

# CHURCH *Matters*

Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 03-04.23 Edition



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

“WILLOW” SUNDAY - APRIL 2 @ 10:30AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 6 @ 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 7 @ 10:30AM

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 9 @ 10:30AM

## EASTER BREAKFAST

You are invited to gather for a light breakfast on Easter Sunday morning before the 10:30am worship service - anytime after 9:00am.

If you would like to contribute to this meal by providing a dozen Resurrection buns (recipe provided if you would like it) or your favourite muffins, please sign up on the list in the Narthex. *Thank you.*



**EASTER SUNDAY 9:00AM**

The background of the bottom section features a sunrise over a landscape with three crosses on a hill. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and pink, and the ground is dark and textured.

# Message from Pastor Markus

March/April 2023

Dear friends,

You have probably seen a grid globe, a model of the earth with horizontal and vertical, or latitudinal and longitudinal lines. At each intersection the lines form a cross. The lines are at right angles to each other (more or less, since there are no straight lines on a sphere).



The grid can be used to locate things on the earth's surface by Global Positioning Systems (GPS) which use the coordinates in conjunction with satellites to pinpoint a position on the earth in relation to everything else. I looked up my present location on the internet. It is 53.5449887 degrees Latitude, and -113.4731397 degrees Longitude. That's surprisingly exact.

What made me think about the grid globe at this time? The cross of Jesus. On a hill far away, a long time ago, at the intersection of the Roman imperial road and the path of God's chosen people, a cross was planted on the earth to pinpoint the location of God's love. Ever since the Day of Pentecost after that initial event, the church was tasked with plotting out the grid of God's love around the entire globe. No matter where we are in space and time, the cross of Jesus reminds us of our location relative to God and each other. We are located in God's love, and so is everyone else.

And yet, our beautiful planetary home, is fragmented. We are fragmented like the grid globe, into squares and triangles of various sizes. We are fragmented between the super wealthy and the rest. Between the relatively comfortably off and the abjectly poor. We are fragmented between north and south, east and west. We are fragmented along lines of religious affiliation and cultural heritage. We are fragmented along political and ideological lines. We are fragmented between those who control the means of communication and those who are dependent upon them. We are fragmented between human and non-human creatures, and between human and machine intelligence.

How does this fragmented world not blow into 8 billion pieces? How can it hold together? How do we even "keep it together" in our own private little lives?

Every intersection is a reminder of the symbol which stands for the death of Jesus, God in the flesh, the Messiah. In Jesus, the vertical and the horizontal lines, longitude and latitude, the divine and the human, meet. The cross

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reminds us that fragmentation is not final, is not the end, is not our fate. The cross represents the love of the creator of this earth, and this love is wherever we are. The coordinates of our location always form a cross, reminding us of the ever-present love of God in Jesus Christ. And together the lines form a grid or a net, a reminder that God's love encompasses the earth and everyone and everything in it.

Colossians 1 says that Christ is "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible... and in him all things hold together... God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross."

When we come to a four-way stop we are required to come to a full stop. Whoever stops first goes first. That's how we avoid a collision. That's how we show respect and concern for each other's safety and life. Think of the cross of Jesus when you pull up to an intersection. Jesus died for you on a cross road. He died for those going in the opposite direction to God, for you and for everyone else. We all have the same location, the same rights and obligations, with respect to God. The other is just as much part of God's plan as you. The other is just as much loved, forgiven, and called as you are. Whether that's a complete stranger stopped on the opposite side of the intersection, or your spouse, a neighbor, an acquaintance, a friend, or an enemy. They may be driving a brand new pick-up or pushing a stroller; they may be in a wheel chair or on a bicycle. The four-way stop is a reminder that the cross of Jesus reconciles us all to God and makes peace among us possible. Apply this principle to every situation where you encounter differences. Remind yourself that God's love is accessible everywhere to everyone equally. The cross brings us together, reconciles our differences, and holds the globe together in all its diversity. Thanks be to God!

I invite you to come together at the cross this Holy Week for our special services on Passion/Willow Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday in preparation for the great celebration of Life, the Resurrection of our Lord at Easter.

