

"2024"
West Freeborn Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting



West Freeborn Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Agenda

January 21, 2024

Call the meeting to order:	Glenn Ausen, President
Secretary's Report:	Becky Ausen, Secretary
Treasurer's Report:	Pat Ehrich, Treasurer
President's Report:	In the Annual Report Booklet
Pastor's Report:	In the Annual Report Booklet

Old Business

- 1. Altar Guild Report: In Annual Report Booklet**
- 2. Coffee Fund: In Annual Report Booklet**
- 3. Sunday School Fund: In Annual Report Booklet**
- 4. Quilter's Report: In Annual Report Booklet**
- 5. Any other Old Business**

New Business

- 1. Approve West Freeborn 2024 Budget**
 - 2. Election of Church Council and Other Officers and Representatives**
 - 3. Time Change: Vote to go back to 10:30 AM**
 - 4. Lenten Service Suppers – We are in charge of two this year.**
 - 5. Windows**
 - 6. Insurance**
 - 7. Fire Extinguishers**
 - 8. Any Other New Business**
- Adjournment and Closing**

Annual Meeting of West Freeborn Lutheran Church

The annual meeting of West Freeborn Lutheran Church was held on Sun., Jan 15, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by President, Glenn Ausen.

Secretaries Report: Read by Becky Ausen. Tim Beyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Corky Modene seconded it. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Read by Pat Ehrich. Omer Emstad made a motion to accept the report. Wayne Hendrickson seconded it. Motion carried.

President's Report: Can be found in the annual report booklet. Read at your leisure.

Pastor Report: Can be found in the annual report booklet. Read at your leisure.

Old Business:

- **Coffee Fund Report:** Is in annual report booklet. Read at your leisure.
- **Altar Guild Report** Is in the annual report booklet. Read at your leisure. Glenn asked if the Altar Guild had enough money for the supplies that are needed. Lynda Emstad said at this time they did. It was discussed that we have lost 4 ladies from the Altar Guild. If anyone is interested in being on Altar Guild, please contact Lynda Emstad. There was also discussion about checking into seeing about doing something different with the candelabras. They are very heavy and need to be filled with oil each week. Becky Ausen suggested that we look into remote control candles, which have become very popular. The general consensus was to research this.
- **Sunday School Fund:** Is in the annual report booklet. Jade O'Byrne has taken over the Sunday School and will be getting the account up-to-date.
- **Quilter's Report:** Is in the annual report booklet. Read at your leisure.
- **Sanctuary Walls:** Glenn Ausen and Mike Ehrich, along with Mark and Judy Langrud have been scrapping the walls. Mike has been putting the new coating on. After church services on Jan. 29th, they would like to move the altar, so that they can put up scaffolding and coat and paint the front walls. They will need help from the men and/or women 😊 to move the altar.
- **Cemetery Stones:** Star Granite will hopefully show up this spring to work on the stones.

New Business:

- **Parsonage:** All in attendance were in favor of selling the parsonage.
- **Social Hall Windows:** Put on hold because of all the other repairs we have going on.
- **"2023" Church Budget:** Pat Ehrich read the proposed budget. Steve Ausen made a motion to accept the budget. Shirley Indrelie seconded it. Motion carried.
- **Election of Officers:** Becky Ausen read the slate of officers for "2023". Becky Ausen made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot. Corky Modene and Tim Beyer seconded it. Motion passed.
- **Time Change:** Starting the first Sunday in June, we will go back to 9:00 AM service start time.
- **Call Committee:** There will be a meeting with the Synod Representative on Jan. 30th at 7pm at West Freeborn for those involved.
- **Lenten Service Suppers:** We will be doing the suppers again this year. Cross of Glory will be doing also. See the January monthly council minutes on the days West is to furnish supper.
- **Other New Business:** They need help putting the new hot water heater in the upstairs men's bathroom.

Steve Ausen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tim Beyer seconded it. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted.

Becky Ausen, Secretary

West Freeborn Lutheran Church President's Report – 2023

Our West Freeborn church family has become united with the presence of our new pastor – Pastor Marcia Pedersen. She has brought us new insight and ideas to worship and education (both in person and via the internet) and has been an asset in bringing families and children to church.

Our call committee gave a unanimous vote to give her a call. On February 26th, a congregational vote was taken to call Bridge Pastor Marcia to be our shared pastor with Cross of Glory Lutheran – the vote was a positive YES! On Sunday, April 23rd, Pastor Marcia was ordained at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Austin, MN and accepted the call to serve. On Sunday, April 30th we celebrated her installation at West Freeborn Lutheran, with Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop of Global Ministry presiding. Welcome Pastor Marcia Pederson!

At the joint council meeting in March, the councils voted to sell the parsonage. A congregational vote followed. There was work that needed to be done to prepare for the sale of the parsonage – repairs and wiring upgrade in the basement, replace toilet and sink faucet, replace kitchen sink faucet and caulk behind the sink, painting of walls and ceiling, paint and caulk outside picture window, brick work and new cement steps on the east entrance, wash windows, clean cupboards and appliances, and clean out the garage. The sale was completed in June. The money received was split between the two churches.

The purchase of a new computer for the church office was paid for by both churches.

West Freeborn projects/purchases/changes in 2023:

The ice cream machine was sold in January and a piano that was donated by Cindi Christenson now sits in its place in the social hall.

Sanctuary walls that were crumbling on the main floor were scraped, plastered, primed, and painted.

We had major issues with the septic tank on the north side of the church filling up frequently and needing to be pumped. There had to be a leak and action was needed. The urinal was fixed and the three toilets in the main floor bathrooms were replaced. The problem was solved.

The computer, used by our church secretary (Pat) for doing the church financials, was replaced.

Our Gravestone Restoration Project was completed. We had several stones in need of attention (leaning, broken, moss covered). The company repaired as needed and gave all the stones a bath.

The basement has been gone through and cleaned up. The items no longer needed have been removed.

The Polka Fest with Judy on the organ and Cindi on the piano and accordion was very enjoyable. The Harvest Bazaar that followed was a success! We hosted the Thanksgiving eve service.

Our property insurance company dropped us due to the age of our building. We are now covered with North Star Insurance Company.

The boiler in the basement bit the dust in November and was replaced as it was getting cold out.

Projects for 2024:

Replace the social hall and narthex windows. Replace the flat roof on the church. Finish the wall repair in the balcony.

Respectfully submitted, Glenn Ausen

Pastor's Report – January – December, 2023

Grace and Peace to you in the name of God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer. Amen!

A year of change yet again for the folks of both West Freeborn and Cross of Glory! As we have just completed the first official Christmas/New Year season together as your official Reverend, I am humbled by the glimpses of the Kingdom of Heaven that are so prevalent in, with and through all of you! Here's what engaging in Ministry Together looked like this past year...

- Between both Cross of Glory and West Freeborn Lutheran Churches, we held 95 Worship Services, most indoor, some outdoors, 44 of those celebrating Holy Communion, 5 Midweek during Lent, Holy Week services, along with a couple of special services including a Polka Service and a Piano Dedication. To God be the Glory of these times of worship together!
- Together, our children, youth and families shared 27 Sundays of Sunday School, 13 Wednesday School/Worship opportunities, 8 Book Study sessions (with a group that is growing!), and 3 Students Confirmed at Cross of Glory including Camryn and Quinn VanMaldeghem, and Melina Bell. We welcomed Graham Jacobson, Bryce Dolton, JayLee Larson, and Camellia Lynne (CofG), and Kaidyn O'Connor (WF) to the table of Christ as they celebrated their first Communion on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. We give thanks for this shared mission of faith formation for young people in our church!
- We have welcomed all the saints, those beginning their baptismal journey including Brynn Ovrebo, Riggs Nielsen, Cole Bartness and Maren Johanson (CofG), and those completing it, joining the church triumphant including Orland Lee (CofG), LaVaun Ausen, and Bob Indrelie (WF). We celebrate their lives as called, named and claimed Children of God, united in Baptism.
- Fellowship, social connections and welcoming neighbors is clearly your gift as we welcomed youth and leaders serving in our area from Living Lord Lutheran Church in Bartlett, IL (CofG and WF), gathered as a community to celebrate Christmas in the Country during Advent (CofG), Harvest Festival (WF), and Easter Sunrise Brunch (CofG). We rejoice that we can gather and share time together!
- We met for a total of 18 Council Meetings, 1 Joint Council Meeting, more than 47 meetings to plan worship, music, events and more. In the tending to business, we rejoice in our ability to work well together.
- As your new pastor, in faith you met, voted and extended a call to me in February, which I accepted, allowing you all to join in celebration of my Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, April 23rd, in my home congregation Our Savior's in Austin. I am grateful for places like West Freeborn and Cross of Glory to serve God's people close to my own home, and I'm humbled as all that has happened in such a short period of time. Thanks be to God for this time we share as church together for the sake of our neighbors!
- We celebrated Advent IV and Christmas Eve worship together, our first time to worship together celebrating the birth of Christ ON the holiday! I'm thankful for this season of anticipation, of beauty and joy as we worshipped and celebrated together!

In a meeting with Bishop Regina Hassanally in December in Albert Lea (required for all pastors in the SE MN Synod every three years), we delighted together about how God has worked in and through a process like the Call and Candidacy Process. Looking back at all the details, paperwork, interviews, prayer, dialogue, more interviews and more prayer, there is much that lies between someone seeking a pastoral call and the accepting of the right call. I am so grateful for everyone who served on the call committee including Presidents Jerry Morstad (CofG) and Glenn Ausen (WF), Ronnie Bartness, Emily Wakefield, Angela Bell (CofG), Corky Modene, Sue Bakken, Jade O'Byrne, and Becky Ausen (WF) for serving as Call Committee representatives. Looking toward the year to come, I'm reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul from Philippians 1: *"I thank my God each time I think of you. In my prayers for all of you, I pray with joy because of [our] partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that [the one] who has begun a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

God's Peace to you all from Pastor Marcia Pedersen

West Freeborn Lutheran Church Quilters – 2023

The quilting ladies met 13 times this year at the church. On twelve Wednesdays we tied quilts, designed quilt tops, and bound a few quilts. The last time we met, we cleaned out the closet and divided up the fabric to be cut into squares. Of course, each time we meet we take time for food and fellowship.

