

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Thanksgiving
Wednesday, November 23, 2022

623-224-8839 ♦ www.crossofglory.org

1011 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

Thanksgiving Prayer and Praise

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” (Psalm 100) As we celebrate another Thanksgiving tonight, we direct our thanks to the Triune God—source of all we need to keep our body and life, the one who in perfect grace and love took on human flesh, paying the price for our sins and securing our redemption, and creator of our faith in his holy Word.

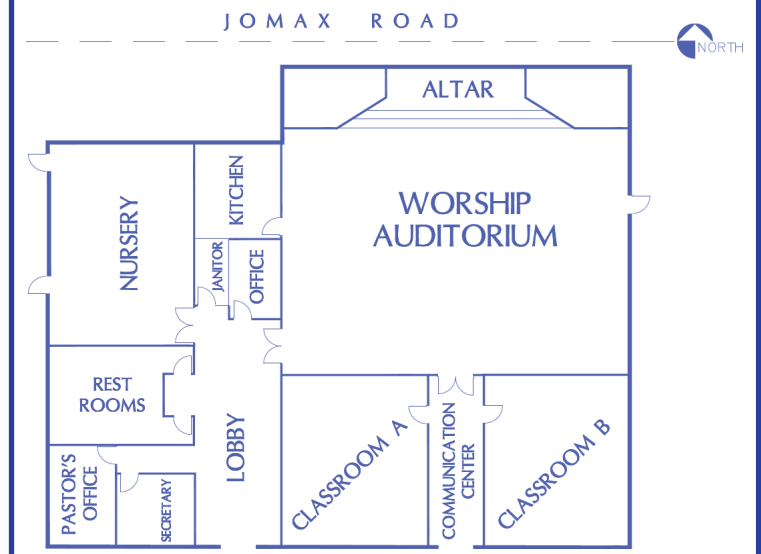
VISITOR INFORMATION

New to Cross of Glory? We are so glad you joined us today!

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 it to the usher after the offering.
- Emailing us at church.secretary@crossofglory.org

CAMPUS MAP



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.

Thanksgiving Gathering: Prayer and Praise

Opening Hymn: My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness

CWH 626



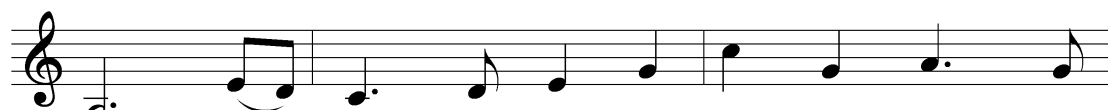
Hymn of praise, prayer, or reflection on the season of the church year.

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)



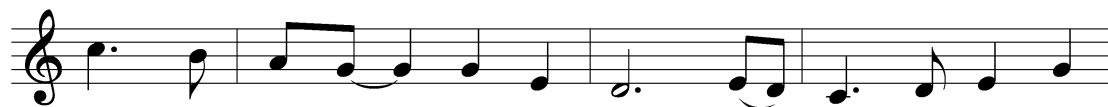
1 My heart is filled with thank-ful - ness to him who bore my
2 My heart is filled with thank-ful - ness to him who walks be -
3 My heart is filled with thank-ful - ness to him who reigns a -



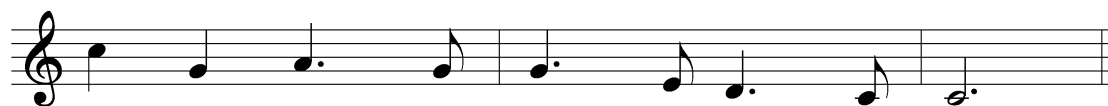
pain, who plumbed the depths of my dis - grace and
side, who floods my weak - ness - es with strength and
bove, whose wis - dom is my per - fect peace, whose



gave me life a - gain, who crushed my curse of sin - ful -
caus-es fears to fly, whose ev - 'ry prom - ise is e -
ev - 'ry thought is love. For ev - 'ry day I have on



ness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of
nough for ev - 'ry step I take, sus - tain - ing me with
earth is giv - en by the King. So I will give my



right - eous - ness with pow'r up - on my heart.
arms of love and crown - ing me with grace.
life, my all, to love and fol - low him.

