

CHURCH *Matters*



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 04.22 Edition

Message from Pastor Markus - April 2022

Dear friends,

Willow Sunday

When we were planning the Palm Sunday service this year, a question arose: Should we order palm branches? According to one of the four gospels (John 12), people used palm fronds to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. Two of the gospels do not specify the branches used. Matthew says people cut "branches"; Mark says "leafy branches". Luke's version of the events has no branches at all; only cloaks that people put on the donkey and spread on the road. Since it is too cold to take off our jackets and throw them on the parking lot, we opted to wave branches. But what kind of branches? What is an authentic equivalent of the biblical leafy branches or palm fronds here in Alberta? How do we welcome the new life Jesus brings through his suffering, death and resurrection?

Our worship planning group came up with an answer: willows. The first flowers of spring are often found on the willow in my yard. "Pussy willows" signal the arrival of new life after a long winter of death. Why not use them to signal the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem, and in our midst. As it happens, this is also the tradition in Ukraine among the Orthodox and Catholic Christians. Orthodox Christians carry willows in a procession around the outside of the church before they enter. After the service, as they leave, worshipers will tap each other lightly with the willow branches to signify the scourging and wounds of Christ, but also to wish a life giving blessing on the other.

So this year, we will receive a willow wand as we enter the church for "Willow/Palm Sunday". We will show our solidarity with Jesus, our Savior who suffered and died on a tree and brought life from death. We will express solidarity with the people of Ukraine who are experiencing great suffering. We will think of them as we think of Jesus, we will pray for them and wish life giving blessing on them. We will pray for the peace that is Jesus Christ, to enter into the cities that lie in ruins and into the bodies and hearts that are injured and torn. And we will say: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Pastor Markus

Council Highlights

As we start to pull out of the pandemic and what seems like a long winter, we've been discussing some exciting initiatives for the year ahead, as well as revisiting some matters postponed from pre-pandemic days.

Youth Worker – We are currently in discussions with the Pastor and Council at Mt. Olivet to explore the possibility of hiring someone to coordinate activities for the youth of both of our churches.

Refugee Sponsorship – Council has approved Glory's sponsorship of a Syrian family through the CLWR Refugee Program. Glory will complete the paperwork, while funding will come from members of the extended family already in Canada and will be paid through CLWR. Thanks go out to Neil & Eunice Querengesser for their work on this initiative. They will be establishing a committee of volunteers to help the family get settled when they arrive in Canada.

Sabbatical – As you may recall, Council had approved a 3-month sabbatical to be taken by Pastor Markus in 2020. That was put on hold as a result of the pandemic, but will now go forward this year. Council has approved the sabbatical dates for the period from September 1 to November 30, 2022.

Covid Update – Recent news reports suggest that covid case numbers are rising and that we may be heading into a sixth wave. We ask that people continue to follow protocols such as social distancing, hand sanitizing, and masking in order to keep themselves and other members of our congregation safe.

Committee Descriptions and Recruitment – Council is looking at revising and updating some of the committee descriptions on our website and, of course, we are always looking for volunteers! In particular, at the moment we are looking for help with our **Education** initiatives and with **Congregational Life**. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the life of our church by serving on any committee or sub-committee, any Council member would be happy to hear from you and provide more information!

Peace to you all,

Rose Schlegl
Council Chair



ALTAR GUILD

Spring is here and soon we will have Easter. The Altar Guild/Visual Arts committee requests that anyone who would like to purchase and **donate a** hydrangea for Easter Sunday to please contact Elizabeth Wood. We ask that the plants be brought to the church on Good Friday and left in the kitchen. The plants may be taken home after the Easter Sunday service or left at the church for the subsequent services.

We thank you in advance for your participation.

On another note, help is also required with **communion hosting**. This would include set-up and clean up, as well as supervising the communion stations on communion Sundays. If anyone feels called to this meaningful ministry, please contact Elizabeth Wood for further information.

