

CHURCH *Matters*



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 06.20 Edition



Creation Care Support Team

The Creation Care Support Team (CCST) is pleased to announce that the recycling containers approved through the Community Champions Program (CCP) have arrived.

The CCP is an infrastructure grant program that is specially designed for not-for-profit organizations and municipalities in Alberta. The program provides funding for specialized recycling bins that make out of home opportunities for recycling more convenient for and accessible to the public. The Alberta Beverage Recycling Corporation, as the agent for beverage manufacturers in Alberta to operate the collection of beverage containers through local bottle depots, sponsors the Community Champions Program.

There are 5 styles of bins to facilitate the sorting of discarded items including beverage cans and bottles, large milk and juice containers, paper, organics and waste. The ultimate goal is to

eliminate, reduce and/or recycle discarded items in an effort to treat creation with tender love and care.





GLORY CONFIRMANDS 2020

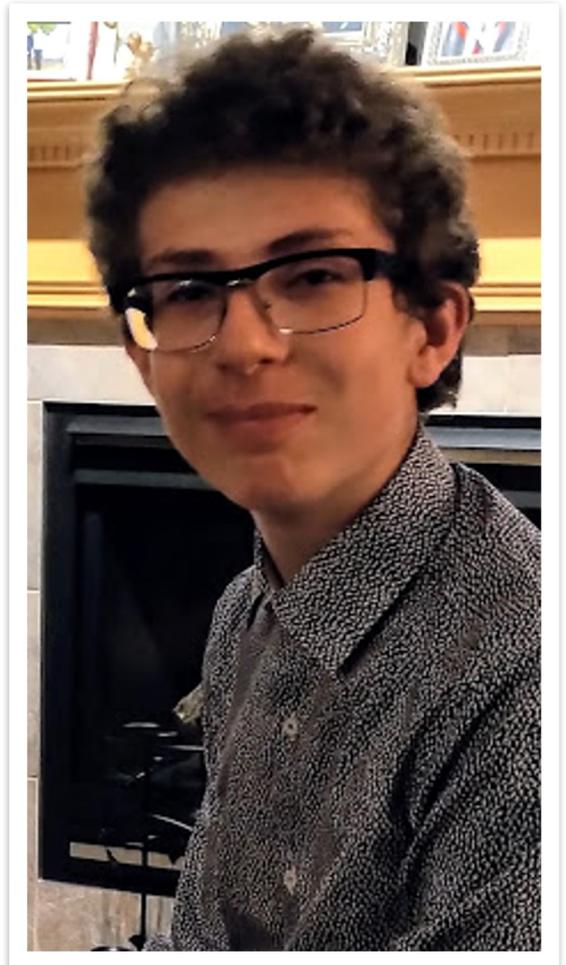
Faith Statement - Evan Blades

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 *“16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”*

I believe in God the Father, Creator of the Universe and everything in it. I believe God is my Heavenly Father and as such will always protect, defend, shield, comfort, nourish, strengthen, bless, and hold me to give me the best in my life. I want to affirm my convictions of faith in God and Jesus by being confirmed at Glory Lutheran Church. This means I am ready to take on responsibilities of my own faith. My promise to God is to stay faithful, continue to build a relationship with Jesus, be an active member of the church and study the Bible.

I have faith and trust in God that the temporary troubles around me will not last forever. With the pandemic creating so much fear and pain, my world has changed so much. I miss seeing my friends and laughing with them at school. There are so many impacts to everyone around me and there is a lot of fear and so many sad stories. When I feel down, I know God is with me and I have faith that these struggles will not last forever. I have learned that God gives us good in everything and to trust God that my troubles and fears are temporary. Confirmation study has taught me that God is good and merciful, even in times when I am afraid. Confirmation has taught me to pray to God for hope, love and peace. I trust that the challenges in my life are teaching me things to build wisdom and expand my faith. What faith means to me is to have strength and courage for whatever challenges come to me and that Jesus is with me to help me manage them. These temporary afflictions of God will eventually go away and I trust in my faith that Christ to help me through them into an eternity of peace.

My confirmation classes have taught me the importance of church and the words of God. Confirmation has helped me grow in my faith and understanding of the church, and that life is preparing me for all the wisdom and faith to make me ready to live eternally with God.



Faith Statement - Sophia Gregerson

Romans 12:12 "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

I chose this bible verse because it was picked out by 2 people that are very close and special to me and who have helped me become closer to God.

