

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Epiphany 3
Sunday, January 22, 2023

623-224-8839 ♦ www.crossofglory.org

1011 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



The prophet Isaiah vividly described humanity as “people walking in darkness.” We are completely enveloped by sin and suffering and death. Worse, when we honestly assess the content of our minds and hearts, we find darkness there too. However, the prophet also foretold that within this deep darkness, a light would shine. The light would be so brilliant that it would be impossible to miss. As Jesus began his teaching and preaching ministry, that prophecy was fulfilled. Today Jesus continues to shine his light by preaching repentance and the good news of the nearing kingdom. He invites us to live a life that is illuminated by him. He calls us to walk in the light of love for God and for the brothers and sisters around us. Our Savior is the Light of the world, and so we shine his reflected light onto everyone around us.

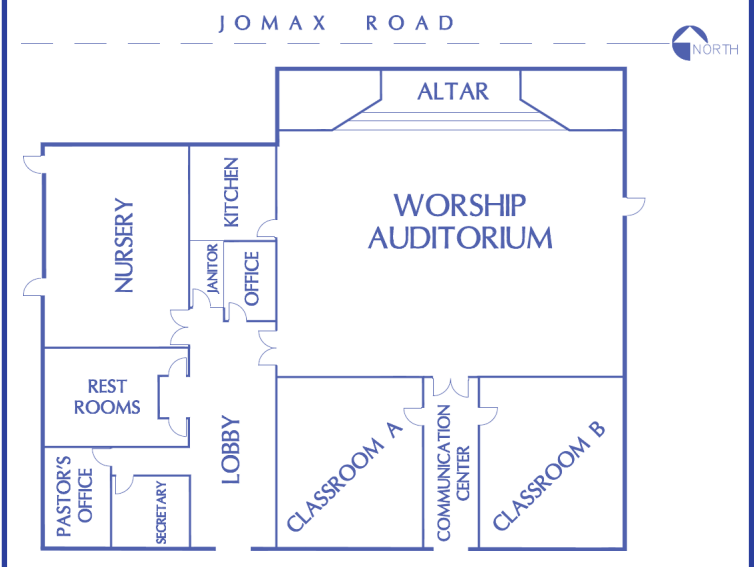
VISITOR INFORMATION

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!

Service Setting 3

Opening Hymn: The People Who Walked in Darkness

CWH 382



Hymn of praise, prayer,
or reflection on the
season of the church
year.

We follow the advice of
the Apostle Paul to
“teach and admonish
one another with all
wisdom through
psalms, hymns, and
songs from the Spirit,
singing to God with
gratitude in your
hearts.”

(Colossians 3:16)



1 The peo - ple who walked in dark - ness a - wak - en to
2 For God has en - larged the na - tion and pros - pered the
4 For us now a child is giv - en, for all the de -
5 How vast is our God's do - min - ion! How far truth and



see a great light. The peo - ple who dwelt in the
fruit of its land. God's peo - ple are blest with the
spised and for - lorn. The rule of com - pas - sion shall
mer - cy ex - tend. The zeal of the Lord will ac -



land of the shad - ow rise to a star shin - ing bright.
har - vest of vic - t'ry, gift from a boun - ti - ful hand.
rest on his shoul - der. God's own Mes - si - ah is born.
com - plish its pur - pose: jus - tice shall reign with - out end.



His name is Won - der-ful, Coun - sel - or, Al-might - y God,



Fa - ther for - ev - er, Prince of Peace. Won - der-ful, Coun - sel - or,



Al-might - y God, Fa - ther for - ev - er, Prince of Peace.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Tune: Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952
Text and tune: © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

Invocation

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

C: Amen.



We call upon God to be
present with us. We
worship the triune God,
remembering our Bap-
tism in his name.



"If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just
and will forgive us our
sins and purify us from
all unrighteousness."
(1 John 1:9)

Christ said to his disci-
ples, "If you forgive
anyone his sins, they
are forgiven". The pas-
tor speaks for God and
announces God's for-
giveness to those who
made confession.



This hymn of praise
gives the congregation
the opportunity to
praise God and express
joy because Jesus is our
victorious Savior.

Confession and Absolution

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

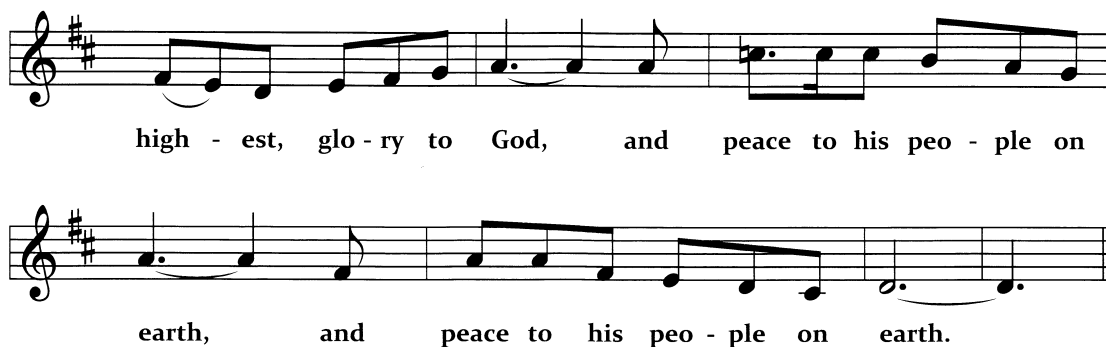
M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

Sung by Soloist and Repeated by Congregation

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth, and peace to his peo - ple on
earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ. with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men. Glo - ry to God in the



The Word

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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.

First Reading

Isaiah 8:19—9:4

¹⁹When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. ²¹Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. ²²Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

¹Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

³You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.



The prophet foretold that the people walking in darkness would see a great light.

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

Choir

Shines the Light

Children's Sermon

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



A verse from the Holy Scriptures is usually spoken to capture the theme of the service.

Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Alleluia.

Congregation Sings:



As Jesus began his preaching ministry in a world filled with unbelief, the prophecy was fulfilled. A brilliant light shined through the darkness.

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they

were fishermen. ¹⁹“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²²and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Hymn of the Day: O Christ, Our True and Only Light

CWH 904



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



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, en - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray that they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold, re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more such grace with



those who sit in night; let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; en - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way; let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to your fold; u - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore and end - less praise to



hear your voice and in your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed in you find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part, con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
you be giv'n by all your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann Heermann, 1585–1647
Tune: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Jesus Appears as the Light in the Darkness

1 John 2:3–11

³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.



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).

⁹Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.



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.

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.**



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.

Song of the Season: Arise, Your Light Is Come

CWH 387



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken-heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Tune: William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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Offering and Offering Prayer

(Prayed by Minister)



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

Prayer of the Church

(Prayed by Minister)

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)

The Lord's Prayer

(Prayed in Unison)

