

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches

April 2020

Sunday Morning Worship times:

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



Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. (Romans 8:26)

In frightening and confusing times like these we will probably find ourselves wanting to turn to God in prayer. It could be that you have encountered posts on the internet that advise you to pray for this, that or the other thing. All of which can be helpful, and I am sure that it is. But if you are like me it can leave you feeling as if you sent your prayer off to God, but was that really the best prayer, or did I ask for the right thing.

Your “Amen” may be followed by a feeling that something seems to have been left unsaid. A prayer can feel incomplete or insufficient under the circumstances. There are always specific people or issues that we feel confident to bring before the throne of the Almighty, but in the face of a viral epidemic and calls to avoid being around other people, and the uneasiness that such thoughts raise within us, it becomes difficult to know how we ought to be responding.

Which is why I wanted to bring the Apostle Paul’s words from Romans before you this month. Not knowing what is appropriate or best to pray for is something God understands about us. If our prayers can strengthen our faith and trust, and lead us to acknowledging that we continue to be cradled in the arms of one who cares deeply about each one of us, perhaps the Holy Spirit is working within us and offering prayers we cannot voice.

Growing up in Minneapolis as I did, not far from downtown, we lived in the same house my mother grew up in. She would tell me about what life was like in that neighborhood during the Second World War. One of the things she recalled was the fact that people were encouraged to plant “Victory Gardens”. Lawns were dug up and vegetables planted in front yards.

As a kid I remember thinking that it seemed like a dumb response to a war being fought overseas, but now I think it had more to do with the fact that it gave people a way to get involved and come together. We are being asked to do the same. We will get through this - together.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Schwartz

Do-It-Yourself Bible Study

Everybody's prayer life has its ups and down. In this Bible study you can take some time to evaluate your own prayer life.

There are times when praying can be exciting, and there are times when praying can seem like just another chore. There are times when we feel the need to pray, and there are times when we do not feel that need.

Read Psalm 106:7-13.

One of the things that can motivate us to pray is when we feel the need to pray. As the Psalmist says, once the need passes we tend to forget about God.

Jot down a few of the times in your life when you have felt the need to pray.

What can sometimes help us to get beyond this tendency to only turn to God when we feel the need for God is to establish certain times in our daily schedule for prayer.

Read Philippians 4:4-9. One of the advantages of praying more frequently is that it can help us move beyond simply going to God in times of need.

How would you think that your life would be different if you prayed more regularly than you do now?

Turning to God in prayer on a regular basis is going to have the same effect on us that turning on the television regularly will have. Or heading to the bar, or the casino, or church. Wherever we focus our thoughts, our actions are going to follow. The more you pray, the more likely you are to feel the need to pray.

THERE WILL NOT BE AN APRIL CALENDAR WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

Joint Council meeting – Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at West Freeborn

Joint Council Meeting—Cross of Glory & West Freeborn - January 7th, 2020

Cross of Glory’s president, Jerry Morstad, called the meeting to order. Present were: Jerry Morstad, Pat Ehrich, Becky Ausen, Rachel Knudson, Mike Ehrich, Martin Johnson, Matt Hoelscher, Jill Morstad, Steve Bakken, Glenn Ausen, Paul Lynne, Tim Bartness, Ron Bartness, Dave Ausen, Linda Brekke, Steve Ausen, Emily Wakefield, and Pastor Steve.

Pastor Steve led us in prayer. He also gave his pastor’s report. He included his parish register updates. His pastoral activities report included leading worship service at Whispering Oaks in Ellendale with Judy Wyrum. Also, he reported on enjoying the Christmas programs put on by the kids in our congregations, thanking the people who worked hard to put the programs together and those who decorated the sanctuaries for the season. West Freeborn hosted the Blue Earth River Conference monthly gathering on Jan. 2. He also mentioned he’s already looking ahead toward the Lenten season and making plans for services, which will include the kids again this year.

The secretary’s report from the last Joint Council meeting was read by Becky Ausen. The only correction was to adjust the attendance to include a few people who arrived a few minutes late. The minutes were otherwise approved.

Open Issues:

1. West Freeborn’s annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 19th. They stated they do not need to switch worship times, as they will have their service at 9am, followed by an early lunch and annual meeting.
2. There was a note from Cindi regarding the copier. We are currently using one donated to us from the Freeborn Historical group. It has been put to a lot of good use but we need to start looking at a possible replacement for the future. She had information on a lease-to-own contract. Martin suggested that we look at buying an all-in-one laser printer. The question was raised whether we want to have a color or just black and white. He volunteered to go look at prices. It was also suggested that if we can always go to a commercial printer for big projects.
3. Pastor Steve went on Medicare after his birthday. Nancy was added on to insurance through Portico. There was conversation about the cost of the health premiums. Pastor Steve stated he will call to see if there is a price difference with Nancy being retired. Glenn made a motion to table the discussion for a month until we get more information. Martin seconded.
4. A reminder for those who help with Communion during service, we should be prepared to offer blessings to the children who come forward.
5. There was a suggestion to revisit the intent of the Healing Worship Service and advertise it ahead of time to make the most out of the opportunity. (We have been holding it whenever a month has a fifth Sunday.)

Steve Ausen made a motion to adjourn this half of the meeting to allow the councils to reconvene for our respective council meetings. Tim Bartness seconded.

