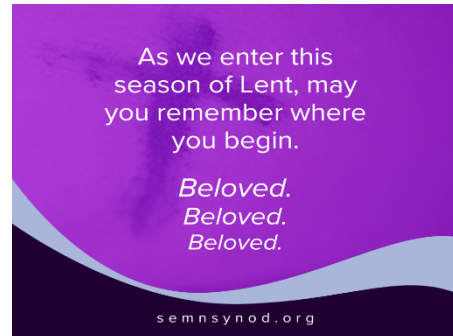


Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – March 2024

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

March



As we enter this season of Lent, may you remember where you begin.

Receive this blessing from author and artist Jan Richardson:

Beloved Is Where We Begin - If you would enter into the wilderness, do not begin without a blessing. Do not leave without hearing who you are: Beloved, named by the One who has traveled this path before you. Do not go without letting it echo in your ears, and if you find it is hard to let it into your heart, do not despair. That is what this journey is for. I cannot promise this blessing will free you from danger, from fear, from hunger or thirst, from the scorching of sun or the fall of the night. But I can tell you that on this path there will be help. I can tell you that on this way there will be rest. I can tell you that you will know the strange graces that come to our aid only on a road such as this, that fly to meet us bearing comfort and strength, that come alongside us for no other cause than to lean themselves toward our ear and with their curious insistence whisper our name: Beloved. Beloved. Beloved.

1

As Lent Continues – By the time of your reading this in our Newsletter, we are already into the Lenten Season. A special THANK YOU goes out to those who have served meals, served as readers and worship musicians/leaders and as characters in our dramas so far...and I invite you to stay tuned as we continue our journey through this season with worship, music, and drama.

Beginning on March 6th, our in-dept interviews continue with our team of roving reporters asking the tough questions of Pilate's Wife Claudia, Barabbas and Peter. Each story she'd light on the events around the cross leading up to the Crucifixion and we hope you make time to attend to step into their stories.

Worship, Meals and Communion Instruction continue as follows –

Wednesday, March 6 – at Cross of Glory (Communion Class from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 13 – at West Freeborn (Communion Class from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 20 – at Cross of Glory (Communion Class from 5:30 – 6:16 p.m.)

Cross of Glory Lenten Mission - Cross of Glory members, the Council decided to support two missions this Lent and Spring...the first is that any \$\$ donated using the Brown Envelopes (located near the offering plate or by request) will collectively be donated to Lutheran World Relief, supporting relief measures where funds are needed most or where global emergencies occur. At the conclusion of this seasonal mission emphasis, the Council will direct funds and communicate where those funds were sent.

If you'd prefer to donate online, you can donate where funds are needed most here - [https://give.lwr.org/page/123179/donate/1?](https://give.lwr.org/page/123179/donate/1?ea_tracking_id=lwrwebsite&_gl=1*1ixhrv4*_ga*MTI4MDMwMDEyMy4xNzA4NjMwNDk1*_ga_2NDS7E13JR*MTcwODYzMDQ5NS4xLjEuMTcwODYzMDYzMS4wLjAuMA)

[ea_tracking_id=lwrwebsite&_gl=1*1ixhrv4*_ga*MTI4MDMwMDEyMy4xNzA4NjMwNDk1*_ga_2NDS7E13JR*MTcwODYzMDQ5NS4xLjEuMTcwODYzMDYzMS4wLjAuMA](https://give.lwr.org/page/123179/donate/1?ea_tracking_id=lwrwebsite&_gl=1*1ixhrv4*_ga*MTI4MDMwMDEyMy4xNzA4NjMwNDk1*_ga_2NDS7E13JR*MTcwODYzMDQ5NS4xLjEuMTcwODYzMDYzMS4wLjAuMA). Or for emergency relief measures here - <https://lwr.org/donate-em>Cross and West In mission together...

