

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches

August, 2017

Sunday Morning Worship times:

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



“By faith (Moses) left Egypt, unafraid of the king’s anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible.” (Hebrews 11:27)

It seems as if we continually need to be reminded of God’s presence in our lives and in this world. Perhaps this is because of what we read in this passage from Hebrews. God is invisible.

When we enter a room and flip the light switch, the light comes on. We don’t actually see the electricity that ran through the wires and caused this to happen, and to be perfectly honest we do not have much interest in seeing that electricity. We just want the light to come on. Now if we ever wonder about electricity we can flip that switch and watch the light come on, and we can say, “There it is!”

Throughout the Bible people are needing similar reminders of God’s presence. We keep hearing it said, “Remember when God led the slaves of Israel through the Red Sea, drowning the Egyptian pursuers.” “Don’t you recall that when those people were hungry God provided manna from heaven?” Those remembrances were meant to serve as the light coming on after we flip the switch. Here is a visible, tangible reminder of God at work. Since God is invisible, just as electricity is invisible, we need some visual reminders.

The faith of Moses that the writer of Hebrews commends in our verse for this month points out the fact that Moses behaved as one who had no need of those tangible reminders. Moses did all that he did as one who seemed to see the invisible God.

We may prefer the tangible reminders of the invisible, the way the light comes on and we never give a thought to what made it happen. But our faith should not rely on what is tangible. To be faithful is to live as one who seems to see what is invisible.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Schwartz

Joint Council Meeting- Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches - July 11, 2017

Cross of Glory's President, Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order @ 7:00 PM. Present were: Jerry Morstad, Cathy Crowe, Matt Hoelscher, Paul Lynne, Ronnie Bartness, Carol Riskedahl, Dave Ausen, Becky Ausen, Pat Ehrich, Mike Ehrich, Bob Indrelie, Mark Broskoff, Pastor Steve Schwartz, Sonja Honstad, Shirley Miller, and Roger Bakken.

Devotions were offered by Pastor Steve. He then gave his Pastor's Report to the joint council. He has been visiting the sick & shut-ins & giving Communion. He led worship services @ 3 sites in New Richland on June 15. The local pastors each lead services to shut-ins every 2 months. He apologized that the Albert Lea Tribune interview of him did not mention West Freeborn. He is trying to meet with the Sunday school staff to get some things set up. He has met with the confirmation students. John Hoelscher will be confirmed @ CG on Reformation Sunday in October.

The secretary's report of last meeting was read by Becky Ausen, minutes were approved as read.

Open Issues:

1. Parsonage lawn mower-Glenn Ausen attempted to repair the lawn mower & it is beyond repair. Council discussed option of buying a new mower jointly & having Pastor do the mowing. MSC Ronnie/Mark to continue having the Hoelscher boys mow @ \$25/time which is shared 50/50,
2. Parsonage windows & steps-We received the bill from Staloch Construction of \$900 for window installation which is shared 50/50. Pastor said some trim work still needs to be installed & the old windows need to be hauled away. We are still waiting for the mason that Duane Spooner recommended to fix the steps.
3. Confirmation plans-John Hoelscher will be Confirmed @ 10:30 on Reformation Sunday @ CG with a dinner to follow in the social hall.
4. Portico supplemental insurance for Nancy Schwartz-Pat has spoken with Portico & the plan Nancy selected costs \$364/month. Pastor will speak with Nancy about this & see if a less expensive plan would meet her needs. MSC Cathy/Becky to pay this until we get more information.
5. August meeting-date will be changed to the second Tuesday of August due to the Freeborn County Fair.
6. Cost of ice cream-CG will pay half the cost of making ice cream for the joint potluck on July 23.
7. Communication ideas-Cathy presented a small notice that could be placed in our pews for members & visitors to use. Jill Demmer had visited another church & brought this to our attention. It would be a nice way to give new information such as phone or address changes, volunteering, prayer requests, etc. & could just be put in the collection plate & given to the office. It was passed around & given to Pastor Steve to consider. MSC Paul/Dave to adjourn joint meeting.

Cathy Crowe, Secretary Pro Tem, Cross of Glory

Cross of Glory Trustees & Deacons Meeting - July 11, 2017

Jerry Morstad called the second half of the meeting to order. Present were Jerry Morstad, Cathy Crowe, Matt Hoelscher, Paul Lynne, Ronnie Bartness & Carol Riskedahl. Jerry read the Secretary's report in Rachel's absence, it was approved as read. Cathy presented the Treasurer's report. The Improvement Fund has \$4,957.46 in it. We owe final balance of \$1,452.25 to Ulland Brothers for the paving & \$450 to Staloch Construction for parsonage window installation. MSC Paul/Matt to pay both bills out of the Improvement Fund. The report was approved as read.

