

# **Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – May 2023**

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



## ***Honoring Christ on Memorial Day***

This coming Memorial Day, thousands of churches will pay tribute to our country's fallen heroes, recognizing the liberties and freedoms we enjoy, and remembering the brave men and women who have given their lives for our country. Memorial Day is focused upon those who have fallen in the service of our country, but at the same time it is an opportunity to focus on Christ.

Those who have given their life for our country have experienced the tragic bloodshed that conflict brings. Our world is rocked by strife and division. But one day there will be peace. The author of that peace is Jesus himself, who is described in Scripture as the Prince of peace. Memorial Day recognizes the valor of those in military combat, but a day is coming when we will live in a time of unparalleled peace, brought about by King Jesus.

It is only right that we remember our nation's military heroes, both past and present. During your Memorial Day observance, it is a wonderful idea to publicly recognize and thank those men and women who are involved in the service of country. Give them honor. In doing so, remind people that one day all believers will receive honor for their service. Although not all of us will enlist in the armed forces of our country, we will nonetheless hear the "well done," from Jesus. This is another opportunity to glorify Christ during Memorial Day.

"The armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev 19:14-18). Let us praise this King of kings, in whose army we fight.

Memorial Day is at its core about expressing gratitude for those who have fallen in the service of our country. After the death of thousands of soldiers following the Civil War, our country's leaders instituted this as day to remember, in solemnity and heartfelt gratitude, the ultimate price that was paid. As you commemorate this day, be thankful. Show true gratitude. As believers, true gratitude ultimately directs to God. As you remember those who have fallen, praise Jesus for how he has shown us true love and sacrifice, and taught us what real freedom is.

We hold the deepest gratitude for the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who have given their lives over the ages, defending our freedoms and families. As we remember them, let us also remain aware that Jesus, too, gave the ultimate sacrifice. He laid down his life to secure a freedom which transcends any earthly freedom. Jesus gave his life to gain spiritual victory over sin, death, and hell. Memorial Day gives us a chance to praise our Lord for the price he paid, and the triumph he secured.

As you commemorate our fallen heroes this year, take the opportunity to remember the day's significance while also honoring Christ.

A word of thanks from Pastor Marcia...

Well, it is finally official! And we're approaching the official installation this weekend on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> as well! Our patience, our faith in the process (even when it was frustrating), and our faith in the movement of the Holy Spirit within our hearts has all led up to these days that we're celebrating now!

I thank you all, the people of both Cross of Glory and West Freeborn in Hartland, for your willingness to step into something untried with the Bridge process, for your honesty and vulnerability and yes, your humor, for your communities of faith to step with courage to take a chance on a first call pastor (who came with lots of congregational experience), and for SHOWING UP on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> for my Ordination service at Our Savior's in Austin, MN. An incredibly moving, humbling, and Spirit-fueled service and I am so grateful for all of you who were there both in person and online (so many online).

Below, a few pictures of the day...including pictures of the Bishop and Ordinand Marcia Pedersen; the Laying on of Hands by the Bishop and Area Clergy; Area Clergy, Bishop Regina Hassanally and Rev. Marcia Pedersen; and finally Bishop Regina Hassanally and the new Reverend Marcia Pedersen. Many thanks to all who attended, who sent words of encouragement and support, and all who affirmed my call to ministry with your congregations. May God richly bless our time together as we worship and serve together!

- Reverend Marcia Pedersen



### West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – April 12, 2023

The West Freeborn Church Council met on April 12, 2023, via Zoom. Members present were Glenn, Pat, Mike, Kristin, Steve, Corky, 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 March. Becky will post on the church refrigerator. Becky read the secretaries report. Mike made a motion to accept the report as read. Kristin seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurer's report. Good job everyone, we made budget this month!!! 😊 Steve made a motion to pay the bills. Mike seconded it. Motion passed.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Parsonage Concrete Update for the Steps:** Corky said he will check with Eric when they can get to it. This will need to be done before we can put the house on the market. There will be a realtor coming out tomorrow to appraise the house. There are a few things that will need to be done inside and then we can get it listed.

