

CHURCH *Matters*



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 02-03.22 Edition

LENT 2022

*Turning toward
God's Abundance*



FAITHFULNESS

MERCY

COMPASSION

FORGIVENESS

LOVE

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2 @ 7pm

WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

Worship @ 7pm

starting March 9

SUNDAYS OF LENT

Worship @ 10:30am

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 14 @ 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY

April 15 @ 10:30am

EASTER SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:30am

Message from Pastor Markus

Lent 2022

Dear friends,

We have entered a very dark time. So we keep hearing and seeing on the daily news. War in Europe. As if environmental disasters, famine, anti-mandate protests and COVID-19 were not enough! The morning after Russian forces began their invasion of Ukraine, some politicians and journalists said, "We have woken up in a different world." But one journalist disagreed and said, "We have woken up in the real world, not a different one." It's the same world, and we should have seen this coming.

As Christians enter the season of Lent, starting Ash Wednesday, they remind each other, and they proclaim to the world, that this is the real world, and the real world is dark. This is the world where temptation, the devil, sin and evil, violence and hatred, racism and lies and murder reign. We are not surprised at it. Or at least, we should not be surprised, unless we have been asleep, unless we have never paid attention to history, to Scripture, or to the murmur of our own hearts. We have always known that this is not our eternal home, that the world passes away, or at least we should have, unless we were sleeping through Sunday school or sermons.

We enter into the dark season of Lent every year, not out of tradition only, but because of what we believe this world to be: a place contested, a world at war with itself and its creator. We enter Lent every year, because it's the same world as Jesus entered, the Son of God who came to claim this world for God, who came to make peace between heaven and earth by his obedience to the divine will. We enter the dark season of Lent once again, because we have woken up, hopefully, to our own need of salvation, healing, and peace.

At the high point or rather low point of the season, Jesus tells his disciples to "watch and pray that you may not come into the time of trial." (Mark 14:38) This is in the garden of Gethsemane, in the dark night of temptation, a few hours before his arrest and trial and execution.

We are called to watch with Jesus and pray. Many are watching the news with growing fear. We watch the news in order to be informed. But we are called to watch with Jesus. Watch the news with Jesus. Think about that when you browse the internet. And Jesus is watching not because he wants to evade the end, or because he is hooked to the screen. Jesus is watching for God's kingdom to come, because if we don't watch out for God's coming, we will miss it. We watch for the kingdom in order to be transformed. Not just informed, but transformed. Jesus watched/waited for the Lord, "more than the watchmen wait for the morning." (Psalm 130) We are to watch for the morning, not for the darkness, to come. The darkness is already here. We wait and watch for light. "And the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." Evil cannot

overpower the good forever. On the third day the light will burst forth, the Son will rise, the sun will shine, and the glory of the Lord will rise upon us.

Until then let's journey through the darkness together. Consider this my personal invitation to this year's Mid-week Lenten Services. Jesus calls us into prayer. Using different forms of prayer each week, we will explore themes of faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and love. With song, scripture and poetry our eyes will be lifted from the darkness to the light, from Lent to Easter, from death to life. I hope you will be part of the journey!

Pastor Markus

PRAYERS FOR THE JOURNEY



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 out 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.

Lindahenke.com

Council Highlights

Installation of 2022 Council: Installation of this year's council will be during the worship service on February 27, 2022. Welcome to our 2022 council members: Rose Schlegl, Barb Anderson, Lynnette Woodrow, Gord Cruikshank, Kurtis Ashton, Lynn Spain, Dave Hauf, Sebastian Montoya, Rhonda Berg. Financial Officers: Lynda Kiel, Chelsea Ashton

Covid Restrictions:

As many of you know, the provincial government will be lifting certain pandemic restrictions effective March 1, 2022. In his letter of February 10, 2022, Bishop Larry Kochendorfer cautions against rapid changes to our worship practices and calls for patience, grace, and flexibility in moving forward. As he states, "In all circumstances, err on the side of love for your neighbour."

