Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School



Pentecost 16
Sunday, September 17, 2023

623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org
10111 W Jomax Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Paul Mueller Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal

WELCOME to our worship center



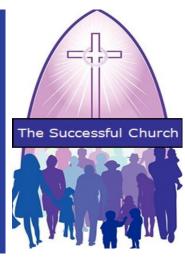
God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament. As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

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



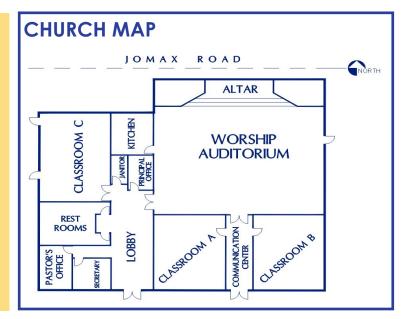
The church is God's business model for achieving his goals. The Greek word for "church" is *ekklesia*. It literally means "called out from." Believers are called out from their homes, their communities, and the world of sin around them to join a community of saints for the grand purpose of gathering around the Word and sacraments. This became the practice of the New Testament Church in Acts 2, and this was Jesus' prayer for all believers before going to the cross, that they would come together as one. Today we tend to evaluate a church's success by the square feet of their building and property, the size of their membership roster, or the number of books the pastor has written. But do these features, in and of themselves, make a church successful? The Apostle Paul today points us to a different set of measurements for a successful church that may be less visible but certainly more beneficial in our personal journey to eternity.

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.

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 of the Word and Sacrament

Opening Hymn: Open, Lovely Doors

CWH 912



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)

Text: tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963; Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737, abr. Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680
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Invocation

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession and Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

- M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



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) 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.

The title of this prayer is "Kyrie" in Greek meaning "O Lord". It is a cry to the Lord for help and strength.



M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

(Spoken Responsively)

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

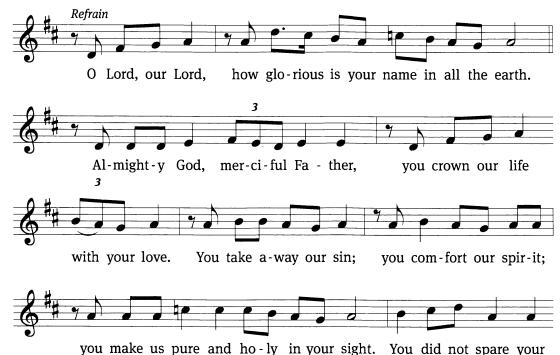
C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

(Spoken by Minister, Sung by Congregation)

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

Congregation Sings:





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



Text: Christian Worship, 1993

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923-1993

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Prayer of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Lord Jesus, we thank you for our church where we can join with sisters and brothers to enjoy the good news and share it with others. Send your Holy Spirit among us to enlighten our knowledge, increase our love, guide our mission, and renew our zeal to carry out the ministry of the gospel here and everywhere, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.





This text from Acts gives us a glimpse into the early church, functioning as God intended as a conduit for the extension of his Church.



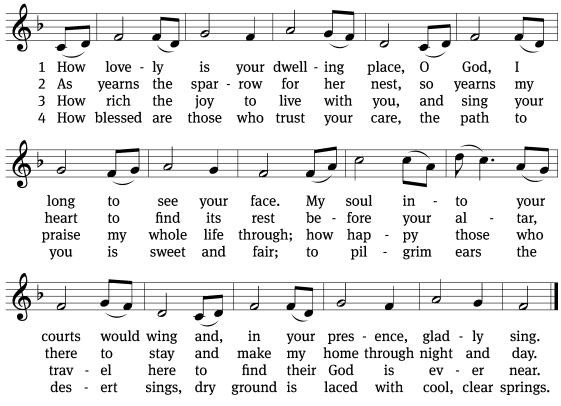
The Book of Psalms was the Old Testament hymnbook, prayer and liturgy book. It was used by worshipers at the temple. Many of the Psalms are the basis for our hymns and part of our liturgy is taken from the Psalms. The word "Psalm" comes from the Greek and means "a song sung to the accompaniment of a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

First Reading Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 84B



Text: para. Marty Haugen Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, ed. William Walker Text: © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716 Tune: Public domain

The Children's Sermon

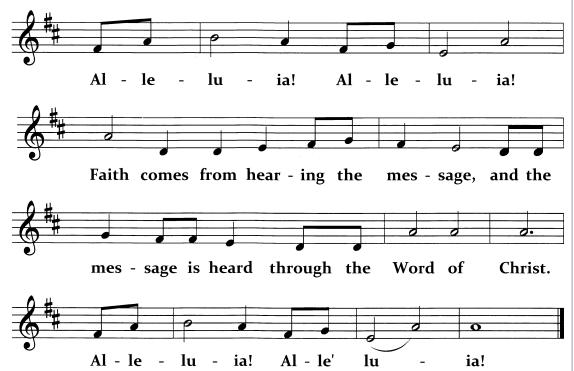
(All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)

Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister; Response sung by Congregation)

M: Alleluia. I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Alleluia.

