

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – October 2021

Sunday Morning Worship times:

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



Getting Connected to Our Traditions

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

(Matthew 5:16)

For most families holidays mean traditions. Much of what makes Christmas a time of comfort and joy is the fact that we know what to expect and we know that we will enjoy it all. The comfort comes from the knowledge of what we have done in the past that we will be repeating once again. The joy comes, I suppose, from the knowledge that we had a good time in years gone by and we are looking forward to doing it again.

The Christian church has gone on for enough years that we are somewhat heavily burdened by all of the traditions that have developed over the centuries. So we have been free to pick and choose among them. We choose the hymns we will sing, knowing that there are plenty to choose from. We think about which scripture lessons we want to hear and what we will do in our worship service.

There are always new things to consider as well, and in our churches, as in small towns generally, it takes many years for something or someone to go from being “new” to being part of the family, the community. When we try something new in church, something that breaks with tradition, we are merely giving something a try. It will take many years before it will become tradition, before we will accept it as part of what we do. And it could be that it won’t make the cut and be dropped as an experiment that didn’t quite stick.

Whatever we do, new or tried and true, let it show forth the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Schwartz

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

For our Bible study this month, let's look at the raising of Lazarus. If you find the topic intriguing, I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

The account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the grave is only found in John's Gospel. In this Gospel miracles are known as signs and this is the final and most important sign.

Read John 11: 1-16.

Bethany is quite near Jerusalem and Jesus has angered the religious leaders there. What does Jesus believe will happen when they get to Bethany? What do the disciples believe will happen?

Jesus' delay in going to Bethany when he heard about Lazarus' illness seemed to be planned, but others are obviously totally unaware of what Jesus' plan is. In their minds, now that Lazarus is dead, Jesus has missed his opportunity to help.

Read John 11: 17-37.

Focusing on verses 25 and 26, what does Jesus hope to demonstrate or teach that no one at this point seems to believe?

The way that this scene is described conveys quite well the chaos and powerful emotions that Jesus walks into. It is interesting that he seems to be in no rush and takes time to talk with the two sisters. It is when he sees how great the show of grief is that he finally says he wants to go to the tomb.

Read John 11: 38-57.

How would you describe the outcome of Jesus' greatest miracle?

Church Councils will meet on Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Minutes of the Cross of Glory Church council meeting - Sept. 7, 2021

Present – Jerry Morstad, Ron Bartness, Linda Brekke, Tim Bartness, Matt Hoelscher, Paul Lynne, Steve Bakken, Martin Johnson, Jill Morstad. Minutes of the August meeting were read by Jill Morstad. Tim made a motion to approve and 2nd was made by Ron. Motion carried. Treasurer’s report was given by Linda Brekke. She informed us that a \$1,000 donation was given by L&D Ag of Hartland. A Thank You will be sent. Linda clarified that WF makes a monthly contribution of \$50 to the office account. She mentioned the \$ 500 moved to the office account last month with the copier toner needs.

Jerry showed the Payroll Protection Payment forgiveness letter from the Small Business Administration- Washington DC. 3 copies of this letter were made. Jerry has one, Linda has one for treasurer records and the church office has one. It was noted an insurance payment to Grinnell was on this statement. A quarterly payment was made previously. Paul made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report and a second was made by Martin. Motion carried.

Old Business: Jerry informed the council that the painting had been done on the exterior of the social hall that was needed as well as the covering over the church entrance. The painting was done by Russel Olson with assistance from Duane Spooner and a bucket truck supplied by Glenn Ausen. We haven’t seen a bill for this as of yet.

The decision to cancel the Centennial Celebration was discussed. Jerry stated he had made this decision 8/26. With the increasing concerns regarding the numbers of COVID cases in the area it just didn’t seem that we should go forward with it. We needed to make a decision because the advertising and commitment of #s were needed for the caterer soon and everything was very uncertain. We talked about it being a celebration and not a necessary event at this time. Jerry had spoken to Martin and Ronnie and Jill in making this decision and we had discussed the uncertainty at a brief, informal council meeting after church on 8/22. Martin contacted Doug Ohman –our planned speaker for the event to inform him of our cancellation. Jerry had given Martin permission to offer a retainer fee to Doug but he refused. He was informed that we would still like to have him be featured at this celebration but when that will occur is still uncertain. He had received other cancellations due to the health concerns and he was very understanding of our situation.

New Business Jerry and Jill informed the council that DeeAnn Berglund was very interested in providing janitorial services. She had met with Alvin and Cindy as well as Jerry, Jill and Steve Bakken at the church. She looked at the building with Cindy to get an idea what was needed. Alvin would be willing to continue with maintenance issues as well as checking the heat, AC when needed, opening and locking, snow removal and lawn mowing and Al and Cindy would be willing to be available for funerals if need be. DeeAnn would do the routine cleaning. She is requesting an hourly rate rather than the monthly salary we have been currently used to. Al and Cindy haven’t kept track of their hours and are in and out as it works for them so it’s hard to know how many hours may be needed. She has requested \$25/hr. Jerry contacted a couple of other churches to get an idea of what they are paying per month for janitor services. The possibility that she would be under an LLC was discussed also. We talked of a possibility of a range of hours/wk. of 3-6 and what that would total. We discussed whether a list of duties was needed. Tim made a motion to offer her the job at \$ 25/hr. 2nd by Paul. Motion carried unanimously. Jerry will contact DeeAnn and Al and Cindy will work with her on the transition. Jerry will check with her regarding whether she will be under our employment or her own business.

Pastor Steve joined us after finishing with WF meeting. He was asked if confirmation was planned for October as he had stated last spring. He stated yes, Ned Bell would be confirmed on October 31st. Jill asked if he had heard anything from Ned's family regarding a dinner at church as has been our tradition to provide. Pastor didn't have any information and Jill stated she would call Angela Bell and inquire.

Pastor was asked about the plan for Wed. school as it was listed in mailer as Wed Worship. He said that was a label by one of the students. It will be the same format as in the past. All will be at church, no ZOOM option. The families have all agreed to come. They will sit at tables, by families and everyone will wear masks. There should be about 15-20 present. Pastor was reminded that the janitors need to be informed when things are planned such as funerals.

Martin mentioned that in addition to the consideration of a cross being placed in the cemetery, he would like the council to consider a directory. Steve Bakken was asked if the cemetery committee has talked about this and he stated "no". Martin mentioned an online cemetery directory "find a grave.com" and also the directory that WF has.

In revisiting the concerns over the expense with the copier/toner Paul asked how many mailers are sent out. Jill read the email from Cindi regarding the # of copies for the monthly mailer at about 500 because sometimes there are several pages. A motion was made by Paul, 2nd by Steve that a message be placed in the newsletter that due to increasing office expense we request each one receiving a mailing to choose whether to continue to receive the mailing, discontinue or change to receiving by email (and then provide correct email). Motion carried.

A reminder that we still are seeking a secretary for the council. It was suggested that be posted on the Facebook page and newsletter as well. Other council positions were briefly discussed and further discussion was tabled until next month. Martin motioned to adjourn. Ron offered a 2nd to the motion. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted by Jill Morstad (Deacon)

Joint Council Meeting Cross of Glory and West Freeborn - Sept 7, 2021

Present- Pastor Steve Schwartz, Jerry Morstad, Glenn Ausen, Ron Bartness, Tim Bartness, Linda Brekke, Paul Lynne, Steve Bakken, Martin Johnson, Matt Hoelscher, Jill Morstad, Steve Ausen, Pat Ehrich, Mike Ehrich, Becky Ausen.

Cross of Glory President Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Pastor Steve opened the meeting with prayer. Jerry asked if Pastor Steve had a report to offer. He stated Sunday School and Wednesday School will be starting up as well as Confirmation. There will be 10 kids in the combined confirmation class. Minutes from the last joint council meeting in June were read and approved.

Old Business: Glenn has contacted Jerold Raede from Otisco regarding the parsonage steps on the east side. He stated he would put it on his list to do. No certain plan, but possibly this fall. He will take a look and give us some options. He has worked on the parsonage before. Pastor Steve did notice a small amount of seepage on the floor in the basement after the recent heavy rains.

Jerry reported that Duane Spooner did replace the steps on the west side of the parsonage as had been previously agreed upon. Pat Ehrich explained that the bill came to WF because C of G no longer had an account at the lumber company and then Allyson Olson billed C of G for 1/2 the cost.

The date for removing the 2 trees from the parsonage lawn in July was changed due to the closure of the site outside of Harland to take the brush and also because there was a funeral at the church on that same date. Alvin Morstad has stated that he had someone who wanted the wood but not the brush. The plan remains to remove these 2 trees and another needs to be trimmed. It was decided to do this work on Sat Sept 11th starting at 9 am for anyone available.