Council agrees that we need to exercise caution and proceed with a gradual lifting of restrictions. Effective March 1, 2022, for example, we will be removing the ropes from the pews to allow for more seating. However, we continue to ask that congregation members practice social distancing by leaving several chairs between individuals or families and cohort groups. We also encourage individuals to continue to wear masks throughout the services, particularly while singing, for the time being.

Thank you all for the kindness and care you have shown for each other in following the protocols we have had in place, and thank you for your continued patience, grace, and flexibility as we move forward.

Rose Schlegl - Chair

Summary:

Glory will take a slow and cautious approach in lifting the regulations that impact our congregation.

1. The removal of pew ropes will start on March 1st. Distancing is encouraged.
2. Masking will be strongly encouraged, especially when singing.
3. As yet, no coffee will be provided.
4. Communion will resume being served on March 13th. Servers will wear masks and their hands must be sanitized. The wine will be spaced out on the tray with the congregation taking their own cups. The bread will be handed out, with the use of tongs, by Pastor or an assistant.
5. Kindness and respect will be encouraged towards one another.



Rose Schlegl
Council Chair
Human Resources



Rhonda Berg
Council Secretary



Barb Anderson
Community Outreach



Lynnette Woodrow
Worship & Music



Gord Cruikshank
Facility Rental
and Booking



Kurtis Ashton
Stewardship



Lynn Spain
Property



Dave Hauf
Property



Sebastian Montoya
Technology / Youth



Markus Wilhelm
Pastor
"Ex Officio"
All Committees

2022 Financial Officers and Office Coordinator



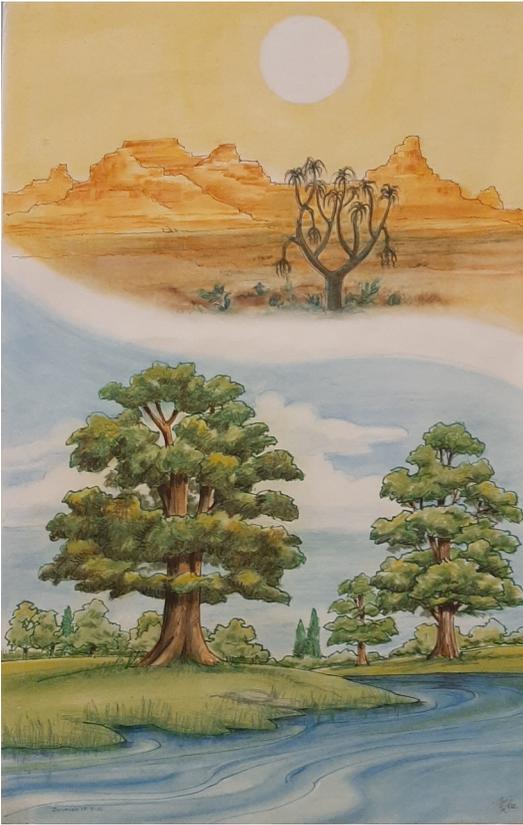
Chelsea Ashton
Financial Secretary
& Finance



Lynda Kiel
Treasurer & Finance



Heidi Jones
Office Coordinator



The Illustration from Jeremiah 17

By Mike Lee

Two contrasting images from the Bible passage Jeremiah 17: 5-10 made the creation of an illustration quite straight forward. Verse 6 states, “He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.” To create this scene, I referred to a photo of an Arizona desert. Verse 8, in total contrast describes an image with healthy trees near a fresh flowing stream. Without any reference material readily available for this scene, I created my own image.

An initial pencil sketch was created on an 8 1/2”x11” sheet. A one-inch square grid was added to the sketch. Then, taking the poster sized paper, grid lines were added in the appropriate proportions.

