

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 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.

Worship Focus

HIS FINAL STEPS

In the 40 days of Lent, along with many other Christians throughout the world, we consider the season of Lent to be important because it provides the opportunity—often through special, midweek worship services—to focus attention on the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. It is a time to receive, reflect and be comforted. It is our opportunity to soak in the Passion History as it's read and hear the old, old story that gives us so much peace. Rejoice that God loved you enough to do it all to win your salvation.

During this season of Lent, we will walk with our Savior on the final steps of his journey to the cross. How humbling and comforting to learn that Jesus knew exactly what lay ahead. Yet Jesus took his final steps to the cross for you and for me!

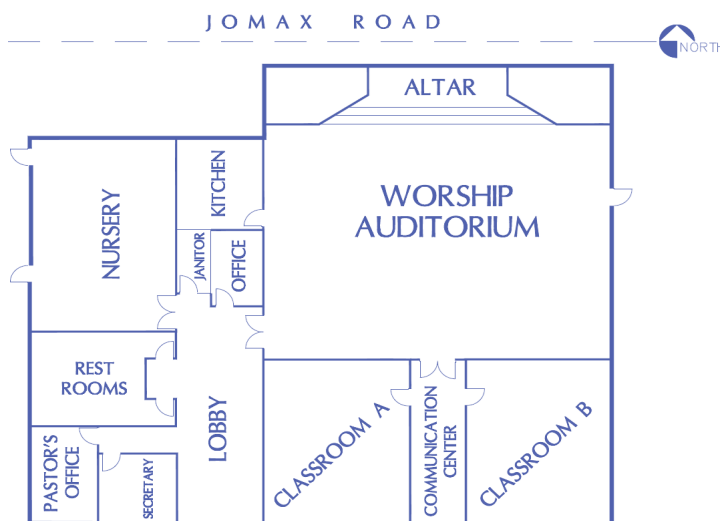
VISITOR INFORMATION

New to Cross of Glory? We are so glad you joined us today!

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.

Ash Wednesday Service

Opening Hymn: Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

CWH 873



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)



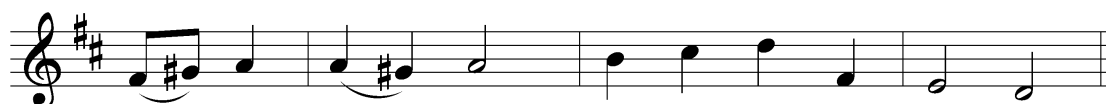
1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; from your sleep a -
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares lest a - sleep he
3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world with its lies de -
4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, lest with grace you



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day un - a -
find you; for in - deed no pains he spares to de -
feat you lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled it be -
tri - fle; let not self your thoughts con - trol nor God's



wares o'er - tak - en; for the foe, well we know, is a
ceive and blind you. Sa - tan's prey oft are they who se -
tray and cheat you. Watch and see lest there be faith - less
mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin lurk with - in, all your



har - vest reap - ing while the saints are sleep - ing.
cure are sleep - ing and no watch are keep - ing.
friends to charm you who but seek to harm you.
hopes to shat - ter; heed not when they flat - ter.

Text: Johann B. Freystein, 1671–1718, abr.; (sts. 1, 3–4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-book, 1907, alt.
Tune: adapt. William H. Monk, 1823–1889; Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien, Dresden, 1694
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession of Sins and Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

C: we have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

M: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiv-
en. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in
newness of life.

C: Amen.



“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.



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.”

Psalm

Psalm 4C
Sung in Unison

1 O God, be gra - cious; hear my prayer, and
 3 When ter - ror wakes me from my dreams and
 4 Some fear that you will not pro - vide; they
 5 Now lay me down to sleep in peace; in

an - swer when I cry. You give me hope in
 shakes me through and through, teach me to pray with
 cry, “Show us your face!” But you have sat - is -
 safe - ty let me rest. O God, with - in your

my dis - tress; you will not pass me by.
 con - fi - dence and put my trust in you.
 fied my heart with good - ness, joy, and grace.
 lov - ing care I am for - ev - er blessed.

Text: David Gambrell
 Tune: Thomas Tallis, alt.
 Text: © 2011 David Gambrell, admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716
 Tune: Public domain



The main thought of the psalm are collected or summarized in this short prayer.

Psalm Prayer

M: Grant peace to your people, Lord, that amid the stresses of life, we may rest quietly, knowing all is right with you. Since your Son has paid for every sin, defeated every enemy, and rules at the right hand of your throne in heaven, let us fall asleep each night in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



Each week during the midweek Lent services, the minister reads from the Bible a portion of Jesus' Passion history. The readings take us through the events of Holy Week—from Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his crucifixion on the cross.

