

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church West Freeborn Lutheran Church

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Send info for newsletter to cgwf@smig.net

March 2014

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Newsletter

March 5 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Our congregations will worship at a joint service each week in Lent, and the first will be hosted by Cross of Glory Lutheran Church. The service will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. A choir from both churches will sing for worship.

Our midweek Lenten services will alternate between the two churches each Wednesday.

You are invited to begin your Wednesday evening with a **light supper** to be served at the church from 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. each night beginning with Ash Wednesday. (Free will offering.) We hope this will fit busy schedules and enable your whole family to attend midweek.

Worship will start at 7:00 p.m. and will normally be about 45 minutes. Pastors from the New Richland area will share pulpits.

Confirmation students should attend at 6:00 p.m. so they can join their adult mentor in a discussion activity during the light supper. They will complete the activity at 7:00 p.m. and then join their families at worship.

Please make the Lenten season a priority in your house and come with the whole family to worship and learn from our Lord!



Some Reflections on Crosses

✠ “A six-pointer star, a crescent moon, a lotus – the symbols of other religions – suggest beauty and light. The symbol of Christianity is an instrument of death. It suggests, at the very least, hope.”
(Fred Buechner)

✠ The New Testament scholar, William Barclay, describes the process of crucifixion: “Crucifixion is the most terrible and cruel death which man has ever devised... The criminal was fastened to his cross, already a bleeding mass from the scourging. There he hung to die of hunger and thirst and exposure, unable to defend himself from the torture of the gnats and flies which settled on his naked body and on his bleeding wounds... The terror of crucifixion was this – the pain of that process was terrible but it was not enough to kill, and the victim was left to die of hunger and thirst beneath the blazing noontide sun and the frost of night. Many a criminal was known to have hung for a week upon his cross until he died raving mad.”



✠ One Sunday morning a pastor received a compliment. “That’s a pretty cross you are wearing,” someone said. Even as he thanked the church member, something about the statement bothered him. So with the season of Lent approaching, the pastor constructed a new cross to wear around his neck. He soldered together a bunch of old and rusty nails, bolts and washers. The pastor wore the cross during Lenten services, and he received no compliments. Somehow this ugly cross reminded him more about its true meaning than did the “pretty” cross.

✠ The sign of the cross was made on your forehead and mine when we were baptized. This reminds us that what happened to Christ also happens to us: death and resurrection. When a Christian is committed to the ground at burial, the same sign of the cross is made at the head of the casket as a reminder of this great and hopeful promise.

✠ Martin Luther made the sign of the cross on himself as he began each day. You can also. When you do, speak this prayer: “My Lord Jesus came down from heaven, died on the cross for me, and now lives in my heart.”



CHURCH WOMEN

Join us for a short meeting on Saturday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the social hall. After the meeting we will be putting together Birthday Bags for the New Richland Area Food Shelf. Bring your items with you or drop them off in the church narthex before the meeting. A list of items for the birthday bags is found in the Cross of Glory Lutheran Church Family 2014 booklet. Hope to see you there!

Baby Care Kits – Thank you to those who have been donating items for the Baby Care Kits. WELCA will be meeting on May 3rd to put our collection into cute little bundles to be sent to Lutheran World Relief when the truck comes to Albert Lea. The last few months we have been receiving sweaters, cloth diapers, new baby socks, hand towels, receiving blankets and a few gowns/sleepers with no feet. Kathy Spooner has been sewing cloth diapers and surging onesies into t-shirts. We are still in need of bath size bars of gentle soap and hand towels. Each kit contains 2 bars of soap and a hand towel. We’d love to have 40+ kits to send this year. Consider a donation this coming month for a good cause. Place your items in the designated container at Cross of Glory. Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the May 3rd meeting and have fun putting the kits together!

The Cross of Glory Lutheran Church Family 2014 booklets are being distributed. They have been in the church narthex for the month of February for pickup. Contact the church if you did not receive one or would like one sent or delivered to you.

