

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Epiphany 4
Sunday, January 28, 2024

623-224-8839 www.crossofglory.org

1011 W Jomax Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Zachary Pudlo
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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
SUNDAY

Thousands of years ago, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the wisest man who ever lived said, **"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."** King Solomon's words still ring true today. Christian Education is a life-long endeavor that begins in childhood—a firm foundation on which the Christian life is built.

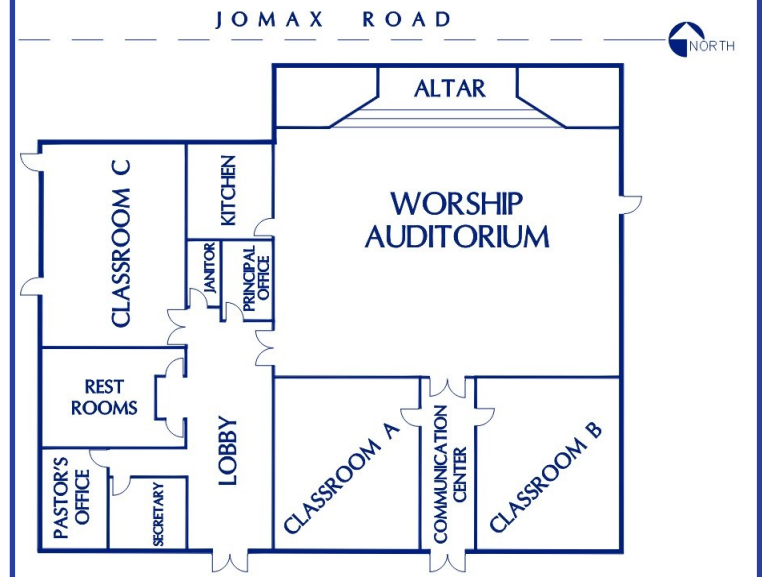
VISITOR INFORMATION

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 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!

Service of Celebration and Reverence

Opening Hymn: Father Welcomes

CWH 684

Refrain



Fa - ther wel - comes all his chil - dren to his fam - ly through his Son.



Fa - ther giv - ing his sal - va - tion, life for - ev - er has been won.



1 Lit - tle chil - dren, come to me, for my king - dom is of these.

2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, in his prom - ise, be as - sured:

3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; let us dai - ly rise with him,



Life and love I have to give, mer - cy for your sin.
those who are bap - tized and be - lieve shall be born a - gain.
walk in the love of Christ our Lord, live in the peace of God.

Refrain

Text: Robin Mann, b. 1949 Tune: Robin Mann, b. 1949
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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 Approach God

(Spoken/Sung Responsively)

M: O Creator, to you darkness is light, and a thousand years is as a day. Before we speak, you know our thoughts.

C: **There is no place we can flee from your sight.**

M: O most holy Lord, our relationship with you requires a personal integrity we do not have. We are cut to the heart to realize that you judge every thought, word and action.

C: **We have been arrogant to challenge your laws. We have been foolish to excuse our lust for more as a basic human need. We have blamed our unhappiness on others. Our self-centeredness is the worst affliction on earth and we no longer deny it.**

M: O God of wisdom, we have wandered from your ways. We do not deserve leniency. The only thing we possess is our guilt.

