Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School



Pentecost 16 Sunday, September 25, 2022

623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org 10111 W Jomax Road Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

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.

Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory

ABOUT US

The continuing purpose of this congregation, as a gathering of Christians, is to spread to all people in God's world the glory of the cross of Christ, by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.

Today's Worship Focus



Last week we learned the hard truth that while money can help make life easier in some ways, it cannot bring true happiness and fulfillment. This week we see that as much as money lets us down in life, its ultimate failure to deliver on its promises happens in death. Those who live with hearts filled with love for money and void of love for God will receive the only eternity that money can buy: one void of God and filled with pain. Though we might be fooled into thinking money helps in life, it will certainly fail us in death. Conversely, that which seems to offer little help in life will never fail us in death. The best example of this is the gospel. Those who hear and heed the Scriptures often appear to receive little benefit in life. Living by God's Word doesn't make life easier. In fact, faithfully following Christ often means a more challenging life, one filled with crosses and self-denial. Great wealth gains you the admiration and respect of the world. Being true to Scripture is more likely to gain you scorn and ridicule. Yet those who find the help they need in God rather than in money will never be disappointed. In death they will receive a reward that dwarfs even the best things money can buy.

VISITOR INFORMATION

New to Cross of Glory? We are so glad you joined us today! We invite you to stay after the service to chat and join us for coffee time followed by Bible study.

Would you like to learn more about us? We'd love to get to know you better as well. Connect with Cross of Glory by either:

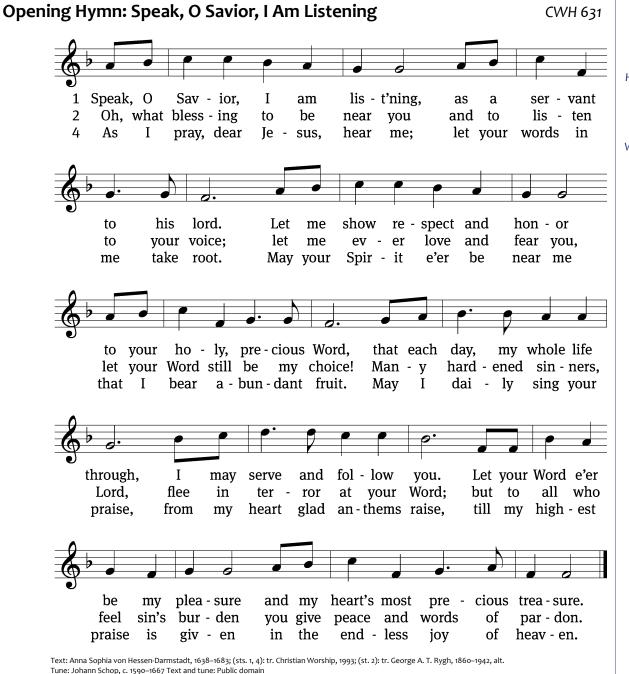
- Filling out a Connection Card in the chair pocket in front of you and handing to the usher after the offering.
- Emailing us at church. secretary@crossofglory.org

CAMPUS MAP ЈОМАХ ROAD ALTAR KITCHEN WORSHIP NURSERY AUDITORIUM JANITOR OFFICE REST CLASSROOM B ROOMS COMMUNICATION LOBBY CENTER PASTOR'S OFFICE CRETARY

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

- **Restrooms** with changing tables located in lobby.
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult directly across the lobby.
- Children in Church Program: Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. We encourage parents to guide their children through the service. We invite children to come forward for the Children's Message during the service. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!

Service of Celebration and Reverence



We Approach God

(Spoken/Sung Responsively)

- M: O Creator, to you darkness is light, and a thousand years is as a day. Before we speak, you know our thoughts.
- C: There is no place we can flee from your sight.
- M: O most holy Lord, our relationship with you requires a personal integrity we do not have. We are cut to the heart to realize that you judge every thought, word and action.



Hymn of praise, prayer, or reflection on the season of the church year.

