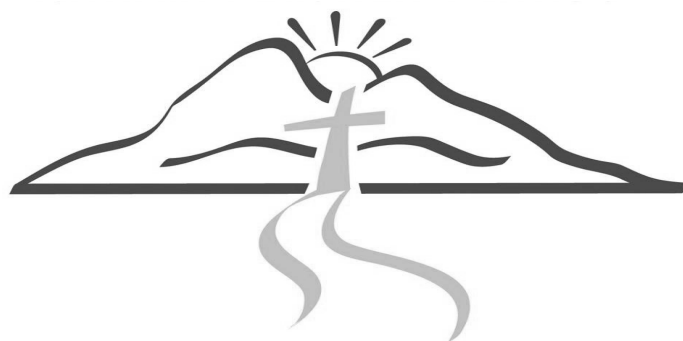


ANOINTING UNCOVERED:

*What the eye sees
differs from what
God decrees*

Titus 3:4-7

*Epiphany 1
Sunday, January 9, 2022*



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 Meeting in

Lake Pleasant Elementary School

31501 N. Westland Road

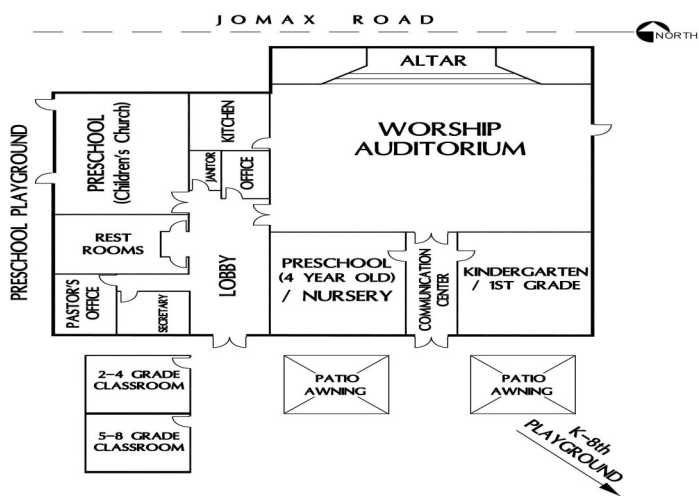
Peoria, AZ 85383

Sun. 9:30am Worship

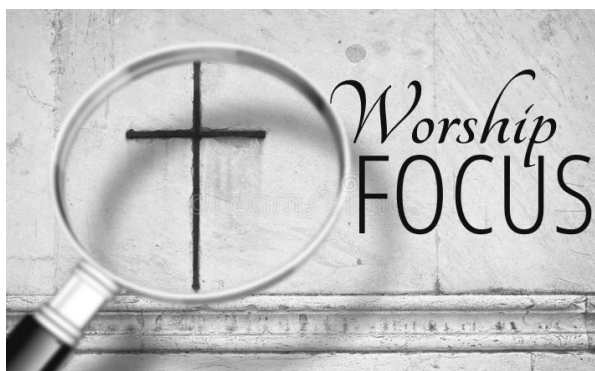
Welcome to our Worship Center! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

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!



We are in the season of the Church called Epiphany, a Greek word that means "to appear." Salvation has appeared in the person of Jesus Christ. In Epiphany, the Church explores everything that Christ makes apparent about God. You see, we need God to appear to us and make himself known to us. For not only is God beyond our understanding, his works and his ways are contrary to our natural assumptions about him.

In other words, the truth about God cannot possibly be discovered by us. Rather, it needs to be **uncovered** for us. That's what the Spirit is doing for us during this season of Epiphany. Week after week, surprising truths about Jesus our King and life in his kingdom will be uncovered.

This week we focus on our sight which tends to be the sense we trust most. We say we will believe something when we see it. That presents a problem when it comes to the work of God. So often what our eye sees differs from what God decrees. This is true of the life of Jesus. In the eyes of the world, he was nothing special. This is also true in the life of the Christian. To the world, the believer does not look more blessed than the unbeliever. In fact, the believer may appear to have more hardships as the devil and his allies attempt to destroy him. So, to assure his children, God connects his grace, power, and blessing to something we can see—a visible sign: the anointing of baptism.

