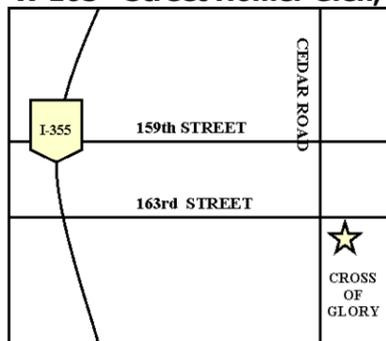




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Join Us
Sundays 9:30 am
We have a place for you!



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www.CrossofGlory.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018



Dana O'Brien,
Pastor

THE STORY

One of the commitments we made for 2018 at Cross of Glory is to grow in faith and learn more about God's love. And one way we're doing that is by reading *The Story* over the next 20 weeks. The entire congregation is doing it. We're looking at it in bible studies and Sunday at worship. Our kids will learn about it during Kids Klub and TELL, and we'll talk about it during mid-week Lenten soup suppers. We have books and email devotions, and helpful stuff on our website. This is exciting stuff!!!

The Story is an abridged chronological version of the Bible. It's not a summary of the Bible; it actually contains giant chunks of the Bible's NIV translation word for word. (The NIV translation is what we use in worship at COG.). But there are a couple of differences that make *The Story* read more like stories we're used to, so we can see how everything ties into God's big redemptive story. First, the chapter and verse markings are gone. Also, it's much shorter, because transition paragraphs replace some of the really difficult parts. Finally, it is presented in a chronological fashion, which makes it much more understandable. (You can find out more about *The Story* at <http://www.thestory.com/>)

Each week we'll focus on a different chapter in *The Story*. We'll look at the biblical story of what God was doing in the lives of God's people, but we won't stop there. We'll also look at what that means for us today, and how God continues to work in our world now. We start on Sunday January 21 with a look at creation in Genesis, and we'll finish the Old Testament in early June. (We'll look at the New Testament in the fall.)

Here's the really important part - **you** are a part of God's story!! Which means that **you** are invited to take this journey through *The Story* with us. (And if you have anyone else who'd like to come along, they are invited too.) We have free *The Story* books at COG. (If you prefer, you can get them on Kindle or listen to them on cds or with an audio app.) We'll even have helpful hints sent out via email each week and info on our website. Contact me, (at dana@crossofglory.com) if you have any questions or want to be added to *The Story* email group. I guarantee this will be a life changing experience!

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2018 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING—February 11, 2018

Sun, Feb 11, 2018 at 10:45 a.m., after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to celebrate what's been going on at COG during 2017, to elect new council representatives, and to approve the 2018 budget. Because we do important things at our annual meeting, we want you all there. So we'll have brunch, and the meeting will have a Mardi Gras theme. If you have any questions regarding the meeting please contact any council member or the pastor.

Like last year, we'll also have a budget meeting after worship on Sunday, February 4th. If you have any questions or comments about the 2018 budget, this is a wonderful opportunity to talk.

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

Holy Communion at all services. Nursery available every Sunday. You are welcome here!

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



THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, February 7th
4:00 to 7:00 PM

- 4 year olds three days a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- 3 year olds two days a week: Tuesday & Thursday

Registration will also be open at the Open House
Interested and want more information?

Call (708) 301-3883
www.crossofglory.com/preschool

16 Years
In the
Community!



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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Holy Communion Class

If you have a child in 2nd grade or older, this six week class on Holy Communion is for them. Communion is such an important part of our worship life here at Cross of Glory, so children in the class will learn about how and why we do it and what it means, all in a fun interactive setting. Classes take place on Monday nights, starting February 12 (which is the parent/student class). Contact the church office for details. Register ASAP so we have a good head count.

Teen Education For Lifelong Leadership (T.E.L.L)

T.E.L.L. is our educational program for youth from 6th - 12th grade. On Monday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m, the youth spend time interacting with each other to experience God through games, food, and conversation. Our next session starts on Monday, January 22.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes begin again, starting Sunday, February 18. As in the fall, classes will be held on Sundays after worship, and will go intermittently through spring. Like the rest of the congregation, the young people in our confirmation class will be looking at The Story, and learning how these Old Testament stories speak to our own stories today.

Typically students participate in two years of instruction (usually 7th & 8th graders) before affirming their baptism. This takes place during the Rite of Confirmation, which occurs during worship in the fall. Please call the office if you wish your child to participate.

VBS Meeting on Sunday, Jan 28

We are already preparing for this summer's Vacation Bible School and looking for volunteers to lead the program and be station leaders. Anyone interested in helping with VBS is invited to a VBS organizational meeting on Sunday, January 28 right after worship.

