

# In The Loop

Cross of Glory's Weekly Newsletter  
December 21, 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](http://crossofglory.com) or our Facebook page for more information.

### 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.

## Our Welcome Statement

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

## 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/>

## Volunteer at Christmas Eve Services

Greeters, Communion Assistants and Ushers are needed. Contact Laura Uzzardo if you can help.

## Discipleship...Growing UP

Council Member: Tammy Kjos

### Pastor's Adult Study - Wednesdays

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

### Confirmation Class Restarting

This is for students in 7th and 8th grade and for those older and not yet confirmed. Of course, any high school student that would like to join in the class is very welcome.

They meet after worship on Sundays with Pastor Dorothy and her assistant, Barb Taskay. The dates for this session are: January 18, 25. February 1, 8, 15, 22.

### T.E.L.L. Spring Session – January 26<sup>th</sup>

TELL is for students in 6th through 12th grade. A fun interactive program where they experience God through games, food, and conversation.

The leader is Mr. Dan Murtaugh. This is held on Monday's starting on January 26th from 6:30 to 8pm, for 8 sessions.

### Holy Communion Class – February 9<sup>th</sup>

Students in 2nd grade and up gather for a 6 week program. The children learn about Communion and the Lord's Supper – why we do it, what it means, and how we do it.

This is a fun hands on program. You must register to attend the program, which is free. The first night is Parent/Student night on February 9th.

Holy Communion Sunday will be April 12th.

## Outreach...Growing OUT

Council Member: Alicia Joeegen

### Food Pantry Donations

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

## Community Blood Drive

Our next blood drive will be held on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. All donors will receive a free t-shirt. Please sign up in the Welcome Room or call the church office.

## 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](http://LockportResource.org) for more information or find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LockportResource](http://www.facebook.com/LockportResource).

## Fellowship...Growing Together

Council Member: Lisa O'Malley

### Book Club Update

The next book is *The Possibilities* by Kauai Hart Hemmings. We will meet on Sunday, January 18th at 6:00 pm. Location TBD. Hope you can join us for a great discussion.

- *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 to decorate the church for Christmas will also be accepted.

The plants are \$16 each and orders must be placed by TODAY (with payment).



### Get Gift Cards 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.

#### Many Manna Cards Available Today

Some cards are available for immediate purchase. The cards are sold on a first come, first served basis.

- Speedway (\$25, \$100), Shell (100)
- Jewel (25, 100), Meijer (25,100),
- Target (25), Kohl's (25), Walmart (25)
- CVS (25), Carsons (25),
- JC Penney (25), Panera (10),
- Starbuck's (10), Chili's (25),
- Whole Foods (25),
- Family Christian Bookstore (25)

**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.

### Use GoodSearch to Benefit CoG

When you sign up for GoodSearch and use it, CoG receives money for each search. Go to <http://crossofglory.com> and look for the link under **Common Links**.

### Update on Worship & Giving

#### December 14, 2014

- Attendance: 90
- Kid's Offering: \$32
- General Fund: **\$4,484**
- (3% of General = \$135)
- Poinsettia Orders: \$208
- Santa Visit Donations: \$125

#### 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 \$4,582 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](http://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 pm Family Candlelight Service

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

#### 5:00 pm 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 pm Candle Lighting Service

Prepare to 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](http://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](mailto:PastorDorothy@CrossOfGlory.com)
- Laura Uzzardo**, Parish Administrator  
[Laura@CrossOfGlory.com](mailto: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](mailto:Jamie@TheWelcomePlace.org)
- Phone: 708-301-3883

#### Our Guiding Principles:

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

#### Our 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](http://www.crossofglory.com/calendar))

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)
Thu	01/16	Blood Drive – 2:00 to 6:00 pm
Sun	01/18	Confirmation Class – After Worship
Mon	01/26	TELL Restarts for Spring – 6:30 pm

The monthly newsletter can be viewed at [crossofglory.com/category/newsletter](http://crossofglory.com/category/newsletter)