

**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
West Freeborn Lutheran Church**

**401 Church Street      P.O. Box 98  
Hartland, MN 56042**

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Cindy Stelter, Cross of Glory Sunday School	845-2604
Alvin & Cindy Morstad, C.G. Custodians	845-2813

Doug Jacobs, West Freeborn President	826-3277
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Orlen Modene, West Freeborn Custodian	845-2832
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Pastor's cell phone	402-6425

Send info for newsletter to [cgwf@smig.net](mailto:cgwf@smig.net)

**January 2014**

**Cross of Glory &  
West Freeborn Newsletter**

**West Freeborn Annual Meeting and  
Congregational Potluck  
Sunday, January 19 at 11:30 a.m.**

Please bring your favorite food to share and join us following the 10:30 a.m. service. The annual meeting of the congregation, which includes an election of officers, begins after the meal.

Your attendance at this annual event of your church family is very important.



**Please note the special worship times for both congregations on Sunday, January 19:**

9:00 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory  
10:00 a.m. Cross of Glory Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn, followed by  
Potluck and Annual Meeting  
No Sunday School for West Freeborn Students



### *Come and See*

In the first chapter of John's Gospel, we hear a story about Jesus calling a couple of disciples. Philip was anxious to share what had happened when Christ found him. The next thing he did was to tell Nathanael, "I

met the one whom God's promises were all about." And this was Nathanael's reaction: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Often folks today voice similar objections about faith and the church. Some are distrusting or disillusioned with religion and religious people. Young people from church families may cite the inconsistencies or hypocrisy of what they see at home. They respond, "Christians – can any good come from them?"

Perhaps you identify with Philip in the story. Someone comes to you questioning whether the Christian faith has anything worthwhile to offer them. The way to answer them is *not* by trying to defend everything the church is doing or not doing, or by denying the mistakes and failures of Christian people. The faithful way to respond is to do as Philip did. He said, "Come and see!" Invite them to hear the message of Jesus Christ afresh. Encourage them with the Good News.

Or perhaps you identify with Nathanael. You once felt connected with the Christian faith, but disappointment has alienated you, and faith in Jesus Christ feels now like something in your distant past. Then bring your doubts and questions to God. Jesus did not turn Nathanael away, and he won't turn you away either. Christ can use doubts and questions as opportunities to teach you clear and hopeful answers.

Jesus holds out to us the great promise of forgiveness and healing. He wants to make himself known in your life more fully. Just as Nathanael came to believe and trust in Jesus, so Christ wants to become known to you.

*Pastor Dennis Frank*



### Church Women

**Rachel Circle** meets Tuesday, Jan 21, 7:00 p.m. at the Cross of Glory Church. Hostess: Ann Lynne.

**Eunice Circle** meets on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 1:30 p.m. at Senior Court in Albert Lea. *Note date change.*

**Cross of Glory Senior Choir** – We will rehearse at the church on Wednesday, Jan. 22 and sing for worship on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Looking ahead: Both of our congregations will be serving the **Sunday Coffee at St. John's Lutheran Home** in March. Cross of Glory will host on March 16; West Freeborn will host on March 23.

Folding Chairs – Would you like to have some worn but usable metal folding chairs for your family or organization? Cross of Glory will give you some. Please contact our custodians, Alvin and Cindy Morstad at 845-2813.

**Mission Interpreter Training --** I am looking for individuals wanting to help tell the stories of our ministries of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and share this information with our congregations. A special training session will be held on Thursday, January 23 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca, MN I would like you to join me at this event. – *Pastor Frank, 845-2825.*

The annual assembly of the **Blue Earth River Conference** of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod – ELCA will be held Sunday, February 9 at First Lutheran Church of Glenville, MN. Registration opens at 1:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. Our congregations will be represented by our delegate to the synod and our pastor.

“**Grief Share**” is a Christian grief recovery group for those experiencing the loss of a loved one. A 13-week series will be meeting on Saturdays, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the First Lutheran Church of Albert Lea through March 29, 2014. Each session will have a video presentation and opportunity for group discussion to bring comfort, encouragement and healing. Any participant to welcome to just listen, or to enter into discussion. To register, contact Ginny Ackland at 507-369-5302. There will be a \$15 fee for materials.