#### **New Business:**

- **Food Shelf Donation:** Kristin made an amendment to a previous motion to give \$200 to New Richland food shelf, \$200 to Albert Lea food shelf and \$200 to Alden food shelf. Steve seconded it. Motion passed.
- **Meal after Installation of Pastor Marcia:** Becky has contacted a caterer for the meal after church service on Sunday, April 30. We will be serving scalloped potatoes and ham, cole slaw, dinner roll and a variety of bars. All are invited from both churches as well as family and friends of Pastor Marcia's. Corky made a motion that we go with this. Pat seconded it. Motion passed.
- **Lawn Mowing:** Arnie Schrader is willing to do the lawn mowing at the church for \$245 a time. Steve made a motion to go with Arnie. Corky seconded it. Motion passed.
- **Communion on the Fourth Sunday this month.** Seeing how the Altar Guild has had communion a few times already this month during Lenten season, Pastor Marcia said that we will forgo the fourth Sunday communion.

Corky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded it. Closed with the Lord's Prayer  
Respectfully submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

### Cross of Glory Council Minutes - April 11, 2023

Present: Bridge Pastor Marcia Pedersen, Steve Bakken, Ron Bartness, Linda Brekke, Martin Johnson, Carol Light, Paul Lynne, Jerry Morstad, and Jill Morstad. President Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order and Pastor Marcia led us in prayer. Carol read the minutes of the March 7, 2023 meeting. Paul made the motion to accept the Secretary's report and Jill seconded it. 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. Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Marcia presented a detailed report to the council for the month of March. If you would like to see the report, there will be one in the office to view. Some items being scheduled are the following: Power and Boundaries Workshop-Thursday, April 27, Suicide Prevention Skills Workshop for Rural Communities-April 27, May 4, 11 & 18 and Synod Assembly May 6. Angela Bell and Pastor Marcia met regarding vision and planning for our church. It was decided to wait until fall to begin this process.

**Parsonage Update:** Steve will check with Hartland-Manchester Telephone Company to find out if there is a shared line between the parsonage and church. Matt Johnson, realtor and Duane Spooner will meet on Thursday, April 13.

**Old Business:** There was positive feedback regarding Holy Week services and Easter Breakfast. Jerry and Jill attended the Councils as Leaders Event. Some of the topics that were discussed from their trainings included: re-writing constitutions, running effective council meetings, social statements, and ELCA Faith and Society.

**New Business:** Confirmation students and Wednesday Church School will do yard cleanup during their last session of the year. Paul will bring a trailer for the debris. Lenten mission monies will be matched for the New Richland Area Food Shelf. To date \$489.73 has been collected with two more weeks of monies to be added to this total. There will be a communion serving sign-up sheet being circulated, so this responsibility doesn't rely on a few

individuals, but a community of members. It was decided by the council that there will not be communion at the April 23 service. Communion will be offered at Pastor Pedersen's Ordination Service. There is an open invitation to participate in the ordination choir. Rehearsal will be at 1:00 pm on April 23. Installation is scheduled for April 30. A meal will be served at West Freeborn following their service of installation. Confirmation will not be over Memorial Day weekend/Pentecost Sunday. Pastor Marcia will be in contact with families that are involved. A thank you was received from the ELCA Good Gifts program regarding our donation to this program at Christmas.

**Financial Support:** Thanks to everyone for your fiscal support of Cross of Glory. It is much appreciated. Ron made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Paul. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Council Meeting:** May 2, 2023 @ 7:00 PM - Respectfully submitted by: Carol Light, Secretary

**Special Congregational Meeting: Parsonage Sale - April 2, 2023**

President Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order and opened the floor up for discussion. Deacon Jill Morstad shared the following pros and cons for selling the parsonage. This information was compiled from information obtained with discussions from Rev. Barb Streed, Assistant to the Bishop from the SE MN Synod of the ELCA, Rev. Matt Larson, SE MN Synod of the ELCA staff member working with call candidate, and Bridge Pastor Marcia Pedersen.

