

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches

July 2020

Sunday Morning Worship times:

At present time: West Freeborn 9:00 a.m. until Cross of Glory resumes worship services.



New Direction

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.” (Romans 8:11)

Summer seems to be a good time of the year to discover that there are things that we encounter that have a way of clinging to us.

Let's say that you encounter a skunk while you are out camping or hiking. You surprise that little creature and it responds the way skunks do when they feel threatened. That is a smell that will cling to you.

Maybe you are at the cabin and you go for a swim in the lake, and say that lake is one where leeches can be found. When you come out of the water you just may have some unwelcome visitors clinging to you.

Mosquitoes, ticks, pollen, dust - summertime is when we find lots of things that have a way of clinging to us.

Most of what clings to us can be pretty yucky and unwelcome, but apparently nature is like that. Our world is like that.

The Apostle Paul likes to talk about our life in the spirit and our life in the flesh. It is something we struggle with daily because it is simply part of human nature. Some things have a way of sticking to us that are unwelcome. Those extra pounds, wrinkles, scars, things of that nature. But doing our daily routine there will be other things that have a way of clinging to us. It could be concerns over money or our job, we may worry about our health or what other people think. Paul would call these the things of the flesh.

Fortunately there are also things of the Spirit that can cling to us. These could be love for others, joy, peace, patience. As we go through life we encounter all these spiritual things as well. They come as God's gifts.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Schwartz

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

Let's keep considering our theme this month of how God provides us with a new direction. If you find the topic intriguing I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

I am borrowing a bit from some material our church has produced called The Book of Faith Initiative. It is an emphasis in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to encourage people to read their Bibles. So let's do that!

Read Romans 7:15-25

Paul is talking about himself here, but he is probably saying things we can all relate to. When you struggle with not being able to do what you know God wants you to do, how does that make you feel about God?

When Paul talks about this struggle to do the right thing his main point is to say that things are not the way they ought to be in our life. Knowing right from wrong is not that hard, but the system breaks down when we attempt to do what is right and not do what is wrong.

Read Romans 8:26-30

Martin Luther talks about Christians as people who are saints and sinners at the same time. It's not easy to be this way, but God understands our struggle. How might God be leading you to pray in your times of struggle?

Paul is teaching us that we should never think too highly of ourselves because not one of us lives up to God's expectations. If we were all perfect we would not need laws. If you were perfect you would not need laws.

Read Romans 7:16-17

Because we all struggle with doing what is right we need laws to govern us. That makes laws a good thing to have around. What are the laws you seem to need most to keep your sinful nature in check?

Church Councils will meet at their own discretion on Tuesday, July 7, 2020

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – June 01, 2020

The West Freeborn Church Council met on June 01, 2020, with another Zoom meeting. Members present were Glenn Ausen, Steve Ausen, Corky Modene, Pat Ehrich, Mike Ehrich, Sonja Honstad, Pastor Steve and Becky Ausen. President Glenn Ausen, called the meeting to order. Pastor gave a prayer.

Becky read the secretaries report. Corky made a motion to approve the secretary's report as read. Mike seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurer's report. We are doing fine according to Pat during this pandemic. Steve made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Corky seconded it.

Old Business:

- **PPP Loan:** Pat made a motion to use some of the money from the PPP loan to pay off the old contract of fuel at Hi-Yield. Steve seconded it. Motion passed.
- **East outside wall of the Church:** Matt can put steel on over the bricks that need to be tuck-pointed. Glenn was going to take a picture of the Beauty Shop in Hartland, which has had stucco put on it as another option.
- **Parking lot:** Steve checked with Brandon about re-routing the water in the road ditch. Corky made a motion to go ahead and re-route the water. Steve seconded it.
- **Grass across from the main entrance of church:** Pat said when they move it is very bumpy over there. Steve is in charge of getting a skid loader and trying to level it out some.

New Business:

- **Communion:** Do like we did last month. The date for communion will be Sat., June 27th starting at 9 AM. Call the church office and sign up for a time.
- **Executive Order:** Glenn has made an Executive Order that there will be no more ushering out after church. Becky will send a text displaying this order. This is a good call with this crazy pandemic here right now!
- **Next meeting:** Will be July 7th at 8 pm.