Using the grid lines as a guide, the image was transferred square by square to the large poster. Once all details were penciled in, the image was outlined with a marker

pen. After removing the gridlines, the images were filled in with colored markers and pastel chalks. ~ Mike Lee

Photo credit: Linda Schmidt - February 13, 2022

*More Photos on page
15*

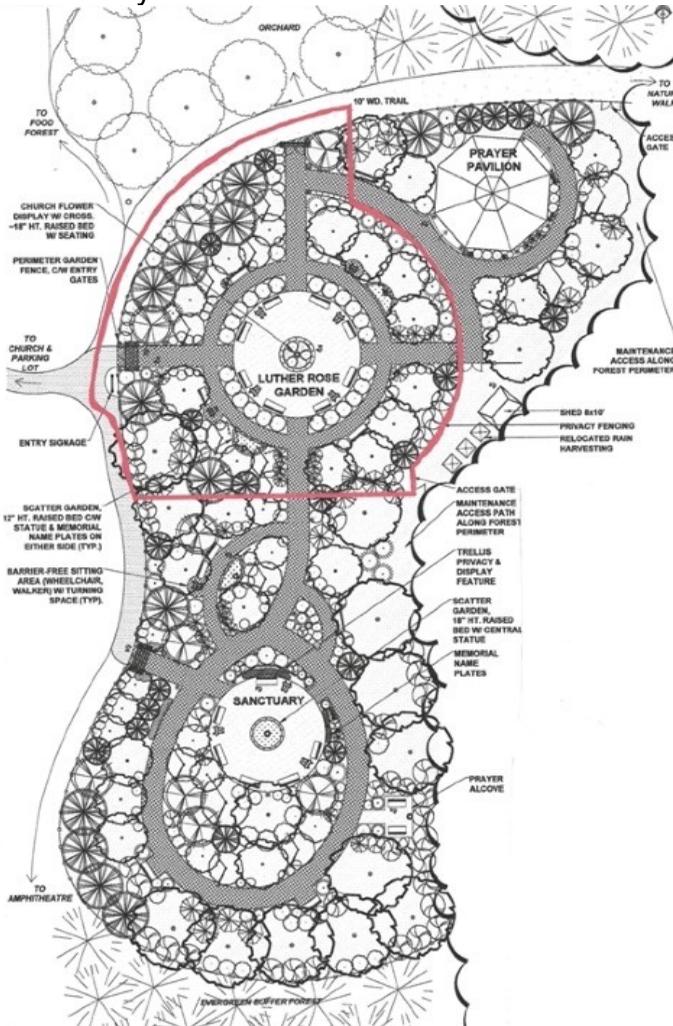
thank you

Thank you, **Mike Lee**, for enriching our Sunday services with the beautiful artwork you have been creating for the altar!

Landscape Design and Memorial Garden Committee

Thank you to all who donated to the Memorial Garden fundraiser. Thank you, also, to the Stewardship Committee and to Ellen Sitler for spearheading this fundraiser. As of this writing approximately \$124,000 has been raised.

We are now gathering information to complete our application for a Development Permit from Strathcona County. We hope to submit the application by the end of February.



We will also be emailing invitations to tender before the end of February. The Request for Proposal is for phase one and submissions of quotes will be due back in mid-March. Phase one will encompass the Luther Rose Garden which is at the north end of the design plan. The diagram below outlines phase one with a red line.

Not all the trees and shrubs that are in the design plan will be planted during phase one construction. Also, the pathway from the church to the garden is not included in phase one, however, we are seeking a cost breakdown for construction of the pathway.

We do not know when construction might begin but are hopeful to have phase one completed in 2022. Rising costs of materials and supply chains may hinder timelines. We will continue providing updates as we get new information.

As always, please contact any committee member if you have questions.

Rita Spain - on behalf of the Memorial Garden Committee

GLO⁺RY

50^{PLUS}

Glory 50 Plus Birthday Celebration

Not to be deterred by -13° temperatures, a group of ten hardy individuals gathered on Marilyn Grave's doorstep to recognize Marilyn's milestone (80th) birthday on February 23rd.

