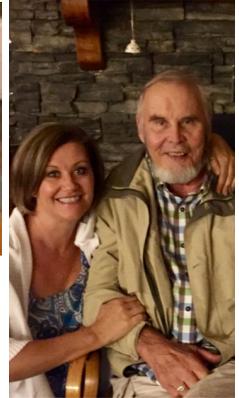


CHURCH Matters

Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 07.20 Edition



Mike Leo Sr. with his Dad in India 1932.



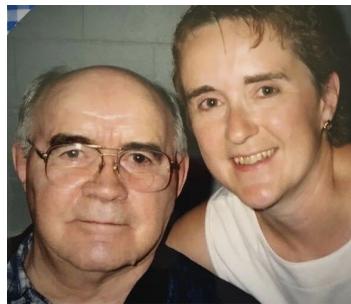
Margone's Dad in Sir Walter Raleigh costume





OUR GLORY FATHERS





Council Highlights - July 2020

As you know, the Province of Alberta has now published guidelines for businesses and places of worship that wish to reopen. These guidelines call for significant changes to our customary experience of worship as we reopen our doors to in-person service.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey that was sent out last week. It helps your council make decisions that promote the safest and most responsible re-opening of in-person services.

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. If you have volunteered to be a part of this team, you will be contacted shortly. As we make plans as to how and when to reopen our church building, we will continue to offer our worship services online.

Glory Lutheran Church has donated \$5,000 from our refugee fund to Canadian Lutheran World Relief to support their ongoing response to the COVID-19 crisis amongst refugees and displaced persons.

Congratulations to Grade 12 graduates Dayna Nelson, Stephen Glor, Kalem Fedoriuk, and Wes Gregersen; and to Cole Berg who graduated from NAIT with a diploma in Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Pastor Markus will be taking some weeks of vacation and study leave this summer. He will be away from July 27 to the end of August. During this time, we will have the opportunity to hear sermons prepared by the Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops within the ELCIC.

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.

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

Blessings
Pat
Council Chair

thank you

Dear friends at Glory, My sincerest thanks for all your prayers, phone calls and cards. It has been a long and difficult time but I know God will give me strength to see it through. May he grant each of you good health and give you strength until this pandemic is over. Hope to give you each a hug soon. Sincerely, **Sirkka Kadatz**

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.**

Thank you to **Ellen Sitler** for making large quantities of delicious chicken soup to share with congregation members, and thank you to **members of the Outreach Committee (Barb, Sandy, and Marjorie)** for making the deliveries. As a recipient of this meal, Joan East would like to express her deep gratitude and appreciation to these lovely ladies.

Thank you **to those who continue to contribute** to our online worship services: readers, contributors (children, youth, and parent facilitators) to the Father'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 and to **Astrid** for coordinating this project.

Thank you to **Cole Berg, Astrid Diebert, and Anikah Woodrow** for painting the new seacan. It now matches the church exactly! Thanks to **Rhonda and Tim Berg, Dave Hauf, and Kirk Nelson** for facilitating.

A heartfelt thank you to **Pastor Markus** for all that you are doing in this new normal in which we find ourselves!

Message from Pastor Markus

Month 4, Pandemic Calendar, also known as July, 2020

How close is too close? How far is too far?

As I write to you from my desk at home, I am aware that we always communicate at a distance. Not just now, during the COVID-19 pandemic, but always. When we talk in person we are talking at an appropriate distance. We don't like to have people "in our face". When we talk by phone, text, or email, we can keep distance for as long or short as we want. Some like texting the person across the table. Technology adds a whole other level of distancing, even when we are close.

How close is too close? The two metres, or 6+ feet, recommended "social distancing" seems reasonable, given the scientific evidence of how long it takes larger droplets coming out of our mouths to fall to the ground. (Yuk! How did we not know this before the pandemic?). Now scientists are saying that micro droplets can travel much farther by staying suspended in the air. So, how far apart does that mean we have to stand without risk of infection? I vote for masks!

So how far is too far? Can we be together apart? What does that mean for a church? How does our distancing affect our relationships with each other? How does our social distancing affect our spiritual relationship to God?

The last question is the easiest to answer, because we know from experience and we believe that God is never far away. We "live and move and have our being" in God, as the apostle Paul famously said to the men of Athens (Acts 17:28). Being in God means we can't be away from God. Being in God is not like being in church. Jesus said, "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you... On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." (John 14:18-20) Jesus is in us, we are in Jesus, and Jesus is in God. There is no social distancing with the divine. Nor is there any spiritual distancing with God.

