

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches

September 2020

Sunday Morning Worship times:

Cross of Glory: Worship services resume on Sunday, October 11

West Freeborn: Worship services resume on Sunday, September 6, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.



Wisdom

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

(Isaiah 11:2)

These words from the prophet Isaiah are often used as the blessing that is spoken when the pastor places his or her hands on the head of a young person who is being confirmed. It might not be a bad idea for you to place a hand on your head right now and read that verse again, changing the word “him” to “me”. We could all use these gifts of God’s spirit.

We also know that it is easy for a person to be very smart, but not very wise. Being smart we might believe to mean that a person knows a lot of stuff. Being wise would mean that a person has good common sense.

What Isaiah says about the person who has the spirit of God resting on them definitely sounds like it is describing someone who has good common sense. That is how I read it at any rate. To say that someone has a spirit of wisdom and understanding does not strike me as saying that this is a person who can rattle off the state capitals. When my brother was younger he used to amaze me. You could name a baseball team and a number and he could name the player on that team who wore that number. Impressive, but I suspect it was the result of following baseball and not the work of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord; all of these assume something beyond book-learning and memorization. The way our Bible presents the idea of wisdom, it is not something we can find within ourselves. True wisdom must come from God, as a gift. To be wise is to understand people, to understand how we relate to God, and to understand how we ought to lead our lives.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Schwartz

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

For our Bible study this month let's look at the lessons for September 20. If you find this study intriguing I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

This Sunday is the second of the lessons for this year's Narrative Lectionary. Once again we are reading through the Bible, beginning with lessons from Genesis. The theme for the year is Creation.

Read Genesis 21:1-7.

This child born to Abraham and Sarah has been nothing but a promise from God for many, many years. Now that the child has arrived, how would you describe Sarah's feelings?

We move from the joy of two parents who have waited a long time for their first child, to a bewildering account of what God wants Abraham to do with this child. Abraham is being put to the test.

Read Genesis 22:1-8.

People have struggled to understand this passage for thousands of years, so we too can expect to do little more than struggle. If this is a test of Abraham what is being tested?

If anything, God is testing Abraham to see if his priorities are still correct. Does Abraham put God first and foremost in his life? We could understand if Abraham had refused to do what God asked, since what God is asking seems unnecessarily cruel. But that is not what God wants.

Read Genesis 22:9-14

God has high expectations for Abraham and Sarah's descendants, so this account serves as a lesson reminding us all that God expects much, but also provides. Have you ever felt that God expected too much from you?

Communion @ CG – Saturday, September 12 – beginning @ 9:00 a.m.
Communion @ WF – Saturday, September 26 – beginning @ 9:00 a.m.
Please call Cindi at the office to schedule your time. 845-2818

Cross of Glory Trustees and Deacons Meeting - July 7th, 2020

Jerry Morstad called the Zoom meeting to order. Jerry Morstad, Jill Morstad, Rachel Knudson, Paul Lynne, Emily Wakefield, Martin Johnson, Linda Brekke, Ronnie Bartness, Steve Bakken, and Pastor Steve were present. Jerry thanked Emily for setting up the Zoom meeting. Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report. The minutes were approved as read. Linda Brekke gave the treasurer's report. The payroll protection grant will be forgiven as we used the funds in the manner they were stipulated. There was a question as to no organist payments though we have been having the organists play for the online services. Linda said she would check into that. Offerings are lower so people need to remember to contribute even though we aren't gathering in person. Paul Lynne made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills as money allows. Ron Bartness seconded.

Old Business:

1. We discussed what to do for worship services for the upcoming month. When talking about having outdoor services to be able to maintain social distancing, it was mentioned we don't have an appropriate sound system to bring outdoors. When the question was brought up to think about what we would gain over the Pastor's online and communion options, we stated that we *want* to be able to worship the way we are *used to* worshipping and that is not safe and possible right now. Martin made a motion to continue with the online services for another month. Ron seconded.
2. West Freeborn continues to hold in-person worship services, though it was stated that there is low attendance. People from both congregations are welcome to attend if they are comfortable.
3. It was decided to officially put the centennial celebration on hold for a year. Rachel offered to talk with Doug Ohman to get his commitment for being a speaker next year.
4. Jerry stated that the boiler valves are closed and we are on Jim & Dude's list to have the boiler serviced.
5. We are still working on the parsonage window.