### **New ELCA.org**

ELCA.org, the website of the churchwide expression of the ELCA has undergone a facelift! With any new technology, there are some bumps to work out. Some content is not yet available and some glitches are being ironed out. In the meantime, take a look around and



update any links on your website or other communications.

One of the favorite features is the interactive map where you can find where in the world the ELCA is at work, from your own congregation to global missionaries.

### **Women of the ELCA: Triennial Gathering**

The 9th Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA “Of Many Generations” will gather an extraordinary, multigenerational community of women and girls in Charlotte, NC July 24-27. Encourage others to come and explore how newer generations of women are redefining women’s ministries and living out their mission of acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Gather with Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Diane Jacobson leading Bible Study; Elaine Neunfeldt, Lutheran World Federation, connecting the theme with the global church; Becky Steven, founder of Thistle Farms; and comedian and preacher Susan Sparks. Optional tours and the Raising Healthy Women and Girl’s Run, Walk, and Roll event are available. More at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) or contact Kay Hodge in our synod ([kadawn@kmtel.com](mailto:kadawn@kmtel.com) or 507-637-7192).

### **AREA FOOD SHELF OF NEW RICHLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2013**

The Board of Directors would like to say THANK YOU to all our donors, contributors, volunteers and supporters. Without your enthusiasm and graciousness our shelf would not be able to sustain the work it has set out to perform.



2013 brought approval of our 501(c)3 application. In July we announced the revised name of AREA FOOD SHELF OF NEW RICHLAND because of our 501(c)3 status. We are now able to apply for grants to assist with financing our programs.

The Board of Directors voted to expand into another assistance program. The Board decided to take on the New Richland Benevolence Fund from Trinity Lutheran. The By The Grace of God fund within the New Richland Area Foundation Fund set up the Benevolence Fund and has been the major contributor. The Benevolence Fund helps those who are about to have utilities cut off (gas, electricity, water) or who are about to be evicted.

We changed our hours of operation starting June 1, 2013. **We are open the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 4:30-6:30pm.** The change in hours of operation brings the client numbers down but actual families served shows an increase with the numbers. This community still is working out of the economical stress felt in the United States. The Board members and volunteers work diligently to make sure the shelves are well stocked and that the finances are stable to be able to serve our neighbors and friends in need. We believe that no one in the community should have to go hungry.

#### **2013 Statistics (vs. 2012)**

##### **Numbers calculated with new hours of operation.**

- People served 4767 decrease of 1292 or down 21.32%
- Pounds given 73872 decrease of 2208 or down 2.9%
- NRHEG Back Pack Program for calendar year 2013 we served 3499 students. This was an increase of 159 students or 4.54% increase.
- Food distributed in the back packs totaled 8,944 pounds or an increase of 30 pounds or up 0.03%
- The Santa Anonymous program provided gifts for 85 children or 32 families.

There were a few changes to the Board of Directors, we said farewell and thank you for your service to Michelle Moxon, Lois Olson and Ginny Roesler and we said hello to Marla Calhoun of All Saints, Pauline Van Nurden of LeSueur River and Tina Zimmerman of Vista Covenant.

Again in 2013 we were awarded “Best Food Shelf” during the March FoodShare Campaign. This was the fourth year in a row that MN FoodShare has given us an award! Thanks to all of our performers in the Hero's Fighting Hunger Show and to Julie Routh who wrote the skit for us.

Thank you to all the churches, businesses and contributors for the generous support. NRAFS is in good financial health thanks to you. By working together we can help our friends and neighbors have enough to eat. Listed below are the big grant and fund-raising events for 2013.

