

Important questions for

LENT

What is the best of all blessings?

Lent 2

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Full Script



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

Church Phone: 623-224-8839 School Phone: 623-224-8841

www.crossofglory.org

Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor

Rev. Benjamin Foxen, Pastor



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

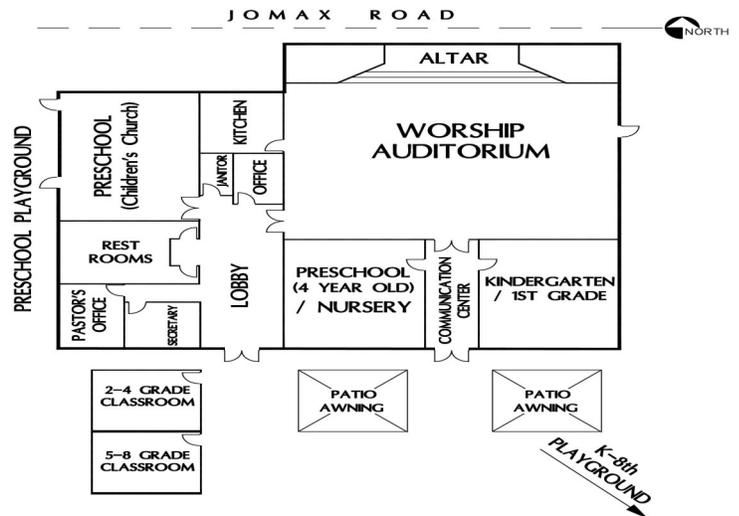
Welcome to our Worship Center! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

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 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. 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

On Ash Wednesday, we began our forty day journey to the cross, a journey of repentance and prayer, of remembrance and renewal of our baptism. Lent represents about 11% of the church year—why is it we focus that much time on this subject which represents a short period of time in Jesus's life? The answer is that the focus for Lent actually spans from the Garden of Eden and culminates in the empty tomb.

Each Sunday in Lent we will be asking an important question for Lent. This week we ask, “**What is the best of all blessings?**”. God's plan of salvation called for one special nation that would carry the promise meant for all people. God chose Abram for this very special blessing.

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Service of Celebration and Reverence

OPENING HYMN

By Faith 4 V/s.

By faith we see the hand of God In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign.

Refrain:

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

By faith the prophets saw a day When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith this mountain shall be moved And the power of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name *[Refrain]*

WE APPROACH GOD

(Spoken Responsively; Sung songs of response—"Triune God" and "Melodic Gloria)

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.

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)

**Triune God your love has found me; you have brought me to this place. And you
promised you will lead me, safely home by your good grace.
Jesus sought me, a lost wanderer, cut off from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger, Bought me with his precious blood.
To your grace now I'm a debtor; daily I'm in need of you!
Let your mercy like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to you.
Prone to wander, such a sheep I am; prone to leave your shepherd's love.
So I pray: "Please make me your lamb; heal me for the life above!"**

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.

(Sung by Congregation)

**Glory to the God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God, the Father.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

CATECHISM REVIEW

7th and 8th Commandments

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

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ²If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ¹³It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.”^[c] He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

PSALM 121

(Spoken Responsively)

M: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

C: Where does my help come from?

M: My help comes from the LORD,

C: The maker of heaven and earth.

M: He will not let your foot slip,

C: He who watches over you will not slumber;

M: Indeed, he who watches over Israel

C: Will neither slumber nor sleep.

M: The LORD watches over you.

C: The LORD is your shade at your right hand.

M: The LORD will keep you from all harm.

C: He will watch over your life;

M: the LORD will watch over your coming and going

C: Both now and forevermore.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. *(Philippians 2:8b)*

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” ³Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” ⁴“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” ⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

SERMON HYMN

Every Promise of Your Word 4 V/S.

**From the breaking of the dawn to the setting of the sun,
I will stand on ev’ry promise of Your Word.**

**Words of power, strong to save, that will never pass away,
I will stand on ev’ry promise of Your Word.**

**For Your covenant is sure, And on this I am secure—
I can stand on ev’ry promise of Your Word.**

**When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on ev’ry promise of Your Word.**

**You are faithful to forgive that in freedom I might live,
So I stand on ev’ry promise of Your Word.**

Guilt to innocence restored, You remember sins no more—

So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
When I'm faced with anguished choice, I will listen for Your voice,
And I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
Through this dark and troubled land
You will guide me with Your hand
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
And You've promised to complete Ev'ry work begun in me—
So I'll stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

Hope that lifts me from despair, love that casts out ev'ry fear,
As I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
Not forsaken, not alone, for the Comforter has come,
And I stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.
Grace sufficient, grace for me, Grace for all who will believe—
We will stand on ev'ry promise of Your Word.

SERMON

Important Questions for Lent:
What is the best of all blessings?

Genesis 12:1-8

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ²“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. ⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

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APOSTLES' CREED

(Spoken in Unison)

C: 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 al-

mighty. 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**

Gethsemane 3 Vs.

The Ensemble will sing Vs. 1 and the Congregation will join for Vs. 2 & 3

To see the King of heaven fall In anguish to His knees,

The Light and Hope of all the world Now overwhelmed with grief.

What nameless horrors must He see, To cry out in the garden:

Oh, take this cup away from me Yet not my will but yours, Yet not my will but yours.

To know each friend will fall away, And heaven's voice be still,

For hell to have its vengeful day Upon Golgotha's hill.

No words describe the Savior's plight – To be by God forsaken

Till wrath and love are satisfied And every sin is paid And every sin is paid.

What took him to this wretched place, What kept him on this road?

His love for Adam's cursed race, For every broken soul.

No sin too slight to overlook, No crime too great to carry,

All mingled in this poisoned cup, And yet he drank it all, The Savior drank it all.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Prayed by Minister)

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

(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.

ENSEMBLE

Our Awesome God

Congregation joins for final refrain

**Our God is an awesome God, he reigns from heav'n above
With wisdom, pow'r and love; Our God is an awesome God.**

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

March 10th 9:30am	Woman's Bible Study
March 10th 6:30pm	Church Council
March 11th 9:00am	Mornings with Mommy
March 11th 6:00pm	Souper Super/Lent Service/Choir
March 13th	Grandparents Day K-8 /4th Annual Fun Run
March 13th	Mission Journey Group Arrive
March 13th 6:00pm	Cloverfest (Vistancia)
March 14th 7:50am	Growth Group w/Pastor Freeman
March 14th 9:00am	Praise & Proclaim Training
March 14th 6:00pm	Worship Service
March 15th 9:00am	Worship Service
March 15th 9:30am	Worship Service
March 15th 10:30am	Bible Study (Jomax)
March 15th 10:30am	Sunday School (Jomax)
March 15th 11:30am	Potluck (Jomax)

LOOKING AHEAD

March 13th-21st	Mission Journeys
March 16th-20th	Spring Break
March 17th 9:30am	Woman's Bible Study
March 18th 6:00pm	Souper Super/Lent Service/Choir
March 19th 6:30pm	Growth Group with Pastor Ehlers
March 21st 7:50am	Growth Group w/Pastor Freeman
March 21st 8:30am	Work Day
March 21st 6:00pm	Worship Service w/Communion (Jomax)
March 22nd 9:00am	Worship Service w/Communion (Jomax)
March 22nd 9:30am	Worship Service w/Communion (Vistancia)
March 22nd 10:30am	Bible Study (Jomax)
March 22nd 10:30am	Sunday School (Jomax)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Calling all Talent!!! Everyone get ready to show off you skills. Friday April 3rd, is our annual talent show. Please sign up at the office.

****Next Call meeting for a new Principal is scheduled for today, March 8th at 11:30 am. Please try to make it as this may be our last opportunity to call someone for next school year.

****Thrivent T-Shirts are in the office. Please take what you want.

****We have a **Mission Journeys** group coming from Lakeside Lutheran and UW Madison March 14th-21st to help evangelize and help spruce up our grounds. We are looking to house 16 students and 3 chaperones. If you are able to house 1, 2 or more please let Pastor Ehlers know ASAP.

****There will be a sign-up sheet at Vistancia and Jomax for worship volunteers for March and April at Vistancia. Areas include refreshments, trailer hauling, set-up, sound management and playing piano. If you are interested in serving, please sign up or contact Liz for available dates.

******NEW MEDITATIONS ARE IN!!** Meditations for Prison Ministry--Please put your used Meditations in the box in the entry way. Meditations are sent to the WELS Prison Ministry quarterly and then distributed to prisoners. Questions? Contact Lynn Wempner

****Please join the COG Golden Agers for brunch and fellowship on Thursday, April 2nd, 2020. They will be meeting at The Five and Diner Delux, 11340 W Bell Road, #125, Surprise, AZ. Please RSVP to Judy Sasse, email or phone, sasse-ja43@aol.com or 602-618-6967.

