

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches

Hartland, MN

Sunday Morning Worship times: Cross of Glory service is each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 10:15 a.m.

**West Freeborn service is each Sunday at 10:30 am. Please come early for coffee before the worship service.
Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m.**



From: Pastor Mark Hillmer

THE INCARNATION

The incarnation, which is God's coming into the world in the person of Jesus, is the grandest miracle of them all. All miracles flow from the incarnation and all miracles point to it.

We pray for healing. And that is right. With that prayer we are asking for some of God's power, as revealed in Christ's resurrection, to work a miracle among us. There are slow miracles (we call them marvels) when the doctors finally make a correct diagnosis and prescribe the proper treatment. Whether the treatment be surgery or medicine, it takes a while. God does slow miracles every year when the spring sun warms the ground and seeds germinate in the earth. Months later comes the harvest.

When Jesus was on earth he had but a short time so his miracles had to be fast. Instead of waiting for the harvest he blessed a few loaves and fed thousands. Instead of waiting for the fish to multiply in the Sea of Galilee, he multiplied a few fish to nourish a gathering of 5000 people. When Jesus healed it was instantaneous.

His coming into the world was slow, needing the normal nine months of pregnancy. He grew up as slowly as we all do. But when He did his work, it needed to be quick. Whether God's answers come slowly or speedily, they come. We offer our prayer, but leave to Him the when and where.

His resurrection was quick. His ascension was quick. And now for 2000 years He has acted both slowly and quickly, blessing medical science and hearing anguished prayers in an instant.

All because God became a man and walked among us. And still He is here with His good gifts, for which we are thankful: Him first, then His gifts, whether fast or slow.

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Nov. 11, 2014

The West Freeborn Church Council met on Nov. 11, 2014 right after the joint council meeting in Hartland. President Orlen Modene called the meeting to order. Present were: Pat Ehrich, Sue Evenson, Dale Christopherson, Bob Indrelie, Holly Dahl, Dave Ausen, Milo Madson and Becky Ausen.

Secretary's report was read by Becky. Bob made a motion to approve the secretary's report. Dale seconded it. Motion carried.

Pat read the treasurer's report. Holly made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Milo seconded it. Motion carried. It was decided by the council to pay for the parsonage mowing out of the General Fund.

Old Business:

1. Electrical Audit – Dale will check on it.
2. Handicap Accessibility – Wayne Sorensen has approved the plans. When we get closer to starting the project, we will get the permit.
3. Matt Staloch – Pat would like to meet with him before the next joint council meeting. Orlen, Dale and Mark will also be there. Pat will try to schedule it for 6:00 p.m. on Dec. 2.
4. Dale will talk with Doug Morrison about digging in the drain line and the water line into the bottom of the Sunday School/Chapel area where the new kitchen will be added for the handicap accessibility project.
5. Dave and Steve Ausen will talk with Dick Hoffman from the county about the septic system time line.

New Business:

1. Orlen will call Bevcomm about how the phone at the church is not working.
2. The land across from the church is being auctioned off on Nov. 15. It looks like the church owns approximately an acre of it. It will be checked into.

Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dale seconded it. Motion carried. Closed with the "Lord's Prayer".

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Ausen, Secretary

Joint Council Meeting – Cross of Glory & West Freeborn – November 11, 2014

West Freeborn's council president, Orlen Modene called the meeting to order in Glenn Ausen's absence. Present were: Pastor Mark Hillmer, Jon Stelter, Dale Christopherson, Dave Ausen, Becky Ausen, Holly Dahl, Sue Evenson, Pat Ehrich, Paul Lynne, Matt Hoelscher, Randy Light, Cathy Crowe, Milo Madson, Bob Inderlie, and Rachel Knudson.

Pastor Mark led the councils in devotion and prayer. The secretary's report from the last joint council meeting was read by Becky Ausen. Matt Hoelscher made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Randy Light seconded.

Pastor Mark gave his pastor's report. The cupboards in the parsonage are close to being finished. He also wants to make sure everyone knows he is very willing to do home visits for active congregation

members, congregation members who no longer attend church but are in need of pastoral support, or anyone who is interested in our church. He has provided his cell phone number 651-925-6509, and encourages people to call or text him. *Secretary's note: please remember that hospitals do not automatically inform the pastor of you are hospitalized, so if you are in need of pastoral services in the hospital, please make sure you or a family member informs the pastor.*

It was pointed out that the yearly financial meeting between the council presidents and treasurers need to be scheduled. However, as discussion continued, we realized it may not be necessary this year as the joint meeting typically is to determine the pastor's salary and benefits for the next budgetary year. With the interim pastor, we already set his salary for his time with us. Thus the individual councils can meet to determine their own church's budget. Corky will call Glenn.

