

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Easter 6
Sunday, May 14, 2023

623-224-8839 ♦ www.crossofglory.org

1011 W Jomax Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

WELCOME to our worship center

Blessed to be a member of



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

Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory

ABOUT US

The continuing purpose of this congregation, as a gathering of Christians, is to spread to all people in God's world the glory of the cross of Christ, by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.

Today's Worship Focus

The Majesty of God

Psalm 97

When the universe with its stars, planets, and galaxies puts on its marvelous display in perfect precision, that's not just nature; that is a miracle of God showing his glory. When a tiny seed falls to the ground and grows into a towering redwood tree, that's not just nature; that is a miracle of God showing his awesome power. When a river carves out a grand canyon with breath-taking views, that's not just nature; that is God's judgment with a worldwide flood. And when life is conceived in the womb of a mother who then gives birth to a human creature, that's not just nature; that is a miracle of God showing that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. After viewing everything we see in nature, the psalmist is justified when he writes, "The fool says in his heart there is no god." May we worship our Creator God today and give him the praise for providing us with such proof of his majesty. And may we respond in ways that are pleasing to him.

As the summer months are rapidly approaching, many are thinking of going on vacation and getting in touch with nature again. For the Christian, getting in touch with nature means getting in touch with God. What many describe as "Mother Nature," believers describe it as the handiwork of God.

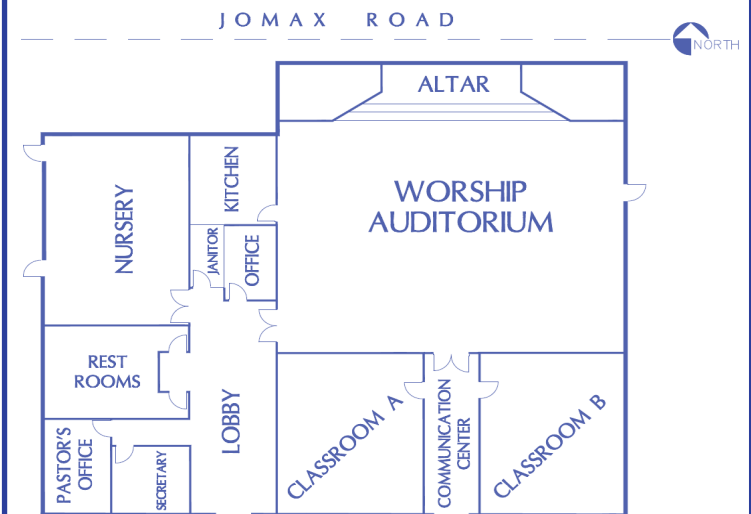
VISITOR INFORMATION

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



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 of the Word

Opening Hymn: We Sing the Almighty Power of God

CWH 504



Hymn of praise, prayer, or reflection on the season of the church year.

We follow the advice of the Apostle Paul to "teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

(Colossians 3:16)

1 We sing th'al - might - y pow'r of God that
2 We sing the good - ness of the Lord that
3 There's not a plant or flow'r be - low but

made the moun - tains rise, that spread the flow - ing
filled the earth with food; he formed the crea - tures
makes your glo - ries known, and clouds a - rise and

seas a - broad and built the loft - y skies.
with his Word and then pro - nounced them good.
tem - pests blow by or - der from your throne;

We sing the wis - dom that or - dained the
Lord, how your won - ders are dis - played wher -
while all that bor - rows life from you is

sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at
e'er we turn our eyes, if we sur - vey the
ev - er in your care, and ev - 'ry - where that

his com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.
ground we tread or gaze up - on the skies.
we can be, you, God, are pres - ent there.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: English; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Greeting

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and his Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.



The greeting used by St. Paul perfectly summarizes Christianity.



"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

(1 John 1:9)

Christ said to his 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.

Confession and Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

- M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C: Amen.**

Prayer and Praise

(Spoken by Minister; Sung response by Congregation)

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

O taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take

ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it

stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -

tin - ues for - ev - er. O taste and see that the

Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Text: n/a

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949

Prayer of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Psalm 97:1–9, 11–12

- ¹The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.
- ²Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- ³Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.
- ⁴His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
- ⁵The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.
- ⁶The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory.
- ⁷All who worship images are put to shame,
those who boast in idols—
worship him, all you gods!
- ⁸Zion hears and rejoices
and the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments, LORD.
- ⁹For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
- ¹¹Light shines on the righteous
and joy on the upright in heart.
- ¹²Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous,
and praise his holy name.