Rachel Circle meets Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Kathy Spooner in Hartland.

Eunice Circle meets Wednesday, March 19 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Shirley Miller in Freeborn.

Sunday Coffee at St. John’s Lutheran Home

March 16 Cross of Glory members serve at 1:30 p.m.

March 23 West Freeborn members serve at 1:30 p.m.

Each week at least four servers are needed, and desserts for about 100.

West Freeborn Quilters are looking for materials to make quilts for the mission. More quilts are needed every year. We will never get too much stuff. We need old sheets--flannel sheets--old electric blankets--flannel blankets--any kind of blankets--drapery weight fabrics--any kind of fabric. It takes about 7 1/2 yards of fabric for the top and bottom and middle for one 60x80 quilt to keep somebody warm.

You can drop stuff off at either West Freeborn church or Cross of Glory church. Let one of us know that it is there and we will take care of it.

LaVaun Ausen 845-2296 or Viola Krogsgaard 863-2215 or any of the other quilters. Thank you.

Folding Chairs – Would you like to have some worn but useable metal folding chairs for your family or group? Cross of Glory will give you some. Please contact our custodians, Alvin and Cindy Morstad at 845-2813.

Camping at Good Earth Village

This month is a good time to learn about camping opportunities for young people in elementary grades through high school at Good Earth Village Lutheran Camp near Spring Valley, MN.

Good Earth Village offers an “early-bird” rate for campers registering for church camp by March 17, so now is the time to make plans!

Both **West Freeborn** and **Cross of Glory** have offered substantial scholarships to campers, and they’d like to see you take advantage of them! Speak to a member of your church council or contact Pastor Frank for the latest news on scholarships.

Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles – A week at camp would make a great birthday gift! It’s a gift that will last a lifetime as they experience the fun that church camp offers, and it creates memories to last long after their week has ended.

You can get a brochure about camping for families and individuals from Pastor Frank or download one from www.GoodEarthVillage.org Phone 507-346-2494.

March is Food Share Month – That means Minnesota corporations will be supplementing donations of food and money, making March a very good time to give!

We will be collecting non-perishable food and grocery items at West Freeborn and Cross of Glory throughout the month of March. You can bring them on Sundays or to Wednesday evening Lenten services. Most needed: toiletries, soup, canned meats, fruits & vegetables, mac & cheese.



Come to God’s Table

A class on Holy Communion for students in grade 5 preparing for First Communion. Four Sunday evening sessions: March 16, 23, 30, and April 6, 2014, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Meet at Cross of Glory Church.

At Cross of Glory and West Freeborn Lutheran Churches, young people prepare for first communion by joining the pastor and parents in a series of classes focusing on the Lord’s Supper.

This year the communion class will be taught on the Sunday evenings in order that young people may take their first communion on Maundy Thursday evening, April 17, 2014 at a service held at each church.

Participation in the Lord’s Supper involves preparation. During our classes we explore the meaning of God’s love and forgiveness as it is experienced in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. We will use our Bibles, the Lutheran Book of Worship, and a communicant’s book, *Come to God’s Table*.

The decision to begin taking communion is always made by the young person, his or her parents, the pastor, and the congregation.

Like our Baptism, the Sacrament of Holy Communion combines Christ’s words with physical things to convince us of the love of God. We want our trust in God to be strengthened, and Holy Communion is one important means that God uses to strengthen that faith.



Lenten Services 2014 Restored in Christ

The season of Lent is a time for us to face together the brokenness of our lives and our world, and then turn that brokenness over to Christ so that we can be restored by him through the cross.

