

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches - October 2020

Sunday Morning Worship times:

Cross of Glory – 9:00 a.m.

West Freeborn – 10:30 a.m.



Blessing

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all.
(Mark 6:41)

This is a time for thanksgiving. Of course, any time is a time for thanksgiving, but it is our tradition to be deliberate about giving thanks in the month of November. It seems natural to recall the feeding of the five thousand as we consider being thankful, and that is where our verse for this month is taken from.

I know what you are thinking, you are thinking that this verse never says anything about giving thanks, and the word we are focusing on this month is “Blessing”, not “Thanksgiving”. Well, maybe you weren’t thinking that, but if you had entertained that thought you might have a good point. When Jesus blesses those loaves, is it the same thing as giving thanks?

The two things are quite similar, however what may have gone unnoticed as you read that verse is that Jesus looks up to heaven and then blesses the bread. Traditionally, for Jewish people especially, you look up to heaven and bless, or thank, God. Why should Jesus look up to heaven toward God and then bless the bread? Wouldn’t it make more sense to be thanking God for the bread?

Maybe it would, and maybe in our minds it is all pretty much the same thing. As you go about your Thanksgiving celebration you might try thinking about that this year. When you give thanks are you directing your thanks to all that food on the table, or are you directing your thanks to God for providing the food? By holding the bread up to heaven and blessing it Jesus seems to be doing both.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Schwartz

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

For our Bible study this month let's look at the readings for November 17. If you find this intriguing I hope that you will join others to go deeper. The prophet Isaiah describes a world in which people do not put their trust in God but instead place their trust on the things of this world. According to the prophet they are people walking in darkness.

Read Isaiah 9:1-5. Isaiah foresees a new world, one in which people do not walk out of their darkness, but have light shine into their darkness. God is going to do something. What are ways that you see God shining light into the world's darkness?

Isaiah is definitely attempting to speak a word of hope to people living in despair. God intends to shine light into this dark world, so the question that needs to be asked is, What exactly is this light God will shine? The prophet answers that question in the following verses.

Read Isaiah 9:6-7. God is sending a child. It seems to be not just any child, but an important one that is linked to the royal line of David. We know that Jesus is the fulfillment of these verses, so what is it about Jesus that you would call light shining in the world's darkness?

We are nearing the season of Advent here at church, and our lessons move from the Old Testament to the New Testament as we make preparations to remember Jesus' birth. So we are including a passage from John's Gospel that connects well to what Isaiah says.

Read John 8:12-18. The Pharisees point out the fact that whatever Jesus is saying about himself has no real proof, but Jesus likes to say that he speaks from his own authority. In your own words, what is "the light of life"?

Cross of Glory Trustees and Deacons Meeting - September 1st, 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, and Pastor Steve were present. Jerry thanked Emily for setting up the Zoom meeting. Pastor Steve led us in prayer. He also gave a report. They are still working out the details for church school, looking to start September 16th. Confirmation will begin that day. There are no students to be confirmed this year. Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report. The minutes were approved as read. Linda Brekke gave the treasurer's report. Linda stated that we received an invoice from Jim & Dude's for addressing the boiler issues. L & D Ag gave a generous donation to our church this fall. We will need to send a thank you to the owners Travis Routh and Matt Mithun. Ron Bartness made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills as money allows. Steve Bakken seconded.

Old Business:

1. The gas replacement kit bid is in from Jim & Dude's. Master Plumbing will be coming next week to give an estimate for the valve replacement and for a system replacement. Then we will be able to compare the bids. Also, the circulation pump needs to be replaced and Zach stated that he has installed those before so we can purchase one and install it ourselves. He noted that ordering things and getting supplies are challenging at times because of backorders. Since cooler weather is getting closer we should be getting these issues addressed. At this point, we will be tabling any decision making until we get a second bid but we may have to call a quick meeting before the next council meeting.
2. The parsonage windows have been painted. Paul and Glenn took out a piece of broken sidewalk and excavated. Zach will measure the sidewalk areas that need to be replaced and form it up if he's in town this weekend. Ron is ready to pour his project so he and Zach will coordinate to get the concrete done for the sidewalk.
3. We still need to polish or refinish the door handles. Jerry will talk with Alvin.
4. We had a long discussion about worship services and whether to resume in-person services. Some local churches have already begun. Pastor Steve reminded us that we are not going to be able to recreate a pre-COVID-style worship service at this point. Some of the things mentioned that we would have to do or not do are: everyone will need to be masked, we will not be able to have singing, and we will need to leave 2 pews in between where families sit. We will close off the downstairs and have hand sanitizers at entrances. There will be added tasks of cleaning, possibly having a greeter at the doors if it is too cool to keep the doors open so multiple people aren't touching the handles. Pastor Steve stated that the Synod guidelines come from the CDC guidelines at this point. We will also have to check with the insurance company to see if they have any further suggestions to make sure that we are following proper guidelines and not cutting corners. We should also have an attendance sheet with names and phone numbers of attendees for contact tracing. Pastor Steve said that he and the organists have decided that they will continue to prerecord and post services online for those who are unable to or not comfortable attending services in-person. We will also be able to reevaluate at any time in the event of a local outbreak. Steve Bakken made a motion to reopen with in-person services October 11, to allow for time to get these details figured out. Ron Bartness seconded.

New Business:

We didn't have any new business to address. Paul Lynne made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Martin Johnson seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Knudson

Cross of Glory Trustees and Deacons Meeting - October 6th, 2020

Jerry Morstad called the Zoom meeting to order. Jerry Morstad, Jill Morstad, Rachel Knudson, Martin Johnson, Emily Wakefield, Linda Brekke, Steve Bakken, Zach Jacobson, and Pastor Steve were present. Jerry thanked Emily for setting up the Zoom meeting. Pastor Steve led us in prayer. He also gave a report on Wednesday night church school and confirmation. The church school is doing a hybrid approach. For confirmation, the students who come in person wear masks and there is one student who attends from home. Pastor Steve states these approaches seem to be working well. Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report. Jill Morstad made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Linda Brekke seconded. Linda Brekke gave the treasurer's report. Matt Hoelscher made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills as money allows. Martin Johnson seconded.

Old Business:

1. The cement project has been completed. Big thanks to Ron Bartness, Zach Jacobson, Tim Bartness, Steve Bakken, and Glenn Ausen for the team effort.
2. Right now the heating system is running on one boiler. Jim & Dude's took the control board out of boiler #2 and put it in boiler #1. Zach said he will get up to the church this week to order the circulating pump and will install it so we can have a more efficient system with zones rather than replacing it because it doesn't work. Zach also said he's okay if J&D's orders it and he can install it. Zach will also let Master Plumber know that we need their bid in a week to compare for the replacement of the system. Martin made a motion to go ahead with the best bid. Steve seconded.
3. We spent quite a bit of time discussing the reopening of worship services. When checking with the insurance company, they didn't have any further recommendations beyond the CDC guidelines. We went over the list of guidelines that Jerry and Jill presented based on the CDC guidelines and the practices other churches have implemented. We will have to put something on the pews to space people appropriately (painters tape, ropes, or folding chairs). We also talked about funerals. The guidelines for those are currently less than 50% capacity of the church, only the soloist is allowed to sing, and lunch has to be served by professional caterers. Cindy has the CDC cleaning recommendations and will follow those. Masks will be provided if people forget to bring their own. Steve Bakken made a motion that we approved the reopening plan and send the guidelines out to the congregation. Martin Johnson seconded.

New Business:

1. Matt stated that he was contacted by someone in the 4-H club to see if they would still be able to rent our social hall for their banquet. After chatting about it, Steve made a motion to allow them to rent our space but that we would pass along the guidelines for our church and they will be expected to hold their attendees responsible for adhering to them. Linda seconded.
2. Communion will be held by appointment this Saturday.
3. Next month's council meeting will be delayed a week to November 10 because of the election being held on our normal meeting night. Zach Jacobson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Martin Johnson seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Knudson

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – October 04, 2020

The West Freeborn Church Council met on Oct. 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. Becky read the secretaries report. Steve made a motion to approve the report as read. Sonja and Corky seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurers report. Sonja made a motion to pay the bills, Steve seconded it. Motion passed. As of right now we are still doing okay with our money, but please keep the church in your prayers!

