



14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491

C e n t r a l	163 rd 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!



Thou Shalt Not Forget

Thinking of Joining CoG?

New Member Class: Saturday, January 7 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Pastor PJ by Wednesday, January 4.

Let's Feed 12,000!!

Our goal is to feed 12,000 by Easter 2012 (bring protein items: canned chicken, turkey, or tuna; stew; pork and beans; peanut butter, etc.).

Women's Event

Calling all ladies! Women's January Event – Making Blankets Jan 21, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at CoG. We will be making fleece tie-blankets for kids undergoing chemotherapy. There will be material to make four blankets. You can make an optional donation of \$5 towards materials if you'd like. Contact Cheryl Nabors or Mary Beth Randle.

Spring is Just Around the Corner for Youth Programs

Register for all our youth programs by January 15. Forms are available in the CoG Welcome Room. Programs include RISEN, for special education needs, SEE, for children from four years old through fifth grade, and TELL, for children in sixth through twelfth grades.

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting February 12. There is only one service that Sunday, 10am, and the meeting will follow.

Preschool Registration

The Welcome Place Preschool Open House and Registration January 31 from 4:00 -7 p.m. This program is for three and four year olds. For children who are already in the program, early registration is January 9. Go to the CoG website for more information.

More information at Crossofglory.com

Non-Profit Org.
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Lockport, Illinois
60441
U.S. Postage Paid
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cross of glory

Happy
New Year!



January 2012

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*

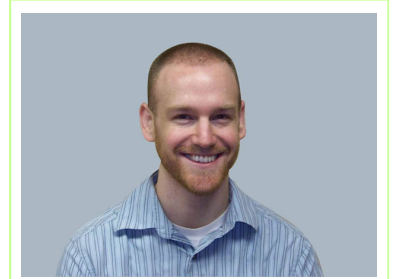
Please e-mail Laura Uzzardo if you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail: laura@crossofglory.com If you would like to be taken off our mailing list please give Laura a Call at **708-301-6998**.

Thank You.

Michael and
Lisa O'Malley, *Editors*

A Record Christmas!!

Pastor PJ Malin



This year we hit a record attendance on Christmas Eve! A full 529 people came to worship with us and celebrate the story of the child who changed everything. Laura, our parish administrator, went back through the attendance records. She has records back to 2003. Christmas Eve that year was 366. Christmas Eve last year was 386. This year we had over 100 more people with us. That is phenomenal! 529 people were able to hear the message of how Jesus can change our lives with God's presence, Good News, peace, community, and lordship. Many more heard the story as our barn service was the cover story in the Homer Horizon newspaper.

I give glory to God for this amazing turn out. And I give thanks to all of you who brought friends and family members with you to worship. Don't think I did not notice. I greeted so many of you that night who had a beaming smile as you introduced me to the friends and family that you brought with you. It's because of your loving invitation that so many people got to celebrate Christmas with us.

Jesus had this method of outreach in mind when he sent his disciples out to make disciples. The Gospel spreads as one changed person reaches out to another. I hope this practice of bringing friends and family with us to worship will be something this church continues to do throughout the year.

We have another great sermon series coming up that you can invite friends and family to. It is called "United." There are so many things that divide people in our world. Yet Jesus desired that his people live in unity. So we will be looking at several things that unite us as God's people. This series will start January 8 and run through February 19.

Here are a few other things you can invite friends and family to be a part of. Our youth education programs are starting up again for the spring. We have classes for youth of all ages. The last day to register is January 15.

We are also starting a new feeding campaign for the New Year. Hunger is on the rise in our area. The Director of the Lockport FISH Food pantry recently told me that they have seen a 15% increase in the number of families they've served and a 17% increase in the number of clients served. Cross of Glory is passionate about feeding the hungry in our area. This church has already fed over 14,000 in two previous drives. The current goal is to feed 12,000 in 2012. We are inviting members of our community to bring protein products, like canned chicken, tuna, turkey, and stew. In order to reach this goal, Cross of Glory will need the generous support of everyone we can get to join in the cause.

So keep up the great work of bringing friends and family with you this New Year! There is a lot to celebrate and be involved in. Cross of Glory is Your Welcome Place!

Meet SEE's New Director

Melissa Murtaugh is the new director of SEE this year. She and her family have been members of CoG since 1998. In fact, her first visit was the groundbreaking for our current church. She was invited by a friend whose mother was the pastor at that time.

"It's like home at CoG." Her favorite part of church service is the worship music.

Both of Melissa's parents, mom Debbie and dad Dan, are extremely active at CoG and Melissa is following their lead. She has been involved with CASA trips, fellowship team, cookbook committee, taught SEE and Vacation Bible School (VBS), chaperoned with TELL and Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) trips, taught kids and preschool clubs during worship, and has volunteered where needed, such as at our yearly cleaning day and helping to pack thanksgiving baskets. In her spare time Melissa likes to read and scrapbook. Whew!

Melissa and her family have lived in New Lenox since she was five. She graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in English Studies and a minor in Sociology. She is currently taking classes at Joliet Junior College and is a nanny for another family from the CoG congregation. She also volunteers with another CoG member who teaches English for adults. She spent 17 months in South Korea as an English Language teacher. Whew!

