

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches – June 2023

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

June

Summer Plans for Cross and West

As this newsletter hits the presses, the heat has cranked up...and we hope that helps to shift gears into some fun summer plans that are both set and tentative for our congregations...so consider this as a “save the date” and a reminder to look for details that will be yet to come. You’ll notice a mix of worship and fun, a mix of indoor and outdoor, some with more food than others...and you’ll also notice that perhaps your suggestion may show up here, or it may not. Keep in mind that all of these are new to the schedule...and as we hold these, we will be looking for constructive feedback as we discover what worked well or not so much for future planning.

A special thank you to those who were part of setting these dates or provided input. Expect an invitation to connect with folks who will be heading these gatherings up [to ask how you can help, serve or contribute to each event](#) listed below. Summer “save the date” schedule is listed below...

- Sunday, June 25th at 9 a.m. – West will host a Campfire Worship (hoping that this could be a joint worship) with smores and hospitality to follow (Becky Ausen and Corky?)
- Wednesday, June 28th at 6 p.m. – Campfire Worship and Picnic or Cookout - @ Cross with yard games (Pastor Marcia and friends)
- Wednesday, July 26th at 6 p.m. – Campfire Worship and Picnic or Cookout - @ Cross with yard games (Or a mid-week movie night in inclement weather?) (Pastor Marcia and friends)
- Sunday, July 30th at 9 a.m. – Bonfire Breakfast worship @ West (Campfire worship followed by breakfast) (Becky Ausen and Corky)
- Wednesday, August 16th from 5 – 7:30 p.m. Outdoor Family Game Night w/Picnic dinner @ Cross (Pastor Marcia and friends)

Some additions that have energy that will land during the week of June 26 – 29 – service and outreach in the community for middle school and high school students and adult leaders, or families...

Some ideas set aside for future – GEV Connections or a week at GEV, VBS for younger kiddos, and for maybe cooler temps or inclement weather on a Wednesday evening Family Movie Nights (everyone wanted to do this, but perhaps during the school year?)

A summary of this meeting will be included to Councils who meet Tuesday, June 4th but we wanted to include these in the newsletter for your benefit...so that they are all together. Our hope is that these are worship and community builders for our Congregations together...as we celebrate some beautiful weather to come for the season, and give thanks to THE Creator for this season of growing!

- Pastor Marcia

Bible Study for June - A glimpse into Matthew's Gospel

Week of June 4th – Today is Holy Trinity Sunday, also the 1st Sunday in Pentecost, the longest church season...much is marked with green paraments, and symbols of growing as for us in the northern hemisphere, we are in our major growing season. Today's Gospel is found in Matthew 28:16 – 20, and is commonly known as the Great Commission. As you read this, think about what the word "commission" means (maybe even a dictionary with multiple meanings).

How does our title of this change when we call this the Great Co-Mission instead? How could we respond differently to this meaning?

As you think on this text this week, I offer this prayer...

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the Triune God, author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Week of June 11th – Today begins our Time after Pentecost, the 2nd Sunday of Pentecost (there are over 30 Sundays in this church season). The Gospel for the day goes back into Matthew to begin accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus, today's is found in Matthew 9:9-13, and 18 – 26, an account of the calling of Matthew to accompany and learn from Jesus, and to partner in ministry together. Interestingly, Matthew is "called" from a tax collection station, a place known to be fraught with deception, unjust and overly taxing folks, and often taking the surplus for their own selves...which caused quite a stir for those who were already scrutinizing the actions and presence of Jesus...to which Jesus says that he has "not come to call the righteous but sinners."

The second part of this text is an account of the healing of a woman who touched only Jesus garment, while a leader in the community who comes for the purpose of asking to restore to life his daughter who has just died...both the girl and the woman are healed, yet it is the woman who doesn't ask for anything, only hope...to which Jesus responds by saying that "your faith has made you well."

What are some things that you wonder about in this text? - Who has a voice and speaks? Who doesn't have a voice? - How does this connect when we consider those we are called to help, or support, or accompany?

