



DESERT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

SHARING • LOVING • SERVING

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



Find us on
Facebook

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

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

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

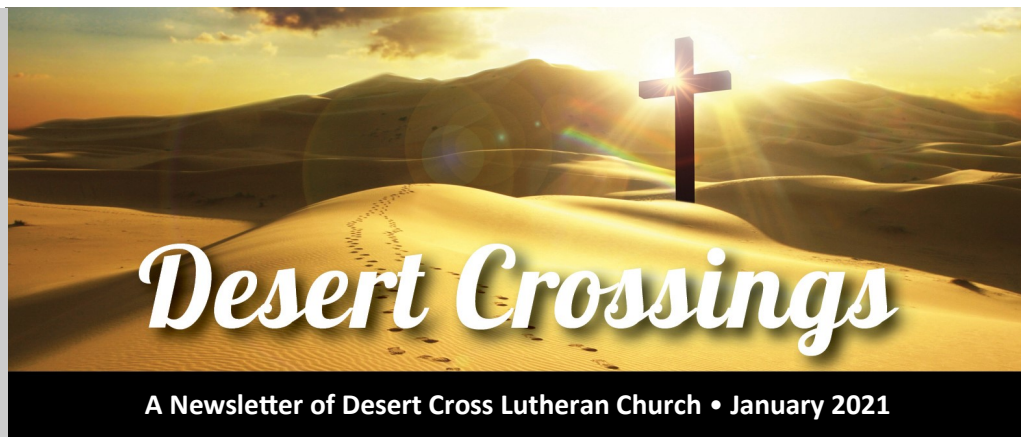
As a missional congregation,
we celebrate Christ's presence,
invite people into a growing
relationship with Jesus and equip
them to serve in a broken world.

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.



Welcome 2021!

Pastor Andrea Cain

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"

Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'"

⁶ Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'"

Revelation 21:5-6



Welcome 2021! It is a new year and a chance to begin again together. We bid farewell to Pastor Doris with thanksgiving and best wishes to close out 2020. And we welcome in 2021 with Pastor Thadd preaching on Sunday, January 10 on our virtual worship. We look forward to his installation during a live worship service via Zoom on Sunday, January 17 at 10am. A welcome reception will follow the installation on Zoom.

2020 was one of the most difficult years on the record book. We have much to mourn, to remember, to learn, and to forget from 2020. But we are not defined by 2020 or the pandemic. Changed, yes. Affected, for sure. Challenged, most definitely. And yet, our identity stands strong on the solid rock of Jesus Christ who promises eternal water to all those who thirst. I pray that we will embrace the new life we receive in our baptism every

single day in 2021. Understanding the daily and ongoing gifts of baptism is vital to our identity as Christians and a focus of Desert Cross as we kick off the new year. Join us in learning all about baptism in all new ways with our January Baptism Playlists for Adults, Youth, and Children! You can learn at your own pace as you embrace the gifts of baptism.

The ongoing theme of change hasn't loosened its grip on Desert Cross, but we abide with the leading of the Spirit, the love of Christ, and the mission of loving our neighbor. This is a time to trust that the One who is the beginning and the end makes all things new in between. We've been as busy as ever in these days with many innovative changes, and we are evaluating our strategic moves into the future! I'm excited about the journey of ministry and mission ahead of us and look forward to all the new things we will do together in the name of Christ, as we live out our baptismal calling to serve our neighbor.

Friends, we are at a crossroads of faith, life, and the mission of the church. Remember that the Lord is making all things new. And trust his promises of steadfast love and presence leading and guiding us into 2021 as it is written in Revelation 21:5: Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Andrea



Pastor Thadd Installation & Celebration

Sunday, January 17 live
at 10am on Zoom



Save the date! We invite the Desert Cross community, along with those in the Fiesta Conference and Grand Canyon Synod, to a special live worship via Zoom for Pastor Thadd's installation. A reception will follow immediately, also on Zoom.

We will send out an email with the Zoom access information the week of the installation.



Welcoming Pastor Thadd & his Family to Arizona

The time that we have waited for is just around the corner! Associate Pastor Thadd Book, his wife, Laura, and sons, Lincoln and Everett are expected to arrive in early January. Because of the pandemic, we will not be able to welcome the Book family in-person for a while. We are hoping that the congregation will mail their best wishes and welcome so that it can be given to the Book family when they arrive.

Please send your card or note welcoming Pastor Thadd and his family to the church office in Tempe. They will be put together and shared with the family upon their arrival to Arizona.

Thank you,
The Call Committee

Lin Bourgeois, Tracy Clark, Maegan Jennett, Erin Pelley,
Chris Stone, and Nancy Zine

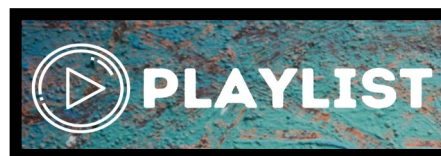
Year End Tax Information

January 1, 2020 is a Friday. Contributions received in the mail during the first week of 2021 with a postmark no later than 12/31/20 will be posted to 2020 Contributions. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Church Office.

