



## DESERT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

SHARING • LOVING • SERVING

480-730-8600  
info@desertcross.org  
www.desertcross.org



Tempe Campus  
(Church Office)  
8600 S. McClintock Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85284

Gilbert Campus  
3225 S. Lindsay Rd. #101  
Gilbert, AZ 85297

**Tempe // Saturday**  
5pm - Worship

**Tempe // Sunday**  
8:00am - Traditional Worship  
9:00am - Fellowship  
9:30am - Contemporary Worship  
10:30am - Education

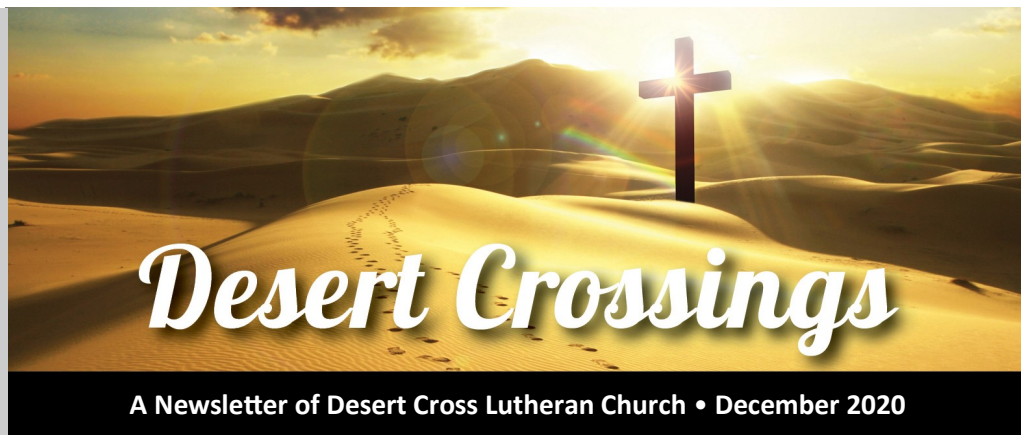
**Gilbert // Sunday**  
9:00am - Contemporary Worship  
10:00am - Fellowship  
10:15am - Education

As a missional congregation,  
we celebrate Christ's presence,  
invite people into a growing  
relationship with Jesus and equip  
them to serve in a broken world.

**Are you in need of prayer?**  
Send prayer requests to  
prayerchain@desertcross.org  
or fill out a prayer request form.

All newsletter submissions are  
due the 15th of the month prior to  
the month that an article is to be  
advertised.

\*Please note that there will be one  
newsletter for the months of March  
and April 2021. This newsletter will  
be published at the end of February.  
The next newsletter will be May 2021.



## Prepare

Pastor Doris Nolan

*"Prepare the way of the Lord. . ."*  
Mark 1:3



The season of  
Advent is a  
season of  
preparation,  
a time in the  
liturgical

calendar when we are encouraged to  
reflect on how to best prepare ourselves  
for the coming  
of Jesus at Christmas. I love the season  
of Advent with its invitation to slow  
down and to reflect on where we find  
ourselves in our journey of faith, and to  
prepare ourselves for the changes the  
coming of the Lord makes in our lives.

Advent is a contemplative time in the  
church year, a time to transition from  
the 'ordinary time' of the season of  
Pentecost to the joy of the birth of  
Christ. That Advent is a time of transi-  
tion is important; transitions move us  
forward to the future and prepare us  
to embrace desired changes, and the  
transition of Advent moves us forward  
to the future and to the new beginning  
that God has in mind for each one of us,  
and for this community of faith. New  
beginnings require endings, too. And  
in the season of Advent, we prepare  
ourselves for those changes and  
endings.

I will confess that I am much better at  
new beginnings and hellos than I am  
navigating endings and good-byes.  
I have been so very blessed over these  
past two years to serve as your transi-  
tional associate pastor. I am so very  
thankful for your graciousness and  
kindness to me. I give thanks for how  
Pastor Andrea and the wonderful Desert

Cross staff embraced me from the start  
as one of the team.

