

# Advent 2 Sunday, December 6, 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 worshiping 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 worshiping with us for each service. Please let us know you are worshiping 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!



We are in the second week of Advent. Advent is a Latin word that means "coming." Coming implies waiting. Advent is an invitation to wait—quietly, patiently, expectantly, joyfully—not only to remember a Savior who has come, but one who will come again. In the service today, we will be lighting the Advent wreath. This is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent. It is a circular candle holder that holds five candles. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday until all of the candles, including the fifth candle, are lit on Christmas Day. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Today, we light the 2nd candle—THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or CANDLE OF PEACE – It symbolizes the birth of Jesus to the virgin Mary in the tiny village of Bethlehem.

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## Service of Scripture and Song

#### GATHERING RITE ON HOLY BAPTISM

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It | CWS737

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

C: Amen.

Sung by Congregation:

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!

He, because I could not pay it, gave my full redemption price.

Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any

That brought me salvation free lasting to eternity!

M: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C: Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. (John 3:5,6)

M: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. (Psalm 51:5)

C: But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11)

## Sung by Congregation:

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!

I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.

Should a guilty conscience seize me since my baptism did release me

In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

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.

## Sung by Congregation:

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!

Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.

Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled,

And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord unites with me!

M: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*).

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all our sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

#### C: Amen.

#### Sung by Congregation:

Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!

When I die, I leave all sadness to inherit paradise!

Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes:

Baptism has the strength divine to make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing to this lifelong comfort sure!

Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.

Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:

I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

## CATECHISM REVIEW The Lord's Prayer: 6th & 7th Petition

(Spoken Responsively)

M:Lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

C: God surely tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or lead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins; and though we are tempted by them, we pray that we may overcome and win the victory.

M:But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

C: In conclusion we pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil that threatens body and soul, property and reputation, and finally when our last hour comes, grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to himself in heaven.

#### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING –Bethlehem Candle

(Sung refrain; responsive reading and repeated refrain)

Congregation Sings:

As we light the Advent Candle with the light of peace burning bright.

Faithfully we wait for His coming; faithfully it shines through the night.

In our humble hearts a fire burns as well hear the prayer these flames would tell.

- M: We light two Advent candles now. The Bethl'em Candle kindles bright.
- C: Dispelling darkness, Jesus comes and warms us with his holy light.
- M: We think of little Bethlehem a mere two thousand years ago,
- C: The busy streets, the crowded inn, and what the people didn't know:

- M: That in a stable God was born and laid upon a bed of hay.
- C: The virgin wrapped him, kept him warm: divinity in such a place!
- M: We ponder in this quiet hour the wondrous miracle to come:
- C: How nature kneels and time stands still to see the birth of God's own Son.

Congregation Sings:

As we light the Advent Candle with the light of peace burning bright. Faithfully we wait for His coming; faithfully it shines through the night. In our humble hearts a fire burns as well hear the prayer these flames would tell. O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom capture Israel.

FIRST LESSON 2 Peter 3:8-14

<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. <sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

#### THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"— <sup>3</sup> "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him." <sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.

The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,

While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin And enter in; Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;

Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

SERMON Bethlehem: Small but Chosen Micah 5:2-5

"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." <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

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

#### 3rd ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

(Spoken Responsively)

M: 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.

What does this mean?

- C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.
- M: In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.
- C: On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Vs. 1 & 2 sung responsively with the Ensemble and congregation joins for Vs. 3

Hear the cry from Bethlehem O children come

Son of God now born to men O children come -

Bring your troubles, bring your fears, Bring the needs that draw you near,

Find the hope of all the years – O children come! O children come!

Peace on earth good will to men O children come

Righteous rule that will not end O children come -

Lay down all your bitterness, Turn from sin's toil and distress,

Find His grace and perfect rest – O children come! O children come!

Where the Father's grace has walked O children come

Where you see the hurt and lost O children come –

Show the mercy shown to you, Gifts of kindness to renew,

Love from hearts sincere and true – O children come! O children come!

#### THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD'S PRAYER

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.

