



# Jesus' Teaching is Hard!

*Pentecost 15*  
*Sunday, September 5, 2021*



## 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  
Sun. 9am and Mon. 7pm Worship

*Vistancia Meeting in*  
**New River Kiwanis Clubhouse**  
48606 N.17th Ave.  
New River, AZ 85087  
Sun. 9:30am Worship

**Welcome to our Worship Center!** God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

Welcome to Cross of Glory! 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.

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

This week, we are reminded that many reject Jesus as the only way to salvation. Just as Jesus had just spoken these words, followers who could not fathom that Jesus was a Son of God—the only means for salvation—rejected him and left.

It is important to note that Jesus didn't respond to this rejection by changing his message—no, he knew that some would reject him. When Jesus asked the twelve if they too would leave, the spokesman Peter, replied with a simple, but powerful statement of faith—“**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God!**” We too are often tempted to rely on our own wisdom and reject the words of Jesus—at those times, may we repeat these words of Peter and remember that Jesus is the only Way to eternal life.

### 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.

## Service of the Word and Lord's Supper

### OPENING HYMN

O God, My Faithful God | *CW459 4 V.s.*

O God, my faithful God, O Fountain ever flowing,  
Who good and perfect gifts In mercy are bestowing,  
Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within  
A conscience free from blame, A soul unhurt by sin.

Grant me the strength to do With ready heart and willing  
Whatever you command, My calling here fulfilling,  
That I do what I should While trusting you to bless  
The outcome for my good, For you must give success.

Keep me from saying things That later need recalling;  
Grant that no idle words May from my lips be falling,  
But then, when in my place I must and ought to speak,  
My words grant pow'r and grace Lest I offend the weak.

Lord, let me win my foes With kindly words and actions,  
And let me find good friends For counsel and correction.  
Help me, as you have taught, To love both great and small  
And by your Spirit's might To live in peace with all.

### GREETING

*(Spoken Responsively)*

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

**C: Amen.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS

*(Spoken Responsively)*

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

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

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

**C: Amen.**

### PRAYER AND PRAISE

*(Sung by Congregation)*

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

*Congregation Sings:*

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**FIRST LESSON**

*Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18*

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. <sup>14</sup> “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” <sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

**PSALM 119**

*(Spoken Responsively)*

M: Oh, how I love your law!

**C: I meditate on it all day long.**

M: Your commands are always with me

**C: And make me wiser than my enemies.**

M: I have more insight than all my teachers,

**C: For I meditate on your statutes.**

M: I have more understanding than the elders,

**C: For I obey your precepts.**

M: I have kept my feet from every evil path

**C: So that I might obey your word.**

M: I have not departed from your laws,

**C: For you yourself have taught me.**

M: How sweet are your words to my taste,

**C: Sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

M: I gain understanding from your precepts;

**C: Therefore I hate every wrong path.**

## THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

### SECOND LESSON

*Hebrews 11:24-28*

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

### SERMON HYMN

*You are the Way; through You Alone | CW356 4 Vs.*

**You are the way; through you alone Can we the Father find;  
In you, O Christ, has God revealed; His heart and will and mind.**

**You are the truth; your Word alone; True wisdom can impart.  
You only can inform the mind and purify the heart.**

**You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims your conqu'ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in you Not death nor hell shall harm.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.**

### SERMON

### Jesus' Teaching Is Hard

*John 6:51-69*

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my

blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

#### **NICENE CREED**

*(Spoken in Unison)*

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

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

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

#### **THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER**

*(To give an offering, please scan QR Code)*

*(Spoken by Minister)*



**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

**M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through Him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

**M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.**

**C: Amen.**

 **CLOSING HYMN**

**In Christ Alone | CWS752 4 Vs.**

**“In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all—Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev’ry sin on Him was laid— Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine— Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death— This is the pow’r of Christ in me;  
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home— Here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand.”**

## Workday

There is a workday scheduled for September 11. This workday is primarily for pulling weeds, trimming bushes, and making sure the irrigation system is running properly. The start time is 7:00 a.m.

### THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

September 5, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
September 6	Labor Day– No School
September 6, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
September 7, 6:00 p.m.	Evangelism Meeting
September 7, 7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
September 8, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
September 11, 7:00 a.m.	Workday
September 12, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
September 12, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia at New River)
September 12, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)

### LOOKING AHEAD

September 12, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
September 12, 4:00 p.m.	Teen Group
September 13, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
September 15, 3:45 p.m.	Youth Group
September 16, 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
September 19, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
September 19, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia at New River)
September 19, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
September 19, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
September 20, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)

Jomax Worship Volunteers	September 12th	September 19th	September 26th
<b>Counters</b>	<b>Wempner/ Brooks</b>	<b>Wempner/ Moline</b>	<b>Wempner/ Plitzuweit</b>
<b>Cleaners</b>	<b>Patterson/ Pappenfuss</b>	<b>Foxens</b>	<b>Coates/ Simkauskas</b>
<b>Communion Setup</b>	-	<b>Lynn Wempner</b>	-
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Gary Jeffers John Wempner Aaron Gullerud</b>	<b>Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson Joel Ditter</b>	<b>Cody Hall Levi Foxen</b>
<b>Sunday Refreshments</b>	<b>Naber</b>	<b>Ally Kelley Liz Simkauskas</b>	<b>Sharon Wilson Shannon Gullerud</b>



## Golden Agers

You are invited to join the Golden Agers for breakfast at:

Lou's Tivoli Gardens  
 12555 W Bell Rd  
 Surprise, AZ 85375

We will meet at 9:30 a.m. on September 14th, the second Tuesday of the month. Please RSVP to Judy Sasse by text or email two days in advance to get a count. Call 602-618-6967 or email [sasseja43@aol.com](mailto:sasseja43@aol.com).

Looking forward to seeing everyone again for our monthly fellowship get-together.

## Youth, Teen and Young Adult Groups

Pastor Ehlers will be contacting youth, teens and young adults to start fellowship groups. Please check the calendar on the website for youth and teen events already added. Young Adult events are to be announced .

## 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 September. 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.

**Please let Pastor Ehlers or Liz know when you are able to volunteer in the areas of setting up worship, greeting/ushering, piano playing, Midi/PowerPoint/sound system, and refreshments.**

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

### New River Growth Group

Chosen

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Location: New River Kiwanis Park, New River

Contact Pastor John Ehlers

Vistancia Worship Volunteers	September 12th	September 19th	September 26th
Setup	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
Usher/ Greeter	-	-	-
Piano Player/Music	-	-	-
Midi/Powerpoint/ Sound System Operator	-	-	-
Refreshments	-	-	-

## Discipleship Sunday

If you were unable to attend service last Sunday or this coming Sunday but are still interested in signing up, please follow the [link](#) to Service Groups, Growth Groups, Events, and Outreach opportunities. Sign-up sheets will also be available again this coming weekend.

## Email Outage

Cross of Glory will be in the process of changing domain hosting to Google from Bluehost this Labor Day weekend. If you have an urgent matter to communicate, we advise you to text or call through next week, as we will have an email outage during this time.

## Audio Video Training

We are going to have an information session for running the A/V for church. Anyone who is interested can join us by the A/V area after church and we'll walk them through the process and share the user manual we are putting together.

## Pastor Foxen Has Received a Call

On Sunday, August 15, Pastor Foxen received a call to serve as pastor of outreach at Grace Lutheran Church in Oshkosh, WI. Grace currently has two pastors on staff. The congregation has 800 members and a school with about 170 students. Please keep Pastor Foxen and his family in your prayers as he decides where he can best serve with the gifts he's been given. He is looking forward to evaluating his call and ministry at Cross of Glory and discussing with you the details of his call to Grace. Feel free to reach out to him anytime if you'd like to speak with him about the call.

## Construction Zone

The project of installing city water to Cross of Glory is just about complete. The WE are just waiting for Epcor to finish some things on their end before we can open the valve to the city water

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[Appreciation and Kick-off Dinner](#) for the Cross of Glory family  
(confirmed members and spouses)

**Saturday, October 9, at 6:30 p.m.**

The time has come to publicly celebrate as a church family. Our God has brought us this far in our goals to expand our facilities and to establish a firm foothold in our mission outreach. What better way to celebrate than to gather as God’s grateful people for fellowship while enjoying a catered meal? This is why we are calling it an **“Appreciation Dinner.”**

But the time has also come to **“FINISH THE RACE.”** This is the theme of a new campaign based on Hebrews 12:1 and approved by the church council and voters. The goal is to receive the necessary funding to secure the final loan to complete the building project and to purchase land for the Vistancia mission. We started the “race” in 2017 while celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luther’s 95 Theses. At that time over \$500,000 was committed and donated to support both the building project and Vistancia outreach. The financial goal this time is much less but still greatly needed.

The presentations after the dinner are meant only to update and inform all those present as to the current and future status of the project. This is why we are calling it a **“Kick-off Dinner.”**

Please sign up for the dinner when you receive the “Sign-Up Genius” in your email, or sign up on the sheet provided on the table in the back of the church. The deadline for signing up is **Sunday, September 26.** The catered dinner and presentations are for confirmed members and spouses. However, childcare and a meal will be provided for children not attending the dinner and presentations.

The Stewardship Committee

# 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.*

***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.*

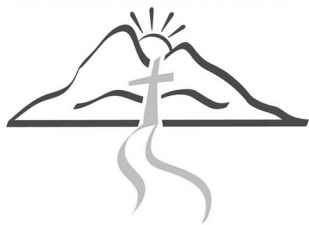
***Sara (Dan) McArdle**, daughter of Martha (Scott) Wofford, Air Force Pilot, based in Little Rock, Arkansas.*

***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.*

## Offerings

We have now returned to collecting offerings during the service. Offerings can also be made online by visiting [crossofglory.org](http://crossofglory.org) in your browser, clicking on the menu on the upper right corner (3 horizontal lines) and selecting “**Giving**” from the menu. You can also scan the QR code with your phone’s camera. This will take you directly to the offering page. In addition, you may also mail your offerings to Cross of Glory at 10111 W Jomax Rd, Peoria, AZ 85383.



**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.