

In The Loop

Cross of Glory's Weekly Newsletter
December 7, 2014

Welcome to Cross of Glory

Cross of Glory Church is a community of Christians, deeply rooted in Lutheran theology and tradition, and praising God with contemporary music and meaningful messages. Growing from those Lutheran roots, we reach out to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, proclaiming God's love and acceptance of all people. We offer education and fellowship programs for children, youth, and adults. We serve the community with food and clothing collection programs. Visit our web page, crossofglory.com or our Facebook page for more information.

Everyone is Welcome

This simple statement is one of our five guiding principles at Cross of Glory. Part of our Welcome Statement is "We welcome *all* into full participation in the church life, ministry of the congregation, sacraments, and rites of the church."

Visitors

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.

Q&A with Council

TODAY, after worship, the church council will have a question and answer session. This is a great opportunity to hear the latest information on many ministry areas. We encourage all to attend.

Worship...Growing Down Roots

Council Member: Barb Taskay

CoG Sermons are Online

Have you missed a sermon at Cross of Glory? Be sure to see the latest sermons on the church website!

<http://crossofglory.com/category/sermons/>

Advent Wednesdays

On each Wednesday during lent (December 3, 10, & 17) we will gather together at 6:30 to share in *Christmas Carols and Cookies*. We will celebrate together by looking at the different perspectives of Jesus' birth stories in the different Gospels. You are welcome to bring cookies to share.

Discipleship...Growing UP

Council Member: Tammy Kjos

Pastor's Adult Study - Wednesdays

The study will resume on Wednesday evenings in January. ALL are welcome.

Outreach...Growing OUT

Council Member: Alicia Joebgen

Christmas Angel Tree is Up Now!

Each year we do our Giving Tree which benefits families who are going through some very rough times. We collect about 80 children names from DCFS. All the Angels are taken each year. God Provides Cross of Glory Many Loving People to Help the Children.

If you chose an Angel, there will be a name on the tag with Christmas gift suggestions for the child. Please return the gifts all wrapped with the tag attached to the gifts. All gifts must be returned by the 14th of December. And please be sure you sign out any Angel you pick! This helps us to keep track of all of them.

Lockport Resource Center Needs Help

Volunteers are needed Tuesday through Saturday for 3 hours a week at the LRC Thrift Shop. Applications are available in the Welcome Room.

The Lockport Resource Center and Thrift Shop is a Christian ministry organized and operated by the Lockport/Homer Area Ministerial Alliance (LHAMA) and staffed by community volunteers. (Cross of Glory is a member of LHAMA.)

Please contact Cheryl Nabors or call the Thrift Store (815) 838-9615 with questions. Visit LockportResource.org for more information or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LockportResource.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Through November, we collected food donations and gift cards for Thanksgiving baskets. We assembled 23 baskets after worship last Sunday. Each basket also included a \$25 grocery gift card.

Food Pantry Donations

It is important that we continue to support our local food pantry. Please bring your donations each week and place them in the donation barrel in the Welcome Room.

Fellowship...Growing Together

Council Member: Lisa O'Malley

Santa's Coming to Cross of Glory Next Saturday

Santa Visits Cross of Glory on Saturday, December 13th. We will be providing **free photos**. We are collecting socks and gloves for the local shelters. Spread the word!



There will be a Kids Raffle! If anyone would like to donate a small raffle prize please let us know.

Do you want to help? We are in need of volunteers for crafts, games, set-up, clean-up and various other areas.. We are also looking for donations of cookies, juice, and raffle baskets.

Contact the church or Nicole Morin.

Book Club Update

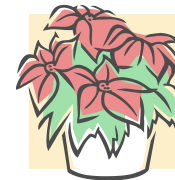
The next book is *Finding Me* by Michelle Knight. We will meet **TODAY**, December 7th at 6:00 pm at Williamson's. Hope you can join us for a great discussion! Please let Cheryl Nabors know if you plan to attend.

- *The Possibilities* by Kauai Hart Hemmings
- *The Non-standard PFC* by Marshall Trieber
- *The Knife Man* by Wendy Moore
- *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin
- *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Closer* by Mariano Rivera

Poinsettia Sale

It's that time again to place your Christmas Poinsettia order. Your order will help to decorate for the Christmas Eve Services.

You can pick up your plant after the service you attend. If you wish you can have your plant be In Remembrance or In Honor of a special person in your life. Names will be in the Christmas Eve program. Donations are also accepted. They are \$16 each and orders must be placed by December 21st with payment.





Place Your Order Today

Looking for gift cards for Christmas? Purchasing Manna gift cards is a great way to support CoG. You get the full value and CoG receives a percentage of the face value. Some cards are available for immediate purchase. The cards are sold on a first come, first serve basis.

Manna Cards Available Today

- Speedway (\$25, \$100), Jewel (25, 100)
- Target (25), Kohl's (25), Walmart (25)
- Meijer (25,100), CVS (25), Walgreens (25)
- Carsons (25), JC Penney (25), Panera (10),
- Macy's (25), Chili's (25),
- Darden (25), Barnes & Noble (25)
- Starbuck's (25)

Last Day to Order before Christmas will be Next Sunday, December 14th

There are order forms in the welcome room. Fill out an order form today and your order will be ready by next Sunday.

In November, the Manna program raised \$327. Let's keep the momentum going! Cards are great gifts for college kids, teachers, family and friends. Cards make great stocking stuffers and last-minute holiday gifts.

Update on Worship & Giving

November 30, 2014

- Attendance: 94
- Kid's Offering: \$25
- General Fund: **\$4,337**
- (3% of General = \$130)

Budget Commitment:

\$5,577 per week in *General Fund* donations must be received in order to meet the expenses approved in our 2014 budget. **Over the past five weeks we've averaged only \$4,626 per week.**

Demonstrate your Thankfulness this Season

Each holiday season, Cross of Glory anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year.

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. To set up recurring giving, visit www.CrossofGlory.com/giving, or if it's easier, complete a paper authorization form and return it to the church office.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Christmas Eve Services

3:00 Family Candlelight Service

A family friendly service with special music, and Holy Communion.

5:00 Barn Service

A candle lighting service (battery operated of course) with special music and Holy Communion. The barn is heated but please dress warmly. And please be aware there is a maximum that can occupy the barn.

Konow Barn: 16803 S Cedar Rd, Homer Glen

11:00 Candle Lighting Service

Welcome Christmas morning with a quiet, reflective service featuring candle lighting, special music, and Holy Communion.

Volunteers are needed for all services!

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

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:

- Barb Taskay, Tammy Kjos
- Alicia Joebgen, Lisa O'Malley
- Mary Beth Randle, Dana Baker

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	12/07	Book Club at 6:00 pm at Williamson's
Wed	12/10	Advent Wednesday – 6:30 pm
Sat	12/13	Yoga & Meditation for Beginners at 9:30 am – at CoG
Sat	12/13	Visit with Santa – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Wed	12/24	Christmas Eve Services – 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 11:00 pm
Fri	12/26	Office Closed
Sat	12/27	No 9:30 Yoga (also no yoga on 1/3)

The monthly newsletter can be viewed at crossofglory.com/category/newsletter