

CHURCH Matters



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 08.20 Edition

Are you longing to be in God's House?

Even though in-person Sunday worship services at Glory are suspended because of the ongoing pandemic, our building is not closed for private prayer and our beautiful church property is also accessible for you. For those individuals who would like to sit in the sanctuary for prayer, would like to spend some time walking the grounds, or have a private picnic, you are welcome to do so. We ask, however, that you call the office before planning your visit to the sanctuary or having a gathering on the property. This will ensure that we do not end up with more people than can safely be in the building or on the property at one time, and so that we can have someone there to help with sanitizing, opening and closing.

All who are in the building or on church property and are not of the same family unit (or "cohort" or "bubble") must observe proper distancing of at least 2 meters at all times. Everyone should wash or sanitize their hands when entering and leaving, and before and after touching surfaces. Ideally only people from the same household would be in the church building at one time.

Masks: As research on the transmission of the corona virus progresses, airborne transmission has been recognized as an important factor. Mandatory face masks have therefore been implemented in a growing number of jurisdictions as an effective measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Although not mandated in all of Alberta at this time, the government has distributed face masks free of charge to churches throughout the province. These are available at the entrance to the narthex. We ask you to wear one for all indoor activity. You may also use your own cloth or disposable mask. Extra washable masks have been sewn and donated by Kwai-Lan Leslie, and can be picked up from the kitchen counter. A big Thank You to Kwai-Lan for her work of love! Please remember: When you wear a mask, you protect others. When others wear one, they protect you.

"My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Isaiah 56:7)

Thank you

Hello, **Glory Lutheran Church congregation members,**

I would like to say thank you very much for the gift cards, food and some money that has been given to me in this difficult time. I really appreciate what the church has done for me and that certainly help and most important thing I felt the love of God has been given to me. Thank you so much for your generosity, care and prayers who are so important to me right now. I could not even express my thankful heart enough for everything that you have done for me. Thank you.

Regards,
Agnes Robinson

Thank you to **Tammy Kihn** for cleaning, washing and sterilizing the toys in the Kids Church rooms.

Thank you to those who continue to contribute to our online worship services:

readers, 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** for his ongoing technical support and expertise.

grateful
AND blessed

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



Thank you to **Marjorie, Jean, Eula,** and **Delores** for delivering a special birthday cake treat to many Glory 50 Plus members!

Thank you!

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

A large load of mulch has been delivered to our church for use in the community garden and other garden spaces where it is needed – all free of charge. Thank you to **Got Stump? The Tree Company** (gotstump.ca) for their generosity. Thank you, as well, to **Mark** and **Lorne Becker** for arranging the delivery and moving the mulch close to the garden.



Thank you from the Wesner family to our Church family. Since Ed's passing away on June 30th we have felt surrounded by love and caring as beautiful cards arrived in the mail and in our mail folder. There were phone calls, gifts of flowers, casseroles and baking. Thank you, Choir for providing for us so well. The doorbell rings and there is a friend with more food. Thank you, **Pastor Markus** for being there for us when we needed your presence and prayers. The **caravan** of cars lining the side of the road as we left for the cemetery after the service was such a beautiful gesture, and a most humbling tribute to Ed. Thank You.

**Maureen, Lori & Miles & family,
Susan & family and Mark.**

*with sincere
gratitude*

Council Highlights - August 2020

Covid 19 Update

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 a few weeks ago. 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 this month. As we make plans as to how and when to reopen our church building, we will continue to offer our worship services online.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The pastor's discretionary fund is a designated fund made available to the pastor to distribute for emergency financial aid. This fund is especially important considering the events of the past few months and the uncertainty going forward. Please consider making a special offering designated for the discretionary fund. Every donation will make a positive difference as we take care of our community ♥.

Pastor Markus' Vacation and Study Leave

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.

If you require pastoral care or would like anyone included in the Prayers of the People during Sunday services in August, please contact Pat Becker (780 998 5345 beckermp@telusplanet.net) or the church office.

On Sundays during the month of August, we will have the opportunity to hear sermons prepared by the Bishops and Assistants to the Bishops within the ELCIC. The sermon for this Sunday is prepared and recorded by Rev. Dennis Serfas (Assistant to the Bishop of the Saskatchewan Synod).

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If you have a few minutes of time that you don't know how to fill and would like to enjoy the beautiful setting around our church, please consider pulling any weeds that you may find around the trees bordering the parking lot.

Land Purchase

As you know, Glory Lutheran Church has come to an agreement with the National Church to purchase the back 28 acres of land for \$300,000. We are in the process of creating a Fundraising Campaign Committee to provide leadership to the fundraising initiative. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Pat Becker or Aroon Sequeira. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity.

Aroon Sequeira: 780-901-9469 asequeira@sequeirapartners.com

Pat Becker: 780-998-5345 beckermp@telusplanet.net

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 or concerns.