There was no old or new business to discuss. We are all very pleased with Pastor Steve & the attendance @ worship services & coffees. MSC Paul/Carol to adjourn the meeting. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Cathy Crowe, Secretary Pro Tem

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – July 11, 2017

The West Freeborn Church Council met on July 11, 2017, following the joint council meeting at Cross of Glory. Members present were: Shirley Miller, Sonja Honstad, Mark Broskoff, Bob Indrelie, Mike Ehrich, Pat Ehrich, Dave Ausen, Roger Bakken, Pastor Steve and Becky Ausen. President, Dave Ausen, called the meeting to order. Becky read the secretaries report. Stand approved as read. Pat read the treasurer's report. Bob made a motion to approve the report. Mike seconded it. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- **Update on Bell Tower:** Materials are in at Freeborn Lumber. Matt will get to it when he can.
- **Update on Constitution:** Pat and Becky met with Pastor Steve. Pat sent an email to the synod representative helping with the constitution with our changes.
- **Good Earth Village:** Dave will contact them about us going with our local "Prairie River Camp. Shirley brought info on Prairie River Camp which Dale Christopherson had gotten.
- **Air Conditioner for Social Hall:** Hanna's quote came in at \$6,520 for 2 units. Geno's came in at \$8,633 for 3 units. There was discussion on if three units were needed or not. Decision was tabled until next month.
- **St. John's Letter on Picture of the church:** Dave Pederson has gotten a current picture to St John's for their wall of the founding churches who helped fund St. John's. She would also like some older pictures also.
- **Key for the South Door:** Mark made a motion that we just jiggle our keys to get the door to open since that works. Shirley seconded it. Motion passed. So, jiggle away people 😊.
- **Joint Service on July 23:** There will be a joint service on July 23rd at West Freeborn. Steve's dome ice cream will be available. The councils agreed to split the cost of the ingredients.

New Business:

- **150-year anniversary this year:** This year is our 150-year anniversary. It was decided after discussion that we would have a celebration on Sunday, September 10th. Sonja and Becky will get together and start working on plans.
- **Copier from Freeborn Museum:** Sonja said the Freeborn Museum is willing to donate a copier to West Freeborn Church if we are willing to come and get it. Dave will make arrangements to get that picked up.
- **Parsonage Windows:** Bob made a motion to take money out of the general fund and pay off the parsonage windows installed. Mike seconded it. Motion carried.

Sonja made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat and Shirley seconded it. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

CHURCH WOMEN

Ascension Lutheran Guest night on Tues. Aug. 8 – 6:00 p.m.

Free will offering benefits the SEMCAC Women's Shelter.

Eunice Circle will meet on Wed. Aug. 15 – 1:30 p.m. at the church.

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR CROSS OF GLORY – 9:45 a.m.

Sun. Aug. 6 – Paul & Linda Lynne - - Sun. Aug. 13- Virgil & Arlene Thofson; Aug. 20 & 27 are open

Ushers for August: CG –Paul Lynne & Chris Lynne - Acolytes: Brady Koopal – Communion Helper: Paul Lynne

Ushers for August: WF - *Tim Beyer, Rich Honstad, Dave Pederson - Communion Helper: Glenn Ausen

Update on LWR Kits

LWR Items – delivered to First Lutheran Church – Albert Lea on May 20, 2017

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church – Baby Care Kits – shipped 31 kits; Personal Care Kits – shipped 19 kits

Shipped items that were tracked: CG Baby Care Kits – 1-26-17 – Mauritania; WF Quilts (34) – 6-16-2016 – Ukraine

Newly noted: CG – Personal Care Kits – 2-22-17- Georgia; Baby Care Kits 5-24-17 – Guatemala

Note from Cindi: I received a letter from LWR with more information: LWR is working with Cross International in Guatemala to distribute Baby Care Kits. Cross International is a relief and development organization that provides food, shelter, care, education and emergency relief to the most vulnerable around the world in the name of Jesus Christ. These kits will be distributed in two distribution sites in Guatemala: Operation Rescue, which is a ministry that provides education, nutritional and health services to families residing in the Guatemala City zones in and near t the dump, and San Juan De Dios Hospital which has a large maternity and pediatric focus. An estimated 14,400 people will be reached through this distribution.

LWR School Kits

It's that time of year again when donations are needed for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Please bring your items to the church during the month of August, so the kits can be assembled. Thanks for your donation. 😊 See list below for items needed: Copies of the list are in the narthex on the bulletin board.

