# Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School



623-224-8839 • www.crossofglory.org

10111 W Jomax Road Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Rev. Fred Piepenbrink, 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.

Today's Worship Focus



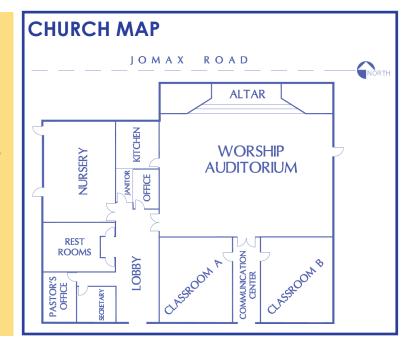
HE LIVES TO RESTORE MY HOPE Imagine someone you love is near death. Their only hope of survival is a risky brain surgery, one so complicated only one surgeon in the state will attempt it. The surgery is scheduled. But as that doctor drives to the hospital, he is killed in a car accident. Any hope you had for your loved one's salvation died along with that surgeon. That is how Jesus' disciples felt after his death. "We hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel," they said (Luke 24:19). Their hope for a better life died along with Jesus. They had let their personal wants and expectations cloud their view of Scripture which said that the Messiah's death and resurrection were actually the source of all hope! So, the living Lord appeared to his disciples. He explained. He opened their minds to the truth of God's Word. And in doing so, he restored their hope. There is little worse than a feeling of hopelessness. Christ's disciples have victory over that feeling. He died, but he is dead no longer. The one who can heal us and give us life to the full lives! He lives to restore our hope.

#### **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



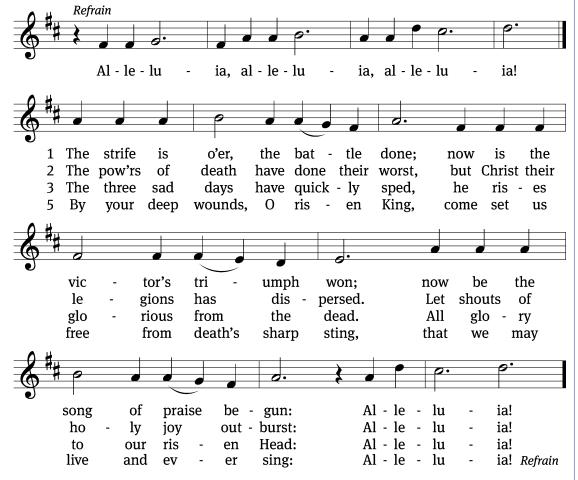
#### **FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

- Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby.
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult directly across the lobby.
- Children in Church Program: Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. We encourage parents to guide their children through the service. We invite children to come forward for the Children's Message during the service. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!

#### **Service Setting 3**

#### Opening Hymn: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

CWH 452





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)

Text: tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909, alt.; Symphonia Sirenum Selectarum, Köln, 1695 Tune: Giovanni P. da Palestrina, c. 1525–1594, adapt. 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**

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

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.



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

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

#### C: Amen.

#### Glory to God in the Highest



#### The Word

#### The Prayer of the Day

M: O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading Acts 2:14a,32–41

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

<sup>32</sup>God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup>Exalted to the right and of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured.

hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

" 'The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

35until I make your enemies

a footstool for your feet."

<sup>36</sup>"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

<sup>37</sup>When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

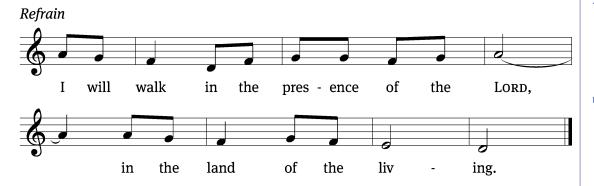
<sup>38</sup>Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>39</sup>The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

<sup>40</sup>With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup>Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

#### Psalm of the Day

Psalm 116B





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



The message of Christ crucified and Christ risen gives the certain hope of forgiveness to sinners.



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."



I love the LORD, for he / heard my voice;
he heard my cry for / mercy.

Because he turned his / ear to me,
I will call on him as long / as I live.

The LORD is gracious and / righteous;
when I was brought low, he / saved me. Refrain

What shall I return / to the LORD
for all his good- / ness to me?
I will lift up the cup of sal- / vation
and call on the name / of the LORD.
Precious in the sight / of the LORD
is the death of his faithful / servants.
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

Tune: Richard T. Proulx Text: © 1963, 1993 The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716 Tune: © 1975 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716



Our hope is to one day join our Savior in the glory of heaven. Until that day, we live in this world as strangers who are focused on going to our true home.