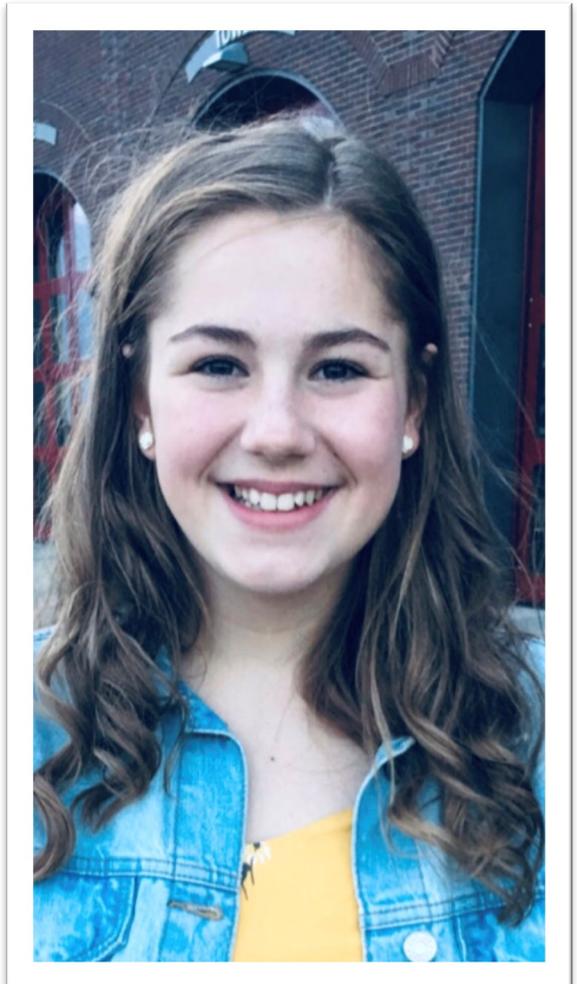
For me, To be joyful in hope is to have unfaltering assurance in God's word. To be patient in affliction is to know that in this world we have to be patient and wait patiently for our suffering and to not worry and be happy knowing God's strength is sufficient to see us through life's troubles. To be faithful in prayer is to be constant in prayer, to make it a pattern in your everyday life and that you should not let emotions be your decision-maker, stop and pray, let God lead you, he can change everything. For those who leave everything in God's hands will eventually see God's hands in everything.

The verse reminds me of camp and how it has brought my relationship with God so much closer. Camp has taught so many things, like to be ready for when God calls to us, to know God is always with me and that When you can't put your prayer into words, God hears you. Even now I still often forget that God is here and that he doesn't want me to worry, he just wants me to be happy.

Camp is where I feel connected to God. It has brought me closer; before I went to camp, I never really thought that much about my faith. I never really paid much attention to God, I didn't make time for him. Even at camp my first year, the first couple of days I wanted to skip service nights cause I never listened and I thought they were boring. Then one sermon caught my attention, I started to listen. Later, instead of not being involved in some of the worship songs, I joined in and I had never felt better. This summer, My favourite service was when we talked about God's plan for humanity and how he will use what makes us different to make a difference in this world and how he has called each of us to reach out to people.

Even now, I still need God to consume me more than my life currently does and trust him, because he has a much bigger plan for me than what I have for myself.

So don't be discouraged by your closed doors. If God wants a door to open, you can be certain it will open. All the forces of the darkness cannot stop it. God knows what he is doing, he knew from the very beginning.



Faith Statement - Jared Nelson

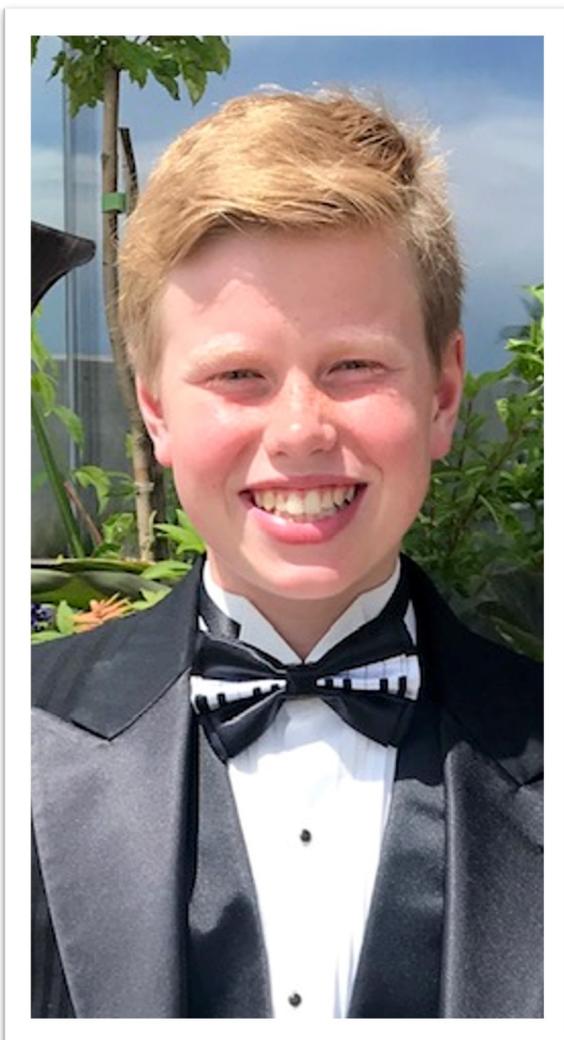
Matthew 7:12: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."

