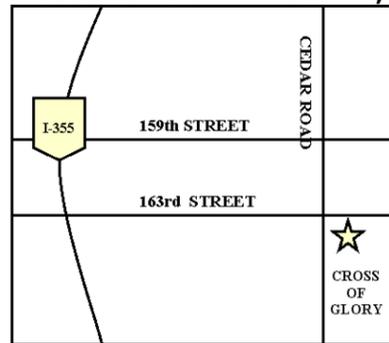




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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

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www.CrossofGlory.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



SEPTEMBER 2019

What's Coming Up on Sundays in September

Throughout most of September we'll be looking at the basics of prayer - the what, when, where and why. Hopefully, we'll also get a perspective on prayer from some people on our prayer team. In addition, we've got some other stuff coming up on Sundays in September and early October:

- September 1: Nicole Morin is Preaching.** She'll be talking about how we follow our call. We'll also celebrate Labor Day and all those with September birthdays.
- September 8: The Movie *Green Book*.** We'll look for where God shows up in this academy award winning film, which is inspired by a true friendship that transcended race, class and the 1962 Mason-Dixon line.
- September 15: We begin our series on Prayer.** We'll cover the basics of prayer and also celebrate the terrific festival we hosted for the community the day before.
- September 22: Sermon Series on Prayer Continues:** Some of the tough questions we ask about prayer. And bring your change for our September noisy offering. Join us after worship for brunch Sunday!
- September 29: Our Final Sermon on Prayer.** We'll be joined by a panel from our prayer team to talk about a life of prayer. And we'll also restart our monthly vocation blessing

Saturday, September 14 - Our Free Fun Fest

Our annual Free Fun Fest is coming up in just two weeks. And we're hoping for great weather again so we can have another amazing outdoor festival (just like last year).

This free festival, which goes from 2 to 6 on Saturday, September 14, 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, crafts, face painting, bubbles, a bounce house, family pictures, pumpkin decorating, and other fun stuff. (Just like last year, we'll also 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 participate.** We still 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 sign up on the volunteer sheets on the welcome table to be part of our biggest Free Fun Fest ever!!!**

Confirmation Starting September 22

Our fall confirmation classes start up on September 22. (Confirmation here at COG is a two-year program - during 7th and 8th grade. During this time, our young people explore their faith and their relationship with God in today's world. This year, we're adding an online component as well.) More information is going out to those young people in that age group, but if your child is going into 7th or 8th grade, you can call the office to sign them up. And we're all looking forward to October 27, when we'll celebrate with those being confirmed here at COG.

**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 wish to be taken off our emailing list:
laura@crossofglory.com



CrossofGlory.com



FREE FALL FEST
Saturday, September 14th

2:00 PM— 6:00 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.
Barb Taskay Finances
Allen Kirkland, Outreach
Lisa O'Malley, Fellowship
Bill Bavirsha, Facilities
Samantha Barczi, 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

Invite Your Friends to COG

We've all got them - friends, I mean - so let's get out there and share our Cross of Glory family with the other important people in our lives. Remember -- every Sunday and every event during the week is an opportunity to invite a friend. After all, we know that the world needs what we have!

The Summer Slump at COG

As with most congregations, summer is a pretty challenging time at Cross of Glory, with many of us away to enjoy the great weather and time off. But what's kind of unique here at COG is that our "summer slump" continues into mid-October, longer than at most other congregations. And 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 on 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. I don't want any of us to miss out on that either!

Welcome our New Preschool Families

The teachers and kids are really excited for the start of another year at our Welcome Place Preschool. Our preschool is one of our COG 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. And be sure to welcome preschool families to worship on Preschool Sunday, coming up on October 6.

October Women's Events

We'll have some fun and "crafty" women's events coming up in early October. Watch for more info.

Community Blood Drive

Our next blood drive is Thursday, September 5 from 3 to 7. It's not too late to call the office to sign up for a slot.

November Women's Retreat

For those of you who like to plan ahead, save the dates of November 22 and 23 for our Women's Retreat. We'll be gathering at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer in Frankfurt for fun and fellowship as we explore the theme: God's Truth is Stronger Than the Lies We Tell Ourselves. More info coming soon.