Fairmont School Partnership

You may have heard of our partnership with Fairmont School. We are collecting things that the teachers and kids need, and many of us are going over to the school to work with the kids or provide other help desired by the staff. (For example, a couple people are providing long-needed help in the library, and Tammy Kjos will soon be starting Spanish ESL classes for interested parents.) As we volunteer, we're hoping to establish some rewarding relationships with both the staff and the kids and even make a difference in the Fairmont community as a whole.

Please join us, by signing up on the sheet in the welcome room. This is an amazing opportunity to connect with some people in our community who you might not otherwise meet. I guarantee that we will see God in them, and I pray that they will experience God through us.

Possible Casa Trip this April

We are considering another visit to Casa this coming April. If you are interested or have any questions about whether this may be the time for you to go, please contact Tammy Kjos.

Ladies Phase 10 Game Night

Friday, Jan 26 at 6:30pm will be game night at Barb Corcoran's home. Bring a small appetizer or dessert to share! Sign Up in the Welcome Room.

****BLOOD DRIVE FEB. 1st 3-7PM****



Ash Wednesday "Asher" Volunteers Wanted

Last year, I got up early and went to the Lockport Metra station to offer to put ashes on the foreheads of commuters as they headed off to work. I then caught another group of commuters at a station in New Lenox. While many people didn't stop, I was surprised at how many did -- at one point I actually had a little line going - and how thankful people were for the ashes.

So this year, let's have groups of 2-3 people who go out to nearby train stations to offer ashes to people going to work during rush hour. If you have some time on the morning of Wednesday, February 14 (yes, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day - how cool is that!) and would like to be an "Asher" (what I'm calling our volunteers who put ashes on people's foreheads) please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Area. (Don't worry, you won't go alone and you'll have everything you need. I'll give each group a sheet which contains what to say, a container of ashes, and a sign that tells people who we are and what we're doing.) This doesn't take long. You will probably want to be at your station by 6 or 6:30, but should be done around 8 or 8:30. (It depends on the station.) This is a really amazing way to share your faith out in the world!

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

We meet for a soup supper and then spend some time discussing *The Story* each Wednesday during Lent - February 21 through March 21.

* 6:00pm - Supper

* 6:30pm - "The Story" Discussion

We will have a sign up for the meal in the welcome room. Please join us.

Calling Everyone Interested in Becoming a COG Members!

We will be celebrating new members joining Cross of Glory on Sunday, January 28th. If you would like to become a member, please contact Pastor Dana at dana@crossofglory.com

Pickleball Anyone?

The COG building is perfect for playing sports during Chicago's cold winters. So I had my family give me a portable pickleball net for Christmas, and my hope is that you, or someone you know, might like to play a little pickleball at COG. I have extra paddles and balls, and while I'm still a beginner, I would be happy to teach anyone how to play. We can play on Sunday or Tuesday nights (and/or if there's anyone who wants to play during the day, we could play on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoons.)

Pickleball is usually played with four people and is sort of a combination of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Please check with people you know and contact me at danalobrien@gmail.com if you or anyone you know want to play. (If we get a good group going, we can take it out to the parking lot when it gets warm.)

Some 2017 Year-End Stuff

A couple things to finish off 2017 as we move into 2018:

- Thanks to all of you who participated in the 2017 year-end match. We started out with \$10,000 in matching seed money, and 26 families responded with financial gifts. All together, we raised \$40,675, which is simply an amazing response. That money will address our projected budget deficit in 2018 and enable us to do even more ministry in our community.
- Those of you who have not yet handed in your commitment cards, please get them in asap. (You can leave it in the office or put it in the offering plate on any Sunday.) The commitment cards address the many different ways God is calling us to live as church in 2018, and I'd love to see all of us "all in" for 2018,
- If you made a financial contribution to Cross of Glory in 2017, you should soon be receiving your year-end statement, along with a letter from me (that would be Pastor Dana) thanking you for all that you've given. If you have any questions, or didn't get your statement, contact Laura in the office. Once again, I thank you for the joy and blessing of being your pastor here. And I thank you, in advance, for all the exciting things that God will do through all of us this coming year

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL

Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883



Welcome back after the holidays! The children are adjusting to being off for a couple weeks. We even started two new students!

We are now preparing for this years Open Houses. They will be Feb. 7th and April 26th. Registration is open! Be sure to share with your friends, families, and neighbors about The Welcome Place Preschool.

If there is a need to close the school due to weather please check our website and Facebook pages for updates.

www.crossofglory.com (website)
The Welcome Place Preschool (Facebook)
