

GOD
so loved
THE WORLD



Christmas Eve

FULL SCRIPT

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

Church Phone: 623-224-8839 School Phone: 623-224-8841

www.crossofglory.org

Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor

Rev. Benjamin Foxen, Pastor

Jomax Campus

10111 W Jomax Road,

Peoria, AZ 85383

Sat. 6pm and Sun. 9am Worship

Vistancia Campus

Lake Pleasant Elementary School

31501 N. Westland Road

Peoria, AZ 85383

Sun. 9:30am Worship



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

*Blessed to be a
member of*



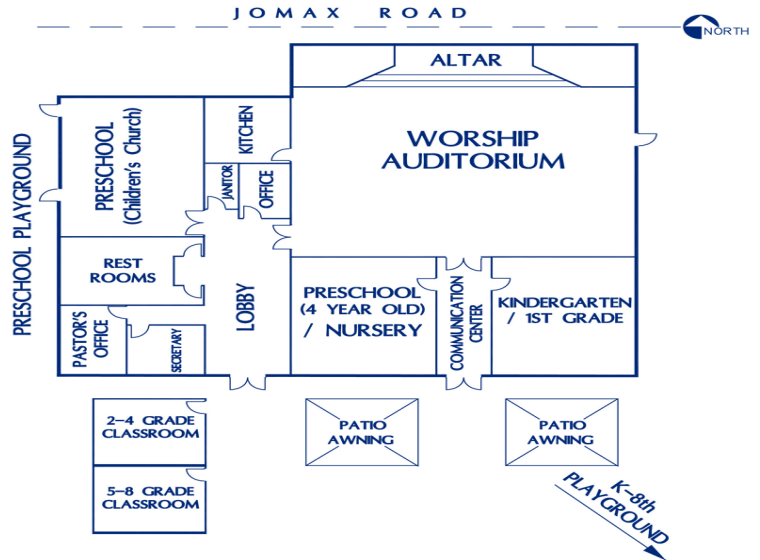
Welcome to our Worship Center! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

Families with children:

- Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby .
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult guardian.

Special needs:

- Large print bulletin available from usher
- Seats with armrests available



SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our worship this evening is an adaptation of the *Lessons and Carols* service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24th every year. *Lessons and Carols* was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after experience as an army chaplain.

WORSHIP THEME

Welcome to worship this Christmas Eve. We trust that God will bless you in this service of lessons and carols/hymns. Our focus, "God so loved the world," is found in every lesson and song. Christmas is not about a sentimental, warm, and fuzzy kind of love—although these ways that we show love to each other, especially in families, are certainly important. But the heart of Christmas is about God's redeeming love—God's rescue plan for a humanity alienated from him despite all claims of reform, goodness, or morality. The human condition of sin separates us from God, and only his action could have solved that problem. The life, death, and resurrection of his Son *has* solved the problem. By trusting what Jesus has done for us, heaven awaits us and we live life this side of heaven in loyal thankfulness for rescue.



God so loved the World

A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

DUET

A Son, Emmanuel

*Hands that placed the stars, reaching for the virgin's warm embrace.
Word that once was spoke, gath'ring waters, cries into the night.
"Who is man that you mind? The son of man that you care?"
You place him here beneath angels, a Son, Emmanuel.
"You are my Son. Today I have become your Father.
Son now hear my voice Go unto my chosen people.
No burden they'll ever bear, will you, my Son not share.
Like them in ev'ry way, from their sin you will save."
Fit for a King, a crown, thorned with human sin and pride,
Ribbonded with man's disdain and lies.
Pressed on all sides, oh, from the tempter's whispered sins,
Who is man that you should mind?"
"This is now my choice to walk among my fellow brothers.
Wounds I won't erase to bear the sin that's pulled them from your heart.
No skin of mine will be saved, but for you will be slaved.
Beneath the light of angelic skies a Son, Emmanuel.*

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M: Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall, and into the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Let us hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored.

But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this holy night. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

C: Glory to God in the highest!

M: We humbly offer up these prayers and praises in the words that Christ himself taught us.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

ENSEMBLE

Adore with O Come All Ye Faithful

Countless days on a journey that led so far; endless nights they traveled to follow the star.