4 spiral notebooks (70 pages each) - 16 or 24 count crayons - 1 blunt scissors - 1 – 12 inch ruler with centimeters

1 pencil sharpener - 1 eraser - 5 pencils - 5 ballpoint pens - 1 drawstring back pack (these were purchased last year & are still available)

150 YEARS CELEBRATION AT WEST FREEBORN

Looking ahead to September 10th. West Freeborn will be celebrating their 150th anniversary.

If you are interested in participating in special music, possibly a choir, please contact the church office at 845-2818.

There is a sign-up sheet at both churches...please sign up! Let's make this a great day for West Freeborn 😊



***Sun. Aug. 6 – Immediately following worship, Dave Pederson will be taking pictures of committees, Altar Guild, congregation, musicians, etc. for the 150th Anniversary book. Please plan to attend! 😊**

Statistics for West Freeborn Lutheran Church:

July 1st - - 23rd – General Fund - \$3840.00 - Building Fund- \$295.00 – Year to date: \$ 31,200.00 - Budget: \$ 62,110.00

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	IMPROVEMENTS	MISSIONS
7-3-17	42	\$ 1,873.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 0.00
7-9-17	39	1,773.50	75.00	0.00
7-16-17	39	832.05	25.00	0.00
7-23-17 (joint service @ WF)		250.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS		\$ 4,728.55	\$ 155.00	

Cemetery - \$ 125.00 Air Conditioning - \$ 0.00

Needs at Cross of Glory: *Does anyone have a toy box they would like to donate to the CG Sunday School?*



The current toy box is in need of replacement...Thank You 😊

Cross of Glory email address: cgwf@smig.net

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

West Freeborn Website: www.westfreebornlutheranchurch.weebly.com

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

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

Pastor’s cell phone: 507-250-6694 Parsonage Phone – 845-2825

Dave Ausen, West Freeborn President – 863-2165

Stacie Madson, West Freeborn Custodian 845-2501 Alvin & Cindy Morstad, C.G. Custodians 845-2813

August 2017 ✠ Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches,
Hartland, MN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cross of Glory Ushers: <i>Paul Lynne & Chris Lynne</i> Communion Servers: <i>Paul Lynne</i> Acolytes: <i>Brady Koopal</i>		West Freeborn Ushers: <i>*Tim Beyer, Rich Honstad, Dave Pederson</i> Communion helper: <i>Glenn Ausen</i>				
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m. Worship at WF 9:45 a.m. Coffee @ CG hosted by Paul & Linda Lynne 10:30 a.m. Worship at CG	7 Staff meeting 9:00 a.m.	8 Joint Council meeting @ WF 7:00 p.m. <i>Rachel Circle attending Guest Night @ Ascension Luth.</i> 6 p.m.	9 Quilting @ WF 9:00 a.m.	10	11	12
13 9:00 a.m. Worship at WF 9:45 a.m. Coffee @ CG hosted by Virgil & Arlene Thofson 10:30 a.m. Worship at CG	14 Staff meeting 9:00 a.m.	15	16 Eunice Circle 1:30 @ WF at the church	17	18	19
20 9:00 a.m. Worship at WF 10:30 a.m. Worship at CG	21 Staff meeting 9:00 a.m.	22	23 Quilting @ WF 9:00 a.m.	24	25	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship at WF 10:30 a.m. Worship at CG	28 Staff meeting 9:00 a.m.	29	30	31		

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

For our Bible study this month let's look at the readings for August 20. If you find this intriguing I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

These lessons all speak to God's interest in opening the gates of the Kingdom of Heaven to all people, and when God talks about "all people" it refers primarily to people who are not just like us.

Read Isaiah 56:1, 6-8.

This portion of Isaiah addresses the people of Israel who have returned from Babylon to rebuild their homeland. God enabled them to return, but is planning to bring in others as well. What is it about welcoming everyone that makes you uncomfortable?

Being chosen by God was seen by the nation of Israel as a privilege conferred upon them, but the Apostle Paul takes a different view of what it means to be "chosen". It is not so much a privilege as a responsibility, and as Paul describes it in this passage people are chosen by God not because they are special, but because they are in need of God's mercy.

Read Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32.

The doors of the Kingdom are being thrown wide open because all people are disobedient and in need of God's mercy. How can the church demonstrate this all inclusive and equalizing message?

It becomes apparent when reading the Gospels that Jesus clearly believed that his ministry was meant to focus on the Jewish people, and it would then be up to his disciples, following the resurrection, to carry the message beyond Judaism. Ministering to non-Jews was forced on him.

Read Matthew 15:21-28.

Jesus' reluctance to help this woman seems surprising to us. The big surprise is that, considering the attitudes of the times, he did help her. How would you describe the faith of this woman?