And, I am especially grateful for your  
love, support, and encouragement  
during these recent months after my  
cancer diagnosis when I have been on  
a journey of healing. I have so appreci-  
ated your prayers—your prayers have  
carried me when I was feeling too over-  
whelmed and too sick to pray. The  
many cards, emails, Facebook messag-  
es, texts, phone calls, gifts, and flowers  
that I have received from the Desert  
Cross community have sustained me  
and given me hope through these diffi-  
cult days. Your love and support have  
reminded me on days when I needed to  
be reminded that God is always with  
me—that God is always with us all. You  
have been the light of Christ to me—***The  
light shines in the darkness, and the  
darkness did not overcome it.*** (John 1:5)

In the wonderful Adult Playlist for  
November (it's on the Faith Formation  
website), Denise McClellan included a  
Bruce Springsteen song *The Land of  
Hope and Dreams*. This song is one of  
my favorites because for me, this song  
describes the church. A lyric from this  
song has been on my mind as I think  
about saying goodbye to Desert Cross,  
my beloved community: *You'll need a  
good companion now for this part of  
the ride...* It has been my privilege and  
blessing to be your pastoral companion  
during this part of your ride.

Thanks and blessings,  
*Pastor Doris*



## “Hello, Goodbye” Desert Cross 2020-2021 Transitions

... *the God of love and peace will be with you.*  
2 Corinthians 13:11

It is with a heart full of joy tinged with sadness that I prepare your hearts to say hello to Pastor Thadd and goodbye to Pastor Doris as we transition from 2020 to 2021.

As 2020 comes to a close, we will say farewell to Pastor Doris in our virtual worship Sunday, December 27th. Pastor Doris has been graciously serving as our Transitional Associate Pastor for almost 2 years, and we will miss her! A zoom farewell reception of thanksgiving for Pastor Doris' ministry with us is pending for December 27th at 10am. We grieve her going, give thanks for the gifts she shared with us, and wish her well in her future ministry!

In October, Desert Cross called Rev. Thaddeus M. Book to serve as our Associate Pastor. The target date for his first Sunday is January 10, 2021, as his family transitions from Pennsylvania to Arizona. Installation details are pending as well as a welcome reception. We look forward to his arrival with grateful hearts!

A continual theme of change has carried us through 2020. Change is hard, but change is what God is up to at Desert Cross and in the world. It is God's love and peace that sustain us.

In the words of 2 Thessalonians 3:16 : *Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways.*

The Lord be with all of you,

*Pastor Andrea*



### Farewell to Pastor Doris

Sunday, December 27

We will be celebrating her during the virtual worship that weekend.

A reception is planned for December 27th at 10am on Zoom.

## Congregational Budget Meeting

Sunday, December 6 • 4pm • Zoom

Agenda:

- Financial Review through November of 2020
- 2021 Budget

The link to attend the meeting will be sent via email .



### Pastor Thadd's Bio

I was born and raised on a farm 80 miles Northwest of Chicago. I currently live 30 miles southwest of Philadelphia. Between Illinois and Pennsylvania a lot has happened. I met my wife while working at a Lutheran summer camp outside of Green Bay (Go Packers!) during college. My wife and I both attended seminary at Trinity Lutheran in Columbus, Ohio. My first call was as an Associate Pastor of Youth and Families at Messiah Lutheran Church in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. In 2014, we moved to Phoenixville, Pennsylvania where I currently serve as Pastor at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Chester Springs, Pennsylvania.

In May of 2016, we welcomed our first child Lincoln Thaddeus into the world. Lincoln enjoys learning about dinosaurs, playing baseball, and riding his bike. This past summer, Everett Allen made his grand entrance as Lincoln's co-conspirator. He enjoys sleeping, eating and grunting. I enjoy running, reading novels, watching the Green Bay Packers, suffering through Chicago Cubs baseball (except for a glorious 2016 season), and traveling with my family. We look forward to seeing where God is leading us next!



### Holiday Office Hours

Friday, December 25:  
Office Closed for Christmas Day

Friday, January 1:  
Office Closed for New Year's Day

# Christmas at Desert Cross



## Advent 2020 "The Heart of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love"

*Refresh my heart in Christ. Philemon 1:20*

Celebrate Advent 2020! The Heart of Advent is the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love Jesus brings into our hearts to share with the world! As we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth and together wait for his second coming, we sing "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus." Prepare your heart for the coming Savior with virtual Advent worship, our December Playlist: "Joy," and the digital devotional #AdventWord 2020. Share the gifts by inviting a friend!