#### Grants and Fundraisers for 2013

MN FoodShare March Campaign	\$14,001.42
March FoodShare Grant	\$ 1,664.58
Alan Feinstein Foundation Grant	\$ 299.06
Vista Covenant Party in the Park	\$ 2,152.32
Harvest Run for Hunger	\$ 2,200.00
Hunger Solutions Grant	\$ 3,618.13
Ladies Day Out and	
Santa Anonymous by NR Liquor	\$ 1,101.00
Spaghetti Dinner	\$ 2,251.00
Zoe's Rainbow Dash	\$ 5,000.00
Walmart “Volunteerism Goes Viral”	\$ 5,000.00
EF Johnson Foundation	\$ 1,000.00
Legacy of Angels Foundation	\$ 4,000.00
New Richland United Fund	\$ 750.00

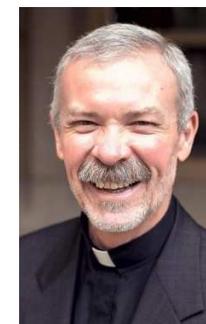
Respectfully submitted,  
 Larry Goehring – President, Board of Directors  
 Phone 507 463 3421; Cell 952 649 7579  
 Email nrafs@peoplepc.com

## A Vision to End Food Insecurity in Southeastern Minnesota

Posted on December 3, 2013 by SE Minnesota Synod

As of 2012, one in five families with children in Minnesota face hunger or food insecurity. “These people” are us. Families who lack sustainable access to healthy amounts and qualities of food are in our communities, schools, and our congregations. It could be your family. **Bishop Steve Delzer** has been sharing his hopes for this synod working to end food insecurity in southeastern Minnesota.

Below is an initial overview of this vision.



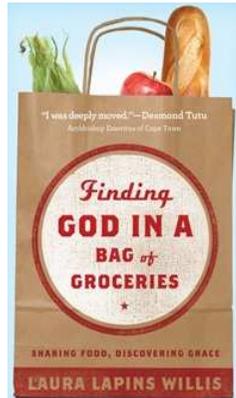
**Vision:** We envision all congregations of the southeastern Minnesota Synod working to end food insecurity in their communities. Community meals, food shelves, student backpack programs, public policy advocacy efforts, and other programs will be encouraged, resourced, and coordinated. The synod office will maintain accountability with congregations. Many congregations are already working to end food insecurity. We challenge you to explore what more we can do together. Through our unified efforts, the congregations of this synod will induce systematic change throughout the region. Actual, measurable hunger rates will decline. We will embody the love of Christ in our service to our neighbors, giving special care and attention to those who are suffering and marginalized.

**First steps:** Our first steps will be to educate ourselves and our communities. Working with community partners, we will gather data and stories of food insecurity and deepen our understanding of need and hunger in southeastern Minnesota. We will lay out plans for action, helping congregations to know what steps they can take and connecting them with resources for taking action. We will follow up with congregations to ensure that we are all working together toward this goal. We will describe what the impact of our success will look like – the change we can generate in our region if we work together. We will work tirelessly to make it happen.

**You can help:** As we work to create the action plans, build partnership relationships, and establish the structures and systems that support this effort, congregational leaders can provide suggestions and feedback and volunteer their support.

**What's next:** From now until the May 2014 Synod Assembly, we will be creating plans to outline the detailed first steps. At the assembly, we will

describe the need, provide a variety of options for local action, describe the potential impact, and explain how we will follow-through to hold one another accountable.



**Councils as Leaders in the Church Event**  
 2:00-5:00 on Sunday, March 9 at  
 Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester.

Sharing Food, Discovering Grace:  
*"I had learned to see God in the faces of my clients, in the strangers who came by, and the young people who helped out... This ministry, so needed in our community, was about a living, breathing God, accessible to anyone."*

Come hear stories as Laura Lapins Willis shares her journey of discovering what it means to care for ALL in God's family, especially those struggling with poverty and food insecurity. Her stories shed light on the impact each act of grace provides to both those who give and receive. They highlight how we can be "the hands of Jesus" in our own communities. Laura is an author, newspaper editor, advocate, community organizer, guest speaker/preacher, wife, mom, dog-owner, and Child of God. To learn more about Laura, her book, and her journey go to: [www.lauralwillis.com](http://www.lauralwillis.com)

Working with those in our communities struggling to provide nutritious food is not simply a practical issue (i.e. how do we help provide and advocate for those in need). This work gets to the heart of the Christian faith: Love your neighbor as yourself. Attendees will have time in small groups to be challenged to consider how their local leadership can both care for the hungry and renew their congregations through serving God in this way.

