Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School



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.

About the service this evening. To impress on the minds and hearts of believers the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of the Savior's sacrifice, the ancient church held a special service called **Tenebrae**, during the last days of Holy Week. The name means "Darkness" or "Shadows". In this adaptation of the medieval Tenebrae, we will be witnesses to the deepest sorrow of our Savior. Step after relentless step, Jesus walks the Way of Sorrows. One after another, all forsake him until ultimately he stands in the God-forsakenness of hell itself.

The extinguishing of the candles and growing darkness of the church, symbolizes the deepening sorrow. When the Lord breathes his last, the Christ Candle is extinguished, symbolizing our Lord's death and burial. The "strepitus" is heard, a hard noise indicating the closing of the tomb. Then the Christ Candle is relit in anticipation of the Lord's resurrection.

The day our Lord died is the most solemn day of the church year. Tonight we remember: God laid on him "the iniquity of us all." The service is solemn, reverent, and filled with devotion. The worshipers enter the church in silence, meditating the great sacrifice the Savior made.

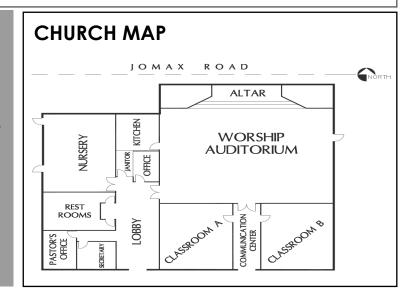
As we entered the church this evening, we were all given a nail. As we hold the nail during the service, may it remind us of the burden of our sins. As we silently exit this evening (side exit), we place the nail in the cross, symbolizing that Jesus removed all our guilt and sin when he suffered and died on the cross.

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



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.

Good Friday Tenebrae

Ensemble The Look

© 2001 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI) Words by John Newton; Music by Bob Kauflin; Used by permission

I saw one hanging on a tree in agony and blood,
who fixed his loving eyes on me as near his cross I stood.
And never till my dying breath will I forget that look.
It seemed to charge me with his death though not a word he spoke.

My conscience felt and owned the guilt, and plunged me in despair.

I saw my sins his blood had spilt, and helped to nail him there.

But with a second look he said, "I freely all forgive.

This blood is for your ransom paid I died that you might live."

Refrain:

Forever etched upon my mind is the look of him who died, the Lamb I crucified. And now my life will sing the praise of pure atoning grace, that looked on me and gladly took my place.

Thus while his death my sin displays for all the world to view, such is the mystery of grace: it seals my pardon too.

With pleasing grief and mournful joy, my spirit now is filled, that I should such a life destroy yet live by him I killed. (Refrain)



We contemplate on the truth that for **our** sins Christ suffered and died. The grace, mercy and peace we receive from this perfect act of love from our God is immeasurable.

Gospel Reading

John 19:17-30

¹⁷Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

²²Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

²³When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

"They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment."



St. John's account of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

So this is what the soldiers did.

²⁵Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

²⁸Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

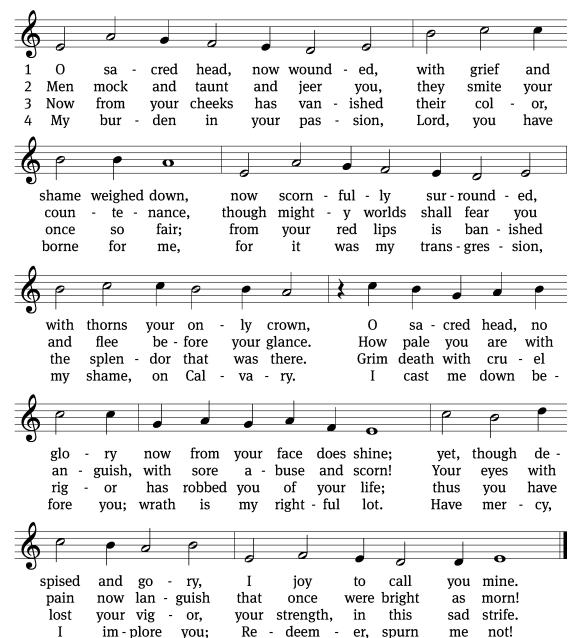
Hymn: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

CWH 429



Hymn of reflection for Good Friday.

