

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Advent 1
Sunday, November 27, 2022

623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org

10111 W Jomax Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Rev. John Ehlers, Pastor
Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

WELCOME to our worship center

Blessed to be a member of



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.

Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory

ABOUT US

The continuing purpose of this congregation, as a gathering of Christians, is to spread to all people in God's world the glory of the cross of Christ, by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.

Today's Worship Focus



Come, Lord Jesus!

When Jesus comes back as judge, everyone will face one of two outcomes. Either they will be judged righteous and experience the peace and joys of Paradise. Or they will be judged wicked and suffer unquenchable fire (Matthew 3). John the Baptist's job was to point to the only way to prepare for a judgment, one where the stakes are that high.

Repent! And look to the Lord Jesus. For when Jesus came into our world the first time, it was not as judge, but as Savior. All those whose faith is in Christ have already been judged righteous. Please, take these words to heart: the reign of God draws near, and his judgment is inevitable. As John the Baptist once said, "All people will see God's salvation." The only question is if one sees Christ's second coming with joy or regret. For those who fail to repent, the coming of the Judge brings certain doom. But his people will see that Judge like a banner on the hilltop, rallying us to his glorious side.

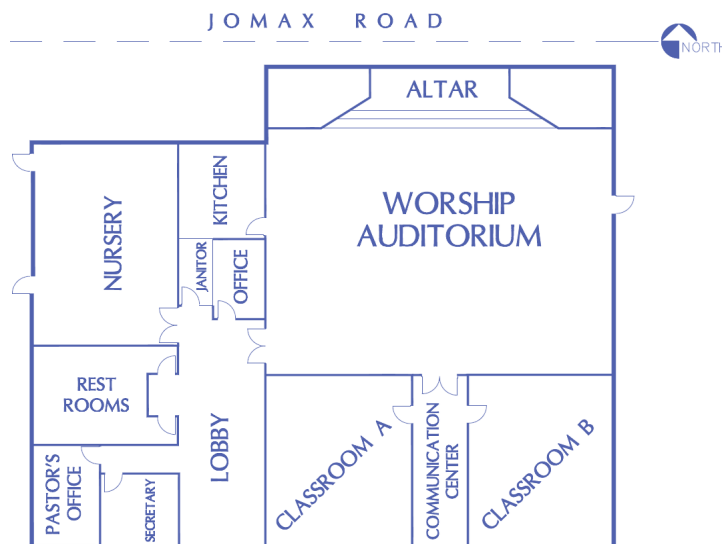
VISITOR INFORMATION

New to Cross of Glory? We are so glad you joined us today! We invite you to stay after the service to chat and join us for coffee time followed by Bible study.

Would you like to learn more about us? We'd love to get to know you better as well. Connect with Cross of Glory by either:

- Using the **friendship register** at the end of each row to connect with us today.
- Emailing us at church.secretary@crossofglory.org

CHURCH MAP



FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

- Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby.
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult directly across the lobby.
- **Children in Church Program:** Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. We encourage parents to guide their children through the service. We invite children to come forward for the Children's Message during the service. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!

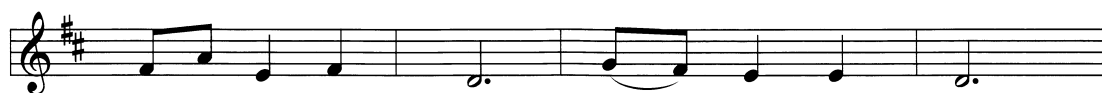
Advent: Lead Us to Your Light

Advent Gathering Rite

Choir sings refrain, Congregation repeats:



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark - ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

*Choir: Lord, we await your coming to our world;
bring us the gift of salvation.*

Congregation: Refrain

*Choir: Lord, you are hope and healing for our world;
come, now, and bring us your good news.*

Congregation: Refrain

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

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.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

M: The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom.

Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.



God's people long to gather together for strength from him and for mutual encouragement. The beginning of this worship service helps us prepare to celebrate Jesus' first coming, humbly born in a stable and second coming on judgment day returning as King of kings and Lord of lords.

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)



We call upon God to be present with us. We worship the triune God, remembering our Baptism in His name.



The title of this prayer is "Kyrie" in Greek meaning "O Lord". It is a cry to the Lord for help and strength. We use this prayer to plead God's mercy and repent of our sins.



