

**Love IN  
Action**

**1 JOHN 4:7-11, 19-21**

*Easter 6*  
*Sunday, May 9, 2021*  
**FULL SCRIPT**



**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School**

623-224-8839

[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!

## Worship focus

You spot a delicious looking apple in a bowl of fruit and reach for it only to find it is plastic. This is a good analogy for love. The world's concept of love can look very good from the outside, but when we look a little closer, this type of love has no substance. In order for love and the works of love to have substance, it must come from a union with Christ and from nourishment that Christ gives in his Word.

Anything that looks like love but does not have Christ and his Word as the source is plastic fruit, not the real thing, no matter how real it may look on the outside. Real love in God's eyes (as distinguished from the world's eyes) is in accord with the truth of God's Word. No matter how noble or beneficial or heroic the acts of one only in the world are, they are not the same thing as the works of the Christian motivated by the love and work of Christ. Love one another as Christ has loved. Love one another and know the difference between Christ-like love and the love of the world.

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## Service of Worship and Praise

### OPENING HYMN

The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me | CWS749 3 Vs.

The love of Christ, who died for me Is more than mind can know,  
His mercy measureless and free To meet the debt I owe.  
He came my sinful cause to plead, He laid his glories by,  
For me a homeless life to lead, A shameful death to die.

My sins I only see in part, My self regarding ways;  
The secret places of my heart Lie bare before his gaze.  
For me the price of sin he paid; My sins beyond recall  
Are all alike on Jesus laid, He died to bear them all.

O living Lord of life, for whom The heavens held their breath,  
To see, triumphant from the tomb, A love that conquers death,  
Possess my heart that it may be Your Kingdom without end,  
O Christ who died for love of me And lives to be my friend.

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

*(Read/ Sung Responsively)*

M: We gather for worship the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: As believers in Christ we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James we are told, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for one another so that you may be healed." As one body in Christ, we unite our hearts in prayer:

**C: Lord, I pray to you because I am suffering. I have cut myself off from you and others by the sin in my life. I need your forgiveness so that I may find healing for my wounded life and for the wounds I have caused others. Today in the name of Jesus I pray, forgive me; and by the power of your Holy Spirit, renew my heart. Amen.**

*Congregation Sings:*

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.  
You are the Potter. I am the clay; Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.  
You are the Potter. I am the clay; Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

M: We take comfort and find confidence in the words of Jesus, "He sent me to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin, to restore sight to the blind, to bring mercy to lives shat-

tered by sin, to announce the favor of the Lord.” God gave his only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise from death to give us eternal life. We are forgiven. We live in the favor of the Lord. We live in his power, energized to tell of his peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Congregation Sings:*

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way;  
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave;  
From the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.  
Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way;  
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave;  
From the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.**

## FIRST LESSON

*Acts 9:36-42*

<sup>36</sup>In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. <sup>37</sup>About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. <sup>38</sup>Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!” <sup>39</sup>Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

## PSALM 89

*(Spoken Responsively)*

M: I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever;

**C: I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.**

M: I will declare that your love stands firm forever,

**C: That you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

M: The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,

**C: your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.**

M: O Lord God Almighty, who is like you?

**C: You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.**

M: Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,

**C: Who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD,**

M: They rejoice in your name all day long;

**C: They exult in your righteousness.**

## THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

### GOSPEL LESSON

*John 15:9-17*

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

### SERMON HYMN

**Hymn of Compassion | 4 Vs.**

*Ensemble sings Vs 1 & 2 and Congregation joins for Vs. 3 & 4*

*There is an everlasting kindness You lavished on us  
When the Radiance of heaven Came to rescue the lost;  
You called the sheep without a shepherd To leave their distress  
For your streams of forgiveness And the shade of Your rest.  
And with compassion for the hurting, You reached out Your hand  
As the lame ran to meet You And the dead breathed again;  
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow And shared in our tears,  
Heard the sigh of the weary, Let the children draw near.*

#### **Refrain:**

**What boundless love, What fathomless grace  
You have shown us, O God of compassion!  
Each day we live An offering of praise  
As we show to the world Your compassion.**