The copy machine in the office is no longer working. Cindi and Glenn got a copier from Metro Sales. Glenn left a service contract for the joint councils to discuss. Paul Lynne made a motion that, if the price that is listed on the contract is the yearly price, we should go ahead and sign it. Dale Christopherson seconded.

The computer in the office had a virus. When we talked about the computer, we realized how old and outdated the desktop is. We may have to update with a new desktop or even a laptop soon. The printer also needs updating because it is extremely slow, especially when printing a number of pages. It was decided that we would inquire with Cindi what type of computer she would prefer for work (desktop vs. Laptop).

Dave Pederson had set up a website for the church but no one knows the address, nor has access to frequently update the home page, as is recommended to bring more interest to a website. Pastor Frank had mentioned that someone in the SEMN synod can help, so Cathy Crowe is going to investigate that contact.

There was a bill from Jensprint and one from One Write that the treasurers had some questions about and needed some clarification.

Regarding the Transition team, we will have to have some names for committee members by next council meeting so they can begin their work after the holidays. Pastor Mark has been asked to provide more information about the committee during church.

Next Sunday is the West Freeborn polka service so we will be switching service times. The Cross of Glory Sunday School Christmas program has been set for Dec. 14th as it would be easier to rehearse before the performance, they have requested we switch worship times then too. Becky Ausen made a motion to have West Freeborn's worship service at 9:00 a.m. and Cross of Glory's at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 14 to accommodate the Sunday School program. Paul Lynne seconded.

Dave Ausen made a motion to adjourn this half of the meeting and to proceed with the individual councils' meetings. Randy Light seconded.

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Cross of Glory Trustees and Deacons Meeting – November 11, 2014

Randy Light, vice president, called the second half of the meeting to order. Glenn Ausen, Lyle Bird, Steve Bakken, Kyle Wakefield, Tim Bartness, and Lori Fleming were absent.

Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report. The minutes were approved as read. John Stelter read the treasurer's report. Hunter and Sawyer Van Maldeghem will be doing the sidewalk shoveling again this year. Paul Lynne made a motion to approve the report and pay the bills as money allows. Cathy Crowe seconded. In the past, the church secretary took care of paying the bills since they were mailed to the church. The council treasurers would sign the checks. Now that we have a church secretary who is in the office three times a week we are thinking to go back to that process. A simplified process might make it easier to find a replacement for Jon Stelter, as he has decided to go off the council as treasurer. As a start, though, we are going to ask Cindi to open all the mail when it arrives to make sorting easier.

Old Business:

1. The cement around the bell tower didn't get completed before the cold weather arrived so it looks like it will become a 2015 project.
2. When the locksmiths came to look at the safe, they discovered that the lock is very old and worn. Instead of transitioning to a new electronic access panel, they will remove one of the wheels that was causing the problems and see if it is easier to unlock.
3. None of the people we had discussed for approaching for the transition team has been willing to join. We will make sure to have the information put in the bulletin and announced in church to see who will express interest in helping to move our church forward with this committee.

New Business:

1. We discussed the Annual Meeting. Normally it is held the second Sunday of December but that is the day the Sunday School has chosen to have their program. With the month starting on a Monday, it reduces the number of Sundays before Christmas, which limits our choices for the Annual Meeting, as the first Sunday is a little too soon after the end of the budgetary year for the treasurer to be able to submit reports for publication. Thus Jon Stelter made a motion to hold the Annual Meeting on Dec. 21, following our normal 9:00 a.m. service and a potluck brunch. Paul Lynne seconded. Again the point was raised that holding the Annual Meeting during the season of Advent is hard .WE may revisit holding Annual Meeting in January.

**** Note... This item has changed. The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14th following worship, with a potluck brunch.**

2. It is time to designate holiday offerings. Paul Lynne made a motion for the Thanksgiving offering to go to the New Richland Area Food Shelf. Matt Hoelscher seconded. Jon Stelter made a motion for the Christmas offering to be split between the NRAFS and the Salvation Army. Paul seconded.
3. It was suggested that we have Cindi make a copy of the church constitution and bylaws for the council members, as we look at possibly changing the structure of the trustees and deacons.