Christ said to his disciples, "If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven". The pastor speaks for God and announces God's forgiveness to those who made confession.

M: May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

C: Amen.

Absolution

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. 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.

Congregation Sings:



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark - ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Choir: Come, O come, O come, Emmanuel;

Come with us on earth here to dwell.

Congregation: Refrain

Choir: Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber;

banish the darkness of night.

Congregation: Refrain

Choir: Child of the light and love beyond all telling,

fill our hearts with wonder and praise.

Congregation: Refrain

The Word

Prayer of the Day

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



The main thoughts of the day are collected or summarized in this short prayer.



God's people face the coming judgment not with fear but with hope because God has raised up the Root of Jesse as our Savior.

⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name."

¹⁰Again, it says,

"Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him."

¹²And again, Isaiah says,

"The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Advent Candle Lighting

My Soul in Stillness Waits CWH325

Congregation Sings:

Refrain

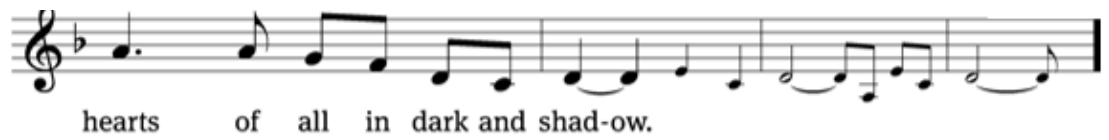
For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,

your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the



The Advent wreath reminds believers that our God grants new and everlasting life in Jesus. The wreath, a symbol of the victor, also reminds us of the crown of life that Jesus has won for us. The four candles in an Advent wreath emphasize the four week period of penitence and preparation during Advent, as we eagerly await the coming of the Light of the world to bring new life and hope.



M: We light one Advent candle now: the Prophets' Candle kindles bright.

C: Dispelling darkness, Jesus comes and warms us with his holy light.

M: We enter Advent's silence here; we pause and set this time apart

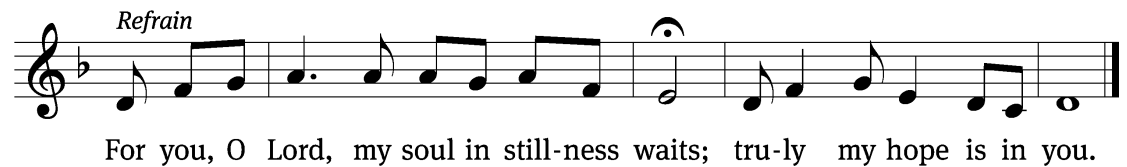
C: To search the ancient prophecies of hope for every human heart.

M: We think of Eden's promise sure; we think of Abram's starry night;

C: We think of David's greater Son, the Branch, the King of kings, the Light.

M: We hear Isaiah's prophecy, the promises of love and peace:

C: This Christ will come to rescue us, forgive, renew, and set us free.



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text and tune: © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

The Children's Sermon

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



To prepare us for the coming judgment, God sent John the Baptist, a voice in the wilderness, calling all to repent.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.' "

⁴John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Hymn of the Day: What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

CWH 304



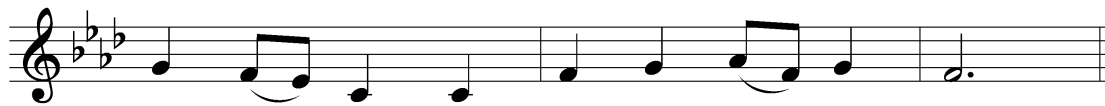
This hymn follows the theme of the readings and sets the stage for the sermon.



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied where
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, a
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, lost



tame live with the wild, the lamb and li - on
branch from Da - vid's line, a Prince of Peace in
came to suf - fer loss, that by his death a
Par - a - dise re - store; lead past the an - gel's



side by side, led by a lit - tle child!
Beth - le - hem: the fruit of God's de - sign.
dy - ing world would ral - ly to the cross.
flam - ing sword—come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716 Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Come Lord Jesus!

Isaiah 11:1–10

As Judge



In the sermon the Pastor proclaims God's Word and applies that word to modern life and problems. He stresses both what God demands of us (the Law) and what God does for us through Jesus Christ (the Gospel).

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.



After hearing the word of God, the worshiper responds with this confession of faith.

