

January
through
March
2026

DHLCompass

Next Steps in Your Faith Journey



Sharing Their Excitement and Wisdom

Speakers Lined Up to Share with Our Church Family



After a much-deserved sabbatical, Grand Canyon Synod Bishop Deborah Hutterer will make her first church visit at Desert Hills Lutheran Church. Bishop Hutterer will be at DHLC during the weekend of February 14-15. We always welcome her to share her faith and wisdom with us during church services.



The Education Committee will host Rev. Dr. Colleen Windham-Huges, Rector of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, part of California Lutheran University. She will present a three-part session on "Loneliness" during the weekend of March 7-8. The sessions will be free for anyone in the community, and lunch will be provided with an advanced ticket purchase.

Other speakers will be presenting throughout 2026. Be sure to look for forthcoming details.



2026 Faith Building Campaign: Weekly Devotions by Our Church Family

As we enter a new year, our church is excited to announce the 2026 Faith Building Campaign: *"Weekly Devotions Written by Congregation Members."* Building on the momentum of last year's success, this campaign invites us to deepen our faith together through shared stories, reflection, and weekly moments with God.

Our 2026 campaign is guided by four key goals:

- To be a faith-filled community that recognizes and celebrates God's presence in daily life.
- To cultivate a vibrant spiritual life through meditation, contemplation, and openness to God's guidance.
- To inspire reflection and storytelling by encouraging everyone to consider and share their own spiritual journeys.
- To spark meaningful conversations of faith throughout all areas of church life—from worship to meetings and events.

In 2025, our *"Read the Bible in a Year"* initiative brought tremendous enthusiasm

and spiritual growth. Many participated faithfully and shared how meaningful the experience was. We want to keep that excitement alive in 2026 as we continue growing together.

Starting in January, a new devotion, written by members of our church family, will be released every Wednesday through the church website, email, social media, and printed copies as needed. We encourage you to take a few minutes from your hectic week to learn how God has affected others, to reflect on how God has been at work in your life, and to journal about the question posed.

This 2026 Faith Building Campaign calls us into a year of shared reflection, deeper faith, and communal encouragement. As we journey through these weekly devotions, may we continue discovering how God is active and present in all we do.

Let's grow in faith together—one devotion at a time.

Fire Extinguisher Training

Be Prepared

On January 24, from 3:30-5:30 PM, the Santa Rita Fire District will be in the Fellowship Hall with their fire extinguisher simulator. Pop in between worship services to learn how to use a fire extinguisher without the "mess." Every house should have one, and you should know how to use it.

Share Your Talents

Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for ways to share your talents at Desert Hills Lutheran Church in 2026? Call the church office if you are interested in helping with worship services, want to get involved with Saturday Suppers or other meal preparations, or have other talents you would like to share with Desert Hills Lutheran Church. Everyone has talents; share yours and make a difference.

WELCA Thankoffering

The Women's Ministry's Thankoffering on February 14-15 is a special offering collected for the Chilstrom Fund for Women Seminarians and Women's Domestic and International Grant Programs. These grants not only change lives now but also change women's lives for the future.

Celebrating Jesus' Resurrection

How will you prepare?

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, we invite you to journey with us through a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal. Lent prepares our hearts to fully experience the hope and joy of Easter—the celebration of Christ's resurrection and the promise of new life. Throughout these weeks, our church will offer special services, gatherings, and opportunities for spiritual growth. We hope you'll join us as we walk together from the quiet contemplation of Lent to the radiant celebration of Easter morning.

Ash Wednesday Services on February 18:

- 12 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service
- 3 PM Ash Wednesday Country Trio Worship Service
- 7 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Lenten Soup Suppers will be held on Wednesdays from 6-6:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great way to share a mid-week meal with friends.

Hymn Sing is held from 6:45-7 PM. What do you want to sing each Wednesday?

Mid-Week Lenten Worship Services will be held each Wednesday at 7 PM.

Maundy Thursday:

- 12 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service
- 7 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Good Friday:

- 12 PM Good Friday Worship Service
- 3 PM Good Friday Country Trio Worship Service
- 7 PM Good Friday Worship Service

Easter Weekend Services:

Saturday, April 4:

- 3 PM Country Service
- 5 PM Country Service

Sunday, April 5:

- 8 AM Traditional Service
- 9:30 AM Blended Service
- 11 AM Contemporary Service

Easter Dinner will be served at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. What a wonderful way to worship and enjoy a meal with fellowship. Best of all, there is no need to dirty your kitchen.



Betty Maurstad led the 2025 Hymn Sing before Mid-Week Lenten Worship Services.



Readers prepared for the Palm/Passion Reader Theater in 2025.



Share Desert Hills Lutheran Church

At Desert Hills Lutheran Church, we believe that God works through simple moments—small gestures, warm conversations, and personal invitations. Sometimes, the most meaningful connections start with a friendly word from someone who cares.

We are excited to introduce our new Desert Hills Lutheran Church business cards and window clings to help you share our church with those around you.

Our new business cards are simple, welcoming, and packed with helpful information about Desert Hills Lutheran Church, perfect for starting conversations about faith and community with family, friends, or neighbors.

If handing out a card feels intimidating, there's another effortless way to help spread the word: place one of our new window clings on your car.

It's subtle, welcoming, and visible wherever you go—your grocery trips, golfing, pickleball games, or weekend outings. Sometimes a simple "I've seen that church name before..." is all it takes to open a door.

You can be a light in everyday places, without saying a word.

Get your new business cards and window clings at the annual meeting or from the church office or welcome desk afterward.

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Make your vote count
On Sunday, February 1, at 12:45 PM, Desert Hills Lutheran Church will hold its annual meeting. A few items on this year's agenda include four new council members, the 2026 church budget, and the 2026 capital spending. In addition, the Foundation will update us on its plans for the coming year, and we will remember those who passed in 2025.

Before the annual meeting, a luncheon is scheduled in Fellowship Hall from 12-12:30 PM. We encourage all our voting members to attend, as well as everyone else who wants to hear what is in store for DHLC in 2026.



Karin Ramige presented the 2025 budget items at last year's annual meeting.