

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – December 2021

Sunday Morning Worship times:

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



God of Good News

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people”. (Luke 2:10)

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus 'birth it is well to recall the words of Old Testament prophets who looked forward to the day when God's Messiah would come. They place some lofty expectations on the shoulders of this individual.

Isaiah says that his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Christmas is the day when we welcome God's Messiah to the world, and we know that this Messiah arrives in the form of a baby born to poor parents out in a stable. Isaiah puts some weighty expectations on that baby's shoulders.

Fortunately for us, and for the entire human race, Jesus was up to the demands. It then falls upon people like you and me to make known what God has done.

This is why it seems especially nice that God chose to announce the birth of the Savior to a group of shepherds. There is nothing altogether outstanding about shepherds. They were not rich, nor were they powerful. They were common, everyday, working class people. Of all the people that God could have chosen to send those angels to God chose that group of shepherds. Not the Roman Emperor, not the High Priest, not the CEO in charge of Jerusalem olive growers. Ordinary folk.

Today God could choose farmers or secretaries. God might choose mechanics or nurses or house painters. God might choose welders or factory workers or illegal immigrants.

Get the picture? When it comes to welcoming the Christ child, God chooses you.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Schwartz

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

For our Bible study this month, let's look at the Christmas story from Luke's Gospel. I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

The words of the story are familiar to us, but it can only do us good to follow Mary's example and ponder these words in our hearts. Let's spend a bit of time hearing this story in a new way.

Read Luke 2:1-7.

The first two verses are Luke's way of dating Jesus' birth; he puts this event into a specific historical context. As you ponder Luke's words what stands out in your mind?

We now shift our focus away from the crowded city of Bethlehem where people are arriving to be registered, to a field outside of the city where shepherds are taking care of their sheep. We are no longer worrying about finding room in an inn because there is plenty of room, and quiet.

Read Luke 2:8-14.

The angel shows up in a blaze of glory, and the shepherds were terrified. Why do you think God even bothered to include these shepherds in the birth of Jesus?

Perhaps God sees the birth of Jesus as an event that will be of interest to all people, especially the common working-class folk. It is not to the political authorities or religious leaders that the angels sing, but to shepherds, and they can't help but go to see what God has done.

Read Luke 2:15-20.

The arrival of these shepherds and the story they tell has to be perplexing for Joseph and Mary, even if they did already know that this birth is special. What is in this story that you treasure?

Church Councils will meet on Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Cross of Glory Council meeting November 2, 2021

Present: Pastor Steve, Jerry Morstad, Ron Bartness, Matt Hoelscher, Linda Brekke, Tim Bartness, Steve Bakken, Jill Morstad, Martin Johnson (via phone).

President Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve led us in prayer and then asked about a Thanksgiving Service. There was discussion about whether it would be at WF or Cross of Glory. It was stated that it came out on the calendar in the mailer that it was at WF. Pastor will discuss with WF council at their meeting following ours. C of G's annual meeting was also discussed and it was decided to hold the meeting on December 12th prior to the service that day. We will begin with coffee and rolls at 9:30 and the meeting to begin soon after that. Pastor reported that Wed night church school has been "spotty" with some students on line at times and some varying illness still causing off and on attendance. Confirmation is "going well" with the 10 students, the majority from C of G. Pastor stated "they are a fun bunch"

Secretary's report was read by Jill with no additions or corrections. Jill reported that a gift card had been sent to Ned and his family as had been discussed at last month's meeting. Jill spoke with Angela as to what Ned's preference would be. A small hand held olive wood cross was also given as a gift to Ned on his confirmation from his Cross of Glory family.

Treasurer's report given by Linda. She noted that our current balance is similar to last October. Allyson had supplied a budget vs actual that was given to all present. It was stated that we are blessed to have good offerings and people who care! The time and amount paid for custodial service beginning in late Sept through the end of October was reviewed. Linda indicated the Grinnell bill (for insurance) is due on Nov 19th. That quarterly amount is \$1,776.25. The rate on the Manchester Hartland telephone bill will increase 7 cents. Motion made by Matt and 2nd by Ronnie to pay the bills. Motion carried.

Old Business: Janitorial care by DeeAnn. She is coming on Thursday mornings. Alvin has been continuing with lawn care and plans to do snow removal.

Copier expense- Cindi (the office secretary) had prepared a fact sheet regarding copier expenses this year. This had been requested to help determine a plan. This was a total of \$828.44 from Mar. through Oct. for cartridges and the replacement of the drum unit. Even with changes Cindi had made to try to conserve on cartridges replacements were needed frequently. Martin voiced concern and recommended that we purchase an HP Laser Jet pro Black and White scanner/printer for \$150 or if we decided we needed a color printer he recommended an Epson. We discussed whether we needed Cindi's input and the fact that this issue affects WF also because it is an office issue. Martin stated he will talk to Cindi if that is needed. We discussed whether we should pursue coverage by the warranty on the current Brother Printer. Tim made a motion to purchase the HP Laser Black and White scanner/printer for \$150 through the office account and use the 2-4 day free delivery. 2nd to the motion was made by Steve. Tim stated he would talk to Glenn Ausen (WF president) and inform him of the decision.

Parsonage steps on the east side – we are "on the list" as reported by Glenn Ausen previously. No further word from anyone on that.

New Business: Thanksgiving offering – no specific designation. It will just go into the general fund. We will encourage members to bring donations to the food shelf during the month of November.