* _____

** This phrase repeats at the end of st. 3.*

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Dialogue of Praise

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Heavenly Father, Creator of all things, you give us all that we need for body and life.

C: Every good and perfect gift comes from you, the Father of the heavenly lights. (*James 1:17*)

M: Lord Jesus Christ, by your suffering and death you have opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.



We begin our service of thanksgiving calling upon the triune God to be present with us.



*"If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just
and will forgive us our
sins and purify us from
all unrighteousness. "
(1 John 1:9)*

*Christ said to his disci-
ples, "If you forgive
anyone his sins, they
are forgiven". The pas-
tor speaks for God and
announces God's for-
giveness to those who
made confession.*

C: We approach your throne, O God, with confidence, for mercy and grace in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

M: Holy Spirit, counselor and guide, you have raised us from death by your powerful Word.

C: You, O Spirit of God, have made us. Your breath, almighty One, gave us life. (Job 33:4)

M: Lord, fill our hearts with thanksgiving for your mercy and love.

C: Move us with our hearts to believe and with our mouths to confess your saving name. Amen. (Romans 10:10)

Confession, Absolution & Thanksgiving

(Spoken Responsively)

M: As we this day offer our thanksgiving and praise, let us reflect upon our many sins and confess them before our God and LORD, asking Him to forgive us for the sake of Jesus, His Son:

C: "Lord, the eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing."

M: We come before You to confess our sins, including our ingratitude and lack of appreciation for all the blessings You have given us.

C: We confess to You, O Lord, that we have not given You thanks for all Your generous blessings; nor have we shown gratitude or appreciation, but too often we have grumbled and complained.

For these sins and all our other wicked thoughts, words, and actions, we deserve to be punished. But we appeal to Your mercy and ask You to forgive us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

M: The LORD, our gracious Father has forgiven all our sins through the suffering and death of His one and only Son, Jesus; and with His resurrection from the dead has given us the hope of everlasting life. God in His Word has declared,

C: "the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin."

M: He also assures us:

C: "You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

M: Therefore, give thanks to God for our salvation! You are forgiven. Go in peace.

C: Amen.



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der
 3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion



con - sid - er all the works thy hand hath made,
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!



I see the stars, I hear the might - y thun - der,
 that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing
 Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion



thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 and there pro - claim: "My God, how great thou art!"



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior - God, to thee, How great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my



Sav - ior - God to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899-1989

Tune: Swedish; setting: Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899-1989, alt.

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The Word

Part One: Give thanks to the Father!

Reading

Matthew 6:25–34

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.



We confess the explanation of the first article of the Apostles' Creed taken from Luther's Small Catechism. It focuses on the first person of the Trinity, God the Father, the all-powerful creator of all things who is the provider of all we need.

Explanation to the 1st Article of the Apostles' Creed

(Spoken Responsively)

M: I believe that God created me and all that exists,

C: and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

M: And I believe that God still preserves me

C: by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life.

M: God also preserves me by defending me against all danger,

C: guarding and protecting me from all evil.

M: All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven,

C: and not because I have earned or deserved it.

M: For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

C: This is most certainly true.



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our



glo - ry of the skies, for the love which
 day and of the night; hill and vale, and
 heart and mind's de - light, for the mys - tic
 world so free - ly giv'n; for that great, great



from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, abr., alt.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Part Two: Give thanks to the Son!

Reading

Romans 5:1–2, 6–11

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's enemies, we were recon-

ciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! "Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.



We confess the explanation of the second article of the Apostles' Creed taken from Luther's Small Catechism, which focuses on the second person of the Trinity, Jesus, and on the major elements of Jesus' story of our redemption – his birth, death and resurrection.

Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed (Spoken Responsively)

M: I believe that Jesus Christ,

C: 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,

C: purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil,

M: not with gold or silver

C: but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

M: All this he did that I should be his own,

C: and live under him in his kingdom,

M: and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

C: just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Hymn of Response: In Christ Alone

CWH 510



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner-stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right-eous-
world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv-ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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Part 3: Give thanks to the Holy Spirit!