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Service of the Word

OPENING HYMN

The Star Proclaims the King Is Here | CWH374 5 Vs.

The star proclaims the King is here; but, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For he who came from heaven's throne does not desire an earthly crown.

The eastern Magi saw from far and followed on his guiding star,
and, led by light, to Light they pressed and by their gifts their God confessed.

Within the Jordan River stood the pure and holy Lamb of God;
the father's voice, the Spirit-dove, confirmed the Savior from above.

At Cana, miracle divine, when water reddened into wine,
the faithful saw his glory shown and put their trust in him alone.

All glory unto Jesus be and praise for his epiphany,
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

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: Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

To the eyes of the average Israelite, the young boy David was not the best choice to be king. Yet he was God's choice, a man after God's heart. The Lord made his choice known through an anointing.

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”² But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”⁴ Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”⁵ Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.”¹¹ So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

PSALM 2

(Sung Responsively)

Refrain:

You are my Son; this day have
I be - got - ten you.

Psalm Tone:

M: Why do the / nations rage?

C: Why do the peoples / plot in vain?

M: The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers assemble a-/gainst the LORD.

C: and against his A-/nointed One.

Refrain

M: He who sits in / heaven laugh;

C: the LORD / scoffs at them.

M: Then he addresses them in his anger and frightens them with his fury, / saying,

C: “I have set my King on Zion, my / holy hill.”

Refrain

M: I will declare the / LORD’S decree?

C: He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be-/gotten you.”

All: Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the / Holy Spirit,

as it was in the be-/ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

(Children may come forward to the altar)

VERSE OF THE DAY*(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)*

M: Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia. *(Mark 1:11b)*

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!**

GOSPEL READING***Luke 3:15-17,21,22***

In the eyes of the Israelites, John the Baptist looked like he could be the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who lived a unique life. Jesus looked ordinary by comparison. Yet, he was God's Anointed One, a choice made clear in Jesus' baptism.

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

**SERMON HYMN****To Jordan's River Came Our Lord | CWH377 5 Vs.**

**To Jordan's river came our Lord, the Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,
the God from God, the Light from Light, the Lord of glory, pow'r and might.**

**The Savior came to be baptized the Son of God in flesh disguised
to stand beneath the Father's will and all his promises fulfill.**

**As Jesus in the Jordan stood and John baptized the Lamb of God,
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove, descended on him from above.**

**Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound came God's own voice with words
profound: "This is my Son," was his decree, "the one I love, who pleases me."**

**The Father's word, the Spirit's flight anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall to save the world and free us all.**

SERMON**Anointing Uncovered:*****Titus 3:4-7******What the eye sees differs from what God decrees***

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of

eternal life.

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

Rise Up and Shine | CWH376 3 Vs.

**Rise up and shine! Your light has come; God's glory breaks like dawn.
For though the earth be cloaked in night and gloom shrouds ev'ryone,
yet over you the Lord will rise, with glory gleaming clear,
till nations turn to seek your light and humbled kings draw near.**

**Fling wide your gates, both day and night; no more keep watch or guard.
You will be called God's holy hill, the city of the Lord.
No sound of strife will plague your land, nor harm besiege your ways;
"Salvation" will you name your walls, and all your portals "Praise."**

**No more will you implore the sun to shed by day its light,
nor will you need the changeful moon to glisten through the night.
Your glory then will be your God, whose light will never cease.
Rise up and shine! Your light has come to give you joy and peace.**

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

(To give an offering, please scan QR Code)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

~Silent Prayer~

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of our glory and with all your saint and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

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.

Christ, your footprints through the desert Led to Jordan’s flowing stream.
 There you heard the herald crying Israel's old prophetic dream:
 “He is coming! He is coming! He will cleanse the earth with flame!
 Sinners plunge beneath the waters! Wash away your guilt and shame!”

Christ, you heard the stirring summons as by Jordan’s bank you stood;
 Bathed, though sinless, with your people in the river’s cleansing flood.
 High above, the heavens opened; Came the Spirit as a dove;
 Spoke a voice beyond all hearing: “See my Son, the one I love!”