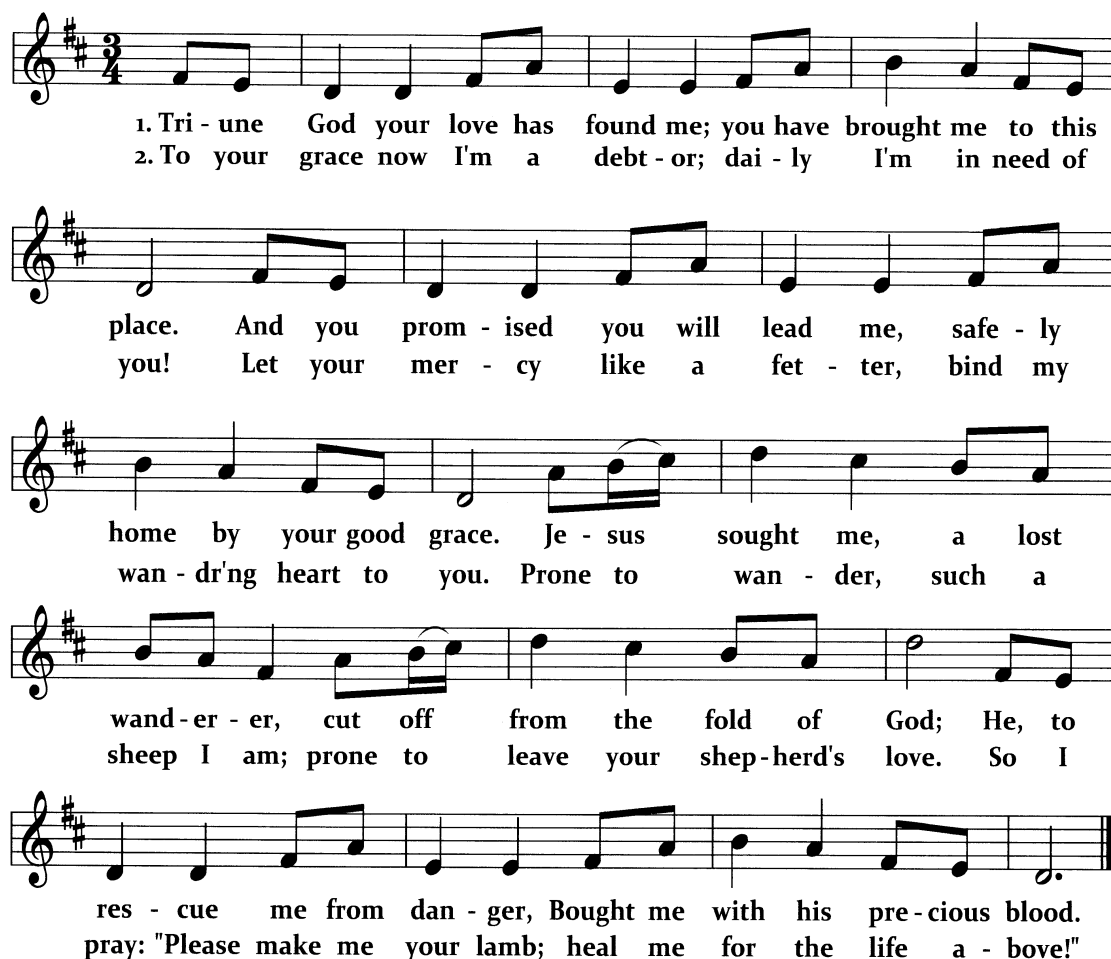
C: **O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we can speak your name only because you are the God of grace. Jesus came to be the sacrificial Lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. Because you have gathered all the lost, we plead: “Be our Shepherd.”**



We are able to ap -
proach the eternal,
almighty Triune God
because he is the God
of undeserved love—
the God of Grace.

We confess our sins to
God confident he will
forgive us because he
has promised, “If we
confess our sins, he
[God] is faithful and
just and will forgive us
our sins and purify us
from all unrighteous -
ness” (1 John 1:9).

(Sung by Congregation)



1. Tri - une God your love has found me; you have brought me to this
2. To your grace now I'm a debt - or; dai - ly I'm in need of

place. And you prom - ised you will lead me, safe - ly
you! Let your mer - cy like a fet - ter, bind my

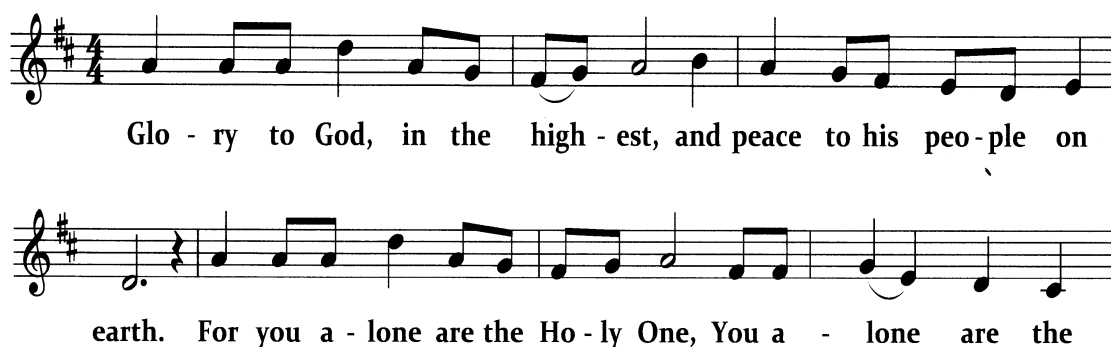
home by your good grace. Je - sus sought me, a lost
wan - dr'ng heart to you. Prone to wan - der, such a

wand - er - er, cut off from the fold of God; He, to
sheep I am; prone to leave your shep - herd's love. So I

res - cue me from dan - ger, Bought me with his pre - cious blood.
pray: "Please make me your lamb; heal me for the life a - bove!"

M: The Triune God knows our needs. He remembers that we are dust. He gloried in doing for us what we do not deserve. Before we existed, the Father sent his one and only Son to trade places with a world of sinners. In the fullness of time, Jesus packaged his honor in humility and was born into our world. By His flawless life and innocent death, he ransomed the world from sin, Satan and damnation. The Holy Spirit raised him back to life to guarantee that we who trust these truths are God's children and heirs of heaven. Amen.

(Sung by Congregation)

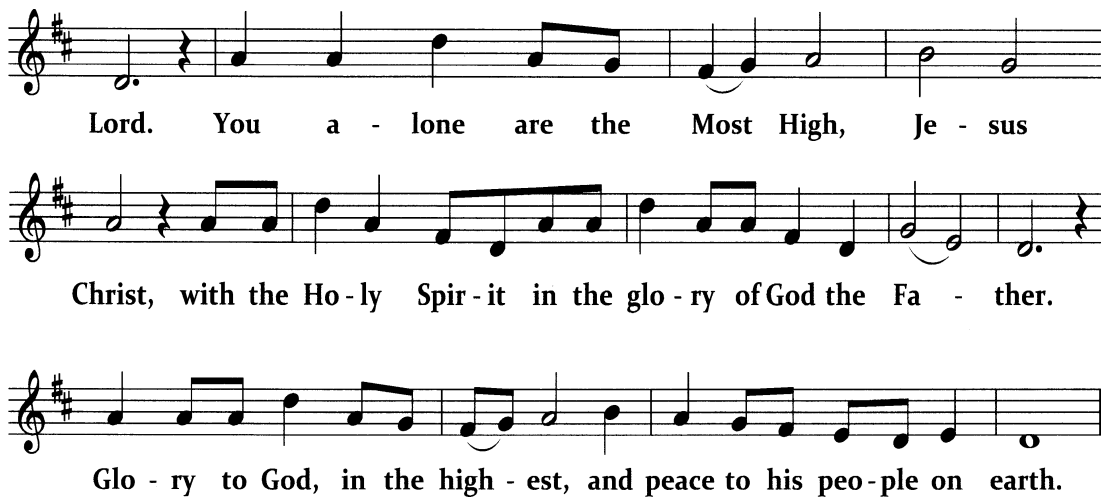


Glo - ry to God, in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on

earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the



This hymn of praise gives the congregation the opportunity to praise God and express joy because our debt of sin was paid by Jesus, our victorious Savior.



For five centuries, Martin Luther's Small Catechism has served as the basic instruction book for the church. It directs us to God's Word and points to the only source for spiritual life, the Means of Grace: the Word and Sacraments. As lifelong students of the Catechism, we review these important truths from God's Word as we continue to grow in a deep appreciation for all that Jesus has done as our Savior.

Catechism Review: The Blessings of Baptism

(Spoken Responsively)

M: *What does Baptism do for us?*

C: Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

M: *What are these words and promises of God?*

C: Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Prayer of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty God, you have committed to your Church the task of making disciples of all nations. Enlighten with your wisdom those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



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

First Reading

2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



The Word of God is the basis for Christian education.

The Children's Sermon

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



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

The sung response is taken from Romans 10:17.

Verse of the Day

(Spoken by Minister; Sung Response by Congregation)

M: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

(Sung by the Congregation)

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the

mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le' lu - ia!



Children are not just included, but loved and welcomed by Jesus and are to be included in Christian education.

Gospel

Mark 10:13-16

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.



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



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the chil - dren's friend, to each of
2 In Chris - tian homes, Lord, let them be your bless - ing
3 That car - ing par - ents, gra - cious Lord, and faith - ful
5 That all of us, your chil - dren dear, by Christ re -



them your pres - ence send; call them by name and
to their fam - i - ly; let Chris - tian schools your
teach - ers find re - ward in lead - ing these, to
deemed, may Christ re - vere. Lead us in joy that



keep them true in lov - ing faith, dear Lord, to you.
work ex - tend in liv - ing truth as you in - tend,
whom you call, to find in Christ their all in all.
all we do will wit - ness to our love for you.