Blessings,

Pat, Council Chair

Memorial Garden Update

I am happy and excited to inform you that the Memorial Garden committee has engaged the services of Dora Berry, a landscape designer, to develop a design plan for the Memorial Garden!

In May, our committee met with Dora, over Zoom, where she presented us with many suggestions and ideas for the memorial garden. Then, in June, the committee met via Zoom and we developed a scope of features and elements for the memorial garden. In July, with the Council's endorsement, we enlisted Dora's services to proceed with the development of a design plan.

A number of you may be familiar with Dora, and her company Nature's Elements, as she lives locally, has been involved in Seedy Saturday and has provided in-services on a variety of gardening and landscaping topics. Dora brings a great deal of enthusiasm, knowledge and landscaping design expertise to this project.

A master plan for the design of the memorial garden is expected to be completed by the end of September. We look forward to presenting the plan to the congregation. The manner in which we present the plan will be determined at a later date as we will take into consideration the recommendations of Alberta Health Services in order to ensure the safety of everyone during this time of COVID-19.

Rita, On behalf of the Landscape/Memorial Garden Committee

Message From Pastor Nickel

OUR JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME continues --

So like all mountain trips, we go down from the mountaintop [after journeying via the life of Jesus Christ].

Trinity Sunday was the mountaintop and now we go down into the valleys, onward into the world we share with others. [If you are just joining us now, see the earlier newsletters for our earlier journey.]

But we JOURNEY not alone. Now, we go with the Holy Spirit, remembering that Jesus said the Father would send the Holy Spirit to be with us.

That was true then, and it is true for us today. It's not just history; it's part of the Faith, part of what can happen with the help of the Holy Spirit – at any time and place!

Also we walk with those mentioned in Acts – together.

Look at the examples of the very Early Church in Acts -- and not just as old history.

BANG! – the HOLY SPIRIT has come to the people and things are happening because of the HOLY SPIRIT being with the followers of Jesus!

This is the kind of thing that can and sometimes does happen in today's world. Our leaders on this JOURNEY are the BIBLE and the "CHURCH YEAR", and they provide a sequence for us to help understand the Bible and God-at-work with us.

Last time, after Pentecost and the Coming of the Holy Spirit, our Church Year paused for Trinity Sunday, then continues with the Bible's Book of Acts.

Now, by Acts 10, the followers of Jesus have received the Holy Spirit and taught others about Jesus, testifying in ways that they had not imagined possible, speaking in languages of the people that they had not spoken before!

Some of the followers have healed people in Jesus' Name.

Some disciples healed people of their diseases and "worked miracles and wonders". [Think of "wonders" as being happenings which were not easy to understand and left the people around them wondering what was going on.]

Stuff was happening!, as the saying goes. People around them were interested and inspired, and some were coming to the Faith. It's an "alive" and exciting time!

Even more stuff was happening then than in today's prime-time cliff-hanger soap opera.

Notice in Acts 4:32 ff, that the followers of Jesus shared what they had with each other and helped one another – in all kinds of ways.

How about Joseph who became known as "Barnabas" [Acts 4:36] -- "One who

encourages others". He was changed that much by the Holy Spirit!

We also see that more leaders were chosen from among the followers of Jesus [Acts 6].

Then Stephen spoke to the Faith and even testified among those against the Faith, to the point that he was killed for his testimony [Acts 6-7].

Then as a result, Saul who was against the Early Christians, came into the Faith. He even experienced the presence of Jesus and became "Paul", among the most-traveled of the apostles, sharing the Faith and starting church groups. We find him periodically and chronologically in the writings of Acts, growing in faith and understanding.

I really like the experience of Philip [Acts 8:26 ff] and the casual, friendly way in which he was guided to and did help the Ethiopian Official come to Faith and to baptism. Notice that the official was "very happy" as a result, as he continued his journey. The focus is on bringing someone to faith with simple, quiet sharing of one's faith.

Then Acts 10 tells about how the Faith was guided to expand and reach out beyond the original followers of Christ and those of Jewish background, to make the Faith available to and for all peoples everywhere. It's a giant milestone marker as God's love guides us to share that love with more and more people.

So did YOU notice that these were ordinary people being changed by the Holy Spirit?

Did YOU notice some of the ways that the Holy Spirit was working with people?

Some of these are known as the "Gifts of the Holy Spirit". Let's see: we have -- healing, talking in languages not previously understood, teaching, leading, helping in various ways.

Later, there is more about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they work and don't work [such as, no one will be given gifts that they do not want or cannot handle].

Yours, Together in Christ, Gary Nickel

PS: RE THE HOLY SPIRIT -- +References to the Holy Spirit moved from the traditions and understandings of the Old Testament with references to "it", changing within the Faith by the time of the New Testament's Acts to become regarded as a personal reality/presence and referred as "he" -- with both male and female characteristics/attributes; as is so with regard to the Father.

