

Lent 4
Sunday, March 27, 2022



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

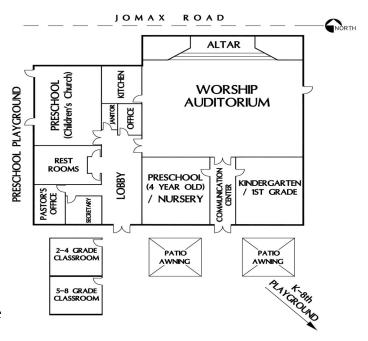
623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor Rev. Benjamin Foxen, Pastor Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

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!





Our Sunday services during Lent this year will focus on the word, "Crushed". When someone is devastated or defeated or despondent we speak of him being "crushed." It could be due to some agonizing loss or unrealized dreams. It could be due to carrying a crushingly heavy load of guilt over some past mistake. In a broken world, it is simply a matter of time before we feel crushed. This is why we need Lent. The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring: "lengthen," when the days grow longer.

For 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. Believers humbly acknowledge that sin is the ultimate source of all the crushing moments in life. Our sin even crushed Christ. Yet, on Easter Sunday, Jesus took up his life again. Our Savior crushed both death and the serpent's head. Yes, Lent is a solemn season. But it is also a season of great hope. With the psalmist we say, "The Lord saves those who are crushed in spirit."

This Sunday our theme is "Our Condemnation is CRUSHED by God's Grace". We assume people get what they deserve. We assume what goes around comes around. We assume God helps those who help themselves. And all those assumptions must be crushed. God does not operate on the principle of merit but of grace. Like gravity, grace is a constant force at work in how God deals with us and how he wants us to deal with others. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. God never turns it off. When the weight of our sin makes us fearful of God's condemnation, he reveals his grace yet again.

Acknowledgments

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Service of Worship and Praise

Opening Hymn: Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

CWH 535



- 1 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, in the dawn-ing of the King,
- 2 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, he the per-fect Son of Man;
- 3 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, Christ the Lord up-on the tree;
- 4 Come, be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, slain by death the God of life;



he the theme of heav-en's prais - es, robed in frail hu-man-i - ty. in his liv - ing, in his suf-f'ring nev - er trace nor stain of sin. in the stead of ru-ined sin - ners hangs the Lamb in vic-to-ry. but no grave could e'er re-strain him; praise the Lord; he is a-live!



In our long-ing, in our dark-ness, now the light of life has come. See the true and bet-ter Ad - am, come to save the hell-bound man. See the price of our re-demp-tion, see the Fa-ther's plan un - fold, What a fore-taste of de - liv-'rance; how un - wa - ver - ing our hope.



Look to Christ, who con-de-scend-ed, took on flesh to ran-som us. Christ the great and sure ful-fill-ment of the law; in him we stand. bring-ing man - y sons to glo - ry, grace un-mea-sured, love un-told. Christ in pow - er res-ur-rect - ed as will we be when he comes.

Text: Michael Bleeker, b. 1977; Matt Papa, b. 1983; Matt Boswell, b. 1979

Tune: Michael Bleeker, b. 1977; Matt Papa, b. 1983; Matt Boswell, b. 1979

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We Gather in God's Name

(Read/Sung Responsively)

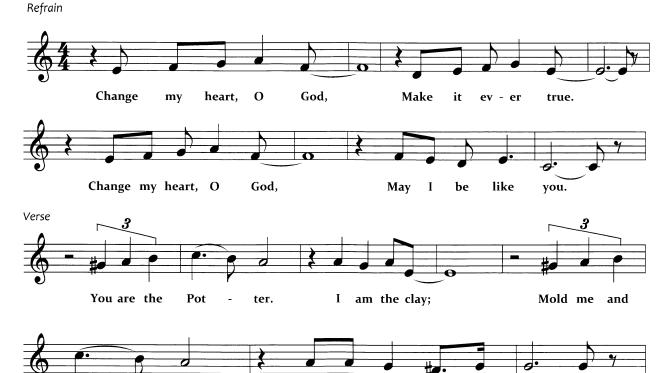
M: We gather for worship the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: As believers in Christ we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James we are told, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for one another so that you may be healed." As one body in Christ, we unite our hearts in prayer:

C: Lord, I pray to you because I am suffering. I have cut myself off from you and others by the sin in my life. I need your forgiveness so that I may find healing for my wounded life and for the wounds I have caused others. Today in the name of Jesus I pray, forgive me; and by the power of your Holy Spirit, renew my heart. Amen.

