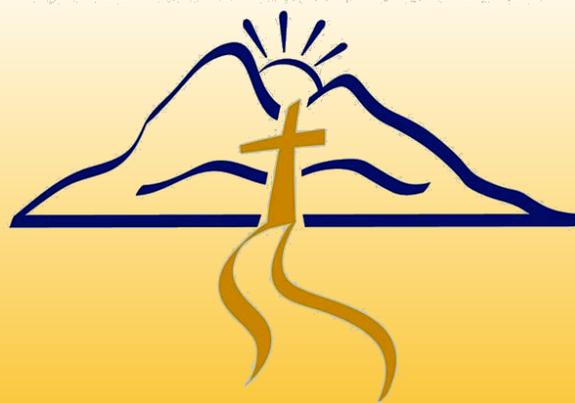


Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Epiphany 7
Sunday, February 23, 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

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD “Throughout this season of Epiphany, Jesus has described the governing principles of his kingdom being completely opposite to the governing principles of the world. This week Jesus asks us to befriend our enemies, to love those who hate us, and to repay evil with good. Worldly logic would say that is a recipe for being walked all over. Yet haven’t we seen this tactic work? When we were Christ’s enemies, he loved us to the point of death. He repays our daily wrongs with the daily goodness of his mercy. In doing so, he won us for himself. Here is the epiphany we badly need to have. Following the strategy Jesus lays out—loving our enemies—is not a capitulation to evil. It is a means of conquering it.

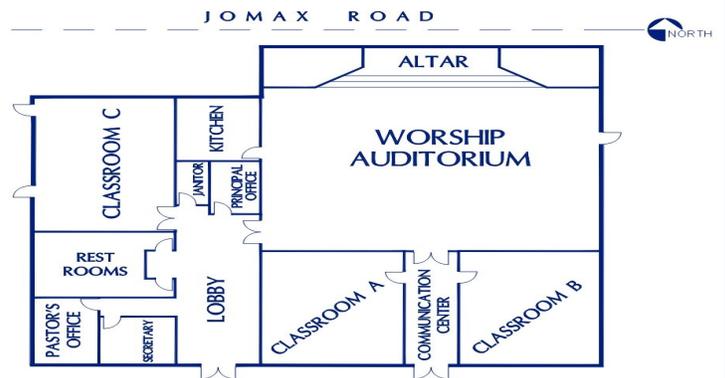
VISITOR INFORMATION

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!

Celebration and Reverence

Opening Hymn: Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

CWH 767



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 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly,
3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our
4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your



life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the
free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your
hum - blest char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious
life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone
sen - tence, “You have done it all for me.”
lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



and with that have free - ly giv - en bless - ings
till our cold and self - ish na - tures, warmed by
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, that you
Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, hope, to



count - less as the sand to th’un - thank - ful
you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
need what we can do, say - ing by your
stay our souls on you; but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed ’tis to give than to re - ceive.
poor and need - y, “Give as I have giv’n to you”?
all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887
Text and tune: Public domain



We Approach God

(Spoken/Sung Responsively)

We are able to approach 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 unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

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.**

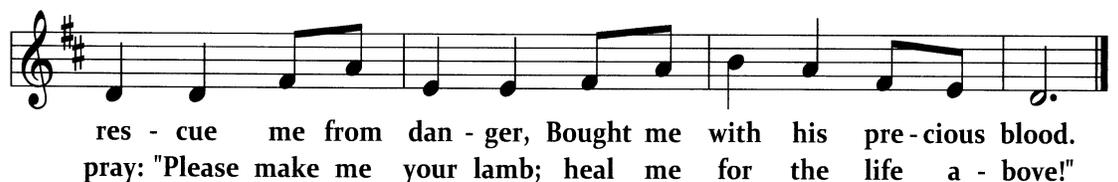
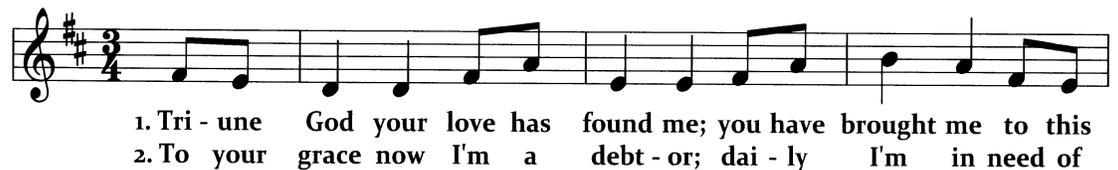
M: O most holy Lord, our relationship with you requires a personal integrity we do not have. We are cut to the heart to realize that you judge every thought, word and action.

