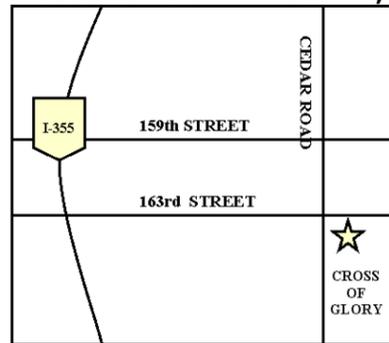




14719 W 163<sup>rd</sup> Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



**THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**  
Thursday, April 26  
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 is Open Now!  
Interested and want more information?

Call (708) 301-3883  
[www.crossofglory.com/preschool](http://www.crossofglory.com/preschool)



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Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



April 2018

**EASTER THANKS**

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!!



Dana O'Brien,  
Pastor

What an amazing message of God's love is packed into those few words. And what amazing opportunities we all had to experience that love over the Good Friday and Easter weekend. On Thursday night we had our Seder meal, lead by our communion kids. On Friday, some of us participated in the community cross walk in the afternoon, and then we had a powerful Good Friday worship at COG in the evening. On Saturday, we invited our community - and a whole bunch came - to our neighborhood Easter Egg hunt which was loads of fun.

And then Sunday morning, we hosted two celebratory Easter services lead by our musicians. There is no way that all this can happen without the input and help of all of you at Cross of Glory. I want to thank all of you who were involved in any way in any of these services and events for sharing your time and your gifts. I am continually amazed and humbled by the many ways in which you all witness the resurrection faith in your lives.

Thank you Cross of Glory!!

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!!

**SUNDAYS IN APRIL**

I hope you're all looking forward to worship during April. In addition to our continued focus on The Story, we also have some other terrific reasons to make sure you're at Cross of Glory each Sunday morning. Here are some things going on at Sunday worship:

**April 8 - Communion Sunday:** we're celebrating with eight kids who have been learning all about communion. We will recognize their achievement and let them lead us in worship. We'll also be recognizing our confirmation mentors and students. And stay after worship for brunch.

**Sunday, April 15.** It's noisy offering Sunday so bring your change, as we collect for Centro Infantil de Los Angeles. Also, Todd Mizera will be preaching on King David in Chapter 12 of *The Story*.

**April 22 - Preschool Sunday.** Remember the fun we had last fall when our preschool families came to worship with us. Well, it's another preschool Sunday on April 22. Since it's also Earth Day, the kids will be singing some earth songs and we'll celebrate afterward with "dirt cake".

**Sunday, April 29.** It's a double dose of *The Story* as we combine chapters 14 and 15. Expect something exciting to happen.

**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](mailto:Dana@CrossofGlory.com)

Laura Uzzardo  
Parish Administrator  
[Laura@CrossofGlory.com](mailto:Laura@CrossofGlory.com)

Todd Mizera  
Worship Leader  
[Todd@CrossofGlory.com](mailto:Todd@CrossofGlory.com)

Jamie Knutson  
Director of The Welcome Place Preschool  
[Jamie@TheWelcomePlace.org](mailto: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)



[CrossofGlory.com](http://CrossofGlory.com)



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, 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

NOISY OFFERING

I want to thank you for your generosity -- since we started our noisy offerings at the end of 2016, Cross of Glory has given over \$6400 to local and global organizations that make a difference in our world. Much of this money is simply pocket change - coins we've collected throughout the month and throw into our noisy offering buckets. (And if you haven't been collecting and saving your coins each month, this is a great time to start. I just empty my pockets every night and collect my coins in a jar until our monthly noisy offering Sunday.) It's amazing how when we work together, pocket change becomes something more - it becomes something God can use to change the world, a little bit at a time. And in case you were wondering, our April noisy offering will be on **April 15**, so start collecting those coins.

COUNCIL OFFICERS

The council recently elected officers for 2017. Bill Nabors remains as president, and Bill Bavirsha is staying on as vice president. We are blessed that Allen Kirkland volunteered to be secretary, and Andrew Kjos was again appointed treasurer. Please congratulate our new officers and, as always, contact any of our council representatives or Pastor Dana with any questions or comments you may have about Cross of Glory.

ASSET MAPPING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Everyone is invited to participate in asset mapping on **Tuesday, April 10, starting at 6:30** here at COG. This hands-on-exercise will be led

by Gary Erickson from the Synod, and will help us discover ways in which we can leverage our gifts and assets at Cross of Glory to make a difference both here and in our community. This is a fun and informative way to learn more about yourself and our congregation, so please join us.

