



# AFLC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Investing For Eternity

## THE GATEWAY GATHERING—MESA, AZ



**Background info:** The Gateway Gathering is a church-planting endeavor of the AFLC Home Missions Department in connection with Calvary Free Lutheran (Mesa, AZ). We are located in the east side of the Phoenix-metro area, appropriately nick-named the Valley of the Sun. One of the major challenges we face is Mormonism.

Mesa was found in the late 1800s as a Mormon colony and ever since, there has been a Significant LDS presence. The Mormon missionaries at your door will tell you that they are Christians and share your same beliefs – but nothing could be farther from the truth. Mormonism is simply another works-righteousness religion whose adherents must do good works to merit the favor of their deity. Like all lost people, Mormons need the message of the Gospel, of the finished work of Jesus Christ, our Immanuel.



**Pastor Ryan and Liz Tonneson with their daughter, Serena.**

It is our desire to see this small gathering of faithful men and women begin to grow into a full-fledge, self-supporting congregation within five years.



**Gateway held their second community outreach event in April just four months after starting and had over 200 people in attendance.**

The fields are white for harvest. There is so much hopelessness, despair, and emptiness today. People tried to fill their lives with temporary fixes, but only Jesus is the answer.

It is our desire to see more growing and thriving, free and living Lutheran congregations in the Valley of the Sun. That starts by making disciples. We want to see hearts and lives transformed by the Gospel. We want to see individuals – young and old alike – set ablaze for the Kingdom.

- Cost \$1,500.00/month to rent school facility for services**
- \$1,500.00/year to host annual harvest festival outreach event**
- \$72,000.00 yearly operating costs**