Despite the cold, everyone huddled together long enough to sing the birthday song, pass out carrot cupcakes, and visit for a few minutes.

Special phone calls from Christ Church, New Zealand, and Denmark to mark her birthday, kept Marilyn busy. Marilyn planned to end her special day with a dinner hosted by her neighbor.

Those active in Glory 50 Plus are happy to gather periodically outdoors to stay connected until regular meetings/gatherings can begin again once our COVID restrictions can safely be lifted.

If you attend Glory and are interested in being part of the Glory 50 Plus group, please contact Marjorie Zelent at 780-467-5363 to have your name put on the Glory 50 Plus contact list. That way, you will be notified of any upcoming gatherings. You may also speak to Val Voros, Secretary, or one of our group leaders Eula Regehr, Jean Poots, Maureen Wesner, or Delores Friske.





**SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
+ AND THE +
TERRITORIES**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

**Communion Service in Canmore at
the 2022 Synod Study Conference**
photo submitted by Pastor Markus

Bishop Larry, Pastor Barbara Grote, and
Pastor Kristian Wold are serving
communion. Pastor Reg Berg and Bev
Chapel are making music.

O LOVING GOD, light our pathway through
the darkness of our lives, and help us to receive
your gift of forgiveness with penitent and grateful
hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Our *Spiritual* Journey

A Message from Pastor Nickel

Our SPIRITUAL JOURNEY -

I **get questions** about what's right and wrong in this troubling world. Many center on dealing with everything we get from all directions: what's right/wrong, real/unreal, true/false. In response, I find it helpful to ask sometimes, "**HOW DO YOU/WE REALLY KNOW**" something?

Sure, we can see something and know what's going on, although five people often "see" five different things when witnessing a car crash. What **information helps us** figure out what's happening in today's world?

For example, when part of the western Christian Church discovered some things were getting in the way of faith and belief, they **did positive** things.

Around Martin Luther's time, many leaders saw problems and then **discussed them**. They discovered there were **many issues** relating to them, not one. They didn't let it become a "us versus them" concern.

Luther then **gathered the info** and formulated debating points ["95 Thesis"]. Issues were **prayed** about. Then trusted leaders prepared a document centered on what they believed **about these faith issues**, and wrote: The "**AUGSBURG CONFESSION**" [AC], telling about their faith-beliefs issues.

Dealing with their concerns, they knew that the Augsburg Confession **provided helpful answers** and they sought "first things first": God, the Bible, Jesus. For example, regarding the authority of the Bible, the AC put the Bible first over history or tradition. They focused on being forgiven freely by God's mercy through Jesus' death for us [the well-known, "Justification by grace through faith"]. They helped return people to thinking about God who showed His love for us through Jesus and what he did for us.

Today, the rest of The Church no longer disagrees with the AC, the Reformation's concerns are concerns for everyone, and God's love for you and me through Jesus is a central theme.

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[Did you know that we have "Lutheran" Churches in the world and also "Evangelical Churches of the Augsburg Confession". All express their Christian beliefs with the help of the "**AUGSBURG CONFESSION**" [AC], and all who accept what the AC says are Lutherans.]

APPLY THAT TODAY when life seems so much more complicated. So, **HOW DO WE KNOW** stuff today? Be cautious. Verify. How about those who tell us, their way is the only right way, and those who keep repeating the same message in order to win you over. That can be scary; remember a Mr. Jones who led his 900+ followers to a mass killing in the last century.

My grandfather went to the doctor; his prescription was: turn off the radio when you hear those programs which are making you so very unhealthy.

He did it, it worked, and he celebrated 95 birthdays!

Today, you may want to **avoid/turn off** the arguments of those who deceive or make you feel **fear** and distrust. + Trust with care; watch out for "the con". + **Avoid "slogans"** that don't discuss issues. + Beware of those paid to discredit others and promote hating "the others" "who are not us". + **Seek** what helps you feel God's love.

