

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Lent 4
Sunday, March 10, 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

Rethinking Religion

Everyone has assumptions about God. Likewise, everyone has assumptions about religion. Increasingly, those assumptions are negative. Americans are walking away from Christianity in breathtaking numbers. It raises the question. How do those people know if their assumptions about religion are correct? Do they really understand Christianity at all? Do we? Do we truly understand this religion? In the season of Lent, as much as any other, Jesus teaches things that turns the world's assumptions about religion completely upside down. We call it "Christianity." So, in this holy season, let us go straight to Christ and let him replace assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

Our theme this week is "**Rethinking the Solution to Sin**". While not every religion uses the word "sin," they all embrace the concept. Every religion acknowledges that mankind's flawed attitudes or misguided actions are a source of pain, both now and potentially in eternity. So, every religion offers a solution: a set of laws, a moral code, a path to more enlightened behavior. What do they have in common? We are to solve sin through human effort. Be better! Try harder! This is the heart of every false religion. Those who correctly understand they will never overcome their sin are crushed by guilt. Those who ludicrously believe they have defeated their sin are killed by pride. True religion offers a better way—one that frees us from guilt and has no room for pride. Jesus teaches that the solution to our sin is not to work harder. It is to trust in the work he has done for us. Salvation comes through Spirit-wrought faith in Christ.

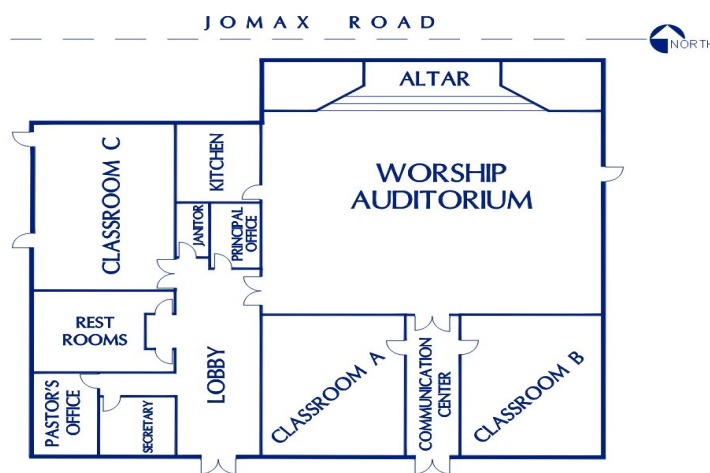
VISITOR INFORMATION

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 and 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 the Word

Opening Hymn: In Christ Alone

CWH 510



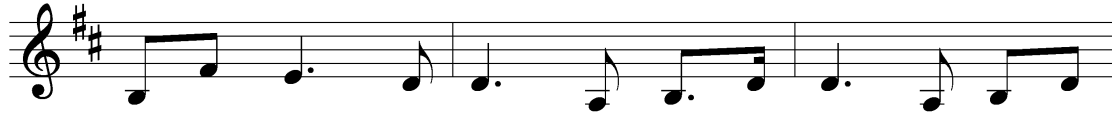
*Hymn of praise, prayer,
or reflection on the
season of the church
year.*

*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 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -
world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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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.

Greeting

(Spoken Responsively)

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

C: Amen.

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.

Prayer of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Numbers 21:4–9

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Choir

What Love is This?

Music by Brad Nix
Words by Pamela Stewart

The Children's Sermon

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

Gospel Reading

John 3:14–21

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.



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



The LORD promised a solution for the bite of venomous snakes. That solution perhaps seemed nonsensical. Yet, all those who trusted God's promise lived.