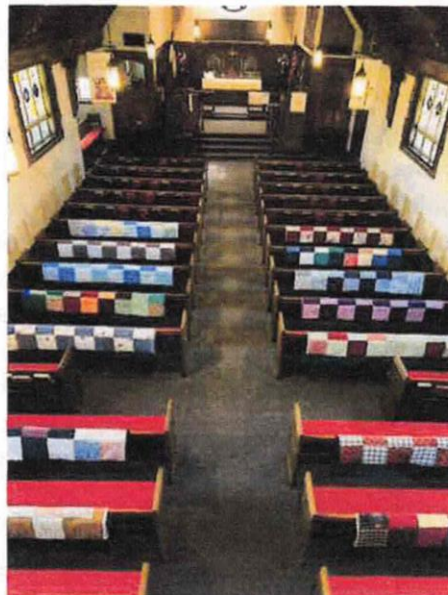
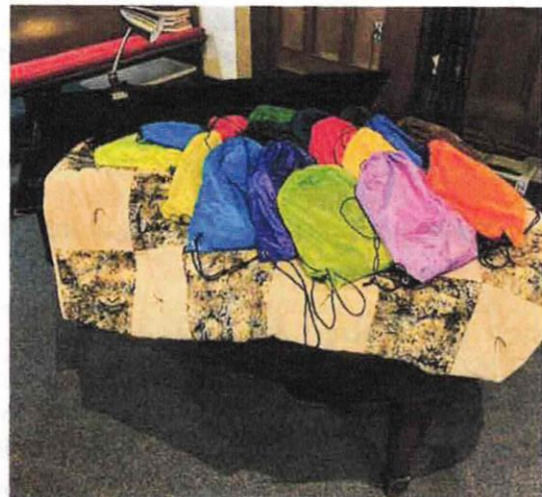
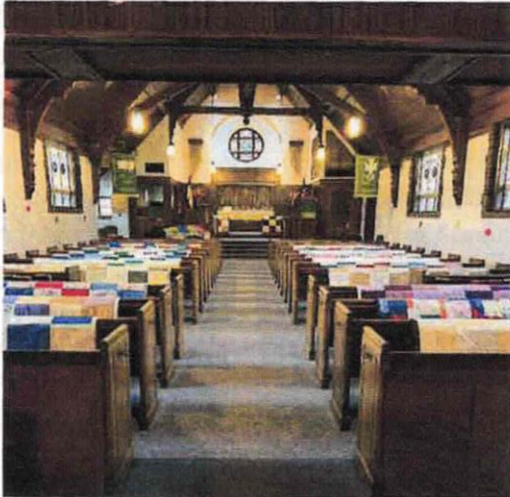
We start quilting at the church in March and end in October. The rest of the year we work at home cutting squares and sewing quilt tops. Some of us shop secondhand stores for sheets, fabric, and blankets suitable for quilting.

On May 14th (Mother's Day) there were 22 quilts decorating our pews and on October 8th there were 25 quilts warming our pews for Quilt Sunday. We also displayed the 17 school kits that were assembled by our Sunday school kids to be delivered to needy children through Lutheran World Relief. The quilts and kits were delivered to First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea and later transported to the South St. Paul's LWR Warehouse.

This year we had one high school graduate. We presented Aiden Jacobsen with one of the quilts we made. Nancy Pederson had his name stitched on it along with the words 'Child of God'. Two of our quilts were given as gifts at Christmas in 2022.

I'm impressed that we were able to complete 50 quilts and collect enough school supplies for 17 school kits this year! Thank you to all who helped in making this possible. Your love is reaching 'Our Neighbors in Need' around the world!

Respectfully submitted, Karen Aue



Leadership for West Freeborn Church 2024

President: Glenn Ausen
Vice President: Orlen (Corky) Modene
Secretary: Becky Ausen
Treasurer: Pat Ehrich

Church Council

Term Ends 2024
Mike Ehrich

Term Ends 2025
Steve Ausen

Term Ends 2026
Kristin Modene

Head Ushers

Terms Ends 2024
Tim Beyer
Wayne Hendrickson

Term Ends 2025
Chris Dahl
Casey Madson

Terms Ends 2026
Omer Emstad
Roger Bakken

Auditing Committee

Sue Bakken 2024
Shirley Indrelie 2025

Congregational Representatives

St. John's Lutheran Home

Lynda Emstad

Prairie River Camp

Dale Christopherson

Southeastern MN Synod Assembly

Mark Langrud

Nominating Committee For Elections in Jan. 2025

Mike Ehrich

Custodians

Stacie Madson 402-8231

Cemetery Sextant

Steve Ausen 383-5452

Roger Bakken 391-1660

Activities Committee

Pat Ehrich

Holly Dahl

