



Easter 4
Sunday, May 3, 2020



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

623-224-8839

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

Welcome to Cross of Glory's online worship! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament, and we recognize that this can happen via technology as well as in a physical building. Thank the Lord for blessing us with the means to continue worshipping together in this way! As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power fill you.

Please take the time to note some things about how worship will work online:

Attendance – We would still like to gather an accurate account of who is worshipping with us for each service. Please let us know you are worshipping by commenting in the chat box. List your full name (first and last) in your message.

Chatting and discussing – Before and after each service, there is time available to chat with others. We invite you to do so, as this is a way we can preserve the sense of community we have on a normal Sunday morning. We do ask that you keep chatting to a minimum during the service, so that others can focus on what's happening.

Giving – Please continue to give your attention to the gifts God asks you to give to support his work. During the time of the offering, an encouragement will be given to give electronically. You can do so by clicking the menu icon (3 horizontal bars) in the upper left corner, next to where it says Cross of Glory Lutheran Church. Then click the word "Giving" to go to our Vanco page. You can also give by scanning the QR code in the bulletin with your phone's camera, or by mailing a check to us at 10111 W Jomax Rd, Peoria, AZ 85383. Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time!



God bless our time together in worship today!



Good Shepherd Sunday. The image of shepherd and sheep are certainly familiar to modern Christians, but do those concepts resonate as deeply for us as they did for the people of God 2000 years ago? “In such a landscape as Judea, where a day’s pasture is thinly scattered over an unfenced tract of country, covered with delusive paths, frequented by wild beasts, and rolling off into the desert, the shepherd and his character are indispensable.

On some high moor, across which at night the hyenas howl, when you meet him, sleepless, far-sighted, weather-beaten, armed, leaning on his staff, and looking out over his scattered sheep, every one of them on his heart, you understand why the shepherd of Judea sprang to the front in his people’s history; why they gave his name to their kings; why Christ took him as the type of self-sacrifice.” (George Smith) On Good Shepherd Sunday we see how sharp the contrast is between true shepherds and false shepherds. All is determined by their relationship to Christ, the only gate for the sheep.

Acknowledgements Scripture taken from **THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Worship and Hymns sourced from Christian Worship (CW) © 1993 and/or Christian Worship Supplement (CWS) © 2008 by Northwestern Publishing House (NPH). All rights reserved. These and all other sources are used by permission under One License.net License # A-711716 and/or CCLI License # 1852086 and # CSPL136078 (*Video*).**

Service of the Word and Lord's Supper

OPENING HYMN

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep (CW436) 4 Vs.

Jesus, Shepherd of the sheep, Who your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep, Guarded still by you.

By your blood our souls were bought; By your life salvation wrought;
By your light our feet are taught, Lord, to follow you.

Father, draw us to your Son; We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done, There to live with you.

We, in robes of glory dressed, Join th' assembly of the blest,
Gathered to eternal rest In the fold with you.

GREETING

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and his Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

(Spoken Responsively)

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

(Sung by Congregation)

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Congregation Sings:

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens, your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep.
Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

PSALM 23

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

C: He makes me to lie down in green pastures.

M: He leads me beside quiet waters,

C: He restores my soul.

M: He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

C: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

M: I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

C: Your rod and staff, they comfort me.

M: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies,

C: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

M: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

(All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:19-25

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."
²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no

threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister, Response sung by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)

Congregation Sings:

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith comes from hearing the message,
and the message is heard through the Word of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SERMON HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (CW375) 6 Vs.

**The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his, And he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow, My Savior gently leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feeds me.**

**Confused and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid And home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still, Your cross before to guide me.**

**You spread a table in my sight, A banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight; My cup is overflowing!**

**And so through all the length of days Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise Within your house forever!**

SERMON

He lives to be my Good Shepherd

John 10:1-10

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the

gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

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

NICENE CREED

(Spoken in Unison)

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

I Know that My Redeemer Lives (CW152) 3V.s.

I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living Head!

He lives to bless me with his love; He lives to plead for me above.

He lives, my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with his eye.

He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(PLEASE SCAN QR CODE WITH PHONE TO MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Prayed by Minister)

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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

C: Amen.

ENSEMBLE

The Lord's My Shepherd

Informational Meeting

We will be having informational meetings on May 3rd and May 10th. For those who are comfortable coming to church for the meeting, we will spread family units throughout the sanctuary so that there is 6 feet of distance between them. We will continue to observe social distancing while in attendance. This is as much for the comfort and safety of others as it is for our own safety. We want you to be aware that we are taking these things into account as we plan this important meeting. Still, it's understandable that some may not feel comfortable coming, and so we plan to have the meeting presented through Zoom as well. This should enable people to watch and listen from home and even ask questions. Thank you for making your attendance at this meeting a priority, as we need everyone's input about the future direction of our congregation and its ministry as we go forward! Please sign-up to attend on the SignUpGenius.

Upcoming Voters' Meeting

Due to COVID-19, the church council has decided that it will postpone our regular April voters' meeting. The tentative plan is to hold the meeting on May 17, in the hope that President Trump lifts the federal restrictions on public gatherings which are currently set to expire at the end of April. The church and school budgets will be the main topics of discussion, as well as possible call for principal. Thank you for making this meeting a priority!

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

May 5th 6:00pm	Evangelism Meeting
May 5th 7:00pm	Elders Meeting
May 6th 2:00pm	Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)
May 6th 6:30pm	Growth Group Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)
May 7th 7:00pm	Bible Study- Pastor Foxen
May 9th 6:00pm	Vistancia Facebook Live Service
May 10th 9:00am	Worship Service(Online)
May 11th 11:00am	Informational Meeting (In person or Zoom)
May 10th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 13th 2:00pm	Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)
May 13th 6:30pm	Growth Group Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)
May 14th 6:30pm	Church Council Meeting
May 14th 7:00pm	Bible Study- Pastor Foxen
May 15th 8:30am	Closing Service & LES Graduation
May 15th 6:30pm	Virtual Talent Show
May 16th 6:00pm	Vistancia Facebook Live Service
May 17th 9:00am	Worship Service(Online)
May 17th 10:30am	Voters Meeting
May 17th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

Announcements

****"Used Meditations for the WELS Prison Ministry" When you pick up your next quarter Meditations, drop off your used copy from the last quarter. There is a box next to the new Meditations. The WELS Prison Ministry appreciates this donation and distributes Meditations to prisoners who are always anxious to receive them. Meditations have arrived, if you are interested in getting one please come Monday, Wednesday or Friday during office hours or contact Secretary for other arrangements. If needed she can mail it to you.

****Are you or anyone you know in need of meal delivery at this time? If so, please contact us at the office to let us know. We have a member who would like to be of help to you.

****We are adapting and have many ways to learn about our Savior. The Pastors will have Facebook on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for you to watch and share. This gives an opportunity to share God's message to others that we know as well.

****New to the website is a page of spiritual and educational [resources](#). Included are free Sunday School lessons for children.

**** New Secretary office hours! Elizabeth Simkauskas will be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-2 and will be available by phone during normal office hours as calls are forwarded. If you need to get in the office at a different time please call and let me know and I will coordinate with you. I am sorry if this is inconvenient. This is temporary as schools are closed for the rest of the school year and is subject to change.

**** Please check our webpage the most up to date information regarding Cross of Glory and the coronavirus/COVID-19.

**** Go to crossofglory.online.church view our online services at the normal service times throughout the coronavirus crisis. The Sunday service will be available at 9am on Sunday morning.

Using Your Stimulus Check to God's Glory

Many are suffering right now. Many have lost jobs. Many are trying to come to terms with life as it now is. It hasn't been easy.

Into situations like this God comes with his power and grace to provide, restore, and give peace. It's a blessing that, at a time of uncertainty, many have received financial help in the form of the stimulus check from our government.

At the same time, some have found themselves thinking, "Why am I getting all this money? I haven't lost my job, and there's no real needs for me and my family beyond what's normal."

Here's a good answer to that question: God is giving you an opportunity. It's an opportunity to represent him in the world and give him honor and glory. And really, isn't that the same reason he gives us any of the things we have? It's all to his glory.

Please, take the time to consider how this latest gift from God can be used to his glory. There are countless ways that this could be done. It may be that there are great needs in your home, and God is certainly glorified when you use money to provide for those needs. But if the needs are not so great at home, how might you use that money outside of your home to bring God glory? Maybe now is the perfect time to use your resources to help out a neighbor. Such an act of love could quickly lead to spiritual conversations and the salvation of souls. Another idea would be to support your congregation with an additional gift in proportion to what you've been given. Such a gift would certainly go far in our current church budget deficit and at a time when our school has lost tuition income due to some student withdrawals. Isn't it interesting that we've been praying for God to help us with this situation, and all of a sudden he drops all this money into individual Christians' laps?

There are many ways God's people may decide to use these gifts to bring him glory. It's rather awe-inspiring to think about, really. Rejoice in the opportunity God has given you to wrestle with this! Get those Spirit-infused wheels turning in your heads about how you can glorify God with this gift. We Christians have been given a great opportunity to do good in the world around us with this gift. May God fill us all with his Spirit and give us joy as we work to do that!

-Pastor Foxen

Youth Summer Opportunities

A SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITY - GOOD SHEPHERD BIBLE CAMP

You may be interested in this opportunity for your kids to have some fun in a Christian summer camp in July. The camp is run by WELS congregations in California. Here is a little info about the camp:

For over 40 years, Good Shepherd Bible Camp (GSBC), has been providing the perfect blend of outdoor adventure and Christian fellowship to kids from 4th to 10th grade. It's a full week (6 nights/days) of fun in the California mountains during July. You'll experience the chance to have fun with old friends and make plenty of new ones while you apply God's word to your life.

Spend the week growing in your faith, while you also play countless games, eat amazing food, swim, canoe, become the perfect archer, sing exuberantly around a campfire, play basketball/volleyball and anything else involving a ball, run around in the infamous "gaga" pit, build forts, unleash your creative side in some arts and crafts, and of course explore God's beautiful creation through a little hiking.

If you'd like to take part in the camp, here are things to do: 1) get dates (July 12-18) on your calendar to include it in your summer plans, whether as a camper or as staff, and 2) start setting aside the funds to save up for it! Visit the new website for more information and find out why so many love GSBC: www.goodshepherdbiblecamp.com.

Growth Groups

Vistancia Weekly Devotion

Sundays 6:00 pm via ZOOM

(if interested in joining contact Pastor Ehlers)

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursdays at 7:00 pm via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 474 775 761
Password: 007970.

Pastor Ehlers-Timely Topics, Timeless Truths

Wednesday 6:30pm via ZOOM
(Will resume after Easter)

Mom's Group- Ally Kelley

Every Wednesday at 2:00 pm Via Zoom
(Please contact Liz if you want to be added to this conference)

ONE CHURCH....TWO LOCATIONS

JOMAX CAMPUS - NEWS

Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)

Wednesday May 6th, 2:00pm
(Please let Liz know if you would like to attend)

Informational Meeting

Sunday May 3rd, 11:00am
(Please See Email for details)

Informational Meeting

Sunday May 10th, 11:00am
(Please See Email for details)

Voters Meeting

Sunday, May 17th, 10:30am



VISTANCIA CAMPUS - NEWS

Weekly Devotion (Via Zoom)

Sunday May 3rd, 6:00pm
(Please Contact Pastor Ehlers if you are interested in attending)

Informational Meeting

Sunday May 3rd, 11:00am
(Please See Email for details)

Informational Meeting

Sunday May 10th, 11:00am
(Please See Email for details)

Voters Meeting

Sunday, May 17th, 10:30am

COG Talent Show

The Show must go on!! On May 15th Cross of Glory will be hosting a Virtual Talent Show, starting at 6:30pm. We have three weeks to showtime. The basic idea is this: we'll host a Zoom meeting and share the link with all of you. Everyone can join to watch people perform their various talents and, if they want, perform themselves. If you prefer, you can also submit a video of your talent, and we'll play it for everyone during the virtual show. So get your talents ready! Whether it's singing, dancing, playing an instrument, doing magic tricks, beating the Mona Lisa at a staring contest, or anything else, we want to see your talent on May 15th. To sign up please contact Liz or sign up via SignUpGenius.

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.

April Johnson's Family, as they grieve the loss of her.

Linda Stern, as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.

Glen Pedersen, the son-in-law of Don and Laurel Bollmeier, who was diagnosed with cancer.

Juanita Word, who is recovering at home after a broken leg.

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

MILITARY

E4 Specialist Alice Henderson, granddaughter of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at San Antonio, TX Ft. Sam Houston Army base in Medical Institute of Surgery Research: Burn Unit.

E6 Specialist Staff Sgt. Austin Seignious, grandson-to-be of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at El Paso, TX Ft. Bliss Army Base.

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.



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 6pm (Jomax)
Sunday Worship at 9am (Jomax) 9:30am (Vistancia)
Bible Study Session 10:30am (Jomax)