

CHURCH *Matters*

Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 01.20 Edition



Message from Pastor Markus

.According to the letter of call of a pastor in the ELCIC, the pastor's top duties are to

- 1) Preach the Word, administer the Sacraments and conduct public worship in harmony with the faith and practices of the church;
- 2) Baptize, confirm and marry in accordance with the teaching of the church and with the laws of the province or territory, visit the sick and distressed and bury the dead.

Over the next three months I would like to talk about these areas of a pastor's ministry.

So what goes into the preparation of a Sunday sermon? The process is different from week to week, depending on other commitments. Generally, it begins early in the week, on Monday or Tuesday, when I read the texts for the coming Sunday. Like most pastors, I mostly focus on the gospel lesson, while I use the other texts to support the message where possible. This is unfortunate in a way, as the other texts are deep wells of spiritual treasures too. On Wednesday I decide whether to focus on the Old Testament lesson, the Psalm, the second lesson (Epistle), or the Gospel lesson.

Over the next couple of days, I spend some time reading the text and considering the context, its place within the specific biblical book and within the Bible as a whole. I consult the original Greek or Hebrew text to understand nuances that may have gotten lost in the translations. I make myself notes during this process.

Next I consult commentaries. There are biblical commentaries as old as from the second century and as new as last week's internet postings. Commentaries show how a passage was understood by others. Many smart and faithful people have thought about this text, a good realization. Research into the historical and social context, evidence from ancient writings, and archeological discoveries, help to deepen the understanding of biblical texts. The History of the Jewish People by a Jewish historian named Josephus, a contemporary of Jesus, for example, helps us understand how the Roman empire impacted the Jewish nation at Jesus' time, and who the Pharisees and Sadducees were. The unearthing of ancient homes in Capernaum tells us what life was like for the Galilean fishermen whom Jesus called to be his disciples.

Next in my preparations I ask myself how the gospel is communicated. For example, if the text is primarily a law-type passage, how can the Lutheran understanding of the Bible, God, grace and faith, help us find the good news of Jesus Christ through this text? What Lutheran teachings and traditions reflect what the scripture passage is saying? This is sometimes called the "systematic reflection". I might read a modern "Theology of the New Testament", some of Luther's own commentary, or reflect on the small catechism. I may draw parallels to the liturgical year, to specific parts of the liturgy, or to certain hymns.

As I mull over the text and commentaries, I also read news stories of the week and reflect on the wider issues that concern individual lives, the local community, and the world as a whole. The Swiss theologian Karl Barth once said the preacher must have the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. God's Word addresses all the issues that concern God's world. Reports about disasters, war and violence, poverty, climate change and pollution, economic injustice, and other topics challenge our faith. But as the old adage goes: God's Word comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable. It is the preacher's job to listen for what God is saying today. Hopefully, I listen well as I prepare, and

hopefully, on Sunday, the congregation will also listen well.

With Saturday, usually, comes the actual "composition" of the sermon. I look for illustrations from my own life experiences, from conversations I've had, books I've read, or movies I've seen. I spend Saturday evening editing and revising, and wondering how what I say will be received. I try to imagine a particular person in the congregation, or a first time visitor, and how what I say impacts their hopes and dreams, fears and challenges, as well as their ideas and questions about God. I ask myself how the message might help, guide, encourage, challenge, and communicate God's unconditional love to them.

Hopefully what I say connects when I deliver the message. While preaching I try to make eye-contact whenever possible. If I notice someone dozing off (never 😊), I tell myself they had a rough night. There are worse things than sleeping in church. I've also been told by some they find it easier to listen with eyes closed. Or maybe they're praying. Hopefully for me and not just for the "Amen".

That brings me to my last point: prayer. There is no sermon that does not require prayer. Prayer means listening to God, asking questions of, calling out to, asking help from God. In the sermon God wants to speak to us, but without prayer, our ears, our minds, and hearts remain closed. That is why asking for the Holy Spirit's inspiration and guidance is essential. Preaching is hard work, but supported by prayer, it is a joy. Listening for God's message in a sermon is also hard work, but supported by prayer, it can also be a joy. So let me conclude by asking you to pray for me, as I prepare and as I deliver the Sunday sermon. I promise to do the same for you, as you listen and respond.