We follow the advice of the Apostle Paul to "teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." (Colossians 3:16)

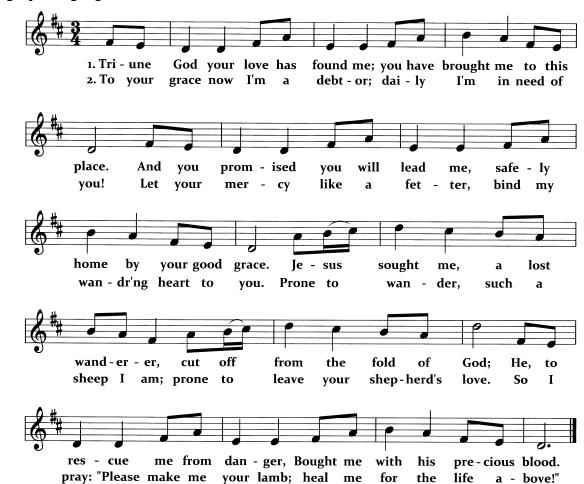


We are able to approach the eternal, almighty Triune God because he is the God of undeserved love the God of Grace.

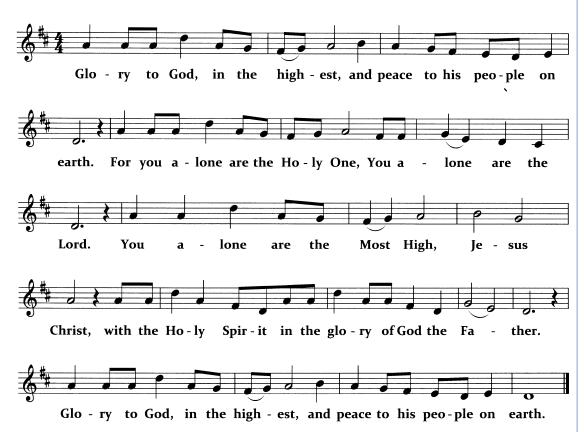
We confess our sins to God confident he will forgive us because he has promised, "If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)

- C: We have been arrogant to challenge your laws. We have been foolish to excuse our lust for more as a basic human need. We have blamed our unhappiness on others. Our self-centeredness is the worst affliction on earth and we no longer deny it.
 - M: O God of wisdom, we have wandered from your ways. We do not deserve leniency. The only thing we possess is our guilt.
 - C: O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we can speak your name only because you are the God of grace. Jesus came to be the sacrificial Lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. Because you have gathered all the lost, we plead: "Be our Shepherd."

(Sung by Congregation)



M: The Triune God knows our needs. He remembers that we are dust. He gloried in doing for us what we do not deserve. Before we existed, the Father sent his one and only Son to trade places with a world of sinners. In the fullness of time, Jesus packaged his honor in humility and was born into our world. By His flawless life and innocent death, he ransomed the world from sin, Satan and damnation. The Holy Spirit raised him back to life to guarantee that we who trust these truths are God's children and heirs of heaven. Amen.



Catechism Review—The 7th and 8th Commandments (Spoken Responsively)

M: You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

- C: We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.
- M: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. *What does this mean?*
- C: We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

Prayer of the Day

(Prayed by Minister)

- M: Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

This hymn of praise gives the congregation the opportunity to praise God and express joy because our debt of sin was paid by Jesus, our victorious Savior.

Catechism has served as the basic instruction book for the church. It directs us to God's Word and points to the only source for spiritual life, the Means of Grace: the Word and Sacraments. As lifelong students of the Catechism, we review these important truths from God's Word as we continue to grow in a deep appreciation for all that Jesus has done as our Savior.

For five centuries, Martin Luther's Small



The main thoughts of the day are collected or summarized in this short prayer.



First Reading

At the time of Amos, the Israelites enjoyed peace and prosperity, but spiritually they were drifting away from the LORD. The prophet warns not to let prosperity provide a false sense of security.

¹Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come! ²Go to Kalneh and look at it; go from there to great Hamath, and then go down to Gath in Philistia. Are they better off than your two kingdoms? Is their land larger than yours? ³You put off the day of disaster and bring near a reign of terror. ⁴You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. ⁵You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. ⁶You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions. but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. ⁷Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.

Psalm

Psalm 146A (Spoken Responsively)

The Book of Psalms was the Old Testament hymnbook, prayer and liturgy book. It was used by worshipers at the temple. Many of the Psalms are the basis for our hymns and part of our liturgy is taken from the Psalms. The word "Psalm" comes from the Greek and means "a song sung to the accompaniment of a stringed instrument."

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

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:1-6

¹Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. ²Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ³Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

⁴Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

⁶So we say with confidence,

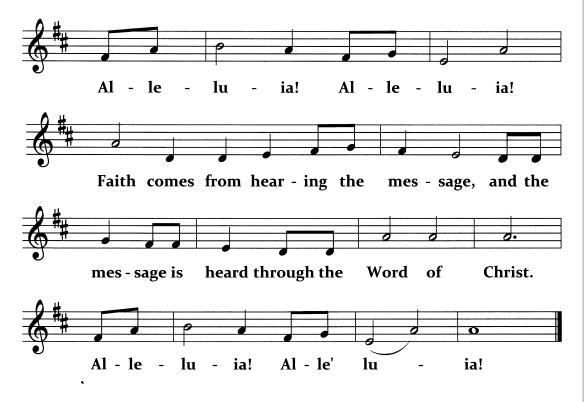
"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead. Alleluia. (*Luke 16:31*)





Because the Lord is our helper in both life and death, in all aspects of life we strive to live for him.

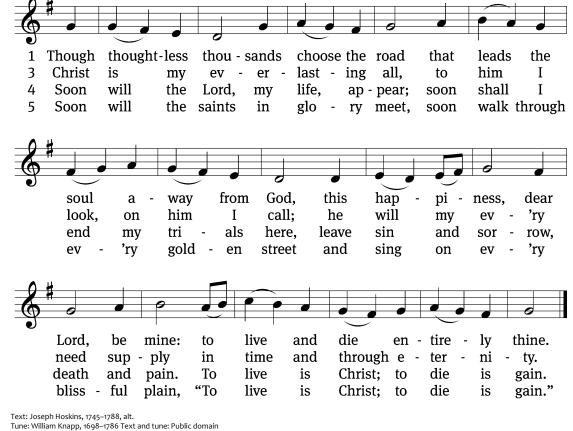


A verse from the Holy Scriptures is usually spoken to capture the theme of the service.

The sung response is taken from Romans 10:17.

Sermon Hymn: Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road CWH 718

This hymn follows the theme of the readings and sets the stage for the sermon.





In the sermon the Pastor proclaims God's Word and applies that word to modern life and problems. He stresses both what God demands of us (the Law) and what God does for us through Jesus Christ (the Gospel).

Sermon

HARD TRUTH:

Luke 16:19-31

What seems to help in life fails in death; What seems to fail in life helps in death

¹⁹"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²²"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

²⁵"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us."

²⁷"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

²⁹"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

³⁰" 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

³¹"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

The 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.

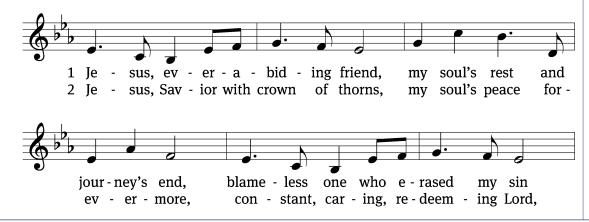
He ascended into heaven

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: Jesus, Ever-Abiding Friend

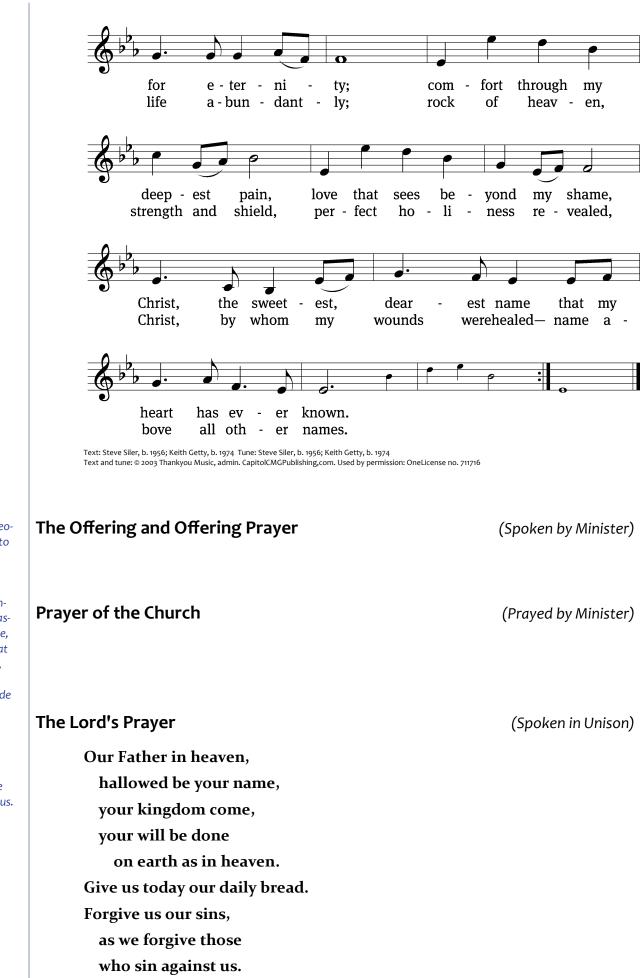


After hearing the word of God, the worshiper responds with this confession of faith.

The Apostles' Creed, developed over hundreds of years in the early Christian church, is a brief and simple statement of gospel truths taught by the apostles. Christians used it to tell others what they believed and also to confess their faith with one another as they met for worship.

CWH 536

This is a hymn selected for the current church season that is generally new to our congregation, usually introduced first by a soloist, and repeated for several weeks to assist the congregation in learning the hymn.



The gifts of God's people are a response to God's blessings.

The apostle Paul encouraged young Pastor Timothy: " I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people ". (I Timothy 2:1)

Today we pray the prayer Jesus taught us. (Matthew 6) 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

(Spoken by Minister)

CWH 813

- 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

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

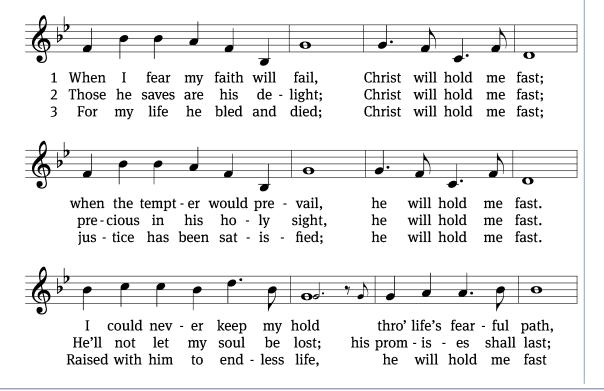
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

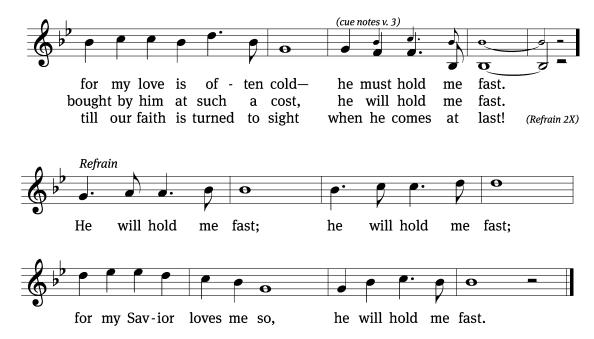
C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: He Will Hold Me Fast





The **Aaronic Blessing** is the blessing that Aaron and his sons were to speak over the people of Israel, recorded in Numbers 6:23–27. The pastor offers the same blessing to the congregation as they are about to conclude their worship.



Text (sts. 1–2): Matt Merker, b. 1984, alt.; (sts. 1, Ref, 2): Ada Habershon, 1861–1918; (st. 3): Matt Merker, b. 1984 Tune: Matt Merker, b. 1984 Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain Text (sts. Ref, 3) and tune: © 2013 Getty Music Publishing and Matt Merker, admin. MusicServices.org. Used by permission: One License no. 711716

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1852086 and # CSPL136078 (Video).

After Church Events

We will have the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Early Childhood Center. Please join us as we celebrate the completion of this new facility. WE alsohave a special prestentation by Karen Fischer of Christian Family Solutions to discuss resiliency and mental health need inour church and community.

Mommy & Me

Back by popular demand, Cross of Glory is attempting to roll out its "Mornings with Mommy" group for the 22/23 season. All littles who are no more than four years old are welcome--as long as they bring their mommies along. We have five sessions planned before Christmas, and ten of them after New Year's. Our program is in transition since some of our past leaders have moved out of the area. We are planning to have an organizational/sign-up meeting on Wednesday, October 5. This meeting will hopefully allow us to run the program if we can fill the slots with volunteer leaders. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.

