Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School



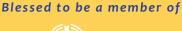
Lent 1 Sunday, February 26, 2023

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



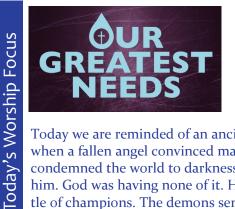
WELS Christs Love, Our Calling.

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.



Our modern English word "champion" comes from an old English word that meant "warrior." In ancient times, when two armies gathered to fight, sometimes as a prelude to the battle—and sometimes in place of the battle—each army would pick a mighty solider, and these two men would fight each other. These elite warriors, these champions, would represent their people in battle. They would meet in the middle of the field. With everyone watching, they would fight to the death.

Today we are reminded of an ancient war that began in Eden. The perfect peace and prosperity of Paradise was lost when a fallen angel convinced mankind to follow the demons in rebelling against their Creator. When Adam fell, he condemned the world to darkness and death. The enemy of God claimed that the children of men now belonged to him. God was having none of it. He promised he would send forth his champion, his Son. And so, today we see a battle of champions. The demons send forth their strongest warrior—Satan. God sends forth the best of men, Jesus Christ. Jesus does what Adam and we could not. In crushing the devil, Jesus meets one of our greatest needs.

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 JOMAX ROAD ALTAR KITCHEN WORSHIP NURSERY AUDITORIUM JANITOR OFFICE REST CLASSROOM 8 ROOMS CLASSROOM A COMMUNICATION OBBY PASTOR'S OFFICE

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!

The Service



As by one man all mankind fell and, born in sin, was doomed to hell, so by one Man, who took our place, we all were justified by grace.

Text: Lazarus Spengler, 1479–1534; (sts. 1–4, 6): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915; (st. 5): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

- C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
- C: Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart;



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 call upon God to be present with us. We worship the triune God, remembering our baptism 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. "

(I John 1:9)

I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Absolution

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

(Spoken Responsively)

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

- M: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

The Word

Prayer of the Day

M: Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



help and strength.

Christ said to his disciples, "If you forgive

anyone his sins, they are forgiven". The pas-

tor speaks for God and

announces God's forgiveness to those who

made confession.



The main thoughts of the day are collected or summarized in this short prayer. (Prayed by Minister)

First Reading

'Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.
¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."



God promised to send a champion who would do what we could not, defeating our greatest enemy.



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."



Adam's defeat meant death for all. Christ's victory brings life for all.

Psalm 46

- M: God is our refuge and strength,
- C: an ever-present help in trouble.
 - M: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
- C: and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- M: though its waters roar and foam
- C: and the mountains quake with their surging.
- M: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
- C: the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- M: God is within her, she will not fall;
- C: God will help her at break of day.
- M: "Be still, and know that I am God;
 - C: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
- M: The LORD Almighty is with us;
- C: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

The Children's Sermon

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

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

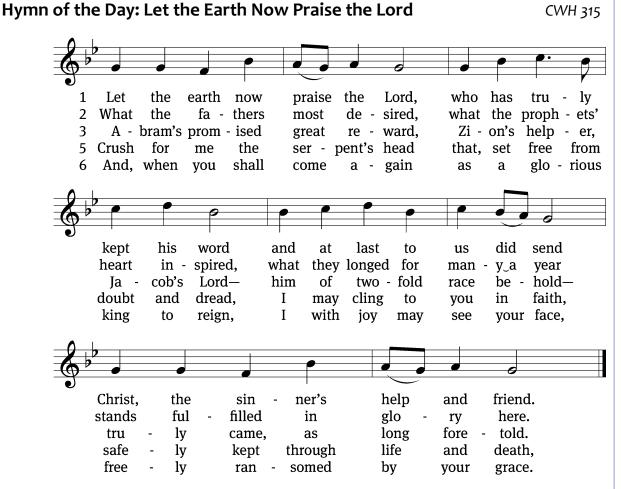
¹³To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

¹⁵But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

¹⁸Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Verse of the Day

M: We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses; we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Our Greatest Needs: A Champion for the Defeated

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:



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



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

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).

Matthew 4:1–11

" 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

⁷Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.""

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

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.



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.

Song of the Season: Lamb of God

CWH 403 Soloist sings first refrain and Vs. 1; Congregation joins for remaining refrains and Vs. 2

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take away the world's sin, Lamb of God, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.

As high as the heav'ns are over the earth, so great is your love for us. As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our sin.

Congregation joins:



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.

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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 ". (I Timothy 2:1)

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



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.

Offering and Offering Prayer

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

(Spoken in Unison)

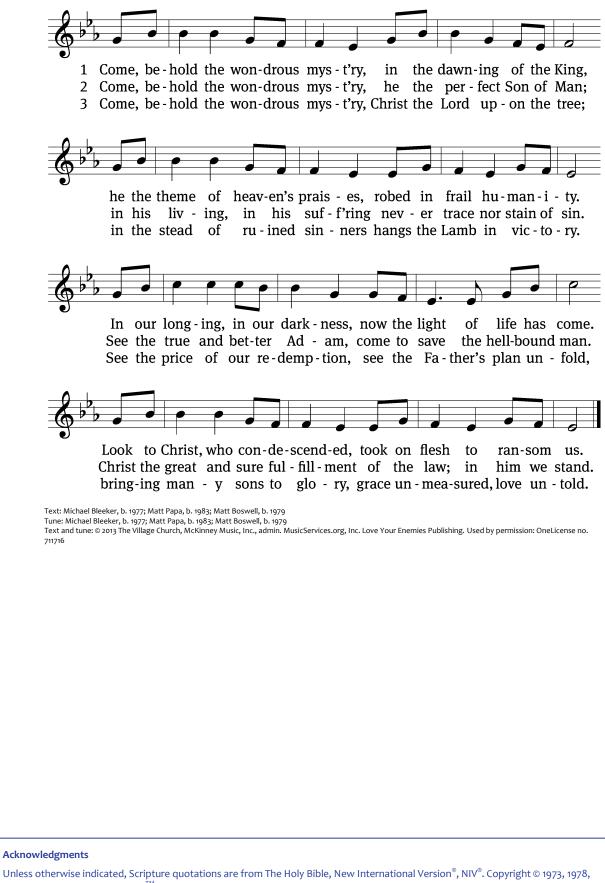
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours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