Reading

Romans 8:5–17

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. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

¹²Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.



We confess the explanation of the third article of the Apostles' Creed taken from Luther's Small Catechism, which focuses on the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit who creates faith in our hearts through the gospel, keeps us in the faith and motivates us to do good works.

Explanation to the 3rd Article of the Apostles' Creed (Spoken Responsively)

M: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

C: But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel,

M: enlightened me with his gifts,

C: sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

M: In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth,

C: and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

M: In this Christian Church he daily and fully

C: forgives all sins to me and all believers.

M: On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead

C: and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Hymn of Response: Come, O Come, Life-Giving Spirit

CWH 588

1 Come, O come, life - giv - ing Spir - it, God from all e -
 3 Spir - it, guard our faith for - ev - er; let not Sa - tan,
 4 And when life's frail thread is break - ing, then as - sure us

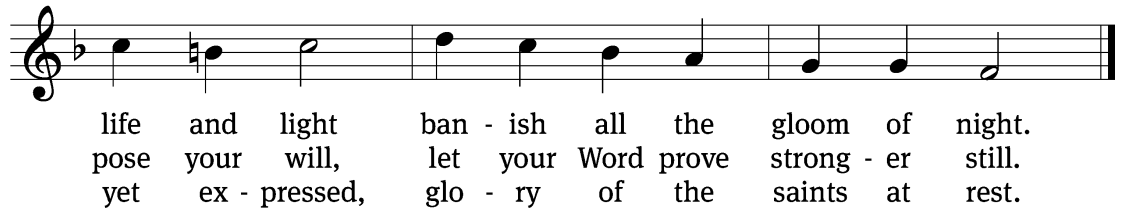
ter - ni - ty! May your pow - er nev - er fail us;
 death, or shame ev - er part us from our Sav - ior.
 more and more, as the heirs of life un - end - ing,

dwell with - in us con - stant - ly. Then shall truth and
 Lord, our ref - uge is your name! When our hearts op -
 of the glo - ry there in store, glo - ry nev - er



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".
(1 Timothy 2:1)



Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.; Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.
Tune: attr. Johann Christoph Bach, 1642–1702, Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693, alt.
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Offering and Offering Prayer

(Prayed by Minister)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Father in heaven, we give you thanks. You gave us life and formed our bodies in the womb. You have preserved us over the years by providing for all our needs. You control the weather, ensuring ample supplies of food.

C: You give us family and friends. You keep our society stable through the various branches of our government. You protect and defend us day after day. Each of us offers private thanks for your many gifts.

Silent prayer

M: Jesus, we give you thanks. True God from eternity, you put aside your heavenly glory to become human like us. You lived the kind of life we should, following perfectly all the commandments. You died the kind of death we should, receiving the total and just punishment for our sin.

C: What love you have shown us! We thank you for reconciling us to your Father through your holy, precious blood. We praise you for rising from the dead. We exalt you for winning for us the gift of eternal life. Each of us offers private thanks for your saving works.

Silent prayer

M: Holy Spirit, we give you thanks. By our own thinking and choosing we cannot believe in Jesus Christ or come to him. By your powerful means of grace you called us to faith, revealing to us God's great love in Christ.

C: We praise you for the Holy Scriptures, inspired by you. We thank you for the sacraments. Through these means of grace, you begin and preserve faith in Christ.

M: You move and lead us to live in a sanctified way. We exalt you for sanctifying us to serve the Lord and our neighbor.

**C: You have guarded and defended the Christian church through the ages.
We thank you for your many blessings to our congregation in the past
year. Each of us offers private thanks for your many blessings.**

~Silent Prayer~

The Lord's Prayer

(Spoken in Unison)

**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.**

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.

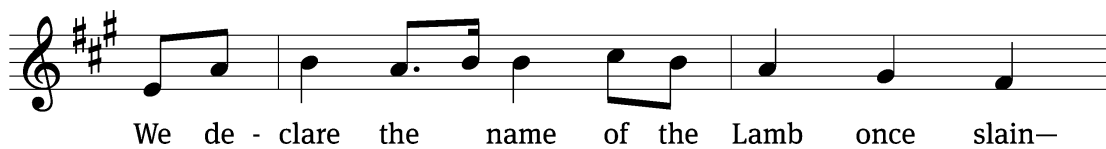
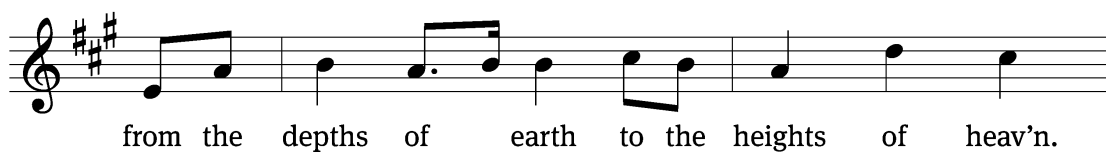
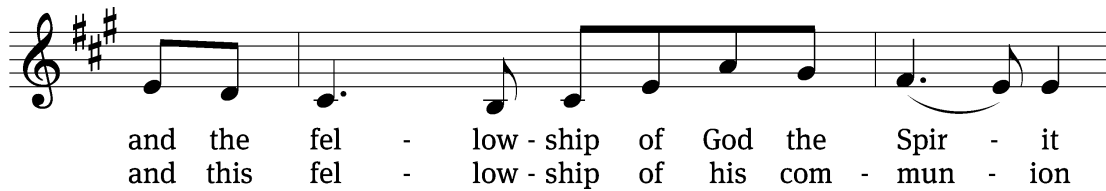
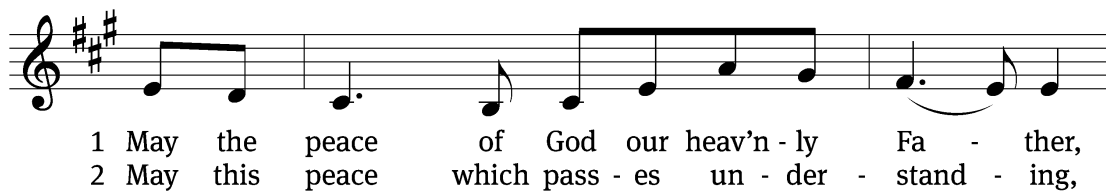
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

*We speak to God as
our Father as Jesus
taught us. (Matthew 6)*



*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 congre-
gation as they are
about to conclude their
worship.*



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Worship Volunteers	November 24th (Thanksgiving)	November 27th	December 4th
Counters		Bill Brooks Harry Novak	Judy Sasse Susie Cornell
Cleaners		Plitzuweit/Peterson Aguilar	Kelley/Grams
Communion Setup	-	-	Sharon Kull
Ushers	Pedro Contreras Sabrina Ebel Tanner Plizuweit Michael Radue	Len Collyard Nick Nickolai Steve Semmann Sharon Wilson	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis
Sunday Refreshments		Stacy Aguilar Karen Goelzer	Ally Kelley Sharon Wilson
A/V		Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Shannon Gullerud Aaron Gullerud

Tree Decorating & White Elephant Exchange (Potluck)

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on November 26th at 4:00 pm. It goes pretty quickly when we have a number of people helping out. If you plan to come, please also bring a dish to pass, as we have a light meal following the decorating. We also finish off the night with a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a silly, inexpensive gift for each person from your family that would like to take part in the exchange.



Let's decorate, eat and be happy! Plates, Silverware, Cups & Napkins will be provided!

Advent by Candlelight

Advent by Candlelight will take place Sunday, December 4, at 3pm. If you'd like to be a table hostess please reach out to Karin Hansen (karinwedeking@hotmail.com) or Tracy (church.secretary@cog.org) in the church office and we will get your name in the appropriate slot. Each table will seat one hostess plus seven guests. Please use the QR code to view available slots below and to sign up to attend Advent by Candlelight
Thank you!

 HAPPY 
thanksgiving
FAMILY • TURKEY
TRADITIONS • DAY
• • • •
HARVEST •
GIVE  
THANKFUL
thanks BLESSED
• • • • GRATEFUL

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.