#### **BLESSING AND RESPONSE**

(Response Sung by Congregation)

M: We praise you, O God of heaven and earth, that you have so richly lavished us with your free love and unearned salvation, in Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord:

Sung by Congregation:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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

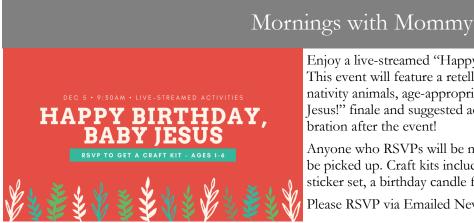
ENSEMBLE Days of Elijah

## Call News and Meeting

At our call meeting on Sunday, November 15, the voters extended two calls for our school.

The first call was extended to Andrew Aguilar to be our principal and 7-8 grade teacher. He currently serves as superintendent of California Lutheran High School. He is married with 5 children, whose ages range from 23 down to 13. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. If you'd like to be in touch with him, his email address is aaguilar@clhsonline.net.

The second call was extended to our current 3-4 grade teacher, Rachel Severeid. She currently holds a 1-year provisional call from us, and we are seeking to make it permanent. The call also includes teaching departmentalized music and instrumental lessons in the school. Rachel is also holding a call from Emmanuel in Tempe to teach third grade and do music and drama. Please keep her in your prayers as she thinks about where she can best serve. She is open to hearing from you as well. You can contact her via email: rachel.severeid@crossofglory.org or phone: 920-629-1278.



Enjoy a live-streamed "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party geared to ages 1-6. This event will feature a retelling of the Christmas story featuring live nativity animals, age-appropriate songs and crafts, a "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" finale and suggested activities for families to continue the cele-

Anyone who RSVPs will be notified when the craft kits are available to be picked up. Craft kits include a nativity ornament craft, a nativity sticker set, a birthday candle for baby Jesus and more!

Please RSVP via Emailed News Letter!

## Advent by Candlelight

Our annual Advent by Candlelight will be held December 6 at 3:00 p.m. with set-up at 2:00 p.m.

Out of respect for everyone's personal preferences for safety and levels of isolation, we are celebrating Advent by Candlelight in a number of ways this year.

For the large-group, in-person option at the Jomax campus, we will have spaced-out seating with 5 at a table (unless family units up to 8 want to sit together). We will serve individually-wrapped treats, and servers will wear gloves and masks. Masks are optional but encouraged for attendees.

To be a virtual table host, you may sign up to host a group of friends or family in your home while you, as a small group, tune in to the service via zoom. Details will be largely left to the hostess to invite, prepare, serve and start the Zoom meeting for the program at your home.

For individuals who would like to watch from home without hosting a small group, a Zoom link will be provided, and we look forward to joining hearts with you!

Please signup online or let Liz or Becky now if you plan to attend.

This is the Zoom link:

Topic: Advent by Candlelight

Time: Dec 6, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us04web.zoom.us/i/8328539124? pwd=RVYxNjhpWTlXRmEvbktvbCsva1hYZz09

Meeting ID: 832 853 9124 Passcode: Njy4uE



## Live Nativity



We are planning a Live Nativity December 13th from 3-5pm and need volunteers to help. Please review the <u>Sign-up</u> in the weekly news or contact Liz if there is something you would like to help with. This is a great opportunity for Cross of Glory to interact with the community and school to share the message of the Savior.

## Men's Conference Update

The men's conference is postponed. It is with a heavy heart that we have decided to postpone the January 2021 Men of His Word Conference in Phoenix for one year. The AZ/CA Men of His Word Committee listened to all the input we received. In the end, after robust discussion, we decided the best course of action at this time is to push off our inaugural conference to January of 2022. The tentative new date is January 29, 2022. We plan to use the same theme and presentations as much as possible. Thank you for your support. For more information or to get involved with the conference, please visit the website at MenOfHisWord.org/Phoenix/

Tom Bernthal (communications director, MOHW-AZ) <a href="mailto:thomasbernthal@gmail.com">thomasbernthal@gmail.com</a>



## **ACSTO**



We have a custom Cross of Glory link that will make donating your tax dollars a little easier this year! For more information on how to donate or how the tax credit works, get in touch with Becky Foxen at 623-340-8354 or donate at https://pages.acsto.org/school/cross-of-glory

## Support COG While You Shop

Want to do some good while you shop for your holiday gifts on Amazon? With <u>Amazon Smile</u>, you can support charity easily and automatically.

