

## **Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – February 2024**

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

# **February**



### **Think Sun, Think Summer, think Good Earth Village!**

In the midst of a January cold snap in a strangely mild winter, it may feel hard to believe that Spring and Summer are on their way...but as of today, there are less than 50 days until the start of Spring! And with these warmer, sunnier thoughts, my mind drifts to summer camps, summer ministry opportunities and for me that means Summer and Good Earth Village go Hand in Hand!

We're expecting printed info related to summer GEV Programming, but you can take a sneak peek at what is offered for the summer including camp for every age at [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org). Day Camps, 1 and 2 night stays for younger campers, 3 and 5 night camps for older campers, as well as adventures away from camp or out and about for those who are more well-seasoned in the camp experience. Connect with Pastor Marcia with questions and stay tuned for opportunities and discounts for early registrations (and church financial support too). We'd love to help YOU go to camp in 2024!

**Communion Instruction** - 5th Graders and their families, Mark your calendars because Communion Instruction is right around the corner! Beginning on Wednesday evening, February 21, March 6, 13 and 20, from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m., students and a parent are invited to join us for a time of hands-on instruction as we prepare for First Communion, to be held during Holy Week (watch for details as to the date and time in your congregation). Students will have the opportunity to make their own chalice and paten (plate) out of clay, a nice keepsake, to make the bread we'll use for our Maundy Thursday services, to learn and understand how communion is served in each congregation, and to learn the core traditions around our sacrament of holy communion.

If you have a 5th Grade student or you know someone who would like to participate in classes, please RSVP to Pastor Marcia by calling the church at 507-509-3396, by emailing at [pastor.cgwf@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.cgwf@gmail.com), or by phone or text at 507-509-3396 on or before Ash Wednesday, February 14. I'm looking forward to seeing you there and meeting any newcomers who wish to participate!

**Confirmation and Wednesday Worship during Lent** - As Lent gears up, Wednesday Worship takes a break to allow time for other classes like Communion Instruction to happen. If you are a parent who feels like your child has interest or shows a readiness to learn about Communion in a way that will prepare them to receive Communion, please reach out and connect with Pastor Marcia and take note about Communion Instruction dates above.

**Confirmation students, we need your presence** – as we work through the season of Lent, we'd like you to serve as scripture readers, liturgy leaders, worship leaders (singers) and prayer leaders for our Wednesday evening worship services beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Parents, please make note of this as we prep for the coming season of Lent in the remaining weeks of January and early February.

### **1**

For students looking to be Confirmed this Spring, watch for times during Lent when you'll have opportunities to meet to work through details (choosing a verse, making your stole, finishing mentoring etc.). Please watch your emails for a letter to come specifically for you about this.

***A word about our Lenten Worship Series from Pastor Marcia*** – Ash Wednesday, February 14th begins our season of Lent in 2024, and we will begin the season with a 7 p.m. worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, hosted this year at West Freeborn.

Beginning on February 21st, as our midweek services continue, we have a unique opportunity to hear some of Jesus stories in a different voice, in a modern-day news/talk show format with another Lenten Dramatic Series entitled “They Were There”, a five-act dramatic sketch that introduces five biblical characters around Jesus, all interviewed by various reporters, giving us a glimpse into people like Judas, Pilate, Claudia – Pilate’s Wife, Barabbas and Peter. Each interviewee will share a riveting and personal view on the events surrounding Holy Week and Easter.

Each interview, paired with the beloved Holden Evening Prayer as our worship setting, welcomes an evening setting and different voice into this year’s season of Lent. Come...join us as we hear the stories of those who were there. Services begin at 7 p.m., with a meal preceding the service at 6 p.m. Service sites will be as follows:

**Wednesday, February 21 – at Cross of Glory (Communion Class from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.)**

**Wednesday, February 28 – at West Freeborn (No Communion Class)**

**Wednesday, March 6 – at Cross of Glory (Communion Class from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.)**

**Wednesday, March 13 – at West Freeborn (Communion Class from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.)**

**Wednesday, March 20 – at Cross of Glory (Communion Class from 5:30 – 6:16 p.m.)**

***All Call for Volunteers*** - Opportunities for volunteers to serve at both West Freeborn and Cross of Glory abound, and I’d love to help you find a role in which you will find meaning. Whether it is Communion serving, Reading Scriptures, Ushering, Singing or Worship Leading, consider this an open invitation to serve in any of these roles. As a busy season begins, pray and see how God leads you to respond to the call to serve! - ***Pastor Marcia***

#### **Minutes for Combined Lent/Easter/Confirmation Worship and Hospitality Planning 2024**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14th -hosted by WF. This year’s service will be at 7 p.m. at West Freeborn, with communion and imposition of ashes. There will be no meal (as has been in the past). Judy Wyrum is willing to accompany Lenten Services again this year.

