

# CHURCH *Matters*



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 09.21 Edition



GLORY  
Community  
Garden  
2021



# Council Highlights

September 2021

## RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP – SEPTEMBER 12, 2021:

Our last online service in this format will be this Sunday, September 5. While Pastor Markus is on vacation, we have been using the Summer Sermon Series. These sermons have been prepared by the Bishops and Assistant Bishops of the ELCIC for use in congregations during the summer.

Our church council continues to follow the COVID-19 situation closely, and if all goes well, we are planning to return to in-person worship on September 12.

We are so looking forward to seeing everyone!

However, it is a reality that, as of this week, only 58.6% of all people in Alberta have been fully vaccinated. Cases of COVID-19 are increasing rapidly. We know that members of our Glory family are at many different stages and comfort levels at this time: some are fully vaccinated and some are not, we are all different ages and with varied health concerns, some are caregivers to fragile family members, work situations are different for all, etc.

We received a letter of encouragement and advice from Bishop Larry Kochendorfer this past week. (I encourage you to read it, found on page 5)

At this time, with respect to any in-person gatherings, for meetings and worship, he strongly encourages being vaccinated and continued use of masks, physical distancing, and careful sanitization. He states that “In all situations, err on the side of love for your neighbour.”

As we care for each other, Glory’s church council has made the decision to be very cautious as we return to in-person worship and to move forward with small steps as we worship together.

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### PLAY

A soccer net and soccer and basketballs have been purchased and the basketball net is set up.

These are available for the congregation to use. Please put the equipment away after playing.



# Return to In-person **WORSHIP**

## **The plan right now is as follows (subject to change):**

1. Please choose to worship online if you are not feeling well.
2. Physical distancing and sanitizing will continue.
3. The use of face masks is now mandatory for all indoor public spaces, including places of worship, in Alberta. Masks will, therefore, be required when attending in person worship services.
4. Congregation members are asked to bring their own communion elements Sundays when communion is celebrated. (This will generally be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month.)
5. We will plan to meet outside the church after services - bring coffee in an insulated “to-go” mug. 😊
6. Kids Church and Worship Choir will not begin immediately in September.
7. Blessing of Backpacks will take place on September 19.
8. We plan to live stream the worship services – you will be able to find the bulletin and the link to the service on Glory’s website. A recording of the service may also be posted. Knowing that technology is not without glitches, one of these options should be available each week.

## **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

The ELCIC requires all candidates for ordination to serve a 12-month internship. Katherine Goertz Thompson, a student at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, has been placed at Glory. We are looking forward to her joining us beginning on September 8.

The internship committee that will be supporting Katherine consists of Neil Querengesser, Rose Schlegl, Joan Jeffery, Faye Brooks, and Dwayne and Sandy Heinsen. We are grateful to these volunteers and to Pastor Markus, supervising pastor, as they undertake this important ministry.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any feedback. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Pat, Council Chair

Thank you

Outdoor communion services were held on July 25 and August 8. Congregation members were asked to bring their own communion elements. The weather cooperated and attendance was 80 and 60 respectively. Thank you to everyone who helped with these services! An online service was also available for these Sundays.

Thank you to **Kwai Lan Leslie** for her gift of beautiful face masks – sewn with love in three different sizes.

### Thank you to our Glory family!

The online worship service on Sunday, September 5 may be the last one in this format. We have been worshipping online for 18 months! We are so grateful to you, our Glory family, who embraced this change with enthusiasm and dedication! We hope these services have been a blessing to all who have worshipped with us!

There are so many people who have contributed to the online services! Thank you to all of you (and your children) for your recordings, photos, and videos of people, original art, readings, special music, Glory's church building and land, candle lighting, greetings, prayers, thoughtful and encouraging sermons, etc. - all contributed to make each service meaningful.

Thank you to members of the worship planning committee, the praise team, altar guild, and church council for planning services, selecting music, recruiting volunteers, keeping our church and sanctuary décor current as the church seasons changed, caring for land and buildings, and everything else that you do!

We would like to extend a special thank you to **Dani Montoya**, Glory's website administrator, for maintaining Glory's website and for her expertise and creativity in developing and publishing our worship services.

We have been blessed during these past 18 months to have **Pastor Markus** leading us in all aspects of worship and are thankful for all he does – including his perseverance in adapting to the online worship format and his hard work to minister to those among us who are not able to worship online.

