

In The Loop

Cross of Glory's Weekly Newsletter
February 2, 2014

Welcome to Cross of Glory

We ask those of you visiting with us for the first time to please stop by the Welcome Table and pick up an information packet.

Our Welcome Statement

Cross of Glory is Your Welcome Place.

We recognize the importance of worshipping with a diverse group of people of any color, age, creed, ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, addictions, legal record, economic status, station in life, life circumstances, marital/family status, heterosexuals, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people, their partners and their families. We welcome all into full participation in the church life, ministry of the congregation, sacraments, and rites of the church. We are all one in God's eyes, and everyone has a place in the family of God. It is with love and in celebration that we affirm this position.

"There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave nor free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

2014 Annual Meeting - Today

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
14719 W. 163rd Street
Homer Glen, IL 60491

Annual Meeting for Cross of Glory is TODAY - Sunday, February 2, 2014 at 10:45am (right after worship). The purpose of this meeting is to elect our Congregation Council, vote to approve the year's budget, and review the past and upcoming year.

Please, it is very important that YOU attend this meeting. We must have a quorum in order to conduct business.

Nominations for 2014 Council

Worship -- Barb Taskay
Discipleship -- Tammy Kjos
Outreach -- Alicia Joebgen
Fellowship -- Lisa O'Malley
Finance -- Mary Beth Randle
Facilities -- Dana Baker

Worship...Growing Down Roots

Council Member: Pam Szczesniak

Volunteers Always Welcomed

If you would like to volunteer as a greeter or communion assistant, please speak to Laura or Pam Szczesniak.

Discipleship...Growing UP

Council Member: Jeff Paluch

Youth Programs

T.E.L.L. Resumes TOMORROW –
February 3rd – 6:30 pm.

Holy Communion class starts February 24th. Complete information available online and in the Welcome Room. Sign up now.

Teen Education for Lifelong Leadership (T.E.L.L.) T.E.L.L. is our educational program for youth from 6th through 12th grade. It takes place Monday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The youth spend time interacting with each other to experience God through games, food, and conversation. There are two sessions which start in September and January/February. The next session starts on February 3rd. Please register for the program ASAP. There is no fee for the program, but we will accept a Free Will Donation towards our Children's Ministry. Registration forms are available in the Welcome Room. Please register ASAP.

Dates: February 3, 10, 24
March 3, 10, 17, 31
April 7 (6:30 to 8:00 pm)

Holy Communion Class is for 2nd graders and up. This is a six week class offered in the early part of the year. In Holy Communion our children will learn about Communion and the Lord's Supper – why we do it, what it means, and how we do it. These classes take place on Monday evenings. It is important that you register your child as soon as possible so we can have the correct amount of supplies for all the students. There is no fee, but you may make a free will donation towards the Children/Youth Ministry.

Dates: February 24
March 3, 10, 17, 31
April 7 (6:00 to 7:30 pm)

Holy Communion Sunday: April 27, 2014

Fellowship...Growing Together

Council Member: Nicole Ignasiak

Book Club Update

The next book is *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn. We will meet on March 7th at 6:00 pm to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to read the book and join the discussion. Other books we will be discussing in 2014 are:

What Alice Forgot by Lianne Moriarty
Orange is the New Black by Piper Kermin
Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline

February Women's Event

Words of Encouragement

Sunday, February 16th: 6:00 to 8:00

This month we're inviting all ladies to share some fellowship and write letters/notes with words of encouragement to the confirmands, communicants, and others. Cards will be provided. We'll also have Bible verses and other words of encouragement if you are looking for suggestions. In addition, please bring new personal hygiene items from the list below for Daybreak in Joliet.

Suggested items are:

- Soap
- Handi-Wipes
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Chapstick/lipstick
- Facial wipes
- Lotion
- Deodorant

Please see Mary Beth Randle or Cheryl Nabors with questions.

Finance...Growing Generosity

Council Member: Andrew Kjos

2014 Offering Envelopes are Available

If you wish to use offering envelopes, please be sure to pick up a box and sign them out in the Welcome Room.

If you would like to do our Simply Giving online you can do a one-time offering, or weekly, twice a month, or monthly. Go to <http://crossofglory.com/giving> or you can contact Laura in the church office.