New Business:

1. Jerry stated there was a hornet swarm to the south of the church building and he happened to run into an exterminator so he took his business card. The extermination has already been done and we are to be expecting a bill. They may return again next year so we should be aware.
2. Alvin Morstad is willing to donate his time and labor for lawn mowing but he would like an invoice for tax purposes. Linda and Allyson can do that when the season is done.

Martin Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Linda Brekke seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Knudson

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – August 04, 2020

The West Freeborn Church Council met on Aug. 04, 2020, via Zoom. 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. Pastor gave a prayer. Pastor told how there would be two weddings coming up in August. Katie Ausen who is marrying Dave Fenlason and Jessa Wipplinger who is marrying Alex Colvin.

Becky read the secretaries report. Steve made a motion to approve the report as read. Mike seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurers report. Mike made a motion to pay the bills. Steve seconded it. We are still doing well with offerings, but once again we need to stay on top of all of this! Thanks to all who are contributing with offerings and prayers.

Old Business:

- **East outside wall of the Church and the Altar Window:** Tuck pointing will be at the end of the month.
- **Cement Project for LP tanks:** The cement part is done. Hi-Yield will bring the second tank out and the dirt pile will be placed around it.

New Business:

- **Tombstone found under the Maple tree:** A tombstone was found under the maple tree which had been cut down. It had the name Emma on it.
- **Building Insurance:** Mike Peterson of Hartman insurance met with Glenn, Steve, Corky, Dale and Dave. They will compare these findings with other companies.
- **Windows on the Parsonage:** They will be painted next week.
- **Next meeting:** Will be Sept. 01 at 8 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

Cross of Glory Trustees and Deacons Meeting - August 4th, 2020

Jerry Morstad called the Zoom meeting to order. Jerry Morstad, Jill Morstad, Rachel Knudson, Paul Lynne, Emily Wakefield, Martin Johnson, Linda Brekke, Ronnie Bartness, Steve Bakken, Zach Jacobson, Matt Hoelscher, and Pastor Steve were present. Jerry thanked Emily for setting up the Zoom meeting. Pastor Steve led us in prayer. Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report. The minutes were approved as read.

Linda Brekke gave the treasurer's report. The organists have agreed to not take any pay right now. We will have to pull some money out of the general fund savings to pay bills. Paul Lynne made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills as money allows. Ron Bartness seconded.

Old Business:

1. We discussed what to do for worship services for the upcoming month. Minnesota is on the list of increasing Covid cases so we decided to continue what we are doing. West Freeborn is no longer holding in-person worship services.
2. Jim & Dude's stated that the #1 boiler doesn't appear to be malfunctioning but the gas valve on #2 boiler is failing and they verbally estimated it would be about \$4,000 to replace. This amount seemed to be high to the council members so we will ask the company for a written estimate. Also, Zach volunteered to get a second opinion and have Master Plumbing come out for an estimate.
3. The water heater can be turned off because we are really not needing much hot water right now and it may save a little energy. Pastor Steve concurred because he said he usually doesn't wait for the hot water to get through all the pipes when washing hands anyway.

4. Regarding parsonage concerns, painting the window will happen in the next week or so. The sidewalk still needs replacing. Ronnie offered to donate the cement and Zach offered to donate his time to pour it on a Saturday. We will have to see when the weather will cooperate.

New Business:

1. We inquired to see if there is any plan for the kids for the fall. Pastor Steve stated that he will be holding in-person confirmation because there are only six students and there is plenty of room for social distancing. As for Wednesday night church school, it sounds as though things are on hold waiting to see what the schools decide to do. Pastor Steve was asked if he could do some videos directed particularly for the kids of the congregation and he agreed that he would be able to do so.

Paul Lynne made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ron Bartness seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Rachel Knudson

West Freeborn Quilting

Quilting will resume in September on Wednesdays @ 9:00 a.m. 😊 The quilters are in need of material for backing for the quilts. Any solid material is welcome! Cotton, Polyester, etc. If anyone has material that the quilters can use, please contact either Karen Ausen or Shirley Miller. Thank You.



Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

This is the total of deposits that Cindi made to the bank for the month of August, 2020 - \$1,819.95. Thanks so much for continuing to support the church during these uncertain times.



Confirmation Classes will resume at Cross of Glory

Wednesday, September 16th @ 7:00 p.m.



West Freeborn Usher List – 2020

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

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

2Chronicles 7:14

If my people,
which are called
by my name, shall
humble
themselves, and
pray, and seek my
face, and turn
from their wicked
ways; then will I
hear from heaven,
and will forgive
their sin, and will
heal their land.

Treasure Box
Poetry And
Praise



