

Thanksgiving
Wednesday, November 24, 2021



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

623-224-8839

www.crossofglory.org

Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor

Rev. Benjamin Foxen, Pastor

Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

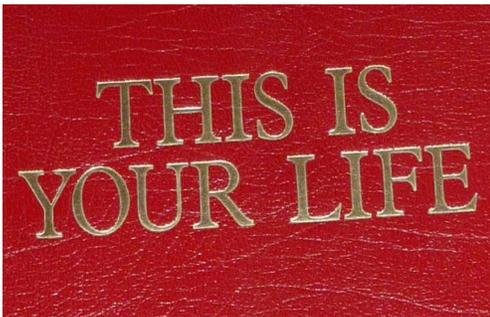
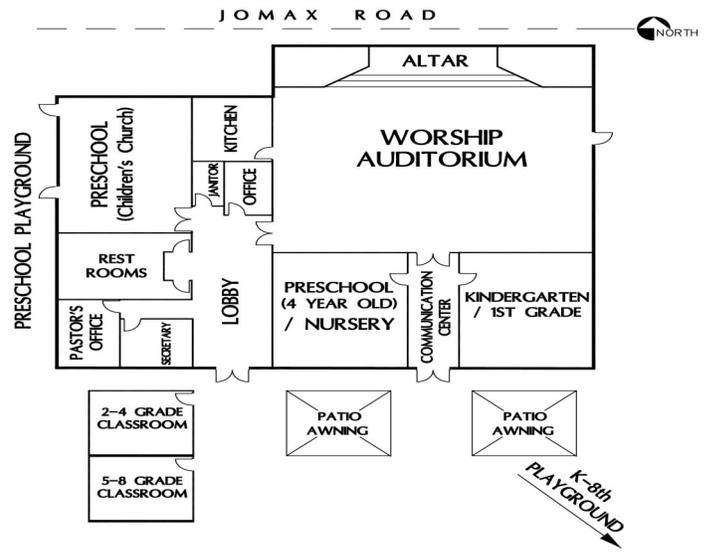
Jomax Campus
10111 W Jomax Road,
Peoria, AZ 85383
Sat. 6pm and Sun. 9am Worship

Vistancia Campus
Lake Pleasant Elementary School
31501 N. Westland Road
Peoria, AZ 85383
Sun. 9:30am Worship

Welcome to 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.

Families with children:

- Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby.
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult guardian.



A few of us may remember a TV show that aired from 1952 to 1961 and again from 1971-1972 called “**This is Your Life**” hosted by Ralph Edwards. In the show, Edwards would surprise each guest by narrating a biography of the subject. The show alternated in presenting the life stories of entertainment personalities and 'ordinary' people who had contributed in some way to their communities.

The host, consulting his "red book", would narrate while presenting the subject with family members, friends, and others who had had an impact on his or her life.

This Thanksgiving we will examine a similar theme—we will review our lives—as Christians—our lives in Christ. The emphasis will be the impact that God has had on our lives. It should be no surprise to us that God has blessed us abundantly in every facet of our lives. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, it is an appropriate time to remind ourselves of the many blessings from our God and to offer up our praise and thanks not only for the bounteous temporal gifts he has bestowed on us, but also for the priceless gift of eternal life through his Son, Christ Jesus.

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This is Your Life in Christ: A Service of Thanksgiving

OPENING HYMN

God Himself is Present | CW224 3 Vs.

God himself is present -- Let us now adore him
And with awe appear before him. God is in his temple --
All within keep silence, Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.
He alone On his throne Is our God and Savior; Praise his name forever!
God himself is present -- Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding. "Holy, holy, holy" --
Hear the hymn ascending, Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow your ear To us here: Hear, O Christ, the praises That your Church now raises.
Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in your merit. Like the holy angels,
Worshiping before you, May I ceaselessly adore you.
Let your will Ever still Rule your church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

GREETING

(Spoken by Minister)

M: We give thanks to God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Dear Christian Friends:

Every day we read about accidents in the newspaper. Some time ago the account was written about the young man who drove his car off the highway and turned it over three times. In the interview at the hospital he admitted that he did it on purpose because life isn't worth living. He is only one among thousands who feel the same way. There may be some days when we feel pretty much the same way. The same old things day after day: disappointments, loss of friends, sickness, or something else which takes almost all the joy out of life.

