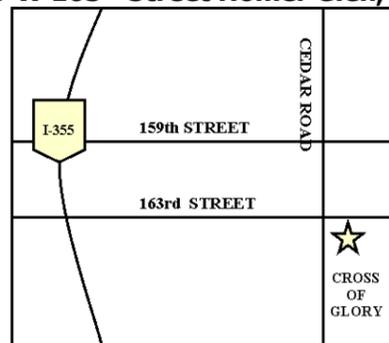




14719 W 163<sup>rd</sup> Street Homer Glen, IL 60491



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



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Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

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Homer Glen, Illinois 60491  
(708) 301-6998



www.CrossofGlory.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ELCA



MARCH 2020

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

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

- **God and Suffering on March 8.** We'll continue our look at your questions as we consider the really hard question that has dogged Christianity since it's inception. Philosophers may phrase it this way - "how can God be good and all-powerful and yet allow evil and pain to exist in our world?" But people who deal with hard things every day simply ask "where is God when I or someone I love suffers?" We'll also celebrate March birthdays and have a vocation blessing by recognizing all those who work at home in any capacity or who are caregivers for others (at home or elsewhere, and that includes babysitters and caregivers for older adults).
- **Lent Continues, Todd Mizera Preaches on Sin, and a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for the Preschool on March 15.** Todd Mizera will answer some of your questions about sin - like what is it and what does the Bible say about it. And we'll also have a pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Welcome Place Preschool both before and after worship.
- **We Start a Matthew 25 Challenge for Lent on March 22.** We continue our Lenten journey by living into Jesus' call in Matthew 25 - what does it mean to respond to Jesus' call to serve "the least of these brothers and sisters of mine"? We'll find out in very practical terms.
- **We Finish the Matthew 25 Challenge and Celebrate a Baptism on March 29.** We'll celebrate the baptism of Brenden Morin with the entire Morin family, and finish off our Matthew 25 challenge, as we also prepare for Palm/Passion Sunday and Holy Week right around the corner. And save up your coins, because it's also noisy offering Sunday.

**Using Prayer Beads During Lent**

Those of you familiar with rosary beads from the Catholic tradition may understand how using beads while praying helps center and slow you down. On the first Sunday in Lent, we're trying that out by making our own "Protestant prayer beads" to help guide our Lenten journeys. We'll be using the prayer beads every Sunday during Lent, so please bring yours with you. (And don't worry if you forget or don't have any. Thanks to some talented "beaders" we'll have some extras for you to use.) Also, look for emails to help you pray with your beads at home during Lent.

**Wednesday Night Soup Suppers And The Gospel of John During Lent**



Lent is upon us, and on each of the Wednesdays in Lent (March 4, 11, 18, and 25 and April 1) we'll gather for a soup supper. And then, we'll spend some time in fellowship while we watch and discuss the movie, *The Gospel of John*. This movie, a word for word translation of John's

gospel using the Good News Translation, 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.)

**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



The Welcome Place Preschool Pancake Breakfast



Sunday  
March 15th  
8:30-9:30 am  
10:45- 12:30 pm

Open house also from 11 to 1

Free Will Offering  
All proceeds will go towards the ministry of the preschool

Join us for Easter Sunday and More.

*Palm Sunday April 5 at 9:30 am*

*Good Friday: April 10 with a Cross Walk (Noon) and Worship (7pm)*

*Easter Egg Hunt April 11 at 10:00 am*

*Easter Sunday Service April 12 at 9:30 am*

**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  
Samantha Barczi, Outreach  
Marlene Tetyk, Fellowship  
Nick Oles, Facilities  
Michelle Eckmayer, 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 Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt on April 11**



Our community Easter Egg Hunt (which occurs at 10 am on Saturday, April 11) is coming up quickly, so we want to get ready 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 the roughly 3000 plastic eggs we use for the hunt. (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. And we could also use volunteers to help fill the eggs. Thanks everyone!!

**Book Club Discusses *Becoming***

If you've wanted to read Michelle Obama's book *Becoming*, here's the opportunity you've been looking for. The book club is reading *Becoming* this month and will discuss it on Thursday, March 26 at 7 pm at Cross of Glory. If you need a copy of the book, contact Janet Dejka.

**Holy Week Dates**

Holy week and Easter are coming up quickly. Here are some dates to put on your calendar:

- Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service - Sunday, April 5, at 9:30.
- Ecumenical Good Friday Cross Walk -- Friday, April 10, at Noon in downtown Lockport.
- Good Friday Worship -- Friday, April 10, at 7:00 pm.
- Easter Sunday Worship -- Sunday, April 12, at 9:30

All of these services are wonderful opportunities for people to encounter God through different worship styles and new experiences. Please invite your friends and family to come and meet God at Cross of Glory during Holy Week. Contact the COG office if you would like to help with any of our Holy Week services.

