Cross of Glory Lutheran Church & School



623-224-8839 • www.crossofglory.org

10111 W Jomax Road Peoria, AZ 85383

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Zachary Pudlo 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.

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!

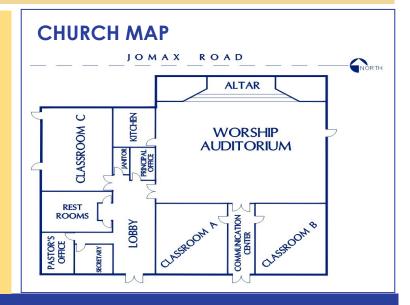
The theme for today is "Rethinking Devoted Commitment". Religious sociologists sometimes divide Christians into two groups: committed Christians and cultural Christians. The former are usually defined as those who are active in a congregation, who pray regularly, who read Scripture, etc. The latter are those individuals who call themselves Christian and perhaps have some Christian beliefs. Yet, they do not strive to live a Christian life. They are not interested in church involvement. Those definitions are interesting when trying to understand shifts in American Christianity. However, they demonstrate a false assumption about the Christian religion. There is indeed a devoted commitment at the center of Christianity, but it is not man's commitment to God. Even believers will at times demonstrate lukewarm commitment at best. Instead, at the heart of Christianity we find God's devotion and commitment to us. It is a devoted commitment so strong that it put God on the cross.

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



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!

Today's Worship Focus

Scripture and Song with The Lord's Supper

Gathering Rite on the Word of God

(CWH633 Sung Responses)

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

C: Amen.

M: Oh, how I love your law!

C: I meditate on it all day long.

M: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

C: for they are ever with me.

M: I have more insight than all my teachers,

C: for I meditate on your statutes.

M: How sweet are your words to my taste,

C: sweeter than honey for my mouth.

Sung by Congregation:





God's people long to gather together for strength from him and for mutual encouragement. The beginning of this worship service focuses on the Word of God and its power to bring us to faith.

"And we also thank
God continually because, when you received the word of God,
which you heard from
us, you accepted it not
as a human word, but
as it actually is,
the word of God, which
is indeed at work in you
who believe. "

(1 Thessalonians 2:13)



"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)

- M: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness,
- C: so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- M: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.
- 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.

Sung by Congregation:



M: God gave his Word so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, that by believing you may have life in his name". The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called serv-

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.

ant 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.

Sung by Congregation:



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Prayer of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.





In devoted commitment the LORD promises his people that even if they need to pass through raging waters or walk through a wall of fire, he will be right there with them. First Reading

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¹But now, this is what the LORD says he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

³For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

I give Egypt for your ransom,

Cush and Seba in your stead.

⁴Since you are precious and honored in my sight,

and because I love you,

I will give people in exchange for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not be afraid, for I am with you;

I will bring your children from the east

and gather you from the west.

⁶I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'

and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'

Bring my sons from afar

and my daughters from the ends of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

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

Psalm 121

(Read Responsively)

Isaiah 43:1-7

M: I lift up my eyes to the mountains—

C: where does my help come from?

M: My help comes from the LORD,

C: the maker of heaven and earth.

M: He will not let your foot slip—

C: he who watches over you will not slumber;

M: indeed, he who watches over Israel

C: will neither slumber nor sleep.

M: The LORD watches over you—

C: the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

M: the sun will not harm you by day,

C: nor the moon by night.

M: The LORD will keep you from all harm—

C: he will watch over your life;

M: the LORD will watch over your coming and going

C: both now and forevermore.

The Children's Sermon

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

Second Reading Hebrews 5:7–9

⁷During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.



Because he was truly human Jesus did not relish having to suffer for our salvation. Yet he submitted to the cross out of his devoted commitment to us.

Sermon Hymn: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

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

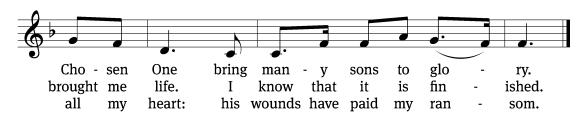
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Sermon John 12:20–33

²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²²Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

The Nicene Creed

(Spoken in Unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

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 Nicene Creed was written in 325 A.D. to address false ideas about the divinity of Jesus Christ. That explains why the second article of the Nicene Creed is longer than its counterpart in the Apostles' Creed.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Song of the Season: God Was There on Calvary

CWH 433

Ensemble sings Vs. 1-2; Congregation joins for Vs. 3-6

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.

Congregation Sings:





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)



Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993 Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993 Text and tune: © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 71716

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)

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.

