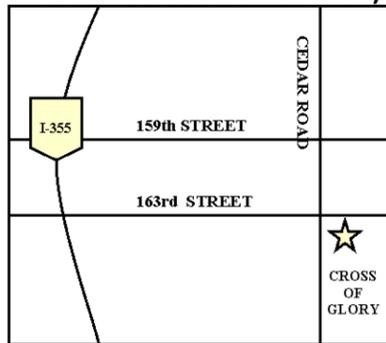




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Join Us
Sundays 9:30 am
You Are Welcome Here!



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www.CrossofGlory.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



JANUARY 2020

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

If you're anything like me, you were pretty tired during the week between Christmas and New Year's. 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 as a congregation during December. Here are some highlights:

- We started the month by participating in Homer for the Holidays tree lighting, where we helped hundreds of families enjoy the evening by making some really cool crafts.
- One week later we held our own Visit with Santa event, at which lots of COG volunteers helped lots of neighbors play games, make Christmas crafts, enjoy Christmas snacks, and visit with Santa (and everyone received free professional photos memorializing their Santa visit);
- Many of us enjoyed mid-week meals and then discussed how the movie *It's a Wonderful Life* reflects Biblical values;
- During December, we read (and/or shared with friends and family) lots of advent devotional books, advent calendars, and other advent materials to make the season come alive;
- 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 *A Redbird Christmas*;
- 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 superheroes who happened upon the scene;
- We met every Sunday during Advent to learn about how God, Mary and Joseph participated in the nativity story;
- I met with each preschool class twice during December to tell the story of Mary, Joseph, the angels and shepherds and the birth of baby Jesus;
- We made the Christmas wishes of 154 kids from the community (both from Fairmont and DCFS) come true through our angel giving tree (and supplemented the gifts with Linus blankets from the Girl Scouts);
- We hosted the Homer Seniors for their annual Christmas party.
- The Welcome Place Preschool put on two Christmas programs all about the ABCs of Christmas, and had Christmas parties for each class
- We made a difference to lots of people we don't know, by contributing about \$800 to the ELCA Good Gifts program through a combination of December's noisy offering and the purchase of Good Gift ornaments.
- We bought lots of our friends and families to worship and celebrate Christmas Eve 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 and, with the misfit toys and Rudolph, we continued to celebrate the birth of our Lord;
- We gathered one more time to hear the story of Jesus' birth in readings and songs, while learning a bit about the backstory of many of our favorite Christmas songs.

Continued on Page 2.....

**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



CROSS OF GLORY'S 2020 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 9th at 10:45 a.m., after worship



With our 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off at the Meeting on Feb 9th

SPEAK TO ANY CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBER WITH ANY QUESTIONS

**YOUTH GROUP
NEW MEETING DAY AND TIME**

Join us on
Sunday, January 19th
6:00 pm

Pizza will be served! The group will discuss future dates and what we are looking for in a God-centered youth gathering.

All youth 6th through 12th grade WELCOMED!!!

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

Thanks for All You Did During Cont from front page

And of course, none of this could have happened without the efforts of so many of you. Helping all those worship services run smoothly, 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 positively impacted those around you 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 we are constantly invited 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.

Thank you for all you do!! God is powerfully at work in this community of faith. And I trust that God's work will continue in and through us in 2020.

Women's Event - January 10

Who do you know who wants to do a puzzle? Join us on Friday,

January 10 at 6:30 for a low-key night of puzzle building, along with some snacks, drinks and conversation (not necessarily in that order). Please sign up on the welcome table and bring something to share if you'd like.

Calling Everyone Interested in Becoming a COG Member!

We'll be celebrating new members joining Cross of Glory during worship on February 2. 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.

New Sermon Series - I'm Glad You Asked . . .

What questions do you have about the Bible, or your faith, or church, or Christianity in general. We'll tackle some popular ones -- like what does the Bible say about angels and what happens to us after we die. We'll also tackle some tough ones - like does God's grace mean that everyone will be in heaven, and why does a good God allow evil. I'd love to have us explore some of your questions as well. If you have questions please write them down on the sheets on the welcome table.

