

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – January 2022

Sunday Morning Worship times:

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



The Power of Prayer

He said, “Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.”

(Acts 10:31)

Prayer can be a difficult and confusing subject for many of us. There are definitely times when our prayers seem like the message in a bottle thrown into the ocean by a castaway: sent off into the unknown with a vague hope that someone will respond.

The verse from the book of Acts that we are focusing on this month needs a bit of context. Cornelius has received a visit from Peter. Cornelius is a Gentile, one considered to be unclean to a Jewish person like Peter, but Peter has been encouraged by God to ignore all that and regard all people equally. Cornelius has been told to invite Peter to his home, which is a test run of Peter’s willingness to receive Gentiles into the faith. Our verse is part of Cornelius’ explanation of why he invited Peter to visit. It seems that a man in dazzling clothes appeared to him and spoke those words.

Wouldn’t it be nice if our prayers were answered in this way? We send up the prayer and a man in dazzling clothes appears and tells us that our prayer has been heard, and by the way, your generosity to the poor has not gone unnoticed either. Unfortunately it rarely if ever works this way.

That does not mean that our prayers are not heard, and it does not mean that our prayers are ignored. Just because we do not receive some immediate confirmation we still trust that when we pray God is listening.

The interesting thing is that this trust we have that our prayers are heard is not the result of our praying. It makes no difference if the prayer we send up is long or short, fancy or plain, even the language doesn’t matter. Because our trust is not in the way we pray, it is in the one who listens.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Schwartz

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

For our Bible study this month, let's look at a reading from Luke's Gospel. If you find this intriguing I hope that you will join others to go deeper.

Read Luke 5:1-3.

Jesus has already amazed the people in his hometown of Nazareth with his teaching and healing, and they wanted him to stay. Jesus insists that the good news must be brought to others and here we see him doing just that. What do you think was going through Simon's mind?

At this point in his ministry, Jesus is traveling alone, so we are learning how he gathered his group of disciples. His first stop is at Simon's fishing business where he interrupts a fellow in the midst of his daily routine. Now this stranger gives Simon advice on how to do his job.

Read Luke 5:4-7. We tend not to appreciate the advice of people who don't know what we are doing who tell us how to do our job. A tired Simon agrees to follow Jesus's advice and it turns out well. What do you think is going through Simon's mind now?

We are told what happened, but we are not led to believe that this was a miracle. Either Jesus knows more about fishing than Simon or there is something else going on here. At this point it appears likely that Simon may wish to offer Jesus a job.

Read Luke 5:8-11.

As it turns out, it is not Simon offering Jesus a job to join him in his fishing business, but Jesus offering Simon a job to be his disciple. Why do you suppose Simon responded the way he does in verse 8?

Church Councils will meet on Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Cross of Glory Council Minutes Dec 7, 2021

Present: Jerry Morstad, Pastor Steve, Linda Brekke, Paul Lynne, Steve Bakken Emily Wakefield, Jill Morstad.

President Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve led us in prayer. Pastor Steve then reported that the Christmas program would be presented this coming Sunday by the Wednesday school kids. Pastor also requested that the council approve a \$3,000 housing allowance that would allow him to take money out of his pension for a down payment on a house when he retires. There are no funds given to the pastor. Paul made a motion to approve a \$3,000 housing allowance for Pastor. 2nd by Steve. Motion carried. West Freeborn will need to approve as well. Jerry asked if there were guidelines for Pastor for visiting members at this time. Pastor stated he bases it on vaccination status. He has been able to provide some in home communion.

Secretary's report was read by Jill. Report approved with no additions or corrections. Treasurer's report was given by Linda. Paul made a motion to pay bills and Matt gave a 2nd to the motion. Motion carried.

Together we reviewed the budget vs actual from 2021 and then reviewed the proposed budget for 2022 all of which were prepared by our accountant Allyson Olson. We discussed the Payroll Protection Plan loan and the local contribution from L &D Ag. Jill made a motion to accept the proposed budget. 2nd was made by Steve. Motion carried and the proposed budget will be presented for the congregation to approve at the annual meeting scheduled for Dec 12th.

Christmas offering was discussed and Paul made a motion to give it to the New Richland Area Food Shelf. Matt made a 2nd to the motion. Motion carried.

The list of council members was discussed and that everyone was willing to continue in their current position. Even those not present had been contacted by either Jerry or Jill and were willing to remain. There aren't terms currently listed as that has become disrupted. The list of council members will be presented at the annual meeting for approval. Secretary position is still open.