Elizabeth Wood (780-464-0640)

IMPORTANT – PLEASE CHECK ALL MAILED CHEQUES

As most of you know, Glory's mail is delivered to a Canada Post community mailbox. This mailbox was broken into at least three different times during November and December necessitating three lock changes. The RCMP are currently investigating for theft and cheque fraud. **If you sent ANY CHEQUES BY MAIL to Glory during this time, please look at the photo of the deposited cheques to see if they have been altered in any way.** Two more cheques written to Glory have recently been found to be altered and deposited elsewhere. Your usual bank statement likely will look normal, unless the amount was altered; therefore, you will need to look at the actual photo of the deposited cheque.

If you wrote any cheques and mailed them to Glory during the applicable time frame, please check to see if any are still outstanding. If so, please put a stop payment on the cheque.

Thank you.

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thank you,

To our Glory family,

Our sincerest thanks for your prayers, your love, and support both before and after Mum passed away at the end of January. We appreciated the beautiful cards with treasured messages, phone calls, emails, gifts of food, gifts of time, and hugs and prayers so very much! **Pat and Mark, Dani and Sebastian, Tegan and Aaron and family**

Thank you to **Edith Sitler** for the donation of her piano to Glory! It is looking quite at home in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity, Edith!!

We now have a much-loved family piano in both the Narthex and in the Sunday School gathering space and we are thankful for this. We know they will be used for the Glory of God!



PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know we have a Prayer Chain at Glory?

The Prayer Chain at Glory is available to anyone wishing to send or receive prayer requests. It is private and confidential. Members with or without e mail are welcome.

Please contact Donna Dawson at dawsondl@shaw.ca for details.



SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**GREETERS, USHERS, READERS,
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Please sign up on the calendar on the easel stand in the Narthex at church or contact the office.

CHILDREN'S TIME STORY TELLERS

*To volunteer, please contact
Rhonda Berg. 780-440-6682 bergsdownunder@gmail.com*

COUNTERS

*To volunteer to help count the offering after service on Sundays
(in rotation, usually one Sunday per month),
please contact Chelsea Ashton. 780-435-5998
kurtisandchelsea@gmail.com*

Our New Community Garden



A PRAYER: O God, help us to follow the message of your gospel. Strengthen us to resist getting into comfortable patterns of living; rather encourage us to reach out to the world in ministries of healing, teaching, serving, and peace...

Growing our Community Garden!

The time is approaching for gardening, and we are blessed with our abundant land at Glory that supports our need to plant, till, weed and harvest beautiful vegetables. And to discuss the intricacies of this gentle pastime with fellow gardeners!

In preparation for the start of the new gardening season in May, following are some points to keep in mind:

- 2022 marks the move to the new Glory Community Garden location to the southeast of the church
- the garden space will be accessed by car from the front west (right) side of the parking lot, signs will direct gardeners on their route.
- garden spaces will be assigned as close as possible to the configuration in 2021 and prior year. We will go on the basis of last year's assignments as a starting point. If you don't wish to garden this year send a note to tjkihn@telus.net.
- a contribution of \$20 per assigned space is requested to cover ongoing costs and continue to build a fund for a future project. Please make payment to Glory LC and drop off at office. Note "garden" on comment line.



There will be a work bee on Saturday, May 7, beginning at 1:30 to prepare the new garden spaces set up the composting and water station and other tasks.

We are looking forward to another wonderful year of growing, meeting new and old friends and of course enjoying the fruits of labour again!

For more information, call Tim at 587-341-8216 or Marjorie 780-467-5363.

Submitted by Tim Kihn, garden coordinator



Our *Spiritual* Journey

A Message from Pastor Nickel

Continuing, Our Spiritual Journey, the April calendar reminds us, IT'S TIME for **A LITTLE MORE "LENT"**. But first, STOP! -- and remember that Lent and Jesus dying on the Cross is NOT a negative, not a "downer". Yes, he died BUT THERE'S MUCH MORE. Don't stop at the Cross -- Jesus and God the Father didn't stop there. There's much more that is **"POSITIVE"**, **"Good News"**.

LENT ends soon with: **HOLY WEEK**, and more.

HOLY WEEK focuses on Jesus' last few days, starting with Palm Sunday and his entry into Jerusalem. Then later, he kicks money-changers out of the temple, does a lot of teaching, is anointed, and more. [Follow these events in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.]

Then, "Maundy" or **"Holy Thursday"**, the "Last Supper" -- what will become our celebration of Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Altar.

