

# Sunday, January 2, 2022



# **Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School**

### 623-224-8839

www.crossofglory.org Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor Rev. Benjamin Foxen, Pastor Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

Blessed to be a member of



**Jomax Campus** 10111 W Jomax Road, Peoria, AZ 85383 Vistancia Meeting at Lake Pleasant Elementary 31501 N Westland Rd, 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.

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 worshiping together in this way! As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power fill you.

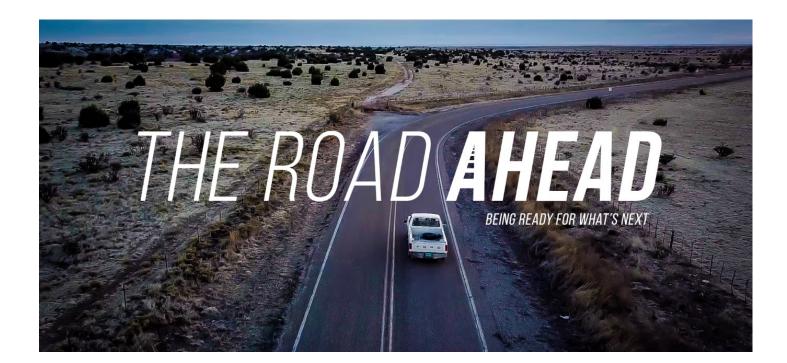
Giving – Please continue to give your attention to the gifts God asks you to give to support his work. During the time of the offering, an encouragement will be given to give electronically. You can do so by clicking the menu icon (3 horizontal bars) in the upper left corner, next to where it says Cross 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!



When it comes to the road ahead, what you are most focused on will determine where you end up. As we kick off this new series, you'll see what it means to keep your eyes focused on the Maker of heaven and earth.



## OPENING HYMN

### OH GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST | CW 441

- 1 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home,
  - 2 Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure; Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.
    - 4 A thousand ages in your sight Are like an evening gone, Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.
      - 6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

#### 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: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- C: But if we confess our sins, God who is just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. M: Let us then confess our sins:
- C: Save Your servant who trusts in You, O Lord, gracious Father; with hope I cry to You all the day long. I have done much to deserve Your anger, and my life has been basically selfish. Lord, You are good and ready to forgive and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. You are loving to all who call on You with a truthful heart. Hear my confession in the name of Jesus and forgive my sins because of Christ, the Righteous Lamb of God, my Savior. Amen.
- M: Take heart and be of good cheer your sins are forgiven you. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved! Go now in peace fellow children of God – and sin no more. May the Lord, (who has begun this good work in you), bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ according to his Gospel promises. Amen.

#### THE CHILDREN'S LESSON

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

Psalm 121

*Verse 1:* Grander earth has quaked before Moved by the sound of His voice Seas that are shaken and stirred Can be calmed and broken for my regard

*Chorus*: And through it all, through it all My eyes are on You And through it all, through it all It is well And through it all, through it all My eyes are on You And it is well, with me

*Verse 2*: Far be it from me to not believe Even when my eyes can't see And this mountain that's in front of me Will be thrown into the midst of the sea [*Chorus*]

#### Bridge:

So let go my soul and trust in Him The waves and wind still know His name So let go my soul and trust in Him The waves and wind still know His name! So let go my soul and trust in Him The waves and wind still know His name The waves and wind still know His name

#### Post-Bridge:

And it is well with my soul It is well with my soul It is well with my soul It is well, it is well with my soul Oh, it is well with my soul Oh, it is well with my soul It is well with my soul! It is well, it is well with my soul! It is well, it is well with my soul! It is well, it is well with my soul! [*Chorus*]

#### MESSAGE

### Confident

#### Psalm 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; <sup>4</sup> indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. <sup>5</sup> The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand; <sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. <sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; <sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

## Sermon Hymn

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND | CW 451

Precious Lord, take my hand Lead me on, let me stand I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn Through the storm, through the night Lead me on to the light Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near When my life is almost gone Hear my cry, hear my call Hold my hand lest I fall Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

> When the darkness appears and the night draws near And the day is past and gone At the river I stand Guide my feet, hold my hand Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

**THE APOSTLES CREED** 

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

#### THE OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER

(To give an offering, please scan QR Code)

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

CLOSING SONG

"I WILL FEAR NO MORE" THE AFTERS

(Read in Unison)

(Prayed by Minister)

(Prayed by Minister)

Verse 1:	Every anxious thought that steals my breath
	It's a heavy weight upon my chest
	As I lie awake and wonder what the future will hold
	Help me to remember that You're in control
Chorus:	You're my courage when I worry in the dead of night You're my strength 'cause I'm not strong enough to win this fight You are greater than the battle raging in my mind I will trust You, Lord, I will fear no more
Verse 2:	I will lift my eyes, I will lift my cares Lay them in Your hands, I'll leave them there When the wind and waves are coming, You shelter me Even though I'm in the storm, the storm is not in me [ <i>Chorus</i> ]



(Oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-oh-oh-ohhhh) I will fear no more (Oh-oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-oh-oh-ohhhh) I will fear no more

Bridge: No power can come against me 'cause You have overcome No darkness can overwhelm me 'cause You've already won No power can come against me 'cause You have overcome (Oh-oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-oh-oh-ohhhh) No darkness can overwhelm me 'cause You've already won (Oh-oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-oh-oh-ohhhh)[Chorus]
Outro: (Oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-oh-oh-ohhhh) I will fear no more (Fear no more)

(Oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-oh-oh-ohhhh) I will fear no more (Oh-oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-oh-oh-ohhhh) I will fear no more (Oh-oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-oh-oh-ohhhh) I will fear no more

BLESSING

**"BAROCHA"** 

MICHAEL CARD

The Lord bless you and keep you The Lord make His face shine upon you And give you peace And give you peace And give you peace forever

The Lord be gracious to you The Lord turn His face toward you And give you peace And give you peace And give you peace forever

The Lord bless you and keep you The Lord make His face shine upon you And give you peace And give you peace And give you peace forever And give you peace And give you peace forever



Acknowledgements Scripture taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyrights © 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*).

## **Prayer Circle**

The Cross of Glory Prayer Circle will be starting soon. Please send an email to <u>prayercircle@crossofglory.org</u> you are interested in being a part of the prayer circle or have a prayer request. Circle emails will be sent out on a weekly basis.

## Name Tags

It has been a year or two since we have ordered name tags. If you would like to know what they look like, the magnetic board used to store them between services is located on the wall next to the entry into the sanctuary. You do not need to take them home and forget them there. If you would like one, please let John Wempner know. There is also a sign-up sheet on the back table. They cost \$7.90. Or you can send John an email (jandlwempner@gmail.com) with the correct spelling of your name and he will order them. Please pay John directly.

## Cross of Glory VTO Review

The Cross of Glory VTO (Vision/Traction Organizer) review scheduled for last Saturday has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 8, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cross of Glory leaders are encouraged to attend this important meeting when the long-range planning document will be reviewed. Anyone else who is interested in providing input into this promise is encouraged to attend as well.

## Men's Conference in Phoenix

**Tickets for Men's Conference in Phoenix** - The first annual Arizona/California *Men of His Word conference* will be held on Saturday, **January 22, 2022, in Phoenix, AZ**. The conference theme is "More than Conquerors." Please join us for a day of fellowship, encouragement, worship, and learning. Breakfast and lunch are included. A keynote speaker kicks off the conference, and you'll be able to choose from 8 different breakout sessions. The conference is open to all men who would like to grow spiritually, be inspired by God's Word, and fellowship with Christian brothers from the Southwest. For more information, or to buy tickets for the event, visit <u>https://MenofHisWord.org/Phoenix/</u>

## **Refreshment Volunteers and Greeters**

We are looking for more volunteers to bring refreshments on Sunday mornings to space out how often they have to serve. Please contact Clara Naber at vcnaber@cox.net to volunteer.

We would also like to improve our welcoming experience for visitors. To that end, we're looking for some people who would be willing to be greeters on Sunday morning. These greeters would welcome everyone, of course, but especially visitors. Do you have an outgoing personality? Do you love meeting and getting to know new people? Then this is a perfect way for your to serve! Pastor Foxen will meet with those interested to discuss plans for the greeting process. You can sign up online or contact Liz at cog.secretary@crossofglory.org.

## Vistancia News

We give thanks to God that we are able to once again worship at Lake Pleasant Elementary School. We were able to get all the information to the Peoria School District, making it possible for us to use the facility. The address of Lake Pleasant Elementary School is 31501 N Westland Rd, Peoria, AZ 85383.

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

## Worship at New River

We are going to continue worship at the Kiwanis Park in New River. We will worship using remote access and/ or prerecorded sermons. We will be asking the mission board to discuss making New River a mission start-up. 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.

#### New River Growth Group

The Ten Commandments 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Location: New River Kiwanis Park, New River Contact Pastor John Ehlers

## Sunday Setup

Vistancia is in need of volunteers to setup Sunday mornings at 7:30. Please contact Liz or Pastor Ehlers if you are able to assist. cog.secretary@crossofglory.org

## No Monday Services

During the Christmas and New Years Service Schedule there is No Monday service at Jomax on January 3rd.

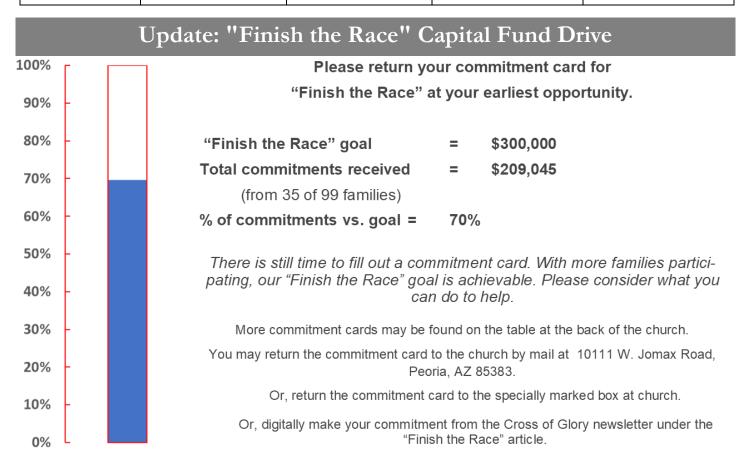
## **Construction Zone**

As of this past Monday, we are officially hooked up to city water!

The building permit has been granted for us to move forward with the rest of the building project. Crews will be on site this week already to begin work. To commemorate this milestone, we had a groundbreaking ceremony after church this past Sunday. As crews work to lay a foundation for the new classroom building, let us remember that our faith is built on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ. Without him, this building is pointless. With him, it is an opportunity to serve him and share him with others, that they too may be built on the solid foundation of his life and death for us!

Praise God for his grace in granting this process to move forward! .

Jomax Worship Volunteers	January 2nd	January 9th	January 16th	January 23rd
Counters	Moline/ Plitzuweit	Moline/ Brooks	Wempner/ Moline	Moline/ Voigt
Cleaners	Ebel/ Koutia	Martins/ Ehlers	Kelley/Grams	Plitzuweit/ Peterson/ Aguilar
Communion Setup	Sharon Kull	-	Lynn Wempner	-
Ushers	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers Dave Goelzer Karen Goelzer Aaron Gullerud	John Wempner Len Collyard Steve Semmann	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson Joel Ditter
Sunday Refreshments	Kathy Collyard Andrea Semmann	Rene Koutia	Paula Considine	Connie Sauer Clara Naber
A/V	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Levi Foxen Pedro Contreras	Stacy Cornell Aaron Gullerud	Kelly Simpson Gus Koutia



## THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

January 5, 9:00 a.m. January 6, 6:30 p.m. January 8, 8:00 a.m. January 9, 9:00 a.m. January 9, 9:30 a.m. January 9, 9:30 a.m. January 9, 9:30 a.m. January 9, 10:30 a.m. January 9, 2:00 p.m. January 10, 6:00 p.m. Mornings with Mommy New River Growth Group VTO Meeting Worship Service (Jomax) Worship Service (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant Elementary) Worship Service (New River) Worship Service (Racebook Live Vistancia) Sunday Morning Bible Study Worship Service (Online) Growth Group with Tim Grams Worship Service (Jomax)

## LOOKING AHEAD

January 11, 9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
January 12, 10:00 a.m.	Growth Group for Moms
January 12, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
January 13, 9:30 a.m.	Golden Agers Breakfast
January 13, 6:30 p.m.	Vistancia Life Coaching Group
January 16, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
January 16, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant
Elementary)	
January 16, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (New River)
January 16, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
January 16, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
January 16, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
January 17, 6:00 p.m.	Growth Group with Tim Grams
January 17, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)

Message Notes   The Road Ahead Part 1: Confident Psalm 121	Group Questions   The Road Ahead Part 1: Confident Psalm 121
ightarrow we don't always know what's on the road ahead	1. Share a way that the "uncertainty" of the last 18 months has affect- ed your attitude and/or emotions.
#1 We may not what's on the road ahead, but we can grow to be	Share something you've learned as you've navigated an uncertain road ahead.
→ a traveling song - <b>Psalm 121:1</b>	<ol> <li>Read Psalm 121. Share a verse that spoke to your heart about comfort you can have for the road ahead. Explain why you chose the verse you did.</li> </ol>
#2 Worry and fear are by where you	<ol><li>Do you agree that where you choose to look make a big difference in how you feel? Explain.</li></ol>
<ul> <li>→ big hills and weak backs - Psalm 121:1-8</li> <li>#3 100k to the one who is</li> <li>************************************</li></ul>	4. There really is nothing to fear when we realize that God walks with us. Does that mean that we don't need to plan or make wise choic- es? Spend some time discussing that tension.
or.	5. The Psalm writer repeats the truth that "God watches over you" 6 times in the Psalm. When are you most susceptible to forgetting this truth?
→ God's power is complete	6. <b>Read vs. 8.</b> Does God <i>really</i> keep us from all harm. How can we rightly understand that verse?
#4 Lift your above the	7. What does it mean to look at life through the lens of eternity?
$\rightarrow$ where are you looking?	8. On life's road, it's good to lift your eyes above the mountains. What are some daily habits or activities that could help you to do that more?

# 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.

*Jerry Stern,* the Brother of Grant Stern, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and undergoing treatment

**Gerry Ehlers**, the brother of Pastor Ehlers, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and undergoes treatments.

Pat Powell, as she recovers from back issues.

Juanita Word, as she battles cancer

#### 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 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.