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



The magnificence of God is evidenced in the majesty of his creation. May we worship the one who rules over the universe.



The Book of Psalms was the Old Testament hymnbook, prayer and liturgy book. It was used by worshipers at the temple. Many of the Psalms are the basis for our hymns and part of our liturgy is taken from the Psalms. The word “Psalm” comes from the Greek and means “a song sung to the accompaniment of a stringed instrument.”

Psalm

Psalm 8A
(Sung in Unison)

Refrain



Tone



When I consider your heavens, the work of your / fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have / set in place,
what is a human being that you are mind- / ful of him,
a Son of Man that you / care for him? *Refrain*

You have made him a little lower than the / angels
and crowned him with glory and / honor.
You made him ruler over the works / of your hands;
you put everything un- / der his feet.

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: Kurt J. Eggert

Tune: © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

The Children's Sermon

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



St. Paul draws the attention of people of Lystra from him and Barnabas to the one true God who created and continues to preserve the heaven and earth and all things within them.

Second Reading

Acts 14:8–18

⁸In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. ⁹He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

¹¹When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!” ¹²Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. ¹³The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

¹⁴But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ¹⁵“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. ¹⁶In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” ¹⁸Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Alleluia.



A verse from the holy scriptures is usually spoken in preparation for the reading of the Gospel which is read as the second reading or as part of the sermon.

The sung response is taken from John 20:31.

Gospel

John 1:1–5, 10–14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



The Almighty One, there before the world began and creator of all things, in grace put aside his majesty to dwell among us, securing the gift of salvation for the world.



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

Sermon Hymn: Let All Things Now Living

CWH 507

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 His law he en - forc - es; the stars in their cours - es and

God the Cre - a - tor tri - um-phantly raise, who fash-ioned and
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient-ly shine. The hills and the

made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who still guides us
 moun-tains, the riv - ers and foun-tains, the deeps of the

on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us; his
 o - cean pro - claim him di - vine. We, too, should be voic-ing our

light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin-ing forth in the
 love and re - joic-ing. With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us

night, till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is
 raise till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -

ban-ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 giv - ing: "To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980 Tune: Welsh
 Text: © 1939 ren. 1966 E.C.Shirmer Music Company. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716
 Tune: Public domain

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).

Sermon

The Majesty of God

Psalm 97

The First Article of the Apostles' Creed (Creation)

(Spoken Responsively)

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

What does this mean?



C: I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

M: And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life.

C: God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.

M: All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it.

**C: For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.
This is most certainly true.**

After hearing the Word of God, we respond with our confession of faith.

Today, we confess the first article of The Apostles' Creed, which focuses on the first person of the Trinity, God the Father, the all-powerful creator of all things who is the provider of all we need. The explanation is taken from Luther's Small Catechism.

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.



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter tell - ing the
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es; life in the
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent: death put a -
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for -
sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; break - ing our bread, giv - ing us
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; heav - en to earth, Christ to the
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, riv - er of life, saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
peo - ple, gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
an - gels, sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!



The gifts of God's people are a response to God's blessings.

The Offering and Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

Prayers for Mothers

(Spoken by Minister)



Rite of Confirmation

9:00am Service: Zander Kristopher Harmon

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

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

Psalm 27:1

**10:45am Service: Michaela Balaskovits, Brie Cape, Dave Cape,
Hunter Lundstrom, Kiersten Rom, Paul Reynolds**



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

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

(Spoken by Minister)



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.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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: How Great Thou Art

CWH 612



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion



con - sid - er all the works thy hand hath made,
and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!



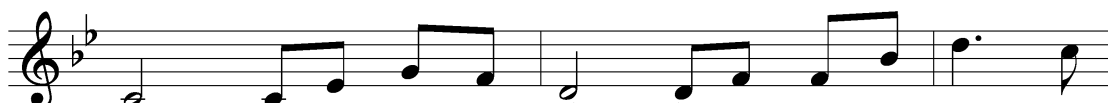
I see the stars, I hear the might - y thun - der,
when I look down from loft - y moun - tain gran - deur
that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing
Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion



thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
and there pro - claim: "My God, how great thou art!"



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior - God, to thee, How great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my



Sav - ior - God to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!



Confirmation at Cross of Glory

Lutherans are serious about instruction in God's Word.