At Council As Leaders, each congregation will receive a copy of Laura's book, Finding God in a Bag of Groceries: Sharing Food, Discovering Grace, compliments of the SEMN Synod Congregational Renewal Table.

## Statistics for December 2013

CROSS OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH				
SUNDAY	ATTEN-DANCE	GENERAL FUND	IMPROVE-MENT	MISSIONS FUND
Dec. 1	43	\$ 1,110.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 4.00
Dec. 8	50	2,918.00	100.00	50.00
Dec. 15	100	1,693.00	2,655.00	155.00
Dec. 22	43	631.00	260.00	10.00
Dec. 29	32	892.00	510.00	60.00
Christmas Eve Attendance: 146			Cemetery fund = \$	
WEST FREEBORN LUTHERAN CHURCH				
SUNDAY	ATTEN-DANCE	GENERAL FUND	BUILDING FUND	MISSIONS FUND
Dec. 1	42			
Dec. 8	36			
Dec. 15	33			
Dec. 22	92			
Dec. 29	29	\$12,472.00	\$ 5,167.30	\$1,092.00

*Looking Ahead: Worship Assistants for the Month of February*

**Cross of Glory:**

Ushers: Shawn Larson, Earl Lynne  
 Acolyte: Kallie Jo Spooner, John Hoelscher  
 Communion Server:

**West Freeborn:**

Ushers: Mark Langrud, Jim Heidemann, Doug Morrison  
 Acolyte: see schedule in narthex  
 Communion Server: Mark Broskoff

Each month you can find reading materials in the church narthex to take with you: Copies of *The Lutheran* magazine, and devotionals, Scripture *Union Bible Study* and *Christ in Our Home*. There are also copies of our Southeastern Minnesota Synod monthly newsletter.

**When the weather on Sunday looks bad...You can listen to KATE Radio, 1450 AM for church closings, or you can call the church office (845-2818) for a recorded message if services or Sunday School have been cancelled.**

*January 2014 ✦ Cross of Glory & W. 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> Alex Bell, Earl Lynne <b>Acolytes:</b> Josh Fleming, Sawyer VanMaldeghem <b>Communion Helper:</b> Lori Fleming			<b>West Freeborn Ushers:</b> Casey Madson, Milo Madson, Bob Indrelie <b>Communion Helper:</b> Orlen Modene			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 Blue Earth River Pastors' Conference meets At West Freeborn	3	4
5  9:00 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn 9:00 a.m. Cross of Glory Sunday School 10:00 a.m. West Freeborn Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory	6  9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	7  7:00 p.m. Cross of Glory Trustees Board	8  7:00 p.m. Confirmation class at Cross of Glory	9  7:00 p.m. West Freeborn Church Council	10	11			
12  9:00 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn 9:00 a.m. Cross of Glory Sunday School 10:00 a.m. West Freeborn Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory	13  9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	14	15  7:00 p.m. Confirmation class at Cross of Glory	16	17	18			
19 NOTE TIME CHANGE  9:00 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory 10:00 a.m. Cross of Glory Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn <b>11:30 West Freeborn Potluck and Annual Congregational Meeting</b>	20  9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	21  1:30 p.m. Eunice Circle will meet at Senior Court 7:00 p.m. Rachel Circle meets at Cross of Glory church – Ann Lynne, host	22  10:00 a.m. Quilting at WF 7:00 p.m. Cross of Glory Sr. Choir reheasal 7:00 p.m. Confirmation class at Cross of Glory	23	24	25			
26  9:00 a.m. Worship at West Freeborn 9:00 a.m. Cross of Glory Sunday School 10:00 a.m. West Freeborn Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship at Cross of Glory	27  9:30 a.m. Week Day Bible Study at Cross of Glory	28	29  7:00 p.m. Confirmation class at Cross of Glory	30	31				