



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

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!



The future will always have uncertainties, but you will be prepared to navigate them when you remember that everything on the road ahead has a purpose. Jesus taught how priorities must shift when he is the purpose of your journey.



Service of Word & Sacrament

OPENING SONG

THINGS WE LEAVE BEHIND

MICHAEL CARD

1. There sits Simon, So foolishly wise Proudly he's tending his nets
Then Jesus calls, And the boats drift away And all that he owns he forgets

But, more than the nets He abandoned that day,
He found that his pride was soon drifting away And It's
Hard to imagine the freedom we find From the things we leave behind

2. Matthew was mindful Of taking the tax, And pressing the people to pay
But, Hearing the call, He responded in faith & Followed the Light and the Way
And leaving the people So puzzled he found, The greed in his heart
Was no longer around and It's hard to imagine The freedom we find
From the things We leave behind

Bridge: Every heart needs to be set free, From possessions That hold it so tight
'Cause freedom's not found in the things that we own, It's the power
To do what is right With Jesus, our only possession, Giving becomes our delight
And we can't imagine the freedom we find From the things we leave behind

3. We show a love for the world in our lives By worshipping goods we possess
And Jesus says, "Lay all your treasures aside and love God above all the rest"

Chorus: 'Cause when we say 'no' To the things of the world We open our hearts
To the love of the Lord and Its hard to imagine The freedom we find
From the things we leave behind [Repeat]

Oh, and it's hard to imagine The freedom we find...
From the things We leave behind

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

(Spoken Responsively)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: **Almighty Lord God, we have come together to stand in your presence, to hear your Word, and to worship you.**

M: But who may appear in your presence, heavenly Father, and who may call on you for help?

C: **He who has clean hands and a pure heart: he shall receive blessings from the LORD.**

M: O holy and righteous God, you alone can make us clean. We have rebelled against you and become worthless. But your mercies never end; they are new every day. At your command and promise, therefore, we come to you and confess our sins.

All: **O holy and most merciful Father, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But at your gracious Word I come to you, and for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ I plead: God have mercy on me a sinner!**

M: Having heard your confession, I as a called minister of God's Word assure you that our gracious Father in heaven has heard your prayer, and by the command of the Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you. Amen.



HYMN

LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS

CW45

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,
 Flee the world which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
 Ever in his footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above,
 Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
 Faithful Lord, abide with me. Savior, lead; I follow thee.

Let us suffer here with Jesus, To his image e'er conform;
 Heaven's glory soon will please us, Sunshine follow on the storm.
 Though we sow in tears of sorrow, We shall reap in heav'nly joy,
 And the fears that now annoy Shall be laughter on the morrow.
 Christ, I suffer here with thee; There, oh, share thy joy with me.

Let us also die with Jesus. His death from the second death,
 From our soul's destruction, frees us, Quickens us with life's glad breath.
 Let us mortify, while living, Flesh and blood and die to sin,
 And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
 Jesus, here I die to thee, There to live eternally.

Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since he's risen from the dead,
 Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, thou art now our head.
 We are truly thine own members; Where thou livest, there live we.
 Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.
 Jesus, here I live to thee, Also there eternally.

MESSAGE

Purposed

Luke 9:57-62

The Cost of Following Jesus

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." ⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."



SERMON SONG

I BELIEVE FOR IT/IN YOU

CECE WINANS

They say this mountain can't be moved They say these chains will never break
 But they don't know You like we do There is power in Your name

We've heard that there is no way through We've heard the tide will never change
 They haven't seen what You can do There is power in Your name
 So much power in Your name

Chorus: Move the immovable Break the unbreakable God, we believe
 God, we believe for it. From the impossible We'll see a miracle
 God, we believe God, we believe in You.