The second, more hands-on project will be the donation of supplies and assembling of Care Kits. Items included in each kit are –

- One lightweight cotton or cotton blend bath-sized towel (20"x40" or 52"x27")
- Two or three bath-sized bars of soap equaling 8-9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping (PLEASE NO mini or hotel-sized bars)
- One adult-sized toothbrush in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb, with packaging removed (since there are many different types of hair textures, no picks or fine-toothed combs please)
- One metal nail clipper, remove packaging

If your preference is to donate funds to purchase items, please leave your donation with the church office or Pastor Marcia, who will make sure your gift gets in the right hands.

Please have as many donations as possible to Cross of Glory by Wednesday, April 10th for Wednesday Worship and Confirmation Classes to assemble them, or to West Freeborn on or before Sunday, May 5th for Sunday School kiddos to assemble. Spring WELCA Ingathering is Saturday, May 18th, and Quilt/Kit blessing Sunday will be Mother's Day, May 12th. All are welcome to participate in this project.

2

Communion Instruction, Confirmation and Wednesday Worship during Lent - As Lent gears up, Wednesday Worship takes a break to allow time for other classes like Communion Instruction to happen. If you are a parent who feels like your child has interest or shows a readiness to learn about Communion in a way that will prepare them to receive Communion, please reach out and connect with Pastor Marcia and take note about Communion Instruction dates above. Classes will continue on Wednesday, March 6, 13 & 20, with a special service planned for First Communion in a Combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service held on Thursday, March 28 @ Cross of Glory, and on Friday, March 29 @ Cross of Glory.

If you have a 5th Grade student or you would like your child to participate in classes, please RSVP to Pastor Marcia by calling the church at 507-509-3396, by emailing at pastor.cgwf@gmail.com, or by phone or text at 507-509-3396. I'm looking forward to seeing you there and meeting any newcomers who wish to participate!

Confirmation students, we need your presence – our need continues during the season of Lent. Opportunities to serve as scripture readers and prayer leaders remain and we'd love you to give it a try. For 3rd Year students looking to be Confirmed this Spring, some things to keep in mind

- Check in with your mentors (or Mentors check in with your kiddos) to see how they are doing with their packets. Use Lenten Meal or Sunday Hospitality times to complete what you need to.
- Stole-making times will begin Wednesday, March 6th at 5 p.m. at Cross of Glory in Basement Classrooms. Students, stole-making helpers, parents (if you wish) and mentors (if you wish) are all welcome to work together.
- Verse and Faith Statement materials have been emailed. Be sure to take time to think about this, use anything you've written in your journal over the past year and more, then pray and prepare yourself to write as you feel called. Mentors, parents, godparents or sponsors are welcomed to help or give input...as well as Pastor Marcia. Happy writing!

All Call for Volunteers - Opportunities for volunteers to serve at both West Freeborn and Cross of Glory abound, and I'd love to help you find a role in which you will find meaning. Whether it is Communion serving, Reading Scriptures,

Ushering, Singing or Worship Leading, consider this an open invitation to serve in any of these roles. As a busy season begins, pray and see how God leads you to respond to the call to serve!

- *Pastor Marcia*

Annual Meeting of West Freeborn Lutheran Church

The annual meeting of West reborn Lutheran Church was held on Sun. Jan. 21, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Glenn Ausen.

Secretaries Report: Read by Becky Ausen. Dave Ausen made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve Ausen seconded it. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Read by Pat Ehrich. Pat told how we only made budget 3 times this year. Tim Beyer made a motion to accept the report. Dale Christopherson seconded it. Motion carried.

Presidents Report: Can be found in the annual report booklet. Read at your leisure.

Pastor Report: Can be found in the annual report booklet. Read at your leisure.

Old Business:

***Coffee Fund Report:** In the annual report booklet. Read at your leisure.

***Altar Guild Report:** In the annual report booklet. Read at your leisure. Lynda Emstad reported that battery-operated candles had been purchased for the altar. The batteries last close to 2 months. The candles take AAA batteries, so if anyone would like to purchase some they can be placed in the sacristy room in the drawer.

***Sunday School Fund:** In the annual report booklet. Read at your leisure. Jade O’Byrne reported things were going well.

3

***Quilters Report:** In the annual report booklet. Read at your leisure. Karen Ausen talked about how the quilters do their quilting from March thru October. All are welcome to come. You do not have to know how to sew. There are many things that can be done. Trying quilts, cutting material, etc.