Pr. Markus

Dear friends at "Glory",

Our sincerest thanks to you for all you prayers, visits and phone calls during the last 3 months while Clarence was in the hospital. Special thanks to Pastor Markus and Pastor Nickel for their visits at the hospital.

Clarence was discharged from the hospital on Dec. 18, and has been transferred to a long term care facility.

Sincerely, Sirkka & Clarence Kadatz



THANK
YOU

to Shirley and Brian Fischer,
Henry Zilm, Mike Lee, and the Choir for being part
of the decorating team this year.
Alan, Myrna and Marjorie

Council Highlights

January 2020

Sabbatical: Pastors in the Alberta Synod are eligible for a sabbatical leave of up to six months after having served a period of six consecutive years. The purpose of the sabbatical leave is to provide a respite from the demands of work and routine and renewal of self. Council has approved a three-month sabbatical for Pastor Markus beginning on May 1, 2020. More information will be provided going forward.

Internship: The Lutheran Theological Seminary has approached us regarding another internship. This is a possibility for the fall of this year, starting in October, and lasting for 18 months.

Refugee initiative: The Salloum family are Syrian Christians who are facing serious threat from ISIS. Their family in Edmonton has approached Trinity Lutheran and Holy Trinity Anglican churches for help in sponsoring the Salloum family as part of CLWR's refugee resettlement program. Several churches in Edmonton and area, including Glory Lutheran, are combining efforts and financial support (usually money left over after a previous refugee sponsorship) to bring this family to Edmonton. Funds from these churches have been forwarded to CLWR to be held in trust while the refugee application is filed and the family arrives.

There will be opportunities for members of the supporting churches to meet the family and be involved in helping them settle in and adjust to life in a new country. Requests will be sent out for the household items needed to settle. Trinity Lutheran and Holy Trinity Anglican are taking the lead in this process but anyone else who would like to be more directly involved is welcomed! More information will be available soon.

Landscape Design and Memorial Garden update: Over a year and a half ago we started to look at plans for a memorial garden of some sort on our land. It was soon discovered that in order to find the best site for the garden an overall landscape design or master plan was needed.

Rita Spain is the chair of a very well qualified and hard-working committee who has been moving this project forward. The committee's mandate was to develop a landscape design Master Plan that would be a map that provides direction for the entire property and would give direction for development of the Memorial Garden.

