Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School



Christian Education Sunday Sunday, January 29, 2023

623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org 10111 W Jomax Road Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

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

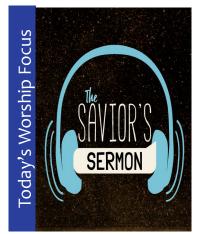
WELCOME to our worship center

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.



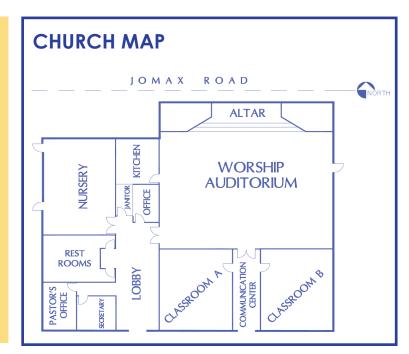
Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with a series of blessings. "Blessed are..." Jesus says, again and again. In the Latin Vulgate, these all begin with the word "beati" which translates as "blessed" or "happy." Thus, this portion of the sermon is often called "The Beatitudes." It had to give Jesus' listeners pause. For what Jesus calls blessed, the world never would. The world praises the strong and the self-sufficient. Jesus calls blessed what others would see as weak or stupid. But, like any good preacher, Jesus is trying to drive home one crucial point. The weaker you are, the more ready you are to rely on God's strength. The more difficult your present circumstances, the likelier you are to yearn for future reward. All the readings for today teach this truth. We have no real strength or wisdom of our own. But we don't need it. Because God's strength is enough to give the kingdom of heaven to the humble and poor in spirit.

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



Blessed to be a member of

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

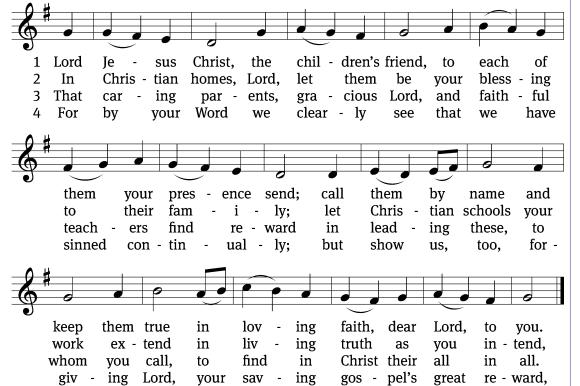
- **Restrooms** with changing tables located in lobby.
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult directly across the lobby.
- Children in Church Program: Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. We encourage parents to guide their children 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 of Celebration and Reverence

If you turn to the back cover of this service folder, you'll see that our goal at Cross of Glory is that everything we do should focus on spreading the Word of God to our community. A primary component of our preaching and teaching is our Preschool & Elementary School which exists to help parents in their God-given duty of teaching the faith to their children. Today, we focus on Cross of Glory's commitment to **Christian Education** as part of the objective Christ gave us to preach the Word.

Opening Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend

CWH 910



That all of us, your children dear, by Christ redeemed, may Christ revere. Lead us in joy that all we do will witness to our love for you.

Text: Henry L. Lettermann, 1932–1996 Tune: William Knapp, 1698–1786 Text: © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716 Tune: Public domain

We Approach God

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(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.



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)

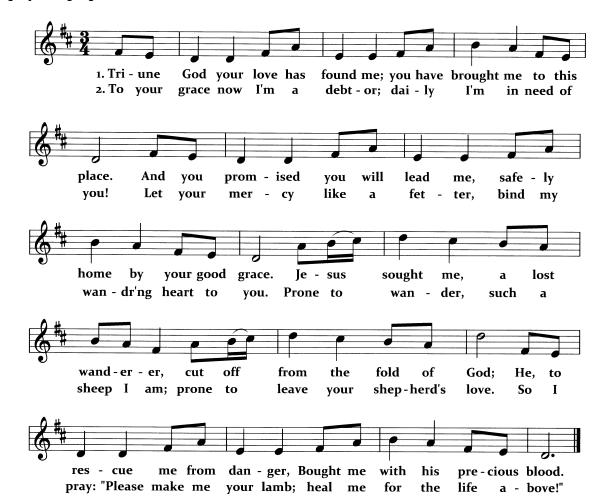


We are able to approach the eternal, almighty Triune God because he is the God of undeserved love the God of Grace.