Holy Communion

The Preparation

(Spoken Responsively)

- M: I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another,
- C: so that there may be no divisions among you, and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Cor. 1:10)

The responsive reading from I Corinthians reminds the communicants of the necessity of the unity of faith and preparation required as we receive the body and blood of Christ.

M: Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ?

C: And is not the bread that we break, a participation in the body of Christ?

M: Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body:

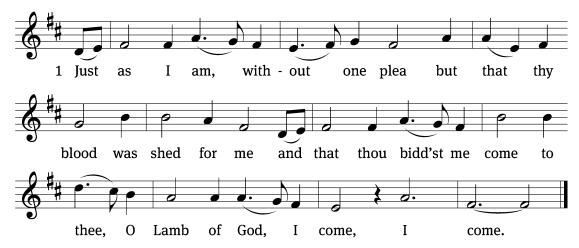
C: for we all partake of the one loaf. (1 Cor 10:16-17)

M: Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

C: A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. (1 Cor 11:26-28)

Communion Canticle: Just as I Am, without One Plea

CWH 814



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Text and tune: Public domain



As we approach the Lord's table, we are

reminded that we are invited only because of the price Jesus paid on the cross.

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.



This hymn of response perfectly describes the blessings of this Sacrament - forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

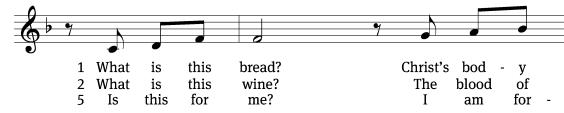
Words of Institution

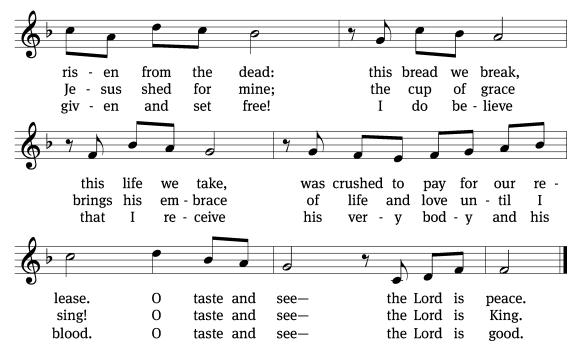
(Spoken by Minister)

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.

Sung Response: What Is This Bread

CWH 665





Text: Frederic W. Baue, b. 1946 Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, b. 1951 Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

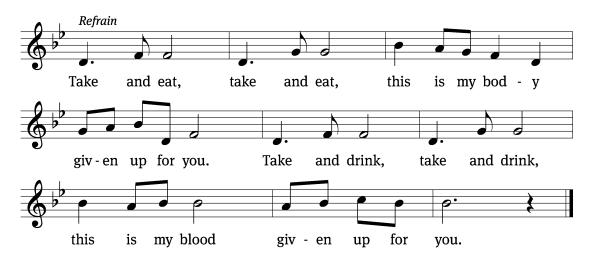
Distribution of Sacrament

We follow the Scriptural practice of **CLOSE COMMUNION**. If you have not communed here prior to to-day, 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.

Distribution Hymn: Take and Eat

CWH 676

Ensemble sings verses and Congregation sings refrains



I am the Word that spoke and light was made;

I am the seed that died to be reborn;

I am the bread that comes from heav'n above;

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy. (**Refrain**)



This is a hymn sung by the congregation during the distribution of the Lord's Supper. I am the way that leads the exile home;
I am the truth that sets the captive free;
I am the life that raises up the dead;
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you. (Refrain)

I am the Lamb that takes away your sin; I am the gate that guards you night and day; you are my flock: you know the shepherd's voice; you are my own: your ransom is my blood. (**Refrain**)

I am the cornerstone that God has laid; a chosen stone and precious in his eyes; you are God's dwelling-place, on me you rest; like living stones, a temple for God's praise. (**Refrain**)

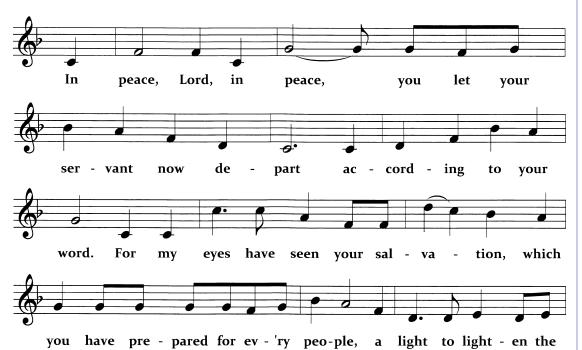
I am the light that came into the world;
I am the light that darkness cannot hide;
I am the Morning Star that never sets;
lift up your face, in you my light will shine. (Refrain)

I am the first and last, the Living One;
I am the Lord who died that you might live;
I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;
you are my bride, come to the marriage feast. (**Refrain**)

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010
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Song of Simeon Nunc Dimittis

(Sung by Congregation)





The Nunc Dimittis
("now dismiss") is also known as the "Song of Simeon" (Luke 2: 29-32). Through God's Word and Sacrament, we too have seen Christ, the Messiah. Like aged Simeon who held the Christ-child in his arms as God had promised, we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.



