

cross of glory

14719 W 163<sup>rd</sup> Street Homer Glen, IL 60491

C e d a r	163 <sup>rd</sup> St.
	Ministry

Join Us on Sundays  
9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.  
We have a place for you!

Noel



Thou Shalt Not Forget

**Get Ready for Christmas!**

- **Christmas Angel Giving Tree gifts due Sunday, December 18— Some names are still available**
- **Santa Visit – Saturday, Dec 10: come get your picture taken with Santa, crafts, and treats from 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
- **Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m. - Only One Service. Come early to get a seat!**
- **Christmas Eve worship – 4:00 p.m. (Family); 6:00 p.m. (Barn, 16849 S Cedar Rd); 11:00 p.m. (Candlelight)**
- **Christmas Day Worship – 10:00 a.m.— Only One Service**
- **No worship Wednesday, December 21 and 28**

Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 65  
Lockport, Illinois  
60441  
U.S. Postage Paid

**Dated Material**

Return Service Requested

cross of glory

THE GOOD

NEWS tree



Merry Christmas

December 2011



**Join us for Worship:**

Sundays  
9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.  
**CoffeeHouse Worship:**  
Wednesdays  
6:00 p.m.  
All with Holy Communion.  
All are welcome!

Staff:  
PJ Malin, *Pastor*

Laura Uzzardo,  
*Parish Administrator*

Mimi Pappas,  
*Nursery Attendant*

Bob Bejlovec  
*Maintenance*

Jamie Knutson  
*Director – The Welcome Place  
Preschool*

Sharon Aden,  
*Director – The Welcome Place  
Christian Care &  
Counseling Center*

Please e-mail Laura Uzzardo if you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail: [laura@crossofglory.com](mailto:laura@crossofglory.com)  
If you would like to be taken off our mailing list please give Laura a Call at **708-301-6998**.

**Thank You.**

Michael and  
Lisa O'Malley, *Editors*

## Angels We Have Heard on High

*Pastor PJ Malin*

One of my son's favorite Christmas carols is "Angels We Have Heard on High." This Christmas season we have the chance to hear from lots of angels. Here are a few examples...



Our Youth Choir will be presenting a Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m. All youth from pre-school through high

school are welcome and invited to participate. The youth will be sharing the Christmas story and singing Christmas carols. It always touches my heart to see our little angels singing the Good News that the angels announced at the birth of Jesus. To get your youth involved, simply register them for the two practices on December 7 and December 14 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

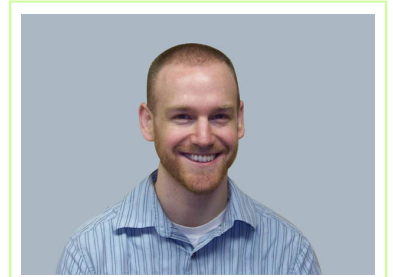
Each year we set up an angel tree. Our angel tree is decorated with ornaments. On the ornaments are names of children in need. We get to hear from these little angels about what they would like for Christmas. By taking an angel from the tree, we have the joy of helping make Christmas special for these children. Our partner organization is DCFS (The Department of Child and Family Services). The woman we work with told us that Cross of Glory is the only organization that has contacted them this year. We have an incredible opportunity to help these children experience the love and compassion of God this Christmas.

On Christmas Eve we have three worship experiences. You can come to one or all of them! At 4:00 p.m. we have a worship service geared towards the children. At 6:00 p.m. we have a barn service at Konow Farm located at 16849 S. Cedar Road in Homer Glen. And at 11:00 p.m. we have a Candlelight service. We will share the Lord's Supper at all of these services.

Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year. We will have a simple service at 10:00 a.m. to sing, pray, and give thanks to God for the gift of His Son, Jesus. I know Christmas Day is usually pretty full, but I cannot think of a better activity we can include on Christmas Day than worshipping Christ.

This Christmas season I am looking forward to hearing my son belt out the words to "Angels We have Heard on High." I am looking forward to hearing from lots of other little angels in our church and our community. And I am looking forward to the many different ways we will celebrate and demonstrate the Good News proclaimed by angels long ago at the birth of Christ.

I hope you have a place to worship and celebrate this Christmas season. Know that Cross of Glory is your Welcome Place. God bless and Merry Christmas!



# Making VBS a Work of Heart



If you have kids at Cross of Glory chances are you have also run into Nicole Nelson! Nicole is extremely active with our church's youth. This past summer she directed Vacation Bible School (VBS) and created the entire curriculum herself ... from scratch!

"I worked on it for four months after talking with Pastor PJ about what he and I wanted as a curriculum," said Nicole. She was also co-director for the 2010 VBS and taught during the 2009 session as well. "I wanted a curriculum based on the bible stories and PJ wanted a curriculum based on taking care of the earth so that is what I created."

One day of those four months she describes as a "God-given moment", as she worked most of that day on the curriculum. Not being content to rest on her successes, she is already working on the curriculum for summer 2012 VBS and is again starting from scratch.

Nicole also volunteers for the preschool kid's club on Sundays. "Volunteering to work with kids is easy for me, it's my calling." She also participates in the Thursday coffee moms group, where the moms do bible study and bring their kids along. She has also helped with the coffee moms' annual garage sale.

Nicole was an art teacher before becoming a mother and now subs for the Lockport school district and is a stay-at-home mom. She grew up in Iowa and met her husband Jeff there. They have three children, daughters Phoebe and Annika, and son Tanner. They moved to Lockport in 2008 and began looking into finding a church soon after.

