

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

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In The Loop – News for December 16th, 2007

Welcome to Cross of Glory!

We are glad you have joined us for worship today. We are asking that everyone fill out the Welcome Folder pass it across the row and back. Visiting? We ask those joining us for the first time to please stop by the Welcome Table (at the door) and pick up an information packet.

Ministers:

All Members of Cross of Glory

Staff:

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Advent Devotional Booklets

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. As a gift to you, we have two Advent booklets to choose from: *Living in Hope* by Henri J.M. Nouwen and a family booklet: *Devotions around the Family Advent Wreath*. They are available in the back of the worship area on Sunday's and in the welcome area during the week. Please stop by and pick one up.

Please Join Us for Christmas Eve Services

On December 24th, we will have a **4:00 PM service** that will be family-friendly with special music and a children's message.

A **5:00 PM Barn Service will be at the Konow Farm**. Make plans to join us for an intimate worship service with Holy Communion celebrating the birth of our Lord, inside a barn at the Konow Farm (16803 S. Cedar Road in Homer Glen).

The **11:00 PM** traditional service (at the church), will include Holy Communion, candlelight and music. Gather your family, friends and neighbors and join in the celebration of the One who was born for us.

There are postcards available for you to invite your family, friends and neighbors to worship with you on Christmas Eve. We have inserted one in each bulletin and more are available in the welcome room.

Volunteers Needed for Christmas Services

Volunteers are needed to help with Christmas Eve services. Please sign up in the welcome area.

Gift Giving Tree

If you have not returned your gifts for the angel tree that were due back today, please bring them in by Monday at 4:00 PM.

Thank You to everyone that brought a gift from the Angel Tree. We have helped 100 children from DCFS. Thanks to all of you they will now have gifts to open on Christmas also.



What is Cross of Glory About?

We have five guiding principles...[Jesus is Lord](#), [Everyone is Welcome](#), [Love Changes People](#), [Everybody Has Something to Offer](#), and [The World Needs What We Have](#). Our vision is to create a community of faith so compelling that it draws people in, transforms them, and sends them out to change the world. **Visitors are encouraged to pick up a complementary CD containing more information at the center table in the Welcome Room.**

The Advent Wreath

THE FOUR CANDLES symbolize the period of waiting for Jesus' coming.

The first candle on the Advent wreath has been named the Prophecy candle, for it represents the period of waiting that preceded the birth of Christ. This purple candle, like the two others, expresses the penitence of the season.

The second candle is called the Bethlehem candle, a symbol of the preparations made to receive and to cradle the Christ child.

The third candle is known as the Shepherds' candle, and commemorates the act of sharing the good news of Christ's coming. The rose color of the third candle expresses the joy in sharing the good news.

The fourth candle is the Angel's candle and speaks of love and the actual coming of Christ.

LTHS Madrigal Choir to Sing at COG

The first weekend of December the *Lockport High School Acappella Choir* put on a Madrigal dinner here at Cross of Glory. The students reenacted an English renaissance court full of nobles and friars, jesters and town criers, and even the King and Queen of England.

On January 6th the LTHS Madrigal cast will be here at Cross of Glory to sing for our worship service. Please be sure to celebrate Epiphany with the choir, as they say thank you, in song, to COG for its generous use of our building.

Fundamental of Faith Classes

The class would start Sunday, January 20th after worship service and will run for 5 weeks. Pastor Peisker will be leading these classes. If you are interested in becoming a member of Cross of Glory attending these classes would qualify for membership. **All members are welcome to attend these classes.** It is not only for those that would like to become members.

If you have questions please see Pastor Peisker. You can sign up for this class by calling the church office or by attending the first class.

Friday Night Bible Study

This group meets on Friday nights at 7:00 at the church. We are on a break until January 11th. At that time, we will resume our study on the book of Revelation.

Join us for some lively and informative discussions. If you have any questions, please see Tom or Debbie Waller.

Find Hope in a NEW Couples Bible Study

We wanted to invite you to join us for the couples Bible study at Cross of Glory, where, as usual, there is no experience necessary. This is for any couple, married, dating, friends, you just have to want to gather and learn more about God's word. The plan is to meet after church on Sundays about an hour and a half for brunch (Because what Lutheran can study the Bible without food!!!).

We would like to gather on January 13th and 27th and February 3rd and 17th. We are very excited by the study *Hope: Your Heart's Deepest Longings* by Jack Kuhatschek, and look forward to some good discussions. We will be ordering books for those who would like them for \$6. We will also have childcare available at church.

RSVP to the Morin's at 708-326-4782 or onetraingirl@hotmail.com or call Laura Uzzardo at the church office by December 31st so books can be ordered in time.

Please join us!

Nicole and Andy Morin

Ladies Nite Out in December...

