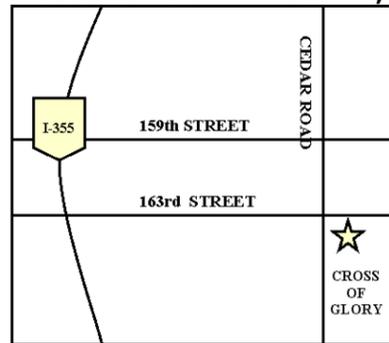




14719 W 163<sup>rd</sup> Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



Join Us  
Sundays 9:30 am  
You Are Welcome Here!



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(708) 301-6998



www.CrossofGlory.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



SEPTEMBER 2018

**Saturday, September 15 -- COG's Family Fest**

Our annual Free Fun Festival is coming up in just two weeks. And while we've had some great festivals the last two years, this one is going to be even bigger and better because it will be outside. (I'm absolutely certain that we'll have good weather this year, so we'll be outside. There's absolutely no way it will rain three years in a row.)

This free festival, which goes from 2 to 6 on Saturday, September 15, is our way of thanking the community around us. In addition to live music and great food, we anticipate lots of fun activities like games, face painting, bubbles, and other fun stuff. (This year we also hope to have a prayer tent and a place where people can get information about Cross of Glory.)

And because we're planning so many fun activities, **there are lots of opportunities for all of us to help.** We need people to help in advance by putting out yard signs and handing out flyers. And we also need lots of help on the day of the event. So please either call the office or sign up on the volunteer sheets on the welcome table if you can help.

**Thanks To All Of You!!!**

It's hard to believe, but I've already been here two years. (I know - for some of you it may seem a lot longer . . .) But please know this - there is not a day that goes by that I don't give thanks for all of you - this amazing group of talented, generous, crazy, grace-filled, risk-taking Jesus followers who call Cross of Glory home. You continually blow me away by how willing you all are to try new things and to be God's hands and feet in this community (and even in far-away places like San Miguel de Allende, Mexico). So as summer draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for all the ministries we had going on this summer. (And I know I say this a lot, but that's because it is so true -- while most congregations are taking it easy in summer, we are ramping up our ministries to get out into the community as much as possible.)

So think back over all we've done over the last few months. We had an amazing week at Superhero VBS this year - where over 110 kids and 40 volunteers had a God-filled time of fun and learning and raised over \$1500 for the kids at Fairmont School. We also got ourselves outside with our participation in three local parades, the Pride Parade in Chicago, an outdoor pet blessing and baptism affirmation, our Summer Sunday nights of food and wonderful music, our trip to the Slammers game, our little free library and ice pops at the Fairmont Food Pantry, and our summer youth events (which included a cool bonfire and neighborhood scavenger hunt to collect for the food pantry). We started a new adoption support group and partnered with other organizations to help at Mokena's Pride Fest, Homer Township's Chalk-It-Up, and Lockport's National Night Out. And that's on top of all the usual stuff we do - Sunday worship (with lots of music and other participation), mid-week worship, Kids' Klub, book club, women's and men's groups, brunches and dinners with friends, bible studies, yoga classes . . . and all the other stuff we do as I congregation that I haven't mentioned. And maybe most importantly, there's the way all of you live your faith on a daily basis at work and school and wherever you happen to be.

We know, that none of this happens without God working in all of you to make it happen.

Continued on page 2...

**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](mailto:laura@crossofglory.com)



CrossofGlory.com



**FREE FALL FEST**

Saturday, September 15th

2:00 PM

Live Music, Food,  
Family Friendly Activities  
Fun For All Ages!



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

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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

Cont. from page 1...

Thanks To All Of You!!!

So as I finish my second year here, I want to thank you all for being God's people in this place. I am so blessed to be a part of all of you who call yourselves Cross of Glory Church!

Confirmation Starts Sept 30

Cross of Glory offers a two-year confirmation program - during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This year's program starts on Sunday September 30. Right now, our young people meet after worship on certain Sundays to explore their relationship with God in today's world. More information is going out to the young people we know about in that age group, but if you know someone going into 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade who wants to participate, you can call the office to sign them up.

Preschool Starting Soon

The teachers and kids are really excited for another year at our Welcome Place Preschool. Although the numbers may change a bit, we currently have 14 three-year olds and 26 four-year olds signed up. This year, the four year olds will have an additional half hour per day, which means more music, more gross motor activities and more educational opportunities!

Our preschool is one of our ministries that has a huge impact on local kids and families, and we'd love you to be a part of it. If you have a skill or story you'd like to share with the kids, or would like to be involved with our preschool in any way, please contact Jamie at [Jamie@thewelcomeplace.org](mailto:Jamie@thewelcomeplace.org). And be sure to welcome preschool families to worship on Preschool Sunday, coming up on Sept 30.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th  
FROM 3-7 PM

What's Coming Up on Sundays:

Throughout September and the first half of October, we'll be focused on the New Testament in *The Story*. We'll be looking at Jesus' life and the early church and how all that is so relevant to the church today. In addition, we've got some other stuff coming up on Sundays in September.

- **September Birthdays on Sept 2:** Not only will we sing a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday, but we'll also celebrate with some cake.
- **Brunch and T-Shirts on Sept 9.** We'll have brunch after the service, so please bring something to share if you can. We'll also be selling Cross of Glory t-shirts - they'll be hot sellers, so you'll want to get one for the Festival.
- **Celebrate our Family Fest on Sept 16.** We'll be celebrating the terrific festival we hosted for the community the day before. Join us as we eat all the leftovers.
- **Noisy Offering on Sept 23.** We're collecting for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. They do some great work right in our neighborhood.
- **Preschool Sunday on Sept 30:** This is the first of two Sundays this year that all our preschool kids and families will be invited to worship. The preschool kids will sing some songs and we'll have a fun service geared toward children of all ages. (After all, aren't we all kids at heart?)



Our Special Congregational Meeting

Thanks to all of you who attended our special congregational meeting in early August, and thanks to Bill Nabors for doing a great job leading it and moving us forward. For those of you who weren't there, here are the highlights of what happened:

We discussed some of the financial challenges we're currently facing. Suffice it to say, that summer and early fall are a particularly tough time for us. And our normal financial challenges are exacerbated by the age of our building and the need to replace our four HVAC units (that heat and cool the building) over the next couple of years. Indeed, one needs to be replaced now, so the congregation authorized its replacement, as well as expending some money to repave and repair our parking lot.

We also discussed the possibility of selling some of our unused land, both to bolster our financial situation and to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.

And some really good news - during the meeting we indicated that our preschool was expected to have a deficit this coming year. However, because of recent enrollments, this ministry is now projected to be in the black! Another example of how God acts in amazing ways to enable us to be God's hands and feet in this community!!

How We Can All Help COG Get Over

Our Summer Slump

You've all heard this before, but just as with most congregations, summer is a pretty financially challenging time at Cross of Glory, with many of us away to enjoy the great weather and time off. (In fact, it's such a common thing among congregations, that it actually has a name - it's called the "summer slump.") But what's kind of unique here at COG is that our "summer slump" continues into mid-October, a little longer than most other congregations.

While I certainly don't want any of us to miss out on the fun places to visit around here, I do want to encourage us all to worship on Sunday morning when we're in town and to continue to keep up our regular giving, even on weekends we are away. Both our presence and giving are opportunities for us to be involved in all the things God is doing here at Cross of Glory. And I sure don't want any of us to miss out on that either!

Capital Campaign Coming in Spring 2019

Anyone who has been in our Cross of Glory building knows that it was never intended to be only for worship on Sunday. Instead it was designed by to be used throughout the week by both the congregation and the community. This building is key to our many COG ministries and community involvement. It is also getting to the point where we need to make some capital improvements. So in spring of 2019, we'll be having a capital campaign, involving multi-year pledges similar to the one we had when the building was first constructed. The campaign will help us pay down our mortgage and establish a fund to pay for needed capital improvements (like new HVAC units). The Northern Illinois Synod will be helping us with this campaign, and Kurt Nordby, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod for Stewardship and Development, will head it up. We are also looking for some COG people to lead by being a part of the capital campaign team. If you believe God may be calling you to be a part of this team, please contact Pastor Dana.

Monday Movies are Back

On Monday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, Movie Mondays are back at 7:00 pm! All are invited at Dana's house (16759 West Sioux Drive in Lockport) to watch the first Mamma Mia movie. Remember, there's always room for one more friend - so bring one along.

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE  
July 2018

Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$ 129,031.00
Other	\$ 34,044.00
Total	\$ 163,075.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$ 66,444.00
Staff	\$ 88,291.00
Sharing	\$ 16,882.00
Ministries	\$ 9,099.00
Total	\$ 180,716.00
Income/Loss	\$ (17,641.00)

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**THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL**  

**Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883**  
 So very excited for school to be starting this month! We just had our orientation for all the students and parents. There are just a couple spots still open in the program.  
 Preschool Sunday will be on Sept 30th at the 9:30 am worship service. Come hear them share a couple songs.  
[www.crossofglory.com/preschool](http://www.crossofglory.com/preschool) (website)  
 The Welcome Place Preschool (Facebook)

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