Jill asked if there was anything special planned for Advent. Only the Advent wreath at this time Pastor commented. Jill indicated she and Emily Wakefield were trying to come up with something. Any other ideas welcome. Jill will check with Augsburg resource regarding any ideas.

Council members- Jerry mentioned how appreciative he is of younger people being involved. We discussed that we don't have a nominating committee and suggested each council member consider others who could be asked to take a position. The rotation of members is askew also.

Everyone was encouraged to review the budget and plan to determine an approved version at our December meeting. That would be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. Copies of the budget will be sent to any council members not in attendance tonight. Comments were made as to how much the Payroll Protection Plan helped and how valuable Allyson was for that benefit.

Pastor left for the WF council meeting via ZOOM. Jerry informed the council that he and Glenn had met to discuss Pastor salary and they had met to discuss with Pastor as well. After some discussion a motion was made by Matt and 2nd by Steve to budget for a 3% increase to Pastor Steve’s wage. Motion carried.

Motion by Matt, 2nd by Tim to adjourn. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Respectfully submitted by Jill Morstad – Deacon

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Nov. 02, 2021

The West Freeborn Church Council met on Nov. 02, 2021, via Zoom. Members present were Glenn Ausen, Steve Ausen, Pat Ehrich, Mike Ehrich, Sonja Honstad, Pastor Steve and Becky Ausen.

President Glenn Ausen, called the meeting to order. Pastor gave a prayer. He reported that the Thanksgiving Service this year will be hosted by West Freeborn. The service will take place on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving starting at 7 pm. Becky made a motion to give the offering to the Food Shelves in New Richland and Alden. Steve seconded it. Motion passed. Becky read the secretaries report. Pat made a motion to approve the report as read. Mike seconded it. Motion passed.

Pat read the treasurer’s report. Right now, we are doing okay with finances, but please remember to give to the church as we all know unforeseen expenses can come up. 😊 Steve made a motion to pay the bills. Sonja seconded it. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- **Cemetery Stones:** Tabled till next spring.
- **Paint in the Sanctuary Falling off of the Walls:** This will be brought up at Annual Meeting, along with the Social Hall windows.

New Business:

- **Parsonage needs a New Stove.:** Jerry and Glenn will check into this.
- **Pastor Wages:** Mike made a motion to increase by 3%. Sonja seconded it. Motion passed.
- **Christmas Program:** The Christmas service with the children will be the second Sunday in December.

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat seconded it. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer
Respectfully Submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

West Freeborn Sunday School following Sunday worship



The West Freeborn Sunday School children will
participate in the telling of the Christmas Story on Sunday, December 12th.

The Cross of Glory Children's Christmas Program will also be held on Sunday, December 12th



Christmas Poinsettias

Cross of Glory members can once again purchase Christmas Poinsettia plants this year. The cost for a plant without a bow is \$10.00. The cost for a plant with a bow is \$12.00. Cash or check is fine. Make your checks out to: Cross of Glory Altar Guild. Please have your payments into the church office no later than December 15th. Office hours: M-W-F – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please list below your name & the names of those who you would like to honor or remember. The complete list will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Name of member: _____

Name or names of those to be remembered or honored:

Quilt Info

On October 9th, the following items were shipped.
13 quilts to Lutheran World Relief
13 quilts to Bud Indian Reservation in Mission, South Dakota
Thank You to all of our Quilters ☺

West Freeborn Attendance: October, 2021: Oct. 3 – 16; Oct. 10 – 34; Oct. 17 – 31; Oct. 24 – 37; Oct. 31 – 36.

West Freeborn Attendance: Nov. 2021: Nov. 7 – 21; Nov. 14 – 24; Nov. 21 – 24; Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 24 – 16; Nov. 28 – 20.

West Freeborn Ushers: December: *Omer Emstad, Glenn Ausen, Steve Hoelscher.

Cross of Glory Attendance: October, 2021: Oct. 3 – 27; Oct. 10 – 24; Oct. 17 – 24; Oct. 24 – 16; Oct. 31 – 39.

“ “ “ **November, 2021:** Nov. 7 – 25; Nov. 14 – 20; Nov. 21 – 17; Nov. 28 – 27.

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

Date	General Fund	Improvement Fund	Mission Fund	Cemetery Fund
10-31-21	\$ 2,017.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
11-7-21	1,440.00	0.00	20.00	0.00
11-14-21	1,870.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11-21-21	925.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
11-28-21	2,885.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS:	\$ 9,137.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.00

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)



December - 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 Worship Wednesday for Youth – 6:00 p.m. - CG Confirmation – 7:00 p.m.	2	3	4
5 WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School following Worship CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m. Communion	6	7 Church Council meetings	8 Worship Wednesday for Youth – 6:00 p.m. - CG Confirmation – 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12 WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship Christmas Program Annual meeting @ CG 9:30 a.m. CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Program	13	14	15 Worship Wednesday for Youth – 6:00 p.m. - CG Confirmation – 7:00 p.m.	16	17	18
19 WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School following Worship CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m.	20	21	22 Winter Break for kids ☺	23	24 Christmas Eve Service @ CG 4:30 p.m. Joint Service	25 Christmas Day Service @ WF 9:00 a.m. Joint Service
26 WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School following Worship CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m. Communion	27	28	29 Winter Break for kids ☺	30	31	