Allyson had prepared an office account detail sheet and we discussed ongoing concerns with the copier. An additional cost had occurred for several months due to tech support that had been sought but that has been cancelled as soon as it was recognized. That was listed as "Just Answer" on the financial reports. The copier that was approved at the November council meeting has not been ordered as of yet. Toner that is more reasonably priced has been purchased and is currently working. Again it is an ongoing process.

Jerry and Glenn Ausen had been made aware that the parsonage stove was functioning poorly and is an older model. Jill and Karen Ausen were asked to look at replacement options and they were able to do that with Pastor Steve's wife Nancy. They chose a replacement stove from Sorenson's appliance in Geneva, pending approval from the council. It is a Maytag electric range with a 10 year warranty. The cost will be \$1,049. That cost will be shared 50/50 with West Freeborn. Paul made a motion that the stove be purchased using funds from the improvement fund. 2nd by Steve and motion carried. The stove should be available for delivery within the next couple of weeks. Steve made a motion for adjournment, 2nd by Matt. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Morstad (Deacon)

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Dec. 07, 2021

The West Freeborn Church Council met on Dec. 07, 2021, via Zoom. Members present were Glenn Ausen, Steve Ausen, Pat Ehrich, Mike Ehrich, Corky Modene, Pastor Steve and Becky Ausen.

President Glenn Ausen, called the meeting to order. Pastor gave a prayer. The children’s Christmas program will be Sunday, Dec. 12, which is this next Sunday. Steve made a motion to designate \$3,000 towards a housing allowance for the pastor, with the understanding that the money will be taken from the Pastor’s pension. Mike seconded it. Motion passed. Becky read the secretaries report. Pat made a motion to approve the report as read. Steve seconded it. Motion passed.

Pat read the treasurer’s report. Once again, we are doing okay with finances. This congregation amazes me with how members continue to give to keep our church up and running. I am proud to be a member of such a great church family! ☺ Steve made a motion to pay the bills. Mike seconded it. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- **Sorenson’s Stove Bill:** Nancy, Jill and Karen went to Sorenson’s Appliance and got a new stove. Cross of Glory will pay the bill and we will then pay them our half.

New Business:

- **Snow blowing list:** Glenn will get it printed and bring to church on Sunday.
- **New Communion Sheets for back of church:** Pastor will get Cindi to print these up.
- **Treat Bags for Sunday:** Becky will get these ready.
- **Annual Meeting:** We will have it the third Sunday in January during coffee hour.
- **Zoom Meetings:** We have decided to continue doing our Zoom meetings during the winter months, so we don’t need to turn the heat up for the hour or so meetings.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Ausen, Secretary

West Freeborn Sunday School following Sunday worship



Wednesday Night Youth Worship & Confirmation will resume on Wednesday, January 12, 2022



THANK YOU to all who took time to help with clean-up, serving meals & caring for their community during the Dec. 15 tornado!

West Freeborn Attendance: December, 2021: Dec. 5 – 46; Dec. 12 – 65; Dec. 19 – 21; Dec. 25 – 15; Dec. 26 – 13.

West Freeborn Ushers: *Casey Madson, Eric Grunzke, Bryan Habana.

Cross of Glory Attendance: December, 2021: Dec. 5 – 24; Dec. 12 – 50; Dec. 19 – 23; Dec. 24 – 75; Dec. 26 – 16.

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

Date	General Fund	Improvement Fund	Mission Fund	Cemetery Fund
12-5-21	\$ 1,978.60	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
12-12-21	838.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
12-19-21	2,305.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12-24-21	145.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Christmas Eve	319.00 send to NR Food Shelf			
12-26-21	370.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
TOTALS	\$5,955.60	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00

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 – 402-4287

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) – 402-8612 (cell)



January -2022 ✠ Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches, Hartland, MN

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School following Worship CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m. Communion</i>	3	4 Church Council meetings	5 CG Youth & Confirmation on Winter Break	6	7	8
9 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m.</i>	10	11	12 Worship Wednesday for Youth – 6:00 p.m. - CG Confirmation – 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15
16 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School following Worship CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m.</i>	17	18	19 Worship Wednesday for Youth – 6:00 p.m. - CG Confirmation – 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22
23 <i>WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School following Worship CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m. Communion</i>	24	25	26 Worship Wednesday for Youth – 6:00 p.m. - CG Confirmation – 7:00 p.m.	27	28	29

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*WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship
Sunday School following Worship
CG – Worship – 10:30 a.m.*

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*West Freeborn Ushers – January, 2022 - *Casey Madson, Eric Grunzke, Bryan Habana*