

for by  
**grace**  
you have been saved  
through  
**faith**  
Ephesians 2:8

## God's Plan for our Future

New Year's Eve  
*December 31, 2020*



## Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

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

[www.crossofglory.org](http://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!



*God's free undeserved love for sinners – is a key thought in the apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians. **By grace** Jesus died on the cross for our sins. **By grace** we have been brought to faith and are saved forever. **By grace** we have the power to live holy lives and to resist the power of Satan. God's **plan of grace** for us makes it possible for us to face the future with trust and confidence – a fitting thought for this New Year.*

## 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.

## God's Plan for our Future—*A New Year's Eve Service*

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### OPENING HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved (CW384) 2 V.s.

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why waver at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
So then this word must true remain: By grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.  
By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.  
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died, your soul to win?  
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought him from his heav'nly throne.

### GREETING

*(Spoken Responsively)*

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

**C: And also with you.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

*(Spoken Responsively)*

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**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.**

### PRAYER

*(Spoken Responsively)*

M: Eternal Father before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and on the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved (CW384) 2 V.s.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried --  
By grace, despite all fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.

Where could I help and strength secure  
If grace were not my anchor sure?  
By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;  
In Jesus' promise I rejoice.  
For though I know my heart's condition,  
I also know my Savior's voice.  
My heart is glad; all grief has flown  
Since I am saved by grace alone.

## THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

*God reminding us of how gracious he has been to us.*

### READING

*Ephesians 1:1-14*

*By grace God chose us for salvation*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: <sup>2</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup>For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup>he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup>to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. <sup>11</sup>In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup>in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

### HYMN

*Amazing Grace (CW379) 2 V.s.*

**Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.  
The Lord has promised good to me;  
His Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**

### READING

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

*Praise God for his grace in the work of Jesus*

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup>I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of wis-

dom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

 **HYMN**

*Amazing Grace (CW379) 2 Vs.*

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;**

**'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,**

**We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.**

**READING**

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

*We are saved by grace through faith*

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh<sup>[a]</sup> and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

 **HYMN**

*What Grace is This! (CWS715) 3 Vs.*

**What grace is this! My Lord and King Has set his face to suffering.**

**My God eternal dies to bring Eternal life to me.**

**What grace is this—That very God Would stoop to lift a cross of wood**

**And walk a road of rock and blood, A sinner's road, for me.**

**What grace is this? How can it be? He wears this raw humility**

**To lift me to eternity. Such grace—sweet grace—for me.**

**READING***Ephesians 2:11-22**By grace we are part of the Holy Christian Church*

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—<sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,<sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,<sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.<sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.<sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.<sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.<sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

 **HYMN****The Church’s One Foundation** (*CW*538) 2 *Vs.*

**The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
 She is his new creation By water and the Word.  
 From heav'n he came and sought her To be his holy bride;  
 With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.  
 Mid toil and tribulation And tumult of her war  
 She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore  
 Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest  
 And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.**

**READING***Ephesians 3:1-13**God's grace sent Paul to preach to the Gentiles*

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you,<sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.<sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,<sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets.<sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.<sup>7</sup> I became a

servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. <sup>13</sup> I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

 **HYMN**

**My Faith Look Up to Thee | CW402 2 Vs.**

**My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;  
Oh, let me from this day Be wholly thine!  
May thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;  
My zeal inspire! As thou hast died for me,  
Oh, may my love to thee Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!**

**READING**

***Ephesians 3:14-20***

*Paul prays that we grow in grace*

For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

 **HYMN**

**May the Peace of God (CWS745) 1 Vs.**

**May the peace which passes understanding,  
And this grace which makes us what we are,  
And this fellowship of his Communion make us one in spirit and in heart.  
And to him be praise for his glorious reign  
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.  
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain- Christ eternal, the King of Kings.**

**READING***Ephesians 4:1-16**By grace each of us is to grow as a fruitful member of the Body of Christ*

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup>This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people."<sup>9</sup> (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup>So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup>From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