Most importantly – thank **you** for your ongoing prayer support throughout the last 18 months and as we go forward with God's guidance.

## PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP LARRY—August 24, 2021

**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.**

In these final days of August, I am deeply aware of the approach of fall and the fact that some congregations in our Synod have already moved to in-person worship while many others are planning to begin in person sometime in September. Each decision has been made with careful conversation between council and pastoral leadership, and many continue to follow the "June 2021 Stage 1: Guidance for Places of Worship" distributed by our provincial government. This Guidance is available on the Synod website: [albertasynod.ca](http://albertasynod.ca) - Our Resources/COVID 19/In-Person Worship.

At this time, with respect to any in-person gatherings, for meetings and worship, I strongly encourage being vaccinated and continued use of masks, physical distancing, and careful sanitization.

In all situations, err on the side of love for your neighbour.

As you lean into the future, consider some important questions:

- Once back in the building, should online worship continue? If not, who will be excluded? If so, what should it look like?
- Online financial stewardship-how can it be encouraged and supported?
- How do we assess how life has changed for our neighbours and community? How do we care for our community and congregation?
- How can online access be used to expand small groups?
- How can we collaborate and work in partnership for online worship? For study? for service? for ministry?
- What does online access to resources and activities allow us to dream of doing-beyond what we were capable of before this reality?

Your conversation should include every aspect of congregational life. Being a congregation in this time means rethinking every aspect of life and ministry; it means moving forward to a new place where we very intentionally ask what we can do to make post-pandemic church life fresh and effective ... a new creation.

Whatever your congregation determines regarding in-person gatherings, be assured that as your Bishop, I will support your decision, and that together as synod staff, we will seek to assist you as we journey forward. A helpful resource as in-person worship begins, or continues, in your context, is the ELCA's "ReGathering Rite" which can be used or adapted for congregational usage. It is available on the Synod website: [albertasynod.ca](http://albertasynod.ca) -Our Resources/ COVID 19/Worship Resources.

Thank you for your resiliency, your faithfulness, and the deep care you have shown. This is what it means to equip, empower, and engage God's people to love and serve. You have all been witnesses to what we can do when we are church together and church for the sake of the world.

I recognize the weariness I see on many of your faces. But know that even in our weariness, the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Continue to be humble and gentle with one another. Honour each other. Welcome moments of joy; make space for lament. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey in the wilderness and let the learning lead us forward. Trust that God is at work in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

Continue in prayer: for those who are isolated or lonely, for our congregations, rostered leaders, lay leaders, for our specialized ministries, for the vulnerable in our midst, for those suffering from COVID- 19, for all grieving losses of any kind, for those who are burdened with additional work and those who are unemployed or underemployed, for provincial leaders, for emergency workers, doctors, nurses, and essential workers who are bearing the burden of this pandemic, and for students and teachers.

My support, prayers, and thanks accompany you. May God bless us and strengthen us to be the church we are called to be.

– The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer



**Garden Photos**  
provided by:  
*Tim Kihn (see also  
pp.14-15)*



★ This year's VBS was very different from past years. While GLC is still following COVID-19 precautions we felt like we could attempt to do an online-based VBS this year. We had 14 kids registered this year. Starting on July 19th weekly videos were posted for a month on Glory's website with different songs, lessons, and craft instructions, with supplies that families picked up at the church on the weekend. We focused on "GROWing our faith in Christ" and tried to give a strong emphasis on getting out and enjoying the beautiful weather that we had.

★ I'd like to thank all the volunteers who helped with registration, posting videos and setting up craft supplies and activities!

★ - Noah McKinnon, VBS Coordinator





Do you want to make a difference in a child's faith life?

Do you have a willingness to support our children in their faith journey with love, compassion, and patience?

If so, Sunday School is for you!

Glory Lutheran Church is looking for  
volunteers for the following roles:  
**Sunday School Coordinator(s)**  
**Teachers and Assistants**

QUALIFICATIONS: A sincere desire to positively impact  
the lives of children and to share God's word!  
You need not be a biblical expert!

Persons of all ages (from confirmed youth to long-time members)  
are encouraged to get involved.