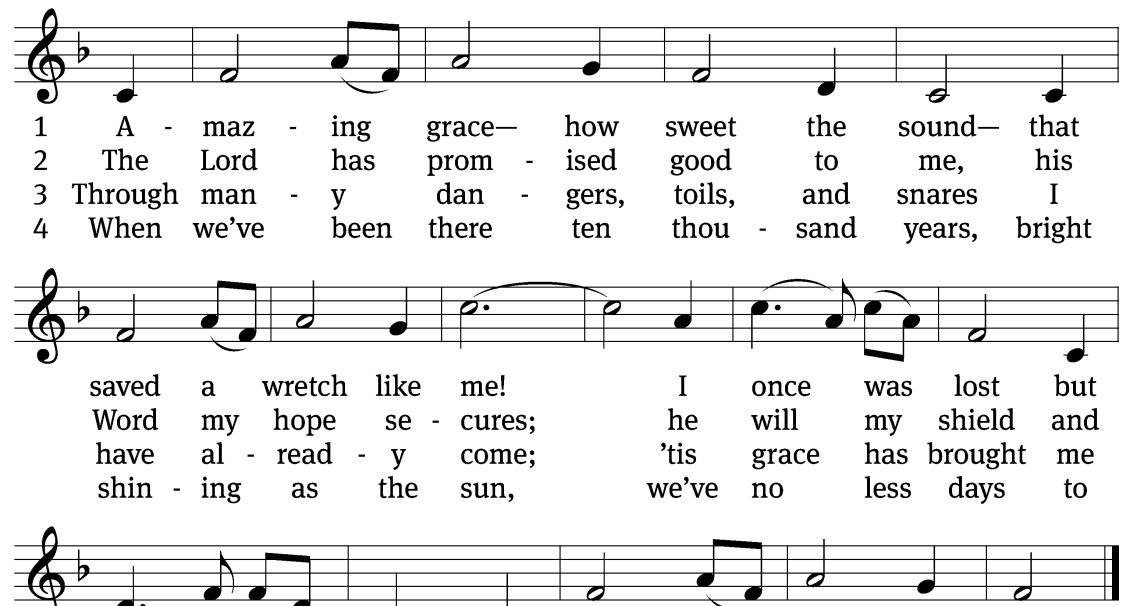
Christ is the solution to sin. Whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but have eternal life.



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

Sermon Hymn: Amazing Grace

CWH 576



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to
now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman Text and 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 Four Key Concepts: Sin, Grace, Faith, Works Ephesians 2:1–10

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



**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.**

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.

Hymn: God Was There on Calvary

CWH 433

Soloist sings Vs. 1-3; Congregation joins for Vs. 4—6

*God was there on Calvary, God the Father's only Son,
dying that the world might live, there on Calvary.*

*All the world on Calvary crucified the Prince of life,
pierced the hands of God's own Son, there on Calvary.*

*Sin was there on Calvary, all the sins of ev'ryone,
laid upon God's sinless Lamb there on Calvary.*

Congregation joins:

4 Love was there on Cal - va - ry, stream - ing from the heart of God,
5 Life was there on Cal - va - ry, flow - ing from his wound - ed side,
6 We were there on Cal - va - ry; we were par - doned, saved, set free,
reach - ing out for ev - 'ry - one there on Cal - va - ry.
spent that death it - self might die there on Cal - va - ry.
saved to live e - ter - nal - ly— bless - ed Cal - va - ry!



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".

(1 Timothy 2:1)

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



The **Aaronic Blessing** is the blessing that Aaron and his sons were to speak over the people of Israel, recorded in Numbers 6:23–27. The pastor offers the same blessing to the congregation as they are about to conclude their worship.

Offering 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.**

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

(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.



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest Re - deem - er,
 2 Dare we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re -
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent

whom we love, foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior
 pent - ant vow, as we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your
 love for you! May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be -

from the world a - bove, of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed,
 thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Since your sin - less death has brought us
 hold your cross a - new, till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er

gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; yet, up - on the
 life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest, on - ly what your
 from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, grav - en in our

cross ex - tend - ed, you en - dured the pain of all.
 grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 hearts for - ev - er dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied!