#### **Second Reading**

1 Peter 1:17–21

<sup>17</sup>Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup>For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup>He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

#### Children's Sermon

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

#### Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us? Alleluia.

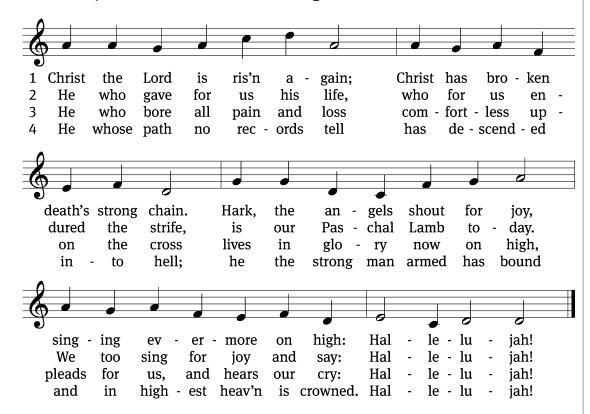


A verse from the Holy Scriptures is usually spoken to capture the theme of the service.



#### Hymn of the Day: Christ the Lord Is Risen Again

CWH 459



He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save; now through Christendom it rings that the Lamb is King of kings. Hallelujah!

Now he bids us tell abroad how the lost may be restored, how the penitent forgiv'n, how we, too, may enter heav'n. Hallelujah!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534, abr. Tune: Latin, c. 1100, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain



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).



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.

## <sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself

<sup>17</sup>He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him.

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup>"What things?" he asked.

Sermon

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

<sup>25</sup>He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

#### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

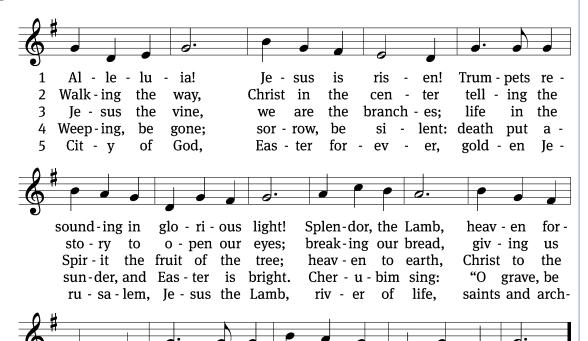
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

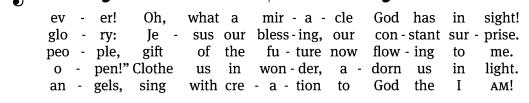
#### Song of the Season: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

CWH 454





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.







Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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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".

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

(Spoken by Minister)

#### **Prayer of the Church**

(Spoken by Minister)

#### The Lord's Prayer

(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.

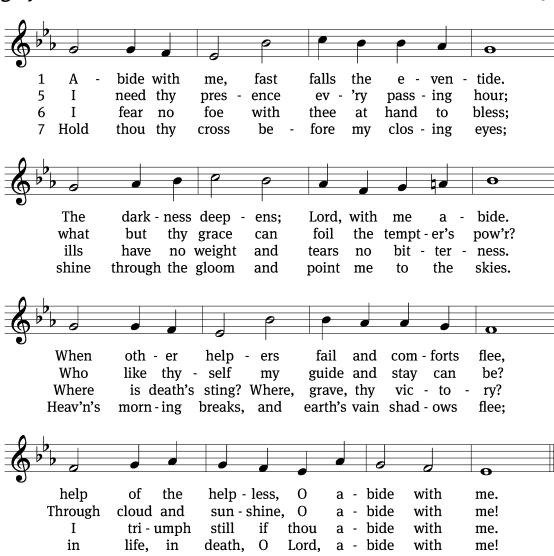
#### Blessing

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.



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Text and tune: Public domain

#### Acknowledgments

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## Ways to Serve

Worship	April	April	May
Volunteers	23rd	30th	7th
Counters	Judy Sasse	Joel Ditter	Nick Nicholai
	Susie Cornell	Nancy Schirripa	Norm Voigt
Cleaners	Gullerud	Plitzuweit	Kelley
		Peterson	Grams
		Aguilar	
Communion			Shannon
Ushers	Jon Naber	Brian Ehinger	Aaron Gullerud
	Rich Kugler	Jake Ehinger	Dave Goelzer
	Kelly Simpson	Kade Ehinger	Karen Goelzer
		Bill Brooks	Michael Ryan
Sunday	Clara Naber	Paula Considine	Rene Koutia
Refreshments			
A/V	Rene Koutia	Stacy Cornell	Kelly Simpson
	Gus Koutia	Aaron Gullerud	Pedro Contreras

## **Monthly QR Code**

For all other news please scan the QR Code below.