God, in Baptism you have made us one with Christ, our risen Lord;
 Freed us, claimed us, cleansed, forgiven through the water and the Word.
 Help us hear your urgent summons, calling us to serve you now.
 Send us forth, your sons and daughters, with the cross upon our brow.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	January 16th	January 23rd	January 30th
Counters	Moline/ Moline	Moline/ Voigt	Moline/ Cornell
Cleaners	Kelley/Grams	Plitzuweit/Peterson/ Aguilar	Ebel/ Koutia
Communion Setup	Lynn Wempner	-	-
Ushers	John Wempner Len Collyard Steve Semmann	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson Joel Ditter	Verl Naber Pedro Contreras Sabrina Ebel Tanner Plizuweit
Sunday Refreshments	Paula Considine	Connie Sauer Clara Naber	Ally Kelley Sharon Wilson
A/V	Stacy Cornell Aaron Gullerud	Kelly Simpson Gus Koutia	Levi Foxen Rene Koutia

Women's Service Group Outing

The Women’s Service Group will be hosting a women’s day out on Saturday, January 29. All women are invited to attend. We will be visiting Cerreta’s candy company that morning and then having lunch at 12:30 p.m. at the Spicery in downtown Glendale. Please email Karin Hansen (karinwedeking@hotmail.com) if you’d like to attend.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

January 11, 9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
January 12, 10:00 a.m.	Growth Group for Moms
January 12, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
January 13, 9:30 a.m.	Golden Agers Breakfast
January 13, 6:30 p.m.	Vistancia Life Coaching Group
January 16, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
January 16, 9:30 a.m. mentary)	Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant Ele-
January 16, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (New River)
January 16, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
January 16, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
January 16, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
January 17, 6:00 p.m.	Growth Group with Tim Grams
January 17, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)

LOOKING AHEAD

January 18, 9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
January 19, 9:00 a.m.	Mornings with Mommy
January 19, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
January 20, 6:30 a.m.	New River Growth Group
January 23, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
January 23, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant Elementary)
January 23, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (New River)
January 23, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
January 23, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
January 23, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)
January 24, 6:00 p.m.	Growth Group with Tim Grams
January 24, 7:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)

Men's Conference in Phoenix

You've heard about the [Men's Rally](#) being held in Phoenix on January 22, 2022, at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix.

In case you are looking for a gift (for yourself or someone else) . . .

A generous sponsor has agreed to pay \$25 for anyone who wants to attend. This makes the final ticket cost \$50. Follow the link below to claim this special offer:

www.eventbrite.com/e/172407644907/?discount=2022

- Registration fees help pay for the cost of the event, as well as expenses for our speakers.
- Two meals (breakfast and lunch) are included with your registration.
- Pastor Joel Heckendorf will guide us through the keynote on "More than Conquerors."
- District President Jon Buchholz and Pastor Dan Solofra will lead our devotions.

The Cross of Glory Jammers will lead us in song, including [this theme song](#).

Plus, you can pick from [8 different breakout sessions](#) to attend (you can attend up to 3).

Thank you, and God's blessings in the new year!

Tom Bernthal,
Communications Director
Men of His Word, AZ/CA

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

Vistancia Life Coaching Group

Topic: Cornerstone

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Mountain Vista Club

Starting January 27

Course description: There are an enormous number of challenges that can occur in life from seemingly tiny to soul-crushingly overwhelming. The CORNERSTONE resilience system is designed to provide a specific set of steps to follow to put into perspective those things that seem unmanageable. Through six one-hour sessions, participants will learn and practice skills and benefit from the ideas of others in their quest to be more resilient and “bounce back” in difficulty

Building Project

The building permit was granted for us to move forward with the rest of the building project. To commemorate this milestone, we had a groundbreaking ceremony December 19. Crews are now on site for the work. 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!

We also just received the permit to move ahead with installing the solar panels! This has been another long process, but the end is finally in sight. We will be looking for an ideal time to have the installers do the work, so stay tuned.

Praise God for his grace in granting these projects to move forward!

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

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.

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.

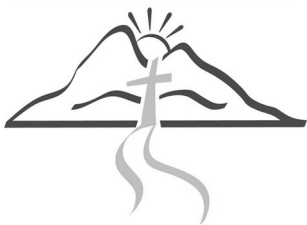
Sara (Dan) McArdle, daughter of Martha (Scott) Wofford, Air Force Pilot, based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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.