This may not always feel comfortable. Nobody wants God breathing down their neck. It feels safer to keep God at a bit of distance, maybe in the church building, or tucked away in a prayer book. But for better or worse, we are not the ones to decide where God is or isn't. If there is one thing we should know by now, it is that being baptized means being clothed with Christ. It means being a branch on the vine. It means being a part of the body. It means having God with us (Immanuel) all the time. "O Lord, ... Where can I flee from your presence?" asked the Psalmist. "If I ascend to heaven, you are there", (of 

course!), but also “if I make my bed in Sheol (in hell), you are there.” Wow! Scary stuff when you think about it.

We can't pretend to leave God in places where we have often thought we left him, in our churches. God is haunting us at home, in our yards, in the small spaces where we have hidden from the plague. God is haunting us in our heads and minds, in the innermost secrets of our hearts, in the cracks in our relationships. God will not be quarantined by us, even if we tried.

But that's a good thing, isn't it? If God is truly for us, if God loves us, if God is in Jesus, and Jesus is in God, and we are in Jesus, then this is not scary stuff but comforting news. The greater the distance we put between each other, the safer we are from the deadly virus. The smaller the distance between us and God, the safer we are from ultimate death. We are eternally safe, saved, secure, loved, forgiven, and united with God through Christ. God is not far from any of us. In Christ this is anything but scary. It is life-giving. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

May you celebrate the saving presence of God in Christ this summer, wherever you are!

Pastor Markus

Prayers for this time

(From the Worship Resource Page of the ECLA):

We pray for the church around the globe. Where Christians are assembling for worship, protect them from viral infection. Where Christians are worshipping with print and screen, grant them steadfastness in your word. Strengthen those believers who doubt your goodness. Bless pastors, deacons, and committee members as they serve our congregations in this difficult time.

A brief silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:
in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Grant renewal to the air, the waters, and the lands. Save the animals whose natural habitat is threatened by climate change or human carelessness, and direct us toward sustainable living. Preserve the fields of Kenya from locusts. Nourish our country's green spaces.

A brief silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:
in mercy, receive our prayer.



We pray for the nations. Keep the world from war. Pave the way for just elections. Protect citizens from the designs of autocratic rulers. Uphold our courts. Guide our national and state governments in finding ways to redress the wrongs of racism and to ensure equality for all.

A brief silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:
in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick and suffering. Console the fearful, feed the hungry, house the homeless, shelter the run-aways. Heal the many who are newly afflicted with the coronavirus, and guide researchers in discovering a vaccine. Visit the sick whom we name here:

A brief silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:
in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for infants and young children, that they be carefully tended. We pray for teens, that they keep patience throughout the contagion. We pray for school boards, that they find solutions for the fall semester. We pray for the unemployed, that they find jobs. We pray for medical workers, that they remain healthy. We pray for the aged, especially those in care facilities, that they find companionship in your presence.

A brief silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:
in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray finally for ourselves. Show us that the yoke of faith is easy; may we find our rest in you. Hear now our private petitions.

A longer time of silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:
in mercy, receive our prayer.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith, especially the martyr Jan Hus and the monk Benedict of Nursia. Comfort all who mourn their dead, and at the end, bring us and all your people into your eternal rest.

A time of silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:
in mercy, receive our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, for the sake of him who bore the heavy yoke for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Bishop's Message - July/August 2020

Dear Beloved of God –

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



I am writing to a future that is uncertain and unknown, to a situation that is changing not by the month, week, day, or even by the hour,

but literally minute by minute, with the certainty that nothing will be the same again. Our church and our world will be very different for all of us on the other side of this coronavirus wilderness.

In many ways, this tragic time has accelerated the movement of the church into profoundly adaptive changes and challenges. And we need to address these challenges in order to be vital communities of witness to Jesus in the 21st century.

There are new opportunities and possibilities before us, including recommitting to a missional model of listening, discerning, experimenting, reflecting, and learning. And, all the while, to keep asking the questions: where is God in our neighborhood? Our community? Our world?

And equally importantly: how might we join God in God's mission?

