

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Advent 2
December 7, 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



Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. But in worship we realize that he impacts our lives when the Bible is read and when the sacraments are administered. Suddenly we feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.

Nov 30 Imminent Arrival of the Judge

Dec 21 Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel

Dec 7 Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

The Messiah is an important person. "Messiah" is the same word as "Christ" or "Anointed One." He is someone who has been anticipated for a long time. Now we look at a time when his arrival is imminent!

The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled this Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that. We rejoice because God fulfills all his promises in Jesus.

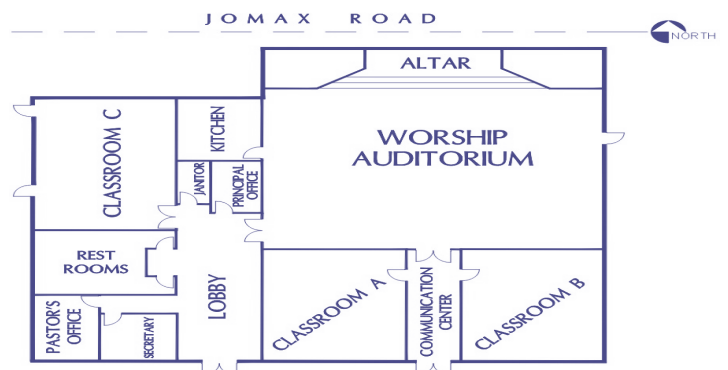
VISITOR INFORMATION

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!

Advent Service & Lord's Supper

Opening Hymn: Dawning Light of Our Salvation

CWH 311

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



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)

*Long in darkness Israel wandered;
long in mortal shadows we
walked in bondage and self-pity,
trod in paths of sin and grief.
In the prophets' words he told us,
long the God of Israel spoke;
he alone in strength would save us
from the hands of all our foes. (Refrain)*

*Ev'ry valley be exalted!
Ev'ry mountain be made plane!
Crooked ways repent and straighten;
all creation bend in praise!*

Congregation sings:

2 He shall raise a might - y Sav - ior; born of Da - vid's
3 Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sav - ior, Da - vid's son and

lin - eage, he comes in cov - 'nant love to claim us, from our
yet his King, dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, of your

sins to set us free. Light to those who dwell in dark - ness,
sav - ing pow'r we sing! Stand, O lame, and dance, ye bro - ken;

life to those from death who flee, joy un - to the earth, and
know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace. Come, O deaf, and hear him

glad - ness, to your path - ways dawn - ing peace!
sing - ing; turn, O blind, be - hold his face!

Refrain

Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain
be made plane! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;
all cre - a - tion bend in praise!

Text: Wendell Kimbrough, b. 1983 Tune: Bruce Benedict, b. 1980
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In this season of Ad-
vent, we call upon the
triune God to be pre-
sent with us as we wor-
ship and prepare our
hearts for the coming
of Christ.

Invocation

(Spoken Responsively; Sung Response (CWH327))

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

C: Amen.

M: Give glory to the coming King!

C: Oh, come, let us worship him!

M: Behold, he who was to come has come.

C: We welcome him with thankful hearts.

M: Behold, he who has come is coming again.

C: We wait for him with fervent faith.

M: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C: "Come, Lord Jesus."

M: All who await his appearance pray:

C: "Come, Lord Jesus."

M: The whole creation pleads:

C: "Come, Lord Jesus."

Congregation sings:

O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that

leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune: Public domain

Advent Candle Lighting

(Spoken Responsively; Sung Response (CWH327))

M: O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open:

C: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Congregation sings:

2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from

Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your

peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
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The Advent wreath is a symbol of victory, for a garland wreath was often placed on victors in contests or conquests. So naturally, a Christian can think of the crown of life that Jesus has won for us. The four candles in an Advent wreath emphasize the four week period of penitence and preparation during Advent as we eagerly await the coming of the Light of the world to bring new life and hope.



*"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.



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



Isaiah tells us that the coming of the Messiah would change everything.

