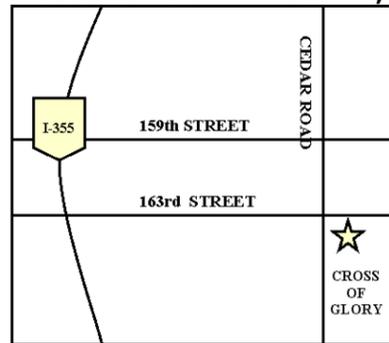




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 65
Lockport, Illinois
60441
U.S. Postage Paid
Dated Material

Return Service Requested

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

14719 West 163rd Street
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491
(708) 301-6998



www.CrossofGlory.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



JULY 2018



Dana O'Brien,
Pastor

What Sunday Worship Looks Like in July

I know that many of us are in the midst of vacations and family gatherings, but we've got a lot going on at COG on Sunday mornings that you don't want to miss. Here's what worship will look like during July:

Sunday, July 1: We celebrate July birthdays and look at what our faith has to do with the movies, as we watch parts of the movie Coco (and munch on some popcorn as well).

Sunday, July 8: It's our first outdoor worship of the summer as we once again reaffirm our baptisms with some water in swimming pools. And don't forget to stay for brunch after worship.

Sunday, July 15: VBS Celebration Sunday. We'll look at some VBS faith superheroes and hear some God stories from our week of VBS. And then come back at 6 pm for Summer Sundays with After the Rain.

Sunday July 22: Todd Mizera preaches based on the game show Name That Tune. We're also encouraging everyone to bring friends, and we'll enjoy sundaes after worship. Yes, it's "Sundae Sunday!"

Sunday, July 29: Our final movie Sunday of the summer. Join us as we watch parts of a movie and look at what our faith has to do with our everyday lives. We'll also celebrate August birthdays.

I hope you are able to join us on Sunday mornings for worship. These are all wonderful opportunities to see our faith impacting different parts of our lives, as we continue our summer sermon series What's Faith God to do With It . . .

Wednesday Worship Continues Through July

Don't forget, we also worship on Wednesdays at 6:30. Wednesday worship is for people who can't make it on Sunday (or for people who just like to worship a lot). Our focus is on prayer, but we often diverge to address current issues that impact our faith and community.

Thanks to Everyone for Being Involved in Our Summer Ministries!

Many congregations slow down during the summer months. However, as you may have noticed, that's not how things work at Cross of Glory. Here, we actually get busier over the summer, as we ramp up both our activities out in the community and what we've got going on here at Cross of Glory. So far during the summer, we've added Wednesday worship, had our first Summer Sunday, and participated in four parades and one festival. And it keeps going in July when we have our weeklong Vacation Bible School and we partner with the Homer Glen Parks and Rec for Chalk Fest.

I know lots of you are really busy in the summer as well, so a HUGE THANKS to all of you who have made time to participate in any of our COG summer ministries. Please know you are making a difference in the lives of people in our community. And, of course, here's the really cool thing - participation makes a positive difference in our lives as well!

**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



**SUMMER SUNDAY
JULY 15th at 6:00 PM**

Live Music - After the Rain



Food

Lawn Games for the Kids (and adults)

We are grilling out, so you are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert, a lawn chair, and a couple of friends!

In case of inclement weather the event will move indoors.

**Pet Blessing on Sunday
August 6th at 9:30 AM**

One of our most popular summer services is coming up. Bring all your animal friends, and tell all your people friends about Cross of Glory's second annual pet blessing on Sunday August 6. Don't miss it - every pet wants a blessing (and a treat)!! The service will be held **Outdoors.**



Blessing of the Animals

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 Barczi, 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

Can You Help With Our Kids' Games At Chalk Fest On July 14

We have another great opportunity to get out into the community in July. Cross of Glory will be hosting our free kids' games at Chalk Fest on Saturday, July 14. This first annual event takes place in Stonebridge Park, just east of Cross of Glory from 10 - 12:30. We'll have the games and bubbles, but need volunteers to make this work. (This is the first time we're partnering with the Homer Glen Parks and Recreation Committee, and I'd like a good showing of volunteers.) A sign-up sheet is on the welcome table.

And if you or anyone you know is a chalk artist, go ahead and enter the chalk art contest which will feature prizes awarded for different age categories.

Your Chance to Participate in SuperHeroes VBS

SuperHeroes Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. Our weeklong VBS, which runs from July 9 through July 12, 2018, is one of our largest community events of the entire year. (Right now, we have over 110 kids signed up, and that number will increase before we start.) Each morning, from 8:30 to 11:30, the kids will gather for a fun adventure focusing on different Superheroes (Spiderman, Wonder Woman, Paw Patrol and Captain America), which are each tied to a biblical theme and a bible story.

This year we have a wonderful problem - we have so many kids, that we need more volunteers than in prior years. (Yes, this is an amazingly cool problem to have!!!) So if you or someone you know (adult or teenager) would like to work with kids for four mornings in July, this is an opportunity you

don't want to pass up. Please contact Laura in the office if you'd like to help. (This is a great way to get service credit for kids who need it for school).

