

# CHURCH *Matters*

Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 02.23 Edition



## GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH **Annual General Meeting**

### Sunday, February 26

The meeting will be held  
at the church after Sunday Worship  
(approximately 12:15 p.m.)

The option to join the meeting via zoom  
will be available. Details will follow in  
the e-news, in our weekly bulletins, and  
on Glory's website closer to the date.

# Message from Pastor Markus

February 2023

## The Three R's of a Post-Pandemic-People\*

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“Reclaim-Rebuild-Recreate” – These were the three “R’s” of last November’s Synod-wide youth gathering at Mulhurst Lutheran Camp at Pidgeon Lake. Our three confirmands spent a weekend with about fifty other young people worshipping, playing, and learning what it means to reclaim who they are as children of God, to rebuild relationships with one another, and to recreate in body and spirit. It was the first youth gathering since the year 2019! With the leadership of Lizzy DeCorby, Glory and Mount Olivet youth are also practicing the three “R’s” locally. More than 20 people gathered for an initial event of games and desert in January. Our confirmands come together every week to learn, play, and serve. Our children participate again in worship and Sunday School. Our 50+ group is holding events, our choir is singing, and council and committees are working in person again.

After three years of pandemic, we all need reclaiming, rebuilding and recreating. By coming together in worship and fellowship on Sundays, as well as week days during Lent, we reclaim who we are as the children of God. Like the aged wood of a fallen down barn on a prairie field, we are reclaimed by God and made into something new. What that something looks like is not quite clear yet, but since we are in the hands of the carpenter Son, Jesus Messiah, we know it will be beautiful. And it already is! It is beautiful to see so many of you return in person to worship. It is also beautiful to hear that many are making use of our new technological capabilities online. Through the work of our dedicated tech people we are rebuilding church in a “hybrid” fashion, strengthening our connections virtually. Our screens however must not prevent us from physical participation, even when distant. Jesus invites us to the Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion, the central act of worship, reminding us that physical food and presence are recreating us as the Body of Christ.

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Another opportunity to reclaim, rebuild and recreate, is to join a small group. During the pandemic we shared our faith and our struggles with each other online in a small group discussion over ZOOM. Now the desire is to meet in person again. A group has begun gathering on Friday evening every second week in one participant's home. We share about our lives, we share God's Word in Scripture and discussion, we snack, we play, and we pray.

Lastly, I have committed to visiting you each in your homes. I want to hear what it's been like for you in the last few years, what your joys and your struggles are, what it means for you to reclaim, rebuild and recreate as a child of God. Some of you I have visited many times before, some only a few times, some once, others not yet at all. I want to see all of you in 2023! Over the next few months you will receive a phone call from the church to schedule a time for us to meet for an hour long visit. I do not expect you to prepare anything other than a place to sit, although I would accept a cup of coffee or tea or glass of water. At the end I would like to pray for you, your home, and your family. (If you are more comfortable meeting elsewhere, we can arrange another location, at the church, in a café, in a park, wherever you choose. My preference, however, is to meet you where you live.) Regular, unscheduled pastoral visits (e.g. at a time of illness or crisis) will of course continue during this time. Any time you would like to talk, meet or pray you may call the church office or call me on my mobile phone.

In this new year, let us all join in God's work of reclaiming, rebuilding and recreating, with each other, for the world, and to the glory of God!

In Christ,

Pastor Markus

\*I realize there is disagreement whether the pandemic is over or not. I just like the alliteration.



# Council Highlights

February 2023

Council has finalized the budget for presentation and approval at our Annual General Meeting, coming up on Sunday, February 26, 2023. The reporting package is still being completed but should be going out to Glory members by email or mail shortly. T

here will be a short break between the service and the meeting to allow everyone to have coffee and a snack while we get set-up for the AGM.

If you are not able to attend the AGM in person but would like to attend on-line, please check the February 24 e-news or let the office know and we will ensure that you are sent a Zoom invitation in the days leading up to the meeting.

By the way, we are still open to receiving nominations for new members of Council, so please feel free to contact the office or anyone on council if you are interested. We are also able to take nominations from the floor during the meeting.