Old Business:

- **East outside wall of the Church and the Altar Window:** Glenn will call the gentleman doing the tuck pointing.
- **Building Insurance:** Hartman Insurance is available on Tuesday and Thursday's to go over a quote.

New Business:

- **Pastor's Health Insurance:** Corky made a motion to get the same health insurance for the Pastor. Mike seconded it. Motion passed. Glenn will call Jerry and tell Cross of Glory that we have approved the insurance.
- **Fall Bazaar:** With the Pandemic, we talked about how it is probably not a good idea to have our annual fall bazaar. After discussion, Pat made a motion and Steve seconded it, to have a raffle with a few bigger items. Sonja will be the contact person if you have something that you would like to donate. Keep in mind, we would like these items to be bigger so we would not so many. The raffle would go till mid-December. Steve made a motion and Corky seconded it to still have Judy play our Oom-Pah-Pah music on the day which would have been our fall bazaar if she is willing.
- **Thanksgiving Service:** Pastor will check on this.
- **West Freeborn Sunday School Bank Accounts:** Mike made a motion to combine the Sunday School savings account and the checking account. Steve seconded it. Motion passed. Pat will get a letter written to give to the bank.
- **Ringing the Church Bell:** Put on the agenda for next month.
- **Confirmation Dinner:** MaKalya Dahlen and Aiden Jacobsen will be confirmed on October 25th. We will ask the kids and their parents if they want to have a dinner at the church with the pandemic going on.
- **Next meeting:** Will be determined due to elections being on Nov. 3, which is the normal meeting day.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

October 27, 2020: With our new technology the council received a text message from our esteemed president, Glenn. He said the tuck-pointing gentleman is going to start doing the work on the church. He will put up scaffolding and tarp it so he can get started. He would like \$5,000 down to get started. Via text messaging Corky made a motion to pay the money. Becky seconded it and all confirmed via text with an Aye!!! We will get ahold of the round window gentleman so he can get that taken care of at the same time. Wouldn't our ancestors be amazed at what we can do now days. And to think we don't have to be in the same room, let alone the same building!!!!

Congratulations to Aiden Jacobsen & MaKayla Dahlen

They were confirmed at West Freeborn on Sunday, October 25, 2020.

Aiden is the son of Jamie Modene & Travis Jacobsen

MaKayla is the daughter of Adam & Melissa Dahlen



West Freeborn Quilting

Watch bulletins for any announcements about quilting resuming.

**Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service at Cross of Glory
Wednesday, November 25 – 7:00 p.m.**



West Freeborn Attendance: September, 2020:

Sunday, October 4 – 23

Sunday, October 11 – 19

Sunday, October 18 – 18

Sunday, October 25 - 41

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

This is the total of deposits that Cindi made to the bank for the month of October, 2020 - \$ 6,630.00.

Thanks so much for continuing to support the church during these uncertain times.



Wed. Night Church School @ CG – 6:00 p.m.



West Freeborn Usher List – 2020

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 - Glenn Ausen, West Freeborn President – 845-2867

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 (home) – 402-4612 (cell)

November 2020 ✠ 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 <i>Cross of Glory – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>West Freeborn – 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>(WF – Communion)</i>	2	3	4 Wed. Night Church School – 6:00 p.m.	5	6	7
8 <i>Cross of Glory – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>West Freeborn – 10:30 a.m.</i>	9	10 <i>Church Council</i> <i>meetings</i> <i>7:00 p.m.</i>	11 Wed. Night Church School – 6:00 p.m.	12	13	14 <i>Communion @</i> <i>CG – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>Call office to</i> <i>schedule your</i> <i>time.</i>
15 <i>Cross of Glory – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>West Freeborn – 10:30 a.m.</i>	16	17	18 Wed. Night Church School – 6:00 p.m. CG	19	20	21
22 <i>Cross of Glory – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>West Freeborn – 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>(WF – Communion)</i>	23	24	25 <i>Joint Thanksgiving</i> <i>Eve Service @ CG</i> <i>7:00 p.m.</i>	26	27	28 <i>Communion @</i> <i>WF – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>Call office to</i> <i>schedule your</i> <i>time.</i>
29 <i>Cross of Glory – 9:00 a.m.</i> <i>West Freeborn – 10:30 a.m.</i>	30					