**Pros: Keep:**

- Pastor would be near the church and live in the community.
- No housing allowance paid if pastor lives in the parsonage.
- Traditional and part of our roots.
- Emotional ties.

**Sell:**

- Any candidate for call has a housing option, which matches their personal needs.
- May invest proceeds from sale.
- There would be no maintenance and upkeep expense.

**Rent:**

- Additional income
- Retain ownership for present and future options

**Cons:**

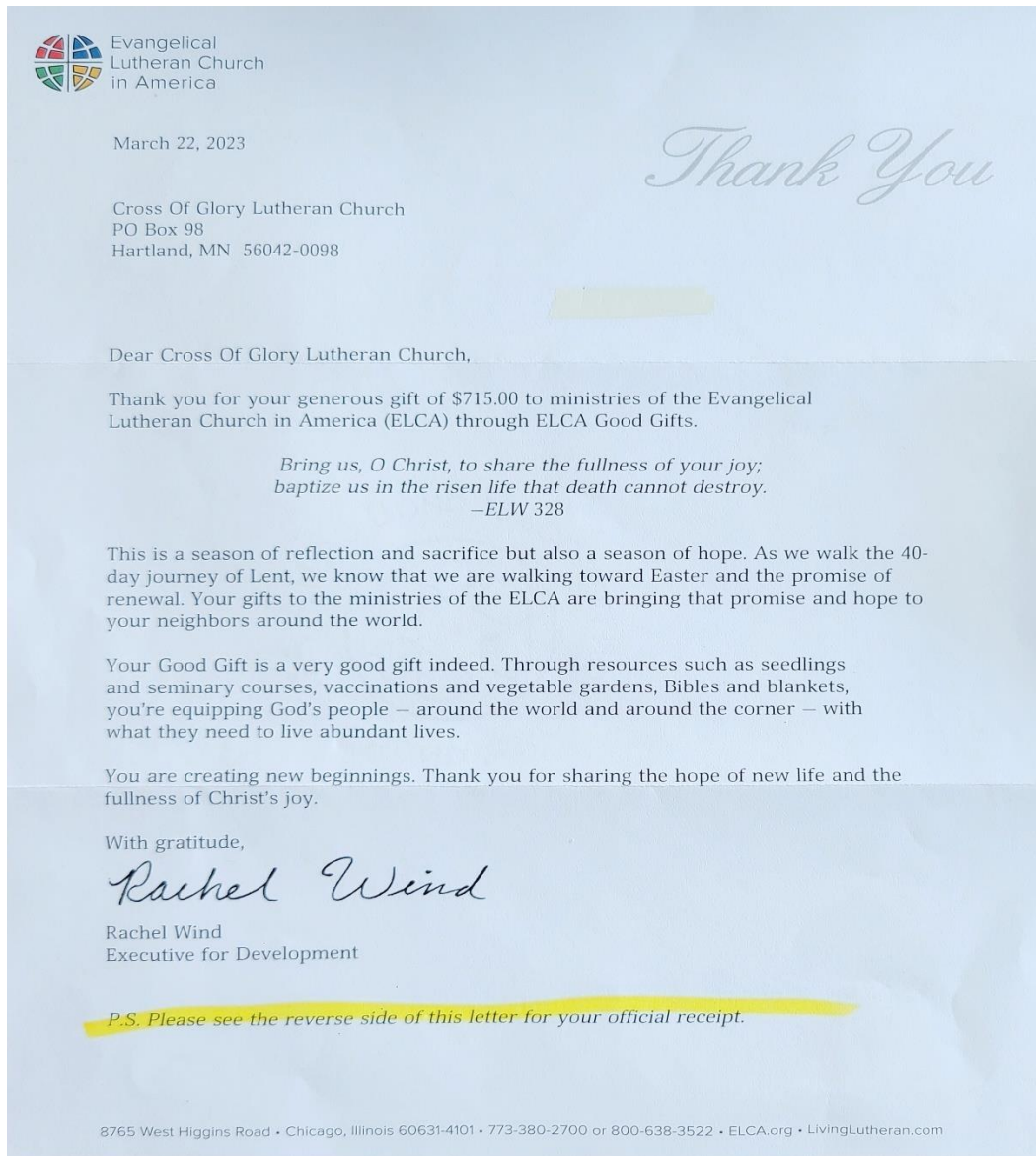
- Additional maintenance and upkeep costs
- Housing allowance needed for pastor (30% of base salary)
- Currently this is a cost of \$6500.00 for each congregation
- Renting would create landlord responsibilities and risks

