

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

Spring Cleaning Day

Let's get together to spruce up the inside of the church building. We will start shortly after the 10:45 service on May 1st. Bring any type of cleaning supplies. All ages welcome to help out!

Landscape Day

Get dirty and help clean up from a long winter. Saturday, May 14. Starts at 8:30 a.m. Please bring any type of tool that would be helpful!

Donate thy Blood

Blood drive on May 17 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. at CoG. Give 'til it hurts!

RJSEN Service

Worship for children with special needs. Sunday, May 22, 12 noon – 1 p.m.

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

Dated Material

Return Service Requested



May 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
 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*

Letters to God

Pastor PJ Malin

If you could write a letter to God, what would you write? Would it be a letter of thanks? Would it be a letter of frustration and anger? Would it be a cry for help? Would it be a blank page?

There's a new movie out called Letters to God. In the movie, a young boy who is battling cancer writes letters to God. The letters are prayers that he writes on paper and hands to the mailman to deliver. The boy's letters inspire others to write letters to God. Through writing letters to God, the people in this story learn how to talk to God and how to recognize God's answers.

One of the members in our congregation thought this was a really cool idea. After watching the movie, he built a mailbox for letters to God. It sits in the welcome area of our church. People of all ages are invited to write letters to God and put them in the mailbox.

Anyone can do it. You don't have to be a certain age. All you have to do is take a few moments to write a letter to God and bring the letter by.

There is no right or wrong way to do this. Say whatever you want - happy, sad, angry, mad, or anything in between. Write from your heart. Or don't write anything at all. Draw a picture that expresses your thoughts and feelings. Make it your own.

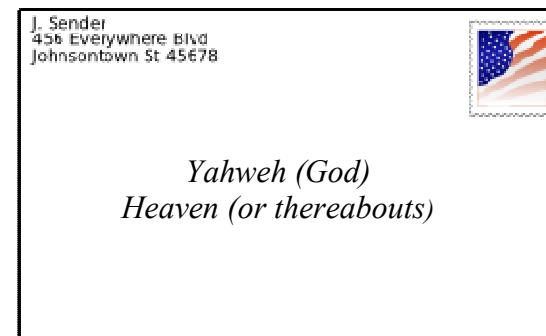
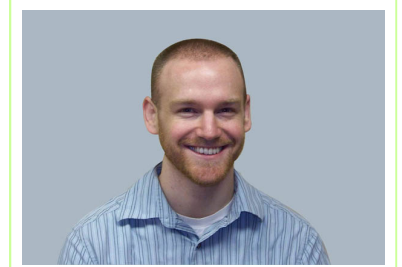
If you have children, get them involved. The kids in our church have had a lot of fun making their letters to God and putting them in the box. It could be a family project and outing.

We promise that your letters will be delivered to God. The Prayer and Care Team of Cross of Glory has volunteered to lift every letter up to God in prayer. So start writing your letters and bring them by. If you'd like a response, include your name and address.

On May 8 we will begin a sermon series called "Letters to God". Together we will explore how to strengthen our

communication with God. We will look at the four different parts of prayer: We speak, God listens, God speaks, and we listen.

Look forward to seeing you and hearing from you soon. Cross of Glory is Your Welcome Place! I hope to see you soon. God bless!



MorningStar Mission

Saturday, May 28. Every 4th Saturday of each month a group from CoG goes to serve dinner at MorningStar, which is in Joliet. Contact the church office if you are interested.

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.

More information at Crossofglory.com

CoG Brings Sisters Closer

Some sisters are so close they tend to finish each other's sentences, changing off back and forth. Others may look alike, act alike ... or seem like Siamese twins. In the case of Cheryl Lawlor and Chris Szrom, you literally can't tell which is speaking first or speaking last...mainly because when asked if they wanted to answer questions separately or together, they chose to answer as a unit:)

If you attend services at Cross of Glory, chances are you'll recognize the sisters (Cheryl is at left and Chris, by default, is at right). Let's plunge into the pronoun-bending world of electronic interviewing...

Family info

Chris and Cheryl grew up in nearby Oak Forest. They can usually be seen in the bosom of their respective families at church: Chris and her husband Robert, and their children Hailey and Gracie; and Cheryl with her husband David, and children Elizabeth and Xander.

What is their religious background? "We grew up Catholic. Our mother would take us to church every Saturday night. Our father wouldn't step foot in a church."

In the Beginning...

As in most of our interviews, we begin with the classic question, "When did you start coming to CoG and when did you join the church?"

"We started attending service in 2009," **they** replied. "Chris started a few months before Cheryl and attended Pastor PJ's Bible study. Cheryl still isn't a member but feels like one. Chris and her family became members in 2009."

Whom came first? The Cheryl or The Chris?