When I was little, my mom always said "remember The Golden Rule". As I grew up I began to notice how much meaning that rule has in our lives. In everyday situations, I am often faced with decisions and I reflect on this verse to help me make them. I always consider how I would feel if a similar thing happened to me. I also think about how others would feel. This verse is the most meaningful to me of all.

This verse is in the part of the gospel of Matthew where Jesus was teaching people what to do. People call this verse the "Golden Rule" because gold is considered valuable or important and the golden rule is very valuable and important. The Golden Rule is used in many religions like Buddhism, Hinduism, and Judaism, to name a few. The Christian one is based on God's law. The law and the prophets means the guidelines that God has set out for us.

In this verse, I think God is trying to tell us that whatever you do it will always make its way back to you. Whether you give a homeless man a dollar or give someone back their wallet after they drop it, that little act of kindness will someday make its way back to you. This verse is a guideline to how we should live our lives. If you need to make a big decision, you can remember this verse and think, "would I want this done to me?" I also think God is trying to remind us that Jesus also lived his life by The Golden Rule. When he healed people and when he fed people he would have wanted them to do the same.

This verse inspires me to be kind to people, not because it will come back to me, but just because it's the right thing to do. You shouldn't always be doing something for the reward, you should do it for people in need or people who just need a nice deed on a bad day. There is always something that you can do to make someone's day better. It feels good when I make someone's day.



Message from Pastor Markus

June 2020

Dear Friends,

As we continue struggling through these months of separation from one another, I want to share a passage of Scripture which speaks to the situation of physical (social) distancing. It is from the letter of the apostle Paul to the church in Philippi:

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Paul was imprisoned when he wrote these lines, possibly in Rome, waiting for his trial. He was physically separated, or socially distanced as we might say, from his friends, family, and fellow Christians. Christians of the early church were often not able to meet in person, either because of being dispersed geographically, or because they were kept apart by those who were hostile to them.

That's why Paul grabbed his pen and used the medium that was most common to establish connections with fellow Christians. If Paul had not been in prison, he might never have sent this letter to the church of Philippi. He would have had no reason. And we would not have it in our Bibles, we would not have those amazing, powerful, comforting words available to us. Read Philippians in its entirety and then think about what it would be missing from the New Testament, if Paul had not written it.

Paul sent letters. God sent the Holy Spirit. If Jesus had not ascended, the Spirit would not have descended on the church. The church would not exist without the physical distancing of Jesus. If Jesus had continued his "in-person" ministry, he may never have had the impact that he did have and is still having. Distance is



important; both physical and temporal. Separation in space and time is part of life. And yet, we are not separated from the love of God. We are together in ways that we never knew we would. I experience this almost daily as I talk with members of the congregation, members of my family, and people in my neighborhood. We are together in a new way that makes me appreciate you, the others. Do you experience the same? There is more reflection going on about who I am, who you are, who my family is, and my neighbors, and what makes these relationships important. I am even beginning to pray differently, with more longing, more thanksgiving, and more thought to the needs of others.

And yet, we long to be physically together. We long for human touch with people, for a hug or a hand-shake. We appreciate more the importance of closeness and togetherness. Some of us are struggling because of this prolonged lack of touch, a struggle that is both mental and physical. Paul wrote that he longs for all the members of the Philippian church with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

God sent Jesus because God is longing for humanity. Jesus in his compassion longs to be close to us. Jesus is God's physical embrace of the whole human race, in fact all creation. We long to experience God in a real, physical, satisfying way. We are flesh and blood, after all, not only spirit. So we long for the "consummation" of our lives with God, for the incarnate kingdom of God.

We don't just want to **dream** of worshiping together. We want to **be** together. We want not to only **dream** of racial justice. We want there to be justice. We don't just want to **imagine** a world where people live in harmony with each other, we want to **live** in such a world. We don't just **long** for the day when the powerful rich will no longer keep distance from the underprivileged poor. We want to **see** such a society with our physical eyes. We don't just want to **dream** of a sustainable future in harmony with the natural world. We want to **experience** such a world.

Our dreaming and longing are important for as long as we are still separated. Change begins with dreams and longings. Paul says, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Our longing is the beginning. In Christ God began to bring us together as the body of Christ. We are still becoming what we are. We are still developing into the fulness. We are still struggling and dreaming, longing for the day of Jesus Christ.

Until that day, let us pray that

[our] love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help [us] to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ [we] may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

~Pastor Markus

Thank you

Thank you to **those who continue 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, Kirk Nelson, and Dave Hauf**.

Thanks to **Ellen Sitler** for making large quantities of chili to share with congregation members, and thanks to those who made the deliveries.

