



## 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

**\*\*Worship at 9am (live stream) &  
10:30am in Tempe and  
9am in Gilbert\*\*\***

**Tempe // Saturday**  
5pm - Worship

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

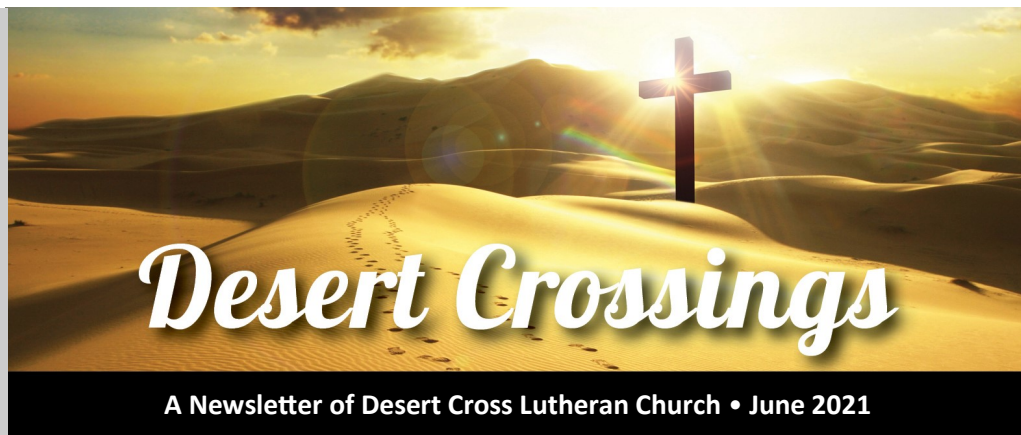
**Gilbert // Sunday**  
9:00am - Contemporary Worship  
10:00am - Fellowship  
10:15am - Education

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.



A Newsletter of Desert Cross Lutheran Church • June 2021

## Living Hope

Pastor Andrea Cain

*In his great mercy he  
has given us new  
birth into a living  
hope... 1 Peter 1:3*



My dad shared this photo of new robin eggs in a new nest by his front door. It is a picture of new life and a living hope! Mrs. Robin built her nest against all odds in the hanging plant! It was a challenge. There are many dangers and distractions by the front door. In order to craft her nest in the small space of the plant pot, she worked to shove the plant over to make room. Now she sits and waits for the fruits of her labor.

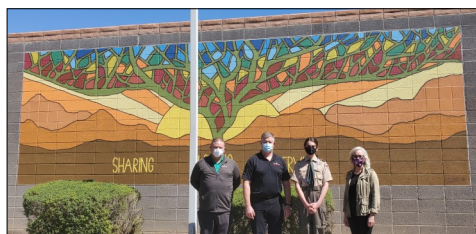
We in the church are a lot like Mrs. Robin. We face many challenges ahead as we work together to bring new life to the church so we can share the hope we have in Christ. The pandemic, changing culture, and shifting priorities of people today invite the church to find new ways to connect with, engage, and love our neighbors.

The fruits of our labor will be increased connection within and outside our walls, growth in engagement with new people through virtual opportunities, and discovery of new mission opportunities around us. Your pastors, staff, and leadership are leading the way to overcome the new challenges we face.

Just like the hard work Mrs. Robin put into her nest, our work together has been and will be challenging. As for Mrs. Robin, she will now need plenty of patience and good listening skills for threats to her nest, as she sits on the eggs and waits for her babies to hatch. Likewise, we at Desert Cross must be patient, kind, and listen together for the leading of the Holy Spirit. Only then, united by God's great mercy, will we give birth to new mission, sharing hope in a post-pandemic world.

Amen,

*Pastor Andrea*



## NEW Mural at the Tempe Campus

Read all about Anderson Conkle's  
Eagle Scout project on Page 5.



## #DCLCGives Tuesday, June 22

Mark your calendar for Desert Cross' inaugural Day of Giving! Our goal is \$30,000! Keep your eyes alert and your ears perked for more information to come!



## Congratulations to our 2021 Confirmation Students

We celebrated Confirmation at our 9am & 10:30am services on Pentecost Sunday, May 23 in the Tempe Sanctuary. This event is a joyous day in the lives of the teens, their families, and our church.

Confirmation at Desert Cross is a long journey. Our youth have invested many hours over the past several years, and have now affirmed their faith. During their time together, they covered the Old Testament, New Testament, Commandments, Sacraments, Prayers, and the value of serving others.