Dear Church, I continue to wonder, to reflect, to pray:

- What is God calling us to be and do in the time ahead? What is God's purpose for us – what is God's mission through us – moving forward?
- What have we learned during the last few months about what is most important in our life together as the body of Christ? And how can we use that knowledge to shape how we will live, work, and serve together? What might we bring into the future from this experience?
- What new skills have we picked up? What other skills and gifts will we need to embrace a new future?
- How might our theological, denominational, and biblical perspectives and traditions inform how we move forward?
- What were the things that seemed so important before the coronavirus crisis that we might give less attention to, or let go of altogether?

Dear Church, I wonder, reflect, pray:

Our life together as the body of Christ, in service to our neighbours and all of creation, is going to be very different moving forward. Be humble and gentle with one another. Honor each other. Make space for lament. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey through the coronavirus wilderness and let the learning lead you forward. Trust that God is at work in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now. Thank you for your witness to patient trust in God and to sacrificial, cruciform love for your neighbours. And know that God is with you and even now is planning and nourishing seeds of resurrection life.

In Christ Jesus – Shalom, +Larry

Message From Pastor Nickel

OUR JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME continues -- via our CHURCH YEAR, based on the Bible.

Now we are at mid-point, a kind of mountain-top viewpoint, called TRINITY SUNDAY -- which invites us to pause and look back at what we've experienced and seen of God – pictures we took on our journey -- from the start of the CHURCH YEAR.

This TRINITY pause, this viewpoint overlooking everything, invites us see God anew because TRINITY SUNDAY is about God, our loving God. Yes, our God here at work as God our Father, the Creator; as Jesus Christ, both as God's Son and our Saviour; and as the Holy Spirit, our Counselor and Guide – and more. The references are all over the Bible.

Yes, the CHURCH YEAR that helped us experience God at work in our world, reveals God appearing in: +Advent and the Coming of Jesus Christ, +His Birth and Ministry and Teaching, +events leading to Jesus' death on the Cross and +his Resurrection from Death, +and to his Promise to His People of the Holy Spirit, and +Pentecost -- the Coming of the Holy Spirit & the affect on the Early Church & us today.

TRINITY SUNDAY, the Sunday after PENTECOST Sunday focuses on God. Why "Trinity"?

First, how many Gods do we have?

Right: One God! One God: working in the world in three different ways, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Three, yet still One God.



TRINITY: the Early Church gave us this one descriptive word about God, covering the many Old and New Testament references to God in ways we can more easily understand. Trinity comes from “tri”/three and has to do with the three aspects of how God works in our world.

Soooo, “TRINITY” helps us understand: One God, working in three ways, yet the three are one. Hard to comprehend? Look at “nature”: One in three/three in one – not so hard to consider when we consider water: one element but it can appear to us in the form of ice, liquid or steam! Or, consider, fire/flames. Hold three matches apart lit and you have 3 flames, bring them together and we have one flame, and again when apart we have 3 distinct flames. Three in one.

Also, yes, Co-equal! Not one big and two small or 2 and 1. Three equal, yet still One! Not in conflict. One symbol: a three-equal-sided triangle.

The Bible reminds us of how our Triune God relates to us. For example: +Jesus said for us to pray to the Father. +Jesus said that the Father would send the Holy Spirit to us after Jesus returned to be with the Father.

Then, regarding God the TRINITY, recall that Jesus, the Bible reminds us, +was both human -- born on earth and lived and died and rose again, and Jesus was also on earth as +God’s Son who was sent here for us as a substitute or sacrifice for our sins and as way to restore the broken relationship between God and His People.

So, TRINITY SUNDAY has brought us to the CHURCH YEAR viewpoint to remember what we have experienced and learned about our God. Next, we, the Church Year, and the Bible move on to focus on the time of the Holy Spirit guiding the Church on earth.

Next time, we see God at work with His People in new ways -- then and now -- as we continue on our Journey of life and faith – with the Holy Spirit giving us Gifts of the Spirit and Fruits of the Spirit.

--Gary Nickel

In Memoriam

EMIL SENFT ~ June 1, 1926 – June 10, 2020 ~

A private service was held at Glenwood on June 18, 2020

ED WESNER ~ November 30, 1934 – June 30, 2020 ~

A private service will be held at Glory on July 9, 2020

*Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted...*

Matthew 5:4

Fund Raising - Bottle Drive

The Church is always collecting bottles so please keep those empty cans, bottles and milk cartons coming in. Thank you, **Doug Sime**, for taking them to the recycle station. All proceeds go towards the church general fund.

Please only include **REFUNDABLE beverage containers**.



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

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

OFFICE
HOURS



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