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.”**

(Sung by Congregation)



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
 Lord. You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
 Glo - ry to God, in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



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.

Prayer of the Day

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; 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.

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-15

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, do not be dis-



The account of Joseph forgiving his brothers after they had sold him into slavery demonstrates that God overcomes evil with good.

tressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. ¹⁰You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

¹²“You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

¹⁴Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

LES Choir

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul (Psalm 103)
Words and Music by Dave Fournier, David Zimmer*

The Children's Sermon

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

Second Reading

Romans 12:14–21

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



Paul lived in a Roman empire that operated on the principles of force and aggression. Yet, he encourages believers to operate on the principles of grace, forgiveness, and humility.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:44-45

M: Alleluia. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. Alleluia.



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.

Gospel Acclamation Response

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!

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Sermon Hymn: His Mercy Is More

CWH 579

1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
2 What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam,
3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;

Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;
what Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home!
his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.

thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B minor). The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.

Refrain
Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!

Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our
sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

The refrain for stanza 3 is sung three times (twice, with no break between, then a final time).

Text: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Matt Boswell, b. 1979 Tune: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Matt Boswell, b. 1979
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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 “God’s Word for Strained Relationships”

Luke6:27-38

²⁷“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

The Apostles' Creed

(Spoken in Unison)



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.

**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.**

Jr. Choir

Ancient of Days

Word and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson,
Michael Farren, Jesse Reeves
Congregation joins for Vs. 3

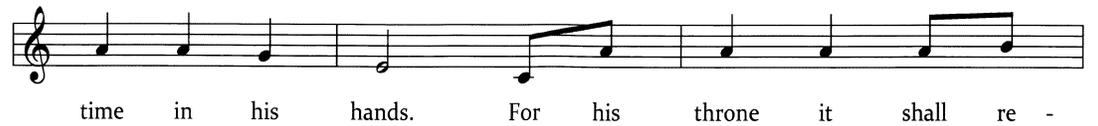
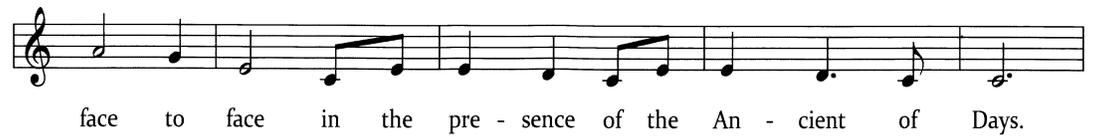
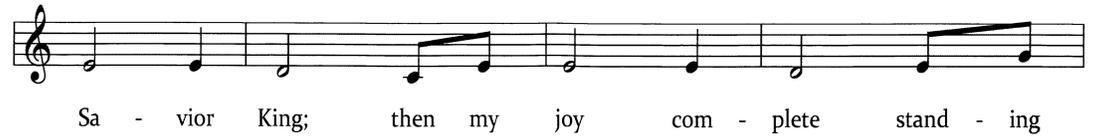
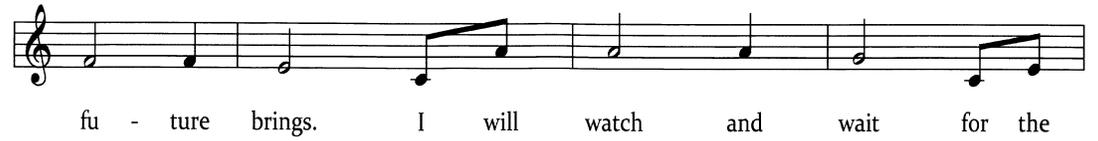
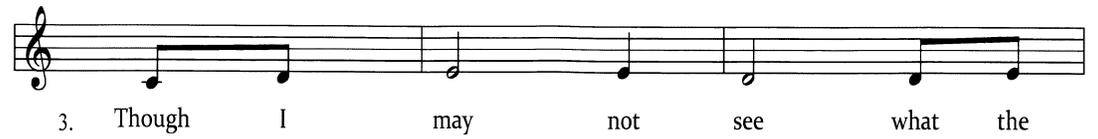
*Though the nations rage; kingdoms rise and fall.
There is still one King reigning over all,
so I will not fear for this truth remains:
that my God is the Ancient of Days.*

Refrain:

*None above him, none before him, all of time in his hands.
For his throne it shall remain and ever stand.
All the power, all the glory, I will trust in his name,
for my God is the Ancient of Days.*

*Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul.
He is here with me; I am not alone.
O his love is sure and he knows my name,
for my God is the Ancient of Days. (Refrain)*

Congregation joins:





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)



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.

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.

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.

Closing Hymn: Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

CWH 768



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide your chil - dren,
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less
4 Give me your cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bors' good let
act and thought - less word. Make me to see the
strong op - press the weak; and should I be a



help me view my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by you.
me pur - sue; bind them to me and all to you.
wrong I do will hurt my neigh - bor, Lord, and you.
vic - tim, too, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring you.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, 1916–2018, alt. Tune: English
Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716 Tune: Public domain

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Worship Volunteers	February 23rd	March 2nd	March 9th
Counters	Nick Nicholai Michael Ryan	Nancy Murphy Maggie Stevenson	Joel Ditter Nancy Schirripa
Communion		Dawn	
Cleaners	Coates/Simkauskas	Koutia/Piepenbrink	Gullerud/Kugler
Greeters	Fred Piepenbrink Diana Piepenbrink	Leonard Freeman Maxine Freeman	Carl Henkel Liz Henkel
Ushers	Gary Jeffers Tyler Holzhueter Sharon Wilson	John Kull Dean Ellis	Jon Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson
Sunday Refreshments	Linda Stern Leslie Contreras Brenda Grams	Rene Koutia	Stacy Aguilar Karen Goelzer
A/V	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Kelly Simpson Bentley Ryan	Stacy Cornell Pedro Contreras

This Week at Cross of Glory

February 23

9:00 am

Worship (Live Streamed) Jr Choir Sings

10:30 am

Let's Go Bible Study

1:00 pm

Bible 101 Class

February 25

9:30 am

Women's Bible Study

February 13

7:00 pm

Bibles and Brews

Weekly QR Code



Sacristy Cleanout

At last month's voters' meeting, the building committee's subcommittee on a temporary classroom provided an update on plans for the upcoming school year. Since we are not yet close to funding the proposed new eight-classroom building, we need to find a temporary solution for our 4th-grade class of twelve students.

The subcommittee explored several options, including modular buildings, trailers, and additions to existing structures. However, due to the City of Peoria's building codes, which require temporary structures to meet the same standards as permanent ones, these options are not feasible. As a result, we must create a classroom within our current building space.

Understanding the concerns of the congregation, the subcommittee does not recommend using the church sanctuary for a weekday classroom, as was done in the past. Instead, the proposed solution is to renovate the main office area to accommodate both an office and a classroom. This aligns with our master plan and allows for future repurposing of the space into additional offices once the new building is constructed.

This plan allows us to meet the immediate need for a 4th-grade classroom while keeping future growth in mind. The committee is committed to being good stewards of our resources and minimizing disruptions to the congregation. In the meantime, Pastor Pudlo and Principal Aguilar will share spaces between Mr. Aguilar's current office and the sacristy.

We appreciate your prayers and support as we work toward the best solution for our students and congregation. If you have any questions or input, please reach out to the building committee. Thank you for your continued dedication to our ministry!

