

CHURCH *Matters*



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 05/06.21 Edition

GLORY HAS A NEW GARDEN!



Lloyd Duma did a great job doing the first round of tilling on the new Glory Garden. It is a beautiful, sheltered and gently sloping piece of land. The area opened is 20 m X 55 m plus a strip of land 5 m X 15 m for a tree nursery.

WALKING BY OLD MAN CREEK

Photos by Tim Kihn

With the beaver dams gone I could leap across the creek to explore areas of the property I hadn't been to in 3 or 4 years. There are interesting spots across the creek.

Big find at least for me.

I was aware a heron has a nest above where the big pond is but didn't know there is a rookery at the midpoint of the creek now too, down from the bee hives. There are two nests there. I got away quickly when I saw this because they were active nests. Here is a photo I snapped before quietly leaving.



The sun was low, making everything glow.



Ready, set, go gardeners!

Many thanks to Dave, Mark, Conn and Lorne for filling the water tanks and tilling the gardening spaces and Tim for organizing everything. Glory Gardens were ready to go in early May!





Church Keys

We have some new council members that need a key to the church. We are blessed with many active volunteers that have keys to the church, and it is time to ensure our record of keyholders is up-to-date. If you have a key and you are still using it, can you please confirm with Heidi in the office.

If you have a key that you are no longer using, please make arrangements to return the key to the office.

~ Thank you! ~



Council Highlights

May/June 2021

“April showers bring May flowers.”

As the days grow longer and the sun shines hotter, our vegetables are sprouting and trees are showing off their new leaves. Beginning in 2019 the Landscape Design and Memorial Garden committee has developed a cohesive plan for Glory’s property that is thought out regarding placement of structures, trees and shrubs, and other such things. We ask that no changes or additions on church property be made without prior consent of church council and in consultation with the Memorial Garden committee. So, for example, if you have a beautiful tree that would love to find a new home on the land at Glory, please contact one of the following people to determine a perfect location:

Brett Woodrow, Landscape Design and Memorial Garden committee member

Heidi at the church office or Pat Becker, Council Chair (who will direct you to Brett).

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help with **Operation Beautification!** Please consider helping in some way with the tasks that need to be accomplished on Glory’s property this summer - if you have not already done so. There are opportunities for all ages and there is lots to be done!

Members of the community garden committee and the landscape committee are working hard on the orchard and the community garden locations – both new and old. Stay tuned for further details.

Blessing Sunday: During the worship service on Sunday, June 27, there will be a blessing of those in our congregation who are graduating from Grade 12 and post-secondary institutions. If you know of someone who falls into this category will you please notify Pat Becker. Thank you.

The **pastor’s discretionary fund** is a designated fund made available to the pastor to distribute for emergency financial aid. This fund is especially important considering the events of the past year and the uncertainty going forward. Please consider making a special offering designated for the discretionary fund. Every donation will make a positive difference as we take care of our community ♥.

Thank you for all the ways you find to stay connected with members of your Glory family – phone calls, email messages, meals made and shared, helping with all that still needs to be done at the church, contributions to worship services, and especially your prayers! Please don’t hesitate to call if you have any feedback, questions or concerns.

Blessings, Pat, Council Chair



A memorial on the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery honours 215 children whose remains are buried at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School on Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation in B.C.'s southern Interior. (Ben Nelms/CBC)

ELCIC National and Synod Bishops have released joint correspondence in response to this week's devastating revelations following the uncovering of a mass of unmarked graves on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

These graves reveal "...the depth of our systemic racism and the lengths that the dominant culture was willing to go in order to destroy another culture." say the Bishops. "Knowledge of this cruel history is something that demands our repentance..." and "...also asks us to faithfully work for a better and different future."

You are invited to join in a commitment to re-engage in seeking a deeper understanding of the issues facing Indigenous peoples, in walking with Indigenous peoples in their journey to claim their fundamental human rights and their inherent right to sovereignty, and in working with Indigenous peoples towards true and lasting reconciliation.

Please read the full letter on the next page.

June 1, 2021

A Renewed Call to Reconciliation

It has been devastating and heartbreaking to hear in the news that the remains of 215 children buried in unmarked graves have been found on the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds.

We invite all members across the ELCIC to join us in offering our heartfelt empathy and prayers for the families of those children, for the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, for the City of Kamloops and for First Nations Communities across Canada as they grieve this loss. Let us offer solidarity, support and care to all who are feeling grief, anger, trauma and the need for healing. Please join us in praying for comfort and peace.

News about undocumented deaths of our nation's Indigenous children is tragic. Yet, as Richard Jock, CEO of the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) said, “[it] is sadly not a surprise and illustrates the damaging and lasting impacts that the residential school system continues to have on First Nations people, their families and communities.” This is further proof of the sinful and abusive legacy of these schools — schools in which the church and government were active participants.

The remains of these children show us the depth of our systemic racism and the lengths that the dominant culture was willing to go in order to destroy another culture. Many of us can connect our ancestors to the history of the dominant culture. Knowledge of this cruel history is something that demands our repentance, but also asks us to faithfully work for a better and different future.

We name today the devastating and ongoing cultural, emotional, and spiritual impact that residential schools continue to have on Indigenous peoples

In 2011, the ELCIC made a commitment to promote right and renewed relationships between non-indigenous and Indigenous Peoples within Canada. In 2015, the ELCIC repudiated the *Doctrine of Discovery*. We committed ourselves to seek greater understanding of the issues facing Indigenous peoples, and to walk with Indigenous peoples in their ongoing efforts to exercise their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights.

We call on all members of the ELCIC to re-engage in the work of reconciliation to which we have been called in baptism. This means educating ourselves on our history and understanding. It means listening to the voices that are often marginalized or silenced in our conversations.

It also means insisting on accountability. Talk with your government representatives and encourage them to follow through on recommendations #71-#76 of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada \(TRC\) Calls to Action](#) dealing specifically with Missing Children and Burial Information. Talk with your pastor, your deacon and your faith community about responding to Calls to Action #59-#61 in your context.

If you are looking for further resources, please consider the following:

[2011 ELCIC Convention Resolution on Encouraging Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples](#)

[2015 ELCIC Convention Resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery](#)

The Anglican Church of Canada [2019 Apology for Spiritual Harm](#)

[Anglican Church of Canada Reconciliation Toolkit](#)

Indigenous Ministries award winning film [Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen lands, Strong Hearts](#)

[The KAIROS Blanket Exercise](#)

[The TRC Calls to Action](#)

Lastly, we return again to our need to pray. Pray for Indigenous siblings, for right relationships, for your community, and for ourselves as we continue to live into our ministry of reconciliation in Christ's name.

Join us in prayer:

Faithful God,

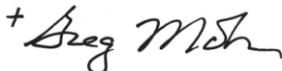
We remember the many, many, Indigenous children who did not return from residential school, including those whose remains were discovered on the grounds of the Kamloops (Tk'emlúps) Residential School. Grant comfort in the midst of grief and trauma. Strengthen the Secwépemc people, Indian Residential School survivors, their families and their communities as they process this tragic loss. Renew our commitment to the journey of truth-telling, mourning and responsibility and guide us in the ways of healing and love.

Amen.

Yours in Christ,



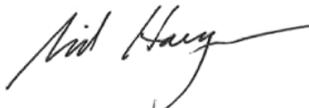
The Rev. Susan Johnson
National Bishop, ELCIC



The Rev. Dr. Greg Mohr
British Columbia Synod



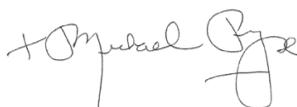
The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer
Synod of Alberta and the Territories



The Rev. Dr. Sid Haugen
Saskatchewan Synod



The Rev. Jason Zinko
Manitoba/Northwestern
Ontario Synod



The Rev. Michael Pryse
Eastern Synod

Our *Spiritual* Journey

A Message from Pastor Nickel

For our own Spiritual Journey,

MARTIN and PETER have a SPIRITUAL GIFT for YOU -- a SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY.

Background:

Martin Luther was well schooled in the study of Scripture and in the faithful exercise of prayer. His relationship with God was grounded in trust and love. He trusted that God would continue to guide his daily life -- trust in, not fear of, God.

Martin and Peter?

Martin Luther was getting a haircut by Peter the Barber, who asked about a simple method of prayer. After the haircut, everyone there thought the prayer idea was so good they convinced Martin to prepare it for publication using the new printing presses.

Here is his: A SIMPLE WAY TO PRAY

- + Get ready by eliminating distractions.
 - + Open the Bible and prepare to read it devotionally.
 - + Then, Imagine 4 strands of something woven together, as for a garland.
- These 4 provide our simple way to pray:

1. Instruction. Read the Bible for instruction.
...reflect on that.
2. Thanksgiving. Next give thanks for the gifts given by God to you.
Read for a message of gratitude.
...reflect on that.
3. Confession. Take some time for confession of sins and things troubling you.
Or, read for a message that calls you to repentance/confession.
...reflect on that.
4. Guidance. Ask God for his guidance for your life, a message that reminds you that God is with you, working in your life.
...reflect/pray.

Then trust that God will continue to provide you with daily guidance.

As a prayer method, it assumes a devotional approach to the Bible text. Pray with an awareness that the text offers instruction.

Luther recommended using the Bible and prayer on a frequent/regular basis together with reading the commandments and creed.

The prayer time is shaped by our internal dialog, thinking and reflecting about the sacred texts. Consider: how does reading provide meaning for our life? It is an experience of finding the meaning of the text for your personal life. Through this process Luther believed we deepen our relationship with God and gain guidance for living a faithful life.

About the whole process, remember to LISTEN. Do NOT simply "read". Go deeper. Listen for, try to hear the voice of God in the speeches, events, and silences of the Bible. Listen for personal communication which addresses us. Only the Word of God can bring us truth.

Then we are called to "respond" -- to accept God's message within yourself and to do something with it. If for example, you feel God's love, then live that love in your relationship with others.

We see and read with our eyes. We listen with our mind. We feel the Bible passage's meaning. We sense a vision of how it relates to us. And then God's word calls for response, decision, and action. And the Holy Spirit helps us with all of this, and the Spirit is as close as a prayer or a thought away, ready to help us and our faith.

THE EXPERIENCE OF PRAYER - there is no substitute for action!

Try it -- begin, try it out, do it, test drive it...

As an old commercial used to say, "Try it, you'll like it!"

Not sure how much you believe in it? Try it for a month, and see...

Take time for Him, experience Him in your life.

Yours, Together in Christ,
Gary Nickel

Thank you

Thank you to **those who have volunteered** to cut the grass at Glory and to look after the rest of the property – headed up by our intrepid members of council, Lynn Spain and Dave Hauf.

Thank you to **Kwai-Lan Leslie** for the many hours she is spending in the garden at Glory!

Thank you to **Barb Anderson** and others in our congregation for making and storing casseroles of various sorts in the deep freeze at Glory for delivery as needed.

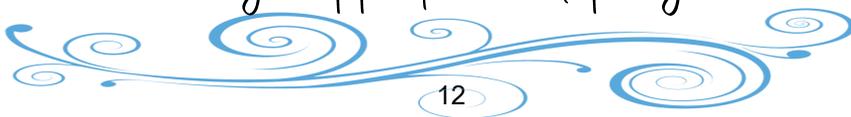
Thank you to **those who continue to contribute to our online worship services:** readers, contributors (children, youth, and parent facilitators) to the Mother's Day Tribute, members of the worship planning committees who plan and find music and other components of the services, those who send photos and art for the Sharing of the Peace and other initiatives, **Elizabeth** – for ensuring that the church sanctuary is appropriately dressed for the church seasons, **Pastor Markus!!**, and **Dani** – our website administrator (who makes a cohesive whole to the pieces that are sent to her).

Thank you to **Sebastian Montoya** for his ongoing technical support and expertise!

THANK YOU!

Lloyd Duma did a great job doing the first round of tilling on the new Glory Garden. See photo on front cover. Thank you Lloyd!

*A big thank you
from Gunde Kammerer to
all who helped with Henry's funeral and all
who have sent cards. She is grateful for everyone's
caring support and prayers.*



A Heartfelt Thank you

Dear Glory Family, My dad, Albert, and my siblings would like to **thank all of the Glory members** for their kindness through cards, phone calls and meals during our time of mourning my mom's passing. My dad was thankful for the thoughtful and kind notes in all the cards. We are grateful for the phone calls to dad. He found much comfort in talking to people. Mom's passing was difficult to comprehend for us as it was not her cancer that took her that day. She "lived " with cancer and beat it every day. Many who knew her would agree that Myrtle, mom, never stopped doing what she was put on Earth do. She still belonged to many organizations and continued with Zoom meetings during Covid. She was busy baking buns, cakes and cookies for her kids and grandchildren. Mom was the person who would be the one who would not rest till her work was done. Her Earthly work is done. But her memories and legacy lives on through her family and friends.

We also thank **Pastor Markus**. Pastor, you were my rock at the hospital when mom passed and helped in my "fight" to see mom when the hospital staff said I couldn't.

Thank you all for continuing prayers and support.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Sherry, Albert, Susan, David, Shelley and families

Let Us Pray For Those Who Mourn

Henry Kammerer passed away at home the morning of May 15, 2021.

A small funeral was held at Glory Lutheran Church on May 25. A recording can be viewed here:

<http://www.glorylutheran.ca/funeral-service-henry-kammerer.html>

We mourn with Henry's wife, Gunde, their family and friends. The Glory congregation gives thanks for the life of our brother in Christ, and pray for those who mourn with the hope of the resurrection.

"Lord, now let your servant go in peace for my eyes have seen your salvation." (Luke 2:29)

OPERATION BEAUTIFICATION

God has blessed our congregation at Glory with a unique piece of His creation. With this comes a greater degree of responsibility. A number of tasks and projects have been identified that require our attention this spring and/or summer. As we know, “many hands make light work”, so Operation Beautification begins with a request for volunteers to help with one or more of these projects. It would be wonderful to see the involvement of many members of our congregation in the care of all things outdoors at Glory!

TASK	DESCRIPTION	TIME FRAME	TEAM LEAD
Lawn-mowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mowing lawn area around the church; a schedule of volunteers will be developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May to September as per schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynn Spain Dave Hauf
Trash Clean-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picking up trash along the service road and on the church property. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June to September/October as required 	Team Lead Required
Orchard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing the orchard (the area for the orchard will increase in size) Removal of dead trees Planting of new trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ellen Sitler Rita Spain
Orchard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that trees are watered on a regular basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June to September/October weekly 	Team Lead Required
Trails through creek area and back acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers will be in-serviced on tractor use and how to keep mapped out trails mowed over the summer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June to September/October as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim Kihn Tammy Kihn
Fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some fence posts and barbed wire located on the property (not including perimeter fences) require removal. Working bees would be organized to accomplish this task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anytime June to October 	Team Lead Required
Care of single trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trimming of grass around the base of single trees scattered throughout the property a certain number of trees will be assigned to each volunteer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June to September/October as required 	Team Lead Required

Continued on next page



<p>Maintenance of small tree/shrub gardens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and upkeep of the small gardens along the gate and west side of the property. • Maintenance of the shrubs at the front of the church. • An individual or a family to volunteer to maintain one or more of these areas. • <i>Tree/shrub area #1 (at entrance)</i> • <i>#2 (first tree/shrub area along parking lot at north end on the right of the driveway going in)</i> • #3 • #4 • #5 • <i>#6 shrubs at the front of the church</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June to September/October • as required 	<p>Team Lead Required</p>
<p>Removal of black knot</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of black knot infected branches on the property • This will require disinfecting of pruners and safe disposal of branches • Long term goal is to remove the trees that are susceptible to black knot and replace them with more disease resistant trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June to September/October • as required 	<p>Team Lead Required</p>

This list is not all inclusive and additional tasks may be added over the course of the next few months.