(Sung by Congregation)





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.

Gospel John 17:20–26

²⁰"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."



Jesus, our high priest, sits at the right hand of the Father and intercedes for his Church. In his high priestly prayer Jesus prays for the future Church, for us.





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

Hymn of the Day: Lord Jesus Christ, Our Savior-King



Text: Johnold J. Strey, b. 1975 Tune: Henry K. Oliver, 1800–1885
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Sermon

The Successful Church

Ephesians 1:16-23

asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

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).

The 3rd Article of the Apostles' Creed (Sanctification) (Spoken Responsively)

M: 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.

What does this mean?

Song of the Season

- C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.
- M: In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

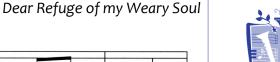
 In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.
- C: On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.This is most certainly true.



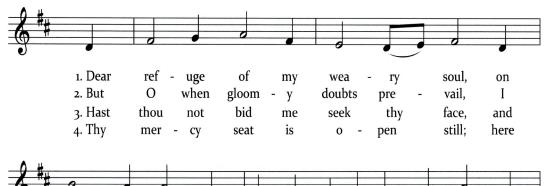
After hearing the Word of God, we respond with our confession of faith.

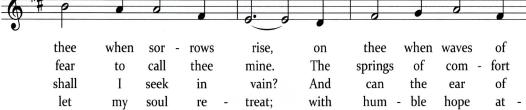
Today, we confess the third article of The Apostles' Creed, which focuses on the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit who creates faith in our hearts through the gospel, keeps us in the faith and motivates us to do good works.

The explanation is taken from Luther's Small Catechism.

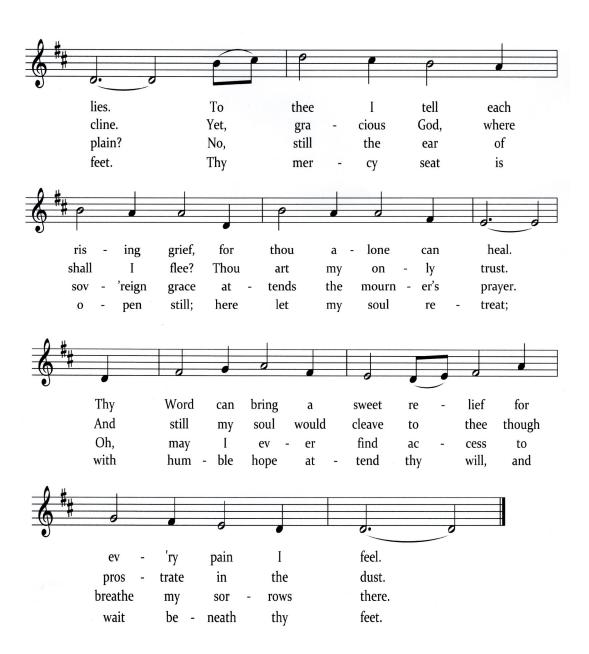


This is a hymn selected for the current church season that is generally new to our congregation, usually introduced first by a soloist, and repeated for several weeks to assist the congregation in learning the hymn.











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

The apostle Paul encouraged young Pastor Timothy: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people".

(I Timothy 2:1)

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

Offering Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

If you brought a monetary gift today for the work of the church, please place your offering in the receptacle at one of the two entrances to the sanctuary either before or after the service.

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.

The Sacrament of the Altar

Greeting

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

The pastor and people prepare to celebrate

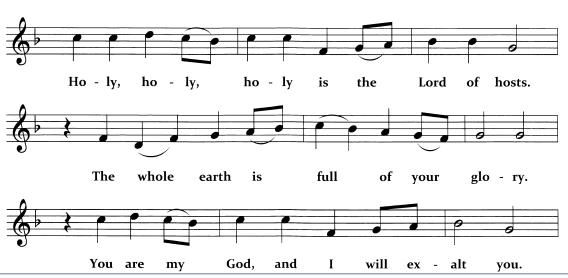
the Holy Meal by greeting each other and with

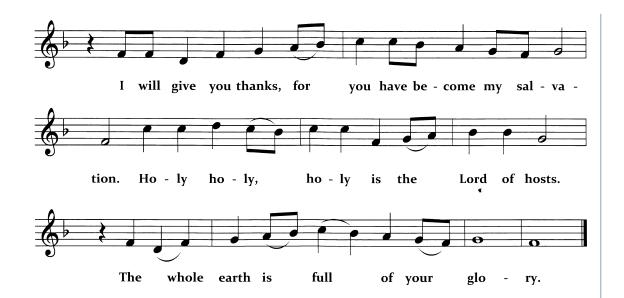
an exhortation as how to celebrate the meal.

