

RECEPTION

UNCOVERED:

Rejection is not the
exception but the
rule.

Acts 4:23-31

Epiphany 3
Sunday, January 23, 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

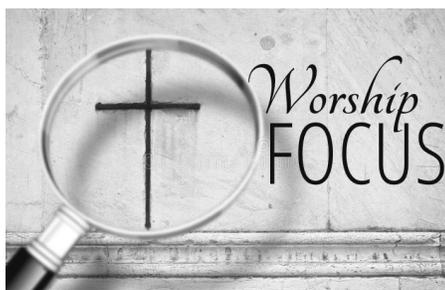
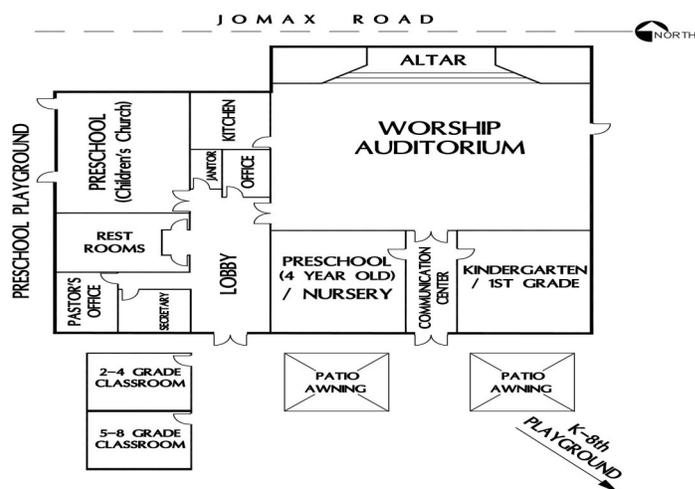
Peoria, AZ 85383

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 learn that when one proclaims God's Word, typically the intentions are good. We want others to know the joy of salvation and the love of Christ. Therefore, it can be surprising to us when God's Word is met with apathy or rejection by those who hear it. It's easy to conclude that when the Word of God offends human minds and hearts (including our own), something has gone wrong. The truth that is uncovered this week is that rejection of Jesus' words is not the exception but the rule. Jesus' words will always offend. However, we will see that God can use even the rejection of his Word for good.

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Service of the Word

Opening Hymn

Oh For a Thousand Tongue to Sing | CWH520 5 Vs.



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
3 The name of Je - sus calms our fears and
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; he



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the



God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
earth a - broad, the hon - ors of your name.
sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
foul - est clean; his blood a - vails for me.

5 See all your sins on Jesus laid; the Lamb of God was slain.
His life was once an offering made that you might live again.

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, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; 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

Isaiah 61:1-6

Israel had rejected the Lord and his Word.

So God allowed them to be conquered and carried off as captives.

Yet he also promised to forgive their rejection and grant new freedom.

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. ⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. ⁶And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

Psalm 146A I Will Praise the Lord All My Life

(Sung Responsively)

Refrain

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

Tone

Refrain

M: I will praise the LORD / all my life;
C: **I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live.**
M: Do not put your trust in / princes,
C: **in human beings, who / cannot save.**
M: Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob,
C: **whose hope is in the / LORD their God.**

Refrain

M: He upholds the cause of / the oppressed
C: **and gives food to the / hungry.**
M: The LORD sets / pris'ners free,
C: **the LORD gives sight / to the blind.**
M: The LORD reigns for- / ever,
C: **your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the LORD.**

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

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The Children's Sermon

(Children may come forward to the altar)

Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching, preaching, and healing every disease. Alleluia. (*Matthew 4:23*)

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 4:16–30

In one of Jesus' first sermons, delivered in his hometown, people took offense at his words and ultimately rejected him.

¹⁶He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked. ²³Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’” ²⁴“Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed— only Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.



1 Hail, O once - de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, O Gal - i - le - an King!
 2 Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, all our sins on you were laid;
 3 Je - sus, heav'n - ly hosts a - dore you, seat - ed at your Fa - ther's side.
 4 Wor - ship, hon - or, pow'r, and bless - ing you are wor - thy to re - ceive;



You have suf - fered to re - lease us, hope to give and peace to bring.
 by al - might - y love a - noint - ed, you have full a - tone - ment made.
 Cru - ci - fied this world once saw you; now in glo - ry you a - bide.
 loud - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing, right it is for us to give.



Hail, O u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior, bear - er of our sin and shame;
 Ev - 'ry sin has been for - giv - en thro' the pow - er of your blood;
 There for sin - ners you are plead - ing, and our place you now pre - pare,
 Help, O bright an - gel - ic spir - its, all your no - blest an - thems raise;



by your mer - its we find fa - vor: life is giv - en thro' your name.
 o - pen is the gate of heav - en, we are rec - on - ciled to God.
 ev - er for us in - ter - ced - ing till in glo - ry we ap - pear.
 help to sing our Sav - ior's mer - its, help to chant Im - man - uel's praise.