Pastor Markus

# Council Highlights

March/April 2023

## Council Notes:

The first task undertaken by Council after our Annual General Meeting was the constitution of Council. The responsibility for oversight of portfolios/committees will rest with the following individuals:

- Chair – Rose Schlegl
- Secretary – Rhonda Berg
- Communication Technology and Youth – Sebastian Montoya
- Community Outreach – Dave Hauf
- Congregational Life – Pat Becker
- Education – Susan Ronsko, Jenny Takenaka
- Facility Booking/Rental – Pat Becker
- Human Resources – Rose Schlegl
- Nominations – Rhonda Berg
- Property – Lynn Spain, Dave Hauf
- Stewardship – Kurtis Ashton
- Worship & Music – Lynnette Woodrow

We are still looking for someone to fill the position of Treasurer. Lynda Kiel has kindly agreed to continue to assist us in the interim. Chelsea Ashton continues in her role as Financial Secretary. Additionally, we have Lynnette Woodrow and Doug Sime heading up the Creation Care Support Team; Rita Spain leading the Memorial Garden Committee; Donna Dawson assisting with Nominations; and Faith Nostbakken, Marie Berg, and Lynn Spain forming the Mutual Ministry Committee.

We are also hoping to break down some of the larger portfolios and/or form sub-committees for particular tasks. Within the Property portfolio, for example, there are a number of people who assist with lawn mowing. Community Outreach requires people to assist with events like the Inner City Pastoral Ministry lunch, but also would like to put together a team of people to oversee our community garden. There are so many different ways in which you can become involved in the life of our Church. If you are interested in serving on any of the above-noted committees, or willing to simply help out from time to time as needed, I encourage you to please contact any of the individuals listed above. Whatever time or talents you may have, please know that your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

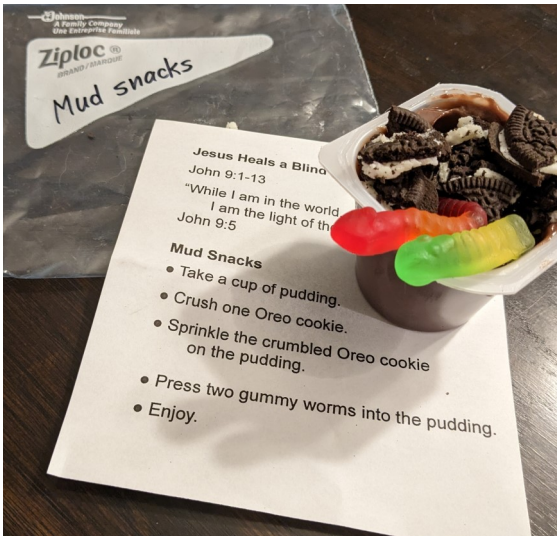
Rose Schlegl, [Council.chair@glorylutheran.ca](mailto:Council.chair@glorylutheran.ca)






## The Installation of Glory Lutheran Church's 2023 Council

March 19, 2023



On March 19, the 4th Sunday of Lent,  
the children made Mud Snacks representing the  
mud Jesus made to heal a blind man.  
John 9:1-13





## Glory Lutheran Church is hiring a part-time VBS Coordinator

The coordinator will work up to 100 hours at \$16.00 per hour. Responsibilities will include recruiting volunteers, planning, coordinating and preparing VBS activities while publicizing the program and registering participants under the supervision of the Education Committee.

VBS 2023 will run July 10-14.

**Please contact Susan Ronsko at**  
[sronsko@gmail.com](mailto:sronsko@gmail.com)

**if you are interested in this position.**

**Resumes should be submitted by April 30, 2023.**

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### **Palm Sunday - April 2**

We will once again be using pussy willow branches instead of palm branches this year for Palm Sunday.

If any of you have access to willows and are able to cut some branches to bring for our Palm Sunday service on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, it would be greatly appreciated.





youth.coordinator@glorylutheran.ca

More details to come

# APRIL YOUTH EVENTS

APRIL

8

EASTER VIGIL BONFIRE

6:30 - 8:30

APRIL

15

JAM SESSION

6:00 - 9:00

APRIL

22

WIDE GAMES

6:00 - 9:00

# Our *Spiritual* Journey

*A Message from Pastor Nickel*

How many times have you lost sight of something or a goal? Everyone does it sometime. For example, one problem in marriages that happens after 20 years of marriage is a major cause of divorces: the couple reach the point where they think they each know the other person so well that they quit communicating. ["I don't have to ask him/her what they want; we've been together so long that I know!"] Sure, they talk, but they don't really communicate what is going on in their lives.

