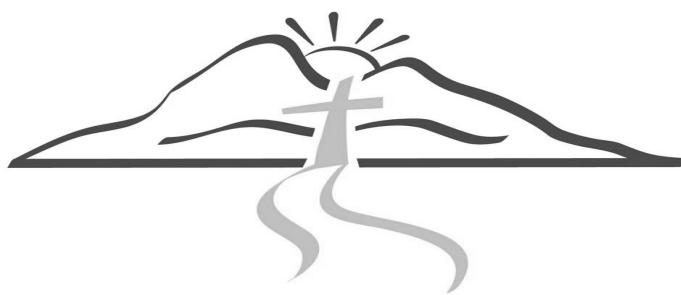




Advent 4
Sunday, December 19, 2021



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

Sun. 9am Worship & Mon. 7pm Worship

Vistancia Meeting in
Lake Pleasant Elementary School

31501 N. Westland Road

Peoria, AZ 85383

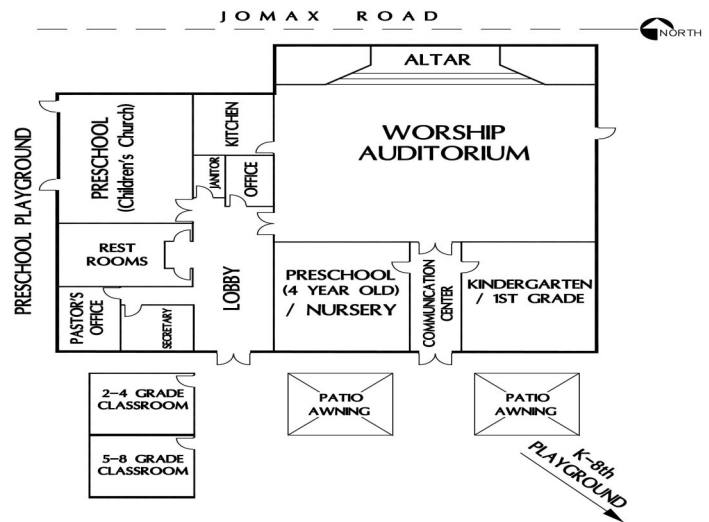
Sun. 9:30am Worship

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.
- We invite children (*ages 3 to 4th grade*) to take part in our “**Children in Church**” program. Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. So, for the beginning and end of the service, we encourage parents to guide their children through the service. At the indicated time, children can come forward to hear a special

children's message at the feet of the pastor. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!



Today, we conclude the season of Advent. Advent the Word of God bids us prepare for the coming of Christ. The readings for Advent have this urgency to them: Since he is surely coming again in judgment, we desperately need for him to come to us first in grace. For without that coming in grace we will perish at his coming in judgment. The theme we have followed for these four weeks of Advent is “**Hark the Glad Sound**” announcing that our Savior is coming. Each week we have focused for whom this Savior has come.

This week our focus is “**He comes to those who believe**”. Our sermon focuses the account of Mary and Joseph in Matthew chapter 1. We will observe the faith that both of these individuals exhibited as they listened to the message of the angel and believed. For us, to believe the message of God's gift of salvation requires faith- faith brought to us by the Holy Spirit through the Word. As Christians, every day becomes a celebration of Christmas, the gift of salvation through Christ Jesus.

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 Advent: Hark the Glad Sound

INVOCATION

Tune: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come | CWH331 3 Vs.

Verses are sung responsively

M: Lord Jesus Christ, be present now, Our hearts in true devotion bow,

C: Your Spirit send with grace divine, And let your truth within us shine.

M: Unseal our lips to sing your praise, Our souls to you in worship raise,

C: Make strong our faith, increase our light That we may know your name aright.

M: Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!

C: To you, O blessed Trinity, Be praise throughout eternity!

ADVENT PRAYER AND CANDLE LIGHTING *Advent Wreath is lit during the hymn response | CWH323 3 Vs.*

M: We rejoice, heavenly Father, that you have stirred up your might and have come to save us.

C: Our spiritual eyes turn toward Bethlehem, the birthplace of your Son, as foretold by the prophet Micah.

M: We accept with joy the fulfillment of your prophecy.

C: As John the Baptist recognized your Son before he was born, help us also to recognize him as your Son and our Savior.

M: In a most marvelous manner, you prepared a sacrifice for our sins in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

C: Send us your Holy Spirit that we may truly believe and accept this miracle of your love.

M: As we anticipate with joy the celebration of his birth,

C: Grant us your grace that we may see in him the greatness of your love for us. Amen.

Sung Response:

**Creator of the stars of night your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.**

**When earth drew on to darkest night, you came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a king but as a child of Mary, virgin mother mild.**

**At your great name, majestic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
All things on earth with one accord join those in heav'n to call you Lord.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

(Spoken Responsively)

M: We confess, almighty God, that we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

C: We have followed our own ways and the desires of our hearts instead of your will and way.

