

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches

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



A note from Pastor Marcia...

Grace and Peace to you all in the name of God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer. Amen! In a season of firsts...since the beginning of my time here in September, there have been many...

- A first Sunday worship with each congregation
- A first Sermon in both congregations
- First communion serving
- A fabulous '102 in '22' Celebration at Cross of Glory
- Installation Worship with guest Preacher Pastor Matt Larson, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Leadership, and Congregational Care.
- A first non-member Baptism, and a first member Baptism (that will likely result in a new member added too!)
- First Confirmation and Wednesday Worship classes
- A first Confirmation Service (Congrats again Brady!)
- First West Freeborn Bazaar and Auction!
- First Council Meetings (including a first ever Zoom Council meeting!)
- First encounters with Quilters, Altar Guild servers, Ushers, Bell Ringers, Sound Technicians and more
- Meeting staff including music, secretarial staff, and building caretakers
- First funerals
- First Visits (loving the area care facilities!)
- First meetings with new members
- And so many more...

In all this “newness”, I’m thankful for this season of Advent, the season that is planted in the middle of Winter Solstice, our northern hemisphere darker days with longer nights, where I (and we too) need reminding of the newness of another Church Year, shaped by the two congregations of Cross of Glory and West Freeborn, where we work together to care for the people entrusted to the communities of both congregations. I’m thankful for your welcome of this newbie, and I’m looking forward to adventures ahead.

In this season too, where there are days that we’d rather curl up in the warmth of home, there is work to do...moving toward being ready to extend a call (if that is your decision as a two-point parish). As we grow to know each other better, I trust that we are held by the same God who held God’s people Israel, the same Jesus who called, healed, ministered, and sacrificed, and the same Holy Spirit whose persistence and presence keeps us going and growing at all times.

Blessings to you all as you move throughout this Advent and Christmas Season, as you gather with family and friends, as you visit those you don’t often see, and as we ready ourselves to welcome Christ into our hearts, our homes and our world.

Bridge Pastor Marcia Pedersen, and Rick too 😊

Cross of Glory Annual Meeting – Sunday, December 11th following worship

Please have your reports into the office no later than Wednesday, December 7th

Cross of Glory Council Minutes – November 1, 2022

Present: Bridge Pastor Marcia Pedersen, Ron Bartness, Linda Brekke, Matt Hoelscher, 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 prayer. Carol read the minutes of the October 4th meeting. Report was approved as read with no additions or corrections. Martin made the motion to accept the secretary's report and Ron seconded it. Motion carried. Linda gave the treasurer's report. Paul made the motion to approve treasurer's report as read and pay bills. Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Marcia presented a detailed report to the council. Information regarding worship, pastoral care, Christian education, meetings and questions to be explored further are addressed in the report for the month of October. If you would like to see the report, there will be one in the office to view.

Old Business: A search for a contractor for the parsonage steps is still being conducted. If anyone has any ideas, please let a council member know. Carpet cleaning of the sanctuary, narthex, offices and social hall will be completed on November 30 and December 1. Martin will connect with Doug Ohman to arrange December 3, 2023 as a tentative date for our Advent Celebration. Jill is currently working on the checklist of janitorial services. The refrigerator in the kitchen needed repair and Sorenson's of Geneva completed the work. A Visa card will be purchased for Alvin Morstad as a thank you for snow plowing. Motion was made by Ron and seconded by Martin to make this purchase.

New Business: Confirmation is scheduled for November 13. Brady Koopal will be confirmed at the 9:00 AM service. There will be a brunch to follow. Loose offering during Advent will be designated to ELCA Good Gifts program. We hope to collect enough monies to support a family farm. Paul made a motion to designate this offering and Emily seconded the motion. The Hartland Hi-Liners 4-H Club will hold their banquet in the Social Hall on November 13. The 4-H club wanted to know how much the church wanted for the use of the facility. It was suggested \$50.00 would be appropriate. Paul made the motion and Ron seconded the motion for this request. Kathy Vokoun sent cards to shut-ins in our church community for years. If you would like to help out with this outreach please let Pastor Marcia or a council member know of your interest. The annual meeting will be December 11 following the service.

***We will need new members to the council. Please be thinking how you can best serve your congregation.

Financial Support: Thanks to everyone for your fiscal support of Cross of Glory. It is much appreciated.

Martin made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Paul. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: December 6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by: Carol Light, Secretary

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – November 08, 2022

The West Freeborn Church Council met on Nov. 08, 2022, via Zoom. Members present were Glenn, Pat, Mike, Kris, Steve, Corky, Pastor Marcia and Becky. Glenn called the meeting to order. We started with a prayer.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Marcia will send what she has done in the month of October and Becky will print out and put on the refrigerator in the Social Hall. Becky read the secretaries report. Mike made a motion to accept the report as read. Steve seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurer's report. Pat said that we received a VERY generous donation from an anonymous donor. We, the council and the congregation, would like to thank whomever this is for their generosity! 😊 Steve made a motion to pay the bills as possible. Corky seconded it. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- **Update on Windows in Social Hall:** Tabled till next year.
- **Repair of the walls in the Church:** Glenn and Mike will be starting sometime, hopefully in January. Stay tuned as they might need help!
- **Parsonage Update:** Glenn will call Jerry and see what he found out about the Xcel bill for the parsonage.
- **Flat Roof:** The temporary fix has been done.
- **Church Bazaar:** Becky will make more posters.
- **Septic Billing:** Corky needs to know the sizes of the tanks and will then contact the gentleman that pumped them.

New Business:

- **Pay Raise for Cindi:** After discussion on Cindi's salary, it was decided that we would raise Cindi's pay to \$18.50 per hour with a week's vacation. Corky made a motion to accept this amount and Steve seconded it. Motion passed. Glenn will call Jerry and let him know what we had decided.
- **Office Supplies:** Glenn is getting together with Jerry and go over the office supplies currently being used.
- **Portico Update:** Glenn will get together with Jerry and go over this.
- **Church Fence Line Update:** The fence line has been cleaned up around the church property. It looks very nice. Thank you to Mark and Judy Langrud for the donation to do this! 😊

Corky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded it. Closed with the Lord's Prayer
Respectfully Submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

Coming up this December...

Children's and Youth Led Worship/Programs are on deck!

That's right, we're thrilled to welcome children and youth from both Cross of Glory and West Freeborn Churches for **Christmas Program Sunday on December 18th!**

Cross of Glory Wednesday Worship families along with Confirmation student support will present their program titled **Sounds of Christmas, written by Deb Brammer, at 9 a.m.** This year's program is directed by Lacey Koopal and the trust parent-crew of our Wednesday Worship kiddos. Listen and wonder as our children share their version of the story of Jesus Birth in story, sight and sounds!

West Freeborn Sunday School families, also supported by confirmation students, **will present The ABC's of Christmas at 10:30 a.m.**, adapted and directed by Jade O'Byrne and their trusty parent crew from West Freeborn. As familiar as our Alphabet is, we trust that it will be a GREAT way for our kiddos to share this important Christ story with you.

It is a joy to share this story, and it is an even bigger joy when the voices telling it are our children. Please make plans to join us on the 4th Sunday of Advent for Christmas Programs in either or BOTH congregations! We look forward to seeing you there!

Advent Devotional Reminders - As you move throughout this busy season, I encourage you to find time to slow yourself, to breathe in the moments and to exhale the stress that tends to accompany us this time of year.

A few Advent Devotionals remain if you are in need of one, and I encourage you to engage a practice of devotion, of prayer, and perhaps even of lighting your own Advent Candle...and as you do this, be mindful of how Christ meets you in these moments. They should be located near the Devotional pickup points in each church. Blessings of this Season to you all, may you sense an awareness that Christ indeed is near.

Christmas Worship services - You are invited to join us for worship this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as follows...

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 4:30 p.m. at Cross of Glory, with Holy Communion.

Christmas Day Celebration Worship at 9 a.m. at West Freeborn, with Holy Communion.

Please watch Facebook and other social media for sharable invites, and remember that ALL are welcome at either or both services, whichever works best for you and your family!

Looking Ahead... Pastor Marcia and Rick will be away between Christmas and the New Year’s Day, and there will be worship on New Year’s Day with pulpit supply in both churches. Because of this, we will move Communion to the 2nd Sunday in January on January 8th instead. Thank you for your flexibility and willingness to adapt!

Pastor Marcia *****

A Christmas Blessing from Pastor Marcia...

An excerpt from the Prophets and Promises Advent and Christmas Devotional, for December 25...

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders’ and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” **Isaiah 9:6**

As you hear this joy-filled word: A child is born for us, Emmanuel, God is with us! We are kin with this child because this child, named Prince of Peace, is kin with us. We have shared a kinship with this child since the beginning of time.

Indeed our Psalm Responsorial speaks the truth...”Blessed be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be...world without end. Amen.”

We pray together...

You are born for us, Holy One, and you are always with us. Let heaven and nature sing! Amen!



West Freeborn – Children’s Christmas Program – Sunday, December 18th

Cross of Glory – Children’s Christmas Program – Sunday, December 18th



Thank You for your kind words & cards when my brother passed away. Cindi Christenson

NO QUILTING @ WEST FREEBORN DURING THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER, JANUARY & FEBRUARY

West Freeborn Ushers for December: *Omer Emstad, Glenn Ausen, Steven Hoelscher

West Freeborn Attendance: October, 2022: Oct. 2 – 26; Oct. 9 – 27; Oct. 16 – 30; Oct. 23 -16; Oct. 30 – 28.

“ “ “ November, 2022: Nov. 6 – 40; Nov. 13 – 30; Nov. 20 - 39; Nov. 27 – 46.

Cross of Glory Attendance: October, 2022: Oct, 2 – 64; Oct. 9 – 28; Oct. 16 – 29; Oct. 23 – 32; Oct. 30 – 26.

“ “ “ “ November, 2022: Nov. 6 – 26; Nov. 13 – not recorded; Nov. 20 – not recorded;

Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving Eve) – 27; Nov. 27 – 58.

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

Date	General Fund	Improvement Fund	Mission Fund	Cemetery Fund
10-30-22	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 520.00
11-6-22	2,720.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
11-13-22	3,163.42	250.00	0.00	500.00
	204.00 (Confirmation Brunch)			
11-20-22	492.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11-27-22	1,637.00	1,050.00	50.00	0.00
TOTALS	\$ 9,536.42	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,070.00

Cross of Glory email address: cgwf@smig.net - Cross of Glory Website: www.crossofglory.weebly.com

West Freeborn Website: 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

December-2022 ☒ Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches, Hartland, MN

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 <i>9:00 a.m. Worship – CG 10:30 a.m. Worship – WF Communion</i>	5	6 Church Councils meet	7 Wed. Youth Worship & Confirmation - 6:00 p.m. @ CG	8	9	10
11 <i>9:00 a.m. Worship – CG Annual Meeting – Coffee & Treats will be served. 10:30 a.m. Worship – WF</i>	12	13	14 Wed. Youth Worship & Confirmation - 6:00 p.m. @ CG PIZZA NIGHT!!!	15	16	17
18 <i>9:00 a.m. Worship – CG CG Children’s Christmas Program 10:30 a.m. Worship – WF WF Children’s Christmas Program</i>	19	20	21 Christmas Break for Youth & Confirmation	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service @ CG 4:30 p.m. Holy Communion</i>
25 <i>Christmas Day Service @ WF 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion</i>	26	27	28 Christmas Break for Youth & Confirmation	29	30	31

**No Quilting at WF during the months of December, January or February.*