Let's Avoid the Summer Giving Slump

As in many/most congregations, here at COG vacations and other summer commitments result in a big fall off in both our attendance and financial giving during the summer months. While enjoying downtime and vacations are really important, here are a couple of ways you can all help us keep our ministries strong during the summer:

- First, when you are in town, we love to see you at worship on Sunday morning (or Wednesday evening) and involved in whatever ministry you feel called to. So if you can make it, please join us.
- Second, please keep your financial contributions coming even when you're away. One really easy way to do this is by signing up for automatic giving. Or if you'd prefer, you can now give via text. (Simply text 708-540-2650 and follow the instructions.) The Give+ app is also available for your phones and tablets. You can always get more information about one-time and recurring giving options by going to our website (<https://crossofglory.com/donate/giving/>). Or you can call Laura in the office and she can help set you up.

Financially contributing to Cross of Glory is a terrific way to participate in the many ministries going on here. Your contributions enable us to make a difference in the lives of our members and in our community.

Pride 2018: A Reflection By Lisa O'Malley

This year was the 4th time Mike and I joined Cross of Glory and the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches at Chicago's annual Pride Parade. Every time we go I think it won't be as good or as impactful as the previous time. Every time I'm wrong. I think every time has its own uniqueness and is special in my heart for different reasons. This time I was thrilled that our Pastor was joining us as we've never had one come with before. I was thinking of what she would encounter and was so excited for her. It was amazing to see the parade through her eyes both as my Pastor and my friend. The thing that gets me every year is the sound of the crowd rising as the group of church members marches by. People thank you. People cheer at the fact that Jesus does indeed love everyone. People get very emotional when they see clergy marching and supporting the LGBTQ community. Pastor Dana disappeared pretty quickly from our group and made a beeline for the crowd and proceeded to high five people the entire 4 miles. Dan Murtaugh wasn't far behind! She is a force to be reckoned with in case you haven't noticed! Many in the LGBTQ community are looking for support and love and acceptance. This parade offers those things. It's very humbling to witness actual love in action, right in front of you.

Every year there is a worship service sponsored by the Coalition before the parade starts. This year it was held indoors at the Lighthouse Church of Chicago. This service was energetic and pumped us all up for the parade. We met great people there and I would love for us to meet up with them in some way in the future. This is a not-to-be-missed experience; please consider joining us next year. I love our church because we talk the talk and walk the walk, faith in action! It's such an easy thing to give someone, offering love and a place to worship.

Sunday, July 22nd is Invite a Friend Sunday

If you've got a friend or two that you've been planning to invite, now is a terrific time to do that. (And if you don't have anyone to invite, get out there and find someone.) We are always talking about how people we know are looking to encounter God in a welcoming and affirming place. Well, Sunday, July 22 is the day to help them do exactly that. During worship, we'll be playing Name That Tune and talking about our faith in the world -- just perfect for a first-time visitor. And it is also "Sundae Sunday," so we'll have ice cream and sundaes after the service.

I constantly hear people at COG saying, "I know so-and-so (fill in the names of neighbors, co-workers, friends,

etc.) would love it here at Cross of Glory." Well, Sunday, July 22 is the ideal time to bring them along to worship. (And for all of you who are continually telling me about so-and-so who "used" to worship at COG, this is also a great time to invite them back.) If we feel that we have something special here at COG - which I believe we do -- now is the time to share that with people we know.

Let's all invite others to be a part of what God is doing here. It is simply too good to keep to ourselves!!

Join us for a Slammers Game on Saturday, July 28

We have tickets for the Joliet Slammers game on July 28. The game starts at 6:05 and there will be fireworks afterward. Please sign up for your tickets, which cost only \$8 on the sign-up sheet on the welcome table. The deadline for signing up is July 15.

Monday Evening Youth Events

During July, our youth in 6th - 12th grades are invited to meet every other Monday night at 6:30 here at Cross of Glory, July 2, 16, and 30. Some Mondays involve gathering for fun and games (like water-game night coming up soon) and other times they help out in the community. (Last month, they all went to pack meals at Feed our Starving Children, which is always a wonderful experience.) And every time they meet, they talk and learn about how God is always working in their lives. Everyone is welcome, and summer is a great time to start coming. You can call Laura in the office if you have any questions about our summer youth group.

**CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE
May 2018**

Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$ 92,072.00
Other	\$ 19,286.00
Total	\$111,358.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$ 46,098.00
Staff	\$ 62,018.00
Sharing	\$ 12,731.00
Ministries	\$ 8,229.00
Total	\$ 129,076.00
Income/Loss	\$ (12,351.00)

 ★
 ★ **THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL** ★
 ★ (708) 301-3883 ★
 ★ OPEN HOUSE ★
 ★ THURSDAY, AUGUST 16th ★
 ★ 4:00 to 6:00 pm ★
 ★
 ★ www.Crossofglory.com/preschool (website) ★
 ★