Manna Gift Card Program

You can purchase gift cards at full value while CoG receives a percentage of the card.

\$25 Cards Available Today!

Barnes & Noble / Carson's / Chili's /
Coldwater Creek / CVS / Darden / Jewel
JC Penney / Olive Garden / Target
T.J. Maxx / Staples / Starbucks / Walmart
Speedway

See Cheryl Nabors to purchase these Cards!

Manna in 2014

Last year the program raised \$2,338.44. This is an increase of almost \$700 from the previous year. Let's keep the momentum going.

This year, we'll offer some commonly purchased cards weekly, so check the *Cards Available Today* list above if you are looking to purchase a card today. The cards will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. If you are looking for a specific card or many cards, please fill out an order form. Your order will be ready next Sunday.

Ordering is Now Easier!

We have a new 'quick' order form. You can use this form or the order form listing all the vendors. Both order forms are in the Welcome Room. If you have any questions about the program, contact Cheryl Nabors or the church office.

New Manna Vendors

Redbox gift cards are now available in \$25 increments. At their 8% discount, CoG gets \$2 per card sold.

Fanatics.com gift cards are now available in \$25 increments. At their 10% discount, CoG receives \$2.50 per card sold.

Update on Worship & Giving

January 26th

Attendance: 77
General: \$3,275
Casa: \$20
Kid's Offering: \$13.19
Children's Ministry: \$125
Recycling: \$22.60

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

download.elca.org/ELCA Resource Repository/ELCA Global-Links Newsletter.pdf

Bangladesh: Ministries with the Vulnerable

Quality health care and economic development for the most vulnerable plus clean water and disaster relief are priorities in this predominately Muslim country whose small Christian minority includes two Lutheran churches.

search.ELCA.org/Pages/OurWork/Bangladesh.aspx.

The Holy Land: Life as a Member of the 2 Percent

Bethlehem at Christmas may seem like the perfect place to celebrate the birth of Christ. But Christians comprise less than 2 percent of the area's population, and "It is, at times, a lonely place to find oneself, particularly at Christmastime," write ELCA missionaries Martin and Angela Zimmann. See www.ELCA.org/Living-Lutheran/Blogs/2013/12/123113-Life-as-a-member-of-the-2-percent.

cross of glory

Your Welcome Place

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

14719 West 163rd Street
Homer Glen, IL 60491

Phone: 708.301.6998 / Fax: 708.301.7126
www.CrossofGlory.com

Service:

Contemporary Worship:
Sunday: 9:30 am



Ministers:

All Members of Cross of Glory

Staff:

Pastor Dorothy Wilcox, Senior Pastor
PastorDorothy@CrossOfGlory.com

Laura Uzzardo, Parish Administrator
Laura@CrossOfGlory.com

Mimi Pappas, Nursery Attendant

Bob Bejlovec, Maintenance

Council:

Pam Szczesniak, Jeff Paluch,
Nicole Ignasiak, Andrew Kjos,
Chuck Fisher, Caryl Hruska

The Welcome Place Preschool:

Jamie Knutson-Zahora, Director
Jamie@TheWelcomePlace.org
Phone: 708-301-3883

Guiding Principles:

Jesus Is Lord
Everyone Is Welcome
We Have What The World Needs
Everyone Has Something To Offer
Love Changes Everything

Mission Statement:

To be a community of faith in which everyone lives life in the LOOP of God's saving grace by: reaching and serving, welcoming and nurturing, worshiping and teaching, and giving and sending.

Our Vision:

Like a tree, a healthy church is a *church that is growing in every direction...*

DOWN (roots) through *Worship*
UP through *Discipleship*
TOGETHER through *Fellowship*
OUT through *Outreach*



A Reconciling in Christ congregation
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Upcoming Events (www.crossofglory.com/calendar)

Sun	02/02	Annual Meeting – After Worship
Mon	02/03	Men's Bible Study: Every Monday at 8:15 pm
Mon	02/03	T.E.L.L. – 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Please register ASAP.
Sun	02/16	Women's Event <i>Words of Encouragement</i> - 6:00 to 8:00 pm
Mon	02/24	Holy Communion Class – 6:00 pm
Sun	03/07	Book Club – <i>Half the Sky</i>

The monthly newsletter can be viewed at www.crossofglory.com/newsletters/