The Apostles' Creed, developed over hundreds of years in the early Christian church, is a brief and simple statement of gospel truths taught by the apostles. Christians used it to tell others what they believed and also to confess their faith with one another as they met for worship.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

The Apostles' Creed

**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.

Song of the Season: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

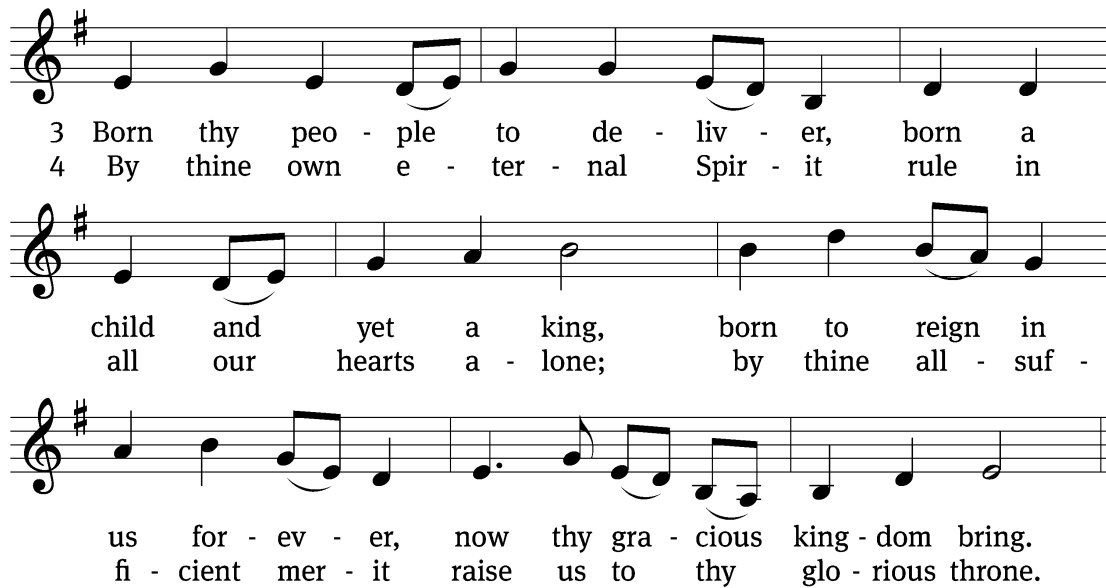
CWH 322

Soloist sings Vs. 1 & 2; Congregation joins for Vs. 3 & 4

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

Congregation joins:



3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in
child and yet a king, born to reign in
all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -
us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, ed. William Walker Text and tune: Public domain



This is a hymn selected for the current church season that is generally new to our congregation, usually introduced first by a soloist, and repeated for several weeks to assist the congregation in learning the hymn.



Offering and Offering Prayer

(Prayed by Minister)

Prayer of the Church

(Prayed Responsively)

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

The gifts of God's people are a response to God's blessings.



The apostle Paul encouraged young Pastor Timothy: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people". (1 Timothy 2:1)

*We speak to God as
our Father as Jesus
taught us. (Matthew 6)*

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

M: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

C: Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

~Silent prayer~

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**



The **Aaronic Blessing** is the blessing that Aaron and his sons were to speak over the people of Israel, recorded in Numbers 6:23–27. The pastor offers the same blessing to the congregation as they are about to conclude their worship.

Blessing

M: 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: Behold, a Branch Is Growing

CWH 360



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1–2): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599. Text and tune: Public domain

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Worship Volunteers	November 27th	December 4th	December 11th
Counters	Bill Brooks Harry Novak	Judy Sasse Susie Cornell	Joel Ditter Nancy Schirripa
Cleaners	Plitzuweit/Peterson Aguilar	Kelley/Grams	Ehlers/Martins Sterns
Communion Setup	-	Sharon Kull	Sharon Kull
Ushers	Len Collyard Nick Nickolai Steve Semmann Sharon Wilson	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis	Jon Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson
Sunday Refreshments	Stacy Aguilar Karen Goelzer	Ally Kelley Sharon Wilson	Mary Berggren Shannon Gullerud
A/V	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Shannon Gullerud Aaron Gullerud	Stacey Cornell Issac Peterson

Mommy & Me

The Next Mommy & Me will be a "Happy Birthday party for Jesus" on December 7th starting at 9am.