Please join us in congratulating our newest Confirmands:

Rachel Barnard  
Stephanie Kaiser Borning  
Jenna Carter-Easton  
Anderson Conkle  
Josh Fossett

Sadie Krizan  
Madison Mertens  
Grace Reider  
Natalie Smith  
Shelby Watts



## Virtual VBS

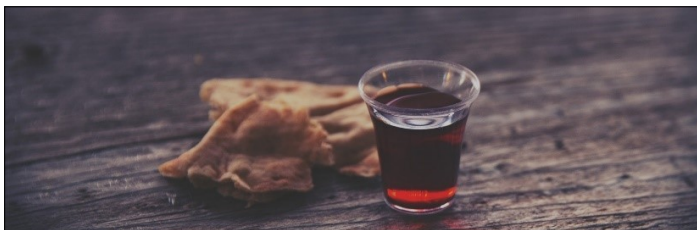
June 14–17

Mark your calendar for the week of June 14th. We are bringing VBS to your kids! Similar to last summer's format, we will be doing a virtual VBS, but with a "totally tubular" new theme BOLT: Totally 80's! This

means that you can do VBS with out-of-state cousins and friends! Invite your neighbors!!!

Plus, this year we will kick off the week with a Zoom event! We will all gather over Zoom, see our friends virtually, and get this fun week started! Information and Registration forms can be found on the website. Don't miss the fun...This is going to be SO RAD!

Please note: Virtual VBS Totally 80's supply buckets will be free to all who register. If you would like to make a donation to cover the cost of these supplies, you can do so by selecting "[VBS Donation](#)" option when using online giving or mark VBS on an envelope when donating in-person or sending to the church office.



## At-Home Communion Kits

As the weather has gotten warmer, we are no longer putting communion kits outside. 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.

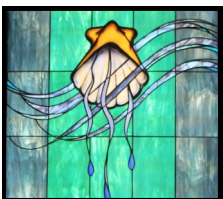


## Worship Assistant Volunteers

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 when the time comes, help run powerpoint 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.

## Worship Need in Gilbert

You are invited to serve on the Altar Guild in Gilbert. No experience needed, we'll train you! Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve the DCLC Gilbert community. Contact Nancy Zine at 602-568-5677 if you are interested.



## Baptisms

Desert Cross is resuming baptisms. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Thadd in the church office at 480-730-8600 or email him at [tbook@desertcross.org](mailto:tbook@desertcross.org).

## Endowment Scholarship

The Endowment Committee is accepting scholarship applications for the 2021-2022 academic year. The scholarships are available for college freshman and may be renewed for continuing college students. New applicants must submit a faith paper along with the application. Please visit the Desert Cross [website](#) for applications and more information. Scholarships are available only to members of Desert Cross Lutheran Church. **The application deadline is Tuesday, June 15.** The Endowment Committee members will review the applications later in June.



## Will you help beautify the altar in Tempe with flowers?

The flower chart is back up in Tempe for those folks who would like to sponsor altar flowers in the Tempe Sanctuary during 2021. If you are celebrating a special day, please consider donating flowers to mark that day. You may sign up on the flower chart in the Tempe narthex or contact Dawn Collins at 480-730-8600 or [dcollins@desertcross.org](mailto:dcollins@desertcross.org).



**Sundays • 1pm-1:30pm • Meeting on Zoom!  
Meeting June 6**

Kids Connect is meeting virtually! Kids in grades Kindergarten through 5th are invited to join Ms. Kristen for 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.

## Volunteer at Jose's Closet

Gilbert Mission & Outreach is supporting Jose's Closet during the month of June as they are in the process of moving to a new location and need assistance. In May, we had volunteers help with sorting and boxing goods. In June, they need assistance with the packing, driving, and unloading of trailers at the new location every Saturday. If you are able to help, please reach out to Wendy Esquibel at 480-313-8496 (she is our contact) or Angie Stone at 630-401-7336.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:cdiegle@desertcross.org) for meeting information.



## Undies for Everyone



**Undies Sundays**  
Collecting through June

The Outreach Committee will be holding an Underwear and Socks drive at the Tempe campus. We are looking for NEW packaged children's underwear—any size, any color—boxers or briefs—for boys or girls. Socks in all colors and sizes are welcome. These items will be donated to the Step Up School and Kyrene Resource Center.



## Children's Books for Concordia Charter School

The Gilbert campus is collecting new and gently used Children's Books for Concordia Charter School. Early reading books for grades Kindergarten through 6th Grade are appreciated. This is an immediate need, but will become an on-going collection.



## Medical Supplies for Concordia Charter School

The Gilbert campus is collecting medical items for Concordia Charter School. While the need is immediate, these items will become an on-going collection.

Donations needed: Children's Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Cough Drops, Cough Syrup, Band-aids, Lice Kits, Chapstick, Hydrogen Peroxide, Antiseptic Wipes, and Neosporin.

## I-HELP Still Needs a Little Help

As the world is slowly opening up, I-HELP again says THANK YOU for our continued support. More and more churches are beginning to open their doors and host again. While we are not quite ready to do so, we do still provide food monthly.