*They did not find a palace, just a humble village home; and searching for a king,
but finding a Child—no crown or throne, still they bowed down.*

Come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him.

Expectation turned to mystery, for nothing was like anything they'd dreamed.

Anticipating the royal and those honored by this work,

Instead they gazed in the awestruck eyes of a lowly peasant girl, holding her child.

Come, let us adore him. O come. Let us adore him, O come, let us adore him.

*Let us adore him. Let us adore him, the brilliant gold, the fragrant myrrh,
the costly frankincense place before Him.*

O come, let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.

Christ the Lord. O Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

THE TRAGIC NEED FOR GOD'S LOVE

Humanity's separation from God dates to the beginning of time, to the fall into sin by the first humans, Adam and Eve. As tragic as this was, the account ends with God's promise of rescue—that the woman's offspring, Christ, would ultimately defeat Satan and the rebellion of sin.

Genesis 3:8-15

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten (CW35) 3 V.s.

**Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.**

**This is he whom heav'n-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

**Let the heights of heav'n adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow'rs, dominions bow before him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.**

LOVE PROMISES A RESCUE

In love God promised a rescue already to Adam and Eve. Through the prophets he repeated that promise many times over centuries before the birth of Jesus.

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

CHOIR

Come, Messiah

*O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph, and sorrows flee away.*

*O come, Desire of nations, whom priest and prophet long foretold,
and break the chains that bind us, redeem your long-lost fold.*

*Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace,
Come, Messiah! We long to see your face. Come Messiah, come!*

*O come, dear Child of promise, for lowly shall your cradle be,
though clothed in human likeness, we shall the Godhead see!*

*Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace,
Come, Messiah! We long to see your face.*

*Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace,
Come, Messiah! We long to see your face. Come Messiah, come!*

Micah 5:2-4

Old Testament prophecies included unexpected details, such as the exact tiny village where Jesus would be born—and the expansion of his impact “to the ends of the earth.” This wonder of fulfilled prophecy continues to validate the story of God’s love even today.

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

ENSEMBLE

What Child is This / Child of the Poor

*What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
Helpless and hungry, lowly, afraid wrapped in the chill of midwinter
Comes now, among us, born into poverty's embrace, new life for the world.
Who is this, who lives with the lowly? Sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ revealed to the world in the eyes of a child, a child of the poor.
Who is this stranger, here in our midst? Looking for shelter among us?
Who is this outcast, who do we see amidst the poor, the children of God?
Who is this, who lives with the lowly? Sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ revealed to the world in the eyes of a child, a child of the poor.
So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come, peasant king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him
So, bring the thirsty who seek peace those with nothing to offer strengthen the feeble,
Say to the frightened heart, “Fear not: here is your God!”*

*Who is this, who lives with the lowly? Sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ revealed to the world in the eyes of a child, a child of the poor,
A child of the poor, the Babe the song of Mary.*

LOVE'S PLAN REVEALED TO MARY

God could have initiated the climax of his plan in some stunning manner. But he chooses a humble virgin. Along with Mary we might say, "Why?" And along with Mary we humbly accept God's plan and marvel at it.

Luke 1:26-35,38

²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

ENSEMBLE

Joy Has Dawned

Joy has dawned upon the world, Promised from creation—

God's salvation now unfurled, Hope for ev'ry nation.

Not with fanfares from above, Not with scenes of glory,

But a humble gift of love— Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky With the songs of angels

As the mighty Prince of Life Shelters in a stable.

Hands that set each star in place, Shaped the earth in darkness,

Cling now to a mother's breast, Vuln'erable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, Gazing at the glory;

*Gifts of men from distant lands Prophecy the story.
Gold—a King is born today, Incense—God is with us,
Myrrh—His death will make a way, And by His blood He'll win us.*

*Son of Adam, Son of heaven, Given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, Now the Lord of hist'ry.*

*Gloria! In excelsis Deo; Gloria! In excelsis Deo
Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knees Christ the Lord, our newborn King.
Gloria! In excelsis Deo; Gloria! In excelsis Deo*

LOVE'S PLAN REVEALED TO JOSEPH

*The wonder of fulfilled prophecy is valuable for Joseph . . . and for us.
The many fulfilled prophecies are one way that God demonstrates the truth of his Word.*

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

HYMN

Peace Came to Earth (CWS707) 3 Vs.

**Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
When angels clove the sky with song and light
And God embodied love and sheathed his might
Who could but gasp: Immanuel! Who could but sing: Immanuel!**

You show the Father none has ever seen,
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine you visit us again
Who could but see: Immanuel! Who could but thrill Immanuel!
How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel who could but praise Immanuel!

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

We become God's children through faith—that is, by trusting in God's rescue plan which cancels the alienation caused by our rebellion. This lesson is also the basis for the Christmas Day service which will meditate on God's love.

John 3:16-18

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

ENSEMBLE

He Made A Way in a Manger

Longing for a Savior, a hopeless world would wait.

Sin demanded justice at a price we could not pay.

But God displayed his mercy, the greatest Gift of Love;

When we could not reach heaven, heaven came to us.

He made a way in a manger, a way through the Son,

Messiah, the Promised before time had begun;

For God so loved this world, though he knew what love would cost.

He made a way in a manger to make a way to the cross.

In Bethlehem, a stable became a throne of grace as God himself, our Savior,

Drew near to take our place. His mother smiled in wonder as shepherds stood in awe;

The Sacrifice of Heaven lay sleeping in the straw,

He made a way in a manger, a way through the Son, Messiah, the Promised before time had begun;

*For God so loved this world, though He knew what love would cost.
He made a way in a manger to make a way to the cross.
He is the Life who died our death; the precious Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay; The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
He made a way in a manger, a way through the Son, Messiah, the Promised before time had begun;
For God so love this world, though he knew what love would cost.
He made a way in a manger, He made a way in a manger,
to make a way to the cross, the cross, the cross!*

LOVE'S BIRTH

God's promises and love proved faithful. He sent his Son into this world just as he said he would, to do the work that only he could do. We now hear the familiar and beloved Christmas account.

Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

CHOIR

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

*God rest ye merry gentlemen Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy Oh tidings of comfort and joy.
From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy Oh tidings of comfort and joy.
"Fear not," then said the angel, "let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might,*

*Oh tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy Oh tidings of comfort and joy.
Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This sacred time of Christmas tide all others now deface;
Oh tidings of comfort and joy Comfort and joy Oh tidings of comfort and joy.*

Luke 2:8-14

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

WOMEN AND YOUTH CHOIR

Glory to God the Angels Sing

*Low in a humble manger Jesus, the Christ Child, lay,
Watched by the virgin mother, there on the fragrant hay,
Keeping her loving vigil far from the worldly throngs,
When thro' the night came ringing glorious angel songs:*

Refrain:

“Glory to God” the angels sing;’ praises to Christ, the heav’nly King;”

“Peace be on earth, good will to men” hear we the angels sing again!

“Glory to God” the angels sing;’ praises to Christ, the heav’nly King;”

“Peace be on earth, good will to men, good will to men!”

*Little, the loving mother dreamed of their meaning then,
How He should die on Cal’vry, die for the sins of men.
But down the weary ages, out from the manger bed,
Streams all the light of heaven, soon o’er the world to spread. [Refrain repeated 2x].*

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸

and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

MEN'S CHOIR

African Noel

*Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel! We sing Noel! Sing Noel sing Noel, Noel, Noel!
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel! We sing Noel! Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel!*

*The first Noel, the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep,
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them so far,
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King! Born is the King! Born is the King of Israel.
Sing we all Noel!*

OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Prayed by Minister)

CANDLE LIGHTING

Following the offering, candles will be lit during this time according to directions display on monitors—

The minister will light his candle from the Christ Candle and light the candles of the ushers who will then light the candles of those seated on the end of each aisle. Each individual in each row will light the candle of the person next to them. The unlit candle should be tipped towards the vertical lit candle to avoid dripping wax.

HYMN

Silent Night

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

CLOSING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

(Spoken by Minister)

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

ENSEMBLE

O Holy Night

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world, In sin and error pining. Till He appeared, And the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope The weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks A new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices. O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

O night divine, O night, O night divine!

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Announcements

****The Treasurer Report is available for pickup in the Church entry.

**** There will be a Memorial Service for Jack Powell Sunday the 29th at 11:00am. Directly following the service will be fellowship and meal as we remember Jack Powell. Please let Liz know if you are able to bring something to pass or sign up on the signup genius.

