



**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

**Beginning September 12:**

**Tempe // Sunday**  
8:30am—Traditional Worship  
9:30am—Fellowship  
9:45am—Education  
10:30am - Contemporary Worship  
with Livestream

**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.

This is our last monthly newsletter.  
We are excited to move forward with  
more digital content because it will  
allow news and announcements to  
get out to the congregation in a more  
timely manner.



# Desert Crossings

A Newsletter of Desert Cross Lutheran Church • September 2021

## Join the Parade

Pastor Thaddeus Book

In the book, "Love Does," Bob Goff tells the story about sitting around on New Year's Day with his three kids completely and totally bored. Bob thought it was unimaginable that anyone could be bored on New Year's Day so he came up with an idea. Bob and his family would lead a parade on their street. So Bob's family went house to house telling the neighbors about the parade. But there was a catch. Bob and his family decided that no one could watch the parade from the sidelines. The only way you could see the parade was to be in the parade. You had to be involved.

And so a few neighbors joined in. The small parade marched to the end of the street and had a cookout. More than a decade later, the New Year's parade is a tradition. Hundreds of people join in, still nobody can watch unless they are in the parade and the day has not been boring since. Not only has it not been boring for Bob's family, it hasn't been boring for hundreds of neighbors as well.

People in the neighborhood know each other better because of the parade. The parade has allowed the people the chance to get to spend time with one another enjoying the presence of one another. They have a chance to see

each other dress up, perform fun tricks as they make their way down the road, and just revel in the company they share with one another.

That is a great image for us here at Desert Cross. This faith community is a place where everyone has the opportunity to participate and nobody stands on the sidelines. A place where we are all enhanced because of the gifts that we share with one another. A place where we get to know one another better because of time we spend with each other.

As we begin the programming year, there are many opportunities to become a part of the parade. Whether you have been a part of the parade since the beginning or just a month or two, jump into the parade and participate. Your God given gifts will enhance this community and make our parade even more festive and enjoyable. So join us on Sunday mornings and look through this newsletter and find ways to join the parade. The parade is better when you are involved!

Peace,  
*Pastor Thadd*



## Education resumes Sunday, September 12 in Tempe & Gilbert

We offer education for ALL ages!  
There's something for newborns  
through Adults. Please note: In Tempe,  
Education is between the two worship  
services. You can find the complete  
schedule with details on the next page.

# 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)  
We offer a Littlest Lutherans class for parents and their children under the age of 3. Pre-K and elementary kids will gather in the gym at 9:45am for a quick song and then move to classes to explore the Gospel/theme of the week through fun hands-on activities and games.
- Junior High Education  
Junior High education will be for our students in grades 6-8. We will offer Biblical discussions, and we'll periodically host guest speakers to chat about their unique skills, stories, and careers.

- High School Education  
High School education will provide Biblical and topical discussions as well as a time to learn and grow with one another.
- Adult Forum  
We're choosing a monthly theme based on the lessons read during the worship services. We'll explore the theme by discussing the lessons and using the Adult Playlist posted each month on our Faith Formation Website.

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)  
We offer a Littlest Lutherans class for parents and their children under the age of 3. Pre-K and elementary kids will gather in a classroom at 10:15am for a quick song and then explore the Gospel/theme of the week through fun hands-on activities and games.
- Junior High & High School Education  
Students 6th grade-high school will be combined for our education time. Chad Diegle will lead the group in Biblical, current events, and topical conversations. We will also host guest speakers to share their stories, skills, and career insights.
- Adult Forum  
We're choosing a monthly theme based on the lessons read during the worship services. We'll explore the theme by discussing the lessons and using the Adult Playlist posted each month on our Faith Formation Website.



## New Playlists coming September 1

Each month we choose a theme to explore through Playlists designed for Children, Youth, and Adults. What's a Playlist? A Playlist focuses on a topic and explores it through scripture, music, videos, articles, etc. Welcome is our theme for September, and we'll post the Playlists on our Desert Cross Faith Formation Website. Please sign up to follow the website at <https://dclcfaitformation.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) or 480-730-8600.



