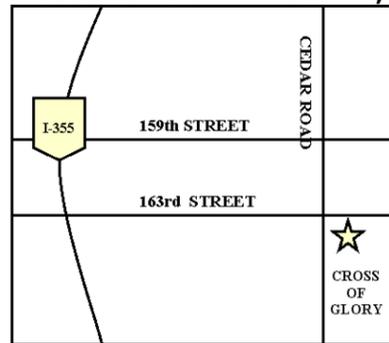




14719 W 163rd Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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 2019

Advent Devotionals Now Available

This year there is one new Advent devotional available - *21 Days of Christmas: Stories that Celebrate God's Greatest Gift*, which includes 21 short fictional stories, each followed by a short life application that will help you discover anew the true meaning of this special time of year. We also have devotionals left over from prior years, including:

- *Our Family Christmas Devotional*, which includes a short devotional for each day (a Bible passage, prayer, a Christmas carol, and a family activity);
- *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem* - for those who are not looking for a traditional devotional to read this Advent.
- *Welcome Baby Jesus*, intended for families with kids.

We encourage every family to take one - they are wonderful ways to celebrate the coming of Christmas each day.

Advent Calendars and Other Advent Items

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. We also have some other shorter devotionals and booklets available to help you celebrate the season. Take as many as you'd like for family and friends.

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 our Visit with Santa on Saturday, December 14.

Poinsettia Orders

Don't forget to place your order by Dec 15th. Help to decorate our worship space for our Christmas services. Order forms are on the welcome table.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Tuesday, 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 10:00 pm

4:00 and 5:30 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

10:00 pm Service: Welcome Christmas with memorable special music, candle-lighting and Holy Communion. A very reflective service.

Wednesday, December 25th ~ Christmas Morning

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

****Invite your family and friends to worship with us this Christmas****

**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



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 & 5:30 pm Barn Services at Konow's Farm
10:00 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 14th
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.
Barb Taskay Finances
Allen Kirkland, Outreach
Lisa O'Malley, Fellowship
Bill Bavirsha, Facilities
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

Kids' Christmas Play on Dec 15th

Our worship service on Sunday, December 15 will feature the kids Christmas play. This year, our play is *A Super Christmas*, the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of the some visiting superheroes. As always, we have walk-on spots for kids who want to participate at the last minute. We practice on Sunday mornings during Kids' Klub. This will be a really creative way to hear the story of our Savior's birth.

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 2 -- It's a Wonderful Life
- Dec 9 -- The Bishop's Wife

Christmas Caroling

This year's caroling will be on Tuesday, December 17. We'll gather at Barb Taskay'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!

Dashboard Saints Christmas Gathering Saturday, December 14th, 7pm-10pm

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.

Christmas Visit With Santa

On Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to 1 pm, we welcome the entire community to visit with Santa here at Cross of Glory. We'll have treats, crafts, games, and of course FREE professionally taken pictures with Santa. Invite all your friends. (And we'll need lots of

helpers for this one - the volunteer sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table.)

Our Angel Giving Tree

Don't forget - our Angel Giving Tree is up and covered with over 150 angel tags. (As of this writing all 90 of the tags from Fairmont School have been taken, but we still have about 30 from families that work with DCFS available.) Please return the gifts, all wrapped with the tag attached to them, by Sunday, December 15.

Christmas Giving through Barnyard Animal Ornaments

After all the names on our angel tree are taken (and they are going fast), 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.

Homer for the Holidays

This Saturday from 4:30 to 7:30 is the Homer for the Holidays tree lighting and community party. Cross of Glory is excited to partner with the Village as we handle the crafts for the event. It will be a very busy few hours, and we can always use more helpers. (Please contact the office if you can help.) And this should be a great community event, so stop by at any time for lots of fun.

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

Advent Wednesdays - It's a Wonderful Life

On Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18, we will come together for a potluck meal and then explore some biblical themes in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. The meal start at 6 pm and 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. At 6:30 each Wednesday we'll watch parts of *It's a Wonderful Life* and discuss various aspects. This will be lots of fun - and if you haven't seen the movie before, this will be a great introduction.

- Dec 5 - Anything easy
- Dec 11- Pasta
- Dec 18 -Mexican

Support Cross Of Glory With Your Holiday Shopping

This shopping season, there are two ways you can support Cross of Glory while buying your gifts:

- First, whenever you plan to buy something on Amazon, go to Smile.Amazon.com (instead of just the regular Amazon.com) and set your Smile profile to support Cross of Glory. All the same products at the same prices, but the added benefit of a portion going to Cross of Glory!
- Second, if you're planning to buy a gift card, consider buying it through Cross of Glory's program. When you do, COG receives a percentage of the card's value at no extra cost to you. There are lots of cards to choose from. Order forms are on the Welcome Table.

PFLAG Homer Glen Lockport

We are very excited to let COG know how much impact hosting a PFLAG meeting in our community has been. We are steadily growing and have approximately 15-18 people each month. Our meetings are about supporting, educating and advocating for the LGBTQ+ community. Anyone is invited to attend whether you are a part of that community or care about someone who is. Some of our meetings have included live audio streaming with PFLAG National, video clips, Queer Bingo (for LGBTQ+ history month) and this past month we had a speaker come in. In the 2nd half of the meeting we open it up for discussion on the topic or we sharing what's going on in our lives. Sharing is optional. Our group has gone on 2 outings to OUTspoken events, where various members of the community share storytelling or their musical talent. In closing, I would like to share a paragraph of an email that PFLAG received about our meeting....

I legit never felt so loved in my life. I was honestly so terrified to come in. I sat in my car and contemplated driving back to school. By the end of the meeting, the

mother and young boy next to me gave me their number and Lisa did too. They said "if anything happens and you need a place to stay, please reach out". I sat in my car and sobbed my eyes out. My own family won't even support me this much. I never felt so accepted in my life. I will definitely be back in January!
See you soon! (Name withheld for autonomy purposes)

2019 Year-End Giving

Again, thank you all so much for your amazing pledges toward our Embracing God's Vision capital appeal earlier this year. That above and beyond giving has enabled us to **both** set aside some money for capital improvements and adjust our mortgage going forward to help our ongoing operating budget. However, our financial situation remains challenging - and next year, when our support from the ELCA ends completely, things will be even more challenging. So as we move into the last month of the year, please consider an additional gift to Cross of Glory to help us meet our current and future expenses. We will be doing a small match before year-end, and you'll hear more about that in a few weeks.

As always, thank you so much Cross of Glory!! You are making a difference in each other's lives and in this community. God is working in and through each of you - and for that we can all be grateful!!!

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE

October 2019

Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$182,247.00
Other	\$ 36,487.00
Total	\$218,730.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$101,076.00
Staff	\$131,855.00
Sharing	\$ 24,376.00
Ministries	\$ 5,518.00
Total	\$ 262,825.00
Income/Loss	\$(-44,095.00)

Check it out—that's quite a deficit we've got!

THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL

Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883
Everyone is very excited about Christmas! We began December by talking about Advent. Pastor Dana is telling us the Christmas story and we are counting down the days until Santa comes. We have our class Christmas parties on the 12th & 13th and we have our Christmas programs on the 19th & 20th. We've been practicing and practicing for our Christmas program. Merry Christmas!
www.crossofglory.com/preschool (website)
The Welcome Place Preschool (Facebook)