We confess our sins to God confident he will forgive us because he has promised, "If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

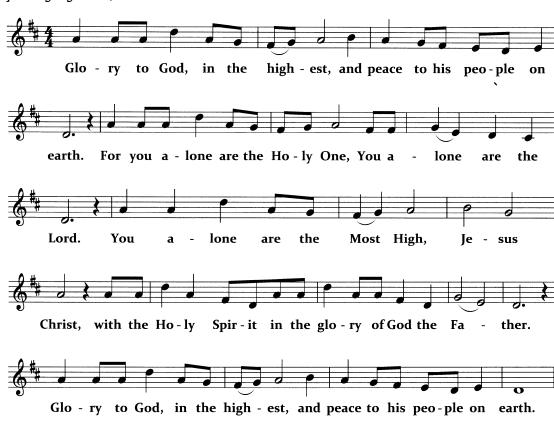
- C: We have been arrogant to challenge your laws. We have been foolish to excuse our lust for more as a basic human need. We have blamed our unhappiness on others. Our self-centeredness is the worst affliction on earth and we no longer deny it.
- M: O God of wisdom, we have wandered from your ways. 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."

(Sung by Congregation)



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.

The song of confession is taken from Isaiah 64 which reminds us that "all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;", but along with Isaiah we acknowledge through his Word, that our God is able to mold us into the humble servants he wants us to be. (Sung by Congregation)



Catechism Review: 7th & 8th Commandment

(Spoken Responsively)

M: You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

- C: We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.
- M: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. *What does this mean?*
- C: We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

Prayer of the Day

(Prayed by Minister)

M: Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



This hymn of praise gives the congregation the opportunity to praise God and express joy because our debt of sin was paid by Jesus, our victorious Savior.

For five centuries, Martin Luther's Small Catechism has served as the basic instruction book for the church. It directs us to God's Word and points to the only source for spiritual life, the Means of Grace: the Word and Sacraments. As lifelong students of the Catechism, we review these important truths from God's Word as we continue to grow in a deep appreciation for all that Jesus has done as our Savior.

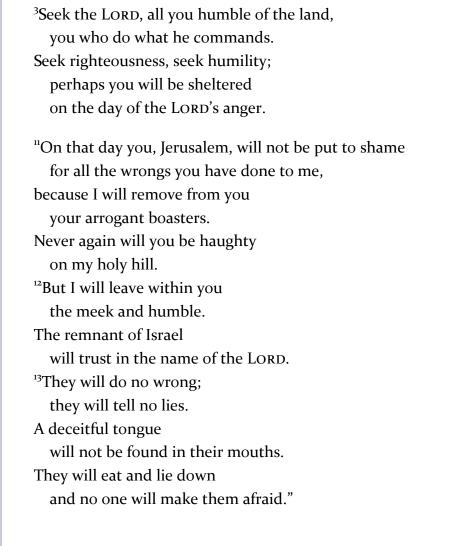


The main thoughts of the day are collected or summarized in this short prayer.



First Reading

The LORD promises that those who are humble, who trust in his strength rather than their own, will not be put to shame.

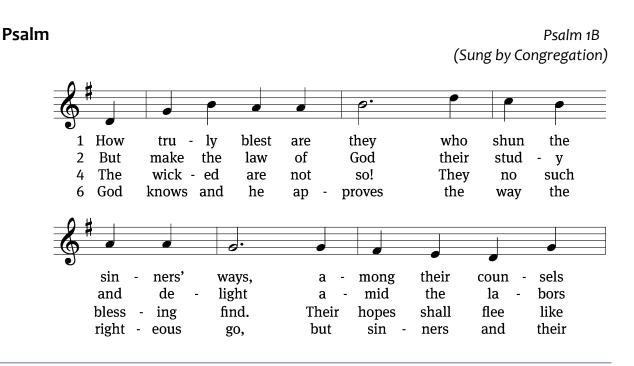


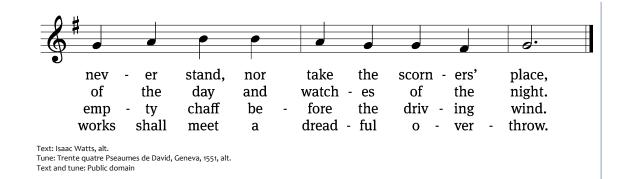
The Children's Sermon

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



The Book of Psalms was the Old Testament hymnbook, prayer and liturgy book. It was used by worshipers at the temple. Many of the Psalms are the basis for our hymns and part of our liturgy is taken from the Psalms. The word "Psalm" comes from the Greek and means "a song sung to the accompaniment of a stringed instrument."





Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

(Sung by the Congregation)



Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them.

He said:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
⁵Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the earth.



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

The sung response is taken from Romans 10:17.



In the Beatitudes Jesus shows us the outcome of a life that is lived trusting in God's strength.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,

for they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,

for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon Hymn: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

CWH 523



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

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Sermon

Trust in God's Strength

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

²⁶Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

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.

Song of the Season: Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert CWH 379

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

Christ, your footprints through the desert led to Jordan's flowing stream; there you heard the herald crying Israel's old, prophetic dream: "He is coming! He is coming!

In the sermon the Pas-

tor 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 Gos-

pel).

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.



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. He will cleanse the earth with flame! Sinners, plunge beneath the waters! Wash away your guilt and shame!"

Christ, you heard the stirring summons as by Jordan's bank you stood; bathed, though sinless, with your people in the river's cleansing flood. High above, the heavens opened; came the Spirit as a dove; spoke a voice beyond all hearing: "See my Son, the One I love!"

Congregation Sings:



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The Offering and Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

~ During the Offering, you will hear songs by the children of Cross of Glory School ~

Pre-K: This is the Day

Grades 1-2: Dearest Jesus



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

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Christian Education

- M: Eternal Father, your Word is a lamp for our feet and a light to our path. You inspired the Scriptures for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that your servants might be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- C: Lead us to love your Word more and more and to receive your message with great eagerness.
- M:You have given us your Word that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in his name. Enable us to see the wonders of your love in Christ from the beginning to the end of your holy book.
- C: Help us to see Jesus, the pioneer and perfector of our faith.
- M: Work in all your people, especially in parents, the resolve and patience to teach little children the simple truths about the Savior who loves them. Walk with us as we take our children to the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb. Let them find Jesus in stories, songs, and prayers.
- C: Move us to bring up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- M: Provide wisdom and commitment to teachers who train our young people in Sunday Schools and youth Bible classes. Deepen their knowledge of your Word as they prepare and share the lessons they teach. Move them to model a sincere devotion to the Scriptures.

C: Lead us to plan for and support the Christian training of children.

- M: We thank you for enabling our congregation to provide elementary and secondary education for our children. We know our schools are your special blessing, and we pray for the resolve to establish and maintain standards of excellence in all aspects of education. Move us to be generous in our offerings so that teachers may teach and students may learn in fitting surroundings.
- C: Lead us to provide Christian schools that reflect the immensity of your love.
- M: Work in us that we may find the lasting value of growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Lead us to be faithful in our personal study of the Scriptures and in participating in regular Bible classes. Rid us of all thoughts that Christian education ends in our youth. Make us life-long students of your precious Word.
- C: Lead us to believe that at every age your Word remains a lamp for our feet and a light to our path. Amen.

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



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.

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.

