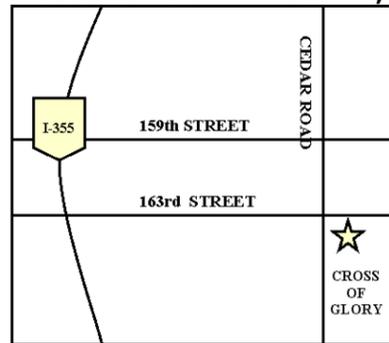




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www.CrossofGlory.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



FEBRUARY 2019

WHAT IF . . .

BY: Jeff Warner

Hey everybody, Jeff Warner here. I must admit it's been a long time since I wrote anything for the newsletter. So long in fact that this may be the first time many of you have ever heard anything other than assisting ministry from me. So just take a minute and follow along, it's important.

It's a common phrase in life. "What if." What if we go here first, what if we do that, what if we buy this, what if we don't do that. It's used every day by everybody. What if we spent some time and talked about "what if" for Cross of Glory. What if we could do more programs for kids? What if we could do more programs for seniors? What if we could make our building more available for the community? What if we could be better at social media and reach more people in need of a church home? What if we were able to better communicate our RIC status to our community? What if we were just able to do more?

So this month we are going to start talking about just that and how we get there. February 17 marks the start of a phrase that you will hear a lot in the coming weeks. "Embracing God's Vision" has a nice ring to it. And it's the theme for our upcoming capitol appeal. An important part of getting our "what ifs" turned into real things.

We are going to spend about eight weeks talking about where we are and where we want to go. Of how we can be a community of believers that helps more in the real world.

I hope and pray that you join me on the 17th and throughout this appeal to get us to a better place financially. A place where what if can become we can.

See you on the 17th.

WHAT'S COMING UP ON SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY:

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

New Member Sunday on February 3. Come and celebrate with us as we welcome new members in 2019. We'll also sing to everyone with a February birthday.

Annual Meeting on February 10 - Chili Cook-Off. Stay after worship for a special brunch and our annual meeting. We'll elect new council members, approve our 2019 budget, and celebrate all that God did in and through Cross of Glory in 2018. It's brunch Sunday, and we'll combine that with our Chili-Cook-Off. Enter your best chili and we'll vote for our favorites.

Embracing God's Vision Capital Appeal Starts on February 17: We begin our capital appeal to help pay down our mortgage and plan for needed capital improvements. But our capital appeal is just one part of how we will be Embracing God's Vision here at COG.

Discipleship with a Flair on February 24: We continue our discipleship sermon series as we look at what discipleship means in our daily lives. And save up your coins, because it's also noisy offering Sunday.

**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



THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, February 5th & April 23rd
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

Holy Communion Class

If you have a child in 2nd grade or older, this six week class on Holy Communion is for them. Communion is such an important part of our worship life here at Cross of Glory, so children in the class will learn about how and why we do it and what it means, all in a fun interactive setting. Classes take place on Monday nights, starting February 25 (which is the parent/student class). Contact the church office for details. Please register ASAP so we have a good head count.

New Members

On February 3, we'll be celebrating some new members joining Cross of Glory. They are Michelle and Nick Eckmayer, Laurie Freeman, Laura Stevenson, and Kathy Weishaar. We are so happy they are with us, so please take time to welcome them to our faith community.

Wednesday Night Soup Suppers During Lent

Mark you calendars -- on each of the Wednesdays in Lent (March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10) we'll gather for a soup supper and then spend some time in fellowship and worship. Meals start at 6 pm, and we're done around 7:15 (Look for sign-up sheets for everyone who wishes to bring soups, breads, desserts, etc. on the welcome table a few weeks before Lent.)

Pixar Movies Vacation Bible School Coming Up in July

Save the Dates -- Cross of Glory's VBS will take place starting Monday, July 8 through Thursday, July, 11. We'll meet from 9 to noon each day, and have an end-of-VBS family party on Thursday night. Our theme is Pixar Movies, so each day's activities will focus on a different Pixar movie.

