

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Epiphany 6
Sunday, February 16, 2025

623-224-8839 ♦ www.crossofglory.org

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Zachary Pudlo
Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal



Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory

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.

Worship Focus

Epiphany moments



SEEING THINGS AS
THEY REALLY ARE

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” When someone has an epiphany, it’s not that reality changed. The way they see that reality is what changed, for a deeper truth has been revealed. An epiphany is an “a-ha!” moment causing us to look at things very differently. In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will come to understand that when we have Jesus in our lives, it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently (and better). Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments.

Our journey through the Epiphany season follows this path:

01-12	Baptism Is the Cure for an Identity Crisis	02-09	The Least Qualified Are the First Sent
01-19	God Delivers More than We Ask, Not Less	02-16	Blessings Are Cursed; Curses Are Blessed
01-26	Rejection Is Not Proof of Failure	02-23	Love Your Enemies, Overcoming Evil with Good
02-02	Popularity Is Not Proof of Success	03-02	Glory Is Hidden in Order to Be Revealed

BLESSINGS ARE CURSED; CURSES ARE BLESSED *“This is good. That is bad.”* We often think life is that simple. We believe we can assess a situation accurately to determine if it is positive or negative. It’s hubris. As Jesus gathered followers, he taught them that his kingdom runs exactly opposite to the principles and priorities of the world. Therefore, much that we think is good is bad, and vice-versa.

If we want to accurately see the world, we need to have this epiphany. That which the world considers a blessing can often be a curse. Things like success and wealth and health can lead us away from our God. We become so enamored with those blessings that we forget about the Blesser. Conversely, there are hidden blessings in what we would normally consider curses. When we fail, when we suffer, and when things don’t go our way, it forces us to put our trust in God and for our souls to be satisfied in him. The reality is that perceived blessings can be cursed and perceived curses can be used for our blessing.

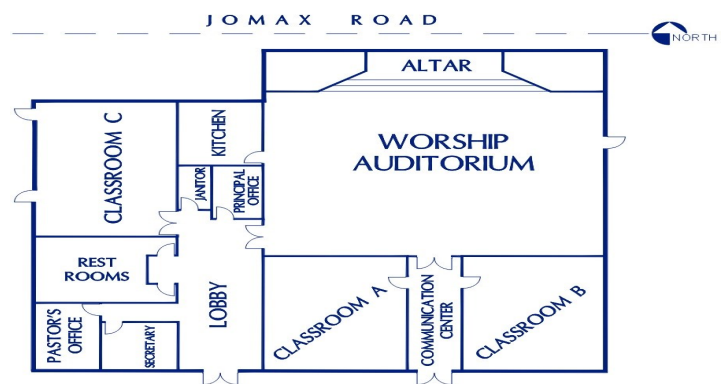
VISITOR INFORMATION

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!

Scripture and Song with The Lord's Supper

Gathering Rite on the Word of God

(CWH633 Sung Responses)



M: 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:

Musical notation for a congregational song in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your holy Word; take your truth, plant it deep in us, shape and fashion us in your likeness, that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory." The music consists of six lines of notation, each with a corresponding line of lyrics underneath. The final line ends with a double bar line.

1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food
of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
fill in us all your pur - pos-es for your glo - ry.

M: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness,

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.”
(1 John 1:9)*

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:

2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.

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.

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 servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sung by Congregation:

3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

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

Evan Justus Collins



Prayer of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: O God of power and might, you know that we live in the midst of many great dangers, and in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Give us strength and protection to support us in all peril, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



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



A blessed life is not connected to outward circumstances like health or wealth. Rather, the one who is blessed is the one who has been given the gift of faith, whose trust is in the LORD.

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5–8

⁵This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;
they will not see prosperity when it comes.
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”

The Children's Sermon

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



In one of his most famous sermons Jesus teaches that the good things we seek are found in places we would least expect.

Gospel

Luke 6:17–26

¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Sermon Hymn: Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

CWH 867



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



1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's
2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the
3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in
4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -
con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er
your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall
flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -



lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2
flee, that as your days your strength shall be. *Refrain*
see that as your days your strength shall be. *Refrain*
ty, still as your days your strength shall be. *Refrain*



So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the



vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;



yes, as your days your strength shall be.

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.

Sermon

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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.**

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

CWH 892

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

*By all your saints still striving, for all your saints at rest,
 your holy name, O Jesus, forevermore be blessed.
 You rose, our King victorious, that they might wear the crown
 and ever shine in splendor reflected from your throne.*

Congregation joins:



2 We sing of James, Christ's broth-er, who at Je - ru - sa - lem
 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther and wor - ship God the Son



told how God loved the Gen - tiles, and, in Christ, wel - comed them.
 and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,



Re - joic - ing in sal - va - tion may we too, by God's grace,
 till all the ran - somed num - ber who stand be - fore the throne



ex - tend Christ's in - vi - ta - tion to all the hu - man race.
 as - cribe all pow'r and glo - ry and praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913, alt.; (st. 26): Gregory J. Wismar Tune: Finnish
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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.

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.

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

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 responsive reading
from I Corinthians re-
minds the communi-
cants of the necessity
of the unity of faith and
preparation required as
we receive the body
and blood of Christ.

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)

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)



As we approach the Lord's table, we are reminded that we are invited only because of the price Jesus paid on the cross.

Communion Canticle: Just as I Am, without One Plea

CWH 814

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
blood was shed for me and that thou bidd'st me come to
thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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



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.

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.

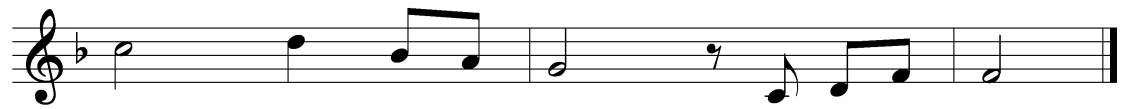


This hymn of response perfectly describes the blessings of this Sacrament - forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Sung Response: What Is This Bread

CWH 665

1 What is this bread? Christ's bod - y
2 What is this wine? The blood of
5 Is this for me? I am for -
ris - en from the dead: this bread we break,
Je - sus shed for mine; the cup of grace
giv - en and set free! I do be - lieve
this life we take, was crushed to pay for our re -
brings his em - brace of life and love un - til I
that I re - ceive his ver - y bod - y and his



lease. O taste and see— the Lord is peace.
sing! O taste and see— the Lord is King.
blood. O taste and see— the Lord is good.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, b. 1946 Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, b. 1951
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Distribution of Sacrament

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

Gluten-free wafers are available. If you point at the tray of wafers, you will be presented with a tray of gluten free wafers which you are invited to take.

Alcohol-free white grape juice can be taken from the wine tray.



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

Distribution Hymn: Take and Eat

CWH 676

Ensemble sings verses and Congregation sings refrains

Refrain

Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y
giv - en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,
this is my blood giv - en up for you.

*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)*

*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 Text: © 1969 James Quinn, SJ, admin. OCP Publications. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

Song of Simeon Nunc Dimittis

(Sung by Congregation)

In peace, Lord, in peace, you let your
 ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your
 word. For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which
 you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the
 Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple
 Is - ra - el. In peace, in peace.



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.

Closing Hymn: My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness

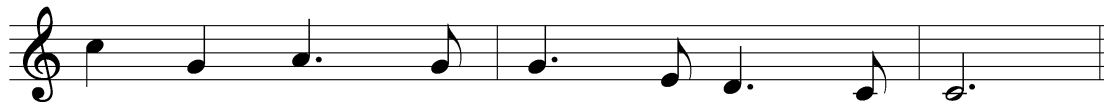
CWH 626

1 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who bore my
2 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who walks be-
3 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who reigns a -

pain, who plumbed the depths of my dis - grace and
side, who floods my weak - ness - es with strength and
bove, whose wis - dom is my per - fect peace, whose

gave me life a - gain, who crushed my curse of sin - ful -
caus - es fears to fly, whose ev - 'ry prom - ise is e -
ev - 'ry thought is love. For ev - 'ry day I have on

ness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of
nough for ev - 'ry step I take, sus - tain - ing me with
earth is giv - en by the King. So I will give my



right - eous - ness with pow'r up - on my heart.
 arms of love and crown - ing me with grace.
 life, my all, to love and fol - low him.

* └──────────┘

* This phrase repeats at the end of st. 3.

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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.

Acknowledgments

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Worship Volunteers	February 16th	February 23rd	March 2nd
Counters	Joel Ditter Nancy Schirripa	Nick Nicholai Michael Ryan	Nancy Murphy Maggie Stevenson
Communion	Shannon		Dawn
Cleaners	Kelley/Sterns	Coates/Simkauskas	Koutia/Piepenbrink
Greeters	Drew Aguilar Stacey Aguilar	Fred Piepenbrink Diana Piepenbrink	Leonard Freeman Maxine Freeman
Ushers	Len Collyard Nick Nicholai Steve Semmann	Gary Jeffers Tyler Holzhueter Sharon Wilson	John Kull Dean Ellis
Sunday Refreshments	Jennifer Paul Rachel Plitzuweit	Linda Stern Leslie Contreras Brenda Grams	Rene Koutia
A/V	Shannon Gullerud Aaron Gullerud	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Kelly Simpson Bentley Ryan

Weekly QR Code



In our prayers

- Diane Lawrence– Undergoing surgery on February 18 for eye cancer.



Cross of Glory
Lutheran Church & School
10111 W Jomax Road
Peoria, AZ 85383

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.