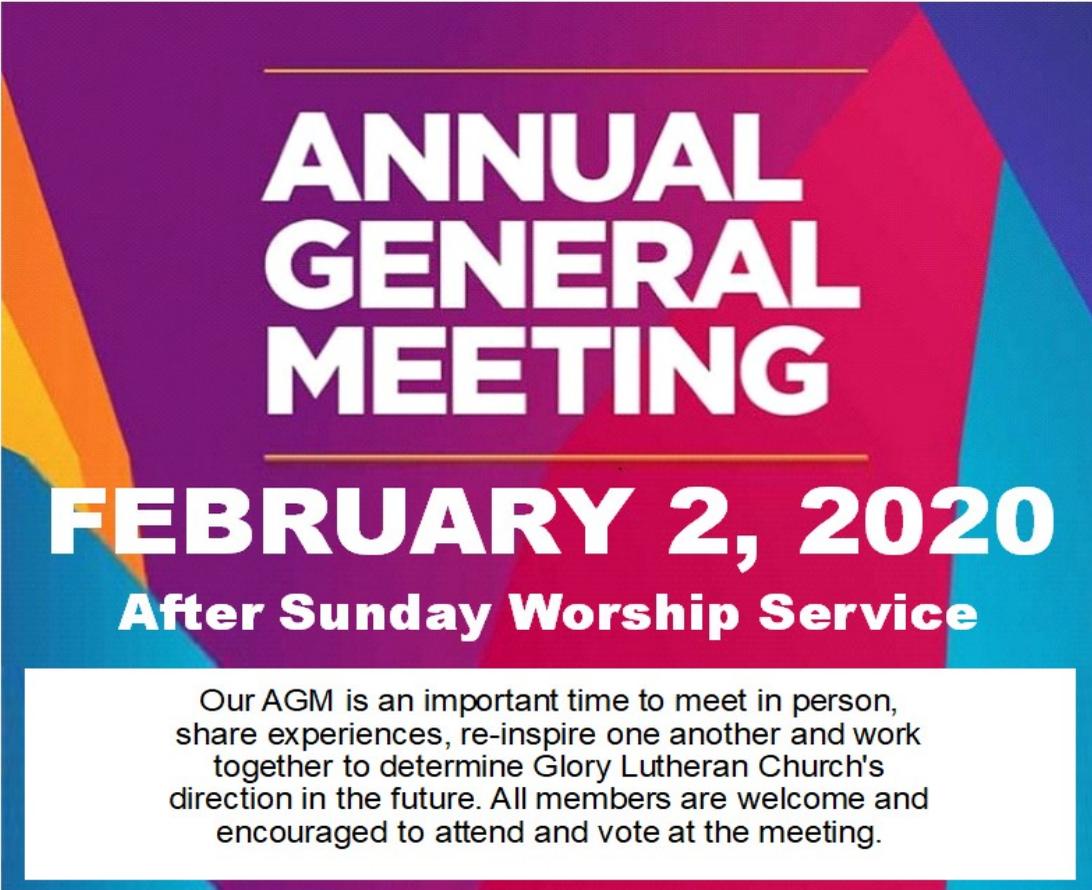
Last spring, congregation members were invited to a workshop facilitated by Ron Berezan, a certified permaculture teacher and designer. The intent of the workshop was to engage and solicit ideas from congregation

members regarding the use, development and/or goals of the land with the Memorial Garden integrated into the context of the entire property.

A mammoth amount of work then ensued! At last month's church council meeting, council approved the long-term master plan presented by the committee.

As this phase of the project is nearing completion and work on the actual Memorial Garden plans begin, church council and the memorial garden committee would like to share this information with you, the members of our congregation. This presentation will take place on Sunday, January 12, following our worship service. This will be an information meeting only. A light lunch will be provided.

~Pat Becker, Council Chair



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

After Sunday Worship Service

Our AGM is an important time to meet in person, share experiences, re-inspire one another and work together to determine Glory Lutheran Church's direction in the future. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend and vote at the meeting.

GLORY MEMBERS

in the Spotlight

... a place to celebrate the lives and good works of Glory People.



Barb Anderson

Barb grew up in Vancouver attending Magee High and worshipping at St. Faith's Anglican Church. After high school graduation, she went to Business College in Vancouver. Barb became a Flight Attendant for Air Canada, working for six months in Vancouver, then a year and a half out of Toronto. She met Al at a Famous Players Theatre through mutual friends. A year later (1970), they were married. They moved to Edmonton when Al was appointed Administrative Officer for the AB Government. Barb worked as an Administrative Assistant with the Provincial Government.

When their daughter Kimberley was born, they moved to Sherwood Park. Daughter Kathryn followed. They remained in their Merrywood Crescent home for 45 years. During the years they were raising their family, Barb worked for 13 years for Welcome Wagon, often organizing Bridal Shows for 1000 guests. Her job also included visiting newcomers to Sherwood Park. She retired from this position when she turned 60.

Travels have taken Barb to Hawaii, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and South-East Asia. While hiking in Mount Assiniboine with a group of eight, they encountered a bear. Rather than staying together, as directed, they scattered. Al used his air horn which the bear ignored. The bear proceeded in their direction, simply walking around them and into the woods. Barb tells of hiking trips to Skoki (near Lake Louise), Grand Canyon, and Bryce Canyon, where the precarious ridges made for some dramatic moments made worse by Barb's fear of heights.