Please read through the list and if there is a task(s) that you would be willing to help with please contact **Heidi at 780-416-9594. Please note that office hours are Tuesday to Friday, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.** You may also send an email to glorylc@telus.net.

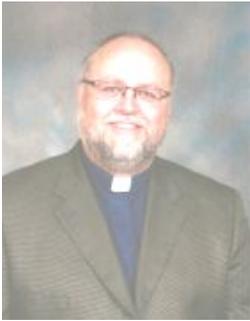
We hope to get a number of volunteers for each task. Thank you in advance for your help.

Other requests:

We are looking for a water tank in which to store rain water. Please contact Pat if you have one that the church might use.

Future requests:

Additional help may be required as projects get underway, for example the new community garden and the water collection system.



Bishop's Message - May 2021

Dear Beloved of God –

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories will gather in convention in July under the theme, “On the Road,” inspired by Luke 24:13–35. It is the post-Resurrection narrative of two people journeying from Jerusalem to Emmaus, where they are joined by a stranger who, when recognized, vanishes, and the two race back to Jerusalem.



Luke's narratives frequently take us on the road. More than half of the gospel takes place on or is related to a journey, and each time we know that something important is about to happen: Mary rushes to a Judean town in the hill country where she greets Elizabeth; a road leads Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem; a road is the narrative setting for the parable of the Good Samaritan; a road leads the prodigal back home to his father.

Jesus sets his eyes toward Jerusalem in Luke 9:51 and travels there until 19:28; this is known among scholars as the travel narrative where Jesus is on an extended journey.

The sequel to this gospel, The Acts of the Apostles, continues this theme: at Pentecost people journey to Jerusalem; on the road to Damascus, Saul is blinded and there is a significant change in his career, including his name; Philip meets the Ethiopian eunuch on a road.

There is something about travel that evokes Luke's literary and theological imagination. There is something about roads: the way they can bring us together; the way they can pose a danger to us all; the way they become a symbol of a faith on the move.

Luke's narrative take us on the road frequently, and we discover that whenever we start to journey with someone, we really do not know if we will end up where we thought the road was leading.

As the two travelers to Emmaus walk along, talking with each other about the momentous things that had happened, Jesus joins them. After they answer Jesus' questions, he speaks to them and interprets the scriptures for them, beginning with Moses and the prophets.

As they near their destination, Jesus walks ahead as if he is going further, but they convince him to stay with them, and at the table he takes bread, then blesses, breaks, and gives it to them. Their eyes are opened and they recognize him. Then Jesus vanishes.

But the narrative isn't finished. The journey isn't over. That same hour they get up and return to Jerusalem. The verb that the gospel writer uses here gets lost in translation. The word that we translate as "get up" is "*anastantes*" in the original Greek – the verb form of the noun that means resurrection.

This is a resurrection story. The two rise up and return to Jerusalem. They have been transformed, having passed through the shadow of death to new life.

And they return to Jerusalem, the place where the journey, the road, began. But they are not going back to their old normal. They have changed, and so has Jerusalem. Grief, sadness, and loss have been transformed: "The Lord has risen, indeed."

At a recent meeting of Synod Council, our Bible study leader suggested that this Lukan narrative, "The Road to Emmaus," has been incorrectly titled and that it should more accurately be named, "The Road to Jerusalem and Back, with a Pit Stop in Emmaus."

Emmaus was thought to be home, but it was not the destination. Emmaus was simply a pit stop on the road. We thought the destination was somewhere else, but we are back in Jerusalem. Back where grief has taken place, back into the hot seat. Back to the sadness, the loss, where hope once resided.

Back ... and transformed.

Where is the road taking us today? To our homes? Or to a pit stop?

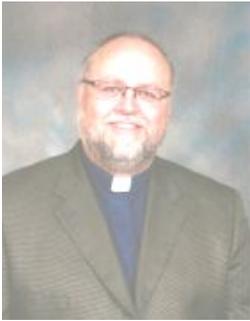
We do not know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us. We have the Scriptures. We have each other. We know that we will not get to where we are going without going together. Jesus is with us.

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom,

+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

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



Bishop's Message - June 2021

Dear Beloved of God –

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories will gather in convention in July under the theme, “On the Road,” inspired by Luke 24:13–35. It is the post-Resurrection narrative of two people journeying from Jerusalem to Emmaus, where they are joined by a stranger who, when recognized, vanishes, and the two race back to Jerusalem.



In the May 2021 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders I wrote of the Lucan narratives which frequently take us on the road. There is something about travel that evokes Luke’s literary and theological imagination. There is something about roads: the way they can bring us together; the way they can pose a danger to us all; the way they become a symbol of a faith on the move.

Luke’s narrative takes us on the road frequently, and we discover that whenever we start to journey with someone, we really do not know if we will end up where we thought the road was leading.

On the road they meet a stranger who appears to be unaware of all that has happened in Jerusalem. The two take it upon themselves to educate this stranger.

The verbs that they use tell us a great deal about their state of mind. They say, “We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.” *We had hoped*. I learned from my Greek Professor, Dr. David Dahle, at the then, Camrose Lutheran College, that the past perfect tense, or pluperfect, denotes an action that has been completed in the past. Once we had a hope, but it is no more. *We had hoped*.

Suddenly the stranger who seems so uninformed takes over the conversation and becomes the teacher. And what a teacher. He is so filled with everything they lack, especially knowledge and hope, that they ask him to stay with them.

In London’s National Gallery there is a painting, *The Supper at Emmaus*, by the Renaissance artist, Michelangelo Caravaggio.

The work depicts an ordinary meal. Only four characters are portrayed in it: two disciples seated at either end of the table, the stranger in the center, and a server standing at the side. One of the things that I love about this painting is that the fourth side of the table is open to the viewer. It is our place at the table. You can stand there and water, or you can join the meal.

The stranger is blessing the bread. And as he does so, we observe the precise moment of recognition. One disciple's arm is flying toward the viewer as if to penetrate the invisible wall between the figures in the painting and us, the viewers. The other is caught coming off their chair in utter amazement.

It is the recognition scene, the moment, when the gauzy veil between us and the Divine is suddenly ripped apart.

And there is life, and hope.

It happens many times in the Gospels: Thomas, Mary Magdalene in the garden. The moment of recognition.

Our recognition scene occurs in the breaking of the bread when we, though many and now physically distanced from one another, receive the meal that makes us one. When just as we were about to say, "*We had hoped,*" we, too, recognize him at our table.

And there is life, and hope.

And the disciples make a U-turn on the road and start walking, no, running toward Jerusalem, toward their future.

And we gather in convention. "On the road." We recognize him at our table. We recognize him in one another. We recognize him in the stranger.

And we are off...on the road together.

We do not know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us. We have the Scriptures. We have each other. We have life. We have hope. We know that we will not get to where we are going without going together. Jesus is with us.

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom,

+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

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

Landscape/Memorial Garden Update

With our beautiful spring weather, I have seen gardeners at the Community Garden, people taking time to walk around the property including down to the creek area and I even saw a young couple enjoying a picnic on a blanket they had spread out on the lawn.

The Landscape/Memorial Garden Committee has also been out at our church property and has staked out the turf road, the new formation for the orchard and the location of the new Community Garden. We are also helping with aspects of Operation Beautification.

Alberta's decreasing Covid-19 numbers along with increasing numbers of people getting vaccinated have contributed optimism that we may be able to present the design plan of the Memorial Garden to the congregation in the near future. Stay tuned for updates as we continue to follow Alberta Health Services recommendations in order to ensure the safety of all.

Shalom,
Rita

Tuesday - Friday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Please note that Heidi may be working from home due to the pandemic. 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



GLORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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