

CHURCH *Matters*



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 05.22 Edition



The Glory Community Garden is ready to go. Just look at this beautiful black soil!

Incredible work in the last year by Mark Becker to till the soil to perfection.

It wasn't easy as this patch of land hasn't been worked in 30 years.

Glory's Community Garden still has space available. If you are interested in a garden space, please contact Tim Kihn, Garden Coordinator at tjkihn@telus.net or Marjorie Zelent at marjoriezelent@gmail.com or phone 780-467-5363.

Message from Pastor Markus

May 2022

Dear Partners in Ministry:

Meet Otto, the newest addition to our family. He's a Labradoodle, which means his mother was a Labrador and his father a Poodle, which makes for a fairly handsome and smart little boy. If you would like to meet Otto, you can schedule an appointment for a home visit. Sunday morning is also a good time for informal greetings and cuddles. But please remember, he is a puppy still. He gets very excited easily and can forget that his teeth are sharp and human skin is soft. He can already do sit and down and come and roll over, but because he's a puppy his attention span is fairly short. He's also still learning how to say, "I've got to go outside, now – or else...!" Thank you for welcoming him into the church family too! Here is a little report on his progress in ministry. I'll let him tell it in his own words:

"Woof! After all the excitement of greeting the children and youth on Sunday, I also got to visit old members of our pack. They know some old tricks that a young dog like me needs to learn. I even got some kid-sized treats and lots of cuddling. One picked me right up and I could tell he was just as happy as I was. My human wants you to know: If you pet me, be calm and gentle, because the rougher you cuddle me, the rougher I get with you too. Accepting hospitality, food, and affection graciously is one of the gifts my human is trying to develop. It is part of how he thinks I'll minister to people. I'm sure that with a little bit of practice you can learn this too."

Besides that, I have also helped with picking up litter



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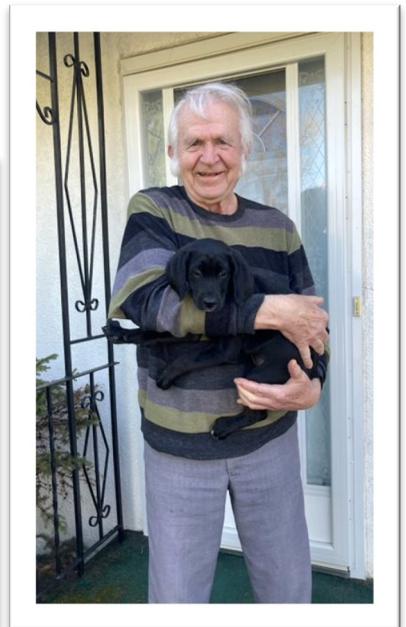
around the church. I think I already told you that in an email. My human doesn't like it when I eat litter, so that's why I have to be quick about it. But then my stomach hurts and I may have to go to the doctor. I wish they would not package everything, then I could just eat the contents and there wouldn't be so much litter around. I have heard from my relatives in the creek and the river and in the ocean that plastic packaging is causing much harm to them. But I should stop whining about it and instead invite you to join me in making Glory and its surroundings human and animal-friendly, and more beautiful. Maybe we could organize ourselves and go as a pack some day to clean up along the road to the church together!

Woof! One more thing: my human is going on a sabbatical. He's only human and needs a break. So for July, August, and September, he and I will not be at the church. He promised to give me lots of training during the summer, take me on hikes, and spend time reading, although that part doesn't sound so exciting to me. I hope to give him enough distractions to keep him humble. I mean human.

Woof, woof! That's all I have to say for now. As our God says: "You can't keep a good dog down." My human tells me that this isn't in the Bible, but I believe it anyway. After all, it's Easter, and if Jesus rose from the dead like they say, then even us puppies jump for joy. Yours truly, Otto."

Easter Joy and Peace be with you!

Pr. Markus



Council Highlights

May 2022

Youth Worker Initiative with Mt. Olivet:

We are currently working on a joint initiative with Mt. Olivet to hire someone part-time to work with the youth of both congregations. At present, we are forming an ad hoc committee with several young people from each church. We are also looking for input from congregation members of any age, but particularly youth and their parents, to let us know what you would like to see in place for the younger members of our congregation. If you are interested in serving on this committee, or have ideas or input that you would like to discuss further, please contact me.

Pastor's Sabbatical:

Although Council had previously approved Pastor Markus' sabbatical leave for the period from September 1 to November 30, 2022, these dates have been brought forward. Among other considerations, the announcement that ELCIC bishops and assistants will again make a series of sermons available from June to September will help with coverage for Sunday services. It will also provide an opportunity for members of our congregation to become involved in delivering a sermon without having to write it! Council has approved the change in dates for Pastor's sabbatical, which will now take place during the period from July 1 to September 30, 2022.