M: We have broken your commandments and neglected your righteous decrees.

C: We have offended you, our mighty and eternal God.

M: There is no health in us.

C: O Lord, have mercy on us.

M: For the sake of your great mercy, O Lord, forgive us. Spare us the just punishment our sins deserve according to your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: And grant that for his sake, we may live sober, upright and godly lives to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has taken away your guilt and punishment. Because of the living and dying of God's appointed Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, he has forgiven you and restored you to your Father's house. May God grant you peace and joy as you await his return from heaven to gather his people home.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

(Sung Response | CWH313 2 Vs.)

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

Sung by the Congregation:

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;

Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim,

And heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy quickly help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CHOIR

Prepare the Way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE OF PROPHECY

Ezekiel 34:11-16

¹¹“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹²As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they

will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

PSALM 130

By Grace Alone | CWP 130c 3 Vs.

Vs. 1 sung by Minister and Congregation joins for Vs. 2-3

*Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord, hear my voice of pleading;
Bend down your gracious ear, I pray, your humble servant heeding.
If you remember each misdeed, and of each thought and word take heed,
who can remain before you? Only by grace, by grace alone.*

**Your pardon is a gift of love, your grace alone must save us;
Our works will not remove our guilt, the strictest life would fail us.
Let none in deeds or merits boast, But let us own the Holy Ghost
For he alone can change us; Only by grace, by grace alone.**

**Though great our sin and sore our woes his grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows, our utmost need it soundeth.
Our kind and faithful Shepherd he, who will set all his people free
From all their sin and sorrow; Only by grace, by grace alone.**

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

SCRIPTURE OF FULFILLMENT

John 10:11-18

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

SERMON HYMN

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt | CWH345 4 Vs.

**Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief a pilgrim strangely stirred;
but there is room and welcome there for me,
but there is room and welcome there for me.**

In that unlikely place I find him as they said;
Sweet newborn Babe how frail! and in a manger bed,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
to die, to live, and not alone for me,
to die, to live, and not alone for me?

SERMON

He Comes to Those Who Believe

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet he did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

THE NICENE CREED

(Read 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.

 **SONG OF THE SEASON** What Hope! An Eden Prophesied | *CWH304 4 Vs.*

What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!
A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, A branch from David's line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem; The fruit of God's design.
As banner of God's love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world Would rally to the cross.
Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword— Come open heaven's door.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)
(To give an offering, please scan QR Code)



PRAYER

(Spoken Responsively)

M: We lift up our souls to you, O Lord.

C: Make us to know your ways and teach us your paths.

M: Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

C: O Holy Father, we humbly implore you, help us believe your promises.

M: As your Old Testament people waited eagerly for the advent of the Savior,

C: Help us with the same eagerness to welcome the Lord Jesus into our hearts by faith.

M: Lead us by your Holy Spirit to an understanding of our sinfulness and our need for repentance.

C: Help us to hate sin and love righteousness.

M: Be our strength in the hour of temptation and help us to serve you by bringing glory to your name.

C: Send the light of the Gospel to the ends of the earth that all may know your love in Jesus Christ.

M: Grant your abiding peace to all who are gathered in your house today.

C: To those among us who are afflicted, grant your strength so that they may bear their burdens in Christian hope and confidence.

M: Grant, O Lord, that our lips and lives be a reflection of hearts that are truly thankful for your great mercy.

C: This we ask in the name of the King of kings and the Lord of lords, our Savior Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken by All)

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.

HOLY COMMUNION PREFACE

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your Spirit.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: Lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right for us to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY , HOLY, HOLY

(Sung by Congregation to the tune of CWH412 2 Vs.)

**O holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven in countless ways recite.
He comes to bring salvation and with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

**Hosanna in the highest! How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming to set his people free!
Hosanna! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy receive our fervent cry.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

(Sung by Congregation to the tune of CWH317 2 Vs.)

Behold the Lamb of God, Who bears the world's transgression.

Whose sacrifice removes The devil's dread oppression.

Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,

Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.

Oh, grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,

The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing,

That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way

Until we live with him In his eternal day.

DISTRIBUTION OF SACRAMENT

(Please refer to “Worship Welcome” in chair pocket)

*We follow the Scriptural practice of **CLOSE COMMUNION**. If you have not communed here prior to today, you should speak with our pastor before the service. We would like to help you establish the unity which comes from a common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) before expressing that union together at the Lord's Table. It is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God's Word. Those who have established that connection as members of sister WELS or ELS congregations may register at the podium at the sanctuary entrance. Thank you for honoring our practice.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Behold a Branch is Growing | CWH360

Behold, a branch is growing of loveliest form and grace!

As prophets sang, foreknowing, it springs from Jesse's race

and now begins to flow'r in midst of coldest winter, at deepest midnight hour.

