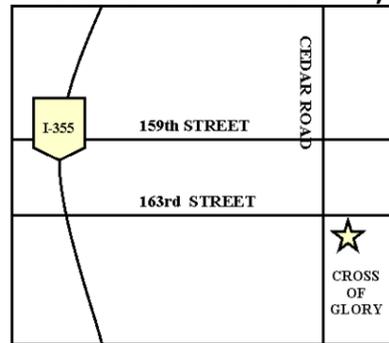




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



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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



DECEMBER 2018

Coming Up - The Advent Conspiracy

This year, we'll be celebrating Advent a bit differently. We'll be joining the Advent Conspiracy, a countercultural movement that counters the role of consumerism so prevalent at Christmas. The Advent Conspiracy encourages us to spend this time before Christmas focused less on consumption, and more on four principles I'm guessing are pretty consistent with how Jesus might celebrate the holiday if he were physically here today.

On Sunday, December 2, we'll look at what it means to worship God fully during the Christmas season. On the following Sunday, we'll explore why we might want to spend less money on gifts this year and instead focus more on relationships and giving ourselves to those we love. On December 16, we take time to watch our kids Christmas play, and then on our last Sunday in Advent, December 23, we look at what it means to love all this Christmas season, especially the poor, the sick, and those often forgotten in the business of the holiday season. By switching our focus this year, I guarantee that we'll have a Christmas worth remembering.

Thanks for the Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanks to all of you who brought food and/or stayed after worship to pack our Thanksgiving baskets for people in need. (A special thanks to the cub scouts, who brought a huge amount of food this year!!!) Because we had so much food, we were able to pack 31 boxes of food and fill each box with more food than in the past. We also provided each family with a \$25 gift card to buy turkeys and other Thanksgiving supplies. And because we had so much food, we also brought lots of food to the Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration to be shared between the Fairmont Community and Lockport FISH food pantries. What a terrific example of how our God provides abundantly - and how God often does that through us!

More Thanks

In this season of thanksgiving, we also give thanks for the repaving of our parking lot (which looks almost new), and for the new HVAC unit (which replaced one that was on its last legs). And we give thanks to all of you because we have money to pay for both of those unexpected and significant capital improvements! That's huge -- if these expenses had occurred last year at this time, I could not have said that. It's definitely a God thing!

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Monday, December 24th ~ Christmas Eve

Like last year, this year, we'll have two Barn Services on Christmas Eve, as well as our late evening service at 11:00 pm

4:00 and 6:00 Barn Services: Special music, candle-lighting, and Holy Communion -- a wonderful service for families and guests. The barn is heated but please dress warmly. (Also there are **no** restrooms in the barn, so plan accordingly.) Konow Farm: 16849 S Cedar Rd, Homer Glen

11:00 pm Service: Welcome Christmas with memorable special music, candle-lighting and Holy Communion. A very reflective service.

Tuesday, December 25th ~ Christmas Morning

9:30 am: Come as you are, anything from pajamas to your newest outfit!

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



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4 & 6 pm Barn Services at Konow's Farm
11 pm Candle Light Service



CHRISTMAS DAY ~ DECEMBER 25th
9:30 AM

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

See details of these services on the front page

*****FREE FREE FREE*****

Visit with Santa Claus
Saturday, December 8th
10:00 am to 1:00 pm



Treats
Holiday Crafts
Games

And of course a FREE Photo with Santa Claus

Everyone is Welcome!
Invite your Family & Friends
Volunteers Needed

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

New Welcome Table

For years, you've heard us say that "information is on the Welcome Table," which in the past has meant that it's on one of our long white foldout tables. Not anymore! Now we have a real "Welcome Table" - a ten foot long oak table on which you'll find information on pretty much everything going on at Cross of Glory. A big thanks to Bill Martin for giving us the table (and for getting it here and set up)!

Advent Devotionals Now Available

This year there are two new Advent books available -- *Our Family Christmas Devotional*, (which starts November 28 and includes a short devotional for each day, as well as a daily family activity and Christmas carol), and a short book (which is not a daily devotional) about the historical aspects of Christmas story for people who want to try something a bit different this year -- *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*.

We also have a few copies of our devotionals from last year -- *Welcome Baby Jesus* (intended for families with kids), and *God Bless Us Every One!* (based on Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*). We encourage every family to take one - they are wonderful ways to celebrate the coming of Christmas each day.

Advent Calendars

Family Advent calendars from ELCA World Hunger are available on the Welcome Table. Through bible passages, songs and suggested actions, they contain daily reminders of how we can follow Jesus and change the world.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!
JESUS CHRIST IS
LORD!**

Invite Your Friends

This is a terrific time of the year to introduce your friends to some of the wonderful Christmas traditions we have here at Cross of Glory. So consider bringing a neighbor or co-worker along to the movies or caroling or any of the Wednesday meals or Sunday services. And don't forget to invite everyone you know to Visit with Santa on Saturday, December 8.

