

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – June 2021

Sunday Morning Worship times:

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



God of All Power

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have this fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority”

(Colossians 2:9 & 10)

The apostle Paul writes his letter to the Christians in Colossae as he sits in a prison cell. Paul has to understand what it is to go up against the authorities, and what it is to have to deal with political corruption. He enters a town to preach to the people about Jesus, and when those people do not like what he is sharing they can make real trouble for him and have him beaten, imprisoned, and even sentenced to death.

Paul lived in a time when the Roman Empire controlled just about every person and territory he was familiar with, and those Romans could be cruel, unjust, and impossible to oppose.

Paul will then talk about the powers and authorities of this world which operate in opposition to the will of God, and as he sits in that prison cell you would think that it is the powers that forced him into this imprisonment that he has in mind. But that is not really the case.

We often wonder just who is in control. We believe in God as being almighty, and King of kings, Lord of lords. Then we read the horoscope thinking that just maybe the stars and planets have some influence over our lives. We think of governments as operating with the ability to control people and economies and worldwide relationships.

We may believe that God is in control, but we also are quick to grant others some control.

The powers and authorities Paul talks about are vague, unspecified forces that influence the world. They exist. They will take different forms through the ages, but it is these powers and authorities and not the Romans Paul credits for his troubles.

It is these powers and authorities he teaches that God has overcome.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Schwartz

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

This month's Do-It-Yourself Bible Study takes a look at a healing account in Mark's Gospel. If you find the topic intriguing I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

In the tenth chapter of Mark's Gospel we read the account of Jesus' healing of a blind man named Bartimaeus. There could be any number of logical reasons why people would have wanted this blind beggar to be quiet, but one reason that seems to make sense is that Bartimaeus was a beggar. In their minds if this beggar is insisting on drawing attention to himself there can only be one reason: he wants a handout. And why does this beggar want a handout? Because he apparently is unable to work for a living.

Read Mark 10:46-52.

Why do you think they wanted him to be quiet?

At a workshop on ministry to the hearing impaired that I attended it surprised me to learn that the problem that is experienced by people with a hearing loss is not the problem of not being able to hear. The problem they experience is language. If everyone used sign language, hearing loss would not be much of a handicap. Handicaps are actually problems of acceptance.

When you think of someone who is unable to work for themselves and is begging for handouts on the street, what is your initial reaction?

Jesus calls Bartimaeus over and asks, What do you want me to do for you? He doesn't ask for money or a handout. He just wants what most everyone takes for granted. What he really needs is to not be treated as someone who is handicapped. That is something anyone of us could do.

Do you find yourself relating to the crowds who want Bartimaeus to keep quiet, or do you think they are way out of line?

Pilgrim's Progress will continue for the following Sundays.

Sunday, June 6 "Vanity Fair" - Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1: 1-18 - Phillipians 3: 17-21

It beareth the name of Vanity-fair, because the town where 'tis kept is lighter than vanity; and also because all that is there sold, or that cometh thither is vanity.

Sunday, June 13 "Doubting Castle" - Scripture: Psalm 88: 1-18 - Acts 12: 1-11

"Out of the way we went; and then we found What twas to tread upon forbidden ground: And let them that come after have a care, Lest heedlessness makes them, as we to fare; Lest they, for trespassing, his prisoners are, Whose castle's 'Doubting' and whose name's DESPAIR."

Church Councils will meet on Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Cross of Glory Church Council - Tues May 4, 2021

Present: Jerry Morstad, Paul Lynne, Steve Bakken, Matt Hoelscher, Linda Brekke, Jill Morstad and Pastor Steve. Jerry called the meeting to order and Pastor Steve offered prayer. Pastor Steve reported Wednesday school has concluded. It was reported that the kids had enjoyed their final gathering. Lacey Koopal is in the process of looking into options for bible school.

The narrative lectionary that Pastor has been using for services since last September finished last Sunday. If we were to go back to the regular lectionary we would be starting in the gospel of John. Since we have spent the last several weeks in the gospel of John, Pastor decided to base his sermons for the next six Sunday's on the book Pilgrim's Progress which he stated was a very influential book to the history of this nation.

The SEMN Synod Assembly will be held virtually on May 8th. Pastor Steve plans to participate but no one from C of G or WF are planning to attend on line.

In Rachel's absence, Jill read the secretary's report. The report was approved as read.

Linda gave the treasurer's report. As part of her report she stated if the Maundy Thursday offering were to be included in the Lenten offering as well as the undesignated offering for Easter Sunday then our donation to the New Richland Area Food Shelf would total \$674. Jill made a motion that we include it for that total donation. Paul seconded the motion. All approved.

