

# Desert Cross Lutheran Church

## Gilbert Chamber Meeting

### August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Attendees:**

<u>Council</u>	<u>Chamber</u>	<u>Pastors</u>
Angela Nannenga—P	Nancy Zine (worship 1 of 3)—P	Andrea Cain—A
Patrick Jennett—P	John Hughes (finance/stewardship 2 of 3)—P	Doris Nolan—A
	Angie Stone (Mission & Outreach 3 of 3)—P	
	Laura Krizan (Education 3 of 3)—P	
	Susan Johnston (facilities 2 of 3)—A	
	Deb Christiansen (Hospitality 1 of 3)—A	
	Kelly Kaiser Borning (Communication 1 of 3)—P	

Devotions: Kelly Kaiser Borning

Approval of Agenda for August and Minutes for June (no quorum/minutes in July) - Motion: Patrick Jennett, Second: Nancy Zine. Approved.

**Old Business:**

1. Sign-up sheet for IHelp - new sign up sent out as we were notified that we also need to provide breakfast. Angela moved some food to other areas and we have a couple other areas to fill. Some items need to be taken to the church (Gilbert) on 9/22 and others to Angela's house by 9/21 to be packed for lunches. Gloves need to be worn during all food preparation. When delivering food, masks need to be worn. Food for about 25 people.

**Reports:**

Council report: No council meeting in July.

Pastor report:

- Desert Cross has moved all our ministries online, and we have created new ministries. Each staff person is working hard to creatively connect, share, teach, and reach out on our digital platforms by Zoom, website, e-blast, Faith Formation website, relevant Stories of Joy, online worship on our Desert Cross YouTube channel, etc. We have children's ministries such as Kids Connect on Zoom and Shenanigans with Ms. Shannon, which is a story time for our youngest children. Our staff is to be commended for quickly adapting and keeping Desert Cross viable. We meet by Zoom every Tuesday for our regular staff meeting and many of us are doing new things in new ways these days.
- Our education team has created online Playlists. An email went out Monday explaining Playlists. This will be our education platform for all ages. It is a multi generational, multi

purpose, and multi learning style of teaching and learning at each learner's own pace. We have monthly themes and we kick off September with a theme of social justice. Each age appropriate Playlist will utilize multiple media to teach such as videos, music, prayer, action, reflect, read, discuss, etc. An instructional video is in the works, and playlists will be posted on our faith formation website for all to utilize and enjoy.

- We have no reopening target date yet at this time. The reopen team is ready to engage as soon as it is appropriate to do so. It became clear in June/July that in-person gathering will not be possible for an unexpected extended time period. Planning and congregational meeting topics are on the council agenda for August 17 meeting. Research by the Executive Committee and Pastor Andrea has occurred since July exploring possibilities for virtual meetings consulting state laws, synod policies, our church constitution, technology needs, etc., so we can have an informed discussion at council).
- A new "snack mission" was created and snacks have been delivered to COVID floors in the valley each week with hand written thank you notes from Desert Cross. This has made a big impact on the healthcare workers who are sacrificing so much. It's great we can still be creative in sharing God's love at this difficult time. I'm sure we will find more ways to grow our mission while our usual missions continue.
- Our community has stayed connected by worship, outreach, and intentional checking in on each other. We hope to find ways to help people engage with our mission projects this fall. The stewardship team is working hard to create a meaningful and impactful fall campaign, and it a pleasure to serve with this team. I am thankful for all of our teams such as Finance, Chamber, Council, Outreach, Education, Endowment who are meeting by Zoom or email and continuing to do God's work in the world. I'm thankful for Doug and Dawn who maintain limited office hours and are the glue that binds us together. Although times are tough and we are physically apart, truly we are in this together and God is with us every step of the way!

Finance report: Committee has been meeting on Zoom every month. Flo, staff accountant, retired at the end of July. Deanne Sol has taken over with some transition assistance from Flo. The church is committed to continue with the payroll during the entire pandemic period. We received a PPP loan in April to support payroll and now working on filing for loan forgiveness (turns loan into a grant). July reflected more "typical" summer giving (lower) and an extra pay-period. PPP money has not been used yet, but expected that August may also be a lower-giving month, so will reconsider if needed at that time. We have not been charging rent for businesses at the Gilbert Church due to continued closures of businesses. The electricity bill has been significantly lower as A/C has been set around 85. Gap is widening between giving and expenses for DCLC as a whole.

Drawings from the architect are complete (since May) but Doug has not yet filed with the town of Gilbert. Others may be willing to help get the filing done if Doug is not able to get it done soon. Needs to happen ASAP so we can complete the project and start the lease with Dogs for Vets.

Trying to move forward with the Stewardship program even as we continue to function in a virtual world.

Committee reports: Mission & Outreach (Angie Stone): Back to school drive (for Concordia) was much less successful than previous years. There were a couple donations, but not nearly as much as before.

**New Business:**

Need during COVID-19: Not a lot of needs at this time due to typical slower summer months. Needs seem to be more about emotional support and support for parents and students going back to school.

The need to move forward with decisions in the church was expressed. Planning for the future as well as congregational meetings need to occur (It became clear in June/July that in-person gathering will not be possible for an unexpected extended time period. Planning and congregational meeting topics are on the council agenda for the August 17 meeting. Research by the Executive Committee and Pastor Andrea has occurred since July exploring possibilities for virtual meetings consulting state laws, synod policies, our church constitution, technology needs, etc., so we can have an informed discussion at council). Meetings may need to be virtual but something needs to happen to continue to move the church forward. If accessibility (i.e. familiarity with technology) is an issue for some parishioners, there are people in the church who are likely willing to go in and help those people (while following safety guidelines).

**Closing:**

Prayer Concerns: *Susan Oram's* (longtime member of DCLC) daughter, Megan, passed away so prayers for that family. Angie's coworker (Luis) lost his grandmother in Spain and he is not able to go and attend the funeral due to travel restrictions. Angela N asked for prayers for Peyton (9 year old girl) who went through a rare form of cancer a couple years ago and beat it but the cancer is back and it has spread to her lungs, adrenal glands, and lymph nodes. Surgery soon but may not be able to remove all the cancer. Prayers for the call committee. Angie is starting a new job on Monday (good news!).

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer in "unison"

Adjournment: Laura made motion to adjourn, Patrick seconded. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:20

**Distribution:**

**Council:**

Patrick Jennett  
Angela Nannenga

**Chamber:**

Nancy Zine  
John Hughes  
Angie Stone  
Laura Krizan  
Deb Christensen  
Susan Johnston  
Kelly Kaiser Borning

**Pastors:**

Andrea Cain  
Doris Nolan

**Staff:**

Maegan Jennett  
Michael Lottes  
Doug Bjotvedt