



**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

Tempe // Saturday
5:00pm - Worship

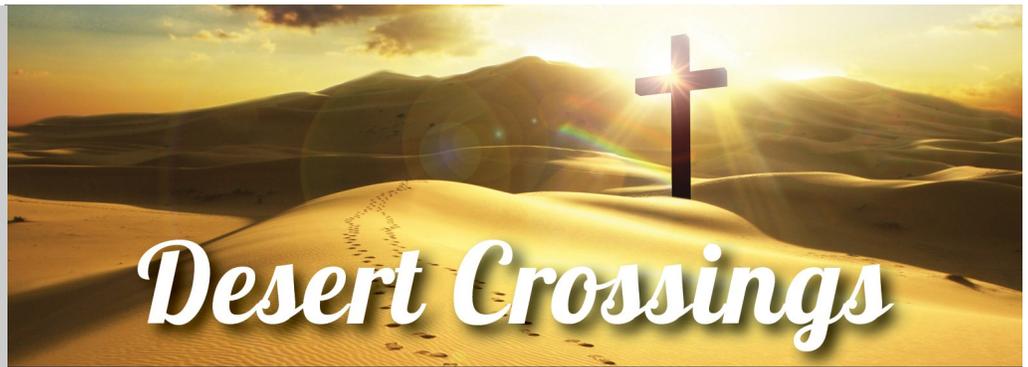
Tempe // Sunday
9:00am - Contemporary Worship
(Live Stream)
10:30am - Worship

Gilbert // Sunday
9:00am - Contemporary Worship

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.



A Newsletter of Desert Cross Lutheran Church • August 2021

Freed to Worship & Serve

Pastor Andrea Cain



"... Use your freedom to serve one another humbly in love."
Galatians 5:13

This little raccoon reminded me of our "post-pandemic" world.

He's almost free, but he's still a little bound up. COVID restrictions still bind us in certain ways, but we are mostly free. We can shop and dine without a mask, but masks are still required in medical facilities. We can resume many of our social activities, return to our offices, and go to movies again. We are free to gather in worship without restrictions when vaccinated and groups are gathering in-person, but we aren't serving food yet.

Jesus promises that the Son sets us free. We are freed from sin so we can focus on loving and serving. Paul tells us in Galatians to use our freedom to serve one another humbly in love. You are invited to use your freedom to worship and serve with us as there's a lot going on at Desert Cross!

Our Tempe worship band and Saturday night worship at 5pm is back and Traditional worship returns in September. The live stream is here to stay for those who can't join in-person! Coffee fellowship resumes in fall, and new worship and education times are outlined in this newsletter. I-HELP is back on-site, and new service opportunities and partnerships are forming with community non-profits who are serving the marginalized people in our communities.

All are welcome to join us as we worship, learn, and serve together. It's never too late to join in, and we will welcome you with open arms and loving hearts. Let's use our freedom together to Share, Love, and Serve in a hurting world.

Free in Christ,
Pastor Andrea



**Back to School Drive
continues collecting
through August!**



Sunday, August 1 • Gilbert & Tempe
It's tradition at Desert Cross to share a special blessing with our students and teachers for their year ahead. Please bring your backpacks with you to church on Sunday, August.

Faith Formation Begins Sunday, September 12



Faith Formation is a lifelong thing. It begins as babies when we're sitting on someone's lap hearing the hymns in a worship service. It grows as we learn the stories of creation and feel the love Jesus showers on us. It expands as we make friends in youth group and do service projects together. Faith Formation continues as we move through the stages of life, studying the Word and growing as disciples.

Worship. Learn. Serve. These are the key parts of Faith Formation at Desert Cross. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 12 and join us as we all learn and grow together.

Tempe Site Sunday Fall Schedule

8:30-9:30am—Traditional Worship

9:30am—Fellowship

9:45-10:15am—Learn

- Children's Education (Parent/Tot - 5th Grade)
- Junior High Education
- High School Education
- Adult Forum

10:30-11:30am—Contemporary Livestream Worship

Gilbert Site Sunday Fall Schedule

9:00-10am—Contemporary Worship

10:00am—Fellowship

10:15-10:45am—Learn

- Children's Education (Parent/Tot - 5th Grade)
- Junior High Education
- High School Education
- Adult Forum



Desert Cross has been awarded an Open Doors Grant! Open Doors is a new initiative to support ELCA congregations in meeting new people as we resume in-person gatherings. With this grant we plan to host an event this fall—*Movie under the Moon*—where we will show a family friendly movie and invite members of the community. Together as the ELCA, we share a ministry goal of connecting with a million new people so that more people may know the way of Jesus. We're looking forward to bringing our idea to life! More details to come!