Barb and Al golfed many times while staying at their condo on Maui. They golfed locally at Legends Golf and Country Club. Since Al's death, Barb has continued to golf in two leagues.

Barb was reflecting on her volunteer work at Glory. She is a church phoner, calling members to assist with worship services. She regularly assists with communion, chairs the Community Outreach Committee, and serves on Church Council where she is currently the representative to the Community Outreach Committee. In the warm months she has discovered how to be a successful vegetable gardener in our church community garden, while telling us - only two seasons ago - that this was a new adventure. (She was formerly a flower gardener)

For the past eight years, Barb has served as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels delivering hot meals to shut-ins. She is also a Volunteer Ambassador at the International Airport where she meets people coming off their flights to offer assistance as needed. And to fill any extra free time, she volunteers at Festival Place, escorting ticketholders to their seats.

To ensure she is fit for all her activities, Barb attends deep water aquacise classes at Millennium Place. On weekends she loves to spend time with her four boy grandchildren who range in age from 7-13. They go to movies, have dinners together, enjoy sleepovers and appreciate Barb's cooking when she arrives at their home with dinner in the trunk of her car. Both of Barb's daughters live nearby, one having purchased Barb and Al's Sherwood Park home when they moved to a duplex condo.

Jean Poots

At the age of four, Jean moved with her family from Yorkton to Flin Flon Manitoba. After graduating from Hapnot High, she entered nurses' training at the University of Saskatoon graduating in 1969. With three classmates, she moved to Edmonton where she joined the pediatric nursing staff at the Misericordia Hospital. That year, she met Ron and made plans to marry.

They agreed to marry in Ireland in 1970. With her Canadian wedding dress in her luggage, she arrived to meet her future relatives. The wedding took place in the cathedral in Dromore, Northern Ireland. Arrangements, all made by Ron's family, included selecting her Maid of Honor, a complete stranger to Jean. (as were all the guests.)

Ron's uncle rented a car for Ron and Jean to take on their honeymoon. With another wedding reception to follow theirs, they were unaware that some fellows from the other wedding party had tinkered with their rented car, thinking it was the other bride and groom's car. As Ron and Jean travelled into the country, they saw a wheel roll onto the roadside as their car crunched to a sudden stop. Rescued by their uncle, repairs were made and their honeymoon continued.

Back in Edmonton, Ron taught school while Jean resumed her nursing career at the General Hospital in Gynecology till the hospital closed in 1987. When she transferred to the Grey Nun's hospital, she worked casual in various departments, retiring in 2001. Jean volunteered at the Intensive Care Nursery at the Grey Nuns Hospital where she rocked babies. Her volunteer work in the hospital gift shop included arranging room rentals for outpatients and family, TV and phone rentals for patients, and selling lottery tickets.

During those years, Ron and Jean raised three children, two daughters and one son. Today, they live in Ottawa, Edmonton, and Sherwood Park. Five grandchildren, all under 17, are an important part of Jean's life. Jean attends ringette tournaments, hockey, soccer, rugby, and volleyball games, as she cheers on her grandchildren.

When their children were older, Ron and Jean travelled annually to Ireland where Jean helped with the care of Ron's mother. Their travels included the Canary Islands, Cyprus, Turkey, and Spain. Their tour of Europe included England, Scotland and Ireland. Other travels took them to the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Alaska, Hawaii, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico. Jean travelled to Jamaica with her children and grandchildren in November 2019. Her multitude of photo albums provided precious memories which she and Ron re-visited during his two years of illness prior to his death in April 2019.

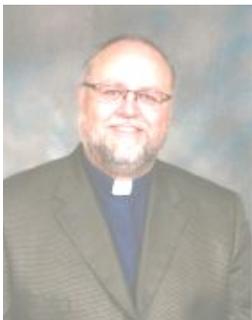
Jean quit nursing to look after her mother for 20 years. Her mother died one month prior to her 100th birthday just as Ron became ill. Once again Jean's care-giving love and skills were needed. For two years, she and Ron spent significant time together sharing memories and making plans for Jean's future – which include the proposed sale of her duplex condo this spring 2020.

