

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches

May 2020

Sunday Morning Worship times:

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



New Righteousness

“But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.” (Proverbs 4:18)

In many ways separation of church and state today is another way for people to say, “Keep your religious beliefs to yourself.” Many churches are caught up in a spirit of survival because outreach has become difficult. Many people are not interested in what the church has to say, and they resent having churches sticking their noses in community business or politics.

It has forced churches to change their way of reaching out beyond the doors of the sanctuary. Since you can't expect people to respect what you have to say simply because you claim to represent God, Christians need to discover a new way to relate to unchurched people around us. Personally, I think this is a great opportunity.

The Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor and teacher in Germany during World War 2 who was executed by the Nazis, wrote the following in a letter from prison shortly before his death:

It is not for us to prophesy the day (though the day will come) when men will once more be called so to utter the word of God that the world will be changed and renewed by it. It will be a new language, perhaps quite non-religious, but liberating and redeeming - as was Jesus' language; it will shock people and yet overcome them by its power; it will be the language of a new righteousness and truth, proclaiming God's peace with men and the coming of his kingdom.

Our faith is best made known today through righteous living. People may not want to hear what God has to say, but it is difficult to deny the power of one righteous life.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Schwartz

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

With “new righteousness” as the theme for this month let’s take a look at what Jesus has to say. If you find the topic intriguing I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

I quoted Dietrich Bonhoeffer in my newsletter piece earlier, and I want to share a couple more with you. But let’s begin in the Bible.

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Jesus says we should not worry about the necessities of life because God will provide. Now re-read verse 33. What do you think Jesus means when he says that we should seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness?

Bonhoeffer writes this: The better righteousness of the disciples must have a motive which lies beyond itself. Of course it has to be visible, but they must take care that it does not become visible simply for the sake of becoming visible.

Jesus makes it quite clear that the things we say and do should be motivated not by what we want but by what God wants. What do you think God wants from you this day?

One final quote from Bonhoeffer:

From whom are we to hide the visibility of our discipleship? Certainly not from other men, for we are told to let them see our light. No. We are to hide it from ourselves. Our task is simply to keep on following, looking only to our Leader who goes on before, taking no notice of ourselves or of what we are doing.

Then he says, “The genuine work of love is always a hidden work.” When has your work of love been a hidden work?

Councils will meet at their own discretion!!

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – April 07, 2020

The West Freeborn Church Council met on Apr. 07, 2020, in a historic way!!! We had a Zoom meeting where we could each be in our respective homes while sheltering-in-place due to the World-wide Pandemic. Members present were Glenn Ausen, Steve Ausen, Corky Modene, Pat Ehrich, Mike Ehrich, Sonja Honstad, Pastor Steve and Becky Ausen. President Glenn Ausen, called the meeting to order. Becky read the secretaries report. Corky made a motion to approve the secretary's report as read. Sonja seconded it. Motion passed.

Pat read the treasurer's report. Steve made a motion to use Thrivent money as needed if we have bills that need to be paid and not enough funds. Corky seconded it. Motion carried. Pat did say that the congregation has been good about sending their offerings to her. Way to go West Freeborn Congregation!!! You all ROCK!! Becky will send out a mass text with Pat's address so people know where to send their offerings.

Old Business:

- **Cement Pad for the L.P. Tanks:** The bid came in for the cost of this at \$1,458. We have a donor who is willing to pay for this. Thank-you very kindly from the congregation. With this Pandemic situation going on now, this will save us money in the future, because we will hopefully be able to purchase fuel at a lower rate and have more fuel on hand with the two tanks. Two things we can count on in Minnesota: 1.) The weather in winter is always going to be cold and 2.) Minnesota nice is alive and well with gestures like these.

New Business:

- **Spring clean-up date:** First nice day, Steve will text Becky and she will send out a mass text to come help.
- **Easter and church services:** For those of you who have access to Facebook, Pastor Steve has been putting up the services on this site: Cross of Glory Lutheran Church. A big thank-you to the pastor and to the organists/pianists for making a somewhat normal happening in a crazy world right now!

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Ausen, Secretary

P.S. With the Pandemic, please keep the church in your thoughts and prayers. If you are able to make your weekly offerings, please send to Pat Ehrich, so she can hopefully keep current with our bills. Pat's address is: Pat Ehrich

24443 700th Ave.
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Once again like I said last month, stay safe, wash your hands and when in public wear a mask! We will get through this with help from the Good Lord, as my grandmother would have said! Miss seeing you all in church. Hopefully it won't be too much longer!!! Take care! 😊 Becky

***Always remember that your present situation is not your final destination.
The best is yet to come!!!!***

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS @ Cross of Glory

Please stop by the church & pick up your financial statements.

Office hours are M-W-F – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

2020 Census workers needed in Freeborn County

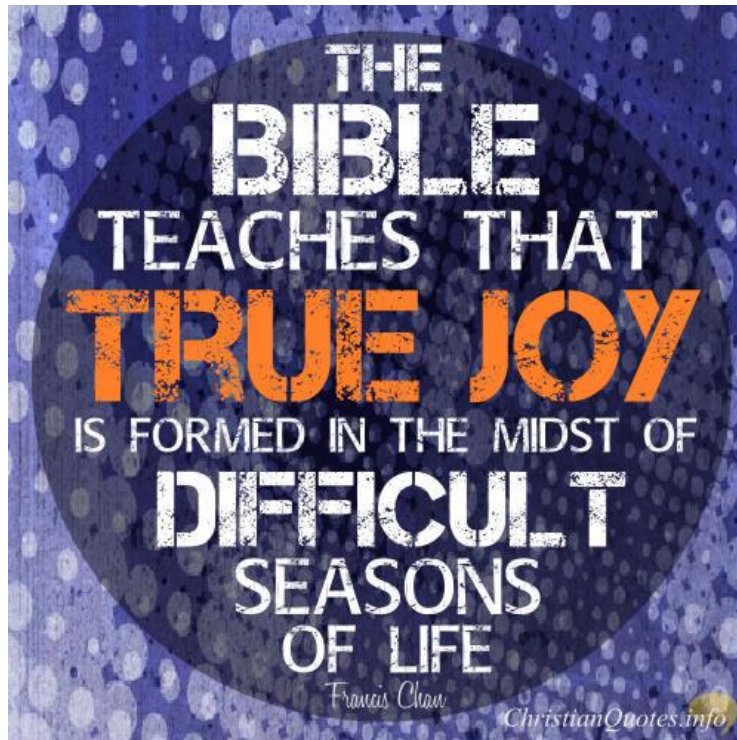
Website: 2020census.gov/jobs

\$16.50/hr. in Freeborn County

Stats for West Freeborn: Year to date: Not available at print time

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

There were no regular worship services in April. However, this is the total of deposits that Cindi made to the bank for the month of April - \$ 1,907.68. Thanks so much for continuing to support the church during these uncertain times.





West Freeborn Usher List – 2020

May - *Tim Beyer, Jeremy Henke, Tim Peterson, Jim Heidemann

June - *Roger Bakken, Orlen Modene, Mark Evenson, Sue Bakken

July - *Omer Emstad, Bill Goette, Steve Ausen, Mike Erlandson

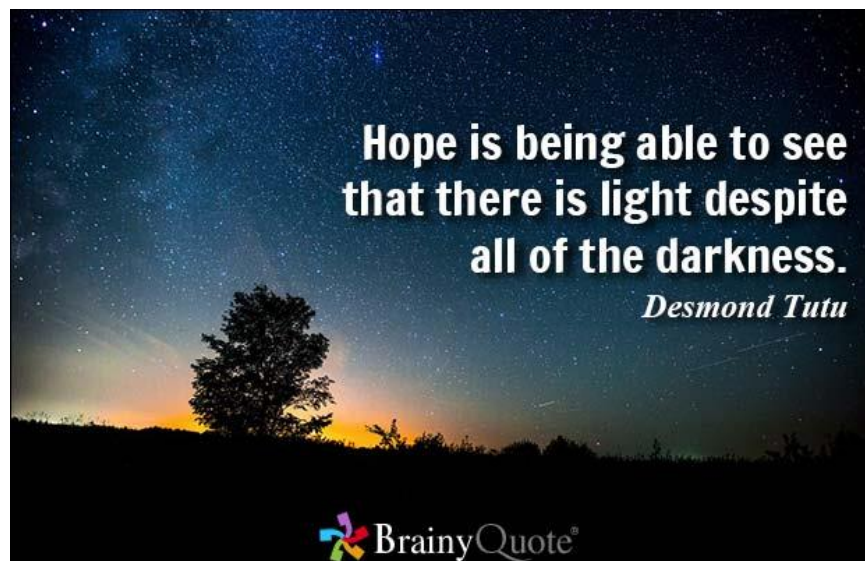
August- *Tim Beyer, Dave Pederson, Rich Honstad, Lyle Helm

September- *Chris Dahl, Russ Engel, Holly Dahl

October - *Wayne Hendrickson, Ron Lageson, Dale Indrelie, Adam Dahlen, Nanette Hendrickson

November - *Casey Madson, Dale Christopherson, Jane Christopherson, Mike Ehrich

December - *Omer Emstad, Glenn Ausen, Steve Hoelscher





chibird.tumblr.com

Cross of Glory email address: cgwf@smig.net

Cross of Glory Website: www.crossofglory.weebly.com

West Freeborn Website: www.westfreebornlutheranchurch.weebly.com

Jerry Morstad, Cross of Glory President 507-373-0085

Dave Ausen, West Freeborn President – 863-2165

Church Office – 507-845-2818 – Fax # - 507-845-2732

Stacie Madson, West Freeborn Custodian 845-2525

Pastor's cell phone: 507-250-6694 Parsonage Phone – 845-2825

Cindy Morstad, C.G. Custodian - 845-2255 (home) – 402-4577 (cell)

Alvin Morstad, C.G. Custodian – 845-2813

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

With “new righteousness” as the theme for this month let’s take a look at what Jesus has to say. If you find the topic intriguing I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

I quoted Dietrich Bonhoeffer in my newsletter piece earlier, and I want to share a couple more with you. But let’s begin in the Bible.

Read Matthew 6:25-34.

Jesus says we should not worry about the necessities of life because God will provide. Now re-read verse 33. What do you think Jesus means when he says that we should seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness?

Bonhoeffer writes this: “The better righteousness of the disciples must have a motive which lies beyond itself. Of course it has to be visible, but they must take care that it does not become visible simply for the sake of becoming visible.”

Jesus makes it quite clear that the things we say and do should be motivated not by what we want but by what God wants. What do you think God wants from you this day?

One final quote from Bonhoeffer:

From whom are we to hide the visibility of our discipleship? Certainly not from other men, for we are told to let them see our light. No. We are to hide it from ourselves. Our task is simply to keep on following, looking only to our Leader who goes on before, taking no notice of ourselves or of what we are doing.

Then he says, “The genuine work of love is always a hidden work.”
When has your work of love been a hidden work?