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)



Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153, abr. Time: Hans Leo Hassler, 1546–1612

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~ The first candle is extinguished. ~

Silence for meditation.



Psalms for the Passion

The psalms chosen for tonight's service contain prophecies about the Savior's passion.

Psalm 2

(Spoken Responsively)

- M: Why do the nations conspire
- C: and the peoples plot in vain?
- M: The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together
- C: against the LORD and against his Anointed One.
- M: "Let us break their chains," they say,
- C: "and throw off their fetters."
- M: The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
- C: the Lord scoffs at them.
- M: Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
- C: "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."
- M: I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:
- C: he said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.
- M: Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance,
- C: the ends of the earth your possession.
- M: You will rule them with an iron scepter;
- C: you will dash them to pieces like pottery."
- M: Therefore, you kings, be wise;
- C: be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- M: Serve the LORD with fear
- C: and rejoice with trembling.
- M: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment.
- C: Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
 - ~ The second candle is extinguished. ~

Silence for meditation.



The leaders of this world attempt to defy God who sent his anointed one, the righteous Messiah. But the Messiah's kingdom has been established by God and those who oppose him are warned to rather be wise and serve him.





This psalm is a prophetic explanation of what would happen to the Promised One. These events would be fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus, who cries out the words of Psalm 22:1 on the cross.

(Matthew 27:46)



Psalm Choir sings verses and first refrain; Congregation sings refrains 2-4



Choir: (Refrain)

All who see me scoff at me and they shake their heads, saying, "He relies on the LORD, he relies on the Lord, let him deliver him."

Cong: (Refrain)

Choir: They divide my clothing, casting lots for my robes. Do not leave me alone, I will praise you, O Lord, make haste to help me.

Cong: (Refrain)

Choir: I will tell to my people, I will call out your name. Oh give praise to the Lord, oh give glory to God. Revere him, Israel.

Cong: (Refrain)

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~ The third candle is extinguished. ~

Silence for meditation.





Jesus was forsaken by man, and even by God as he suffered for our sins on the cross, but because of this, God will not forsake us-he is the source of our salvation.

Psalm Psalm 27

M: The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

C: The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

M: When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh,

C: when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

M: Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

C: though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

M: One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:

C: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

M: For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

- C: he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.
- M: Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;
- C: at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- M: Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;
- C: be merciful to me and answer me.
- M: My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
- C: Your face, LORD, I will seek.
- M: Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.
- C: Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.
- M: Though my father and mother forsake me,
- C: the LORD will receive me.
- M: Teach me your way, O LORD;
- C: lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.
- M: Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
- C: for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.
- M: I am still confident of this:
- C: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
- M: Wait for the LORD;
- C: be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Ensemble

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

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Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand, and wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am; for hands that should discard me hold wounds which tell me, "Come." Beneath the cross of Jesus my unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus his fam'ly is my own.

Once strangers chasing selfish dreams; now, one through grace alone.

How could I now dishonor the ones that you have loved?

Beneath the cross of Jesus see the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown, we follow in his footsteps where promised hope is found. How great the joy before us to be his perfect bride. Beneath the cross of Jesus we will gladly live our lives.



This anthem describes the Christian's transformation in the shadow of the cross. We first approach the cross knowing how unworthy we are. We then recognize through Godgiven faith that through grace we can boldly stand with Jesus. Finally, in gratefulness for the gift of salvation given at the cross, we live our lives for Jesus.



Silence for meditation.

~ The fourth candle is extinguished. ~

The Word



God's Word always works—it always produces what he desires. Isaiah admonishes us to seek the Lord while he is near—now is the time to turn to God.

Seek the Lord Isaiah 55:6-11

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

9"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,

and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

"so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,

but will accomplish what I desire

and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.