New Business: The situation with the copier/ toner was explained to the WF council members regarding the increased cost and leakage that had occurred from the toner sometimes in the past and whether there was an issue that needed to be evaluated. Adjustments have been made by Cindi (office secretary) to the color settings as well as limiting the frequency of colored items printed to attempt to reduce cost by conserving. The extended warranty gives us until Jan. or Feb. so we plan to see if things improve over the next month or so. Cindi, Martin, Jerry and Jill have been monitoring this.

It was asked how often we should plan to meet jointly. It was mentioned that “way back” it was twice per year and that seemed to work. A motion was made by Becky Ausen and 2nd to the motion by Martin Johnson to meet jointly in March and September. Motion carried.

Jerry mentioned that some small tables and chairs were loaned to WF from C of G to be used for their Sunday school students. Glenn expressed gratitude for them. We all talked of how good it was to have need for them. They were extras that hadn’t been used for some time.

Martin spoke of the Cross of Glory Centennial celebration being postponed due to the pandemic and that we hope to have it at some time in the future and welcome WF to participate in that.

Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Ausen and 2nd by Tim Bartness. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned to our separate council meetings. Respectfully submitted by Jill Morstad (deacon)

West Freeborn Sunday School following Sunday worship



Wednesday Worship – 6:00 p.m. @ Cross of Glory - Confirmation – 7:00 p.m. @ Cross of Glory

Sunday, October 3rd – Quilt Sunday at West Freeborn



A note from Cindi in the Church Office: I am updating the church records. Many people don't have their land line phones any longer & have switched to just their cell phones. If you have just a cell # now, please contact the church office, so I can update this information. Thanks, Cindi ☺



Also from the church office: At the last council meeting there was discussion about the high cost of maintaining the new copier/printer. A motion was made to ask anyone who currently gets a newsletter by mail to consider having it sent in an email (if available) to save on toner. If you are interested in switching over to an email delivery, please contact the church office with your current email address.

Thank You ☺

West Freeborn Attendance: September, 2021: 9-5-21 – 12; 9-12-21 – 44; 9-19-21 – 26; 9-26-21 – 35.
West Freeborn Ushers: October: *Wayne Hendrickson, Ron Lageson, Dale Indrelie, Adam Dahlen, Nanette Hendrickson.

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>
9-5-21	\$ 2,505.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 0.00
9-12-21	1,030.00	0.00	25.00	0.00
9-19-21	1,355.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9-26-21	1,220.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	\$ 6,110.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00

Community Events - A message from Hope Church in Albert Lea

Hello!

As I hope you've heard (or maybe seen) by now the big Yellow Tent is up and we are working hard to have everything ready for the upcoming Friday nights. We are believing for God to show up in big and powerful ways over the course of the next four Fridays as we minister to and bless every person who steps foot in the tent.

Today, we are reaching out to invite you and your congregation to another opportunity in the tent. Starting next Thursday, September 23rd, we will begin holding *Thursdays in the Tent*. Thursday evenings are for Christians to set aside all differences and to come together for powerful worship and rich times of prayer. This is a special opportunity to unite believers and intercede for our city and community. Scripture simply puts it this way, "Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing." 1 Timothy 2:8 NIV.

We believe God is going to show up and prepare the way through our Thursday nights together. Please invite everyone in your church to come ready to worship and pray this coming Thursday and the following weeks at 6:30pm at the Tent!

Blessings, Fridays in the Tent Leadership

Albert Lea Lakeview Lions Pancake Breakfast - Sun. October 3rd – 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - Albert Lea American Legion
Adults - \$10 – Children 12 & under - \$8 - Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy, Hash Browns & Beverages



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)



October - 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	2
3 WF – Worship – 9:00 a.m. <i>Quilt Sunday</i> CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m. Communion	4	5 <i>Church Council meetings.</i>	6 Quilting @ WF 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship 6:00-6:30 p.m. Confirmation – 7:00 p.m.	7	8	9
10 WF – Worship – 9:00 a.m. <i>Baptism of Rayna Modene</i> Sunday School CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m.	11	12	13 Wednesday Worship 6:00-6:30 p.m. Confirmation – 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17 WF – Worship – 9:00 a.m. CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m.	18	19	20 Wednesday Worship 6:00-6:30 p.m. Confirmation – 7:00 p.m.	21	22	23
24 WF – Worship – 9:00 a.m. CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m. Communion	25	26	27 Wednesday Worship 6:00-6:30 p.m. Confirmation – 7:00 p.m.	28	29	30

31
 WF – Worship – 9:00 a.m.
 CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m.

*West Freeborn Ushers – October, 2021: *Wayne Hendrickson, Ron Lageson, Dale Indrelie, Adam Dahlen, Nanette Hendrickson*