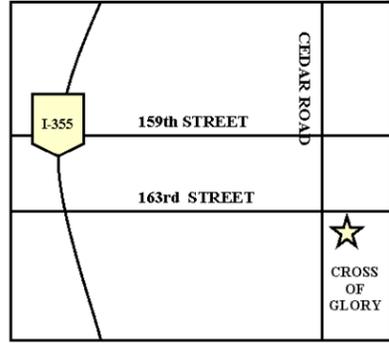




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, February 8th
4:00 to 7:00 PM

Classes held 9:00 to 11:30am

- 4 year olds three days a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- 3 year olds two days a week: Tuesday & Thursday

Registration will also be open at the Open House

Interested and want more information?

Call (708) 301-3883

www.crossofglory.com/preschool



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Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



DECEMBER 2016

YOU ALL MADE A DIFFERENCE THIS CHRISTMAS

By: Pastor Dana O'Brien



If you're anything like me, you were pretty tired this last week. The holidays take a lot out of you. (I made it through my first Christmas at Cross of Glory primarily on adrenaline -- and a lot of grace. I didn't actually realize how tired I was until I sat down over the New Year's weekend and pretty much didn't get up. Instead, I binge-watched multiple seasons of Downtown Abbey over a few days.)

And when I looked back on all the joy-filled and life-giving things we did as a congregation during this last month, I realize how blessed I am to be here (and why I might have been a bit tired). Here are a couple of highlights:

- We started the month with a terrific Visit with Santa event at which over 30 COG volunteers helped about 150 neighbors from the community play Christmas games, make Christmas crafts, and visit with Santa (and they all got a free picture memorializing their Santa visit).
- During December, we read (and/or shared with friends and family) over 60 advent devotional books
- Some of us gathered to watch Christmas movies on the four Mondays before Christmas
- We visited some of our Cross of Glory neighbors to do a little caroling.
- The Dashboard Saints, and a lot of the rest of us, braved really cold temperatures to come out and enjoy some Christmas songs with old and new friends.
- Under the direction of our wonderful Kids Klub volunteers, the children (and some young adults) put on a terrific play telling the Christmas story.
- We made the Christmas wishes of over 100 kids from the community come true through our angel giving tree.
- We held a Blue Christmas service for those who were struggling during this holiday time.
- We gathered on three Wednesdays for meals and some fun Christmas fellowship;
- The Welcome Place Preschool put on two Christmas programs all about the ABC's of Christmas, and had Christmas parties for each class
- We made a difference to lots of people we don't know, by contributing almost \$600 to the ELCA Good Gifts program through a combination of December's noisy offering and the purchase of Good Gift ornaments.
- We brought lots of our friends and families to worship and celebrate Christmas Eve during our three services (and I must say that the service in Konow's barn was simply the coolest Christmas Eve service I have ever been to!)
- We then turned around and showed up again for Christmas morning worship as we continued to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS 9:30 AM

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

Pastor Dana O'Brien
Pastor
Dana@CrossofGlory.com

Laura Uzzardo
Parish Administrator
Laura@CrossofGlory.com

Todd Mizera
Worship Leader
Todd@CrossofGlory.com

Jamie Knutson
Director of The Welcome Place Preschool
Jamie@TheWelcomePlace.org

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.

- Bill Nabors, Finances
- Mary Beth Randle, Outreach
- Pat McIntosh-Oles, Fellowship
- Bill Bavirsha, Facilities
- Barb Taskay, Worship
- Christine Quemeneur, Discipleship

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



YOU ALL MADE A DIFFERENCE THIS CHRISTMAS

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And of course, none of this could have happened without the efforts of so many of you. Helping all those worship services run smoothly (well, as smoothly as anything runs here at COG), making sure everything was transported to and from the barn, planning and playing all the music, overseeing the fellowship and food, organizing the community events and the angel tree gifts, putting on the kids' Christmas plays and programs - pretty much all of you were involved in at least some part of making sure things happened around here.

But the truly amazing thing is that this list is only a little piece of all that you did last month to make the lives of those around you better and live as God's church in our world. I haven't even mentioned all the gifts you bought, all the money you donated, all the time you spent helping others, all the kind words you shared, and the myriad of other ways (most of which I don't even know about) in which you blessed and freed and healed people each and every day during this Advent/Christmas season. Because as we all know, being church certainly has something to do with what we do here at COG, but it has so much more to do with who you are each and every day as you go about your daily lives. That's where God is constantly inviting us to partner with God in all the Kingdom things God is already out there doing. That's where we live as the missional disciples God calls us to be.

And for all that, I want to thank you. God is powerfully at work in this community of faith. And as we

stand at the beginning of 2017, I look forward to so much more to come.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

HOLY COMMUNION

This is a 6 week class offered in for children in 2nd grade and up. The children learn about Communion and the Lord's Supper - why we do it, what it means, and how we do it. The children learn this all in a fun interactive setting. Classes take place on Monday nights. **Starts on Feb 27th, which is the parent/student class.** Contact the church office for details. Register ASAP so we have a good head count.

TEEN EDUCATION FOR LIFELONG LEADERSHIP (T.E.L.L)

T.E.L.L. is our educational program for youth from 6th - 12th grade. 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 8 week sessions. **The next session starts on February 6th .**

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will be held on Sundays after worship. They will meet 6/8 weeks for each semester, Fall and late Winter. Typically students participate in two years of instruction (usually 7th & 8th graders) before affirming their baptism. Therefore, students who have completed two years of instruction (probably in 9th grade this year) will be invited to participate in the Rite of Confirmation during worship service. Classes will start up in February. Please watch for more details. And call the office if you wish for your child to participate.

DANA INSTALLATION JANUARY 22nd

Another excuse for a party - Pastor Dana will be installed here at Cross of Glory at our 9:30 worship service on Sunday, January 22. The Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod, Jeffrey Clements, will preach, Gary Erickson who's helping us through the redevelopment process with participate in the installation, and we'll have our monthly brunch after the service. Dana is really excited to officially become a part of the Cross of Glory family and would love to see you all at this celebratory worship.

CALLING NEW MEMBERS!

We will be celebrating new members joining Cross of Glory on Sunday, January 15th. If you would like to become a member, please contact Pastor Dana at dana@crossofglory.com

WOMEN'S RETREAT: March 17-18

It is right around the corner and we want YOU to be there!!! We have moved to a new location, Camp Manitouque & 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 manitouqua.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.

MONTHLY MOVIE MUSICALS

I had such fun watching movies with you during the Christmas season that I'd love to continue the practice. So, on the third Monday of each month, you are invited to come over to my 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'a 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 16th 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!

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church 2017 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Cross of Glory's Annual Meeting will be **Sun, Feb 12, 2017 10:45 a.m., after worship.**

The purpose of the meeting is to elect our Congregation Council and vote to approve the budget. It is very important that all attend this meeting. If you have any questions regarding the meeting please contact the current council or pastor.

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL

Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883



What an exciting December we had. The Class parties and Christmas programs went very well. It was wonderful to see all the families come out to watch their loved ones perform. As the new year begins we have scheduled an Open House on February 8 from 4-7pm. Be sure to mark your calendars. We will be opening up registration for the Fall Classes by the beginning of February. Watch for details on this, or give us a call. Spread the word on our program to your friends and neighbors!

Classes will resume the week of January 9th.

Happy New Year!

FELLOWSHIP DATES

Mark your calendars!

Dinner With Friends 6:30pm :

- Jan 18, Embers—Lockport
- Feb 15, Chili's—Homer Glen

Sunday Brunches:

Jan 22 ~ Feb 12 ~ March 19

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

AT CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH
FEB 2nd 2 to 6 PM

SOCK DRIVE



Lets help others in need of warmth. We are collecting warm winter socks to be donated to MorningStar Mission in Joliet. New socks for adults and children. **Our goal is 200 pairs collected by January 22nd.** These will be delivered to the mission on January 28th.