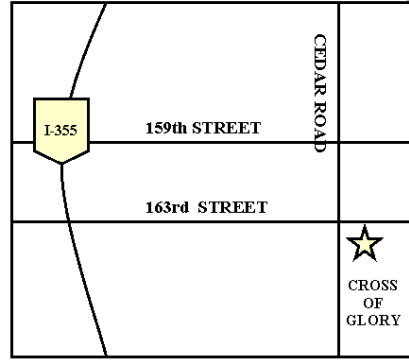




14719 W 163<sup>rd</sup> Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 65  
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Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
14719 West 163<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491  
(708) 301-6998  
www.CrossofGlory.com  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



SEPTEMBER 2017



**THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!!**

Sometimes I think it isn't said enough - so here's a BIG THANKS to all of you!!! In many congregations, summer is a time where we slow down and take it easy, and then things pick up again in fall.

Well, that's not how things work at Cross of Glory. Not only do we have one of our largest outreach events in July with VBS, but we also had lots going on to get us out in the neighborhood and take advantage of this warm weather - Second Sundays, baseball games, outdoor worship, a pet blessing, our little free library, working in the garden at Young School, the youth events (including volunteering at Feed My Starving Children), mid-week worship, fundraisers, Casa mission trips, outdoor clean-ups . . . And that's on top of all the usual stuff we do - Sunday worship (with lots of music and other participation), book club, women's and men's groups, brunches and dinners with friends, bible studies, food collections . . . and all the other stuff I haven't mentioned.

Well, none of that stuff happens without God working through a lot of people to make it happen. So as the summer draws to a close (I know, summer just flew by), I want to thank all of you for taking time out of your busy days to help make all this possible. I am simply amazed at how so many of you have stepped up to volunteer your time or money or skills, or some combination thereof. And while we try to remember to thank people after the big events, I know we don't say it as often as we should. So THANK YOU!!! I want you all to know how appreciative I and all of the leaders at Cross of Glory are for all the time and effort and "stuff" you all contribute toward all the ministries we do here and in this community. There is no way we could be the hands and feet of God in this place - no way we could participate in God's mission here in this area - if it weren't for all that you do. So again . . . THANK YOU!!! (Oh, and guess what - we've also got a really busy and fun-filled fall coming up . . . which means we've got plenty more opportunities for all of us to help.)

**The Bible as God's Story - and Our Story**

Some of you may be Bible experts - you may have read the entire thing (maybe even more than once) and are very familiar with Bible characters and stories and see them as very applicable to your life. But lots of the rest of us don't know a whole lot about the Bible. We don't know all the stories, and we're not sure how lots of what's in the Bible connects with how we live today. It's a big book; and when we try to read it, some of it is pretty confusing.

Well, all that is about to change. Starting in January of 2018, we'll take a trip through the Bible, looking at the some its stories and reading about God's big mission throughout history. We'll see how the Bible is God's story . . . and our story as well. And we'll see how God uses it to speak to us today. And to help us get ready for our journey through the Bible, we'll learn some "Bible Basics" on Sundays this fall. We'll talk about how to pick the right Bible for you - about different translations and types of study bibles. We'll look at some Lutheran insights to help in interpreting and understanding the Bible, and ask some questions that you often hear - questions like "what does it mean to take the Bible 'literally?'" And "does the Bible contain any errors?" And "how does the Bible speak to us today?" By the end of our series, we may not all be biblical experts, but I hope we'll all be looking forward to exploring the Bible in more depth in 2018

**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](mailto:laura@crossofglory.com)



**FREE OCTOBERFEST**

Saturday, October 7th

2:00 PM

Live Music, Food,  
Family Friendly Activities, and more  
Fun For All Ages!

**Welcome Statement**

We recognize the importance of worshiping 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, worshiping 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

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Make an online donation on the church website  
[www.crossofglory.com/giving](http://www.crossofglory.com/giving)  
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Cross of Glory Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Church

[www.ReconcilingWorks.org](http://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**

\*Sept. 17th is our wonderful tasty brunch Sunday.

\*Sept. 28th is "Dinner with Friends" at Patty B's. in Orland Park.

\*Planning the biggest FALL FESTIVAL yet for Oct 7th, with music, free food and games. Desperately looking for volunteers to help, contact Maria D. if you can help.

**Discipleship: Chris Quemeneur**

After a great summer with VBS we are looking forward to Fall classes for Confirmation. Confirmation will meet on specific Sundays after worship and is for students in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades. If you know of any kids interested please contact Christine Quemeneur or Barb Taskay.

**What's Coming Up on Sundays:**

Here's some stuff to look forward to in September and early October:

**\*\*Cub Scout Pack Selling Popcorn On Sept 10.** Robert Deal's cub scout pack will visit Cross of Glory that Sunday to sell all sorts of popcorn before and after the service. You can buy items there or order larger items for future delivery. The money raised will go toward scouting activities.

**\*\*Baptisms and Brunch on Sept 17.** We have at least one baptism and an affirmation of baptism, as well as brunch after the service and our noisy offering on September 17. It will be a fun Sunday, you won't want to miss!

