

The background image shows the exterior of a church building with a large cross on the roof. The building has a mix of tan and yellow walls with stone accents. A sign on the right side of the building reads "Desert Cross".

DESERT CROSS – GILBERT REFRESH

Gilbert/Tempe Town Hall 2026

Agenda

- ❖ Reasons for the Refresh
- ❖ Phases and Costs
- ❖ Sanctuary Refresh Ideas
- ❖ Fellowship Refresh Ideas
- ❖ Questions

OUR HISTORY

Desert Cross has been serving the East Valley since 1984 in Tempe and developed a mission start with a second campus in Gilbert in 2008. We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Desert Cross has always had a heart for mission, and we are continually seeking new ways to love and serve God, our community, and our world. Our vision for the future is to find new ways to continue this faith journey together Sharing, Loving, and Serving in the name of Christ.



THE PERFECT STORY POST REFRESH

The First Step: A Sunday Morning at the New Gilbert DC

Sarah tightened her grip on her car steering wheel. Visiting a new church was always daunting. The fear of the unknown—*Where do I park? Will I be stared at? Will I know where to go?*—usually kept her home.

But today was different. As she turned down the street, she didn't have to squint to find the building.

The visibility, the new signage was unmistakable from the road. It didn't look like a closed-off fortress; it looked like an invitation. The landscaping was open, and the building itself seemed to say, *"We are here, and we are open for you."* That initial anxiety in her chest loosened just a fraction.

The arrival walking up to the doors, Sarah braced herself for that awkward "lost" feeling. But as she stepped across the threshold, she wasn't met with a dark, dated space or a confusing maze. She stepped into light.

The space felt fresh—modern yet timeless. It felt *cared for*, which immediately made her feel that she would be cared for, too.

A woman offered a warm, genuine smile—not a sales pitch, just a greeting. "Good morning! So glad you're here. Can I help you?" Sarah exhaled. *Safe*. She wasn't an outsider intruding; she was a guest arriving.

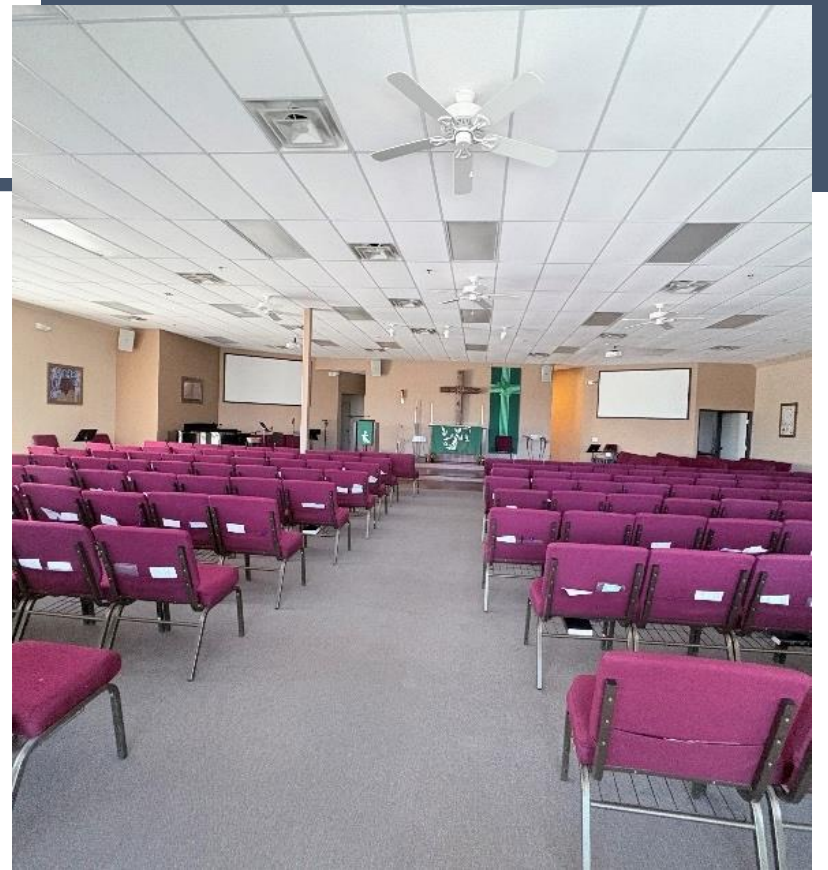
It didn't feel like a waiting room; it felt like a living room. To her right, she paused at the connection wall. It wasn't just a bulletin board of dates; it was a vibrant tapestry of the community. She saw pictures of service projects, small groups, and kids laughing.

She realized instantly: *This isn't just a place people sit for an hour. This is a place where life happens.* The wall communicated the "amazing things going on" without anyone having to lecture her.

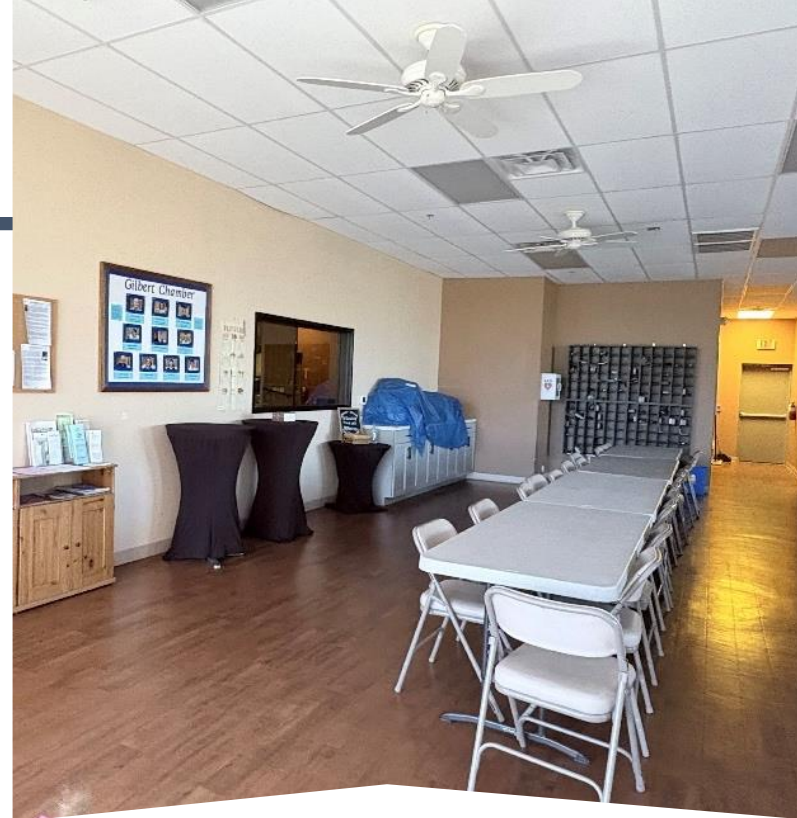
During the service she didn't feel cramped or claustrophobic. The room felt breathable, allowing her to find a seat where she felt comfortable, not jammed into a crowded row.

The feeling sitting there, surrounded by the warmth of the updated environment and the buzz of a community that clearly loved being there, the last of Sarah's tension melted away.

She realized she hadn't looked at her watch once. The environment hadn't just attracted her; it held her. For the first time in a long time, she didn't feel like a visitor passing through. She felt like she was home.



Current Sanctuary Space



Current Fellowship Space



WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH

- Give the Sanctuary and Fellowship space some updates
- Paint the entire space including bathrooms and kitchen
- Add some design elements to the Sanctuary using wood paneling and a stone feature behind the cross
- Raise the AV counter in the Sanctuary so people working in that area can see over the counter without needing to stand to see the Sanctuary
- Add new ceiling panels
- Add Wall decals
- New updated lighting including ceiling lighting and spot lighting
- Enclose the area to the south of the altar and include a door to that storage area
- Add a 75in TV monitor and audio in the Fellowship space for church service overflow
- Add a Connection wall in the Fellowship space
- Add a Welcome center in the Fellowship space
- Freshen up the 2 monument signs

