



# In the Loop

## Cross of Glory's Weekly Newsletter



February 26, 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 [crossofglory.com](http://crossofglory.com) or [Facebook](#) 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.

#### Wednesday Night Lenten Activities

##### Soup Supper – 6:00 pm

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 at 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.

##### Discussion of *The Shack* – 6:30 pm

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. We hope to have some really good discussions using our guided discussion questions, so this is a great opportunity to bring friends to join us on Wednesday nights.

### Discipleship...Growing UP

Council Member: Christine Quemeneur

#### Holy Communion Classes Start MONDAY

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>.**

#### Confirmation Class Starts Next Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

Confirmation classes will be held on Sundays after worship. They will meet for 6 to 8 weeks for each semester, Fall and late Winter. Typically, students participate in two years of instruction (usually 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders) before affirming their baptism. Students who have completed two years of instruction will be invited to participate in the Rite of Confirmation during worship service.

### Outreach...Growing OUT

Council Member: Mary Beth Randle

#### 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 sign-up sheet in the Welcome Room.

### Fellowship...Growing Together

Council Member: Maria Dziubczynski

#### Movie Musical at Pastor Dana's

On Monday, March 20, at 7:00 pm, everyone is invited to Pastor Dana's house to watch the movie musical *Mama Mia*. Bring a friend and join us.

#### Next Dinner with Friends – Paddy B's on March 9<sup>th</sup>

Thanks so much to all of you who attended this month's Dinner with Friends at Chili's on February 15<sup>th</sup>. We had a huge crowd and lots of fun. Next Month's Dinner with Friends is Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. We'll be meeting at Paddy B's Pub. Gather with old friends and make some new ones!

#### Book Club

The next book is *The End of Your Life Book Club* by William Schwalbe. We will discuss the book on Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Location to be determined. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Cheryl Nabors for our new book list or questions about book club.

#### Women's Retreat – From Dreams to Action March 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

Our new location is **Camp Manitoque & Retreat Center** in Frankfort. Arrive by 6:00 pm on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> for fun and fellowship or have your family dinner and then join us for some snacks. Information and registration forms are available in the Welcome Room and on our [web site](#). Space is limited this year, so you will need to commit by March 7<sup>th</sup>. 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. Contact Laura Uzzardo for additional information.

### Thanks for the Property Cleanup

Thanks to everyone who came last week to help do some hedge and tree trimming. The weather cooperated and the outside of the building looks great!

## Finance...Growing Generosity

Council Member: Bill Nabors

### Update on Worship & Giving

**February 12, 2017:** Attendance: 86

General Fund: \$3,756 / Casa: \$20 / Kid's: 5 / Thrivent: \$231

ELCA Redevelopment Grant: \$1,666

**February 19, 2017:** Attendance: 80

General Fund: \$2,709 / Noisy Offering (LRC): \$311.72

### 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. To purchase, see Cheryl or Bill Nabors.

### 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.

## Council Meetings

Council holds an open monthly meeting - usually on the second Tuesday of the month. Our monthly meeting in March will be on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. 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. 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), newly elected Maria Dziubczynski (Fellowship), Barb Taskay (Secretary/Worship). Thanks so much to Pat McIntosh-Oles for her wonderful service as our past council representative on Fellowship!!

## Congregational Resourcing Event

The 2017 Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) will be Saturday March 11 in Malta, IL. Check out the workshops at [nisynod.org/cre](http://nisynod.org/cre) and contact the church office if you would like to attend.

## Mission Trip to Casa de los Ángeles

We will be sending a group to Casa de los Ángeles (a free daycare center in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico) this summer during the week of July 30<sup>th</sup>. There are approximately seven spots available on a first come first served basis for those who sign up and pay the deposit. Please contact Tammy Kjos if you are interested in learning more.

## Midweek Lenten Services Starting Soon

Lent is just around the corner. Wednesday, March 1 is Ash Wednesday and we will be holding two worship services at noon and 7 pm. Then for the following five Wednesdays, we'll meet for a soup supper at 6 pm and focus on the new movie *The Shack*. We'll watch parts of the movie and then discuss its various themes. The book was very popular and we expect the movie to be just as popular, so this is a great opportunity to invite friends.

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

- Monday.....02/27 ..... **Holy Communion Class** starts – 6:00 pm
- Monday.....02/27 ..... **T.E.L.L.** meets– 6:30 pm (also 3/5, 3/13, 3/20, and 3/27)
- Wednesday .....03/01 ..... **Ash Wednesday** – services at Noon and 7:00 pm
- Sunday .....03/05 ..... **Confirmation Class** starts after Sunday worship
- Sunday .....03/05 ..... Book Club – 6:00 pm
- Wednesday .....03/08 ..... **Wednesday Lenten Soup Supper** at 6:00 pm and **Discussion of *The Shack*** at 6:30 pm
- Thursday .....03/09 ..... **Dinner with Friends** fellowship dinner at Paddy B's – 6:30 pm
- Friday.....03/17 ..... **Women's Retreat** Friday Night and Saturday
- Sunday .....03/19 ..... **Brunch** after worship
- Monday.....03/20 ..... Movie Musical at Pastor Dana's House – ***Mama Mia*** at 7 pm
- Saturday .....03/25 ..... Serve at MorningStar Mission
- Sunday .....04/09 ..... Palm Sunday
- Thursday .....04/13 ..... Maundy Thursday
- Friday.....04/14 ..... Good Friday
- Saturday .....04/15 ..... Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday .....04/16 ..... Easter Sunday

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