Then when a problem comes along like finances [another major marriage conflict] and an argument happens, they aren't easily able to get together and really work through what's bothering them. They've lost sight of their ability to work "IT!" out together. [Sound familiar? Consider talking to a pastor or counselor.]

**Sight!** Talking with someone different often gives insight. Learning or growing in faith and understanding about God's world -- they also can give us sight. The Bible and other Christians are a good source of help. Are YOU willing and able to make good use of them when needed? What do you take time to learn?

A lot of people try to do things on their own. "Communications problem? OK, no sweat, I can handle it (myself)." Really? *Consider: most of the focus of life is on our relationship with one another, with God, and with ourselves.* If we try to do everything by ourselves, we limit God and we are also limiting ourselves -- into a kind of false security -- like that seaman in World War 1.

**The seaman was assigned a minesweeper for the war.** If the ship was sunk, he decided to depend for his safety on his cork life jacket. He ate, slept, and worked wearing the bulky uncomfortable, cork life jacket -- for 4 years. He even skipped the chance to learn how to swim -- after all he had his life jacket and *knew* he was safe. Suddenly one day, "ALL HANDS ON DECK!" Fear! But after triple rum rations along with the captain announcing the war was over, he took off his detested life jacket, his prison for 4 years, and threw it over the rail into the sea!

...Then he watched as the life jacket sank like a rock! He had depended on HIS OWN sense of a false security.

We probably know someone today who likes a certain tv network to tell them what's news. And this month we learned that the people at that tv network have admitted that they themselves didn't believe what they said. They had promoted and said things they weren't honest about -- in order to keep their viewers, their ratings, their profits.

When I learned to fly, we needed to carefully learn: don't fly into clouds and



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lose sight of the ground; and if you do, then turn around and fly back out to where you could see the ground. [Otherwise, disorientation! Lost!] Are we willing to **turn around** when you **lose sight of your goal or bearings**, or even back out of conflict?

Next, do you have a "compass" to guide you to help **keep sight** of where you are going? The airplane compass gives us a course, a direction to steer. God gives us a course, a direction to take -- sometimes even when we don't realize it!

That's one of those promises that the Bible has told us about.

**Sight!** If you are wrong, do you want to keep going, or are you comfortable admitting you are wrong -- even to others? ...To yourself? If not, why not?

Pencils have erasers. Christians have Confession, and forgiveness. We have the Bible to help guide us. We can talk through things with one another to help us NOT LOSE SIGHT of where we are going, and help us **keep sight** of what **best to do**. Plus we have the Holy Spirit who can help **give us sight on our Spiritual Journey**, AND our Holy Spirit is only a prayer away from helping us [and sometimes closer].

Here's a problem we all have: we by nature try to see things from OUR perspective; we want or hope for things to go as WE would like them to go. We sometimes become our own "life jacket", dependent upon OUR OWN perspective of things.

But, the real starting point for our vision in life, for our plans and purpose in life, that which can keep us going and give us sight during our Spiritual Journey of Life -- that comes through **FIRST RECOGNIZING THAT GOD LOVES US!** Then, learn that what all He has done **for us** is due to that love **for us**. [Even Jesus coming to earth is done in a caring way that the people could understand via their own history.] Then, respond to that LOVE.

LENT is a good time to realize that God points us to a new way, His way -- with it focused on God's love coming to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. LENT is a good time to remind us that **GOD LOVES AND GIVES MUCH TO US**. And **we respond!** ...**IS our response** to one another, "our way", or "God's way"? LENT, or anytime, is a good time to work on that...

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PS - As the virus wound down a bit, I was west of here for 9 months of Sundays, and then shortly after, began an Interim on Sundays at Trinity/Westlock late last summer. So I've missed seeing you all, and Ava has too, but we wish you -- Blessings of the Lenten Season and beyond,

Gary Nickel

# *The Weeping Tree*

*Outside the city wall stands the weeping tree. In silence she lifts her weary arms against the darkened sky.*

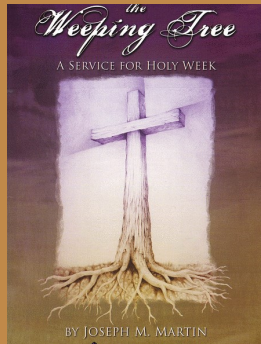
*She is a gathering place for the sorrowful and a sanctuary for the grieving. Her shadows are a hiding place for the oppressed and a refuge for the lost. Under her graceful canopy there is a comfort and beneath her towering presence there is shelter from the storm.*

*Long ago, she was planted on a windswept hill where all could see her solitary silhouette and, though fixed in barren soil, her roots grew deep into the hearts of all who drew near to her.*

*Watered by a thousand tears, her sylvan branches once held a perfect harvest, for heaven had chosen her rugged frame to be the bearer of grace. There in her crooked and twisted arms she cradled Jesus, the Hope of the world. She who was cut and fashioned by hatred and violence became a tree of life for the world.*

*Her arms are outstretched still.*

JOSEPH M. MARTIN



On Good Friday, April 7, Glory's Worship Choir, together with instrumentalists and narrators, will present this Lenten cantata as part of our worship service. *The Weeping Tree*, by Joseph M. Martin, is a poignant rendering of the cross that uses beloved hymns, newly composed music, thoughtful narration and simple sacred symbols to create a touching testament of grace.

Glory Lutheran Church Worship Choir

Piano: Lynnette Woodrow

Organ: Esther Madsen

Violin: David Mitchell, Callum Mitchell

Viola: Elizabeth DeCorby

French horn: Peter Clark

Narrators: Mike Lee, Rhonda Berg



*Spring Concert*  
May 6, 2023  
at Glory Lutheran Church

Look for details  
on our website or future  
weekly e-news.



## CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS

A new edition of the Glory Church Directory is being made. Jessica will continue to sporadically set up a photography station at church to take photos as time allows.

In addition to the above photo opportunity, you are encouraged to email photos of you and your family to our directory email address (below).

Please ensure your photo clearly shows your face(s) with some background space around the head(s) and shoulders to allow for size formatting.

When emailing it to the church please include the First and Last names of each individual, address, postal code, email address(es) and phone number(s).

The sooner we are able to get the photo part of this project done the sooner we will all be holding a directory in our hands. Your help in this matter is vital! Thank you so much!

Send photos and updates to [directory@glorylutheran.ca](mailto:directory@glorylutheran.ca)



## Bishop's Message - March 2023



Dear Beloved of God -

**Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.**

Death is a reminder of the brevity of life on earth and of the universal, inescapable nature of life's end. In the face of death, care for the dying and those who have died is a fundamental sign of humanness, giving expression to deeply held convictions about the meaning of life.



The church's most deeply held conviction is the paschal mystery: Christ's saving passage through death to resurrected life as the new creation – the same passage that Christ calls the baptized to follow. When the church gathers to mark the end of life, the paschal mystery in which the baptized live is our source of worship, the heartbeat of mutual consolation, the hope of healing, and increasingly, I am becoming convinced, the opportunity for practices that speak to the “dust” of our existence as part of care for the earth.

For some time now, I have been thinking about green (or “natural”) burials, which focus on reducing the environmental impacts on the earth by promoting simplicity and sustainability, seeking to reduce the carbon emissions, toxins released, and waste produced.

Broadly speaking, natural burial means caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact. Natural burials use no embalming chemicals, use a shroud or a biodegradable coffin, and avoid cement, steel, and non-biodegradable materials conventional burials put into the earth. A natural burial also lacks the carbon footprint of cremation, which has been calculated as the equivalent of a 500-mile car journey.

For some people natural burial also involves a more participatory burial process: washing and dressing your loved one's body at home, accompanying them to the grave site, physically laying them into the ground, and then fully covering their body with dirt.

This contemporary Western resurgence of green burials began in 1993 when Ken West, head of bereavement services for the city of Carlisle, England, opened up an area of grassland bordering the municipal cemetery for burials. His goal was to find a way to integrate wildlife with burial, so he also offered families the option of planting an oak tree at the grave site instead of erecting a gravestone.

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The idea took off. When three British researchers studied burial grounds in the United Kingdom in 2013, they found that 268 natural burial sites had been created in the two decades after West's initial project.

