

# CHURCH Matters

Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 04.24 Edition



**HAPPY  
EASTER  
@ GLORY  
2024**



Photos by Rita Spain (more on page 7)



## A Message From Pastor Markus

### What is "Church Membership"

Dear members and friends of Glory Lutheran Church,

What is "church membership"?

Some of you have asked me about becoming members of Glory Lutheran Congregation. Some of you have been attending for a while and may have thought about it but not said anything to anyone. Others may have been attending and wondering what it means to be "a member". First of all, we need to understand that we don't "join" the church like we join a business association, a student union, or a soccer club. We don't join the church. We get joined. We get incorporated. The Church is God's work, God's creation. It is the body of Christ. Membership in a body means a relationship initiated by the Holy Spirit. This relationship is alive and organic. In this body we may be a toe or a tooth, but we are all part of the one body. We don't make ourselves to be that part, but we are incorporated, joined together.

How do we become part of the body of Christ? The simple answer is: Baptism. Water is poured over us in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as Jesus commanded. We are baptized into His body. Historically the process for baptism took various forms. Adult converts often took months, even years, to prepare for baptism in a process called catechesis. Catechism is the word we still use for teaching the basics of the Christian faith, which include the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion. Martin Luther famously wrote short explanations to each of the five parts of the catechism summed up in Luther's "Small Catechism".

If you are new to the faith and/or have never been baptized, you can request to be baptized. I will give you time and material to reflect on what this means, and the opportunity for conversations with me and others. We pray for you as a congregation. We will set a date for your baptism according to where you are at. For adults, the time for baptism is traditionally Easter or Advent.

Those who were baptized as infants attend catechism class (confirmation) starting at age 12 for up to two years to learn about the basics of the faith. We currently have 6 young people in grades 7 and 8 enrolled, one of whom will affirm her baptism on May 19. Adults may be "catechized" more quickly, if

they come with prior knowledge. They may however want to "brush up" their understanding of what Christian faith means. I usually hand them a booklet such as "Baptized We Live" by Daniel Erlander and ask them to read it and I then discuss its content with them. I also give them "Praying the Catechism", a book by Donald Johnson, re-issued and updated by our national bishop, Susan Johnson.

We think it is important for every member to understand what it means to belong to this particular branch of the body of Christ. If you have been baptized and catechized in another Christian denomination, you will benefit from learning about the Lutheran branch of Christianity by also using the material mentioned above. You may already know that Lutherans see themselves as a reform movement within the One body of Christ, the whole universal (catholic) church. I would invite you to have further conversation with me and make use of the educational opportunities that exist. When you are ready to affirm your baptism, we invite you to participate also in the Affirmation of Baptism.

If you were baptized and confirmed in another ELCIC congregation, or in a partner church such as the Anglican Church or the Moravian Church, we receive you by a transfer of membership. A transfer of membership is usually initiated by asking your former congregation to send us a certificate of transfer. We also invite you to participate in the Affirmation of Baptism. In fact everyone, even long time members of this congregation, benefit from affirming their baptism, which is a celebration of our birthright as members of Christ's body.

Of course, whether you are baptized or not, or baptized in another church, catechized or not, you are free to attend and participate in worship and most activities of the congregation. If you decide to keep it that way, no problem! You are on a journey at the pace the Holy Spirit sets for you. However, if you are ready to deepen your relationship, learn more, affirm and celebrate your baptism, and become more committed to this congregation, and the body of Christ as a whole, by getting involved on council or on a committee, or by becoming a delegate to church conventions, you can ask to be received as a member of the congregation.

We will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism with this year's confirmand Maria on May 19th. We are also planning a membership Sunday for June 9th for those individuals and families joining us from other churches and denominations. Those of you from other faiths, or those who simply want to know more about the Church: you are always welcome. Learn with us, ask questions with us, celebrate with us!

Please see this as an invitation. If you are wondering about membership in the body of Christ, let me know where you are in the process and we'll go from there, together.

Peace and joy in this Easter Season! ~Pastor Markus

April 2024

GLORY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Council Highlights



A short report this month as things have been pretty hectic lately.

I'm pleased to advise that Grayson Wagner has agreed to be our youth delegate for the upcoming Synod Convention. The Convention will be held at King's University in Edmonton from June 22 to 24, 2024. We have completed our delegate registrations; however, registration is open for "visitors" until May 1, 2024. If anyone is interested in attending as a visitor, please see the Alberta Synod website for registration details. The convention committee is still finalizing details for the banquet honouring Bishop Larry & Cathy Kochendorfer, to be held on Sunday, June 23, 2024. The Synod Office is looking for volunteers to assist with a variety of convention duties. They are also looking for billets for delegates attending from out of town as King's University has limited availability in their dorms. If you can assist in any way, please let me know or contact the Synod Office directly.

Council is still reviewing quotes for the garage construction and we expect to make a decision and enter into a contract fairly soon. More details will be shared once matters have been finalized.

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



### YOUNG ADULT GROUP

25-50<sup>ISH</sup> YEAR OLDS

OUT OF SCHOOL, WORKING, SINGLE <sup>OR</sup> MARRIED, KIDS <sup>OR</sup> NO KIDS  
INTERESTED? CONTACT GRAYSON @ (780) 721-7104

NEW!

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

## Take action now, Anglican, Lutheran leaders call ahead of Earth Day 2024

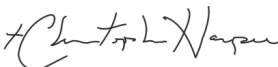
Every April, the global community recognizes Earth Day as an occasion to call ourselves back to our relationships and responsibilities to this world that we are blessed to live on, and our responsibilities to one another to work toward an equitable sharing of the fruit and resources of God's creation. A recentering of these relationships is increasingly important as we continue to experience the effects of a worsening climate emergency around the world, and so we join with faith communities, civil society organizations, community leaders and concerned individuals in lifting up our commitment to work for a truly sustainable world for all.

Our scriptures remind us, from their very first pages, that God looks upon creation and sees that it is very good (Genesis 1: 31), and throughout the history of our Christian faith we are called again and again to care for God's gift and to remember that we are, in fact, part of this creation. In recent years these calls have increased from communities most impacted by the realities of human-caused climate change, including Indigenous communities around the world, global church partners experiencing unprecedented ecological changes, and from young people concerned for the future that awaits them and those who will come after them. We must take decisive action now in order to answer these calls in a just way.

In 2023, both of our churches passed resolutions calling on members to continue to take action on the climate crisis, at all levels of our denominations and with ecumenical, interfaith and secular partners. This year for Earth Day, and throughout the rest of the year, we invite you to consider how you, your congregation, your synod or diocese, and your national church structures can take concrete steps to live into these commitments made last year. If you are looking for a starting point, you might consider:

- Planning or joining a community event for Earth Week. For the Love of Creation (which includes both of our churches) provides a growing [list of events](#) taking place in communities across the country – add yours, or find out what is already planned for your area.
- Advocating for effective climate policy at all levels of government. For the Love of Creation has some [advocacy resources](#) available.
- Discerning how your congregation can continue to respond by engaging with our [Parish Engagement Resource for Social and Ecological Justice](#). Learn more about the resource in our [webinar on May 7](#).
- Learning about the carbon impact of your church building and how you can make changes to reduce this. The ELCIC has developed a [Green House Gas \(GHG\) Inventory Calculator for Congregations](#), and [Faith and the Common Good](#) has excellent tools and resources to help get you started.
- Praying for healing, solidarity and action for the sake of the earth and for all who live upon it.

We firmly believe that it is not too late for us to halt the most destructive impacts of climate change, but it requires commitment and determination from us now. We cannot afford to wait any longer. This Earth Day, may our faith in the promise of the resurrection move us forward in hope to take action together.



The Most Rev. Chris Harper  
National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop,  
Anglican Church of Canada



The Rev. Susan Johnson  
National Bishop,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls  
Archbishop and Primate,  
Anglican Church of Canada



JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATORY SERVICE OF

# *Shared Mission With Colombia*

SUNDAY  
APRIL

**21**

*Hosanna Lutheran Church*

9009 163 St NW Edmonton, AB

2:00 pm Mountain

3:00 pm Central

4:00 pm Eastern

In Person and  
Online: [bit.ly/HosannaEdmonton](https://bit.ly/HosannaEdmonton)

Participants from: IELCO - Colombia,  
SE Minnesota Synod, South Carolina Synod  
Synod of Alberta and the Territories

## **New Members Sunday - June 9, 2024**

We will welcome our new members on Sunday, June 9, during the worship service. If you are interested in becoming a member of Glory Lutheran Church, or have questions on what it means to be a member, please contact the church office or Pastor Markus.

# HAPPY EASTER @ GLORY

## 2024



Photos submitted by Rita Spain



# CANTICLE of the Cross



On Palm Sunday, March 24, Glory's Worship Choir, together with instrumentalists and narrators, presented this Lenten cantata as part of our worship service.

## Thank You

to all who contributed, including:

### Glory Worship Choir

Piano: Lynnette Woodrow  
Narrator: Noah McKinnon  
Placing of symbols: Amalia Kalerantes, Alianna Jones,  
Owen Jones, Maria Takenaka, Rita Spain  
Organ: Esther Madsen  
Percussion: Owen Mitchell  
Piccolo/Flute: Katharine Griffith  
Trumpet: Dave Hauf  
Violin: David Mitchell, Callum Mitchell  
AV Techs: Brett Woodrow, Grayson Wagner







# FESTIVAL SINGERS

# Spring Sing

With Silent Auction & 50/50  
\*cash/cheque only



**Glory Lutheran Church**

22577 Hwy-16, Sherwood Park



**Saturday, May 4, 2024**



**Doors 6:00 p.m - Concert 7:00 p.m.**

For tickets contact any choir member or call Mickie at  
780-915-9351

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**Conductor:** Esther Madsen **Accompanist:** Linda Steinbring



Festivalsingers.ca



Festival Singers



Festival.singers08@gmail.com

Children 2 & Under Free

Children (3-12) \$15

Adults \$25



**STRATHCONA  
COUNTY**





For the **Love**  
of **Creation**



Pour l'**amour**  
de la **création**

### **Make Earth Day Every Day**

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, when 20 million people in the United States rallied for a better future for our planet, Earth Day (April 22nd) has evolved into the planet's most significant annual civic engagement event. Expanding beyond a single day, Earth Day now encompasses the entire month of April globally.

**The theme for Earth Day 2024 is Planet vs Plastics**, highlighting the enormous negative impact discarded plastics have on our environment.

Enter the words Earth Day 2024 in your internet browser and prepare to be amazed and inspired by the scope of global initiatives. Join the people of 193 countries in raising awareness about looking after the environment.

Locally, the Synod of Alberta and the Territories invites all faith communities to be part of **EARTH WEEK – April 21 – 28, 2024** with the theme **Together for the Love of Creation**. Mark Earth Week by engaging in a climate justice activity of praying, learning and/or taking action. Synod link: <https://albertasynod.ca/our-ministries/fulfilling-our-mission/ministry-teams/care-of-creation>

*“The Lord God took humankind and put them in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (Genesis 2:15)*

On this Earth Day, our hope and prayer is that we will be more conscious than ever of **our first vocation as humankind to care for the Earth** with the utmost respect for the Creator and the utmost regard for the generations of all those who come after us.

Creation Care Support Team

### **EARTH DAY EVERY DAY – DID YOU KNOW**

Did you know that:

Glory Lutheran Church has been an ELCIC accredited **“Greening Faith Community”** since 2008.

**Recycling containers** are located throughout the church to collect a variety of discarded items including: beverage containers, metals/tin foil, glass, mixed paper (envelopes, magazines, bulletins, flyers etc.), cardboard, paper towels/tissues, printer cartridges, Tetra Pak containers, organics and large Styrofoam packaging.

**Volunteers** collect the recycled items, **ensure they are not contaminated** and take them to a Strathcona County collection station.

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Discarded items in our **waste bins** include: single use plastic communion cups, pens, markers, bubble wrap, disposable diapers & feminine products, small Styrofoam packaging, light bulbs and clam shell containers. **Some discarded items found in our waste bins** including used napkins, muffin/cupcake papers and all other food scraps should be placed in the organics bin.

Our **organics** are deposited at Strathcona County collection stations for transport to the Roseridge (Mornville) or the AltRoot (Westlock) regional compost processors.

Our **Blue Bag** items are deposited at Strathcona County collection stations for transport to the Green For Life (GFL) and the ECCO Recycling regional material recovery facilities (MRF) in Calgary.

Our **waste products** are transported to the Claystone Regional Landfill in Ryley.

**Re-useable items** (e.g. lost and found items) are taken to donation bins or the Strathcona County Hodge Podge Lodge while eye glasses are sent to the Bible Society.

**Hazardous materials** that are collected (e.g. oil, paint, cleaning products, batteries, electronics etc.) are taken to the **Broadview Enviroservice Station** for transport to Clean Harbors Environmental Services and/or an ARMA (Alberta Recycling Management Authority) approved processor.

**Construction materials** are taken to construction and demolition processors (e.g. Edmonton Waste Management Centre (EWMC) on Aurum Road).

The **Strathcona County Green Routine** waste management system diverted 59% of waste collected from 30,850 households in 2023.

It is our hope that the Alberta government **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** process introduced in 2022 will eliminate waste items like plastic food containers, plastic film and clam shell containers from being sent to the landfill by 2025.

Creation Care Support Team



Creation Care Support Team

# Our *Spiritual* Journey

*A Message from Pastor Nickel*

**OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY** includes PLANS WE MAKE for our life, right? **WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE?** [You're never too young or too old to start your planning.] **HOW MUCH** of YOUR PLANNING includes God? Prayer helps with that...

So, **HOW MUCH** of your planning for your life **INCLUDES PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE?** **HAVING** a **"WILL"** DEFINITELY HELPS!!

Ava is one of twelve in her family. One died without a Will in the States. Lawyers were then required and took a lot of what was left behind. The Court decided who got what and how. A Will would likely have resulted in less being taken for those required official responsibilities.

IF YOU don't now have a Will,  
Here's: **8 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE A WILL**  
[And now is not a good time to put it off until "later" -- because You never know when...] **AND DID YOU KNOW**, having a Will is also a part of the responsibility of being good Christian stewards of what we have.

- 1 –A WILL IS A LIFE STATEMENT about living and caring.  
It is a message for the living, to the living. You can change a Will any time.
- 2 –A WILL BRINGS ORDER AND DIRECTION.  
Making a Will takes thought and evaluation of your possessions. Do you want certain things to go to certain people? Planning a will gets you thinking about those you want to receive your estate.
- 3 –A WILL MAY PRESERVE THE VALUE OF YOUR POSSESSIONS.  
Directives through your Will clear the way for more efficient and inexpensive transfers of your possessions. No will = the Courts will rely on intestacy legislation to decide who gets what, and that usually consumes part of what would otherwise reach your heirs.

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**4 –A WILL PROVIDES FOR AND PROTECTS CHILDREN & OTHERS.**

Through your Will you provide for your children and other dependents. A Will allows you to nominate the person or couple who would replace you as a parent. A guardian chosen by those who care would make a lifetime difference in most cases. Your Will may also provide for costs of care, education, and other needs of dependents the way you want it done.

**5 –A WILL PERSONALIZES TRANSFERS OF POSSESSIONS.**

Only through a Will can you design the transfers of personal goods, heirlooms, furnishings, collections and other possessions. Consider the child who would treasure your special ----. The charity whose work you admire or your church cannot benefit from your estate without a Will. Personalizing a last gift of your possessions speaks of your caring to those who will rejoice in the life you lived.

**6 –A WILL PROVIDES FOR YOUR CHARITABLE GIFTS.**

Most people have a favourite charity or two and would like to assure that the work they believe in continues.

**7 –A WILL MAY PREVENT FAMILY CONFLICT AND ANXIETY.**

Your will provides direction and states your wishes. Those who survive you and would have responsibility of settling the matters of your estate are much better equipped to do so with specific instructions. You minimize conflict, confusion, decision struggles and family disruptions by documenting your desires and plans legally with a Will.

**8 –A WILL MAY DESIGN A FINANCIAL PLAN FOR LOVED ONES.**

Your Will can be structured to provide installment gifts or benefits to be paid out over a period of years, or a plan to pay income for life to those you name and then give any remaining amount to charity – accomplishing several objectives through one plan.

**YOUR WILL IS A MATTER OF GOOD CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP!**

Together in Christ,  
Gary

[I edited down & adapted this from a leaflet prepared by our national church, ELCIC, & then it was checked by Rose Schlegl.]



# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Have you been enjoying a bowl of soup before a Lenten service along with other members of Glory? Does a juicy burger with a side of homemade potato salad tickle your tastebuds? You are not alone! Fellowship and food go hand in hand at church.

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to be part of a coordinating team for church events that fall under the Congregational Life portfolio.

This would be for occasions like the following:

- soup suppers during Lent (With the help of many volunteers, these suppers just need some coordination and planning before Lent begins.)
- coordination and planning of Easter breakfast
- the food part of the church picnic in June
- lunch/snacks/coffee involved with the Ecumenical Mission in the fall
- perhaps organizing a little extra after church services for the AGM, new member Sunday, etc.
- other things that might come up (varies by year)

There is already a Social Ministry group looking after coffee/snacks after regular church services. They are on a rotating schedule.

Choir provides lunch for Church Music Sunday.

We are compiling a list of wonderful and willing volunteers to call on for setup and clean up at any of these events and congregation members are very generous in providing food items when asked.

I would be very happy to chat with you on the phone or in person.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve at Glory.

**Pat Becker 780 239 5345 (cell) [pat.becker@glorylutheran.ca](mailto:pat.becker@glorylutheran.ca)**



Dear prayer chain members,

Some of you may remember my prayer request for my niece/ godchild, Kim, who had cancer on her tongue. Her cancer diagnosis was difficult; she couldn't talk (her tongue was too swollen), she couldn't eat anything by mouth (she was tube fed), she was in a lot of pain (was on hydromorph which is apparently 5 times more potent than morphine) and yet she had such a positive, upbeat attitude, never complained nor did she feel sorry for herself. She was truly amazing; she was one of those people who made other people's lives brighter.

She was hospitalized on Saturday, March 30 with pneumonia. Doug and I spent Thursday afternoon of that week at the hospital with her . . . she was hooked up to a lot of paraphernalia but seemed to be in good spirits and was breathing more easily after a difficult day on Tuesday.

I left the hospital feeling so positive about her recovery from pneumonia and that after being discharged, she would soon return to her cancer treatments. When I found out about her passing on Friday morning, April 5, I was in shock and it is still hard to believe that she is gone. My prayer chain request to Donna Dawson regarding this sad news was sent out to members around 4:30 on Saturday afternoon.

The main purpose of this rather lengthy note is what I experienced shortly after the prayer chain members received the message. I felt truly uplifted! My only explanation is that people and friends were praying for me and Kim's family. It was amazing to experience the power of prayer. The sadness left and I was totally aware that Kim is in a better place. I am so grateful for your prayers; it helped me get through a very difficult day.

Thank you prayer chain members, please know that your prayers have a big impact on those who need them.

Orleen Pearson



## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

At Glory Lutheran Church, we believe that every act of service, no matter how small, can make a profound difference.

THANK YOU to all those who share their time and talents! We are very grateful for our volunteers, they are the backbone of our church!

We are short on volunteers for the upcoming services. Please considering filling one/some of our Sunday worship service roles, such as Greeter, Usher, Reader and Communion Assistant. You may sign-up on the easel in the Narthex or on our website here:

[www.glorylutheran.ca/service-tasks](http://www.glorylutheran.ca/service-tasks)

Volunteering to support our weekly services is a great way to get to know others in the congregation, and each task is a short-term commitment!

E-mail [service.tasks@glorylutheran.ca](mailto:service.tasks@glorylutheran.ca) with questions or to volunteer.

If you're a member of our community, with a heart for service, we invite you to also step forward. Whether you are new to Glory or have been with us since day one, there is a place for you to get involved. Each opportunity not only helps strengthen our church community but also allows you to experience the joy of selfless service, cultivate new skills, and deepen your own spiritual journey.

We're looking for people willing to use their time and talents to serve God and our community. If that sounds like you, we'd love for you to be part of our committees and volunteer teams.

## CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY



Psalm 104:33

### May 26, 2023

Our worship will include the Worship Choir, the Praise Team, instrumentalists, reading, and song. This is a wonderful time to bring a guest as the choir takes us through the church seasons with music. A light lunch will be provided after the service. All are welcome!



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!

### Strathcona Food Bank delivery

Congregation members bring items for the Strathcona Food Bank to Glory on a regular basis.

We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in delivering these donations to the Food Bank on a regular basis (at your convenience).

