

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Pentecost 13
Sunday, August 23, 2026

623-224-8839 ♦ www.crossofglory.org

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Zachary Pudlo
Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal



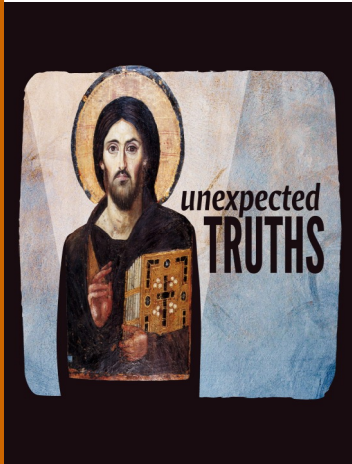
Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory

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



The opening lines of the United States Declaration of Independence boldly assert that certain truths are “self-evident”—truths accessible to human reason and widely recognized by observation of the world. Among these are that all people are created equal and possess unalienable rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The founders appealed to principles they believed reasonable people could recognize simply by reflecting on human nature and justice. These truths were meant to be obvious, clear to the mind, and persuasive in the public square. Lutherans, however, note that the most important truths revealed in the Bible are not self-evident at all. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectations. Scripture teaches that humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. It declares that salvation cannot be achieved through human effort but comes entirely by God’s grace. Most unexpected of all is the message that God brings forgiveness and eternal life through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious to human judgment, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

Our path through this Pentecost set of services are:

Aug 16 The Church is for All People

Aug 23 The Son of Man is God

Aug 30 Cross Comes Before Crown

Sep 6 I Am My Brother’s Keeper

Sep 13 Forgiveness is for Me

Sep 20 Grace is Amazing

Sep 27 Real Repentance Looks Different

THE SON OF MAN IS GOD Jesus asked, “Who do you say I am?” It’s the most important question in the world, and it is a question every human being must answer. The expected answer may be dead wrong. Some in Jesus’ day thought he was John the Baptist. Some thought he was the prophet Elijah who had come back from the dead. Today plenty of people believe that Jesus existed. They think that Jesus was a wise teacher or a role model for love. Both answers are expected. Both miss the main point. Jesus is a real human being, the Son of Man. He is also Lord and Savior, the Son of the living God. This unexpected truth is the core of saving faith.

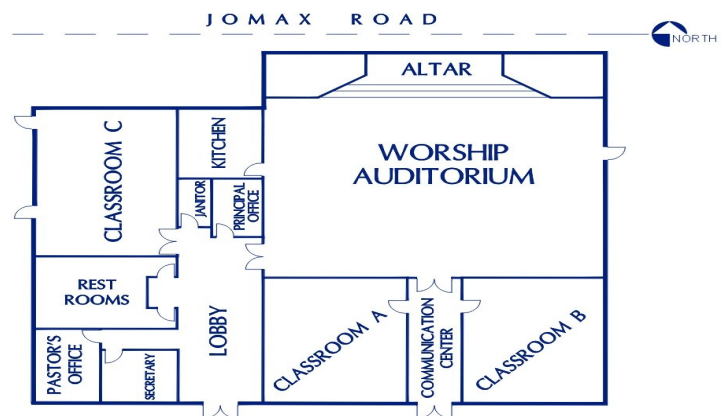
VISITOR INFORMATION

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!

Service of Worship and Praise

Opening Hymn: In Christ Alone

CWH 510



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

We follow the advice of
the Apostle Paul to
“teach and admonish
one another with all
wisdom through
psalms, hymns, and
songs from the Spirit,
singing to God with
gratitude in your
hearts.”
(Colossians 3:16)



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



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



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



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



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



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

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
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We call upon God to be present with us. We worship the triune God, remembering our Baptism in his name.



"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)



The song of confession is taken from Isaiah which reminds us that "all our righteous acts are like filthy rags", but along with Isaiah we acknowledge that through his Word our God is able to mold us into the humble servants he wants us to be.

