psalms are prayers and songs to the Lord to renew our hearts. We will email a complete schedule of the daily Psalm readings out the week of February 15.

We will also send out a weekly schedule each subsequent week.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP:

Ash Wednesday @ Home Kits—pick up at church February 8-17 at Tempe or Gilbert on front sidewalks. Tables will be set up. Kits include Holy Communion elements, ashes, prayer card, prayer stone, and candle.

Ash Wednesday @ Home:

We invite you to worship from home on Wednesday, February 17 at 12pm or 7pm with Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion.

Weekly Wednesday Zoom Worship:

Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 7pm. Join us for 30 minute prayer services with Bible Project video word studies of our Lenten Theme verse: the "Shema Prayer." We will focus on *Listen, Lord, Love, Heart, Soul, Strength.*

Lenten Sundays on YouTube:

Feb. 21 & 28, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 (Palm Sunday) at 9am.

I look forward to going on a Lenten retreat with you, together, at home! May God renew our hearts as we listen for a word of love and share it with our neighbors.

Love,

Pastor Andrea



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17

Join us for Worship @ Home at 12pm & 7pm

Links will be sent out via email.

We invite you to worship from home with
Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion.

Ash Wednesday @ Home Kits

Pick up the week of February 7 at Tempe or Gilbert on front sidewalks. Tables will be set up. Kits include Holy Communion elements, ashes, prayer card, prayer stone, and candle.

Journey through Holy Week Children's Ministry Bag

Coming in March

Ms. Shannon is planning a Zoom kick off event for Holy Week on Sunday, March 28th (Palm Sunday) at 10:30am. We will read an Easter story, go over the Journey through Holy Week supplies, and have fun together!

Each family will be able to pick up their bag in March. Pick up times & dates will be available at both sites. Keep your eyes out for more information!

Journey through



Holy Week

Meet Your Staff: Pastor Thadd Book



Tell us about your new Call at Desert Cross.

Pastor Thadd has been Called as the Associate Pastor at Desert Cross. Pastor Thadd says, "I'm really looking forward to working with another pastor and having a partner in ministry." After interviewing with the Call Committee, Pastor Thadd is excited to learn more about our outreach ministries and "being a part of that." He says, "It's how I picture the Church. It lines up with my vision of the Church."

What is your background prior to being Called to serve at Desert Cross?

Pastor Thadd started college as a business major. After listening to the encouragement of others to consider ministry, he changed his major and graduated from Valparaiso University with a BA in theology/pre-seminary. He earned his graduate degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Pastor Thadd comes to us from his last congregation outside of Philadelphia in Chester County where he served for six years. Prior to that, his first Call was in Columbus, OH. We're glad to welcome him to AZ!

What is something that excited you about coming to Desert Cross?

When asked this question, a big smile erupted on Pastor Thadd's face. He loves being a pastor and is looking forward to "hearing the stories of the people" of Desert Cross. He's excited about working with the staff and being a part of our congregation's ministries. One of the things he likes about serving as a pastor is that "every day looks different."

Tell us about your family.

Pastor Thadd is married to Laura, and they have two boys, Lincoln and Everett. Laura has a Master's Degree in Theological Studies. When they lived in Ohio, Laura was Called to serve as the Director of Admission at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. She most recently worked as a nanny and currently works as a stay-at-home mom. Lincoln is four years old and LOVES two things: dinosaurs and talking! Everett is six months old and LOVES two things: eating and babbling! We can't wait to get to know the Book Family!

Pastor Thadd grew up on a farm in Illinois with his parents and siblings. He is the oldest of three brothers and one sister. The farm was started by his grandfather, and his father and youngest brother continue working the farm, growing corn and soybeans.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

He reads a lot. Last year he read a book a week! He especially enjoys reading fiction. He likes running and tries to get in a run four days a week. Pastor Thadd will tell you that he spends a lot of time watching sports and talking about sports. When asked what sport is his favorite, he pauses, laughs, and says, "All of them!" For those of your wondering . . . he's a Packers fan and a Cubs fan.

