

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches

Hartland, MN

Sunday Morning Worship times: Cross of Glory service is each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 10:15 a.m.

West Freeborn service is each Sunday at 10:30 am. Please come early for coffee before the worship service.

Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m.



From: Pastor Mark Hillmer

A Eucharistic Church

As the Transition team has been going about its work of anticipating the future, the matter of the joint parish of Cross of Glory and West Freeborn becoming Eucharistic has arisen.

Actually, I brought it up, and the Team discussed it. A Eucharistic Church celebrates the Lord's Supper every Sunday. So the Team is facilitating congregational discussion of this issue at Wednesday suppers. If the Team becomes convinced that a significant majority of the congregation would entertain this notion positively they could well include in its final report a recommendation of weekly communion to the joint church council. The council would then either accept or reject the recommendation, based on their sense of the fitness of things.

I have known interim pastors who have simply mandated weekly communion, that is, without consultation or permission have exercised the pastoral right to lead the congregation in things spiritual. I, however, think it would be a good thing if the parish as a whole thought about the matter and came to its own conclusion.

Here are a few pros and cons that come to mind. I start with the cons:

* "We have never done it that way." While some wags have called this sentence the "Seven Last Words of the Church," I do think there is something to be said for maintaining the status quo. Monthly communion is fine. Many Lutheran churches have historically adopted this rhythm. Religion likes regularity. We come to church not to be surprised by human changes but by God's grace.

* It would mean more work for the altar guild, requiring someone--some women--to prepare the elements weekly instead of monthly.

* It would regularly shorten the sermon time by 5 or 10 minutes.

Some points to consider in favor of weekly communion:

* Those members who find they must work some Sundays would always receive the Eucharist whenever they are able to come to church.

* It is healthy. Luther wrote in the Large Catechism: "The Lord's Supper nourishes the soul, and where the soul is nourished, there the body is also benefitted."

* Those who have gone Eucharistic often come to feel something is missing when they attend a Sunday service and there is not communion. One of my liturgical mentors somewhat facetiously called this a "dry mass."

* There is nothing wrong with it; in fact, it is catching on in many Lutheran parishes.

* It is one way to grow roots in the Lord. And if roots grow on a tree, leaves increase. In practical terms, I see the weekly celebration of communion as leading toward increased Sunday worship and even new members.

You can probably tell where I stand on this issue.

West Freeborn & Cross of Glory Lutheran Church – Joint Council Meeting
February 3, 2015

The joint council meeting of Cross of Glory and West Freeborn Church met on Feb. 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at West Freeborn. Mark Broskoff, Cathy Crowe, Randy Light, Matt Hoelscher, Rachel Knudson, Pat Ehrich, Tim Bartness, Mike Ehrich, Bob Indrelie, Roger Bakken, Sue Bakken, Ronnie Bartness, Orlen Modene, Jerry Morstad, Mike Brekke, Sonja Honstad and Pastor Mark were present.

West Freeborn President Orlen Modene called the meeting to order. Pastor Hillmer gave devotions. Secretary report was read by Rachel Knudson. Motion was made to accept as read. Seconded.

*Copier contract was discussed

* A raise in the mileage tax rate from 56 cents to 57.5 cents was discussed. Motion was made to accept the mileage raise. Seconded.

* Motion was made to switch Confirmation to April 26 for the Confirmands going to West Freeborn. Seconded.

* Ash Wednesday on Feb. 16 will be at West Freeborn.

* Motion made to adjourn the joint meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Bakken, Acting Secretary

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – February 3, 2015

The West Freeborn Church Council met on Feb. 3, 2015 following the joint council meeting at West Freeborn. President Orlen Modene called the meeting to order. Present were: Pat Ehrich, Mike Ehrich, Mark Broskoff, Steve Ausen, Orlen Modene, Sonja Honstad, Roger Bakken, Sue Bakken and Bob Indrelie.

Secretary's report was read by Sue Bakken in Becky Ausen's absence. Motion was made to approve the secretary's report. Motion seconded.

Pat Ehrich read the treasurer's report. Parsonage upkeep money's were discussed. Motion was made to accept the report as read. Seconded.