****The Women's Service Group will be meeting January 4th at 9am to discuss the upcoming year including the LWMS Rally we are hosting in April.

****A workday is planned for January 4th at 9:00am. The plan is to build the new shed and organize the big shed.

****Vistancia will be having two Potluck and planning meetings in January that will be held at Vistancia's Mountain Vista Club. Pastor Ehlers has passed out info that will be discussed at this meeting. If you are interested and did not receive the information packet, please contact Pastor Ehlers.

****January 8-12th we have 8 college students and one chaperone coming here with WELS Mission Journeys from Fond Du Lac, WI. We are looking for host families while they are here. If you are able to open your home for a few please contact Pastor Ehlers.

****At our call meeting on December 1st, the congregation called Jared Christiansen to be our new principal. He currently serves at St. Paul Lutheran School in St. James, Minnesota. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he considers where he can best use his gifts in the Lord's kingdom.

****There will be a sign-up sheet for Vistancia Worship Volunteers for December and January. Areas include refreshments, trailer hauling, set-up, take-down, sound management and playing piano. If you are interested in serving please sign up or contact Liz for available dates.

****Meditations for Prison Ministry--Please put your used Meditations in the box in the entry way. Meditations are sent to the WELS Prison Ministry quarterly and then distributed to prisoners. Questions? Contact Lynn Wempner

****Please join COG Golden Agers for brunch and fellowship on Thursday, January 2nd, 2019. Held at The Five and Diner Delux, 11340 W Bell Road, #125, Surprise, Az. Please RSVP to Judy Sasse, email or phone, sasseja43@aol.com or 602-618-6967.

******The New Church Directories** are located in the back of church. Thank you everyone who verified your information.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

December 25th 10:00am	Christmas Day Service
December 28th 6:00pm	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 29th 9:00am	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 29th 9:30am	Worship Service (Vistancia)
December 29th 11:00am	Jack Powell Memorial Service

LOOKING AHEAD

December 31st 6:00pm	New Years Eve Service
January 2nd 9:30am	Golden Agers Brunch
January 4th 8:00am	Elders Meeting
January 4th 6:00pm	Worship Service w/Communion (Jomax)
January 5th 9:00am	Worship Service w/Communion (Jomax)
January 5th 9:30am	Worship Service w/Communion (Vistancia)
January 5th 11:15am	Potluck /Planning Meeting (Vistancia Vista Club)



**Christmas Day 10am (Jomax)
New Years Eve 6pm (Jomax)**



Cross of Glory was planted by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) in March 1998 so that with the Gospel of Jesus she can strengthen the faith of her members and reach out into the community with the free gift of salvation. First worship services began at Easter 1999; the dedication of our Ministry Center at Easter, 2005. On Easter of 2017, we began services at our second site in the Vistancia community. Our synod's name reflects that her founders began in the state of Wisconsin. As a WELS church we still hold to the teachings of the Bible restored in the Reformation era. We are...

- a Christ-preaching church. We preach that Jesus is true God, the Son of God who became man, so that through his perfect life and innocent death, He is the prophesied "Lamb of God" who has taken away the sin of the world.
- a Bible-believing church. We teach that the Bible is the verbally inspired, inerrant Word of God, the only authority for Christian faith and life. We aim to teach God's Word in all its truth and simplicity.
- an evangelical church. We trust the Bible's claim that God saves people through the power of the Gospel in the Word and Sacraments. The Gospel is the Good News (the Evangel) about Jesus' saving work. The WELS has congregations throughout the USA and around the world to share the Evangel, the Bible's primary message, with all people.
- a people-caring church. That we're all sinners equally saved by Jesus' substitutionary work strips away human judgments and egos. This truth also empowers us to live Jesus' love for all people by offering friendship, support, and Biblical counseling. Our church family cares about other people-- including you.

Our Preschool & Elementary School exists to help parents in their God-given duty of teaching the Faith to their children: an important aspect of our Church's plan to grow a comprehensive womb-to tomb ministry that serves souls for eternity.

***Saturday Worship at 6:00 am (Jomax)
Sunday Worship at 9:00am (Jomax) 9:30am (Vistancia)***