E-mail address:

You can reach Pastor Thadd at tbook@desertcross.org



How is your Faith doing?

Angela Borchers, Stewardship Team Chair

Now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

It's interesting how people are coping so differently with the times at hand. Has your Faith been shaken or is it stronger? Every child of God on this earth is dealing with loss and stress, having their whole life change. For most, it's missing the connections of others. I know for me, going to church has been harder. The distractions of being in your home—my dog likes to bring me his ball in the middle of Pastor Andrea's sermon. What I wouldn't give to hear voices behind me and next to me singing praise and holding hands for the Our Father. I miss seeing everyone's faces and giving hugs.

Faith is most important, now more than ever. Talk about your Faith in God to others, speak of the hope and promise of a world where we can be close, we can heal, we can be with everyone we love.

Happy New Year to one and all from your Stewardship team, may this year bring Hope, Joy, Love, and a stronger Faith than you have ever had.

God declares, I think of you and I have plans for you, prosperity and a future filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11



Desert Cross Campout

Friday, June 11 to Sunday, June 13

We have not had a church campout in a long time, but the wait may soon be over! Join us in the great outdoors from Friday, June 11 to Sunday, June 13. We have the group site reserved at White Horse Lake Campground, which is in the Kaibab National Forest, 19 miles southeast of Williams. Tents, trailers, and RVs are welcome, but space is limited. The cost is \$30 per motor vehicle, total for both nights.

Contact Tim Collins at 480-620-9122 or tdcollins@cox.net with questions or to make a payment.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 28 • 4pm • Zoom

Agenda:

- 2020 Annual Report
- 2020 Financial Review
- Nominating Committee

We will be selecting a committee to assemble nominees for Church Council and Endowment Committee positions to be filled in late May. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please contact Shannon Burns, Nominating Committee Chair at slburnsaz@gmail.com or 480-695-7365.

Offering Envelopes Available Now in the Church Office

Offering envelopes are available for pick-up in the Tempe office Monday through Friday from noon until 2pm. If you are unable to pick them up during those times, please call the church office (480-730-8600) to schedule an appointment.



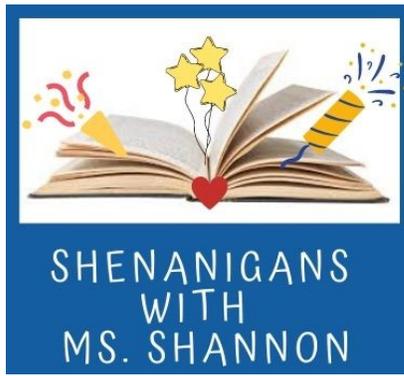
New Playlists coming February 1

We're growing in faith by using Playlists. Playlists allow us to explore a topic through different ways of learning. We post three Playlists each month designed for Children, Youth, and Adults. You can work through the Playlists at your own pace and share your experience on the Desert Cross Faith Formation website. Our topic for February is Mercy, and we'll post the Playlists on February 1.

The Playlists are posted on our faith formation website, <https://dclcfathformation.org/>. You can sign up to follow the website at the bottom of the homepage. Then you'll get an email each time we post new content. There's also a link to the Playlists on our church website, <http://www.desertcross.org/home>.

If you have any questions, contact Denise McClellan dmcclellan@desertcross.org

Come along with us Exploring Faith and Making Connections!



Wednesdays at 9am • Meeting on Zoom!

Joyful Noises families, until we can meet again in person, Ms. Shannon is offering Shenanigans with Ms. Shannon! We will meet over Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 9am for a story and a fun activity. Friends are always invited!

Please contact Ms. Shannon to get the link to the meeting and if you need any help with accessing it.