Confession and Absolution

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

C: **O almighty, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But my heart is deeply grieved over them and I sincerely repent of them; and I pray you in your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

M: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and acting in his behalf and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Word

Prayer of the Day

M: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;

with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Choir

Morning of Promise

Words and Music by Joseph M. Martin

The Children's Sermon

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

Second Reading

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the



James points to Job as an example of perseverance in the face of suffering.

prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.



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

Hymn of the Day: Now Bless the God of Israel

CWH 973

1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and
 2 Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from
 3 In ten - der mer - cy God will send the Day - spring from on

pow'r, who rais - es from the roy - al house de -
 fear, that we might serve in ho - li - ness and
 high, our ris - ing sun, the light of life for

liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets
 peace from year to year; and you, my child, shall
 those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our

God has sworn to free us from a - larm, to
 go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy, that
 way to peace, that death shall reign no more. Sing

save us from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.
 all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God Most High.
 prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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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

Finding the True Messiah

Matthew 11:2–11

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John:
"What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not,
what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine
clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell
you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater
than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Nicene Creed

**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.**



*After hearing the word
of God, the worshiper
responds with this con-
fession of faith.*

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

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.



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.

Song of the Season: Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven

Ensemble sings Vs. 1; Congregation repeats Vs. 1 and sings Vs. 2

Ensemble sings:

*Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby under a wondrous star.
 Like us crying he takes his first breath, held by his mother,
 helpless, close to her beating heart.
 Jesus, laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of dangers; come to turn me,
 a stranger, into a child of God.*

Congregation sings:

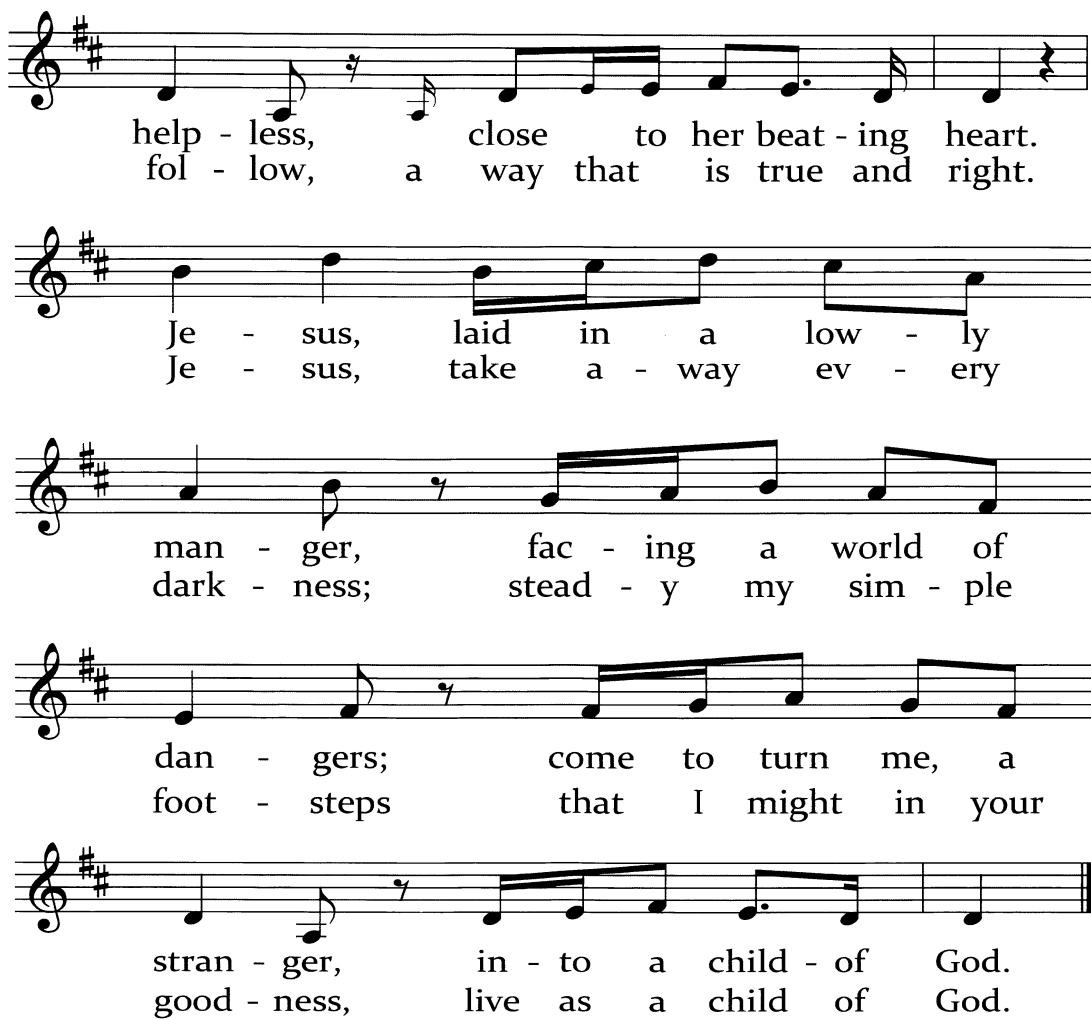
1. Je - sus, joy of the high - est
 2. Jes - us, King of the high - est

