

What child is this?

God in the flesh

Christmas Day Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

Blessed to be a member of



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

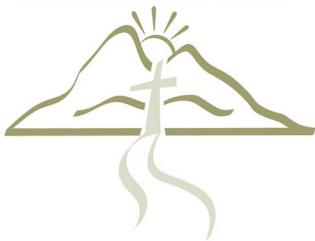
Sun. 9am and Mon. 7pm Worship

Vistancia Campus

Lake Pleasant Elementary School
31501 N. Westland Road

Peoria, AZ 85383

Sun. 9:30am Worship



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.

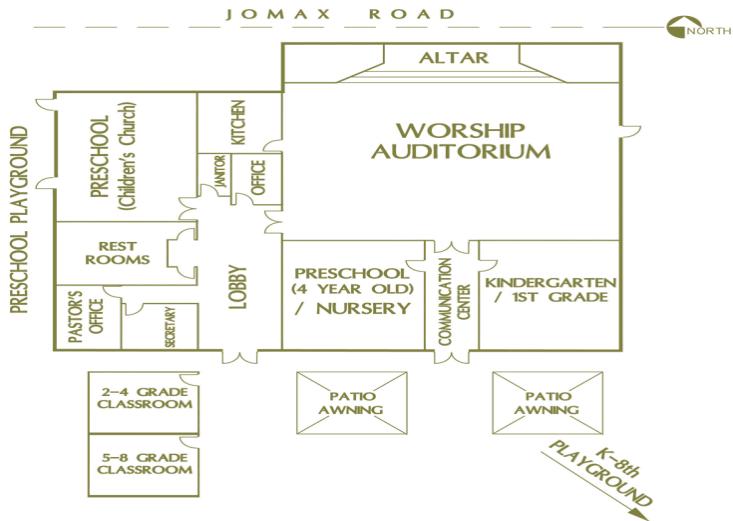
Welcome to our Worship Center! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

Families with children:

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

Special needs:

- Large print bulletin available from usher



A baby is born every twelve seconds. That's 140 million babies born each year. Yet, today Christians across the world celebrate the birth of a child born in a lowly shed in Bethlehem in Judea over 2000 years ago. What is it that sets this child apart from all others? It is not simply his humble beginnings, with a cattle trough as his first cradle. It is not just the miraculous nature of his birth, his mother being a virgin. There is so much more. This child is the only hope we have for peace and a future. This child can wipe away every tear, drive away every fear. This is the truth of Christmas. With this child, you lack nothing. Without him, you have nothing. May that thought be the heart of our Christmas celebration.

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CHRISTMAS DAY

OPENING HYMN

O, Come All Ye Faithful | CWH354 3 Vs.

O, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O, come ye, O, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

Refrain:

O, come, let us adore him, O, come, let us adore him,
O, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
born of a virgin, to earth he comes!
Only begotten Son of God the Father; *[Refrain]*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *[Refrain]*

GREETING

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also with you.

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

C: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your
glory above the heavens.

M: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his
understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the
great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

C: Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

M: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us,
so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in
deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

C: For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses

are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.

M: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

M: "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness."

C: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

M: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

C: Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High | CWH346 3 Vs.

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

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

To reveal himself to us, God hid himself in human flesh.

To reveal himself to Moses, God hid Moses within the cleft of a mountain.

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”¹⁹ And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”²¹ Then the LORD said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock.²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”²⁴ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.²⁵ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,²⁶ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Peace Came to Earth | CWH330 3 Vs.

Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
when angels clove the sky with song and light
and God embodied love and sheathed his might
Who could but gasp: Immanuel! Who could but sing: Immanuel!

You show the father none have ever seen,
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine you visit us again
Who could but see: Immanuel! Who could but thrill: Immanuel!

How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel! Who could but praise: Immanuel!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(*Children are welcomed to come forward
to hear the children's message*)

SECOND READING

Romans 8:31-32

*If the Father was willing to give us his only Son,
clearly there is no good thing he would withhold from us.*

What then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

SERMON HYMN

What Child is This? | CWH344 3 Vs.

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 Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne 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!

What Child is This?

God in the Flesh

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John.⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who

believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

CD recordings of sermons freely supplied for study or sharing. Please request on the Friendship Card

CONFESSTION OF FAITH—The Apostles' Creed

(Spoken in Unison)

C: 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 *Responsively*

(Spoken

**M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior
has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending
your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.**

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

~Special prayers and intercessions may follow~

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

~Silent prayer~

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Sung to the Tune of CWH340)

Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

BLESSING

(Spoken by Minister)

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

Joy to the World | CWH353 3 Vs.

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, 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.**

**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.**

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.

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.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	December 26th	December 31st	January 2nd	January 9th	January 16th
Counters	Wempner/ Schirripa		Wempner/ Plitzuweit	Wempner/ Brooks	Wempner/ Moline
Cleaners	Coates/ Simkauskas		Ebel/ Koutia	Martins/ Eh- lers	Kelley/Grams
Communion Setup	-	Shannon Gullerud	Sharon Kull	-	Lynn Wempner
Ushers	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis	John Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simp- son	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers Dave Goelzer Karen Goelzer Aaron Gullerud	John Wempner Len Collyard Steve Semmann
Sunday Refreshments	Rachel Pltzuweit Leslie Contreras		Kathy Collyard Andrea Semmann	Rene Koutia	Paula Considine
A/V	Levi Foxen Aaron Gullerud	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Levi Foxen Chris Patterson	Stacy Cornell Aaron Gullerud

No Monday Services

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

Prayer Circle

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/>

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.