Old Business:

- People from the lift will be in this week. Phone line was brought. We will have to contact Bevcomm. The phone will need to be hooked up for the lift.
- Orlen received a quote from Jim & Dudes for heat and cooling of \$8,600. Still looking for some more bids. Fans were suggested for the new hall to help with cooling, putting the water heat back in the room, wiring for lights has been completed.
- Land sale was brought up by Steve Ausen. The new owner has offered to buy the land that the church now owns. The pie piece of land on the north side of the cemetery was tabled as to what will be done with it.
- Having the women ushering in our church will be on the 2016 calendar.

New Business:

- We need committees organized for communion serving.
Parsonage committee: Bob and Milo
Cemetery committee: Steve and Mike
Financial committee: Pat and Orlen
Education committee: Sonja and Becky
Property committee: Roger
- Pat brought up serving for Lent Suppers (3 weeks) Feb. 18th: Dave Becky, Orlen & Doug; Mar. 4: Pat, Mike, Roger and Sonja; Mar. 18: Bob, Mark & Milo.
- Pat asked if we are going to give any benevolence. Lent offering and Easter offering were tabled until next month.
- Motion made to use the music fund money for sound equipment for the new hall. Seconded.
- Water heater is needed for new hall.
- Spring cleaning was discussed. We are going to have to set a date on cleaning the church. April 5th is Easter. A cleaning service was brought up to help with the cleaning.
Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Seconded.

Sue Bakken, Acting Secretary

Cross of Glory Trustees and Deacons Meeting – February 3, 2015

Jerry Morstad called the second half of the meeting to order. Lyle Bird and Paul Lynne were absent. Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report. The minutes were approved as read. Jerry Morstad went over the treasurer's report that Jon Stelter prepared for the meeting.

Old Business:

1. Jon Stelter is to meet with Cindi to get her comfortable with understanding the bills and how to enter them in the computer program. We do still need a member of the church to step into accept the treasurer's position to sign checks and write out payroll. We decided to have Jon and Cindi work together first, then see if we need to contract with Betsy for setting up any Excel spreadsheets or other work that needs to be done.

New Business:

1. Lent is quickly approaching and we will be hosting the services on Feb. 25, Mar. 11, and Mar. 25. As we typically serve a light supper beforehand, we have to decide who will serve. Rachel Circle will serve the first night. The Council decided to serve the second and we will ask the Altar Guild if

they would be willing to serve the third. *Secretary's note: The Alter Guild will not be serving the third service but rather the Sunday School parents will be covering the meal for the Mar. 25 service.*

2. March 8th, there will be a baptism in church and the family has asked if they could use the social hall for brunch. The council agreed.
3. Insurance on the church building will be increasing \$500 a year.
4. There was a question from the Altar Guild members serving this month. Since church was cancelled on the first Sunday of the month, are we to have communion the second Sunday? It was decided that we will not try to make up the missed communion so the Altar Guild can proceed with their normal monthly schedule.

Randy Light made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matt Hoelscher seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Rachel Knudson, Secretary

**** Sunday, March 8, 2015: Baptism of August Maurice Andrew Besser will be held at Cross of Glory. August was born June 29, 2014. Parents are Kaelyn Sletten & Paul Besser. His sponsors are Curtis Peterson & Kristi Schulenberg. There will be a brunch after church.**

CHURCH WOMEN

****WELCA meeting – Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the church, 9:30 a.m. We will meet to put together our birthday bags. All the bags will be given to the NR Food Shelf. If you can't be at the meeting & want to donate, please leave your items in the tub in the narthex.**

Thank You.

****Rachel Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24th. Jane Crowe, hostess & Kathy Spooner, Bible Study. (Note date change)**

****Eunice Circle will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Mar. 18th at Sonja Honstad's home in Freeborn.**

**** On Communion Sundays at Cross of Glory, Gluten free bread will be available. Please indicate when you commune if you would prefer Gluten free.**

**** Ushers: Cross of Glory – March: Randy Light** - There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for 2015 ushers.

Communion Servers: Cathy Crowe & Paul Lynne

Acolytes: Lillian Bell

Ushers: West Freeborn – March: *Roger Bakken, Kaleb Bjornstad Dave Ausen, Steve Hannegrefs

Communion Server: Mark Broskoff

To Thrivent Members from West Freeborn Church:

To designate your Thrivent "Choice Dollars" to West Freeborn, call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice". They will do the rest. Deadline is March 31, 2015. Questions, please call Sonja Honstad at 507-863-2154.