## Register TODAY for our Fall programming!

We are so excited to be offering in-person programming this year like Sunday morning Faith Formation Education, Joyful Noises, and Family Night. Please use the link on the website to register or you can find the form [here](#). By registering, you help us plan for our ministries.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Fossett at [sfossett@desertcross.org](mailto:sfossett@desertcross.org)

## New Service Opportunities Coming for Desert Cross

Several years ago, I heard Pastor Andrea ask the following question: Desert Cross is a mission-focused congregation, so why don't we have someone on staff heading up Missional Service Opportunities? After moving through our groundWORK 2019 Listening Sessions, it was clear that our congregation thirsts for more ways to serve, and it underscored Pastor Andrea's question. Those listening sessions told us that you want to serve, and you want to serve Outside the Walls of Desert Cross. That's exciting!

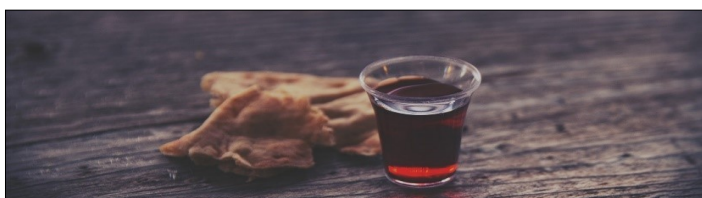
Recently, Pastor Andrea asked me another question: Would you be willing to help Desert Cross explore new Missional Service Opportunities? And I said Yes! The idea is for us to partner with non-profits near our two sites. You told us in those listening sessions that you want to get out into the neighborhood and serve. So, over the next few months I'll be contacting non-profits near Desert Cross Gilbert and Desert Cross Tempe. I'll be gathering information to learn how we might be of help to them in their work for those in need. Be patient with me as this will take some time, but I look forward to bringing you new ways to serve in the coming months.

In Joyful Service,  
Denise McClellan  
Director of Adult Ministries and Missional Service



### Worship Assistant Volunteers

With ministries in full swing this month, it's time to update our volunteer lists. If you are interested in being a worship assistant such as an usher, scripture reader, communion assistant, help run PowerPoint, or are interested in learning about the live stream (in Tempe) please contact one of our pastors, Art Krzyzewski in Tempe, or Sharynn Jennings in Gilbert.



### 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.



## 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](mailto:dcollins@desertcross.org).

### Office Hours in Gilbert

Thursdays at 9am-12pm • Gilbert Fellowship Hall  
Pastor Thadd is now offering office hours in Gilbert every Thursday morning. So, stop by to say hello, bring a prayer request, share about your week, or drop off a donut (Boston Crème are a particular favorite).



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

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

#### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, September 6 - In observance of Labor Day



## Do you like Snacks? Do you like to Chat?

We are looking for volunteers to support our Snack & Chat fellowship ministry on Sunday morning in Tempe. Fall programming starts on September 12 and we would like to have things rolling on that Sunday! If you are interested in helping to 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, please reach out to Denise Viker, Parish Nurse at [dviker@desertcross.org](mailto:dviker@desertcross.org) or the church office.

## ChrisCare Group Ministry

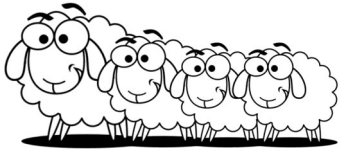
The pandemic taught us many things. One of those vital lessons is the importance of being connected to community. Whether it's family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or church, community is vital for our health. Desert Cross offers our ChristCare Small Group Ministry to help you get connected. If you're interested in learning more about our small groups, please contact Denise McClellan at [dmccllellan@desertcross.org](mailto:dmccllellan@desertcross.org) or 480-730-8600.