A prayer... O God, you are the source of all life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit, bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Week of June 18th – On this 3rd Sunday of Pentecost, we read the Gospel text of Matthew 9:35 -10:8, and if you're ambitious, also 10:9-23. In these verses, Jesus followers get an early sense that at some point they will be expected to do the work of Jesus, to continue the mission to which he is training them for. He calls the 12 Apostles, then casts his mission and purpose...and in the additional verses, he paints a picture of mission and ministry that won't all be happy, sparkly...but Matthew outlines what to do when you're welcomed into a place, and also what to do when you aren't. Jesus equates their mission as being sent as sheep out to do ministry among the wolves...and there are times when the wolves may actually look like sheep in disguise.

We can imagine what this may have looked like in Jesus time, but what does this look like in ours? If we've experienced wolves disguised as sheep, how have we responded? And how does this leave us feeling?

Who are those who help YOU to feel restored when the unexpected happens? How can you let them know how much you appreciate their presence this week?

A prayer for the week...

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Week of June 25th – 4th Sunday after Pentecost, with our Gospel a continuation of Matthew 10:24-29...which is a connection to the Gospel from last Sunday. This specifically warns of the challenges that the Apostles will encounter. Yet he also affirms that they shouldn't fear, for the truth will be illuminated and that true living is found in Christ.

Some big scripture nuggets to chew on – v. 34 says “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth’ I have not come to bring peace but a sword...” When we call Jesus the Prince of Peace, yet he says things like this, what do you think he means?

And another...v. 39 says “Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” What does this make us think of? Have there been things in life that you’ve “found” or “lost” that connects with this verse?

How do scriptures like this help us to find peace in a world that seeks to divide? Is peace possible? How?

A prayer for the week...

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to see for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – May 08, 2023

The West Freeborn Church Council met on May 08, 2023, via Zoom. Members present were Glenn, Pat, Mike, Kristin, Steve, Corky, Pastor Marcia and Becky. Glenn called the meeting to order. Pastor Marcia gave a prayer.

Pastor Marcia had sent each of the council members her report for the month on April. It will be posted on the church refrigerator. There will be a meeting next week on planning the worship services with some fun activities for the summer.

Becky read the secretaries report. Steve made a motion to accept the report as read. Mike seconded it. Motion passed. Pat read the treasurer’s report. We just made budget this month!!! 😊 Corky made a motion to pay the bills. Steve seconded it. Motion passed. Please remember to keep the church in your prayers, as we come upon the summer months and people’s lives get busy with vacations, camp-outs, graduations and such.

Old Business:

- **Parsonage Update:** The inside is done. Just waiting on the gentleman to rebrick the side where the steps go and then the concrete can be poured. The steps and then be finished and put on the market.

New Business:

- **Time Change for Worship:** We will be changing worship times with Cross of Glory starting the first Sunday in June. We will have 9:00 AM start time and Cross of Glory will have 10:30.
- **Memorial Day:** There will be a service in the cemetery at 10:00 AM.
- **Computer:** Corky made a motion to look into replacing the computer for West that Pat uses for the financial portion of running our church. Mike seconded it. Motion passed

Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristin seconded it. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer
Respectfully submitted, Becky Ausen, Secretary

Cross of Glory Council Minutes – May 2, 2023

Present: Pastor Marcia Pedersen, Steve Bakken, Linda Brekke, Matt Hoelscher, Martin Johnson, Carol Light, Jerry Morstad, and Jill Morstad. President Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order and Pastor Marcia led us in a blessing, "Waking up to life again". Carol read the minutes of the April 11, 2023 meeting. Martin made the motion to accept the Secretary's report and Jill seconded it. Motion carried. Linda gave the Treasurer's report. Matt made the motion to approve Treasurer's report as read and pay bills as funds allow. Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried. All but \$9.00 of the money collected for the area food shelf was matched. The total given to the NRAFS was \$1,227.73. This was our designated offering for the Lenten and Easter season. Martin made a motion to add \$500.00 to the office account. Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Marcia presented a detailed report to the council for the month of April. If you would like to see the report, there will be one in the office to view. The Synod Power and Boundaries Workshop is required by clergy to attend every three years and the Suicide Prevention Skills Workshop for Rural Communities was well received. The Synod Assembly will be held on Saturday, May 6 and the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center in Mankato, MN.

Parsonage Update: Following is a list of completed projects and yet to be completed projects.

-Walk through by realtor Matt Johnson, Deb Allen and Duane Spooner; -Wiring upgrade in basement; -

-yard vacuumed/sticks removed/cleared out under bushes/and some bushes removed; -low spots filled with dirt; -floors swept and dusted; -basement walls and floors painted; -scraped, patched, painted 2nd floor bathroom ceiling and caulked above shower and cleaned shower; - replaced toilet and sink faucet; -replaced kitchen sink faucet and caulked behind sink; -scraped, painted and caulked outside picture window (eastside) and caulked inside; -windows are washed except a few outside of 2nd story; -light fixtures cleaned; -refrigerator, oven, kitchen cupboards cleaned; -bathroom vanities cleaned; -cleaned and organized garage; -Glen Ausen purchased the snow blower.

To Be Completed: - cracked basement windows are being repaired and replaced; - steps on east side of parsonage; -rain gutters

***A big thank you to Duane Spooner for guidance and to all who gave their time and helped or offered to help with all of these projects.

Old Business: Pastor Marcia has a sign-up sheet in the narthex for volunteers to sign-up for serving communion. Pastor Marcia gave us a recap and a thank you for all the support given to her during the preparation and events of her ordination. Offering given at the ordination will be split between the NRAFS, Alden-Conger Hope Pantry and Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Austin.

New Business: A Memorial Day Service is being planned by the American Legion. Veteran Service Officer from Freeborn County will be the guest speaker. The Cross of Glory Altar Guild will be serving lunch and the NRHEG School Band will play. Confirmation will be held this fall with a possible transition to move towards spring confirmation with future classes. Some time was spent brainstorming ideas for summer services: outdoor worship, single service with West Freeborn with a potluck to follow, a campfire night, outdoor games, movie night with pizza and popcorn and Bible School options. One item was discussed and decided on, which was to offer a sign-up sheet for serving coffee/beverage for the first and fourth Sundays of the month. Remember we will be switching service times to 10:30 am beginning on June 4. This will be our new service time for the next year.

Financial Support: Thanks to everyone for your fiscal support of Cross of Glory. It is much appreciated. Steve made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Matt. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. **Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Carol Light, Secretary

Another word of thanks from Pastor Marcia...

Still overwhelmed by the events from April 23 on Ordination Day, I want to extend yet another thank you to the congregations of West Freeborn and Cross of Glory for the gifts that you see below...and a quick explanation.

The verse found in Micah 6:8 has deep meaning for me, as a guiding principle that has shaped my life. And indeed justice, kindness and a humble walk with God have changed so much over my lifetime of faith. A much longer story than there is time for here...and when the opportunities come that I will be able to wear it, I will wear it with humble

gratitude for the gifts and space your congregations have given to me.

The cross as you can see is exactly the right weight, the right length and encompasses the broadness of Lutheran tradition...and so far, I've worn this one the most.

If you ever want a closer look, stop by the office and take a gander...I'm always happy to share and play "show and tell" as they are amazing and there is always a good story to accompany it.



My gratitude to you always, thank you all again from the depths of my heart! And may God richly bless our time together as we worship and serve together!

Summer Fun On the Go For Kids of ALL ages –

As you make your summer trek to wherever it is you go, a blessing to take with you is this reminder that no matter where you go, no matter what you do, Jesus goes with you...

- ...before you to show you the way
- ...behind you to keep you going,
- ...above you to watch over you,
- ...below you to lift you up,
- ...beside you to be your friend,
- ...and within you to live forever!

As you live out the words of this blessing, I invite you to take Jesus with you in the form of #CrossWestFlatJesus, a link to it is included here –

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/flat-jesus/>



You are also invited to color and decorate your Flat Jesus, to take it with you everywhere you go (even folded in a pocket or glove box) and snap a #CrossWestFlatJesus selfie then post it to your social media, or even share to the "What's New at Cross of Glory" Facebook group...we'd love to share the many places that Jesus goes with us. Because, well we're Minnesotan, I did put my Flat Jesus on a stick (wide craft stick to be precise). Feel free to stop by the church and pick some up to share with the grandkids that visit, or for your own family (of all ages!), then take a photo and share...

June Quilting @ West Freeborn - Wed. June 14 & 28 - 9:00 a.m.



Community Events

Friday, June 9th @ First Lutheran in Albert Lea
Salad Luncheon – 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Cost \$8.00

Tuesday, June 13th @ Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church
85th Annual Strawberry Social Drive Thru
11:00 a.m. – 1:00p.m. & 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Free Will Donation

Sunday, June 25th @ Central Freeborn Lutheran Church
4:00 p.m. Concert by “Heart Song”
5:00 p.m. Light Supper to follow

(See flyers on the bulletin board for more information about these events.)



West Freeborn Ushers for June: *Roger Bakken, Orlen Modene, Mark Evenson, Sue Bakken.

Attendance for April, 2023 – WF: Sun. April 2 – 55; Thurs. April 6 – Maundy Thursday – 12; Fri. April 7 – Good Friday – 48; Easter Sunday, April 9 – 66; Sun. April 16 – 25; Sun. April 23 – 37; Sun. April 30 – 39.
(May attendance for WF not available at print time-will include in next newsletter.)

Attendance for April, 2023 – CG: Sun. April 2 – 59; Thurs. April 6 – 58; Sun. April 9 (Easter) – 88; Sun. April 16 – 28.

Attendance for May, 2023- CG: Sun. May 7 – 30; Sun. May 14 – 28; Sun. May 21 – 25; May 28 – 32.

Statistics for Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Improvement Fund</u>	<u>Mission Fund</u>	<u>Cemetery Fund</u>
4-2-23	\$ 3,005.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 50.00
4-6-23	72.00	0.00	0.00	50.00 (Maundy Thursday)
4-9-23	1,181.25	100.00	0.00	0.00
Easter Meal	289.00 (Given to N.R. Food Shelf)			
4-16-23	1,150.00	285.00	0.00	0.00
4-23-23	1,165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4-30-23	625.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
TOTALS	\$ 7,487.25	\$ 385.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 150.00
5-7-23	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 260.00
5-14-23	1,670.00	0.00	0.00	175.00
5-21-23	305.00	0.00	0.00	640.00
TOTALS	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,075.00

5-28-23 (info not available at print time-will reprint May totals in the next newsletter)

Cross of Glory email address: cgwf@smig.net - Cross of Glory Website: www.crossofglory.weebly.com

West Freeborn Website: www.westfreebornlutheranchurch.weebly.com

Pastor Marcia Pedersen – Office Hours: M-TH – 9:30 – 5:00 p.m. Cell # 507-509-3396.

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

Cindy Morstad – contact for funerals, etc. 845-2255 (home) – 402-4577 (cell) - Alvin Morstad, Grounds keeper & boiler maintenance – 845-2813 (home) – 402-8612 (cell)

Kristin Malmberg – Custodian – 612-816-3271

June - 2023 ✠ 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
				1	2	3
4 Worship @ WF – 9:00 a.m. Communion Worship @ CG – 10:30 a.m. Communion	5	6 Church Councils meet	7	8	9	10
11 Worship @ WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship @ CG – 10:30 a.m. <i>Baptism of Cole Bartness</i>	12	13	14 Quilting @ WF – 9:00 a.m.	15	16	17
18 Worship @ WF – 9:00 a.m. Worship @ CG – 10:30 a.m. <i>Father's Day ☺</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 **Joint Service @ WF – 9:00 a.m. Communion Yummy S'mores following worship ☺	26	27	28 Quilting @ WF – 9:00 a.m. **Possible Campfire Worship & Cookout @ CG – watch bulletins for more information	29	30	

**Watch weekly bulletins for more information about the 25th & 28th activities!!*