#### **Report on the Cross of Glory Pastoral Status**

This past Sunday a letter was read to our congregation by Pastor Jon Buchholz, our Arizona/California District President. The letter was written by Pastor John Ehlers indicating his decision to resign from the pastoral ministry at Cross of Glory. He writes:

*Dear brothers and sisters of Cross of Glory:* 

After months of prayer and discussions with my family, I have decided to step away from the ministry for personal reasons and to broaden my education. The love and support you have given our family as we have shared the gospel together has blessed us immensely. God will continue to bless your efforts as you serve Him and spread His Word.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Ehlers

We can all offer a prayer of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for the faithful and loving ministry that Pastor Ehlers has provided Cross of Glory over the last twelve years, and we call on the Lord to bless his efforts to pursue a new direction in his life.

Our church leaders have met with the district president and have made some plans on how to move forward. An open forum to discuss the calling of a future pastor has been set for Thursday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. All are encouraged to attend. In this meeting we will be able to express to Pastor Buchholz and each other what we feel our needs are and what we are looking for in a future pastor.

A second meeting to call a permanent pastor has been set for Thursday, May 18, at 7 p.m. At this meeting Pastor Buchholz will provide a slate of possible candidates, and our voters will choose one to consider becoming our next pastor.

In the meantime, our member, retired Pastor Fred Piepenbrink, will serve as the interim pastor and be assisted by Pastors Rich Kugler and Leonard Freeman, also members of Cross of Glory. The leaders of the church have already requested that a call be extended to another retired pastor who can devote more time and energy (about 20 hours per week) to fill the interim. If someone is willing to serve in this capacity, we are requesting that his ministry begin in August.

#### Finish the Race Financial Campaign Status Update

Status of the "Finish the Race" Financial Campaign is as follows:

Pledges: \$209,145

Actual: \$197,308

There is still time to complete all pledges for this campaign. We thank the Lord for the many blessings he has provided for our Cross of Glory family!

#### **VBS Registration and Volunteer Information**

Vacation Bible school is fast approaching (June 5-9). Please use the QR code below to register your children for VBS this year. Please remember that registration fills up fast, so register as soon as possible!

It takes a lot of great volunteers (like you) to make this a success. Please contact the school/church office if you are able to help. Volunteers are needed to serve as group leaders, craft and snack helpers, drama team participants, etc. This ministry is an exciting opportunity to reach out to our community. It seems to grow every year...so sign up to join the fun!

#### **Good Shepherd Bible Camp**

For over 50 years, Good Shepherd Bible Camp (GSBC), has been providing the perfect blend of outdoor adventure and Christian fellowship to kids from 4th to 10th grade. It's a full week (6 nights/days) of fun in the California mountains July, 9-15. You'll experience the chance to have fun with old friends and make plenty of new ones while you apply God's word to your life.

Spend the week growing in your faith, while you also play countless games, eat amazing food, swim, canoe, become the perfect archer, sing exuberantly around a campfire, play basketball/volleyball and anything else involving a ball, run around in the infamous "gaga" pit, build forts, unleash your creative side in some arts and crafts, and of course explore God's beautiful creation through a little hiking.

Please use this QR code to learn more and register.



#### **Employment Opportunity at MLC**

Martin Luther College is accepting applications for full-time **Custodians**, a full-time **Early Childhood Assistant Teacher**, a part-time **Education Office Administrative Assistant**, part-time **Assistant Coaches** in volleyball, football, basketball, and tennis, and a variety of **summer jobs** 

Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

#### **Voters Meeting Potluck**

Please use this QR code to sign up for the potluck that will take place prior to the voters meeting on April 30.



#### This Week at Church

April 23rd

9:00 am Jomax Worship w/ Communion (Live Streamed)

9:30 am New River Worship Service

10:45 am Sunday Morning Bible Study

10:45 am Contemporary Service

10:45 am Kids Klub

April 24th

4:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:30 pm Bible Information Class

April 25th 9:30 am Women's Bible Study

April 26th

4:00pm Grams Growth Group

7:00 pm Choir Practice

April 27th 7:00 pm Open Fourm/Pre Call Meeting

April 28th No School

## 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.