**We stood beneath the cross of Calvary And gazed on Your face  
At the thorns of oppression And the wounds of disgrace,  
For surely You have borne our suffering And carried our grief  
As You pardoned the scoffer And showed grace to the thief. [Refrain]**

How beautiful the feet that carry This gospel of peace  
To the fields of injustice And the valleys of need—  
To be a voice of hope and healing, To answer the cries  
Of the hungry and helpless With the mercy of Christ. *[Refrain]*

SERMON

Love in Action

1 John 4:7-11, 19-21

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

*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.**

 SONG OF THE SEASON

Before the Throne of God Above | 3 Vs.

*The Ensemble sings Vs. 1 and Congregation joins for Vs. 2 & 3*

*Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea,  
a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;  
I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.*

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see him there who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;  
for God the Just is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,  
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness;  
the great unchangeable "I AM," the King of glory and of grace!  
One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;  
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

**THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

**THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*(Sung by Congregation)*

*Sung by Congregation:*

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**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

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

**C: Amen.**

**ENSEMBLE**

**Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus**  
*Congregation sings the last refrain with Ensemble*

Oh the deep, deep love, all I need and trust;  
Is the deep, deep love of Jesus.

## THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

May 10, 6:30 p.m.	BIC Class– Pastor Foxen
May 11, 6:30 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
May 12, 6:30 p.m.	Grams' Growth Group
May 13, 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
May 15, 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service w/Communion (Jomax)
May 15, 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live)
May 16, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/Communion (Jomax)
May 16, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Online)
May 16, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/Communion (Vistancia at New River)
May 16, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
May 16, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School

## LOOKING AHEAD

May 19, 6:30 p.m.	Grams' Growth Group
May 19, 6:30 p.m.	BIC Class - Pastor Foxen
May 21, 6:15 p.m.	COG Drama Night
May 20, 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
May 22, 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
May 22, 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live)
May 23, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
May 23, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Online)
May 23, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia at New River)
May 23, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
May 23, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School

## Finance Manager Position

We are receiving applications for a finance manager. The deadline for applications has been extended. If you're interested in the position, you can get a full description from the office. Applications can be picked up at the office.

This position requires proficiency in MS Office and accounting software such as QuickBooks. The responsibilities include church/school accounting and billing; providing monthly reports for the treasurer, pastors and principal; and ability to learn new programs such as TADS and Realm. This person will be working directly with the treasurer to make sure all financial activity is organized and searchable.



## Congratulations to Our 2021 Confirmation Class!



### Meditations & Used Meditations

New *Meditations* are in your box if you ordered them, or you can find a copy in the entry on the bookshelf. Please let us know if you desire to be on the list to receive quarterly *Meditations*. Each subscription costs \$20 per year. This cost is not a line item in our budget, so a designated donation through your regular offering or by bringing a check to the office is appreciated. We still have time to order more. Please let Liz know by e-mailing [cog.secretary@crossofglory.org](mailto:cog.secretary@crossofglory.org).

When you pick up your next quarter's *Meditations*, drop off your used copy from the last quarter. There is a box next to the new *Meditations*. The WELS Prison Ministry appreciates this donation and distributes *Meditations* to prisoners who are always anxious to receive them. Thank you.

### Vacation Bible School

This year VBS is July 26th-30th. If you are able to help please sign up in link from weekly news or let Liz or Pastor Foxen know. If you are wanting to register your child the link is available in the weekly news.

### Private Communion

During this time, many have been watching our worship services online. We're glad we have this capability so that people can worship the way they are most comfortable. Unfortunately, people who watch online do not have the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper. If any would like to receive Communion in the home, please contact the office or one of the pastors, and one of them will happily set up a time to visit you so you can partake of this sacrament.

## Counters

We need a few more volunteers for counting offerings after church on Sundays. If you are interested in helping count please contact John Wempner at [jandlwempner@gmail.com](mailto:jandlwempner@gmail.com).