"Chris came to CoG for a few months first, attending Pastor PJ's Bible study group and highly recommended that Cheryl attended at least one service with her," they said. "The first service Cheryl attended was when Pastor PJ played a video of him and Lloyd Snyder rocking out to a Miley Cyrus [*Ed. note...really?*] song while driving in a car. The message behind the video was Psalm 23:6. God is always watching and available to us even when we don't think He is listening to our prayers. They put together such a fun and creative way of getting the message across. From that day forward we both made CoG our home."

Immersed in the CoG Experience

Both Chris and Cheryl stay active in CoG's activities. "We both attend Pastor PJ's Wednesday night Bible study group," they report. "We both enjoy feeding the homeless at MorningStar, which we highly recommend everyone taking the opportunity to do. It truly is a rewarding experience."



MorningStar is a non-denominational mission in Joliet. Members of CoG often group together to assist the mission in feeding many of Joliet's homeless and less fortunate folk. To learn more about MorningStar, go to <http://www.morningstarmission.org/>.

"We were involved in the first Earth Day Fest," continued the sisters. "We held a couple date-night babysitting events with our Bible study group, and we had the privilege of representing CoG at a community event that was held at Homer Junior High to name a few activities."

"Both of us also joined different G-Teams, and we try to help with anything that requires volunteers when we are able."

Both sisters make CoG a family affair.

"Our kids attend SEE and the two oldest girls have been lucky enough to attend the communion class with the best teachers ever!", they said. "Hailey will be making her communion at the end of April. Xander attends the Welcome Place Preschool, which has really helped him grow into a wonderful little man. He adores his teachers; Mrs. Debbie sure does hold a special place in his heart."

When asked electronically which service do they tend to go to, and what is their favorite part...the sisters answered...

"Chris normally attends the Wednesday night service. Cheryl attends Wednesday night and Sunday's 10:45 service when she is able (or wakes up in time). Both of us agree that our favorite part is Pastor PJ's sermons, the uplifting music and being able to see the special friends that we have made since coming to CoG, which we now consider our family."

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CoG Brings Sisters Closer...continued

CoG Helps Keep Them Close

When asked what effect, if any, has CoG had on their relationship as sisters, they replied, "We have been close since Chris was in the Navy, but CoG has strengthened our bond. It's pretty neat to have someone that you can talk to about EVERYTHING, which includes our religious beliefs," they typed. "It's fun to remind each other of a special verse in the Bible or something we learned in one of the sermons when the other is having a bad day."

Turned another way, how has CoG affected their families? "I think we have a new appreciation for our families. We truly are blessed to have healthy families, homes to live in, food on the table, and the ability to provide the necessities for our children. We can both

say that although we haven't perfected this – we have learned how to forgive and show more compassion towards others."

And to Conclude...the CoG Plug...

Lastly, the sisters were asked, if someone you knew was considering going to CoG, and asked for your opinion, what would you say? "We would tell them how easy it is to grow in their faith if they give it a chance. Pastor PJ is such an awesome Pastor! He has the ability to make everyone feel like they are an important part of CoG. Pastor PJ is so passionate when delivering his sermons; he makes it easy for anyone to relate to the message of the week."

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Scanlon	4/02
Sarah Uzzardo	5/01
Jennifer Ambrose.....	5/02
Marcia Capperino.....	5/02
Mike Fitton	5/03
Karin Knutson.....	5/03
Lori Anderson.....	5/05
Tessa Gervase.....	5/05
Lindsay Martin.....	5/06
Kirstin Sliwa	5/09
Eileen Manikowski	5/10
Dana Baker	5/12
Jason Uzzardo	5/12
Debra Waller	5/12
Charlotte Meehan	5/14
Diane Grishaber.....	5/16
Joel Silva.....	5/16
Bob McAleavy.....	5/17
Jessica Waller.....	5/17
Greg Warner	5/19
Elle Cuiching	5/20
John Plotke	5/20
John Uzzardo	5/20
Katelin Talsma.....	5/20
Ashley Shake.....	5/22
Keith Manikowski.....	5/23
Nackenzie Pfeiffer.....	5/23
Ryan Ambrose.....	5/24
Andy Oles	5/24
Chloe Dubiel.....	5/28
Jim Kaput.....	5/28
Phoebe Nelson	5/29
Bruce Shake.....	5/29
Susan Horgan.....	5/31

God is the Friend of Silence

**We Need to Find God,
He Cannot Be Found in Noise and Restlessness.**

God Is the Friend of Silence.

**See How Nature . . .
Trees, Flowers, Grass
Grow in Silence.**

**See the Stars, the Moon and Sun . . .
How They Move in Silence.
The More We Receive in Silent Prayer,
The More We Can Give in Our Active Life.**

We Need Silence to Be Able to Touch Souls.

**The Essential Thing Is Not What We Say,
But What God Says . . .
To us and Through us.**

**All Our Words Will Be Useless
Unless They Come from Within.
Words Which Do Not Give the Light of Christ . . .
Increase the Darkness.**

- Mother Teresa