Passion History

The Passover and the Lord's Supper



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



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, may we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, may we grow till



and in - crease, fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



rich in love and joy and peace.
pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
heav - en's love and joy and peace.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

Tune: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

Sermon

His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree

Mark 11:12-14,20-25

A fig tree cursed to prove the danger of unfruitfulness.

A fig tree used to prove the power of prayer.

¹²The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

²⁰In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. ²¹Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

²²"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. ²³"Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."



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).



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)

The Offering and Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

Prayer

(Read Responsively)

M: Gracious Lord, according to your will and promise,

C: you sent your Son into our world to atone for sin and restore eternal life.

M: You planned his path to the cross,

C: and he followed it perfectly.

M: He confronted the blindness of unbelief, the confusion of doubt, and the hurt of death

C: but was not deterred as he proclaimed your kingdom to the least, the last, and the lost.

M: As we hear and contemplate the holy record of our Savior's passion and death,

C: use the sharp message of the law to empty us of pride and self-reliance.

M: Humble us as we view the Savior in his humility,

C: remembering and believing that he endured the cross so we might be freed from its horror.

M: In his suffering show us our healing,

C: in his grief show us our joy,

M: and in his death show us our life.

C: Hear our prayers, Lord, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(Prayed 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.

The Sacrament

Preface

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The pastor and people prepare to celebrate the Holy Meal by greeting each other and with an exhortation as how to celebrate the meal.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me. ~



The pastor speaks the words which Jesus spoke when he instituted the Supper with his disciples in the Upper Room. With these words the bread and wine are consecrated, that is, set apart for God's use in this special meal.

Distribution of Sacrament

We follow the Scriptural practice of **CLOSE COMMUNION**. If you have not communed here prior to today, you should speak with our pastor before the service. We would like to help you establish the unity which comes from a common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) before expressing that union together at the Lord's Table. It is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God's Word. Those who have established that connection as members of sister WELS or ELS congregations may register at the sanctuary entrance podium. Thank you for honoring our practice.



This is a hymn sung by
the congregation dur-
ing the distribution of
the Lord's Supper.

Distribution Hymn: Christ, the Life of All the Living

CWH 396



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
2 Thou, ah! Thou hast tak - en on thee bonds and stripes, a
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly that my wounds might
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round thee, treat - ing thee with



death, our foe, who, thy - self for me once giv - ing
cru - el rod; pain and scorn were heaped up - on thee,
all be whole; thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
cru - el scorn, and with pierc - ing thorns they crowned thee.



to the dark - est depths of woe: through thy suf - f'rings,
O thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst thou my
rest to give my wea - ry soul; yea, the curse of
All dis - grace thou, Lord, hast borne that as thine thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
soul de - liv - er from the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
God en - dur - ing, bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
might - est own me and with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.

Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee

that from pain I might be free;

falsely did thy foes accuse thee: thence I gain security.

Comfortless thy soul did languish

me to comfort in my anguish.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction

and hast borne it patiently,

even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me.

Thou didst choose to be tormented

that my doom should be prevented.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
 for thy sorrows deep and sore,
 for thine anguish in the garden, I will thank thee evermore,
 thank thee for thy groaning, sighing,
 for thy bleeding and thy dying,
 for that last triumphant cry and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Ernst C. Homburg, 1605–1681, abr.; (sts. 1–2, 5, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 3–4, 6): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, alt.
 Tune: Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Blessing

(Spoken by Minister)

M: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us.

C: May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.
 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.

Closing Hymn: Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

CWH 409

1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest Re - deem - er,
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent

whom we love, foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior
 love for you! May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be -

from the world a - bove, of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed,
 hold your cross a - new, till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er

gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; yet, up - on the
 from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, grav - en in our

cross ex - tend - ed, you en - dured the pain of all.
 hearts for - ev - er dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied!

Text: tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–1896, alt.; Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–1498
 Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Celebrating Lent

Where in the Bible does it state that we are to celebrate Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, the Lenten season? Thank you.

The short answer is: “It doesn’t.” What the Bible does say is: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25). God directs us to gather together as Christians and worship him.

In Old Testament times God spelled out the weekly day of worship (Saturday, the Sabbath) and the three major annual festivals (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles). As New Testament Christians we are free from the ceremonial laws that commanded observance of those days and festivals (Galatians 4:9-11; Colossians 2:16-17).

In New Testament freedom Christians many centuries ago designed the festivals and seasons you mentioned as a way of putting special emphasis on the passive obedience and victorious resurrection of our Lord.