This anthem transports us to Calvary, the place where Jesus was sacrificed for our sins. We are reminded of the old testament sacrifices of the priests to pay for the sins of the children of Israel. This was a foreshadowing of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary —once and for all—fully paying the price of the world's sins.

Choir Song of Sacrifice

© 2023 Candela Works Music. Used by Permission Words and Music by Ruth Elaine Schram, incorporating "Were You There" Traditional African-American Spiritual

They crucified my Lord today. They nailed him to a cross of shame.

His sacred brow adorned with a crown of thorns;

they mocked and scorned his holy name.

His trusted friends had fled in fear. His mother wept great, bitter tears.

Her precious, holy Son, the one who'd done no wrong—

the spotless Lamb of God was he.

They crucified my Lord, they nailed him to a tree.

They pierced him with a sword. He died in agony, agony.

The Savior was the sacrifice. He freely paid the highest price;

and there on Calv'ry's hill, the Father's will fulfilled,

willingly he gave his life.

Were you there? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when the crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord, were you there?

There on Calv'ry's hill, the Father's will fulfilled; willing he gave his life.

Were you there?

~ The fifth candle is extinguished. ~

Silence for meditation.

Readings from Lamentations

Reading Lamentations 1:1–5

¹How deserted lies the city, once so full of people!

How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations!

She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.

²Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are on her cheeks.

Among all her lovers there is no one to comfort her.

All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.

³After affliction and harsh labor, Judah has gone into exile. She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place. All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.





In the following three readings from the Old Testament book of Lamentations, the prophet Jeremiah laments the destruction of Jerusalem that God allowed to take place as a punishment for the sins of the people of Judah. In the same way, we lament the suffering and death that our Savior Jesus endured in our place in order to pay the pun-

At the conclusion of each reading, the minister says, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!" The congregation responds to each reading by singing a verse of the hymn, "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy".

ishment that our sins rightly deserved.

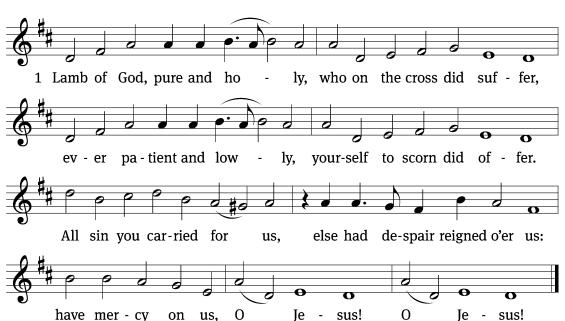
⁴The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed festivals. All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan, her young women grieve, and she is in bitter anguish.

5Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease.
The LORD has brought her grief because of her many sins.
Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.

M: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

Hymn Response: Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

CWH 947



Reading Lamentations 1:6–9

⁶All the splendor has departed from Daughter Zion.

Her princes are like deer that find no pasture; in weakness they have fled before the pursuer.

⁷In the days of her affliction and wandering Jerusalem remembers all the treasures

that were hers in days of old.

When her people fell into enemy hands, there was no one to help her.

Her enemies looked at her and laughed at her destruction.

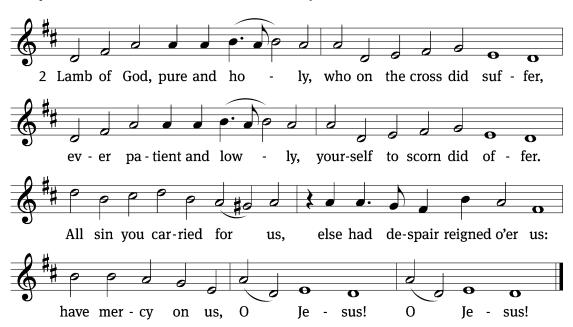
⁸Jerusalem has sinned greatly and so has become unclean.
All who honored her despise her, for they have all seen her naked; she herself groans and turns away.

