

A Look into the Future

Confirmation Sunday *Sunday, May 8, 2022*



Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School

623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org

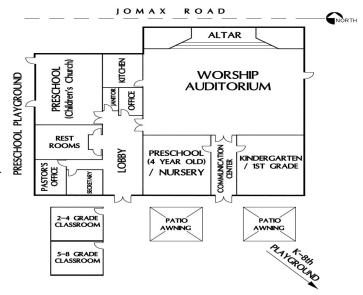
10111 W Jomax Road, Peoria, AZ 85383

Sun. 9am Worship

Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal **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. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!





The world is full of talkers. There are plenty of people who say they care about you. But we are aware of what many of those people will do when it comes time to put those words into action. Jesus tells you in his Word that he cares for you dearly... that he would do anything for you. How do you know you can trust him?

Jesus followed up his words with works. Jesus said he would suffer and die for you, so that you might enter Paradise. He fulfilled that promise. Jesus words are followed by works. He once illustrated that point in a striking metaphor, that of the Good Shepherd. All shepherds use words, calling to the sheep hoping they will follow. What sets the Good Shepherd apart is the fact that his words are followed by his works, including his willingness to lay down his life. Every word our Good Shepherd speaks to us is trustworthy!

In the sermon today based on the text from Revelation 7:9-17, we get a glimpse into that future God has promised for us fulfilled through the work of Jesus. As we ponder this bright future the Lamb has prepared for us, today, we celebrate the Confirmation of the youth in our congregation. If you are not familiar with our confirmation practices, please see the explanation following the order of service. Thanks be to God for bringing these confirmands to the knowledge of Jesus and giving them hearts to believe and mouths to confess their faith in Jesus. We pray that God enables them to continue to be steadfast, lifelong learners of his Word, shepherded by the Lamb until the day comes when all who have fought the good fight of faith will receive the crown of righteousness.

Acknowledgments

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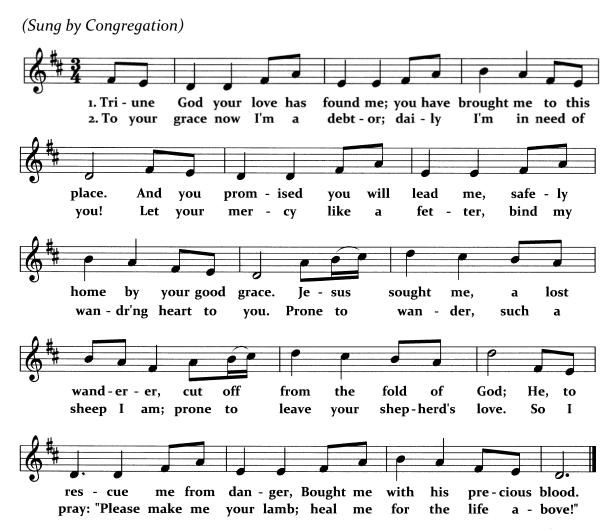
We Approach God

(Spoken/Sung Responsively)

M: O Creator, to you darkness is light, and a thousand years is as a day. Before we speak, you know our thoughts.

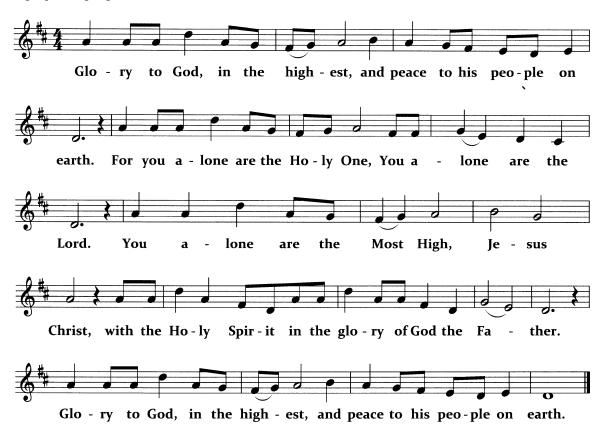
C: There is no place we can flee from your sight.