Midweek Lenten Services: Services will be weekly at 7 p.m., alternately hosted as follows –

2/21 – Cross of Glory 2/28 – West Freeborn 3/6 – Cross of Glory 3/13 – West Freeborn 3/20 – Cross of Glory.

A meal will precede worship at 6 p.m. at the above locations. As soon as a serving group and menu is known, please notify the church office so that we can communicate this to our respective congregations.

a) ***Holden Evening Prayer*** – in response to feedback from folks who attended services last year, we will again use Holden Evening Prayer as the basis for the service.

b) ***Readers/Singers*** – Pastor Marcia would love to include other singers who may wish to lead in any of the above services. If there are people you think would have interest in either congregation, please let her know. Pastor Marcia will connect with Judy to find good times to rehearse prior to the beginning of this season, and the first date that we will use this service format will be Wednesday, February 21 (Ash Wednesday will be different).

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c) ***Involve confirmation students*** – in response to feedback from last year, we will again be asking Confirmation Students to assist with worship either by scripture reading, leading prayers, or by worship/song leading (with the goal to include everyone serving in some way). Pastor Marcia will connect with them to schedule this.

d) ***Hospitality*** – A meal will precede worship at 6 p.m. at the above locations. As soon as a serving group and menu is known, please notify the church office so that we can communicate this to our respective congregations.

#### **Holy Week Scheduling – Maundy Thursday/Good Friday services**

Pastor Marcia anticipates having new/first Communion students in both congregations (probably up to two in each). Because of this, and based on seeing who attended services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in each congregation, she suggested the possibility of using a format that has worked in other small, two-point congregations (similar in size to ours) by combining the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services into one, then holding the same service in each church...one on Thursday, one on Friday). It would involve elements that are traditional of both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, allowing folks to have communion (especially first communion for those for whom that will happen) in their own congregational setting and not feel rushed, giving each their own attention. It also will allow folks to experience elements from both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, pointing clearly toward Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The group suggested to potentially give it a try and see what the feedback from all vested in worship preparation, but to also have a discussion at the Combined Council meeting set for Tuesday, February 6th at Cross of Glory. Timing was discussed but a strong suggestion, whether it be 6:30 or 7 p.m., was that they start at the same time in both places.

Easter Services: Sunrise Service @ Cross of Glory at 7 a.m. followed potentially by Brunch (more discussion to follow) - Worship at West Freeborn at 9 a.m. – preceded by maybe brunch or rolls. Additional discussion will happen at the next Council meetings. Cindi is the musician for Easter services.

**Confirmation dates:** After discussing with parents at Cross of Glory, our date for Confirmation for 5 students will be Sunday, April 21st at 10:30 a.m. followed by a meal in their honor. This will include Caralee Koopal, McKenna Dolton, Wyatt Larson, JP Lynne and Brooks Gilliland. More details for them will come at their Mentor Night on January 31st.

A tentative date for Confirmation Sunday at West Freeborn is set for Sunday, April 14th at 10:30 p.m. and they would also like to host a meal in their honor. Students to be Confirmed will be Zach O'Connor and Sydney Rysavy. Since students began making their own stoles at Cross of Glory last year, Lynda Emstad and Karen Ausen were very eager to embrace this new tradition at West Freeborn. The date for Confirmation at West will be firm once we get the official OK from each student's family, and we will communicate the need to switch services on that day to accommodate a midday meal. - Thanks to Cindi Christenson, Judy Wyrum, Lynda Emstad, Jill Morstad, and Karen Ausen for your attendance and input. We are so grateful for your wisdom and for each role you will have in the next upcoming busy worship season. Blessings to you all, and many thanks! Respectfully submitted on behalf of the above Worship and Hospitality Planning Team members by Pastor Marcia Pedersen.

### **West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Jan. 08, 2024**

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council met via Zoom Jan. 08, 2024. Members present were Glenn, Kristin, Steve, Corky, Pat, Mike, Pastor Marcia and Becky. Glenn called the meeting to order. Pastor Marcia gave a prayer.

