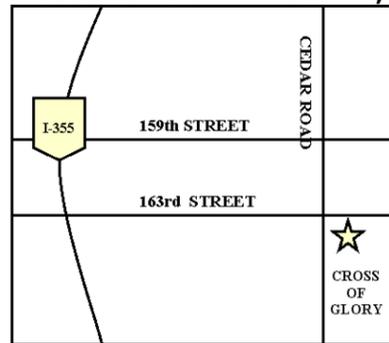




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Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



MARCH 2019

**Embracing God's Vision Capital Appeal - Embracing God's Vision in our Preschool**

Note: The following article is written by Jamie Knutson, our Welcome Place Preschool director, who is also on our Capital Appeal team. Jamie shares with us examples of some of the everyday ministry that occurs in our building's preschool.

I have been a member of COG for over 20 years. I was part of the "wandering in the desert" group, meaning I worshipped in the school, the White Hen, and the old town hall, and I watched our congregation increase and decrease with each move. I came on staff in 2001 and started the preschool in 2002.

I'm excited to be a part of our capital appeal Embracing God's Vision. I see that vision everyday working with the 3, 4 and 5 year olds and their parents who come through the doors of our Welcome Place Preschool.

We've watched a young mom stand in our courtyard crying because she was having a hard time letting her 3 year old go to school. She felt our love and understanding, and over the year grew as much as her child.

We've heard from a family that never prayed and weren't really sure about their faith, but who then began praying before each meal because their daughter told them that's how she did things in preschool.

We've been part of families divorcing, and we made sure their children had a loving, structured place to feel safe and secure while the parents figured things out.

We've heard students tell each another; "of course I'll help you because we are all friends here". Or "I'll share with you", "I'll eat with you", "I'll play with you". "Don't be sad you are my friend". Or "We're all in this together!" Everyday, we hear someone tell a teacher, a friend, an adult "I Love You!"

We play outside on the playground and draw with chalk on the blacktop. We have gym time and yoga in the "big church", as our students call the worship area. We use our parachute in the welcome room. We welcome our families with Christmas programs, graduation ceremonies, grandparent's day, Halloween parades, and room parties. Our students feel ownership and pride in their school!

None of this would be possible without this building and the caring people in it! Together, we all make a difference in these children's lives and the lives of their families. We offer comfort, care, love, faith and acceptance.

We Embrace God's Vision everyday and we create, in this building, a welcome place for all.



Daylight Savings Time Starts on Sunday March 10  
Remember to move your clocks forward an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 9.

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



WORSHIP WITH US ON  
ASH WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 6th



TWO SERVICES:  
NOON & 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOUP  
SUPPERS DURING LENT



Meal at 6:00 pm  
"The Gospel According to Matthew" at 6:30 pm

All are welcome!  
Bring something to share  
or just join in!

**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.  
Barb Taskay Finances  
Allen Kirkland, Outreach  
Lisa O'Malley, Fellowship  
Bill Bavirsha, Facilities  
Samantha Barczi, 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

**Annual Meeting Thanks**

Thanks to all of you who attended our annual meeting in February. We had a great time celebrating what happened at Cross of Glory in 2018 and looking forward to the exciting things God has planned for us in 2019. And our first annual Red Pepper Chili Cook-Off was very competitive with nine terrific chili entrants. Sally Beller took home the coveted Red Pepper Traveling Trophy, but all of us were the real winners, because we were all treated to some wonderful food.

Not surprisingly, we also got some work done at our annual meeting. We elected two new council reps - Barb Taskay in Finance and Lisa O'Malley as our Fellowship rep. (And many thanks to our outgoing council representatives, Bill Nabors who also served as Council President, and Maria Dziubczynski. They both did terrific jobs, and while they can take a rest from council, they'll still be busy - they are both involved in lots of other COG activities.) We also approved our 2019 budget, which is again a deficit budget, both reflecting our trust in God to provide and calling all of us to step up during this coming year - which we will all be doing through our Embracing God's Vision Capital Appeal. If you'd like to learn more about our COG ministries, copies of our 2018 Annual Report are available in the welcome area at Cross of Glory and on our website.

**March into Wellness Women's Event on March 8**

Spring and warm weather are just around the corner, encouraging us all to commit to healthier minds and bodies. So join us at COG on Friday evening, March 8, from 7 to 9, to hear three experts speak about aspects of our physical and mental health. We'll hear about health and wellness products from

Melaleuca, then insights on clinical anxiety and depression for women, and finally how massage can help address medical issues. Some snacks will be available but feel free to bring both a treat to share and a friend.