Each Wednesday Schedule:

6:00 – 6:45 p.m. Light Supper; 7:00 p.m. Worship

Ash Wednesday March 5 at Cross of Glory Communion and Imposition of Ashes

"Broken Hearts Restored" • Joel 2:12-14

March 12 at West Freeborn

Rev. Scott Williams, St. Peter, New Richland

"Broken Vessel Restored" • Mark 14:1-9

March 19 at Cross of Glory

Rev. Dennis Frank

"Broken Bread Restored" • John 6:48-58

March 26 at West Freeborn

Rev. Mike Walerius, Pontoppidan

"Broken Promises Restored" • Matthew 26:69-75

April 2 at West Freeborn

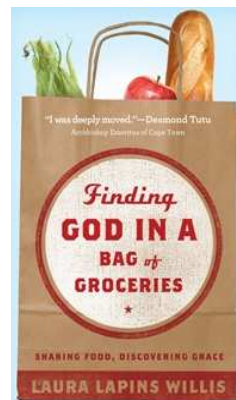
Rev. Ken Bowman, St. Paul, Meriden

"Broken Justice Restored" • 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

April 9 at Cross of Glory

Rev. Brian Gegel, Le Sueur River

"Broken Trust Restored" • Matthew 26:14-25



Councils as Leaders in the Church Event

2:00-5:00 on Sunday, March 9 at
Zumbro Lutheran Church in
Rochester.

***This event is for all officers and council members of our congregations, and any other members interested in the mission of our churches.*

Come hear stories as Laura Lapins Willis shares her journey of discovering what it means to care for ALL in God's family, especially those struggling with poverty and food insecurity. Her stories shed light on the impact each act of grace provides to both those who give and receive. They highlight how we can be "the hands of Jesus" in our own communities.

Working with those in our communities struggling to provide nutritious food is not simply a practical issue (i.e. how do we help provide and advocate for those in need). This work gets to the heart of the Christian faith: Love your neighbor as yourself. Attendees will have time in small groups to be challenged to consider how their local leadership can both care for the hungry and renew their congregations through serving God in this way.

At Council As Leaders, each congregation will receive a copy of Laura's book, Finding God in a Bag of Groceries: Sharing Food, Discovering Grace, compliments of the SEMN Synod Congregational Renewal Table.

Hymn Suggestion Box is located in the narthex of Cross of Glory. Our Sunday hymn selection committee is Judy Wyrum and Karen Ausen.

Cross of Glory Trustees Meeting – February 4th, 2014

President Glenn Ausen called the meeting to order. Paul Lynne, Steve Bakken, Lyle Bird, and Tim Siewert were absent.

Pastor Frank led the council in prayer and devotions based on 1 Peter: 5, regarding God's work, our hands.

The secretary's report was read by Rachel Knudson. Randy Light made a motion to approve the minutes. Matt Hoelscher seconded.

Jon Stelter read the treasurer's report. The new refrigerator has been installed and is working well. We have received the bills for the sump pump and fridge. Matt Hoelscher made a motion to pay the bills as money allows. Tim Bartness seconded.

Old Business:

1. The painting is done in the Sunday School rooms, as well as the upstairs and downstairs bathrooms.
2. The easement is with the lawyer.
3. The plumber hasn't made it to the parsonage yet.
4. We are talking more about a website for the church. Pastor Frank checked with Peter Solie who suggested weebly.com as a host site. It should be maintained by more than one person and would only cost about \$8/mo. Apparently, most individuals and families looking for a church go to the internet to begin their selection.
5. The carpets will be shampooed on Feb 10-11. This year, we've hired a young couple who have started a small company.
6. Pastor Frank and Kristen went to a Mission Interpreter workshop. Preferably there would be a couple people in our community who could regularly update the congregation about synod projects and areas of ministry.

New Business:

1. Next month, there will be a joint meeting with West Freeborn, hosted at Cross of Glory.
2. Alvin had asked if we could get outlets installed in the boiler room so we don't have to run extension cords to supply power to the sump pump. Jon Stelter made a motion that if it costs less than \$500 to go ahead and get it done without further council approval. Randy Light seconded.

3. There is water seeping in where the Sunday School room was repainted. We may need to retile that area. We will look at it in the spring.

4. We designated the Lenten and Easter offerings. Good Earth Village hasn't received any gifts from us for three years, so Tim Bartness made a motion to designate both offerings to GEV. Randy Light seconded.

