

1010

for

Week One

OPEN HEARTS

Firstfruits Giving



Sunday, October 11, 2020



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 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!



Today we begin a three-week stewardship emphasis. The word stewardship is often seen as a dirty word—a gimmick to get people to dig deeper and “give ’til it hurts.” Nothing could be further from the truth!

Instead, stewardship is a precious word that sums up the Christian life. It encourages us to be who we truly are in Christ: Precious people who have been richly blessed by a Father who knows how to give good gifts to his children!

Christians face a daily struggle. We have two paths set before us. The New Man, created within us at baptism, wants to live for Christ and the life that is to come. But our sinful nature focuses us on this life. That struggle pulls us in two directions when it comes to how we set our priorities or use our time. The struggle is especially noticeable when we wrestle with how to use the financial resources God has given us.

The Lord speaks about worldly wealth and possessions in over 2,300+ passages of Scripture. In other words, God speaks to us about worldly wealth roughly three times more often than he does about faith! Why? So that God can get to the “heart of the matter.” Money and possessions are God's gifts to us. Sadly, human hearts often lust after these gifts and forget about the Giver. What heartache comes from a love affair with money and possessions! What good can result for us, for the Church, and for the world as we put the Giver first—offering back to him the **FIRSTFRUITS** of all that he has entrusted to us. God is many places. Second place in our hearts dare never be one of them!

Christ's willing sacrifice for us is our motivation and inspiration to give back to God. May he open the hearts of his people to offer him our first and our best!

Our worth will follow this path.

- Week One: OPEN HEARTS (Firstfruits Giving)
- Week Two: OPEN MINDS (Proportionate Giving)
- Week Three: OPEN HANDS (Sacrificial Giving)

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN:

All Depends on Our Possessing | CW421 4 Vs.

All depends on our possessing God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart. They who trust with faith unshaken
In their God are not forsaken And e'er keep a dauntless heart.

He who to this day has fed me And to many joys has led me
Is and ever shall be mine. He who ever gently schools me,
He who daily guides and rules me, Will remain my help divine.

Many spend their lives in fretting Over trifles and in getting
Things that have no solid ground. I shall strive to win a treasure
That will bring me lasting pleasure And that now is seldom found.

Well he knows what best to grant me; All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day. I shall doubt his wisdom never--
As God wills, so be it ever -- I to him commit my way.

INVOCATION

(Spoken Responsively)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

C: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

M: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

C: One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

M: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

C: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

CONFESSION OF SINS

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we humbly come before you today knowing that we have failed to speak lovingly, think purely, or act rightly. We have sinned against you and against others... ..in wasting the precious time you give us.

C: ...in our slowness and hesitancy to spread your Gospel.

M: ...in the faithful care of our relationships.

C: ...in our restless and relentless preoccupation with worldly wealth.

M: ...in caring for the bodies and minds you have given us.

C: ...in our refusal to make you our first priority.

Silence for personal reflection

M: Hear our confession, for we have sinned and are in need of your mercy and forgiveness.

C: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n and earth
2 The wealth of earth, of sky, of sea,
With lav - ish wealth be - fore you bow;
The gold, the sil - ver, spark - ling gem,
Those trea - sures owe to you their birth,
The wav - ing corn, the bend - ing tree
So rich - ly fur - nished for us now.
Are yours; you are but lend - ing them.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O Lord, giver of life and source of all love, we know that all we have received comes from your gracious hand. Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send your Holy Spirit to work through us, that many more might come to know the saving riches of your Son. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of your Son in our hearts, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Haggai 1:1-11

The Lord asks his people to give careful thought about the relationship between their finances and their faith

¹In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: ²This is what the LORD Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD’s house.’” ³Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” ⁵Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” ⁷This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD.⁹“You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. ¹⁰Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. ¹¹I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands.”