Text: tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–1896, alt.; Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–1498
 Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Weekly Newsletter QR Code

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



Ways to Serve

Worship Volunteers	March 10	March 17	March 24
Counters	Nick Nicholai/Michael Ryan	Nancy Murphy/Harry Novak	Judy Sasse/Susie Cornell
Communion		Dawn	
Church Cleaners	Gullerud/Kugler	Plizuweit/Peterson/Sterns	Martins/Pappenfuss/Cape
Greeters	Leonard Freeman/Maxine Freeman	Verl Naber/Clara Naber	Fred Piepenbrink/Diana Piepenbrink
Ushers	Jon Naber/Rich Kugler/Kelly Simpson	Brian Ehinger/Trey Ehinger/Kade Ehinger/Bill Brooks	Dave Goelzer/Karen Goelzer/Michael Ryan/Gary Jeffers
Refreshments	Ally Kelley/Sharon Wilson	Mary Berggren/Shannon Gullerud	Paula Considine
A/V	Hailey Ditter/Joel Ditter	Titus Patterson/Isaac Patterson	Kelly Simpson/Pedro Contreras

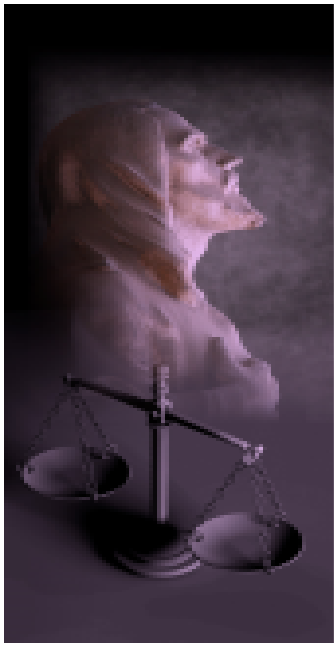
Baby Shower for Heidi Pudlo

The WinGS will be hosting a baby shower for Heidi Pudlo immediately after Bible class on Sunday, March 17. ALL women of the congregation are invited to attend. Any brand diapers (of varying sizes) and any brand wipes would be most appreciated. Please use the QR code to sign up for boys clothes of varying sizes so she doesn't end up with all the same size outfits. Light refreshments will be served.



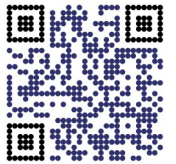
Construction Updates

Tentatively the church/school parking lot will be redone March 11-13. Also the church/school office will be getting new countertops, so Liz and Tracy will not be in the office. If you need to get a hold of us you can still email or call.



GOD ON TRIAL

This year's theme is "**God on Trial.**" As in years past, we will have a soup supper served at 6:00 p.m. The service will follow at 7:00 p.m. Please use the QR Code below to sign up for the soup supper.



March 13: God on Trial: Restraint (Pastor Mark Jacobson, pastor at Grace, Glendale)

March 20: God on Trial: Testimony (Pastor Lincoln Albrecht, pastor at River of Life, Good-year)

Holy Week Calendar

March 24, 9:00am	Palm Sunday
March 28, 7:00pm	Maundy Thursday w/ Communion
March 29, 7:00pm	Good Friday
March 31, 7:00am	Sunrise Easter Service
March 31, 9:30am	Celebration Easter Service

Easter Breakfast Sign Up

Easter Breakfast (March 31st), will start at 8:00 AM, between the Sunrise Easter Service and the Celebration Easter Service. Please have your food items to church by 7:45 AM.

Please use the QR to review the available slots and sign up. Thank you!



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

Diane Lawrence, who is recovering from ankle surgery.

Velta Larson, as she is home and recovering from a broken pelvis.

Angela Hall, who is recovering from having surgery for a total ankle replacement.

Judy Sasse, who is recovering from surgery and will be undergoing treatments for cancer.

Fran Fidel, who is on life support.

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.