Ladies, bring your artistic side out this December for pottery painting. Make something for yourself, or a gift for someone else. Just choose a piece from the selection of unpainted pottery, pick your paints, and create your own original masterpiece. Escape the holiday craze for a few hours of food, drink, friendship, and fun.

When: December 19th from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Where: CRACKPOTS
(9166 W. 159th St., Orland Park)

Cost: \$5 (plus the cost of your pottery piece)

Bring a friend! RSVP to Nicole Morin by December 18th so there are enough refreshments. 708-326-4782 or onetraingirl@hotmail.com

Kids' Service Project is SOS

SEE & TELL kids are now collecting to purchase gift cards for SOS Children's Villages of Illinois.

Sprinkler System Donations Needed

We need to raise \$10,000 for a compressor and labor (Council and staff are preparing a detailed accounting of costs). Please place your donations in the basket with the hydrant cutout.

Coffee and Snack Sponsorship

Generous sponsors donate \$10 a week to help Cross of Glory provide delicious snacks and fairly-traded coffee. Today, coffee is sponsored by the O'Kelly family. Snacks are sponsored by Lee Burner.

Book Reading Group News

The Book Reading Group's next book is *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai. The next time we meet will be in January. Hopefully, this will offer everyone plenty of time to read the book and join us. The exact date and time has not been determined. Stay tuned for more details.

Poinsettia Orders Being Taken Through December 16th

Today is the last day to order Poinsettia plants. The plants are \$15 each and will help decorate the worship area for Christmas Eve. Proceeds will benefit the Audio/Video Fund. You are welcome to take your plants home after the service you attend. Donations will also be accepted to help purchase poinsettias. Forms are located in the Welcome Room.

Once again, we will offer you the opportunity to mark your poinsettia *In Remembrance* or *In Honor* of someone special in your life. All names will be published in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

Prayer Team Meets Today

Join them at 6:30 pm. See Sharon Aden for details!

Cross of Glory's Bibles and Beyond Bookstore

New Casa Items Available Now

Donna Quathamer has a NEW Book
Under the Pepper Tree - \$25

2008 Casa Calendars
Peak Cuisine Cookbook - \$25

Just Arrived! **New Handcrafts** – \$5 and Up

Inventory Reduction Sale

We are shrinking the bookstore to concentrate on Bibles, Bible Studies, Lutheran Studies, Casa Items, and Fairly-Traded Coffee.

This week, take \$1.00 to \$2.00 off on many specially marked items. Look for the green and yellow stickers. Check back often as we sell off this new merchandise at close-out prices!

Giving From the Heart... A Weekly Update of our Worship and Giving

Receipts for the Week of December 9 th	Receipts for the Week of December 2 nd
General Fund: \$3,005	General Fund: \$14,139
Donations to Casa: \$215	Donations to Casa: \$235
Building: \$25	Building: \$25
Outreach: \$4	Outreach: \$24
Poinsettias: \$45	Poinsettias: \$35
Worship Supplies (Snacks): \$100	
Attendance: 93	

We are asking that you prayerfully consider making an early end-of-the-year contribution, making sure your pledge is fulfilled or making an additional one-time gift to help your church make ends meet. Year end envelopes are available at the welcome table or next to the offering baskets in the back of the worship area.

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for someone that is interested in putting the PowerPoint[®] together for worship. What does this involve? You would be sent the songs and liturgy on Wednesday and then return the power point to Virginia Munro by Friday afternoon for review. It takes about one hour or less to create. If you have any questions please see Virginia.



Upcoming Events for Cross of Glory

(Color Code: General, Women, Youth)

Sunday	12/16	Prayer Team Meeting – 6:30 pm
Wednesday	12/19	Ladies' Nite Out at CRACKPOTS - 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Monday	12/24	4:00pm Family Service; 5:00pm Barn Service; 11:00pm Traditional Service
Tuesday	12/25	Office Closed
Wednesday	12/26	Office Closed
Tuesday	01/01	Office Closed
Sunday	01/06	Preaching and Assisting Team Meeting – After Worship
Sunday	01/13	Council Meeting – 11:00 am
Sunday	01/13	Couples Bible Study – After Worship
Sunday	01/20	Fundamentals of Faith Class – After Worship
Sunday	02/24	Annual Meeting

Please Keep These People and Concerns in Your Prayers

Maria & her family; Peter & Theresa; Flory; Charlie; Ken & Pam; Karen & Kevin; Capperino family; Beller & Maurella families; Curtis Hunter's family; Atkinson family; All the children on our Angel Giving Tree and their families; All those searching for a church home; H.S. seniors awaiting acceptance letters; Men and Women in The Armed Services; The poor and jobless; COG Call Team; The Pastors interested in COG

If you would like prayers this week for yourself or for someone you know, you can...

Write them in one of the Prayer Books (at the left-front and left-rear of the *Worship Area*), fill out a Prayer Card, e-mail Sharon Aden at SAden@TheWelcomePlace.org, or call the Ministry Center Office at (708.301.6998).