 **HYMN***In Unity and Peace (CWS773) 1 Vs.*

**How good it is and how pleasant to live in unity and peace.  
 How good it is and how pleasant to live together in one Lord.  
 Share the love that has joined us as one; unite in spirit and ideals  
 Never be rivals; do not be conceited, but look to others in their need.  
 For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all,  
 How good it is and how pleasant to live in unity and peace.  
 How good it is and how pleasant to live together in one Lord.**

**READING***Ephesians 4:17-32**Live a life of holiness in Christ*

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup>Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. <sup>20</sup>That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup>when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Je-

sus.<sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. <sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. <sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

 **HYMN**

**Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace** | (*Melody—CW21*) 2 *Vs.*

**Lord of all nations, grant me grace to love all people, ev’ry race,  
And in each person help me view my kindred, loved, redeemed by you.  
Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred by loveless act, and thoughtless word  
Make me to see the wrong I do Will hurt my neighbor, Lord, and you.**

**READING**

***Ephesians 5:1-20***

*By grace live as one filled with the Spirit*

<sup>1</sup> Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. <sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them. <sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” <sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will

is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

 **HYMN**

**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light** (CWS771) 1 V.s.

**I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world; The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**READING**

***Ephesians 5:21-33***

*Jesus' love for the church is a pattern for marital love*

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

 **HYMN**

**Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall** (CW506) 2 V.s.

**Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!  
A home that is not wholly his -- How sad and poor and dark it is!  
Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all within have set their mind  
To trust their God and serve him still And do in all his holy will.**

**READING**

***Ephesians 6:1-9***

*Christian children and fathers, workers and bosses*

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup>“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” <sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and

fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup>Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. <sup>7</sup>Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,<sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. <sup>9</sup>And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

 **HYMN**

**Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall** (CW506) 3 Vs.

**Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children's foremost need  
And weary not of care or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!**

**Blest such a house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell,  
And in their children's lives is shown How richly God can bless his own.**

**Then here will I and mine today A solemn promise make and say:  
Though all the world forsake his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!**

**READING**

*Ephesians 6:10-20*

*Put on the whole armor of God*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,<sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.<sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

 **HYMN**

**O Church, Arise** 2 Vs.

**O church, arise and put your armor on; Hear the call of Christ our captain;  
For now the weak can say that they are strong In the strength that God has given.  
With shield of faith and belt of truth We'll stand against the devil's lies;  
An army bold whose battle cry is "Love!" Reaching out to those in darkness.**

Our call to war, to love the captive soul, But to rage against the captor;  
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole  
We will fight with faith and valor.  
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, We know the outcome is secure,  
And Christ will have the prize for which He died—An inheritance of nations.

**THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

**PRAYER**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*(Spoken by All)*

**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.**

**THE SACRAMENT**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*(Spoken Responsively)*

M: Is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ!

**C: This is the body of Christ, given for us for the forgiveness of sins.**

M: Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ?

**C: This is the blood of Christ, shed for the forgiveness of our sins.**

M: The Lord bless your communion with peace, with joy, with salvation.

**C: Come to us, Lord Jesus.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF SACRAMENT**

*(Please refer to "Worship Welcome" in chair pocket)*

*We follow the Scriptural practice of **CLOSE COMMUNION**. If you have not communed here prior to today, you should speak with our pastor before the service. We would like to help you establish the unity which comes from a common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) before expressing that union together at the Lord's Table. It is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God's Word. Those who have established that connection as members of sister WELS or ELS congregations may register at the podium at the sanctuary entrance. Thank you for honoring our practice.*

 **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**Just As I Am (CW397)**

**Just as I am, without one plea But that thy blood was shed for me  
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,**

Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down.  
Now to be thine, yea thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**BLESSING**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

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

C: Amen.



**CLOSING HYMN**

**Father, Let Me Dedicate** (CW75) 2 Vs.

Father, let me dedicate All this year to you,  
In whate'er my earthly state, In whate'er I do.  
Not from sorrow, pain, or care Freedom dare I claim;  
This alone shall be my prayer: Glorify your name.

If in mercy you prolong Joys that now are mine,  
If on life serene and fair Brighter rays may shine,  
Let my glad heart, while it sings, You in all proclaim  
And, whate'er the future brings, Glorify your name.