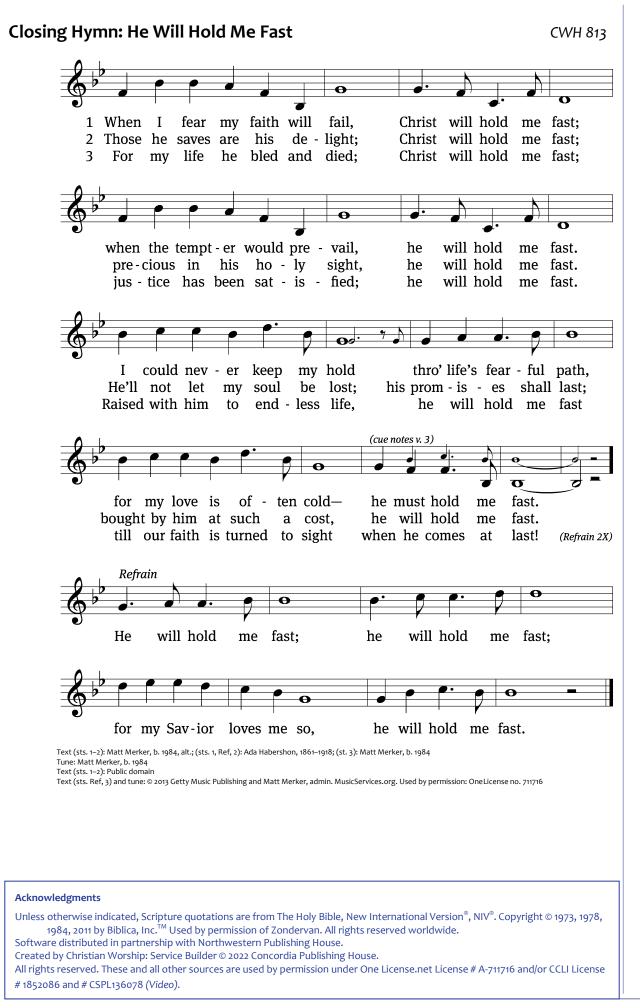
The Lord bless you and keep you.

- 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.



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.



Worship	January	February	February
Volunteers	29th	5th	12th
Counters	Judy Sasse	Joel Ditter	Nick Nicholai
	Susie Cornell	Nancy Schirripa	Norm Voigt
Cleaners	Ehlers	Coates	Patterson
	Martins/ Sterns	Simkauskas	
Communion Setup		Sharon	
Ushers	Jon Naber	Brian Ehinger	Aaron Gullerud
	Rich Kugler	Trey Ehinger	Dave Goelzer
	Kelly Simpson	Kade Ehinger	Karen Goelzer
		Bill Brooks	Michael Ryan
Sunday	Paula Considine	Clara Naber	Rene Koutia
Refreshments			
A/V	Shannon Gullerud	Titus Patterson	Rene Koutia
	Rene Koutia	Issac Patterson	Gus Koutia

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



What does this Church-School teach?

Do you need a refresher course? Well, you are in luck because Pastor Ehlers is holding a special two-hour class just for you. The "Bible Overview" class is scheduled for Saturday, January 28th starting at 9:00am. This class covers the foundational teachings that our church and school teach, and explains the WELS. We want to be absolutely transparent about who we are and what we teach.

Please use or share the attached QR code to sign up for this free class

What does this Church-School teach [2]?

If you had to take the same exam that the confirmands do at their examination, could you pass with at least a 75% mark? Maybe its time for a refresher course. u

As a follow up to the "Bible Overview" class we are offering in January, Cross of Glory is also hosting a "**CoG 101** (Christ our Life)" class scheduled to start on Monday, February 13th at 6:30pm and run for **6 weeks.** In this class you will dig deeper into God's Word and learn what we believe about God (the Apostle's Creed), and about the **Sacraments** (Baptism and Holy Communion), This class can also be used as a review or refresher of what we teach.

Please use or share the attached QR code to sign up for these classes.

Voter's Meeting Today

Some major decisions will be made at the voters meeting. Below are some of the topics that will be discussed.

- 1.) Decision about the future growth of the school
- 2.) Final decision on having a contemporary service
- 3.) Election of new officers
- 4.) Decision about maintenance needs

Zoom Meeting ID: 472 559 7458 Passcode: JnDW9s







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.