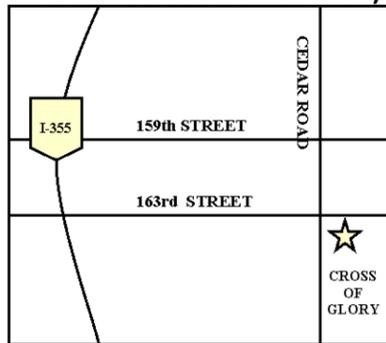




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



JANUARY 2019

Thanks for All You Did During Advent and Christmas This Year!!!

If you're anything like me, you were pretty tired this last week. The holidays take a lot out of you. And for us at Cross of Glory, some of that tiredness probably results from all the joy-filled and life-giving things we did during December. Here are some highlights:

- We started the month by participating in Homer Township's tree lighting, where our band performed and led the community in carols as the tree was lit, and we helped over 140 kids make craft items;
- One week later we held our own Visit with Santa event, at which over 30 COG volunteers helped more than 130 of our neighbors play games, make Christmas crafts, and visit with Santa (and everyone received free professional photos memorializing their Santa visit);
- Many of us celebrated Christmas a bit differently this year, by taking to heart the principles of the Advent Conspiracy - worship fully, spend less, give more and love all;
- During December, we read (and/or shared with friends and family) lots of advent devotional books and advent calendars;
- Some of us gathered to watch Christmas movies on Mondays before Christmas;
- We were out in the community doing a little caroling;
- The book club read and discussed Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*;
- The Dashboard Saints, and a lot of the rest of us, enjoyed a really fun night of singing Christmas songs with old and new friends;
- Under the direction of our wonderful Kids Klub volunteers, the children put on a terrific play telling the Christmas story through the eyes of some animals who witnessed the whole thing;
- We made the Christmas wishes of 109 kids from the community (both from Fairmont and DCFS) come true through our angel giving tree.
- We held a Blue Christmas service for those who were struggling during this holiday time.
- We gathered on three Wednesdays for meals, songs, and to learn about some Christmas traditions;
- The Welcome Place Preschool put on two Christmas programs all about the Colors of Christmas and had Christmas parties for each class
- We made a difference to lots of people we don't know, by contributing over \$1700 to the ELCA Good Gifts program through a combination of December's noisy offering and the purchase of Good Gift ornaments.
- We brought lots of our friends and families to worship during our three Christmas Eve services (and I can't say enough about the services in Konow's barn - they are always a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas);
- We then turned around and showed up again for Christmas morning worship as, with Linus and the Charlie Brown gang, we continued to celebrate the birth of our Lord;
- We gathered one more time to hear the story of Jesus' birth in songs, readings and video.

**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



(Continued onto Page 2)

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, February 5th

4:00 to 6:30 PM

- 4 year olds three days a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- 3 year olds two days a week: Tuesday & Thursday

Registration will also be open at the Open House

Interested and want more information?

Call (708) 301-3883

www.crossofglory.com/preschool

17 Years
In the
Community!



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

(Cont from Page 1)

And of course, none of this could have happened without the efforts of so many of you. Helping all those worship services run smoothly (well, as smoothly as anything runs here at COG), making sure everything was transported to and from the barn, planning and playing all the music, overseeing the fellowship and food, organizing the community events and the angel tree gifts, putting on the kids' Christmas plays and programs - pretty much all of us were involved in at least some part of making sure things happened around here.

But the truly amazing thing is that this list is only a little piece of all that you did last month to make the lives of those around you better, as you lived each day as God's church in our world. I haven't even mentioned all the gifts you bought, all the money you donated, all the time you spent helping others, all the kind words you shared, and the myriad of other ways (most of which I don't even know about) in which you blessed and freed and healed people each and every day during this Advent/Christmas season. Because as we all know, being church certainly has something to do with what we do here at COG, but it has so much more to do with who you are each and every day as you go about your daily lives. That's where God is constantly inviting us to partner with God in all the Kingdom things God is already out there doing. That's where we live as the disciples God calls us to be.

And for all that, I want to thank you. God is powerfully at work in this community of faith. And I trust that God's work will continue in and through us in 2019.