Youth Summer Opportunities

A SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITY - GOOD SHEPHERD BIBLE CAMP

You may be interested in this opportunity for your kids to have some fun in a Christian summer camp in July. The camp is run by WELS congregations in California. Here is a little info about the camp:

For over 40 years, Good Shepherd Bible Camp (GSBC), has been providing the perfect blend of outdoor adventure and Christian fellowship to kids from 4th to 10th grade. It's a full week (6 nights/days) of fun in the California mountains during July. You'll experience the chance to have fun with old friends and make plenty of new ones while you apply God's word to your life.

Spend the week growing in your faith, while you also play countless games, eat amazing food, swim, canoe, become the perfect archer, sing exuberantly around a campfire, play basketball/volleyball and anything else involving a ball, run around in the infamous "gaga" pit, build forts, unleash your creative side in some arts and crafts, and of course explore God's beautiful creation through a little hiking.

If you'd like to take part in the camp, here are two things to do: 1) get the dates (July 12-18) on your calendar to include it in your summer plans, whether as a camper or as staff, and 2) start setting aside the funds to save up for it! Visit the new website for more information and find out why so many love GSBC: www.goodshepherdbiblecamp.com.

Dear fellow servant of Christ,

Registration is now open for the 2020 WELS International Youth Rally!

The basics

The 2020 International Youth Rally will be held June 23-26 at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The theme for the rally is "Vision 2020: Seeing Christ Clearly. Serving Christ Boldly." It's an opportunity for our WELS teens from around the country to come together to learn about and grow in their faith, enjoy fellowship, and participate in fun excursions.

Registration opens today and is \$375 per attendee through April 30. Registration from May 1–May 29 is \$395 per attendee.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities please contact Pastor Ehlers.

Jomax

Jomax Worship Volunteers	March 8th	March 15th	March 22nd
Refreshments	Laurel Bollmeier/ Connie Sauer	Lisa Beilke/ Liz Simkauskas/ Angela Hall	Rene Koutia
Greeters	Kennedy	-	-
Counters	Sasse/Brooks	Wempner/Cornell	Wempner/Voigt
Church Cleaners	Ebel/ Meringer	Patterson	Martins/Ehlers
Communion Set-Up	-	Susie Cornell	-
Ushers	Chris Patterson/ Cody Hall/ Caleb Patterson/ Isaac Patterson/ Titus Patterson	Verl Naber/ Don Bollmeier/ Brad Hotz/ Larry Kennedy	Adam Beilke/ Payton Beilke/ Owen Beilke/ Zach Plitzuweit/ Tanner Plitzuweit

ONE CHURCH....TWO LOCATIONS

JOMAX
CAMPUS - NEWS

VISTANCIA
CAMPUS - NEWS

Mission Journey/Praise & Proclaim
March 14th-21st

Potluck (Jomax Campus)
Sunday, March 15th, 11:30am



Mission Journey/Praise & Proclaim
March 14th-21st

Potluck (Jomax Campus)
Sunday, March 15th, 11:30am

Vistancia

Vistancia Worship Volunteers	March 8th	March 15th	March 22nd
Snacks	-	-	-
Trailer Hauling	Norm Voigt	-	-
Set up	-	-	-
Sound Management	Mike Mundstock	-	-
Piano Playing	Cathy Mundstock	-	CathyMundstock
Ushers	Gary Jeffers/ Grant Stern/ John Wempner/ Kelly Simpson	Chris Patterson/ Cody Hall/ Caleb Patterson/ Isaac Patterson/ Titus Patterson	Verl Naber/ Don Bollmeier/ Brad Hotz/ Larry Kennedy

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.

Pastor and Maxine Freeman, who returned a call to Elkton, MI. Also dealing with the news that Pastor's brother has passed away and Maxine's sister-in-law suffered another stroke.

The Kugler Family, as they grieve the passing of Linda's mother, Lucille Manthe.

Sandy Taylor & Family, as they grieve the sudden lost of her brother.

Fran Fidel & Family, as she grieves the unexpected loss of her son.

Velta Larson, as she recovers from a recent fall.

Judy Sasse, as she undergoes radiation for cancer.

Glen Pedersen, the son-in-law of Don and Laurel Bollmeier, who was diagnosed with cancer.

Juanita Word, who is recovering at home after a broken leg.

April Johnson, keep her in your prayers as she recovers at home.

Gerry Ehlers, the brother of Pastor Ehlers, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and undergoes treatments.

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.

If you desire to be a Sunday Greeter Please contact Angela Hall by email at amwulf@gmail.com.

If you desire to help by cleaning the church contact Liz by email cog.secretary@crossofglory.org.

If you desire to bring weekly refreshments please contact Clara Naber at vcnaber@cox.net.

If you are interested in ushering please contact Verl Naber at vcnaber@cox.net.



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.