



In the Loop

Cross of Glory's Weekly Newsletter



January 22, 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 our neighbors by being a presence in our community, by sharing what we have, and by living out God's mission wherever we find ourselves.

Visit our web page, 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.

Discipleship...Growing UP

Council Member: Christine Quemeneur

Welcome New Members!

Last Sunday we welcome 8 new members. 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 4th 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. Today is the last day to drop them off in the box in the Welcome Room.

Youth T.E.L.L. Program

Teen Education for Lifelong Leadership (T.E.L.L.) is our educational program for youth from 6th through 12th 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 6th. 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

Holy Communion Classes Starts February 27th

Holy Communion Class is for 2nd 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 23rd.

Blood Drive February 2nd 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.

Fellowship...Growing Together

Council Member: Pat McIntosh-Oles

Book Club – January 29th - Combined Discussion of *The Girls of Atomic City* and *Songs of Willow Frost*

Our next discussion will be Sunday, January 29th at 6:00 pm at Cross of Glory. 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'd like to suggest a book, please send it to Cheryl Nabors to add to the list.

Blessing Bags – Women's Project on February 24th

Want to spend a night doing something meaningful? We are blessed with so many comforts that it is easy to forget that the necessities of life can be a blessing to many who are experiencing a hard time. Come and join us on Friday, February 24th at 7:00 pm to assemble Blessing Bags for those who are spending time in a homeless shelter. Feel free to bring a beverage and a small appetizer or dessert to share, if you wish.

If you have a gently worn purse that you would be willing to donate, bring that to CoG so we can fill it with supplies. If we don't have enough purses, we will use zip lock bags.

Please plan to bring at least 12 items. Travel sized items will work well. You are welcome to contact businesses to see if they are willing to donate any of these items. Please notify Pat McIntosh-Oles or the office if you are able to get a surplus of any of the following items: **shampoo, toothbrush, sanitary napkins, razors, combs, lip balm, thermal socks, small first aid kits, bandages, small \$ gift cards, mints/gum, antibacterial lotion, juice boxes, wet wipes, gloves/mittens, light weight snacks.**

Women's Retreat - March 17th & 18th

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 17th 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 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 7th. Registration forms will be available soon. Contact Nicole Morin or the office at Cross of Glory.

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

January 15, 2017: Attendance: 90 / General Fund: \$3,568

Kids: \$6 / Building Use: \$20 / Casa: \$30

Order Manna Gift Cards from CoG

We have Manna gift cards for immediate purchase. You can also order gift cards and the cards will be here the next Sunday. 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. To purchase cards, see Cheryl or Bill Nabors.

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.

Good Gifts Purchases

A combination of December's noisy offering of \$260.73 plus the Good Gift ornaments people took off the tree (which was after we took off the 101 angel tree ornaments) resulted in contributions of almost \$600 going to the ELCA Good Gifts program.

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)

Annual Meeting – February 12th

Cross of Glory's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following our 9:30 am service on Sunday, February 12th. We will convene the meeting at 10:45 am. It is required that we have a quorum of at least 20 voting members in attendance to legally conduct the business of the congregation.

The Welcome Place Preschool Open House

On Wednesday, February 8th 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 1st). Details are available at our website www.crossofglory.com/preschool, or by calling (708) 301-3883.

FISH Food Pantry Needs Volunteers

The FISH Food Pantry in Lockport needs volunteers. They can specifically use someone regularly on Monday mornings. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Elaine Nyquist directly at (815-600-2170).

Attention Amazon Shoppers

Please remember to use Amazon Smile and to include Cross of Glory as the charity that gets the .5% contribution.

Upcoming Events (www.crossofglory.com/calendar)

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

Wednesday 02/15..... **Dinner with Friends** at Chili's – 6:30. All are Invited.

Friday 02/24..... Women's Event – Preparing Blessing Bags – 7:00 pm

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