But when we remember who we are and who God is, and what life is all about...

... we experience a renewed exhilaration, step more lively, and go to our tasks with a renewed determination. We find life worth living because God has done great things for us.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

(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.

CHOIR

Thanksgiving to our God

The first gracious act of God was that he gave us birth or life

M: The Psalmist writes in Psalm 100:3-5

³ Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

The Psalmist writes in Psalm 139:14

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” say the Psalmist.

He is so right! We have eyes, ears, and the ability to think. We can smell, taste, and feel. We can run and jump, dream, love, and hope. We can work, invent, and serve. We can talk, shout, and sing. We can have babies, pray for them, train them, and see them develop and grow because we are wonderfully made by God.

 HYMN OF THANKS

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | CW234 2 Vs.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.

Let the Amen sound from his people again; Gladly forever adore him.

God gave us rebirth

M: God gave us not only birth, but also a re-birth!

At birth we were not better or different than others.

We, too, were spiritually blind, dead, and enemies of God.

But the same God who redeemed us through the precious blood of His Son moved in and changed us.

Most of us were only a few weeks old when our parents watched proudly as our sponsors brought us to the baptismal font as the congregation sang:

*Therefore hasten we to Thee, In our arms this infant bearing;
Let us here Thy glory see, Let this child, Thy mercy sharing
In thine arms be shielded ever, Thine on earth and Thine forever.*

As the pastor applied the water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, God did it. He covered us from head to foot with the holiness and righteousness of Christ... “For as many of you as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

This was a new day for us – a rebirth! We became by God’s grace new creatures as we read in Titus 3:3-7

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

 **HYMN OF THANKS**

God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It | CWS737 2 Vs.

**God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!
There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!**

— God gave us the power of knowledge and the courage for confession —

M: Do you remember your Confirmation Day? Most of us, as children, received a thorough instruction in God’s Word. As we studied God’s Word the Holy Spirit was at work, strengthening our faith in the promises of our God, warming our hearts with God’s love. Then came Confirmation Day and, by God’s grace, we stood at the altar, our hearts leaping with joy, and confessed before all....

I believe in God the Father

I believe in God the Son

I believe in the Holy Ghost.

I believe in the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, the life everlasting and concluded: I want to serve God even unto death. By God's grace that was a great day. We were no longer children. We now stood with Peter, Paul, Luther, and missions of others who boldly confessed: I am a Christian! Your God is my God!

Salvation had been ours since holy baptism but we sealed it with our confession as St. Paul points out in Romans 10:9, 10

⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

 **HYMN OF THANKS**

We Believe | 3 Vs.

**We believe in God the Father Almighty, Lord of life Creator of the Heavens
The earth, the sea, the sky And we believe in Jesus The only son of God
Born of the virgin Mary Who lived as one of us.**

Refrain:

**We believe in one true God Father, Spirit, Son
One Church, one faith, one Lord of all, His kingdom come.**

**We believe that Jesus suffered Was beaten, crucified
He died and he was buried Entombed in darkest night
The third day rose victorious Ascended into Heav'n.
Will one day come to judge us The living and the dead. [Refrain]**

**We believe in God the Spirit One church, empowered by Him
Communion of God's people Forgiveness of our sin;
Our bodies resurrected To everlasting life
To worship, love and wonder Before the throne of Christ. [Refrain]**

God empowered us for a life that's worth living

M: Oh, yes, also in this world the Christian differs from the non-believer. For one thing, the non-believer can undertake only what is humanly possible because he operates only on man-power. The Christian, when God's will is clear, can undertake the impossible because he operates on God-power.

"If any man is in Christ he is a new creature" with new powers. As a branch draws power from the vine, so we draw power from Christ. And all this because God grafted us into

Christ by giving us faith.

Christ said in John 15: 1-7, 11

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

 **HYMN OF THANKS**

Christ, the Word of God Incarnate | CWS750 1 Vs.

Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant from the stump of Jesse's tree;

Christ, true vine, you nurture branches to bear fruit abundantly.

Graft us into you, O Savior, Prune our hearts so we remain

Fruitful branches in your vineyard till eternal life we gain.

God blessed you with a husband or wife

M: Most of you are married. The day of your marriage was another blessed and great day in your life because God is gracious. In the first place, the only reason you could get married was because God made male and female. What a wonderful thing it is! One complements the other. Where one is weak the other is strong. Someone to love, to live with, to share sorrows and joys, to have babies with, to watch them grow.

The most important question of life is: Who is your God? The second most important is Who is your husband or wife? If God gave you a Christian husband or wife, then you are twice blessed.

Genesis 1:27-28

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 2:18, 21-25

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had

taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." ²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. ²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

 **HYMN OF THANKS**

Oh, How Good it is | 2 Vs.

**Oh how good it is When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit In faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence Here among us.**

Refrain:

**So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
And with one heart we'll live out His word
Till the whole earth sees The Redeemer has come
For He dwells in the presence of His people.**

**Oh how good it is To embrace His command
To prefer one another Forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one We all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father And the Spirit. [Refrain]**

God has given you the hope of an eternal life in heaven

M: Abraham looked for a city whose Maker and Builder is God. St. John saw it in a vision. He described it in Revelation 21 and 22

Revelation 21:23-27

²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22:1-7

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. ⁶ The angel said to me, "These words are

trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”⁷ “Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.”

St. Peter said this is our inheritance, reserved for us in heaven, guaranteed by Christ’s resurrection to all who believe in Him.

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

HYMN OF THANK

Forever with the Lord | CW213 3 Vs.

**Forever with the Lord! Amen! So let it be.
Life from the dead is in that word, My immortality.
My Father's house on high, Home of my soul, how near
At times, to faith's foreseeing eye The golden gates appear!
I'll know as I am known; How shall I live that word
And oft repeat before the throne, “Forever with the Lord!”**

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(Spoken Responsively)

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

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

M: Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

C: Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.

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

C: Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.

M: Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

C: Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

~Silent Prayer~

M: Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

C: Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

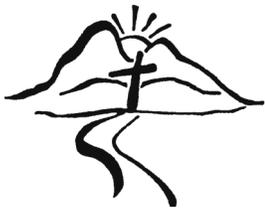
C: Amen.



CLOSING HYMN

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer | CW609 3 Vs.

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator!
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring:
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.
We worship you, God of our fathers; we bless you.
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been;
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.
With voices united our praises we offer;
To you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.
Your strong arm will guide us; our God is beside us.
To you, our great Redeemer, fore'er be praise!**



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. Our synod's name reflects that her founders began in the state of Wisconsin. As a WELS church we still hold to the teachings of the Bible restored in the Reformation era. We are...

- a Christ-preaching church. We preach that Jesus is true God, the Son of God who became man, so that through his perfect life and innocent death, He is the prophesied “Lamb of God” who has taken away the sin of the world.
- a Bible-believing church. We teach that the Bible is the verbally inspired, inerrant Word of God, the only authority for Christian faith and life. We aim to teach God's Word in all its truth and simplicity.
- an evangelical church. We trust the Bible's claim that God saves people through the power of the Gospel in the Word and Sacraments. The Gospel is the Good News (the Evangel) about Jesus' saving work. The WELS has congregations throughout the USA and around the world to share the Evangel, the Bible's primary message, with all people.
- a people-caring church. That we're all sinners equally saved by Jesus' substitutionary work strips away human judgments and egos. This truth also empowers us to live Jesus' love for all people by offering friendship, support, and Biblical counseling. Our church family cares about other people-- including you.

Our Preschool & Elementary School exists to help parents in their God-given duty of teaching the Faith to their children: an important aspect of our Church's plan to grow a comprehensive womb-to tomb ministry that serves souls for eternity.

Saturday Worship at 6:00 PM

Sunday Worship at 9:15 AM, Bible Study Session (all ages) 10:40-11:30 AM