Monday Christmas Movies

Watch classic Christmas movies at Pastor Dana's home during December. Each movie starts at 7pm, and we'll have snacks and beverages as well. Bring a friend!

- Dec 3 -- The Bishop's Wife
- Dec 10 -- A Christmas Carol
- Dec 17 -- It's a Wonderful Life

Dashboard Saints Christmas

Saturday, Dec 15th 7-10 pm

This is a fun night to gather together with friends - old and new. Enjoy live music. Sing along with some Christmas Carols. You are welcome to bring a small appetizer and/or dessert to share. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors.

2019 Commitment Cards

Sunday, Dec 2, is the day we're all invited to return our 2019 commitment cards during the worship service. These cards reflect our financial, spiritual, and time commitments to God through Cross of Glory for next year, and are a wonderful way for each of us to say that we're "all in." If you haven't received a commitment card and cover letter, but want to commit to be a part of what God is doing here, please contact the office. If you have any questions about the many ministries going on at COG and how we can all be a part of that, Pastor Dana would love to chat with you.

Kids' Christmas Play on December 16

Our worship service on Sunday, December 17 will feature the kids Christmas play. This year, our play is The Noisy Night, the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of the animals. As always, we have spots for as many kids as want to participate. Practices are on Sunday mornings during Kids' Klub. This will be a really creative way to hear the story of our Savior's birth.

Advent Wednesdays - Celebrate our Traditions

At 6 to 7pm on Wednesdays, Nov 28, Dec 5 and 12, we will come together as a community of faith for a meal and then a look at some of our Christmas/Advent traditions. While we do have themes for each Wednesday meal, we know that weeknights are pretty rushed, so feel free to bring anything easy to prepare. And since we'll be looking at different Christmas and Advent traditions, you are always welcome to bring a traditional Christmas dish. If you have a cultural or family Christmas/Advent tradition you'd like to share, please contact Dana O'Brien or Todd Mizera.

Nov 28 - Chili

Dec 5 - Something with Christmas colors - red and/or green

Dec 12 - Your favorite meal

Blue Christmas Worship

Thursday, December 20th at 7:00pm

On the longest night of the year, we are holding a contemplative community service for everyone who may be struggling during the holidays due to grief, loneliness or any kind of loss. This is a difficult time for many, so please tell your friends about this service.

Christmas Caroling

This year's caroling will be on *Wednesday, December 19*. We're trying out different neighborhoods each year, and this year we'll gather at Dana O'Brien's house at 6:30, then head out into the neighborhood to sing Christmas carols. After we've delighted the neighbors, we'll return for some treats. Everyone is welcome - no singing talent necessary!

Our Angel Giving Tree

Don't forget - our Angel Giving Tree goes up right after Thanksgiving and will be filled with information about local children who are facing some challenging times this Christmas. This year, our tree will be filled with tags containing information about kids provided to us by our local DCFS and some from Fairmont School. *Please return the gifts all wrapped with the tag attached to them by Sunday, December 16.*



Christmas Giving through Barnyard Animal Ornaments

After all the names on our angel tree are taken, we'll put up barnyard animal ornaments from the ELCA Good Gifts Program. These cute ornaments are great stocking stuffers. You just take one (or two, or three . . .) and then send the specified amount to the ELCA directly on behalf of the person for whom you're buying the ornament. (If you'd prefer, you can give the money to COG and we'll forward it.) You keep the ornament to put on your own tree, or to give to the person on behalf of whom you're making the donation.



Poinsettia Orders

Don't forget to place your order by Dec 16th. Help to decorate our worship space for our Christmas services. The plants come in red or marble and are \$15 each. You can have your poinsettia made in remembrance or in honor of a special person in your life. Their names will be marked on the Christmas Eve program. Forms are available in the Welcome Room or contact the church

**CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE
October 2018**

Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$177,428.00
Other	<u>\$ 61,064.00</u>
Total	\$238,492.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$ 95,083.00
Staff	\$128,992.00
Sharing	\$ 20,389.00
Ministries	<u>\$ 10,174.00</u>
Total	\$ 254,638.00
Income/Loss	\$ (16,146.00)

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL

Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883



The children are practicing for their Christmas program. The program's will be on Dec 20th for the 3's and Dec 21st for the 4's. The families are very welcome to bring sweets or juice boxes to share after the Christmas program. This will be their last day at preschool until their return the week of Jan. 7th. Class parties are on Dec 13 & 14.

**We wish you all a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**

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