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Sermon

It's All Part of the Plan

Acts 4:23-31

²³On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: " 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.' ²⁷Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Apostles' Creed

(Spoken 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.**

Song of the Season

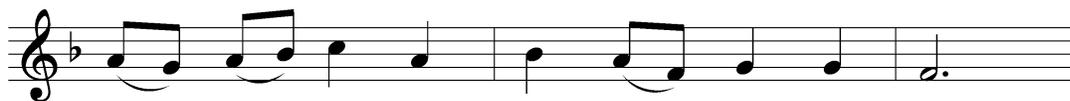
Rise Up and Shine | CWH376 3 Vs.



1 Rise up and shine! Your light has come; God's
2 Fling wide your gates, both day and night; no
3 No more will you im - plore the sun to



glo - ry breaks like dawn. For though the earth be
more keep watch or guard. You will be called God's
shed by day its light, nor will you need the



cloaked in night and gloom shrouds ev - 'ry - one,
 ho - ly hill, the cit - y of the Lord.
 change - ful moon to glis - ten through the night.



yet o - ver you the Lord will rise, with
 No sound of strife will plague your land, nor
 Your glo - ry then will be your God, whose



glo - ry gleam - ing clear, till na - tions turn to
 harm be - siege your ways; "Sal - va - tion" will you
 light will nev - er cease. Rise up and shine! Your



seek your light and hum - bled kings draw near.
 name your walls, and all your por - tals "Praise."
 light has come to give you joy and peace.

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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

By Faith | CWH868 4 Vs.

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

Refrain:

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

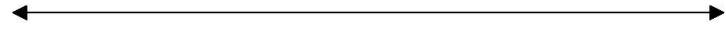
By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name *[Refrain]*

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the art of love

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.

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.

Offering Envelopes

Our financial secretary, John Kull, has placed offering envelopes in your mailboxes at church. Please pick them up at your earliest convenience so that you have them for the new year. Thank you!

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.

Good Shepherd Bible Camp (GSBC) Contest - EXTENDED

Good Shepherd Bible Camp is hosting a contest, and we have extended our deadline! We want YOU to design our 2022 theme! What's the prize? It's a **FREE** week of camp for up to 3 individuals (two campers and one staff)! To enter, submit your name along with a theme, Bible verse, logo, and your name to gsbcmail@gmail.com by **February 11** for a chance to win! For more information and to see past themes, head over to our Facebook page!

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

Jomax Worship Volunteers	January 23rd	January 30th	February 6th	February 13th
Counters	Moline/ Voigt	Moline/ Cornell	Moline/ Schirripa	Moline/ Plitzweit
Cleaners	Plitzuweit/ Peterson/ Aguilar	Ebel/ Koutia	Patterson	Foxens/ Pappenfuss
Communion Setup	-	-	Liz Simkauskas	-
Ushers	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson Grant Stern	Verl Naber Pedro Contreras Sabrina Ebel Tanner Plizuweit	Cody Hall Levi Foxen	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis
Sunday Refreshments	Connie Sauer Clara Naber	Ally Kelley Sharon Wilson	Mary Berggren Shannon Gullerud	Rachel Plitzweit Leslie Contreras
A/V	Kelly Simpson Gus Koutia	Levi Foxen Rene Koutia	Rachel Plitzuweit Leslie Contreras	Titus Patterson Pedro Contreras

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 previously stated that the solar project had been approved and was ready to move forward. We spoke too soon. We had received approval permits from APS, but we are still waiting for Peoria's approval. Plans are going through a second round of red-line revisions right now. We hope to receive Peoria's approval soon so that the panels can be installed.

Please keep both of these projects in your prayers!

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

January 25, 9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
January 26, 10:00 a.m.	Growth Group for Moms
January 26, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
January 27, 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
January 30, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)(Christian Education Sunday)
January 30, 9:30 a.m. (tary)	Worship Service (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant Elementary)
January 30, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (New River)
January 30, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
January 30, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
January 30, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)

LOOKING AHEAD

January 31, 6:00 p.m.	Growth Group with Tim Grams
January 31, 7:00 p.m.	Monday Worship Service at Jomax
February 1, 9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
February 2, 9:00 a.m.	Mornings with Mommy
February 2, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
February 3, 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group
February 6, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
February 6, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant Elementary)
February 6, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (New River)
February 6, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)
February 6, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
February 6, 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Online)

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, who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and is undergoing treatments.

Gerry Ehlers, the brother of Pastor Ehlers, who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and is undergoing 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.