

Desert Cross Lutheran Church

# 2019 Annual Report

**Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 23 • 4pm • Tempe**

Desert Cross Tempe  
8600 South McClintock  
Tempe, AZ 85284

Desert Cross Gilbert  
3225 S. Lindsay Rd, Suite 101  
Gilbert, AZ 85297

## Desert Cross Church Council

### January 1—May 31, 2019

Paul Fagerman	President
Shannon Burns	Vice President
Vince Sciamé	Treasurer
Jennifer Piellucci	Secretary
Don Pelley/Jim Matthews	Past President
Rebekah Doll	
Stanley Fernandes	
Angela Nannenga	
Tom Rewolinski	
Bryan Riensche	

### June 1—December 31, 2019

Shannon Burns	President
Stanley Fernandes	Vice President
Vince Sciamé	Treasurer
Jennifer Piellucci	Secretary
Paul Fagerman	Past President
Rebekah Doll	
Patrick Jennett	
Angela Nannenga	
Anna Pelley	
Tom Rewolinski	

## Staff

Senior Pastor\*

Transitional Associate Pastor\*

Director of Operations and Property\*

Director of Worship & Music Ministries—Tempe (through July)\*

Director of Worship & Music Ministries—Tempe (beginning July)\*

Director of Worship & Music Ministries—Gilbert

Worship Coordinator

Director of Adult Ministries

Director of Youth Ministries (full time beginning November 2019)\*

Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministry Assistant

Parish Nurse

Office Manager

Communication Coordinator

Accountant

Custodian (through May 2019)

Nursery Attendants

Rev. Andrea L. Cain

Rev. Doris Nolan

Douglas W. Bjotvedt

Jane Yost

Daniel Decker

Michael Lottes

Jessica Robinson

Denise McClellan

Chad Diegle

Shannon Fossett

Kristen Roehling

Denise Viker, R.N.

Dawn Collins

Maegan Jennett

Flo Poland

Cid Stiefel

Patric Bjotvedt, Joseph English,

Madison Fernichio, Josh Fossett,

Calvin Krizan, George Robinson,

Naomi Sanders, Ashley Viker,

Alexander Webber,

Kaitlin Webber.

Ryan Bakalar, Wayne Jones,

Jacob Lauxman, Austen Mack,

Christine Soll, James Soll, Nat

Theobald, and

Johannes VanRossum

Musicians

\*Full time staff



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### **Mission Statement**

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.

# A Year in Review through slides...

## 2019 ChristCare Retreat



water=life

January 18 & 19

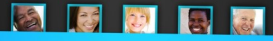
"One Lord, one faith, one baptism"  
Ephesians 4:5

More info in the January newsletter.

### Pictorial Directory

Sign-ups for the Pictorial Directory are going on now! You can sign-up in person at either campus or online.

Please note: only those photographed will receive a directory



**Kids Connect January Event!**  
Grades K - 5<sup>th</sup> : Sunday, January 13  
1pm to 2:30pm  
Tempe Education Building



We can always use more hands on Saturdays at the site. Check the Feb. newsletter for more information.



### Safe Sleep Baby Box Program

Collecting February 9 - March 1  
We are collecting items for newborns.



We collected 362 pounds of food, 2 large bags of toiletries for Shepherd's Warehouse!

Other: \$488.10

\$315.43

\$93.36

Thank you for all of your support!



**FAMILY NIGHT**  
Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 5:30pm in Gilbert  
Fun for the whole family!

### Baking Bread: Women's Event

Thursday, February 21 at 11am  
Great Harvest Bakery on Warner  
Register by Monday, February 18



More information in the February newsletter.



### SAVE THE DATE! Transportation Day!

Sunday, March 3 from 10:30am-12:45pm in Gilbert  
Explore and take pictures with all sorts of vehicles! Fun for the whole family!  
Invite a friend or neighbor!

### MOPS Raffle

Total Value: \$876

— On sale today only —

\$1 for individual tickets and \$5 for 10 tickets.

Please see Maegan or Mandie

**Special Hunger Jar Collection for Feed My Starving Children**  
April 13/14, 21, & 27/28



### Mother's Day Purse Drive & items to fill them!

Deadline is April 14

More information in the March newsletter.



godblessmoms there's no one like mom



Maundy Thursday  
Worship at 7pm in  
Tempe & Gilbert  
on April 18



Good Friday Worship  
April 19 at 7pm  
Tempe & Gilbert

"Tenebrae - A Service of Darkness"  
Good Friday Cantata in Tempe



**SHRED-A-THON**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 20  
FROM 11AM-1PM  
TEMPE CAMPUS



**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
April 21 at 10:10am  
For Children 12yrs and younger

Please bring a small basket



April Blood Drive from Vitalant & the Outreach Ministry

Date: Sunday, April 28  
Time: 7:30am-1pm  
Location: Tempe Campus  
Sign-up Today!



### Saturday, May 4

2pm-4pm at the Mesa Packing Site  
We are taking Service "Sunday" on the road! Check the April newsletter or e-newsletter for more information and info on how to sign-up today!



Desert Cross is participating in the Synod's request for In-Kind Donations for Families Seeking Asylum. The bulletin has a list of items we will be collecting during the month of May.



**In May, the Outreach Committee uses the Hunger Jar to collect donations for Grace Lutheran's Water Bottles for the Homeless.**

More information in the May newsletter.

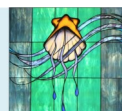


Games-Food-Fellowship

### BINGO

Saturday June 22  
6pm Tempe Fellowship Hall

Grab your BFF and Join GFF for a fun night of games!



### Baptism Seminar

Sunday, June 23 at 10:45am  
Tempe Adult Classroom  
Contact Shannon Fossett to register.

DCLC Fellowship Event:

### Ice Cream Social

Sunday, June 30 at 10:30am  
Tempe Fellowship Hall

Everyone is Welcome!

### LUTHERAN CAMPERFORMATION

July 7-12, 2019  
New logo.

New location.

New experiences.

Register today!





**Senior Pastor**

*‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ And ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Matthew 22:36-39*

This “Great Commandment” from Jesus guided our year together at Desert Cross in 2019. We spent the year listening for God’s call in the ways we could love God by growing our faith and our spirituality. We listened for God’s call to find new ways to serve and love our neighbors. We found multiple, fun ways to fellowship as we gathered for events at both campuses and emphasized our unity as one congregation in two locations.

We completed our groundWORK 2019 listening sessions with good participation, listening, and sharing. In the year ahead, we will use the results to create and implement our strategic plan, *Mission & Ministry: Into the Future*. This will guide our years ahead in an intentional way as we seek new ways to share God’s love. This is an exciting but time-consuming process in the midst of all the transition, and patience is required.

We have experienced an extraordinary volume of change in 2019. We welcomed our Transitional Associate Pastor, Doris Nolan, who has been an excellent partner helping us maintain an outstanding level of programming, worship leadership, education, and mission. We said goodbye to Jane Yost after 20+ years of faithful service. We welcomed our new Director of Worship & Music - Tempe, Daniel Decker, who brings energy and caring to our music program. We have learned patience and prayer in the call process for a new Associate Pastor. Our call committee is working faithfully to find the person whose gifts complement our culture!

With all the change at Desert Cross, we have maintained an unusual level of calm and collaboration. This is a testament to the peace and love of Christ that guides us as we hold mission first and foremost. We heard God calling us to a brand new mission as we created an asylum seeker

ministry. We opened our doors and our hearts to beautiful human beings seeking a better life. I asked you to embrace this mission at Easter, and you exceeded any expectations in your loving response to assist people in need. What a testament to the Great Commandment, as we partnered with area service providers, local churches, LSS, and more, to share food, shelter, and transportation. Over 100 volunteers shared their hands and their hearts for this ministry of love.

It is my privilege and my pleasure to lead you into 2020, a new decade wide open for mission and ministry to share God’s love. I give thanks for our Council, Chamber, Staff, and each person who worships, learns, and serves together at Desert Cross.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Andrea Cain*

**Attendance Trends—5 Year Period**

Tempe Attendance	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Average Sunday	400	346	370	363	338
Ash Wednesday	242	128	128	266	205
Maundy Thursday	192	171	135	120	161
Good Friday	113	207	214	170	227
Easter	831	760	735	612	591
Thanksgiving Eve	96	70	N/A	75	63
Christmas Eve	831	811	751	601	585

Gilbert Attendance	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Average Sunday	91	120	122	129	122
Ash Wednesday	42	73	60	N/A	69
Maundy Thursday	N/A	N/A	27	43	30
Good Friday	N/A	N/A	N/A	43	51
Easter	279	289	296	318	293
Thanksgiving Eve	22	48	N/A	N/A	N/A
Christmas Eve	278	285	284	297	313

**Pastoral Membership Records and Statistics**

**MEMBERS RECEIVED**

**Transferred to DCLC from other ELCA Churches**

Darryl Branham	Doug Julian
Sherry Branham	Karen Koslow
Laurie Bulin	Bruce Kriel
Tad Bulin	Connie Kriel
Janice Farrer	Glenn Rodgers
Gail Hakim	Michelle Rodgers
Dale Hallberg	Glen Stadler
Janet Hallberg	Lee Stadler
Diana Julian	

**Transferred to DCLC from other Lutheran Churches**

Troy Weise

**Members Received by Affirmation of Baptism**

Debby Burns	Corey Murray
Allene Cebe-Habersky	Dominic Murray
Diana Clark	Dale Omer
Sarah Clark	Linda Omer
Christopher Cole	Edie Shipton
Julie Cole	Linda Townsend
Jane Hilsendager	Tom Townsend
Diane Hodge	Dylan Watts
Denise Holland	John Watts
Ali Jasken	Erik Youngberg
Cindy Loughmiller	

**Members Received as an Associate**

Gerald Mack	Karen Olson
Lynn Mack	John Proeschold
Allen Olson	Patricia Proeschold

**Members Received by Adult Baptism**

Traston Yates

**Members Received by Child Baptism**

Hunter Cole	Erick Keppler
Bronson Dort	Miles McClellan
Walter English	Delaney Resop
Brynn Fitzgerald	Richard Riensche
Luna Hartrick	Alana Ripley
Ivy Herold	Abel Vanoverbeke
Oaklee Hull	William Yates
Norah Johnson	

