

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches

Hartland, MN

Sunday Morning Worship times:

Cross of Glory: 9:00 a.m. – West Freeborn: 10:30 a.m.



The Enormity of Christmas

Christmas celebrates the birth of a baby who was wrapped in strips of cloth and had for his crib a feeding trough filled with straw. Who does not like a cuddly baby! But what a baby! He grew up to be a crowd-attracting preacher and a miracle worker. His criticism of the religious leaders made him their mortal enemy. They had him crucified. But wonder of wonders, he rose from the dead, appeared to his disciples, ascended to heaven and is sitting at the Father's right hand, ruling in the hearts of those who know and love him, and guiding the affairs of all people.

His death was not an accident but part of a wonderful, eternal plan. The enormity of Christmas is that this baby was—and is—God.

About the time it became legal to be a Christian --it was in 312 A.D. that the emperor Constantine in a battle saw a vision of a cross and heard the words, "In this sign you will conquer" after which he was victorious and converted to Christianity—an Egyptian priest by the name of Arius began teaching that Jesus was not fully God and that there was a time when he did not exist because he was a creation of the Father.

This made sense to a lot of people. Arianism flourished for a while. (Though there are no direct lines between Arianism and present-day Unitarianism, what Arius taught and what the Unitarians teach are virtually the same: there is a God, but Jesus was not God.) This caused another Egyptian, this time a bishop, to rise to the occasion and to teach the truth found in John 1, that Jesus was God from all eternity. His name was Athanasius. It is his wording that was adopted by the first ecumenical council held in Nicea (in present-day Turkey) in 325 A.D. and convened by Constantine that gives us the powerful words of the Nicene Creed that makes clear the enormity of the Christian faith.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

So we confess. So we believe. Since this is true, we can pray to Jesus, as well as pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. Christians believe, sometimes with trembling, that the cute baby Jesus lying in the manger in Bethlehem, was before the Big Bang--to accept the modern story of how this universe came to be. Jesus, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, decided on—and lit!--the Big Bang which in 13 billion years has expanded into thousands of billions of galaxies and given us our livable planet earth which spun off from some star around 4.5 billion years ago.

That is the enormity of Christmas. The dear Lord Jesus who died for us and rose again so that he could live in our hearts is—and always was—the almighty son of the Father.

"Merry Christmas" does not do it justice, but it is a start.

The Joint Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6th at West Freeborn

Cross of Glory Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11th; please have your reports into Cindi no later than Monday, December 5th. Thanks 😊

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Churches - Joint Council Meeting – Nov. 1, 2016

Cross of Glory's president, Jerry Morstad, called the meeting to order. Present were: Jerry Morstad, Pat Ehrich, Paul Lynne, Cathy Crowe, Rachel Knudson, Matt Hoelscher, Mike Erich, Becky Ausen, Dave Ausen, Bob Indrelie, Mike Brekke, Emily Light, Martin Johnson, and Pastor Mark Hillmer. Devotions were given by Pastor Mark and he led the council in prayer. Pastor Mark reported that he had his back surgery, is back from medical leave, and can once again walk around without pain. Confirmation has begun with four students. The secretary's report from the last Joint Council meeting was read by Becky Ausen. There were no additions or corrections. Minutes were approved as read.

Open Issues:

1. Martin Johnson gave an update on the Call Committee. They have received a name from the Synod. There will be a primary interview on Thursday evening.
2. We discussed the possibility of using one single sign-up sheet for communion instead of printing and cutting the small cards.
3. The steps at the parsonage are enclosed and tight for winter.

Martin Johnson made a motion to adjourn this half of the meeting to allow the councils to reconvene for our respective council meetings. Paul Lynne seconded.

Rachel Knudson, Secretary, Cross of Glory

Cross of Glory Trustees and Deacons Meeting, Nov. 1, 2016

Jerry Morstad called the second half of the meeting to order. Randy Light, Ron Bartness, and Tim Bartness were absent. Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report. The minutes were approved as read. Cathy Crowe read the treasurer's report. The bill arrived from Ulland's and the amount for blacktopping was twice what we were expecting. Jerry offered to contact them for clarification of what we are being billed for (just in case they billed for the front of the church in error, etc). Matt Hoelscher made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills as money allows. Mike Brekke seconded.

Old Business:

1. The Soup & Pie supper will be held tomorrow evening.

New Business:

1. Cross of Glory will be hosting Thanksgiving services this year. Cathy Crowe made a motion to donate our Thanksgiving offering to the New Richland Area Food Shelf. Martin Johnson seconded.

2. The Annual Meeting will be the 11th of December. We will have to switch services with West Freeborn so we can have a potluck meal followed by the meeting.
3. Looking ahead at the positions that will be opening up: Cathy Crowe's deacon position will be done and she will continue on as treasurer. Matt Hoelscher and Tim Bartness are done in December. We have more deacon openings that haven't been filled. The nominating committee will be working to fill the open positions.
4. The presidents and treasurers of our two congregations will need to get together and set the budget before our next council meeting.

Cathy Crowe made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Paul Lynne seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Rachel Knudson, Secretary

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Nov. 1, 2016

The West Freeborn Church Council met on November 08, 2016, following the joint council meeting at Cross of Glory. Present were, Pat and Mike Ehrich, Dave Ausen, Bob Indrelie, Pastor Hillmer and Becky Ausen. Becky read the secretary's report. Pat read the treasurer's report.

Seeing as we did not have enough members present to hold a regulation meeting, those present discussed the following issues:

- The Bell Tower is in worse shape than originally thought according to Roger Johnson who is doing the tuck pointing. It was discussed maybe putting a roof over the Bell Tower. Will discuss more next meeting.
- Was discussed to roll over the Cemetery CD.
- The CD for the building fund was discussed. Pat will take the money and put it in a regular account and not renew it, in case we need it to pay the bills for the repair of the church.
- Pastor Hillmer will put an ad in the Albert Lea Tribune about the Polka Service and Harvest Bazaar.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Ausen, Secretary

CROSS OF GLORY CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Cross of Glory Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 4th - 9:00 a.m.



West Freeborn Children's Christmas Program

The West Freeborn's Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 18th – 10:30 a.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT WEST FREEBORN - Sunday School will be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month. If you have questions, please contact Sonja Honstad – 863-2154 or Becky Ausen – 863-2165.

CHURCH WOMEN

Rachel Circle will meet at the church on Saturday, December 3rd for Bible Study. Following Bible Study they will go to Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland for lunch & Christmas Bazaar.

Eunice Circle will meet on Wed. Dec. 14 – 1:30 p.m. at the church.

A Very Big "Thank You" to everyone who made the Soup & Pie Supper a success. We heard so many nice comments about how good the soup was & what great workers we had.

We made \$3700.00 and that will be disbursed to make our WELCA budget for this year & the remaining funds will be given to the road resurfacing project.

A very special Thank You to Jerry & Jill Morstad; without their guidance and dedication, this event could not have happened.

ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS

Monday, December 19th – 4:00 p.m. Altar Guild members & anyone who would like to help will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The Young Adults Group will resume their potluck meetings on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Cross of Glory

Ushers for October: Cross of Glory – Matt Hoelscher & Sawyer VanMaldeghem

Communion Server: Martin Johnson

Acolytes: Andrew Hoelscher

Ushers for October: West Freeborn: * Omer Emstad, Dale Christopherson, Steve Hoelscher, Jane Christopherson

Communion helper: Sonja Honstad

West Freeborn Quilters

The West Freeborn Quilters will not meet during the winter months.

Cross of Glory Cemetery Road Fund

Funds are needed to re-pave the cemetery road. The project will be done when the city streets are paved. \$20,000 is needed to complete the project. Please consider donating to this fund. Thank You

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	IMPROVEMENTS	MISSIONS
11-6-16	28	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 25.00
11-13-16	67	2,572.00	175.00	0.00
11-20-16	36	1,420.00	10.00	25.00
<u>11-27-16</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>1,410.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTALS		\$ 6,682.00	\$ 635.00	\$ 50.00

Cemetery - \$ 100.00 Air Conditioning - \$ 0.00

West Freeborn Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	MISSIONS	BUILDING
10-30-16	35	\$ 816.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 145.00
11-6-16	26	1,775.00	0.00	20.00
11-13-16	15	585.00	0.00	50.00
<u>11-20-16</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>1,870.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>290.00</u>
TOTALS		\$ 5,046.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 505.00

2016 Budget: \$ 62,455.00

***Upcoming Community Events:**

***Fri. & Sat. Dec. 2 & 3 – “Live Nativity” at New Life Christian Church in Albert Lea. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

***Sat. Dec. 3 – Trinity Lutheran in New Richland will host their annual “Christmas Bazaar” 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

***Fri. Dec. 9 – First Lutheran in Albert Lea will host “The Hanging of the Green” A Ceremony of Carols. 7:00 p.m.**

***Sat. Dec. 10 – Soup & Bread Lunch at Ellendale United Methodist Church. 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Cross of Glory Website: www.crossofglory.weebly.com

West Freeborn Website: www.westfreebornlutheranchurch.weebly.com

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches contact information:

Jerry Morstad, Cross of Glory President 507-373-0085

Church Office – 507-845-2818 – Fax # - 507-845-2732

Pastor’s cell phone: 651-925-6509, Parsonage Phone – 845-2825

Orlen Modene, West Freeborn President - 845-2832 Stacie Madson, West Freeborn Custodian 845-2501

Alvin & Cindy Morstad, C.G. Custodians 845-2813