



# The Prodigal Son

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*Be a True  
Elder Brother*

**Pentecost 6**  
*Sunday, July 21, 2019*



## **Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School**

623-224-8839

[www.crossofglory.org](http://www.crossofglory.org)

Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor

Rev. Benjamin Foxen, Pastor

*Blessed to be a member of*



**Jomax Campus**  
10111 W Jomax Road,  
Peoria, AZ 85383

*Sat. 6pm and Sun. 9am Worship*

**Vistancia Campus**  
Lake Pleasant Elementary School  
31501 N. Westland Road  
Peoria, AZ 85383

*Sun. 9:30am Worship*

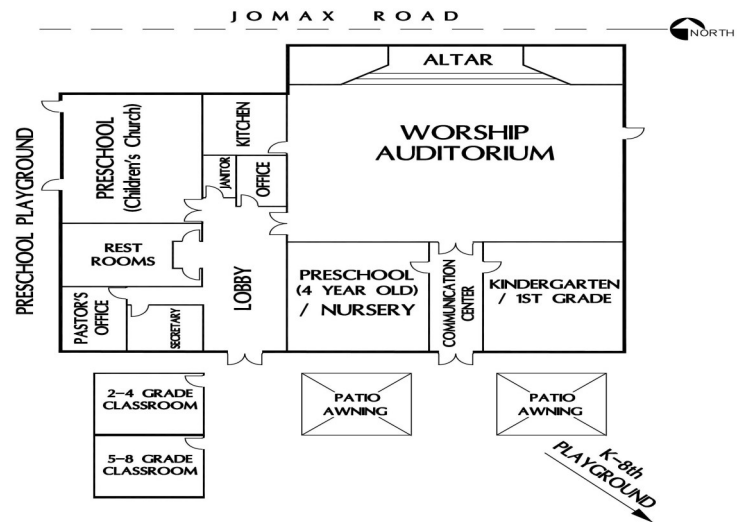
**Welcome to our Worship Center!** God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. If parents wish, the children can then sit in the area set up for them at the front-right section of the worship hall, where they will find age-appropriate and spiritually focused activities to work on during the regular sermon. At the time of the offering, children return to sit with their parents. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!

### Special needs:

- Large print bulletin available from usher
- Seats with armrests available



## Worship focus

The parable of the "prodigal son" forms the basis for our 6 week sermon series. In this story Jesus is teaching us about God's love for us and his willingness to forgive us no matter what we have done. The word prodigal means "wasteful"--particularly with regard to money. It comes from Latin roots that mean "forth" (*pro-*) and "to drive" (*agere*). It indicates the quality of a person who drives forth his money--who wastes it by spending with reckless abandon.

There is much for us to learn in this story. Each week we will focus on a separate lesson. This week, we focus on “Be a True Elder Brother”. How do we treat those around us, especially those who have strayed from God and return? Is our attitude like that of the prodigal son's older brother or do we welcome these brothers and sisters of Christ back with open arms?

**Acknowledgements** Scripture taken from **THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®** Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by **Biblica, Inc.®** Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. **Worship and Hymns sourced** from Christian Worship (CW) © 1993 and/or Christian Worship Supplement (CWS) © 2008 by Northwestern Publishing House (NPH). All rights reserved. These and all other sources are used by permission under One License.net License # A-711716 and/or CCLI License # 1852086 and # CSPL136078 (Video).

## Service of Word & Sacrament

### OPENING HYMN

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken (CW465) 4 Vs.

Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow you.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken, You on earth once suffered, too.  
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, All I've ever hoped or known;  
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me; They have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; You are not, like them, untrue.  
And since you have smiled upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate and friends may shun me -- Show your face, and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!  
In your service pain is pleasure; With your favor loss is gain.  
I have called you Abba, Father! You my all in all shall be.  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; All must work for good to me.

Haste, my soul, from grace to glory, Armed by faith and winged by prayer.  
All but heav'n is transitory; God's own hand shall guide you there.  
Soon shall end this earthly story; Swift shall pass the pilgrim days,  
Hope soon change to heav'nly glory, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

### GREETING

*(Spoken Responsively)*

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

*(Spoken Responsively)*

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

*(Spoken/ Sung Responsively)*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy,  
hear our prayer, O Lord:

**C: Lord have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage  
to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their  
worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord:

**C: Lord have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your  
tender care.

**C: Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**C:** *(Congregation Sings)*

**O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

**Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.**

**You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;**

**you make us pure and holy in your sight.**

**You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.**

**O Lord our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

**O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us,**

**you made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood.**

**You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*(Prayed by Minister)*

M: Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into  
our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises,  
which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

