

**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
West Freeborn Lutheran Church**  
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May 2014

## Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Newsletter

### Change in Sunday Morning Worship Times:

Beginning Sunday, June 1, the congregations will be exchanging worship times...

- Cross of Glory service will be each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- West Freeborn service will be each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

The church councils meeting jointly in March came up with the exchange, and also discussed several shared worship and fellowship activities this summer. The worship schedule will be tried for one year.

### Vacation Bible School Activities to be held at Cross of Glory in June

Kids from both our congregations, as well as any friends and visitors, are invited to VBS activities to be held at Cross of Glory on the first three Sundays of next month (June 1, 8 and 15.) Following the Sunday morning worship from 9 – 10:00 a.m. we will meet for fun and learning which will include a lunch. Please mark your calendars and watch for more details in May!





## Our Story and God's Story

*The Lord...brought us into this place. Deuteronomy 26:9*

Each of us has a story about where we came from and how we got to be who we are. Some of those stories extend back to the days of immigrants who came looking for land and found it. Even if your story doesn't go back that far, still it is a story embroidered with memories of school, learning to do chores, growing up to be big enough to work with livestock and large machines. Who you are and what you count as important was shaped at least in some small part by the fact that you grew up on this land rather than some place else.

When do you reflect on that story? For farm families, things "start" in the spring. Machines get repaired, seed purchased. When you begin the growing season, do you review your own story? Do you sometimes take five paces back and look at what it's all about?

Moses in the Book of Deuteronomy reminded the people of Israel that they were to reflect on their story regularly. Not a shallow "walk down memory lane" or a shower of nostalgia. Rather, a deep and faithful review of how they got where they were. How God had given them the land. How God had provided for their needs. They were to remember the covenant relationship God had made with them, and to look for its renewal each year in the planting and the harvest.

That's why we take time today to reflect on both *our story* and *God's story*. With today's technology, it's too easy to take the wonders of the seed, rain, and soil, and reduce them to terms of schedules and commodities. It's pretty easy to lose sight of God's hand in it all. But we must take time to remember.

Reflect on your own story, and on God's story, too. See and hear God renewing his creation through yet another spring and another planting. Then remember all the other plantings in your lifetime, and eagerly look to God to renew us yet one more time. To give us strength. To give us hope.

--Rev. Dennis Frank

## CHURCH WOMEN

Cross of Glory Women of the ELCA will meet Saturday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m. at the church to assembly Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

May 11 (Mother's Day) is also Quilt Sunday.

**Rachel Circle** meets Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ardelle Knutson.

**Eunice Circle** meets Wednesday, May 21 at 1:30 p.m. at the apartment of Lorraine Dillavou in Albert Lea.

**Cross of Glory Senior Choir** rehearses Wednesday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. They will sing for worship May 11 at 10:30 a.m.

*Thank you for your response at both congregations to the **Baskets of Promise** appeal during the Lenten season for Personal Care Kits to be given to Lutheran World Relief. The Cross of Glory Sunday School will be assembling some of the kits on May 4.*

**The New Richland Area Food Shelf** announced its final tally for Minnesota Food Share this past month: 2211 pounds of food or \$ 2,211.00 on the dollar per each pound and \$ 16,094.06 for a total dollar gain of \$ 18,305.06.

You are invited to join in celebrating **Marvyl Kopperud's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday** at an open house to be held Saturday, May 17 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Royal Villa Apartments, 221 First Street NE New Richland, MN Cake and punch – hosted by her children.

*Saint John's Lutheran Home Plant Sale*

*Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the*

*Highway 13 entrance – Rain or Shine*

*All proceeds will go to the St. John's Resident Garden Program*

*Items offered are: bedding plants, vegetables and flowers, house plants, perennials and garden miscellaneous. Sponsored by the Gardening Committee.*



**Graduation Recognition  
at Cross of Glory,  
Sunday May 18 at 10:30  
a.m.**

Also, our Sunday School students will sing for our worship service that morning.

You are invited to Graduation Open Houses for the following:

**Presley Johnson**, on Saturday, May 24 from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Cross of Glory Church social hall.

**Hannah Light**, on Sunday, May 25 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. at her home, 67777 – 335<sup>th</sup> Street, New Richland.

**Spencer Anderson**, on Saturday, May 31 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at his home, 75650 – 305<sup>th</sup> St. Clarks Grove.

The churches in the area of the New Richland School District have committed themselves to redoing the **multi-church pictorial directory** this fall with pictures of families and individuals being taken in August and September. There will be an organizational meeting on Tuesday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran in New Richland. Two people from each congregation are asked to be present at this meeting.

***In our area...***

**Central Freeborn Lutheran Church** holds a Women and Children's Spring Event on Saturday, May 17. Program at 11:00 a.m. Luncheon at 12 noon. The program's theme: "Running on Empty" by the Wild Olives. Come and fill your heart with Jesus, enacted for the youth by Alice in Wonderland Characters. Ticket \$8 for adults, \$ 5 for youth 5-9. Under 5 are free.

**Community Lutheran Church of Geneva** invites you to its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meatball Dinner, Sunday, May 18 serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free will donation.

**Will Spring Ever Arrive?**

By Karen Gieseke  
Director of Family Ministry  
Southeastern Minnesota Synod



*Be patient, then, brothers and sisters,  
until the Lord's coming. See how the  
farmer waits for the land to yield its  
valuable crop, patiently waiting for the  
autumn and spring rains. - James 5:7*

While we all know spring will arrive each year, this past Winter challenged us to wonder as we continued to don heavy winter coats, and prepare for yet another day of winter road conditions, waiting not just for the plows to do their job but waiting for a new season to arrive which would free us from the current conditions.

Waiting...Every season in life offers moments where we wait and wonder. We often wish we could shorten the waiting and just move on to what's next. But what happens in the midst of the waiting if we are willing to allow that time to be something more than just "waiting"?

Well-known pastor, priest, professor and author Henri Nouwen wrote about waiting through a lens of invitation and transformation. He writes, "*Waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait, the more we hear about him for whom we are waiting.*"

As I continue to walk alongside congregations and families throughout the synod, I hear many stories of "waiting." Some are daily life reflected through comments like "I can hardly wait for the new baby to arrive!" or "Wait until you see the new carpeting! You will love it!" to broader congregational

comments like “How long do we have to wait for a new pastor to arrive?” to “We can hardly wait for new families to join us!”

But what might happen if we listened to both the words in James 5:7 and Nouwen’s invitation, and made waiting a time of learning. And in this learning we learn more and more about God, and what God is up to in both daily family life, and the life of our congregations.

As Christians we just journeyed through the season of Lent, which is a time filled with waiting for the Easter story and the promise it brings. But Easter wouldn’t be the story of hope that it is if we hadn’t waited. We learn so much about Jesus as we listen to his words and watch his actions as he cares for God’s people in their daily lives: the lonely who long for a friend; the hungry who need food; those in the margins who deserve to be loved; and the vulnerable who need support. We learn about God while we wait. And the longer the wait, the more opportunity to hear God’s story in and through those we encounter.

I am glad spring has arrived and I no longer have to wait. But thanks to Nouwen’s words, I am entering into new seasons and moments with a new sense of possibility when I do have to wait...whether it’s waiting in the grocery store line or waiting to see responses to bigger questions about God’s activity in the world. So how might waiting become a positive, enriching experience in your faith and your relationship with God? Can you imagine yourself embracing “waiting” because it invites you to learn about God, deepen your understanding of being in God’s family, and living as Jesus’ hands and feet in the world? Do you want to learn more about God? There’s no need to wait! God’s Peace in your midst.

Interested in learning about Henri Nouwen?  
<http://www.henrinouwen.org/>

## **WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL** **April 3, 2014**

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

President, Orlen Modene called the meeting to order. Pastor Frank gave devotions. Secretary’s report was read by Dave. Motion was made to accept the report as read by Doug, Steve seconded it. Motion carried. Treasurer’s report was given by Pat. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Steve, seconded by Dave. Motion carried. A suggestion was made to use mission money to support a child in another country. Dale will look into it.