Advent by Candlelight

Advent by Candlelight will take place Sunday, December 4, at 3pm. If you'd like to be a table hostess please reach out to Karin Hansen (karinwedeking@hotmail.com) or Tracy (church.secretary@cog.org) in the church office and we will get your name in the appropriate slot. Each table will seat one hostess plus seven guests. Please use the QR code to view available slots below and to sign up to attend Advent by Candlelight Thank you!



Tree Lighting Ceremony

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be December 3 from 6p-8p in Vistancia at the Mountain Vista Club. Please contact Dean Ellis at deanellis33@gmail.com for further information

Volunteers are needed to sing Christmas carols and hand out information about our upcoming church services.



To all the Cross of Glory members and visitors.

Thank you so much for all who participated in the Thanksgiving Potluck last Sunday. We are all truly blessed!



December 17: 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. PreK Christmas Services

December 18: 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Day School Christmas Programs

December 24: 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

December 25: 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service (live-streamed)

Donation Confusion

We have received an offering in the form of a check from “Wells Fargo Clearing Services.” We thank you for the check. But the check and stub have no indication of who the donor is so that we can give proper credit. So, if this check came from you, please let us know who you are by getting in touch with our financial secretary, John Kull. He can be reached in person, by phone at 858-395-5666, or via e-mail at john.kull@cox.net.

FREE Books: Learn a Lutheran Response to Evolution

You can request three free printed books (32 to 48 pages each). Choose from 13 titles, including the following: “Did Dinosaurs Roam the Earth?” “Conversation With an Atheist,” and “Christian Doctrine in Genesis.” Request yours at www.LutheranScience.org/FreeBooks or by writing to the WELS group (include your address): Lutheran Science Institute, 13390 W. Edgewood Ave, New Berlin WI 53151. This offer expires February 28, 2023. This offer is subject to change without notice.

Thank you,
Mark Bergemann, President

Lutheran Science Institute (LSI)
WELS affiliated ministry

mbergemann@LutheranScience.org
www.LutheranScience.org
414-339-3925

2023 Men of His Word Conference

The second annual Men of His Word Conference will be held at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday, January 21, 2023. The theme of the one-day conference is “Man up! In a man-down world.” The day will include an inspirational keynote speaker, as well as smaller breakout discussion groups on different topics. All Cross of Glory men are encouraged to attend and invite a friend for this encouraging day. You can get more information and register at www.menofhisword.org/2023-phoenix.html

Weekly News QR code



ACSTO

Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization

The end of the year is coming to a close! We have a custom Cross of Glory link that will make donating your tax dollars a little easier this year! For more information on how to donate or how the tax credit works, get in touch with Elizabeth Simkauskas.

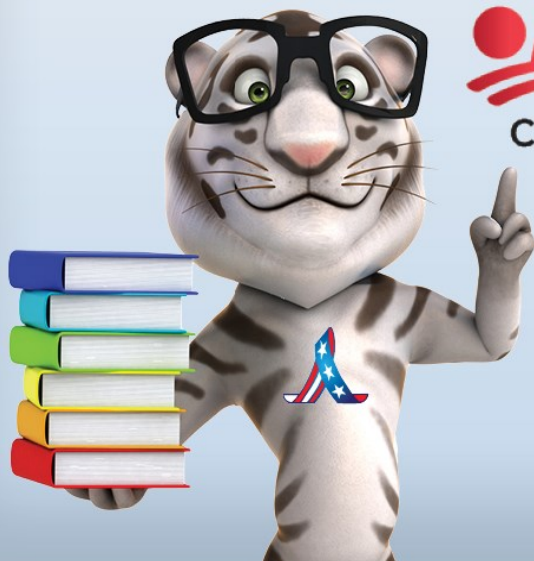


WE HAVE A HELPING PARTNER!



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Up to 4% of your purchase ANYTIME supports Cross to Glory Lutheran School!



Purchases **ONLINE**, at any store,
or over the phone,
all count!

During check-out, mention
our school or
ID: **CGLPAZ**

AFW.com 1-800-992-7997

**Thank you for supporting
Cross to Glory Lutheran School!**

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.

Velta Larson, as she regains her strength

Gerry Ehlers, the brother of Pastor Ehlers, who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and is undergoing treatments. The cancer is spreading, and he began intense treatments on May 10 for three months.

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.