

# GOING DOWN AN UNPOPULAR PATH



*It involves  
learning about a  
crucified man,  
It involves  
denying your  
natural desires,  
It involves saving  
your life.*

**Pentecost 16**  
***Sunday, September 20, 2020***



**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 Cross of Glory's online worship! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament, and we recognize that this can happen via technology as well as in a physical building. Thank the Lord for blessing us with the means to continue worshipping together in this way! As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power fill you.

Please take the time to note some things about how worship will work online:

**Attendance** – We would still like to gather an accurate account of who is worshipping with us for each service. Please let us know you are worshipping by commenting in the chat box. List your full name (first and last) in your message.

**Chatting and discussing** – Before and after each service, there is time available to chat with others. We invite you to do so, as this is a way we can preserve the sense of community we have on a normal Sunday morning. We do ask that you keep chatting to a minimum during the service, so that others can focus on what's happening.

**Giving** – Please continue to give your attention to the gifts God asks you to give to support his work. During the time of the offering, an encouragement will be given to give electronically. You can do so by clicking the menu icon (3 horizontal bars) in the upper left corner, next to where it says Cross of Glory Lutheran Church. Then click the word "Giving" to go to our Vanco page. You can also give by scanning the QR code in the bulletin with your phone's camera, or by mailing a check to us at 10111 W Jomax Rd, Peoria, AZ 85383. Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time!



God bless our time together in worship today!



The path of Christ that took him to immeasurable pain and suffering on the cross was the path that led to our salvation. Christ tells us that for him and for us, going God's way means death must come before life. He calls on us to deny ourselves and follow him on the way of the cross. Those words offend our sinful flesh and make our Old Adam cry with Peter, "Never!" They make us accuse God with Jeremiah. So today the Church prays for the never-failing mercy of Christ that we might avoid such wicked and harmful thoughts and instead be guided on the cross-laden path to salvation.

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## Service of Word & Sacrament



### OPENING HYMN

Lift High the Cross (CW579) 3 Vs.

*Refrain:*

Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *[Refrain]*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *[Refrain]*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory. *[Refrain]*

### 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.

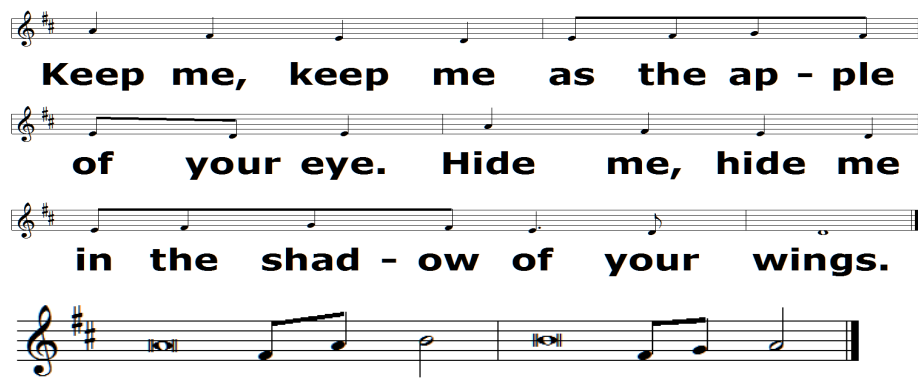
Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST LESSON**

***Jeremiah 15:15-21***

<sup>15</sup>Therefore this is what the LORD says: LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. <sup>16</sup>When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty. <sup>17</sup>I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails. "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. <sup>20</sup>I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you," declares the LORD. <sup>21</sup>"I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel."

**Refrain**

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 heav-en and earth.

M: He will not let your foot slip,

C: He who watches over you will not slum-ber;

M: Indeed, he who watches over Is-rael

C: Will neither slum-ber nor sleep.

**Refrain**

M: The LORD watches o-ver you.

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

M: The LORD will keep you from all harm.