Strathcona Food Bank

<https://strathconafoodbank.ca/>

255 Kaska Road

Hours: Monday to Friday between 9:00am to 12 pm

Thursday evenings from 4:30 to 7:00 pm

Saturdays from 10:30 am till 1:00 pm, except on statutory holidays

### Delivery of used eyeglasses

Donated eyeglasses are dropped off at the Alberta Sports Vision Institute optometrists (Dr. Brent Saik) where they are picked up by a volunteer from the Lions Recycle for Sight program. Donated eyeglasses are sorted and refurbished and sent to third world countries for distribution.

A volunteer to make this delivery as needed would be very much appreciated!

Alberta Sports Vision Institute

#820, 220 Lakeland Drive, Sherwood Park

<https://asvi.ca/sher-contact-us/>



### Social Ministry

Thank you to those who have been donating snacks for "coffee" after worship services. This is very helpful and much appreciated!



## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

### Maria Takenaka

## will be confirmed on May 19, 2024

# Annual Glory Friends Camping Weekend!



## June 7 & 8 - Miquelon Lake

The annual Glory Friends Camping is booked!!!!

If you can't make it out for the full two nights please come out on Saturday day to play !!!

SITE 4 -it's a long skinny site ... the same one as last year!!!

-space for 20 units , included is only 5 electrical sites

-max 50 ' including tow vehicle

Ammenities:

- Outhouse
- shelter with fireplace
- picnic table
- fire pit
- water
- sewage disposal (sadly is across from this site 🤢)

--fyi this is not a swimming lake...kayak or SUPN...maybe, does someone know for sure?

## The cost breakdown:

- FIRST 5 units With electricity: (only 4 left)  
Total Site Cost \$572 first 5 units for two nights  
= (\$56/ night X2) plus \$1.20/ night for admin fee portion= **\$114.40 for 2 nights**  
(same price as last year)
- Additional Units (no power) pay at gate upon arrival:  
-\$42.00 / night (pay on own upon arrival)  
-not sure about additional admin fees

Fair allocation of the electrical sites vs non electrical sites is as follows:

1. If you medically need an electrical site (ie CPAP)
2. First dibs on an electrical AND PAID IN FULL.

E-transfer to Tim Berg at [bergsdownunder@gmail.com](mailto:bergsdownunder@gmail.com)

## BUSINESS NOTES:

If we DO NOT get a minimum of 5 units paying then (\$114.40 for 2 nights) we will need to cancel 14 days ahead of June 2 for a full refund.

## FUN NOTES:

- firewood is available for purchase. Please consider bringing some from home to share and save \$.
- we always enjoy the Saturday Night group Weiner roast and evening fire and will do it again! (byo weiners/sausage and a side dish to share)
- we'll set up a coffee station in the big shelter (bring your own preferred cream and sugar).
- we may want to do a group Sunday brunch before having to head home...to be discussed.
- other than ^ those two meals, all other meals are on your own .
- bring the fun stuff, go geocaching, hiking, golfing, etc

That's all for now,

We will keep you posted on the unit space availability

Tim & Rhonda



## Bishop's Message - April 2024

Dear Beloved of God -

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

On the western slope of the Mount o

When I was a child my favorite playground was the cemetery. Our farmyard was right across the road from the graveyard and my siblings and I spent hours playing hide and go seek, making hideouts in the hedge which used to border the

cemetery, and walking from grave stone to grave stone reading who had died and when. We did not intend any disrespect. As children we had not yet learned the hard rules of life and death.

Sooner or later, for all of us, this learning happens. Confronted with the dark realities of death, cemeteries seem more like prisons than playgrounds, holding our hopes captive; locking away our dreams, slamming shut the door on the future. Visits to the graveyard are accompanied by cries of anguish rather than shouts of delight and joy.

Ask Mary Magdalene. After surviving the unthinkable horror of that Friday, on the first day of the week in the early morning darkness, she was dealt the crowning blow, one more profound event in the long string of atrocities. The stone was rolled away; the tomb empty; the body gone.

Only a short time ago Mary and the other disciples had been playing follow-the-leader with Jesus, running through the graveyard, thumbing their noses at death. Remember Lazarus? He had been rotting in the grave for four days, yet walked right out when Jesus called, "Lazarus, come out!"

Back then, Jesus had dared them to imagine a different world, a world where masters wash servants' feet; and the winner is the one who comes in last; a world where the myth of scarcity was proven false by a 5,000-plate banquet served from the contents of a little boy's lunchbox with more leftovers than the Tupperware could contain; a world where, instead of survival of the fittest, wolves and lambs were sitting side-by-side at the table, and homelessness was unheard of.

Then, they had been like children playing in the cemetery. But now, the graveyard was a stark reminder of captivity, of bondage to the powers of death, defeat,



SYNOD OF  
ALBERTA  
AND THE  
TERRITORIES

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despair – and even more, now the tomb was open and the body gone!

And as she wept in the cemetery, the one she had mistaken for the gardener called her name, “Mary.” And lifting her head, peering through watery eyes, she recognizes Jesus – and she moves from weeping to witnessing – she runs as fast as her feet will carry her – and she can barely get the words out – barely catch her breath – as she proclaims, “I have seen the Lord.”

Weeping to witnessing. Death to life. Defeat to victory. Despair to hope.

I believe Mary’s testimony not because I have seen the risen Christ, but because of her witness. I believe in life and victory and hope – even in a cemetery – on the basis of this witness: of Mary who sees the risen Christ with her own eyes and breathlessly announces, “I have seen the Lord;” of Thomas who believes when the risen Christ offers to let him touch his hands and wounded side; of the unnamed disciple – perhaps John – who enters the tomb and sees and believes.

I believe in resurrection because of the witness of these – and of many others: the witness of my Grade Seven Sunday School teacher who told me of new life forty plus years ago and who modeled the resurrection in her daily life; I believe because of the witness of a Roman Catholic community on the edge of Mexico City, who in worship and ministry celebrate and live the triumph of the resurrection; I believe because I have seen this past year the witness of those who have walked with loved ones through their dying and death, and who confidently proclaimed the truth of the resurrection in the midst of their own tears and sorrow; and I believe because of your witness to me, when nourished by the Word and sacrament – the bread and wine – Christ’s body and blood – you have been moved to incredible acts of love and service to one another and to all the world.

In my living – in the very real anguish of a graveyard – through the hope of resurrection – I know too the shouts of delight and joy heard in a cemetery. And I dare to imagine a different world – a world set free for love, justice, peace: where masters wash servants’ feet; and the winner comes in last; and all are fed; all are at home – and where the cemetery becomes a playground once again.

*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



# Luther Rose Memorial Garden *Spring Work Bee* & *BBQ* May 25, 2024 @ 10am

Dig out your garden gloves and please join us on **Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 10:00 a.m., for a spring work bee in the Luther Rose Garden.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome!  
No experience is required!

Pruning shrubs and spreading mulch will be part of the work bee tasks. Feel free to bring your favorite gardening tools - such as pruners and rakes.

A couple of hours spent in the Luther Rose Garden will go a long way in helping to get spring garden tasks completed. The adage 'Many hands make light work!' certainly applies here.

Then, beginning at 5:00, volunteers and others who were not able to join the work bee, are invited to the church for a wiener roast/barbecue. This Fellowship Meal will follow the format of the very popular *Fireside Wednesday* gatherings. Wieners and buns for hot dogs will be provided and the barbecue will be available for anyone wishing to cook up other meats. If able, please bring a salad or dessert to share.

To RSVP to the Work Bee and/or the wiener roast/barbecue, please contact Heidi in the church office or Rita.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 21-28** Earth Day/Week
- May 3-5** Synod Youth Retreat @ Kuriakos
- May 8** Council Meeting 6:30pm
- May 19** Confirmation Sunday
- May 25** Luther Rose Memorial Garden Work Bee (10am) & BBQ (5pm)
- May 26** Church Music Sunday
- June 7&8** Glory Friends Camping Weekend @ Miquelon
- June 9** New Members Sunday during Worship  
Sunday School Wrap-Up
  
- Tuesdays** Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm
- Thursdays** Confirmation 6:30pm (except during school breaks)  
Choir 7:30pm
- 2nd Thurs** Worship at Strathcona Care - Monthly 10:15am
- Last Thurs** Worship at Hardisty Care Centre - Monthly 10:00am
- Sundays** Worship 10:30 am (Communion 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

## REFUGEE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Salloum family are quickly adjusting to their new life in Edmonton. They like being here very much! A few of us are meeting regularly with them for informal practice in English.

The Hasan family are still going through the approval process in Jordan. Please pray that this process will go as smoothly and quickly as possible.

Neil Querengesser



**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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