***Basement:** Mark Langrud brought up that all the kitchen in the basement has been emptied. Mark stated it looks like a “terrorist training camp” down there! The basement could use a good cleaning a new paint.

***Snow Removal:** Dave Ausen brought up how when moving the snow, to please not put it at the end of the sidewalk on the north edge of the church. Last year as the pile of snow melted it turned the parking lot into a muddy mess. Gravel had to be brought in to fill in the muddy holes. The snow need to be blown or pushed across the road.

New Business:

***Approve West Freeborn 2024 budget:** Pat Ehrich read the proposed budget. Omer Emstad made a motion to accept the budget. Steve Ausen seconded it. Motion carried.

***Election of Officers:** Becky Ausen read the slate of offers for 2024. Becky made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot. Mark Langrud seconded it. Motion passed.

***Time Change:** Starting the first Sunday in June, we will go back to 10:30 a.m. service start time.

***Lenten Service Suppers:** We will be doing the suppers again this year. West is to furnish supper on Feb. 28th & Mar. 13th.

***Windows:** There was a bid for \$4,000 for the windows with the colored glass panels at the back of the church in the hallway. These windows will be replaced with a full clear glass panel and will not open. The Social Hall windows also need to be replaced.

***Insurance:** Right now, we have insurance for 1.8 M from NorthStar Co. Still being checked on.

***Fire Extinguishers:** Pat Ehrich will call Brooks Safety to get the recommendation of how many fire extinguishers we need for the church to be in compliance with insurance.

Water Softener: Salt had gotten stuck in the softener, but is now fixed.

Dave Ausen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Langrud seconded it. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Feb. 06, 2024

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council met Feb. 06, 2024, following the joint council meeting. Members present were Glenn, Kristin, Steve, Corky, Pat, Mike and Becky. Glenn called the meeting to order. Pastor Marcia had given a pray in the joint meeting held before this meeting. Becky read the secretary's report. There was a correction to last month's report. The benevolence of \$214 was given to Albert Lea backpack program, as well as \$214 to Alden backpack program and \$215 to Maple River backpack program. Mike made a motion to accept the report as corrected. Corky seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurer's report. We made budget this month. Steve made a motion to pay the bills. Kristin seconded it. Motion passed.

Old Business: · Property Insurance: After reviewing the proposed insurance, Steve made a motion to accept the insurance quote. Corky seconded it. Motion passed.

· Water Filter: Steve/Mike made a motion to have Ron's Plumbing come out and take care of the filter for the water. Pat seconded it. Motion passed.

New Business: CD's coming due: Corky made a motion to roll the CD's back into 7 months. Steve seconded it. Motion passed.

4

· West Windows: The windows at the back of the church in the hallway, have been paid for. Matt will install them when they get here.

· Need a motion to change coffee fund from Dale to Pat and Becky: Pat made the motion. Kristin seconded it. Motion passed.

· It was brought up to have Dave A. contact Schrader to do the mowing again this year. Next council meeting will be on Tuesday Mar. 05, 2024 via Zoom. Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded it. Motion passed. Closed with the Lord's Prayer by Pastor Marcia.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Churches Joint Council Meeting February 06,2024

The joint council meeting of Cross of Glory and West Freeborn Churches met on Feb. 06, 2024, at 7:00 pm at West Freeborn. Pastor Marcia, Jerry Morstad, Ron Bartness, Carol Light, Linda Brekke, Paul Lynne, Steve Bakken, Martin Johnson, Jill Morstad, Emily Wakefield, Glenn Ausen, Corky Modene, Pat Ehrich, Mike Ehrich, Steve Ausen, Kristin Modene, Becky Ausen and Zack Jacobson, (via phone) were present. West Freeborn President, Glenn Ausen, called the meeting to order. Pastor Marcia led us in prayer.

Secretaries Report: Carol Light read the report from the March 2023 meeting. Martin made a motion to approve the minutes. Jerry seconded it. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Marcia passed out a copy to each member present. This report will be posted on her office door at Cross of Glory and the refrigerator at West Freeborn to read at your leisure.