Next, **Good Friday**. Jesus dies on the Cross for us, a substitute for our sins from out of the Old Testament traditions that were so familiar to everyone back in those days. WHY DO IT? -- BECAUSE HE LOVES US.

Not "loved" but "loves" us! A prayer says: "O God, we are thankful for Jesus' suffering and death on the cross for our sins. He died for his message of love and peace. Thank you for transforming all that into the beauty of eternal life."

Yes, beyond Good Friday is **Easter**, the **Resurrection!** Jesus died but rose and overcame death once and for all times -- including for you and me. [The "Promise of Eternal Life".] Good Friday + Easter = God's Love for you and me!

**YOU CAN'T HAVE GOOD FRIDAY WITHOUT EASTER!
YOU CAN'T HAVE EASTER WITHOUT GOOD FRIDAY!**

If you don't "get it" or understand it, **COME CLOSER TO THE FOOT OF THE CROSS AND DISCOVER GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU...**

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO JESUS CHRIST on the Cross and Risen?
Think positive! -- see all these gifts from God for us because he really does LOVE US! ...and the greatest of God's gifts is His love for us... [John 3:16.]

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Many things can be seen as POSITIVEs instead of as negatives. For example, times of stress are often a good opportunity to use POSITIVE ways to go beyond stress: exercise, positive thinking, seeking & feeling God's love, etc. Try: "Drop words of "I can't" or "I hate", and replace them" with positive words of what you can do" -- and then go, live positively. Make mistakes? Let mistakes go. We have "Confession" which is followed by "Forgiveness", and sometimes "Restitution". POSITIVE stuff!

In this world we live in, the positives are often outnumbered by negatives. The Russian army uses shelling and bombs to create more fear. Glassner, [author, *The Culture of Fear*] says that "**we are living in the most fear-mongering time in human history**", and fear is negative. There's a lot of power and money available to individuals and organizations who can perpetuate these fears."

So avoid fear, and avoid those who sell fear. Look instead to God's love for us through Jesus Christ -- with the help of the Holy Spirit. That's a message that was, and is, always Positive for us. [Want help? just ask...]

ALSO, DO YOU LOOK FOR the POSITIVES -- or the NEGATIVES in life?
OK - How about the 10 Commandments? How many do you remember? Yes, the first 3 commandments are about our relationship with God, while the others are about our relationship with one another.
"You shall not..." Don't do...

BUT, how about the POSITIVE SIDE of the 10 Commandments?

How many of *those* do you know, from the Catechism? ! ?
OK - the first 3 Commandments: "We are to fear and love God...."
+ and trust God above all things;
+ and call on Him in every time of need;
+ and worship Him with prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Positives!
+ Also, we should look on Sunday as holy by resting from our usual work, and gladly hear and learn the Word of God at home and in church.

How about the "fear" for God? The positive side is not being scared of, nor seeing God as terrible or scare-ey, like "fright night" at the movies. The positive side is -- having a healthy respect for God.

"And to those who keep His Commandments, he promises": "grace and every blessing to all who keep them. We should therefore, love Him, trust Him, and gladly keep His Commandments." Positives! Yes, think positive! Live the Good News this Lent and Easter!

Yours, Together in Christ, Gary Nickel

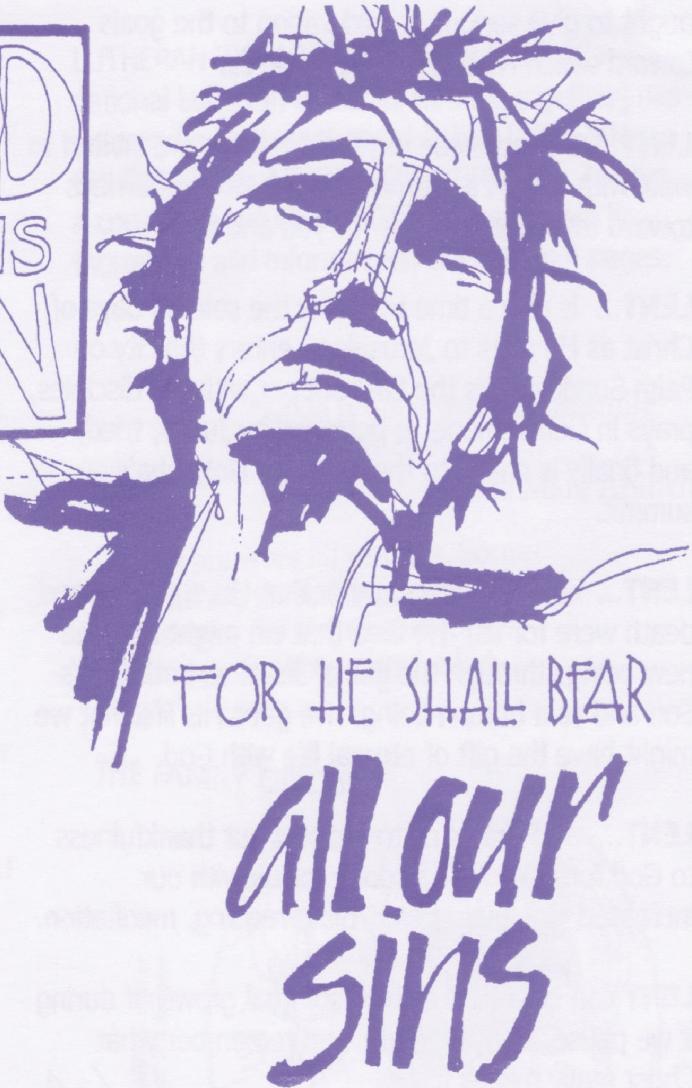


Consider,
IF YOU HAVEN'T,
MAYBE IT IS
TIME FOR YOU TO
EXPERIENCE GOD!
and His Love for You.

GOD DID NOT CALL YOU
TO SIT AT HOME,
or TO SIT IN A PEW.
GOD DID CALL YOU
TO HIM, TO SERVE HIM
and to HELP OTHERS.

Christ from his throne uses
us as his hands, feet, and
mouth, even his smile, and
speaks, meets, loves, saves,
and sustains."

—J.I. Packer



Lent



Spring Sing



SATURDAY: Glory Lutheran Church
MAY 2022: 22577 Hwy-16, Sherwood Park
14 Doors: 6:00 P.M.
Seating: 6:30 P.M.
Concert: 7:00 P.M.

50/50 & Silent Auction • Cash or Cheque Only

Adults \$20 • Children 2-12 \$10

Available from Choir Members and (780) 915 9351

Esther Madsen, Conductor • Linda Steinbring, Accompanist • Wild Rose Old Tyme Fiddlers, Guests



Canadian Lutheran World Relief

GIVING TO A DISASTER OR WORLD RELIEF?

YOU DO WANT the MOST \$\$ YOU GIVE to GO TO THOSE IN NEED, right?

Consider --- OUR CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF [CLWR] IS, year-after-year, one of the top 3 to get MORE of your giving \$ to those in need.

MORE? HOW:

- + no advertising costs -- compared with [c/w] those who need 10+% of \$ for ads.
- + less than 10% admin costs -- c/w government's 50-60% taken for admin costs.
- + CLWR: more volunteers along the way to cut costs.
- + CLWR does work with other recognized aid groups where appropriate to help those in need, rather than have to create more levels of help.

TOGETHER, Overseas, with major disasters we often work with the international church-related agency "ACTS" to coordinate efforts and draw from the best sources to get the help faster to where it is needed.

Over 90% of your dollar reaches those in need -- among the top three!

CONVENIENCE: you can give through your offering envelope -- for both Overseas and Canadian disasters. Just mark what/who it is for.

For example, I visited a new fresh water project for villages project in Sumatra a few years ago. Canadian Lutherans [CLWR] provided the donations, Norwegian Lutherans provided transportation, German Lutherans provided pump expertise, we hired a Dutch Catholic Brother with engineering skills who knew the local language to oversee the project, and local people provided the labour needed.

Fresh water was flowing to the village in a little over a year. --Gary Nickel

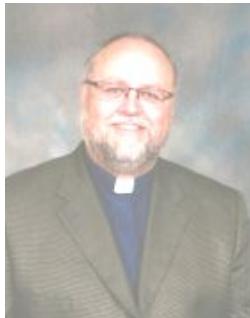
A CLWR STORY BEHIND A STORY: MAKING A REALLY BIG DIFFERENCE.