### Old Business:

1. Potato super – final details. Ice cream machine is ready to go and we have two new roasters for church kitchen. A motion was made by Dale to use supper funds for some church repairs and second by Dave.
2. Handicap Project Update – Still waiting for some bids. Had a discussion and decided to table it till May meeting.
3. Septic System – had discussion on different option for the new system.
4. Looking into replacing landscaping in front of church and repairing driveway into cemetery.

### New Business:

1. Lawn Mowing for summer of 2014 – A bid of \$220 was given by Mike Ehrich. Motion was made by Mark to accept the bid, seconded by Milo. Motion carried.
2. Cleanup day set for April 19 at 9 am.
3. Painting in basement – will get bids
4. Social Media to help attract new members – will need to talk to Cindy Crowe and Rachel Knudson.
5. Roof over restrooms in basement is leaking. Will need estimates for a repair. Motion made by Doug, Second by Mike. Motion carried. There is a chip in window in the choir loft. Orlen and Mark will look into getting it repaired.

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded it. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted, Secretary, Nancy Pederson*

## Statistics for April 2014

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH				
SUNDAY	ATTEN- DANCE	GENERAL FUND	IMPROVE- MENT	MISSIONS FUND
March 30	51	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 10.00
April 6	45	1,462.00	15.00	10.00
April 13	72	2,428.00	200.00	0
April 20	81	1,169.00	25.00	0
April 27	66	1,337.25	35.00	35.00
Cemetery fund = \$ 165.00				
WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH				
SUNDAY	ATTEN- DANCE	GENERAL FUND	BUILDING FUND	MISSIONS FUND
March 2	31	\$1,381.00	\$45.00	\$0
March 9	35	720.00	45.00	
March 16	36	1,245.00	25.00	
March 23	35	890.00	45.00	
March 30		935.00	20.00	
April 6	48	\$2,285.00	\$20.00	\$0
April 13	48	1,070.00	65.00	
April 20	107	1,204.00	65.00	
April 27	23			

**Confirmations at Cross of Glory: Joshua Fleming and Kallie Jo Spooner, April 27, 2014**

*Looking Ahead: Worship Assistants for the Month of June 2014*

**Cross of Glory Ushers:** Jerry Morstad

**Communion Server:**

**Acolytes:** Lillian Bell Aaron Fleming

**West Freeborn Ushers:** Tim Beyer, Gene Chicos,  
Mark Evenson

**Communion Server:** Becky Ausen

Each month you can find reading materials in the church narthex to take with you: Copies of *The Lutheran* magazine, and devotionals, Scripture *Union Bible Study* and *Christ in Our Home*. There are also copies of our Southeastern Minnesota Synod monthly newsletter.

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.

May 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>
<b>Cross of Glory Ushers:</b> Matthew Hoelscher <b>Communion Servers:</b> Cathy <b>Acolytes:</b> John Hoelscher, Ellie Kuhlmann		<b>West Freeborn Ushers:</b> * Roger Bakken, Duane Troe, Doug Jacobs, Tim Peterson <b>Communion Servers:</b> Mike Ehrich		1	2	3
4 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	5 No Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	6	7 7:00 p.m. CG Sr. Choir 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Confirmation class meets at Cross of Glory	8 7:00 p.m. West Freeborn Church Council	9	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> 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	12 9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	13	14 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Confirmation class meets at Cross of Glory	15	16	17
18 <i>Graduate Recognition</i> 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	19 9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	20 1:30 p.m. Rachel Circle will meet at the home of	21 1:30 p.m. Eunice Circle will meet at the home of 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Confirmation class meets at Cross of Glory	22	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn 10:30 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory	26 9:00 a.m. Community Memorial Day Observance at Cross of Glory	27	28	29	30	31

**Starting Sunday, June 1, 2014 thru May 31, 2015 there will be a change in worship schedule:**  
**9:00 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory, 10:30 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn**