



# In the Loop

## Cross of Glory's Weekly Newsletter



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016

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.

### Worship...Growing Down Roots

Council Member: Barb Taskay

#### Advent Activities



We will continue our Wednesday Advent Gatherings on December 7<sup>th</sup> & December 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be eating at 6:00 pm and at 6:30 the children will go off and practice for the Children's Christmas Program while the rest will stay for a devotion with Pastor Dana.

You can bring a dish to share (signup sheets are in the Welcome Room).

- Dec 7 – Italian Food Theme
- Dec 14 – Mexican Food Theme

#### Kid's Christmas Play – December 18<sup>th</sup>

Our worship service on Sunday, December 18 will feature the kids Christmas play, where they will present the story of Jesus' birth. We need lots of kids – the little kids will be the silent actors and the big kids will be the readers. (Feel free to invite your kids' friends to participate as well.) We also need parents to help on Sundays and Wednesday nights as the kids practice. This is an easy play to put on (no memorization) but it's a powerful way to hear the story of our Savior's birth.



#### Volunteers Welcomed

There are a variety of ways that you can help during worship...music, usher, worship coordinator, communion assistant, assisting minister. Contact Barb Taskay.

#### Poinsettia Orders

Place your order by Dec 18th. Help decorate the church for the Christmas services. Call in your order or pick up a form!



#### Blue Christmas Service – Thursday 12/22 at 7:00 pm

This is a contemplative community service for those who may struggle during the holidays due to grief, loneliness or any kind of loss.

### Discipleship...Growing UP

Council Member: Christine Quemeneur

#### Welcoming New Members!

We will have a New Member Sunday in early January. If you are interested in becoming a member, please speak with Pastor Dana or contact the church office.

### Outreach...Growing OUT

Council Member: Mary Beth Randle

#### Giving Tree is Up and Loaded with Names!



The Giving Tree benefits families who are going through some very rough times. Each year we get 50 children names from DCFS, and each year all the Angel ornaments are taken.

**This year we received over 80 names!**

All gifts must be returned, wrapped, by the 18th of December. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a huge difference in child's life this Christmas.

#### Serve at MorningStar Mission

Each month, there are volunteer slots available to serve at MorningStar Mission in Joliet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. See the signup sheet in the Welcome Room.

#### Visit with Santa Recap

Yesterday, we held a free community event where kids visited with Santa Claus, got a photo taken, made crafts, shared in some Christmas sweets, and played games. It was great fun! Thanks to all the volunteers and donors who made this event possible.

#### Christmas Caroling – Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

We will gather at the church at 6:30 and then head out at 7:00 pm to go out into the community to sing Christmas Carols. We'll be returning afterwards for some hot chocolate. Everyone can join in!



**Joy to the World!**

## Fellowship...Growing Together

Council Member: Pat McIntosh-Oles

### Christmas Movies at Dana's House – December 5<sup>th</sup>

This week – *White Christmas* at 7:00 pm.

### Dinner with Friends at Paddy B's – December 6<sup>th</sup>

Join your friends (or make some new ones) when we gather at Paddy B's (143<sup>rd</sup> and Will-Cook Road) on Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

### Brunch – After Worship – December 11<sup>th</sup>

Stick around after service for good food and great fellowship. You're invited to bring a dish to share before heading out!

### Dashboard Saints Christmas – December 17<sup>th</sup>

Join us for a Christmas party at 7:00 pm with the *Dashboard Saints* playing your favorite Christmas tunes. A fun night to gather together with friends. Enjoy live music. You are welcome to bring a small appetizer and/or dessert to share. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors.

### Book Club - *The Girls of Atomic City*

Our next book is *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan. We'll discuss the story on **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. The following book is *Songs of Willow Frost* by Jaimie Ford. We are compiling our next set of books to read. If you would like to read a book and discuss it, please contact Cheryl Nabors so she can add it to the list.

## Facilities...Growing Buildings & Grounds

Council Member: Bill Bavirsha

### Community Center Meeting Space in Homer Glen

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

## Finance...Growing Generosity

Council Member: Bill Nabors

### Update on Worship & Giving

**November 27, 2016:** Attendance: 102

General Fund: \$4,031 / Kids: \$11

### Order Manna Gift Cards from CoG

Need a Christmas gift or "spending money"? We have Manna gift cards for immediate purchase. You can also order gift cards. The last day to order Manna for Christmas is December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Manna gift cards are a great way to support CoG. You get the full value while CoG receives a percentage of the face value. Cards are available for immediate purchase on most Sundays and are sold on a first come, first served basis. See Cheryl or Bill Nabors to purchase a card.

Available cards: Speedway, Shell, Jewel, Meijer, Mariano's, Target, Kohl's, Walmart, Bed, Bath, and Beyond, Buffalo Wild Wings, Starbuck's, Chipotle, Wendy's, Panera, Fannie May Dunkin' Donuts, Chili's, Darden (Olive Garden), Outback (Bonefish), and others.

## Council Meetings

Council holds an open monthly meeting - usually on the second Tuesday of the month. If you have an issue to be discussed, please submit your request to one of the Council members so you can be placed on the agenda.

We know that God has great plans for us at COG, we ask that you continue to pray for His guidance! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a council member:

Dana O'Brien (Pastor)  
Bill Bavirsha (Facilities)  
Mary Beth Randle (President / Outreach),  
Chris Quemeneur (Discipleship),  
Bill Nabors (Vice President / Finance),  
Pat McIntosh-Oles (Fellowship),  
Barb Taskay (Secretary / Worship)

## Upcoming Events ([www.crossofglory.com/calendar](http://www.crossofglory.com/calendar))

Monday ..... 12/05 ..... Christmas Movies at Dana's House – *White Christmas* at 7:00 pm  
Tuesday ..... 12/06 ..... Dinner with Friends Fellowship – Paddy B's, Orland Park at 6:30 pm  
Wednesday ..... 12/07 ..... Advent Gathering – Dinner at 6:00 pm. Children's Program Practice / Devotion at 6:30  
Sunday ..... 12/11 ..... Brunch - After Worship  
Monday ..... 12/12 ..... Christmas Movies at Dana's House – *The Bishop's Wife* at 7:00 pm  
Wednesday ..... 12/14 ..... Advent Gathering – Dinner at 6:00 pm. Children's Program Practice / Devotion at 6:30  
Saturday ..... 12/17 ..... Dashboard Saints Christmas Party at CoG – 7:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 12/18 ..... Kid's Christmas Play – During Service  
Sunday ..... 12/18 ..... Book Club – 6:00 pm  
Monday ..... 12/19 ..... Christmas Movies at Dana's House – *It's a Wonderful Life* at 7:00 pm  
Wednesday ..... 12/21 ..... Christmas Caroling in the Neighborhood – Gather at 6:30 pm, Caroling at 7:00  
Thursday ..... 12/22 ..... Blue Christmas Service at 7 pm (Contemplative community service for those who may struggle during the holidays due to grief, loneliness or any kind of loss.)  
Saturday ..... 12/24 ..... Christmas Eve Services – 3:00 (Family), 5:00 (Barn), 11:00 (Reflective)  
Sunday ..... 12/25 ..... Joyful Christmas worship at 9:30. Come as you are – anything from pajamas to your newest outfit

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