LES KINDERGARTEN CHOIR

God You Give Me Many Things

(Video)

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 12:13-21

Jesus teaches it is the height of folly to live for this temporal life, forgetting of the eternal life that is to come.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’” ¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’” ²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’” ²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

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 almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

What is the World to Me | *CW477 4 V.s.*

What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure
When you, and you alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!

The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty,
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize Above all things is he,
My Jesus, he alone. What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth And all that money offers,
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good; Content with it I'll be;
My Jesus is my wealth -- What is the world to me!
What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally.
Once more then I declare: What is the world to me!

SERMON

Giving to God Doesn't Make a Bit of Sense!

Haggai 1:1-11

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

SONG OF THE SEASON

Facing a Task Unfinished 4 V.s.

Facing a task unfinished That drives us to our knees
A need that, undiminished Rebukes our slothful ease
We, who rejoice to know Thee Renew before Thy throne
The solemn pledge we owe Thee To go and make Thee known

Where other lords beside Thee Hold their unhindered sway
Where forces that defied Thee Defy Thee still today
With none to heed their crying For life, and love, and light
Unnumbered souls are dying And pass into the night

Refrain:

We go to all the world With kingdom hope unfurled
No other name has power to save But Jesus Christ The Lord

We bear the torch that flaming Fell from the hands of those
Who gave their lives proclaiming That Jesus died and rose
Ours is the same commission The same glad message ours
Fired by the same ambition To Thee we yield our powers *[Refrain]*

O Father who sustained them O Spirit who inspired
Savior, whose love constrained them To toil with zeal untired
From cowardice defend us From lethargy awake!
Forth on Thine errands send us To labor for Thy sake *[Refrain X 2]*

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Lord God, you created the heavens and the earth.

C: Every animal of the forest is yours as well as the cattle on a thousand hills.

M: Lord, from your hand comes boundless riches.

C: We thank you, Lord, for making us your stewards. We pray that you will grant us faith so we can please you in our stewardship.

M: Lord, help us to see the time, the talents, and the financial resources we have are a sacred trust from you.

C: We ask for your help, Lord, to use all our resources in worthwhile activities that will give you honor and praise.

M: Lord, help us to spend time in your Word and in prayer that you might nourish the faith you give us.

C: Please change us, Lord, from fear and selfishness to trust and generosity.

Special prayers and petitions may be offered here.

M: Help us, Lord, to be wise and fruitful stewards of the opportunities that you give us to use our gifts.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken in Unison)

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.

BIBLE STUDY: Firstfruits Giving

I. INTRODUCTION

? What comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”? When you heard that we would be talking about stewardship for three weeks, what was your response?

It is easy to think of “stewardship” as being a discussion about money. Consider the following quote:

Stewardship isn't a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship is the Christian life. After all, what is stewardship except that God has entrusted to us life, time, talents, money, possessions, family, and his grace? In each case, he evaluates how we regard what he has entrusted to us—and what we do with it.

(Randy Alcon in Money, Possessions, and Eternity, p. 140)

**Stewardship = Management of the _____ of the
_____ + _____ + _____ + _____
that God gives me**

? If “stewardship is the Christian life,” why will a modern stewardship study need to focus on money, perhaps more than ever before in history?

Psalm 20:7

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

? Complete: Stewardship does not just give the LORD honor. It demonstrates that we _____ him.

II. FIRSTFRUIT BASICS

Stewardship = Management of the _____ of the
_____ + _____ + _____ + _____
that God gives me

Proverbs 3:9

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

- ? When God calls for firstfruits giving in that passage, what is the amount he asks for?

Deuteronomy 26:8-10

So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me.

- ? Again, no amount is stipulated for this firstfruits offering. What is stressed is the attitude. How would you characterize the attitude of the Israelite when he brought his firstfruits offerings?

Mark 10:21-22

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth

- ? This man had claimed to follow all of God's law. Was God actually *first* in his life? Give the reason for your answer.