**Trends:**

- 25% of congregations in the call process have parsonages available
- Pastoral duties are a 2<sup>nd</sup> career for most of call candidates at the present time
- Candidates may already have their own home or may want to build equity in their own home

We would need a parsonage committee if we decide to rent or sell the parsonage. Zach Jacobson brought up the idea to rent until the market resumes to a better level. Vote was taken with 40 voting members. Votes to sell the property totaled 37, and votes to keep the parsonage was 3. The votes were tallied by Arlene Thofson, Donn Riskedahl and Carol Light. After the votes were tallied Ann Lynne made a motion to sell the property and Ron Bartness seconded the motion. Motion was carried by the congregation.

Below is a copy of a Thank You from the ELCA for Cross of Glory's gift to ELCA Good Gifts.



**May Quilting @ West Freeborn - Wed. May 3, 17 & 31 - 9:00 a.m.**



**Sunday, May 14 – Dedication of the Quilts @ both churches**

The LWR Ingathering will be May 20, 2023  
First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea from 7:00 -11:00 a.m.  
Mission Quilts along with School, Personal Care, Baby Care & Fabric Kits will be collected.

**May 14<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day!!**



**West Freeborn Ushers for April:** \*Tim Beyer, Jeremy Henke, Tim Peterson, Jim Heidemann.

*Attendance for March, 2023 – WF:* Wed. Mar 1 – Lenten Service – 48; Sun. Mar. 5 – 16; Sun. Mar. 12 – services cancelled; Wed. Mar. 15 – Lent – 47; Sun. Mar. 19 – 30; Sun. Mar. 26 – 27; Wed. Mar. 29 – Lent – 55.

*Attendance for March, 2023 – CG:* Sun. Mar. 5 – 28; Wed. Mar. 8 – Lent – 55; Sun. Mar. 12 – services cancelled; Sun. Mar. 19 – 41; Sun. Mar. 26 – 29.

*Attendance for April, 2023 – CG:* Sun. April 2 – 59; Thurs. April 6 – 58; Sun. April 9 (Easter) – 88; Sun. April 16 – 28.

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**Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church**

	General Fund	Improvement Fund	Mission Fund	Cemetery Fund	
4-2-23	\$ 3,005.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 50.00	
4-6-23	72.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	(Maundy Thursday)
4-9-23	1,181.25	100.00	0.00	0.00	
Easter Meal	289.00 (Given to N.R. Food Shelf)				
4-16-23	1,150.00	285.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 5,697.25</b>	<b>\$ 385.00</b>	<b>\$ 125.00</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>	

These totals are incomplete...information wasn't available at print time..will revise in the next newsletter.

Cross of Glory email address: [cgwf@smig.net](mailto:cgwf@smig.net) - Cross of Glory Website: [www.crossofglory.weebly.com](http://www.crossofglory.weebly.com)

West Freeborn Website: [www.westfreebornlutheranchurch.weebly.com](http://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



**May - 2023 ✠ Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches, Hartland, MN**

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Church Councils meet</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Worship @ CG – 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Worship @ WF – 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Hartland Hi-Liners</b> <b>4-H Club meets @ 6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Worship @ CG – 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Worship @ WF – 10:30 a.m.</b> <i>Quilt Dedication @ both churches</i>  <i>Mother's Day</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Worship @ CG – 9:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Worship @ WF – 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Day of Pentecost</b> <b>Worship @ CG – 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Worship @ WF – 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Service 9:00 a.m. @ CG - Speaker: Jeff Dahlen (watch for more info in bulletins.)</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			