

# *Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches*

*Hartland, MN*

*Sunday Morning Worship times:*

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



*From: Pastor Mark Hillmer*

---

## *Manger Scenes*

Whenever I pass a manger scene I always check the animals. There are the usual sheep next to the shepherds. A camel or two might be hovering over the wise men. But what I look for most are the ox and the donkey

Who do the ox and the donkey go with? How did they get into the stable? The accounts of Jesus' birth in Matthew and Luke do not mention them.

Some medieval Christian artist who knew his Bible painted in these two animals. He got it from Isaiah.

**<sup>2</sup> Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me.**

**<sup>3</sup> The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.** (Isaiah 1:2-3, New Revised Standard)

Isaiah meant that animals eating their hay have more sense than the nation of Israel.

The Israelites were brought up by the Lord to be his very own children. But Isaiah found them in a state of rebellion against Him. So his book begins with an accusation: Israel is biting the hand that has been feeding it. Israel does not understand its high calling.

**“The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”**

As soon as Christians like Origen, Ambrose and Augustine began interpreting Isaiah they saw the connection between Isaiah's prophecy and the birth of Jesus.

The Christian artist, by putting into the picture the ox and the donkey near Jesus' crib, reminds us that animals often know who is in that crib better than people.

That is not what Isaiah intended to say, but Christians agree that by putting the ox and donkey in a manger scene they are reminding themselves that animals know their owner while we often forget our Lord.

Ah, dearest Jesus, remind us this Christmas that though you were once a baby you are now our Lord.

## Joint Council Meeting – Cross of Glory & West Freeborn - Nov. 3, 2015

Cross of Glory's president, Jerry Morstad, called the meeting to order. Present were: Jerry Morstad, Becky Ausen, Pat Ehrich, Paul Lynne, Cathy Crowe, Dave Ausen, Mike Ehrich, Doug Jacobs, Mark Broskoff, Ron Bartness, Sonja Honstad, Bob Inderlie, JoAnn Spooner, Lyle Bird, Matt Hoelscher, and Rachel Knudson.

Devotions were given by Pastor Mark. Pastor Mark reports that a pastor from St. John's Lutheran Home Capital Campaign came to speak to West Freeborn the previous Sunday. He will be joining Cross of Glory on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

The secretary's report from the last Joint Council meeting was read by Becky Ausen. Minutes were approved with one correction.

### **Open Issues:**

1. The Call Committee reports that they are working to submit all the answers from the questionnaire. Becky is being challenged by a computer program that is not user-friendly nor conducive to a two-point parish. Once that paperwork is submitted, the Synod will look over it and take the next step. Pastor Mark recommends that the call committee provide frequent updates during church announcements so the congregation is kept apprised of the progress.
2. The garage is peeling paint again. The parsonage committee talked with Brandon Krueger from Freeborn Lumber (a member of Cross of Glory). Siding the garage would cost about \$1000. We probably cannot get the project done this fall but will look at doing it next spring, as it has been painted and repainted so many times.
3. Pastor Mark reports the dishwasher being clogged but it has been fixed. He also mentioned what a great asset this parsonage will be for attracting a new pastor.
4. Last year's Thanksgiving Eve Service was supposed to be held at Cross of Glory but was cancelled due to winter weather. This year, West Freeborn will be hosting. Services will begin at 7pm.

Paul Lynne made a motion to adjourn this half of the meeting and reconvene in our respective councils. Sonja Honstad seconded.

## Cross of Glory Deacons and Trustees Meeting – Nov. 3, 2015

Jerry Morstad called the second half of the meeting to order. Randy Light, Mike Brekke, and Tim Bartness were absent.

Rachel Knudson read the secretary's report. The minutes were approved as read.

JoAnn Spooner read the treasurer's report. As per our last meeting, she has transferred some money from the General Fund Savings Account into the Checking Account to provide a buffer consistently. The Alice/Agnes CD is coming up for maturity. Our best rate possible is a 0.9% interest, so that is how it will be rolled over. We finally received a bill for the cement work around the bell tower. While there were some memorials from various families, the bulk of the money was given by the Riskedahl family in memory of Newman. We received a bill for a safe deposit box that was rented in 2006. The rent has gone up \$10 to \$30 per year. Lutheran Social Services MN sent a request for money. At this point, we are unsure if we are going to contribute. Cathy Crowe made a motion to approve the report and pay bills as money allows, along with designating the Christmas offering to the New Richland Area Food Shelf. Paul Lynne seconded.