Just like last year, we are

anticipating a really fun time and are super excited! So block out this week on your summer schedule and start telling your friends! (Every year, registration fills up faster, and we expect this summer to be no exception.) We are also looking for people to help out, so please contact the church office if you can help.

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.

Confirmation - Spring Session

Confirmation classes begin again, starting Sunday, Feb 24. As in the fall, classes will be held on Sundays after worship, and will go intermittently through spring. The young people in our confirmation class will be focusing on discipleship, by looking at Jesus in Luke's gospel. Typically students participate in two years of instruction (usually during 7th & 8th grades) before affirming their baptism. This takes place during the Rite of Confirmation, which occurs during worship in the fall. It's never too late to start, so please call the office if you wish your child to participate.

March Fairmont Fundraiser

Save the date of March 10. We'll be having a spaghetti brunch after worship as a fundraiser for Fairmont. More info to come.

2019 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are available in the Welcome Room. Contact Laura in the office for assistance.

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

2019 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Sun, Feb 10, 2019 at 10:45 a.m., after worship.

Annual Meeting and Chili Cook-Off on February 10

Don't forget - Our Cross of Glory Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 10, at 10:45 a.m., right after worship. We'll be celebrating all that happened here during 2018, as well as electing two new council representatives, and approving the 2019 budget. If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact any of our current council members or Pastor Dana

And because we do important things at our annual meeting, we want you all there. So we'll also be having a Chili Cook-Off right before the meeting. You can enter your chili in the cook-off on the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table. We'll all have a chance to vote on our favorites. And we're asking all of us who aren't making chili, to bring desserts and all the other stuff we'll want to eat with our chili - just like a regular brunch Sunday.

Budget Meeting on February 3 After Worship

We will have a budget meeting after worship on Sunday, February 3rd. This is a great opportunity to go over the 2019 budget and ask any questions you may have, as we prepare for our annual meeting on February 10.

Sharing Your Gifts At COG

The beginning of the year is always a great time to get more involved during Sunday morning worship. During the next month, we'll have sign-up sheets on the welcome table during March for anyone who might want to be a ministry assistant, worship coordinator, on the prayer team, help serve communion, be an usher or greeter, be involved in the technology aspects of worship, work with the kids, or be involved in Sunday morning worship in any other way. We'd love to have more people helping on Sunday mornings (especially young people), so if you want to participate, now is a great time to sign up. (And don't worry, we'll tell you everything you need to know before you do anything.)

Community Blood Drive

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

Our next blood drive in Thursday, February 28, from 3 to 7 pm. Please consider donating to save a life. To make things go more smoothly, please sign up by calling the church office, going online with Heartland or signing up on the sheet on the Welcome Table.



We are Called to Discipleship

Dallas Willard, a Christian theologian and writer, notes, "It is almost universally conceded nowadays that you can be a Christian without being a disciple." I [Dana] have been a Christian all my life. But I haven't been a disciple nearly that long.

We are now in the middle of a sermon series all about discipleship, about how all we can become better disciples, of Jesus. Because Jesus doesn't call us to be church members, or even Christians; Jesus calls us to follow him and to become his disciples. In this sermon series, we'll look at what it takes to become Jesus' follower in everything we do. And how that gives us a more intimate relationship with God, makes us more of the people God created us to be, and give us the abundant life God promises. Join us on Sunday mornings to learn how we can respond to Jesus when he says, "Follow me."

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE December 2018

Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$ 217,884.00
Other	\$ 99,097.00
Total	\$ 316,981.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$127,610.00
Staff	\$153,079.00
Sharing	\$ 32,449.00
Ministries	\$ 10,063.00
Total	\$323,201.00
Income/Loss	\$ (6,220.00)

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL



Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883

We have our first Open House on Feb 5 and 2nd one April 23. Registration for the fall is open to everyone now.

This month we will learn about President's George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The MWF class has a special pajama day on Feb 8th in honor of the letter P and Pastor Dana will visit our classes to share with us the story about Jonah and the big whale that swallowed him. The students usually like the story and some even think it'd be fun to be swallowed by a big fish!

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)