Refresh your hearts with virtual Advent worship on Sundays November 29, December 6, 13, & 20 at 9am and virtual Advent reflections and music on Wednesdays December 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 7pm on our *Desert Cross Lutheran Church* YouTube channel.

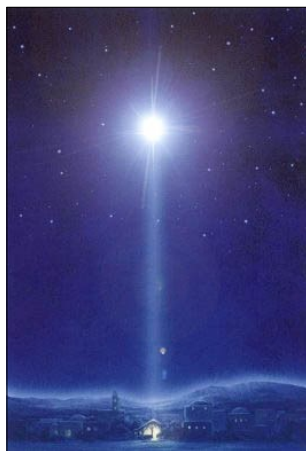
May your heart be refreshed with the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Jesus. A holy and blessed Advent and Christmas to you!

Love, Pastor Andrea ♥

## Christmas Eve 2020

**Celebrate the wonder of Christmas!**

Join us on **Thursday, December 24th** for a special virtual Christmas Eve worship service. Our hope is to Livestream a musical service celebrating Christ born in our hearts in word and song. Watch for details in upcoming Friday weekly updates!



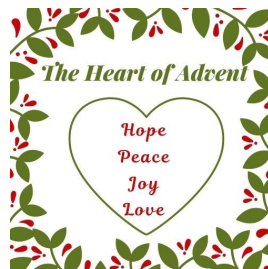
## Advent Devotional #AdventWord

Advent begins Sunday, November 29.

This year we're adopting #AdventWord offered by Virginia Theological Seminary. It's an international devotional in several languages. It'll be delivered each day directly to your inbox. Sign up by using the link below.

<https://adventword.org/en/home/>

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



## Kick off Advent with a "Heart of Advent" Children's Ministry event on Zoom at 5:45pm!

Join Ms. Shannon for a story and say hello to your Desert Cross friends!

Meeting ID: 899 4000 8536

Password: 029541



## Angel Tree Christmas Gifts

Deadline for donating is December 20, 2020.

The Angel Tree has become an annual project during the Advent and Christmas season at Desert Cross. Providing gifts for the families at the Kyrene Resource Center and for our refugee family will continue—just in a different format.

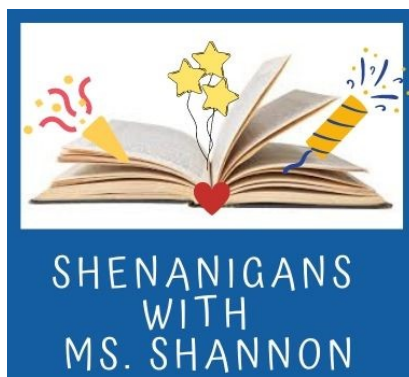
The Community Outreach Ministry in Tempe is requesting that you purchase \$25 gift cards from Target or Walmart. The gift cards can be donated by:

- Mailing or Dropping off gift cards at the church office (please be sure to include a note designating to the Angel Tree).
- Purchasing a gift card online and sending to Desert Cross.
- Selecting Angel Tree in the online giving platform and donating in increments of \$25 for gift cards to be purchased.

**There are 121 children to provide gifts for this year.** We ask that you pray for these children, that the gift will provide joy and excitement, and that they will know they are loved and valued.

Contact Lola Peterson at 602-686-2865 or June Bowman at 602-402-2577 if you have questions.





### Wednesdays at 9am • Meeting on Zoom!

Joyful Noises families, until we can meet again in person, Ms. Shannon is offering Shenanigans with Ms. Shannon! We will meet over Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 9am for a story and a fun activity. Friends are always invited!