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, Pastor Seth, those who send pictures for the Sharing of the Peace and other initiatives, 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 to the **youth of our congregation** for reading stories for Glory Storytime on our website!

An additional Sea Can has been generously donated to Glory by **RAM Elevators and Lifts Inc.** We paid only for the delivery of this storage unit which will provide a much needed stopgap until we are able to afford a more permanent solution.

Thank you to **Aroon Sequeira**; company owners **Corey Smith, Richard Meunier, and Sandy Smart; Mike MCGinn**, company liaison; and **Kirk Nelson** for getting the site ready at the church and overseeing the move and delivery.

Thank **you** for all the ways you find to stay connected with members of your Glory family – phone calls, email messages, helping with all that still needs to be done at the church, contributions to online worship services, and especially your prayers.

PENTECOST MESSAGE FROM THE WCC PRESIDENTS – MAY 2020

Waves of despair, tongues of fire: A Pentecost message from the WCC Presidents

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. (Acts 2:2-4)

Last month, Pentecost Island was among those islands in Vanuatu, in the Southeast Pacific, that were most pummeled by Cyclone Harold, a Category 5 hurricane with winds of 165 mph and “king tides” of 20 feet and more. Devastating and lethal, the cyclone ripped roofs away, leveled structures, flooded communities, and took lives.

When the fierce storm hit her island home, Moana, owner of a beach resort, woke in fear for her life and her property. For two hours, she stood facing the winds and waves, imploring God to save herself and her property. Fortunately, when the storm had passed, Moana was still standing and her buildings were still intact.

In the Acts of the Apostles, the advent of the Spirit is portrayed in similarly dramatic and consequential ways. The earliest followers of Jesus, hiding in fear, were shaken, and then emboldened, by the mighty presence of God, allowing them to overcome even barriers of language and culture to preach the saving message of Jesus’ resurrection. The church was born in tumult yet emerged from the chaos with a potent, indeed life-changing, message relevant to all cultures and contexts.

As at the first Pentecost, so it must be again today.

Now, as we write, a silent, invisible, yet even more lethal natural force has landed. The novel coronavirus has upended the whole world, instilling terror and chaos, causing millions to fall ill and hundreds of thousands to die. The pandemic has wreaked havoc on economies, upset families and community life, eluded the most sophisticated systems of global and local healthcare, tested the mettle and efficacy of governance, and caused outbreaks of hunger.

Yet this Pentecost, across the centuries and around the world, we Christians are linked to each other and to those earliest disciples to proclaim, as they boldly did, that the God of Life is with us still. The Spirit of God lifts our hearts in prayer and longing. The Spirit instills in us courage to face grief and suffering. The Spirit enflames our hearts with love to serve those who suffer and are excluded from society’s systems of care. The Spirit illumines our minds to engage in and support intense scientific research for treatments and vaccines. The Spirit enables us to confront and surmount this virus with generous cooperation, with our best medical and pastoral care, and, above all, with loving kindness toward all God’s children.



The Spirit of God, too, is *pan-demos*. It touches all people and crosses all barriers, yet in a way that spells life, not death. This Pentecost, we pray, may wrestling with this pandemic unleash the Spirit's energies in the whole people of God and renew, not just the church, but the face of the earth.

The presidents of the World Council of Churches:

- *Rev. Dr Mary-Anne Plaatjies van Huffel, Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa*
- *Rev. Prof. Dr Sang Chang, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea*
- *Archbishop em Anders Wejryd, Church of Sweden*
- *Rev. Gloria Nohemy Ulloa Alvarado, Presbyterian Church in Colombia*
- *Bishop Mark MacDonald, Anglican Church of Canada*
- *Rev. Dr Mele'ana Puloka, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga*
- *H.B. John X, Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and All the East*
- *H.H. Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians*

NOTE: The World Council of Churches is a voluntary gathering of most Christian Churches around the world, those who are willing to work together on common interests such as disaster relief and world hunger projects. They agree that their religious practices and theology vary but do not prevent them from working together on these mutually-agreed upon projects. They also discuss Christian and world issues for better mutual understanding of one another. WCC structure is as a Council with representatives from participating churches, and our Lutheran ELCIC is a participant in the WCC.

LUTHERAN (ELCIC), ANGLICAN & UNITED CHURCH LEADERS SPEAK OUT AGAINST RACISM

In light of events in the USA, they together speak out in a letter and invite a response. The letter closes with the following suggestions:

- Reach out to a friend of African descent and listen to their story and how these events have affected them. This is also a good practice for primarily white congregations whose minister is African descent.
- Conscientiously and prayerfully consider joining public expressions of solidarity towards seeking justice against anti-Black racism.
- Read books and other materials on Black history in the Canadian context, the impact of anti-Black racism, and the reality of white privilege
- Research critical elements of Black legacy
- Engage with the artistic and cultural production of people of African descent, with a commitment to learn the history and context within these expressions.
- We call upon our members to join with us in this commitment.

