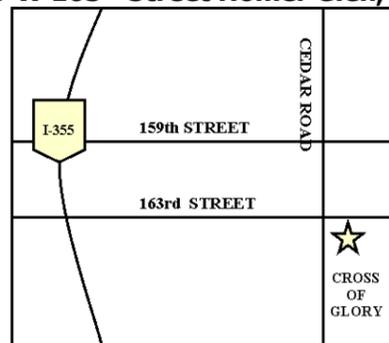




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



MAY 2018



Dana O'Brien,
Pastor

UPCOMING SUMMER STUFF

I know - it seems that just yesterday, it was still winter. Or at least it still felt like winter. Well, spring is in the air. Which means that summer is just around the corner. And while we all have lots to do on summer weekends, I hope you'll also make time to participate in the fun summer stuff we'll have going on at Cross of Glory again this year. In addition to VBS and the youth programming that kicks off in the summer, we'll also continue and expand Second Sundays (our evening get-togethers with music and food on the second Sunday of each month), and we'll again have mid-week Wednesday worship (for those of you who can't make it to worship on the weekend).

Like last year, we'll also have fun stuff going on in worship on Sundays - like our now annual pet blessing, and movie Sundays (where we look for God in some recent movies). And this year we'll also have game-show Sundays - one Sunday each month where our service looks a lot like a popular TV game show. We'll also be marching in parades and hopefully have a presence at more local festivals. Watch for more info as summer approaches, but prepare for a fun exciting God-filled summer here at COG!

THE STORY - WE SOON FINISH THE OLD TESTAMENT

I'll admit that when we started, it seemed like a pretty daunting task - to finish 31 chapters in *The Story* and journey through the entire Old Testament this spring. Well, on June 3, we'll be done. And I will also admit that I've learned a lot - a lot about God, a lot about the Israelites, and a lot about me. Mostly I've learned that things haven't changed too much in all that time - like the ancient Israelites, we still continually wander away from God. And God loves us so much that God continually does everything possible to get us back.

After we finish the Old Testament, we'll take a break for the summer and then begin our look at the New Testament stories in late August. Something to look forward to in the fall.

MEXICAN FAMILY FIESTA - MAY 4th

Bring some friends, and join us for a family fun night of great Mexican food! Doors open at 6:00pm and dinner at 6:30pm. In addition to terrific food there will be piñatas for the kids, split the pot, music, and raffles. All proceeds will benefit the Centro Infantil (fka Casa de los Angeles) our partner in San Miguel Mexico. And there are still opportunities for you to sign up and help. Sign-up sheets are in the welcome area.

MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP - MAY 13th

Mother's Day is the now the Sunday with the third highest worship attendance (behind only Easter and Christmas). And like last year, we want our Mother's Day worship service to be special. (Actually, all of our worship services are special, so this one will be "more special.") We will be handing out small gifts to thank all the women present, all of whom are so important in our lives. And once again, Andrew Kjos will have his camera equipment set up to take family photos (which can be accessed online and serve as great last minute Mother's Day gifts).

**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



Crafts!

Games!

For Ages 4
Up Through
5th Grade!

REGISTER NOW FOR
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 9-12 9:00 to Noon
Family Night July 12 at 6:30 pm

Four Days of Adventure
with SuperHeroes

More details on page 3



Bible Story
Adventures!

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
Allen Kirkland, Outreach
Maria Dziubczynski, Fellowship
Bill Bavirsha, Facilities/Vice President
Samantha Barczy, Discipleship
Dennis Tanrikulu, Worship

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

NOISY OFFERING

Our April noisy offering went to Centro Infantil (fka Casa de los Angeles), our longstanding partner and the beneficiary of our Mexican fundraiser on May 4th. We raised \$500 in April for the benefit of Centro Infantil. Way to go Cross of Glory!!!

Our noisy offering in May will go to HALO, a homeless shelter in Racine, which I was involved with when I was a pastor up there. HALO is the primary/only homeless shelter in Racine and works with the community's very large homeless population. (Racine's economy has been struggling for some time as a result of the loss of some big industrial employers.) HALO has been operating at or over capacity for the past 10 months, each month experiencing a shortfall of \$25,000. The building was meant to accommodate 60 men and 60 women and children, but it currently houses 100 men each night, which means that many are sleeping on mats on the dining area floors. (The women's section is also full.) I know what giving hearts we have here at COG, and I'm hoping we can help out the people in that community. Please save your change (and paper money works well too) for our noisy offering on Sunday, May 13th

ARE YOU A 2018 GRADUATE?