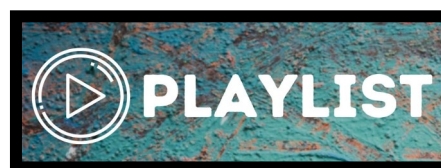
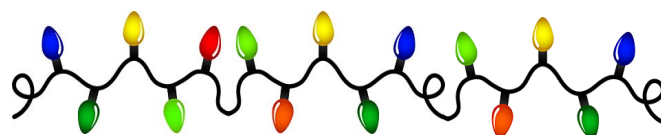
Please contact Ms. Shannon to get the link to the meeting and if you need any help with accessing it.

**Not meeting December 23 & 30**



### Sundays • 1pm-1:30pm • Meeting on Zoom! Meeting December 6 & 20

Kids Connect is meeting virtually! Kids in grades Kindergarten through 5th are invited to join Ms. Kristen for what is sure to be a bunch of fun! Friends are always invited! Please contact Kristen to get the link to the meeting and if you need any help with accessing it.



## New Playlists coming December 1

This year we're using a new approach to Education at Desert Cross. We're growing in faith by using Playlists. Playlists allow us to explore a topic through different ways of learning. You can work through the Playlists at your own pace throughout the month and share your experience on the Desert Cross Faith Formation website. So far we've taken a look at Justice, Amazing Grace, and Hope. Our December Playlists topic is *Joy*.

We're posting the Playlists on our faith formation website, <https://dclcfathformation.org/>. You can sign up to follow the website at the bottom of the home-page. Then you'll get an email each time we post new content. We'll also post a link to the Playlists on our church website, <http://www.desertcross.org/home>.

We'll post our next Playlists on December 1.

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

Come along with us Exploring Faith and Making Connections!

Pastor Andrea  
Daniel Decker  
Chad Diegle

Shannon Fossett  
Michael Lottes  
Denise McClellan



## Jr. High Night

Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom

Teens are invited to meet together for fun, fellowship, and to talk about life topics. Please contact Chad at [cdiegle@desertcross.org](mailto:cdiegle@desertcross.org) for the access information.

## High School Night

Sundays at 7pm on Zoom

Usually a night of games and group discussion on "real life" topics, now the group is gathering weekly on Zoom. Contact Chad Diegle at [cdiegle@desertcross.org](mailto:cdiegle@desertcross.org) for meeting information.

## Zoom, Chat, Pray

Join Pastor Andrea on Mondays from 12pm to 12:30pm for a virtual gathering on Zoom. It is a time to come together and catch up and pray for each other as well as our community.

Zoom Meeting ID: 852 0831 8816  
Passcode: 137571





We are still living through some uncertain times and we all need some Good News in our email. Each week Desert Cross shares Modern Day Gospel Stories through our Stories of Joy blog. Sign up to follow our blog at [storiesofjoy.org](http://storiesofjoy.org). If you have any questions, contact Denise McClellan at [dmccllellan@desertcross.org](mailto:dmccllellan@desertcross.org) or 480-730-8600.

## DCLC Financial Update

2020 Budget \$1,353,222.00

Financial Year through 10/31/2020

Total Gifts	\$ 832,341.00
Total Expenses	\$ 976,419.00
Difference*	\$ (144,078.00)

\*Timing of Expenses and Giving throughout the year is not consistent. This Financial Update demonstrates the COVID-19 effects on 2020 Giving, but does not include the \$165,000.00 in Paycheck Protection Program money received.

### RENEW Campaign June 2017 through May 2020

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

RENEW Projects Completed in 2018: \$ 139,110.00  
RENEW Projects Completed in 2018/2019: \$ 78,649.00  
RENEW Projects Completed in 2020: \$ 36,387.00  
Total Completed Projects \$ 254,146.00

Gifts Available as of 10/31/2020

RENEW Home \$ 92,116.25  
RENEW Mission \$ 9,392.75

## Welcoming Pastor Thadd & his Family to Arizona

The time that we have waited for is just around the corner. Associate Pastor Thadd Book, his wife, Laura, and sons, Lincoln and Everett will soon be here. Because of the pandemic, we will not be able to welcome the Book family in-person for a while. We are hoping that the congregation will mail their best wishes and welcome so that it can be given to the Book family when they arrive.

Please send your card or note welcoming Pastor Thadd and his family to the church office in Tempe. They will be put together and shared with the family upon their arrival to Arizona.

