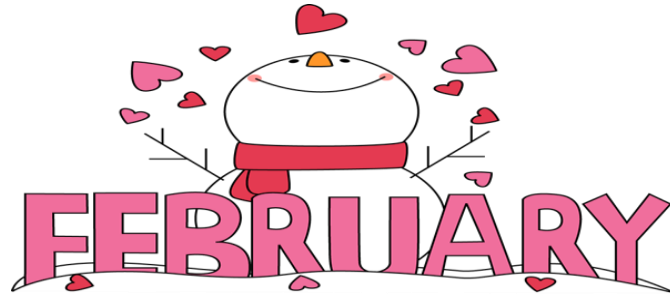


Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – February 2021

Sunday Morning Worship times:

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



New Sight

Jesus said, “I came into the world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” (John 9:39)

We know that when Jesus was here he performed miracles. Those miracles took a variety of forms, turning water into wine, walking on water, casting out demons, feeding five thousand people from five loaves of bread and two fish. The miracles that got peoples 'attention tended to be the healings he performed. There must have been a lot of sick people back then because we are told many times that when Jesus entered a town people came to him for healing.

When you consider the fact that he must have done a lot of healing it should make you wonder why it is that certain healings get described in detail. In many cases these are blind people who received sight because of Jesus. Why should the Gospel writers draw greater attention to a blind person receiving sight than most other healings?

Jesus seemed to like to use these healings as teaching moments. Opening the eyes of the blind could easily be compared to faith, as we can see in this month's theme verse. When Jesus says he came into the world so that people could see, we should know that he is not referring specifically to the blind he healed. Jesus means all of us. Jesus opens our eyes to see that he truly is God's Son, who has come into our world to offer salvation to all through his sacrifice on the cross and resurrection from the grave.

What makes this verse interesting is that there is a flip side to this. There are also those who become blind because of Jesus 'presence in the world. In this case, blind means to be one who refuses to see the truth; one who refuses to recognize Jesus as God's Son.

Simply by opening people's eyes, Jesus stands in judgment on all people: those who can see the truth, and those who refuse to see it.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Schwartz

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

For our Bible study this month, let's look at a passage from John's Gospel that I did not include in our Sunday lessons. If you find this intriguing I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

John's Gospel is filled with instances of Jesus teaching people, but those who hear his teaching misunderstand what he is saying. In most cases the problem comes down to taking what he says too literally.

Read John 6:35-40.

When Jesus talks about "bread" his hearers assume it has something to do with that stuff we eat to stay alive, but Jesus has a different viewpoint. How would you define what Jesus means by the "the bread of life"?

Earlier Jesus had told the people that he is the bread of God which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Now Jesus is going to compare himself as the bread of life to the manna that God provided when the nation of Israel was in the wilderness back in Exodus.

Read John 6:41-51.

The confusion for Jesus' hearers arises from the fact that they hear "bread" and think of that stuff you eat. When you eat your stomach is filled, but as the "living bread" what does Jesus see as being different about what he brings to people?

Interestingly John's Gospel never describes what Jesus did with bread and wine at the last supper, but it does make a number of references to communion, just as it does here.

Read John 6:52-59.

When we eat we take food and turn it into the nutrients that keep us alive and healthy. Jesus assumes something similar happening at communion, but in a spiritual manner. What would you say we receive at communion?

Cross of Glory Council minutes January 5, 2021

Present: Pastor Steve Schwartz, Jerry Morstad, Steve Bakken, Ron Bartness, Tim Bartness, Linda Brekke, Matt Hoelscher, Paul Lynne, Jill Morstad, Emily Wakefield. (ZOOM meeting with some present in church office)

President Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve led us in prayer. Pastor Steve reported that he hoped we liked the Christmas video that took quite a bit of coordinating but other than that things are quite normal, for being abnormal.

Jerry read the secretary's report as Rachel and Martin were not available for the meeting. The report was approved as read. Jerry asked if there was any further discussion regarding church services. Paul and Steve voiced they felt it was fine to continue. No objection was voiced by anyone.

Treasurer's report was given by Linda Brekke. It was mentioned that Allyson Olson had now sent the bill for ½ the cost of the copier to West Freeborn as Jerry had informed WF president Glen Ausen that would be forwarded to them. Linda reported that Allyson had transferred \$10,000 from the savings account to the checking account to cover the cost of the new heating system. She also reported that Allyson had supplied information regarding the next round of the Payroll Protection Program. The sign up will occur between April and June with monies possible in the summer some time. It did appear that we would qualify. Linda stated she has checked with CenterPoint regarding if there is any rebate available for the new boiler. She will be checking also with Jim and Dude's. It appears that we should qualify. Linda and Jerry will follow up on this. Jerry asked about a bill listed on the statement paid to Southern GL- adjust Panic Bars? Jerry questioned if this bill should have been sent to us. We don't have any doors with panic bars. Jerry asked if he could get a copy of that bill. Linda will check with Allyson tomorrow regarding this charge. Paul Lynne stated he was questioning that as well. Paul made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Steve Bakken seconded the motion

Old business: Jerry mentioned that we are still looking for a replacement for Rachel Knudson's position as secretary and asked all the council members to keep an awareness for filling that. Jerry expressed a thank you to all the musicians and kids that did the recorded program for Christmas, realizing it takes effort from many.

New business: Jerry was informed by Jane Crowe and Kathy Spooner that it is very difficult for them to track offerings from last year so they won't be providing financial statements for 2000

Ron Bartness asked if there was still a need to fill a deacon position with the completion of Carol Riskedahl's term. Jerry confirmed that and stated "yes we need to fill both a secretary and Deacon Position".

Motion to adjourn was made by Paul Lynne and second by Steve Bakken. Thanks was expressed to Emily Wakefield for again setting up the ZOOM meeting. Meeting adjourned and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Morstad (Deacon)

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – January 05, 2021

The West Freeborn Church Council met on Jan. 05, 2021, 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. Everyone agreed they liked the Christmas video! Becky read the secretaries report. Sonja made a motion to approve the report as read. Corky seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurers report. Corky made a motion to pay the bills. Sonja seconded it. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- **Furnace Update:** Basement furnace is working with a new board. The new upstairs furnace should have arrived today.

New Business:

- **Budget:** Pat read the budget for next year. Steve made a motion to approve it. Sonja seconded it. Motion passed.
- **Should we resume in-church services:** We decided to wait another month and revisit in February.
- **Lenten Services for February:** Feb. 17th is Ash Wednesday. We will talk about the services at the February meeting.
- **Annual Meeting:** We will postpone until February. Becky will send out a mass text about the meeting.

Corky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

West Freeborn Quilting

Quilting at West Freeborn – Monday, February 1 – 9:00 a.m.



People to Thank for snow removal!!!

Snow Removal list for West Freeborn - 2020 – 2021

Nov. 09 th – Nov. 15 th	Mark Langrud
Nov. 16 th – Nov. 22 nd	Casey Madson
Nov. 23 rd – Nov. 29 th	Dave Ausen
Nov. 30 th – Dec. 06 th	Mike Ehrich
Dec. 07 th – Dec. 13 th	Glenn Ausen
Dec. 14 th – Dec. 20 th	Dave Ausen
Dec. 21 st – Dec. 27 th	Steve Ausen
Dec. 28 th – Jan. 03 rd	Dale Christopherson

Jan. 04 th – Jan. 10 th	Casey Madson
Jan. 11 th – Jan. 17 th	Mike Ehrich
Jan. 18 th – Jan. 24 th	Corky Modene
Jan. 25 th – Jan. 31 st	Mark Langrud
Feb. 01 st – Feb. 07 th	Steve Ausen
Feb. 08 th – Feb. 14 th	Dale Christopherson
Feb. 15 th – Feb. 21 st	Casey Madson
Feb. 22 nd – Feb. 28 th	Glenn Ausen
Mar. 01 st – Mar. 07 th	Mike Ehrich
Mar. 08 th – Mar. 14 th	Dave Ausen
Mar. 15 th – Mar. 21 st	Corky Modene
Mar. 22 nd – Mar. 28 th	Mark Langrud

If you need to switch, please call someone on this list or Glenn Ausen at 507-402-4287

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	IMPROVEMENTS	MISSIONS	CEMETERY
1-3-21	13	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
1-10-21	15	490.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-17-21	20	1,070.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
1-24-21	--	--	--	--	--
1-31-21	(will include the 31 st totals in the February newsletter)				
TOTALS		\$ 3,530.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

A total of \$225.00 was contributed to the New Richland Area Food Shelf. Thank You! 😊



Ash Wednesday is February 17th

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



Annual Report for 2020 - Area Food Shelf of New Richland

2020 – What a year! The one thing that did not change was the amazing support we receive from our sponsoring congregations. Thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement, volunteer time, donations of food, and financial gifts. We appreciate everything you do to keep the Area Food Shelf of New Richland going.

2020 meant changes in our operation. During the start of the Covid shutdown, Channel One provided the food shelves with “emergency boxes” for a minimal cost. The boxes were 20-30 pounds each and contained a variety of food. Because of your generosity, we were able to supplement the boxes with meat and produce. Folks drove up and we took the boxes to their cars. Restrictions eased and we are now allowing people to shop one at a time.

We increased the number of people served by 15% in 2020. The weekend food program for NRHEG (backpack program) was down in numbers of students receiving food, but we expect the number to climb when things return to normal.

Our volunteers have been amazing during these trying times. We would not operate without their dedication. Thank you to them for everything they do from unloading the Channel One deliveries, (the delivery of 250 emergency boxes – 7500 pounds!!), Putting the food away, working when the food shelf is open, receiving deliveries of donated food, assisting guests who need appointments, and the list goes on.

Thanks also to the churches that sponsor us. The support and dedication keeps our doors open. We are very grateful.

Larry Goehring and the Board of Directors, Area Food Shelf of New Richland



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)

Thank You to everyone who participated in the CG & WF Christmas Service 2020

Please see attached sheet with all the participants.