**Reaffirmation of Baptism**

Aidan Burns	Addison Haluska
Matthew Gibbs	George Robinson
Will Gisselquist	

5

**17 Weddings (\*Denotes non-members)**

Daniel Tenorio* & Adri Posthumus*
Steve Holm* & Elaine Kraemer
Scott Brooks* & Samantha Huss

3

**MEMBERS RELEASED/TRANSFERRED**

**Transferred to ELCA Churches**

1

**1 Transferred to other Lutheran Churches**

4

**Transferred to other Churches**

0

**21**

**Requested Removal**

7

**Transferred to Inactive**

58

**Deaths**

6

Jim Bowen	Dave Lund
Patricia Johnson	Ora Mae Smith
Nan Lee	Tom Townsend

**Funerals (\*Denotes non-members)**

10

**6**

Jim Bowen	Jim Mau*
Beverly Cords*	Bill Rashleger*
Florence Di Stasi*	Wayne Reynolds*
Patricia Johnson	Priscilla Unger*
Dave Lund	Gayle Viker*

**1**

**Membership Trends - 5 Year Trend**

**15**

Membership	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baptized	1011	932	899	928*	913
Confirmed	854	786	768	752	729
Households	486	425	407	461*	448

\* Statistical Adjustment on Form A ELCA Congregational Report



## Director of Operations and Property

On December 2, 2018, the congregation approved a \$1,383,304 Budget for 2019. As is the case with church budgets, they are designed based on a full cost basis and then balanced against pledged giving, anticipated giving, and other income (facility rent, niche sales, and other faith contributions).

It was anticipated that, based on payroll savings, actual income and expenses would be well below budget as displayed in the Variance Report. Facility rental income was considerably higher due in part to a one-time rental

payment by the Town of Gilbert for a construction easement.

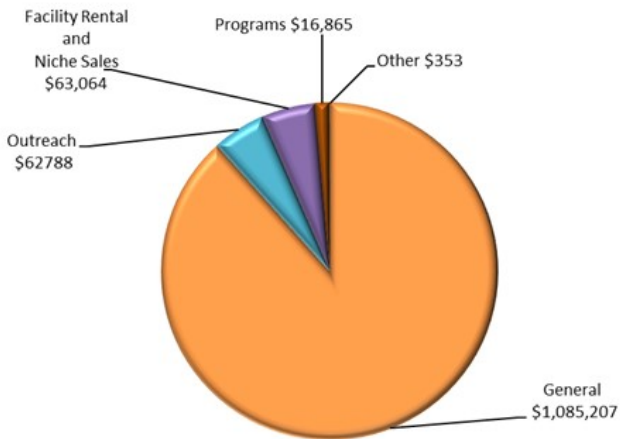
As for the other income categories of programming and outreach, those dollars are factored in as offsetting income on the expenses side. As such, the budget doesn't show their income and their expenses are usually higher than budgeted—an exception for 2019 programming demonstrates the lack of a mission trip. **NOTE: RENEW Campaign funds are not reported on the Variance Report.**

<b>Desert Cross Lutheran Church</b>				
<b>Income and Expense for 2019</b>				
<b>Variance Actual to Budget</b>				
Accounts	Actual	Budget	Variance	% Used
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>Contributions</b>				
General Fund	\$ 1,085,207	\$ 1,133,118	\$ (47,911)	
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 1,085,207</b>	<b>\$ 1,133,118</b>	<b>\$ (47,911)</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>				
Faith and Carry-Over	\$ -	\$ 209,336	\$ (209,336)	
Facility Rental	\$ 58,514	\$ 35,000	\$ 23,514	
Memorial Garden	\$ 4,550	\$ 5,850	\$ (1,300)	
Programs and Worship Revenue	\$ 16,865	\$ -	\$ 16,865	
Mission and Outreach	\$ 62,788	\$ -	\$ 62,788	
Other	\$ 353	\$ -	\$ 353	
<b>Sub-total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 143,069</b>	<b>\$ 250,186</b>	<b>\$ (107,117)</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,228,277</b>	<b>\$ 1,383,304</b>	<b>\$ (155,027)</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Payroll and Benefits	\$ 712,280	\$ 889,379	\$ (177,099)	
Operations	\$ 162,123	\$ 149,400	\$ 12,723	
Mortgages (Debt Reduction)	\$ 91,532	\$ 92,000	\$ (468)	
Synod Benevolence	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	
Programs	\$ 93,340	\$ 119,525	\$ (26,185)	
Outreach	\$ 59,957	\$ 35,000	\$ 24,957	
Maintenance and Repair	\$ 20,184	\$ 23,000	\$ (2,816)	
Other	\$ 2,410	\$ -	\$ 2,410	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,216,827</b>	<b>\$ 1,383,304</b>	<b>\$ (166,477)</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>NET REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 11,450</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 11,450</b>	

Adherence to a tight budget by the diligent staff allowed for all, and some additional, programming to be completed even with a 2% decrease in income over the previous year. Actual expenses were down 6% over the previous year due in large part to payroll savings in two pastors rather than three pastors. **Note: Mid-year payroll savings of \$50,000.00 in 2018 lessened the overall impact of payroll savings in 2019.**

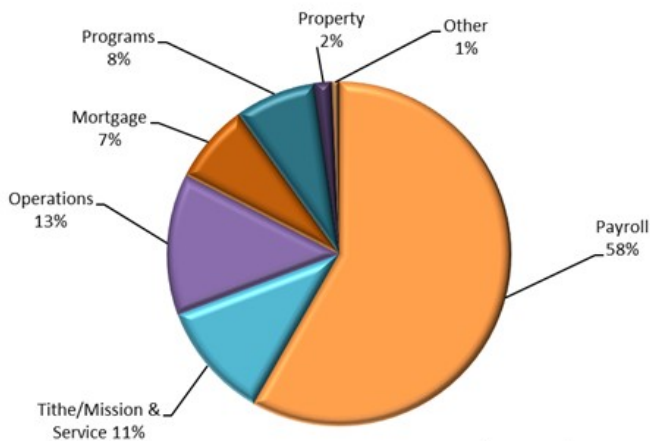
The following pie graphs provide a better visual on the income and expenses generated and utilized in the Mission of Desert Cross Lutheran Church.

### 2019 Breakdown of Income



NOTE: 2019 Income was \$1,228,277

### 2019 Percentage of Spending



NOTE: 2019 Spending was \$1,216,827

The Statement of Financial Position is reflective of the Assets and Liabilities plus Fund Principal as of December 31, 2019. The unrestricted cash of \$5,200 is a carry-over of a 2020 gift received in 2019. The restricted cash of \$110,519 is a total of 27 designated funds such as, but not limited to, tenant security deposits, land sale proceeds, bequeathed gifts, grants, and specific ministry support. The Mission Fund Account and Brokerage are current balances in accounts used for processing non-cash contributions such as stocks and certificates of deposits. Finally, the remaining cash asset of \$120,912 is that of the RENEW Campaign which concludes in May 2020.

**NOTE: The ending balance in the RENEW account does not visually demonstrate cash flow of gifts received nor the completed projects in 2019 as noted on page 8.**

With the exception of 2017, in which two anomalies occurred, contributions appear to be relatively flat at \$1,250,000. Some changes in the demographics of the Parish occurred at the end of 2018 that led to an expected decrease in giving for 2019 of approximately 2%.

5 - Year Contribution and Income History					
Contributions	2015*	2016*	2017*	2018	2019
General	\$1,135,941	\$1,128,199	\$1,167,722	\$1,134,639	\$1,085,208
Other	\$ 115,279	\$ 128,969	\$ 206,952	\$ 119,813	\$ 143,069
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,251,220</b>	<b>\$1,257,168</b>	<b>\$1,374,674</b>	<b>\$1,254,452</b>	<b>\$1,228,277</b>

\* General and Facilities Funds were combined for comparison purposes to 2018 and 2019

In 2019, Desert Cross Lutheran Church gave \$135,000 (11% of our total income) beyond the walls of our church buildings.

Our largest contribution was \$75,000 in Benevolence to the Grand Canyon Synod and our Mission & Service includes:

Hunger Jars	\$ 35,820
World Relief and Disaster Response	\$ 5,233
Lutheran Campus Ministries	\$ 4,000
Feed My Starving Children	\$ 3,490
Lutheran Social Services SW	\$ 3,000
Grace Pancake Breakfast	\$ 2,350
Asylum Seekers	\$ 2,283
Crop Walk	\$ 1,965
Service General	\$ 1,316
Pacific Lutheran Seminary	\$ 500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 59,957</b>



**Desert Cross Lutheran Church  
Statement of Financial Position**

Accounts	2019	2018
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Unrestricted	\$ 5,200	\$ 225
Restricted	\$ 110,519	\$ 109,691
Mission Fund Account	\$ 959	\$ 950
Brokerage	\$ 500	\$ 526
RENEW Restricted	\$ 120,912	\$ 133,108
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>\$ 238,089</b>	<b>\$ 244,500</b>
Fixed Assets		
Land	\$ 1,403,900	\$ 1,403,900
Buildings	\$ 3,793,242	\$ 3,793,242
Capital Improvements	\$ 638,145	\$ 638,145
Equipment	\$ 127,195	\$ 127,195
Office Equipment	\$ 37,759	\$ 37,759
Office Furniture	\$ 19,421	\$ 19,421
Furnishings	\$ 33,372	\$ 33,372
Music Equipment	\$ 35,194	\$ 35,194
Audio Visual Equipment	\$ 130,811	\$ 130,811
Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (3,007,065)	\$ (2,869,679)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,211,974</b>	<b>\$ 3,349,360</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,450,063</b>	<b>\$ 3,593,859</b>
<b>Liabilities, Fund Principal, &amp; Restricted Funds</b>		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Security Deposit for Facility Rental	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Short-Term Debt	\$ 50,253	\$ 48,372
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 51,253</b>	<b>\$ 49,372</b>
Long-Term Liabilities		
Notes Payable	\$ 1,051,976	\$ 1,101,631
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,051,976</b>	<b>\$ 1,101,631</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,103,229</b>	<b>\$ 1,151,003</b>
Fund Principal		
Fund Principal	\$ 2,346,834	\$ 2,442,857
<b>Total Fund Principal</b>	<b>\$ 2,346,834</b>	<b>\$ 2,442,857</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, FUND PRINCIPAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,450,063</b>	<b>\$ 3,593,860</b>

In addition to the programming and ministries of Desert Cross, there is an Endowment Fund. This fund was created at a special meeting of this congregation on June 25, 2000. The purpose of the fund was “. . . to enhance the mission

outreach of Desert Cross apart from the general operations of the congregation.” Glenn Tischeafer is the current chair of the Endowment Committee and his report can be found on page 10.

Below is an account activity summary.

<b>ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust</b>		
<b>Desert Cross Mission Endowment Fund</b>		
Beginning Balance (Close of Business 12-31-18)	\$	461,725
Additions	\$	-
Withdrawals	\$	(30,000)
Reinvested - Fund A	\$	19,054
Change in Value	\$	71,112
Ending Balance (Close of Business 12-31-19)	\$	521,891



In June of 2017 we actively engaged in a 3-year capital campaign called RENEW and we are in the final months of that campaign. Several projects were completed at a cost of \$217,000 (includes \$4,000 in RENEW Mission expenses). Below you will see completed projects and the ending balances for 2019.

<b>RENEW Campaign</b>	
<b>June 2017 through May 2020</b>	
Campaign Goal	\$452,000
Pledge Amount (83% of Goal)	\$374,697
<b>RENEW Projects Completed in 2018</b>	
Tempe Roofs	\$109,460
Tempe Parking Lots	\$ 16,500
Gilbert Parking Lots	\$ 10,300
Tempe Tree Trimming	\$ 2,850
Paid in Full	\$139,110
<b>RENEW Projects Completed in 2018/2019</b>	
Columbarium Enhancement	\$ 14,003
Electronic Signage	\$ 49,361
Paid in Full	\$ 63,364
<b>RENEW Projects in Process for 2020</b>	
Audio/Visual Improvements	\$ 15,285
Down Payments in 2020	\$ 15,285
Gifts Available as of 12/31/2019	
RENEW Home	RENEW Mission
\$107,911	\$ 13,001

Shepherding the financial gifts of this congregation has been my greatest honor these last ten years of my fifteen-year tenure. I continue to be amazed at the giving from this loving and caring faith community.

At your service in His Service,  
*Douglas W. Bjotvedt*

**Mission Endowment Fund**

In 2019 the committee received 23 grant requests, approving 21. All approvals were submitted to the church council for action. The grant payments totaled \$24,550.

Specific Grants:

Category One-Community Outreach (Scholarships and Social Programs)

13 Scholarship Grants for Colleges	\$ 13,000
Grand Canyon Synod Retirees	\$ 600
Our Savior Lutheran Church	\$ 1,000
Santa Trinidad Lutheran Church	\$ 750
The Perfect Place	\$ 3,000
Kyrene Resource Center	\$ 1,000
Concordia School Reading Program	\$ 1,200
I-HELP	\$ 1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,550</b>

Category Three-Desert Cross

Replaced Gilbert Projectors	\$ 3,000
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$ 24,550</b>

The ELCA Endowment Fund-Fund A ended the year with a balance of \$521,891.23, Mission Investment Checking of \$19,080.95, and Desert Cross Checking of \$497.00 for a total of \$541,469.18 to start 2020.

The Committee will again be challenged in 2020 to have all the funds needed for grants. We continue to be blessed to do this work and trust 2020 will be a good year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Glenn Tischaefer*

**External Audit Report**

The complete report from Metz & Associates PLLC can be found in the church office and a summary is on the next page.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Council of  
Desert Cross Lutheran Church

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Desert Cross Lutheran Church, Inc. (a non-profit religious corporation), which comprises the statement of financial position—modified cash basis as of December 31, 2018, and the related statements of activities—modified cash basis, functional expenses—modified cash basis, and cash flows—modified cash basis for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note A; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Desert Cross Lutheran Church, Inc. as of December 31, 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note A.

### Basis of Accounting

We draw your attention to Note A of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is the basis of accounting, other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Metz & Associates PLLC

Phoenix, Arizona  
January 2, 2020

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2019 was a year of many blessings for Desert Cross. We welcomed a few new people to the church staff and said a sad goodbye to another who embarked on a great new adventure called retirement, all while continuing with our commitment to our church mission of inviting others to celebrate Jesus with us and to equip others to serve in communities near and far. Interim Associate Pastor, Doris Nolan, joined us in January to assist Pastor Andrea with sermons, lectures, and visits. Pastor Doris has done an amazing job of supporting Pastor Andrea and our staff while creating strong connections with many in the congregation. Jane Yost stepped down as our Director of Worship and Music Ministry after many years of dedication and service to Desert Cross. Though excited for her, we were sad to see Jane move into her new phase of life. We have been blessed with the voice, skill, and talent of Daniel Decker as our new Worship and Music leader in Tempe.

A call committee was created in early 2019 with the focus on finding our new Associate Pastor who will not only support Pastor Andrea, but who will also lead the Gilbert site as Gilbert continues to grow and develop into their own community, while maintaining the same goals as the Tempe site.



The Tempe site's physical space continues to receive improvements with the installation of the electronic sign and with the refreshing and refurbishing of the Columbarium and the entryway into the church. New projectors and supplemental equipment were approved, and we are awaiting the installation of the equipment which will enhance the services at both locations.

Through 2019, numerous volunteers gave generously of their time, treasures, and talents to serve those near and far through several programs such as I-HELP, the Outreach Committee, Habitat for Humanity, Hunger Jar, etc. In early 2019, a new call for service came with the Asylum Seekers program. A volunteer team created a program to assist those seeking refuge here in the United States by hosting them for 24 hours while providing food, shelter, clothing, smiles, love, and hope to many excited and scared individuals trying to legally make a safe, new life in America.

At the end of 2019, Pastor Andrea worked with Denise McClellan and Paul Fagerman to gather information to develop the vision for the future of Desert Cross through

the groundWORK 2019 program. Many small groups met to discuss our strengths and weaknesses so we can develop a plan to strengthen our future and to spread the word of God and Jesus to others in our communities. The work on this project will continue through 2020.

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented group of pastors, staff, and volunteers who work hard to live out our mission. We are very blessed!

Thanks,

*Shannon Burns*

## Congregational Meeting Notes

### **Desert Cross Lutheran Church Annual Meeting March 3, 2019**

A quorum was established, and Paul Fagerman, Council President, welcomed all to the meeting.

Pastor Andrea opened the meeting with prayer.

New Business:

1. **Annual Report with Financials** – Doug Bjotvedt presented the Annual Report. He reported that we received 85% of what had been pledged for contributions, and 92% of overall income that was expected. We completed 2018 with a loss of \$40,000.00. Concerns were raised over the loss and he informed us that we will be watching the budget very closely as we move forward and will be working on long term plans to help maintain the budget. There is currently \$129,000.00 in RENEW Home and \$16,350.00 in RENEW Mission. Vince Sciamé moved and Don Hutson seconded that the financial report for 2018 be approved. The motion was passed unanimously. It was noted that the external audit is set to begin on March 5, 2019.

2. **Nominating Committee** – Paul reviewed the Council and Chamber positions that will be open for the next term. Open positions for the next Council include Vice President and Gilbert Member at Large. There will be one open position on the Endowment Committee. There will be two open positions on the Gilbert Chamber. Paul explained the process for forming the Nominating Committee and asked for four nominations from the floor to fill the open slots. Jerry Whiting, Dale Martin, Derek Reaban, and Susan Tischaefter were nominated. Tracy

**Desert Cross Lutheran Church  
Special Congregational Meeting  
March 24, 2019**

Clark moved that we elect those that were nominated. Bob Rose seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The Nominating Committee will include Don Pelley (serving as Past President), Outgoing Council member Bryan Riensche, and the four Floor Nominations.

**3. Listening Posts Review** — Stan Fernandes presented a general overview of what was learned through the recent Listening Posts. Two sessions were held in Tempe and two were held in Gilbert. The first topic discussed was the role of the new Associate Pastor. In the sessions it was presented that the new Associate Pastor would answer a call to serve Desert Cross Lutheran Church with a focus on serving and leading the Gilbert location. Overall people were in favor of this. There were concerns that we should do additional planning for the future before moving forward with electing a Call Committee. There were questions regarding interdependence between Tempe and Gilbert. Pastor Andrea spent time explaining what this means. The next topic was the Call Committee Process. There will be 6 members on the Call Committee and the plan is to have three members from Tempe and three members from Gilbert. Nominations for the Call Committee will be open from March 4, 2019 - March 17, 2019. There will be a Congregational Meeting on March 24, 2019 to elect the Call Committee. The final topic discussed in the Listening Posts was Mission and Ministry - into the future. It was discussed that the focus will be based on our Mission Statement: Celebrate, Invite, Equip, and Serve. All of the Listening Posts were recorded and are available on the DCLC website for anyone who would like to listen in more detail.

Dale Martin moved and Don Pelley seconded that the meeting adjourn.

Pastor Andrea closed the meeting by leading us in The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jennifer Piellucci*  
*Church Council Secretary*

A quorum was met and Paul Fagerman, Church Council President, welcomed all to the meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a Call Committee as Desert Cross moves forward in the process of calling a new Associate Pastor.

**Call Committee Structure and Ballot** — Paul reported that we received 9 nominations for the Call Committee. After looking at the names it was recommended that the categories for the Call Committee be as follows: 1 Staff Member, 1 Youth (18-25), 1 Gilbert (61+), 1 Tempe (61+), 1 Gilbert (26-60), 1 Tempe (26-60).

The following names were submitted as candidates for the Call Committee: Maegan Jennett, Patric Bjotvedt, Nancy Zine, Lin Bourgeois, Chris Stone, Joe Weingartz, Sharon Black, Susan Johnston, and Tracy Clark.

The floor was open for any questions or concerns prior to voting. There were no comments and it was decided to move forward with voting. Paper ballots were distributed to those in attendance.

While the votes were being counted, Paul reviewed the next steps in the Call process.

The results of the vote were announced and the newly elected Call Committee members are as follows: Staff - Maegan Jennett, Youth (18-25) - Patric Bjotvedt, Gilbert (61+) - Nancy Zine, Tempe (61+) - Lin Bourgeois, Gilbert (26-60) - Chris Stone, and Tempe (26-60) - Tracy Clark.

Bill Kalaf reminded all that were present that the upcoming Congregational Survey is very important in helping to guide the Call Committee.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with Pastor Andrea leading us in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jennifer Piellucci*  
*Church Council Secretary*



**Desert Cross Lutheran Church  
Elections Congregational Meeting  
May 5, 2019**

Approximately 1/4 of total gifting is done electronically.

A quorum was established and Paul Fagerman, Council President, welcomed all to the meeting.

The meeting was opened with Pastor Andrea leading us in prayer and thanking those volunteering to serve.

**New Business:**

1) Financial Update—Q1 presented by Doug Bjotvedt.

- Q1 Financial Update (as of 3/31/19)
 

Total Gifts Received	\$291,545.00
Total Expenses	\$299,675.00
Difference*	\$ (8,130.00)

\*Timing of Expenses and Giving through out the year is not consistent.

Financial update is in-line with 2019 Budget Expectations.

- RENEW Campaign
 

Campaign Goal	\$452,000.00
Pledged Amount (83% of Goal)	\$374,697.08

RENEW Project Expenses in 2018	\$167,542.00
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RENEW Projects Completed in 2019:	
Columbarium Enhancement	\$ 7, 535.08
Electronic Sign (paid in April)	\$ -

Gifts Available as of 3/31/1	
RENEW Home	\$121,943.08
RENEW Mission	\$ 16,326.75

- External Audit in process. Expected to have full results back in June. Audit team was on-site for 1 day to meet with Doug and Pastor Andrea and were very pleased with the organization and ease of finding documentation.

• Questions/Comments:

- Did we budget for 3 pastors in 2019? Yes, but Financial Update is actuals and not budget. In 2018 we closed Q1 approximately (\$63,000).
- Thrivent—can we push for more electronic giving? Campaigns have been done including placing cards in Tempe for those to use that give electronically.

2) Elections—Church Council, Gilbert Chamber, and Endowment Team

- Paul introduced Don Pelley, Nominating Committee Team lead/Former Past President of Church Council.
- Don explained the process of candidate selection including how members were added to the ballot.

- All were elected by congregation to be part of the ballot in one of three ways:
  - 1) Individually volunteered to serve.
  - 2) Nominated by another member to serve and confirmed with nominee willingness to serve.
  - 3) Nominated by another member to serve but declined to serve.

- Slate of candidates shown to congregation (previously shared via email on April 12 with bios of each candidate sent April 26).

Council Vice President	1 At Large Council Tempe	1 At Large Council Gilbert	1 Endowment Committee Member	2 Gilbert Chamber Members
Stan Fernandes	Bill Kalaf	Patrick Jennett	John Christiansen	Deb Christiansen
	Greg Beatty		Tracy Clark	Michelle Stermole
	Anna Pelley			
	Dick Andrews			
	Madison Fernichio			

- Question of Age and current Church Council Members was raised. Paul introduced current Council members.
- Each candidate was introduced and given a chance to be recognized by congregation prior to vote.
- Ballots passed out to congregation to vote for each position.
- Church announcements and Thank you to departing members of Council and Chamber for their service were completed during vote tabulation.

- 72 ballots submitted/tabulated with the following nominated and announced by Paul Fagerman:
  - Council Vice President: Stan Fernandes
  - Council Tempe At-Large: Anna Pelley
  - Council Gilbert At-Large: Patrick Jennett
  - Endowment Committee: John Christiansen
  - Gilbert Chamber: Deb Christiansen & Michelle Stermole
- Motion to adjourn meeting was placed by Paul Fagerman and all in attendance approved.
- Pastor Doris led us in closing prayer and dismissal.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Tom Rewolinski*  
 Church Council

**Desert Cross Lutheran Church  
 Special Congregational Meeting  
 September 22, 2019**

Pastor Andrea welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a verse from Psalm 108 and prayer. She shared that this meeting was to update the congregation on groundwork2019.

Paul Fagerman reviewed what has already happened this year.

- January - we welcomed Pastor Doris Nolan as our Interim Associate Pastor.
- February - we had listening sessions for the introduction of groundWORK 2019.
- March - Stan Fernandes put together a report summarizing what we learned during the listening sessions. We also elected the Call Committee as we began our search for a new Associate Pastor.
- April/May - The Call Committee sent out a congregational survey. A search committee was formed to find a new Director of Worship and Music as Jane Yost announced her retirement.
- June - The Call Committee and Search Committee continued their work with finding new candidates.
- July - Introduction of Daniel Decker as the new Director of Worship and Music.
- August - Planning for Fall programs as well as

moving forward with groundWORK 2019.

Denise McClellan shared what changes have been made in response to the listening sessions that took place in February.

- The WETogether team sat down and looked at what the program has done over the past 5 years.
- Over the summer they sent out emails to the congregation explaining what WETogether is and why they do what they do. They also explained upcoming changes to the program.
- People wanted to connect worship and education, so there will be a key word/theme worked into both worship and education each week.
- Education will be based on the Revised Common Lectionary each week.
- Sunday School class size varied, so they are combining K-5th grade and doing VBS style stations each week.
- They heard that people wanted more opportunity for fellowship after service. At the Tempe site they have moved the location of the Adult Forum to the Community Center so that people can meet in the Fellowship Hall all morning.
- It is apparent that church attendance is dropping and there is a need to stay connected even when people can't make it to worship on a weekend. People also wanted to see an increase in our online presence. The Desert Cross Faith Formation website was formed by Denise McClellan. People can read posts at [www.dclcfathformation.org](http://www.dclcfathformation.org). This website kicked off on August 19, 2019 and currently has 87 following, has had 359 visitors from 8 different countries.

Pastor Andrea shared what is going to happen next - what are the next steps.

- We will use our mission statement as our guide as we move forward with in-house strategic planning. We will focus on the following words: Celebrate, Invite, Equip, and Serve.
- There will be a series of small group listening sessions that will allow us to dream and evaluate, talk and listen, and pray and plan. There will be many opportunities to attend a session, and they ask that each person only attend one session. There is a schedule of these listening sessions - copies were available at the

meeting today and an email will be sent to the congregation with the schedule as well.

- Once we have a summary of what is discussed in the small group listening sessions we plan to focus on common themes and ideas. The goal is to be able to share this summary at the Congregational Meeting that will take place on December 8, 2019.
- The next steps will be to pray, evaluate, and plan. This will move us into the next phase—Mission and Ministry: Into the Future, where we can work on the new objectives and goals.
- We will be launching an opportunity to form prayer teams to pray over each step of this process.

The floor was open for any discussion and/or questions.

The meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer by Pastor Andrea.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jennifer Piellucci*  
*Church Council Secretary*

**Desert Cross Lutheran Church  
Congregational Meeting  
December 8, 2019**

A quorum was established with approximately 53 people in attendance.

Pastor Andrea welcomed everyone and opened with prayer.

Agenda:

- 1) groundWORK 2019 review
- 2) 2019 Financial Review
- 3) 2020 Budget Presentation and Vote
- 4) RENEW Presentation and Vote

**1) groundWORK 2019**

Pastor Andrea and Denise McClellan reviewed the groundWORK 2019 process and shared the following statistics. Small group listening sessions were held from September - November. In total there were 23 listening sessions with 187 participants. The Desert Cross Mission Statement was used as the guide for discussion focusing on Celebrate, Invite, Equip, and Serve. Common themes from each area were shared in regards to what we are

doing well and where we have the opportunity to grow.

**Celebrate: Worship, Fellowship, Community Building**

What we appreciate - variety of worship services, Lutheran liturgy, sermons, the hunger jar, music, children in worship, ChristCare groups, Fellowship opportunities, and the variety of groups offered.

Room for growth - increasing worship attendance, finding ways to draw people in to DCLC, creating more fellowship time on Sunday mornings.

**Invite: Welcoming, Evangelism, Visitors, New Members**

What we appreciate - DCLC is friendly, loving, welcoming, the Gilbert welcome packet, ushers and greeters, open communion invitation, the electronic sign at Tempe.

Room for growth - increase use of social media, expand ways to follow up with visitors, work on connecting new members.

**Equip: Teaching, Learning, Education, Training**

What we appreciate - Children's Ministry Programming and Adult Education offerings.

Room for growth - lack of attendance and participation, need robust programming for youth.

**Serve: Mission & Outreach**

What we appreciate - DCLC does mission and outreach well with numerous opportunities to serve.

Room for growth - there is a thirst for more opportunities to serve, especially in the community with existing non-profit organizations.

New Steps: Mission and Ministry Into the Future. We will pray about our mission, evaluate ideas for programming and ministry that were heard during the listening sessions, and plan how to implement these ideas.

There was an opportunity for questions and discussion.

**2) 2019 Financial Review**

Vince Sciamé gave an update for 2019.

As of 11/30/2019: total gifts \$1,050,278; total expenses \$1,113,924 with a difference of (\$63,646) between gifts and expenses for year. Expected that we will end the year with a profit of \$14,581.

**3) 2020 Budget Presentation and Vote**

Doug gave update on 2020. Explained projected 2020 budget. Expected budget for 2020: \$1,353,222. As of now, we have received 174 pledge cards with approximately \$697,000 pledged. Other faith contributions is \$137,814, meaning we will need this amount to have a zero balance.

## Desert Cross Lutheran Church 2020 Budget

Revenue			Expenses		
Pledges	174	\$ 696,902	Operations		\$ 297,800
Prev Pledgers (not received yet)	7	\$ 19,836	Outreach		\$ 113,000
Anticipated Non-pledged Giving		\$ 383,904	Programs		\$ 154,290
Facility rental revenue		\$ 45,000	Payroll - Pastoral		\$ 229,639
Niche		\$ 5,850	Payroll - Salaried		\$ 448,497
Anticipated Carry-Over		\$ 63,916	Payroll - Hourly		\$ 109,996
Other Faith Contributions		<u>\$ 137,814</u>			
<b>Total Revenue</b>			<b>Total Expenses</b>		
<u><u>\$ 1,353,222</u></u>			<u><u>\$ 1,353,222</u></u>		
					<b>2019 Budget</b>
					<b>\$ 1,383,304</b>
					<b>2018 Budget</b>
					<b>\$ 1,368,502</b>

There was an opportunity for questions and discussions. Concerns: even though the 2020 budget is based on two pastoral salaries, why did the budget not decrease more that it did. It was explained that this was due to a combination of Chad Diegle going from part time to full time and an increase in budget for youth programming and evangelism.

Dale Martin moved and Don Pelley seconded to approve the 2020 budget as presented. Verbal vote: Passed unanimously with no negative votes.

#### 4) RENEW Presentation and Vote

Jessica Robinson presented RENEW Home recap.  
Pledge amount recd: \$374,697.  
RENEW funds already spent: \$202,474.  
Pending (for landscape): \$2,000.  
Cash on Hand: \$115,625.23 (as of 11/30/19).

She then shared an update on replacing the audio system at Tempe. Jessica and Daniel have worked with three companies to obtain quotes for replacing the sound and video system (soundboard, microphones, monitors, speakers, relocation of the band from the back to the front of the sanctuary, and projectors). They have chosen a company they would like to work with. The quote would total \$48,000 (this includes a 5% cushion for incidentals).

There was an opportunity for questions and discussions. Tracy Clark moved and Stan Fernandes seconded to

approve the following motion:

Vote, by the Desert Cross Lutheran Church Congregation to approve entering into a contract with EAR and AZSound Pro for an amount not to exceed \$48,000 to update the audio and video system from the RENEW Home fund.

Verbal vote: Passed unanimously with no negative votes. This will leave a balance of \$70,000 in the RENEW fund for updating the sanctuary (pews, paint, flooring, etc.).

The meeting adjourned with Shannon Burns thanking everyone from staff to members for their continued support of DCLC.

Pastor Doris led us all in a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jennifer Piellucci*  
Church Council Secretary

## Director of Worship and Music Ministries—Tempe

2019 was a year of transition as Jane Yost, Director of Worship and Music, retired after 34 years of faithful and incredible ministry. I came on board in July 2019 to join the Desert Cross team.

**Sunday 8:00am Worship (Traditional)** - We are blessed to have Joni Van Rossum on piano and Pam Brown on flute, as their gifts greatly enhance our traditional worship experience.

**Sunday 9:30am Worship (Contemporary)** - The worship band practices at 11:15am every Thursday morning. We are blessed to have talented musicians Christine Soll on piano, James Soll, Steve Steffy and Rick Carr on guitar, Nat Theobald on bass guitar, Mark Wenz and Ryan Bakalar on Drums enhance the worship experience for our 9:30am service. Thank you all for your significant talents and dedication.

**Ringing Praise Bell Choir** - Christine Soll directs Ringing Praise, as they practice on Monday evenings for rehearsal and ring in worship twice each month for the 8:00am service. They also add musical leadership for most of the special festival Sundays of the church year. Thanks to Christine for lending your great talents to this wonderful ensemble.

**Saturday Evening Worship** - Led by Michael Lottes and me on piano and vocals (on alternating weeks) along with Dan Meyer on bass, Mike Mahaney on guitar and mandolin, John Paul Stoop on vocals, with Rick Carr and Jerry Eden also on guitar. Thank you all for using your gifts to God's glory.

**Sanctuary Choir** - We practice Wednesday evenings at 7pm. The choir presents anthems in both Sunday services, sings in special services and presents cantatas during the Christmas and Easter seasons. We have seen strong growth in this ministry in 2019, and I truly appreciate every person who has participated in this incredible ensemble. A special thanks to Joni Van Rossum on piano for the exceptional talent he brings as the accompanist.

**Creative Spaces** - Shelley Mardany does an amazing job of making our worship space look beautiful, overseeing this ministry with creative use of color, fabrics, and other elements. A special thanks to everyone who volunteers in this ministry. They are unsung heroes in our worship experience.

**Ignite Children's Choir** - Christine Soll took the reins of this ensemble in 2019 and is doing a great job. They practice Saturday mornings and present songs in Sunday worship throughout the year. Special thanks to Kristin Roehling for helping to make this ministry happen.

**Worship Planning** - The worship staff meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30am to plan weekly worship services, special services, and works together to establish common themes in worship, as well as coordinate our various ministries.

I want to thank everyone, both staff and volunteers for making me feel so welcome at Desert Cross. This is such a wonderful church (I think you already know that), and I am greatly blessed to be a part of the team. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for allowing me to worship and minister in such an amazing place.

In Christ,

*Daniel Decker*



## Director of Worship and Music Ministries—Gilbert

### **Gilbert Worship**

We worship at 9:00am on Sundays at our Gilbert campus. Our worship band continues to consist of Austen Mack (drums), Jacob Lauxman (guitar), Wayne Jones (bass), and Mandie Lottes (vocals). We rehearse from 8:00am-8:30am on Sunday mornings.

Our Adult Chancel Choir and Junior Choir are directed by Carolyn Perkins. These choirs provide musical offerings on a regular basis for our Gilbert worship services. Thank you, Carolyn, for your continued dedication to the worship community at Desert Cross.

Following our weekly worship services, at 10:15am, the children spend 15 minutes with my wife, Mandie, and me singing worship songs as well as preparing for their various musical offerings that are presented during the school year.



## Saturday Evening Worship

Saturday evening worship takes place at 5:00pm each week. We rehearse from 4:00pm-4:30pm with the musicians. Daniel Decker and I have started to lead worship on a rotational schedule. Typically, we lead worship every other week. Special thanks to all our musicians who provide leadership at this service: John Paul Stoop (vocals), Dan Meyer (bass), Mike Mahoney (guitar/mandolin), Jerry Eden, and Rick Carr.

## PowerPoint Design

Each week, I design the PowerPoint slides for our worship services. Special thanks to Reid Ijams, who continues to proofread our worship slides to make sure there are no typos or corrections needed. Maegan Jennett continues to design the weekly announcement loop slides that we play at the beginning of worship and during Offering.



## Worship Planning

This past year, our worship staff started to meet a little earlier on Tuesday mornings. As a result, our general staff meeting now begins at

10:00am on Tuesday mornings. During our weekly worship staff meetings we discuss the previous week's worship services and then look over our Order of Worship document to discuss, plan, and collaborate ideas about upcoming worship services and festival services. On Tuesday evenings, a finalized version of the Order of Worship document is sent to the worship staff and others who need this information.

In His Service,

*Michael Lottes*

## Worship Coordinator

The 2019 year saw a lot of changes for the worship coordinator position, and 2020 has some exciting changes on the way as well.

My basic job description encompasses everything that goes into creating a smooth worship experience: recruiting, scheduling, training and reminding worship assistants, overseeing bread baking, ordering altar guild and worship supplies, acting as a go-between for worship assistants and staff, coordinating with the music team and overseeing the sound system, and many other small things.

In August we said goodbye to Jane Yost and welcomed Daniel Decker as the Worship Director of Tempe. They both have different and distinct styles of leadership, so adjusting to these changes has been a growing experience. Daniel also spearheaded replacing our outdated sound system. That was installed in late January, and we will be training several people on how to run it. Thank you to the RENEW team and the congregation for supporting this much needed update.

I have also added several responsibilities over the last year.

- In April we installed the outdoor electronic sign, and I am in charge of brainstorming ideas, creating the graphics for it, and scheduling the signs.
- In addition to bread baking with the Altar Guild, I also now bake the gluten free communion wafers.
- As Michael Lottes and Daniel Decker now trade off on leading the Saturday night worship, I now coordinate with Michael to upload the weekly PowerPoint slide shows and any additional slides or videos that are needed for services.
- The Safety and Security Team was also formed in the last year. As part of my worship duties it is also important to ensure as best as possible a safe environment in which to worship. This includes working with the team to assess our current needs as well as institute any changes deemed necessary that would be proactive in safety. One change we have made is locking the exterior doors 10-15 minutes after the start of the 5:00pm and 9:30am services. The ushers are also watching the parking lot and entry area during this time to open the doors for any late persons. In May we also did a series of "Safety Talks" to remind people to be aware of emergency exits in any building, where fire extinguishers and first aid kits are located, and asked them to think about how they would exit the building if needed, especially if they would need assistance.

As I enter my 3rd year in this position, I am excited to see what changes 2020 has in store for Desert Cross and my position here.

Thanks,

*Jessica Robinson*

## Director of Adult Ministries



### Stories of Joy

This was our second year running Stories of Joy. SOJ is a tool for us to Spread Hope in the World. Our blog gathers and promotes Modern Day Gospel Stories. Our hope is that we at Desert Cross will use this tool to share these good news stories with our friends and family. This year we worked with a graphic artist and designed a logo for the project. Are you following our blog? If not, sign up at [www.storiesofjoy.org](http://www.storiesofjoy.org) for some good news in your inbox!

### 2019 Stats for Stories of Joy:

149 Followers  
104 Stories Published  
1170 Visitors to our Website  
3440 Views of our Webpages  
27 Different Countries Viewed our Website  
In 2019, we started publishing two stories a week rather than three stories a week, so some numbers are down from 2018. The countries with the highest views (after the US) are Canada, Philippines, and China.



### Desert Cross Faith Formation Website

The WE<sup>||</sup>together Team kicked off this project at the end of August. We recognize that faith formation can happen anywhere and anytime. Our hope for this project is to provide folks with good tools to study the good news. We sum it up with our tagline: Exploring Faith. Making Connections. Please sign up to follow the website at [www.dclcfithformation.org](http://www.dclcfithformation.org) to get updates on new posts.

### 2019 Stats for Desert Cross Faith Formation:

110 Followers  
27 Posts  
912 Visitors to our Website  
2620 Views of our Webpages  
11 Different Countries Viewed our Website  
The countries with the highest views (after the US) are United Kingdom, China, and France.

## === 55+ FELLOWSHIP ===

### 55+ Adult Fellowship

The Planning Team continues to serve Desert Cross well by organizing 55+ fellowship events throughout the year. They are a dedicated group and enjoy spending time together. Come and join in the fun!

Regular events include monthly Coffee and Conversation and monthly Third Thursday Game Days. Other events included a show at the Silver Star, tour of St. Mary's Basilica, volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, and summer breakfast and lunch outings.



*Photos from 55+ Service Project at Ronald McDonald House & lunch outing.*

### Adult Study

Pastor Andrea and Pastor Doris offered WE<sup>||</sup>together Adult Forum at both sites. In the spring we used video clips to explore the Abundant Life. In the fall we turned our focus to the texts from the Revised Common Lectionary.

Pastor Andrea offered The Way of Love: From Palace to Public Square, a study featuring Bishop Michael Curry. Pastor Andrea also offered a book study on The Faith Club. Pastor Doris offered a study on Journaling as a Spiritual Practice. Paul Gryniewicz offered a study on the book of Romans. I offered Follow Me: The Calling of Jesus, a study from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

We offered Book Groups throughout the year, using selections from The Great American Read on PBS. Thank you to Lola Peterson for partnering with me in this ministry. She's a great reader, and a great partner!

Thank you to the pastors and volunteers for leading studies. Thank you for attending study groups. We learn so much studying in community.



**ChristCare Small Group Ministry**  
In January we offered the water=life ChristCare Retreat. The event was very well attended, and Pastor Andrea did a great job leading us in a study of Baptism.

We have ChristCare Groups meeting at both sites. Our ChristCare Leaders are amazing servants! They provide family through these groups. Lin Bourgeois, Dawn Collins, Tim Collins, Rosemary Kesler, and Dale Martin lead this ministry with me. The team is a blessing in my life, and I thank them for allowing me to serve with them.

**groundWORK 2019 Listening Sessions**

I worked with Pastor Andrea and Paul Fagerman on groundWORK 2019 by helping coordinate the Listening Sessions in September, October, and November. We held 23 small group listening sessions and reached 187 participants. We used the Desert Cross Mission Statement as the guide for our conversations.

In Joyful Service,  
*Denise McClellan*

**Director of Youth Ministries**

**High School Night**—We averaged 15+ youth on a weekly basis and have had great conversations, laughs, and time to get to know one another.

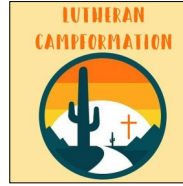
**Confirmation Grades 7 & 8**—Up to 20 youth attend and our participation is fantastic. Conversations and parent/student connections are a true blessing of this ministry.

**Jr. High Night**—This night has approximately 12 youth that faithfully attend. We laugh, connect on a personal level, and play games.

**Sunday School**—20+ Jr. High students gathered on Sundays for terrific lessons. Laurie Selby leads our Tempe Jr. High class, while Mark Sanders leads our Tempe HS group. In Gilbert, Jason Black and I have split the HS and Jr. High groups. These adult teachers are such a blessing to work with and so creative in their leadership. I am so very thankful for their willingness to share their love and time with our kids.

**Confirmation**—This past year we confirmed another terrific group of our 10th grade students. I met with all of our Confirmands to discuss their faith papers and check in with them. On Reformation Sunday, we had a beautiful service and Confirmed 7 students.

**Service Projects**—We gathered for several service opportunities this past year, including: Transportation Day, I-HELP, Feed My Starving Children, and the CROP Walk.



**Summer/Fall Highlights**

**Campformation**—14 students and 6 high school/college aged counselors attended from Desert Cross. We, once again, were at a new camp location called Camp Pinerock in Prescott. The location was even better than the previous year, and our teens had an absolute blast!

**High School Night**—Weekly meetings still took place during the summer months, and our attendance was really strong. We, per usual, saw a couple movies together as well.

**Personal**

As most of you know, 2019 was a transition year for me. I announced in late 2018 that I was moving to part-time at Desert Cross. Well, I am now back to full time! I could not be more excited and focused on our future together. We will be bolstering our programs and opportunities to grow our youth in faith and fellowship. 2020 will bring a Winter Retreat, a new Mission Trip opportunity, a new Bible Study for our HS teens, and more! Thank you all for your prayers, support, and patience with me as I explored a new career and rested from my 20 years of leading our youth. I am back to stay . . . pending God is cool with that. :)

Peace,  
*Chad Diegle*

**Children’s Ministry:**

**WE+together:** DCLC is committed to nurturing our children, youth, and the adults who love them as we discover and experience God and community throughout life’s journey. We believe the “passing on of faith” is done in community—there are HUGE benefits to having all generations praying, learning, and growing together. WE+together allows us to worship, serve, and learn together! We LOVE having the kids in worship and an education time for all ages. Education is at both sites and consists of an opening time with music, and then



kids explore the gospel and theme of the day through fun, interactive stations. Parents can attend the adult forum offered at the same time. Those with children under the age of 3 can attend Littlest Lutherans. We offer Service Sundays throughout the year. We love having the opportunity for the congregation to serve together. I am so thankful for the amazing teachers at Desert Cross who share their hearts and time. They do God's work beautifully! Thanks to Kristen Roehling for her partnership in children's ministry. Her presence is a huge blessing! Also, thanks to our amazing families for their commitment and participation!

**Pre-Confirmation:** The 2nd-3rd graders received Bibles in September. Our 4th-5th graders received instruction for *Holy Communion* at a seminar during Lent. Tempe 4th-6th graders were part of an Acolyte training in the spring.



**Family Night:** Family Nights continued this year and have been fun events full of family fellowship. The families enjoy dinner together, and then the parents get to hear a guest speaker while the kids have fun doing a service project and games. We alternate sites but want everyone to join us no matter the location. We have explored topics including prayer and painting, cooking with kids, bullying, and more! Thank you to the volunteers who help make these nights possible and the families that join us for the fun!

**Joyful Noises/Parent-Tot:** The outreach program is rewarding for all. It is fun to watch the children learn the routines, songs, and prayers. It has also been a great fellowship time for the caregivers! It is truly a joy to work with these kids and families in Gilbert!



**Kids Connect:** Kristen offers a monthly meeting time in Tempe called Kids Connect. The kids gather for games, crafts, planned activities, and lots of fun. Kristen plans awesome activities, and the kids have a great time!



**Vacation Bible School:** Vacation

Bible School this past summer (June 2019) was another big success. We had 90 kids and about 75 volunteers. Of those 90 kids, 27 had never been to our VBS before, 43 attend Desert Cross, 18 don't attend a church, and 29 attend other churches. With the donations the kids brought in and the Hunger Jar for that weekend, we collected \$999.75 for our service project with World Vision to provide moms and new babies in Africa the best start. You should have heard the discussions and prayers happening all day! VBS is one of those ministries where ALL are welcome . . . no matter your age, or church, or any other difference. I am extremely thankful for the 75 volunteers and all the donations that made that week possible. We look forward to 2020's VBS!



**Service Sundays/Family Events:** Service Sundays are a time for ALL generations to gather and work together to serve others! Service Sundays included things like the CROP Walk, making thank you cards for those who serve our communities, Feed My Starving Children packing, and more! In December we went Christmas Caroling at care centers where we passed out ornaments made by our kids. I hope that families will continue to take advantage of the opportunities to show our children the value of service and experience the benefits of doing it as a family! There are also many family events throughout the year including things like Transportation Day, Trunk or Treat, and more! We have such wonderful families here at Desert Cross, and we value the opportunity and time to gather for fun and fellowship!

**Faith Formation Website:** With Denise McClellan’s hard work we launched our faith formation website. We are excited about this faith tool because it can help families explore faith from home or on the go. The children’s page has some great articles and resources. Check it out if you haven’t already! [www.dclcfaitformation.org](http://www.dclcfaitformation.org)

I want to thank the Desert Cross staff, council, congregation, families, and children for making this another year full of blessings at Desert Cross. I look forward to this upcoming year!

In Faith and Love,

*Shannon Fossett*

### Parish Nurse

*“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest accomplishment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”*—Leo Buscaglia

I truly appreciate the investment that Desert Cross has made in Health Ministry and my role as Parish Nurse. I am able to bring the love and the caring of our congregation to those who are having challenges with their health through home, care center, and hospital visits. I am able to share my experience with community resources with people, helping them find agencies and items to meet their needs.

My experience in Parish Nursing has led to some exciting national opportunities. I was elected Vice President for Health Ministry Association, the professional organization for those interested in health and faith. I am serving on a national committee helping to create a process to be used for wellness program development in a variety of congregations. I am affiliated with Chamberlain University and Brookline College as a preceptor, working with community health nursing students. Locally, I work in collaboration with Dignity Health’s Center for Faith Health Partnerships to keep up with current knowledge and to mentor fellow Faith Community Nurses. I attended conferences on Child Safety, the Opioid Epidemic, Pain and Palliative Care, and Youth Mental Health First Aid.

In some of my other work at Desert Cross, I supervise the church nursery ministry. We had students graduate, which opened up opportunities for new staff to work with us on the team—Maddie Fernicchio, Joe English,

Josh Fossett, George Robinson, and Annika Beck. As a Stephen Leader with Dave Lanstrom, we commissioned new Stephen Ministers—Edie Shipton, Heidi Maxson, and Ron Diegle. Our Stephen Ministry program is about 80% linked with care receivers. I serve with Dawn Collins to shepherd the women’s group. We have adapted to the preferences of the group and now hold events throughout the year including a fun bread baking class at our neighborhood Great Harvest store and an evening with a national group called Aspire Women’s conference. I work with the Mothers of Pre-schoolers group led by Mandie Lottes and her team to support mothers in the season of raising young children. I am also a member of the newly formed Safety Committee, led by Andy and Jessica Robinson, where we seek to anticipate and plan for potential problems. We gave safety tips to the congregation such as being aware of exits and safe placement of walkers and wheelchairs. I love working in partnership with Children’s Ministry with annual events such as “cooking with kids” and serving as the nurse for Vacation Bible School.