We are hoping to have Soup Suppers during Lent again this year – something we haven't been able to do since March of 2020! However, in order to do so, we need to have at least two volunteers each week to handle set-up and clean-up. Sign-up sheets for this will soon be available in the narthex, along with sheets for donations of soup and/or desserts.

Hope to see you all at the AGM!

Rose Schlegl, Council.chair@glorylutheran.ca

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## COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL OPPORTUNITIES

*The Glory Nomination Committee welcomes you to consider volunteering for Church Council - to share in the joy of being elected by the congregation to provide guidance for a three year term; to deliberate and make decisions about the policies, practices and plans for the future of our church.*

Council is guided by our constitution and is responsible for specific areas of church life -- such as Youth & Children, Worship & Music, Education, Finance & Stewardship, Congregational Life, Property & Facilities, Community Outreach as well as the care, support and encouragement of our pastor.

Please refer to the January Edition of the *Church Matters* Newsletter for details on each role. Take time to pray and consider how you may be a part of this ministry and reach out to Rhonda or Donna. (Rhonda 780-449-6682 [secretary@glorylutheran.ab.ca](mailto:secretary@glorylutheran.ab.ca))

# Thank you

## THANK YOU SERVICE VOLUNTEERS!

A **BIG HEARTFELT THANK YOU** to all those volunteering to help with the tasks required for each Sunday service. Your willingness to give your time and service is greatly appreciated. Your support and involvement add to each service and allows us to continue to fulfill our mission of Reaching Up... Reaching Out...Reaching In.

There are still several tasks that need covering in the coming weeks, if you are able to help, please sign up on the easel in the Narthex, or contact Esther or Glenda. If you aren't sure what is involved, Esther or Glenda will guide you and answer all your questions. [esther.m.madsen@gmail.com](mailto:esther.m.madsen@gmail.com) OR [mk.glenda@gmail.com](mailto:mk.glenda@gmail.com)

Thank you again for your participation in Glory's weekly services, we appreciate all who share their time.



# Our *Spiritual* Journey

*A Message from Pastor Nickel*

## OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY and the CHURCH YEAR:

*Invitation: Let the EVENTS of the “CHURCH YEAR” GUIDE YOU to new understandings of God and His Love for us, and new experiences in our lives as we travel with God in our life. Millions have done so over the centuries...*

So far with the help of the **Church Year**'s seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany [since 4 weeks before Christmas], we prepared for Jesus' birth, celebrated it, saw His early years, and experienced the start-up of His ministry including the gathering of disciples, teaching and healing.

Then, the later part of the Epiphany season brings us to see Jesus as his ministry grows, and then Epiphany ends February 19 [this year] with the Sunday of “**The TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**”.

The TRANSFIGURATION of Jesus:

+On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved son, echoing the words that were said at his baptism.

+The vision of God's glory is given to us and again and again he fulfills promises from the Old Testament about the coming of the Messiah, the Promised One of God -- the Son of God who would come to earth in human form.

+**Matthew 17:1-9** take us there as Jesus is more fully revealed to Peter, James, and John.

Also, if you would like to look at the impact of that on his followers later on, take a look in **2 Peter 1:16-21**. There the people of that time are pointed back to God and what God has done for them. **So today**, can **you** think of a **way that God came to be with you in a new and meaningful way** sometime in your life?

Looking to much **earlier times in the Bible**, you might remember Moses on Mount Sinai, in the Old Testament, when he experienced the presence of God. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain and God spoke to Moses during that time. The two events are very similar experiences in which God has spoken to His People while involving “glory”.

Think about “**glory**” for a moment.

+ Glory is something that belongs to God and is given or reflected in the world around us.

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- + Glory can also change the normal and ordinary in our everyday lives as well, calling us to something that points us to God.
- + In the story of Jesus' transfiguration, perspectives are turned upside down: the past Old Testament prophecies are made real in Jesus' time. History is turned upside down as God's Son is revealed to be on earth – because of God's love for us all.

That blew their minds, so-to-speak, **shifted their perspective, opened their eyes** to see a more loving God than they could ever imagine on their own.