*1 Kings 19:14-21*

He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected  
your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the on-  
ly one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." <sup>15</sup>The LORD said to him, "Go back the way

you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.<sup>17</sup> Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. <sup>18</sup> Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.” <sup>19</sup> So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him.<sup>20</sup> Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.” “Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?” <sup>21</sup> So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

**PSALM 62**

*(Sung Responsively)*

**The might-y Lord is with us; the  
God of Ja - cob is our for - tress.**

***Refrain***

M: My soul finds rest in God alone;

**C: my salvation comes from him.**

M: He alone is my rock and my sal-va-tion;

**C: he is my fortress, I will never be sha-ken.**

M: Find rest, O my soul, in God alone;

**C: my hope comes from him.**

***Refrain***

M: though your riches increase,

**C: do not set your heart on them.**

M: My salvation and honor de-pend on God;

**C: he is my mighty rock, my re-fuge.**

M: Trust in him at all times, O peo-ple;

**C: pour out your hearts to him, for God is our re-fuge.**

***All:***

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
And to the Holy Spi-rit,

As it was in the **be-gin-ning**,  
Is now, and will be forever. **A-men**  
*Refrain*

## THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

*(All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)*

## SECOND LESSON

*Galatians 5:1,13-25*

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. <sup>13</sup>You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup>For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup>If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. <sup>16</sup>So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup>idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup>and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

*(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)*

M: Alleluia. If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Alleluia. *(Mark 8:34b)*

*(Sung by Congregation)*

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## SERMON HYMN

**O Fount of Good, for All Your Love** *(CW524) 5 Vs.*

**O Fount of good, for all your love Our true thanks should be paid.**

**What can we render, Lord, to you, When you own all that's made?**

**But you have needy brothers here, Partakers of your grace,**

**Whose names you will yourself confess Before the Father's face.**

**In their sad accents of distress Your pleading voice is heard;**

**You may in them be clothed and fed And visited and cheered.**

**Then help us, Lord, your yoke to wear And gladly do your will,  
Each other's daily burdens share, The law of love fulfill.**

**Your face with rev'rence and with love We in the poor will view,  
And, while we minister to them, We do it as to you.**

**SERMON**

**Be a True Elder Brother**

*Luke 15:17-32*

“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!’<sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup> So 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. <sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> “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. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But 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. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

*CD recordings of sermons freely supplied for study or sharing. Please request on the Friendship Card*

**THE NICENE CREED**

*(Read in Unison)*

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in ac-**

cordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

 **SONG OF THE SEASON**

**Living Waters 4 Vs.**

*The Cantor sings Vs. 1-2 and the Congregation sings Vs.3-4*

*Are you thirsty? Are you empty? Come and drink these living waters;*

*Tired and broken; Peace unspoken; Rest beside these living waters.*

*Christ is calling; Find refreshing; At the cross of living waters.*

*Lay your life down; All the old gone; Rise up in these living waters .*

**Refrain:**

**There's a river that flows with mercy and love;  
Bringing joy to the city of our God. There our hope is secure;  
Do not fear anymore; Praise the Lord of living waters.**

**Spirit moving; Mercy washing; Healing in these living waters.**

**Lead your children; To the shore line; Life is in these living waters. [Refrain]**

**Are you thirsty? Are you empty: Come and drink these living waters,**

**Love, forgiveness; Vast and boundless Christ, He is our living waters, [Refrain]**

**THE OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER**

*(Prayed by Minister)*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*(Spoken by Congregation)*

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR**

**GREETING**

*(Spoken Responsively)*

**M: The Lord be with you.**



**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*(Sung by Congregation)*

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.**

**You are my God, and I will exalt you.**

**I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*(Spoken by Minister)*

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread: and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

*(Sung by Congregation)*

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.**

**Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF SACRAMENT**

*(Please refer to "Worship Welcome" in chair pocket)*

*We follow the Scriptural practice of **CLOSE COMMUNION**. If you have not communed here prior to today, you should speak with our pastor before the service. We would like to help you establish the unity which comes from a common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) before expressing that union together at the Lord's Table. It is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God's Word. Those who have established that connection as members of sister WELS or ELS congregations may register at the podium at the sanctuary entrance.. Thank you for honoring our practice.*

I come, O Savior, to your table, For weak and weary is my soul;  
O Jesus, you alone are able To satisfy and make me whole:

