



Sunday, December 5, 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 worshipping 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 focus

Has your life turned out exactly the way you had expected? Probably not. Life unexpected turns can be a source of heartbreak and disappointment. But they can also be evidence that there's a greater plan for you than you could ever imagine.



Service of Word & Sacrament

 **OPENING SONG** FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME | *CW38 Vs. 1-2, 7, 13*

From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ child lying there

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new, A quiet chamber kept for you.

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: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE CHILDREN'S LESSON *(All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)*

SCRIPTURE READING *Hebrews 2:14(NIV)*

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—

I have traveled many moonless nights Cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done Holy Father you have come
And chosen me now To carry your son

I am waiting in a silent prayer I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone Must I walk this path alone
Be with me now Be with me now

[Chorus:]

Breath of heaven Hold me together Be forever near me
Breath of heaven Breath of heaven Lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness For you are holy Breath of heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face If a wiser one should have had my place
But I offer all I am For the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong Help me be Help me *[Chorus 2x]*

MESSAGE

An Unexpected Pregnancy

Luke 1:26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

1. How could it be This baby in my arms Sleeping now, so peacefully
The Son of God, the angel said How could it be?
2. Lord, I know He's not my own Not of my flesh, not of my bone
Still Father let this baby be—The son of my love

Chorus:

Father show me where I fit Into this plan of yours
How can a man be father To the Son of God
Lord, for all my life I've been a simple carpenter
How can I raise a king? How can I raise a king?

He looks so small His face and hands so fair And when He cries
The sun just seems to disappear And when He laughs it shines again
How could it be? *[Chorus]* *Repeat vs. 1*

THE APOSTLES CREED

(Read in Unison)

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

(Prayed by Minister)

LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken by Congregation)

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.

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

OH LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM | CW 65

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will Receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!



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

Golden Agers

Golden Agers will meet for breakfast at Brothers Family Restaurant, 8466 W Peoria Av. Ste 1, Peoria, AZ on December 9, 2021 at 9:30. Please email Judy Sasse at sasseja43@aol.com if you plan to attend. See you there!

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.

Refreshment Volunteers

We are looking for more volunteers for refreshments to space out how often you have to serve. Please contact Clara Naber at vcnaber@cox.net.

Council Positions Available

We are looking for a head trustee and an evangelism chairman. Those interested can talk with one of the pastors or church president.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

December 5, 3:00 p.m.	Advent by Candlelight
December 6, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 7, 9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
December 8, 10:00 a.m.	Growth Group for Mom's
December 8, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
December 9, 9:30 a.m.	Golden Agers Breakfast
December 12, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
December 12, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant Elementary)
December 12, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
December 12, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
December 12, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
December 13, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)

LOOKING AHEAD

December 15, 9:00 a.m.	Mornings with Mommy
December 15, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
December 16, 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
December 19, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
December 19, 9:30 a.m. Elementary)	Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant
December 19, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
December 19, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
December 19, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
December 20, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)

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

Children's Christmas Programs

All members are invited to our LES Grades K-4 Christmas Program December 12th at 9:00 am and Pre-k & Kindergarten Program is December 17th at 10:30 am.

Special Christmas Services

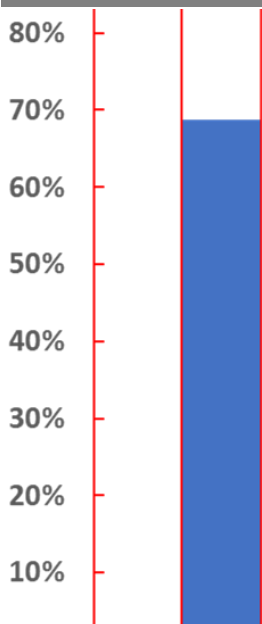
Christmas Eve Concert in Vistancia is on December 19th at 4:00 pm at Lake Pleasant Elementary.
Jomax Christmas Eve Service is December 24th at 4:00pm and 6:30pm.
Jomax Christmas Day Service is December 25th at 10:00am.

No Monday Services

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

Jomax Worship Volunteers	December 5th	December 12th	December 19th
Counters	Wempner/ Moline	Wempner/ Voigt	Wempner/ Cornell
Cleaners	Plitzuweit/ Peterson/ Aguilar	Foxen/ Pappenfuss	Patterson
Communion Setup	Liz Simkauskas	-	Shannon Gullerud
Ushers	Gary Jeffers John Wempner Aaron Gullerud	Verl Naber Pedro Contreras Tanner Plizuweit	Chris Patterson Issac Patterson Titus Patterson Joel Ditter
Sunday Refreshments	Rene Koutia	Ally Kelley Liz Simkauskas	Sharon Wilson Shannon Gullerud
A/V	Levi Foxen Rene Koutia	Les Program	Pedro Contreras Isaac Patterson

Update: "Finish the Race" Capital Fund Drive



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

Total commitments received = \$207,045

(from 33 of 99 families)

% of commitments vs. goal = 69%

*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.

Or, digitally make your commitment from the Cross of Glory newsletter under the
"Finish the Race" article.

Message Notes

Part 2: An Unexpected Pregnancy

Luke 1:26-38

→ God gave us exactly what we needed

#1 Life doesn't always turn out the way we _____.

→ Mary didn't know how His story would intersect with her story - **vs. 26-33**

#2 God's plan is _____: _____.

→ Mary's plans were changed - **vs. 35-38**

#3 You can confidently _____ to God's plan for your life.

→ highly favored - **vs. 28**

#4 Confidence in God's _____ develops from confidence in God's _____.

→ you are highly favored

Group Questions

Part 2: An Unexpected Pregnancy

Luke 1:26-38

1. Tell about a time when you had a great plan that was derailed through no fault of your own. What emotions did you feel at the time?
2. **Read vs. 26-37.** How did the script change for Mary?
Why would this change in script have been so difficult for her?
3. **Read Hebrews 2:14.** It seems odd that Jesus would come to earth in such a humble, normal way. Why did the Savior have to take on flesh and become a human being?
4. **Read vs. 38.** How does Mary respond to the announcement of the angel?
Why is it difficult to submit to God's script like Mary?
Where does that type of submission come from?
5. Is God currently rewriting the script of your life? How do these verses help you better cope or react to that change or other changes in the future?
6. The angel called Mary, "You who are highly favored." What evidences of God's grace have you seen in your life?
7. Who is someone you could invite to Christmas with North-Cross? (either online or in-person)

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.

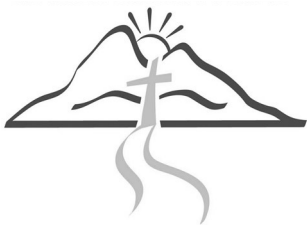
Sara (Dan) McArdle, daughter of Martha (Scott) Wofford, Air Force Pilot, based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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.