**\*\*Preschool Sunday on Oct 1.** This is the first of what we hope will be an annual event, as we welcome our preschool kids and families to worship. The preschool kids will sing some songs and we'll have a fun service geared toward children of all ages. (After all, aren't we all kids at heart?)

**Morningstar Mission**

Morningstar Mission is a ministry Cross of Glory has supported for many years. On the fourth Saturday of each month, COG volunteers go to Morningstar to help serve dinner to Morningstar guests. This is a terrific opportunity to help and get to know people in our community who are working hard to address some real challenges in their lives. And it's a lot of fun!

**Confirmation Starting Sept 23**

Our fall confirmation classes start up on Sept. 23. (As you may know, confirmation here at COG is a two-year program - during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. During this time, our young people explore their faith and their relationship with God in today's world.) More information is going out to those young people in that age group, but if your child is going into 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, you can call the office to sign them up. And we're all looking forward to Oct. 22, when we'll celebrate with those being confirmed here at COG.

**Youth Pancake Breakfast Sept 24**

Sunday, Sept 24 the youth will be serving breakfast. They are sponsoring a young girl, Amina, from Compassion International. All proceeds from the breakfast will go towards sponsoring Amina! Amina will turn 15 on October 9th and lives in Ghana. She loves attending Sunday School, playing marbles, jumping rope, and group games. Remember her in your prayers! Join us for breakfast.

**Tammy Kjos at CASA**

Tammy is volunteering at CASA de los Angeles for three months. While she is there she will share her adventures with us. Watch for her updates on Facebook and the newsletter. Keep her in your prayers, as well as CASA.

**COG's Octoberfest is Coming up Saturday October 7**

Last year's Octoberfest was simply amazing!! And the plan is to make our second annual festival even better. We're inviting everyone in our community to enjoy the live bands playing from 2 -6, great food, and lots of family friendly activities like games, face painting, balloons, and other fun stuff. It's a great way for the community to get a taste of what Cross of Glory is like (and I'll bet we get a whole bunch of God sightings during the day).

And because we're planning so many fun events, **there are lots of opportunities for all of us to help.** We need people to help in advance by getting donations of food and other products, doing publicity, and planning the activities. And we'll also need lots of help on the day of the event -- help with games and face painting, set-up and take-down, handling the food, and welcoming our guests. For starters, we can all advertise the event by putting our yellow fall fest signs in our yards. Please contact Barb Corcoran or Maria Dziubczynski (or contact the office) to indicate where you'd like to help.

**Dellwood Park Block Party Coming up in Two Weeks!!**

On Saturday, Sept 16, from 1-6 pm, a whole bunch of congregations in the Lockport/ Homer Glen area are coming together for a block party. It 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, and we could use your help.

- We need people to staff the kids' games from 12:45 to 3:15 on Saturday. I have all the games and prizes - we just need people to help with the games and cheer on the kids. This is the first time our games tent will be out in the community and I'd like to start well. There is a sign-up sheet in the welcome area, for anyone who can help. Please sign up if you can help. I guarantee you'll have a fun time!
- We're hoping to see all of you at some point during the day. This is a free event and it's going to be very family friendly. So stop on by to hear After the Rain and play some games and participate in the other fun stuff going on that day. (Oh, and when you come, you might want to wear your Cross of Glory t-shirts.)

**CROP Walk on Sunday, September 17**

This is a terrific way to get some exercise, enjoy a lovely day in the park, and raise money to address

hunger in our community and around the world. You can help in two ways -- you can walk with us on September 17 and/or you can contribute to the cause. So if you can, please join us at 2 pm at the Dellwood Park Band Shell. After the Rain will be playing and there will be food and music after the walk. We had a great showing last year, and hopefully lots of us will turn out again this year. And regardless of whether or not you're walking, please consider financially supporting the walk. Our noisy offering on September 17 will also support the Crop Walk.

**Reformation Sunday, October 29**

Did you know that 2017 is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation? We'll celebrate big-time on Reformation Sunday, Oct 29. That's definitely a Sunday you don't want to miss. Look for more info coming soon.

**T.E.L.L. Starts September 25th**

The Fall session of TELL starts Sept 25th. Youth in grades 6th through 12th. The program is FREE. Contact us for more details!

**Racko Game Night on September 15**

Women - mark Sept 15 on your calendars as the night you'll be heading over to Maria Dziubczynski's house (5539 S Willow Ct., Homer Glen) to play Racko. The fun starts at 7 pm. Bring a small treat & spirits to share. Please RSVP by signing up at COG or by calling 708-220-4717. And feel free to bring friends - the more the merrier!

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE	
July 2017	
Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$112,476.15
Other	\$ 47,080.52
Total	\$159,556.67
Expenses	
General/Building	\$66,715.15
Staff	\$90,187.27
Sharing	\$15,186.31
Ministries	\$ 4,803.19
Total	\$176,891.92
Income/Loss	\$(17,335.25)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL**  
 Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883  
 Classes have started and the children are amazing! We will have our 1st Preschool Sunday on October 1st. The kids will share some songs with the congregation. Mark your calendar and invite the family!  
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