

# CHURCH *Matters*

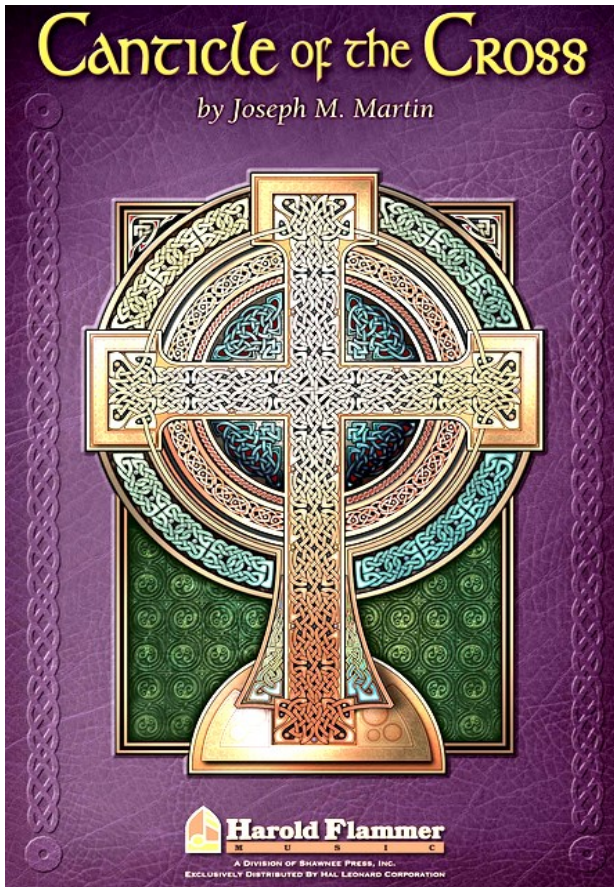
Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 02.24 Edition



## Canticle of the Cross

*Joseph M. Martin*

On Sunday, March 24, Glory's Worship Choir will present the Lenten cantata, **The Canticle of the Cross**, as part of our worship service.



### Canticle of the Cross

Inspired by Celtic music traditions, this work for Lent and Holy Week presents Christ's journey to the cross. Utilizing folk songs, hymns and newly composed sacred songs, the music adorns the heart felt message of God's love and grace displayed in Christ's redemptive work on Calvary. A thoughtful narration weaves the movements of the work together with Scripture, prayer and poetry, while delivering a reflective message of hope and assurance.





## A Message From Pastor Markus

Lent 2024

Right questions, right answers.

Did you know that the first thing Jesus says in the gospel according to John was a question? “What are you looking for?” he asked the two people who followed him. Did you also know that the last thing Jesus says in the gospel according to Mark is a question? “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

The right questions are needed in order to find the right answers. If you type a word into the search window on the computer, it will bring up interesting responses. Depending on the word or question you type, the responses and answers may be very different. God invites us to ask questions. Right question. Jesus taught us to “Ask and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Matt 7:7) During the forty days of Lent this year, we will practice asking right questions. We turn to Jesus for instructions on how to ask. Every Thursday for our Lenten Service we will use one of Jesus’ questions to focus our search for answers. On Ash Wednesday we thought about his first one: “What are you looking for?” It is open ended and directed at us. What are we looking for as we follow Jesus, as we come to church, as we do ‘religious things’ like praying, helping the poor, observing a fast for Lent or any behavioral restraints, supporting the church as an institution, keeping the commandments? What do we expect as we do these things?

The other questions we will be asked during our Lenten Journey are: Where is your faith?, Who do you say that I am?, What do you want me to do for you? Do you love me? How will you believe what I say?

On Good Friday we will think about Jesus’ last question: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” As Jesus darkness covered the land for three hours, Jesus hurled his WHY at God. Can this be also our question? Why did Jesus have to die? Why is there undeserved suffering? Why is there sin and evil? Why war, hatred, racism, homelessness, hunger, disease? Why are there powers and institutions that crucify, destroy, and silence God and the good in the world?

On Easter we get an answer in the form of another question from the resurrected Lord: “Whom are you looking for?” Notice that the “what?” of Jesus’ first question is turned into a “whom” and that the “why” of his last question receives a response not in words but in action. As we journey through the season of Lent, may we learn to ask the right questions, receive the right answers, and prepare ourselves for God’s miraculous response.