Church Issues: · Lenten Services: This year Ash Wednesday will be at West Freeborn, with the following Wednesday at Cross of Glory. There will be a light meal served starting at 6:00pm at each church except for Ash Wednesday and the final week of Lenten Services. Pastor Marcia talked about trying something new this year so each church could experience Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in their respective churches. Jill Morstad made a motion that each church have a combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service. Martin Johnson seconded it. Motion passed. Each church (Cross of Glory and West Freeborn) will have a combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service at their respective churches, starting at 6:30. Cross of Clory's combined service will be on Thurs. March 28, at 6:30pm and West Freeborn's combined service will be on Friday, March 29, at 6:30pm. Easter Sunday will be at 7:00 AM at Cross of Glory and 9:00 AM at West Freeborn.

· Communion Before 5th Grade: Pastor Marcia is willing to teach children the communion lessons before 5th grade if the families would like their child to take communion. Let Pastor Marcia know if you would like your child to take part in this instruction.

· Continuing Education for Pastor Marcia: Pastor Marcia talked about how she needs 60 contact hours for every year in continuing education. She is able to go once a month to Gustavus Adolphus College every year for 3 years. This will be paid for by the money she receives from the two churches in continuing education.

· Synod Assembly: Will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Mayo Civic Arena in Mankato, MN.

- Polka Service/Harvest Bazaar at West: Carol Light brought up that she thought when West Freeborn has their Polka Service/Harvest Bazaar in November, that there should only be one service that day so Cross of Glory could attend the Polka Service and Bazaar. This was discussed and decided that it sounded like a good idea.
- New Church Directory: Martin Johnson brought up that we have not had a church directory done for a long time. Olin Mills needs to be contacted to see if they still do directories.

5

Steve A. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Corky seconded it. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted. Becky Ausen, Secretary.

Cross of Glory Council Minutes - February 6, 2024

Present: Pastor Marcia Pedersen, Steve Bakken, Ron Bartness, Linda Brekke, Zack Jacobson, Martin Johnson, Carol Light, Paul Lynne, Jerry Morstad, Jill Morstad, and Emily Wakefield. Visitor: Shauna Hoelscher. President Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order and Pastor Marcia led us in a prayer. Carol read the minutes of the January 2, 2024 meeting. Secretary's report was approved as read. Martin made the motion to accept the report and Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried. Linda gave the Treasurer's report. Martin made the motion to approve Treasurer's report as read and pay bills as funds allow. Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Marcia presented a detailed report to the council for the month of January. If you would like to see the report, there will be one in the office to view.

Old Business: Building project updates include the following: We are waiting on an estimate from Jim and Dude's Plumbing Heating and Air Conditioning regarding air conditioning estimate for sanctuary. An estimate has been received from Johnson's Heating and Air Conditioning. One concern Brandon Flatness has regarding the basement wall project is what condition the gas line is in, where it is located and how it is positioned near the building. Valerie Lockhart, facilitator of "CREATE with AI" will be presenting at the "All In Night" on Wednesday, February 7. The ESST policy was approved by the council via an e-mail due to time constraints.

New Business: Shauna Hoelscher, financial secretary, was present at the meeting to discuss clarifications and directives regarding counting of money procedures for offerings given to the church. After much discussion, protocols were created for this purpose. Shauna also requested that the congregation provide a back-up financial secretary to cover responsibilities when either Shauna or Robin are unavailable. Martin made a motion to acknowledge businesses and people that give donations or memorials to our congregation that are not church members. Zack seconded the motion. Motion carried. Cross of Glory will be responsible for meals on 2/21, 3/6, and 3/20 for Lenten evening meals. Ron, Jerry and Jill will organize the meal on 2/21. Linda, Carol, Paul and Emily will organize the 3/6 meal with the Confirmation/ Wednesday Worship families taking responsibility for 3/20. Emily will check with families of Confirmation and Wednesday Worship families regarding the Easter Breakfast. Martin made a motion to designate our Lent/Easter offering to Lutheran World Relief. Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried. Members will have the opportunity to donate supplies for "Personal Care Kits" for LWR. Jill will make a supply list for this project. Jill made a motion to approve this Lenten service project and Linda seconded the motion. Motion carried. The church social hall will be used for the March 6 primary election; therefore Paul made a motion to move the council meeting to Monday, March 5 at 7:00 pm. Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried. The \$95,000 CD will mature on February 12. Paul made a motion to extend this CD including its present earnings for another 7 months at 4.50% rate. Your financial support of Cross of Glory is appreciated. A motion for adjournment was made by Paul and seconded by Ron. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting Date: Monday, March 4, 2024 @ 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Carol Light, Secretary

Easter breakfast announcement for Cross of Glory

Easter breakfast plans are under way for March 31st! Look for a sign up sheet soon in the narthex in early March. We will have a potluck buffet. People can sign up to bring pastries, savory breakfast items, fruit, or beverages. We will also need a few people to tidy up after we eat.

Quilting @ WF – Wed. March 20 – 9:00 a.m.

Will include attendance numbers in the next newsletter.

Ushers for WF – March, 2024: * Roger Bakken, Dave Ausen, Sue Bakken.

Statistics for Cross of Glory

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Improvement Fund</u>	<u>Mission Fund</u>	<u>Cemetery Fund</u>
Sun. Jan. 7	\$ 1,525.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 75.00
Sun. Jan. 14 – services canceled due to weather conditions				
Sun. Jan. 21	770.00	10.00	25.00	30.00
Sun. Jan. 28	1,464.00	0.00	0.00	85.00 (Memorial)
TOTALS	\$ 3,759.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 190.00

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Sun. Feb. 4	1,895.00	45.00	30.00	150.00
Sun. Feb. 11	675.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
Sun. Feb. 18	775.00	25.00	30.00	0.00
TOTALS	\$ 3,345.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 150.00

Sun. Feb. 25th totals were not available at print time; will run a complete amount in the next newsletter.

Cross of Glory email address: cgwf@smig.net - Cross of Glory Website: www.crossofglory.weebly.com

West Freeborn Website: www.westfreebornlutheranchurch.weebly.com

Pastor Marcia Pedersen – Office Hours: M-TH – 9:30 – 5:00 p.m. Cell # 507-509-3396.

Jerry Morstad, Cross of Glory President : 507-373-0085 - Glenn Ausen, West Freeborn President – 402-4287

Church Office – 507-845-2818 – Fax # - 507-845-2732 - Stacie Madson, West Freeborn Custodian 845-2525

Cindy Morstad – contact for funerals, etc. 845-2255 (home) – 402-4577 (cell) - Alvin Morstad, Grounds keeper & boiler maintenance – 845-2813 (home) – 402-8612 (cell) - Kristin Malmberg – Custodian – 612-816-3271

March - 2024
Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches, Hartland, MN
Worship times: West Freeborn– 9:00 a.m. Cross of Glory – 10:30 a.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 WF - worship – 9:00 a.m. CG - worship – 10:30 a.m. Communion	4 <i>CG Church Council meets</i>	5 <i>WF Church Council meets 8 p.m. via Zoom</i>	6 5:30-6:15 – Communion Class 6:00 p.m. Meal 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service @ CG	7	8	9 Turn Clocks Ahead
10 Daylight Savings Time begins WF - worship – 9:00 a.m. CG - worship – 10:30 a.m.	11	12	13 5:30-6:15 – Communion Class 6:00 p.m. Meal 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service @ WF	14	15	16
17 WF - worship – 9:00 a.m. CG - worship – 10:30 a.m.	18	19	20 9:00 a.m. Quilting @ WF 5:30-6:15 Communion Class 6:00 p.m. Meal 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship @ CG	21	22	23
24 WF - worship – 9:00 a.m. CG - worship – 10:30 a.m. Communion	25	26	27 No Wed. Worship or Confirmation	28 Maundy Thursday Combined Service 6:30 p.m.	29 Good Friday Combined Service 6:30 p.m.	30

Sun. March 31 – Easter Sunday – 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship @ CG followed by breakfast – watch for sign-up sheet in Narthex.