



Sunday, December 12, 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

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 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

Has your life turned out exactly the way you had expected? Probably not. Life unexpected turns can be a source of heartbreak and disappointment. But they can also be evidence that there's a greater plan for you than you could ever imagine.



Service of Word & Sacrament

 **OPENING SONG** **TO SHEPHERDS AS THEY WATCHED BY NIGHT** | *CW53 V.S. 1-4*

To shepherds as they watched by night Appeared a host of angels bright;
"Behold the tender babe," they said, "In yonder lowly manger laid,

 "At Bethlehem, in David's town, As Micah did of old make known.
 It is the Christ, your Lord and King, Who will to all salvation bring."

Oh, then rejoice that through his Son God is with sinners now at one;
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood, Your brother is the eternal God

 What harm can sin and death then do? The true God now abides with you.
 Let hell and Satan storm and rave, Christ is your brother -- you are safe.

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: In the name of our God, (to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden), we confess our sins:.

C: Please listen, Lord, to my prayer and come to my relief. No one living is right with you and so I ask you to forgive my sins. Do not hide yourself from me: I trust in you. Show me the way I should go and teach me to do your will. O Almighty God, merciful Father, I am a troubled sinner. I confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, in my words and in my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart: I have not loved others as I should. I am disturbed by the sins I commit and am deeply sorry for them.

M: Jesus said to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

All: Yes, I believe.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life. Go in peace and sin no more with the strength that the Spirit of God supplies. Amen.

THE CHILDREN'S LESSON *(All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)*

1. Shepherds in the field are quaking
Prophet on his knees is shaking
Mary's heart is filled with wonder
Joseph's given words to ponder

Chorus: Do not fear All is well God is here Emmanuel

2. Shepherds in the field are quaking [Angels share the Word]
Prophet on his knees is shaking [He has seen the Lord]
Mary's heart is filled with wonder [She takes in everything]
Joseph's given words to ponder [You will name the King!]

Repeat Chorus

Gloria the angels sing Christ is born the newborn King yaya ooh...
You are Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God
Prince of Peace You are Emmanuel

Repeat Chorus {Musical Interlude}

Gloria [seven times] ...In Excelsis Deo Gloria....

MESSAGE

An Unexpected Audience

*Luke 2:8-18***The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

1. The world waits for a miracle The heart longs for a little bit of hope
O come, O come, Emmanuel A child prays for peace on earth
And she's calling out from a sea of hurt O come, O come, Emmanuel
...And can you hear The angels singing...

[Chorus] Glo-o-o, o-o-ory to the Light of the world
[Glo-o-o, o-o-ory, the Light of the world Is here]

2. The drought breaks with the tears of a mother A baby's cry is the sound of love
Come down, come down Emmanuel He is the song for the suffering
He is Messiah The Prince of Peace Has come, He has come, Emmanuel
[Repeat Chorus]

[Bridge 1] For all who wait For all who hunger
For all who've prayed For all who wander

[Bridge 2] Behold your King Behold Messiah Emmanuel, Emmanuel

[Repeat Chorus] [Repeat Bridge 2]

[Outro] The world waits for a miracle
The heart longs for a little bit of hope
O come, O come, Emmanuel...

THE APOSTLES CREED

(Read in Unison)

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

(Prayed by Minister)

(To give an offering, please scan QR Code)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Prayed by Minister)

LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken by Congregation)

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.

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

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH | CW 63

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? [*Refrain*]

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [*Refrain*]



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 prayercircle@crossofglory.org 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 <https://MenofHisWord.org/Phoenix/>

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.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

December 15, 9:00 a.m.	Mornings with Mommy
December 15, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
December 16, 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
December 19, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
December 19, 9:30 a.m. Elementary)	Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant
December 19, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
December 19, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
December 19, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
December 19, 4:00 p.m.	Christmas Song Service (Vistancia)
December 20, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)

LOOKING AHEAD

December 20, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 22, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
December 24, 4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 6:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
December 25, 10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service
December 26, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 26, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant Elementary)
December 26, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
December 26, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
December 26, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)

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

Special Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Concert in Vistancia is on December 19th at 4:00 pm at Lake Pleasant Elementary.
Jomax Christmas Eve Service is December 24th at 4:00pm and 6:30pm.
Jomax Christmas Day Service is December 25th at 10:00am.