Pastor Markus

## **GLC Confirmands Spring into Lent and Easter**

The earth has shifted below our feet and is tilting towards the Sun. That means longer days, shorter nights, more light after school, and turning a new page in our confirmation program.

During the season of Lent we gather half an hour earlier on Thursdays (at 6 pm). We will enjoy a soup supper with the congregation and then participate in Holden Evening Prayer – a beautiful half hour worship service. Afterwards we will help clean up the dishes and/or gather for a half hour of discussion.

This means less actual “class time” but more community building and learning with those we talk with at our tables over supper. I invite all parents and siblings to come too, whenever able. The Holden Evening Prayer will be worshipful and educational as we think about the words we use and the question of Jesus that we focus on each week. I invite you as family members to use the Lenten Suppers and Services as spring-boards to launch into deeper discussion with each other about matters of faith.

Besides helping with the kitchen tasks, I will ask our confirmands to do certain tasks during the Holden Evening Prayer service such as ushering, lighting candles, and reading scripture. Soup is brought by those who sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Feel free to take a turn!

Lent comes to a climax on Maundy Thursday, March 28, when we worship with Holy Communion in commemoration of Jesus’ last supper with the disciples, the night of his betrayal. The following day is Good Friday, when we behold Jesus crucified in a dramatic reading of the Passion story. I will ask our confirmands to take on a role in each service, besides acolyting.

We will be back to regular class time on Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm starting April 4 as we enter the final stretch of this year’s program. The date for our second year confirmand Maria’s Affirmation of Faith (aka Confirmation) is May 19th, which is the Victoria Day Weekend. Maria’s extended family is excited to come and be part of the celebration, as I trust you are too.

We have recently welcomed a sixth participant to confirmation. Welcome Mila Wareham! It is so good to have you in our group! May you feel at home in the family of the church at Glory!

Pr. Markus



## Council Highlights

### Council Notes:

I'll start by saying thank you to my fellow council members for the reports and information that they shared with our congregation at the recent Annual General Meeting, and thank you to all of our members who attended. Thanks also to those responsible for providing coffee and snacks between service and the meeting – always a good incentive for people to stay! And a huge thank you to Mark Becker and Sebastian & Dani Montoya for handling technical aspects of the meeting and to our outgoing secretary, Rhonda Berg, for taking the minutes.

Next, I'd like to welcome our newly elected members of council – Ken Hankinson (Treasurer), Greg Jeffery (Human Resources), and Paula Mitchell (Secretary). The installation of council will take place during an upcoming service.

Our first meeting in March was taken up with a number of routine business items, such as the assignment of portfolios to various council members. Portfolio and contact information for each council member will shortly be made available to the rest of our congregation.

We also took time during our meeting to go through one of the discernment exercises provided by the Synod in preparation for the nomination and election of a bishop at the upcoming Synod convention. Congregation members are invited to participate in another exercise which will be held after service on Sunday, February 25, 2024. We will have a short break for coffee and snacks between the service and the discernment exercise, which will take place in the sanctuary. Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken will act as facilitator for that session.

And speaking of the upcoming convention, we are looking for one of our younger members (between the age of 16 and 30) to agree to act as Glory's youth delegate. The convention was scheduled to take place in Camrose in

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early June; however, it appears that there may be a conflict with construction taking place on the Augustana campus. We'll advise as to the new dates and location as soon as possible.

The first Lent Service and Soup Supper will take place on Thursday, February 22, 2024. Sign-up sheets will be available each week in the narthex and we encourage you to sign up to bring soup, dessert, or assist with set-up and clean-up. Buns, coffee, and tea will be provided. If you are not able to sign up in advance, but decide the day before or the day of service that you'll bring soup, please call Heidi so that she can add you to the list. See you there!

Rose Schlegl

[Council.chair@glorylutheran.ca](mailto:Council.chair@glorylutheran.ca)



**THURSDAYS**  
Thursdays During Lent  
February 22—March 21

*Lenten Soup Supper & Service*

6PM SUPPER  
7PM EVENING SERVICE

*Soup Supper sign up sheets are on the welcome table in the Narthex*



# Our *Spiritual* Journey

*A Message from Pastor Nickel*

**Our SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS** have frequent references to **LIGHT** or radiance, and **LIGHT** is a major part of our Church Year's Epiphany season, just ended. We all need light to live and grow, and God gives us "light" and reminds us to let our light from God shine within you -- and with those around you.