The complete letter can be found at:

https://mcusercontent.com/995f38ab3f3a9fb43ccc1bc2d/files/d8dbed3e-c894-4c70-8047-9ac95dd75abf/2020_06_02_ELCIC_ACC_UCCLetter_Racism.pdf

GLORY MEMBERS

in the Spotlight

... a place to celebrate the lives and good works of Glory People.



Tim and Rhonda Berg

Tim was born the son of a pastor....Rhonda, the daughter of a pastor. Both were born in BC. Our parents were both married 60 years ago in August. We met at bible college 36 years ago and married 31 years ago. That is where our similarities end.

As a bold, clever and determined kindergartner, Tim scripted a composition declaring that “When I grow up I want to be a fireman because I like going fast in a ‘firechrak’ because I want to see the fire”. And so it came to pass. In his early years, Tim moved to several communities with his family, then off to LCBI, then CLBI. Finally a move to Edmonton vs Lethbridge (with Rhonda by his side) was dictated by a literal “flip of a coin. Here he worked at many jobs from a bus boy to Night Manager at a major hotel until being hired at the Edmonton Airports Fire Department then City of Edmonton Fire Department. A childhood dream come true! Anything on the wild and crazy side of adventure draws Tim. Although he has never broken a bone, the scars and aches & pains that Tim sport, tell many hair- raising stories that we dare not share lest his mom get hold of this story.

Rhonda grew up on the BC coast then moved with her family to Lethbridge then moved herself to Camrose (where Tim and Rhonda met playing football against each other’s Bible colleges). Rhonda later worked in Camrose with Developmentally Delayed adults. The aforementioned “flip of the coin” decision resulted in a move to Edmonton to go to MacEwan and enter the world of Correctional Services. Since then Rhonda has had a variety of jobs working with families in crisis; including pregnant and parenting teens, young offenders, widows and widowers, in-home support for parents with violent children and, for the past ten years, at Elk Island Catholic Schools as an Educational Assistant supporting children with complex needs. Magnet Fishing is a newly discovered hobby and thankfully it is earning her some money. A big fat .30 cents fished out of the Festival Place lake is offsetting the purchase of her gear!

Together they celebrate the lives of their children, Ashlynn and Cole. Their story is featured on the next page of the newsletter.

Our family loves adventure and this passion took us to live in Australia for a year on a firefighter work exchange. The kids enjoyed a year of Aussie school, Rhonda made a gazzillion picnics and Tim skillfully dealt with the 27 rats that took over our Queenslander-style house! And that’s another story!

We love and appreciate our Glory Family and enjoy being a small part of the big picture. We are looking forward to the day when we can once again see your faces in the real world! Many blessings!

The Bergs

Ashlynn Berg

Ashlynn, eldest daughter, has always been a vibrant and curious child who loves to explore the world travelling to many continents. She has no plans of stopping this “education” outside of four walls. Camping on the banks of the ocean and in the depths of the forest, guitar and a recent purchase of a piano keep her life on the island balanced.

She is an Emergency Room nurse as well as a Stroke Clinic nurse in Victoria. Ashlynn loves the energy and opportunities this career offers her, so added her name to the Travel Nurse roster and hopes to see more of beautiful BC.



Cole Berg

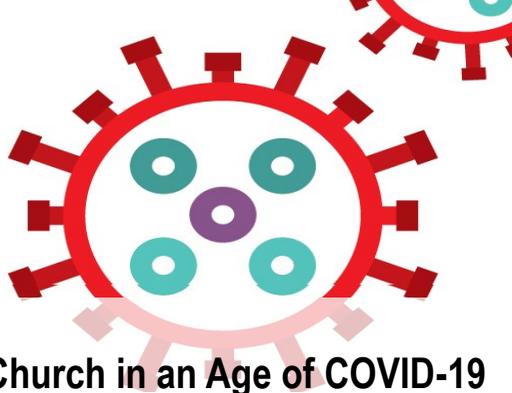


Cole is a thought-filled and grossly dry witted man! He keeps us on our feet. His stand-up comedy as well as deep friendships were solidified at CLBI. Cole has always had an analytical mind and it is incredible to see his brain at work as he easily and capably figures things out. “No, mom, you can’t help me with math”, - whoever came up with letters in math, anyway? Cole just completed the Mechanical Engineering Technologist program at NAIT in a very ‘on-line covid-19 kind of way.’ The graduation celebration was held in our garage with family members coming at various times to cheer him on...it was a wonderful “garage-uation! He is a “boulder-climbing, one-wheel ridin’, hammock laying - ukelele-playing, guy that loves board and video gaming.