No Monday Services

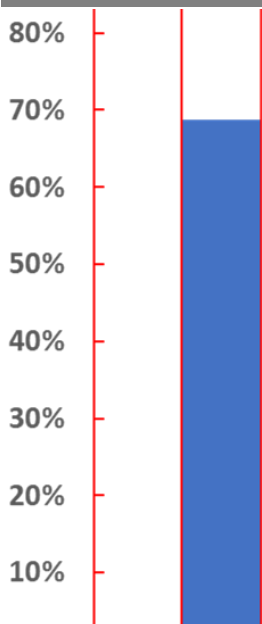
During the Christmas and New Years Service Schedule there is No Monday service at Jomax on December 27th and January 3rd.

Construction Zone

The project of installing city water to Cross of Glory is just about complete. We are just waiting for Epcor to finish some things on their end before we can open the valve to the city water. We should hear by Christmas about the building permits.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	December 12th	December 19th	December 24th	December 25th	December 26th
Counters	Wempner/ Voigt	Wempner/ Cornell			Wempner/ Schirripa
Cleaners	Foxen/ Pappen- fuss	Patterson			Coates/ Simkauskas
Communion Setup	-	Shannon Gullerud			-
Ushers	Verl Naber Pedro Contreras Tanner Pli- zuweit	Chris Patterson Issac Patterson Titus Patterson Joel Ditter	Verl Naber Pedro Contreras Sabrina Ebel Tanner Plizuweit	Cody Hall Levi Foxen	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis
Sunday Refresh- ments	Ally Kelley Liz Simkauskas	Sharon Wilson Shannon Gullerud			Rachel Pltzuweit Leslie Contreras
A/V	LES Program	Pedro Contreras Isaac Patterson	Isaac Patterson/ Chris Patterson (4:00 only)	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Levi Foxen Aaron Gullerud

Update: "Finish the Race" Capital Fund Drive



"Finish the Race" goal = \$300,000

Total commitments received = \$207,045

(from 33 of 99 families)

% of commitments vs. goal = 69%

*With more families participating, our "Finish the Race" goal is achievable.
Please consider what you can do to help.*

More commitment cards may be found on the table at the back of the church.

You may return the commitment card to the church by mail at 10111 W. Jomax Road,
Peoria, AZ 85383.

Or, return the commitment card to the specially marked box at church.

Or, digitally make your commitment from the Cross of Glory newsletter under the
"Finish the Race" article.

Message Notes

Part 3: An Unexpected Audience

Luke 2:8-18

→ we naturally gravitate towards choosing the best available

#1 The ___ choice is not always the ___ choice.

→ the shepherds' story - **vs. 8-10**

#2 Jesus came for ___ ..including the outcast.

→ the good news of Christmas - **vs. 11-12**

#3 Great ___ results from an understanding of great ___.

→ the importance of humility - **Matthew 5:3-5**

→ the shepherds' response - **vs. 13-18**

#4 Come and see, then ___ and ___.

→ _____

Group Questions

Part 3: An Unexpected Audience

Luke 2:8-18

1. Throughout history God has accomplished his plan with people who didn't seem to be the obvious choice. Give some examples.

What can we learn from this reality?

2. **Read Luke 2:8-10.** The shepherds were social and religious outcasts. Share a time when you felt like an outsider. What did you learn from that experience?

What are some things we can do (personally or as a church) so that people don't feel that way with God?

3. We often talk about how Jesus came for everyone, regardless of background or personal history. How is this foundationally different than what other religions say about our relationship with God?

4. **Read Luke 2:11-12.** Why is it so easy to take grace for granted? What are some ways that we can try to prevent that from happening?

5. What does it look like to be humble? Why is this trait so important?

6. The best response to Christmas, is to go and tell about Jesus to others. Have you found this to be easy? Share your thoughts and experiences with the group.

7. Who are you inviting to Christmas with NorthCross?

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.

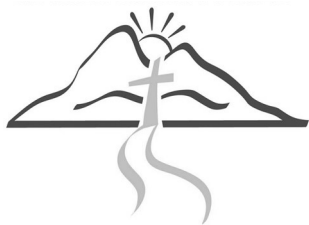
Sara (Dan) McArdle, daughter of Martha (Scott) Wofford, Air Force Pilot, based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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.