5. When Pastor Frank asked about the Lenten Round Robin with areas pastors, we agreed we would like to participate again this year. We will be hosting Ash Wednesday on March 5 and the trustees will serve that pre-worship supper. There will be two other suppers at Cross of Glory during the Lenten season.

6. Lutheran World Relief collects quilts, school kits, etc. There is an idea to have Lenten collections for Baskets of Hope personal kits containing 6 items. Each night of Lent (six total) people would be encouraged to bring a different item.

7. The memorials from Orvin Morstad will go to fix the chimes on the organ.

8. The hymn numbers could be posted by the ushers or altar guild.

9. The bell tower base will be fixed this spring, in memory of Neuman Riskedahl.

10. Confirmation was scheduled the first Sunday of May but that is also the time Anders Frank will be graduating from Concordia College. Pastor Frank chatted with the families of the confirmands and they all were fine with moving Confirmation up one week, to April 27.

11. The 9th of February will be the Blue Earth River Synod Conference held at 1st Lutheran in Glenville.

12. Pastor Frank wanted to let everyone know that if weather is questionable on a Sunday morning, anyone can call the church because he changes the outgoing message to state if church is cancelled. It is on the radio and posted on the Facebook site, as well. The Sunday School usually calls all the Sunday School families.

Matt Hoelscher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tim Bartness seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Rachel Knudson, Secretary

**WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 06, 2014**

Present: Nancy Pederson, Milo Madson, Dale Christopherson, Mike Ehrich, Pat Ehrich, Pastor Frank, Dave Ausen, Bob Indrelie, Orlen Modene, Holly Dahl, Steve Ausen, Mark Broskoff and Becky Ausen.

President, Orlen Modene called the meeting to order. Pastor Frank gave devotions. Secretary's report was read by Becky. Motion was made to accept the report as read by Nancy, Holly seconded it. Motion carried. Treasurer's report was given by Pat. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Milo, seconded by Steve. Motion carried. Pat stated how they are checking on Portico to make sure we are paying the right amount. Also the ELCA loan went down to .4%.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sunday, Dec. 09 from 4:30 to 6:30 has been set as the time for the Soup and Sundae fund raiser. Orlen has made up posters which can be put around. Omer Emstad is making the Chili and Shannon Modene is making the Wild Rice soup. Becky will pick up 2 other kinds of soup. There is a sign-up sheet for other supplies that need to be gotten.
2. Dale has a plan for the handicap accessibility project. It was decided at annual meeting to go with the proposal of the plans with the handicap accessibility inside of the existing church. He is searching for someone to do the work. It was decided that he would get bids from a couple of people. Dale will get the material list from Freeborn Lumber on what is needed for the project. Pat made a suggestion of having people from the church volunteer to do some of the work. Mark made a motion to move ahead with the project. Dale seconded it. Motion carried.
3. Dave and Steve volunteered to put a plan in place for the septic system which has to be updated by 2015.
4. Pastor has a family for the Clothes Closet donation. He will get together with Pat to get this done.
5. Orlen is trying to conserve L.P. by turning the heat down. He has also placed a space heater in the women's bathroom. The women's group is willing to help with L.P. cost.
6. Nancy will write up a job description of what needs to be done for the Harvest Bazaar.
7. Need one more woman to mentor one of the girls in Confirmation Class.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tuesday, March 4th at 7 p.m. there will be a joint council meeting at Cross of Glory.
2. It was brought up that we have had a decline in attendance and a possible upcoming loss of more members. We lost no matter which way the vote had gone. It was felt that the people left because of the doctrine of the E.L.C.A.
Do we as council members go out and talk with the members who have left the church and try to convince them to come back? We are surviving as of now, but we have cut the budget by \$5,000.00. The E.L.C.A. has indicated that they would have a hard time sending a new pastor to a church that is having trouble. It was felt that Society has changed, with church not being a high priority as it once was. We seem to be at a standstill. Somehow we need to turn the switch back on. The pastor said it has been a privilege to serve the congregations. He is trying to do his part and find another parish. He asked that we keep his family in our prayers. It was talked how we would like to see a vote between both churches.
3. Lent starts on Wednesday, March 05 at Cross of Glory. Mar. 12th, Orlen, the Ausen's and Doug will serve the Lenten supper, on Mar. 26th Dale, Holly and Mark will serve and on Apr. 09th Nancy, Bob and the Ehrich's will serve.
4. Steve made a motion to leave the offerings for Lenten and Easter services the same as last year. Bob seconded it. Motion carried. The Lenten services will go to Albert Lea Food Shelf and Easter will be ½ to Alden Food Shelf and ½ to Salvation Army.
5. The following committees were set up for 2014:
Building and grounds ~ Mark and Orlen
Parsonage ~ Milo and Bob
Cemetery ~ Steve, Oscar and Mike
Education ~ Holly and Becky
Financial ~ Pat and Orlen