Six days a week, Jean walks 3-4 miles around the neighborhood. She volunteers on the Funeral Committee, is a Group leader for Glory 50 Plus, and serves on the Community Outreach Committee where she has been responsible for purchasing the groceries for the ICPM lunch. Jean is grateful for the support of Glory members during the past two-three years. .



~ written by Marjorie Zelent

Bishop's Message



Dear Beloved in Christ,

May grace and peace be yours in abundance (1 Peter 1:2a).

I send you greetings in the Name of the One who is the light of the world, Jesus our Lord, as you gather for your Annual General Congregational Meeting. When you gather together, know that I am filled with gratitude to God for you; that I am thankful for our partnership in the gospel; and, that you continue to be in my

prayers as I know I remain in yours.

Since being called to serve as your bishop, October 2012, my prayer has often been the following: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One of the reasons I love this prayer is because it is realistic but encouraging, honest but hopeful. It doesn't deny difficult truths, but neither does it succumb to sterile pessimism. It was written in the first part of the twentieth century by a Church of England priest named Eric Milner-White. Like many good prayers from another time and place, it sounds like it was tailor made for us here and now.

O God, you have called your servants.... When you meet together, you will be making decisions about your priorities for ministry. You will be adopting budgets that enable ministry that joins in God's mission of reconciliation in the world. You will be supporting your partners in ministry – the rostered ministers of this Synod, and especially those who serve among you as they, first and foremost, seek to equip you for the work of ministry: the building up of the Body of Christ.

Joining God's mission means that your ministry is among the people with whom you live and move and have your being. Your ministry is done each day in the living out of your baptismal identity as God's beloved children through your service in word and deed. Ministry continues beyond the neighborhood and congregation through the many faces of the Church and many facets of its ministries: our Synod and its staff, our National Church expression, the Lutheran World Federation, En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador, and our Companion Synod – The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

O God, you have called your servants.... Since 2012, at Conference/Area Gatherings, in conversations and sharing during Synod Conventions, and two synod-wide Participating in Hope gatherings, Synod Council has been and continues to intentionally listen and to learn. We have gathered these learnings into four statements: □ We are hearing you are desiring connection and relationship to experience God's love among us all. □ You are eager to risk and test new ways but are concerned about how, and want to ensure we keep our essentials. □ You want practical help in discerning what God is up to because you sense God is at work and



present in so many ways. ☐ This sense of God's acting presence is creating renewed desire to be communities of God's hope-filled people.

Perhaps at this year's Annual General Meeting you might reflect on these four statements and our partnership together, as well as name and give thanks for the gifts and mission into which God has invited you and your congregation. Consider taking a few moments in small groups to listen to each other and then share with all gathered reflections on the following (I would be pleased to receive your comments in writing to forward to Synod Council): 1) In what way(s) do these four statements reflect our community of faith? 2) If we could make three wishes for the future of our Synod what would they be? 3) Share about a time or situation when you or your congregation experienced God's love. 4) What resources do you have within your community? Share three gifts God has given you. O God, you have called your servants.... As you meet, I ask you to prayerfully consider forwarding a tithe (1/10th) of your annual income as a congregation as your minimal offering for Benevolence for the ministry of the Synod and through the Synod to the wider Church. Some congregations have exceeded this mark already, but I would encourage all congregations to set this goal.

O God, you have called your servants.... As you gather be sure to join others across the Synod in reviewing the Synod's 2020 Narrative Budget which follows this correspondence. This is our first attempt to present the Synod's Budget to you in a narrative format. I would be pleased to receive your comments in writing to forward to Synod Council. Please note that at the Fall 2020 Congregational Life Event, October 17, in Red Deer opportunity will be provided to equip congregational treasurers and leaders to prepare a narrative budget for your own congregational context.