The focus of firstfruits giving is not on _____ but on _____.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

- ? Do you believe the passages above are literally true? If so, how does that have to affect the way you approach stewardship?

John 1:2

He [Jesus] was with God [the Father] in the beginning.

John 3:16

For 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.

Romans 5:8

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- ? What do these passages teach us about how God gives.

God gave us his _____ and gave us his _____.

Romans 7:18

For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Galatians 5:24

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

- ? These passages teach:

Through my sinful nature, _____ assures that God will always come anywhere but first.

Through the Spirit we are _____ to give in a way that glorifies God—Creator, Savior, Spirit.

As God's children, he comes first!

The Challenge

If you are not in the spiritual habit of giving to the Lord first, it is time to reconsider that habit. The First Commandment dictates that we are to *fear, love and trust in God above all things*. Firstfruits giving helps us do exactly that. It tangibly puts God first.

III. NEWS AND NOTES

- Every member will receive a *10 for 10* commitment card. Keep it in a safe place and begin to pray about it. Do not fill it out yet! Instead, this first week, invest yourself in praying about why you do or do not practice firstfruits giving. If you do, is your attitude correct? If you do not, ask yourself: does God ever command something that isn't meant to be a blessing for me? *"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine"* (Proverbs 3:9-10). That's God's promise to you!
- Over the next couple weeks, we will talk about how to respond to God's love and grace in our stewardship. At the end of this three-week emphasis members will be asked to fill out those cards, which are a ten-week giving plan.
- Additional devotional material has been/will be shared. Read. Ponder. Pray.

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:

All Depends on Our Possessing | CW421 1 Vs.

**If on earth my days he lengthen, He my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding; Safe I anchor in his grace.**

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.

Growth Groups

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Topic: Christian Freedom

Sundays at 10:30am In Person or Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74701697177?pwd=OFp0WHhjMVZBN3pzVEZEQm9zVWZtUT09>

Meeting ID: 747 0169 7177

Passcode: 7t71C8

Vistancia Weekly Devotion

Sundays at 7:00 pm via ZOOM
(if interested in joining contact
Pastor Ehlers)

New River Growth Group

Topic: Follow Me-Who Is Calling Us to Follow Him?
Sept.28th, Oct. 12th & 26th
6:30-8:00pm

Mom's Growth Group- Ally Kelley

Wednesdays at 10:00am Via Zoom
(Please contact Liz if you want to be added to this meeting)

Ecclesiastes- Kugler Group

Mondays at 7:00pm Via Zoom
Starts 10/5/2020

Grams Growth Group-The Story of Joseph

Tuesdays at 6:30pm at Gram's House
Starting 9/29 for 10 Weeks

Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 9:30am at Karen Jurado's House

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

October 12th	No School
October 12th 6:30pm	New River Growth Group
October 12th 7:00pm	Kugler Growth Group– Ecclesiastes
October 13th 9:30am	Women’s Bible Study
October 13th 6:30pm	Church Council
October 13th 6:30pm	Grams Growth Group– The Story of Joseph
October 14th 10:00am	Mom’s Bible Study (Via Zoom)
October 15th 7:00pm	Call Meeting for Principal
October 15th-16th	PT Conferences– Preschool NO SCHOOL
October 16th	Coyote for a Day
October 16th	LES NO SCHOOL
October 17th 6:00pm	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
October 17th 6:00pm	Vistancia Facebook Live
October 18th 9:00am	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
October 18th 9:00am	Worship Service (Online)
October 18th 10:30am	Sunday Morning Bible Study Christian Freedom
October 18th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