Sanctus is a Latin word meaning "Holy". The Sanctus contains words from Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3) and the crowd's response on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 21:9). We join them in spirit by singing their words as we anticipate Christ's coming in the sacrament.

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus

(Sung by Congregation)





Words of Institution

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread: and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

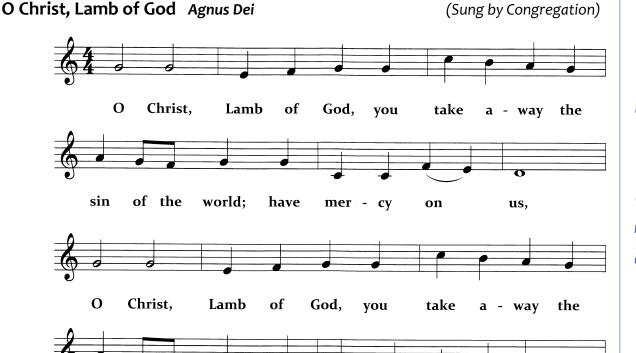
C: Amen.

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The pastor speaks the words which Jesus spoke when he instituted the Supper with his disciples in the Upper Room. With these words the bread and wine are consecrated, that is, set apart for God's use in this special meal.

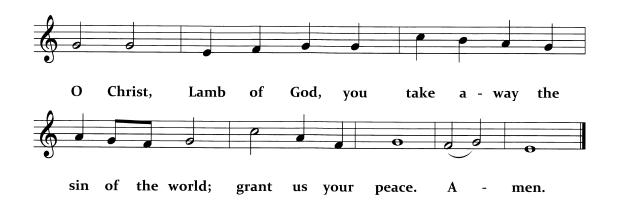


Agnus Dei is a Latin phrase meaning "Lamb of God". John the Baptist spoke these words as he pointed to Jesus coming toward him (John 1:29). As Christ comes to us in the Holy Supper, we recognize him as the Lamb of God sacrificed for us to free us from the bondage of sin and death.

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Distribution of Sacrament

We follow the Scriptural practice of **CLOSE COMMUNION**. If you have not communed here prior to today, you should speak with our pastor before the service. We would like to help you establish the unity which comes from a common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) before expressing that union together at the Lord's Table. It is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God's Word. Those who have established that connection as members of sister WELS or ELS congregations may register by checking the box in the attendance record book at the end of your row. Thank you for honoring our practice.



This is a hymn sung by the congregation during the distribution of the Lord's Supper.

Distribution Hymn: I Lay My Sins on Jesus

CWH 798



Song of Thanksgiving

(Sung by Congregation)

We offer our thanks and express our faith in what God has done for us and has promised to do for us in the future.



Closing Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



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.

Blessing

(Spoken by Minister)

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: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

CWH 713



Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

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Personal Prayers for Communion

Before Communing

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communing

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Worship Survey

Martin Luther once said that worship belongs to the people. At Cross of Glory, we want to make the worship experience of all members and visitors as meaningful and edifying as possible. For this reason, it is important that we receive feedback from all who enter our sanctuary to determine how we are doing and where we can improve. To achieve this goal, a worship survey was sent to all members with email addresses the second week of September. The survey has very specific questions that will help the leadership of the church continue to work hard at providing pleasant and God-pleasing worship that connects us all with God. Be sure to fill out the survey by October 1. Printed surveys are also available for those who want one.

Call Meeting

Our next pastoral call meeting will be September 20th at 7:00pm.

New River Growth Group

We will be starting a study of 1st & 2nd Timothy (as we just finished The Chosen - Season 3). Our first lesson will be on Thursday, Sept. 21st and we will be meeting the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month through December 7th (6 lessons).

Weekly QR Code

Please check your email or use this QR code for the weekly newsletter





This Week At COG	
September 17	
9:00 am	Jomax Worship (Live Streamed)
9:30 am	New River Worship Service
10:45 am	Everything New Bible Class
10:45 am	Contemporary Service
10:45 am	Kids Klub
4:00 pm	Confirmation Class
September 20	
10:00 am	Life of Christ Bible Class
6:00 pm	Pastoral Call Meeting
September 21	
10:00 am	Foundations of Faith Bible Class
6:30 pm	New River Growth Group
September 22	Father/Daughter Dance
September 23	

Next Week at COG	
September 24	
9:00 am	Jomax Worship (Live Streamed)
9:30 am	New River Worship Service
10:45 am	Everything New Bible Class
10:45 am	Contemporary Service
10:45 am	Kids Klub
4:00 pm	Confirmation Class
September 26	
10:00 am	Board of Ed
September 27	
10:00 am	Life of Christ
September 28	
9:00 am	Foundations of Faith

9:00 am

Bibles and Brews Women's Bible Study

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.

Norm Voigt, as he continues treatments.

Velta Larson, as she recovers from eye surgery.

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, grandsonto-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.

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.