After visiting COG they discovered that they liked it and came back and then became members that winter. Nicole was raised Lutheran and wanted to find a church where they could make a better connection with other members.

In her spare time Nicole likes to scrapbook, water-color and make collages. Since she was a little girl her



favorite hobby has been making greeting cards and she now has a website she sells them on: [www.etsy.com/shop/nicplynel](http://www.etsy.com/shop/nicplynel). She has also sung with the band at one service and would like to sing more.

Cross of Glory is lucky to have Nicole as such an active and committed member! We look forward to seeing what she has created for next summer's VBS!



## Visit with Santa!

**COG's 2nd Annual Visit with Santa is on Saturday, December 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Children will have a chance to meet Santa, have their picture taken, make some crafts, and eat some snacks. Join us for some fun and fellowship as we celebrate the Christmas fun.**

**Volunteers and donations are needed for the Visit with Santa. See the volunteer and donation signup sheets in the Welcome Room.**



# Christmas in The Trenches

Words & Music by John McCutcheon, c. 1984, John McCutcheon / Appalsong



This song is based on a true story from the front lines of World War I. Ian Calhoun, a Scot, was the commanding officer of the British forces involved in the story. He was subsequently court-martialed for 'consorting with the enemy' and sentenced to death. Only George V spared him from that fate. -- John McCutcheon

*My name is Francis Toliver, I come from Liverpool.  
Two years ago the war was waiting for me after school.  
To Belgium and to Flanders, to Germany to here,  
I fought for the King and country I love dear.*

*'Twas Christmas in the trenches, where the frost so bitter hung.  
The frozen fields of France were still, no Christmas song was sung.  
Our families back in England were toasting us that day,  
Their brave and glorious lads so far away.*

*I was lying with my messmate on the cold and rocky ground,  
When across the lines of battle came a most peculiar sound.  
Says I, "Now listen up, me boys!" each soldier strained to hear,  
As one young German voice sang out so clear.  
"He's singing bloody well, you know!" my partner says to me.*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Donna Grudgel..... 11/01	David Doogan.....12/15
Carol Fonseca ..... 2/02	Serenity Manz..... 12/15
Carmen Maurella .... 12/03	Angie Dryier ..... 12/16
Olivia Kaufman..... 12/04	Kristy Peterson ..... 12/16
Cheryl Nabors ..... 12/04	Travis Peterson.....12/17
Christine Tague..... 12/04	Jennie Hoffman ..... 12/19
Kendall Sliwa..... 12/06	Julie Stasiak ..... 12/19
Lee Burner ..... 12/07	Kathleen Milo ..... 12/20
Carol Christie ..... 12/08	Denise Budz ..... 12/21
Tom Gorman..... 12/08	Tamara Chaffin.....12/21
Abigail Ignasiak..... 12/09	Taylor Schwingel ...12/21
Chris Quemeneur .. 12/09	Barb Taskay ..... 12/21
Dominick Skowron.. 12/09	Janet Fender ..... 12/21
Ethan Maurella ..... 12/10	Kris Fitzgerald ..... 12/22
Nathan Randle ..... 12/10	Jaxsyn Horgan..... 12/22
Jill Arhcer..... 12/11	Steve Hlavac Jr..... 12/24
Tim Pechukas..... 12/12	Kirsten Kjos..... 12/28
Tom Gonzalez ..... 12/13	Addison Stasiak ..... 12/28
Brenda Gorman..... 12/13	Amy Carbonneau .... 12/29
Marty Rafacz..... 12/13	Carrie Kruse ..... 12/31
Amanda Sandy ..... 12/13	Nancy Warner ..... 12/31

*Soon, one by one, each German voice joined in harmony.  
The cannons rested silent, the gas clouds rolled no more,  
As Christmas brought us respite from the war.  
As soon as they were finished and a reverent pause was spent,  
"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" struck up some lads from Kent.*

*The next they sang was "Stille Nacht," "Tis 'Silent Night," says I,  
And in two tongues one song filled up that sky.  
"There's someone coming towards us!" the front line sentry cried.  
All sights were fixed on one lone figure trudging from their side.*

*His truce flag, like a Christmas star, shone on that plain so bright,  
As he bravely strode unarmed into the night.  
Then one by one on either side walked into No Man's Land,  
With neither gun nor bayonet we met there hand to hand.*

*We shared some secret brandy and wished each other well,  
And in a flare lit soccer game we gave 'em hell.  
We traded chocolates, cigarettes, and photographs from home.  
These sons and fathers far away from families of their own.*

*Young Sanders played his squeezebox and they had a violin,  
This curious and unlikely band of men.  
Soon daylight stole upon us and France was France once more.  
With sad farewells we each began to settle back to war.*

*But the question haunted every heart that lived that wondrous night:  
"Whose family have I fixed within my sights?" 'Twas Christmas in the trenches where the frost so bitter hung.*

*The frozen fields of France were warmed as songs of peace were sung.  
For the walls they'd kept between us to exact the work of war,  
Had been crumbled and were gone forevermore.*

*My name is Francis Toliver, in Liverpool I dwell,  
Each Christmas come since World War I, I've learned its lessons well,  
That the ones who call the shots won't be among the dead and lame,  
And on each end of the rifle we're the same.*