

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Advent 4
Sunday, December 24, 2023

623-224-8839 ♦ www.crossofglory.org

1011 W Jomax Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Paul Mueller
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.

The season of Advent is historically a time of anticipation and waiting. Typically, we look at this waiting from three distinct vantage points:

1. God's Old Testament people waiting for the birth of the Savior,
2. Christians today waiting for the celebration of Christmas,
3. Christians waiting for the Lord's return on the Last Day.

They Prepare a Way
Joseph: How Great is a Father's Love

In every case, God's people were encouraged to wait with expectation and to prepare for the coming of the Lord through repentance and faith. These services are intended to help God's people prepare for the Lord's coming—to Bethlehem, to our hearts, and at the end of the world. Each week in Advent we will hear the voice from one who prepared the way for the Lord to help us in our preparation for our Savior. Today we hear from Joseph who was blessed to be our Savior's earthly father. May these Advent services help to center our attention on our coming Savior and strengthen our faith in him.

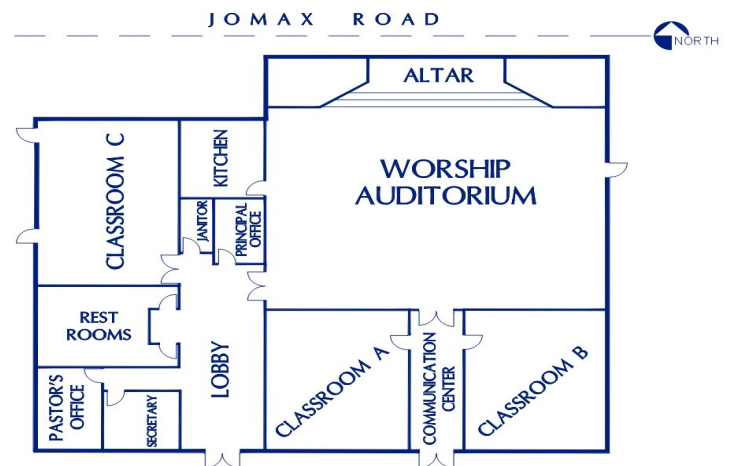
VISITOR INFORMATION

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

CHURCH MAP



FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

- Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby.
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult in Classroom A.
- **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!

Advent Service

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

CWH 333



*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 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt.
Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

(Spoken Responsively; Sung Response (CWH327))

M: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Give glory to the coming King!

C: Oh, come, let us worship Him!

M: Behold, He who was to come has come.

C: We welcome Him with thankful hearts.

M: Behold, He who has come is coming again.

C: We wait for Him with fervent faith.

M: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C: "Come, Lord Jesus."

M: All who await His appearance pray:



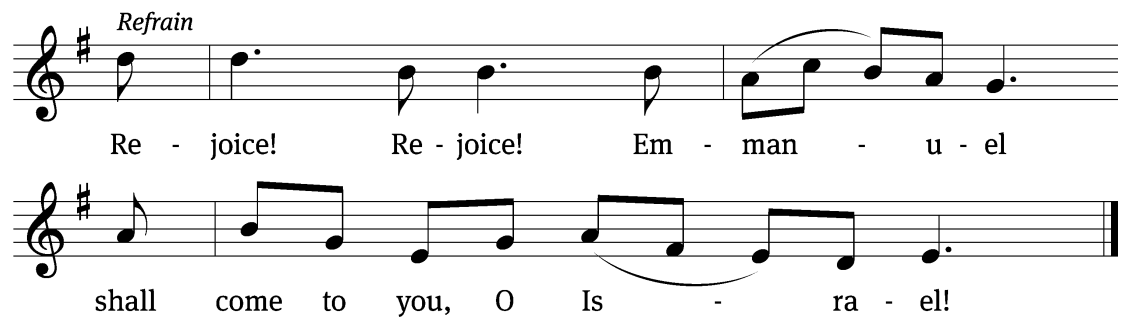
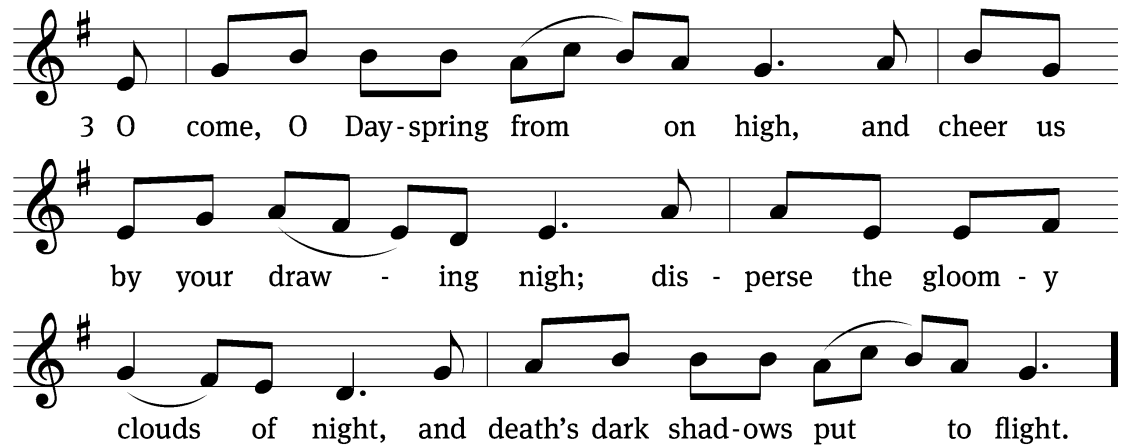
*In this season of Ad -
vent, we call upon the
triune God to be pre -
sent with us as we wor -
ship and prepare our
hearts for the coming
of Christ.*

C: "Come, Lord Jesus."

M: The whole creation pleads:

C: "Come, Lord Jesus."

Congregation sings:



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune: Public domain

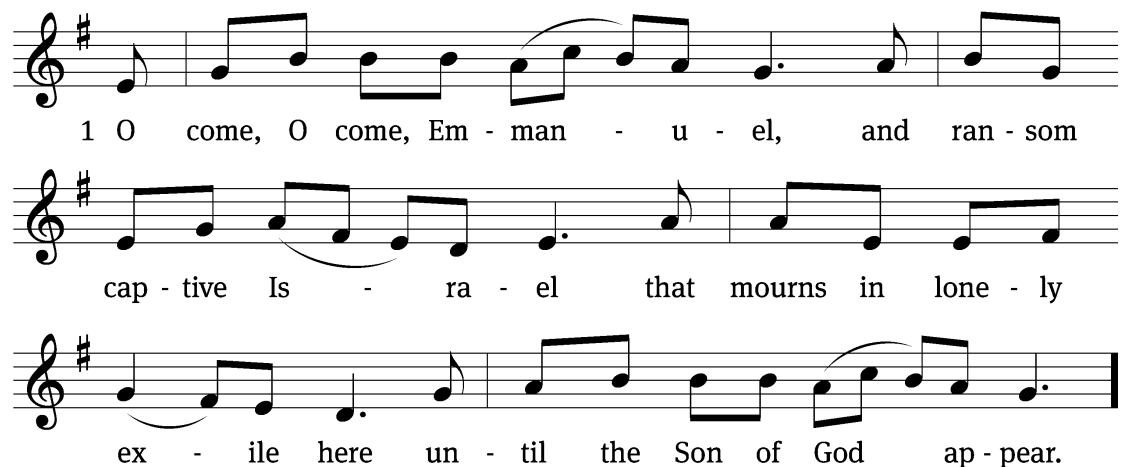
Advent Candle Lighting

(Spoken Responsively; Sung Response (CWH327))

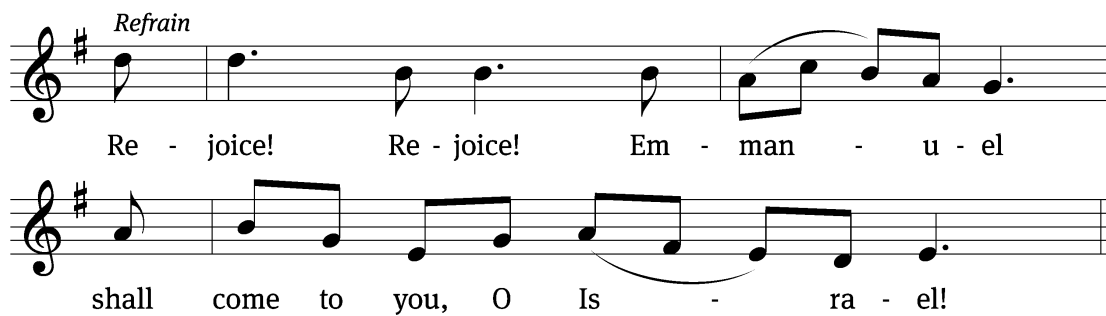
M: O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the Anointed for the nations and their Savior:

C: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Congregation sings:



The Advent wreath is a symbol of victory, for a garland wreath was often placed on victors in contests or conquests. So naturally, a Christian can think of the crown of life that Jesus has won for us. The four candles in an Advent wreath emphasize the four week period of penitence and preparation during Advent as we eagerly await the coming of the Light of the world to bring new life and hope.



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

C: O almighty, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But my heart is deeply grieved over them and I sincerely repent of them; and I pray you in your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

M: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and acting in his behalf and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Word

Scripture of Prophecy

Psalm 103:19–22

¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.

²⁰Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.

²¹Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.

²²Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

C: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughters of Jerusalem!
See, your King comes to you, Righteous and having salvation.



"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.



Psalm 103 gives us a picture of the results of God's unfathomable grace and love: eternal life in heaven for his children.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you. (*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26*)

The Children's Sermon

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



Revelation 14 restates the message of Psalm 103. St. John records his vision of the last judgment and the resulting eternal home for the people of God.

The Scripture of Anticipation

Revelation 14:6–13

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

⁸A second angel followed and said, “ ‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great,’ which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”

⁹A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, ¹⁰they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.” ¹²This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

¹³Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”


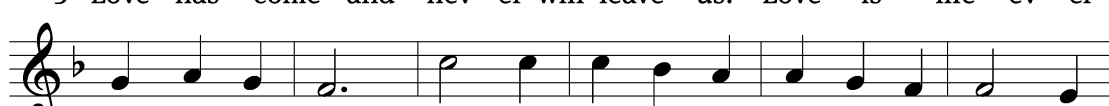
**C: Alleluia! Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia! (*Psalm 24:9*)**

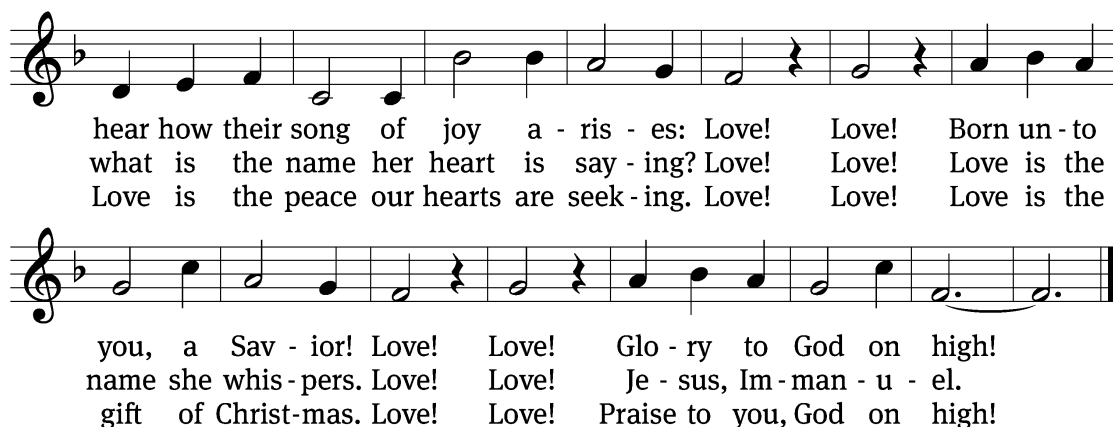


This hymn follows the theme of the readings and sets the stage for the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: Love Has Come

CWH 364


1 Love has come, a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -

Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950 Tune: F. Seguin, Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale, 1856
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Sermon

They Prepared a Way: Joseph How Great is a Father's Love

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.



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

**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 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.

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



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.

Song of the Season: Holy Is Your Name

CWH 956

1 My _____ soul is filled with joy as I
 2 I am low - ly as a child, but I
 3 I pro - claim your pow'r, O God! You work
 5 In your love you now ful - fill all you

sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
 know from this day for - ward that my name will be re -
 won - ders for your ser - vants; you have scat - tered the proud -
 prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my

ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
 mem - bered, and the world will call me bless - ed.
 heart - ed, you have lift - ed up the low - ly.
 Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.

Refrain

And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -
 a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the
 peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

Text: anonymous, alt. Tune: Scottish Text and tune: Public domain

Offering Prayer

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.



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

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 apostle Paul encouraged young Pastor Timothy: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people".
(1 Timothy 2:1)*

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

The Dismissal

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Behold, He who was to come has come.
C: We welcome him with thankful hearts.
M: Behold, He who has come is coming again.
C: We wait for him with fervent faith.
M: He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon'
C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
M: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people.
C: Amen.



We close the service as we began with the words of Revelation 22:20, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

Closing Hymn: Of the Father's Love Begotten

CWH 358

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten ere the worlds be-
2 Oh, that birth for-ev-er bless-ed when the vir-gin,
gan to be, he is Al-pha and O-me-ga,
full of grace, by the Ho-ly Ghost con-ceiv-ing,
he the source, the end-ing he,
bore the Sav-ior of our race,
of the things that are, that have been,
and the babe, the world's Re-deem-er,
and that fu-ture years shall see ev-er-more and ev-er-more.
first re-vealed his sa-cred face ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.
Tune: plainsong, 13th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Worship Volunteers	December 24	December 31	January 7
Counters	Nancy Murphy/Harry Novak	Judy Sasse/Susie Cornell	Joel Ditter/Nancy Schirripa
Communion			Sharon
Church Cleaners	Martins/Pappenfuss/Cape	Coates/Simkauskas	Kelley/Grams
Ushers	9:00am Verl Naber/Joel Ditter 6:00pm Chris Patterson/Isaac Patterson/Titus Patterson/Grant Stern	Len Collyard/Nick Nickolai/Steve Semmann/Sharon Wilson	John Kull/Kim Moline/Dean Ellis
Refreshments	Ally Kelly/Sharon Wilson	Mary Berggren/Shannon Gullerud	Paula Considine
A/V	9:00am Hailey Ditter/Joel Ditter 6:00pm Titus Patterson/Isaac Patterson	Stacy Cornell/Pedro Contreras	Shannon Gullerud/Aaron Gullerud

New Teacher Called

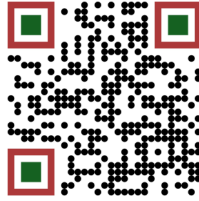
On Dec, 10th, our voters called Matt Neumann to teach 5-6th grades and serve as athletic director. He is currently serving at Trinity Lutheran School in Watertown, Wis. He's married to Jennifer with two kids, ages 1 and 2. (His dad Mark was a U.S. congressman at one time.) If you'd like to let him know why he's needed here, email him at mrneumann18@gmail.com.

Pantry Shower

Starting this Sunday, December 17, a Pantry Shower is planned for Pastor Pudlo and his family. Please bring food and household items, gift cards, etc., to the church, where a box will be provided.

Monthly Newsletter QR Code

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



Prayer Highlights for members and friends with noteworthy blessings, difficulties or health issues. Today we especially remember in our prayers...

Diane Lawrence who recently broke all three of the bones in her left ankle.

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**, 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. **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.