That being said, in anticipation of our pastor and principal needing to use the sacristy as office space in the near future, the **altar committee will be cleaning out the sacristy starting February 27**. If you have items that are being stored there, **please remove them by Wednesday, February 26**. If you are aware of items being stored in there that should continue to be stored there, please let Shannon Gullerud know about them so we can ensure they have a home in the new configuration.

Call News

Dear Members of Cross of Glory,

Thank you for extending the call to me to teach 3rd grade next year. I am writing to inform you that I have prayerfully considered the call and have accepted. I am thankful for the opportunity to continue serving the children of our congregation and community. Sharing God's love with them is a true blessing and privilege.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for me and for our school. The Lord continues to bless our ministry. May he continue to bless us in the year ahead as well.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Elise Bernthal

Dear Cross of Glory,

Thank you so much for extending another one year call for me to continue to teach at Cross of Glory. I look forward to completing the important work of sharing the gospel with the families here. I joyfully accept the call and plan to diligently study His Word as I prepare to teach young children again in the new school year. It brings me such joy to see their faith develop. Please pray that the Lord continues to bless the mission of our school and the families we serve!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Elizabeth Collins

WinGS Update

Hi gals!

Just wanted to touch base with the group and let you know about a couple of upcoming events. First off, on Friday, March 14, the school will be hosting a Grandparent's Day lunch. At this lunch, the Walk the PATH Together campaign regarding the expansion of the school and church will be discussed with the grandparents of the school kids. The fifth and sixth graders will be helping to serve the meal, but we've been asked to help some as well. The lunch will be served for approximately 75 people, with the children joining their grandparents for dessert. The menu for the lunch is shredded turkey and rolls, cheesy potatoes, green salad, and dessert. Andrea Semmann is helping lead this event. If you are interested in helping make some of the food (Andrea has details on recipes!) OR if you're able to help the kids serve that day, likely sometime between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (more exact times to come), please let Andrea or I know. We would just need one or two persons to help Andrea the day of the event.

Also, please watch your emails for a Saturday morning where we will volunteer at St. Mary's Food Bank again, with potential plans to have a ladies brunch or tea immediately following the food bank volunteering.

Lent by Candlelight is also an upcoming event. Once we have the date finalized, more information will be provided for that as well.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions! Karin 712-660-0386

In our prayers

- Diane Lawrence- Prayer of thanksgiving for a successful surgery.
- Pat Powell-Prayers for comfort as she enters into hospice care.

COG YOUTH GROUP 2025 *Open to all 6th-12th graders. *Bringing friends is always encouraged! *To stay up to date with current information and chat with other parents, please join our BAND App. 	SUN FEB 9 4-6PM ESCAPE ROOM @ COG AND BUILD YOUR OWN PIZZA BAR \$5 PER PERSON PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM!	SUN MARCH 9 5-7PM DESIGN YOUR OWN PRAYER BOARD GLOW IN THE DARK CAPTURE THE FLAG BUILD YOUR OWN SUB SANDWICH \$5 PER PERSON	SUN APRIL 6 5-7PM IMAGINE 3D GOLF IN SCOTTSDALE PIZZA AND DRINKS INCLUDED \$20 PER PERSON 	FRIDAY MAY 2ND 3PM CAMPING TRIP! WE WILL LEAVE AFTER SCHOOL AND RETURN SATURDAY LATE AFTERNOON. PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! COST TBD
	SAT JUNE 7 10AM-1PM LAKE PLEASANT DAY MORE INFO TO COME OPEN TO THE WHOLE FAMILY!	JULY GOOD SHEPHERD BIBLE CAMP IF YOUR CHILD IS INTERESTED IN GOING PLEASE TALK TO PASTOR. 	SUN AUG 24 5-7:30PM KTR GLENDALE PIZZA AND DRINKS INCLUDED \$25 PER PERSON (UNLESS YOU HAVE A SEASON PASS)	SUN SEPT 21 3-5PM MALL SCAVENGER HUNT @ ARROWHEAD BRING MONEY FOR THE FOOD COURT IF YOU'D LIKE PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM!



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.