*Refrain:*

Lord, may your body and your blood Be for my soul the highest good!  
Oh, grant that I in manner worthy May now trust solely in your Word,  
And, conscious of the sins before me, Look only unto you, O Lord. *Refrain*  
Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet you your lamb will banish never nor will your faithfulness depart. *Refrain*  
Oh, let me loathe all sin forever As death and poison to my soul  
That I through willful sinning never May see your judgment take its toll! *Refrain*  
Your heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to you in faith are turning; So let me, too, come trustingly. *Refrain*  
Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed.  
Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now your guest. *Refrain*  
You here will find a heart most lowly That feels unworthy in your sight,  
That duly weeps o'er sin, yet solely, Your merit pleads, as it is right. *Refrain*  
By faith I call your holy table The testament of your deep love,  
For by your gift I now am able To know the heart of God above. *Refrain*  
What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*  
This feast is manna, wealth abounding Unto the poor, to weak ones pow'r,  
To angels joy, to hell confounding, And life for me in death's dark hour. *Refrain*  
Your body, given for me, O Savior, Your blood which you for me have shed,  
These are my life and strength forever, By them my hungry soul is fed. *Refrain*  
With you, Lord, I am now united; I live in you and you in me.  
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It finds its peace on Calvary. *Refrain*  
Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is near, who justifies.  
No hell I fear, and thus securely, With Jesus I to heaven rise. *Refrain*  
Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;  
For He who is of death the Master with help and strength is always near.. *Refrain*  
My heart has now become your dwelling, O blessed Holy Trinity.  
With angels I, your praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. *Refrain*

## SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*(Sung by Congregation)*

**Thank the Lord and sing his praise, Tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## CLOSING PRAYER

*(Spoken by Minister)*

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

*(Spoken by Minister)*

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN

**O Master of the Loving Heart** *(CW491) 3 Vs.*

**O Master of the loving heart, The friend of all in need,  
We pray that we may be like you In thought and word and deed.  
Your face was warm with sympathy; Your hand God's strength revealed;  
Who saw your face or felt your touch Were comforted and healed.  
Oh, grant us hearts like yours, dear Lord, So joyous, free and true,  
That all your children, ev'rywhere, Be drawn by us to you.**

Worship Volunteers	July 21st	July 28th	August 4th
<b>Refreshments</b>	Lisa Beilke/Liz Sim- kauskas	Sharon Wilson/ Stacey Cornell/ Christina Marcell	Ally Kelley/ Susie Cornell
<b>Greeters</b>	Kuglar	Yauck	Ebel
<b>Counters</b>	Wempner/Cornell	Wempner/Plitzuweit	Sasse/L. Wempner
<b>Church Cleaners</b>	Ehlers	Koutia	Kuglar/Foxen
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Susie Cornell	-	-
<b>Ushers</b>	Steve Julian/Bill Grams/ John Kull/Paul Pappen- fuss	Bill Brooks/ Brian Ehinger/ Jake Ehinger/ Trey Ehinger Jon Yauck	Gary Jeffers/ Grant Stern/ John Wempner/ Kelly Simpson
<b>Vistancia Ushers</b>	Steve Julian/ Al Alcoba/ Rich Kuglar/ Kelly Simpson	Steve Julian/Bill Grams/ John Kull/ Paul Pappenfuss	Bill Brooks/ Brian Ehinger/ Jake Ehinger/ Trey Ehinger Jon Yauck

\*\*\*\*Josh and Rachel Severeid are in search for a reliable vehicle \$5000 or under. If you know of anything please call Rachel (920) 629-1278

\*\*\*\*Heritage Lutheran Church of Gilbert, Arizona, invites you to the worship service celebrating the installation of Aaron Bublitz as its new pastor. The service will take place on July 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 4pm in the afternoon. A fellowship meal will follow. If you cannot attend, please keep Aaron, wife Laura, and their children in your prayers as they make the transition from a Midwestern climate to the Valley of the Sun.

\*\*\*\*COG Golden Agers will be meeting for brunch and fellowship on Thursday, August 1st, 2019 at 9:30am. Brunch is held at The 5 & Diner, 11340 W Bell Road, #125, Surprise, Az. **Please RSVP Judy Sasse, sasseja43@aol.com or 602-618-6967**

\*\*\*\* **August 11th we will be celebrating the installation of Rachel Severeid and our new members with a special service followed by a potluck dinner. Please be on the lookout for the sign up genius.**

\*\*\*\* The upcoming Men's Retreat will take place October 11th-13th at UCYC Prescott. The initial \$50 deposit can be paid via check or online through Vanco. Check payments are made to Cross of Glory and placed in offering plate, Please reference Men's Retreat on both methods of payment. There is a sign up sheet in both entries or this is the link to reserve your spot via sign-up genius. **Please reserve your spot ASAP!!!!**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4BAAAA29AA8-mens>



**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.