**Sundays • 1pm-1:30pm • Meeting on Zoom!
Meeting February 7 & 21**

Kids Connect is meeting virtually! Kids in grades Kindergarten through 5th are invited to join Ms. Kristen for what is sure to be a bunch of fun! Friends are always invited! Please contact Kristen to get the link to the meeting and if you need any help with accessing it.



**Weekly Children's Messages
available on YouTube!**

Ms. Shannon or Ms. Kristen share a Children's Message each week! It is available on our Desert Cross website, in the weekly worship email, and on our YouTube channel. Did you know that we created a Children's Message playlist on our YouTube channel to make it easier to find all of the messages in one place? Check it out!

Zoom, Chat, Pray
Join Pastor Andrea and Pastor Thadd on Mondays from 12pm to 12:30pm for a virtual gathering on Zoom. It is a time to come together and catch up and pray for each other as well as our community.

Zoom Meeting ID: 852 0831 8816
Passcode: 137571



**Desert Cross
Faith Formation**

Exploring Faith. Making Connections. Staying Connected to our Desert Cross Community. That's our hope for our Desert Cross Faith Formation website. You can sign up to follow the website at www.dclcfaitformation.org.

If you have any questions, contact Denise McClellan at dmcclellan@desertcross.org.

Jr. High Night

Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom

Teens are invited to meet together for fun, fellowship, and to talk about life topics. Please contact Chad at cdiegle@desertcross.org for the access information.

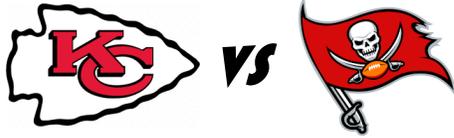
High School Night

Sundays at 7pm on Zoom

Usually a night of games and group discussion on "real life" topics, now the group is gathering weekly on Zoom. Contact Chad Diegle at cdiegle@desertcross.org for meeting information.



We are still living through some uncertain times and we all need some Good News in our email. Each week Desert Cross shares Modern Day Gospel Stories through our Stories of Joy blog. Sign up to follow our blog at storiesofjoy.org. If you have any questions, contact Denise McClellan at dmcclellan@desertcross.org or 480-730-8600.



Souper Bowl Special Hunger Jar Collection for Grace Lutheran Church

Collecting February 7-28

Like many things this year, our Souper Bowl collection looks a little different. There won't be the traditional big soup can in the narthex, but we will still be observing our annual contribution. We will be collecting donations through our Special Hunger Jar online (during the week of Super Bowl you can select the team you are supporting), or by sending in a donation with your offering to the church office. Please make sure to specify that it is for the Special Hunger Jar. This year we are supporting the mission of supplying food to Grace Lutheran Church for their homeless program.

Can YOU help I-HELP?

I-HELP is a church wide project hosting those who are homeless and working toward improving their lives. Just one night a month we provide a hot meal and lunches for 15-25 guests. The hosts for each monthly visit have included various church groups including ChristCare, Ringing Praise Choir, Outreach Committees, Church Council, and even families just getting together to help those in need. *By the end of 2020 the Desert Cross community will have served approximately 300 guests through the I-HELP program!*



Since COVID, our hosts have been making the meals at home and meeting up at the Tempe Church parking lot where the foods are handed off to us (Glenn and/or Claudia). We then deliver the meals to the I-HELP guests at the facility where they are staying because we are not currently hosting the I-HELP guests at our location.

Now that 2021 is here, we need your help to fill up the last of the hosting dates: Open dates for 2021 are: July 27, September 28, November 23, and December 28. Please talk with your ministry groups, friends, and family about signing up to help.

Contact Glenn Tischaefter at 920-539-1364 or Claudia Huss at 602-762-9014 with any questions. Thank you for your consideration and your participation in this important ministry.



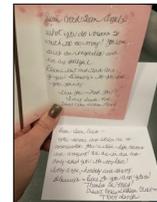
20 Words of Hope

Desert Cross is continuing it's efforts to show appreciation and support to COVID-19 caregivers as well as to encourage their resilience through meaningful recognition.



