

C e n t r a l	163 <sup>rd</sup> St.
	Ministry

Join Us on Sundays  
9:30 am  
Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.  
We have a place for you!



## Thou Shalt Not Forget

### One Sunday service...

Please be aware that there is now only one Sunday service, at 9:30 a.m., throughout the summer months. Sundays will return to two services in September. Wednesday service continues as normal.

### Vacation Bible School...

...is coming soon! July 18-22 ...Cost is \$10 per child with a \$30 family maximum. Registration is from May 1 through June 15. Space is limited so register early. Ages are for children four years old up through 5th grade (just completed). We will celebrate while learning to respect and care for all of God's Creation through stories, art, live music, science, and games. Our children will be learning about how we are all connected together on this earth and how we can take care of one another.

### Reuse It Sale

...has been postponed. Stay tuned for more details.

### Woof...Meow...

#### Outdoor Worship and Pet Blessing

Sunday July 10, we will be having worship outside (weather permitting). Worshipers are invited to bring their pets for this special outdoor service. As part of the service we will have a blessing for all the pets.

[More information at Crossofglory.com](http://Crossofglory.com)

#### Things to Look Forward to...

*continued from page 1*

Group for couples going along with this series. It will start August 3, and meet every week through August 31. All couples welcome! Child care will be provided.

I'm really looking forward to summer with CoG. Hope you are too. See you soon! Cross of Glory is Your Welcome Place!

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

**Dated Material**

Return Service Requested



June 2011

#### Join us for Worship:

Sundays  
9:30 am

#### 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**.

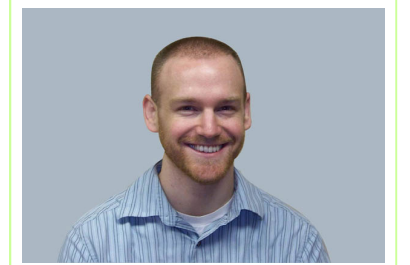
#### Thank You.

Michael and  
Lisa O'Malley, *Editors*

## Things to Look Forward to this Summer

*Pastor PJ Malin*

As summer approaches, we have a lot to look forward to – warmer weather, vacation time, and time with friends and family. We also have a lot of things to look forward to as a church. Mark your calendars...



*All Together Worship* – Over the summer months (May 29 through September 4) we are going to have ONE service on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. We will STILL have worship on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., in case you are away on the weekend or Sundays are hard for you. But having one service on Sundays will allow people who normally attend different services on Sunday to see one another and worship together.

*My three year anniversary* – I can't believe we are coming up to our three year anniversary together. Sunday, June 19 will mark my third year as the pastor of Cross of Glory. I know it is Father's Day, but it would mean the world to me to have you at service that day. This will also be the finale of our "Letters to God" series. We will have cake for everyone afterwards.

*Outdoor Worship & Pet Blessing* – Sunday July 10, we will be having worship outside (weather permitting). Worshipers are invited to bring their pets for this special outdoor service. As part of the service we will have a blessing for all the pets.

*Affirmation of Baptism & Church Potluck* – Sunday, July 17 will be another very special service. On this day we will give all of our worshippers a chance to go to the waters of baptism. Some will be baptized for the first time. Other will return to the waters of baptism and affirm their faith in God. It's a way of saying, "I was brought to these waters as a child, but I return to these waters as an adult to celebrate God's free gifts of love, forgiveness, and eternal life." This will be a powerful service! We will follow this service with a church potluck.

*Vacation Bible School* – VBS will be the week of July 18-22. Our children will be learning how we are connected with all the earth and everything in it. There will be live music, crafts, and games. Make sure to register now!

*Spoke Folk Concert* – Our church will be hosting a ministry for teens called Spoke Folk. They bike from church to church and perform concerts. We will be hosting Spoke Folk on Friday, July 22. There will be a simple dinner, then the Spoke Folk group will put on a skit and concert for our church. All are welcome!

*Mexican Fiesta* – We will have a Mexican Fiesta Dinner on Friday, July 29. It will be a time to gather as a whole church, enjoy some great Mexican food at an affordable cost, and raise awareness about Casa de los Angeles, our mission in San Miguel, Mexico!

*Love Language Sermon Series* – In this series we will explore five love languages – five ways of giving and receiving love. This will help you in every relationship you have. It will help you with your kids, your partner, your family, and/or your friends. Most importantly, it will help you in your relationship with God. I will be leading a Connection

*continued on page 4*

Acronyms are a way of life for us word-challenged Americans, and an acronym near and dear to the multitudes at Cross of Glory is RISEN, which stands for *Religious Instruction for those with Special Educational Needs*...admittedly quite a few syllables. RISEN is a very important and (no pun intended) special ministry,



Above: Pastor PJ, Dan Murtaugh, and several RISEN kids at a recent meeting.

one which calls for special people to help run it. Tamara Chaffin is one of those special people.

Tamara is a "White Henner", i.e., a CoG member since the days of Sunday morning services at a local White Hen. In fact, she's been here for over 12 years. Tamara is involved in many areas of our church, including SEE, Connections, the Book Club, and the Women's Group, but RISEN 'rises' to the top. Back in April, she took over the leadership role for the ministry.

"RISEN at the present time is in a transition," explained Tamara. "Our meeting day has changed from once a week to once a month. This change was due to several of our volunteers switching jobs and returning to school. So we have had staff changes. There is a need for volunteers."

Tamara continued, "Pastor PJ and I met in May to discuss the direction of RISEN. My focus for the summer is to organize the RISEN program. I need to collect the programs information into a binder and memory stick. Pastor and I identified RISEN staff as Pastor PJ, Tamara Chaffin, Facilitator, Lori McLeavy, Coordinator, and Kristy Peterson, Coordinator."

As you may imagine, RISEN is a ministry with demands a bit above and beyond other ministries. The

children who participate need a little extra care. "We prefer to have a buddy for each youth," Tamara said. "So we need to build our pool of volunteers. I would like to recruit a group of people that I refer to as *resources*. In working with individuals of special needs there are issues that may arise that need a consultant."

Currently, RISEN has eight youths in the program. Six of the children are from our CoG and two are from the community. For those who may ever consider volunteering for RISEN, remember the required math: one buddy, or volunteer, per student. Help is needed.

### Every Ministry Needs Goals

A good ministry, nay, any good organization, needs clear and concise goals to succeed. RISEN, due to its nature, has several. Those goals are:

1. The primary goal of the program is providing a positive spiritual education experience for youth with moderate to profound special needs.
2. Our second goal is to pass on the Good News of God's love, acceptance, and grace to every student. To achieve this goal RISEN will design a structured curriculum/program that familiarizes students with religious words, symbols, practices, and celebrations.
3. Our third goal is to assure that all people with special needs are able to participate in the life of our community of faith and are able to find the services and/or support they need in order to grow in their life of faith.
4. Our fourth goal is to educate the people of Cross of Glory about special needs and how we can create a safe, welcoming environment for those with special needs and their families to worship, learn, and connect.

What can the children expect out of RISEN? "Our hour sessions are conducted with a structured format of a simple worship service," explained Tamara. "A picture schedule is used to communicate instructions. The format is Opening Prayer, Sharing of the Peace/Welcoming, Music, Theme, Snack/Volunteering, Music and Closing Prayer."

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### Getting the Message Out

Tamara believes that RISEN really needs more visibility at CoG. "We need to have our congregation and community aware of RISEN's goals. I would like to see

*continued on next page*

presentations to church council, congregation, and community organizations. We need to review the Risen website and make it current."

"Our goal is improve the organization of the program so we can return to meeting once a week in the future. One of my greatest interests is to meet with SEE and TELL leaders to discuss how we can support each others programs."

As with many church efforts, fundraising plays a part. How does RISEN approach fundraising? "During our staff meeting, I have promoted the idea of having a [group] fundraiser for the youth programs," Tamara said. "The funds would then be divided amongst the programs. Each program would use their funds to make curriculum purchases and activity supplies. Fundraisers can include a Kid's Resale, 60/40 Resale, Fun Fair, Youth Dance, and Smorgasbord."

### The Family Behind the Lady

"In May, my husband Keith and I celebrated our 29th year of marriage," she proudly reported. Keith is a self-employed accountant, what Tamara calls "On The Road Book Keeping". They presently live outside the city of Manhattan...way out south.

Like so many people today, Tamara is unemployed. "With the changes in the economy our home is up for sale," she said.

"Keith and I have one living son, Austin," Tamara explained. "I have lost several children through miscarriages. My oldest son Nathan passed just before his 8th birthday. He would have been 29 years old in July. Austin is our precious gift from God. He will celebrate his 21st birthday in August."

Austin recently returned from Arizona, where he completed his military training as an Intel Analyst. "His future goal is to earn a degree in Law Enforcement and earn the rank of sergeant in the Army."

### For Those Who May be Interested...

Tamara is the contact person for RISEN, and if you would like more information or perhaps considering volunteering, she can be reached at (815) 557-3010. Everyone is welcome at CoG, and that includes individuals/families with special needs. Interested parties can also go to <http://crossofglory.com/risen/>.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Renee' Doyle.....6/01	Cassie Quemeneur .....6/16
Dawn Roiland.....6/01	Lynn Schroeder .....6/16
Ryan Carbonneau .....6/02	Brian Fisher .....6/17
Amanda Fitton .....6/03	Connor Ganzer .....6/17
Haven Leise .....6/03	Todd Mizera .....6/17
Zachary Doyle .....6/04	Kim Zajec.....6/17
Aaron Knutson .....6/04	Grace Szrom.....6/18
Caryl Hruska .....6/06	Patrick Atkinson .....6/19
Tom Spicka .....6/06	Molly Carmichael.....6/19
Meredyth Morin .....6/08	Pat Oles .....6/19
Tammy Skowron .....6/08	Andrea Hines.....6/21
Lisa O'Malley .....6/09	Sharesa Moffitt .....6/21
Meagan Ruger .....6/09	Ken Sliwa .....6/21
Sandy Wilmsen.....6/10	Bonnie Atkinson.....6/24
Sandy Rolenc .....6/11	Tammy Mack.....6/24
Emily Laitman .....6/12	Amanda Schroeder ....6/26
Robert Szrom .....6/12	Marilyn Budz.....6/28
Bill Martin.....6/13	Dennis Tanrikulu.....6/28
Amanda Sexton .....6/13	Morgan Manikowski ...6/29
Kyler Paluch .....6/15	Emily Michalak.....6/30
Joey Lupa .....6/16	

### God Speaking

The man whispered, "God, speak to me"  
 And a meadowlark sang.  
 But the man did not hear.  
 So the man yelled "God, speak to me"  
 And the thunder & lightning rolled across the sky.  
 But the man did not listen.  
 The man looked around and said, "God, let me see you."  
 And a star shined brightly.  
 But the man did not see.  
 And, the man shouted, "God, show me a miracle."  
 And a life was born.  
 But the man did not notice.  
 So, the man cried out in despair, "Touch me, God, and let me know you are here"  
 Whereupon, God reached down and touched the man.  
 But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.  
 The man cried "God, I need your help"  
 and an email arrived reaching out with good news and encouragement.  
 But the man deleted it and continued crying....  
 The good news is that you are loved.  
*(author unknown)*