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

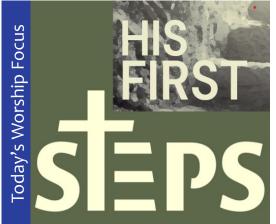


God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

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.



During the previous six weeks of Lent, we walked with our Savior on the final steps of his journey to the cross. We were humbled and comforted to be reminded to learn that Jesus knew exactly what lay ahead. Yet Jesus took his final steps to the cross for you and for me!

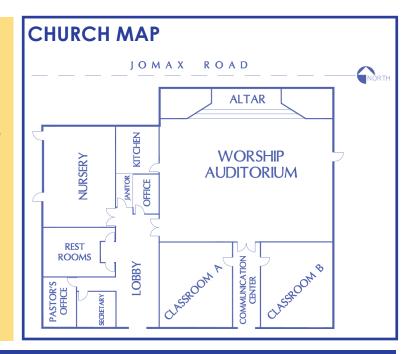
Today, our contemplation and reflection during the last six weeks as we watched our Savior take his final steps transforms to overwhelming joy as Jesus takes his first steps out of the tomb on Easter morning. These first steps are our glorious assurance that through Jesus' death and resurrection we too will take our first steps from the tomb to everlasting life with him in heaven.

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.

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. 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!

Easter Festival Service

Choir

Risen Today and Joyful, Joyful

© 2021 By Podd Brothers Music. Arranged by Adam & Matt Podd

Six weeks ago, on Transfiguration Sunday we processed the Alleluia banner out of the sanctuary, signifying the beginning of the season of Lent, a time of somber reflection where we refrained

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and his triumph over the grave—securing our salvation—we return the Alleluia banner to the sanctuary symbolizing the joy of our salvation!

from singing Alleluia during services.

~The Alleluia Banner is processed into the Sanctuary~

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Songs of men and angels say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flow'rs before you, op'ning to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus! Alleluia! God's own love is reigning o'er us, Alleluia! Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Easter Acclamation

(Spoken Responsively)

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

C: Amen.

M: The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

C: God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor.

M: He has made him ruler over the works of his hands;

C: he has put everything under his feet.

M: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega.

C: He shall reign forever and ever!

M: Alleluia! Christ has destroyed death!

C: And has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.

M: The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

C: God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor!

M: Rejoice now, all you heavenly angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King.



In the greeting this
Easter morning, we
proclaim the salvation
won by our risen Savior.



Hymn of praise for Easter morning.

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)



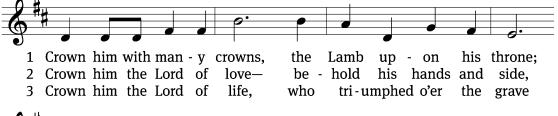
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. " (I John 1:9)

Christ said to his disciples, "If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven". The pastor speaks for God and announces God's forgiveness to those who made confession.

- C: Rejoice, O Church of Christ; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing.
- M: On this most holy day our Savior, Christ, the Lord, broke the power of death and by his resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for he truly keeps his word. The sun of righteousness has dawned on those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

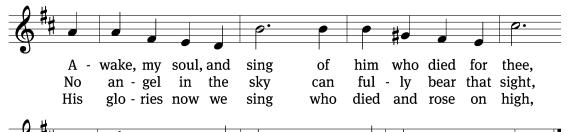
Opening Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns

CWH 511





hark how the heav'n-ly an-them drowns all mu - sic but its own. rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied. and rose vic - to-rious in the strife for those he came to save.



and hail him as thy match-less King thro' all e - ter - ni - ty. but down-ward bends his won-d'ring eye at mys-ter - ies so bright. who died e - ter - nal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Text (sts. 1–2): Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, abr., alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893 Text and tune: Public domain

Confession of Sins and Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

- M: Upon the hill the cross now stands empty. Morning light breaks upon the tomb. As we come before our God and King, let us confess our sins.
- C: Lord God, I humbly come before you. I confess that I am sinful in thought, word, and deed. I daily fail to do what you command, and continually do what you forbid. Lord, I am sorry for my sins. I believe that for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ, you will have mercy on me.
- M: Upon this your sincere confession, by Christ's command and authority, I assure you that your sins are all forgiven. The vacant cross and the empty grave are God's signs to you that he has accepted the sacrifice of his one and only Son.

Whoever believes this simple truth of Scripture has eternal life. The Lord is gracious and righteous!

C: When I was in great need, he saved me.

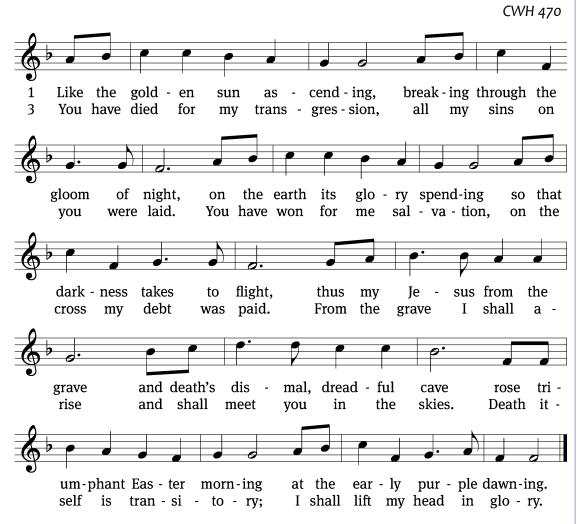
M: The Lord is my strength and my song;

C: He has become my salvation.

Prayer and Praise

(Spoken by Minister; Sung response by Congregation)

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



Text: tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr. Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: Amen.



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



short prayer.



Jesus compared himself to Jonah, the Old Testament prophet, the only one who escaped certain death after three days in the belly of a fish.

First Reading

²He said:

"In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ³You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. ⁴I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' ⁵The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶To the roots of the mountains I sank down;

the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit.

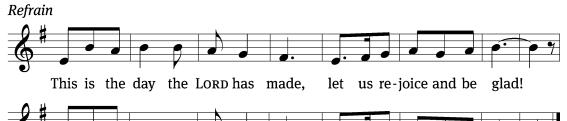
⁷"When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

⁸"Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. ⁹But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.' " Psalm 118A

Soloist sings the refrain, the congregation repeats the refrain. The soloist and congregation sing the verses and refrains in unison.



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."







The LORD is my strength and / my defense;
he has become my sal- / vation.
The LORD's right hand is / lifted high;
the LORD's right hand has done / mighty things!
I will not / die but live,
and will proclaim what the / LORD has done. Refrain

I will give you thanks, for you / answered me; you have become my sal- / vation.

The stone the builders re- / jected has become the / cornerstone; the LORD has / done this, and it is marvelous / in our eyes.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning, is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Text: Lectionary for Mass Tune: Marty Haugen
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For God to take us from death to life, Jesus needed to be resurrected. Anything else would mean our faith was in vain.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

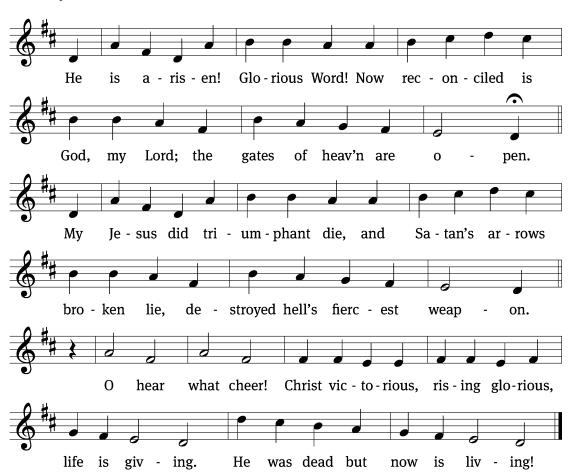
'Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Hymn of Response: He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

CWH 461



Text: tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; Birgitte K. Boye, 1742–1824 Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Alleluia.

Congregation Sings:





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

Gospel Matthew 28:1–10

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

CWH 451

The soloist sings Vs. 1 & 2; the congregation joins for Vs. 3

See, what a morning, gloriously bright, with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem; folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light, as the angels announce, "Christ is risen!" See God's salvation plan,

Hymn of the Day: See, What a Morning



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

atthew 28:1–10

The women go to Jesus' tomb, hearts full of disappointment. A dead Jesus does no one any good. But they

wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice, fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, "Where is he laid?"
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb.
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound till he appears,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

Congregation joins:



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¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

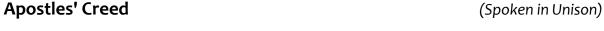
Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.



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.



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).



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.

Congregation sings Vs. 1 & 4; Ensemble sings Vs. 2 & 3



Ensemble sings:

For three long days the grave did its worst until its strength by God was dispersed. He who gives life did death undergo, and in its conquest his might did show. (Refrain)

The angel said to them, "Do not fear!
You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare,
only the grave cloths are lying there." (Refrain)

Congregation sings:



Text: tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922–2010; Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938 Tune: Tanzanian
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The Offering and Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

Prayer of the Church for Easter

(Spoken Responsively)

- M: Almighty and merciful God, on this glorious day we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.
- C: When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.



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)

- M: Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.
- C: Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion and comfort for others in need of mercy.
- M: King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will--false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan's lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel's free course.
- C: Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us.
- M: Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, "He is risen!" As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.
- C: Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.
- M: Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your right-eousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.
- C: Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.
- M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

~Silent prayer~

- M: O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(Spoken in Unison)

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

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

Easter Blessing

(Spoken Responsively)

M: "Hallelujah! Praise our God, all you his servants,

C: you who fear him, both small and great!"

M: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad, and give him glory."

M: Now may the glorious Father, who by his power raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, give you the spirit of wisdom to know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

And may he preserve you in body, soul, and spirit until our own resurrection on the day of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

Ensemble

Redemption Story

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Words and Music by Michael Neale, Jordan Grizzard, and Jonathan Walker



Weekly News QR Code



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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 Weyer, as she recovers from surgery after a serious hit-and-run accident.

Family of Darlene Novak, sister of Harry Novak, as she passed away this last week.

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.