Written by Rhonda Berg



COVID-19 update



In-Person Worship at Glory Lutheran Church in an Age of COVID-19

– an update from your church council:

As you know, the Province of Alberta has now published guidelines for businesses and places of worship that wish to reopen. The primary recommendation is this: *Worship leaders are encouraged to continue to hold services remotely and using other creative mechanisms . . . All places of worship should follow the public health guidance . . . and review their programming and worship services to keep everyone, especially the most vulnerable, safe.*

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories sent a document to church congregations which included links to AHS: Guidance for Places of Worship and to other pertinent documents. They also included a checklist based on those guidelines to help those congregations who wish to reopen their places of worship. The complete article can be found at this address:

<https://albertasynod.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ABT-In-Person-Worship-in-an-Age-of-COVID-19-June-1-2020-1.pdf>

Pastor Markus and Pat met with Bishop Larry Kochendorfer and other rostered and lay members of the Synod. They then met with church council to discuss how to move forward. **Your church council has decided to wait for an additional four weeks before making the decision as to when to reopen our church.** This will give us some time to see how Stage 1 of the relaunch plays out and to consider how to best implement these guidelines at Glory.

These guidelines call for significant changes to our customary experience of worship.

For example –

- Churches can allow only one-third of the normal worship attendance to gather, up to 50 attendees, whichever is smaller and allows for the required distancing.
- No congregational singing is permitted.
- Holy Communion can be offered only following strict protocols.
- Worshipers must use one common entrance and a separate exit.
- No social gatherings before or after worship.
- Physical distance must be kept between households at all times and children must stay with their family.

We will be putting together a team to carefully consider the needs and vulnerabilities of our congregation, and to implement the expectations of Public Health officials. Please consider being a member of this team.

We would like to hear your thoughts and plans with respect to worshipping in our church building again. Please watch for the short survey that will be sent with a Friday E-newsletter in the next week or so. We will mail a copy to those who do not use e-mail.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Blessings, Pat, Council Chair



June 21 is our National Indigenous Peoples Day

National Indigenous Peoples Day resources:

Prayers from the Anglican Church of Canada: www.anglican.ca/im/nidp

KAIROS work for Indigenous Rights:

www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights

Information from the Government of Canada:

www.rcaanc-cimac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013718/1534874583157

National Indigenous Peoples Day - Eastern Synod resource kit

Our [Eastern Synod](#) also provides a helpful resource to help continue the work of reconciliation and right relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

Please visit: easternsynod.org/content/biennium-reconciliation-initiative

KAIROS launches Canadian phase of MERE Hub during Indigenous Women's Month

The Canadian phase of Mother Earth and Resource Extraction: Women Defending Land and Water (MERE Hub) launches **June 21** during Indigenous Women's Month. The MERE Hub is a living digital hub developed for and in consultation with women land defenders, and was first launched in November with a focus on Latin America. Read more when you visit:

kairoscanada.org/kairos-honors-women-land-defenders-for-indigenous-womens-month

Throughout June, KAIROS will highlight and celebrate Indigenous women working to make change in Canada and the Global South. Read more at:

kairoscanada.org/this-june-is-indigenous-womens-month-at-kairos

Help women Indigenous land defenders today! Sign the e-petition urging Canada to empower the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Business Enterprise to make Canadian companies accountable for human and ecological violations at their overseas operations. For details and to sign the petition, visit:

kairoscanada.org/its-time-that-the-government-of-canada-empower-the-core-and-enact-mhrdd-legislation

KAIROS is an inter-church, multi-theme organization working for social justice/ministry issues and most of the main-line Christian churches take part; we have been a member since they got started many years ago.

Message From Pastor Nickel

OUR JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME for YOU MOVES ONWARD WITH PENTECOST, LIKE A GIANT FIREWORKS DISPLAY OF GOD AT WORK.

We're continuing from last newsletter, moving from Christmas and Christ's birth for us -- on from Lent and His ministry and His death on a cross for us, on from Easter and His rising from and overcoming death for us, and then His teaching and going to heaven WHERE HE PROMISED THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT for us – PENTECOST, described last time.

AND NOW, PENTECOST, AND BEYOND.

Pentecost was celebrated as a part of our Church Year, Sunday May 31 – but anytime is a good time to celebrate it, including whenever you read this.

Looking closer at the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 – our guide for this part of our journey is Luke the physician as he writes about the first Pentecost, as we notice the sound like a wind, the tongues-of-flame experience, and the giving of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers.

God's Holy Spirit came to all of Jesus' followers there in Jerusalem as he had promised. The Spirit enabled them to suddenly do things they hadn't been able to do before, including speaking in new and

different languages to tell others about Jesus, and healing people.

The crowds around them noticed the change in Jesus' followers as well. The followers were no longer hiding out, afraid of the Romans. They boldly taught "with power and authority". They boldly told what Jesus meant to them. This became known as THE GOOD NEWS!

This was also a time for arrests and troubles, threats of murder – better drama than soap operas. And there was teaching about Jesus' meaning for them and their lives (and us today). Read on in our guide beyond Acts 2...