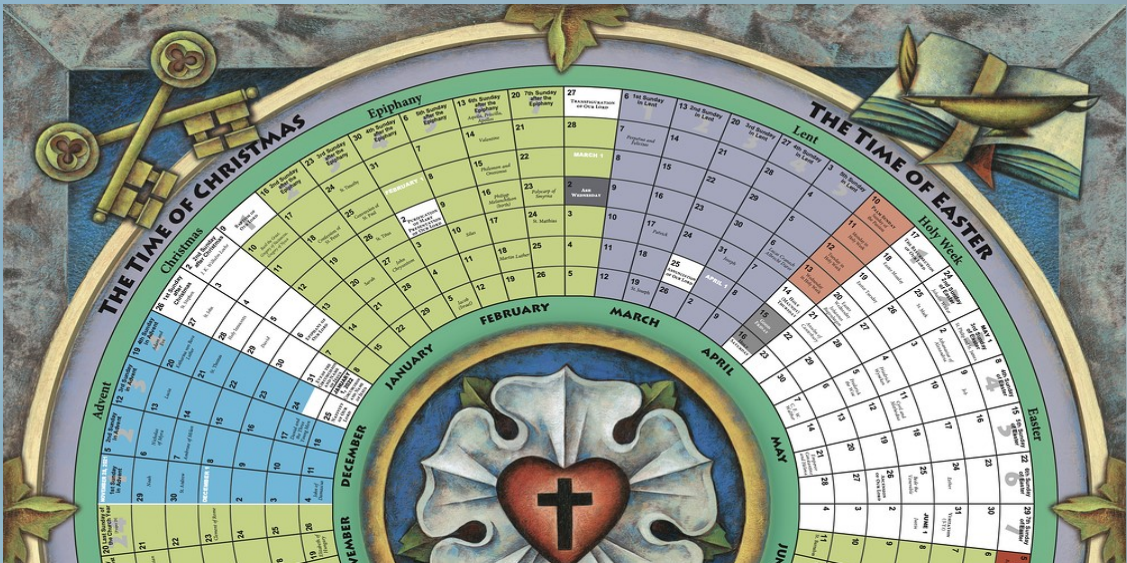
They saw that God is directly at work in the world!

Human history is full of mountaintop experiences, vision quests, pilgrimages, and more which take us beyond ourselves toward God and His Way for us – Spiritual Journeys.

Any time, including now, is a good time to direct your life's journey toward God and His Love, toward God and His Guidance, toward God and the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. It is close as a prayer, your prayer – to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you in ways you need, and in ways you might not even guess could happen within you.

–Gary Nickel

Next, the Church Year moves on from Epiphany and focuses on the season of LENT: Jesus' ministry is established and he begins to move toward Holy Week when he goes to the Cross – for us.





## Bishop's Message - January 2022

Dear Beloved of God -

Imagine yourself as a witness to the crucifixion. How would you react? How would your life be impacted? What would it mean to you? How would you be changed?

In her book *Witness at the Cross*, scholar and teacher, Amy-Jill Levine, examines how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play in the

Gospels. For each, Jesus has a particular meaning and personal message, shaped by their background, social context, and their role in the crucifixion and the events leading up to Jesus' death. From each of them, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

What do the derisive words of the bystanders, the political leaders, the chief priests and scribes show us about the nature of blasphemy, and how does their presence force us to confront our own complicity: Can bystanders be innocent?

How are our views of criminal justice today challenged by our understanding of Rome's judicial system, which resulted in the deaths of the two crucified with Jesus and of Jesus himself? How does this knowledge inspire us to live as good neighbours to all?

The Roman soldiers: to what extent does their complicity and apparent indifference to Jesus' death indict us? What is the message to us as we go about our own business while innocents suffer and die?

What can we learn from the Beloved Disciple about Jesus' "new command" to love each other? Does this anonymous figure have anything to teach us about observing all time as sacred time?

What do the roles of the women at the cross (patrons, followers, supporters) reveal about the role of women in the church today? What roles can men and women play in bearing witness to God and Jesus in powerful ways?

How did Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus relate to Jesus before his death? How do their actions after his death provide a model for modern "sympathizers" of Jesus?

I invite you to explore these and other questions with me, to come to the cross.





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During the 6 weeks of Lent, leading to Holy Week and ultimately to Holy Friday and the looming shadow of the cross, I invite you to participate with me in a Bible study, offered online to lay and rostered members across the synod. Gather as community, as family, as witnesses at the cross, for a weekly ZOOM meeting, where we will read, view, ponder, discuss, and pray together. Be ready to tackle some hard questions as modern witnesses “at the Cross”.

