

1010

for

Stewardship Emphasis

Week Two

OPEN MINDS

Proportionate Giving

Sunday, October 18, 2020



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

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!



This weekend is the second of a three-week stewardship emphasis titled *Ten for Ten*. In this worship series, we are looking at the daily struggle we all face when two paths are set before us, one by God and the other by this world. Shall we live for this life or the life that is to come? One very obvious way that struggle manifests itself is when we plan our finances.

Americans are generally shy when it comes to talking about money. The Lord isn't. He speaks to us about worldly wealth and possessions over 2,300 times in his Word. Last week we heard that the Lord asks, without apology, to be first in our hearts. The Lord's position in our hearts is to be reflected in our firstfruits giving. Firstfruits giving calls for us to *open up our hearts* and offer up to God our first and our very best.

This weekend, the Lord will *open our minds* to consider the magnitude of his blessings. Each of us has been blessed in different ways and at various levels. What should our thoughtful, prayerful response be to these blessings? That's where the Bible's teaching about proportionate giving is such a help. For some families with fewer resources, the practice of giving 10% of their income might be a significant leap of faith. For other families with more resources, the practice of giving 10% may be a starting point for faith-filled giving.

St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made" (1 Corinthians 16:2). Christians are blessed as they put God's principles of proportional giving into practice!

Our worth is taking us on this path:

- Week One: OPEN HEARTS (Firstfruits Giving)
- Week Two: OPEN MINDS (Proportionate Giving)
- Week Three: OPEN HANDS (Sacrificial Giving)

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*).**

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN:

We Give Thee but Thine Own | CW485 5 Vs.

We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.
May we thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as thou blessest us, To thee our firstfruits give.
Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.
To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless, Is angels' work below.
And we believe thy Word Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto thee.

INVOCATION

(Spoken Responsively)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

(Spoken Responsively)

M: "Everything under heaven belongs to me," declares LORD.

C: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.

M: You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."

C: But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

M: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

C: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

CONFESSION OF SINS

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we humbly come before you today knowing that we have failed to speak lovingly, think purely, or act rightly. We have sinned against you and against others ...

C: ...in our slowness and hesitancy to spread your Gospel.

M: ...in the faithful care of our relationships.

C: ...in our restless and relentless preoccupation with worldly wealth.

M: ...in caring for the bodies and minds you have given us.

C: ...in our refusal to make you our first priority.

Silence for personal reflection

M: Hear our confession, for we have sinned and are in need of your mercy and forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n and earth
2 The wealth of earth, of sky, of sea,
With lav - ish wealth be - fore you bow;
The gold, the sil - ver, spark - ling gem,
Those trea - sures owe to you their birth,
The wav - ing corn, the bend - ing tree
So rich - ly fur - nished for us now.
Are yours; you are but lend - ing them.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving care; and grant that we, remembering the richness of your grace, may be faithful stewards of all your good gifts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Scripture calls for offerings that “in keeping with your income,” that is, proportionate. These offerings are given so that God’s people might be a blessing to others, meeting physical and eternal needs.

¹Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ²On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.³Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

PSALM 145

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

C: his greatness no one can fathom.

M: One generation will commend your works to another;

C: they will tell of your mighty acts.

M: The Lord upholds all those who fall

C: and lifts up all who are bowed down.

M: The eyes of all look to you and you give them their food at the proper time.

C: You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

M: The Lord is near to all who call on him,

C: to all who call on him in truth.

M: He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;

C: he hears their cry and saves them and your right hand sustains me.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:14-30

Through a parable Jesus teaches us that we are to manage all that the Master gives to us for his glory.

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ ²¹“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ ²²“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold;

see, I have gained two more.’²³ ‘His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’²⁴ ‘Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.’²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’²⁶ ‘His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?’²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’²⁸ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.’²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.’³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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 his 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 shall 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, and giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped 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 body and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

Jesus, Priceless Treasure | *CW349 3 Vs.*

Jesus, priceless Treasure, Fount of purest pleasure, Truest Friend to me.

Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish,

Yearning, Lord, for thee? Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!

I will suffer naught to hide thee, Naught I ask beside thee.

Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure; Jesus is my choice.

Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story
Told with tempting voice. Pain or loss Or shame or cross
Shall not from my Savior move me Since he deigns to love me.

Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within. Yea, whate'er I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure, Jesus, priceless treasure!

SERMON

What Really Matters Is Knowing the Master

Matthew 25:14-23

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

 SONG OF THE SEASON Facing a Task Unfinished 4 V.s.

Facing a task unfinished That drives us to our knees
A need that, undiminished Rebukes our slothful ease
We, who rejoice to know Thee Renew before Thy throne
The solemn pledge we owe Thee To go and make Thee known
Where other lords beside Thee Hold their unhindered sway
Where forces that defied Thee Defy Thee still today
With none to heed their crying For life, and love, and light
Unnumbered souls are dying And pass into the night

Refrain:

We go to all the world With kingdom hope unfurled
No other name has power to save But Jesus Christ The Lord

We bear the torch that flaming Fell from the hands of those
Who gave their lives proclaiming That Jesus died and rose
Ours is the same commission The same glad message ours
Fired by the same ambition To Thee we yield our powers *[Refrain]*

O Father who sustained them O Spirit who inspired
Savior, whose love constrained them To toil with zeal untired
From cowardice defend us From lethargy awake!
Forth on Thine errands send us To labor for Thy sake *[Refrain X 2]*

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

C: Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.

M: Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work and the income it provides.

C: Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

M: We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. We understand that you call us to be the stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.

C: Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives.

Special prayers and petitions may be offered here.

M: Help us, Lord, to be wise and fruitful stewards of the opportunities that you give us to use our gifts.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

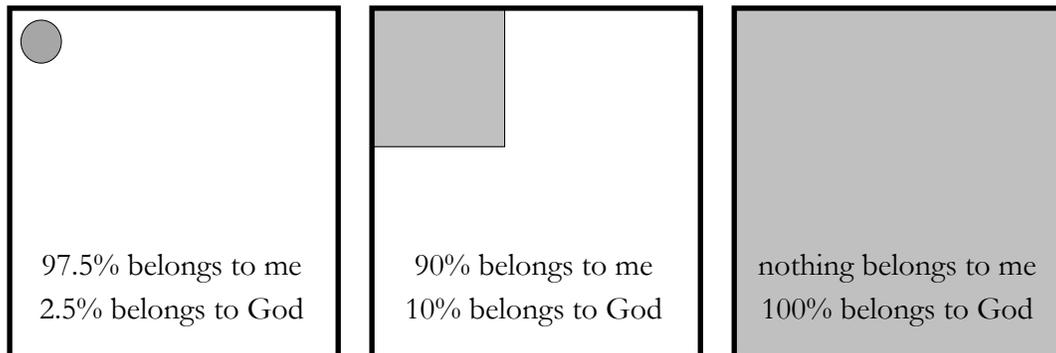
(Spoken in Unison)

**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**

BIBLE STUDY: Proportionate Giving

I. INTRODUCTION

? Which of these diagrams do you think most accurately reflects the Bible's teaching on money, possessions, and our use of them?



Proportionate giving begins by recognizing who really is the _____.

II. GOD OWNS EVERYTHING

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:3

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Job 33:4

The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Job 41:11

The LORD said, "Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me."

Exodus 19:6

The LORD said, "...the whole earth is mine."

God _____ everything
and therefore _____ everything

III. WE, BY NATURE, RESENT GOD'S OWNERSHIP

Think of the way we talk about wealth and possessions. At every step we are forgetful of the fact that God owns everything.

· There are two children who want the same toy. *"Mine!"*

There is the man talking about his salary. *"Last year I made \$52,000."*

There is the admiration for the "self-made millionaire."

We need to constantly guard our hearts and minds, remembering God created all things, and therefore owns all things. Anything we have—our life, our intellect, our time, our possessions—we have because he generously gave them to us.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father.

Point / Counter-Point

Below are things we tell ourselves. In your own words, explain how God answers.

Man says: *"I put in my time."*

God says: *"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:13-14).*

Man says: *"It's my brain and talent that are responsible for my success."*

God says: *"I have filled him (Bezalel) with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood" (Exodus 31:3-5).*

Man says: *"I've worked hard for what I've got!"*

God says: *"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).*

The Takeaway

- a) If I don't recognize God's complete ownership, I need to _____ of my idolatry.
- b) If I do recognize God's complete ownership, as his forgiven child I give to him _____.
- c) If my life's focus is on earthly possessions, every day I live is a day I come closer to losing _____.
- d) If my life's focus is on heaven, then every day I live is a day I come closer to _____ everything.

IV. QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS...

So, our New Man wants to honor Christ through percentage giving. That New Man now wrestles with the following questions.

“What percentage should I give?” Turn the table on legalism!

Abraham gladly gave _____%, a “tithe” (Genesis 14:20)

Old Testament law _____ people to give multiple tithes (Numbers 18:21-23; Deuteronomy 14:22-29)

Zacchaeus freely gave _____% (Luke 19:1-10)

The widow of Zarephath and the widow at the temple gave _____% (1 Kings 17:7-16; Luke 21:1-4)

The point? Let the percentage of your gifts flow from the Spirit's work in your heart.

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

“How much of God's money do I need to live on?” Turn the table on greed!

? Consider these two examples. There is a single mom with two children who made \$30,000 last year. She gave \$2,500 in offerings. There is a two-income family with two children who made \$110,000 last year and gave \$11,000. Who gave more?

The point? God is so generous, he often gives us so much income that we can not only meet our needs but also purchase some things we want, but don't really need. However, if we better distinguish between wants and needs... if we focus on *earthly* needs and *heavenly* wants... it frees us up to be exceedingly generous with our offerings.

“What will my investments be earning 50,000 years from now?” Turn the table on materialism!

Matthew 6:21

Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Martin Luther

I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

- ? You gave \$10,000 to support our congregation. Your gift was used to fund efforts to reach the lost. It funded the teaching of God's Word to young and old. A portion of it was sent to WELS to support world-wide mission efforts. How might you enjoy that investment 50,000 years from now?

The point? Even Jesus had a treasurer. Ministry requires funding. An earthly investment can bring joy only in this life. But investing in gospel ministry can reap blessings that we will enjoy for all eternity.

"Do I fully comprehend Jesus' sacrifice for me?" Turn the table on self-centeredness!

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

- ? Part of "the American Dream" is upward mobility. Americans typically aspire to move up in their socioeconomic status. There is also the possibility of downward mobility. People who were rich can end up dirt poor. There is no greater example of downward mobility than Jesus. Describe a) how big a step down he took and b) why he was willing to take that step.

The point? Giving generously will never be achieved by focusing only on the Scripture passages which talk about generous giving! The gospel—the good news of Christ's sacrifice, resurrection and the glorious eternity that is waiting for us—is what the Spirit uses to empower joyful, generous giving.

V. NEWS AND NOTES

- This week is the time to study the information in your *10 for 10* commitment packet. Please read the letter, use the planning tools included, and prayerful consider what your response will be.

Two weeks from today is when commitment cards will be gathered. Important note: your commitment cards will not be opened. They will be placed near the altar for ten weeks and then returned to you unopened for your prayerful reflection.

Please do not place offerings in your *10 for 10* commitment envelopes. The only thing that goes in that envelope is your giving plan.

Additional devotional material has been/will be shared. Read. Ponder. Pray.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us | CW486 2 Vs.

Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice,
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil With your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

ONE CHURCH....TWO LOCATIONS

JOMAX CAMPUS - NEWS

Women's Bible Study

Topic Starting October 13th: 'In God's Orchard' Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life
All are Welcome!
Tuesdays 9:30am @ Karen Jurado's House

Trunk or Treat

October 24th

Voters Meeting

October 25th 10:30am



VISTANCIA CAMPUS - NEWS

Vistancia Zoom Call

Sunday 7:00pm

Voters Meeting

October 25th 10:30am

New River Growth Group

October 26th 6:30pm

Halloween Drive-Thru

October 30 5:00pm

Special Announcements

Trunk Or Treat

Trunk or Treat will be held October 24th at 5:00-7:00. All are welcome to participate. Please Sign up online to participate. Set-up begins at 4:00pm.

Stewardship Sundays

We are having a 3-Sunday focus on stewardship. You should have already seen some information about this in the monthly news and mailed to your home. The Sunday themes will be the following:

- Open Hearts – Firstfruits Giving
- Open Minds – Proportionate Giving
- Open Hands – Sacrificial Giving

Keep an eye on your inbox and mailbox for more information regarding this special worship focus!

For those watching online it would be helpful to download the bulletin before viewing the Sunday Service, as the in-service Bible class material is printed there.

Announcements

****Our next quarterly meeting will be on October 25 at 10:30am after church. As in the past, we will set this up for attendance both in person and via zoom.

****Cross of Glory is going to test and maybe purchase a new hearing assistance system. You will be able to better hear the service through earphones attached to a portable receiver you take to your seat. The receiver will also transmit the sound directly to your hearing aids, if your Telecoil channel has been activated by your audiologist. That means you will not need to remove your hearing aids or wear headphones. The receiver is about the size of a small cellphone. However, you do not need to have hearing aids to try the unit.

****New meditations have arrived and are located in the communications center. Please let Liz know if you would like one put in your mailbox.

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

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

**** We have several options for you to worship during these times. You may go to crossofglory.online.church to view our online services or worship in person (Jomax Campus) at the normal 9:00 am service time. You may also watch Saturday service live on Facebook Cross of Glory-Vistancia or in person (Jomax Campus) at 6:00pm. All of our Services can be found for later viewing on our website under the Message tab, either Facebook Site or YouTube.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	October 18th	October 25th	November 1st	November 8th
Counters	Wempner/Cornell	Wempner/Freeman	Wempner/Wilson	Wempner/ Brooks
Cleaners	Plitzuweit/Moe/ Peterson	Piepenbrink/ Pappenfuss	Martins/Ehlers	Kelley/Grams
Communion Set-up	Susie Cornell	Sharon Kull	Lynn Wempner	Susie Cornell
Ushers	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers Grant Stern John Wempner Kelly Simpson	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson	Cody Hall Larry Kennedy Zach Plitzuweit Tanner Plitzuweit

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

October 19th 7:00pm	Kugler Growth Group– Ecclesiastes
October 20th 9:30am	Women’s Bible Study
October 20th 6:30pm	Grams Growth Group– The Story of Joseph
October 21th 10:00am	Mom’s Bible Study (Via Zoom)
October 21th 11:30am	Early Dismissal– Teacher Inservice
October 22nd 7:00pm	Board of Ed
October 24th 5:00pm	Drive –Thru Trunk or Treat
October 25th 9:00am	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
October 25th 9:00am	Worship Service (Online)
October 25th 10:30am	Sunday Morning Bible Study Christian Freedom
October 25th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

LOOKING AHEAD

October 26th 6:30pm	New River Growth Group
October 26th 7:00pm	Kugler Growth Group– Ecclesiastes
October 27th 9:30am	Women’s Bible Study
October 27th 6:30pm	Grams Growth Group– The Story of Joseph
October 28th 10:00am	Mom’s Bible Study (Via Zoom)
October 30th 5:00pm	Halloween Drive-Thru
October 31st 6:00pm	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
October 31st 6:00pm	Worship Service Facebook Live
November 1st 9:00am	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
November 1st 9:00am	Worship Service (Online)
November 1st 10:30am	Sunday Morning Bible Study Christian Freedom
November 1st 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

Growth Groups

<p><u>Sunday Morning Bible Study</u> Topic: Christian Freedom Sundays at 10:30am In Person or Zoom Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74701697177?pwd=OFp0WHhjMVZBN3pzVEZEQm9zVWZtUT09 Meeting ID: 747 0169 7177 Passcode: 7t71C8</p>		
<p><u>Vistancia Weekly Devotion</u> Sundays at 7:00 pm via ZOOM (if interested in joining contact Pastor Ehlers)</p>	<p><u>New River Growth Group</u> Topic: Follow Me-Who Is Calling Us to Follow Him? Sept.28th, Oct. 12th & 26th 6:30-8:00pm</p>	<p><u>Mom's Growth Group- Ally Kelley</u> Wednesdays at 10:00am Via Zoom (Please contact Liz if you want to be added to this meeting)</p>
<p><u>Ecclesiastes- Kugler Group</u> Mondays at 7:00pm Via Zoom Starts 10/5/2020</p>	<p><u>Grams Growth Group-The Story of Joseph</u> Tuesdays at 6:30pm at Gram's House Starting 9/29 for 10 Weeks</p>	<p><u>Women's Bible Study</u> Tuesdays at 9:30am at Karen Jurado's House</p>

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.

Marilyn Bagwell, sister of Sharon Kull, was recently diagnosed with cancer. May the Holy Spirit continue working in her heart and protect and care for her and perhaps cure her if that is his will.

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.

PERSONAL PRAYERS FOR COMMUNION

Before Communing

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communing

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.



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.