Update on the Transition Team

We have had 4 meetings. The self-study team is finishing work on the history of the two churches and the surrounding area. The staffing needs team is in the process of talking to the staff to get their personal input. The third area, the Mission-Vision team is working on the Liturgy, or the church service. At the next Lenten services on Wednesday nights, the transition team will be asking you some questions regarding the Eucharist or Communion. Such as, which type of Communion, number of times per month, which Sunday of the month. We want your feedback, so please be thinking about the Eucharist or Communion.

Statistics for

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	IMPROVEMENTS	MISSIONS
2-1-15	church cancelled due to weather			
2-8-15	39	\$ 1,522.00	0.00	\$ 25.00
2-15-15	42	741.00	0.00	0.00
<u>2-22-15</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<u>Totals</u>		<u>\$ 3,763.00</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>

Cemetery - \$ 150.00

West Freeborn Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	BUILDING FUND	MISSIONS
2-1-15	church cancelled due to weather			
2-8-15	38	\$ 2,445.00	0.00	0.00
2-15-15	45	1,086.75	0.00	20.00
<u>2-22-15</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>512.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>
<u>Rec'd yr. to date:</u>		<u>\$ 4,043.75</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>

2015 Budget: \$ 62,455.00

Received year to date: \$ 9,202.75

**** Thanks to our west Freeborn & Cross of Glory Church families for your support and prayers and words of encouragement during this difficult time. It is sincerely appreciated. The family of Paul Madson**

Also, thank you for our prayers & support for Milo when he was laid up with a leg infection.

Milo & Ardie Madson

BONNIE SCHUSTER

As some of you may know, Bonnie Schuster has been doing extensive historical research on the West Freeborn Cemetery. She has completed her work & is compiling her findings into a book. The cost of the book will be \$30.00. If you are interested in purchasing a book from Bonnie, please call her at 507-863-2336.

A note from Cindi: The deadline for the April mailer will be: Monday, March 23, 2015. If you have items or reports, please have them turned into the office by that date, or email them to me at : cgwf@smig.net Thank You ☺

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches contact information:

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

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

Cindy Stelter, Cross of Glory Sunday School 507-444-9727

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

Orlen Modene, West Freeborn President & Custodian 845-2832

West Freeborn Church phone 863-2436

Rev. Mark Hillmer, Parsonage Phone 845-2825

Pastor's cell phone 651-925-6509

March 2015 ✠ Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches, Hartland, MN

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Cross of Glory Ushers: Randy Light Communion Servers: Cathy Crowe (1 st Sunday) Paul Lynne (4 th Sunday) Acolytes: Lillian Bell		West Freeborn Ushers: *Roger Bakken, Kaleb Bjornstad, Dave Ausen, Steve Hannegrefs Communion Server: Mark Broskoff				
1 9:00 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory Sunday School – 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.	2 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m. Text Study at Cross of Glory	3 Text Study at CG 6:00 p.m. Joint Council meeting @ Cross of Glory 7:00 p.m.	4 Lenten Service at West Freeborn 6:00 p.m. supper, 7:00 p.m. service. Pastor Walerius	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory – Baptism of August Besser Sunday School – 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.	9 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m. Text Study at Cross of Glory	10 6:00 p.m.- Text Study at Cross of Glory	11 Lenten Service at Cross of Glory, 6:00 p.m. supper, 7:00 p.m. service. Pastor Hillmer	12	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory – * NR Area Food Shelf skit Sunday School – 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.	16 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m. Text Study at Cross of Glory	17 6:00 p.m. Text Study at Cross of Glory (note date change for Rachel Circle; changed to 24 th)	18 Eunice Circle will meet @ 1:30 p.m. at Sonja Honstad’s home. Lenten Service at West Freeborn - 6:00 p.m. supper 7:00 p.m. worship Pastor Gegel	19	20	21
22 9:00 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory Sunday School – 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.	23 Staff Meeting 9:00 a.m. Text Study at Cross of Glory 10:00 a.m.	24 6:00 p.m. Text Study at Cross of Glory Rachel Circle 7:00 p.m. at home of Jane Crowe	25 Lenten Service at Cross of Glory 6:00 p.m. – supper 7:00 p.m. – service Pastor Hillmer	26	27	28