

# CHURCH *Matters*



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 07.21 Edition

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Glory Lutheran Church



## VBS 2021

GROWING our Faith in God

While we aren't able to have our typical weeklong camp together, we're looking to stay connected and help spread God's love despite current situations! See inside for details.



## Outline

- Each Monday at 10 a.m. the week's VBS page will be launched on the GLC website (to be accessed at that time or any time after). This will include various videos where I (Noah) will explain the week's theme, verse, story, craft etc. There will also be songs for the kids to learn and sing along to.
- VBS activities will be done at home by the children and their families.
- Activity Kits will be provided which will include craft supplies and any instructions, recipes, or other items needed for that week. During registration, families will select a time on Sat-Mon between 10 a.m.-noon, 4 p.m.-6 p.m. to stop by Glory Lutheran Church and collect a kit weekly.
- While we can't get to know each other in-person, we are asking that families send photos and videos of the kids participating in any of the activities for that week. These will be posted on the website the following week so we can connect that way.

- There will be nature walks on the Church grounds that we hope families will use to see the beautiful land that God has created for us and to enjoy the (hopefully) beautiful weather this summer. After you have registered, you will be contacted to arrange your time(s).

### **Important Dates**

- Please register by **July 11th**
- Each Monday (**July 19th, July 26th, Aug 2nd & Aug 9th**) a new VBS week will begin online
- Before each week begins or the Monday of, pick up your child's "Activity Kit" from the church at your chosen time (as per the registration form).

### **Cost**

There is no set cost for our VBS program however donations are appreciated (suggested donation is \$25/child). Please send donations via e-transfer to the Church's e-mail address ([glorylc@telus.net](mailto:glorylc@telus.net)) and indicate it is for VBS so the Treasurer will know how to designate the funds. The security question should be "What is our church's name?" and the password should be "glorylutheran". It would be appreciated if donations are made at the time of registration.

We can't wait to share the news and have fun this summer with the new VBS format!

Stay safe,  
Noah McKinnon, VBS Coordinator  
[glorylc.vbs@hotmail.com](mailto:glorylc.vbs@hotmail.com)

A decorative border of vibrant green leaves and branches frames the top and bottom of the page. The leaves are of various shades of green, from light to dark, and are arranged in a natural, slightly overlapping pattern.

# Ready, Set, Grow!

After countless hours of praying, planning, visioning, and meetings with our Landscape Designer, we are so eager to share with you the Glory Lutheran Church Memorial Garden plans!

In normal times, we would have had 18 months of casual conversations before and after church and at various church functions to provide updates and answer questions. These have been anything but normal times!

Now that Covid restrictions have eased, we invite you to join us for a 45-60 minute in-person presentation and discussion. We will show you the designer's rendering of the garden, 'walk' you through it and answer your questions. We are sure you have a few!

Rita Spain will facilitate 2 presentations in July, a Zoom presentation in August for those who are unable to attend in person, and one presentation in September.

**18 July at 2:00 pm**

**21 July at 2:00 pm**

**15 August at 12 pm (Zoom presentation)**

**08 September at 7pm**

As we continue to care for each other's well-being, we ask that you **please call or email the office at Glory to indicate which presentation you would like to attend.**

It will be so good to see you!

# Council Highlights

July 2021

## **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:**

The ELCIC requires all candidates for ordination to serve a 12-month internship. Kathie Goertz Thompson, a student at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, has been placed at Glory. We are looking forward to her joining us in September.

## **RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP:**

Our church council continues to follow the COVID–19 situation closely and has been discussing the possibility of a return to in-person worship in September. We are cautiously optimistic that the pandemic is winding down and that we will be able to gather safely again.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has released its official guidelines for Canadians who have been vaccinated against COVID-19. You may find these useful. they can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/awareness-resources/vaccinated-against-covid-19-public-health-measures.html>

For now, as we care for each other's wellbeing, all activities at Glory are proceeding with most precautions against Covid-19 still in place.

We have scheduled outdoor services for Sunday, July 25th, and Sunday, August 8th. There will be Holy Communion on these Sundays. Please bring communion elements with you for your use. Bring your own lawn chair and hat and sunscreen if needed. Please note this on your calendar and watch the e-news for any further details. Online worship will continue on these Sundays.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback. Thank you.

Pat

Council Chair

780 998 5345

# Our *Spiritual* Journey

*A Message from Pastor Nickel*

For OUR OWN Spiritual Journey this time, what can we LEARN FROM OTHERS? How about ONE OF THE GREATEST MUSICIANS IN THE WORLD, AND he was a Lutheran!

He can give us some ideas about what Spiritual Journeys are and can be for us. Yes, there are "greatest" musicians throughout history -- even before Beatles & Elvis.

There are those who play musical instruments, compose, and sing. Some are great at one or two, and a few handle all aspects of music, while others are limited to enjoying music. I am one of a seminary class of 60, and one of 11 in that class who were told to never try to chant during worship because of my voice. That of course does not keep me from enjoying music and learning from it.

First, consider music. Music can be an expression of something specific without using words, for example to create a sense of restfulness or relaxation. Or music from an orchestra playing can be soft and gentle and then contrastingly booming or stirring of the senses. Music can also express something in words with song or rap or hip hop.

Now, think about DESCRIBING GOD IN MUSIC, composed and played by one person. What *is* the essence of God? Our God is *one* God, *three* persons. OUR GREATEST MUSICIAN did it first with an organ, and musicians through the years have marveled at the artistic excellence of these works he composed and played.

The organ allows this music to have one melody in the right hand, one melody in the left, and yet another in the organ's pedal line -- all sounding at once, each retaining its own identity, yet together forming a beautiful harmony. Someone wrote of this that "the composer intended this to be an expression, a tonal picture, of the eternal mystery of God, the Trinity."

If you or I have the heart for God, this artistic expression does help us in our grasping of the trinitarian truth -- God as described in a way through music. Just as water can help us grasp "one" that can be in three forms [liquid, steam or ice], so this special music and unique musical instrument can express the three - yet one nature of God.

You see, this great art did not lead the composer to true worship, but instead his true worship of God gave rise to these works of his. In response to God's love for him and he for God, he was able to create in this way.

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He also said that he did not do things alone, but by the help of the Holy Spirit. Yes, that same Holy Spirit of God who comes at baptism to be with us in our lives. Can you see yourself living and doing the stuff of your life together with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit? Try it, do it!

He believed that the talents and abilities he had were gifts from God and that they should be treasured and used in God's service.

He believed that writing and performing music are really worship, and that every note should be good enough to dedicate to God. Do you and I take time and talents/abilities and use them as a gift from God for us and for others?

At the top of every piece of his music, even on the simple practice exercises he wrote for his own children, he marked the letters "J.J." They stood for Latin words Jesu Juva, which means "Jesus, help me." At the end of his musical works, he often scribbled the letters "S.D.G." -- Soli Deo Gloria -- which means "to God alone the glory".

He, one of the Greatest Musicians, was JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH. Born in 1685 in central Germany near where Martin Luther had grown up. At 14, to help earn money for the family, he and a friend decided to walk 200 miles to a town which offered singing jobs at a famous choir school. He practiced, studied and learned, and later became an organist and concertmaster for some of the German princes. But most of his life he played and wrote music for the Church. He often conducted the choirs of four churches, taught music, Latin, and Luther's catechism. He wrote nearly 300 "cantatas", each one telling a Bible story or the meaning of a Bible passage.

Many of Bach's works tell in music the story of Jesus' life and death and resurrection, and Jesus' love for us. He even set to music part of the Nicene Creed. Many musicians consider him the greatest composer who ever lived. Bach worked to be the best he could be and became the finest organist anywhere. It was told, "Once he played in a tiny village church and someone passing by said: "This can only be an angel from heaven - or Bach himself!" Can we be the best we can, with God's help? And like Bach, can we recognize God's love and forgiveness when we fall short?

Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" about Jesus' life is one of his greatest works and was only performed once during his lifetime on Good Friday, 1729. A hundred years passed before it was sung again. Can we do the best we can, with God's guidance, and not worry about the future, leaving ourselves in God's hands in trust and faith?

Like Bach, we do not know what lies ahead for us, but like Bach can we try to live a life close to God? Can we thank God for our gifts? Can we use our time, talents and possessions to express and share God's love for us through Jesus Christ -- and on to others?

Enjoy YOUR Spiritual Journey of life with God. ~ Gary Nickel

# thank you

Thank you to **members of our congregation of all ages** who are keeping the lawns and the trails at Glory in pristine condition!

Thank you, as well, **to those who have adopted a small garden bed of trees and shrubs to take care of** - or a few single trees to prune and water. There are lots more to look after. If you are able to help in this way, please contact the office.



## A Special THANK YOU

We would like to send a huge heartfelt thank you to **Pat Becker** who checked on us, cooked and delivered many meals while our family was sick and recovering from Covid-19. Thank you to the **Community Outreach** ladies, **Maggie Hensel, Rita Spain,** and **Barb Anderson** for creating delicious meals for us. I hope I didn't miss anyone. Thank you to **Pastor Markus** and our **Glory Family** for all the prayers and well-wishes, your support has means so much to us. **Thank you all** for your patience while I deal with some lingering symptoms including additional brain fog and fatigue the virus continues to leave me with. (Thankfully the kids were barely affected by the virus physically and Eric has been suffering no long-term effects.) It has been a long haul for us, but after a few of months of it trying to bring us down, we are now doing so much better!