We begin before children can talk, telling Bible stories and singing Bible songs to them. We know what the Bible says. "From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Lutheran students in their middle school years often have intense study of the teachings of the Bible. They study Luther's Small Catechism, and they learn the Ten Commandments and what the Bible says about them, the Apostles' Creed and where every word of it is in the Bible, the Lord's Prayer, and what the Bible says about baptism, confession of sins and forgiveness, and the Lord's Supper.

Instruction before taking the Lord's Supper is critical. "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:27,28).

Students are often ready to confess their faith in public during their 8th grade year. There was a time when 8th grade was the last year of formal schooling for many people. Even though the senior year in high school is more commonly the last year of formal schooling for people in the United States, the practice of getting ready to make a public confession in 8th grade is still common among Lutherans.

When students are ready to make that public confession, they participate in "confirmation." Confirmation gives students who have received basic instruction in the truths of God's Word the opportunity publicly to confess their faith before the church, to "confirm" their internal faith by their external confession.

The confirmation rite informs the congregation that these students have enough scriptural understanding and spiritual maturity to participate in the Lord's Supper. The congregation prays that the Holy Spirit will preserve them in faith to the end of their days.

After the rite of confirmation, students begin to take the Lord's Supper regularly and to participate more fully in the life of the congregation. Lutherans view confirmation as one more step of growth in the study of the Scriptures.

Reprinted Source: <http://www.wels.net/what-we-believe/our-worship/confirmation/lutheran-confirmation> By Rev. Paul Prange

Acknowledgments

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Friendship Register

Please remember to fill out the red friendship register located in the seat pockets if you have not yet done so.

Ways to Serve

Worship Volunteers	May 14th	May 21st	May 28th
Counters	Nancy Murphy Harry Novak	Judy Sasse Susie Cornell	Joel Ditter Nancy Schirripa
Cleaners	Ehlers Martins	Simkauskis Pappenfuss	Sterns Coates
Communion		Sharon	
Ushers	Cody Hall Joel Ditter	Chris Patterson Isaac Patterson Titus Patterson Grant Stern	Pedro Contreras Tanner Pluzuweit Michael Radue Guy Robertson
Sunday Refreshments	Karen Goelzer Angela Hall	Ally Kelley Sharon Wilson	Mary Berggren Shannon Gullerud
A/V	Shannon Gullerud Rene Koutia	Titus Patterson Isaac Patterson	Stacy Cornell Aaron Gullerud

Weekly QR Code

Please check your email or use this QR Code for weekly announcements



Letter from Pastor Mueller Regarding Vacancy

Dear Members of Cross of Glory,

What a joy it is that God has called each of us to be His own. The Easter thrill lives on in our hearts long after the date has passed.

It is a privilege to serve in God's Kingdom as His chosen ones. I consider it a privilege also, that you have called me to serve as your Vacancy Pastor. God has led me to accept your invitation to share God's Word with you. I promise to do my utmost to carry out the responsibilities you have entrusted to me. I look forward to growing in grace and love with you.

My wife Julie and I are excited to be part of the family of Cross of Glory. To God be the Glory!

Pastor Paul Mueller

This Week at Cross of Glory

May 14th

9:00 am	Jomax Worship w/ Confirmation (Live Streamed)
9:30 am	New River Worship Service
10:45 am	Sunday Morning Bible Study
10:45 am	Contemporary Service w/ Confirmation
10:45 am	Kids Klub

May 17th

9:30 am	Mommy & Me
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May 18th

7:00pm	New River Growth Group
7:00 pm	Call Meeting

Employment Opportunities

Cross of Glory has several teaching aid positions open for next school year. Most do not require special training or degrees. Hours range from 4 to 7 hours a day. Work days may be flexible. For more information, contact Mr. Aguilar. Complete the application, the link can be found in the weekly news, and submit it to the school office by May 24 for consideration.

Summer Camps

ALA summer sports camps

Registration is now open for the ALA summer sports camps that take place the first three weeks of June. All the camps are Monday through Thursday.

Week one, June 5 -8, will be baseball, softball and volleyball.

Week two, June 12 -15, will be boys basketball.

The last week, June 19 -22, will be girls basketball.

For more information or to register for one of the camps go to ALAcoyotes.org/camp

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 during July. 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 <https://goodshepherdbiblecamp.com/> to learn more and register.

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, 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.

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.