**Spaghetti Fundraiser for Fairmont Band**

Thanks so much to all of you who have been involved in our partnership with the kids and staff at Fairmont School. In just a little over a year, we've collected loads of supplies, helped with events, donated money, and had lots of volunteers present at the school to help the staff and kids. Now we have an opportunity in which all of us can participate - our Spaghetti Fundraiser coming up right after worship on **March 10**. Stay after worship for all-you-can-eat spaghetti and sides, and help Fairmont's band program by donating toward the purchase of instrument cases. We're hoping to get some or all of the following: 1 trumpet case (\$80); 4 coronet cases (\$65); and 1 trombone case (\$120).

**Annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt**

I know, our Easter Egg Hunt (which occurs on **Saturday, April 20**) is a ways off, but we want to start preparing for the hundreds of kids and families that come for the event. We need your help in bringing bags of wrapped Easter candy to fill over 2000 plastic eggs. (Remember, the candy has to be small enough to fit in those little eggs.) There will be a container in the welcome room for the candy. Thanks everyone!!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019 JULY 8-11 "GOD IN PIXAR"**

**March 6 Ash Wednesday Worship Service**

Ash Wednesday is right around the corner - on Wednesday, March 6. We have two Ash Wednesday worship services -- one at noon and another at 7 pm. These are wonderful opportunities to start Lent off on the right foot, by reminding ourselves who we are and who God is.

**What's Coming Up on Sundays in March:**

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

**The Cost of Discipleship on March 3.** We'll continue our look at discipleship as we consider the cost (and I'm guessing we'll discover that discipleship is a bargain). We'll also sing to everyone with a March birthday and continue our capital appeal.

**Lent Begins, Scott Olsen Comes Back to Visit, and a Spaghetti Brunch Fundraiser on March 10.** We'll hear from Scott again and share some of our own stories of how \$100 can impact our lives and the lives of others. And then stay after worship for a Spaghetti Brunch to raise money for the band program starting up at Fairmont School. It's also the First Sunday in Lent, so we'll start our Lenten journey.

**We Celebrate St Patrick's Day, and Continue our Discipleship Focus and Capital Appeal on March 17.** Seldom does St. Patrick's Day fall on a Sunday, so we'll take advantage of that as we go green and look at what it means when we say Jesus is Lord. (And yes, you may have heard that phrase somewhere before - it's our first Guiding Principle which helps define who we are.)

**Guest Preacher Kurt Nordby on March 24:** As our Embracing God's Vision Capital Appeal nears its end, we hear from Kurt Nordby on living as God's stewards. And save up your coins, because it's also noisy offering Sunday.

**Baptism and Mission on March 31.** Celebrate the baptism of little Vera Reddy (with proud grandparents Deb and Dan Murtaugh), and hear about our partnership in God's mission in our world, as we start getting ready for our Capital Appeal Celebration and Commitment Sunday on April 7.

**Wednesday Night Soup Suppers & Movie During Lent**

Lent is right around the corner, and on each of the Wednesdays in Lent (March 13, 20, and 27, and April 3 and 10) we'll gather for a soup supper. And then on the last four Wednesdays, we'll spend some time in fellowship while we watch and discuss the movie, *The Gospel According to Matthew*. This movie, using the same NIV bible translation that we use in worship,

gives us a deeper understanding of Jesus' story, as we watch his ministry unfold and opposition build. Meals start at 6 pm, and we're done around 7:15 (Sign-up sheets for everyone who wishes to bring soups, breads, desserts, etc. are on the welcome table, or call the church office if you can help.)

**Capital Appeal Information Opportunities Coming Up**

Hopefully, you've been following our Embracing God's Vision Capital Appeal over the last few weeks. You can read about it elsewhere in this Newsletter and we also have information on it on our website. In addition, you'll have an opportunity to get more information and/or ask any questions in two information sessions. Please join us either **Wednesday, March 13** after our soup supper, or on **Sunday, March 17** after worship, to hear some details of the Capital Appeal and to ask any questions you may have.

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE	
January 2019	
Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$ 19,502.00
Other	\$ 1,285.00
Total	\$ 20,787.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$ 8,727.00
Staff	\$ 16,818.00
Sharing	\$ 1,523.00
Ministries	\$ 637.00
Total	\$ 27,405.00
Income/Loss	\$ ( 6,618.00)

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**THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL**

*Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883*



Registration is going on for returning students and the community right now. Please let anyone you know who might be looking for a preschool to come and check us out. Also you can find us on Facebook at The Welcome Place Preschool.

We are working on our senses in class and community workers. We have different community workers visit us and tell us all about their jobs. Everyone is very excited about Spring and can't wait to get outside and play.

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

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