We Gather in God's Name

(Read/Sung Responsively)

M: We gather for worship the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

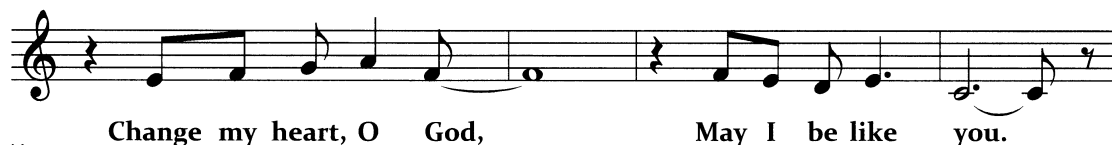
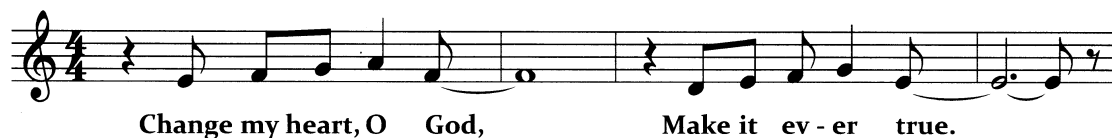
C: Amen.

M: As believers in Christ we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James we are told, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for one another so that you may be healed." As one body in Christ, we unite our hearts in prayer:

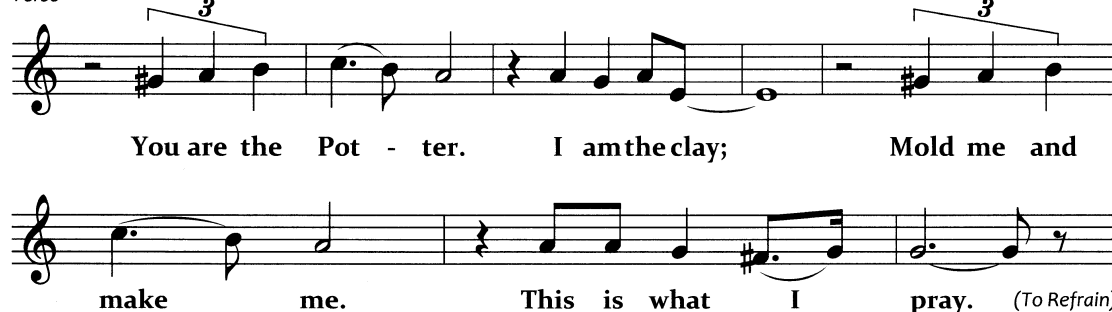
C: Lord, I pray to you because I am suffering. I have cut myself off from you and others by the sin in my life. I need your forgiveness so that I may find healing for my wounded life and for the wounds I have caused others. Today in the name of Jesus I pray, forgive me; and by the power of your Holy Spirit, renew my heart. Amen.

Congregation Sings:

Refrain



Verse



M: We take comfort and find confidence in the words of Jesus, "He sent me to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin, to restore sight to the blind, to bring mercy to lives shattered by sin, to announce the favor of the Lord." God gave his only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise from death to give us eternal life. We are forgiven. We live in the favor of the Lord. We live in his power, energized to tell of his peace.

C: Amen.

Congregation Sings:



Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your
 praises. I'm so glad you're in my life;
 I'm so glad you came to save us.
 You came from hea - ven to earth to show the
 way; from the earth to the cross my debt to
 pay From the cross to the grave; From the grave to the
 sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.



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.



For five centuries, Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* has served as the basic instruction book for the church. It directs us to God's Word and points to the only source for spiritual life, the Means of Grace: the Word and Sacraments. As life-long students of the Catechism, we review these important truths from God's Word as we continue to grow in a deep appreciation for all that Jesus has done as our Savior.

Catechism Review: The Power of the Lord's Supper (Spoken Responsively)

M: How can eating and drinking do such great things?

C: It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins."

These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.

First Reading

Romans 10:5-13

⁵Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷"or 'Who will descend into the deep?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is



Those who believe that Jesus is both Lord and Savior will be saved.



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.”

Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Psalm 138

(Spoken Responsively)

M: I will praise you, LORD,

C: with all my heart;

M: I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name

C: for your unfailing love and your faithfulness.

M: When I called, you answered me;

C: you greatly emboldened me.

M: Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;

C: though lofty, he sees them from afar.

M: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;

C: with your right hand you save me.

M: The LORD will vindicate me;

C: your love, LORD, endures forever.

