



Cross of Glory's Weekly Newsletter

November 29, 2015

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.

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

What's Next at Cross of Glory? A REPORT FROM COUNCIL

On November 18th Council had a very positive and hopeful meeting with Rev. Gary Erickson, Director for Evangelical Mission for the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA and Rev. Neil Harrison, the ELCA program director for Congregational Renewal. We shared with them some of the exciting things going on at CoG. We showed them that attendance, giving, and participation are increasing and that our congregation is very much alive!

They have already spoken together since our meeting and Pastor Erickson has asked us to fill out a *Transformational Profile* document by November 30th as the first step in building "the partnership needed to get a full-time redeveloper in place" and has said that we should "get going as soon as possible".

Council got together last Tuesday to work on the document requested and made great strides toward its completion.

Council is excited to see the renewed participation but it is important that each of us continues to be devoted to making CoG the best that it can be. There are numerous volunteer opportunities coming up during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please help out whenever you can!

Worship...Growing Down Roots Council Member: Barb Taskay

Children's Christmas Program

Our worship on December 20th will include a Children's Christmas Program that will share the JOY of the Christmas story with you.

Christmas Eve Family Service

Pastor Kit is looking for people to assist with the message for the 3:00 pm Family Service. If you are interested in helping with a minimal speaking part, please sign up in the Welcome Room. TELL youth, this would be a great way for you to participate in the telling of the Christmas story. Talk with Pastor Kit for more details!

Discipleship...Growing UP Council Member: Tammy Kjos

New Member Activities

Those who are new to Cross of Glory and wish to become members are invited to take part in our next *New Member Sunday* to be held on December 13th. If you can't make this date, let Pastor Kit know so we can arrange another date to formally welcome you to Cross of Glory!

The Light of the World: Advent Nights and S.E.E.

We will celebrate three Advent Wednesdays in December, the 2nd, 9th, and 16th. We will be returning to worship on Wednesdays in December. Let's come together as a community of faith and fill ourselves up so that we can share the Light of the World.

S.E.E. is the Spiritual Educational Experience for children ages 4 years of age through 5th grade. Our S.E.E. leaders are excited to share this new program titled, "The Light that Shines in the Darkness", with fun and music.

Everyone is welcome, so bring your family and friends. The schedule will be:

6:00: Dinner

6:30: Children go to S.E.E. and adults learn more about faith and the Light in the World.

7:00: All back together for the closing prayer.

7:15-7:30: Children practice songs for the Christmas program.

No Registration form is needed for Advent. We would, however, appreciate a head count so we have enough materials for everyone. Please sign up in the Welcome Room for both S.E.E. and for the Advent Night Potluck dinners.

Spring S.E.E. Session Registration

We are accepting Registration forms for the Spring session of S.E.E. which begins on January 6th and goes through Lent.

Help Make Advent Nights a Success!

We are doing Advent Night Worship Services on Wednesdays in December. They will consist of fellowship, dinner, a children's program, and an adult program.

We are in need of a couple of things to make this all go well.

- Coordinator for the meals (oversee the set up and that all is covered). If interested please contact Tammy Kjos, or any council member.
- Half-Gallon and Gallon Milk Jugs to make luminaries. Please bring your rinsed jugs to church by December 16.
- Sign up to bring something for one of the three meals. Sign up in the Welcome Room. We will have three meals:
 - Week 1 - Italian
 - Week 2 - Chili
 - Week 3 - Mexican

If you have any questions on any of the above areas you can contact Pastor Kit, Council Members, and the church office.

Outreach...Growing OUT

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Sixteen baskets were assembled after worship last week and donated to local families.

Fellowship...Growing Together Council Member: Pat McIntosh-Oles

December Women's Event

Friday, Dec 4th at 7:00pm at Cross of Glory

Let's gather together, ladies, enjoy some fellowship, make 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.

Brunch – December 13th

Help us celebrate with our New Member Sunday Brunch after worship on December 13th. Bring a breakfast or lunch dish to share.

Book Club Update

Because of the limited availability of some of our previous selections, there have been some changes in the upcoming books. Our next book is *The Light Between Oceans* by Margot L. Stedman. We will meet on January 10th at 6:00 pm at Williamsons.

Books Coming Up: *All the Stars in the Heavens* by Adriana Trigiani, *How We Got to Now* by Steven Johnson, *Recognizing God's Grace* by Donna Conrad, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, and *A Book of Strange New Things* by Michael Faber.

Facilities...

Growing Buildings and Grounds

Council Member: Bill Nabors

Community Center Meeting Space in Homer Glen

Cross of Glory has space available for parties, meetings and wedding receptions. Rental fees start at \$25. Contact Laura Uzzardo for additional information. Tell your friends!

Finance...Growing Generosity

Council Member: Mary Beth Randle

Update on Worship & Giving

November 22, 2015 (Attendance: 88)

General Fund: \$5,411 / Kids: \$3

Building Use: \$150 / Yoga: \$72

World Hunger: \$100

Support Cross of Glory

Do you shop online? There are a couple ways you can support CoG while you shop online, especially during the holidays coming up! Sign up with any of these sites and if you shop through them they will donate a percentage to CoG. You can Google any of these sites to find out how to sign up. **They are all free!**

- GoodSearch/GoodShop – there is a link on the church website
- Amazon Smile
- iGive

Order Manna Gift Cards from CoG

Christmas is quickly approaching. When you are looking for a gift for that special person, purchasing Manna gift cards is a great way to support CoG. You get the full value while CoG receives a percentage of the face value. There are cards for restaurants, specialty stores, movies, as well as everyday items like food and gas.

Some cards are available for immediate purchase on most Sundays. The cards are sold on a first come, first served basis. See Cheryl or Bill Nabors to purchase a card.

Speedway (\$25,\$100), Shell (100)

Jewel (25, 100), Meijer (25,100)

Target (25), Walmart (25), Kohl's (25),

Macy's (25), Buffalo Wild Wings (25)

Family Christian (25)

Barnes & Noble (25), Starbucks's (25,10)

Bed, Bath, and Beyond (25)

Wendy's (10), Panera (10), Chipotle (10)

Dunkin' Donuts (10)

Your purchase makes a difference. **In October, the program raised \$126.**

DASHBOARD SAINTS CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Friday, December 11th a CoG

Doors Open at 7:00 pm / Ends at 10:00 pm

A fun night to gather together with friends to enjoy some live music.

You are welcome to bring a small appetizer and/or a dessert to share.

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors.

Upcoming Events (www.crossofglory.com/calendar)

Mon	11/30	T.E.L.L. – Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Sat	12/05	Yoga & Meditation for Beginners – Saturday's at 9:30 am
Wed	12/02	S.E.E. and Advent Night – Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (also 12/9 and 12/16)
Fri	12/04	Women's Event - Homemade Ornaments at 7:00 pm at CoG
Fri	12/11	Dashboard Saints Christmas Gathering – 7 to 10 pm - All Are Welcome!
Sun	12/13	New Member Sunday – Brunch after Service
Sun	12/20	Kids Christmas Program during Service

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



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 Katherine Neel, Interim Pastor

PastorKit@CrossOfGlory.com

Laura Uzzardo, Parish Administrator

Laura@CrossOfGlory.com

Todd Mizera, Worship Leader

Todd@CrossOfGlory.com

Tami Taskay, Nursery Attendant

Bob Bejlovec, Maintenance

Council:

Barb Taskay, Tammy Kjos

Pat McIntosh-Oles

Mary Beth Randle, Bill Nabors

The Welcome Place Preschool:

Jamie Knutson-Zahora, Director

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