

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

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!

Worship f CUS

Despite what the song says, the day of Jesus' birth was anything but silent and calm. It was just like any other day and his birth was just like any other human birth. The humbling circumstances of his birth can give you hope when life forces you into humbling circumstances of your own.



OPENING SONG

"JOY, UNSPEAKABLE JOY"

CHRIS TOMLIN

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come Let earth receive her king Let every heart prepare Him room And Heaven and nature sing And Heaven and nature sing And Heaven, and Heaven and nature sing

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns Let all their songs employ While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy Repeat the sounding joy Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Chorus: Joy, unspeakable Joy An overflowing well No tongue can tell Joy, unspeakable Joy Rises in my soul, never let's me go

> 3. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love And wonders of His love And wonders, wonders of His love [Chorus]

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)

HYMN

What child is this who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet With anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding? Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The cross he'll bear for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings Salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high; The virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary!

MESSAGE

An Unexpected Birthday

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[1] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Song

"NOEL"

LAUREN DAIGLE

Love incarnate, love divine Star and angels gave the sign Bow to babe on bended knee The Savior of humanity Unto us a Child is born He shall reign forevermore

> *Refrain:* Noel, Noel Come and see what God has done Noel, Noel The story of amazing love! The light of the world, given for us Noel

> > Son of God and Son of man There before the world began Born to suffer, born to save Born to raise us from the grave Christ the everlasting Lord He shall reign forevermore [*Refrain*] x2

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

LORD'S PRAYER

"HALLOWED"

Jennifer knapp

(Prayed by Minister)

Our Father, Which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, Hallowed... Hallowed...

Done on the earth as it is in heaven, Hallowed... be thy name, Give us this our dailly bread, Hallowed... Hallowed...

And please forgive, all of our debts, Hallowed... be thy name, As we forgive our debtors, Hallowed... Hallowed...

Lead us not into temptation's lair, Deliver us from the evil snare, For thine is the kingdom, Power and glory, Forever and ever, Amen... (Repeat 2x) Hallowed...

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.

(Prayed by Minister)



CLOSING HYMN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all you nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! [*Refrain*]

Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die, Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth. [*Refrain*]



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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

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.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	December 19th	December 24th	December 25th	December 26th	December 31st
Counters	Wempner/ Cornell			Wempner/ Schirripa	
Cleaners	Patterson			Coates/ Simkauskas	
Communion Setup	Shannon Gullerud			-	
Ushers	Chris Patterson Issac Patterson Titus Patterson Joel Ditter	Verl Naber Pedro Contreras Sabrina Ebel Tanner Pli- zuweit	Cody Hall Levi Foxen	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis	John Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson
Sunday Refresh- ments	Sharon Wilson Shannon Gullerud			Rachel Pltzuweit Leslie Contreras	
A/V	Pedro Contreras Isaac Patterson	Isaac Patter- son/ Chris Patterson (4:00 only)	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Levi Foxen Aaron Gullerud	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia



THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

December 19, 4:00 p.m. December 20, 7:00 p.m. December 20, 7:00 p.m. December 22, 7:00 p.m. December 24, 4:00 p.m. December 24, 6:30 p.m. December 25, 10:00 a.m. December 26, 9:00 a.m. December 26, 9:30 a.m. December 26, 9:30 a.m. December 26, 10:30 a.m. December 26, 2:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Concert(Vistancia)
Worship Service (Jomax)
Worship Service (Jomax)
Choir Practice
Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Day Service
Worship Service (Jomax)
Worship Service (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant Elementary)
Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
Sunday Morning Bible Study
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.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant
Elementary)	
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)

Message Notes Part 4: An Unexpected Birthday Luke 2:1-7	Group Questions Part 4: An Unexpected Birthday Luke 2:1-7
→ extraordinary people	 Share a time when you received extraordinary treatment from someone. What impact did it have on you?
#1 An extraordinary should receive extraordinary	Read Luke 2:1-7. Which details from Luke's account do you find the most interesting? Why?
 → so many details about this - vs. 1-5 → so few details about this - vs. 6-7 	 The day of Jesus' birth was not ideal by any means. It was not silent, calm, or peaceful. It was difficult for Joseph, Mary, and everyone who was involved. Why is that important for us to remember?
#2 The birth of Jesus was unexpectedly→ the mindset of Jesus Christ - Philippians 2:5-8	 Sometimes humility is something that you must learn and exer- cise in your life. But at other times, life forces you into hum- bling circumstances that you didn't choose. How did Jesus nav- igate both?
#3 Jesus' humility allowed him to be	5. Read Philippians 2:5-8. What can keep a person from model- ing the same kind of humility that Jesus demonstrated?
 → what are you stuck in this Christmas? #4 Find joy in your 	6. Jesus was literally stuck with a manger for his first bed. Some- times we all go through times when it feels like we're stuck with a figurative "manger" in a certain area of life. What "manger" have you been stuck with recently, and what does it look like to embrace it?
	7. Who did you invite 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.