The Children's Sermon

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



The truth upon which God builds his Church is Jesus, the Son of the living God.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

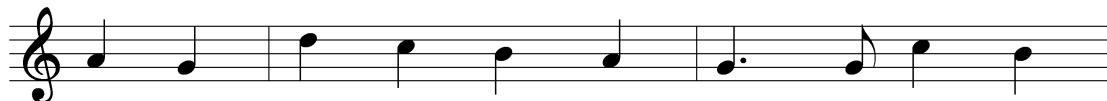
¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



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



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I



blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no
his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; when ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -



oth - er claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt. Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Exodus 34:5–9

⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

⁸Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. ⁹“Lord,” he said, “if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance.”

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, we respond with our confession of faith.

Today, we confess the second article of The Apostles' Creed, which focuses on the second person of the Trinity, Jesus, and on the major elements of Jesus' story of our redemption – his birth, death and resurrection.

The explanation is taken from Luther's Small Catechism.



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 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed (*Redemption*)

(Spoken Responsively)

M: 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.

C: 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.

M: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

M: He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

C: All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Song of the Season

Psalm 67F

Ensemble sings Vs. 1-2; congregation joins for Vs. 3-5

You have called us out of darkest night into your glorious light, that we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ. (v. 2)

May our ev'ry breath retell the grace that broke into our strife with boundless love and deepest joy, with endless life. (Refrain)

May the peoples praise you, let the nations be glad.

All your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the name of Jesus.

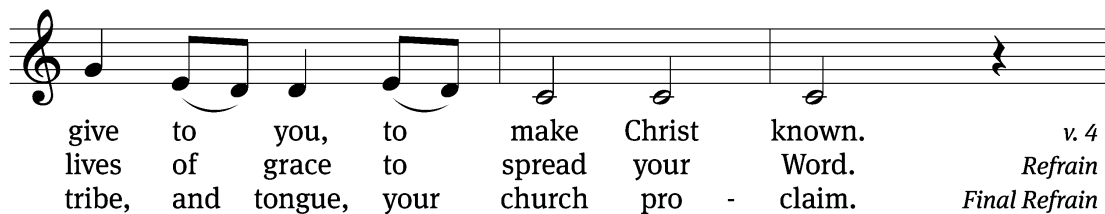
Congregation joins:



3 All the earth is yours and all with in, each
4 May the seeds of mer - cy grow in us for
5 This our ho - ly priv - 'lege to de - clare your



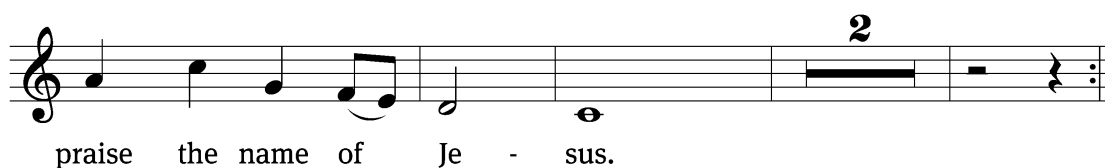
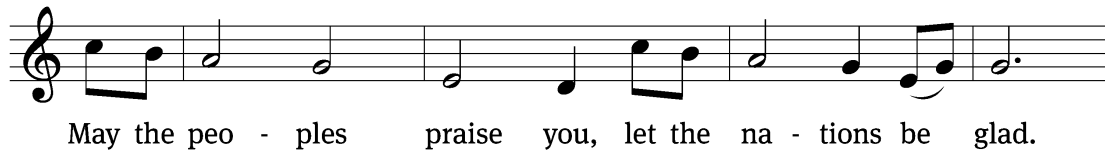
har - vest is your own, and from your hand we
those who have not heard. May songs of praise build
prais - es and your name to ev - 'ry na - tion,



Guests and Members

We are so glad you worshipped with us today! Please use this QR code to let us know you joined us.

Refrain



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.

Offering: The gifts of Gods people are a response to God's blessings. If God has moved you to thank him in this way, you can use this QR code to give an offering.