Walk with me and other siblings in Christ from across the synod, as we explore what it truly means to be a witness at the cross. Our journey begins on Shrove Tuesday (February 21) and continues to Holy Week, with meetings each Tuesday, at 9:00 am or 7:00 pm. We will spend 75 minutes together exploring Amy-Jill Levine’s book *Witness at the Cross: A beginner’s guide to Holy Friday*. For more information, including where to order the book, and to register, see the Synod website or click here: <https://form.jotform.com/230106407903244>.

I encourage you to gather as a small group in your church, as a community of neighbours, with friends in one another’s homes, as family. What better way to build stronger relationships across the synod, than to ponder together such matters of faith? To explore together how being witnesses at the cross today continues to mold our lives as individuals, as members of church, as congregations, within our communities, in everything we do.

In Christ Jesus –  
Shalom, +Larry

O loving God, we offer our prayers to you with humility and great joy as we give you thanks for the freely-given grace that covers all of our sins. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## WITNESS at the CROSS: A Beginners Guide to Holy Friday

Synod-Wide Lenten Bible Study  
online each Tuesday in Lent  
beginning February 21, 2023 at 9 am or 7pm

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE to HOLY FRIDAY

# WITNESS at the CROSS



### Place yourself as a witness of the cross and determine what your own testimony will be!

Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

The story of Jesus's death is not something we just read: we think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby even as we hear the famous "seven last words" from the cross.

In *Witness at the Cross*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. Each Evangelist presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. Each portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

Each Gospel has its own story to tell, all the witnesses have their own memories, and every reader comes away with a new insight. Join us for six 75-minute sessions to meet and learn from those who were witnesses at the cross.

Find information and register here: <https://form.jotform.com/230106407903244>

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>February 22</b>	Ash Wednesday Service 7pm
<b>Thursdays March 2-30</b>	Lent Soup Supper 6:00pm Lent Service 7:00pm
<b>March 9</b>	Worship at Strathcona Care Center 10:15am
<b>March 19</b>	Rental 1:30pm
<b>April 6</b>	Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm
<b>April 7</b>	Good Friday Service 10:30am
<b>April 9</b>	Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:30am
<b>February 26</b>	AGM 12:15pm
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm
<b>Thursdays</b>	Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm
<b>Sundays</b>	Worship 10:30 am (Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays)

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### FACILITY BOOKING

Our church is returning to our usual busy place with activities from within and without of our congregation. It is important to **book space and time** so there are no conflicts. Check the website ([glorylutheran.ca](http://glorylutheran.ca)) on the drop down menu under Contact Us. Click on Facility Booking Request Form and fill out the ONLINE APPLICATION to book your space and time. Or call the church office and speak with Heidi. If you want to confirm that a space is free, call the church office or check the *Calendar* on the website on the drop down menu.

**Committees:** Please ensure the office is aware of your meeting dates and times, however small your group may be. If you can, please also write them on the wall calendar in the office so it can easily be seen by others looking to use the space.



Contact: Lizzy DeCorby  
Glory & Mount Olivet Lutheran Churches Joint Youth Coordinator  
[youth.coordinator@glorylutheran.ca](mailto:youth.coordinator@glorylutheran.ca)

If you haven't received an email from our new Youth Coordinator, and are interested in receiving updates on Youth Events around Sherwood Park and Edmonton, please reach out to her at the above email address. If you are comfortable sharing your youth's phone number with her, she can add them to a WhatsApp text messaging group where she can chat directly with the youth.

Please throw any event ideas (rock climbing, concerts, skating, festivals, baking, art etc.) her way and she'll work to make them happen this year!

**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.



22577 Hwy 16,  
Sherwood Park, Alberta,  
T8A 4T7



Phone: 780.416.9594 E-mail: [glory.office@glorylutheran.ca](mailto:glory.office@glorylutheran.ca)  
Pastor Markus Wilhelm E-mail: [pastormarkus@glorylutheran.ca](mailto:pastormarkus@glorylutheran.ca)  
Check out our Website: [www.glorylutheran.ca](http://www.glorylutheran.ca)