**Old Business:** The timing of the annual meeting was brought up at the weekly staff meeting. In order to change the date out of the busy holiday season would require a congregational constitutional vote. The fiscal

year would also have to change to accommodate a different annual meeting. This issue has been raised in the past and has been voted on in annual meetings but has never passed approval for changing the date.

**New Business:**

1. Jerry mentioned that the president and treasurer from each congregation typically meets in November to come up with a tentative budget for the trustees to approve to bring to the annual meeting. However, as we will be getting a new pastor in the near future and will have to address that salary—and any changes—then, we will leave the budget as it is currently. There is one exception that should be altered: the parsonage utilities may need to be adjusted in the budget to reflect the increase in usage.
2. In the past, when we had a hard-copy mailer sent out, envelopes for holiday designated special offerings would be included, leaving the money given in the fancy holiday envelopes (that come in the yearly envelope box) to remain in the church. As we no longer send out the mailers, those extra envelopes don't go out. We will spend some time at the Annual Meeting discussing how we want to proceed with giving for the church and designated offerings, clarifying the easiest way to give.
3. The city has painted the edges of the rough areas of the road in front of the church so there is less likelihood of stumbling during daylight hours.
4. The nominating committee will be meeting this month in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

Matt Hoelscher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Rachel Knudson, Secretary

**West Freeborn Lutheran Church Council Meeting – November 03, 2015**

The West Freeborn Church Council met on November 03, 2015, following the joint council meeting at Cross of Glory. Vice-President Mark Broskoff called the meeting to order. Present were: Pat Ehrich, Bob Indrelie, Mike Ehrich, Doug Jacobs, Dave Ausen, Mark Broskoff, Sonja Honstad, and Becky Ausen.

Secretary's report was read by Becky. Motion was made by Dave to approve the secretary's report. Mike seconded it. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was read by Pat. Motion was made by Doug to accept the treasurer's report. Sonja seconded it. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

\*Insurance: Our insurance premium went up \$588.00 next year with the lift installation. There will be a \$2,500.00 deductible for wind. We need to put a first aid kit in the church.

\*Energy Audit: One was done and the following suggestions were made to help lower our costs:

Ducts need to be cleaned

LED bulbs need to be put outside

Windows in the basement need to be sealed better

\*New front door will be put in yet this fall.

\*Robert Johnson and Pat looked at the tuck-pointing on the church. There is much work to be done. Robert is going to get a bid for us on what it would cost. We will wait till spring to get the rubber roof done.

**New Business:**

\*The free will offering from the Thanksgiving service will be decided next month on where we will send it. Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sonja seconded it. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted. Becky Ausen, Secretary

**CHURCH WOMEN**

**\*\*Rachel Circle – Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. Potluck at the church.**

**\*\*Eunice Circle - Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - 1:30 p.m. at West Freeborn Church.**

**\*\* On Communion Sundays at Cross of Glory, Gluten free bread will be available. Please indicate when you commune if you would prefer Gluten free.**

**Ushers for November: Cross of Glory – No one is signed up for December.**

**Communion Servers: Cathy Crowe and Shauna Hoelscher**

**Acolytes: Andrew & John Hoelscher**

**Ushers: West Freeborn – \*Omer Emstad, Dale Christopherson & Steve Hoelscher**

**Communion Helper:** not available at print time.

**Coming up at Cross of Glory**

*Poinsettias for Cross of Glory: Members can give \$10 cash or a check made out to Cathy Crowe for a plant. She will deliver them before the 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be a form in Dec. 6 & 13 bulletins.*

**Sunday School Christmas Program - Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**Annual Meeting & Potluck - Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Come join us on Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. for the annual Christmas program at West Freeborn Lutheran Church**



**We will be having the program "Footsteps to the Manger". To all the Sunday School children, please come on Sunday, Dec. 06 for practice. We will start at 10:00 A.M. Hope to see you then!!!**

**West Freeborn Coffee Hour**

*West Freeborn social hour will be following the 9:00 a.m. service. We are in need of people to bring treats! Please sign up on the calendar on the counter! Thank you ☺*

**West Freeborn Poinsettias**

*Poinsettias for West Freeborn: We're hoping lots of you will share poinsettias with us this Advent season. They can be brought anytime during December. Call the office for who you would like them to be in honor/memory of; or look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have questions, call Lynda at 383-3962. Thank you!*

**Other Community events coming up:**

\*Fri. & Sat. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Drive Through Live Nativity at New Life Christian Church in Albert Lea, 1705 SE Marshall St. 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

\*\*"The Magic of Christmas" Gavin Berg will perform at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland on Sat. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$10. Call 507-456-9075 or purchase tickets @ GavinBergMusic.com

\*Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – "The Majesty and Glory of Christmas" will be presented by: First Baptist Church & United Methodist Church of Clarks Grove and Ellendale. 11:00 a.m. at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna, and on Sun. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Clarks Grove.

\*Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – Trinity Women of the ELCA – Christmas Bazaar- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, New Richland.

**Statistics for**

**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>
11-1-15	35	\$ 1,515.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 0.00
11-8-15	44	1,836.00	110.00	60.00
11-15-15	37	660.00	10.00	55.00
11-22-15	55	2,361.00	10.00	0.00
11-29-15	38	1,197.00	25.00	0.00

Thanksgiving Eve Service - \$25.00 donated to Good Earth Village

Cemetery Fund - \$ 1,010.00

**West Freeborn Lutheran Church**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>BUILDING</b>
11-1-15		\$ 2,471.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 140.00
11-8-15		749.00	0.00	20.00
11-15-15		870.00	0.00	125.00
11-22-15		397.00	0.00	185.00
11-29-15		430.00	100.00	45.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$ 4,917.00</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ 515.00</b>

2015 Budget: \$ 62,455.00

A note from Cindi: The deadline for the January, 2016 mailer will be: Monday, December 28, 2015. If you have items or reports, please have them turned into the office by that date, or email them to me at: [cgwf@smig.net](mailto:cgwf@smig.net) Thank You ☺

Cross of Glory Website: [www.crossofglory.weebly.com](http://www.crossofglory.weebly.com)

West Freeborn Website: [www.westfreebornlutheranchurch.weebly.com](http://www.westfreebornlutheranchurch.weebly.com)

Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches contact information:

Church Office – 507-845-2818 – Fax # - 507-845-2732

Pastor's cell phone: 651-925-6509

Jerry Morstad, Cross of Glory President 507-373-0085

Cindy Stelter, Cross of Glory Sunday School 507-444-9727

Alvin & Cindy Morstad, C.G. Custodians 845-2813

Orlen Modene, West Freeborn President & Custodian 845-2832

West Freeborn Church phone – 863-2436

Rev. Mark Hillmer, Parsonage Phone – 845-2825



www.shutterstock.com - 6902875

*December 2015 ✦ Cross of Glory & West Freeborn Lutheran Churches,  
Hartland, MN*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Cross of Glory Ushers:</b> not available at print time <b>Communion Servers:</b> Cathy Crowe (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday) Shauna Hoelscher (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday) <b>Acolytes:</b> Andrew & John Hoelscher		<b>West Freeborn Ushers:</b> *Omer Emstad, Dale Christopherson, Steve Hoelscher <b>Communion Server:</b> not available at print time				
		<b>1</b> Joint Council meeting @ CG 7:00 p.m.	<b>2</b> <i>WF Altar Guild will            decorate the church            for Christmas. 9:00            a.m.</i> Confirmation CG – 7:00p.m.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00 a.m. – Worship at WF 10:30 a.m. Worship at CG SS @ CG 9:00 a.m. <i>Baptism of Naomi Joy            Wakefield at CG</i>	<b>7</b> Staff meeting 9:00 a.m. Text study 10:00 a.m.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Confirmation CG - 7:00 p.m.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00 a.m. – Worship at WF 10:30 a.m. Worship at CG <b>SS Christmas Program            Annual meeting @ CG</b>	<b>14</b> Staff meeting 9:00 a.m. Text study 10:00 a.m.	<b>15</b> Rachel Circle – Potluck at CG 7:00 pm,	<b>16</b> Confirmation CG - 7:00 p.m. Eunice Circle 1:30 p.m. @ WF Church.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00 a.m. – Worship at WF Children’s Christmas Program 10:30 a.m. Worship at CG SS -9:00 a.m. @ CG <b>27</b> 9:00 a.m. – Worship at WF 10:30 a.m. Worship at CG SS @ CG 9:00 a.m.	<b>21</b> Staff meeting 9:00 a.m. <u>Text study-10 a.m.</u> <b>28</b> Staff meeting 9:00 a.m. Text study 10:00 a.m.	<b>22</b> <hr/> <b>29</b>	<b>23</b> <hr/> <b>30</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve            Service at CG            4:30 p.m.</i> <b>31</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day            Service @ WF            9:00 a.m.</i>	<b>26</b>