The Green Burial Society of Canada ([www.greenburialcanada.ca](http://www.greenburialcanada.ca)) defines green and natural burials by five simple principles:

**No Embalming** — In natural burials, embalming is not done as the chemical agents used in this process are harmful to the environment. With that in mind, bodies can still be prepared for burial and viewing made possible with refrigeration and the use of environmentally sensitive soaps, lotions, and disinfectants.

**Direct Earth Burial** — The body is wrapped in biodegradable material, often a shroud, and interred directly into the earth. Alternatively, the shrouded body can be placed into a casket or alternative container, where the casket or container is also made of sustainable and fully biodegradable materials. Ideally, the shroud or casket will be locally sourced, as close as possible to the deceased's place of death and burial.

**Ecological Restoration and Conservation** — Visitation to the green burial site is sensitively managed, such as staying on designated pathways, to ensure the peaceful cohabitation of wildlife and visitors wanting to commemorate loved ones. Preservation is a key component, as green burials aim to integrate gravesites into the natural ecosystem. Once a natural burial has been completed, the surface of every grave is planted with locally indigenous plant materials, using a combination of groundcover, shrubs, and trees.

**Communal Memorialization** — For green burials the use of individual memorials is discouraged. Instead, communal memorialization, again using naturally sourced materials, is placed in the natural burial cemetery. Ultimately it is the green burial site as whole that becomes a living memorial to the persons interred there.

**Optimized Land Use** — The site is designed to optimize land use to further promote natural sustainability and the environment it is located in.

This Lent I will be thinking more, and making decisions for my burial, mindful of the paschal mystery, including both my baptism into Christ and care for the earth.

In Christ Jesus –  
Shalom, +Larry

**RICHARD EATON SINGERS  
PRESENT**

**MENDELSSOHN'S**

**Elijah**

Don't miss **Richard Eaton Singers Present Mendelssohn's Elijah**, taking place at the Winspear Centre on **March 31**.

**"Elijah"**, a beloved choral work by composer Felix Mendelssohn, will be performed by the Richard Eaton Singers with the Edmonton Symphony on Friday March 31 at the Winspear Centre under the direction of Leonard Ratzlaff, conducted by Tim Shantz.

Come, hear the story of the great biblical prophet presented in beautiful and dramatic music by a 120 person choir and a great orchestra!

Visit the Winspear website for more information.

**Tickets are available on the Winspear website or  
by calling the box-office at 780.428.1414.**



### DATES TO REMEMBER


<b>March 30</b>	Lent Soup Supper 6:00pm Lent Service 7:00pm
<b>April 2</b>	“Willow” (Palm) Sunday
<b>April 6</b>	Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm
<b>April 7</b>	Good Friday Service (w/ Lenten Cantata) 10:30am
<b>April 9</b>	Easter Breakfast 9am Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:30am
<b>April 11 &amp; 26</b>	Women’s Group Bagged Lunch 12:00pm
<b>April 13</b>	Worship at Strathcona Care Center 10:15am
<b>April 16</b>	Rental 1:30pm
<b>May 6</b>	Festival Singers Spring Concert
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm
<b>Thursdays</b>	Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
<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.



On February 24 2022 war besieged Ukraine.  
One man playing out his perverse end game.  
Young men dying on front lines.  
Headlines getting grimmer-with war bylines.  
One year has passed since the start of this madness,  
death toll too high-and too much sadness.  
Broken cities, broken homes broken dreams.  
Death whistling overhead, soldiers screams.  
I pray for healing and lasting peace.  
I pray all hatred and violence cease.  
I pray for an end to this unjust war.  
I pray Nations continue uniting to support and to restore

Slava Ukraine

~Poem by David Hauf

**LIFE! -- TAKE A MOMENT** to consider:

LIFE is a journey; I will live it trustingly:

*"though I walk through the valley of the shadow...I will fear no evil for  
You are with me"* [Psalm 23:4]

LIFE is a mission; I will live it helpfully:

*"Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another"* [Eph.4:32]

LIFE is a battle; I will live it courageously:

*"Be strong and of good courage; don't be afraid; for the Lord your God is with  
you."* [Joshua 1:9]

LIFE involves faithfulness, I will take time to worship my God:

*"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life."* [Jesus in Rev.2:10b]

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