

*Unity
in the
House
of
God*



Ascension
Sunday, May 16, 2021
Full Script



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

623-224-8839

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

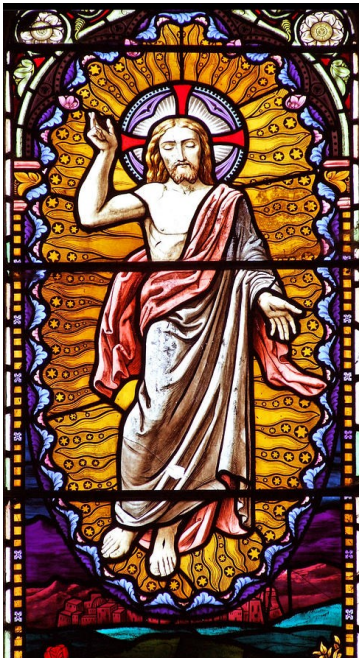
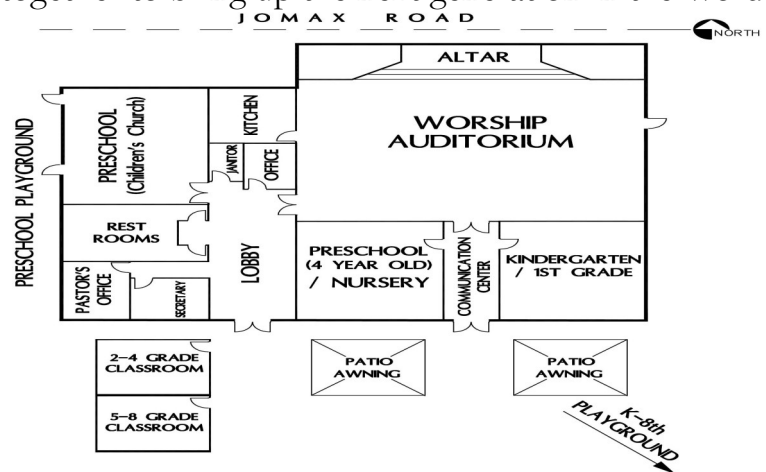
Welcome to our Worship Center! God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

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



Ascension Day marks the coronation of Jesus, our Prophet-Priest as King. Today we see his enthronement in glory and power to rule all things for the Church. Even at this late date, the disciples failed to understand Jesus' mission. So Christ opened the Scriptures to them to show once more that this was the Christ as prophesied. He told them, "This was the way it had to be! And you, you are now well-informed witnesses of the fact that I am both Lord and Christ." Finally, his disciples understood: There was no more doubting, no more fearing, no more worry. Christ is God. They worshipped the God-Man and watched him depart with his hands raised in unending blessing. No wonder they went home rejoicing! No longer would they hide behind locked doors; no longer would they cower; no longer would they fear the Sanhedrin. Instead they would fill the temple with public praise, because Christ was God! Their rabbi, their friend, their brother...he was God and ruled all things for his Church.

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).

Ascension Festival Service

 **OPENING HYMN** A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (CW171) 3 V.s.

A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod,

Ascends unto the throne of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The holy apostolic band Upon the Mount of Olives stand,

Alleluia! Alleluia! And with his followers they see

Their Lord ascend in majesty.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

To them the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"

Alleluia! Alleluia! "This is the Savior," thus they say.

"This is his glorious triumph day."

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.

DIALOGUE FOR THE ASCENSION—*Selected Verses from the Psalms* (Spoken Responsively)

M: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

C: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

M: How majestic is the Lord's name in all the earth!

C: He has set his glory above the heavens.

M: For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.

C: He is exalted far above all gods.

M: God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

C: God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

M: The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.

C: He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

M: The throne of our God will last forever and ever.

C: A scepter of justice will be the scepter of his kingdom.

M: Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

C: His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (CW171) 1 V.s.

"You see him now, ascending high Up to the portals of the sky."

Alleluia! Alleluia! "Hereafter Jesus you shall see Returning in great majesty."

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Lord Jesus, King of glory, you have ascended far above the heavens, and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

HYMN OF RESPONSE

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (CW171) 1 V.s.

Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our future great reward.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Then, throned with you forever, we

Shall praise your name eternally. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

VERSE OF THE DAY

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation (CW171))

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia. *(Matthew 28:20b)*

Sung by the Congregation:

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to you let earth accord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:44-53

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.



SERMON HYMN

Oh How Good It Is 3 V.s.

**Oh how good it is When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit In faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence Here among us.**

Refrain:

**So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
And with one heart we'll live out His word
Till the whole earth sees The Redeemer has come
For He dwells in the presence of His people.**

**Oh how good it is On this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy And weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength The afflicted find grace
When we offer the blessing Of belonging. [Refrain]**

**Oh how good it is To embrace His command
To prefer one another Forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one We all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father And the Spirit. [Refrain]**

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” ⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

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

THE 2nd Article OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

(Spoken Responsively)

M: 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.

C: 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.

M: *What does this mean?*

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

M: He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

C: All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.



SONG OF THE SEASON

Before the Throne of God Above | 3 Vs.

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea,
a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands, my name is written on his heart;

I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the Just is satisfied to look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable "I AM," the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

(Spoken by Minister)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father's majesty, power, and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

C: We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.

M: O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.

C: Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.

M: O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

C: Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.

M: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

C: You are our Lord, Master, and King.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

~Silent prayer.~

M: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

C: Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

(Spoken by All)

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

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus | CW169 3 Vs.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, his the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:

"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to you from day to day.

Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea

Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him When the forty days were o'er,

Shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

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.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

May 19, 6:30 p.m.	Grams' Growth Group
May 19, 6:30 p.m.	BIC Class - Pastor Foxen
May 20, 10:00 a.m.	Mom's Growth Group
May 20, 7:00 p.m.	Board of Ed
May 21, 6:15 p.m.	COG Drama Night
May 22, 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
May 22, 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service (Facebook Live)
May 23, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Jomax)
May 23, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Online)
May 23, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Vistancia at New River)
May 23, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
May 23, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School

LOOKING AHEAD

May 24, 6:30 p.m.	Grams' Growth Group
May 26, 6:00 p.m.	Preschool Closing Program
May 27, 6:30 p.m.	Grade school Closing Service
May 28, 11:30 a.m.	Early Dismissal– Last Day of School
May 29, 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service at Jomax
May 29, 6:00 p.m.	Worship Service Jomax Facebook Live
May 30, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service at Jomax
May 30, 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service (online)
May 30, 9:30 a.m.	Worship Service Vistancia (New River)
May 30, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Bible Study
May 30, 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School

Call Meeting

At our recent voters' meeting, we approved a school budget that provided funding for a release time teacher for our new principal as well as a music teacher. These are both part-time positions that we need to issue calls for. At its most recent meeting, the Church Council set a call meeting for **Sunday, June 6, at 11:30 am**. A couple of names have also been recommended by the Board of Education and Church Council to fill these positions - Kim Pappenfuss for the release teacher, and Becky Foxen for the music teacher. Other names may also be put forward. If you'd like to do so, please submit the name in writing to one of the pastors so it can be sent on to our district president, who creates our call lists.

Congratulations to Our 2021 Confirmation Class!



Meditations & Used Meditations

New *Meditations* are in your box if you ordered them, or you can find a copy in the entry on the bookshelf. Please let us know if you desire to be on the list to receive quarterly *Meditations*. Each subscription costs \$20 per year. This cost is not a line item in our budget, so a designated donation through your regular offering or by bringing a check to the office is appreciated. We still have time to order more. Please let Liz know by e-mailing cog.secretary@crossofglory.org.

When you pick up your next quarter's *Meditations*, drop off your used copy from the last quarter. There is a box next to the new *Meditations*. The WELS Prison Ministry appreciates this donation and distributes *Meditations* to prisoners who are always anxious to receive them. Thank you.

Vacation Bible School

This year VBS is July 26th-30th. If you are able to help please sign up in link from weekly news or let Liz or Pastor Foxen know. If you are wanting to register your child the link is available in the weekly news.

Private Communion

During this time, many have been watching our worship services online. We're glad we have this capability so that people can worship the way they are most comfortable. Unfortunately, people who watch online do not have the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper. If any would like to receive Communion in the home, please contact the office or one of the pastors, and one of them will happily set up a time to visit you so you can partake of this sacrament.

Vistancia News

Our first Month in New River went well. We had visitors that want to continue worship with us. We are going to continue worship at the Kiwanis park for the time being as we won't have a place to worship in Vistancia until August. If you are interested in joining us, the address is 48606 N 17th Ave, New River, Az. When using navigation, Google maps is the best choice, Apple may get you lost. Our service time is 9:30 a.m.

Communion will be at 9:00 a.m. on Communion Sundays in New River.

Counters

We need a few more volunteers for counting offerings after church on Sundays. If you are interested in helping count please contact John Wempner at jandlwempner@gmail.com.

Fellowship and Refreshments

We are thrilled that we will resume refreshments and fellowship following the service on Sunday, May 30. If you are interested in getting on the schedule to provide refreshments and clean up afterward, please contact Clara Naber at cnaber42@gmail.com.

Communion Setup and Altar Guild Leader

We need volunteers to help on the Communion set-up rotation and an Altar Guild leader to spearhead the changing of paraments. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lynn Wempner.

Church Cleaners

Cross of Glory is in need of a few more church cleaners for the rotation. If you are able to help, please contact Liz to add you to the rotation. If we have enough people, the rotation is once every two months. Contact Liz at cog.secretary@crossofglory.org.

Finance Manager Position

We are receiving applications for a finance manager. The deadline for applications has been extended. If you're interested in the position, you can get a full description from the office. Applications can be picked up at the office.

This position requires proficiency in MS Office and accounting software such as QuickBooks. The responsibilities include church/school accounting and billing; providing monthly reports for the treasurer, pastors and principal; and ability to learn new programs such as TADS and Realm. This person will be working directly with the treasurer to make sure all financial activity is organized and searchable.

Jomax Worship Volunteers	May 23rd	May 30th	June 6th
Counters	Wempner/ Schirripa	Wempner/ Brooks	Wempner/ Schirripa
Cleaners	Kelley/ Grams	Plitzuweit/ Peterson	Coates/ Simkauskas
Communion Setup	-	-	Sharon Kull
Ushers	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson	John Kull Kim Moline	Jon Naber Rich Kugler Kelley Simpson
Sunday Refreshments	-	Clara Naber	?

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.

Michelle Cappello, the wife of Mike Cappello and friend of Carol Hanes, has been in a coma since April 16.

Dave Sauer, Praises for the successful hip surgery after biking fall, prayers for continued healing.

Michelle Zane, who underwent successful knee replacement revision on February 23 and is now at home recovering.

Juanita Word, who is recovering at home after a fall.

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.

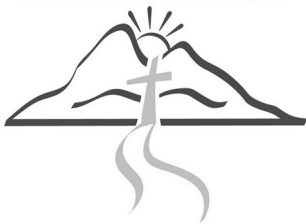
E6 Specialist Staff Sgt. Austin Seignious, grandson-to-be of Larry and Faye Kennedy, at El Paso, TX Ft. Bliss Army Base.

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.

Saturday Worship at 6pm (Jomax)
Sunday Worship at 9am (Jomax) 9:30am (Vistancia)
Bible Study Session 10:30am (Jomax)