 $\textbf{\textit{Congregation Sings}} \ (\textit{Sing Refrain and Verse} \ \textbf{\textit{2x}} \ ending \ with \ \textit{Refrain}) \ :$



This

M: We take comfort and find confidence in the words of Jesus, "He sent me to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin, to restore sight to the blind, to bring mercy to lives shattered by sin, to announce the favor of the Lord." God gave his only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise from death to give us eternal life. We are forgiven. We live in the favor of the Lord. We live in his power, energized to tell of his peace.

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what

I

(To Refrain)

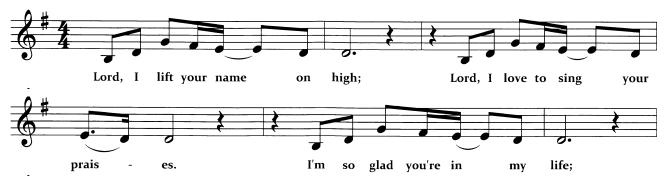
pray.

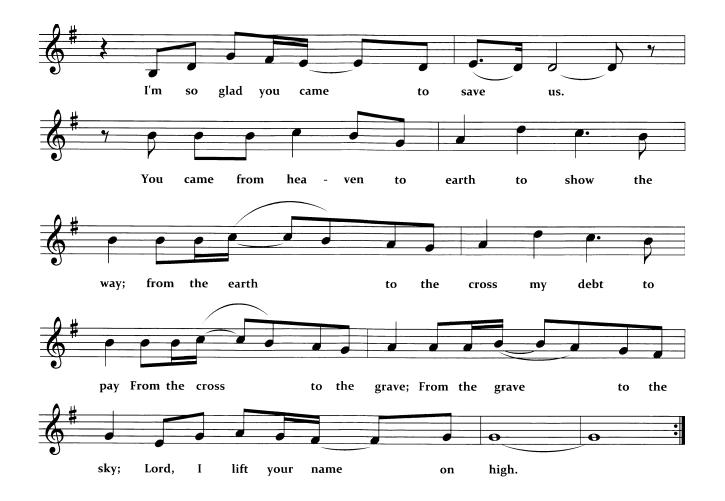
C: Amen.

make

me.

Congregation Sings (Sing 2x):





First Reading Isaiah 12: 1-6

God's grace turns the gloom of our condemnation into the joy of our salvation.

¹In that day you will say:

"I will praise you, LORD.

Although you were angry with me,

your anger has turned away

and you have comforted me.

²Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;

he has become my salvation."

³With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation.

⁴In that day you will say:

"Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;

let this be known to all the world.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Psalm 32B

Choir Sings Vs. 1-4, Congregation joins for Vs. 5

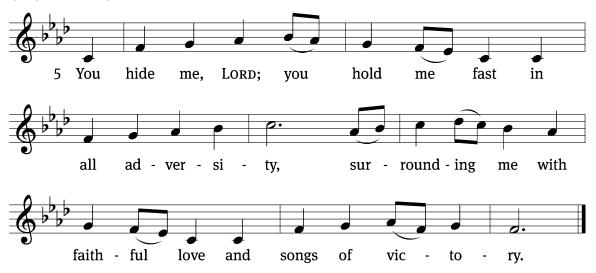
How blest are those the LORD forgives; how glad they are to hear their sin is gone, their guilt atoned, their record clean and clear.

I silently concealed my guilt, but then I groaned all day: your heavy hand, like summer heat, took all my strength away.

I then confessed my sin to you, my grievous guilt and shame, and you forgave my wickedness by your most gracious name.

Let all the faithful pray to you while you may still be found; you place them safe above the flood, secure on higher ground.

Congregation Sings:



Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

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The Children's Sermon

(Children may come forward to the altar)

Gospel Luke 15:1–3,11–32

How does God respond to those who object to or are angered by his grace? He responds with more grace.

'Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 'But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³Then Jesus told them this parable:

"Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²²"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

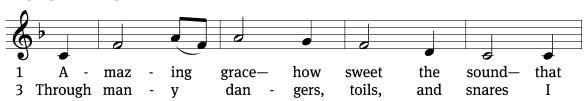
²⁸"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

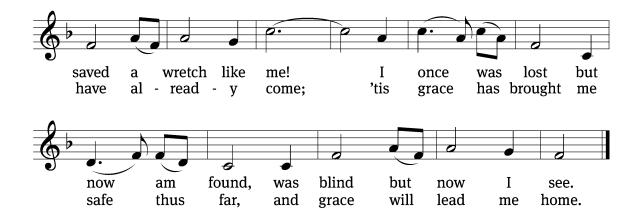
³¹" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Sermon Hymn: Amazing Grace

