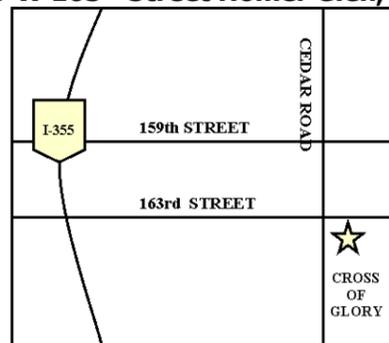




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



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Homer Glen, Illinois 60491
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www.CrossofGlory.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



JUNE 2018



Dana O'Brien,
Pastor

OUR SUMMER WELCOME—TIME TO RAMP IT UP

I love summer. I love how the warm weather seems to propel us all outside. And I love the opportunities it provides to take our Cross of Glory ministries out into the community. Our summer VBS in July, monthly music and potlucks on Sunday evenings, participating in parades and other local festivals, our own Family Festival in the fall - all opportunities to live as a welcoming church in our neighborhoods.

And not only are we out in the community more, but our summer worship services are all designed to be fun opportunities to both encounter God and to explore where we see God in our daily lives. They are also perfect occasions for us to invite friends and family to get a taste of who we are at Cross of Glory. So here are a couple of thoughts regarding how to ramp up our welcome in the summer.

First, it helps if all of us come to worship when we are able. I know lots of us take off on vacations and have other commitments, but when you are in town, we love to see you at worship on Sunday morning (or Wednesday evening). Believe it or not, we miss you when you're not around.

Second, our summer Sunday worship services are great for inviting friends. Pretty much everyone likes movies, and has fun watching game shows. We all know lots of people with pets, and people who like to use their smart phones. Consider who you can invite to one of our worship services. Think about who you know who is looking for a place to belong or a more purposeful life, or who could benefit from being in relationship with the God who loves us. (Yes, that's pretty much everybody!) Now is the perfect time to invite people to Cross of Glory. And if Sunday morning is too challenging, then invite them to any of the other events we've got going during the summer.

Third, our Cross of Glory ministries are much busier in the summer. So if you are free, please sign up to participate in some of our events - march in a parade, or staff our kids' games, help out at a Sunday evening potluck, volunteer to help with VBS, or walk with our little library. These are great ways you can show people who we are at Cross of Glory and bring a little joy to people in our community.

Finally, use this opportunity to get to know the people in your own neighborhood. Invite your neighbors over, or just stop by when you see them outside. Jesus continually calls us to love our neighbors. It's hard to do that until we first know who are neighbors are.

SuperHeroes VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN JULY

SuperHeroes Vacation Bible School runs from July 9 through July 12 this year. Each morning, from 9:00 to noon, the kids will gather up for an over-the-top adventure as each day's activities will focus on different Superheroes (Spiderman, Wonder Woman, Paw Patrol and Captain America). Kids will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play games, make and enjoy yummy snacks, and test out Science-Fun Gizmos & Crafts. Registration is still open, but filling up fast, so if you know of anyone ages 4 through 5th grade, sign them up ASAP for this one-of-a-kind Bible adventure.

**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



**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



Bible Story
Adventures!

**THE WELCOME
PLACE PRESCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE
TUESDAY, JUNE 26
4:00 to 6:00 pm**

Bring your child to play in the classrooms while you get the opportunity to meet with the teachers!



Registration is open.
(708) 301-3883

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

THREE PARADES-JOIN US!

Again, this year, Cross of Glory will be participating in three parades this month! 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. We plan to have representatives of COG and the Welcome Place Preschool traveling in both parades on a trailer all decked out to advertise our upcoming SuperHero VBS. We'll hand out candy and flyers for VBS and the Preschool. However, we need people to commit to being in the parades and we need someone to pull the trailer on the 15th and 23rd. Please contact Dana O'Brien if you can help.

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. Dan Skowron is taking the lead on this one, so contact him if you have any questions.

There are sign-up sheets in the welcome area. Please sign-up to help. These parades are always lots of fun and a great way to help us become more visible in our community.

COG KIDS' GAMES AT CHALK FEST ON JULY 14th

Cross of Glory will be hosting our free kids' games at the first annual Chalk Fest in Stonebridge Park from 10-12:30 on Saturday, July 14. 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. Please sign-up to help with our games. This is the first time we're partnering with the Homer Glen Parks and Recreation Committee,

so we'd like a good turnout.