Vacation Bible School:

We are hoping to go ahead with VBS this summer with some help from the people at Hastings Lake Bible Camp. Dates and details are still being finalized, but we anticipate having a weeklong day-camp here at Glory in August. We will be looking for volunteers to help out during the week and will also need some families to billet one or more of the Hastings Lake leaders during their week with us.

Council Retreat: Council members, along with members from some of our other committees, will be attending a retreat on May 28, 2022. We haven't had a lot of opportunities in the past couple of years to come together and reflect on how we are doing with our various ministries here at Glory, what things have changed in the recent past, and where we are hoping to go in the future. We hope to identify and talk about priorities and do some long-range planning. If there are matters of interest or concern that you would like us to consider, please feel free to email me at council.chair@glorylutheran.ca.

Rose Schlegl, Council Chair



Memorial Garden Update

Since our last update, the Memorial Garden committee has received tender bids for the development of the Luther Rose Garden, Phase 1 of the Memorial Garden. We have reviewed the bids, met with Council and received direction to secure the services of Three Seasons Landscaping.

We will enter into contract with Three Seasons Landscaping once the scope of the project is finalized. It is important to note that funds will be used to provide the hardscape and softscape for the Luther Rose Garden and will not include the pathway from the church to the entrance of the Memorial Garden.

Also, an order for pavers and bricks has been placed with Triple Two (222) Rentals and Landscape Center. Triple Two has kindly offered us 2021 pricing. We have been told that the pavers and bricks are ready to be shipped from Manitoba and will be dispatched as soon as truck transportation is available.

It is important to note that both these companies, Three Seasons Landscaping and Triple Two (222), are businesses located in Strathcona County. They both have a fine reputation and are excited to help bring our Memorial Garden to fruition.

There are still a number of other components of the Memorial Garden that our committee continues to finalize but if all goes as planned, you can expect to see 'shovel to the ground' sometime in June.

Rita Spain
on behalf of the Memorial Garden Committee



GLO⁺RY 50 PLUS



Glory 50 Plus Plans Ahead

Mark your calendar and shout Hurrah! Plans are underway for Glory 50 Plus to meet! Now that COVID restrictions have reduced just a little, and after consultation with our church Council, Glory 50 Plus is making plans to meet for the first time in almost two years.

Here's our plan:

All who are 50 plus are invited!

**Pancake Breakfast
Outdoors at Glory Lutheran Church
Friday, June 17th, 2022
11:00 am**

Group Two will be hosting this event.

Please bring:

- Outdoor chair
- Warm Clothing
- An insulated mug (if you have one)

Group Two will provide the food, beverages and coffee. In the event of inclement weather, we will arrange to meet indoors - socially distanced.

This will be strictly a **social event** so we can visit and get to know some of the new folks who have indicated an interest in being part of Glory 50 Plus. We will be inviting everyone to share their ideas for how we plan the next year. **Please come with ideas for activities, speakers, entertainers, and outings that you think may be appropriate for this group.** This information will be used by the Executive and Group leaders as plans for the 2022-2023 season are developed.

For those new to Glory 50 Plus, this group generally meets the second last Friday of each month except during July, August, January, and February.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend the Pancake Breakfast by signing the list at the church or contacting Marjorie at marjoriezelent@gmail.com or 780-467-5363.

Hoping to see you at this finger- lickin' event.

Connecting....

In Service to Others



At Glory, we have a passion for giving by ***Reaching Up... Reaching Out... and Reaching In...***
As the world is starting to resume activities halted by the pandemic, we also want to work to extend our ‘Reach’ again and get ready to resume the church activities and missions we have been missing.

You can help by volunteering at church so that we can extend our “Reach” together!

Experience the joy of volunteering. ***To start, you can help by signing up for one or some of the following roles by writing your name on the calendar on the easel stand in the Narthex at church or by contacting the office:***

- Greeters, Ushers, Readers, Communion Assistants
- Children’s Time Story Tellers
- Counters

To share your time and talents in any other area, please contact the office.

A PRAYER ...

O Loving God, we pray for the people we encounter in our daily lives, that you would help us consider them our neighbors, treating them with care and love and helping to bear their burdens. In Jesus' name we pray.

Our *Spiritual* Journey

A Message from Pastor Nickel

EASTER Season, is now. It's a good time for a quick look at the connected Spiritual Journey ingredients of: **FAITH - BELIEF - EXPERIENCE.**

EASTER for us Christians - a celebration of Jesus' rising from death [and triumphing over death itself] -- really means what for us?

My **FAITH** helps me trust in what God has done for us through Jesus, helps me accept that such a history-changing event has happened. For me! My **BELIEF** is helped through the witnesses in the Bible, explaining and interpreting that event; it comes simply, historically and logically through the promises of the Old Testament being fulfilled by Jesus. It makes sense. My **EXPERIENCE**: now, that is something that I will have to wait for until the time of death - when the Promise of Eternal Life, of Life After Death becomes reality for me, as it has for those who have gone before us. But I can and still do say to someone dying, "I'll see you later", and mean it.

Thankfully, I don't have to depend on myself or even myself and the Bible "to get" what Easter means. **The Holy Spirit has been busy helping you and me get the meaning of Easter.** We're not alone in this! The Holy Spirit is even said to have begun working with us on our **SPIRITUAL JOURNEY** long, long ago. We walk, not alone, but together on this journey! Thankfully

At this point, I'll pause and mention that if **YOU** have any questions or need some help with your understanding of Easter or of Our Christian Faith, please feel free to talk with someone from the church.

When the Iron Curtain was across Eastern Europe, I had the opportunity to visit **Ukraine, Lviv, etc.** I was taking a group to visit Eastern European Lutherans, to explore the differences that these various Lutheran groups were experiencing.

However Soviet Russian influence on Czechoslovakia prevented us going from Hungary through Slovakia to Poland because we included Christian

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pastors. I had faith that we would be able to continue our journey without a big detour, but also belief due to studying the options and choosing one via Ukraine. I applied for permits when we got to Hungary and was successful.

The Ukraine people were very nice, friendly, and had their own identity even then, as different from Russia as they were allowed to be. We met people with a strong faith, mostly either Catholic or Orthodox. Now we include them in our prayers and help the war refugees as we are able.

Suddenly recent events bring new meaning to our thoughts about peace, what it means, and the lack of it in the world today. I've studied World War 2 a lot and the implications and results of what happened then still affect us today. War is not something that happens, then ends, and is forgotten. In a couple of months this war has changed much of the world – for generations. We are and will be affected by this war even if we ignore it.

But lasting FOREVER is the message of God's love for us through Jesus, overcoming "fear" in the world. So take time in love to deliberately pray for peace in various ways – while we help with the situations in the world as we are able. Re-examine what peace is and could be to this small world of ours.

Yours, Together in Christ,
Gary Nickel

Also, Since You've Asked –
regarding UNANSWERED PRAYERS:

All prayers are answered; sometimes with a "yes".

Sometimes the answer is "no"; then, consider His wisdom, or the nature or focus of our request.

Sometimes God answers prayers and we miss the answer because we are looking perhaps in the wrong direction.

Sometimes God's answer may be so different from our request that we don't recognize it as an answer.

Sometimes the answer is at a different time than WE expect it to be.

Prayer in the Park

May 25, 5-7 pm



Holden Evening Prayer Queen Elizabeth Park

10380 Queen Elizabeth Park Rd, Edmonton

Bring a picnic supper for you & your family, lawn chairs, water bottles, bug spray/sunscreen, & games! Join ELCIC churches from across the greater Edmonton area in a time of reconnecting, food, friends, & prayer. We will be sharing in Holden Evening Prayer together around 6:30pm. Be welcome to come beforehand & have a picnic supper, or stay afterwards & enjoy the great outdoors.

Parking lots are available on East and West sides of the park; Holden Evening Prayer will take place around 6:30 pm on Western side of the park.

A PRAYER ...

O God, we see many wars today between nations and peoples as well as the terrors of the single person suffering poverty and oppression, and we pray that the violence of this world might cease. Help us to remember to pray for peace near and far in our world.

GLORY



**COMMUNITY
GARDEN
2022**

Work Bee - postponed to May 14, 2022

Due to rain, the May 7 work bee will be postponed to Saturday, May 14, beginning at 10:00 am to prepare the new garden spaces set up the composting and water station and other tasks.

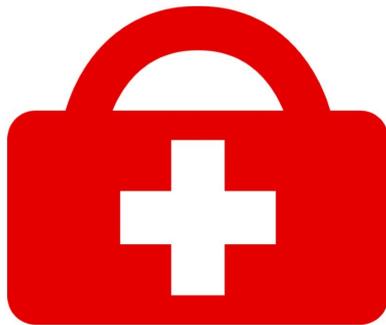
For more information,
call Tim at 587-341-8216
or Marjorie 780-467-5363.





This will be a hybrid service of the word with approximately 90-100 people maximum able to attend in person at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Edmonton. People will be distanced and asked to be masked. For those who wish to attend in person they are being asked to **register through Eventbrite** at the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/common-ground-holy-ground-20th-anniversary-celebration-of-full-communion-registration-317729747227>

The service will also be livestreamed via YouTube at the following link: <http://www.bit.ly/HosannaEdmonton>



Do You Have FIRST AID/CPR/AED Certification?

We are compiling a list of those people in the congregation who are able to support medical incidents if the need arises.

If you have First Aid, CPR and AED Certification please email Rhonda Berg at secretary@glorylutheran.ca or send a text to 780-449-6682.



Josephburg
Men's Chorus &
Bells in Harmony

present

We Rise Again

At

Trinity Baptist Church

22550 Township Rd 530,

Sherwood Park, AB T8A 4T7

7:00pm, Saturday, May 28, 2022

Tickets: \$20 at the Door

or phone

Len, Sherwood Park 780-464-4264

Glenn, Ft. Saskatchewan 780-992-9500

Children 12 and under FREE

with Donation to Food Bank

FESTIVAL
SINGERS
Presents

Spring Sing



SATURDAY : Glory Lutheran Church
MAY : 22577 Hwy-16, Sherwood Park
14 :
2022 :
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



Bishop's Message - May 2022

Dear Beloved of God -

We meet the disciples huddled together. The doors are shut and locked. They can hardly breathe in that airless tomb. Their hearts are racing. Their minds spinning.

It was evening on that first day, the first day of the week. They had heard from Mary Magdalene that she had seen Jesus alive, that he had called her by name and turned her toward the new dawn of the empty tomb.

I was the death of Jesus that brought them together that evening, but it was not simply the death of Jesus that drew the disciples together – it was his resurrection. It was Mary Magdalene's witness: "I have seen the Lord."

And the doors were shut and locked. They could hardly breathe. They were afraid of everything on the other side of those doors: afraid of the forces that killed Jesus. Afraid, perhaps, of living. They were winded by fear. What now? Yes, what now?

It isn't hard for us, to imagine ourselves in that room. No, not after two plus years of pandemic. And not when we know for ourselves, and for others, of war and trauma and anxiety and fear and constant change and uncertainty and grief and losses of many kinds. And we are ourselves hardly breathing in our airless tombs. Our hearts racing. Our minds spinning.

All of which points me in the direction of the disciple, Thomas.

I know that we tend to think of Thomas in terms of his doubting, but what if that doubt were part of a larger insistence on dealing with reality, on getting things back to normal, on moving forward now that the worst has happened?

Why isn't Thomas in the house when Jesus makes his first appearance? I wonder if unlike the other disciples, who are behind shut and locked doors, Thomas has already accepted what has happened, has moved on, and is now out and about rebuilding his life from the fractured pieces that were left to him after the horrific events of Good Friday – or at least was attempting to, attempting to put things back in order and get back to normal.

It would explain why it's so hard for Thomas to accept the witness of his friends: "We have seen the Lord." The joyful confession of the other disciples may have seemed like oh-so-much wishful thinking to this hardboiled realist. Which is why, when one-week later Jesus came and stood among them, I wonder if the noticeable change in Thomas's tune is less about simply coming to faith – to belief – and more about realizing that, after the resurrection,

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reality itself had changed and there would be no normal to go back to.

For how do you even talk about “normal” when someone has been raised from the dead? What can possibly be the same? Your work, your sense of meaning, your relationships, your purpose, your view of past, present, and future – all of it is changed irrevocably by God’s act of resurrection.

When Thomas confesses, “My Lord and my God,” he is abandoning all his conceptions of “normal” and opening himself to a very different reality than he could have previously ever imagined.

And here is the promise for us. Here is the promise – the good news for us – today and each tomorrow: Jesus comes to us.

Jesus comes to us...yes in this time of pandemic, yes into our communities and our fearful hearts, into the airless tombs in which we dwell, behind the shut and locked doors.

Here is the promise – the good news: Jesus comes to us, bearing the marks of suffering and death, revealing that the body of Christ, though risen, is always wounded.

Here is the promise: Jesus comes to us, speaking a word of peace and revealing the startling truth for our present and future, that what is true of Jesus will be true for those who bear Christ’s name.

Here is the good news: Jesus comes to us, with a word of forgiveness, with grace that unbinds the clenched heart, with love that loosens the power of death, with mercy that unbars the doors we shut and swings them wide open.

Jesus comes among us...and is with us amid necessary changes and faithful adaptations, calling us forward, blessing us to believe though we do not see, and promising to be with us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

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*



**SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
✧ AND THE ✧
TERRITORIES**

Finance
Corner



Totals will be reported next month.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support.

If you need any help with giving options (envelopes, PAR, or Canada Helps) please contact the church office. Please use Lynda's new Treasurer email address: treasurer@glorylutheran.ca for e-transfers.

New email address for e-transfers to Glory:
treasurer@glorylutheran.ca



A MOMENT...

Christian death - a change of residence!

Prepare for the now now, and that is the best we can do for the future.

~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



22577 Hwy 16,
Sherwood Park, Alberta,
T8A 4T7



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