CWH 576

Congregation sings:

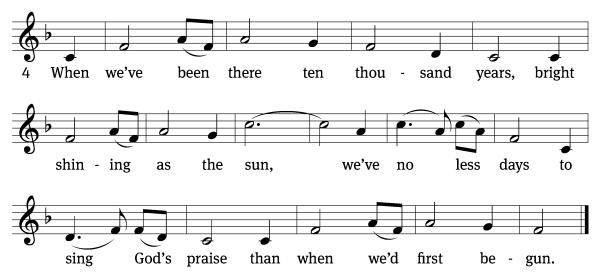




Ensemble Sings:

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Congregation Sings:



Text: A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790

Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon CRUSHED: Romans 8:1–10

Our Condemnation is Crushed by God's Grace

'Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 'because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 'For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 'in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

The 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed (Redemption)

(Spoken Responsively)

- M: 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.
- C: 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.
- M: What does this mean?
- C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.
- M: He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.
- C: All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

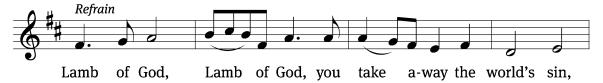
Song of the Season: Lamb of God

CWH 403

Minister sings Refrain; Congregation then sings refrains and Minister Vs. 1 & 2

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take away the world's sin, Lamb of God, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

Congregation Sings:



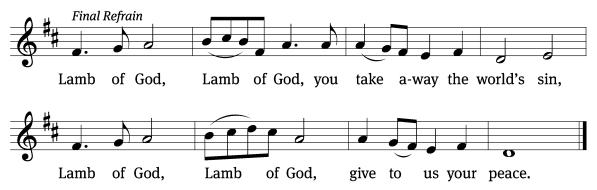


As high as the heav'ns are over the earth, so great is your love for us. As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our sin. (**Refrain**)

A Father's heart you turn to us; you hear us when we call.

Now, Lord, in compassion, lend your ear; you know our needs, O hear our prayer.

Congregation Sings:



Text: Psalm 103:11-13, para. Kenneth T. Kosche, b. 1947; traditional Agnus Dei, alt.

Tune: Kenneth T. Kosche, b. 1947

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Offering and Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

Prayer of the Church

(Prayed by Minister)

The Lord's Prayer

(Sung by Congregation)







Blessing

(Spoken by Minister)

M: 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: Reformation Song

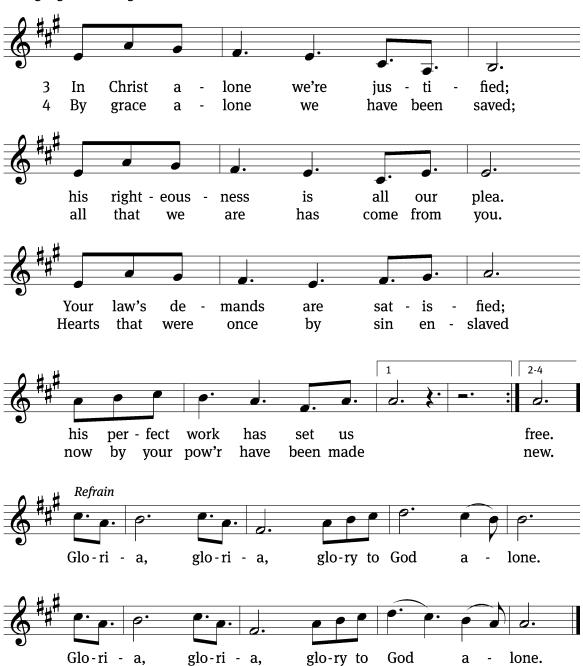
CWH 877

Ensemble sings Vs.1-2; Congregation joins for Vs. 3-4

Your Word alone is solid ground, the mighty rock on which we build. In ev'ry line the truth is found, and ev'ry page with glory filled.

Thro' faith alone we come to you; we have no merit we can claim. Sure that your promises are true, we place our hope in Jesus' name. Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone. Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

Congregation Sings:



Text: Bob Kauflin, b. 1955; Tim Chester, b. 1967

Tune: Bob Kauflin, b. 1955; Tim Chester, b. 1967

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Pastor Foxen's Call

Pastor Foxen has accepted his call to African. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as the make this transition. For more details and his acceptance letter please refer to our weekly newsletter online.

ALA Concert/Worship Service at Vistancia

SUNDAY, April 3, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

Students and staff members from Arizona Lutheran Academy (ALA) will lead our worship service at Vistancia. The A Cappella Choir, directed by Joshua Severeid, will provide music. Campus Pastor Brad Bode will provide the message based on Matthew 20:28. We'll also have the opportunity to hear about what's new at our area Lutheran high school from Principal Kurt Rosenbaum. We look forward to welcoming them all to Cross of Glory!