LENT is a special time when Christians renew their faith-choice. It's also a good time to ask God for his help and guidance -- whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.

- + **IF GOD HAD A REFRIGERATOR,**
YOUR picture would be on it.
- + God sends YOU flowers every spring, a sunrise every morning.
- + What about that Christmas gift he sent YOU; that Friday at Calvary.
- + Face it, He's crazy about YOU.

Gary Nickel

O LOVING GOD, in Lent we take time to reflect on our sin and weaknesses, and ask for your strength and outstretched arms to guide us as we walk toward new hope with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Bishop's Message - February 2022



Dear friends and family in † Christ--

Earlier in the pandemic Bishop Larry drew us to the words of Ezra during the time of the Babylonian Exile. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah were written during a time of great transition. The time of Babylonian exile had ended, and Cyrus, the ruler of Persia, had begun to send the people home. And Ezra and Nehemiah were charged with the Herculean task of restoring Jerusalem and the great temple that had been sacked when Jerusalem fell.

For the most part, they were successful. The temple was rebuilt, although it wouldn't achieve its former splendor until the days of King Herod. But it was far from easy. The people doubted and struggled with the immensity of the task. They lost hope that they would see anything resembling what their ancestors once knew. Ezra and Nehemiah, along with some of the minor prophets such as Haggai, urged the people to the task, stressing the need for the temple to be rebuilt and for the people to return to what they once were. The laws, the rituals, the formula of life laid down in books such as Leviticus, had to become central for the people again. It was, after all, when the people had strayed from these actions and began to follow gods and other competing desires that things had gone badly. It was a message about returning to the roots of who the Israelites were. It was only by going back that they could go forward.

The interesting thing about the books of Ezra and Nehemiah is how they have paralleled something of our own journey during this time of pandemic. For long stretches, we were exiled from our houses of worship. We had no choice during those dark early months of the pandemic. No one had any vaccine protection. Herd immunity was a deadly pipe dream that we believed could never be achieved in a humane way. Slowly, we were allowed back, and it has been a rollercoaster ride ever since. Masks. No Masks. Capacity limits. No Capacity limits. Vaccine passports. A fourth wave. A fifth wave. We have been able to stay open this time around, but all with uncertainty lurking in the back of our minds. When will things change again? Will there come a time we have to close our doors? And what does our future look like? Has the pandemic damaged us beyond repair? We were already beginning to see the cracks in our foundation prior to Covid. Have the last 22 months broken the foundation altogether?

As we struggle with answering these questions, it can become very easy to do as Ezra and Nehemiah and Haggai, amongst other, tried to do. Go back to what we once knew. Go back to that point when things still made sense. The future is too uncertain. The only way we can go forward is to go back.

It is a tempting route. I have longed more than once to go back to a time when things were more sensible, when I knew how to proceed. I look back and can't help but shed tears as I remember a world that once made sense. It wasn't perfect, but I knew what I could do to help make it better.

Now? I don't know what to do and I definitely don't want to think about the future. I just want some certainty again, something of the past to reassert itself and ground this shifting, liminal time.

Ezra and Nehemiah tried to ground their people in those kinds of certainties. And it failed. Yes, for a few generations, they moved forward and were successful in rebuilding the temple. But it didn't truly last. By the time we encounter the narrative again, the Romans are the new power in the land, having swept away the last vestiges of Greek and other Eastern powers. Jerusalem is a vassal state of another great empire and the powers of Jerusalem are either in league with Rome or preaching a spiritualism based on a rigid adherence to the law, almost to the exclusion of God. The promises of Ezra and Nehemiah had faded away in the truth that the past was now gone, and the people did not know the way forward.

As heartbreaking as it is to admit, it sounds eerily familiar. I wish it didn't. I look to the future, and I don't think that the past will meet us there. Those days are gone. And it breaks my heart.

During this time, Christ's words from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

He then goes on to say, in a rather final way, *"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."* (Luke 4: 18-19, 21)

This short passage has Jesus making the statement that this ancient prophecy from Isaiah has come to pass in the hearing of all those in attendance. It seems oddly aggressive considering the context he finds himself in. No one was challenging him. No one said anything about who he was or about his mission. Yet his tone seems almost confrontational, as if he is challenging something greater, something beyond this moment that the Gospel is situated within. It is as if he is challenging an idea.

Where Ezra was attempting to give people hope by reading from the law, so Jesus is doing something of the same. But there is a difference. Where the push at the time of Ezra and Nehemiah was to go back to the days when Israel adhered to the law and was thriving, Jesus was issuing a different kind of hope. It was a hope based instead on something more ancient, more lasting, more enduring than the laws of Israel or of custom and tradition. Jesus was speaking to the only thing that could guide the people out of the uncertainty that they had felt for generations. It was what had bound them together as a community to begin with and what had emancipated them from Egypt's power. It was what gave them the hope of real grace in their life. It was,

continued from previous page

namely, God, moving in their midst, doing marvelous things, and drawing them after to walk as God's children. It was not ritual or tradition. Those were tools that helped them connect to God. They were not replacements for God. The pharisees were the children of that line of thinking. They believed that ritual and tradition would lead to purity. Yet it was never truly so. The heart of the covenant was God's love for the people and the people's love for God. It was that love that would ground them but also propel them into new life.

Jesus was reminding them of this fact. And he was showing them that something new was indeed happening in their very midst. God, through Christ, had come to show them the truth that Moses and the prophets had never been able to fully demonstrate, as much as they had tried. Their hope was not in the past or tradition or in ritual. It was in God. The core of their faith was this God who would, as Jesus proclaims bring good news to the poor.

and proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
would let the oppressed go free,
and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

The way forward was never about going back. It was about going forward in all joy and peace in believing.

We resonate with the ancient Israelites of Ezra and Nehemiah. We are frightened and saddened and angry. We don't know the way forward as we long for the past. But Jesus comes into our midst, just as Jesus did in this text from Luke and reminds us again of the great and amazing beauty of God's love. No pandemic or exile can change that love. Tradition might come and tradition might go. But God's love endures forever. That love will lead us into a future unlike any we could have imagined. What is left for us to decide is whether we can accept that or whether we will cling to a past that can never be reclaimed. It isn't easy. The way forward will be terrifying, and we will be scared. But God is with us and God still has use for the church in this world. All we can do, we can

truly do is trust in God's guidance, leaning on the one who has been active and present throughout the course of human history, inspiring the very best of who we are and what we can yet become.

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O LOVING GOD, as we enter our Lenten journey, we remember the road of suffering traveled by your Son for us, and need not fear as we travel with you, for surely you lead us to new life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Drawing on the Words from Carrie Newcomer

Lean In Toward the Light
Winter is the oldest season,
But quietly beneath the snow,
Seeds are stretching out and reaching,
Faithful as the morning glow.

Lean in toward the Light.
Let it go, shake off the dust.
Lean in toward the Light.
Today is now, tomorrow beckons.
Lean in toward the Light.
Keep practicing resurrection.

The shadows of this world will say,
There's no hope why try anyway?
But every kindness large or slight,
Shifts the balance toward the light.

Waters wind and open wide.
Lean in toward the Light.
Don't just walk when you can fly.
Lean in toward the Light.
When justice seems in short supply.
Lean in toward the Light.
Let beauty be your truest guide.

The shadows of this world will say,
There's no hope why try anyway?
But every kindness large or slight,
Shifts the balance toward the light.

