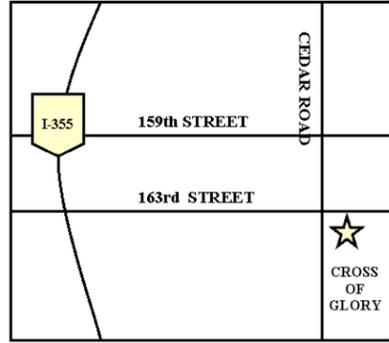




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



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www.CrossofGlory.com
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



AUGUST 2017

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



What Sunday Worship Looks Like in August

I know that many of us are getting ready to help kids head back to school (and some of us to head back to school ourselves). August sort of marks the end of summer and a transition back to fall scheduling. But wait . . . we've got a bunch of stuff yet to happen before August is over. Here's some of what you can look forward to:

- Sunday, July 31:** Dan Murtaugh preaches about the Gospel According to our Teens. This is an opportunity to view the premiere of the teens' video made earlier this summer. (Check it out . . . and then share it and help it go viral on YouTube.)
- Sunday, August 6:** Our music ministry leads the service with a focus on secular songs written with a Christian message. We may all know that the song *Turn, Turn Turn* is based on a passage from Ecclesiastes, but what about the songs *Carry on My Wayward Son* by Kansas, or *Takin' It To The Streets* by the Doobie Brothers. Pretty cool, the way God works right in the middle of our culture!
- Sunday, August 13:** Casa celebration Sunday. We'll hear God stories from some of those who went on our mission trips to Casa this summer.
- Sunday August 20:** Bring your pets (including stuffed pets and pet pictures) for an old-fashioned pet blessing. Outdoor Worship Service. And a brunch after the service.
- Sunday, August 27:** Nicole Morin preaches about The Gospel According to Harry Potter. Definitely a great way to end the month of August.

I hope you are able to join us on Sunday mornings for worship. These are all wonderful opportunities to see God at work in different ways, as we continue to our summer sermon series The Gospel According to . . .

Summer Giving - Let's Keep it Up

Just figures - I write an article for last month's newsletter about how well we're doing financially and then we hit a bit of a summer slump. Don't get me wrong - we're still doing better than the last couple of years, but June and July have been challenging. Please remember that our financial gifts are key to our ability to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this place and throughout our community. (Personally, I've signed up for Simply Giving for the first time this year. (I know - I'm a pastor, so I probably should have tried it earlier.) But it has made things much easier for me, and I'd really recommend it.)

Casa Trip

One of our groups has already returned from a week at Casa and I hope you are all hearing some cool stories of where they saw God. Our second group will be gone the first week in August, with most returning on August 7. And that means that Sunday, August 13 will be our Casa celebration worship. We'll see some pictures (probably lots of pictures) and hear some stories of how God worked in the lives of all those on the trip. Please continue to pray for those in our second group and check out the Cross of Glory facebook page for more info.

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



SECOND SUNDAY'S
AUGUST 13th 6:00 pm

OUTDOORS WITH
LIVE MUSIC
FOOD
FELLOWSHIP

All Are Welcome!



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

August 20th Outdoor Worship,
Brunch, and Pet Blessing!

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

Fellowship: Maria Dziubczynski

Wow what a busy month we just had. On July 6th women met to help decorate T-shirts for VBS at Barb Corcoran's house, thank you ladies! The music cook out was fantastic on July 9th the perfect weather, awesome music and great food (thanks to all who helped). And a special thanks to the band members who do this with such love (we all love you back). Brunch on Sunday was a hit as always. Then we met at Tap House Grill for a wonderful evening of fellowship and good food & drink. The next day we gathered at the Slammer baseball stadium for 2 innings till we got rained out. Rain out day will be Aug 25th for those that already purchased tickets. Tough act to follow now for August.....

Discipleship: Chris Quemeneur

Thank you to everyone who helped in VBS! From the people who donated, set up, cleaned up, and all the volunteers. We had 100 children and over 40 volunteers. We raised \$1,100 in Coins for Casa de los Angeles and over 60 children and their families returned for our Family Night on Thursday. What a great fun week and thanks again to all!

Facilities: Bill Bavirsha

The Facility/Property Committee continues to make improvements to the building and grounds at C.O.G. We are always looking for more help. You don't need to be a carpenter, electrician, gardener or plumber to help out. If you are willing to volunteer yourself to do some manual labor occasionally, we'd love to have you. Please See Bill Bavirsha or get word to Laura or Pastor Dana. Our next clean-up day at C.O.G will be August 19, 2017 at 9:00am. If you are free and can volunteer a few hours of

your time, we would love to have you.

Finances: Bill Nabors

AMAZON SHOPPERS: Did you know Cross of Glory can receive a reward of 2.5% on everything you buy. Until August 3, that reward will be 5.5%. That's on top of the percentage we get if you use Amazon Smile. Buy a physical gift card or ScripNow ecard and place it on your Amazon account to use at your convenience. Groupon USERS: In addition to the great deals for you, Cross of Glory can receive 7% (9% until August 3). iTunes USERS: Cross of Glory gets 5% (10% until August 3) of the gift card or e-scrip value. Check out these and other great values and place your order now. Remember, with this program you get the same amount of purchasing power while also making a donation to Cross of Glory. BUY NOW FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL!

Wednesday Worship Continues Through August

Don't forget, we also worship on Wednesdays 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.

Thanks for Inviting Friends

Hey - thanks to all of you who invited friends to worship with us on our July 23 Invite-a-Friend Sunday!!! It was wonderful to see so many new faces. And while I hope to see some of your friends back again, I'm thrilled to see them even just once. We want to get the word out about Cross of Glory and what we've got going on here - because what we've got going on here is really good! So the more people who know about us and see God working here, the more people who can tell others about us.

Calling All Pets

This is a special article for all the pets out there. So what are you doing on **Sunday, August 20 at 9:30 am?** How would you like to get together with a whole bunch of other pets - I'm talking dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, birds, fish, and other mammals, reptiles and amphibians of all shapes and sizes - for an old fashioned pet blessing here at Cross of Glory?

We'll be worshipping outside that morning (unless the weather is too hot or too cold, in which case you're all invited indoors), and we'll celebrate afterward with our monthly brunch (and yes, we'll have something for both people and animals). So join us for a laying on of hands (but no biting) and some kind words of blessing. And make sure you bring all your friends - both the human and animal variety. (And stuffed animals and pictures of pets are also welcome to come for a blessing.)

Second Sundays on August 13

Our last Second Sundays of the summer will feature the band **TMI (The Microphone Incident)** on Sunday, August 13. There will also be lawn games and bubbles for the kids (and adults). We'll be grilling out one more time, and we'll use up the ice cream for more sundaes. Please bring a side dish to share, a lawn chair, and a couple of friends. The music, food and fun starts at 6.

What To Look for in September

I'm not one to look too far ahead, but there are a couple of cool God-things coming up in September.

****Blood Drive on Thursday, September 7,** from 2-6 pm. Please consider donating to save a life. There's a sign-up sheet on the welcome table.

****Dellwood Park Block Party on Saturday, September 16,** from 1-6 pm. This block party is a joint partnership by lots of congregations in the Lockport/Homer Glen area and will feature music, food, games, a prayer wall and lots of other family friendly entertainment. Cross of Glory is participating in this event big time. Todd has been instrumental in helping with music, and After the Rain will be playing on Saturday afternoon. We'll also have a tent with a bunch of free kids games (which we'll need volunteers to help with). Come on out and have some fun in Dellwood Park.

****CROP Walk on Sunday, September 17** at 2 pm. This is a terrific event to help raise money to address hunger in our community and around the world. We had a great showing last year, and hopefully lots of us will turn out again this year. (And remember, if you can't walk that day, you can still participate by financially supporting someone who is.)

COG's Octoberfest is Coming up Fast— Oct 7th

Last year's Octoberfest was simply amazing!! And the plan is to make this year's event on Saturday, October 7 even better. I'm hopeful that this will soon become one of Cross of Glory's signature events in the community, with free music, food, games and other family friendly activities. And since there is so much going on, there are lots of opportunities for all of us to help. We need people to help get donations, help with games and face painting, to help organize the outside set-up and to help with publicity. We'll have sign-up sheets out soon. Or, better yet, just contact the office to indicate where you'd like to help.

Luther Bible Study Continues in August

Our Tuesday night bible study continues during August. There will be no bible study on August 1, but we'll be meeting on subsequent Tuesdays to discuss different aspects of Luther's theology and how they impact us today. Each week we watch a short video with the topic discussed by a leading Luther expert, and then we look at some bible passages and kick it around. Here are our topics for August:

- August 8 - How to tell the difference between a sinner and a saint
- August 15 - Who is our neighbor (and what does Christian freedom mean)?
- August 22 - We've all got a gift (the priesthood of all believers)
- August 29 - Vocation - how we make a difference in the world

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE	
June 2017	
Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$97,095.88
Other	<u>\$39,667.85</u>
Total	\$136,763.73
Expenses	
General/Building	\$57,184.94
Staff	\$77,471.95
Sharing	\$ 6,194.50
Ministries	<u>\$ 4,008.84</u>
Total	\$144,860.23
Income/Loss	\$ (8,096.50)


THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL
 Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883
 Registration is building up for the fall classes, but we still have some spots open. Share with your friends and family that are looking for a preschool program. Classes start the week of Labor Day.