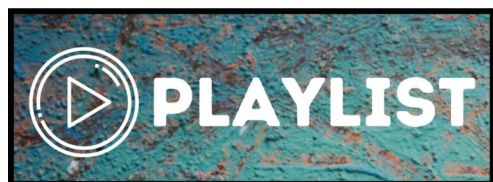


Thank you to the groups who have supported this mission so far this year. We have just four open dates and hope others will step up and provide nourishing meals to those in need. If you have a group interested, just let us know. If you just want to help, let us know and we can put together a group. It's fun and you are supporting an incredible program. The Tuesday dates that still need volunteers are: July 27, September 28, November 23, and December 28. Check your calendars and check with your friends, then please call or email either of us with any questions or if you can help.

Blessings to all,  
Glenn Tischaefter and Claudia Huss

Glenn: 902-539-1364  
gtshaver@outlook.com

Claudia: 602-762-9014  
claudiahuss@cox.net



## Playlists on Summer Break

We're not posting new Playlists this summer. 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://dclcfathformation.org/>

Come along with us. Exploring Faith. Making Connections.

If you have any questions, contact Denise McClellan at [dmcclellan@desertcross.org](mailto:dmcclellan@desertcross.org).

## 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](mailto:joylpetroff@gmail.com). Please let Joy know that you are interested in serving by emailing or calling 480-390-7396.



## Taking a Break

Zoom, Chat, Pray is taking a break for the summer. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this time of virtual fellowship!



# STORIES OF JOY

SPREADING HOPE IN THE WORLD

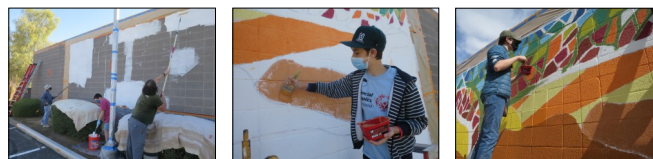
Even as our conditions improve, we are still living through some uncertain times and can use some Good News in our email. Each week Desert Cross shares Modern Day Gospel Stories through our Stories of Joy blog. Sign up to follow our blog at [storiesofjoy.org](http://storiesofjoy.org). If you have any questions, contact Denise McClellan at [dmccllellan@desertcross.org](mailto:dmccllellan@desertcross.org) or 480-730-8600.



## Silver Award Service

Last Fall when the world and everyone was working through life's changes, Cali Armstrong and Gracie Murad brought some sunshine to Cali's parish St. Andrews Church and Gracie's parish Desert Cross Lutheran Church through their Silver Award for Girl Scouts. The Silver Award is a fifty hour sustainable service project where Cali and Gracie volunteered. The girls organized supply cabinets, assembled religious education supply bags, created a volunteer opportunity sheet for religious education students, alphabetized completion certificates, helped organize the filing system for up-to-date information, and gathered old papers to be shredded. Cali and Gracie both said, "We enjoyed organizing the spaces because it made us feel good and we were helping the wonderful people who needed it."

Cali and Gracie most recently completed the fifty hours of volunteer work and will receive a Silver Award pin, badge, and certificate for their outstanding achievement. They both enjoyed their experience and plan on continuing to volunteer for both parishes. They hope their work will encourage others to volunteer because there is always something someone can help with to make a difference.



## Desert Cross has some NEW Art

Desert Cross is the charter organization for Scout Troop 379 and where we hold our meetings when we meet in person. I have been involved in Scouting for seven years, joining as a Tiger Scout when I was just seven years old. As I advanced towards Eagle Scout, the highest rank in scouting, one of the requirements is to plan and lead an Eagle Scout project. Being a member of both Desert Cross and Scout Troop 379, I wanted to blend my passion for art while giving back to our community. I designed and submitted a proposal for a 25 foot by 9 foot mural for the church. In preparing for my project, I visited many local stores to ask if they would help donate any supplies and materials. I am thankful for the contributions I received, but one store went above and beyond. Mr. Andrew Blatnick, the owner of AAA Paint and Supply (a Benjamin Moore store located at Warner & McClintock), donated all of the primer and paint required for the mural, which totaled to several hundred dollars. I am very grateful for their generosity to my project and their contributions to our local community.

This was a big project, and I am very grateful for the help; over 25 people volunteered across three week-ends in COVID-safe shifts to complete the mural.

I am thankful for being able to beautify the church, and I hope that as the theme suggests, that the words along the bottom will inspire others as much as they inspired me.

Thanks,  
Anderson Conkle

## Congratulations!

### 2021 Graduates

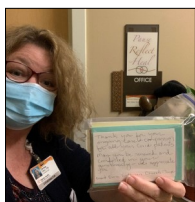
We know that this year wasn't what you imagined your senior year to look like, but we want to continue to tell you how proud we are of your accomplishments. You have been in our prayers and will continue to be as you prepare for your next steps and all that the future holds for you. God is with you and we are all encouraged and hopeful for the future!

## 20 Words of Hope

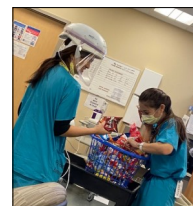
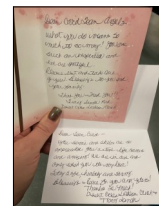
Desert Cross is continuing its efforts to show appreciation and support to COVID-19 caregivers as well as to encourage their resilience through meaningful recognition.



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. In fact, the picture here is from one of her recent drop offs. Thank you to those who are supporting this ministry!



## DCLC COVID Snack Ministry

The COVID Snack Ministry took a short break and is back. 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](mailto:shoemakercraig@sau.edu)

## Dogs 4 Vets Update

Angela Nannenga, former Church Council & Gilbert Chamber Member

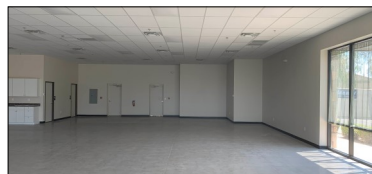
Hello there! My name is Angela Nannenga, and I help to lead the Gilbert Chamber at Desert Cross. The Gilbert Chamber is a leadership committee at the Gilbert campus that was created when a need for more organization at this location arose. It is a group of nine people, seven leaders of committees such as mission and outreach, and finance and stewardship, and two Council members who regularly attend in Gilbert.

This past year has been a time of great transition and change for all of us, and during this time the Gilbert campus has been going through a transition as well. In 2019, one of our long-time tenants, Dogs4Vets, proposed an exciting opportunity. Dogs4Vets is a nonprofit association that helps disabled veterans gain more freedom in their daily lives through the training and emotional support of service dogs. Dogs4Vets was founded in 2005 and quickly became one of the largest programs of its kind in the whole nation. With the help of educated trainers, many of whom are disabled vets or family members, they train service dogs at no cost to the veteran. Disabled veterans relocate to Gilbert from all over the nation to be a part of this great program.

The proposal by Dogs4Vets centered around providing three years of rent upfront to renovate two of our suites that were unusable. These suites were completely unfinished and were not able to be used for any programs at Desert Cross. After much deliberation and prayer, the Council voted to accept this offer. At the March 2020

Annual Meeting, this proposal was presented to the congregation, who also voted in favor of moving forward. Construction for this project began in late January this year, and is now almost finished. The suites that were renovated are 101 and 102, which is now one big suite and will now be numbered suite 101. This space has been beautifully renovated with the Gilbert Chamber helping in making decisions along the way. As of right now, we are awaiting the Town of Gilbert's final approval. When the project is finished, Dogs4Vets will vacate their current rented suites, 104 and 105, and move into suite 101 (formerly 101 and 102), and will share suite 103 with Desert Cross. At the time of occupancy, Dogs4Vets three-year lease will begin with an option for a fourth year to be revisited at that time.

What does this mean for Desert Cross? In summary, by accepting this offer from Dogs4Vets, we have been able to build out two suites that were previously not able to be used. Dogs4Vets has a three-year lease with us with an option for a fourth year, after that time, the space that was previously unusable will be ready for use by Desert Cross. We are excited for what lies ahead for us and the opportunities that this will give us to expand our ministry in the future.



*This picture is what the completed newly named suite 101 looks like.*



## Baby Box Safe Sleep Project

Thanks for the huge outpouring of love from our members at Desert Cross, the Baby Safe Sleep Project was a tremendous success. Your generosity and kindness are a blessing.

The Special Hunger Jar donations enabled us to purchase many gift cards, diapers, sets of baby bottles, toiletries, and oodles of adorable baby clothes.

A special thanks to Gabriel at Once Upon a Child at Southern & McClintock who gave us extra discounts and helped us shop, making our dollars go even farther.

Finally, thank you to Thrivent Financial, not only for their funding grant, but also their encouragement as we launched this project.

This ended up being an awesome outreach project. Your donations are helping teenage parents in foster care, and encouraging them to take the parenting classes they need for themselves and their newborns.

Thank you for making a difference!



## 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.dclcfaithformation.org](http://www.dclcfaithformation.org).

If you have any questions, contact Denise McClellan at [dmcclellan@desertcross.org](mailto:dmcclellan@desertcross.org).



## 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.

## June Birthdays & Milestone Anniversaries

Congratulations to all of our May 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](mailto:mjennett@desertcross.org).

Thank you for understanding.



## Church Office Hours

Desert Cross is continuing to evaluate how to best utilize our resources while also following CDC guidelines and showing love to our neighbors. Office hours are one of the areas that is still being discussed. For now, we will continue to have staff in the office each day from 12pm to 2pm. As those hours change, we will announce them in the Weekly Updates and on the Desert Cross website.