C: He will watch o-ver your life;

M: the LORD will watch over your coming and go-ing

C: Both now and for-e-ver-more.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

And to the Holy Spir-it,

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**

**Romans 8:18-25**

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup>Not only so, but we

ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

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

M: Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia. *(Philippians 4:4)*

*(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

**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.

## SERMON

### GOING DOWN AN UNPOPULAR PATH

*Matthew 16:21-26*

*It involves learning about a crucified man, It involves denying your natural desires,  
It involves saving your life.*

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. <sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” <sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to

be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life<sup>[a]</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

*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 accordance 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

**I Run to Christ 3 V.s.**

**I run to Christ when chased by fear And find a refuge sure.**

**“Believe in me,” His voice I hear; His words and wounds secure.**

**I run to Christ when torn by grief And find abundant peace.**

**“I too had tears,” He gently speaks; Thus joy and sorrow meet.**

**I run to Christ when worn by life And find my soul refreshed.**

**“Come unto Me,” He calls through strife; Fatigue gives way to rest.**

**I run to Christ when vexed by hell And find a mighty arm.**

**“The Devil flees,” the Scriptures tell; He roars, but cannot harm.**

**I run to Christ when stalked by sin And find a sure escape.**

**“Deliver me,” I cry to Him; Temptation yields to grace.**

**I run to Christ when plagued by shame And find my one defense.**

**“I bore God’s wrath,” He pleads my case—My Advocate and Friend.**

## 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.**

## 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.**



## CLOSING HYMN

**Christ is With Me** *(CWS761) 3 Vs.*

**We were buried with him into death, That as he was raised by God's glory,  
We might walk in life made new by grace.  
Having died with Christ, we shall live with him.**

***Refrain:***

**Christ is with me ev'rywhere I go. Never to leave me, this I know.**

**I have now been grafted to the vine, Drawing life from roots rich in mercy,  
Bearing fruit as I abide in him: Fruit forever fresh, glorifying God. *[Refrain]***

**I have now been crucified with Christ. I no longer live; Christ lives in me.  
Now I live by faith in God's own Son, One who loved me so—gave himself for me.  
*[Refrain]***



## PERSONAL PRAYERS FOR COMMUNION

### *Before Communing*

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

### *After Communing*

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

## Treasurer's Report

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School  
For the Period Ending August 31, 2020  
(\$000) All amounts in thousands of dollars

YTD Cash Flow Summary Actual vs Budget			
Category	7/1/2020 - 8/31/2020 Actual	7/1/2020 - 8/31/2020 Budget	Favor- able / (Unfavor- able)
Jomax Inflow	48.9	41.2	7.7
Jomax Outflows	54.9	53.7	(1.2)
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(6.1)</b>	<b>(12.5)</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Vistancia Inflow	29.9	30.0	(0.1)
Vistancia Outflows	22.7	30.0	7.3
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>
School Inflow	94.0	96.0	(2.1)
School Outflows	95.1	95.5	0.4
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(1.1)</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>(1.7)</b>

Congregation Funds Statement					
	06/30/20 Balance	Surplus (Deficit)	08/31/20 Balance	Internal Loan	Adjusted Balance
<b>Operating Funds</b>					
General Fund-Jomax	(99.1)	(6.1)	(105.1)	105.1	-
General Fund-Vistancia	27.8	7.2	35.0	-	35.0
Preschool & LES	(0.3)	(1.1)	(1.4)	1.4	-
<b>Sub-Total Operating Funds</b>	<b>(71.5)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(71.5)</b>		<b>35.0</b>
<b>Non-Operating Special Funds</b>					
500 Anniv. Bldg Capital Fund	360.1	6.9	367.0	(106.5)	260.5
School Stabilization Fund	37.5	-	37.5		37.5
All Other Special Funds	40.6	(1.0)	39.6		39.6
<b>Sub-Total Special Funds</b>	<b>438.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>444.1</b>		<b>337.6</b>
<b>Total Congregation Funds</b>	<b>366.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>372.6</b>		<b>372.7</b>

#### Treasurer's Comments

- 1) Jomax YTD deficit of \$6.1k is \$6.5k lower than budgeted. However increased Jomax offerings are necessary to balance Jomax budget.
- 2) School YTD deficit of \$1.1k. Enrollment and tuition are higher than budget. It is anticipated that the School will have positive cash-flow this year.
- 3) Vistancia YTD surplus \$7.2k.
- 4) Internal loan from 500th Anniversary Fund to Jomax and School operating accounts totals \$106.5k.
- 5) Prayerful consideration of our stewardship commitment is necessary by all members. Pray that God will motivate us now and during our upcoming fall Stewardship campaign.