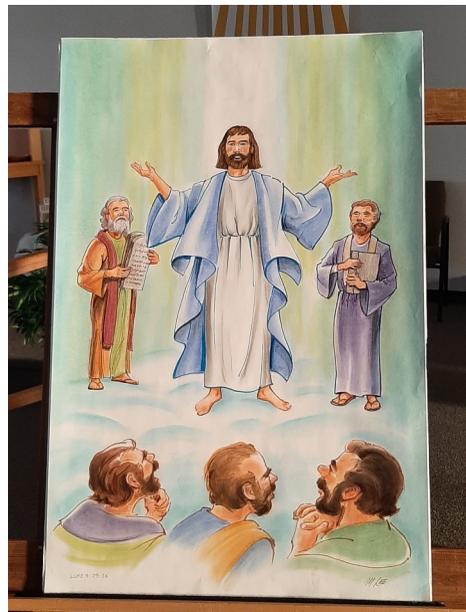
The prayer I pray at eventide.
Lean in toward the Light.
All left undone be put aside.
Lean in toward the Light.
And when forgiveness is hard find.
Lean in toward the Light.
Help me to a least to be kind.
Lean in toward the Light.
Lean in toward the Light.

Blessing and Peace in † Christ, Rev. Prema

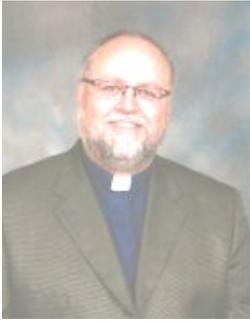
Altar Art by Mike Lee



February 6, 2022 - Luke 5:1-11



February 27, 2022 - Luke 9:29-36



Bishop's Message - March 2022

Dear Beloved of God -

As you know I have recently returned to the Synod from a three-month sabbatical, a gift indeed!

Walter Brueggemann makes the wonderful statement that, "Sabbath is an invitation to image our life differently" (Finally Comes the Poet: Daring Speech for Imagination). In this

liminal time, in this time of pandemic challenge and

opportunity, the gift of Sabbath imagination is exactly what I needed. Extended time to ponder, pray, reflect...imagine my life and that of our Synod...differently.

As has often been my experience whether through a weekly time of Sabbath rest or a lengthier time of sabbatical, my experience was not what I had planned nor what I had imagined. Travel plans were postponed or canceled. At times I felt as though every plan was thwarted. And brief illness during the sabbatical meant I was forced to rest. Even so, Sabbath was exactly what I needed. Time for remembering and observing, for imagining, dreaming, reflecting. Time for family and extended family. Time to simply be. Time to consider my calling as Bishop.

The Spirit of God surprised me in this sabbatical, drew me close, embraced me in grace, love and mercy, and encouraged me to imagine.

Celebrating...honoring...the gift of Sabbath, whether weekly or in the gift of a sabbatical time, is...yes, I'll write it again...a gift.

So, how are you practicing Sabbath rest? Sabbath remembering and observing?

How might you practice this gift by developing a regular rhythm in your life? What might this look like for you?

Where might this imagining be leading you? Calling you?

I thank the Synod Council, and you, the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, for this gift. I thank The Rev. Prema Samuel, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Life, who so capably served as Commissary while I was away; Marla Berg, Office Administrator; and other synod staff; Synod Officers – Deacon Karen Wedman, Keith Scheidt and Paul Ellison; and the Area Deans: The Revs. Jeff Decelle, Kevin Powell, Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson, Matthew Lyseng and Trish Schermund.

Thank you for this gift.

Join me in a weekly rhythm of Sabbath rest. Just...imagine...

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom, +Larry



*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.*

WELCOME

On February 13 & 20, 2022,
Glory welcomed the
following new members:

**Dan & Freda Berg
Grace Morgan
Sebastian Montoya
Darren, Jenny, Maria & Ruth Takenaka**

They have affirmed the faith in which we are baptized into the body of Christ and have expressed the desire to live out this faith along with the members of this congregation.

Glory Lutheran Church welcomes these children of God as those who serve among us, sharing in the grace that we receive here and extend in mission to all the world.



LENT . . .