DCLC Financial Update

2021 Budget \$1,308,780.00

Financial Year through 6/30/2021

Total Gifts \$ 509,014.00

Total Expenses \$ 581,114.00

Difference* \$ (72,100.00)

RENEW Campaign

June 2017 through May 2020

Campaign Goal \$ 452,000.00

Pledge Amount (83% of Goal) \$ 374,697.08

RENEW Projects Completed in 2018: \$ 139,110.00

RENEW Projects Completed in 2018/2019: \$ 78,649.00

RENEW Projects Completed in 2020 \$ 36,387.00

Total Completed Projects \$ 254,146.00

Gifts Available as of 6/30/2021

RENEW Home \$ 94,763.75

RENEW Mission \$ 10,663.25



Presentation by LSS on Asylum Seekers

Sunday, August 29 • 2pm • Tempe Sanctuary

Lutheran Social of the Southwest has been serving asylum seekers since 2019 and throughout the pandemic. This work has continued to evolve over the last years, and their agency, along with the non-profit organization Endeavors, has now started to care for asylum seekers in a hotel in Scottsdale. They will be coming to Desert Cross on Sunday afternoon, August 29 at 2pm to give a presentation about how they serve families and how we can partner with LSS in their work with asylum seekers. Sarah Eary, the Associate Director of Refugee & Immigration Services, has been leading this effort since 2019. She will lead the presentation and answer any questions.



Baptisms

If you are interested in baptism at Desert Cross, please contact Pastor Thadd in the church office at 480-730-8600 or email him at tbook@desertcross.org.



New Member Class

Sunday, September 19
Tempe & Gilbert

If you are new to our community and would like to hear more about partnering in ministry with Desert Cross, join us for our next new member class. We will be offering a class on Sunday, September 19 following the 8:30am worship in Tempe and the 9am worship service in Gilbert. The class will last about an hour and will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you have and will be a chance for us to get to know you better. You can register for the new member class by calling Dawn Collins in the church office or emailing her at dcollins@desertcross.org.

I-HELP is Back at DCLC!

We were thrilled to welcome back I-HELP after 16 months! The first group of guests was small, but so happy to be with us again. For those that don't know, 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, Outreach, Church Council, and even families just getting together to help those in need.



There are only two dates remaining that need your help—September 28 and November 23. Please talk with your 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.

Glenn and Claudia

Are You an Early Riser . . .

. . . Looking for something to do before the rest of us even get out of bed? I-HELP could use you. Once a month (4th Tuesday) we host up to 25 guests in the Tempe Community Center. The following morning, we need someone to arrive around 6am to help our guests get ready to depart by 7am. You'll need to set out their lunches (made the night before), gather up the towels and sheets and drop them off at the laundry. By 8am you'll be home drinking another cup of coffee and reading the newspaper! If you have the time and are interested in helping, please contact Glenn Tischaefter at 920-539-1364 or gtshaver@gmail.com or Claudia Huss at 602-762-9014 or claudiahuss@cox.net



Do you like Snacks? Do you like to Chat?

We are looking for someone with these skills and a desire to coordinate our Snack & Chat fellowship time on the Tempe campus. This role would coordinate families or groups who want to bring and serve a simple snack during the fellowship time and clean up the coffee at the end of the time. Fall programming starts on September 12 and we would like to have things rolling on that Sunday! Interested? Contact Denise Viker, Parish Nurse at dviker@desertcross.org or the church office.

BLOOD DRIVE Saturday, August 21, 2021

The Outreach Ministry and Vitalant will be hosting a blood drive on Saturday, August 21, 2021 in the Desert Cross Community Center on the Tempe campus from 7:30am to 1pm. Art Krzyzewski will be contacting past donors for sign ups.

You can also go on-line to schedule an appointment at <https://donors.vitalant.org> and using "desertcross" (all one word) after selecting Blood Drive 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.



There's always room for Good News in your inbox! Each week Desert Cross shares Modern Day Gospel Stories through our Stories of Joy blog. Sign up to follow our blog at <https://storiesofjoy.org/>. Then share the blog and the stories with your friends and family because everybody loves a good story! If you have any questions, contact Denise McClellan at 480-730-8600 or dmcclellan@desertcross.org.

Jr. High Night

Wednesdays at 7pm • Tempe Community Center
Meeting August 11, 18, & 25

Teens are invited to meet together for fun, fellowship, and to talk about life topics. Please contact Chad at cdiegle@desertcross.org if you have any questions.

High School Night

Sundays at 7pm • Tempe Community Center
Meeting August 8, 15, 22, & 29

We are meeting in-person once again! This is a night of games and group discussion on “real life” topics. Contact Chad Diegle at cdiegle@desertcross.org if you have any questions.



Sunday, August 15 • 1pm-2:30pm • GILBERT Campus
Please note the location change.

Kids Connect is meeting in-person in August at the Gilbert campus. Kids in Kindergarten through 5th Grade are invited to join Ms. Kristen & Ms. Natalie for a loads of fun and friends are always invited!

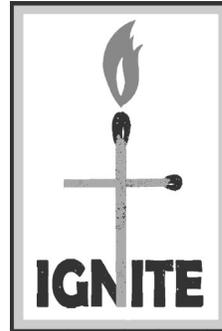
If you have any questions, please email Ms. Kristen at kroehling@desertcross.org.



Wednesday, September 15 • 9am • Gilbert Campus

This class for preschoolers and their caregiver meets every Wednesday at the Gilbert campus for an hour. During this time, we sing songs, use instruments, dance/move, have snack, read a story, and then do a craft. If you have any questions, please email Ms. Shannon at sfossett@desertcross.org.

