



## Pastoral Update—October 16, 2020




Watch this week's video, *Beyond the Church walls & into the World*, by clicking on the image above.

**Our God is an awesome God!** We worship a God of love who unites us and touches our hearts for mission. God equips us for mission with gifts of grace, faith, hope, and love! And we are the body of Christ, called to be the hands and feet of God in the community and world. God sends us out together with hearts of love beyond the walls of our church, homes, and workplaces to make God's love known!

**Our God is a generous God!** This time of pandemic has kept us physically distant. Yet, we are still church together united by faith! Our mission, ministry, and fellowship are stronger than ever. Nothing can stop our mission because God is with us! Desert Cross is full of people with generous hearts sharing hope, love, and service. Not even COVID-19 can stop us from sharing God's love. We have created new ways to serve and love one another and reach out to love our neighbors. We are strengthened, renewed, and sent with our weekly online worship on YouTube and our children's messages; our daily devotions; weekly Zoom Chat Pray sessions; education Playlists; children's ministries: VBS, Shenanigans with Ms. Shannon, Kid's Connect, and High School Night on Zoom. We are innovating on the spot generating new possibilities for mission!

**Our God is a servant God!** We follow God's lead as a local and global church who does God's serving work within and beyond our walls. We serve and share via these exciting ways: ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Immigration & Refugee Services; Synod benevolence, Grace Lutheran snack hydration program, I-HELP meal support, hunger jars for LSS, Kyrene Resource Center food/school supplies, and new COVID hospital snack delivery with thank you letters. So many ways to serve!

How is God calling you to reach out with Desert Cross' mission bringing hope and joy in 2020-2021? May we each prayerfully reflect on the gifts first given to us by God and give thanks for the blessings we receive each new day. Our mission is not possible without you joining with us to share God's love *Beyond the Walls Together!*

 Our first in-person worship is Reformation Sunday on October 25<sup>th</sup> which is also our stewardship Commitment Sunday. Please mail or bring your completed pledge card to church to drop in the offering basket. We will say a prayer of thanksgiving and ask for God's blessing on our promises to support our mission and ministries in the year ahead. These gifts allow us to continue sharing God's love in awesome, generous, and serving ways!

Thank you, Desert Cross!

*Pastor Andrea*