"My favorite part of the job there was the kids," she explained. "They are the same everywhere in the world; here, in Korea, and in Mexico." When asked what was the thing she consistently missed while away, she answered "CoG!"

Melissa volunteered to lead SEE this year and is basing the curriculum on Psalm 23. Each week she will focus on one part of the psalm. There will be a lesson, game and/or craft, a bible story, and snacks.

"Volunteers are needed for SEE, both full and part time," she said. She is also planning a fundraiser to aid ELCA's Good Gifts Campaign. How does Melissa like working with the kids?

"It's cool to know their personalities and to be able to talk about their day with them. Parents recognize me now, and it helps me meet and recognize more people." SEE starts Wednesday January 25 at 6:00 p.m., and parents can join worship while the kids attend SEE.

Melissa's energy and enthusiasm are the perfect fit for SEE. We wish her good luck this year and thank her for volunteering!



Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[a]

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Speaking of SEE...

Register for all our youth programs by January 16. Forms are available in the CoG Welcome Room. Programs include RISEN, for special education needs, SEE, for children from four years old through fifth grade, and TELL, for children in sixth through twelfth grades.

Top 10 New Year's Resolutions

Reprinted from By [Albrecht Powell](#), About.com Guide



New Year's Eve has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want (or need) to make and resolve to follow through on those changes. Did your resolutions make our list?

1. Spend More Time with Family and Friends

Polls conducted by General Nutrition Centers, Quicken, and others shows that more than 50% of Americans vow to appreciate loved ones and spend more time with family and friends this year. Make plans to meet up with friends for an evening of camaraderie at a favorite restaurant. Work shouldn't always come first!

2. Fit in Fitness

The evidence is in for fitness. Regular exercise has been associated with more health benefits than anything else known to man. Studies show that it reduces the risk of some cancers, increases longevity, helps achieve and maintain weight loss, enhances mood, lowers blood pressure, and even improves arthritis. In short, exercise keeps you healthy and makes you look and feel better.

3. Tame the Bulge

Over 66% of adult Americans are considered overweight or obese by recent studies, so it is not surprising to find that weight loss is one of the most popular New Year's resolutions. Setting reasonable goals and staying focused are the two most important factors.

4. Quit Smoking

If you have resolved to make this the year that you stamp out your smoking habit, over-the-counter availability of nicotine replacement therapy now provides easier access to proven quit-smoking aids. Even if you've tried to quit before and failed, don't let it get you down. On average, smokers try about four times before they quit for good.

5. Enjoy Life More

Given the hectic, stressful lifestyles of millions of Americans, it is no wonder that "enjoying life more" has become a popular resolution in recent years. It's an important step to a happier and healthier you! Consider a holistic healing centers for products designed to bring balance to your body, mind and soul. Or just get out and try something new!

6. Quit Drinking

While many people use the New Year as an incentive to finally stop drinking, most are not equipped to make such a drastic lifestyle change all at once. Many heavy drinkers fail to quit cold turkey but do much better when

they taper gradually, or even learn to moderate their drinking. If you have decided that you want to stop drinking, there is a world of help and support available.

7. Get Out of Debt

Was money a big source of stress in your life last year? Join the millions of Americans who have resolved to spend this year getting a handle on their finances. It's a promise that will repay itself many times over in the year ahead.

8. Learn Something New

Have you vowed to make this year the year to learn something new? Perhaps you are considering a career change, want to learn a new language, or just how to fix your computer? Whether you take a course or read a book, you'll find education to be one of the easiest, most motivating New Year's resolutions to keep.

9. Help Others

A popular, non-selfish New Year's resolution, volunteerism can take many forms. Whether you choose to spend time helping out at your local library, mentoring a child, or building a house, there are many nonprofit volunteer organizations that could really use your help.

10. Get Organized

Organization can be a very reasonable goal. Whether you want your home organized enough that you can invite someone over on a whim, or your office organized enough that you can find the stapler when you need it, resources are available to assist.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Lauren Kinney1/07	Georgene Karlow1/22
James Sako.....1/07	Jacob Gabrys.....1/23
Megan Malone.....1/08	Lloyd Snyder1/23
Lora Livingstone1/10	Austin Kolada1/28
Tom Bonick.....1/11	John Ambrose1/30
Kyla Horgan1/11	Henry Garza1/30
Michelle Schoenbeck1/13	Debbie Murtaugh1/30
Catherine Ihrke1/14	Kyle Ruger-Smith.....1/30
Madeline Ihrke1/14	Alex Wilmsen1/31
Mary Beth Randle1/14	
Derrick Rafacz.....1/17	May the Lord bless you and
Sandy Sotzen1/17	keep you;
Michael Kinney1/18	May the Lord shed his light
Bonnie Marszalek.....1/18	upon you,
Kyle Garza1/21	May the Lord look upon you
Nicole Nelson1/22	kindly
Emily Atkinson.....1/22	and give you peace
Chuck Gervase1/22	
Zac Fitton1/22	