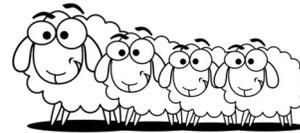
Education resumes Sunday, September 12 in Tempe & Gilbert



Tempe Youth Choir

Calling all youth interested in choir! Those in second grade through high school, we'd love for you to be a part of the youth choir at Desert Cross. This choir performs musical offerings during worship. If you are interested, please contact Christine Soll at csoll@desertcross.org

Bring your flock to the fun!



Family Night resumes in September!

Be on the look out for the date. We are trying something new this year and will be bringing a Parent Faith Formation seminar offered after dinner as a family. Kids and youth are invited to do a service project and play games.



Playlists on Summer Break

We're not posting new Playlists this summer, but we'll continue posting new content on our Desert Cross Faith Formation website throughout the summer. Please sign up to follow the website at <https://dclcfithformation.org/>.

Come along with us. Exploring Faith. Making Connections.

If you have any questions, contact Denise McClellan at dmccllellan@desertcross.org or 480-730-8600.



Worship Assistant Volunteers

As Desert Cross continues to resume normal practices, we find ourselves needing to update our volunteer lists. If you are interested in being a worship assistant (usher, scripture reader, communion assistant, help run power-point or are interested in learning about the live stream (in Tempe) please contact one of our pastors or Art Krzyzewski in Tempe or Sharynn Jennings in Gilbert.



Annual Back to School Drive

Collecting July & August

The Outreach Committee is gathering school supplies for children in need and the classroom. This year we are donating the supplies collected at the Tempe campus to Step Up School and Kyrene Resource Center and from the Gilbert campus to Concordia Charter School. Below is a list of the school supplies used by students and teachers throughout the year. The cost of school supplies continues to rise. **You can help us provide the children and teachers with everything they need!**

Grace Pancake Breakfast



Desert Cross has been feeding the homeless at Grace Lutheran Church since 1999. We took a break during the height of the pandemic with the uncertainty of COVID and some of the restrictions, but starting in May, we are back to serving. We have enough volunteers for May, but there are dates for the rest of 2021 that we need volunteers for:

Sunday, August 22
Sunday, September 26
Sunday, October 24

What is involved? Arrive at Grace Lutheran (1124 N. 3rd St., Phoenix 85004) by 6:30am; carpooling can be arranged. Put on a hairnet & wash your hands. After that, there are jobs large and small for folks young and old. Between 12 and 15 volunteers are needed each month. A breakdown of each job is available by emailing Joy Petroff at joylpetroff@gmail.com. Please let Joy know that you are interested in serving by emailing or calling 480-390-7396.

Student Supplies:

- Pencils—No. 2
- Pencil Cases—plastic boxes or cloth pouches
- Eraser/Eraser Tips
- Spiral Notebooks
- White Lined Filler Paper
- Crayons
- Rulers
- Colored Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Children’s Scissors
- Binders—1” - 2”

Teacher Supplies:

- White Copy Paper
- Dry Erase Board Markers
- Two Pocket Folders
- Construction Paper
- Card Stock Paper—white or any color
- Sheet Protectors

Gift cards to Office Supply stores or Walmart/Target are always welcome.



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.dclcfathformation.org.

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



Church Office Hours

Desert Cross has returned to pre-pandemic office hours in Tempe. Staff is working in their offices when their ministries are best served this way. In following the CDC guidelines, we are asking all non-vaccinated or ill people to wear face masks when on campus, especially inside.



At-Home Communion Kits

If you are unable to attend worship and would like a communion kit to use as you watch the livestream, you can pick one up from the office in Tempe or if you are in Gilbert, you can call Nancy Zine at 602-568-5677 and she will happily deliver a communion kit to you.



DCLC Website: www.desertcross.org

Have you visited the Desert Cross website recently? It is the same web address as before, but with a whole new look. We invite you to check it out and continue to explore! You may be surprised by all of the resources that are available there.

August Birthdays & Milestone Anniversaries

Congratulations to all of our August 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.



610 S. Alma School Suite 30 • Chandler, AZ 85224
10am-3pm • Mon. through Sat. • (480) 857-8310
www.treasuresthift.com

Students of all ages—we hope you have a wonderful and successful year. Hidden Treasures can help with backpacks, clothing, and books. Teachers, our store has a selection of books to fill your classroom library. Most paperbacks are \$0.50 and most children's hardbacks are \$1.00. Our books include Newberry and Caldecott winners.

Volunteers: We have a place for you! Hidden Treasures has many schedules and volunteer opportunities. You will make a difference and will make new friends. You are needed. Drop by and talk to Laura, our manager, or a day manager.

Department Highlights: Our furniture department has a variety of items. College students might find that perfect item for their apartment, or dishes and kitchen ware. Stop by and investigate.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT HIDDEN TREASURES. WE WOULD NOT BE WHERE WE ARE WITHOUT YOU!



Give to DCLC with Tithe.ly

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 for the month. 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.