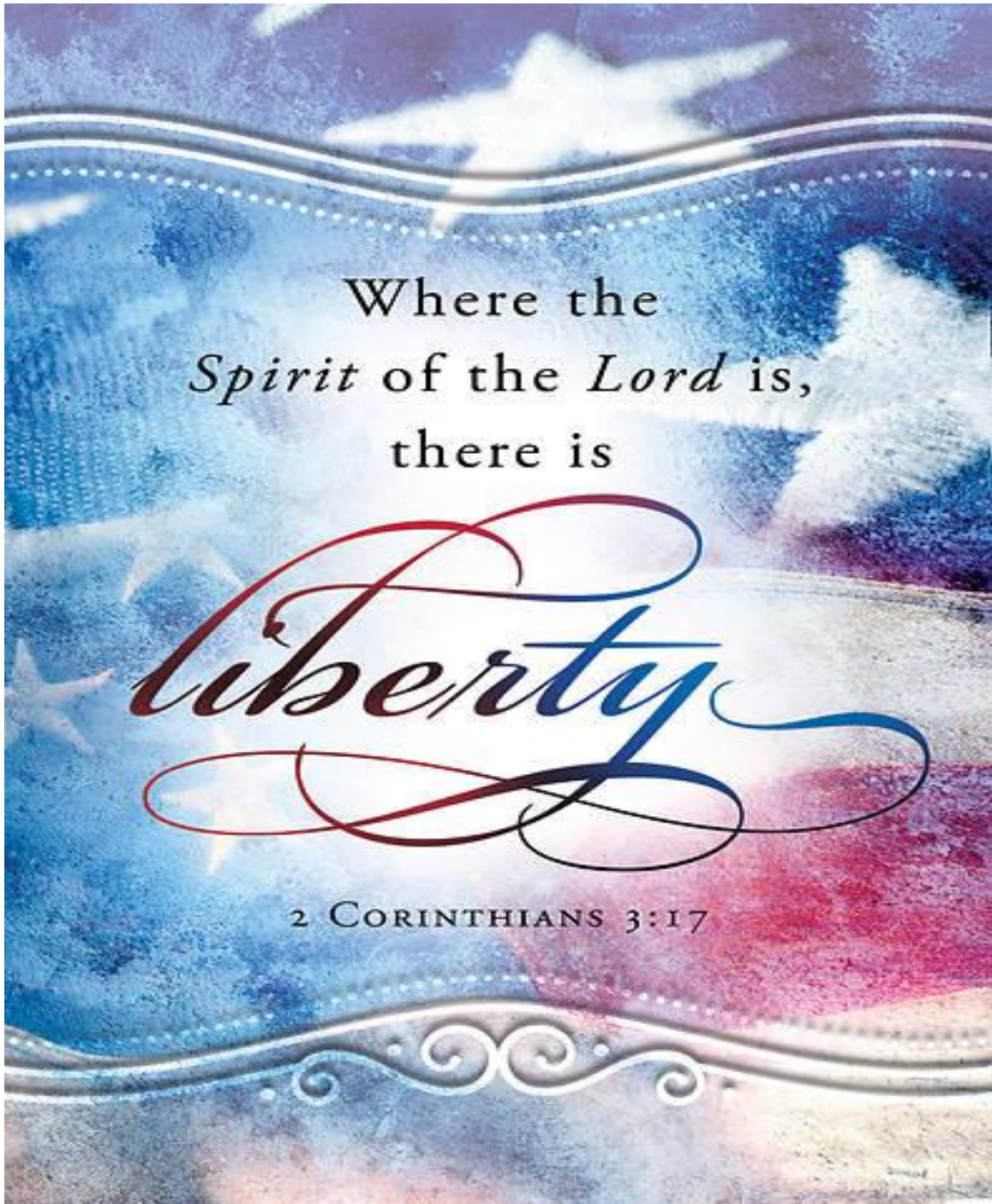


Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – June 2023

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

July



Summer Plans for Cross and West - continued

As the July newsletter hits the presses, we've had one Outdoor (but held indoor because of MUCH needed rain) Service hosted by West Freeborn folks, followed by Walking S'mores and S'mores donuts, and I think it was a success! Thanks to all who attended and who joined in leadership for this service!

Yet to be held this week is our mid-week Campfire Worship and cookout that was to be held on Thursday evening, June 29th (due to unforeseen circumstances) so stay tuned for a recap of that event in our August newsletter!

On Deck for July and August is as follows...

- **Wednesday, July 26th at 5:30 p.m.** – Picnic or Cookout, **6:30 p.m.** Outdoor Worship - **@ Cross** with yard games. **Bring a lawn chair or a blanket, and a side dish to pass**, as a meal of Burgers, Brats and Hotdogs as well as Lemonade or Water for a beverage will be provided. (Watch for more details as the day approaches, and we have a better handle on weather)
- **Sunday, July 30th at 9 a.m.** – **Bonfire Breakfast worship @ West** (Campfire worship followed by breakfast) (more details as we get closer to the date, praying for good weather for this service)
- **Wednesday, August 16th from 5 – 7:30 p.m.** **Outdoor Family Game Night** w/Picnic or Grill-out dinner **@ Cross**, bring lawn chairs or blankets, and a side dish to pass...we'll grill Burgers, Brats and Hotdogs with Lemonade or Water to drink. (Pastor Marcia and friends)

Book Study begins on Wednesday, July 5th at 10 a.m. at Cross of Glory (unless otherwise communicated)

Kick your second half of summer into gear as we **read, explore, and dialogue the topic of indigenous and Native American culture**, while we listen to the written and lived experiences of the **Lakota author Vine Deloria, Jr.** in his book titled ***“Red Earth, White Lies.”***

If you'd like to participate, you may **purchase your own book online through Amazon or by using Native Reads** with the following link - <https://bookshop.org/p/books/red-earth-white-lies-jr-vine-deloria/8210521?ean=9781555913885> (raises money for local and independent bookstores, and supports Native and Indigenous authors as well).

The plan is to meet weekly both in person and via Zoom, so if you cannot participate in person, we would welcome you to read along as we try a hybrid approach, recording the Zoom discussion then posting in our Facebook Message thread or emailing (you let me know your preference). You can leave discussion comments or questions in this message thread as well, and participants will read and respond as we're able.

Following the conclusion of this book, the goal is to then read a second book, titled Braiding Sweetgrass, written by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Kimmerer is a member of the Citizen Patowatomi Nation who is also a botanist, merging science and Native natural practices into her writing. Books are available at Amazon or on Native Reads here - <https://bookshop.org/p/books/braiding-sweetgrass-robin-wall-kimmerer/16712606?ean=9781571313560>.

See Pastor Marcia with questions, and happy reading!

Bible Study on Deck!

Pastor Marcia has had several inquiries about Bible Study possibilities...and I would love to begin study opportunities, but I'd like to hear from you! If you're interested in Bible study, please reach out to Pastor Marcia via email at pastor.cgwf@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 507-845-2818 to let us know of your interest. At the same time, please indicate the days/times you may be available.

Mondays and Fridays are days that will not work well, so the following are possibilities – Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning or Afternoon, Thursday morning, or other dates or time suggestions. Once we have a plan, we'll publicize and invite, then assess after a period of time to see if changes need to be made and go from there.

Thank you for your eagerness to learn and grow in study together of the story of God and the people of God!

There's still LOTS of time for summer fun with #flatjesuscrosswest !

It's not too late to take Jesus with you in the form of #CrossWestFlatJesus, a link to it is included here –

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/flat-jesus/> - You are also invited to color and decorate your Flat Jesus, to take it with you everywhere you go (even folded in a pocket or glove box) and snap a #CrossWestFlatJesus selfie then post it to your social media, or even share to the "What's New at Cross of Glory" Facebook group...we'd love to share the many places that Jesus goes with us. Because, well we're Minnesotan, I did put my Flat Jesus on a stick (wide craft stick to be precise). Feel free to stop by the church and pick some up to share with the grandkids that visit, or for your own family (of all ages!), then take a photo and share...