LOOKING AHEAD

October 19th 7:00pm	Kugler Growth Group– Ecclesiastes
October 20th 9:30am	Women’s Bible Study
October 20th 6:30pm	Grams Growth Group– The Story of Joseph
October 21th 10:00am	Mom’s Bible Study (Via Zoom)
October 21th 11:30am	Early Dismissal– Teacher Inservice
October 22nd 7:00pm	Board of Ed
October 24th 5:00pm	Trunk or Treat
October 25th 9:00am	Worship Service at Jomax w/Communion
October 25th 9:00am	Worship Service (Online)
October 25th 10:30am	Sunday Morning Bible Study Christian Freedom
October 25th 6:00pm	Devotion Pastor Ehlers (Via Zoom)

Special Announcements

Call Meeting for Principal

We will begin calling again for a permanent principal this year. Our first (and, God-willing, last!) meeting will be on Thursday, October 15, at 7:00pm. Please join us as we consider the candidates from our district president and ask the Holy Spirit's blessing on this process. Attending via Zoom will be an option.

Voters' Meeting on October 25

Our next quarterly meeting will be on October 25 at 10:30am after church. As in the past, we will set this up for attendance both in person and via zoom.

Volunteers Needed

Mrs. Rachel Severeid is looking for a volunteer or two to help her with correcting papers for her students. If you'd like to help out in this way, please contact her at rachel.severeid@crossofglory.org.

Stewardship Sundays

This Sunday we will be beginning a 3-Sunday focus on stewardship. You should have already seen some information about this in the monthly news and mailed to your home. The Sunday themes will be the following:

- Open Hearts – Firstfruits Giving
- Open Minds – Proportionate Giving
- Open Hands – Sacrificial Giving

Keep an eye on your inbox and mailbox for more information regarding this special worship focus!

Trunk Or Treat

Trunk or Treat will be held October 24th at 5:00. All are welcome to participate. Please Sign up online to participate.

Hearing Assistance During the Service

Cross of Glory is going to test and maybe purchase a new hearing assistance system. You will be able to better hear the service through earphones attached to a portable receiver you take to your seat. The receiver will also transmit the sound directly to your hearing aids, if your Telecoil channel has been activated by your audiologist. That means you will not need to remove your hearing aids or wear headphones. The receiver is about the size of a small cellphone. However, you do not need to have hearing aids to try the unit.

ONE CHURCH...TWO LOCATIONS

JOMAX CAMPUS - NEWS

Women's Bible Study

Topic Starting October 13th: 'In God's Orchard' Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life
All are Welcome!
Tuesdays 9:30am @ Karen Jurado's House

Call Meeting

October 15th 7:00pm

Voters Meeting

October 25th 10:30am

Trunk or Treat

October 24th



VISTANCIA CAMPUS - NEWS

Vistancia Zoom Call

Sunday 7:00pm

New River Growth Group

October 12th 6:30pm

Voters Meeting

October 25th 10:30am

Halloween Drive-Thru

October 30 5:00pm

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 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.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	October 11th	October 18th	October 25th	November 1st
Counters	Wempner/Schirripa	Wempner/Cornell	Wempner/Freeman	Wempner/Wilson
Cleaners	Ebel/Koutia	Plitzuweit/Moe/ Peterson	Piepenbrink/ Pappenfuss	Martins/Ehlers
Communion Set-up	Lynn Wempner	Susie Cornell	Sharon Kull	Lynn Wempner
Ushers	Steve Julian Bill Grams John Kull Paul Pappenfuss	Bill Brooks Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger	Gary Jeffers Grant Stern John Wempner Kelly Simpson	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson

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.

Marilyn Bagwell, sister of Sharon Kull, was recently diagnosed with cancer. May the Holy Spirit continue working in her heart and protect and care for her and perhaps cure her if that is his will.

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.

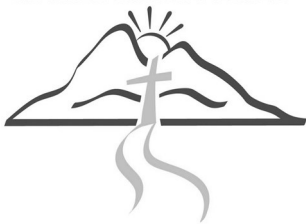
E6 Specialist Staff Sgt. Austin Seignious, grandson-to-be of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at El Paso, TX Ft. Bliss Army Base.

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.

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.