⁹Her filthiness clung to her skirts; she did not consider her future. Her fall was astounding; there was none to comfort her. "Look, LORD, on my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed."

M: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

Hymn Response: Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

CWH 947



Reading Lamentations 1:10–14

on all her treasures; she saw pagan nations enter her sanctuarythose you had forbidden to enter your assembly.

"All her people groan
as they search for bread;
they barter their treasures for food
to keep themselves alive.
"Look, LORD, and consider,
for I am despised."

Look around and see.

Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the LORD brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?

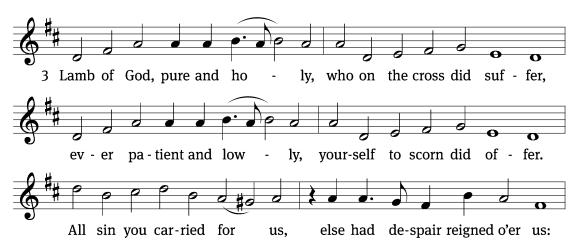
13"From on high he sent fire, sent it down into my bones.He spread a net for my feet and turned me back.He made me desolate, faint all the day long.

by his have been bound into a yoke; by his hands they were woven together. They have been hung on my neck, and the Lord has sapped my strength. He has given me into the hands of those I cannot withstand.

M: Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

Hymn Response: Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

CWH 947





Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485—after 1546 Tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485—after 1546 Text and tune: Public domain

~ The sixth candle is extinguished. ~

Silence for meditation.

Response

(Spoken by Congregation)

C: Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has exalted him to the highest place and given him the name that is above every name.

Hymn: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

CW 523

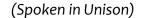


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The hymnwriter provides the focus for this hymn: "I'd been meditating on the cross, and in particular what it cost the Father to give up his beloved Son to a torturous death on a cross. And what was my part in it? Not only was it my sin that put him there, but if I'd lived at that time, it would probably have been me in that crowd, shouting with everyone else 'crucify him'. It just makes his sacrifice all the more personal, all the more amazing, and all the more humbling. "





Our Father in heaven,

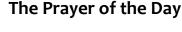
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

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.



(Spoken by Minister)

M: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



© 2008, Words and Music by Gus Koutia

Up on Calvary my Lord died for me,
and he bled to set me free.

He gave his life away, on the true prophetic day;
he knew it couldn't be any other way.
Like a sheep he was led to be slain
without a sound or complaint,
and every time a drop of blood hit the ground,
it made a river of love that swept my sins away.

They robed him with the shame;
they crowned him with the pain,
and they mocked his holy name.
On Golgotha's hill, where criminals they kill,
he hung there just to do the father's will.
On the tree he was nailed unmercifully
to win eternity for you and me.



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



This anthem is a final reminder this evening of the great sacrifice at the cross. Forgiveness, peace and salvation is ours at the cross.

And as he died, in agony he cried: "Father forgive them". Father forgive us. Father forgive me... for I know what I do.

Up on Calvary my Lord died for me, and he bled to set me free.

~ The seventh candle is extinguished. ~

Silence for meditation.

Strepitus

A loud noise representing the rending of Christ's tomb is heard.

The reappearance of a burning candle foreshadows Christ's return to life.





The strepitus (Latin for "great noise") made by slamming the Bible shut symbolizes the earthquake that followed Christ's death.

Sung Response

(Sung by Minister)

Lord, let at last your angels come; to Abram's bosom bear me home that I may die unfearing. And in its narrow chamber keep my body safe in peaceful sleep until your reappearing.

And then from death awaken me that my own eyes with joy may see, O Son of God, your glorious face, my Savior and my fount of grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend, and I will praise you without end.

The minister exits the chancel.

Worshippers are invited to remain for meditation and upon leaving, disperse quietly and place a nail in the cross symbolizing that Jesus removed all our guilt and sin when he suffered and died on the cross.

Acknowledgments

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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 still undergoing treatments.

Pat Powell, as she recovers from back issues.

Anita Lindsey, as she recovers from back surgery due to a car accident.

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, at El Paso, TX



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.