



# In the Loop

## Cross of Glory's Weekly Newsletter



January 8, 2017

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

#### 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.

#### Epiphany House Blessing

Epiphany (January 6th) is the day we traditionally celebrate the Magi's visit to Jesus. It is also the day that many families gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and on those who live in or visit their homes by marking the wood above the door with chalk. Although not well known in the U.S., this chalking of the door blessing is a centuries-old practice around the world.

The traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, **20 + C + M + B + 17**. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2017 is the year. (The blessing is done each year.) You can do it yourself by just writing the inscription and offering a short prayer. Alternatively, Pastor Dana would be happy to come over any time during the month to bless your house.

### 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

#### Serve at MorningStar Mission / Sock Drive

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.

Cross of Glory is collecting socks for men, women, and children that will be donated to MorningStar Mission in Joliet. Drop them off throughout January! Contact Caryl Hruska for more details.

#### Youth T.E.L.L. Program

Teen Education for Lifelong Leadership (T.E.L.L.) is our educational program for youth from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. It takes place Monday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The youth spend time interacting with each other to experience God through games, food, and conversation. There are two sessions which start in September and February. The next session starts on February 6<sup>th</sup>. There is no fee for the program. Registration forms

are available in the Welcome Room. You can contact the office for details and questions.

**Dates:** February 6, 13, 27 / March 6, 13, 20, 27 / April 3

**Time:** 6:30 to 8:00 pm

#### Blood Drive February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Community Blood Drive at Cross of Glory. Many in our own community will be blessed by your donation. You are encouraged to call to set up a time, but walk ins are also welcomed.

#### Holy Communion Classes Starts February 27<sup>th</sup>

Holy Communion Class is for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and up. This is a six-week class offered in the early part of the year. In Holy Communion, our children will learn about Communion and the Lord's Supper – why we do it, what it means, and how we do it. These classes take place on Monday evenings. It is important that you register your child as soon as possible so we can have the correct amount of supplies for all the students. There is no fee but you may offer a free will donation towards our Children/Youth Ministry.

**Dates:** February 27 / March 6, 13, 20, 27 / April 3

**Time:** 6:00 to 7:30 pm

**Holy Communion Sunday will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

### Fellowship...Growing Together

Council Member: Pat McIntosh-Oles

#### Book Club Rescheduled for Combined Discussion of *The Girls of Atomic City* and *Songs of Willow Frost*

Our next discussion will be Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. We will discuss both books - *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan and *Songs of Willow Frost* by Jaimie Ford. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are compiling our next set of books to read. If you would like to suggest a book for discussion, please send it to Cheryl Nabors so she can add it to the list.

#### Women's Retreat - March 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

It is right around the corner and we want YOU to be there!!! We have moved to a new location, Camp Manitoque & Retreat Center in Frankfort. We will arrive on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> for fun and fellowship. You can come after 6, but feel free to have your family dinner and join us for some snacks. Later we will be staying at the Adult Recreation Center. Check out their website [manitoqua.org](http://manitoqua.org) for a look. On Saturday, we will enjoy 3 meals at their facilities, and have a private area to gather while we study, learn, and laugh, with the day's festivities wrapping up after dinner. We will share in quiet reflection and lively group activity to help us grow in our faith and knowledge that our God loves us each dearly and has a plan for each one of us to fulfill. The annual retreat is a safe place to meet with like-minded Christian women and share your joys and concerns and receive God's direction in your life. Space is limited this year, so you will need to commit by March 7<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms will be available soon. Contact Nicole Morin or the office at Cross of Glory.

## Monthly Movie Musicals at Dana's House

We had such fun watching movies during the Christmas season that we'd love to continue the practice. So, on the third Monday of each month, you are invited to come over to Dana's house (16759 W. Sioux Drive in Lockport) to watch a movie musical. (We'll start with musicals, but if those coming want to switch to something else, that would be fine.)

Our first musical will be my personal favorite *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. It stars Howard Keel and Jane Powell in a story about an 1850's backwoodsman who brings a wife home to his farm, after which his six brothers decide that they want to get married too. We'll be watching it on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Come on over for a good movie and even better company. And feel free to bring a friend – the more the merrier!

## 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

**December 24, 2016:** Attendance: 239 / General Fund: 2870

**December 25, 2016:** Attendance: 37 / General Fund: \$4,197  
Matching Gift: \$2,520 / Building Use: \$245 / Flowers: \$45

**January 1, 2017:** Attendance: 55 / General Fund: \$4,674  
Matching Gift: \$1,450 / Building Use: \$150

### Order Manna Gift Cards from CoG

We have Manna gift cards for immediate purchase. You can also order gift cards but Manna is closed until the new year. 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.

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

## Offering Envelopes for 2017

The new offering envelopes for 2017 are now available. Please pick a box and write on the form your name and box number. We also offer an online giving program called Simply Giving. It is a very simple program to use. If you are interested you can access it through our website, or contact Laura in the office.

## Pastor Dana O'Brien's Installation



Join us on **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** as we celebrate the Installation of Pastor Dana as Senior Pastor of Cross of Glory. Jeffrey Clements, recently elected Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod will preside. This service celebrates the formal beginning of Dana's ministry at Cross of Glory. Let's all come together to welcome Dana to her new call. There will be a brunch after worship.



## 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)

## Council Nominations

Cross of Glory will be holding our next Annual Meeting after worship at on February 12, 2017. We are seeking nominations for members to serve in the Fellowship leadership position on Council. You can nominate yourself or someone else. The nominating committee will be in place shortly.

## The Welcome Place Preschool Open House

On Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7pm, you are all invited to visit the preschool program to meet with the teachers and see the classrooms. Bring your children with so they can play and meet with the teachers. Registrations will be accepted at the Open House. There are classes for 3-year-old and 4-year-old children (they must reach that age by September 1<sup>st</sup>). Details are available at our website [www.crossofglory.com/preschool](http://www.crossofglory.com/preschool), or by calling (708) 301-3883.

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

Monday..... 01/16..... Movie Musical at Dana's House – 7:00 pm  
Wednesday ..... 01/18..... Dinner with Friends – Embers in Lockport – 6:30 pm. Everyone is Welcome to Attend.  
Sunday ..... 01/22..... Pastor Dana's Installation Service / Brunch after worship  
Saturday..... 01/28..... Serve at MorningStar Mission in Joliet  
Sunday ..... 01/29..... Book Club – *The Girls of Atomic City* and *Songs of Willow*  
Thursday..... 02/02..... Blood Drive from 2:00 to 6:00 pm  
Monday ..... 02/06..... T.E.L.L. – 6:30 pm  
Wednesday ..... 02/08..... *The Welcome Place Preschool* Open House – 4:00 to 7:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 02/12..... Cross of Glory Annual Congregational Meeting – after Worship  
Monday ..... 02/27..... Holy Communion Class starts – 6:00 pm  
Friday ..... 03/17..... Women's Retreat Friday Night and Saturday  
Sunday ..... 04/23..... Holy Communion Sunday

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