Linda stated the church /parsonage insurance bill from Grinnell Mutual was in the office. We were puzzled by the amount as it didn't appear to be a quarterly bill as we had been accustomed to in the past. Jerry will check with Andy Peterson our insurance agent and Linda will check with Allyson Olson prior to making any payment and for clarification. Linda stated she had completed the process needed for the rebate on the boiler and that should be coming from Center Point soon. Matt made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills as allowed. Paul seconded the motion. All approved

Old Business: We discussed whether to resume singing in church with the current COVID 19 vaccination status. We discussed resuming Liturgy and Hymns and whether to use hymnals. It was agreed to resume with a familiar hymn or 2 and to have them printed in the bulletin. Pastor will let the organist and secretary know of the decision.

We briefly mentioned the Centennial celebration still anticipated to be in September but had no other information from Martin or Rachel at this time.

Exterior painting on the social hall and entrance was again discussed. Duane Spooner has contacted someone willing to do the work and they have been able to match the paint color. The question was asked if the doors should be painted at the same time. No decision was made.

New Business: Jerry stated the Legion group would like to do an outdoor Memorial Day program and asked permission from the council to use the church facility if it rains? We discussed if spacing within COVID guidelines when inside would be a possibility considering the number attending in the past. It was mentioned household groups wouldn't need to space and it was mentioned that some may not attend if it is planned to be outdoors so the number present may be more easily managed. The Altar Guild has usually provided lunch as a fundraiser. If that is planned a "COVID safe" offering for lunch was discussed and to not have a "help yourself" process. It was agreed by all present to allow the church facility to be used and Jerry will speak with the Altar Guild members.

Last month Jerry and Jill had asked Pastor Steve about whether we should resume joint council meeting with West Freeborn. We have not held a joint council meeting since prior to the pandemic. Pastor Steve brought it to the WF council members at their last meeting and they were in favor of resuming. They are currently still meeting by ZOOM so we can plan to resume a joint meeting in June. Our council will plan to continue to meet in person.

Service times are scheduled to change in June as previously agreed upon. On June 6th the new schedule will begin with WF meeting at 9am and C of G meeting at 10:30. We then continued the meeting while touring some areas of concern:

1. The cement and lawn by the steps on the southwest side of the church. The lawn has washed away and the cement has broken. Possible repair to the cement was discussed. Jill made a motion to contact Alex Bell and Dave Wallin for their opinion of options. 2nd by Steve.
2. Pastor Steve mentioned that the snow blower needs work. Steve will take it to Gary Eustice in New Richland.
3. The wooden steps on the side of the parsonage are deteriorating and need to be replaced. We discussed having new steps built and whether to use wood or composite. Making them just a little larger was also discussed. Jerry has talked to Duane Spooner and will talk to him again.
4. 2 trees on the Northeast parsonage lawn have broken limbs. These may need to be cut down.
5. Steps/planter area on the east side of the parsonage. A temporary fix was done several years ago when there was some leakage into the basement. Pastor stated it hasn't been leaking. There is some deterioration to what exists and it is very unfinished. It was suggested to have Alex and Dave look at this also when they look at the situation on the church step area.

Jerry will talk to Glen Ausen (WF president) also regarding these parsonage concerns. Paul motioned for meeting to be adjourned. 2nd by Steve. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Morstad (Deacon)

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – April 06, 2021

The West Freeborn Church Council met on April 06, 2021, via Zoom. Members present were Glenn Ausen, Steve Ausen, Pat Ehrich, Mike Ehrich, Pastor Steve and Becky Ausen. President Glenn Ausen, called the meeting to order. Pastor gave a prayer. Cross of Glory would like to do a Zoom meeting in June. The Easter season went well. Becky read the secretaries report. Pat made a motion to approve the report as read. Steve seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurers report. Steve made a motion to pay the bills. Mike seconded it. Motion passed. Pat commented once again how the members of this congregation step up to the plate to support our church. WAY TO GO MEMBERS!!! 😊

Old Business:

- **Basement Kitchen Windows:** Cement guy blocked up the windows in the old basement kitchen.

New Business:

- **Is it necessary to have communion twice a month:** After discussion it was decided to leave communion at twice a month.
- **Pastor Steve's portrait:** Becky will contact Dave Pederson and see if he is interested in taking the pastor's picture to put in with the other portraits in the social hall.

Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – May 11, 2021

The West Freeborn Church Council met on May 11, 2021, via Zoom. Members present were Glenn Ausen, Steve Ausen, Pat Ehrich, Corky Modene, Pastor Steve and Becky Ausen. President Glenn Ausen, called the meeting to order. Pastor gave a prayer. Cross of Glory would like to do a Zoom meeting in June. The Easter season went well. Becky read the secretaries report. Steve made a motion to approve the report as read. Pat seconded it. Motion passed.

Pat read the treasurers report. Steve made a motion to pay the bills. Corky seconded it. Motion passed. Pat brought up the bill for the tuck pointing and cement guy. The bill came to \$26,000 which was for the supplies and labor. Steve made a motion to take \$2,400 out of the women's fund, \$4,000 out of the Thrivent money and \$14,600 out of the building fund to pay the bill. Corky seconded it. Motion passed. The gentleman had done the East side of the church, the chimney and the basement windows in the old kitchen, which he cemented up. Once again, the members of this congregation stepped up to the plate to support our church. WAY TO GO MEMBERS!!! We as a council cannot thank you enough!! 😊

Old Business:

- **Pastor Steve's Portrait:** Pastor will take care of getting his portrait taken. Also, he started with our congregation in 2017, not 2018.

New Business:

- **Lawn Mowing:** Schrader Enterprises has been hired to mow the lawn this year.
- **Memorial Day:** The Freeborn Honor Guard has offered to come to West Freeborn on Memorial Day at 10:00 AM to put on an outdoor recognition.
- **150th Anniversary:** When we had the last church anniversary in Sept. 2017 there was talk of an anniversary book of the day and cookbook. This is something that has gotten put on the back burner, but will hopefully still be accomplished.
- **Service Time Change:** The first Sunday in June we will switch with Cross of Glory and the service at West Freeborn will start at 9:00 AM.

- **Graveside Monuments:** There was a stone found under the tree that had been cut down. Also, some of the monuments have sunk down in the ground. Steve will call a monument place on how to go about raising the stones up.
- **Parsonage Upkeep:** It was brought to our attention that the west outdoor stairs at the parsonage are rotting. Duane has offered to fix these stairs. Also, 2 trees are falling apart. Alvin has offered to cut them down and Paul will grind the stumps. Corky made a motion to let these gentlemen go ahead and do the work. Steve seconded it. Motion passed. Thank you to these guys for getting this done!!!! 😊
- **Boards by Church Building Roof:** Glenn has offered to paint those trim boards up. Thanks Glenn!!!
- **Free furnace filters and scrubby sponges:** Karen and Glenn's son, Devin, has donated new furnace filters and scrubby sponges for anyone coming to church. The filters are 16x20x1. As Glenn said, you can come to church and receive a free gift along with the fellowship that we have to offer. 😊 Thanks Devin!! Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded it. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

Quilters will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month

through August @ 9:00 a.m. @ West Freeborn



THANK YOU

A Thank You note was received from the New Richland Area Food Shelf for the \$674.00 donation made from the Lent & Easter offerings. They thanked the church for supporting the Food Shelf for the last 12 years & are very appreciative.



Dorothy Gulbrandson has moved!

Her new address is: 705 – Sixth Street, Windom, MN 56101

We wish her the best in her new home! 😊

May Attendance at West Freeborn: not available at print time.

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

<u>Date</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Improvement Fund</u>	<u>Mission Fund</u>	<u>Cemetery Fund</u>
5-2-21	\$ 1,985.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
5-9-21	1,050.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5-16-21	835.00	0.00	20.00	0.00
5-23-21	1,109.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	\$ 4,979.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.00

Sunday, May 30 offering will be included in the next newsletter.

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 - Glenn Ausen, West Freeborn President – 402-4287

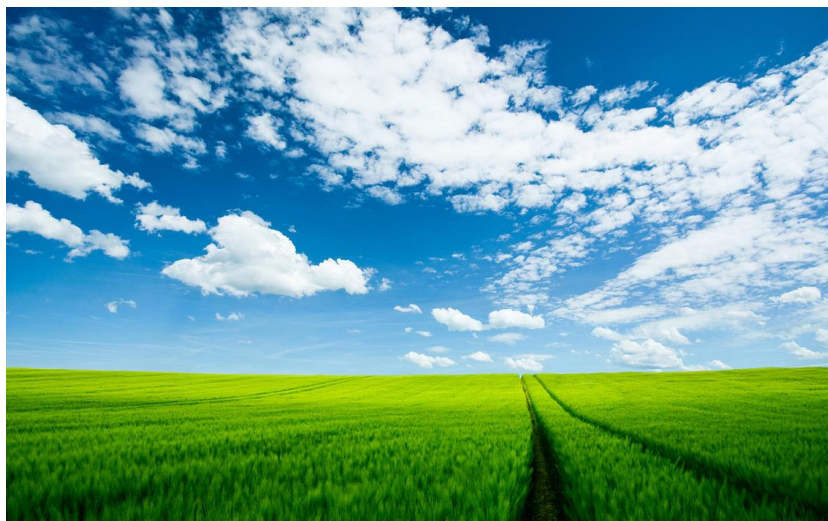
Church Office – 507-845-2818 – Fax # - 507-845-2732

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) – 402-8612 (cell)



June-2021 ✠ 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 Church Councils meet CG – 7:00 p.m. WF – 8:00 p.m.	2	3	4	5
6 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>CG – 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>Communion</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>CG – 10:30 a.m.</i>	14	15	16 <i>Quilting @ WF</i> <i>9:00 a.m.</i>	17	18	19
20 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>CG – 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>Father's Day ☺</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>CG – 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>Communion</i>	28	29	30			