Pastor Marcia had sent each of the council members her report for the month on Dec. It will be posted on the church refrigerator. Becky read the secretary's report. Pepper made a motion to accept the report as read. Steve seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurer's report. We made budget this month. Pat said we were short about \$10,000 for the year. Corky made a motion to pay the bills. Mike seconded it. Motion passed.

Old Business: · Property Insurance: Still pending.

### **3**

· Annual Meeting: It will be held Jan. 21st. Church at 9:00 AM. Rolls and coffee will be served after church with the annual meeting following immediately. Becky will get the rolls.

New Business: · Budget for 2024: Pat had the budget for 2024 laid out. Mike made a motion to approve the budget for 2024. Corky/Kristin seconded it. Motion passed. It will be brought to the congregation for Annual Meeting.

Benevolence: Pat made a motion to give the following groups our benevolence offerings:

1. New Richland, Albert Lea, Alden school districts, \$643 divided evenly for the backpack program.
2. \$500 for the Synod. Pastor Marcia will check with the Synod on the Mission Fund.
3. \$600 distributed evenly to Good Sam, St. John's, Salvation Army and Youth for Christ. Kristin seconded this motion. Motion passed.

· Water Softener: The company in Wells has been called to take a look at it. There was talk of putting a filter on the water faucet in the Social Hall.

· Lenten Services: Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 14th. This year it is at West Freeborn. If we do the suppers this year like in the past, West would be responsible for 2 meals. Steve made a motion to do the suppers. Kristin seconded it. Motion passed. The two service group leaders will be contacted and let them know.

· Candy for Children's Service: Pastor Marcia has been purchasing this candy with her own money. Corky made a motion to take money out of the Coffee Fund and purchase candy. Mike seconded it. Motion passed. Becky will purchase the candy.

· New MN Sick and Safe Law: Discussion was had on this new law which has went into effect Jan. 01, 2024. Pat is getting all the details worked out.

· Appreciation Cards: Corky made a motion to get each of the Organist and Stacie a \$50 gift card for all the hard work they do. Mike seconded it. Motion passed. Glenn volunteered to get the cards. Thanks Glenn. · Next council meeting will be a joint meeting on Tuesday Feb. 06, 2024 at 7:00 at West. Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve/Pepper seconded it. Motion passed. Closed with the Lord's Prayer by Pastor Marcia.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

**Cross of Glory Council Minutes – January 2, 2024**

Present: Pastor Marcia Pedersen, Steve Bakken, Ron Bartness, Linda Brekke, Matt Hoelscher, Zack Jacobson, Martin Johnson, Carol Light, Paul Lynne, Jerry Morstad, Jill Morstad, and Emily Wakefield. President Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order and Pastor Marcia led us in a prayer. Carol read the minutes of the December 5, 2023 meeting. Secretary’s report was approved as read, with the addition of the following information: the insurance budget was increased to \$7800.00 for the 2024 budget. Martin made the motion to accept the report and Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried. Linda gave the Treasurer’s report. Matt made the motion to approve Treasurer’s report as read and pay bills as funds allow. Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Marcia presented a detailed report to the council for the month of December. If you would like to see the report, there will be one in the office to view.

Old Business: Earl Lynne was inadvertently omitted from the December thank you gifts. Paul made a motion to present a gift of money to Earl. Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Building project updates include the following: Jim and Dude’s replaced the men’s basement bathroom toilet valve, reset the toilet and bolted it down correctly.

Zack will be connecting with Jim and Dude’s Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, Johnson’s Heating and Air Conditioning and Ron’s Plumbing and Heating. He will be requesting bids for air conditioning of the sanctuary. Steve reported that Brandon Flatness has been inspecting the work that needs to be completed for the basement wall project. There has not been an update from the MSP/LIS (Medicare Savings Program/Low Income Subsidies Service for Rural Communities).

New Business: Allocating the monies to the area food shelves for our Christmas Mission project was tabled until next month until we have a total of the monies received for this project. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. West Freeborn will be asked if they are willing to host the Ash Wednesday Service.

Earned Sick and Safe time is a new MN law that became effective on 1-1-2024. After much discussion, Pastor Marcia will contact Allyson Olson to find out how to best approach this issue. Jill made a motion that we get a plan from Allyson Olson and use her recommendation to move forward in this process. The council will vote on the proposal suggested by Allyson. Martin seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Marcia is exploring the possibility of adding a Wednesday Worship component with communion. This would be in addition to the season of Lent. Martin made a motion to pursue a Wednesday Worship with communion option. Zack seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Valerie Lockhart, our new neighbor in the former parsonage, wishes to conduct a class open to anyone interested. The class is titled, “CREATE with AI.” Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8 pm. Jerry will contact Glenn regarding a joint meeting to be held with West Freeborn on February 6. Thank you for your financial support of Cross of Glory. It is much appreciated. A motion for adjournment was made by Paul and seconded by Steve. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Next Council Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 @ 7 p.m. Respectfully submitted by: Carol Light, Secretary

**Cross of Glory Information**

**The end of the year statements are available & can be picked up in the Narthex.**

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**Attendance for December, 2023- WF: Dec. 3 – 49; Dec. 10 – 39; Dec. 17 – 68; Dec. 24 – 42; Dec. 31 – not recorded.**

**Attendance for January, 2024-WF: Jan. 7 – 23; Jan. 14 – services canceled; Jan. 21 – 36; Jan. 28 – 40.**

**Attendance for December, 2023-CG: Dec. 3 – 42; Dec. 10 – 35; Dec. 17 – 79; Dec. 24 – 76; Dec. 31 – 23.**

**Attendance for January, 2024-CG: Jan. 7 – 36; Jan. 14 – services canceled; Jan. 21 – 21; Jan. 28 – 35.**

**Ushers for WF –February 2024: \*Chris Dahl, Mark Langrud, Doug Morrison, Julie Morrison.**

**Running December again with complete amounts - Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church**

	General Fund	Improvement Fund	Mission Fund	Cemetery Fund
Sun. Dec. 3	\$ 2,095.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 50.00

Sun. Dec. 10	1,165.00	0.00	140.00	50.00
Sun. Dec. 17	1,695.00	150.00	0.00	100.00
Sun. Dec. 24	963.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sun. Dec. 31	1,102.00	0.00	0.00	.50
	<u>35.00 Free Will offering after Christmas goodies</u>			

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TOTALS	\$ 7,055.43	\$ 150.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 200.50
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Sun. Jan. 7	\$ 1,525.00	150.00	25.00	75.00
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January totals were not complete at print time. I will include them in the next newsletter.

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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)

**Pastor Marcia Pedersen – Office Hours: M-TH – 9:30 – 5:00 p.m. Cell # 507-509-3396.**

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

Cindy Morstad – contact for funerals, etc. 845-2255 (home) – 402-4577 (cell) - Alvin Morstad, Grounds keeper & boiler maintenance – 845-2813 (home) – 402-8612 (cell) - Kristin Malmberg – Custodian – 612-816-3271

# What to Give Up...

Give up complaining ...	focus on Gratitude
Give up pessimism ...	become an Optimist
Give up worry ...	trust Divine Providence
Give up bitterness ...	turn to Forgiveness
Give up hatred ...	return Good for evil
Give up negativism ...	be Positive
Give up anger ...	be More Patient
Give up pettiness ...	become Mature
Give up gloom ...	enjoy the Beauty all around you
Give up jealousy ...	pray for Trust
Give up gossiping ...	control your Tongue
Give up sin ...	turn to Virtue
Give up giving up ...	Hang in there!

**February - 2024**  
**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
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> WF - worship – 9:00 a.m. CG - worship – 10:30 a.m. Communion	<b>5</b> Pastor Marcia attending Continuing Education from noon today until noon on Tues. Feb. 6.	<b>6</b> <i>Joint Council meeting @ WF 7:00 p.m.</i>	<b>7</b> Wed. Worship 6:00 p.m. Confirmation – 7:00 p.m. *Pancake Night*	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> WF - worship – 9:00 a.m. CG - worship – 10:30 a.m. 9:30-Noon – <i>Valentine's Brunch @ CG (see attached flyer)</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Worship @ WF – Imposition of Ashes &amp; Communion</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> WF - worship – 9:00 a.m. CG - worship – 10:30 a.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>5:30-6:15 Communion Class 6:00 p.m. Meal 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship @ CG</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> WF - worship – 9:00 a.m. CG - worship – 10:30 a.m. Communion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:00 p.m. Meal 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship @ WF	<b>29</b>		

***No Wed. Worship or Confirmation Classes during Lent, beginning Wed. Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. Ash Wednesday.***