O God, you have called your servants.... I have seen so many signs of hope in these few years of serving as your bishop, not just in projects and initiatives and ideas, but in our people: ☐ in the faithful and dedicated rostered ministers, who are a gift to us all; ☐ in the diligent and committed staff and officers of the Synod, who it is a joy to work with on a daily and weekly basis, who love the Synod and serving it; ☐ in the lay leaders of this Synod, serving in various and multitude capacities; ☐ in the faithful people who hold no particular office or position, but who form the faithful backbone, week after week, that is the body of Christ in the ABT Synod.

You are all not only living, breathing signs of hope, but you also have my profound thanks for all that you do, and it is my privilege to serve with and among you. O God, you have called your servants.... My prayer is that your gathering will be a recital of gratitude and praise to God for the signs of the Holy Spirit at work in, through, around, and among you.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

In Christ Jesus – Shalom, +Larry

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop Synod of Alberta and the Territories ELCIC



MORNING SERVICE VOLUNTEERS SIGN-UP

January 2020 greets us with a new decade and a new Service Volunteer Sign-up system.

In the recent past, the “phoners” who reach out for service volunteers have experienced some blips connecting with folks in a timely manner and feel the time is right to explore other options for securing volunteers for morning service roles.

These roles include **greeters, Communion assistants, readers, ushers, and coffee prep & cleanup.**

Starting in January, there will be a designated area in the narthex for service volunteers to sign up that will cover a three month time-frame.

Each month will be specific to a work group.

February is designated to work group 3, March is work group 1, April is work group 2, and so on.

If you are uncertain as to your service group, you can search for your name on one of the three posters above the mailbox area.

Feel free to write your name in *one or two* blank areas that you are comfortable serving in. Please use this opportunity to involve all members of your family - including your children.

On occasion, it may be necessary to contact other work groups to fill in empty roles especially in the months with additional special services, such as Easter.

Reminder notices for signing up will be put in the monthly newsletter and bulletin.

Reminder notices of the role you signed up for will be placed in your mail folder and instructions can be provided, if you wish.

This is a change that we hope will be pleasing to most people. If you wish to *only* be telephoned to sign up for a service role please let your regular caller, or the office know your desire at any time going forward.

Thank you to all our congregation volunteers who make Glory an amazing place of worship.



recreation Care Support Team

In Strathcona County we are blessed to have an **incredible** waste management program in place. The county's Green Routine has the potential to divert 89% of waste from the landfill... 89%!!

Here, at Glory Lutheran, we are taking great strides to compost and recycle as much as we can in order to minimize the amount of waste that gets heaped into a landfill. Part of a successful compost and recycle program is the disposal of items into the appropriate bins. A simple toss of a plastic stir stick, candy wrapper or Tim Horton's coffee cup into our green bins will render the compost as "contaminated" and the bags will be redirected to the landfill. On the flipside, organic items thrown into the black bins can't live up to their full potential of becoming nutrient rich compost. Items like paper napkins, paper muffin wrappers, banana peels and cake with frosting will be gratefully accepted and gobbled up by the green bin 😊

Shifting our thoughts from the easy, 'everything into the garbage' to 'which bin does it go in?' can be a bit challenging, maybe even a little frustrating! However, the benefits of thoughtful waste management are 100% worth the extra effort!!

Thank you for your continued support of Glory's compost and recycling initiatives. Every effort reflects our care for God's creation!



What's Happening

GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 8	Council Meeting 6:00pm
January 12	Landscape Design & Memorial Garden Committee Presentation after Worship Service
January 9 & 23	Confirmation Class 6:30pm
January 22 & 23	Collective Kitchen
January 25	PrayerWORKS Breakfast at St. Faith's 7:00am
February 2	Annual General Meeting after Worship Service

This Newsletter is available IN FULL COLOUR online!

Tuesday - Friday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.
Mondays - CLOSED

Please note that the door to the church will usually be locked and you'll need to ring the doorbell by the front door.



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