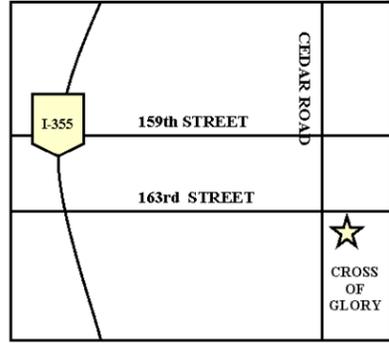




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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

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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



JULY 2017



HI ALL!

From: PASTOR DANA O'BREIN

I hope you are all having a blessed summer! It's hard to believe that summer is almost at the half-way point. (When I was a kid, I always thought of the 4th of July as the summer mid-point. That is even truer here - at least for those guided by the school calendar -- since school starts up again in August.)

So, as we move into the second half of summer, I wish to both thank you for your faithful giving - both financially and otherwise - and tell you of an opportunity coming up here at COG.

First, the thanks -**Thanks to All of You Cross of Glory Givers!!**
I want you all to know how grateful the entire COG council and I are for your dedicated financial giving to Cross of Glory so far in 2017. You may remember that our 2017 budget was premised on an increase in giving, and included a large planned deficit. You may also remember that that deficit was pretty much offset by a large anonymous contribution and some other financial gifts made at the end of 2016. Well thus far (through the end of May), it looks like we're on target to make our budget for 2017 - which is an amazing tribute to the way God is working here at Cross of Glory!!!!

However, as we all know, summer months are often financially challenging, as family and other opportunities mean that many of us can't make it to worship as often as we might like. And I love to see you all enjoying your summers - I really do!! (Although when you're in town, I also love to see your smiling faces on Sunday morning.) But throughout the summer is an especially important time to keep up our financial support of all we're doing here at Cross of Glory.

Since you're reading this Newsletter, you can see that we've got lots going on both here and out in our neighborhoods. God calls us to make a positive impact in the lives of people in this community - to help little pieces of God's kingdom break into our world all over the place. And steady financial giving is one way we can all participate in that kingdom impact. What God is doing through Cross of Glory is important. Let's all participate in that by giving financially (and as you read the Newsletter, you can see I'm also asking for your time on a couple of projects - there are so many ways you can make a difference!!!).

Thank you for all of the amazing things God is doing through all of you here. Let's keep that up throughout the summer and the remainder of 2017.

And here's another way God can work through us to make a difference in our community - **Sunday, July 23rd is Invite a Friend Sunday.** So if you've got a friend or two you've been planning to invite, now is a terrific time to do that. (And if you don't have anyone to invite, get out there and find someone.) We are always talking about how people we know are looking to encounter God in a welcoming and affirming place. Well, Sunday, July 23 is a great time to go ahead and help them do exactly that. During worship, we'll be watching a movie and talking about God's grace in our world - just perfect for a first-time visitor. And it is also "Sundae Sunday," so we'll have ice cream and sundaes after the service.

CONTINUED ONTO PAGE 2

**JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP ON
SUNDAYS 9:30 AM
WEDNESDAYS
6:30PM**

Holy Communion at all services. Nursery available on Sundays. 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



REGISTER NOW FOR
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 10-13 9:00 to Noon
Family Night July 13 at 6:30 pm

Four Days of Adventure
with Dr. Seuss



SUMMER WORSHIP
SUNDAYS 9:30 AM
&
WEDNESDAYS 6:30 PM

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/President
Mary Beth Randle, Outreach/Secretary
Maria Dziubczynski, Fellowship
Bill Bavirsha, Facilities/Vice President
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

Hi From Pr Dana Cont.....

I can't tell you how many times I've heard people at COG say, "I know so-and-so (fill in the names of neighbors, co-workers, friends, etc.) would love it here at Cross of Glory." Well, Sunday, July 23 is the ideal time to invite them here. (And for all of you who are continually telling me about so-and-so who "used" to go here, this is also a great time to invite them back.) If we feel that we have something special here at COG - which I believe we do -- now is the time to share that with people we know.

Let's all invite others to be a part of what God is doing here. It is simply too good to keep to ourselves!!

Social Events in July

Plan on joining us on **Thursday July 20 for Dinner with Friends** at the Grill House Tap in Lamont. The fun starts at 6:30

Also, we've got a group heading out to the **Slammers Game on Friday July 21**. However, if you want to come along, you need to order and pay for tickets by Sunday July 2. Contact Maria Dziubczynski for details.

Brunch after worship on July 16. Bring a dish to share if you wish, but not necessary.

Casa Mission Trip

We will be having one or more fundraisers for Casa in July. Look for more info on upcoming Casa fundraisers. And don't forget - one of our two mission groups is headed off to Casa this month. Please keep them in your prayers.

Pastor Dana is Looking for Some Volunteers Who Like to Have Fun

We'll have a couple of things going on in our neighborhood during the remainder of the summer. More info will be coming out as each project takes off, but if any of this sounds like fun, contact Pastor Dana or the church office to say you'd like to help.

- **Coffee in the Morning:** we will be handing out coffee to commuters at one or more of the Metra stops this summer. If you are an early riser and love to give things out for free, this opportunity is for you.
- **Growing Veggies at Young School:** we'll be helping Young School (right across the street from COG) grow some veggies in a few of their raised beds. If you have a green thumb, we'll need people to help prepare the beds and plant, and then periodically weed and water.
- **Kids Games on Monday Night:** We're hoping to set up some kids games at the Lockport auto shows on Monday evening. Dana has the games and everything we need, except people to help staff the games. This is loads of fun!
- **Little Free Library:** These libraries are all over the country. We'll be doing a mobile library for kids in our neighborhood every a week. If you'd like to come along, or if you'd like more info about setting up a library in your front yard or neighborhood, see Dana.

All these opportunities are great ways for COG to be a presence in our community. More importantly, this stuff makes God smile!

Our Summer Sermon Series - "The Gospel According to..."

Our summer sermon series continues in July and August. Each week we're looking at the ways we see God in different aspects of our culture. Join us each Sunday as we explore how our faith connects with what's going on in the world. Here's a lineup of what to expect on the remaining Sundays this summer:

- July 2 - The Gospel According to...the Movies.** We enjoy popcorn and watch parts of a movie as we discuss how God shows up.
- July 9 - The Gospel According to...Water.** We'll be outdoors and affirm our baptisms by walking wet through a kids' pool.
- July 16 - The Gospel According to...Dr. Seuss.** Celebrate our VBS program with some Dr. Seuss words of wisdom.
- July 23 - The Gospel According to...The Movies.** Again, popcorn and a movie. It's also "Sundae Sunday" and **Bring a Friend Sunday**, so we hope lots of us bring friends for ice cream sundaes after the service.
- July 30 - The Gospel According to...Songs.** Find out the Christian meaning behind some of our popular secular songs
- August 6 - The Gospel According to...Our Youth Group.** Dan Murtaugh is preaching and we see the premier of a recent video made by our youth.
- August 13 - The Gospel According to...CASA.** Hear the stories of those who went on our mission trips about the amazing things God is doing at CASA
- August 20 - The Gospel According to...Pets.** An outdoor service - and bring your pets for a blessing.
- August 27 - The Gospel According to...** Nicole Morin will be preaching - and I think it might have something to do with Harry Potter.

And don't forget, we have a worship on Wednesday at 6:30 for people who can't make it on Sunday (or for people who just like to worship a lot). The topic is loosely the same as the Sunday before.

Second Sundays on July 9

Turnout for Second Sundays in June was terrific, and we're looking for a good group in July as well. We've invited neighbors and are grilling out again, so please bring a side dish or dessert, a lawn chair, and a couple of friends on July 9 to hear **After the Rain**. We'll also have lawn games for the kids (and adults). Everything starts at 6 pm.

Kids Books and Puzzles Needed

For the remainder of the summer, we'll be taking to the streets with a mobile little free library filled with kids' books and puzzles. The idea is that kids can take books and/or bring books to the library (which is actually just a wagon) whenever we come by. However, in order to get this project off the ground, we need some kids books and puzzles. This is where you all come in -- if you have any kids' books (especially for older kids) that are still in good shape but that you are no long using, please bring them to COG for our free library. I guarantee there are kids around here who would love to read them!

Parade Thanks

Thanks to all of you who participated in any or all of our three parades in June. It was wonderful to partner with the preschool in both the Lockport and Homer Glen parades. We had a wonderful turnout for both parades and our VBS float looked great!! We also had good representation in the Chicago Pride Parade, and I'm told there were God sightings all over the place. Way to go Cross of Glory!!

**CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE
May 2017**

Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$82,741.86
Other	<u>\$35,619.58</u>
Total	\$118,361.44
Expenses	
General/Building	\$48,898.16
Staff	\$64,804.63
Sharing	\$ 5,053.50
Ministries	<u>\$ 3,394.36</u>
Total	\$122,150.65
Income/Loss	\$(3,789.21)


THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL
 Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883

 Hope everyone is enjoying their summer. We had so much fun walking in the Homer and Lockport parades. Registration is still open for the Fall classes. If you wish to set up an appointment to see the classrooms and get some information please give us a call. Like us on Facebook!