WHY ?

Why do we celebrate Lent? Why do we start Lent with Ash Wednesday? Why is the color of the season purple? Why does Lent last 40 days?

Lent is the season of the church year that follows the Epiphany Season. It is a time we set aside each year to remember the love of God that is poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death; and His defeat of death, sin and Satan in Christ's death and resurrection that brings Eternal Life to you. This season has a penitential character, a solemn nature to it. This is to help us remember to be repentant and remind us of our sin and our mortality.

We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday, which falls this year on March 2nd, as a day to help us to have a penitent mind throughout the season of Lent. This is why we have the imposition of Ashes as a reminder to us that in sin we will return to the dust from which we are (Genesis 3:19). While the imposition of ashes reminds us of our mortality and our sin, it also reminds us of Jesus' defeat of death and sin on the cross, and the atonement for our sin by His blood (Ephesians 1:7). As we feel the Pastor make the sign of the cross with the ash, we are also reminded of our baptism, as we were marked with the cross upon our forehead and upon our heart as one redeemed by Christ Jesus, who secured for us eternal redemption from sin and eternal life (Matthew 28:16-20; Hebrews 9:12). This penitential character is also shown in the color used during this season of the church year.

The color purple is used by the church to remind us of the character of the season. The color purple is used as a color of penitence. This

character is carried over in the words we use in worship as we will omit the alleluias until Easter. This is also shown in the length of the season.

Lent is 40 days long as a reminder of Christ's 40 days in the wilderness, and His defeat of temptation (Matthew 4). Here we are reminded that Jesus was also tempted and that He stood firm against Satan's temptations. This reminds us that He is our strength against all temptation in this life and our need for Christ's death on Good Friday. It also reminds us why we have a character of penance in the Season of Lent: we are in need of redemption from sin, death, and Satan.

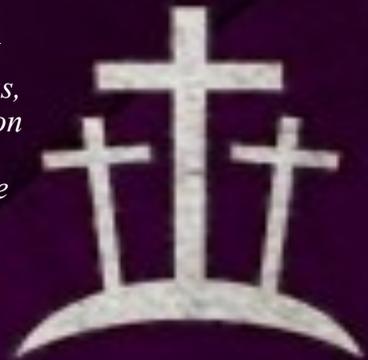
Our readings for Ash Wednesday this year includes 2 Corinthians 5:21, which says, *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* As you begin Lent, remember God became sin for your sake by taking on our sinful flesh and dying on the cross to atone for our sin with His blood. In this defeat of death, sin and Satan by His own death, He freed you from them forever; and as He rose from death, you too shall be resurrected from death to Eternal Life, being made into the righteousness of God as you are justified and forgiven in Christ. This is why we celebrate the season of Lent, to prepare us to receive God's reconciliation in Christ Jesus on Easter as we celebrate Jesus' glorious resurrection and the free gift of God's Grace that brings us forgiveness, Salvation, and Life Everlasting.

~Rev. Robert Wacker

Lent . . . A time to renew

"You are my righteousness, I am your sin In Christ we can become what we were not. Amen! Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not."

~Lent Prayer- Martin Luther



Finance
Corner



Update for
January 1 to
January 31, 2022:

Actual Offering*: \$26,793
Budget Offering Goal*: \$23,791
Over by \$ 3,022
*(General Fund & Capital Building Fund)

Thank you for your ongoing financial support.

If you need any help with giving options
(envelopes, PAR, e-transfer or Canada Helps)
please contact the church office.

A MOMENT

Longing for warmth and new things to grow?
How about for your garden of Daily Living, PLANT LETTUCE:

- 1-Lettuce be faithful
- 2-Lettuce be kind
- 3-Lettuce be patient
- 4-Lettuce really love one another.

...and we reap what we sow...



~Gary Nickel

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

Please note that Heidi may be working from home.
Email and phone calls will continue to be answered during office
hours. Please call the office if you would like to visit the church.



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