(detailed reports are available upon request)

# THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

September 22nd 9:30am	Women's Bible Study
September 23rd 10:00am	Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)
September 25th-27th	Men's Retreat
September 26th 6:00pm	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
September 26th 6:00pm	Vistancia Facebook Live
September 27th 9:00am	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
September 27th 9:00am	Worship Service (Online)
September 27th 10:30am	Sunday Morning Bible Study Christian Freedom
September 27th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

# LOOKING AHEAD

September 28th 6:30pm	New River Growth Group
September 29th 9:30am	Women's Bible Study
September 29th 10:00am	Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)
October 1st	Picture Day K-8
October 3rd 6:00pm	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
October 3rd 6:00pm	Vistancia Facebook Live
October 4th 9:00am	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
October 4th 9:00am	Worship Service (Online)
October 4th 10:30am	Sunday Morning Bible Study Christian Freedom
October 4th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

Jomax Worship Volunteers	September 20th	September 27th	October 4th	October 11th
Counters	Wempner/Freeman	Wempner/Wilson	Wempner/Brooks	Wempner/Schirripa
Cleaners	Ebel/Alcoba	Kelley/Koutia	Patterson	Ebel/Koutia
Communion Set-up	Lynn Wempner	Susie Cornell	Sharon Kull	Lynn Wempner
Ushers	Chris Patterson Caleb Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson	Cody Hall Larry Kennedy Zach Plitzuweit Tanner Plitzuweit	Steve Julian Al Alcoba Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson	Steve Julian Bill Grams John Kull Paul Pappenfuss

# Men's Retreat

This year the Men of COG are going off the grid September 25th-27th. This whole retreat will be spent outside with plenty of room to social distance. To learn more about the presenter and to sign up please contact Pastor Ehlers or view the weekly news.

## Announcements

\*\*\*\*New meditations have arrived and are located in the communications center. Please let Liz know if you would like one put in your mailbox.

\*\*\*\*New to the website is a page of spiritual and educational [resources](#). Included are free Sunday School lessons for children.

\*\*\*\* Please check our web page the most up to date information regarding Cross of Glory and the coronavirus/COVID-19.

\*\*\*\* We have several options for you to worship during these times. You may go to [crossofglory.online.church](http://crossofglory.online.church) to view our online services or worship in person (Jomax Campus) at the normal 9:00 am service time. You may also watch Saturday service live on Facebook Cross of Glory-Vistancia or in person (Jomax Campus) at 6:00pm. All of our Services can be found for later viewing on our website under the Message tab, either Facebook Site or YouTube.

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Foxen and Pastor Ehlers will take turns teaching Sunday Morning Bible Study. The topic for this Bible Study is Christian Freedom. All are welcome to join. The class will start Sunday, September 13th, at 10:30am.

## ONE CHURCH....TWO LOCATIONS

### JOMAX CAMPUS - NEWS

#### Mom's Bible Study (Via Zoom)

Wednesdays at 10:00am  
(Please let Liz know if you would like to attend)

#### Women's Bible Study

September 22nd, 9:30am



### VISTANCIA CAMPUS - NEWS

#### Vistancia Zoom Call

Sunday 7:00pm

#### New River Growth Group

September 28th, 6:30pm

# 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.*

**Donna Ditter**, Mother of Elizabeth Simkauskas and Joel Ditter, as she recovers from reconstructive and knee replacement surgery.

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

**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.

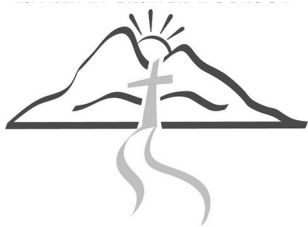
**E6 Specialist Staff Sgt. Austin Seignious**, grandson-to-be of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at El Paso, TX Ft. Bliss Army Base.

**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.



**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.