



February is here! This month can remind you of God's endless love for each of us! How can we share that love with others?

Brainstorm with your family and try some out this month...here are a few ideas to get you started.

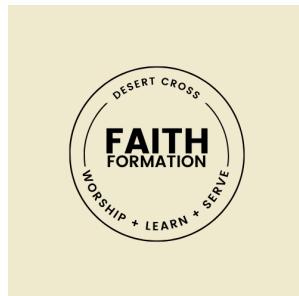
♥ Make Valentines for a Care Center or hospital patients.

♥ Bake cookies for a neighbor.

♥ Write a letter to your mailman, garbage man, grocery clerk, etc thanking them for what they do!

♥ Paint a picture for your Grandparents and mail it to them.

We LOVE having families in worship and parents a part of their children's faith development!! Thank you to families for your commitment and participation each Sunday! We have Sunday school each Sunday the month of February. See you there!!



Faith Formation: The theme for Lent will be "Wholeness" and you can find the playlist here:

<https://dclcfaithformation.org/children-playlists/>

The article on the faith formation page will have an article about an interesting Lent tradition of building a lego set one brick at time during Lent.

<https://dclcfaithformation.org/children/>

### "Invite a friend" Month



This month invite a friend to come with you to Worship, Education, Joyful Noises parent-tot, Kids Connect, and/or Children's choir! These programs are fun, but would be double the fun with a friend!



### Family and Faith:

#### Love Jar:

Start a tradition this Valentine's Day by creating your own "love jar." Decorate a jar with stickers, ribbons, or paper. Cut patterned paper into strips, giving each family member their own pattern. Encourage each family to fill the jar with love notes, quotes, verses, and special affirmations for each person. On V-day sit down together, share some chocolate, and read the notes as a family.

You can also find other times during the year to share the notes in the Love Jar. You'll keep everyone's "love tank" filled to the brim!



February 2026

#### Important dates:

⌚ **Feb 1** - Desert Cross Serves Event, Join us at both sites during ED time to put together hygiene bags for those in need

⌚ **Feb 8** - Kids Connect and Parents Connect 1:00-2:30 in Gilbert

⌚ **Feb 18** - Ash Wednesday

⌚ **Feb 22** - SHINE Night! Family Event 5:00-7:00pm Tempe ...more info on the back!

⌚ First Communion Workshop will be during Lent. See the info on the back...date coming soon!

#### Upcoming Dates:

⌚ **March 8th**: No Education, (Spring Break)

⌚ **March 15th**: Fellowship event: Donut day!

⌚ **March 29th**: Gilbert Egg Hunt—No Ed

# You are Invited...and Bring a friend!



**February 8th**  
1:00-2:30

Kinder through 5th graders join us in Gilbert suite 104 for some fun and games! Bring a friend!

Questions or interested:  
Contact Ari:  
[anannenga@desertcross.org](mailto:anannenga@desertcross.org)

## JOYFUL NOISES



### Parent/Tot

Come join us for 60 minutes of fun with your child. This interactive parent/tot class includes music, snack, story, games, crafts, play time, fellowship, and... **it's free!**

Wednesdays at 9:00 in Gilbert in suite 104.

**Feb 1st**



Please join us during Ed time at either site to help build hygiene packs for those in need.

Tempe: Meet us outside fellowship hall at 8:45am.

Gilbert: 10:45 Fellowship hall  
(There will be no Ed so we can serve together!)



### Holy Communion Instruction

First Communion Class for 3rd graders and up (and those who have not yet received it) will be during Lent. The date will be announced soon. We are looking at a 2.5 hour class on a Saturday or Sunday. An adult is asked to attend with their First Communicant. The Passover Potluck honoring the First Communicants and their families will be on Maundy Thursday, **April 2nd** at 5:30 PM.

Students will receive the sacrament during the 7:00 PM worship service that same evening. \*\*If you did not receive an email but are interested please email Shannon: [sfossett@desertcross.org](mailto:sfossett@desertcross.org)



### SHINE Night! Family Event

**Sunday Feb 22 5:00-7:00pm**  
**Tempe Community Center**

As we finish up the season of Epiphany let's gather to celebrate. Join us for SHINE Night!...a family event. We will gather in Tempe from 5:00-7:00 on Sunday, Feb 22nd. You will create a family candle, enjoy some fun activities and games with light and we'll have pizza and s'mores by the campfire. You can invite friends and neighbors.

Please RSVP so we know how many supplies to plan for.

Hope to see your SHINING faces there!



### Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars...  
**VBS is scheduled for**  
**June 8-12.**

This VBS is going to be an amazing adventure!! Rainforest Falls VBS will be a week of wonder as we explore the powerful nature of God!

We need lots of volunteers, thank you for considering!

More information to come and registration forms will be up soon!