To do this, we invite you to hand write a note on a 3"x5" card. Our goal is to uplift hospital staff with brief, personal notes of Gratitude, Acknowledgement, and Encouragement. Example: *"Thank you for the compassionate care you give to your patients. May you be renewed and comforted in your generosity."* Creativity is always welcome!

Notes can be sent or dropped off at the Church Office in Tempe. Denise Viker, our parish nurse, will get them sent to mission leaders in the health system for distribution in areas of greatest need.



Desert Cross COVID Snack Ministry

The COVID Snack Ministry took a short break and is gearing up to resume again. Paul Gryniowics and Craig Shoemaker are leading this ministry of buying and delivering a trunkful of snacks and thank you notes to East Valley hospital ER rooms, ICUs, and COVID floors as a way to give them a little love back. By delivering a snack and a "Thank you" from Desert Cross we let these caregivers know we care about them.

If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Craig Shoemaker at shoemakercraig@sau.edu



Readers for Virtual Worship

Do you miss volunteering and participating in our weekly worship services? If so, we are looking for individuals to record the weekly readings so that we can get more familiar faces in worship.

If you are interested, please contact Michael Lottes at mlottes@desertcross.org. He will send you instructions on how to record on your cell phone or tablet and submit the videos.



Thank You from Lutheran Campus Ministry

Dear members of Desert Cross:

Thank you for the gift of \$3500.00 to the ministry of Christ through Lutheran Campus Ministry, Arizona State University! As you know it helps to support a ministry that touches students during their college years at ASU in very special ways. Thank you!

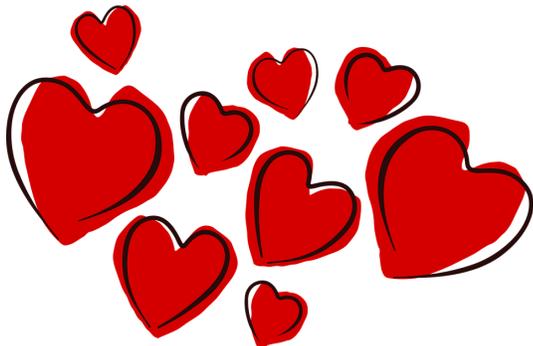
This year was no different. With many students remaining home for online studies, our numbers were down. However the significance was, perhaps, actually greater than ever for those who could come and even some whom we connected with at home. Over and over I heard "This is the only normal thing I have left in my life." One student became quite teary-eyed when an old favorite was served for dinner. She said, "This took me right back to before all this happened. Thank you for that moment!"

We will continue to do a hybrid ministry this spring with in person meals, Grab 'N Go meals, virtual worship and in person worship, and in person and Zoom Bible studies. We had alumni take part in Zoom Bible studies... one would stay up until 2am from his grad school in Germany. We also had quarantined students take part in this manner as well. Of course, if ASU announces changes, we will adapt!

We continue to work hard to go forth with our mission and figure out what the best ways are in challenging times for all. Thank you for your support and your partnership in our ministry. We are grateful for your help in making all this and more possible.

We are so grateful for your generous and continued support. We could not continue as we do without your support. Thank you. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to pray for Desert Cross.

Gratefully in Christ,
Gary N McCluskey
Pastor, University Lutheran Church



BLOOD DRIVE Sunday, April 24, 2021

The Outreach Ministry and Vitalant will be hosting a blood drive on Sunday, April 24, 2021 in the Desert Cross Community Center on the Tempe campus from 7:30am to 1pm. Art will be contact past donors for sign ups.

You can also go on-line to schedule an appointment and using desertcross (all one word) as the sponsor code. You can donate whole blood, power red, or plasma. There is a need for Type O negative, Type A and B positive. Please remember that when you donate you earn points that can be turned in for prizes.

If you have any questions or want to sign up, contact Art Krzyzewski at 602-292-0663 or krzyarty@cox.net.