## Wise Guys

**Mondays at 9am • Tempe Fellowship Hall**

Are you a guy? Are you wise? Join other Wise Guys every Monday for coffee and fellowship.

Bring your flock to the fun!



## Family Night

**Wednesday, Sept. 29 • 5:30pm-7pm • Tempe**

Come for dinner as a family. After dinner, adults will be doing a Parenting for Faith Course. The kids and youth will do a service project. Then Chad will pull the 7th-9th graders for a Confirmation lesson while the kids do some fun games and activities. High Schoolers are invited to come and help with the kids!

More information can be found on the website. Please RSVP using the sign up genius link on the webpage or you can access it [here](#).

LIVES CONNECTING



HOPES PROJECTING

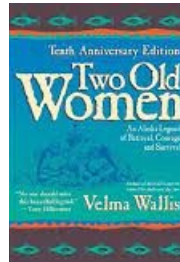
## What Can I Depend On?

Angela Borchers, Stewardship Team Chair

A friend of mine was getting very frustrated and feeling pretty hopeless. Things she thought she could depend on, she couldn't; people she thought she could depend on, disappeared when she needed them most. She looked at me and said, "What can anyone depend on?" I had been thinking about this as I listened and I said, "The sun is going to set tonight and rise in the morning!" That you can depend on! Then I realized, that is God and his creation and we can depend on him, no matter what.

At Desert Cross, we want to be dependable. We want to give abundantly for the ministries that count on us. My friend is feeling better. I think sometimes we forget to pray to our dependable God and that he will be there through the frustrations of life and give us hope.

*"For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."* Romans 1:20



## Book Group Returns!

**Two Old Women:  
An Alaska Legend of  
Betrayal, Courage, and  
Survival**

**Thursdays, Sept. 16 & 23 @ 7pm OR**

**Thursdays, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7 @ 2pm**

**Tempe Community Center Adult Classroom**

We'll gather to discuss *Two Old Women: An Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage, and Survival* by Velma Wallis. The book explores life and decisions made in an Athabaskan Indian tribe.

Book Fee: \$13.50 with Scholarships Available.

To register for the afternoon group, contact Lola Peterson at [lolabluebirds@gmail.com](mailto:lolabluebirds@gmail.com) or 602-686-2865.

To register for the evening group, contact Denise McClellan at [dmccllellan@desertcross.org](mailto:dmccllellan@desertcross.org) or 480-730-8600.

# JOYFUL NOISES



Begins Wednesday,  
September 8 • 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.

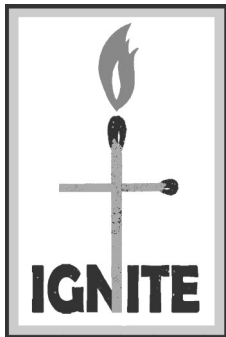
If you have any questions, please email Ms. Shannon at [sfossett@desertcross.org](mailto:sfossett@desertcross.org).



Sunday, September 19 • 1pm-2:30pm  
GILBERT Campus

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

If you have any questions, please email Ms. Natalie at [nsmith@desertcross.org](mailto:nsmith@desertcross.org).



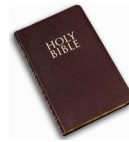
## Tempe Youth Choir

Saturdays at 3pm • Tempe Sanctuary  
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](mailto:csoll@desertcross.org)



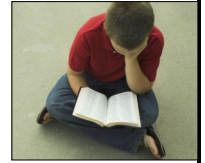
## Baptisms

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](mailto:tbook@desertcross.org).



## 1st & 2nd Graders Receive Bibles Sunday, September 26

Desert Cross is committed to faith formation. It is part of the promise that we make to each child and family at baptism.



As part of that promise, every fall, we gift first & second graders with a new Bible and bless them before the congregation. This year, on Sunday, September 26 at the 9am service in Gilbert and the 10:30am service in Tempe, we will be gifting and blessing the Bibles for our first and second graders.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:cdiegle@desertcross.org) if you have any questions.