HOW? WHEN? WHERE? Well, in the early days of nuclear radiation and the birth of the atomic bomb after WW2 when I was growing up, there were lots of jokes about getting exposed to radiation and then we could glow in the dark -- wrong! Instead, think about when Jesus was on the mountaintop and received a bright radiance/light during His Transfiguration as God let people know that Jesus was God's Son who came in human form, as our savior. When Jesus' followers understood that, **they shared that "Gospel" message of God's love with those around them.** It was said to be like a **LIGHT** guiding their lives and they shared that light with others, and it was first called "*The Way*".

**YOU TOO can RECEIVE and then SHARE that love, that light and life,** so that others might see and also experience God's love.

1. God loves us and that should help "light up" our lives, and make us much more loving and caring.
2. That love in turn is a gift given to us and is meant to be shared with others. When we share God's love -- **THROUGH WHAT WE SAY AND DO,** then we are sharing/passing on/conveying God's love with others, a kind of light shared with others. We radiate His Love like a light, a warmth, for others to see and feel, and they then share it with others.

"Let your light shine!" And, "Pass it on!" -- a.k.a., share the light of God's love and His Message of the Gospel with others. Recognize God's gifts! Think: In-coming, and then out-going! "God, who created the first light, shine in our hearts to give us the vision of God's love through Jesus."

**Also, part of our Spiritual Journey of faith and life** is to become the person God has created us to be, a part of **OUR OWN TRANSFIGURATION.** And we do this **with the help of the Holy Spirit through prayer.**

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**HOW**, and **WHERE**, and **WHEN** can this happen for YOU? Well, sometimes God speaks to us or helps us in a whole variety of ways:

- + **Sometimes, through our** passions and interests, as God calls us through the things that fascinate and interest us. So pay attention to those; they may be God's call for you.
- + **Sometimes, through** the unexpected events in our lives.
- + **Sometimes within** the usual, **the normal**, that **becomes "more" than we realize**: I was interested in learning how to drive a semi at the end of high school. I got my chance to learn by riding with drivers I met at work in my grocery store before I went into the Air Force. I learned in a Peterbilt with a "5 speed Browning" transmission and a 3-speed rear end, the best at that time, and my focus was learning smooth gear-changing and double-clutching. --- **But then, surprise, more importantly**, I learned "patience" while driving – which has helped me greatly in parish ministry. Sometimes stuff happens and we don't know where it will take us into the future, or help us and change us...!

So take time to **LOOK AT WHAT'S AROUND US, AND SEE OUR OPPORTUNITIES**. In fact, I wonder, is there is any such thing as "coincidence?" Rather, when events and experiences converge, then we often encounter God helping us or using us to help others. What little seed has been planted in you that you might want to notice and be aware of? What little "spark" might light up your life? When a friend says, "Have you ever thought about..?" then, is God speaking to you in a new way?

Where IS the light and love of God in the midst of YOUR life RIGHT NOW?  
Or, tomorrow?

Let your light shine that others might see the light of Christ!  
Gary Nickel

PS -- By the way, Remember God does not force stuff on us. Rather, God **INVITES** us to go on a journey of self-discovery as we go on our Spiritual Journey of Life. You are invited to discover new interests, skills, and abilities given by God, and the gifts and passions God calls forth from us.



book of faith  
Lenten Journey  
Beyond Question  
Eric Burtness

Throughout Lent, Pastor Markus will be guiding us through a series of questions that Jesus asks throughout the Gospels.

The services each week will reflect portions from the resource, 'Faith Lenten Journey: Beyond Question.'

Jesus asks questions throughout the Gospels. These are not easy questions with easy answers. They are transformative questions that challenge us, reposition us, change us, and draw us into deeper faith and discipleship:

- What are you looking for?
- Where is your faith?
- Who do you say I am?
- What do you want me to do for you?
- Do you love me?
- How will you believe what I say?
- Whom are you looking for?

This 40-day journey will explore these and other questions from Jesus.

If you are interested, this eBook can be purchased through Augsburg Fortress.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781451469196/Book-of-Faith-Lenten-Journey-Beyond-Question-eBook>



# Thank You



We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone for their prayers, phone calls, cards and condolences upon the passing of our Mom, Laurene.

We would also like to thank all who contributed to her Memorial Service, including the Funeral Committee, Greeters, Ushers, Readers, Musicians, Choir Members and AV Technicians.

