

CHURCH *Matters*



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 05.23 Edition

Easter at Glory Lutheran Church



Council Highlights

May 2023

We continue to look for someone to fill the position of Treasurer. To lighten the workload involved, we have entered into an agreement with Ceridian for payroll services. Heidi will be taking on some of the data entry and work involved in payables. If you know of someone who might be able to assist with other aspects of the Treasurer's role, please contact me.


Several members of Council recently attended a policy training seminar at Mount Olivet for those working with our children, youth, and other vulnerable parties. The session was interesting and informative, as well as timely. We will soon be reviewing and revising our own policies in this area.

Council members, along with members of other committees here at Glory, will be meeting on Saturday, June 17 for a retreat and planning day. If you have questions, ideas, or matters of concern that you would like us to consider in our long-range or short-term planning, I invite you to send an email or give me a call to discuss same.

Rose Schlegl

Council.chair@glorylutheran.ca

780-935-5490



Announcing the birth of

Lydia Anne MacKenzie

Lydia was born on
March 30th at 2:33pm.
Both her and Keltie
are doing well!

Congratulations to you,
Keltie and Ben, and to
big brother Blair.

Praise to God for this
miracle of life!





GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2023 Church Council



Rose Schlegl
Council Chair
Human Resources
council.chair
@glorylutheran.ca



Rhonda Berg
Council Secretary
secretary
@glorylutheran.ca



Dave Hauf
Property
Comm. Outreach
property
@glorylutheran.ca



Lynnette Woodrow
Worship & Music
worshipandmusic
@glorylutheran.ca



Pat Becker
Congregational Life
glc.life
@glorylutheran.ca



Markus Wilhelm
Pastor
"Ex Officio"
All Committees
pastormarkus
@glorylutheran.ca



Lynn Spain
Property
property.lynn
@glorylutheran.ca



Susan Ronsko
Education
education.susan
@glorylutheran.ca



Jenny Takenaka
Education
education
@glorylutheran.ca



Kurtis Ashton
Stewardship
stewardship
@glorylutheran.ca

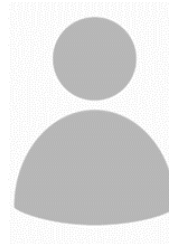
2023 Financial Officers and Office Coordinator



Sebastian Montoya
Technology / Youth
it.youth
@glorylutheran.ca



Chelsea Ashton
Financial Secretary
& Finance



Vacant
Treasurer
& Finance
treasurer
@glorylutheran.ca



Heidi Jones
Office
Coordinator
glory.office
@glorylutheran.ca

Message from Pastor Markus

May 2023

Dear Members and Friends of Glory Lutheran Church,

This month I share a prayer with you that was read at our church council meeting last Wednesday. It speaks to the fire situation facing our province and county in the past week which continues to threaten people's homes, fields and forests. Some people of Glory living in the acreage area of the county had to leave their homes for safety overnight. Thankfully fire crews were able to protect homes from damage. Other communities in the province, especially the Little Red River Cree first Nation in the Peace River valley, have suffered great losses.

The prayer comes from Christians of the diocese of Perth in Australia who in recent years have seen similar and worse devastation than we are seeing here this year. It came in an email from our seminary in Saskatoon by way of the bishop's office.

The peace of the risen Lord be with you this Easter season!

Pastor Markus

O God, we pray for the rain to come,
so that fires will be dampened,
so that smoke and ash will be cleansed from the air,
so that people can return home and firefighters be kept safe,
so that towns and communities can be spared.

As we wait, take away the worry that makes nothing better,
and give us a peaceful spirit of trust in you.
Make our families stronger, our friendships deeper,
our communities kinder.

As we wait, show us the blessings that are ours for good:
your forgiveness for our wrong actions and mistaken choices,
your healing for our weary bodies and wounded spirits,
your promise of love that we cannot earn and never deserve.

As we wait, teach us to let go of the things that hurt us and others:
the pride that stops us from asking for help,
the self-doubt that paralyzes us,
the resentment that blames and envies others.

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As we wait, come close to those who are most afraid
of the changes that the future will bring for them.
Protect them in body, mind and spirit through their darkest days.
Bring them in safety to new beginnings and new callings.

As we wait, give strength to those who work to respond to crises,
who run programmes, make policies, plan for the future.
Give them compassion, patience and wise insight,
and calm courage when pain and anger are all around.

As we wait, give us the energy to make a difference to others,
in conversations where burdens are shared,
in practical help where resources are shared,
in prayer where griefs and longings are named and offered to you.

As we wait, comfort us as we weep for what is being lost:
for livelihoods and identities, homes and memories.
Do not let us be overwhelmed by sorrow,
but be our companion even through the valley of the shadow of death.

As we wait, give us courage to put our life into your hands
and to trust you with everything we are
and everything we will be, by your grace.
Keep us very close to your heart, the compassionate heart of your Son,
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Smile

Jessica will be here before and after Sunday
Worship on May 21 & 28, to take photos for the
directory. If you haven't yet submitted a photo
for the directory, please consider getting your
photo taken before or after one of these
Sunday services.

Alternately, photos may be submitted to
directory@glorylutheran.ca
Thank you!!

Spring Time in Glory-Land - an Ark for our Time

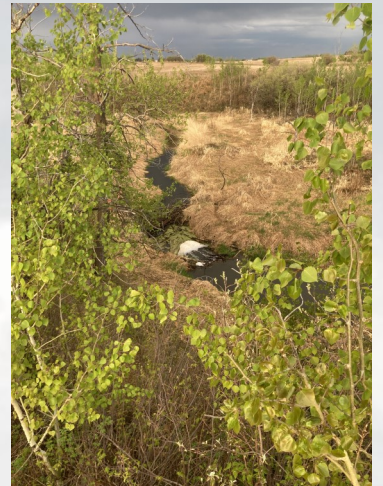


On a recent walk around the church property I took some pictures with my phone camera. It was a beautiful calm evening after a brief thunder shower in the midst of what has otherwise been a very dry spring. What struck me as I observed the land was the way the soil, the water, the plants and the animals exist with and because of each other. The land undulates slightly between the railway tracks and the creek and between the church and the back end of the property. Slight variations in the landscape allow water to collect and pockets of aspen and willow to grow. Aromatic wild mint, wild rose, sage, and other species grow in the shade of the trees. Cattail (bulrush) grow in the mudflats that form where beaver has dammed the creek. This underwater engineer makes sure that the Old Man, which is often only a trickle, does not run away to the North Saskatchewan before he has done his job. (The cattail, by the way, is a plant similar to the one that the mother of Moses used when she constructed a basket for him and placed him among the reeds of the Nile (Exodus 2).) The ponds that form behind the beaver dams are perfect for muskrat, which feed on cattail and create platforms that ducks and geese can nest on. The aspen and poplar provide food and building material for the beaver. It's sad to see trees being felled. But because they propagate both by seed and by spreading their roots, the trees fan out from the ponds while keeping their vital connection to the water. Ants are busy underground, like the beaver underwater, breaking down dead plant material and making mounds of organic soil. The dead trees have life inside them in the form of insects and provide food and homes for the woodpecker. The biggest trees host a community of great blue herons. These majestic birds with their wide wings, long necks and yellow bills, fly along the creek toward the river and back searching for small fish, and perhaps frogs, for food. Frogs, by the way, are so abundant this year, their croaking is drowning out the traffic noise from the highways. But the heron must watch out for the red tailed hawk, whose diet includes young birds, besides gopher, mice and other rodents. And then there is porcupine, a distant relative of beaver and muskrat, fiercely independent. I noticed it feeding on the grass in the meadow on my walk. After leashing my all-to-interested dog, I was able to approach safely. The porcupine made for the trees, but did not display its spines in our direction, probably realizing that we meant no harm. I was reminded of the story in Genesis, about God forming the

animals from the ground in the garden of Eden. It must have been a delicate task working on those spines without injury. “The LORD brought the animals to Adam to see what he would name them”, and of course the spiky rodent was named “porcupine”, or quill pig. (Pigs must have been invented earlier.)

I was reading the story of Noah’s ark in the book of Genesis recently and was struck by the exactness of the instructions God gave to Noah. The ship was to be constructed according to exact measurements, with room for every species of animal and their food. God could have just done away with the human race, but he wanted them to survive the flood brought on by human violence. And he wanted the animals to survive with them. Humans and the animals belong together in God’s plan. It is not either animals or humans, but both together. And the plants too of course. Each “according to its kind”, its species, because God is specific. Each “specific species” matters to its creator. Noah’s ark, a ship on a dangerous sea, is an age-old image for the church. It is a fitting one for the church in these threatening times. Glory’s property is a blessing in so many ways. Bordered by paved roadways, a railway, and growing urban development, it is an oasis in the midst of our human dominated world. Glory Lutheran Church is uniquely situated to be an ark, to provide the space, the vehicle, the home, the ecological place needed so that many species can survive and thrive.

~ Pastor Markus



Memorial Announcement Hilda Lehmann

We are sad to announce that Hilda Lehmann passed away the morning of April 10, 2023.

A funeral was held on
Tuesday, April 18 at Glory Lutheran Church

We mourn with Hilda's daughter Carol Dreger, her family, and friends. The Glory congregation gives thanks for her life 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)

GLORY 50 PLUS



UPCOMING EVENT

Friday, May 19, 2023

Barbecue 12 noon

Entertainment

Following the barbecue, enjoy an afternoon of entertainment by **Bobby Van**. He is a singer and musician who plays keyboard and entertains at Seniors' residences throughout the greater Edmonton area. Come and join us as we enjoy his music.

Glory 50 Plus Pancake Breakfast

Twenty-eight enthusiastic individuals gathered on Friday, March 24th for a pancake breakfast prepared by Group Two - Eula, Gerry, Donna, Val, Helen, Myrna, Henry, Mike and Marjorie. At the meeting that followed, new individuals were welcomed and invited to join work groups.



Our *Spiritual* Journey

A Message from Pastor Nickel

Easter happened over 2000 years ago, and we celebrate the Message of Easter every year. But here's an **EASTER-QUESTION** for you:

What is talked about a lot today, and was among the first words said to Jesus' followers at the First Easter – something that is very much also a challenge today? ..It's also a part of our Spiritual Journey of life and faith.

For the followers of Jesus, among the FIRST WORDS said at the FIRST EASTER were, "Fear not" or "Don't be afraid". And yes, **today, fear and being afraid are a very big challenge for us and the world.**

The Bible speaks a lot about fear and related concerns; and "fear" is a part of everyone's experiences – soooo, "fear" is naturally a part of our Spiritual Journey of life. But then, what do we do with it? How does it affect us?

Today, as well as back in Bible times, there were lots of reasons for fear and being afraid. As Early Christians, you could be captured and fed to the lions, tortured, burned at the stake, made a slave in a copper mine, and more. Today, there are some major parts of the world that have "fear" as their main focus: maybe, fear of war – disease – surviving – enough food to eat -- disasters – fear of the "other".

Today, there continues to be an increase in fear in North American society. Not sure about that? In the 1970s my parish was in Manitoba with the church building 4 blocks from the border. We got our US TV channels from a nearby tower that picked up the distant signals in the North Dakota cities. The news on those US channels came from North Dakota, along with a big dose of farm news. Then one year, the nearby US system was able to get TV from anywhere and they switched their news to come mostly from Detroit [with a little local Dakota news]. News was no longer about mostly farm and regional news, about dealing with nematodes in the soil.

Within 6 months, the youth in my confirmation class were talking about crime and big city problems, and beginning to worry about their safety – for the first time. Only one thing changed: there was no more crime in North Dakota or in Manitoba, but rather the change was because the TV news came from Detroit. To them, it brought fear as the result of exposure to Detroit city and all their big-city problems.

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More recently, studies have shown that FEAR is usually the number one MOTIVATOR TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE. Because of that, there are people who take advantage of it to make big money, and people employ these methods to achieve their goals, such as power, money, and getting you to do-things-my-way!

In the last 10 years or so, investigative journalists have uncovered a major industry that is built on fear!! -- manipulate fear of something and you can influence politics, laws, votes, profits and losses, ethnicity. Be afraid of "them" because "they" will do this or do that, and you know how bad that can be, right? [That's using fear! as a motivator to get you to do something!]

FEAR IS A BIG PROBLEM. We are reminded that:

- + "Fear is the enemy of happiness".
- + Fear can make us suspicious, self-centered, immobile and full of self-pity."
- + Fear and being afraid – that can lead quickly to anger and even violence.

But let's STOP, and GO BACK TO A CHRISTIAN WAY OF meeting FEAR:

- + Contrast fear and fear's source for you with what you and I being called to do, such as: "Love your neighbor as yourself", and "Thou shall not kill".
- + Then choose. Choose to recognize God's love for us, and RECEIVE HIS LOVE and SHARE IT/PASS IT ON to others.

Jesus makes it clear over and over again in the Gospels that fear and anger are serious dangers that Christians must be alert to and try to overcome.

Jesus talked a lot about processes for resolving disputes and arguments between people. That includes: dialogue, meditation, sometimes separation, but not violence.

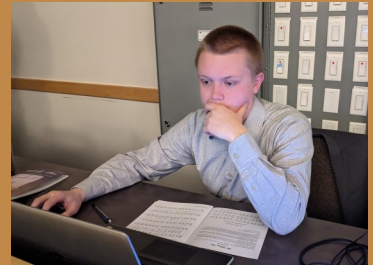
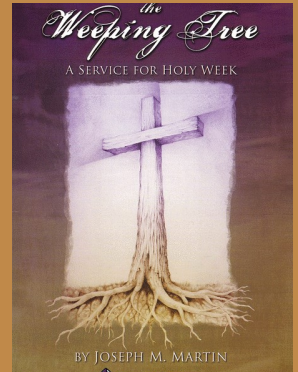
Today, we are not going to eliminate fear, anger, or violence in the world. There are too many financial and political factors, and self-important people who are strongly against doing anything meaningful in the short term. But we can speak out against the Crisis of Fear and Anger in North America today. We can vote against that which is contrary to God's love for us, and we can communicate better -- His Love for us and our neighbor.

We can begin with the words at the first Easter, "Fear not".

Easter blessings,
Gary Nickel

The Weeping Tree

Lenten Cantata
Good Friday
2023





Thank You!

Glory Lutheran Church Worship Choir
Piano: Lynnette Woodrow
Director: Pat Becker
Organ: Esther Madsen (flute and oboe)
Violin: David Mitchell, Callum Mitchell
French horn: Peter Clark
Percussion: Owen Mitchell
Narrators: Mike Lee, Rhonda Berg
Placing of symbols: Glenda Nelson,
Maggie Hensel, Paul Berg,
David Hauf, Anikah Woodrow,
Brielle Woodrow
AV Techs: Brett Woodrow,
Noah McKinnon





A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

We are looking for a group of volunteers willing to be on a **"set up/take down"** list. We can then consult this list for help with set up/take down of furniture (mostly tables and chairs) for various events at Glory (i.e. funerals and memorial services, church picnics, soup suppers, concerts, etc.). This can take place in days leading up to and after an event – whenever it is convenient for you (e.g. Sunday after church, during evenings before and after the event, or during a weekday). 4 people can usually accomplish what needs to be done in about 20 minutes.

We are also looking for volunteers whom we could call on to **help out in the kitchen** on an occasional basis - preparing beverages and serving food, and cleaning up afterwards (not necessarily both on the same occasion 😊). This would also be for various events at Glory (i.e. funerals and memorial services, church picnics, soup suppers, etc.) which could take place on a weekday, an evening, or a weekend.

There is a sign up list in the Narthex or you can contact Pat in person; by email glc.life@glorylutheran.ca; or by phone or text 780 239 5345.

Thank you for considering this request!



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

**Aiden Jones and Owen Jones
will be confirmed on May 21, 2023**



Communion Sundays in June

due to Pastor Markus' Holidays in June,
Communion Sundays will be on
June 18 and June 25.

GLORY FRIENDS AND FAMILY CAMPING – JUNE 2-4

A group camping site has been reserved for
June 2-4 at Miquelon Lake

All are welcome to bring your camping gear and games.

There are some **unserviced** sites available.
Please check your e-news for more information.

If you are thinking of coming and reserving please let Tim Berg know so we
can have a sense of the ongoing availability.

Call or text 780-270-3836 or email bergsdownunder@gmail.com



CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY



*I will sing to
the **LORD**
as long as I live.*

Psalm 104:33

June 4, 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 song.

Lunch will be provided
after the service.

All are welcome!



Thank you Glory Congregation!

Cassandra (a Ghanaian student living in Student Residence at King's College) can now get safely get to and from work. She has a Bike, helmet, 2x led lights, a bike lock and a reflective vest.

Many thanks to the congregation for their generosity (\$500 raised April 23), the bike and accessories came to \$400 so there's \$100 left over for the next project.

~Dave Hauf





Our worship service on Sunday, April 30, featured the handbell choir, Resounding Joy, from First United in Ft. Saskatchewan.

Thank You Resounding Joy Handbell Choir!



Our new Community Garden Coordinator, Dave Hauf, has been working hard to prepare Glory's Community Garden for spring planting. Thank you, Dave!

The annual work bee will be on May 13 noon-4pm.
There are only a few spaces left, please contact
Marjorie Zelent at marjoriezelent@gmail.com
or 780-467-5363 to reserve your space.



Bishop's Message - May 2023

Dear Beloved of God -

In March I joined concerned citizens at the Provincial Legislature building for the “Alberta Rallies for Housing 2023.” As I experience within my own neighborhood and place of work the growing realities of housing and homelessness challenges, it was important for me, to witness to these needs and to stand with like-minded neighbours. Today homelessness is surging across our province, and rents continue to rise faster than wages. The



statistics are staggering. Today in Edmonton alone there are 1000 more unhoused citizens than in 2021. More than 1/3 of renter households of persons with physical health and mobility disabilities are at risk. This is the largest population group living at risk of losing their homes. Nearly 1/2 of senior renters are at risk of losing their homes. It is time for a wise, well-resourced, and well-constructed long-term plan to address housing and homelessness challenges in Alberta. It is time for a plan which is pro-active and collaboratively designed with wide buy-in and participation across the political spectrum, so that the plan is resilient to disruptions and changes in ideological currents. A strong and effective long-term plan would include such components as:

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)—These are homes for people who have built-in supports that enable people to work through trauma, stabilize their mental health, and begin to recover from addictions.
- Rapid Rehousing—A long wait for help means those in need can fall deeper into health-related or addiction issues which makes recovery more challenging.
- Reduce emphasis on emergency services in favour of both prevention and recovery— making the shelters we do need small, safe and well-woven into the local fabric of communities all over our communities.
- Affordable Housing—there are many possible approaches to consider as part of the solution, including rent assistance, affordable housing run by non-profits, cooperative housing, and embedded affordable units inside market rentals.
- Enabling community care—Albertans want to help in real, impactful ways. Bridging professional and natural community supports will help us truly care for each other in deeper ways. Of course, there are many questions that we will need to ponder with care. Questions such as: ● How do we really help people heal, stabilize, recover, and get stronger? ● How do we care for people who say no to help? ● How do we care for people who struggle with life-long addictions and mental health challenges?

2023 is an election year for our province. Housing and homelessness are among top concerns for me in the upcoming election. Learn more at: interfaithhousing.ca to find a rally near you (anticipated rallies in Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie and Camrose) and/or to sign the petition. In Christ Jesus – Shalom, +Larry

In Christ Jesus – Shalom, +Larry

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 24, June 14 & 28	Women's Group Bagged Lunch 12:00pm
May 25	Worship at Hardisty Care Centre 10:00am
June 1-13	Pastor Markus on Holidays
June 4	Church Music Sunday
June 4	Rentals 1:30pm & 7:00pm
June 11	No Communion
June 18 & 25	Communion Sundays in June
June 25	Blessing Sunday
June 25	Memorial Garden Dedication during Worship
June 25	Church Picnic after Worship
July 24-August 9	Pastor Markus is in Columbia
Tuesdays	Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm
Thursdays	Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
Sundays	Worship 10:30 am (Communion 2 nd & 4 th Sundays)

FACILITY BOOKING

Our church is returning to our usual busy place with activities from within and without of our congregation. It is important to **book space and time** so there are no conflicts. Check the website (glorylutheran.ca) on the drop down menu under Contact Us. Click on Facility Booking Request Form and fill out the ONLINE APPLICATION to book your space and time. Or call the church office and speak with Heidi. If you want to confirm that a space is free, call the church office or check the *Calendar* on the website on the drop down menu.

Committees: Please ensure the office is aware of your meeting dates and times, however small your group may be. If you can, please also write them on the wall calendar in the office so it can easily be seen by others looking to use the space.

Finance Corner



Update for January 1 to April 30, 2023:

Actual Offering*:	\$ 103,861
Budget Offering Goal*:	\$ <u>99,900</u>
Over by	\$ 3,961

*(General Fund & Capital Building Fund)

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 treasurer@glorylutheran.ca when giving by e-transfer

Have you been receiving Glory's weekly e-news?



If not, and you are interested in being added to our distribution list, **please email the office with your request to subscribe.**

glory.office@glorylutheran.ca

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 contact the office if you would like to visit the church.



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

Phone: 780.416.9594 E-mail: glory.office@glorylutheran.ca
Pastor Markus Wilhelm E-mail: pastormarkus@glorylutheran.ca
Check out our Website: www.glorylutheran.ca