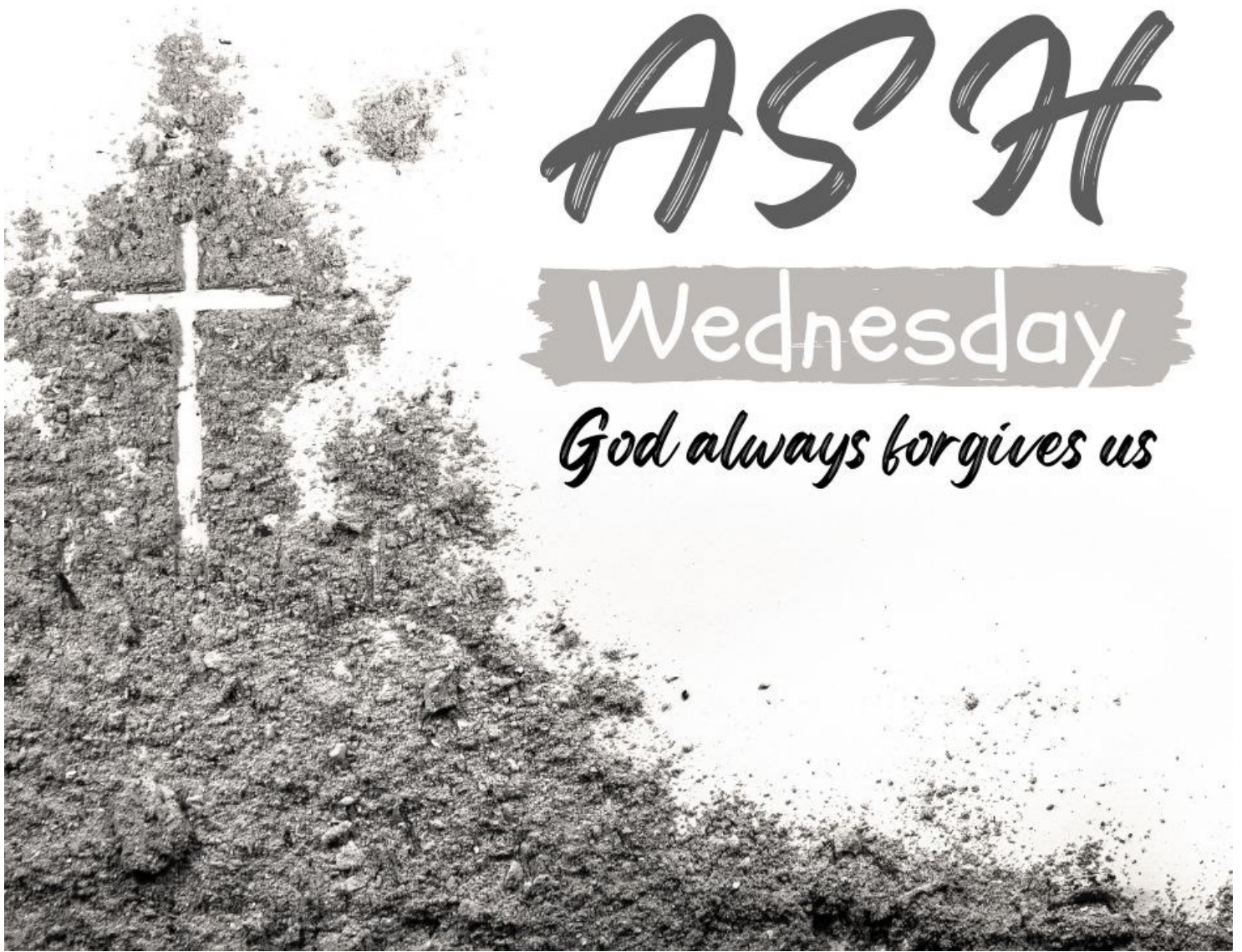
As Christians, the opportunity to attend special, additional worship services can pull us in different directions. Our sinful nature, of course, abhors anything good and godly, and wants nothing to do with regular or special worship services. On the other hand, our new self echoes the sentiments of King David: “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” (Psalm 122:1). Our new self has that joyful attitude whether we are talking about regular or special worship services.

And so, during this season of Lent, our new self finds extra reasons to say: “I love the house where you live, O Lord, the place where your glory dwells” (Psalm 26:8).

Submitted via WELS website <https://wels.net/faq/celebrating-lent/>

Lenten Schedule

Date	Subject	Pastor	Home Church
February 22, 2023	His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree	Pastor John Ehlers	Cross of Glory (Peoria)
March 1, 2023	His Final Steps Led to Some Greeks	Pastor Lincoln Albrecht	River of Life (Goodyear)
March 8, 2023	His Final Steps Led to His Enemies	Pastor Meryl Wagenknecht	
March 15, 2023	His Final Steps Led to a Tomb	Pastor John Sprain	Shepherd of the Valley (Surprise)
March 22, 2023	His Final Steps Led to a Dinner Celebration	Pastor David Clark	Grace (Glendale)
March 29, 2023	His Final Steps Led to His Father's House	Pastor Robert Smith	Our Savior (Sun City)



ASH

Wednesday

God always forgives us

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.

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.