In India, an illiterate shepherd was disabled at work, then was employed by a CLWR-funded project to be her settlement's health worker, with duties from simple medical treatments to ensuring safe drinking water.

- + After a death at the well, she organized a new well and pipeline project.
- + Men, women, and children all worked to dig the new well and pipeline.
- + The project was so well-done that it came to the attention of an official.
- + The official declared the settlement a "village" and gave grants to build a
- + community hall. He also related his experiences there to the Prime Minister.
- + The shepherd was invited to have breakfast with the PM to share her ideas about village health and development.
- + The shepherd, Parubai, and the PM were joined by some of the government's chief officials, and they discussed Parabai's opinions and suggestions. She included the request that more women be included in decision-making and be represented more at all levels of government -- and some progress has been made from her suggestions.

CLWR continues to give opportunities for women and men to better themselves.

A PRAYER: O God, help us to follow the message of your gospel. Strengthen us to resist getting into comfortable patterns of living; rather encourage us to reach out to the world in ministries of healing, teaching, serving, and peace...



Bishop's Message - April 2022

Dear Beloved of God -

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Two years ago, almost to the day, I was preparing an article for the Canada Lutheran to be released in June of 2020.



So much was uncertain. The future was unknown. A future that was changing not month by month, nor week by week, but minute by minute, with the certainty that nothing would be the same again. "The church and world," I wrote, "would be very different for all on the other side of this wilderness."

During the ancient wilderness wanderings of our Hebrew forebears in faith, God did extraordinary things to lead and feed God's people. Water from a rock. Pillars of cloud and fire. Manna rising from the ground. Quail falling from the sky. In the wilderness, severed from the moorings that had held their lives, the people of God received extraordinary, unexpected, unanticipated, previously unimaginined grace to keep them focused on God, God's presence, God's provision, God's promise, even though they, like us, often turned their attention elsewhere in their anxiety or fear.

God is present as God has promised. Of this I am assured, dear Church.

God's presence, God's provision, and God's promise have been demonstrated in countless ways over these past two years. Imaginative creativity, thoughtful ingenuity, collaboration, reconnection, care for neighbor, and through simple, and yet radical...love – love, as Jesus taught and embodied it.

The New Testament makes it abundantly clear that Jesus was about love first and foremost, in word and in deed. Jesus begins with love for God, but inseparably linked that love with love for neighbor, which includes the other – the outsider, the outcast, the last, the least, the lost, the disgraced, the enemy.

Dear Church, who are we becoming? We journey knowing God's presence, God's provision, God's promise. And our journey will deepen through love, in word and in deed, taught and embodied by Jesus.

Dear Church, we have learned a lot about what it means to be the Church these past two years. Learning, as we have journeyed, about the essential value of community, of how we need one another, and how we thrive when we feel we are connected.

Dear Church, I am continuing to wonder, reflect, pray.

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Dear Church, I wonder, reflect, pray: rooted in God's mission, are we being called, driven to be a church, identified more as a movement than an institution? Drawn together not only by doctrine or liturgy, but by unity of way of life, mission, practices, and vision for the common good? A reformation?

Dear Church, I wonder, reflect, pray: rooted in God's mission, are we being called into a more significant radical collaboration with others, working across and outside of denominational and inter-faith lines, to seek the common good? Trans-institutional?

Dear Church, I wonder, reflect, pray: rooted in God's mission, are we being called into deeper, and fuller love for the sake of the world? Love, in word and in deed of the neighbor that includes the other in ways never before fully lived out by us, by me?

Dear Church, I pray that we will be given eyes to see and ears to hear the Spirit of God at work. Guiding, encouraging, pushing, inviting into a future yet to be realized, all-the-while knowing that, "the Lord of hosts is with us" (Psalm 46).

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." Romans 15:13

LENT 2022

WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

Worship @ 7pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 14 @ 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY

April 15 @ 10:30am

EASTER SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:30am

Finance Corner



**Update for
January 1 to
March 31, 2022:**

Totals will be reported next month.

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 PEAS:

1-Peace of mind

2-Peace of heart

3-Peace of soul.



...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.

**OFFICE
HOURS**



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