When writing the summary of the year, I am reminded of the blessings of working with a wonderful group of volunteers and staff. Each family at Desert Cross is precious to me, and I appreciate being able to journey to wellness along with you. I am willing to be your partner in healthcare and ministry, sharing the tears and joys of life.

In service to our Lord,

*Denise Viker, BSN, RN*

### Communication Coordinator

Each year it seems like my job grows, and 2019 was no exception. The year started with me formatting my first Annual Report. This was a vision that Jim Matthews had when he was council president and working with Doug to make it come to fruition was extra rewarding.

In April I was nominated to be the staff representative on the Call Committee for the next Associate Pastor at Desert Cross. Because I am the staff representative, I have been the one scheduling communication with the congregation, reserving space for our meetings, and making sure that the committee has all of the paperwork needed for the interviews that we have been conducting. The Call Committee has been meeting for almost a year, and we are listening to the Holy Spirit and determined to find the best person for Desert Cross.



A member of the Boy Scout troop associated with Desert Cross put up new sign frames as part of his Eagle Scout project. The frames blew over, and a group of dedicated members constructed new frames and were able to use the bases to get a sign frame up just before Easter, and I was able to get the Easter banner hung. With the ability to hang banners again, I designed a Fall Festival banner and a Christmas banner this year. We also hung an existing Advent banner. I am grateful for the team of men in Gilbert that get the banners up and take them down.

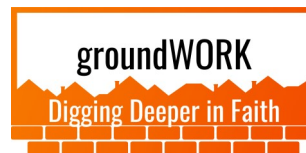


This last spring the Stewardship team started planning the Ministry Fair, which was held on August 25, 2019. I was responsible for the publicity for this event and helped with the printing of material. Dawn also helped with this, and it was very much appreciated. The Ministry Fair was successful in the sense that it had great representation from ministries from both sites. Unfortunately, it was held on one of the weekends with the poorest attendance and therefore wasn't as well attended as the Stewardship team hoped. The good news is that we are planning to build upon the things that we learned from this experience and try it again in 2020.

In July, I finalized the Desert Cross Stewardship Brochure. It is an informational pamphlet that the Stewardship team has been talking about for a few years and made it a goal to accomplish in 2019. While I was the one behind the visual elements, it was definitely a collaboration of the entire team.

Next up for me was the Fall Festival. I helped with a lot of the visual elements of this event. I created emails to advertise it, flyer handouts, and a street banner. I also worked as a liaison between the volunteer that took the lead on this event and the church with logistics.

This fall I was once again part of the team that put together the Fall Stewardship campaign. Deciding the logo was simple because we wanted to support the vision planning that Pastor Andrea presented back in February (at the listening posts) of groundWORK 2019. We adapted our campaign some and called it groundWORK: Digging Deeper in Faith, but we used the same orange brick wall



as our graphic. I came up with several designs for the material that we were planning to use to share giving unit information and ran every decision by the Stewardship team.

In addition to these projects, I have designed handouts and/or bulletin inserts for Outreach Ministry drives, the Gilbert Finance and Stewardship team, and the worship planning team. There have also been seasonal bulletin inserts and quarterly financial update inserts.

On a weekly basis, I published the printed bulletin, the e-newsletter, and the 8am Order of Worship aid, designed the announcement slides, corresponded by emails with congregation members and staff, and uploaded bulletins to the Desert Cross website. In addition to this, on a monthly basis, I published the monthly printed newsletter, uploaded the Taking Faith Home devotionals (through November), maintained the calendar on the website, attended Stewardship meetings, did several Facebook posts, and put together my council report. I've continued to send out memorial announcements as well as other more creative correspondence through Constant Contact.

As I said at the beginning of this report, it has been a busy year, and I continue to feel blessed to be a part of the Desert Cross staff and community. I truly believe that God is doing exciting things here. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of it!

In His Service,

*Maegan Jennett*

## **Gilbert Chamber**

Susan Carroll  
John Hughes  
Patrick Jennett\*  
Susan Johnston  
Laura Krizan  
Angela Nannenga\*  
Angie Stone

\*Church Council Members

## **Gilbert Campus Chamber Reports**

### **Finance and Stewardship**

Our focus as the Gilbert Campus Finance and Stewardship Team has been to promote FAITH IN ACTION with encouraging our membership to “BECOME INVOLVED.” The emphasis is to communicate and encourage the DCLC and Gilbert Campus Ministries. Our DCLC Stewardship Campaign this past fall was “groundwork: Digging Deeper in Faith.” The focus has been on presentations of information through Mission Moments, bulletin inserts/communications, and our newsletters. Our fall presentations of Deep Faith, Deep Joy, and Deep Walk encouraged our growth at Desert Cross with additional participating pledges approximating fifty additional units. Our focus as we journey into 2020 will center upon FAITH IN ACTION along with Children’s Connections and Involvement. We will continue with a Total Church—DCLC Ministry Fair—proposed for early October 2020. With our focus on FAITH IN ACTION, we also are responsible for communication and encouragement relating to Financial Metrics. Summarized below are various aspects of Financial Metrics.

-Our F/S Team focuses upon the GAP CHART to identify the Progress of our Stewardship giving along with the Campus Expense evaluation and Control. Our objective for the Gilbert Campus is to attain financial viability. Financial Viability is Membership giving/offering balancing our cost of operating the Gilbert Campus. The GAP CHART measures our progress to achieve the balance. We are starting year three of the program. We believe our measurement evaluation of cost is representative. Our giving/offering has grown the past two years but is not achieving the growth objective established. The GAP CHART has established Giving Growth of +8% annually. The established Cost Growth is +3% annually.

-The Gilbert Campus Offering for 2019 was \$192,014.22.

The 2018 Offering was \$189,065.92. The Giving Growth is 2019 was +\$2,948.30 or +1.56%. The Gilbert Campus is represented by 84 Giving Units.

-The Gilbert Campus Expenses for 2019 represented \$279,571.32 and compared to 2018 Expenses of \$269,106.08. The Expense Growth was +3.89%.

-The GAP between Gilbert Campus Expenses and Revenues represent (\$37,773.52). The Gap in 2018 was (\$47,575.66). Our GAP has narrowed.

-The Gilbert Campus average Sunday attendance through December 29, 2019 (year of 2019) was 122. The comparable average attendance for 2018 was 129. The decline in average attendance represents 5.37%

-The Finance and Stewardship Team for the Gilbert Campus is represented by Deb Gabrielson, Maegan Jennett, Sharon Lewis, Jim Moore, and Glenn Tischaefter. John Hughes is the Team Chamber representative.

*John Hughes*

### **Worship**

The mission of Worship is to provide sustaining support for worship activities at Desert Cross Lutheran Church—Gilbert, primarily through volunteer efforts. The vision is to build community through service, which also benefits our greater community.

Worship volunteer roles include Altar Guild, Bread Baking, making coffee, Ushers, Scripture Readers, Communion Assistants, Hospitality, and Clean Up/Lock Up. Recruiting for volunteers is done formally with stewardship surveys and informally by an individual letting the scheduler know. We encourage each family to take at least one turn in providing food for hospitality. Scheduling worship assistants and administrative support for services is a greatly appreciated volunteer role, performed by Vicki Posler with a recent position transition to Sherry Branham. Dana Hargis rotated in as Altar Guild Head, as I have done this for the last several years. Much appreciation to our standard bread bakers, Betsy Moore and Kathy Hughes.

Accomplishments for this past year include program-type activities, such as including children in the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day services, a workshop on centering prayer, revisions to the Worship Assistants Handbook, and meetings for altar guild, ushers, and a steering committee.

An eternal candle was thoughtfully donated to enhance our worship space.

In summary, we are richly endowed with church membership that take an active and prayerful role in worship services. It has been a pleasure to serve as the first Worship Chamber Chairperson, and best to the next person assuming this position.

*Susan Carroll*

### Education

As the Education Team Leader in Gilbert, Sunday School is one of the main areas I oversee. I am the liaison between Shannon Fossett, our Director of Children’s Ministries, and Gilbert. I organize the curriculum as it’s passed on to me and make sure the teachers have what they need for their classrooms. I am also available as a substitute teacher, if needed, and a resource if issues arise. This year Sunday Education is organized similarly to VBS, where the groups are mixed ages and rotating stations.

We have a great group of volunteers to lead the various classes.

Peace,

*Laura Krizan*



### Facilities

As the facilities liaison, I want to thank Glenn for all the time that it took to get the new projectors. I am glad a member was able to let us borrow a projector until we received the new ones. The landscape is doing well. The construction is moving forward on the roads around the church.

Thanks,

*Susan Johnston*

### Hospitality

The Hospitality team meets once a month on the first Monday of the month usually.

In June, we did a donuts for Dads. We bought five dozen donuts and served them to the congregation at the fellowship hour.

In September, we did a grandparents day. We put a verse and candy kisses into bags and had the children give them out to the grandparent in the service.

October was trunk or treat and the fall festival. The hospitality team provided the food for this event. I used Thrivent dollars to fund the food and drinks. The hospitality team cooked and served the food during the festival. We asked for good will donations. What we received in donations will be used to pay for the petting zoo and the train for transportation day.

We have three members that have been on the team since June 2019.

*Deb Christiansen*

### Mission and Outreach

Thank you to everyone who supports us with their donations and time dedicated to this important mission of the church. In February and November, there were two food drives to support Open Arms Care Center in Gilbert as well as Concordia Charter School in Mesa. Open Arms is the only food pantry in Gilbert and is 100% volunteer based. All donations go straight to helping those in need. Concordia Charter School in Mesa operates on the campus of First Evangelical Lutheran Church and uses our donations for their



families in need. In February, we completed a service project organized to help the Starbright House of Hope, which is a safe haven for children who suffer abuse. Child victims and/or foster children benefit from this serene, calm environment where they receive support and unconditional love. The church community brought out 15 people to clean up the yard, pick oranges and deep clean inside the house.