Text: Henry L. Lettermann, 1932–1996 Tune: William Knapp, 1698–1786
Text: © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716 Tune: Public domain

Sermon

The Tools for Spiritual Growth

Deuteronomy 6:4–9,
20–25

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

²⁰In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?” ²¹tell him: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²²Before our eyes the LORD sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. ²³But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors. ²⁴The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. ²⁵And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”



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.



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 Apostles' Creed

(Spoken in Unison)

**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: The People Who Walked in Darkness

CWH 382



1 The peo - ple who walked in dark - ness a - wak - en to
2 For God has en - larged the na - tion and pros - pered the
5 How vast is our God's do - min - ion! How far truth and



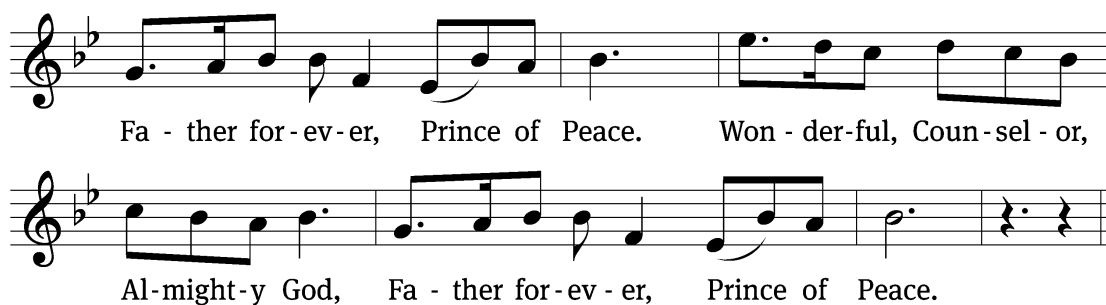
see a great light. The peo - ple who dwelt in the
fruit of its land. God's peo - ple are blest with the
mer - cy ex - tend. The zeal of the Lord will ac -



land of the shad - ow rise to a star shin - ing bright.
har - vest of vic - t'ry, gift from a boun - ti - ful hand.
com - plish its pur - pose: jus - tice shall reign with - out end.



His name is Won - der - ful, Coun - sel - or, Al - might - y God,



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Tune: Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952
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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.



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

Prayer of the Church

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Eternal Father, your Word is a lamp for our feet and a light to our path. You inspired the Scriptures for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that your servants might be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

C: **Lead us to love your Word more and more and to receive your message with great eagerness.**

M: You have given us your Word that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in his name. Enable us to see the wonders of your love in Christ from the beginning to the end of your holy book.

C: **Help us to see Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.**

M: Work in all your people, especially in parents, the resolve and patience to teach little children the simple truths about the Savior who loves them. Walk with us as we take our children to the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb. Let them find Jesus in stories, songs, and prayers.

C: **Move us to bring up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

M: Provide wisdom and commitment to teachers who train our young people in Sunday Schools and youth Bible classes. Deepen their knowledge of your Word as they prepare and share the lessons they teach. Move them to model a sincere devotion to the Scriptures.

C: **Lead us to plan for and support the Christian training of children.**

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)*

M: Work in us that we may find the lasting value of growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Lead us to be faithful in our personal study of the Scriptures and in participating in regular Bible classes. Rid us of all thoughts that Christian education ends in our youth. Make us life-long students of your precious Word.

C: **Lead us to believe that at every age your Word remains a lamp for our feet and a light to our path.**

M: How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your Word. Even when we are old and gray, lead us to meditate on your decrees that we may delight in your wonderful deeds.

C: **Do good to your servants, Lord, according to your Word. Amen.**

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.**

Closing Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

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.



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.

Closing Hymn: Lord, Bless Your Word to All the Young

CWH 762



1 Lord, bless your Word to all the young; let them, your truth pos-
2 When faced with pres-sure, grief or pain, when Sa - tan comes al -



sess - ing, de - clare your praise with heart and tongue, their faith in
lur - ing, may their bap - tis - mal grace re - main a ref - uge



Christ con - fess - ing. From birth your firm em-brace has held them
re - as - sur - ing. God's prom - is - es are sure; his mer - cy



in your grace. Bap-tized in - to your name, re-deemed and
will en - dure. They shall not be un - done who trust in



free from blame, as your dear chil - dren keep them.
Christ a - lone; God is their might - y Fa - ther!

Text: Johan N. Brun, 1745–1816, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.; (st. 2): tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924
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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 her ankle and is awaiting surgery.

Norm Voigt, as he continues treatments.

Velta Larson, as she recovers from eye surgery.

Rick Scott, in hospice with a few medical complications.

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.