+One of the special offices, or things the Holy Spirit does, is to bring to fulfillment in human experience the whole meaning of Jesus Christ -- as Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

+The Holy Spirit in Acts here becomes more personal, more "God-with-his-people", and later was "formulated" by the early church to help us understand the Holy Spirit via the doctrine of the Trinity.

Since you have asked, ABOUT TRINITY & JESUS and THE CREEDS

During the Early Church, people had more questions about the Trinity and most of them centered around Jesus, so the first creed [“I Believe...”] was developed to explain what the Early Church believed. This was formulated and agreed upon and called the Apostle’s Creed [named after the Apostles].

A second creed came decades later, after more questions arose as people wanted to understand more about Jesus. The Early Church formulated the Nicene Creed, and it came to be used widely as it added more explanation about Jesus in the mid-part, making it of course longer than the first creed. The Nicene Creed was named after the place where the church leaders came together to formulate the Creed, “Nicea”. [And yes, there is a third creed, the Athanasian Creed, still longer as it tells still more about Jesus.]

BIBLE PASSAGES RELATING TO TRINITY:

check out Phil.2:8, John 16:13, 2 Cor.13:14, Gal.1:1-5.

Also keep in mind our words used with baptism from earliest church days.

Summer is when the weather is often too nice for doing chores put off earlier because of bad weather.

Success comes from what you think, not what you think you ought to do.

You cannot live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.

All people are born equal... it's what they're equal to later on that counts.

The greatest of all faults is to imagine that we have none.

Retirement is when you don't have to stop working after 8 hours.

A person's character and their garden both reflect the amount of weeding done during growing season.



YOU ARE INVITED TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

God of life, God of peace, God of justice!

We pray for young and old, for women and men, for the powerful and the powerless, for those who have a strong faith and those who have lost hope, for all who thirst and long for peace as well as justice in the world.

Bring an end to racism, sexism, and the other “isms”, as we pray for healing of the divisions in the world.

We pray for the gifts of renewed kinship and friendship with one another, and hope and joy of your eternal reign...

God of life,

You said to Your disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.

We ask that Your peace which surpasses all understanding will descend upon all peoples around the world especially those currently in conflict and at war.

Increase understanding and forgiveness between nations.

Bring a diminishing of political discord and injustice.

Awaken the longing for a peaceful life in all those who are filled with hatred for their neighbor.

Comfort those who are suffering and displaced.

Help us to seek peace throughout the world by what we say and do, and by what we do not say and do not do through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit...

God of life,

We pray for an ease to the suffering as a result of the virus, and for healing for those with long-term recovery effects of the virus.

Holy Spirit, source of new beginnings,

Help us with the many adjustments and changes that we have to make as the result of the virus. Help us to make wise choices. Grant wisdom to civil authorities, that they will provide the best and most appropriate help to those in need during these special times... Amen





THE PASTOR CARVES OUT SACRED SPACE AT HOME
IN ORDER TO RECORD LITURGY FOR SUNDAY.

Image: The Rev. Jay Sidebotham

Common Tansy

You may have noticed plants with striking clusters of yellow button-like flowers and ferny foliage here and there on our church property. This is *common tansy*. Tansy has been designated as a noxious weed in the Alberta Weed Control Act. Noxious weeds must be controlled, meaning their growth or spread needs to be prevented. The county weed inspector is not happy to see this plant on our property!

If you see tansy plants, please pull them!

It is best to pull small or young common tansy plants with gloved hands before the plants produce flowers, which usually occurs from July through September. Common tansy foliage contains an oil that can be toxic if absorbed through skin. Wear garden gloves, closed-toe shoes, a long-sleeved shirt and long pants when hand-pulling the plants. Moistening the soil makes it easier to pull entire plants, including all of their roots, from the soil. Pulling plants from dry soil often leads to breakage, with some parts left in the soil; common tansy quickly regenerates from even little root fragments. Place all the pulled plant parts inside a plastic trash bag. Put the bag in a trashcan, and place the lid on the trashcan while waiting to dispose of the plant parts.



You can find more information about common tansy by following these links:

https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/pests/common-tansy.aspx

<file:///C:/Users/Home/Downloads/FS-CommonTansy.pdf>





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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.

(During the pandemic, typically one message is sent at the end of each week, unless an important announcement also needs to be made during the week.)



Would you like to spend some time in the sanctuary for individual prayer? Please contact the office to make arrangements for access to the sanctuary. We will try to arrange a time that works best for you.

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

Please note that Heidi is mostly working from home due to the pandemic. Email and phone calls will continue to be answered during office hours. Please call the office if you would like to visit the church.

OFFICE HOURS



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