Rachel Knudson, Secretary, Cross of Glory

Cross of Glory Trustees and Deacons Meeting - March 10th, 2020

Jerry Morstad called the second half of the meeting to order. Jerry Morstad, Jill Morstad, Linda Brekke, Rachel Knudson, Paul Lynne, Ron Bartness, Tim Bartness were present. Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report. The minutes were approved as read. Linda Brekke went over the treasurer's report. We received some dividends this year from the shares that the church owns in the Manchester Hartland Telephone Company. We mentioned as a reminder, the bill for the copier is to be split with West Freeborn. Paul Lynne made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills as money allows. Jill Morstad seconded.

Old Business:

1. We will hold off on doing anything other than fixing the boilers for the year. If we decide to replace them, that will be down the road in the future.
2. We forgot to bring up at the joint meeting that there are some parsonage projects that need to be addressed now that spring is close. We need to replace the sidewalk that was torn up when we did the plumbing work. We could coordinate with a time that the cement truck will be coming to town. The picture window also needs to be repainted. The east steps is a project that still needs to be finished.

New Business:

1. We discussed the money we collect at the Lenten offerings and suppers and Paul made a motion to use it to pay for the new copier that we bought. Tim seconded. Ron Bartness made a motion to designate the Easter offering to the New Richland Area Food Shelf. Paul seconded.
2. We thought that we might have a church clean-up day the same day as we work on the parsonage.
3. Next Wednesday, the other half of the council will be serving at the Lenten supper. We also talked about what to have Easter morning after sunrise service. Last year we did rolls or muffins, juice, and coffee and that seemed to go well. We don't have to have a large meal with egg bakes because everyone will be going home and having a big meal, plus we no longer have the numbers of youth to sponsor the breakfast.
4. Matt's mowers were beyond fixing at the end of the mowing season last fall so he won't be taking on that job again this year. Alvin had mentioned he would be interested in lawn mowing. Jerry will check with him.
5. Paint on the metal awning over the front doors is chipping off and should be touched up as we get projects completed leading up to the centennial celebration.

Paul Lynne made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tim Bartness seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Knudson

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – March 10, 2020

The West Freeborn Church Council met on Mar. 10, 2020, following the joint council meeting at Cross of Glory. 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. Steve seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurer's report. Sonja made a motion to accept the report as read. Corky seconded it. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- **Church Building Insurance Policy:** Glenn would like to go to Security and see if we could save some money.
- **Lenten Services:** Weds., March 11 - Service group 2
Weds. March 25 - Service group 1.

New Business:

- **Offering from the Lenten Services:** We will give to local needs.
- **Spring clean-up date:** First nice day, Steve will text Becky and she will send out a mass text to come help.
- **Offer to install cement pad and add another LP tank:** An anonymous donor has offered to put a cement pad out behind the church and add another LP tank. Corky made a motion to accept the donation. Mike seconded it. Motion carried.
- **Unwanted guest in the church!!** Flies and ants 😊. Pat will call Plunkets whom we already have a contract with.
- **Schedule for Holy Week:** As I write this, it looks like with the Pandemic Holy Week will be cancelled. We will let you know as things keep changing. Stay safe, wash your hands and keep offering up prayers!

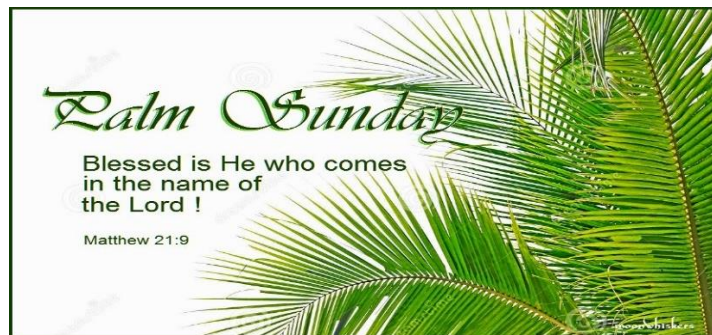
Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded it. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully Submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

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

Like I said earlier, stay safe and wash your hands. We will get through this with help from the Good Lord, as my grandmother would have said! Take care! 😊 Becky

***Pastor Steve has been doing Live Feeds on Facebook
Watch for a Palm Sunday Service @ 10:30 a.m.
Plans are in the works with music & worship.***



**Regular worship services will not be held in April.
Pastor Steve & Cindi will keep everyone informed of changes via e-mail and Facebook.
If the need arises she will send out a mailing with information.**

Watch your Emails & Facebook for Live Feed worship & music on Easter. 10:30 a.m.



West Freeborn Information

Due to the current circumstances, the West Freeborn Altar Guild will not be taking orders for Easter Lilies.

No Bell Choir Rehearsals during April

Urgent Announcement from Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief Headquarters in Baltimore, MD announced on March 20, 2020 that ALL GATHERINGS scheduled in April & May are postponed due to the Covid-19 virus. The times could be extended. Because of all the uncertainty, First Lutheran in Albert Lea will host it's only 2020 Ingathering on October 10. Rather than storing your donations until fall, you might opt to deliver them to the LWR Warehouse at 398 Richmond St. E. South St. Paul, MN 55075. You must call ahead 651-457-9009 to assure that staff will be present to assist you.

First Lutheran Church
firstoffice@flcal.org
507-373-6424

Julie Gilbertson
grandmajulie40@gmail.com
507-373-0416

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

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	ATTENDANCE	GENERAL FUND	IMPROVEMENTS	MISSIONS	CEMETERY
3-1-20	28	\$ 1,671.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
3-8-20	23	1,180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3-15-20	29	1,115.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
3-22-20	Worship Services cancelled until further notice. ☹				
3-29-20					
<hr/>					
TOTALS		\$ 3,966.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.

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

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



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