On Sunday, June 10 2018, we'll recognize recent graduates at our 9:30 worship service. We'll do a blessing during the service and then celebrate with a cake afterward. All graduations are achievements worth celebrating, so whether you're graduating from pre-school, kindergarten, middle or elementary school, high school, college, post-college, some job-related training, or anything similar, we'd like to recognize you. Please complete a sheet in the

Welcome Area with info about you and what you're graduating from so we can include that information in an insert to the June 10 bulletin. And then join us for the celebration!

WOMEN'S NIGHT ON MAY 11th

Mark Friday, May 11 on your calendar for our Women's May event. We'll be assembling 50 personal care bags for the older girls at Fairmont School. Some of the basics will be put in a nice carry bag so that each of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls will receive their own. Look for the sheets on the welcome table at COG where you can sign up to provide some of the materials for the bags and help with the assembly. And please bring an appetizer or dessert to share on Friday night. Also, we are looking for one or two people to take the lead on our women's ministry. If you feel God calling to be that person(s), please contact Barb Corcoran.

OUTREACH MEETING MAY 6th

We're looking for volunteers to be on the Outreach Team. This new team is being created to help organize, supply resources, ideas and support for any outreach related project. There will be a short meeting after worship on May 6th. We will discuss current events and what we see for the future growth of COG's outreach. If you are excited about what God can do through COG in our community, check out this meeting.

MAY DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Join us for dinner on Thursday, **May 17 at 6:30 pm** at Port Noir Wine in Lockport (900 S State St, Lockport.) We will have a sign up sheet in the Welcome Room. If you have local dinner location ideas please pass them onto Maria Dziubczynski.

FAIRMONT PARTNERSHIP

I want to thank all of you for the way you have so quickly embraced our partnership with Fairmont School in Lockport. We just started this partnership before Christmas, and already we have collected school supplies, personal care items, and lots and lots of books, provided some families with Christmas gifts, and volunteered at two school-wide events. And that's on top of the eight to ten people (and one dog) who go to Fairmont regularly to help in the classrooms and library, to read to kids, to organize rooms, and to work with parents on their English skills. We have heard nothing but wonderful comments from the kids and staff at Fairmont, and hope to expand our partnership next fall, both in terms of what we do and how many are involved. We will also be doing more to connect with the families in the Fairmont community over the summer through our mobile free little library and other events.

And during May I hope to have one more visit to the teachers at Fairmont to thank them for the work they've put in all year with the kids and families. Look for more on that thank-you visit in the next few weeks. For right now, however, I want to make sure you all know how awesome you all are. God is working big-time through all of you. **Way to go COG!!!!!!**

SuperHeroes VBS - JULY 9 -12

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!! 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 sheets are in the welcome area and online. 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.

A PARADE IN MAY (AND 3 MORE IN JUNE)

Guess what? New Lenox has a parade in May. Guess what else? Cross of Glory is going to be in it. The parade is a big one and we'll be walking with our Cross of Glory sign advertising our upcoming SuperHero VBS. We'll hand out candy and flyers (and you are welcome to dress as a super hero if you want). The weather should be perfect and this is a great chance to get some exercise and show people in New Lenox what a fun church Cross of Glory is. If you have any questions about the New Lenox parade, please contact Dana O'Brien.

The New Lenox parade is the first of four parades we'll be participating in this summer. Lockport's Canal Days parade is Friday, June 15 at 6 pm. The Homer Township

parade is a week later on Saturday, June 23 at 11 am. And then on Sunday, June 24, we will again be part of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches marching in the Chicago Pride Parade. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to publicly proclaim what we believe. Look for further details on all the June parades in next month's newsletter.

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE

March 2018

Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$ 55,675.00
Other	\$ 14,734.00
Total	\$ 70,409.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$ 23,638.00
Staff	\$ 37,960.00
Sharing	\$ 4,464.00
Ministries	\$ 6,951.00
Total	\$ 73,013.00
Income/Loss	\$(2,604.00)

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



May 17th from 3:00 to 7:00 pm
at Cross of Glory! Call to set up an appt, but walk ins are welcome. (708) 301-3883

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL

Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883



May is our last month of school. We are learning about Spring, now that it's finally here, and the changes going on outside. We finished our ABC's individually and we're making our own ABC books to help us remember our letters and their sounds, throughout the summer. We had our unit on Community Workers and had a hair stylist, nurse and firefighter visit our classroom. Our students had a wonderful time with the community helpers unit. We will have our end of the year party in May and we have a graduation ceremony on May 25th. We can't believe the school year is already coming to an end!

We have our Little Caesars pizza fundraiser going on now. There are some order forms in the welcome area if anyone is interested in ordering pizza kits. Pizza orders are due on May 7th and pizzas are delivered on May 16th.

Thanks to all the families that joined our Preschool Sunday, April 22. The children sang some songs and the congregation loved it!

www.Crossofglory.com/preschool (website)
The Welcome Place Preschool (Facebook)