**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*).

## THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| December 31st 6:00 pm | New Years Eve Service (Online 26th at 10:00 am) |
| January 1st           | New Years Day                                   |
| January 2nd 6:00 pm   | Worship Service (Jomax)                         |
| January 2nd 6:00 pm   | Worship Service (Facebook Live)                 |
| January 3rd 9:00 am   | Worship Service (Jomax)                         |
| January 3rd 9:00 am   | Worship Service Online                          |

## LOOKING AHEAD

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| January 4th           | Classes Resume                |
| January 5th 6:00 pm   | Evangelism Meeting            |
| January 5th 7:00 pm   | Elders Meeting                |
| January 6th 10:00 am  | Mom's Growth Group            |
| January 7th 4:00 pm   | Catechism Study Hall          |
| January 7th 5:00 pm   | Catechism                     |
| January 9th 6:00 pm   | Worship Service (Jomax)       |
| January 9th 6:00 pm   | Worship Service Facebook Live |
| January 10th 9:00 am  | Worship Service (Jomax)       |
| January 10th 9:00 am  | Worship Service Online        |
| January 10th 10:30 am | Sunday Bible Study            |
| January 10th 7:00 pm  | Vistancia Zoom Devotion       |

| Jomax<br>Worship Volun-<br>teers | December 31st   | January<br>3rd                               | January<br>10th                            | January<br>17th   |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Counters                         | -   | Wempner/<br>Schirripa                        | Wempner/<br>Cornell                        | Wempner/<br>Freeman                                     |
| Cleaners                         | -   | Ebel/Koutia                                  | Patterson                                  | Martins/Ehlers  |
| Communion Set-<br>up             | -   | Lynn<br>Wempner                              | -  | Judy Sasse  |
| Ushers                           | 6:00 pm<br>Chris Patterson<br>Caleb Patterson<br>Isaac Patterson<br>Titus Patterson | Cody Hall<br>Levi Foxen<br>Tanner Plitzuweit | John Kull<br>Bill Grams<br>Paul Pappenfuss | Verl Naber<br>Al Alcoba<br>Rich Kugler<br>Kelly Simpson |

## Call News

On Sunday, December 20, the congregation met to issue a call for the third- and fourth-grade teacher position that will be vacated by Rachel Severeid when she leaves after this school year. It was decided to call Stacey Aguilar, wife of our soon-to-be principal, Drew Aguilar. Stacey is currently teaching K-4 at Concord Lutheran Academy in Temecula, CA. Please keep her in your prayers as she considers this call, as well as the whole Aguilar family as they make preparations to move to the Phoenix area this summer.

Please also continue to pray for the Severeids as Rachel finishes out the school year with us and prepares to transition to Emmanuel Lutheran School in Tempe this summer.

## Strategic Planning Workshop

On November 20 and 21, the leadership team of Cross of Glory spent a total of 11 hours in meetings with two representatives of Grace in Action (GIA), Dan Sutton and Steve Granberg. Their goal was to train and support the COG team in the following areas:

Identifying CliftonStrengths in individual and team coaching

Developing a new Vision/Traction Organizer (VTO)

Investigating how to grow congregational involvement and buy-in

Also, six-year goals were set in the areas of property and facilities, church growth and member engagement, financial health, outreach, and preschool/LES/high school/youth. You will be hearing more about the new VTO in the future.

## Drum Lessons

Are you interested in playing the drums? Jay Collins is offering Drum Lessons for \$20 a half-hour for adults, children 5 and up. If interested please contact Jay. (623)312-5347

## Cross of Glory Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2021 are now available. They may be picked up at the Jomax facility from your mailbox in the hallway entrance to the sanctuary of the church. This year, for those who have been consistently using the on-line VANCO system for their giving, a box of envelopes has not been issued since it is assumed that you will continue to use the VANCO system. If at any time, you would like to go back to the use of envelopes for your offering, please let our Financial Secretary know ([john.kull@cox.net](mailto:john.kull@cox.net) or 858 395 5666) and a box of envelopes will be placed in your mailbox. Thank you for your continued support of our mission at Cross of Glory!

## Thrivent T-Shirts

Please contact Liz with your size if you desire a Thrivent T-shirt, and she will put one in your box in the communication entryway. Contact her at [cog.secretary@crossofglory.org](mailto:cog.secretary@crossofglory.org)

# 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 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.