## Fellowship and Refreshments

We are thrilled that we will resume refreshments and fellowship following the service on Sunday, May 30. If you are interested in getting on the schedule to provide refreshments and clean up afterward, please contact Clara Naber at [cnaber42@gmail.com](mailto:cnaber42@gmail.com).

## Communion Setup and Altar Guild Leader

We need volunteers to help on the Communion set-up rotation and an Altar Guild leader to spearhead the changing of paraments. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lynn Wempner.

## Church Cleaners

Cross of Glory is in need of a few more church cleaners for the rotation. If you are able to help, please contact Liz to add you to the rotation. If we have enough people, the rotation is once every two months. Contact Liz at [cog.secretary@crossofglory.org](mailto:cog.secretary@crossofglory.org).

Jomax Worship Volunteers	May 16th	May 23rd	May 30th
<b>Counters</b>	<b>Wempner/ Brooks</b>	<b>Wempner/ Schirripa</b>	<b>Wempner/ Brooks</b>
<b>Cleaners</b>	<b>Martins/ Ehlers</b>	<b>Kelley/ Grams</b>	<b>Plitzuweit/ Peterson</b>
<b>Communion Setup</b>	<b>Sharon Kull</b>	-	-
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Cody Hall Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson</b>	<b>Chris Patterson Levi Foxen Tanner Plitzuweit</b>	<b>John Kull Kim Moline</b>
<b>Sunday Refreshments</b>	-	-	<b>Clara Naber</b>

## Vistancia News

Our first Month in New River went well. We had visitors that want to continue worship with us. We are going to continue worship at the Kiwanis park for the time being as we won't have a place to worship in Vistancia until August. If you are interested in joining us, the address is 48606 N 17th Ave, New River, Az. When using navigation, Google maps is the best choice, Apple may get you lost. Our service time is 9:30 a.m.

Communion will be at 9:00 a.m. on Communion Sundays in New River.

## Voters Meeting

Last Sunday we held our quarterly voters' meeting. It was fairly well attended (22 voters plus a good number of women and a guest). Two major items were on the agenda. First, was the budgets for our various areas of ministry (Jomax, Vistancia, and school). These budgets will help guide our ministry efforts for the coming fiscal year (21-22). The voters passed these budgets.

The other item on the agenda was the building project. A lot of information was shared regarding where the project now stands. Due to increases in the cost of fuel and materials, the cost of the project has increased as well. Previously, the council had asked the congregation for permission to pursue a \$900k increase in our loan. To accomplish the project now, the council has stated that it will need permission to ask for \$1.3 million in additional financing instead of the original \$900k. After showing a financial forecast that demonstrates the ability of the congregation and school to shoulder the additional mortgage expense this would create, the council presented its motion for this request, and the voters approved it. We are excited to be able to move forward with this project. Church Extension Fund (CEF), our current lender, has also informed us that they are now open to extend loans to established congregations. We will be submitting our loan application and should hear whether we've been approved by the end of May.

You can still access all the documents from the meeting in the weekly news. When the minutes become available, we will post them as well.

Thank you to all who continue to support our church and school with your time, talents, and treasures. May God bless our efforts to expand the ministry of the gospel here at Cross of Glory!

# 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.

**Michelle Cappello**, the wife of Mike Cappello and friend of Carol Hanes, has been in a coma since April 16.

**Dave Sauer**, Praises for the successful hip surgery after biking fall, prayers for continued healing.

**Karen Juardo**, as she recovers at home after her recent hospitalization.

**Michelle Zane**, who underwent successful knee replacement revision on February 23 and is now at home recovering.

**Judy Sasse**, as she recovers from a broken wrist and stitches on her face from a fall.

**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.

**The Family of Merl Meitner**, who served Cross of Glory Lutheran School as a one-year emergency teacher (after his retirement from the teaching ministry), unexpectedly died on Friday, March 5. A service of Christian funeral will be held on June 26, 2021, in Chetek, WI, officiated by Pastor Jeff Seelow of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rice Lake, WI. All memorials are to be directed to West Lutheran High School, 3350 Harbor Ln N, Plymouth, MN 55447. All sympathy cards can be mailed to Cinda at 1416 Second St., Chetek, WI 54728.



**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.