WHAT IS IT GOING TO COST

			Weeks - 28																									
Phase I			Cost																									
			\$ 59,481.00																									
Sanctuary	Ceiling Modification above Alter																											
	Frame to chamfer/angle tiles to raised ceiling	\$ 2,150.00																										
	Modify Sprinklers	\$ 3,000.00																										
Sanctuary	Stone behind Alter	\$ 7,505.00																										
Sanctuary	Paint Sanctuary Space	\$ 1,200.00																										
Fellowship	Paint Fellowship Space	\$ 2,000.00																										
Sanctuary	Window Clings - "Stained Glass"	\$ 1,800.00																										
Sanctuary	Artwork - Word Collection	\$ 500.00																										
Fellowship	Connection Wall in Fellowship	\$ 1,460.00																										
-	Upgraded Lighting / Fans																											
Sanctuary	Sanctuary Lighting Controls + Lights	\$ 17,396.00																										
Sanctuary	Sanctuary Fans	\$ 4,050.00																										
Fellowship	Fellowship Lighting/Fans - Paint Ceiling	\$ 9,420.00																										
Fellowship	Upgraded Audio and Video																											
	New Fellowship TV - Sanctuary Camera	\$ 5,000.00																										
	New Fellowship Audio	\$ 4,000.00																										
Phase II			\$ 47,429.00																									
Sanctuary	Sanctuary Storage Wall																											
	Wall Construction	\$ 7,000.00																										
	New Door	\$ 3,100.00																										
Sanctuary	Upgraded Sanctuary Ceiling																											
	Additional Ceiling Grid	\$ 5,211.00																										
	New Ceiling Tiles	\$ 10,008.00																										
Fellowship	Upgraded Bathroom Sinks / Counters	\$ 1,350.00																										
Sanctuary	Clean - Updated Exterior Road Signs (Paint/LED)	\$ 6,000.00																										
Sanctuary	Install Raised Platform Under Booth	\$ 3,260.00																										
Sanctuary	Install Decorative - Acoustic Panels	\$ 11,500.00																										



WISDOMFUL COUNSELOR
KINGDOM PRINCE OF PEACE
LAMB OF GOD
MESSIAH
ALPHA & THE OMEGA
HEALER
SALVATOR
JESUS
GOD OF THE WORLD

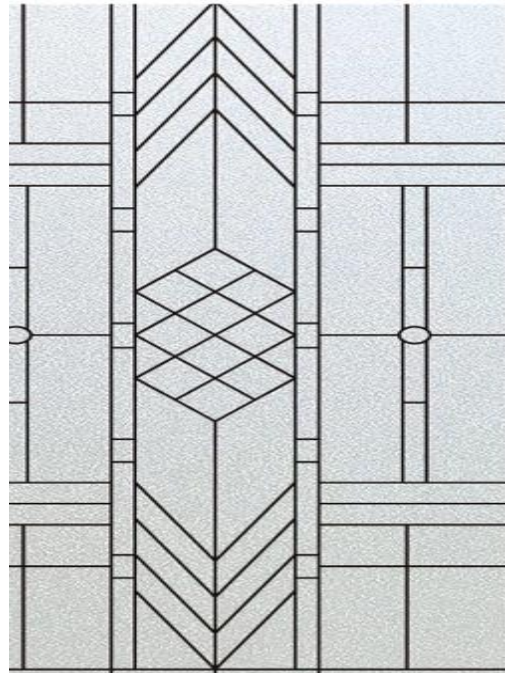
Paint Colors

- ❖ Neutral Paint Colors
- ❖ Balboa Mist on main walls
- ❖ London Fog an accent
- ❖ Chelsea Gray used for accent wall/s



Window Clings and Ceiling Fans

Window Clings



Ceiling Fans





Fellowship

Welcome Center



Fellowship

Lighting



- ❖ Large grouped hanging lights
- ❖ Making the more intimate space

Connection Center



Coffee Station



C.O.F.F.E.E.
Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere



WHAT ARE WE ASKING

- Phase I – \$60,000
- Phase II – \$50,000

Total - \$110,000 Budget

- ❖ Hopefully, the project will be voted on at the congregational meeting on the 22nd of February
- ❖ After a successful vote begin a church wide capital campaign for funding the project
- ❖ Capital campaign to run during 2026/2027
- ❖ As funds become available to cover phased projects work would be completed
- ❖ All work to hopefully be completed by Easter 2027

THANK YOU