- 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."



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)



Catechism Review

(Spoken Responsively)

5th Commandment

M: You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

6th Commandment

M: You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

Prayer of the Day

(Prayed by Minister)

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading Acts 13:15-16a,26–39

St. Paul points out that Jesus' death and resurrection both fulfilled the Scripture. They prove not only that we are forgiven, but also that every promise God makes to us shall ultimately be fulfilled.

¹⁵After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak."

¹⁶Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said:

²⁶"Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. ²⁷The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised him from the dead, ³¹and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

³²"We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors ³³he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

" 'You are my son; today I have become your father.'

³⁴God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said,

"'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David."

³⁵So it is also stated elsewhere:

"'You will not let your holy one see decay."

³⁶"Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. ³⁷But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

³⁸"Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

Choir

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

The Children's Sermon

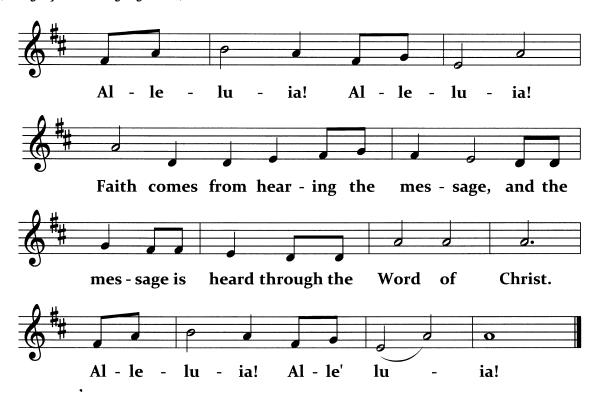
(All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)

Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia. (*John 10:14*)

(Sung by the Congregation)



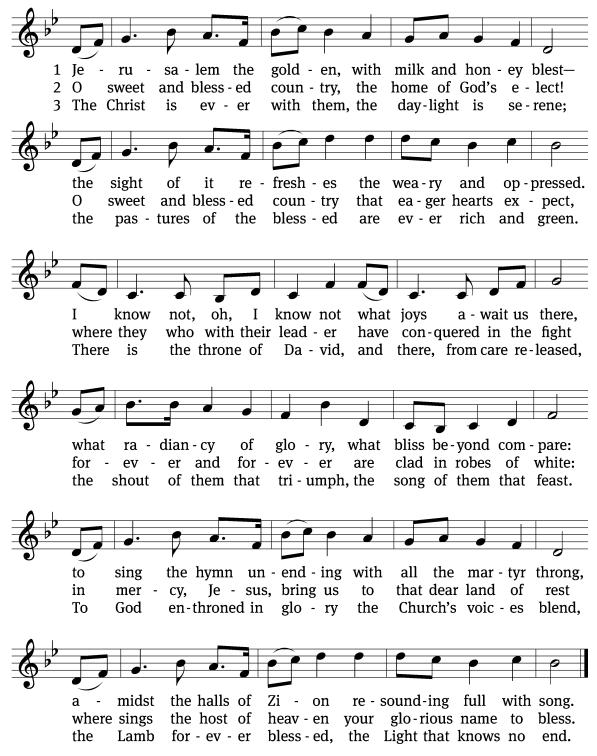
Gospel John 10:22–30

Both Jesus words and his works are identical to that of the Father, for he and the Father are one.

Therefore, the protecting hand of the Good Shepherd is almighty.

²²Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

²⁵Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."



Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr.

Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

A Look into the Future

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

"All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, "saying:

"Amen!

Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

¹⁴I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore,

"they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

164 Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat.

17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;

'he will lead them to springs of living water.'

'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Apostles' Creed

(Spoken in Unison)

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.

