

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – December 2023

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

December



Christmas Greetings featuring...YOU!

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday (which does happen every once in a while), Church councils and congregation members' input has helped shape the time services are offered at both Cross of Glory and West Freeborn. So to try to extend Christmas Greetings into Christmas Day and the Season of Christmas beyond (that lasts for 12 Days, hence the 12 Days of Christmas), **we'd love for you to share a Christmas Greeting with us!**

Please leave your family Christmas Card with us on or before Sunday, December 17th to have yours included with a shared Christmas Greeting Video that will drop on Christmas Day via social media at What's New at Cross of Glory, the Cross of Glory Facebook page, via text message for West Freeborn folks, and posted to Pastor Marcia's YouTube channel with a link that you can share with family members and friends. (If you're concerned about privacy, we will include only faces if you request, or a Christmas Card from your family...we will respect your choices and your privacy)

If you'd rather have us record a family Christmas Greeting, we will have times available on Sunday, December 17th as follows – prior to worship from 8:30 – 8:55 a.m. at West Freeborn, or immediately following worship (approximately 11:15 - 11:45 or until completed) at Cross of Glory.

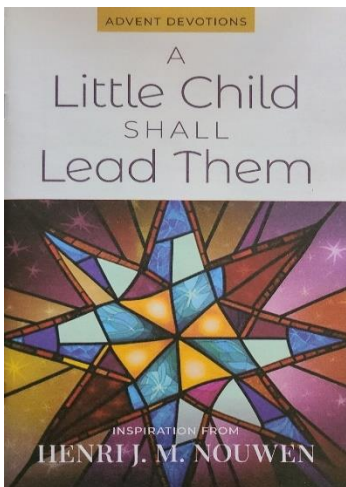


Advent Devotionals are **HERE!**

The choice is yours...

For Adults, try *A Little Child Shall Lead Them*, inspired by Henri J. M. Nouwen...

For youth and young adults, try *The Name of Jesus* with a photo-of-the-day, a timely reading on the back, and you're set. Add your own twine and mini clothespins for a meaningful and beautiful Advent/Christmas addition.



For little ones, try building your own Christmas Tree, setting it in a visible location, then add a sticker-ornament of the day that matches the reading for the day. When Christmas arrives, your tree will be fully decorated...with *Heaven & Nature Sing*.

All are available located near the Offering Table in the Narthex...**Pick yours up today!**

For Children, Youth and Families...

Children's Christmas Programs - As the halls become “decked” and plans begin to shape up, we’re excited that our kiddos have an important place too as Advent and Christmas celebrations commence. So, mark your calendars and plan to attend and support our children and youth on Christmas Program Sunday on December 17th!

Cross of Glory Wednesday Worship families along with Confirmation student support will present their program titled Shall I play for you? A program of talents by our youth to honor the newborn King - at 10:30 a.m. Directed by Lacey Koopal and the trusty parent-crew of our Wednesday Worship kiddos, join us as our kids with their various talents and gifts bring a beloved children’s Christmas story to life, showcasing the musical gifts of our children and youth.

West Freeborn Sunday School families, also supported by confirmation students, will present Heaven and Nature Sing, at 9:00 a.m., based on the Advent Devotional written by David Mead, published by Creative Communications for the Parish. Directed by Jade O’Byrne and the dedicated parent crew from West Freeborn, children will share the parts of the Christmas story as they decorate their tree with their own hand-made ornaments.

It is a joy to share this story, and it is an even bigger joy when the voices telling it are our children. Please make plans to join us on this combined 3rd and 4th Sunday in Advent in either or BOTH congregations! We look forward to seeing you there!

Schedule for the Holidays - Our children and their leaders work hard during the program year from September – April to ensure that our littles and young people are connected to worship and the church. During December and January, please note the following dates where we take a break from programs to worship and celebrate together –

Sunday, December 17th – Children’s Programs at 9 a.m. at West Freeborn, at 10:30 at Cross of Glory

Wednesday, December 20th – Christmas Party for Wednesday Worship and Confirmation with Caroling (watch for communication for time and needs for the evening) (See graphic for details)

Sunday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Worship at West Freeborn at 9 a.m.

- ***Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at Cross of Glory at 4:30 p.m. -- NO Sunday School***

Sun. Dec. 31st – Service of Lessons and Carols – Joint worship at 9 a.m. at Cross of Glory - NO Sunday School

Sunday School at West Freeborn resumes on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

Wednesday Worship and Confirmation resume on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, both at Cross of Glory.

LOTS OF INFORMATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER! WATCH YOUR WEEKLY BULLETINS FOR ANY CHANGES IF NECESSARY.

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Nov. 07, 2023

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council met via Zoom Nov. 07, 2023. Members present were Glenn, Kristin, Steve, Corky, Pat, Mike, Pastor Marcia and Becky. Glenn called the meeting to order. Pastor Marcia gave a prayer.

Pastor Marcia had sent each of the council members her report for the month on Oct. It will be posted on the church refrigerator. Becky read the secretary’s report. Pat made a motion to accept the report as read. Steve/Mike seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurer’s report. We did not make budget this month again!!! Kristin made a motion to pay the bills. Mike seconded it. Motion passed.

Old Business: · Harvest Bazaar: Nov. 19th we will have our Harvest Bazaar. There will be a Polka Service at 9 AM with rolls and coffee following church. The auction will start after that. Corky and Dave will once again be the auctioneers.

· Thanksgiving Eve Service: This year it is West Freeborn’s turn to host Thanksgiving. The service will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 22nd. The offering will be given to local food shelves.

New Business: · Property Insurance: The company we have been using is dropping us. Pat is checking into other companies. Glenn will check with a friend whose church had this same problem of being dropped.

· Christmas Program: This year’s program will be on December 17th.

· Christmas Eve Services Christmas Eve Service at West Freeborn will be at 9 AM. Cross of Glory will have their service at 4:30.

· Christmas Day: There will be no service that day. Pastor Marcia is in the process of taping a service that can be viewed by all. She might be contacting people to make a little video wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

· New Year’s Eve: There will be one service that day at 9 AM at Cross of Glory. Next council meeting will be Tuesday Dec. 5. at 7:30.

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat/Corky second. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer by Pastor Marcia. Respectfully submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

Cross of Glory Council Minutes – November 3, 2023

Present: Pastor Marcia Pedersen, Steve Bakken, Ron Bartness, Linda Brekke, Matt Hoelscher, Zack Jacobson, Carol Light, Jerry Morstad, Jill Morstad, and Emily Wakefield.

President Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order, and Pastor Marcia led us in a prayer. Carol read the minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting. Matt made the motion to accept the Secretary’s report and Ron seconded it. Motion carried. Linda gave the Treasurer’s report. Jill made the motion to approve Treasurer’s report as read and pay bills as funds allow. Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Marcia presented a detailed report to the council for the month of October. If you would like to see the report, there will be one in the office to view. Confirmation Sunday went well; thanks to the many who made it go smoothly. Pastor Marcia gave a recap of the October events and services in her report.

Old Business: Suggestions of how to allocate the proceeds from the selling of the parsonage need to be in the office by November 15. Pastor Marcia reviewed suggestions that had been received to date. Sidewalk repair will be completed in the spring. Basement wall project will also be considered in the spring. Plans for the Advent Event with Doug Ohman were reviewed. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for table decorating, treats, serving and clean-up. Christmas Eve service at West Freeborn will be held at 9:00 am on December 24 and at 4:30 pm at Cross of Glory. There will not be a Christmas Day service at either church. Pastor Marcia is considering a social media event for Christmas Day. There has not been an update from the MSP/LIS service for rural communities.

New Business: A budget review meeting will be held at 9:15 on November 26. Officers and council members are invited to attend. At the present time there is no change in the slate of officers for the 2024 church year. There will be a potluck meal to be served before the annual meeting. Our Advent Mission Project will coincide with the Advent event on December 3. Monies from the free will offering will go towards area food shelves and the formation of the Cross of Glory Good Samaritan Fund. Emily reported that the water coming out of the drinking faucet in the kitchen has a very strong odor. There was a brainstorming session on how to improve this problem. Alvin will be contacted to see if the water softener can start to circulate the water in the pipes.

Thank you for your financial support of Cross of Glory. It is much appreciated. There was a motion for adjournment. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Next Council Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ 7 p.m.



Cross of Glory members can purchase Christmas Poinsettias again this year. The cost for a plant without a bow is \$10.00 With a bow - \$12.00. Cash or check is fine. Make your checks out to: Cross of Glory Altar Guild. Please have your payments into the church office no later than Dec. 6th, as they need to be ordered by Dec. 8th. Thank You.

Attendance for October, 2023- WF: Oct. 1 – 23; Oct. 8 – 22; Oct. 15 – 45; Oct. 22 – 12; Oct. 29 – 48.

Attendance for Nov. 2023 – WF: not available at print time.

Attendance for Nov. 2023- CG: Nov. 5 – 38; Nov. 12 – 40; Nov. 19 – 80; Nov. 26 – 35.

Ushers for WF – December 2023: *Omer Emstad, Glenn Ausen, Steve Hoelscher.

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Improvement Fund</u>	<u>Mission Fund</u>	<u>Cemetery Fund</u>
Sun. Nov. 5	\$ 2,320.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 70.00
Sun. Nov. 12	960.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Sun. Nov. 19	1,556.00	120.00	50.00	50.00
Sun. Nov. 26	1,370.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	\$ 6,206.00	\$ 270.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 140.00

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



December - 2023
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 ADVENT 1 WF - Worship – 9:00 a.m. CG – Worship - 10:30 a.m. <i>1:00 p.m. Scandinavian Advent Event @ CG Communion</i>	4	5 Church Councils meet	6 6:00 p.m. Wed. Worship @ CG – Program Practice 7:00 p.m. Confirmation	7	8	9
10 ADVENT 2 WF Worship – 9:00 a.m. CG Worship – 10:30 a.m. <i>Annual meeting following worship @ CG</i>	11	12	13 6:00 p.m. Wed. Worship @ CG – Program Practice 7:00 p.m. Confirmation	14	15	16
17 ADVENT 3 WF-Worship @ 9:00 a.m. CG – Worship @ 10:30 a.m. <i>Christmas programs at both churches</i>	18	19	20 6:00 p.m. All In Night with treats Christmas Party with possible caroling	21	22 Church office closed.	23
24 Christmas Eve WF Worship – 9:00 a.m. CG Worship – 4:30 p.m.	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26	27 <i>No Wed. Worship or Confirmation – Christmas Break</i>	28	29	30

Sun. Dec. 31 – Joint Service @ CG – 9:00 a.m. – Lessons & Carols