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded it. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary, Becky Ausen

Statistics for February 2014

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH				
SUNDAY	ATTEN- DANCE	GENERAL FUND	IMPROVE- MENT	MISSIONS FUND
Jan 26	Service cancelled due to weather			
Feb 2	51	\$ 1,315.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 5.00
Feb 9	37	1,247.00	195.00	20.00
Feb 16	52	1,273.00	150.00	5.00
Feb 23	49	937.00	240.00	5.00
Cemetery fund = \$ 5.00				
WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH				
SUNDAY	ATTEN- DANCE	GENERAL FUND	BUILDING FUND	MISSIONS FUND
Jan 26	Service cancelled due to weather			
Feb 2	32	\$ 2,523.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 0
Feb 9	40	964.00	0	0
Feb 16	32	1,126.00	20.00	0
Feb 23	25	820.00	0	0

Looking Ahead: Worship Assistants for the Month of April

Cross of Glory:

Ushers: Alvin Morstad, Donn Riskedahl
 Acolyte: Josh Fleming, Sawyer VanMaldeghem
 Communion Server: Lori Fleming

West Freeborn:

Ushers: Wayne Hendrickson, Richard Bakken, Orlen Modene,
 Mark Broskoff
 Acolyte: see schedule in narthex
 Communion Server: Milo Madson

An enlarged copy of the Sunday worship bulletin can be provided for you. Please let Pastor Frank know if you would like one each week.

When the weather on Sunday looks bad... You can listen to KATE Radio, 1450 AM for church closings, or you can call the church office (845-2818) for a recorded message if services or Sunday School have been cancelled.

BASKETS of PROMISE

This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's **Baskets of Promise** appeal. Each week, we'll collect a different item that we'll use to assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Our goal is to assemble _____ LWR Personal Care Kits during Lent.

HERE'S OUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

MARCH 9

Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



MARCH 30

Combs



MARCH 16

Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



APRIL 6

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



MARCH 23

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



APRIL 13 (PALM SUNDAY)