New Bible Studies

I'm looking to start a short set of Bible studies addressing a range of topics, each one lasting only 3 to 4 weeks. This means you'd need to commit to attending weekly, but only for that particular study. Potential topics include something on food, a study on Acts, immigration, intimacy and relationships, God's love when you're feeling rejected, and responding to God's call on your life. If you're interested, fill out the survey on the welcome table to indicate nights and times that work for you.

Some 2019 Year-End Financial Info

A couple things to finish off 2019, as we move into 2020:

- Thanks to all of you who participated in the 2019 year-end match so far. And if you haven't, it's not too late. Just mark your gift as "Matching challenge" and it will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to the first \$9,000. (Note the increase from the original \$6000 match.) Everything contributed will help us both address our 2019 deficit and build a 2020 cushion, enabling us to continue our community ministries.
- You may have noticed we did not send out a commitment card at the end of 2019. We'll do that later in 2020 as we tie it into the first anniversary of our Embracing God's Vision capital appeal. In the meantime, it's important that we all remain committed to contributing to the general ongoing needs of the congregation on a regular basis.
- Speaking of our capital appeal, if you committed to the appeal, please make certain to keep your contributions current. It makes a huge difference to our ongoing mortgage payments and as we plan for ongoing maintenance needs.
- If you made a financial contribution to Cross of Glory in 2019, you should be receiving your year-end statement, along with a letter from me (that would be Pastor Dana) thanking you for all that you've given before the end of the month. Once again, I thank you for the joy and blessing of being your pastor here. And I thank you, in advance, for all the exciting things that God will do through all of us this coming year

What's Coming Up on Sundays in January:

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

- **Epiphany on January 5.** We'll finish off the Christmas season by looking at the visit of the wise men, Jesus' flight to Egypt, and how the Christmas story speaks to our world today. Jesus' story provides hope for a world that still has a lot of "Herods" in it. We'll also celebrate everyone with a January birthday and encourage house blessings this month.
- **New Sermon Series Begins on January 12.** This Sunday we begin our new sermon series, "I'm so Glad You Asked . . ." We'll look at some questions that people have about the bible, their faith and Christianity. We start with a look at what the Bible says about angels? And we'll continue with our vocation blessing - this month we bless business owners and others in white collar or management positions.

- **January 19 -- "What Happens after We Die?"** Our "I'm Glad You Asked . . ." sermon series continues with a look at what happens after we die. We all have loved ones who have died. What does the Bible say about what happens to us after death? We'll also have brunch after the service.
- **Reconciling in Christ Sunday on January 26:** We'll hear some of your stories about what it means to be part of a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Confirmation

Head's up -- confirmation classes begin again, starting Sunday, January 26. As in the fall, classes will be held on Sundays after worship, and will go intermittently through winter and spring. (Typically students participate in two years of instruction (usually 7th & 8th graders) before affirming their baptism. This takes place at worship in late October.)

2020 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Sun, Feb 9, 2020 at 10:45 a.m., after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to celebrate what's been going on at COG during 2019. We'll also do some congregational business -- we'll elect four new council representatives, approve the 2019 budget, and vote on whether or not to extend Pastor Dana's call. (Her current three-year call expires soon.)

Because we do important things at our annual meeting, you want to make sure you're there. So as an added incentive (as if an annual meeting weren't exciting enough), we'll have our Second Annual Chili Cook-Off. If you have any questions regarding the annual 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 2nd. If you have any questions or comments about the 2020 budget, this is a wonderful opportunity to talk, listen and learn.

CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE	
NOVEMBER 2019	
Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$198,991.00
Other	<u>\$ 40,644.00</u>
Total	\$239,635.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$108,761.00
Staff	\$140,770.00
Sharing	\$ 26,472.00
Ministries	<u>\$ 5,863.00</u>
Total	\$ 281,866.00
Income/Loss	\$(-42,231.00)
Check it out—that's quite a deficit we've got!	

WATCH FOR THE PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE