



*New Year's Eve*  
*Service of Meditation & Praise*

*December 31, 2021*



**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School**

**623-224-8839**

**[www.crossofglory.org](http://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***

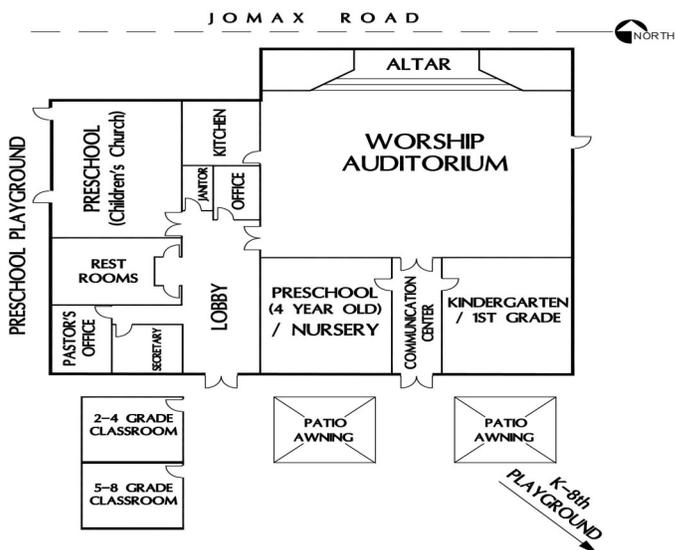
**Vistancia Campus**  
Lake Pleasant Elementary School  
31501 N. Westland Road  
Peoria, AZ 85383  
***Sun. 9:30am Worship***

## 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.



On this Eve of a New Year we are gathered 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.

This evening will use a style of music 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. 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.

We hope that the service is easy to follow. Please follow the lead of the cantors. All music, readings, and prayers are displayed on the worship screens on each side of the altar.

May the Lord bless us as we worship him in prayer, meditation, and praise.

**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).

## *New Year's Eve Service of Meditation & Praise*

**CONFESSION** *(Spoken Responsively)*

**SONG** **Our Darkness in Never Darkness**  
*Cantors sing and Congregation repeats*

**PRAYER AND KYRIE** *(The Cantors lead the congregation in singing the Kyrie three times and continues to sing "Ab" as the Prayer is spoken)*

**SONG** **Wait for the Lord**  
*Cantors sing and Congregation repeats*

**READING** **Isaiah 43:16—44:5**

**SONG** **In God Alone**  
*Congregation brings candles to the Altar as song is sung by cantors twice.  
The Congregation joins for third repeat.*

**RESPONSE PSALM** **Sing Out My Soul & Psalm 103**  
*Cantors lead the Congregation in sung responses.*

**SONG** **Nothing Can Trouble**  
*Cantors sing and Congregation Repeats*

**LORD'S PRAYER FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE** *(Spoken Responsively)*

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*~Silence for meditation~*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *(Spoken by Minister)*

**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 sanctuary entrance podium. Thank you for honoring our practice.*

**PRAYER AND ALLELUIA** *Cantors lead the Congregation in sung responses.  
Alleluia is sung six times and then "Ab" is sung through the prayer.*

**BENEDICTION** *(Sung by Cantor and repeated by Congregation)*

***Congregation is invited to remain for meditation and prayer.***

# 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](http://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.