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

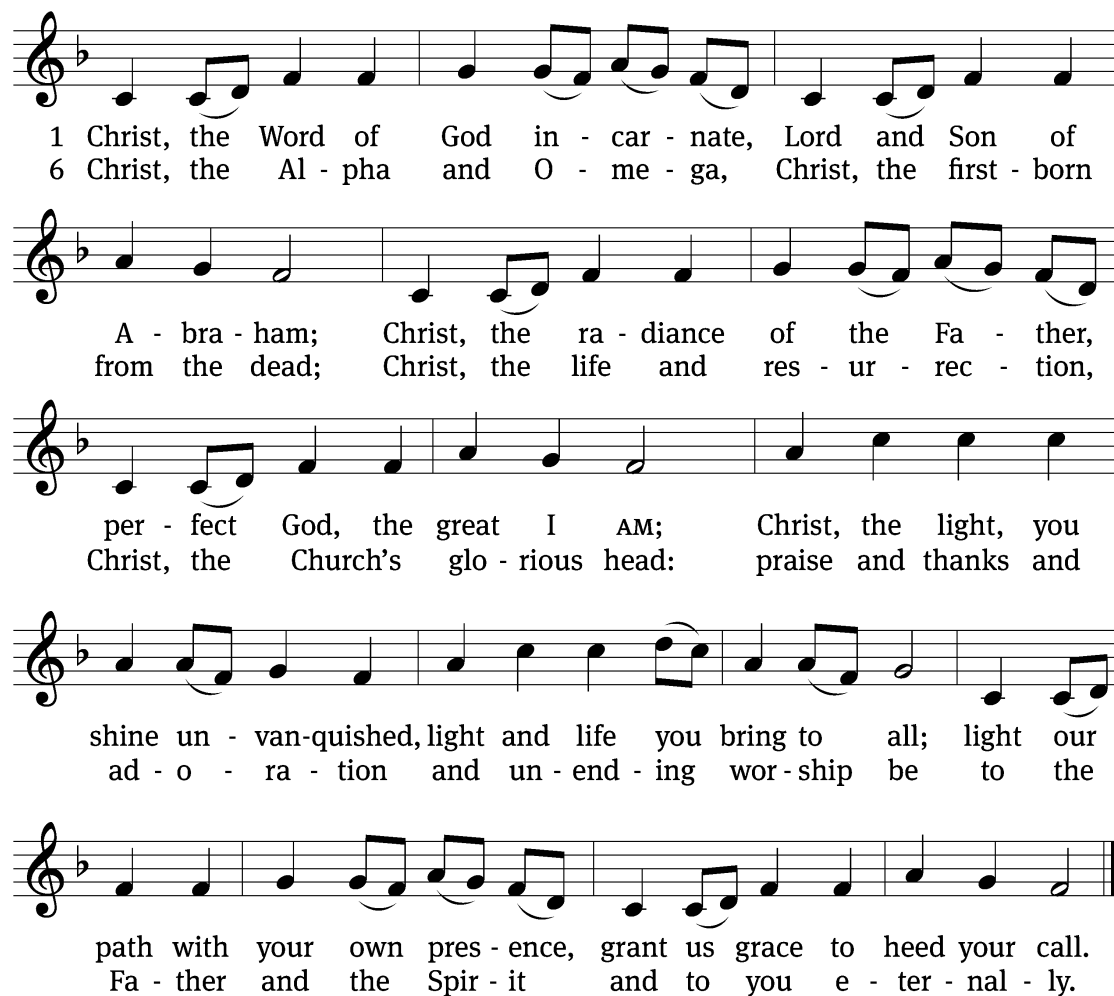
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

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.



*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.*



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of
6 Christ, the Al - pha and O - me - ga, Christ, the first - born

A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
from the dead; Christ, the life and res - ur - rec - tion,

per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, you
Christ, the Church's glo - rious head: praise and thanks and

shine un - van-quished, light and life you bring to all; light our
ad - o - ra - tion and un - end - ing wor - ship be to the

path with your own pres - ence, grant us grace to heed your call.
Fa - ther and the Spir - it and to you e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Steven P. Mueller, b. 1964 Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinatti, 1825, ed. William Moore
Text: © 2001 Steven P. Mueller. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716 Tune: Public domain

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Worship Volunteers	January 22nd	January 29th	February 5th
Counters	Bill Brooks Harry Novak	Judy Sasse Susie Cornell	Joel Ditter Nancy Schirripa
Cleaners	Kelly Grams	Ehlers Piepenbrink	Coates Simkauskas
Communion Setup			Sharon
Ushers	John Kull Kim Moline Dean Ellis	Jon Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson	Brian Ehinger Jake Ehinger Trey Ehinger Kade Ehinger Bill Brooks
Sunday Refreshments	Kathy Collyard Andrea Semmann	Paula Considine	Clara Naber
A/V	Kelly Simpson Pedro Contreras	Shannon Gullerud Rene Koutia	Titus Patterson Issac Patterson

25th Anniversary Celebration RSVP information

25th Anniversary Celebration
 March 5, 2023
 Anniversary service at 4:00 p.m.
 Dinner follows the service

Please RSVP for the dinner by February 6. You may sign up online through the Sign-up Genius link (also in the weekly news) or on the sheet provided in the entrance to the church.

Weekly QR Code

Please check your email or use this QR Code for all other announcements



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 in May.

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.

Susan Cornell, for healing from the side effects of shingles.

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.