Thank you,  
The Call Committee

Lin Bourgeois, Tracy Clark, Maegan Jennett, Erin Pelley, Chris Stone, and Nancy Zine



## Can YOU help I-HELP?



I-HELP is a church wide project hosting those who are homeless and working toward improving their lives. Just one night toward improving their lives. Just one night month we provide a hot meal and lunches for 15-25 guests. The hosts for each monthly visit have included various church groups including ChristCare, Ringing Praise Choir, Outreach Committees, Church Council, and even families just getting together to help those in need. *By the end of 2020 the Desert Cross community will have served approximately 300 guests through the I-HELP program!*

Since COVID, our hosts have been making the meals at home and meeting up at the Tempe Church parking lot where the foods are handed off to us (Glenn and/or Claudia). We then deliver the meals to the I-HELP guests at the facility where they are staying because we are not currently hosting the I-HELP guests at our location.

As 2021 is fast approaching, we need your help to fill up the hosting calendar. Open dates for 2021 are:

**January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 23, and December 28.** Please talk with your ministry groups, friends, and family about signing up to help.

Contact Glenn Tischafer at 920-539-1364 or Claudia Huss at 602-762-9014 with any questions. Thank you for your consideration and your participation in this important ministry.

## A Friendly Reminder...

If you haven't turned in your pledge card for 2021, we kindly ask you to do so today. It isn't too late! We use the pledges to help us prepare and manage the budget for the year and when you submit a pledge card to the church office, it helps the church plan for the ministry opportunities of that year.



## BLOOD DRIVE Saturday, January 16, 2021

The Outreach Ministry and Vitalant (formerly United Blood Services) will be hosting a blood drive on Saturday, January 16, 2021 in the church Community Center on the Tempe campus from 7:30am to 1pm. Art will be contact past donors for sign ups.

You can go on-line to schedule an appointment by logging onto [www.bloodhero.com](http://www.bloodhero.com) and using desertcross (all one word) as the sponsor code. Another way to schedule an appointment is at any Vitalant office.

You can donate whole blood or power red. There is a need for Type O negative, Type A negative, and Type B negative power red donations. Please remember that when you donate you earn points that can be turned in for prizes.

If you have any questions, contact Art Krzyzewski at 602-292-0663 or [krzyarty@cox.net](mailto:krzyarty@cox.net).



## Desert Cross Faith Formation

Exploring Faith. Making Connections. Staying Connected to our Desert Cross Community. That's our hope for our Desert Cross Faith Formation website. You can sign up to follow the website at [www.dclcfaitformation.org](http://www.dclcfaitformation.org).

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



## Limited Church Office Hours

The church office is still considered closed. However, we do have staff coming into the office each day from 12pm to 2pm. They are checking the mail, processing the offerings, and answering the phone. Staff is also checking e-mails and voicemails if you need to reach someone.

Pastor Andrea is continuing to share progress and information surrounding DCLC decisions in her weekly updates to the congregation. If you would like to read any of those updates, they can be found on the website or by clicking [here](#).

## Year End Tax Information

January 1, 2020 is a Friday. Contributions received in the mail during the first week of 2021 with a postmark no later than 12/31/20 will be posted to 2020 Contributions. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Church Office.



## Worship Reservations through SignUpGenius

When we resume in-person worship services, in order to meet physical distancing guidelines, we are limiting the number of people present at worship services and requiring reservations through SignUpGenius.

Reservations will open Monday mornings and the link to the SignUpGenius registration will be shared in the devotion email from Desert Cross. The link will also be shared in the weekly update email from Desert Cross on Friday evenings. Registration will close Saturday mornings at 6am.

If you need help registering, please contact Denise McClellan at [dmccllellan@desertcross.org](mailto:dmccllellan@desertcross.org).

## December Birthdays & Milestone Anniversaries

Congratulations to all of our December birthdays and anniversaries. We wish you God's blessings on your special day!

For privacy reasons, Desert Cross does not publish the names and birthdays/anniversaries of our congregation online. The full list of birthdays and anniversaries is available by contacting Maegan Jennett at [mjennett@desertcross.org](mailto:mjennett@desertcross.org).

Thank you for understanding.