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: Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

CWH 535



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Worship	February	March	March
Volunteers	26th	5th	12th
Counters	Judy Sasse	Joel Ditter	Nick Nicholai
	Susie Cornell	Nancy Schirripa	Norm Voigt
Cleaners	Gullerud	Plitzuweit	Kelly
		Peterson	Grams
		Aguilar	
Communion Setup		Dawn	
Ushers	Pedro Contreras	Len Collyard	John Kull
	Tanner Plizuweit	Nick Nickolai	Kim Moline
	Michael Radue	Steve Semmann	Dean Ellis
	Guy Robertson	Sharon Wilson	
Sunday	Ally Kelley	Mary Berggren	Stacy Cornell
Refreshments	Sharon Wilson	Shannon Gullerud	Diana Piepenbrink
A/V	Stacy Cornell	Shannon Gullerud	Titus Patterson
	Pedro Contreras	Rene Koutia	Issac Patterson

Monthly Newsletter QR Code



THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GLORY

Sunday	Worship Service at Jomax (Livestreamed)	9:00 am	Thursday New River (
	Worship Service at New River	9:30 am	Friday Backyard H	
Contemporary Service 10:45 am			Friday -Saturday Lea	
Bible Studies: The Gospel in Psalms (Dean Ellis) 10:45 am				
God's Providence (Len Collayard)				
	Kids Klub: Rejected in Nazareth 10:45am			
Tuesday	Women's Bible Study	9:30am		
Wednesda	y Midweek Lenten Service/Soup Supper	6:oopm		
	Choir Practice	8:oopm		

Thursday	New River Growth Group	6:30 pm
Friday	Backyard Bash	5:30 pm
Friday -Sa	aturday League Tournamer	nt @ ALA

ALA Gala Donations

ALA GALA DONATIONS

Please consider donating a one-of-a-kind item or service to the Arizona Lutheran Academy Gala and Auction. What's your specialty? Lasagne? Brats & beer tasting? Host a party for 8 and have a blast! Have the capability to hang Christmas lights? Offer your service to hang Christmas lights as an auction item. Your gift of any new item or "experience" between now and March 10 will support the students at Arizona Lutheran Academy. Visit <u>ALAcoyotes.org/gala</u> to donate an item to the event.

New River Address Change

The church services and growth group studies in New River will now be held at the home of Ed and Sandy Taylor. The address is 43220 N 22nd St. New River. They will no longer be at the New River Kiwanis Park.

Grand Opening/New Contemporary Service

The Grand Opening for our new Contemporary Service is coming up on *Sunday, March 12*th at 10:45am. We are so excited that we are able to offer [to our church and school families] a second worship service in a *completely different style*. This service will feature a full band and vocalists singing contemporary songs on a weekly basis. Anyone wishing to audition for the worship team please contact Ministerial Assistant, Tim Grams at 623-340-5815.

Also, those wishing to send their kids to **Kids' Klub** during the service--may do so. Kids' Klub is available for kids from infancy through grade 4. It runs at the same time as the new service and begins at 10:45am. It allows the parents to worship while the children are taught a Bible story at their own developmental level.

Call Meeting

On Sunday, February 12th, the congregation met to issue a call for a third-and fourth grade teacher position. It was decided to call Elise Bernthal for a one year call. She is currently teaching in the Mesa Public School District as a Special Ed teacher. Please keep her in your prayers as she considers this call.



The next BIG school event is upon us! Family, Fun, and Fundraising!

Let's join together as a family in the "Backyard" of COG. Play games with your kids and other families. Eat some backyard BBQ. And help raise funds for a new PRESCHOOL PLAY-GROUND.

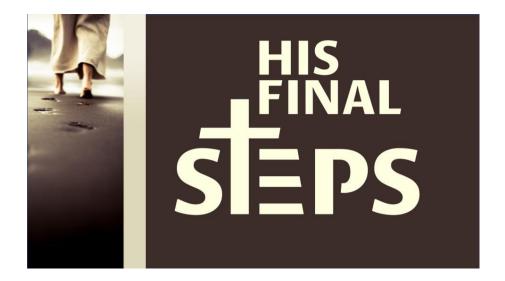
We need your HELP.

¹ Use the link in the weekly newsletter for a letter to ask local businesses, places that you shop, to donate services or items for the silent auction.

Make a basket or donation yourself - involve the kids. Use the idea sheet in the weekly newsletter. It will provide you some guidance.

1. Support your child's classroom basket. The class that makes the most money gets a reward chosen by the teacher (pajama/stuffy day, taco lunch, etc.)

All proceeds will go towards the construction of a new preschool playground to complete the new early childhood building.



The overall theme for the 2023 Lenten sermons is "His Final Steps." The series ponders the significance of the people and places on Jesus' resolute final steps to the cross and his first steps from the tomb three days later. We started our journey on February 22 with the Ash Wednesday service. Please use this QR code for the Soup Supper sign-up.



Lenten Schedule						
Date	Subject	Pastor	Home Church			
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	Retired			
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)			

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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.

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.