Conversions were taking place as people came to believe and follow Jesus. The Church began to develop and form, and then the Church "became stronger, as the Holy Spirit encouraged it and helped it grow" [A.9:31].

By the way, PENTECOST Sunday is also the

BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH.

The gift of the Holy Spirit made Jesus' followers want to live their faith and to minister and help one another and others. That makes for more than 2,000 birthdays of the Church.

PS – if you missed the start of this Journey, or the details about the first Pentecost, check previous newsletters.



AFTER PENTECOST:

the followers of Jesus continued to tell about Jesus, generation after generation and even today – through the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

WHAT DOES PENTECOST MEAN FOR US TODAY?

Today, we individually, and the church at large, have the Guidance of the Holy Spirit. When we pray, the Holy Spirit answers our prayers. If everyone in the world prayed something different and all prayed at the same time, answering would be impossible –except for God's HOLY SPIRIT. The Spirit can do such things and more – for us individually and together as the Church.

We can pray and expect something to happen! Pray for others and their needs, pray for ourselves unselfishly, pray in the form of Confessions,

Thanksgiving, Praise, and more. God hears and responds! The answers may be “yes” or “no” or “not now”, or as someone teased that when we ask for the ridiculous, God might say, “You’ve got to be kidding”.

It is like the person who didn’t know how to pray or if it would work, and was advised to try it for 30 days AS IF IT WORKED. He did, he tried, it did work, he believed!

So make prayer a part of your personal Journey of faith and life. Know that God hears and answers. Know that you can do things with the help of the Holy Spirit that you could not do by yourself.

Consider: letting go and trusting in God and letting the Holy Spirit travel with you on your Journey of Life and Faith. YOU ARE NEVER ALONE.

[More about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit next time.]





season after
PENTECOST

As we enter the Pentecost season of the Church Year which reminds us of the Holy Spirit coming into our lives, can we let that same Holy Spirit help guide you and me in our journey of life and faith? Can that help us deal with the conflicts and challenges we face today in our lives, the virus, our relationship with one another personally, our relationship with one another in society, and our relationship with God? Let's see...

First, what do we see and feel? We have so many things to consider these days: mask or no mask, stay home or go out, what's in the news. We know that things are not always simple or easy. Soooo consider, take time to pray, reflect, meditate, observe what's going on around us. Luther said when he was busiest, that especially was when he stopped to pray.

Next, are there patterns in what's happening? For me:

3-4 years ago, dizzy to extreme; advanced tests showed – virus is the cause. Not the present virus bothering us, but still a virus. I learned that viruses can happen to anyone anytime, and we could only do so much. I learned: coping, compensating, patience, long term healing.

Someone said that they have recently learned to not take their health for granted, someone else that they were not as indestructible as they thought, someone else that they liked helping people cope with the virus by doing little ordinary things for them. Sometimes called

Discernment which comes from God – the Holy Spirit helps us with, What do we really see?

Soooo consider, what do we want to see? Feel? Do?

How are you living with yourself? Anxious because of withdrawal from sports? -- like I heard at one store while waiting. How about taking some time in prayer, reflection, Christian Meditation. Feel free to ask Faith N., or one of us for assistance or help.

Afraid of death? Feel free to talk with someone about that universal experience that goes with life.

With others, do we take time to help others? Do you inquire about how someone else is doing, to do a little kindness for another – and to feel we are doing it in Jesus' name, or trying to do it as he would do?

With others in society and culture, do we take on our share of

responsibility? Did you vote last time only after considering the issues, or did you vote automatically? We all see in the US: demonstrations, protests, riots, brutality, listening and helping and non-listening, anger, fear! Each of those words means something different is happening and sometimes all of those can be seen to be happening at the same time and place! There are a lot of people dealing with racism-based society and culture, or not dealing with it, going back 50+ years – like I experienced in Chicago personally in the 1960s, year after year after year. But then, we are reminded by some that we also have racism in Canada. Are we prepared and ready to speak to it with God’s help? Even if it with someone sitting right next to us? And if we fail, can we work to be ready to do the right thing for the next time and the next after that?

With others, do we want things our way or the highway? Or can we admit we don’t always “know” the right answer, or can we admit that we are wrong about something? Pencils have erasers! Fake news has evolved several times into the stuff we don’t agree with, but are we willing to follow Jesus’ love for us and example of really listening to others – and do so without being judgmental? [And yes, we can be for or against something without being judgmental, but it takes work.]

Is politics the centre of our lives? I’ve talked with more than one person who felt so and later admitted that it had become more dominant in their life than their faith. What is the focus and centre of our lives? How do we know what is?

HOW DO WE KNOW? How do you *really* know -- if something is right or not? Sometimes there are ways such as checking facts or multiple witnesses, sometimes not. Soooo consider: take time to think through thoughtfully – with prayer—what we have to think or worry about... For example, do you remember that quote which tells us that you may have heard and think you know what I said, but how do you really know that what you “heard” is what I was trying to/ meant to say?