The Lord's Prayer

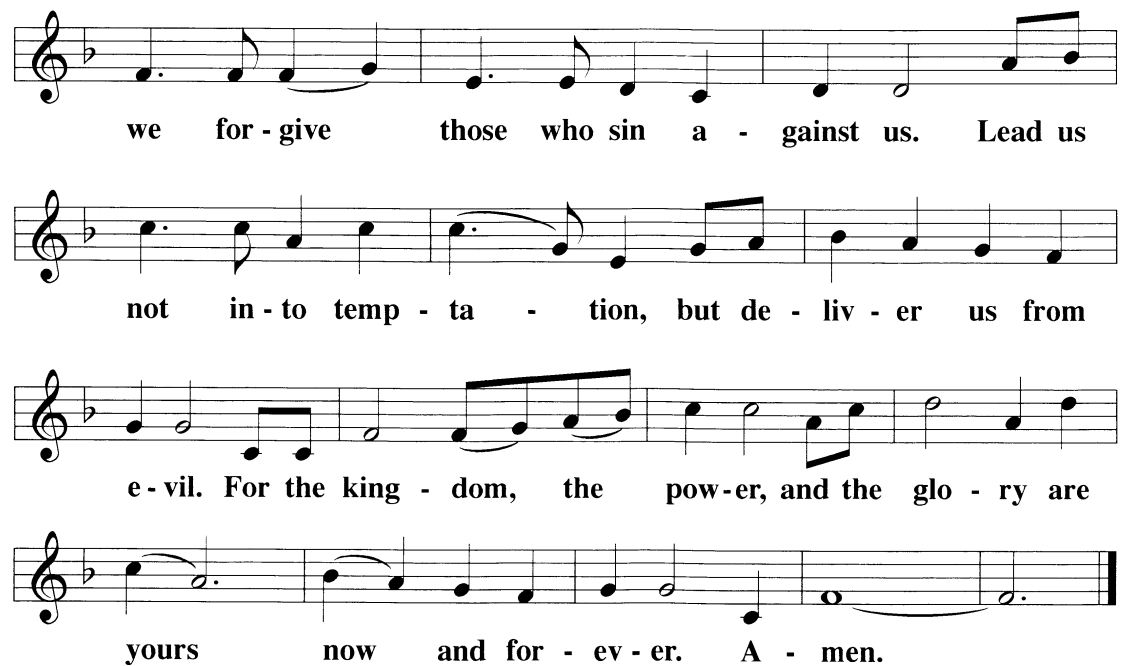
(Sung by Congregation)



Today we sing the prayer 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.



Blessing

M: 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

The God Who Fights for Us

Words and Music by Nathan Stiff & Bob Kauflin
Congregation joins for final refrain

*There is a war we cannot see, a fight that's raging in the shadows,
A hidden power, our enemy, arrayed against the saints in battle.
Oh bride of Christ, lift up your praises: you stand upon the Rock of Ages!*

Refrain:

*Who fights for us? The Lord of hosts, our strong defense, our only hope.
His mighty hand will bear us up; we praise the God who fights for us!*

*There is a war within our flesh; we hear the whisper of temptation;
They promise life, but lead to death, and steal the joy of our salvation.
Oh bride of Christ, look to your Savior; his Spirit's power in you is greater!
(Refrain)*

*There is a war that has been won, for Christ has triumphed over evil.
Our debt is paid, the curse undone; the Lord will not forsake his people.
Oh bride of Christ all for his honor, the risen Lamb for you has conquered!*

Congregation sings:



Who fights for us? The Lord of hosts,



our strong de - fense, our on - ly hope.



Who fights for us? The Lord of hosts,



our strong de - fense, our on - ly hope.



His might - y hand will bear us up; we



praise the God who fights for us!

Acknowledgments

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Ways to Serve

Worship Volunteers	August 23rd	August 30th	September 6th
Counters	Nancy Murphy Mike Ryan	Mike Ryan Nancy Murphy	Karin Hansen Becky Jahns
Communion			Andrea
Greeters	Van Poppelen Family	Deines Family	Jeffers Family
Ushers	Chris Patterson Bob Decker Grant Stern	Zach Plitzuweit Tanner Plitzuweit Adam Pentz	Cody Hall Timothy Hall David Conklin
Sunday Refreshments	Stacy Cornell Stacey Aguilar Liz Henkel	Jennifer Paul Rachel Plitzuweit	Shannon Gullerud Heidi Pudlow Korin Deines
A/V	Rene Koutia Gus Koutia	Kelly Simpson Chris Patterson	Stacey Aguilar Andrew Aguilar

Monthly QR Code

Please scan the QR code below to access our monthly newsletter.

If you would like to receive the monthly /weekly newsletter by email, please email Tracy at:

church.secretary@crossofglory.org



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.