**Embracing God's Vision Capital Appeal - Reminder**

Last year at this time, we were right in the middle of our Embracing God's Vision capital appeal. We were hearing stories of the important ways God uses this place to witness to our community and how additional funds were needed to maintain this aging building and pay down the mortgage. And, if you remember, you all responded in amazing ways - with pledges well above what we had ever anticipated!! Way to go Cross of Glory!

We are now nearing the end of the first year of that campaign. Many of you have already fulfilled your pledges and for that we thank you! For those of you giving periodically, we hope you have fulfilled the first one-third of your total pledge and are getting ready to contribute the second third. We have already made a significant paydown of our mortgage and are using some of our capital appeal funds to help us meet our monthly mortgage obligations. And while we have been extremely fortunate to have avoided any big-ticket repairs in the last year (we dodged some bullets with the water pipes and fire suppression system this last year, but it's just a matter of time), we do have some money set aside for some of those expenses.

At the same time, we've noticed a definite drop in weekly contributions toward our general operating expenses. Please remember that our financial contributions are one way we all participate in what God is doing in this place. God uses all of us to make a difference in our community. Thank you all for your continued financial gifts to Cross of Glory. They are really important!

**Annual Meeting Thanks**

Thanks to all of you who attended our annual meeting in February. We both celebrated what happened at Cross of Glory in 2019 and looked forward to the exciting things God has planned for us in 2020. And our second annual Red Pepper Chili Cook-Off was very competitive with ten terrific chili entrants. Amanda Kuzminski took home the coveted Red Pepper Traveling Trophy, but all of us were the real winners, as we were all enjoyed some wonderful food.

We were also able to accomplish a lot. We elected five council reps - two who were running for their second terms (Dennis Tanrikulu in Worship, and Sam Barczi in Outreach), and three who join the council for the first time - Michelle Eckmayer in Discipleship, Nick Oles in Property and Marlene Tetyk in Fellowship. (And many thanks to our outgoing council representatives, Bill Bavirsha (who served as council president last year), and Allen Kirkland, and Lisa O'Malley. They did terrific jobs, and Bill remains active on the property team, while Lisa and Allen are involved in the PFLAG group.)

We also approved our 2020 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. You also called me as pastor, and I can't imagine anyplace else I'd rather be. If you'd like to learn more about our COG ministries, copies of our 2019 Annual Report are available in the welcome area at Cross of Glory and on our website.

**Frozen in July VBS Coming This Summer**

Registration is already open for this summer's Vacation Bible School, which takes place Monday, July 27 through Thursday, July 30. This year, we're focusing on how God loves and walks with our kids by looking at the main characters in the Frozen 1 and Frozen 2 movies. Every year, we fill up earlier, so please tell all your friends about VBS and get your registrations in. Also, this year, because we've increased the size of VBS, we need more volunteers. You can find sign-up forms for registration and volunteers in the Welcome Room and on our website at <https://crossofglory.com/vbs-2020-slider/>

**March 15 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for our Welcome Place Preschool**

Make sure you come to worship hungry on Sunday March 15! No, I don't just mean spiritually hungry; I mean physically hungry -- like you really need something to eat. Because on that Sunday morning, you'll have an opportunity to enjoy a great pancake breakfast and help our Welcome Place Preschool at the same time! Pancakes will be served from 8:30 to 9:30 (before

worship) and after worship from 10:45 to 12:30. A free-will offering will be taken to help the preschool continue its wonderful work reaching families in our community.

**Preschool Open House on Sunday, March 15**

In conjunction with its pancake breakfast fundraiser, the Welcome Place Preschool will also be having an open house from 11 to 1 on Sunday, March 15. This is a great opportunity to meet the teachers and see what the kids do every day. Preschool registration is open, so tell everyone you know about the Welcome Place Preschool.

**March Women's Event—Movie Night**

Join the ladies as they enjoy a \$5 show at the Rialto in Joliet to see *The Greatest Showman*. Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 pm. Sign up in the Welcome Room.

**Daylight Savings Time Starts on Sunday March 8**

Remember to move your clocks forward an hour before you go to be on Saturday night, March 7.



**CROSS OF GLORY FINANCIAL UPDATE JANUARY 2020**

Income	Year to Date
Offering	\$ 15,662.00
Other	\$ 3,835.00
Total	\$ 19,497.00
Expenses	
General/Building	\$ 6,115.00
Staff	\$ 12,729.00
Sharing	\$ 1,338.00
Ministries	\$ 444.00
Total	\$ 20,626.00
Income/Loss	\$ (-1,129.00)

**THE WELCOME PLACE PRESCHOOL**



Jamie Knutson, Director (708) 301-3883  
Registration is going on for returning students and the community. 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 very excited to have a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser and Open House on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. There are 2 sittings for the pancake breakfast, one before church service (9:30) and one after. The Open House will also be going on after the church service. Please come and join us for panCakes or to check out the preschool!

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