Contact: Greg Jeffrey  
[greg.jeffery@ata.ab.ca](mailto:greg.jeffery@ata.ab.ca)

***Commencement date is to be determined, dependent on  
congregational comfort with the state of the pandemic after resuming  
in-person worship and the filling of these roles.***

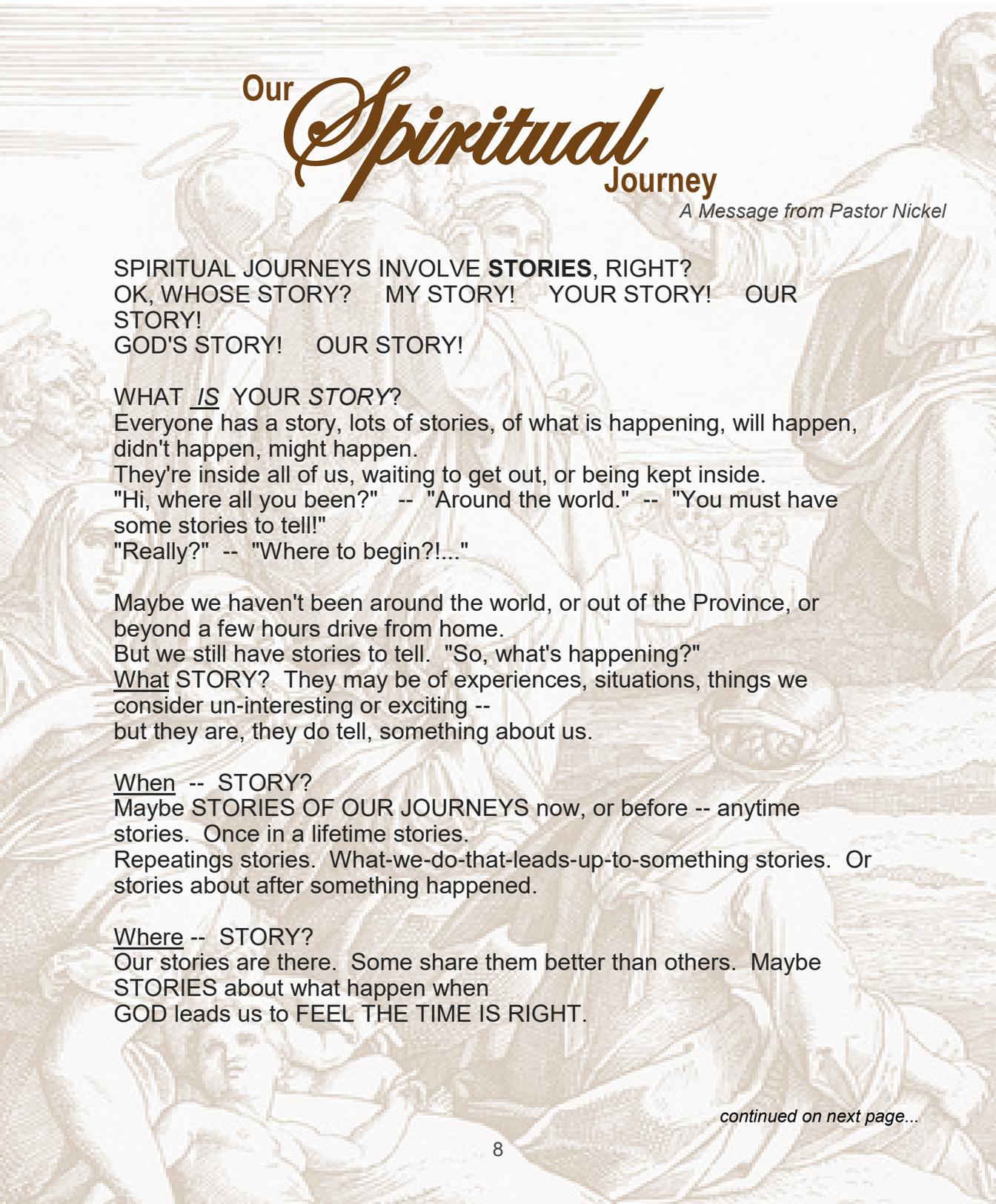
### **Service Volunteers Needed!**

**Greeters:** Greet people at the door with a smile and hand sanitizer.

**Ushers:** Distribute service bulletin, help with distanced seating,  
count attendance.

***Please look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or contact Pat Becker.***

***All Greeters & Ushers are expected to arrive at church at least 30 minutes prior to  
their assigned service. At least one Usher should stay at their post for 5 minutes  
after commencement of the service for latecomers.***



# Our *Spiritual* Journey

*A Message from Pastor Nickel*

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS INVOLVE **STORIES**, RIGHT?  
OK, WHOSE STORY? MY STORY! YOUR STORY! OUR  
STORY!  
GOD'S STORY! OUR STORY!

## WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

Everyone has a story, lots of stories, of what is happening, will happen, didn't happen, might happen.

They're inside all of us, waiting to get out, or being kept inside.

"Hi, where all you been?" -- "Around the world." -- "You must have some stories to tell!"

"Really?" -- "Where to begin?!..."

Maybe we haven't been around the world, or out of the Province, or beyond a few hours drive from home.

But we still have stories to tell. "So, what's happening?"

What STORY? They may be of experiences, situations, things we consider un-interesting or exciting -- but they are, they do tell, something about us.

## When -- STORY?

Maybe **STORIES OF OUR JOURNEYS** now, or before -- anytime stories. Once in a lifetime stories.

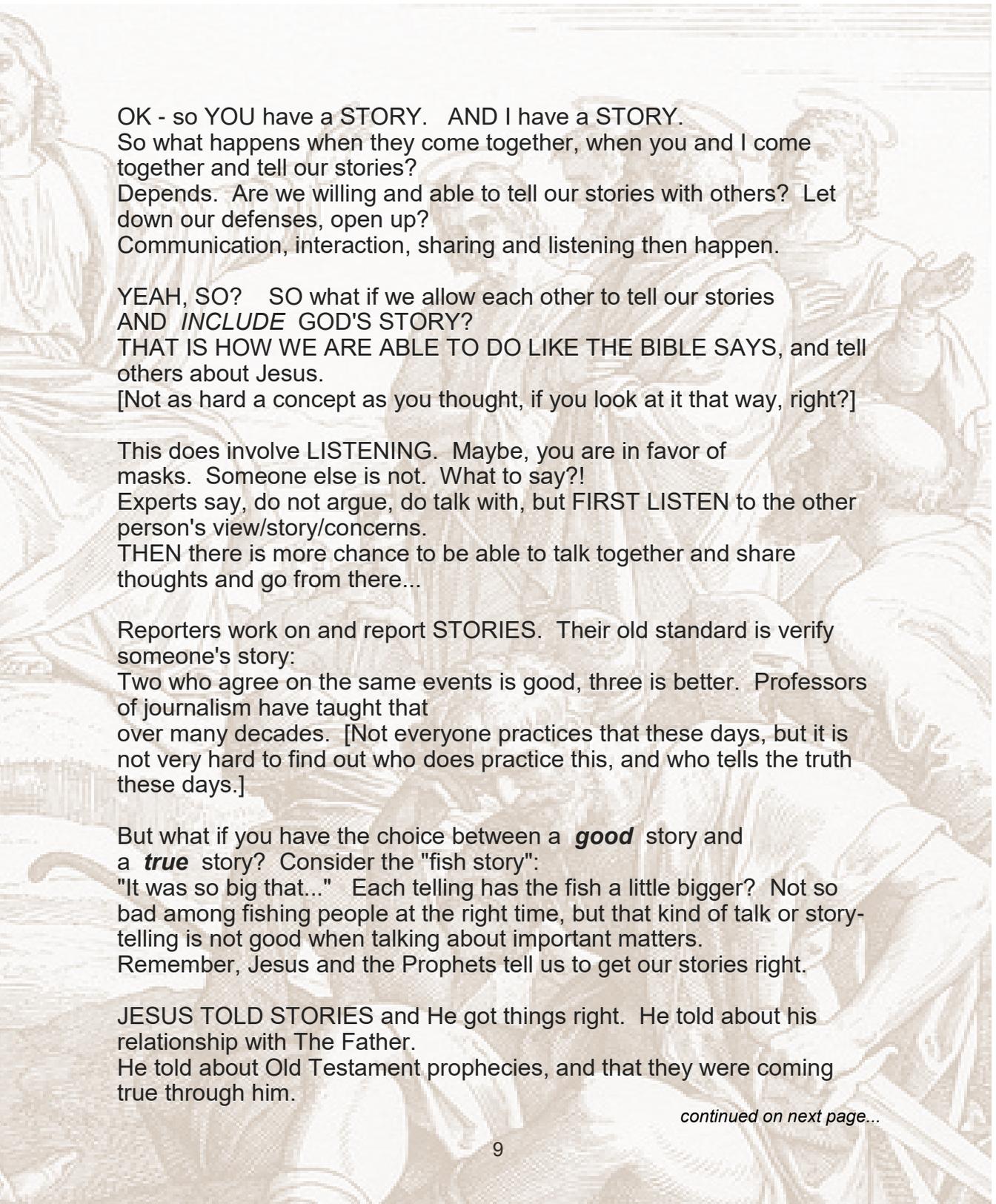
Repeatings stories. What-we-do-that-leads-up-to-something stories. Or stories about after something happened.

## Where -- STORY?

Our stories are there. Some share them better than others. Maybe **STORIES** about what happen when

**GOD** leads us to **FEEL THE TIME IS RIGHT**.

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OK - so YOU have a STORY. AND I have a STORY.  
So what happens when they come together, when you and I come together and tell our stories?  
Depends. Are we willing and able to tell our stories with others? Let down our defenses, open up?  
Communication, interaction, sharing and listening then happen.

YEAH, SO? SO what if we allow each other to tell our stories AND *INCLUDE* GOD'S STORY?  
THAT IS HOW WE ARE ABLE TO DO LIKE THE BIBLE SAYS, and tell others about Jesus.  
[Not as hard a concept as you thought, if you look at it that way, right?]

This does involve LISTENING. Maybe, you are in favor of masks. Someone else is not. What to say?!  
Experts say, do not argue, do talk with, but FIRST LISTEN to the other person's view/story/concerns.  
THEN there is more chance to be able to talk together and share thoughts and go from there...

Reporters work on and report STORIES. Their old standard is verify someone's story:  
Two who agree on the same events is good, three is better. Professors of journalism have taught that over many decades. [Not everyone practices that these days, but it is not very hard to find out who does practice this, and who tells the truth these days.]

But what if you have the choice between a **good** story and a **true** story? Consider the "fish story":  
"It was so big that..." Each telling has the fish a little bigger? Not so bad among fishing people at the right time, but that kind of talk or story-telling is not good when talking about important matters.  
Remember, Jesus and the Prophets tell us to get our stories right.

JESUS TOLD STORIES and He got things right. He told about his relationship with The Father.  
He told about Old Testament prophecies, and that they were coming true through him.

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When he spoke out about problems, he was true, honest, and sometimes let his deeds speak for him -- a good example to follow.

Jesus didn't have to say things over and over in order to convince, like propaganda being used today.

A top propaganda tool used today is -- say *it* long enough, loud enough, and appear sincere enough to convince people, regardless of its truth. Let repetition persuade or do the win, not the truth.

Another top tool used today is -- first say 5% truth *before* 95% untruth in their story to move you to a certain direction; similar to "Bait and Switch!" Or, like the pickpocket who first distracts you.

A Nobel Prize was won for discovering that -- When people believe a conclusion to be true, they are also very likely to believe arguments that appear to support "it", **EVEN WHEN THESE ARGUMENTS ARE UNSOUND.** [Daniel Kahneman, 2002] Social media and computer algorithms today often provide the means of convincing people about things that are not true, feeding the beliefs that people already have, even if they might tear the fabric of society.

Stories can be falsely repeated, be wrong, be manufactured to persuade even though false or wrong, can be deliberately manipulated to re-direct or control us. They're there around us, they're trying every day.

They're scaring us -- because fear is the #1 motivator. Make you afraid of X or Y, and then move you in a certain direction to or from something. We have to -- Be Careful Out There! ...And, more than ever in the past. It's like that old saying, "What's too good to be true, isn't!"

But Jesus used stories and truth, and they've endured over 2,000 years.

Also, Christians have told stories to one another and "to others" about Jesus and what He has meant to them and to us, and the Christian Church has endured for over 2,000 years. True stories!

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So, what are our stories that we as Christians have to tell? Think of a circle near each point of a triangle. One circle represents you, one for me, one for God -- three stories. When the 3 come together and overlap -- when we talk together about what God means to us -- then that's your story, and my story, together with God's story being told to one another. As the Bible calls us to do!

We don't have to tell our stories alone. The Holy Spirit helps us with our stories and with one another.

"...So you said, you've been around the world [or you've been with Habitat For Humanity, or Soup Kitchen, or talking with an acquaintance]; YOU must have a STORY to tell..." -- And you say, "Well, when I was there, I found myself seeing God's People at work expressing His Love for His People through..."

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#### STORY Questions for you:

- + How do you feel, Mary, when Jesus says, "Come to me"?
- + How do you feel, Mack, when you sense God wants to be involved in things you're doing and worry about?
- + What happens to you, Jean, when you see Jesus working and sweating so hard among the poor?
- + How did that affect you, John, when Jesus said, "They don't want me either"?
- + How do YOU feel when you tell someone you are afraid to "give your heart", and the other person says they often have the same challenge, and then you two begin to talk...
- + How do you feel when you know someone is listening to your story, really listening and understands, just as God us that He does?
- + How do YOU feel when you share your story FROM YOUR FEELINGS about God and His Love working within you, and someone nods in agreement, or then says "Thank you", or begins to tell their story to YOU?

Yours, Together in Christ,  
Gary Nickel

# BEWARE OF SCAMS

## **BEWARE !!! BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.**

If you have a computer or smart phone, etc., or a regular phone [land line], have you noticed that In recent weeks the number of SCAMS HAVE MULTIPLIED. They thank you for your order, and if it is not yours, then please phone this number. They now are much more realistic on line, and the regular phone calls are much more realistic.

Remember that no companies send out such stuff.

There's also the email that appears to "lock up" your computer screen and tells you that you have a problem and to phone this number, where Microsoft [or someone like them that we normally trust like anti-virus companies] will help you.

**DO NOT:** REPLY, OPEN attachments, CLICK on links to "GO HERE", or CALL the phone #.

In recent weeks in this region alone, seniors and others have been scammed out of hundreds of thousands of dollars. If you want more info, please phone me.

Gary Nickel - (780) 998-3963

## **ELECTION RESOURCE AVAILABLE ON JUSTICE and PUBLIC JUSTICE ISSUES.**

Recommended reading from our national church and several others, this resource is prepared for every national election for a long time and is non-partisan. It has a focus rather than looking at general election stuff. --Gary Nickel



**Creating a Just Canada: 2021 Election Bulletin -- is again available this election.**

[Citizens for Public Justice](http://cpj.ca/2021-federal-election/) (CPJ) is providing a **2021 Election Bulletin: Creating a Just Canada** that covers relevant public justice issues. CPJ is encouraging voters and electoral candidates alike to do "everything in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14) and for all people and all creation. CPJ believes in working together to build a just Canada. To download this resource and for more information on CPJ and its various initiatives, please go to the Citizens for Public Service Website here: [cpj.ca/2021-federal-election/](http://cpj.ca/2021-federal-election/)

## Community Outreach Committee

An update from the Community Outreach Committee and what has been happening!

### Inner City Pastoral Ministry Lunch

The Inner City Lunch will be the same type of lunch as we did last year. Because of COVID we will not be taking sandwiches, veggies and dip, fruit and home baking down to the Bissel Centre. Instead we have purchased prepackaged cheese, crackers, granola bars, potato chips, and juice. We will also take down oranges, bananas and bottled water that will be offered to the visitors.

These lunches will be delivered to the Bissel Centre on Sunday, Sept. 19th. We are hoping to be able to serve our delicious food next year.

If you wish to contribute to the costs of the food items for this project, please make your donation through your church envelope, designating your gift to Glory Lutheran Church for the costs of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry lunch supplies.



### We Care Learning and Living Bags

Also, 2020 was the last year to collect items for We Care bags. The CLWR are not requesting our congregation to collect the school items that we have done in past years. They are using item that have been collected in their warehouse. If you have purchased school supplies please pass them along to another charity.

CLWR is transitioning the We Care Program from it's current form. CLWR's long-standing and beloved commodity shipment program will be fully closed by the end of 2021. For more information, please read this message from Canadian Lutheran World Relief regarding We Care.

<https://www.clwr.org/what/we-care>





## Finance Corner



## Update for January 1 to August 31, 2021:

Actual Offering\*: \$184,402

Budget Offering Goal\*: \$200,202

Short by \$ 15,800

\*(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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