Bring your children along. We will have some activities for them. Please note that this will not be a full-length session as we are just trying to get organized!



Welcome to Fall!!

We are looking for families to assist in making the Trunk or Treat event a success again this year. We need both families that are willing to decorate a trunk and those that can assist at a couple booths that we'll be setting up. If you are planning to decorate a trunk, please avoid scary or demonic themes, as we are on church grounds. To make this event more exciting for the children, it would be nice to have a planned game or activity near each trunk. Some ideas are ring toss, bowling, or even a simple craft. If you need ideas for a trunk or an activity, please reach out to Brenda Grams, Ashley Scott, or Liz Simkauskas. The two booths we are doing are a temporary tattoo booth and a coloring contest booth.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

September 26, 6:30 p.m. September 27, 4:30 p.m. September 28, 7:00 p.m. September 29, 7:00 p.m. October 1, 9:00 a.m. October 2, 9:00 a.m. October 2, 9:00 a.m. October 2, 9:30 a.m.

BIC Class Bibles and Brews for Men Choir Practice Bibles and Brews for Women WinGS (Women's Service Group) Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax) Worship Service (Live Stream Jomax) Worship Service (New River) Sunday Morning Bible Study x2

LOOKING AHEAD

October 3, 6:30 p.m.	Vistancia Life Coaching Group	
October 4, 4:30 p.m.	Bibles and Brews for Men	
October 5, 6:00 p.m.	Growth Group w/ Tim Grams	
October 5, 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice	
October 6, 6:30 p.m.	New River Growth Group	
October 8, 9:00 a.m.	Bibles and Brews for Women	
October 9, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)	
October 9, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Live Stream Jomax)	
October 9, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (New River)	
October 9, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study x2	

Worship Volunteers	September	October 2nd	October
volunteers	25th	2110	9th
Counters	Judy Sasse	Joel Ditter	Nick Nicholai
	Susie Cornell	Nancy Schirripa	Stacey Cornell
Cleaners	-	Plitzuweit/ Peterson/	Kelly/
		Aguilar	Grams
Communion Setup	-	Sharon Kull	-
Ushers	Chris Patterson	Pedro Contreras	Len Collyard
	Isaac Patterson	Sabrina Ebel	Nick Nickolai
	Titus Patterson	Tanner Plitzuweit	Steve Semmann
	Grant Stern	Mike Radue	Sharon Wilson
Sunday	Stacey Aguilar	Stacy Cornell	Angela Hall
Refreshments	Karen Goelzer	Diana Piepenbrink	Rachel Plitzuweit
A/V	Titus Patterson	Kelly Simpson	Titus Patterson
	Isaac Patterson	Pedro Contreras	Gus Koutia

Campus Ministry

Hello,

This is Pastor Pflughoeft. I am one of the pastors who are part of the Light in the Valley Campus Ministry leadership team.

We kicked off the new school year with a welcome-back party at Social Hall and have begun our weekly Bible studies. They will be held at Chick-fil-A at University and Mill. Here is the address: 25 W University Dr, Tempe, AZ 85281. The Bible studies will be every Thursday, usually at 6:30 p.m.

In Christ, Pastor Chris Pflughoeft 480-291-2928

Please contact Pastor Ehlers if interested in coordinating a carpool (602-904-3501).

WELS Youth Night

Hello All,

Have you heard about WELS Youth Night? WELS Youth Night is a new synodical initiative to connect WELS teens at city events. The goal is to offer teens an opportunity to meet and connect with like-minded Christian teens living near them. Not all congregations have enough teens to offer a teen group, so this is an opportunity to connect those teens with those who may attend another WELS church in their area. The plan is to host three of these events per year.

WELS Youth Night Phoenix will be on Saturday, November 12, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Mesa.

In Christ, Pastor Chris Pflughoeft Youth and Family Pastor Emmanuel Lutheran Church Tempe, AZ 480-291-2928

Please contact Pastor Ehlers if you are interested in carpooling to these events (602-904-3501).

Golden Agers Breakfast

The next Golden Agers breakfast will be held on Thursday, October 13, at 9:30. The location is Brothers Family Restaurant, 8466 W. Peoria Ave, Peoria, AZ 85345. Please email Judy Sasse if you plan to attend. <u>sasseja43aol.com</u>.