*~Heidi, Eric, Owen and Alianna Jones*

# Let Us Pray For Those Who Mourn

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**Bea Frederickson** passed away on June 12, 2021.

A memorial service will be held at  
Glory Lutheran Church on  
Saturday, July 10, at 12:00 noon.

We mourn with Bea's daughter,  
Karri McKinnon, their family and  
friends.



**Vivian Hooper** passed away June 28, 2021.

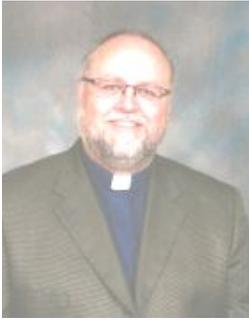
A Celebration of Life was  
held on Friday, July 2, at  
Glory Lutheran Church.

We mourn with Vivian's  
daughter, Glenda Nelson,  
their family and friends.



The Glory congregation gives thanks for their lives 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)



## Bishop's Message - July/August 2021

Dear Beloved of God –

CLWR was there. You were there.

When I think of the ministry of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) over its 75 years, my mind often journeys to the international relief and development work taking place alongside many partners. At this moment, when I hear

“CLWR,” my thoughts go to their local collaboration and partnerships, such as the response in Alberta to flooding in High River in 2013 and to the wildfires in Fort McMurray in 2016.

Never will I forget the overwhelming, immediate support, nor the outpouring of compassion and generosity the moment word of these disasters hit the news. In my first journey to Fort McMurray following the fires, it looked like a battle zone, with entire neighbourhoods completely destroyed and laid waste; vinyl siding melted and twisted; families and neighbours arm in arm, staring silently, slowly shaking their heads in disbelief and despair.

But I visited again Fort McMurray approximately one year later, together with CLWR staff and Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, then-president of the Alberta-British Columbia District of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC). We heard story after story of relief, support, and gratitude amid the devastation and ongoing effects of trauma.

CLWR was there, you were there, partnering with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and LCC to help meet the physical and psychosocial (emotional and mental) needs of community members.

CLWR partnered to provide new homes for those who had lost everything in the fire. Energy-efficient homes were built in Hague, SK, by teams of Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS) volunteers and transported to Fort McMurray where other volunteers had poured foundations and basements. CLWR had previously partnered with MDS, experts in domestic disaster assistance, to respond to the flooding in High River.

“I just can't believe it,” one individual shared with us, standing in their new home. “I'm sure nobody realizes how all those little bits of love add up to something meaningful. It took a lot of people to get this together. This house will remind me of that every single day. It seems that thank you is not enough, but thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

CLWR also partnered with a Fort McMurray organization to help alleviate the physical and psychosocial pain of those affected by the fires. Funds were provided to enhance the



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reach of the organization's outreach services in Fort McMurray and the surrounding communities. With increased staffing, expanded and more frequent visits to the rural communities were made possible, enabling greater access for children and adults to counseling and support, especially for those people who could not always travel to Fort McMurray. In addition, domestic violence services included an emergency women and children's shelter, second stage housing, and community outreach, which included support groups, risk assessments, education, and training.

Yes, I think of international efforts, but I also think of collaboration and partnerships to meet national needs.

CLWR was there, you were there.

I have seen CLWR's strategic compass designed to be visionary and dynamic, emphasizing innovation and collaboration, sustainability, and transformation. CLWR maintains a commitment to building resilience, using rights-based and adaptive approaches.

When God lays the needs of people facing natural disaster and dislocation on the hearts of God's people, the response is immediate, filled with compassion and generosity.

CLWR is there. You are there.

Blessings to you, CLWR, in these next 75 years as you seek to faithfully live your mission: *Inspired by God's love for the world, CLWR challenges and responds to the injustice which causes human suffering and poverty. We are committed to working alongside our partners to build resilience through a continual shared learning approach.*

*As an international relief and development agency of the Lutheran communities, CLWR provides opportunities for Canadians to respond to national and international needs.*

Our National Church Council approved the designation of September 26, 2021 as CLWR Sunday to celebrate their 75th anniversary. Watch for further information and resources.

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*

From the  
Finance  
Committee



## Update for January 1 to June 30, 2021:

Actual Offering\*: \$138,201  
Budget Offering Goal\*: \$151,556  
**Short by \$13,355 (9%)**  
\*(General Fund & Capital Building Fund)

Thank you for your ongoing financial support.

If you need any help with giving options  
(envelopes, PAR, e-transfer or Canada Helps)  
please contact the church office.

## 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 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.



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