We know that hope is never lost For there is still an empty grave
God, we believe, no matter what There is power in Your name
So much power in Your name *[Chorus]*

[Bridge—sing x3]

You are the way when there seems to be no way

We trust in You God You have the final say *[Chorus] x2*

God, we believe in You God, we believe in You God, we believe in You

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

(To give an offering, please scan QR Code)



(Prayed by Minister)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Prayed by Minister)



CLOSING HYMN

ON WHAT HAS NOW BEEN SOWN

CW 322

On what has now been sown Your blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is yours alone To make it spring and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise And you alone shall have the praise!

To you our wants are known; From you are all our pow'rs.
Accept what is your own And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive And to your Word a blessing give.

Oh, grant that each of us Now met before you here
May meet together thus When you and yours appear
And follow you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

The Lord bless you and keep you The Lord make His face shine upon you
And give you peace And give you peace And give you peace forever

The Lord be gracious to you The Lord turn His face toward you
And give you peace And give you peace And give you peace forever

The Lord bless you and keep you The Lord make His face shine upon you
And give you peace And give you peace And give you peace forever
And give you peace And give you peace And give you peace forever



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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 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

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.

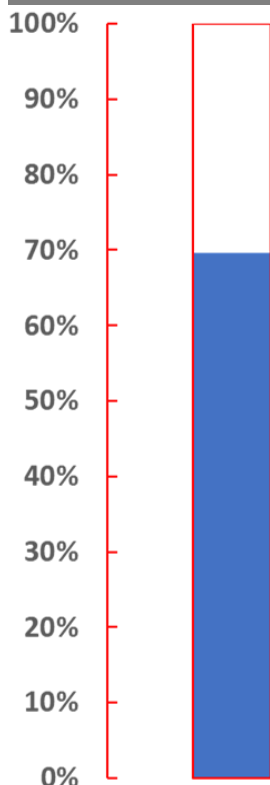
Praise God for his grace in granting these projects to move forward!

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.

Update: "Finish the Race" Capital Fund Drive



Please return your commitment card for
"Finish the Race" at your earliest opportunity.

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

Total commitments received = \$209,045
(from 35 of 99 families)

% of commitments vs. goal = 70%

There is still time to fill out a commitment card. 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.

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

Message Notes | The Road Ahead
Part 2: Purpose
Luke 9:57-62

→ one thing at a time

#1 What you believe about your purpose
is shown through your _____.

→ everywhere you look, everywhere you go - **vs. 57-58**

#2 _____ reverses priorities.

→ family and cultural expectations - **vs. 59-60**

#3 Let nothing _____ your discipleship.

→ looking at the road behind - **vs. 61-62**

#4 Prioritize Jesus above _____
for the benefit of _____.

→ we do not know how they responded

My purpose is _____.

Group Questions | The Road Ahead
Part 2: Purpose
Luke 9:57-62

1. Why do you think it can be difficult to keep your priorities where they need to be? Why does this need constant attention?
2. **Read Luke 9:57-62.** How would you describe Jesus' demeanor as he interacted with these people on his way to Jerusalem?
3. Look at Luke 9:57-58. One might think that extra commitment to God would get us extra comfort in return. Why is our comfort not God's priority?
4. Look at Luke 9:59-60. The cultural expectations were that this man should drop all other obligations and duties so that he could tend to the funeral of his father. What was Jesus implying with his words?
5. Give some modern examples of things that people might, knowingly or unknowingly, prioritize above Jesus.

What does it look like when Jesus starts to lose his priority in a person's life?
6. Look at Luke 9:60-61. When you prioritize Jesus in your heart, everyone benefits. Give an example of how you've found this to be true.
7. Take a minute to finish the sentence below. Then go around and share your answers.
My purpose is...
8. What is one priority you want to change this week?

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.

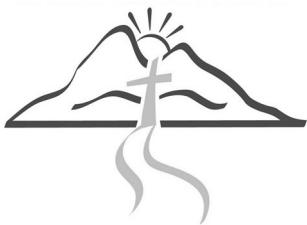
Sara (Dan) McArdle, daughter of Martha (Scott) Wofford, Air Force Pilot, based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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.