Kids Klub

September 25: God Calls Abram (Kassie A.)

October 2: God Answers Abraham's Prayer (Angela H. / Family)

October 9: The Test of Abraham's Faith (Elizabeth C.)

October 16: Isaac and Rebekkah (Andrea S.)

Kids Klub is a free Sunday morning club for kids ages 3 to 11 and offers a fun hour of activity. See above for the first six-week schedule. Parents are welcome to stay with their children for the hour or leave and come back at 11:30 to pick up their children. Each Sunday, a new Bible story will be taught and/or incorporated into the day's activity.

10111 W Jomax Road 10:30-11:30 A.M

Positions Available

Two part-time to Full-time Preschool Aids Please contact Liz at cog.secretary@crossofglory.org for the application

Worship at New River

We are continuing worship at the Kiwanis Park in New River. We will worship using remote access and/ or prerecorded sermons. **Pastor Freeman will be leading worship every third Sunday and offering Holy Communion at 9:15.**

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. The service time is 9:30 a.m.

Cross of Glory Sports

The Cross of Glory Cougars are in need of football and volleyball referees for this season. They are also looking for a soccer coach for the upcoming three-week season. Please contact Mike Radue if you are interested in helping at 262-226-9756.

Meditations

The newest copy of *Meditations* is available, and we have extras located in the church entry. Also, it is time to renew our *Meditations* subscription. If you are interested in renewing or would like to begin receiving the quarterly, please let Liz know, and give her a check made out to Cross of Glory for \$20.

Please note: You may drop off your used *Meditations* at Cross of Glory. They will be sent to WELS Prison Ministry, which in turn ships them to prisons around the country for inmates to read. A marked box is provided on the counter below the mailboxes in the church entry.

Growth Groups

Sunday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Kugler

10:30-11:30 a.m. (starting September 11) Topic: Jesus' "I am" Statements and Ten Lies about God

Sunday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Ehlers

10:30-11:30 a.m. (starting September 11) Topic: The Early Church in Galatia

<u>Kids Klub</u>

Sundays 10:30-11:30 a.m. (starting September 11)

Bible Information Class (BIC) with Pastor Ehlers 2nd & 4th Mondays

6:30 p.m. at church

<u>Women's Bible Study</u>

Tuesdays 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. (starting October 18) Topic: Book of Isaiah Karen Jurado's House

Vistancia Life Coaching Group

ıst & 3rd Mondays 6:30- 8:00 p.m. at Mountain Vista Club (Vistancia)

Course description: There are an enormous number of challenges that can occur in life from seemingly tiny to soul-crushingly overwhelming. The COR-NERSTONE 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. Wednesdays (starting September 14) 6:00 p.m. dinner & 6:30 study Topic: Chosen Season 2 Gram's House

Bibles and Brews for Men

Tuesdays 4:30-6:00 p.m. Topic: Fighting to be Men of God Gavin Jones' House

Bibles and Brews for Women

Thursday night or Saturday morning (starting September 15) Topic: Enough for Now - Unpacking God's Sufficiency by Sharla Fritz Thursday night - Lake Pleasant Brewery Saturday morning - TBA

New River Growth Group

ıst & 3rd Thursdays 6:30 p.m. (starting September 1) Topic: New Life in Christ Kiwanis Park 48606 N 17th Ave, New River

<u>Golden Agers</u>

The group continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30. Please email Judy Sasse (sasseja43@aol.com) several days in advance if you plan to attend the next event. Brothers Family Restaurant 8466 W Peoria Ave, Ste 1, Peoria

Growth Group with Tim Grams



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During check-out, mention our school or

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Thank you for supporting Cross to Glory Lutheran School!



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We have a custom Cross of Glory link that will make donating your tax dollars a little easier this year! For more information on how to donate or how the tax credit works, get in touch with Liz.



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Then just shop like normal. So long as you're doing it via that web address, Amazon will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases. All prices and products are the same as they would be if you bought them without using Smile.

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.

Velta Larson, as she regains her strength

Gerry Ehlers, the brother of Pastor Ehlers, who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and is undergoing treatments. The cancer is spreading, and he began intense treatments on May 10 for three months.

Pat Powell, as she recovers from back issues.

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. 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.