

GOD
so loved
THE WORLD



Christmas Day
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



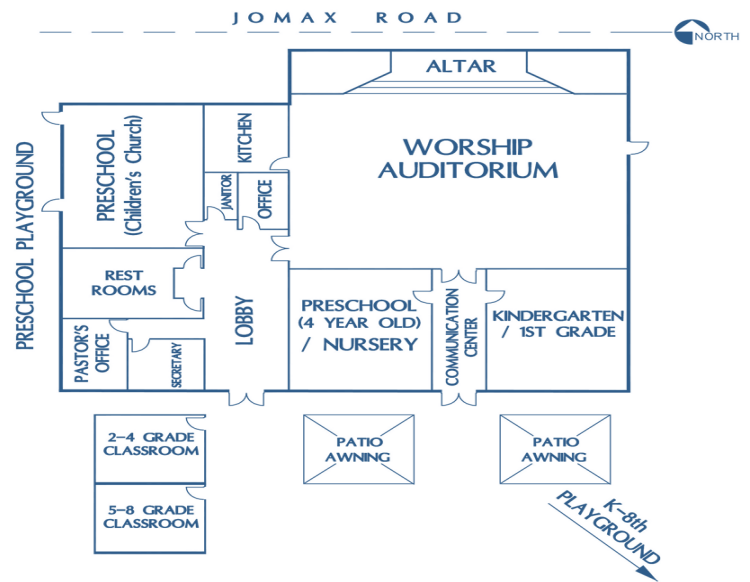
Welcome to our Worship Center! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

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



Welcome to worship this Christmas Day. Our focus is “**God so loved the world.**” We all desire a Christmas that is full of love. While the ways that we show love to each other, especially in families, are certainly important, God’s love is so much more than a sentimental, warm, or fickle kind of love. That’s why the heart of Christmas is 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 thanks for rescue.



Festival Service for Christmas Day

OPENING HYMN

Oh, Come All You Faithful (CW55) 3 Vs.

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.

Refrain:

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, All glory in the highest. [*Refrain*]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing. [*Refrain*]

GREETING

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also with you.

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

C: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.

M: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

C: Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

M: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

C: For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.

M: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

M: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

C: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

M: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

C: Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!

 **HYMN OF PRAISE** *Angels We Have Heard on High (CW63) 3 Vs.*

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Spoken by Minister)*

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 52:7-10*
The “beautiful feet” of God’s messengers are privileged to bring the good news of redemption, “the salvation of our God.”

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.⁹ Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.¹⁰ The LORD will lay bare his

holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

 **HYMN**

Go Tell it On the Mountain (CW57) 3 Vs.

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]**

**Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

The writer to the Hebrews describes the Christ-child: God himself made flesh for the purification of sins and the rule of righteousness.

God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom."⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

 **HYMN**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (CW61) 2 Vs.

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain:

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

CHILDRENS SERMON:

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-14

From the Word at creation to the light-shining-in-darkness of Isaiah to the preparatory work of John the Baptizer, St. John points to Jesus as the glory of the Lord, full of grace and truth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

 **HYMN**

Fullness of Grace (CW61) 2 Vs.

**“Fullness of Grace in man’s human frailty This is the wonder of Jesus
Laying aside His power and glory Humbly He entered our world
Chose the path of meanest worth Scandal of a virgin birth
Born in a stable cold and rejected Here lies the hope of the world
Fullness of Grace the love of the Father Shown in the face of Jesus
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity Walking the Calvary road
Christ the holy Innocent Took our sin and punishment
Fullness of God despised and rejected Crushed for the sins of the world
Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for Promise of God in Jesus
Through His obedience we are forgiven Opening the floodgates of heaven
All our hopes and dreams we bring Gladly as an offering
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable God’s gift in love to the world”**

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.

CD recordings of sermons freely supplied for study or sharing. Please request on the Friendship Card

CONFESSION OF FAITH—*The Apostle's Creed*

(Spoken in Unison)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER

(Prayed by Minister)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Spoken Responsively)

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

~Special prayers and intercessions may follow~

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

~Silent prayer~

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Sung to the Tune of "Away in a Manger")

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.
The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.
For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

BLESSING

(Spoken by Minister)

M: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.



CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World (CW62) 3 Vs.

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.**

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.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

For members and friends with noteworthy blessings, difficulties or health issues. Today we especially remember in our prayers and ask God to give strength, comfort and courage to them and their families.