Isaiah had foretold it in words of promise sure,

and Mary's arms enfold it, a virgin meek and pure.

Through God's eternal will this child to her is given at midnight calm and still.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.

True man, and yet true God, from sin and death he saves us

and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woes,
O Savior, King of glory, who conquered all our foes,
bring us at last, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and to the endless day.

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night | CWH336

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind.

"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swaddling clothes, and in a manger laid."

Then suddenly in heav'n's bright sky appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favor rests goodwill shall never cease."

SONG OF SIMEON

Tune: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come | CWH331 2 Vs.

Lord, let your servant now depart. Your joy and peace are in my heart.
Your saving pow'r my eyes have known. Your love through all the earth is shown.
Lord, let us show the world your light. Let us declare your glory bright.
Proclaim your death until you come To take your ransomed servants home.

BLESSING

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

CLOSING HYMN

He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded | CWH351 2 Vs.

He whose praise the shepherds sounded told, by angels host surrounded,
That their fears were all unfounded now is born our glorious King.

Sing throughout the sanctuary: Christ the King is born of Mary,
God and man, our sins to carry. Thanks and praise to him belong!

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 you 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

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.
New River Christmas Eve Song Fest December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

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.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

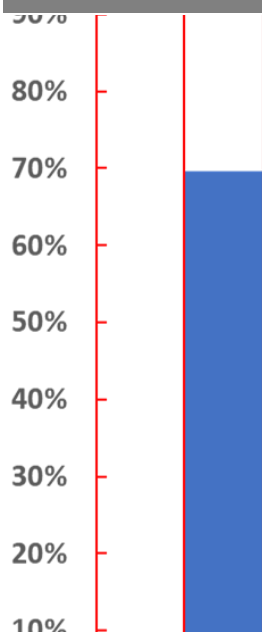
December 19, 4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Concert(Vistancia)
December 20, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 20, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 22, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
December 24, 4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 6:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
December 25, 10:00 a.m.	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)

LOOKING AHEAD

December 27, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 31, 6:00 p.m.	New Years Eve Service
January 2, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
January 2, 9:30 a.m. Elementary)	Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant
January 2, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service New River
January 2, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
January 2, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
January 2, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)

Jomax Worship Volunteers	December 24th	December 25th	December 26th	December 31st	January 2nd
Counters			Wempner/ Schirripa		John Wempner/ Plitzuweit
Cleaners			Coates/ Simkauskas		Ebel/ Koutia
Communion Setup			-		Sharon Kull
Ushers	Verl Naber Pedro Contreras Sabrina Ebel Tanner Plizuweit	Cody Hall Levi Foxen	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis	John Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger
Sunday Refresh- ments			Rachel Plitzuweit Leslie Contreras		Kathy Collyard Andrea Semmann
A/V	Isaac Patterson/ Chris Patterson (4:00 only)	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Levi Foxen Aaron Gullerud	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	-

Update: "Finish the Race" Capital Fund Drive



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

Total commitments received = \$209,045

(from 35 of 99 families)

% of commitments vs. goal = 70%

There is still time to fill out a commitment card. 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.

New Year Eve Service

The New Year's Eve service at 6pm will be a special prayer service this year. We will gather together to meditate on the goodness of our God during the past year and to pray for his grace for the future. As most years of our lives, this past one has likely been a year of joys and a year of sadness. There have been days when all has worked out well and days when it seems nothing could go right. We have laughed at times, cried at times, contemplated at times, and sometimes just sat back in wonder at life. Such is life in this imperfect world.

Yet in the midst of uncertainty we have turned again and again to the Lord our God who does not change. His Word has been our fortress and our Rock of refuge in all times. So as we approach the New Year tonight we turn again to that Word – to its revelation and its promises. It helps us to know God better. It will direct our prayers. It will fill us with hope. It will remind us of the forgiveness which we have in Jesus for our failures. May the Lord bless our meditation and grant us a blessed New Year – connected with Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The style of music for this service was developed near the village of Taize' in France. It consists of short meditative passages of Scripture set to simple melodies and repeated many times. The purpose of the repetition is to give us time to reflect and internalize the truths of these words of Scripture as we grow accustomed to the melody and no longer need to concentrate on notes. Cantors will lead the congregation in singing. As the melodies are repeated you may join in or just listen as you choose. Sometimes it is helpful to simply listen to what others are singing as you reflect on its meaning in your life.

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.



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.

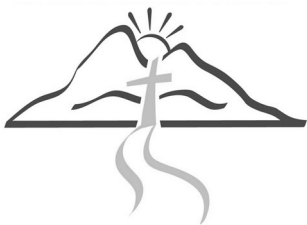
Major JD Larson, son of John & Chi Larson, based at Kirkland AFB in New Mexico.

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.

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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.