Kitchen Ministry

You love to help out in the kitchen, or need service hours?! How about joining our new Kitchen Ministry Team! Janet Dejka is starting up this new team at Cross of Glory.

We're looking for those that can help to get the kitchen ready before, during and after our monthly brunches, as well as any other events. Also, to help keep the kitchen maintained. If you are interested at all please contact Janet or the church office.

Prayer

We all know that prayer is an essential part of our discipleship journeys. But sometimes we wonder about our own prayers - should they be said at a certain time or in a certain way? And what if it doesn't seem that God is even listening. Join us starting September 15, for a three-week sermon series on prayer basics. We'll tackle some of our unstated assumptions about prayer, and learn how powerful prayer can be in our lives of faith.

Thank You All So Much!

I was reminded the other day that I've been here almost three full years now. It sure doesn't seem that long to me . . . (but I know, for some of you it may seem a lot longer . . .). And as always, when I think of how long I've been here, I think of how grateful I am for all of you - this terrific group of talented, grace-filled, risk-taking, self-proclaimed misfits, who call Cross of Glory home. You continually amaze me by how willing you all are to be God's hands and feet in this community in all sorts of ways. So as I do every year when 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. Know that they are just a small part of what we do day-in and day-out all year long. (And if you want to get a better idea of all that happens here, check out the really cool bulletin board in the welcome room that gives you a good sense of who we are at Cross of Glory.)

So think back over all we've done over the last few months. We had another great year of Vacation Bible School - about 120 kids and over 40 volunteers loved our God in Pixar week of learning and fun, and once again we raised \$1500 for the kids and staff at Fairmont school. We were also busy by being out in the community -- marching in three local parades and Chicago's Pride Parade, participating in Pride festivals in Mokena and Bolingbrook, again partnering with Homer Township in it's Chalk-It-Up event and with Lockport's Police Dept. at National Night Out. We welcomed a new PFLAG group, and shared water and candy bars with the community. We were also busy here making the outside of the building look really good, and hosting our annual pet blessing. 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, Summer Sundays, brunches and dinners with friends, bible studies, yoga classes, community blood drives, . . . 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 wherever you happen to be.

We know that none of this happens without God working in all of you to make it happen. So as I complete three years of service here, I want to thank you all for being the church in this place. I don't say it as often as I should, but please know how thankful I am for all the time and effort and "stuff" you all contribute toward all the ministries we do here and in this community. I am so blessed to be a part of all of us who call ourselves Cross of Glory!

Triannual Statements are Coming

Please check your mailboxes this month for your triannual statements. Your statement will indicate how much you've given financially to Cross of Glory so far in 2019, both in terms of regular giving and toward our capital appeal. If you have any questions regarding your statement (or if you don't get one and believe you should) please contact the office.

First Capital Appeal Purchase - an AED

If you've walked past the office recently, you may have noticed the new AED sitting in a bright white container on the wall near the office door. Recognizing that there is nothing that better evidences our commitment to health and abundant life, this defibrillator became our first purchase from our Embracing God's Vision capital appeal funds. And thanks to the class held this week, we now have a number of people trained to use it both during worship and while the preschool is in session.

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE July 2019

Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$131,042.00
Other	\$ 20,056.00
Total	\$151,098.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$ 70,476.00
Staff	\$ 93,438.00
Sharing	\$ 18,087.00
Ministries	\$ 4,987.00
Total	\$ 186,988.00
Income/Loss	\$(-35,890.00)

Check it out, we've got quite a deficit. Let's all try to keep up with our weekly giving and keep our ministries strong.

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL
Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883



We're so excited for the beginning our 2019-2020 school year. School started on September 3 and 4th. Our students are learning about themselves and each other. They are learning the rules of the classroom and what is expected of them. Everyone is very happy to play with new toys and new friends. Our classes are also learning about the Creation story and how God made everything in 7 days. We made our own creation projects and our students were thrilled to bring them home to show their families.

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