In May, we partnered as a congregation using the hunger jar contributions to buy water for the Water Hydration program through Grace Lutheran Church. July was the back to school drive. All donations went to Concordia Charter School. During the weekend of October 19/20, we had volunteers provide dinner to the Ronald McDonald house in Mesa both Saturday and Sunday. Christmas time brought in the Angel Tree donations for Concordia Charter School Children. Throughout the year, there are ongoing collections for Concordia Charter School of box tops, used books, print cartridges, and toiletries. We also initiated new welcome packages for first time visitors.



Looking forward to 2020, the goal is to continue the existing programs as well as add three more service projects/organizations to the schedule. I am scheduled to step down as chamber member in May, and we are seeking someone who has a heart for service to step in and take the reins. Feel free to reach out to myself or anyone else on the chamber team to find out more information.

Blessing,

*Angie Stone*

### **Tempe Community Outreach Ministry**

Our Community Outreach Ministry provides many different opportunities to help those in need in our local communities. Our strength is in gathering goods. We have found organizations in our area that have established distribution systems, and we provide the items they need for their clients. We have a large bin in the Narthex for our collections. It is often overflowing with our donations. Here are some of those we are helping.

We schedule 3 or 4 blood drives a year, and we always exceed our goals.

The Souper Bowl Drive brought in 362 pounds of food. Cash was collected to vote for your favorite team; Rams \$315.43, Patriots \$96.36, and Other \$44.82 for a combined total with Gilbert's collection of \$856.81 given to Kyrene Resource Center.

In February we had Special Hunger Jar collections for Kyrene Resource Center for much needed children's

underwear. Kyrene Resource Center services the area that includes Guadalupe.

In March we supported the Baby Safe Sleep program, a State Program, which provides new parents with classes on how to take care of their newborns with the emphasis on keeping them safe. We gathered 54 onesies and outfits size 3 months to 12 months, 44 knitted caps from Pam King's knitting group, many items from the wish list that we provide, and boxes of diapers.

In April we have a used purse drive through Shoebox Ministries for women in shelters. Last year we gathered 157 purses (32 to Kyrene Resource Center), 60 clutches and make up bags, 95 pounds of personal items, and 10 pounds of jewelry.

In May and June we have our Back to School Drive. We made contact with Gathering Humanity regarding the purchase of inexpensive backpacks. We received over \$600 in the Special Hunger Jar and were able to purchase 175 backpacks for the Kyrene Resource Center. We did not have as many school supplies, but our generous congregation was able to support both this drive and the Asylum Seekers program, which came in as an emergency at the same time.

Our ongoing shoes drive brought in over 300 pairs including many new pairs donated by Foot Solutions.

In the fall, blanket and jackets filled the bin 4 times. These went to the homeless at Paz de Cristo and the Kyrene Resource Center

The Be Thankful Food Drive in November filled the bin twice with 1,210 pounds of food. Turkey Sunday brought in 39 turkeys and all were distributed by Kyrene Resource Center.

With our Angel Tree we served 22 families with 110 children. The families were interviewed by the Resource Center to verify eligibility. Each child got two gifts, one piece of clothing and one wished for gift. Thanksgiving was late this year so we put the tree up November 9th, and our sorting and packing took place on December 15th. Our new starting time was 10:30am, which worked out well. Our very efficient crew was done in about 45 minutes. Another change was placing the gifts by the family number put on the floor instead of on the tables, which was much more efficient. Only two gifts came in late this year.



Thanks to everyone who participated. The Lord said whatever we do for others we are doing for Him. These are opportunities for doing His Work.

Thanks,  
*Hilda Rose*

## I-HELP

We were pleased to once again support Chandler I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Lodging Program) sponsored by AZCEND. Once a month we open our doors to serve dinner to an average of 25 homeless guests. We provided showers and a safe place for our guests to rest and sleep. Each morning we said good bye with a hot cup of coffee and a sack lunch.

The I-HELP program would not run without the help of volunteer hosts each month who provide all the food and do all the serving. Thank you to the ChristCare groups, council members, choirs, and groups of friends who get together to serve. This ministry would not run without YOU.

Thank you to Shannon Burns for coordinating this program through August and then allowing us to take over. If you'd like more information or are interested in serving, please contact us. We thank DCLC for supporting this ministry.

Blessings,  
*Glenn Tischaeyer and Claudia Huss*



*Photos from members serving at an I-HELP evening in April.*



## Memorial Garden/Columbarium

The Memorial Garden/Columbarium at Desert Cross Lutheran Church was completed in November 2009 and is available for members and associated family members. Provision was also made for inurement because of a serious financial need.

One niche was purchased in 2019, making a total of 61 niches purchased. One internment took place during the year. Again, some purchasers have elected to withhold the engraving of their niche at this time.

Maintenance of the fountain was completed in October and is performed on an annual basis and/or as needed. The water cascading over the edge of the fountain forms a cross.

The cost of a niche remains at \$1,950.00, which includes two urns and engraving of two names and four dates. Maintenance and repairs are a part of the niche cost. The donation amount is \$1,000.00 of that \$1,950.00.

As part of the RENEW Campaign, an enhancement of the Memorial Garden was completed in 2019. This enhancement included artificial turf and an extension of the pavers from the parking lot to the Narthex entrance.

You are encouraged to consider purchasing a niche as you contemplate the end of life planning. The placing of an urn at the completion of a Celebration of Life service is a special time for the family and friends. You are also encouraged to take the time to sit and meditate and pray from time to time.

For the Oversight Team,  
*Lola Peterson*




# A Year in Review through slides continued...

**DCLC Fellowship Event:**  
Diamondbacks vs. Brewers  
Sunday, July 21 at 1:10pm  
RSVP by July 12



More information in the e-newsletter.

**School Supply Drive**



Collecting until Sunday, July 21 for Step Up School, Kyrene Resource Center, and Concordia Charter School.

Desert Cross is collecting clothing and shoes (especially children's shoes) for the Asylum Seekers that we are going to be hosting.



We're also putting together teams to host. More information in the e-newsletter.

DAVE HANDEL'S  
**FINANCIAL Peace**  
UNIVERSITY  
Begins Wednesday, August 14

Wednesdays from 6:30pm-8:15pm in Gilbert  
**Sign-up Today!**  
More information in the e-newsletter.

**M 2019**  
*to the full* John 10:10

MEETING DATES BEGINS AUGUST 15

MOPS Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at our Gilbert Campus from 9am-11am

Games-Food-Fellowship  
**TRIVIA**  
August 24 @ 6pm  
Tempe Fellowship Hall

Bring your best "James Holzhauser" knowledge and see how many answers you know! Grab your BFF and join us for GFF!

**Ministry Fair**  
Sunday, August 25  
9am-11:30am  
Tempe Community Center



SEPTEMBER OUTREACH  
**WINTER BLANKETS & CLOTHES DRIVE**



Accepting New or Gently Used Items

**GAME TIME!**

**GFF: Board Game Night**  
Saturday, September 28 @ 6pm  
Tempe Fellowship Hall  
\*Adults only, please.

**Order Your T-Shirts Today!!!**  
Online shop open now until October 1

The Mission & Outreach Team in Gilbert is selling Desert Cross T-Shirts to support the service projects that they organize. There is a link in the e-newsletter.



Desert Cross Credit Union  
**Family Night**  
Wednesday, October 2 at 5:30pm in Tempe

More information in the e-newsletter.

**Be Thankful Food Drive**

We will be collecting food October 5 through November 24.

There is a list in the October newsletter.



DCLC FELLOWSHIP EVENT  
**PAINT NIGHT!**  
Sunday, October 6 • 2pm-5pm  
Burst of Butterflies in downtown Chandler

\$25 includes 12x12 canvas, paint, snacks, FUN

Sign up in the Tempe Narthex or the Church Office by Thursday, October 3



**Outreach Service Project at Ronald McDonald House**

Saturday, October 19 & Sunday, October 20 at 6pm at the Mesa Ronald McDonald House

More information in the September newsletter.

**FALL FESTIVAL with TRUNK OR TREAT**  
October 26 • 4pm-8pm • Gilbert

Vendor Fair – Food – Games – Crafts  
Movie – Costume Parade – FUN!!!  
LOTS of volunteers needed! Contact Staci Smith if you are interested in being involved.

Games-Food-Fellowship  
**It's BUNGO Night!**

Saturday, October 26 @ 6pm  
Tempe Fellowship Hall


Bring a can of food for the Be Thankful Food Drive!

**ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME CROP HUNGER WALK**

**CROP WALK is Nov. 3**  
Hunger Jar Offerings on Oct. 26/27 & Nov. 2/3 will be set aside for this service project.

Bring your Block to the Fun!  
**FAMILY NIGHT**  
Wednesday, November 13 at 5:30pm in Gilbert

Topic: Bullying S.T.O.P.S. Here, a Caregivers guide to understanding, recognizing and handling bullying.



**Go, See, Do Photography & Travel Meet-Up**  
Saturday, November 16 at 9am

More info in the e-newsletter. Contact Paul Gryniwicz if you are interested.



**Annual Craft Day**  
Saturday, November 23 @ 12:30pm

Please note the date & time change.



Games-Food-Fellowship  
**CHARADES!**

Saturday, November 23 @ 6pm  
Tempe Fellowship Hall  
Grab your BFF and come to GFF!

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**  
Sunday, December 8 @ 4pm

Meet in Tempe at the Community Center before & join us for a campfire and smores after!



**Children's Christmas Program**  
Sunday, December 9  
Tempe @ 9:30am



**Women's Advent Tea**  
Saturday, December 14  
1pm-3pm in Gilbert

RSVP to Betsy Moore as soon as possible.



**Advent Celebration**  
Hope • Peace • Joy • Love  
Sunday, December 15 at 9am



**2019 ANGEL TREE**  
Tempe & Gilbert Gifts are due back by December 15

Please wrap all gifts and securely attach the tags.



**GILBERT COOKIE EXCHANGE**  
Sunday, December 22  
More info in the next e-newsletter.



Games-Food-Fellowship  
**CARDS!**

Saturday, December 28 @ 6pm  
Tempe Fellowship Hall  
Grab your BFF and come to GFF!



NOTES