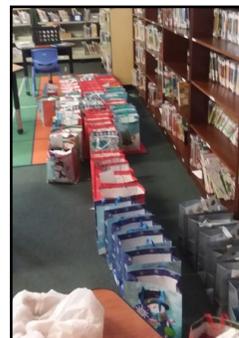
Thank You from Pastor Thadd & Family

I wanted to send a quick note to say thanks for your incredible welcome. Your encouraging notes and texts, welcoming emails and messages, gifts, willingness to clean our house, help unpack the POD, and so many more ways both big and small have made the transition as smooth as possible for our cross country COVID move. All of us look forward to continuing to meet the Desert Cross community and if your welcome has been an incredible indication of this welcoming community.

I encourage you to reach out and send an email to introduce yourself with a quick email (tbook@desertcross.org). In the near future, we will be looking for more ways we can safely connect.

Pastor Thadd, Laura, Lincoln, and Everett

Thank You from Gilbert Outreach Team



The Gilbert Outreach Team would like to say "Thank You" for all the gift cards and money received for Concordia Charter School. We collected over \$500 towards the purchase of sweatshirts for the students. Thank you again for your continued support of Gilbert Outreach.

We wish you a safe and Happy New Year!



For your convenience, we have online giving up on our website and in our weekly emails. It allows you to donate to the General Fund and the Special Hunger Jar to Grace Lutheran Church during the month of February. We appreciate all who are continuing to support the many ministries of Desert Cross!

Did you know that Desert Cross offers TEXT giving? It's simple! You can simply text the word "GIVE" to 833.636.1502 and complete the payment information. It securely saves your information and makes it possible to donate in 5 seconds once it has been set up!

All financial information associated with our online and text giving is encrypted and stored by Tithe.ly's banking partner to PCI DSS Level 1 compliant standards, which is the highest possible rating one can get in the electronic payment processing industry.



**Saturdays at 7:30am • Meet at the site: Lot #37100
1313 W Tonto St., Phoenix 85007**

The build is underway on the site for this year's coalition build. This year the recipient is a family of five that moved to Arizona from Cairo, Egypt in 2007—the Alantably Family.

We are always interested in having new people help! Because of the pandemic, volunteer procedures have changed and the schedule has been changing regularly. To sign up to volunteer, please visit the volunteer hub [here](#). It is important to sign up using the link each week you plan on volunteering. Before you volunteer, please read the safety manual so that you are prepared. You can access that [here](#). There is a rain hotline and you can reach it by calling (602) 262-8679, but be sure to listen for Lot #37100. If you have general questions, please contact Vern Lenox.

Recently we shared a video on Facebook about a family whose life was changed with the home that they received from Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona. You can view that video [here](#). The video also highlights the importance of donating to Habitat for Humanity. Charitable donations from members of the congregation are one of the major ways that the Southeast Valley Lutheran Coalition is funded. Information about this is available on our website.



**Visit our website:
www.desertcross.org**

With recent email issues that have occurred, we want to remind the congregation to check the website for information that you are looking for like Weekly Updates from Pastor Andrea and Virtual Worship links—including the videos, worship aids, and children's messages.

We also have spiritual resources and ways to connect with Desert Cross ministries.



Limited Church Office Hours

The church office is still considered closed. However, we do have staff coming into the office each day from 12pm to 2pm. They are checking the mail, processing the offerings, and answering the phone. Staff is also checking e-mails and voicemails if you need to reach someone.

Pastor Andrea is continuing to share progress and information surrounding DCLC decisions in her weekly updates to the congregation. If you would like to read any of those updates, they can be found on the website or by clicking [here](#).

February Birthdays & Milestone Anniversaries

Congratulations to all of our February birthdays and anniversaries. We wish you God's blessings on your special day!

For privacy reasons, Desert Cross does not publish the names and birthdays/anniversaries of our congregation online. The full list of birthdays and anniversaries is available by contacting Maegan Jennett at mjennett@desertcross.org.

Thank you for understanding.