LWMS Spring Rally

LWMS Grand Canyon West Spring Rally Saturday, April 2, 2022- 8:15 am Shepherd Of The Valley Lutheran Church - Surprise

The LWMS Grand Canyon West Spring Rally will be held **Saturday**, **April 2**, **8:15 am** at Shepherd Of The Valley Lutheran Church, 14650 W Bell Rd, Surprise, AZ. Mark the date to attend this uplifting rally scheduled for our LWMS ladies. Speakers include Pastor Eric Hansen - multi-site mission at Crown of Life, Riverside, CA and Pastor Brock Groth, mission work in South Asia

As part of the Rally, a women's choir will be singing. Anyone interested in participating in the choir, there will be a practice on Sunday, March 27 at 10:30am at Shepherd of the Valley.

The rally begins at 9:00am, but doors open for final registration and fellowship at 8:15am.

If you'd like to attend, please register online. You can do so by filling out a form in the back of church or online. (link in the weekly news)

Vistancia Life Coaching Group

Topic: Cornerstone

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

Mountain Vista Club

ıst & 3rd Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Kiwanis Club, New River

Location: New River Kiwanis Park, New River

ıst & 3rd Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Cave Creek

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.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

March 28, 7:00 p.m. Monday Worship Service (Jomax)

March 29, 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
March 30, 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper/Lent Service

March 30, 8:00 p.m. Choir Practice

April 1, 10:00 a.m. Growth Group for Moms

April 2, 9:00 a.m. BCLAL Track Meet

April 3, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)
April 3, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (Live Stream Jomax)

April 3, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service w/ Communion (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant Ele-

mentary)

April 3, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (New River)

April 3, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)

April 3, 10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Bible Study April 4, 6:30 p.m. Cave Creek Cornerstone Group

April 4, 7:00 p.m. Monday Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)

LOOKING AHEAD

April 5, 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
April 6, 9:00 a.m. Mornings with Mommy
April 6, 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper/Lent Service

April 6, 8:00 p.m. Choir Practice

April 7, 6:30 p.m. New River Cornerstone Group

April 8, 10:00 a.m. Growth Group for Moms
April 9, 9:00 a.m. Women's Service Group
April 10, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (Jomax)

April 10, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (Live Stream Jomax)

April 10, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Vistancia, Lake Pleasant Elementary)

April 10, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (New River)

April 10, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (Facebook Live Vistancia)

April 10, 10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Bible Study

Holy Week Schedule

Join us for worship of our victorious Savior and fellowship with each other:

April 10, 9 a.m. -- Palm Sunday

April 14, 7 p.m. -- Maundy Thursday

April 15, 7 p.m. -- Good Friday

April 17, 7 a.m. -- Easter Dawn

8 a.m. -- Easter Breakfast

9 a.m. -- Easter Festival Service

9 a.m. -- Vistancia Easter Service

10 a.m. -- Easter Breakfast

Please sign up online to bring something for Easter breakfast. Also, we will need helpers to clean up for each breakfast.

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.

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

Building Project Update

The solar project is underway! Crews are planning to be on site this Saturday to get working on this long-awaited project.

The classroom building project also continues to move forward. The crew is getting ready to pour the foundation for the building. The framing should then be up in a week and a half afterwards, and then trusses will be brought in. They've also finished creating the connecting roadway between the two parking lots on the north side of the building.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	March 27th	April 3rd	April 10th
Counters	Wempner/	Wempner/	Sasse/
	Plitzuweit	Brooks	Voigt
Cleaners	Foxen/	Coates/	Plitzuweit/Peterson
	Koutia	Simkauskas	Aguilar
Communion Setup	-	Shannon Gullerud	Maundy Thursday Sharon Kull
Ushers	Cody Hall Levi Foxen	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis	Jon Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson
Sunday	Mary Berggren	Rachel Plitzuweit	Kathy Collyard
Refreshments	Shannon Gullerud	Leslie Contreras	Andrea Semmann
A/V	Rene Koutia	Titus Patterson	Stacy Cornell
	Gus Koutia	Isaac Patterson	Aaron Gullerud

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.

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.

For the family of Arvid Sternquist, father of our member, Shawn Novak. His time of suffering is over and he now lives at peace in his heavenly home.

For the family of Gus Koutia in Lebanon, as they face a food shortage due to the interruption of imports from Ukraine.

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.



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.