Closing Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through Him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.

Ensemble By Our Love

Acknowledgments

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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.

Voters Meeting

A Voters Meeting will be held today after service to extend calls for a 5-6 and 7-8 grade teacher.

Picture Ordering Update

If you would like to order a church directory, you will need to create an account using the QR code. You may also use this to order individual pictures. If you have any question, please contact United Portraits directly at 602-538-9600, or email them at cs@unitedportraits.com. Orders are due by Friday, March 22, 2024.

Ways to Serve

Worship Volunteers	March 17	March 24	March 31
Counters	Nancy Murphy/Harry Novak	Judy Sasse/Susie Cornell	Joel Ditter/Nancy Schirripa
Communion	Dawn		
Church Cleaners	Plizuweit/Peterson/ Sterns	Martins/Pappenfuss/ Cape	Coates/Simkauskas
Greeters	Verl Naber/Clara Naber	Fred Piepenbrink/ Diana Piepenbrink	Brad Hotz/Carolyn Hotz
Ushers	Brian Ehinger/Trey Ehinger/Kade Ehing- er/Bill Brooks	Dave Goelzer/Karen Goelzer/Michael Ryan/Gary Jeffers	7:00am Cody Hall/Joel Ditter 9:30am Len Collyard/Nick Nickolai/Steve Semmann/Sharon Wilson
Refreshments	Mary Berggren/ Shannon Gullerud	Paula Considine	Easter Breakfast
A/V	Titus Patterson/Isaac Patterson	Kelly Simpson/Pedro Contreras	Hailey Ditter/Joel Ditter

Grand Canyon West Spring Rally 2024

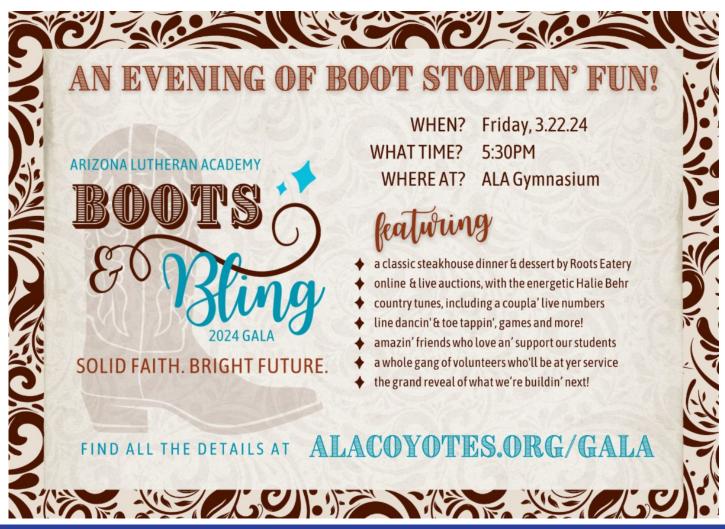
Please use the QR to view the information and register for the upcoming LWMS Spring Rally. It will be held on April 13 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Mesa, AZ.



ALA Gala Information



You may also use this QR code to access the website and all the details.



Baby Shower for Heidi Pudlo

The WinGS will be hosting a baby shower for Heidi Pudlo immediately after Bible class to-day 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.





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 20: God on Trial: Testimony (Pastor Lincoln Albrecht, pastor at River of Life, Goodyear)

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!

Holy Week Voluteers	March 28	March 29
Communion	Shannon	
Ushers	Chris Patterson/Isaac Patterson/Titus Patterson/Grant Stern	Pedro Contreras/ Tanner Plizuweit/ Michael Radue
A/V	Shannon Gullerud/ Aaron Gullerud	Titus Patterson/Isaac Patterson



Meet the person behind the pulpit

I would love to get to know all the Cross of Glory members. Let's get together informally for a visit. We could meet at church, I could come visit you at your house, or I would be happy to treat for coffee. Please select the date, time, and location of your choosing. Please use the QR provided below to sign up.



Pastor Pudlo



Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization

We have a custom Cross of Glory link that will make donating your tax dollars a little easier this year! For more information on how to donate or how the tax credit works, get in touch with Elizabeth Simkauskas or scan this QR code



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.