Teen Education For Lifelong Leadership (T.E.L.L)

T.E.L.L. is our educational program for youth from 6th - 12th grade. On Monday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. the youth spend time interacting with each other to experience God through games, food, and conversation. Our next session starts on this coming Monday, January 7. They will meet every Monday through the end of March, except for Jan 21st, Feb 18th, and March 4th.

An Epiphany House Blessing

Epiphany (January 6th) is the day we traditionally celebrate the Magi's visit to Jesus. It is also the day that many families gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and on those who live in or visit their homes by marking the wood above the door with chalk. Although not really well known in the US, this chalking of the door blessing is a centuries-old practice around the world.

The traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 19. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also stand for the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2019 is the year. (The blessing is done each year.) We'll have chalk and instructions available at worship on Sunday, January 6th so that you can do your own house blessing. Alternatively, Pastor Dana would be happy to come over any time during the month to bless your home.

Worship Volunteers

Would you like to help on Sunday mornings? Contact the office.

What's Coming Up on Sundays in January:

Here are some things to look forward to on upcoming Sundays:

- **Epiphany on January 6.** We'll finish off the Christmas season by looking at the visit of the wise men, Jesus' flight to Egypt, and immigrants and refugees in today's world. We'll also celebrate everyone with a January birthday and encourage house blessings this month.
- **New Sermon Series Begins on January 13.** This Sunday we begin our new sermon series on what it means to be an everyday follower of Jesus wherever we happen to be. We'll also have brunch after the service.
- **Pancake Breakfast on January 20:** We continue our look at daily discipleship and it's also noisy offering day. And the youth will be sponsoring a pancake breakfast after worship to raise money for their sponsorship of Amina through Compassion International.
- **Reconciling in Christ Sunday on January 27:** We look at what it means to be a welcoming congregation in the context of our sermon series on everyday discipleship.

Ash Wednesday "Asher" Volunteers Wanted

Last year, a couple of us got up early on Ash Wednesday and went to the New Lenox Metra station to offer ashes on the foreheads of commuters as they headed off to work. This year we'll stop by the Lockport Metra Station and do the same thing. If you would like to help on the morning of **Wednesday, March 6**, please contact Pastor Dana.

Calling Everyone Interested in Becoming a COG Member!

We'll be celebrating new members joining Cross of Glory during worship on February 3. If you think you may want to become a member or if you have any questions about Cross of Glory, please contact either Pastor Dana (danalobrien@gmail.com) or the office.

Living As Everyday Followers of Jesus

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus every day? Is it more than just worshipping on Sunday? How does it impact my life at work, with my family, when I'm on social media or out in public? Our next sermon series will focus on what it means to be a follower in every aspect of our lives. Please join us.

2019 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are available in the Welcome Room. Also, if you are interested in our online Simply Giving please contact Laura in the church office.

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

2019 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Sun, Feb 10, 2019 at 10:45 a.m., after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to celebrate what's been going on at COG during 2018, to elect two new council representatives, and to approve the 2019 budget. Because we do important things at our annual meeting, we want you all there. So we'll have a themed brunch and meeting. If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact any of our current council members or Pastor Dana.

Like last year, we'll also have a budget meeting after worship on Sunday, February 3rd. If you have any questions or comments about the 2019 budget, this is a wonderful opportunity to talk.

Community Blood Drive

Thursday, February 28th
3:00 to 7:00 pm



to set up an appointment or go online

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE
November 2018

Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$194,127.00
Other	\$ 67,426.00
Total	\$261,553.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$ 98,303.00
Staff	\$138,029.00
Sharing	\$ 28,323.00
Ministries	\$ 10,287.00
Total	\$ 274,942.00
Income/Loss	\$ (13,389.00)

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL

Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883



The children head back to school the week of Jan 7th. Always fun to hear the kids talk about their Christmas when they return.

The first planned Preschool Open House will be Tuesday, February 5th from 4-6:30 pm. Registration will be open at the open house. Be sure to share with your friends, families, and neighbors about The Welcome Place Preschool.

If there is a need to close the school due to weather please check our website and Facebook pages for updates.

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