For most parish pastors, at times a major part of helping people is to help them sort out facts and events, and re-think stuff through. Called RE-FRAMING, we help sort out the intent or meaning of what was communicated or often not. Often it is helping person A to see that what person B said could have more than one meaning and help uncover the real meaning of a communications.

[Communications is always a challenge: did you know that when you say in the English language to a child, “don’t do that” – there’s a communications reason why that the child is naturally more likely to hear, “do that” than to hear the “not” part.]

This is a good time and place to re-think our lives and the relationships we have – and to try to walk with Jesus as our example and guide and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In His Name we pray...

May the Lord bless you and guide you.
As you go on your way, May Christ go with you,
May he go before you to show you the way,
Behind you to encourage you,
Beside you to befriend you,
Above you to watch over you—and
Within you to give you peace! His peace.

Gary Nickel



“Jubilee for the Earth: New Rhythms, New Hope” a WCC webinar for the 2020 Season of Creation June 8, 2020

The [World Council of Churches \(WCC\)](#) invites you to a webinar for the 2020 Season of Creation "Jubilee for the Earth: New Rhythm, New Hope" taking place on **June 8, 2020** from 16:00-17:30 (CET) via Zoom.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lp2I_plNTpOA9Qf5IJ2gwg

“We unite as one family in Christ, celebrating the bonds we share with each other and with “every living creature on Earth.” (Genesis 9:10) The Christian family celebrates by spending time in prayer, considering ways to inhabit our common earth home more sustainably, and lifting our voices in the public sphere.” Speakers from 2020 Season of Creation will be together in a webinar to reflect on the theme with a Lutheran World Federation moderator. Details are available at: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/jubilee-for-the-earth-new-rhythms-new-hope-a-webinar-for-the-2020-season-of-creation>





Bishop's Message

Dear Beloved of God –

I know I have said it before, but it bears repeating:

I have experienced in these past weeks so many signs of hope, and of faithfulness, trust, courage, and encouragement:



- congregational leaders, lay and rostered who, under extraordinary stress, pressure and restraints have poured themselves into the work of leadership;
- congregational leaders, lay and rostered who, tired and weary and wondering, have reached out to one another, and to those in their midst, providing pastoral care, connection, compassion and care;
- congregational leaders, lay and rostered who, in the midst of an unprecedented time, exercised great skill (and energy and time) in preparing and/or searching for worship resources;
- rostered ministers who gather each Wednesday via ZOOM with Synod Staff for prayer, affirmation and encouragement, updates, and connecting;
- Area Deans who gather with rostered ministers via ZOOM for check-in with each other, study and/or prayer;
- and, creativity, ingenuity, openness, support, encouragement, trust, community.

At this time, I am inviting you – encouraging you – to pray for rostered ministers in varied ministry contexts, because I am hearing, seeing and recognizing that many of our rostered ministers are tired, weary, exhausted from:

- the emotional toll of being a leader in a time of uncertainty, crisis, liminality;
- leading sudden adaptive changes with technical challenges;
- disruption and change to regular patterns of spiritual and self-care practices;
- constant remote availability;
- worship preparation, pastoral care ministry, connecting with the congregation and community;
- and all, without any specific training or experience. This means that the skills, experience, training, networking, resourcing, and best practices, for many, have all needed to be created and learned in real time.

Pray for rostered ministers. Encourage them. Affirm their ministry. Give thanks. And know that God is with you and even now is planning and nourishing seeds of resurrection life.

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)

Memorial Garden Update

If you have visited the church property and walked towards the creek, you may have noticed stakes in the ground just beyond the community garden and the orchard. These stakes delineate the perimeter of the Memorial Garden. It is a large area and full of potential for a beautiful memorial garden. It will be a space for prayer, meditation, reflection and remembrance of loved ones.

Most recently, the committee met with a landscape designer who presented us with many suggestions and considerations regarding possible components of the Memorial Garden. Over the next few weeks we hope to present a scope of features and elements to a landscape designer, who will then proceed with the development of a conceptual design plan. We will continue to keep the congregation informed as we proceed on this journey.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Rita

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND STAND-UP DESK/DRAFTING TABLE ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU IN EXCHANGE FOR A DONATION TO THE CHURCH.

Brand New Kidde 3-4 lb. ABC dry chemical fire extinguishers.

Drafting table, & use as a stand-up work table, home office size [walnut finish wood] + stool and long-arm light. Folds flat for storage.

See Gary Nickel for details - 780/998-3963

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

Please note that Heidi is mostly working from home while her kids are doing online schooling at home due to the pandemic. Email and phone calls will continue to be answered during office hours.



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



Phone: 780.416.9594 E-mail: glorylc@telus.net
Pastor Markus Wilhelm E-mail: pastormarkus@glorylutheran.ca
Check out our Website: www.glorylutheran.ca