Bars of Soap



For more information contact _____

We will assemble our Personal Care Kits on ____ / ____ / ____
at _____

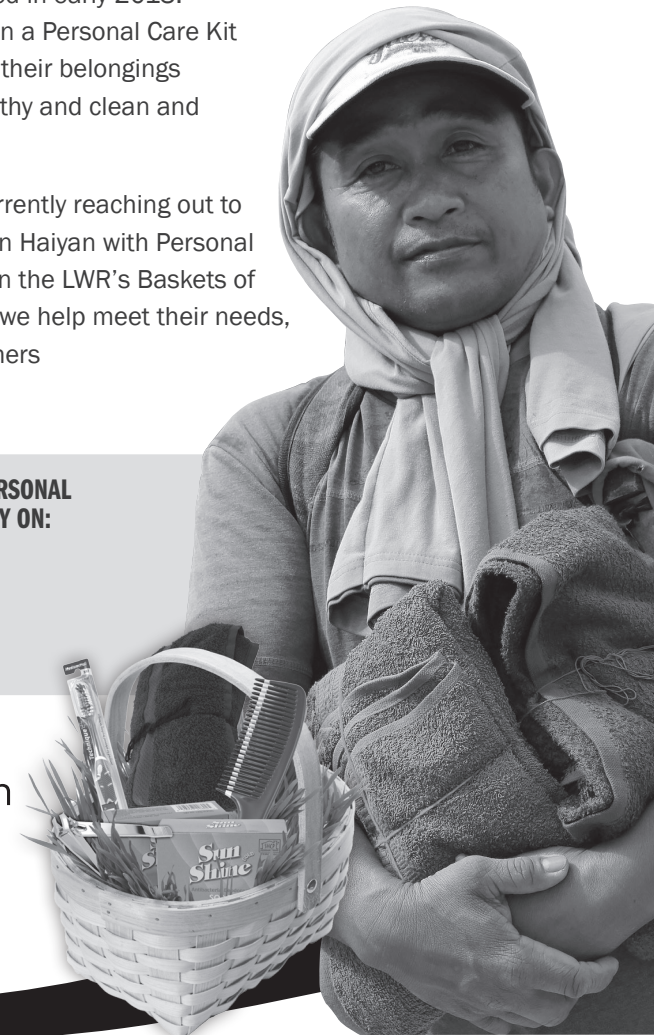
BASKETS of PROMISE

"[Jesus answered] As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:5 (NRSV)

THE PHILIPPINES is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world, experiencing 15 to 20 typhoons every year. This man received a Personal Care Kit after Typhoon Bopha devastated his community in the Philippines in December 2012. The elderly and the disabled — like this man — were served first at this distribution, which happened in early 2013. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow people who have lost their belongings after a disaster to stay healthy and clean and preserve personal dignity.

Lutheran World Relief is currently reaching out to families affected by Typhoon Haiyan with Personal Care Kits. By participating in the LWR's Baskets of Promise Lenten campaign, we help meet their needs, along with thousands of others around the world.

JOIN US FOR OUR PERSONAL CARE KIT ASSEMBLY ON:



March 2014 ✦ Cross of Glory & W. 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: Randy Light, Communion Server: Acolytes: Lillian Bell, Aaron Fleming		West Freeborn Ushers: * Roger Bakken, Kaleb Bjornstad, Dave Ausen, Steve Hannegrefs Communion Server: Dave Ausen				1
2 9:00 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn 9:00 a.m. Cross of Glory Sunday School 10:00 a.m. West Freeborn Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory	3 9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	4 7:00 p.m. Joint Church Councils meet at Cross of Glory	5 Ash Wednesday The Beginning of Lent 6 p.m. Light supper at CG 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Joint Communion Service At Cross of Glory	6	7	8 9:30 a.m. Women of the ELCA meet at Cross of Glory (Birthday Bags)
9 9:00 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn 9:00 a.m. Cross of Glory Sunday School 10:00 a.m. West Freeborn Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory	10 9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	11	12 6 p.m. Light supper at WF 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship hosted at West Freeborn	13	14	15
16 9:00 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn 9:00 a.m. Cross of Glory Sunday School 10:00 a.m. West Freeborn Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. Communion class at CG	17 9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	18 1:30 p.m. Rachel Circle will meet at the home of Kathy Spooner	19 1:30 p.m. Eunice Circle will meet at Shirley Miller's 6 p.m. Light supper at CG 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship hosted at Cross of Glory	20	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn 9:00 a.m. Cross of Glory Sunday School 10:00 a.m. West Freeborn Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory <u>6:00 – 7:15 p.m. Communion class at CG</u>	24 9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	25	26 6 p.m. Light supper at WF 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship hosted at West Freeborn	27	28	29
30 9:00 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn 9:00 a.m. Cross of Glory Sunday School 10:00 a.m. West Freeborn Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. Communion class at CG	31 9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory					