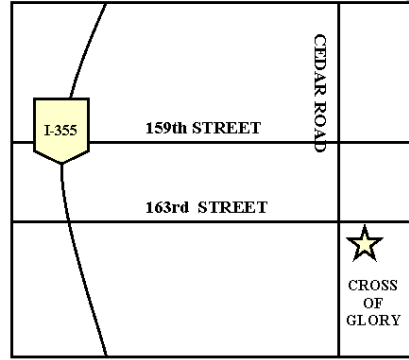




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



Join Us
Sundays 9:30 am
We have a place for you!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- 3:00 pm FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE
- 5:00 pm BARN SERVICE AT THE KONOW FARM
- 11:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

See details on these services inside on page 3



First Sunday of Advent is November 29th
Join us for worship 9:30 am

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
14719 West 163rd Street
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491
(708) 301-6998
www.CrossofGlory.com
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



DECEMBER 2015



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

BY PASTOR KATHERINE NEEL

"Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."
from *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

It is the time of year when nights are the darkest and longest in our part of the world. In recent months, our world has also experienced darkness of its own in terrorist attacks that occur on a regular basis in many parts of the globe stealing away lives of hope and creating an atmosphere of fear. And in our own lives and communities, we are fearful of many things. Some wonder whether they will have enough money after paying the bills to buy a Christmas gift for their children. Some of us are fearful of failing - at work, at school, at home - of not meeting the expectations that others have set for us, or the impossible ideals we hold ourselves too. Some are so fearful of not being the perfect parent, spouse, child that they literally drive themselves crazy with depression and anxiety. Some of us are afraid to admit anything going wrong in our lives and so we go about with a happy smile on our face and say "I'm fine" whenever anyone asks us how we are doing. The world around us and the world within us create our own forms of darkness.

It is into this darkness that the everlasting light shines. The light of the world who is Jesus. We will spend the coming weeks focusing on that light, how it shines in the darkness and how it illuminates our hopes and fears. Jesus was born a baby and grew into a man in order to shine a light of life and love into the darkness of the world. And Jesus continues to come down to shine in our darkness, revealing our shadowy fears and guiding us into the light of hope.

Cross of Glory has experienced its own share of fear and darkness in this last year, especially the past several months. And some of you may still be fearful about the future. But know this, you wonderful people called by God, a new light is dawning on the horizon, the light of Jesus that will lead us into a hopeful future filled with possibility! Your leadership will continue to update you on the process we are undergoing with the synod and the ELCA office for congregational renewal and redevelopment. Join them in trusting the promises and guidance of God and pray for continued blessings in our life together.

There are many opportunities at CoG for you to join us in exploring the everlasting light of Jesus who meets us in our hopes and fears which have been part of the human story for many years. Join us in worship on Sundays at 9:30 as we shine light to expose our fears and reveal the bright hope we have in Jesus' coming.

CONT. PAGE 2.....

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS 9:30 AM

Holy Communion and a nursery at all services.
All are welcome!

Pastor Katherine Neel
Interim Pastor

Laura Uzzardo
Parish Administrator

Todd Mizera
Worship Leader

Jamie Knutson
Director -
The Welcome Place
Preschool

Bob Bejlovec
Maintenance

Please email or call Laura if you prefer to receive your newsletter via email or mail, or to be taken off our mailing list: laura@crossofglory.com



CrossofGlory.com



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.

Council Members:

Reach out to a council member with any questions or concerns.

- Mary Beth Randle, Finances
- Tammy Kjos, Discipleship
- Pat Oles, Fellowship
- Bill Nabors, Facilities
- Barb Taskay, Worship

Make an online donation on the church website

www.crossofglory.com/giving

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Church

www.ReconcilingWorks.org



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Continued from page 1.....

Join us on Wednesday evenings for a meal, learning and worship as we explore the light that shines in the darkness and in us. Join us at Brunch following worship on the 13th as we celebrate those who are joining our community of faith. Join us to celebrate Jesus' birth at one of our three services on Christmas Eve. My prayer for you this month is this: May God who comes to be with us in this season of darkness ease your fears and fill you with bright hope!

Wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas! ~ Pastor Kit

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY & BRUNCH POT LUCK

Sunday, Dec. 13th

Lets fill the seats on Sunday, Dec 13th and welcome the New Members!!! Then following our church service join us for a Brunch Pot Luck. Please feel free to bring your favorite casserole, potatoes, sweet rolls, bacon/sausage, coffee cake, fruit, ??? or just yourself!!

THE ANGEL GIVING TREE

Each year we do our Giving Tree which benefits families who are going through some very rough times. We collect 50 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 13th of December.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—JOY

Sunday, Dec. 20th

During the worship service on Sunday, December 20th the children will share the JOY of Christmas with a story and song. If you would like your child to participate they will be practicing during Sunday morning Kids Klub and at the Wednesday Advents from 7:15 to 7:30pm. For more details you can contact the church office.

DASHBOARD SAINTS CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Friday, Dec. 11th

7pm-10pm

A fun night to gather together with friends. Enjoy some live music by the Dashboard Saints.

You are welcome to bring a small appetizer and/or dessert to share. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors.

DECEMBER WOMEN'S GATHERING

Friday, Dec 4th at 7:00pm

At Cross of Glory

Let's gather together ladies and enjoy some fellowship, make a Handmade Christmas Ornaments and write some cards. Cost for the ornament is \$5. For the ornament you will need to bring in two photos that will be cut up, or a Christmas Card with a nice scene. Details will be available soon on the photo/card sizes needed. You are welcome to bring a small appetizer or dessert to share.



Christmas Eve Services

Three services held on Christmas Eve

3:00 Family Candlelight Service:

A family friendly service, 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 warm. 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 quietly with a memorable candle lighting, special music, and Holy Communion. A very reflective service.

We have a seat for YOU!

If you would like to volunteer at any of the Services please contact the church

We are also looking for people to assist with the message for the 3pm service. Minimal speaking parts. Speak with Pr Kit for more details or interest.

POINTSETTIA ORDERS!

Place your order by Dec 20th. Help to decorate the church for the Christmas services. Call in your order or pick up a form!



MANNA GIFT CARDS!

Buy your gift cards through CoG and the church receives a percentage of the cards, at no extra cost to you. Many Many different cards to choose from. Use the cards to purchase your Christmas gifts or to give as gifts to loved ones, neighbors, etc... Order forms are in the Welcome Room.

ADVENT & S.E.E. The Light of the World



Advent Sundays are Nov 29th, Dec 6, 13, & 20

And on Wed., Dec 2, 9, & 16 we will come together to worship as a community of faith and fill ourselves up so we can all share the Light of the World.

Wednesday Advent Night Schedule:

- 6:00: Dinner-bring a dish to share
- 6:30: Children go to S.E.E.
- 6:30: Adults Devotional (Teens Too)
- 7:00: All Together Close in Prayer
- 7:15-7:30: Children Practice Songs for the Christmas Program

S.E.E. is Spiritual Education Experience for children ages 4 through 5th grade. The kids will be excited with the program: "The Light that Shines in the Darkness", with fun and music. The first night the kids will be making advent wreaths. Sign up in the Welcome Room so we can get a head count!

Watch for S.E.E. to continue Wednesday, January 6th & go through Lent.

Luke 2:12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS		
Tim Ressimyer.....	12/01	Alicia Joebgen..... 12/16
Carol Fonesca.....	12/02	Jennie Hoffman..... 12/19
Cheryl Nabors.....	12/04	Katie Bavirsha..... 12/21
Christina Tague.....	12/04	Tamara Chaffin..... 12/21
Jackie Barr.....	12/09	Barbara Taskay..... 12/21
Christine Quemeneur.....	12/09	Dale Doogan..... 12/22
Nathan Randle.....	12/10	Jade Hodock..... 12/22
Tim Pechukas.....	12/12	Jaxsyn Horgan..... 12/22
Andrew Bailey.....	12/14	Andrew Klemenko..... 12/22
David Doogan.....	12/15	Nicole Mayda..... 12/26
Serenity Manz.....	12/15	Kirsten Kjos..... 12/28
		Nancy Warner..... 12/31