She truly loved her Glory Church family and felt so blessed by the support she received over the years.

Thank you,  
The Kiel family



## Bishop's Message - February 2024

Dear Beloved of God -

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

Ash Wednesday, we turn. We turn from the starlight of Epiphany. We turn from the very faint afterglow of Christmas. And we turn toward Holy Week. We turn toward Easter. We turn - and the first word we hear is from the prophet Joel: "Blow the trumpet in Zion...for the day of the

LORD is coming, it is near."

Ring the bell, Joel is saying. Send up the flares. Beat the drum. Send out the email. The day we have been praying for is near. The Lord is near. But be wary for this trumpet is not ringing out a joyful, "Come one, come all!" No, this trumpet blast sounds more like an alarm.

This is not what we had expected. Nor is it what the people to whom Joel was writing expected.

We gather from a world of endless bad news – of darkness and gloom. We come from trouble, from sorrow, from heartache, from loneliness and despair. We come grieving the death of loved ones. We come with the pain of illness – we're anxiously waiting for test results – or surgery is just around the corner. We come from our broken families – relationships between parent and child, and child and parent, fractured and torn. Our community knows violence and abuse of every kind. We see images of on-going tensions in many places – the struggle of many in conflicts all over the world – the fearful possibility of even more escalation. The very real potential for destruction of God's creation – of polluted waters, of creatures extinct.

We gather and we had imagined, like those to whom Joel wrote, that the Day of the LORD would set everything right, would make the pain go away, would resolve, and redeem and make new.

Joel sees that the trouble that is loose among us and our world cannot be easily caged or tamed, because we are ourselves mixed up in it – caught up in the trouble! We are not innocent. We have turned from God. We have turned away from neighbour. We have turned away from creation. We do not have an alibi. God knows that we are not merely victims. We have sinned!



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That is why the season of Lent, like Advent, begins with a turn. Preparing for the coming of the Lord inevitably begins with turning - literally repenting – turning our hearts and lives toward the One who comes. “Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart ... rend your hearts and not your clothing.” It is not too late, Joel is saying, it is not too late.

I suggest that the baptismal font be placed prominently at the entrance to the sanctuary for the season of Lent – for the font is the place of turning, the place of entry, of new beginnings – the place of dying to old ways and of rising in Christ. Here we were welcomed into the community of faith. Here we were first marked with the sign of the cross.

The ashes that mark our forehead in the sign of the cross on Ash Wednesday are an ancient symbol of baptismal turning. Take on this ashen cross as a sign of a desire for right relationship with God and neighbour and all creation – as a sign of entrusting yourself to God – as a sign of your mortality.

And then, wade from the waters of the font to the communion table, where you will be met by God – in bread and wine – God, who “is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” God who has come to us with forgiveness, new life, strength, nourishment so that we might walk into the heart of the season of Lent – our daily lives – with courage and faithfulness.

The prophet proclaims that such a turning is not giving something up for Lent but discovering anew the source of life in the gracious, merciful, slow to anger, steadfast love of a blessing God.

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

In Christ Jesus –  
Shalom,  
+ Larry

*Be, Lord, within me to strengthen me,  
without me to preserve me, over me to shelter me,  
beneath me to support me, before me to divert me,  
behind me to bring me back, 'round about me to fortify me.  
Amen.*

Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>March 13 &amp; 27</b>	Women's Group Bagged Lunch 12:00pm
<b>February 22-March 21</b>	Lenten Soup Suppers—Thursdays 6:00pm
<b>February 22-March 21</b>	Lenten Services—Thursdays 7:00pm
<b>March 24</b>	Choir Presents: Lenten Cantata "Canticle of the Cross"
<b>March 28</b>	Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm
<b>March 29</b>	Good Friday Service 10:30am
<b>March 31</b>	Easter Sunday Service 10:30am
<b>April 6</b>	Festival Singers Spring Workshop 12:00-4:00pm
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm
<b>Thursdays</b>	Confirmation 6:30pm (except during school breaks) Choir 7:30pm
<b>2nd Thursdays</b>	Worship at Strathcona Care - Monthly 10:15am
<b>Last Thursdays</b>	Worship at Hardisty Care Centre - Monthly 10:00am
<b>Sundays</b>	Worship 10:30 am (Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays)
<b><i>No Sunday School on long weekends.</i></b>	

### **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.

# OFFICE HOURS




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)