The Offering and Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

Rite of Confirmation

Kade Rock Ehinger

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Levi Andrew Foxen

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

Revelation 2:10

LES Choir All of Our Tomorrows

Prayer of the Church

(Prayed Responsively)

- M: Loving Shepherd of the sheep, fill us with contentment and confidence during this season as we celebrate your Easter victory. You laid down your life for the sheep and then rose again to assure us that you give us eternal life.
- C: Good Shepherd, save us.
- M: Strengthen our faith to follow where you lead, to the green pastures of your Word, the quiet waters of our baptism, and the gracious table of your body and blood where our cup overflows with your forgiving love. Guide us to find in you the gate that leads to safety and good pastures.
- C: Good Shepherd, lead us.
- M: Guard and protect us from those who want to lead us astray and snatch us out of your hand. Give us courage to fight against the devil and wisdom to recognize false teachers. Lead us to honor and follow those you have called to shepherd your flock, the Church.
- C: Good Shepherd, guide us.
- M: Let your rod and your staff comfort us and all your sheep in times of sickness and sadness and especially when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. May we find in your re-

demption and your Father's resolve the unbreakable promise that we will dwell in your house forever.

- C: Good Shepherd, console us.
- M: Move us to reach out to sheep who are not yet a part of our sheep pen but whom you have claimed as your own. Give us your passion to search for the sheep who are lost and lead us to rejoice when they have been found.
- C: Good Shepherd, inspire us.
- M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

~Silent prayer~

M: We thank you for all the blessings we have gained from your goodness: family and friends, wealth and health, work and leisure. Give us wisdom to long for and cherish your more precious gifts, your Word and sacraments, so that your goodness and love may follow us all the days of our life.

C: Good Shepherd, hear us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(Spoken in Unison)

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 (Spoken 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

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 I Will Serve the Lord

Confirmation at Cross of Glory

Lutherans are serious about instruction in God's Word.

We begin before children can talk, telling Bible stories and singing Bible songs to them. We know what the Bible says. "From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 *Timothy 3:15*).

Lutheran students in their middle school years often have intense study of the teachings of the Bible. They study Luther's Small Catechism, and they learn the Ten Commandments and what the Bible says about them, the Apostles' Creed and where every word of it is in the Bible, the Lord's Prayer, and what the Bible says about baptism, confession of sins and

forgiveness, and the Lord's Supper.

Instruction before taking the Lord's Supper is critical. "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:27,28).

Students are often ready to confess their faith in public during their 8th grade year. There was a time when 8th grade was the last year of formal schooling for many people. Even though the senior year in high school is more commonly the last year of formal schooling for people in the United States, the practice of getting ready to make a public confession in 8th grade is still common among Lutherans.

When students are ready to make that public confession, they participate in "confirmation." Confirmation gives students who have received basic instruction in the truths of God's Word the opportunity publicly to confess their faith before the church, to "confirm" their internal faith by their external confession.

The confirmation rite informs the congregation that these students have enough scriptural understanding and spiritual maturity to participate in the Lord's Supper. The congregation prays that the Holy Spirit will preserve them in faith to the end of their days.

After the rite of confirmation, students begin to take the Lord's Supper regularly and to participate more fully in the life of the congregation. Lutherans view confirmation as one more step of growth in the study of the Scriptures.

Reprinted Source: http://www.wels.net/what-we-believe/our-worship/confirmation/lutheran-confirmation By Rev. Paul Prange

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

May 11, 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

May 12, 9:30 a.m. Golden Agers Breakfast

May 12, 6:30 p.m. Vistancia Cornerstone Group

May 13, 10:00 a.m. Growth Group for Moms

May 15, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service w/ Communion (Jomax)

May 15, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (Live Stream Jomax)

May 15, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (New River)

May 15, 10:30 a.m. VBS Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD

May 19, 6:30 p.m. New River Cornerstone Group

May 22, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (Jomax)

May 22, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (Live Stream Jomax)

May 22, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service (New River) May 22, 10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Bible Study

Confirmation Open House

The Foxens are inviting the Cross of Glory congregation to their home on Sunday, May 8th, for an open house to celebrate Levi's confirmation. We know it's a busy Mother's Day, but we'd love for you to stop by sometime between 12-4 for a light lunch and refreshments. Our address is 11716 W Foothill Ct, Sun City, AZ 85373.

VBS Meeting

On Sunday, May 15 at 10:30, there will be a vacation Bible school meeting to discuss what everyone will be doing at VBS. We will need all leaders and helpers to attend this meeting.

Foxen Farewell

Please mark your calendars for May 22nd at 12:00 for the Foxen's farewell. Join us for a potluck to celebrate their new adventure and remember all the wonderful times they had with us.



Jomax Worship Volunteers	May 8th	May 15th	May 22nd
Counters	Sasse Nick Nickolai	Sasse Joel Ditter	-
Cleaners	Martins/ Ehlers	Coates/ Simkauskas	Plitzuweit/ Peterson/ Aguilar
Communion Setup	-	Shannon Gullerud	-
Ushers	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis	Jon Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson	Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger Kade Ehinger
Sunday Refreshments	Confirmation	Clara Naber	Foxen Farewell
A/V	Kelly Simpson Gus Koutia	Levi Foxen Isaac Patterson	Titus Patterson Pedro Contreras

Building Project Update

Our new building site is a frenzy of activity. The framing and sheeting are nearly complete. We've ordered the metal panels for the roof that will match our church building. The fire sprinklers are going in right now. Also, the electrical and plumbing are being "roughed in." The new building has 14 sinks and 17 potties. That's a lot of plumbing! Outside the final touches are being put on the athletic field sprinkler system as the field is getting leveled. Workers, assisted by our student body, will be laying down the sod next week, Lord willing.

Please continue to keep the workers in your prayers. May they be kept safe as they work to the best of their ability.

Sod is coming Monday if anyone would like to assist laying it contact Andrew Aguilar.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of more people to add to the church cleaning rotation. If we get three more teams, the rotation would be once every two months. Please let Liz know if you would like to be added to a team. Cog.secretary@crossofglory.org

We also need more counters in to rotation to count offerings on Sunday mornings right after church. Please contact John Kull at (858) 395-5666 or financialsecretary@crossofglory.org

Life Coaching Group

Topic: Cornerstone

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Mountain Vista Club

ıst & 3rd Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Kiwanis Club, New River

Location: New River Kiwanis Park, New River

1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Cave Creek

Course description: There are an enormous number of challenges that can occur in life from seemingly tiny to soul-crushingly overwhelming. The CORNERSTONE resilience system is designed to provide a specific set of steps to follow to put into perspective those things that seem unmanageable. Through six one-hour sessions, participants will learn and practice skills and benefit from the ideas of others in their quest to be more resilient and "bounce back" in difficulty.

Kids Klub (May)

Kids Klub is a free Sunday morning club for kids ages 3-11 and offers a fun hour of activity. See below for this month's schedule. Parents are welcome to stay with their children for the hour, or leave and come back at 11:30 to pick them up. Mr. Aguilar and the teen group kick things off with a fun singalong time. Each Sunday, a new Bible story will be taught and/or incorporated into the day's activity.

10111 W Jomax Road

10:30-11:30am

Sunday, May 15 - Science - Betsy Collins

Sunday, May 22 - Skit - Leslie Contreras

Sunday, May 29 - Craft - Andrea Semmann

Please let us know if you are able to attend by signing up. After May 29, Kids Klub will go on break for the summer.

Golden Agers Breakfast

The next Golden Agers breakfast will be held on Thursday, May 12, at 9:30. The location is Brothers Family Restaurant, 8466 W Peoria Ave, Peoria, AZ 85345. Please email Judy Sasse if you plan to attend. sasseja43aol.com.

Worship at New River

We are going to continue worship at the Kiwanis Park in New River. We will worship using remote access and/or prerecorded sermons. We will be asking the mission board to discuss making New River a mission start-up. 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.

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.

Karen Jurado, as she recovers from her recent hospitalization from low sodium levels.

Gerry Ehlers, the brother of Pastor Ehlers, who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and is undergoing treatments.

Pat Powell, as she recovers from back issues.

For the family of Gus Koutia in Lebanon, as they face a food shortage due to the interruption of imports from Ukraine.

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. 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.