Snapshots of Serving

You may have heard that during the week of June 26th, our community hosted a mission group from Living Lord Lutheran Church in Bartlett, Illinois. This group consisted of 9 high-school aged students and 7 adult leaders, led by youth director Bob Esmail, stayed at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin, MN, explored rural southeastern and southcentral Minnesota and northcentral Iowa by serving in and around the communities of Hartland, New Richland, and our congregations as well. They served by clearing brush, branches and limbs on a rural property, by clearing and cleaning up old landscaping and laying mulch at the New Richland Area Food Shelf, by meeting folks from West Freeborn and moving in a donated piano, by packing meals with Real Hope for the Hungry (a ministry we hope to connect with down the road), by helping out a neighboring congregation clean to be ready for their first VBS in over 20 years, and they anticipate wrapping up their serving with organic farming, doing some basic chicken upkeep, and helping some of our neighbors in need. Below are a few pics of their time here...and we look forward to having some of our own opportunities to serve elsewhere in the summers to come!

We thank them for their gift of serving folks in our communities!



A very special thank you from Cindi to the youth from Bartlett, IL for moving my mom's piano from her home to West Freeborn Church on Wed. the 28th....what a great group of young people, so willing to pitch in & give a lending hand...and they were so strong!! WOW....And a special Thank you to Glenn Ausen for letting us use his trailer to haul it in & to Corky Modene for his assistance & guidance. I appreciate all of you so much!!

Thank You

for your Kindness

July Quilting @ West Freeborn - Wed. July 12 & 26 - 9:00 a.m.



Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

For our Bible study this month, let's look at the scripture readings for Sunday, July 16th. If you find this interesting I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately.

Read Isaiah 55:10-13. God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead. God promises a harvest.

Read Psalm 65: 7-13. Your paths overflow with plenty. These verses in Psalm 65 speak of God's awesome deeds & deliverance. Speaking about the earth as if it is alive, with waters overflowing & pasture of the wilderness overflowing with joy, valley decking themselves with grain and shouting for joy. Do we appreciate the awesomeness of our earth & all it offers us?

At the Lord's Table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Read Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus & his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." In a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear. Why do you suppose Jesus explained things in parables?

West Freeborn Ushers for June: *Omer Emstad, Steve Ausen.

Attendance for June 2023 – WF: not available at print time

Attendance for June, 2023- CG: not available at print time

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Improvement Fund</u>	<u>Mission Fund</u>	<u>Cemetery Fund</u>
6-4-23	\$ 3,690.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,004.65
6-11-23	1,570.00	100.00	0.00	60.00
6-18-23	645.00	0.00	30.00	1,050.00 (donation)
6-25-23	unavailable at print time-will include in next newsletter			
TOTALS	\$ 5,905.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 2,114.65

Will include complete amounts in next newsletter.

*Memorial money was given to CG Cemetery in the amount of \$315.00 in memory of Orland Lee.

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

Church Council minutes were not available at print time – will include them in the next newsletter



July - 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	4 <i>Happy Independence Day!!</i>	5 Book Study @ CG 10:00 a.m.	6	7	8
9 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship</i> <i>CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m.</i>	10 8:00 p.m. Zoom meeting WF Council	11 CG Council meets @ 7:00 p.m.	12 Quilting @ WF 9:00 a.m.	13	14 <i>Pastor Marcia out of town</i>	15 <i>Pastor Marcia out of town</i>
16 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship</i> <i>CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>Pulpit Supply</i> <i>Pastor Randall Mickelson</i>	17	18	19 6:00 p.m. Hartland Hi-Liners 4-H Fair Work Night	20	21 <i>Wedding Rehearsal for Reed/Mather</i>	22 <i>Wedding of Maddy Reed & Michael Mather</i>
23 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship</i> <i>Communion</i> <i>CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>Communion</i>	24	25	26 Tentative Campfire Worship @ CG Quilting @ WF 9:00 a.m.	27	28	29

Sunday, July 30 – Bonfire & Breakfast Worship @ WF – 9:00 a.m.
*July Ushers for WF - *Omer Emstad, Steve Aussen.*