Paul Lynne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cathy Crowe seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Rachel Knudson, Secretary

CHURCH WOMEN:

****Rachel Circle will meet at the church on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. for a Potluck Supper & Bible Study. All WELCA Women also invited. We will also discuss & plan the 2015 WELCA calendar year. Please join us!!!**

**** Altar Guild has a nice selection of Christmas cards & napkins for sale, available in the social hall. Graduation cards are also available for December graduates.**

****Eunice Circle will meet on the Wednesday, December 17 at 1:30 p.m. at Shirley Miller's.**

Ushers: Cross of Glory – December – Gordon Thostenson, Reed Demmer
Communion Servers: Cathy Crowe
Acolytes: Lillian Bell & Aaron Fleming

Ushers: West Freeborn – December – Omer Emstad, Steve Hoelscher,
Dale Christopherson, Bruce Jensen
Communion Server: Dale Christopherson

Coming up: Community Events

Saturday, Dec. 6 – Christmas Bazaar at Trinity Lutheran in New Richland,
 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 6 – Holiday Service of Remembrance at Bonnerup Funeral Service in Albert Lea – 7:00 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 7 – A Christmas Cantata presented by Area Choirs. Clarks Grove First Baptist Church – 2:00 p.m. &
 Ellendale United Methodist Church – 7:00 p.m.

Statistics for
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	IMPROVEMENTS	MISSIONS
11-2-14	49	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 0.00
11-9-14	51	1,155.00	0.00	0.00
11-16-14	58	780.00	150.00	75.00
11-23-14	42	1,456.00	0.00	0.00
11-30-14	62	1,101.00	25.00	0.00
TOTALS		\$ 5,567.00	305.00	\$ 75.00

Cemetery - \$50.00

Thanksgiving offering to NR Food Shelf - \$ 10.00

West Freeborn Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	BUILDING FUND	MISSIONS
11-2-14	32	the stats for West Freeborn were unavailable at the time of		
11-9-14	22	printing. They will be included in the January mailer.		
11-16-14	62			
11-23-14	56			
11-30-14	52			

****A note from Cindi:** The deadline for the January mailer will be: Monday, December 22, 2014. If you have items or reports, please have them turned into the office by that date, or email them to me at : cgwf@smig.net Thank You 😊

****New office hours effective Nov. 1, 2014: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches contact information:

Church Office – 507-845-2818

- Glenn Ausen, Cross of Glory President 845-2867
- Cindy Stelter, Cross of Glory Sunday School 507-444-9727
- Alvin & Cindy Morstad, C.G. Custodians 845-2813
- Orlen Modene, West Freeborn President & Custodian 845-2832
- West Freeborn Church phone 863-2436
- Rev. Mark Hillmer, Parsonage Phone 845-2825
- Pastor’s cell phone 651-925-6509



*December 2014 ✠ Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches,
Hartland, MN*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Cross of Glory Ushers: Gordon Thostenson, Reed Demmer Communion Servers: Cathy Crowe Acolytes: Lillian Bell & Aaron Fleming		West Freeborn Ushers: Omer Emstad, Steve Hoelscher, Dale Christopherson, Bruce Jensen Communion Server: Dale Christopherson				
	1 Staff Meeting 9:00 a.m. at Cross of Glory Text Study at Cross of Glory 10:00 a.m.	2 Joint Council meeting @ 7:00 p.m. at West Freeborn Text Study at Cross of Glory – 6:00 p.m.	3 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation at Cross of Glory	4	5	6
7 9:00 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory Sunday School – 10:15 a.m. 10:30 Worship at West Freeborn Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.	8 Staff Meeting at Cross of Glory 9:00 a.m. Text Study at Cross of Glory 10:00 a.m.	9 Text Study at Cross of Glory – 6:00 p.m.	10 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation at Cross of Glory	11	12	13
14 **Note time change 9:00 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn 9:15 a.m. SS at Cross of Glory SS Christmas Program, brunch & Annual Meeting 10:30 Worship at Cross of Glory	15 Staff Meeting at Cross of Glory 9:00 a.m. - Text Study at Cross of Glory - 10:00 a.m. Altar Guild will prepare the sanctuary for Christmas.	16 Text Study at Cross of Glory – 6:00 p.m. Rachel Circle 6:30 p.m. Potluck & Bible Study at the church	17 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation at Cross of Glory Eunice Circle – 1:30 p.m. at Shirley Miller's	18	19	20 Jenna Brekke & Nick Christensen's wedding at Cross of Glory
21 9:00 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory Sunday School – 10: 15 a.m. 10:30 Worship at West Freeborn Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. SS Christmas Program @ WF	22 Staff Meeting at Cross of Glory 9:00 a.m. Text Study at Cross of Glory 10:00 a.m.	23 Text Study at Cross of Glory – 6:00 p.m.	24 Christmas Eve Service No confirmation	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 9:00 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory Sunday School – 10: 15 a.m. 10:30 Worship at West Freeborn Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.	29 Staff Meeting at Cross of Glory 9:00 a.m. Text Study at Cross of Glory 10:00 a.m.	30 Text Study at Cross of Glory – 6:00 p.m.	31 No confirmation			