heav - en, born as a lit - tle
 heav - en learn - ing to take his

ba - by un - der a won - drous star.
 first steps, that he might bring us life.

Like us, cry - ing he takes his
 Like us, know - ing our smiles and

first breath, held by his mo - ther,
 sor - rows, he showed the way to



help - less, close to her beat - ing heart.
fol - low, a way that is true and right.

Je - sus, laid in a low - ly
Je - sus, take a - way ev - ery

man - ger, fac - ing a world of
dark - ness; stead - y my sim - ple

dan - gers; come to turn me, a
foot - steps that I might in your

stran - ger, in - to a child - of God.
good - ness, live as a child of God.

Prayer

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.

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.



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

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

The Sacrament

The pastor and people
prepare to celebrate
the Holy Meal by greet-
ing each other and with
an exhortation as how
to celebrate the meal.

Preface

(Spoken Responsively)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Sanctus is a Latin word meaning "Holy". The *Sanctus* contains words from Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3) and the crowd's response on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 21:9). We join them in spirit by singing their words as we anticipate Christ's coming in the sacrament.

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus

(Sung by Congregation—Tune (CWH 346))

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts, all
2. Bless - ed is the one who came, bring - ing love and

praise be giv'n! All your glo - ry fills the earth;
light di - vine. Bless - ed is the king who comes

all in your pow - er and fills the heav'ns.
in the bread and in the wine.

Glo - - - - - ri - a,



Words of Institution

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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



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.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

(Sung to tune: CWH 331)



Agnus Dei is a Latin phrase meaning "Lamb of God". John the Baptist spoke these words as he pointed to Jesus coming toward him (John 1:29). As Christ comes to us in the Holy Supper, we recognize him as the Lamb of God sacrificed for us to free us from the bondage of sin and death.

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 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.

Distribution Hymn: Behold the Lamb

*Ensemble sings verses
and Congregation joins on refrain*

Ensemble: *Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
slain for us and we remember
the promise made that all who come in faith
find forgiveness at the cross.*

Congregation: **So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of his sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of peace
around the table of the King.**

Ensemble: *The body of our Savior Jesus Christ,
torn for you; eat and remember
the wounds that heal, the death that brings us
life paid the price to make us one.*

Congregation: **So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of his sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of love
around the table of the King.**

Ensemble: *The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
shed for you, drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
to receive the life of God.*

Congregation: **So we share in this bread of life,
and we drink of his sacrifice
as a sign of our bonds of grace
around the table of the King.**

Ensemble: *And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
to respond, and to remember;
our call to follow in the steps of Christ
as his body here on earth.*

Congregation: As we share in His suffering,
we proclaim Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
around the table of the King.

The Dismissal

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Behold, He who was to come has come.

C: We welcome him with thankful hearts.

M: Behold, He who has come is coming again.

C: We wait for him with fervent faith.

M: He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon'

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

M: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people.

C: Amen.



*We close the service as
we began with the
words of Revelation
22:20, "Amen. Come,
Lord Jesus."*

Ensemble:

Days of Elijah



Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School

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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.