THE STORY CONTINUES . . .



The weeks have really flown by, and we are already more than half-way through our look at the Old Testament, as presented in the book *The Story*. So far, I'm really pleased at how it's going. Lots of people are engaged, and not only are we learning something about the Old Testament, we're also learning about God's big redemptive plan and how the stories of people long ago are our stories as well.

We will continue with the Old Testament as presented in *The Story* through early June. And when I say "we," I mean all of us - the entire congregation is looking at it. We have a special bible study every Tuesday night, and it serves as the topic of our Sunday sermons. Our young people are looking at it during Kids Klub and T.E.L.L., and we have email guides and helpful stuff on our website.

After we finish the Old Testament, we'll take the summer off and start the New Testament in the fall. And remember, it's never too late to jump in. We've already given away over 100 books and I'd love to have more people join us as we move forward.

MEXICAN PARTY FUNDRAISER

Our fundraiser for Centro Infantil de Los Angeles (formerly know as Casa de Los Angeles) is coming up fast. Bring your friends and neighbors and join us on **Friday, May 4, starting at 6 pm** for a Mexican dinner and celebration, featuring great Mexican food, raffles, music, piñatas for the kids and lots of family fun. All money raised will go to help our partnership with Centro Infantil. This is a big event, so we could use help publicizing it and gathering raffle prizes. Please contact Tammy Kjos or the office if you can help.

MORE FAIRMONT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN APRIL

For those of you looking to help in our partnership with Fairmont School, we have more volunteer opportunities:

**Collecting Books until April 13.** Fairmont is having a free book fair for the kids, and needs new or slightly used kids books (pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade). Please bring your books to COG on or before April 13.

**Math Night at Fairmont on April 19 at 5:30.** We need 8 volunteers to help staff the food table (and some volunteers to bring juice and pop) at this parent-kid event. This is a great way to get to meet staff, kids and parents.

**Daddy/Daughter Masquerade Dance on April 29.** Snacks and people to help serve will be needed. Again, this is a great opportunity to meet people from the Fairmont community.

**Daytime Volunteering at the School.** We can still use helpers to read to third graders on Friday morning or to shelve books any morning.

Sign-up sheets are in the welcome area at COG or call the office if you'd like to help. Also check out the welcome area to see some cool thank-you cards from some of the kids at Fairmont.

SuperHeroes VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 9-12



Put it on your calendar -- Cross of Glory's Vacation Bible School will take place from 9-noon, starting Monday, July 9 and go through Thursday, July 12. Our theme is Super Heroes, so each day's activities will focus on a different super hero. Sign-up starts on April 15. We're expecting lots of kids to attend, which means we'll also need lots of helpers. Please contact Andrea Hines or the church office if you can help.

YOUNG SCHOOL GARDEN

We hope to work with the Garden Club at Young School again this year. (You may remember that last year, we planted some veggies and helped keep the garden going over the summer.) Look for more info on the garden in the next few weeks.

KEEPING THE FAITH: SISTERS OF STORY

The way to bridge the huge divides in this country involves making an effort to better understand each other. Here is an opportunity to begin -- Shepherd of the Hill Church in Lockport is hosting an event on **Friday, April 13 at 7 pm**. Listen to exceptional storytellers share stories from their own faiths - Christian, Muslim, and Jewish - as they transcend differences through their shared belief in the power of connection, compassion and unity. (Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.)

T.E.L.L. YOUTH GROUP

The group has decided to continue through April, meeting on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. There has been some amazing discussion as we read along with "The Story." This is for youth in 6th through 12th grade. If you would like to learn more about the program call the church office.

APRIL DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Changed to Chili's in Homer Glen on Tuesday, April 17th at 6:30 pm.

We will have a sign up sheet in the Welcome Room.

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**THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL**

Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883



What a fun month we had in March. Pastor Dana shared the story of Jesus' with all the classes. And now we're excited about singing at worship on **Preschool Sunday April 22nd at 9:30 am**. Be sure to mark your calendars.

**OPEN HOUSE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 26 4:00 to 7:00 PM**

**Registration is open for the Fall Classes!**

[www.crossofglory.com/preschool](http://www.crossofglory.com/preschool) (website)  
The Welcome Place Preschool (Facebook)

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