MOKENA PRIDE FEST

On Sunday, June 10, Cross of Glory is participating in the Mokena Pride Fest, sponsored by Southwest Suburban Activists. Pride Fest celebrates the LGBTQ presence in our community with an educational and fun event being held at Yunker Farm from 11 to 5 pm. Our kids games will be present at the event from 12:30 to 4:30 and our bands will be playing from 2 -2:30 and again from 3:30 to 4:15. Come and join us, have some fun, and show your support for the LGBTQ community. (And we can always use more volunteers for the kids games -- the more volunteers we have, the more kids games we have out.)

ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP BEGINS

An adoption support group is starting here at Cross of Glory. It will meet on the second Monday of each month, starting at 6:30 pm. The group's first meeting is **Monday, June 11th**. Anyone with questions, advice, stories, and/or resources is welcome. If you, or anyone you know, needs adoption support or wants to give support, please come. You can email the group at asg@crossofglory.com

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE STORY

Congratulations to everyone who stuck with us through most or all of our 21 Old Testament chapters in *The Story*. We finished on Sunday, June 3 and will now take a break for the summer. We'll begin again with the New Testament at the end of August. We have more copies of *The Story*, so if you haven't been reading along, this will be a great time to jump in.

WHAT'S COMING UP THIS SUMMER . . .

With summer weather here, many of us are looking forward to vacations and summer gatherings with family and friends. We've also got a lot to look forward to at Cross of Glory. Mark your calendars for the following:

Wednesday Worship (starting June 13) - at 6:30 every Wednesday during the summer (except Wednesday, July 4) we're gathering to worship here at Cross of Glory. This worship is intended both for those who can't make it on Sunday and for people who just like to worship mid-week. Like all our services, Wednesday worship features singing, communion, and a whole lot of God.

Summer Sundays (June 24, July 15, and August 19) - Again this year we're bringing back Sunday evening music and food at COG. However, because of the timing this year, we're calling them "Summer Sundays" instead of "Second Sundays". We'll have a different band each month and a potluck meal. If we can find people who want to grill, we'll also provide something off the grill each night. Summer Sundays start at 6 pm and are perfect opportunities to invite your neighbors for a fun and relaxing evening.

VBS (July 9 - 12) - a week of fun and learning, based on SuperHero stories.

Our Summer Sermon Series - "What's Faith Got to Do With It?" "Each Sunday, we'll look at a different way our faith connects to our every day life. Like last year, we'll have a couple of movie Sundays, an outdoor affirmation of baptism, and our annual pet blessing (on Sunday, August 5). This year we also have a couple of new experiences, including some game show Sundays and a social media Sunday where we look at how technology can enhance our own faith life and help share us share our faith with others. (Make sure you bring your smart phone on Sunday, June 24.) Check out our Cross of Glory website for a full description of what's happening when.

FAIRMONT MINISTRY ENCOURAGEMENT VIST AND OTHER FAIRMONT EVENTS

Our ministry of encouragement visit to the staff at Fairmont in May went very well. Thanks to all of you who went along and/or brought food to share. The staff was really happy to see us. (As you all know, these are some tough jobs, and many of the staff members

don't receive a lot of appreciation for what they do. So our visit and certificate of thanks was powerfully received.)

INTERFAITH OPPORTUNITY TO WALK WITH DETAINED IMMIGRANTS

For awhile now, here at Cross of Glory, we've been considering how we can make a difference in the lives of local immigrants. A Chicago interfaith organization is looking for volunteers to participate in its visitation ministry to detained immigrants in the Kankakee jail. This ministry involves going to the jail with a group of other volunteers one Wednesday morning per month and providing a listening ear to detained immigrants who would like to talk with someone. If you think you might be interested in this ministry, contact Pastor Dana.

DANA'S THURSDAY NIGHT PICKLEBALL

Back in the February Newsletter, I mentioned that I got a portable pickleball set and was looking for people to play indoors at COG. I didn't get any takers, so my set is still in pristine shape and I really want to use it. So I'm trying again. On both **Thursday, June 14** and **Thursday, June 28** I will be at COG at 6:30 pm to play outdoor pickleball with anyone who wants to play. I have extra paddles, so you don't need to bring anything, and if you don't know how to play, I'd be glad to teach you.

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE April 2018

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Income | Year to Date |
| Offering | \$ 77,158.00 |
| Other | \$ 19,786.00 |
| Total | \$ 96,944.00 |
| Expenses | |
| General/Building | \$ 35,168.00 |
| Staff | \$ 53,766.00 |
| Sharing | \$ 8,636.00 |
| Ministries | \$ 7,705.00 |
| Total | \$ 105,275.00 |
| Income/Loss | \$(8,331.00) |

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL



Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883

OPEN HOUSE
TUESDAY, JUNE 26th
4:00 to 6:00 pm

We still have some spots open for the Fall session. Classes will start the week of September 4th.

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