Holiday Office Hours

Friday, January 1:
Office Closed for New Year's Day

Monday, January 18:
Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



New Playlists coming January 1

It's a new year and a new approach to Education at Desert Cross. We're growing in faith by using Playlists. Playlists allow us to explore a topic through different ways of learning. You can work through the Playlists at your own pace throughout the month and share your experience on the Desert Cross Faith Formation website. In January we're taking a look at Baptism.

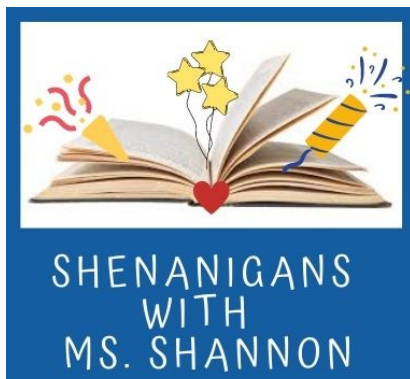
The Playlists are posted on our faith formation website, <https://dclcfathformation.org/>. You can sign up to follow the website at the bottom of the home-page. Then you'll get an email each time we post new content. We'll also post a link to the Playlists on our church website, <http://www.desertcross.org/home>.

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

Come along with us Exploring Faith and Making
Connections!

Pastor Andrea
Daniel Decker
Chad Diegle

Shannon Fossett
Michael Lottes
Denise McClellan



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.

Resumes January 6



Sundays • 1pm-1:30pm • Meeting on Zoom! Meeting January 10 & 24

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!



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.

Zoom, Chat, Pray

Join Pastor Andrea 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



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.

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.

BLOOD DRIVE Saturday, January 16, 2021

The Outreach Ministry and Vitalant (formerly United Blood Services) will be hosting a blood drive on Saturday, January 16, 2021 in the church Community Center on the Tempe campus from 7:30am to 1pm. Art will be contact past donors for sign ups.

You can go on-line to schedule an appointment by logging onto www.bloodhero.com and using desertcross (all one word) as the sponsor code. Another way to schedule an appointment is at any Vitalant office.

You can donate whole blood or power red. There is a need for Type O negative, Type A negative, and Type B negative power red donations. Please remember that when you donate you earn points that can be turned in for prizes.

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



Looking forward to January 2021...



Special Hunger Jar & Gift Card Collection to Restock School Supplies

Mid year restocking of school supplies. Contributions can be made to the Special Hunger Jar online or you can purchase Target, Amazon, and Walmart gift cards and send them to the church office. Please send a note along with the gift cards to let the office know that this is what you intend for them to go towards.

Blood Drive is Saturday, January 16, 2021 from 7:30am to 1pm in the Tempe Community Center. Please sign up ahead of time to donate.



Can YOU help I-HELP?

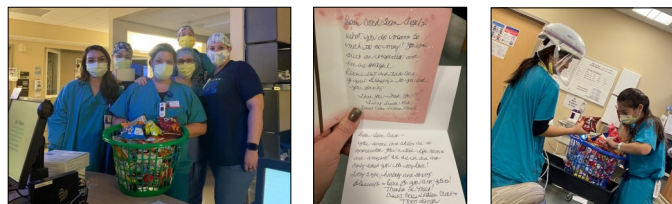


I-HELP is a church wide project hosting those who are homeless and working toward improving their lives. Just one night a month we provide a hot meal and lunches for 15-25 guests. The hosts for each monthly visit have included various church groups including ChristCare, Ringing Praise Choir, Outreach 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.

As 2021 is fast approaching, we need your help to fill up the hosting calendar. Open dates for 2021 are:
January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, 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.



Desert Cross COVID Snack Ministry

The COVID Snack Ministry took a short break and is gearing up to resume again. Paul Gryniwics 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



Angel Tree Thank You!

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your caring spirit and contributions of Target & Walmart gift cards or online giving to the annual Angel Tree project.

Your generous giving assured that 121 children each received a \$25.00 gift card before Christmas. The refugee families and Kyrene Resource Center students were recipients of the gift cards.

Our prayer is that that gift cards will provide joy and excitement, and that the children will know they are loved and valued. It has been a most difficult time to make sure the children were taken care of. It has also been difficult and disappointing for those that look forward to shopping for the wishes expressed on the gift tags from the tree. Thank you for being understanding and flexible.

And a THANK YOU from the Outreach Ministry for the marvelous response to our ministry drives throughout the year. The agencies that we support are extremely grateful.

The Community Outreach Ministry, Tempe



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

The build has begun on the site for this year's coalition build. This year the recipients are 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. We do not have a current schedule available, but we are working on getting this information. For the meantime, if you have any 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.



Have you experienced our online giving platform now that we are using Tithe.ly? If not, we encourage you to check it out! It is very user friendly! You are able to give to the General Fund, the Hunger Jar, and even special giving opportunities when they occur. If you'd prefer, you can even elect to cover the costs of giving online so that those costs aren't passed along to the church.



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](#).

January Birthdays & Milestone Anniversaries

Congratulations to all of our January 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.