Pat Powell, that God would grant her comfort after the loss of her husband. .

Gerry Ehlers, who continues to struggle with cancer and whose daughter (in her 40s) died suddenly last week from a heart attack.

Juanita Word, who fell recently and had surgery to mend her broken leg and has a six month recovery ahead.

Beth Breamer, the sister of Clarine Wallace, who had surgery on Friday, November 15th, to remove a kidney & other cancer.

Gerry Ehlers, the brother of Pastor Ehlers, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and undergoes treatments.

MILITARY

Major JD Larson,
son of John & Chi Larson,
based at Kirkland AFB in New Mexico.

Sara (Dan) McArdle,
daughter of Martha (Scott) Wofford,
Air Force Pilot, based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Sgt. Blake Andrew Nelsen,
son of Rick & Karyn Nelsen and
brother of Seri & Lilli, USMC.

Ben Weyer, serving in the military, Currently deployed to the Persian Gulf. Please pray that our Heavenly Father keeps him safe in his journey.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

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
December 31st 6:00pm	New Years Eve Service

LOOKING AHEAD

January 2nd 9:30am	Golden Agers Brunch
January 4th 8:00am	Elders Meeting
January 4th 9:00am	Work Day
January 4th 9:00am	Women's Service Group 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)

Growth Groups

Pastor Ehlers

Wednesdays at Resuming 1.15.20
Michael Wenniger's House

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Sunday at 10:30 Jomax Campus
Resumes 1.12.20

Tim Grams - The Book Galatians

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
1.15.20- 2.19.20
Grams House

Women's Bible Study- God the Ultimate Humanitarian

Tuesdays at 9:30 am
Resuming 1.14.19
Karen Jurado's House

Mom's Group- Ally Kelley

Wednesday at 9:00 am
Resumes 1.8.20
Ally Kelley's House

Pastor Freeman- People of the Bible

Saturdays 7:50 am
Resumes 1.11.20
Jomax Campus

COG Golden Agers

Please join for brunch and fellowship on first Thursday of every month, at 9:30am. 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.

Jomax

Jomax Worship Volunteers	December 29th	January 5th	January 12th
Refreshments	Laurel Bollmeier/ Connie Sauer	Lisa Beilke/ Liz Simkauskas/ Angela Hall	Rene Koutia
Greeters	Bollmeier	-	Sasse/ Bollmeier
Counters	Wempner Voigt	Sasse/Cannon	Sasse/ Brooks
Church Cleaners	Moe/ James	Plitzuweit/Alcoba/ Peterson	Ebel/ Meringer
Communion Set-Up	-	Sharon	-
Ushers	Steve Julian/ Al Alcoba/ Rich Kugler/ Kelly Simpson	Bill Brooks/ Brian Ehinger/ Jake Ehinger/ Trey Ehinger/ Jon Yauck	Adam Beilke/ Payton Beilke/ Owen Beilke/ Zach Plitzuweit/ Tanner Plitzuweit

Vistancia

Vistancia Worship Volunteers	December 29th	January 5th	January 12th
Snacks	Kenzie & Sheri Garver	-	-
Trailer Hauling	Jon Wempner	Ed Taylor	-
Set up	-	-	-
Take Down	-	-	-
Sound Management	-	-	-
Piano Playing	-	-	-
Ushers	Chris Patterson/ Cody Hall/ Caleb Patterson/ Isaac Patterson/ Titus Patterson	Steve Julian/ Al Alcoba/ Rich Kugler/ Kelly Simpson	Bill Brooks/ Brian Ehinger/ Jake Ehinger/ Trey Ehinger/ Jon Yauck

ONE CHURCH....TWO LOCATIONS

JOMAX CAMPUS - NEWS

Jack Powell Memorial Service

Sunday, December 29th 11:00 am

New Years Eve Service

Tuesday, December 31st 6:00 pm

Workday

Saturday, January 4th 9:00 am

Women's Service Group Meeting

Saturday, January 4th 9:00 am

Cross of Glory
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



VISTANCIA CAMPUS - NEWS

New Years Eve Service

Tuesday, December 31st 6:00 pm
(Jomax)

Potluck/Planning Meeting

Sunday, January 5th 11:15 am
(Mountain Vista Club)

Potluck/Planning Meeting

Sunday, January 26th 11:15 am
(Mountain Vista Club)



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)