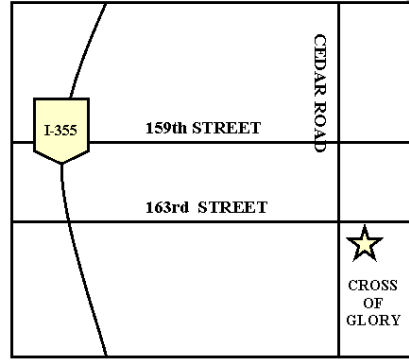




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 65
Lockport, Illinois
60441
U.S. Postage Paid
Dated Material

Return Service Requested

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
14719 West 163rd Street
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491
(708) 301-6998
www.CrossofGlory.com
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



MARCH 2017

LENT

By: Dana O'Brien, Pastor



Traditionally, the 40-day season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday, was seen as a time of penitence and preparation. In ancient Israel, ashes were often used to symbolize the pervasiveness of sin and the inevitability of death. Christians have adopted this symbol -- both to reflect our own mortality and to serve as a reminder that in the church year we are moving toward Jesus' passion and death.

When I was younger, I saw Lent as a pretty depressing time, a part of the year which had to be endured but certainly not enjoyed -- much like a shot at the doctor's office -- something that you were told was good for you, but which you didn't like while it was happening, and were sure glad when it was over. I'd sometimes give up something I really loved, trying to imagine what my life would be like without God's presence.

And I'll admit I wasn't very good at it. Giving up something only lasted for a week or two, and temperamentally, I'm just not good at being sad for that long. More importantly, I have always found it impossible to focus on Jesus' passion and death without also remembering his joy-filled resurrection three days later. And while I do feel convicted by my sin, such conviction is always combined with an enormous sense of gratitude for God's grace and forgiveness.

So maybe you can imagine my sense of relief when I discovered - only relatively recently -- that I was thinking of Lent all wrong. (OK, so maybe I'm just a bit slow here - you probably figured it out a long time ago.) Instead of seeing Lent as a time when I should pretend that things stopped at the crucifixion, I began to see Lent as a gift from God. Certainly penitence remains a big part of it, but I now understand Lent as an opportunity to reorient my relationship with God - a time to rediscover my identity, to remember who I am and whose I am. And a time to ask the question moving forward "how do I live as a Christian in this time and place?"

As we move through these next forty days, I invite you to ask that same question - not with fear or anxiety, but with a confident hope and yes, even an underlying joy. For our God, whose last word is always resurrection and new life, continues to hold you firmly in his hand, and continues to invite you into the amazing things that God is doing all around us each and every day.

**JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP ON
SUNDAYS 9:30 AM**

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

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



WORSHIP WITH US ON
ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 1st



TWO SERVICES:
NOON & 7:00 pm



Soup Suppers During
Wednesdays in Lent
Along With
"The Shack"
Movie Discussion as we View
a Clip Each Week!

See More Details on Page 3

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

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, worshipping 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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Contact Cross of Glory Lutheran Church's office for more details on any of the upcoming program and events
(708) 301-6998

ANNUAL MEETING THANKS

Thanks to all of you who attended our annual meeting in February, and worked so hard to make it a success. We had a great time celebrating what happened at Cross of Glory in 2016 and looking forward to the exciting things God has planned for us in 2017. And we also coupled our meeting with a beach party themed brunch, complete with decorations, hot dogs, beach attire and beach trivia, making the whole event even more fun! And yes, we also got some work done. Most importantly, we elected our council for the coming year. (Welcome to new member Maria Dziubczynski as Fellowship coordinator, and thanks to Pat McIntosh-Oles for her terrific job in that position for the last couple of years!) We also approved the Transformational Covenant as part of our redevelopment process, and passed a deficit budget for 2017. If you'd like to learn more about how our ministries are going, copies of our 2016 Annual Report are available in the welcome area at COG and on our website.

2017 COMMITMENT CARDS

Thanks to everyone who returned a commitment card for 2017. These cards evidence your commitment to what God is doing through Cross of Glory in 2017. They also evidence your commitment to what God is doing through you, and include your commitment of time, money, passions, skills and heart - pretty much everything that makes you you. If you haven't yet returned your card, you can drop it into the offering any Sunday, or give it to Dana at any time. Thank you so much for your commitment to the congregation. I know God will do some amazing things through all of you.

NOISY OFFERING

Wow - this congregation is pretty amazing! In January we gave \$313 (of which \$213 was in coins) toward the blessing bag ministry to help fill bags with essentials for those living in shelters. And in February, we didn't collect quite as much change (about \$198) but still contributed \$311 to the Lockport Resource Center in honor of its 5th anniversary. Please keep collecting your coins. Our noisy offering for this month will be March 19th.

WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE AS A STEWARD

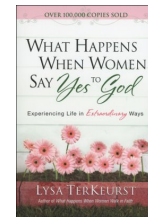
On Sundays during Lent, we'll explore what it means to live like a steward. - more specifically, what it means to live like God's steward. Now you may think this has something to do with giving money to church, and I suppose it does. But really that's such a small part of it. Instead, it has a whole lot more to do with how we live when we realize that everything - all that we see, all that we have, all that we are -- belongs to God. We'll spend the Sundays in March getting our heads and hearts around that idea, and talking about what that means as we live each and every day.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- *FELLOWSHIP DINNER: March 9 at Paddy B's
- *TELL Youth Winter Jam March 10
- *Women's Retreat March 17-18
- *SUNDAY BRUNCH: March 19
- *HOLY WEEK:
 - Palm Sunday, April 9
 - Maundy Thursday, April 13
 - Good Friday, April 14
 - Easter Egg Hunt, April 15
 - Easter Sunday, April 16

WOMEN'S RETREAT~FROM DREAMS TO ACTION

March 17-18 REGISTER BY MARCH 5th



Shout out to all the women of CoG . The women's retreat is quickly coming on March 17-18, and space is filling up! Get your registration forms in to church soon so that we can be prepared for YOU!!!! Registration forms are in the welcome room at CoG or available online at the CoG website. Grab a friend and come take some time out to get to know our God and what He has for you! We'll be looking at the book What Happens When Women Say Yes to God, by Lysa Terkeurst. A scholarship fund is available to help if money is what is holding you back. Contact Nicole Morin if you have any questions.

CASA TRIP THIS SUMMER

Our trip to CASA is firming up. A group of volunteers from Cross of Glory will be going to CASA de los Angeles during the week of July 30th. This is a wonderful opportunity, so please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to be a part of this group. Final plans have to be made soon, so please contact Tammy Kjos if you are interested in going or have any questions.

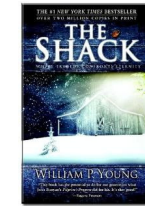
MUSICAL MONDAY MARCH 20—MAMA MIA

In February we watched the classic musical Singin in the Rain. And we're looking forward to viewing another "classic" - OK, maybe not quite as classic - next month when we watch Mama Mia. I'll bet everyone knows at least one Abba song from the movie. Not only will there be great fellowship, a great movie and a wonderful selection of drinks and treats (just like at the movies), but those who come also get to vote on the musical we will watch in April. So please join us at my house (16759 W. Sioux Drive in Lockport) at 7 pm on Monday, March 19. And feel free to bring a friend or two - the more the merrier!

A LITTLE EXTRA ON THE 1st & 2nd SUNDAYS EACH MONTH

Remember, on the first Sunday in March (March 5), we'll be wishing (and singing) "Happy Birthday" to everyone celebrating a birthday this month. And on the March 12, we continue our second month of celebrating different vocations. Given that tax deadlines are looming and those who work with taxes and finances are really busy, in March we'll be celebrating all those accountants and financial people who are so important at this time of year. So if you or someone you know are a finance person, make sure you come to worship on Sunday, March 12 for a blessing.

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT WE LOOK AT THE MOVIE "THE SHACK"



Each Wednesday during Lent, we'll be focusing on the movie The Shack, a modern day parable that brings to life deep spiritual truths and highlights how healing can arise out of impossible tragedy. For anyone who may have wondered where God is in their pain, and for those who have questioned if God is there at all, The Shack presents an unforgettable encounter with a divine love that promises to never leave us. **Starting Wednesday, March 8**, after our meal, we'll watch a portion of The Shack and then discuss how its themes apply to our lives today. The principles of the movie speak to us all whether we have endured terrible tragedy and pain, or the more common struggles of everyday life. I hope to have some really good discussions suing our guided discussion questions, so this is a great opportunity to bring friends to join us on Wednesday nights.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOUP SUPPERS

Each Wednesday in Lent, **March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5**, we'll be having our regular soup suppers before our discussions of The Shack. The soup suppers start and 6 and The Shack discussions begin at 6:30. We will have a sign-up for those that wish to bring soups, breads, desserts, etc. Anyone wanting to volunteer these nights please contact the church office.

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL

Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883

We had our first Open House on February 8th and had a good turn out. Registration for the fall is open to everyone now. We have another Open House scheduled for April 27th.

Our students, this month, had a lot of fun with Valentine's Day and had a wonderful party where everyone passed out Valentines. This month we also learned about President's George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The MWF class had a special pajama day in honor of the letter P and Pastor Dana visited our classes to share with us the story about Jonah and the big whale that swallowed him. Our classes really enjoyed the story and several students thought it'd be fun to be swallowed by a big fish! ***Find Us On Facebook***