Just point your browser (or modify your Amazon bookmark) to <a href="mailto:smile.amazon.com">smile.amazon.com</a>, then choose Cross of Glory Lutheran Church to support.

Then just shop like normal. So long as you're doing it via that web address, Amazon will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases. All prices and products are the same as they would be if you bought them without using Smile.







# Vistancia Events

## Vistancia Holiday Lights Tour

It's that special time of year again. Time to bundle up in a cozy sweater, brew delicious hot cocoa, and scour the neighborhoods looking for the best-of-the-best home Christmas light displays Vistancia has to offer! This holiday season, start a new family tradition by driving neighborhood to neighborhood to see the lighted spectacle in Vistanica. All submissions will be added to an easy-to-follow neighborhood guide that will be handed out on Friday, Dec. 18.

Our Vistancia Campus is hosting a stop on the Vistancia Holiday Lights tour offering holiday treats to anyone driving around enjoying the festive lights. This event takes place on December 18, from 6-8 p.m.



## Christmas Concert



On Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 p.m., Cross of Glory will be preforming its normal Christmas Eve Concert in the Park for the residents in Vistancia. This Event will take place at Sunset Park in Vistancia 29898 N Sunset Peoria, AZ 85383. The attendance at the park is limited to 50 people per city regulations.

#### Sunday Morning Bible Study

Topic: The Book of Romans

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

Vistancia Weekly Devotion Sundays at 7:00 pm via ZOOM (if interested in joining contact Pastor Ehlers)	New River Growth Group The Gospel of Matthew 2nd & 4th Mondays at 6:30 pm Location: New River Kiwanis Park, New River Contact Pastor John Ehlers	Mom's Group (Zoom only) Wednesdays at 10:00 am Contact Ally Kelley
Gram's Group The Story of Joseph Tuesdays at 6:30 pm Location: Sun City West Contact Tim and Brenda Grams		Women's Bible Study 'In God's Orchard' Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life Tuesdays at 9:30 am Location: West Olive Avenue, Peoria Contact Karen Jurado

## THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

December 8th 9:30 am

December 8th 6:30 pm

Church Council Meeting

Church Council Meeting

Grams Growth Group

December 9th 10:00 am

December 10th 4:00 pm

Women's Bible Study

Church Council Meeting

Grams Growth Group

Catechism Study Hall

December 10th 5:00 pm

Catechism

December 10th 7:00 pm

Board of Ed

December 12th 6:00 pm

Worship Service

December 13th 9:00 am Worship Service (Jomax)
December 13th 9:00 am Worship Service Online

December 13th 9:30 am Worship Service in the Park (Vistancia)

December 13th 10:30 am Sunday Morning Bible Study

December 13th 3:00 pm Live Nativity

## LOOKING AHEAD

December 14th 6:30 pm

December 15th 6:30 pm

December 16th 10:00 am

December 17th 4:00 pm

New River Growth Group

Grams Growth Group

Mom's Growth Group

Catechism Study Hall

December 17th 5:00 pm Catechism

December 18th 11:30 am Early Dismissal
December 18th 6:00 pm Festival of the Lights

December 19th 6:00 pm Worship Service

December 20th 9:00 am

December 20th 9:00 am

Worship Service (Jomax)

Worship Service Online

December 20th 10:30 am

Sunday Morning Bible Study

December 20th 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Concert in the Park

Jomax Worship Volunteers	December 6th	December 13th	December 20th	December 24th
Counters	Wempner/Freeman	Wempner/Wilson	Wempner/Brooks	-
Cleaners	Piepenbrink/ Pappenfuss	Martins/Ehlers	Grams/Kelley	-
Communion Set-up	Susie Cornell	-	Sharon Kull	-
Ushers	Gary Jeffers Grant Stern John Wempner Kelly Simpson	Chris Patterson Caleb Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson	Cody Hall Tanner Plitzuweit Levi Foxen	Kelly Simpson Al Alcoba Rich Kugler

# 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 Perkola, sister of Corinne Julian, who will be undergoing surgery for colon cancer on December 9th.

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

**Juanita Word**, who is recovering at home after a fall.

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) 1930am (Vistancia) Bible Study Session 10:30am (Jomax)