

Christmas 1
Sunday, December 26, 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 & Mon. 7pm Worship

Vistancia Campus

Lake Pleasant Elementary School

31501 N. Westland Road

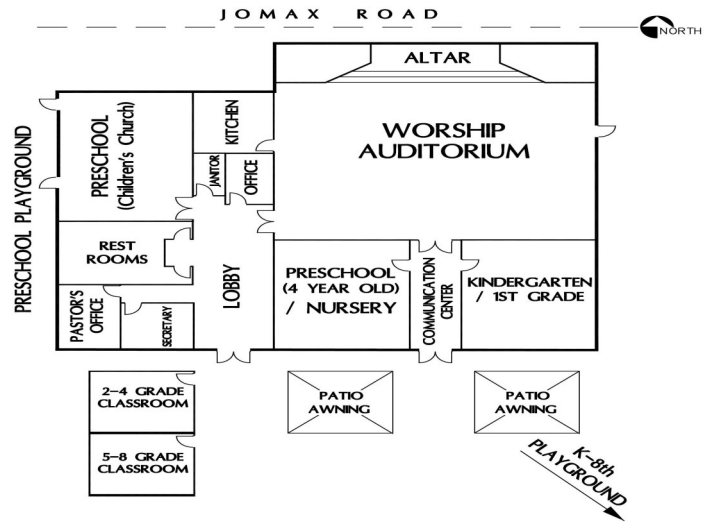
Peoria, AZ 85383

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!



Already as a child, Jesus' saving work had begun. His entire life, he served as our substitute, perfectly obeying God's Law. Just think of how we often neglect the study of God's Word. Then look at twelve-year-old Jesus, eager to be in the temple learning more about Scripture. However, he would need to do more than be our substitute. Eventually he would lay that perfect life down as the sacrifice for our sin.

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

Service of the Word

OPENING HYMN

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen | CWH356 4 Vs.

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name. *[Refrain]*

"Fear not," then said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior, the true and radiant light,
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might." *[Refrain]*

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
and in true love and fellowship each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas is filled with heav'nly grace. *[Refrain]*

GREETING

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and his Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

(Spoken Responsively)

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

(Sung by Congregation)

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

Congregation Sings:

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens, your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9

The servant of the Lord spoke through the prophet Isaiah. While we have not always trusted God, Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience and trust, even when his Father asked him to be the sacrifice for our sin.

The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. ⁵The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. ⁶I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! ⁹It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

PSALM 84B

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

Minister sings V.s. 1 and Congregation joins for V.s. 2-5

How lovely is your dwelling place, O God, I long to see your face.

My soul into your courts would wing and, in your presence, gladly sing.

**As yearns the sparrow for her nest, so yearns my heart to find its rest
before your altar, there to stay and make my home through night and day.**

**How rich the joy to live with you, and sing your praise my whole life through,
how happy those who travel here to find their God is ever near.**

**How blessed are those who trust your care, the path to you is sweet and fair;
To pilgrim ears the desert sings, dry ground is laced with cool, clear springs.**

**O hear my call, great God of might, as now I stand within your sight,
this pilgrim in your holy place, O look, and see your servant's face.**

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

SECOND READING

Luke 2:41-52

*Even as a boy, Jesus was acting as our substitute, demonstrating obedience to the heavenly
Father and respect for God's holy Word.*

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." ⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations. Alleluia. (*Luke 2:30,31*)

Congregation Sings:

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

SERMON HYMN

Let All Together Praise Our God | *CWH355 5 Vs.*

Let all together praise our God before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav'n again and gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.
He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne, is born an infant small, and in a manger,
poor and lone, lies in a humble stall, lies in a humble stall.
He veils in flesh his pow'r divine a servant's form to take, in want and lowliness
must pine who heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.

He undertakes a great exchange, puts on our human frame,
and in return gives us his realm, his glory, and his name, his glory, and his name.

For us he opens wide the door of paradise today.

The angel guards the gate no more;

to God our thanks we pay, to God our thanks we pay.

SERMON

**What Child is This?
Our Substitute and Sacrifice**

Hebrews 2:10-18

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.” ¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” ¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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

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.

 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 OF THE CHURCH

(Spoken by Minister)

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Prayed by Minister)

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 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

A Great and Mighty Wonder | CWH349 4 Vs.

**A great and mighty wonder, a glorious mystery:
a virgin bears an infant who veils his deity.**

Refrain:

**Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be glory
and peace to all the earth!"**

The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,
and cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky. *[Refrain]*

While thus they sing your monarch, those bright angelic bands,
rejoice, O vales and mountains, and oceans, clap your hands. *[Refrain]*

Since all he comes to ransom, by all be he adored,
the infant born in Bethl'em, the Savior and the Lord. *[Refrain]*.

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.

Building Project

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

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

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

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		Moline/ Plitzuweit	Moline/ Brooks	Wempner/ Moline
Cleaners	Coates/ Simkauskas		Ebel/ Koutia	Martins/ Ehlers	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 Plitzuweit Leslie Contre- ras		Kathy Collyard Andrea Semmann	Rene Koutia	Paula Considine
A/V	Levi Foxen Aaron Gullerud	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Levi Foxen Pedro Contreras	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/](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.

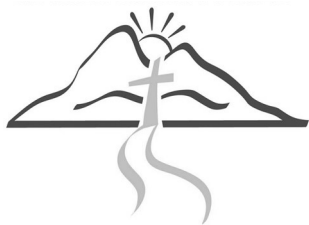
Sara (Dan) McArdle, daughter of Martha (Scott) Wofford, Air Force Pilot, based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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.