

# Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – January 2021

**Sunday Morning Worship times:**

**Cross of Glory – 9:00 a.m.**



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## Light of Light

“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5)

In this letter the disciple John tells his readers that what he learned from Jesus is that God is light. It sounds rather simple, but it is enough to serve as the theme for this entire letter.

John likes to play with opposing metaphors: light/dark, day/night, spirit/flesh, life/death. For John the goal of our lives ought to be to live in the light and avoid darkness, focus on the spirit and not the flesh, to always live and never die.

You might think of playing pool, eight ball actually. Your goal is to rid the table of all of the solid color pool balls, leaving nothing but stripes. These opposing metaphors work the same way for John. Clear the world of darkness, leaving nothing but light. Get rid of anything that is death so that only life remains.

To say that God is light sounds simple, but it carries a lot of meaning. Light is anything that is good, honest, trustworthy, pure. Darkness is that which is evil, deceitful, immoral, hateful. Because God is light there is nothing in God that is anything less than pure, holy and good.

That’s God; our world, and our lives, are something else entirely. We live in darkness, but we have been shown the light, and we know that it is better for us to live in light than in darkness. That is the truth we have been shown, we know it to be true, and now it is left to us to choose which we prefer. As John points out in his Gospel, John 3:19, “And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.”

With Christmas behind us the days are getting longer. More and more light. Let’s love it.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Schwartz

## Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

For our Bible study this month let's look at the scripture lessons related to our lesson for January 3. If you find the topic intriguing I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of God's servant, often as God's suffering servant, and is speaking of the nation of Israel. We tend to read these passages from Isaiah as prophecies about Jesus.

Read Isaiah 49:1-7

The servant describes himself, or herself, as having been given a mission from God even before birth. What is that mission, and have you ever felt as if God had something in mind for you in life even before your birth?

Turning to our Gospel lesson we find John the Baptist preparing people to receive Jesus. Having said that Jesus is greater than he is John now points Jesus out to those who are near him.

Read John 1:29-34

We are all familiar with the name used for Jesus, "Lamb of God", and this is where it comes from. What do you think John means when he calls Jesus the "Lamb of God".

Since, as John has said, Jesus is greater than he is, it only makes sense that his followers should leave him to follow Jesus. That is what we see happen in the next part of this lesson.

Read John 1:35-42

Jesus asks these two former followers of John the Baptist, "What are you looking for?" They never really answer that question. What do you think they are looking for?

## Cross of Glory Trustees and Deacons Meeting - December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Jerry Morstad called the Zoom meeting to order. Jerry Morstad, Jill Morstad, Rachel Knudson, Martin Johnson, Emily Wakefield, Linda Brekke, Steve Bakken, Ron Bartness, Paul Lynne, Tim Bartness, Matt Hoelscher, and Pastor Steve were present. Jerry thanked Emily for setting up the Zoom meeting. Pastor Steve led us in prayer. He stated they are working on the online Christmas service with readings and music. The teachers for Wednesday school are also putting together an online Christmas program with the kids. Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report. Minutes were approved as read. Linda Brekke gave the treasurer's report. Since it is the first of the month, we don't yet have the statements. Linda mentioned that they got the debit card set up for Cindi to use for office supplies. The total of the PPP loan that we received was \$11,000 and that debt has now been forgiven because it was used for employee payroll as it was intended. Tim Bartness made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills as money allows. Martin Johnson seconded.

### **Old Business:**

1. The weather cooperated and they were able to get the heating project completed. They also replaced the circulating pump. There hasn't been a final bill submitted yet for the project. Alvin would like to change the lock on the boiler room door and Paul Lynne made a motion to install the same type of locks as on the office doors. Steve Bakken seconded.
2. Alvin refurbished the external door handles on the church.
3. We discussed continuing in-person services with the Covid numbers increasing. The numbers of people attending weekly services have increased so that attendance is regularly in the 20s. Jerry has heard from numerous people who attend services who feel safe attending and would like to see in-person services continue. It was decided that we would continue with the way we have been doing things, with in-person and online services. Pastor Steve stated that they had the first in-person communion with wafers and disposable cups. We will keep being flexible and constantly improving to make things easier and safest.

### **New Business:**

1. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. It will be held in the sanctuary and there will be a Zoom link for people to join online.
2. We have to approve a budget to present at the Annual Meeting. Ron Bartness made a motion that we leave everything the same as it was for this year. Steve Bakken seconded.
3. The slate of officers to be presented at the Annual Meeting was discussed. No one has volunteered to take over the secretary's position and there is a deacon opening to replace Carol Riskedahl.
4. Jerry stated that we erroneously received a packet of legal information for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Center. Steve Bakken made a motion to adjourn. Jill seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Knudson

## Cross of Glory Annual Meeting - December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

President Jerry Morstad welcomed all attending the Annual Meeting and called the meeting to order. As this has been an unusual pandemic year, some congregation members were present in person and others attended the meeting via Zoom. Paul Lynne made a motion to adopt the agenda and Jill Morstad seconded. Pastor Steve led with an opening prayer. Rachel Knudson read the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Ron Bartness made a motion to approve the minutes. Alvin Morstad seconded. Motion carried.

Jerry went over his president's report that is found in the Annual Report booklet and commended people for how much we have had to adapt and change over the course of the year.

Linda Brekke went over the treasurer's report. The Paycheck Protection Program was a loan that was available via the CARES Act that Congress passed. Allyson helped us get a loan through this program and it really assisted us in getting through the year financially as it helped us cover our payroll expenses during a time that the church was closed due to the pandemic. The \$11,920 that we received was forgiven as we used it for paying payroll. L&D Ag donated a financial gift to the church, for which we are grateful. Alvin Morstad donated a water heater when that needed replacing and also donated his time for lawn mowing and snow removal. The bill for replacing the church's heating system was paid after the close of the financial year so that will show up on next year's expenses. It ended up being \$22,311. Linda expressed particular thanks to Allyson Olson and Cindy Recknor (at Farmer's State Bank) and Kathy Spooner and Jane Crowe for being financial secretaries. The Council voted to keep the budget the same for next year. Jane Crowe made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and approve the budget. Ann Lynne seconded.

Pastor Steve thanked everyone by saying how well people have supported the church during this unusual year. He emphasized how difficult this time has been for the musicians. They've had to perform to an empty church, which is tough for a musicians, along with doing this through furnace problems in both churches. Thanks to Cindi for coming in for her regular hours throughout the pandemic. During the months that the church was closed down, she used the time to transcribe all the old records into the computer.

Jill Morstad reported for the Activities Committee. She, Judy Wyrum, Ashley Jacobson, and Mary Beth Walton met in January as a new committee and started with plans for events but then things closed down and disrupted those plans. We did collect supplies for personal care kits and 14 were assembled and sent out.

**Old Business:** We still have to complete the fixing of the parsonage steps on the east side (cement) and the west side (wooden).

### **New Business:**

1. Duane Spooner mentioned that the primer is starting to show through at the peaks in the social hall so it will need some painting attention soon.
2. Earl stated that since we can't sing at the Christmas Eve service, they are looking for people to lend Christmas CDs. They can be dropped off for Ann at L&D Ag.
3. The slate of officers and other positions was presented:

President: Jerry Morstad  
Vice President: Ron Bartness  
Secretary: (Rachel Knudson will continue filling in but wants another volunteer to fill this position)  
Treasurer: Linda Brekke (Allyson Olson, accountant)  
Financial Secretaries: Jane Crowe & Kathy Spooner  
Trustees: Zach Jacobson, Matt Hoelscher, Tim Bartness, Paul Lynne, Steve Bakken  
Deacons: Jill Morstad, Martin Johnson, Emily Wakefield, (one open spot)  
Head Usher: Earl Lynne

Ron Bartness made a motion to accept the unanimous ballot. Paul Lynne seconded. Motion carried.

Jerry thanked everyone for attending and contributing. It's easy to take things for granted and then a year like this changes perspective. Paul Wyrum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Judy Wyrum seconded. Motion carried. The Annual Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Knudson, Secretary

*West Freeborn minutes were not available at print time.  
I will send them out in an email when I receive them. Cindi 😊*

**West Freeborn Quilting**

*Watch bulletins for any announcements about quilting resuming.*

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**Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>CEMETERY</b>
12-6-20	22	\$ 2,005.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
12-13-20	20	1,160.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12-20-20	25	1,097.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12-24-20	24	205.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12-27-20	19	745.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 5,212.00</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

*Thanks so much for continuing to support the church during these uncertain times.*

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## **Wed. Night Church School @ CG – 6:00 p.m.**



## **Church school & Confirmation will resume on Wed. January 6, 2021**

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)

Jerry Morstad, Cross of Glory President 507-373-0085 - Glenn Ausen, West Freeborn President – 845-2867

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 (home) – 402-4612 (cell)