## Gilbert Junior Choir

Saturdays at 4pm

Junior Choir offers a chance for young persons in grades 2-8 who enjoy singing to serve in worship. In addition to songs and hymns of the church, we have fun playing bells and other instruments. If you would like to be involved or have questions, contact Carolyn Perkins at [Carolyn.perkins@q.com](mailto:Carolyn.perkins@q.com).



## Winter Clothing & Blanket Drive

Collecting September 5—26

We here in Arizona do not have the benefit of four seasons. Our weather changes from brutally hot monsoon days to cold chilling nights. Since COVID-19, there are many more less fortunate in our community left without a place to stay or even items to keep them warm. Many seek assistance for warm clothing from Kyrene Resource Center and Paz de Christo. We at Desert Cross have a golden opportunity to help stock the shelves at these two facilities by participating in our “Warm Clothing & Blanket Drive.”

The items you choose to donate may be new or “gently used” and in ALL sizes and colors.

**The following items are always needed:** hats, scarves, gloves, sweaters, jackets, vests, sweat shirts, sweat pants, socks, and shoes. There is also a request for blankets, quilts, and sleeping bags.

Your donations may be placed in the Outreach Collection bin in the Tempe Narthex between Sunday, September 5 and Sunday, September 26.

Many Blessings to ALL of you for your generous giving to this Warm Clothing & Blanket Drive!

## 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, but we have been back since May and we’re happy to be serving once again. Volunteer dates for the rest of 2021:

**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.

## 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](mailto:gtshaver@gmail.com) or Claudia Huss at 602-762-9014 or [claudiahuss@cox.net](mailto:claudiahuss@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](mailto:dmcclellan@desertcross.org).

## BLOOD DRIVE Saturday, October 30, 2021

The Outreach Ministry and Vitalant will be hosting a blood drive on Saturday, October 30, 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](mailto:krzyarty@cox.net).



Find everything on the  
DCLC Website:  
[www.desertcross.org](http://www.desertcross.org)

This is our last monthly newsletter because we will be utilizing the News and Events pages of our website. We will continue to have the Weekly Updates as well as the announcement slides.



### Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride

This is Art Krzyzewski and I will be riding in my 30th consecutive bike ride on October 9th & 10th, 2021.

You can donate on-line by pledging at: Bike MS Arizona 2021. Then look for my name. You can pay through Venmo, Apple Pay, Pay Pal, e-checks, or credit card.

I will be at the Tempe campus every Saturday and Sunday until the bike ride. I can take pledges and donations then or you can contact me at [krzyarty@cox.net](mailto:krzyarty@cox.net) or 602-292-0663. Thank you so much for your support!



610 S. Alma School Suite 30 • Chandler, AZ 85224  
10am-3pm • Mon. through Sat. • (480) 857-8310  
[www.treasuresthirt.com](http://www.treasuresthirt.com)

Fall Is Coming! The temperatures are still high, but the kids are back in school and Fall activities and holidays are coming. We hope you will think of Hidden Treasures for Fall decorations, clothing, or perhaps a backpack to use for some hikes.

Every Monday, clothing will be 50% off at Hidden Treasures. This means most clothes will be \$2! Stop by on a Monday and search for “new” clothes to add to your closet. We carry Men’s, Women’s, and Children’s clothing.

**Department Spotlight:** Furniture. Hidden Treasures has furniture in our main store and also in another store in our shopping center. Please check with the cashier to see if someone is available to help you in Space 2. We receive a wide variety of items, dressers, bookcases, couches, etc. We also have a variety of pictures, frames, and lamps.

#### Donations Needed:

Crafts—yarn and needles, sewing notions, and crafts for children.

Books—fiction, science fiction, and magazines.

Kitchen—pots, pans, working coffee pots and blenders.

Games and puzzles for all ages, Jewelry, and Pet supplies.

## September Birthdays & Milestone Anniversaries

Congratulations to all of our September 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.