Sonja made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded it. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

Cross of Glory Trustees and Deacons Meeting - June 3rd, 2020

Jerry Morstad called the Zoom meeting to order. Jerry Morstad, Jill Morstad, Rachel Knudson, Paul Lynne, Emily Wakefield, Martin Johnson, and Pastor Steve were present. We were supposed to meeting via Zoom last night but a thunderstorm hit right at meeting time and knocked out power for some of the council members so we postponed the meeting 24 hours. Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report from the March meeting, which was the last meeting we held before the stay-at-home orders. The minutes were approved as read.

Jerry Morstad went over the treasurer's report. We received a payroll protection loan that will help cover payroll expenses during the shutdown (the funds cannot be used for any other expenses and when they are used for payroll, the loan is forgivable). Thanks to Allyson Olson for helping us know that was available and to assisting with the application process. Martin Johnson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills as money allows. Paul Lynne seconded.

Old Business:

1. Now that the warm weather has arrived, we can drain the boiler and have the repairs completed.
2. A reminder that the wood handles on the doors need to be redone or replaced.

3. Regarding parsonage repairs, the picture window needs painting. Glenn is going to check with Russell Olson to see if he's available to do that. So far, there has been no movement on the sidewalk project. As a reminder, the sidewalk in front of the parsonage was torn up for plumbing repairs and needs to be replaced now that the ground has had some time to settle. We had talked about having the cement mixer stop when they were doing a larger job in town. Also, Martin has a small farm-style mixer that can handle 6-8 bags at a time. Jerry will talk to Glenn about the project. We can also get the forms set up so the project is ready to go.

4. The Centennial Celebration was being planned for the fall but now with the uncertainty of what the pandemic will look like in September, we agreed to put planning on hold for the time being. It seems almost eerily symmetrical that the church was formed shortly after the Influenza Pandemic and now the centennial celebration may be pushed off because of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

New Business:

1. Now that the governor has "turned the dial" a bit and is allowing congregations to gather for worship as long as they adhere to specific guidelines, we discussed whether to resume in-person church or continue with the online services. We have heard from some of our most regular attendees that they are not yet comfortable attending services in person. Further, while the numbers of new cases of the disease seem to be holding steady for much of the state, Freeborn and Mower Counties are actually experiencing a significant increase of daily cases and are considered two of the current "hot spot" counties. Pastor Steve mentioned that West Freeborn has resumed in-person services but that he would be very willing to continue recording services and posting them online if that's what we decide. Hearing the opinions from the council members on the Zoom call, Martin Johnson made a motion to take things month-by-month at this point and for this month, to continue with the online services. Paul Lynne seconded. We will revisit the decision at the next council meeting and see what the current circumstances are. Pastor Steve mentioned that there are a pleasantly-high number of viewers of the online services so it was noted by council members that, as outreach for the future, we may consider continuing with posting online services even after we resume in-person worship.

2. In the recent storm, the steeple on the LeSueur River Lutheran Church in rural New Richland blew off. We asked Pastor Steve and Cindi to send a letter of support. There may also be a way our congregation could offer assistance in the future, such as if they need workers and attendees of fundraisers.

3. Alvin Morstad has been doing the mowing for the church and parsonage lawns this year.

4. Linda Pederson and Alvin redid the planter box in front of the church and it looks really nice. Thanks!

5. The cemetery committee rooted out some of the stumps so they are not in the way of the lawnmower.

6. We asked Pastor Steve if he can include in the mailer and Sunday services prayers for peace and reconciliation in light of the tragedy in Minneapolis. He also mentioned that Bishop Eaton has prepared a sermon for this coming Sunday that will be posted along with his service. Martin Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jill Morstad seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Knudson

Prayers for Peace

Wise and loving God, you have created, and are still creating, a world rich with difference and diversity. You have created all people in your image, each expressing their being and living their life in valid, special relationship with you.

Forgive our historical acts of injustice and oppression perpetuated against Aboriginal communities, Black, and various Asian communities,

For the times we have failed to recognize racism in ourselves, in our church, in our society, and the times we have failed to take action,

For complicity in systems of privilege and power over those whose skin color, culture, or creed differ from those of the majority, even today:

Grant us courage never to let a racist joke pass in our hearing, commitment to insist on equal treatment of all persons and groups— including ourselves if oppressed—even at the risk of being unpopular or misunderstood:

Grant us patience in enduring periods of non-action, persistence in resisting the evil of radical oppression, and faithfulness in working toward racial justice among your people, in the church, and in the world:

And grant us humility and wisdom to discern when it is that your Spirit must come to accomplish that which human beings and groups cannot.
We pray in the name of Jesus, himself. Amen.

***Pastor Steve will continue to do Communion on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month.
Saturday, July 11 – Cross of Glory beginning @ 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, July 25 – West Freeborn beginning @ 9:00 a.m.
Please call Cindi in the office – 845-2818, to schedule your time slot.
If you have activities that you want to resume, please let Cindi know.
She will keep everyone updated on Facebook & through emails.
Office Hours: M-W-F – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.***

West Freeborn Quilting has resumed every Wednesday morning @ 9:00 a.m.





Congratulations to John Hoelscher, graduating senior this year!!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS @ Cross of Glory

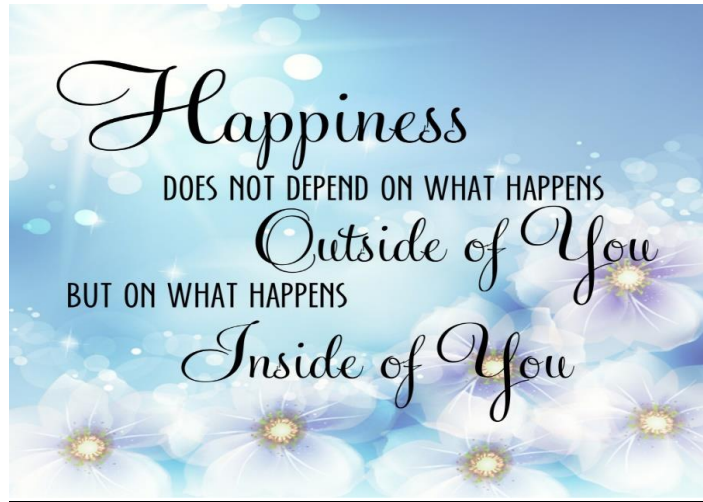
Please stop by the church & pick up your financial statements.

Office hours are M-W-F – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Attendance @ West Freeborn – June, 2020: June 7 – 18; June 14 – 15; June 21 – 20; June 28 – 17.

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

There were no regular worship services in May. However, this is the total of deposits that Cindi made to the bank for the month of - \$ 1,479.50 Thanks so much for continuing to support the church during these uncertain times.



News from the New Richland Area Food Shelf

Area Food Shelf of New Richland has again registered for another grant program in order to receive additional funding from Hunger Solutions of Minnesota. This grant is based on how many dollars the food shelf can raise during July. The grant amount is anywhere from \$150.00 to \$4000.00 all based on the amount of dollars we raise.

We know this is a trying time for Minnesota residents and our area is no exception, our numbers of persons being served continue to slowly rise and we are set to assist. We are reaching out to any avenue that we can to be able to generate funding to assist us in maintaining our ability to serve the hungry. This message comes to the congregations for any assistance, so please help us spread the word of this challenge during July. We greatly appreciate if you could put in bulletins, contact venues and/or preach on helping the poor with food.

Our goal this year is to raise \$2500.00 during this Open Your Heart July Challenge.

Funds can be gathered via Church offerings or by contacting/ mailing to Area Food Shelf of New Richland, PO Box 12, New Richland, MN 56072 or call Pam Goehring at cell 952 649 7579.

Thank you for your prayers and concern to reaching out and helping the under privileged in our area.

Larry Goehring, President – AFSNR -Cell 507 461 9253

West Freeborn Usher List – 2020

July - *Omer Emstad, Bill Goette, Steve Ausen, Mike Erlandson

August- *Tim Beyer, Dave Pederson, Rich Honstad, Lyle Helm

September- *Chris Dahl, Russ Engel, Holly Dahl

October - *Wayne Hendrickson, Ron Lageson, Dale Indrelie, Adam Dahlen, Nanette Hendrickson

November - *Casey Madson, Dale Christopherson, Jane Christopherson, Mike Ehrich

December - *Omer Emstad, Glenn Ausen, Steve Hoelscher

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

West Freeborn Website: www.westfreebornlutheranchurch.weebly.com

Jerry Morstad, Cross of Glory President 507-373-0085 - Dave Ausen, West Freeborn President – 863-2165

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

Stacie Madson, West Freeborn Custodian 845-2525

Pastor’s cell phone: 507-250-6694 - Parsonage Phone – 845-2825

Cindy Morstad, C.G. Custodian - 845-2255 (home) – 402-4577 (cell) - Alvin Morstad, C.G. Custodian – 845-2813

