CHURCH Matters

Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 10.19 Edition

Potato Dig

September 28

and Garden Cleanup

Message from Pastor Markus

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. *Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)*

How can we give thanks in all circumstances? How can we thank God when the circumstances of life are overwhelmingly difficult, hopeless, and frustrating? How can we thank God when we are in pain, when cancer has been diagnosed, when we grieve for a loved one, when employment has been terminated, when trust has been broken? How can we give thanks when the future is bleak, the news is discouraging, the world is broken, we feel helpless and stuck?

The answer is "in Christ Jesus". We live in him, and we live in God. And God lives in the world with us. Just think for a moment about all that you owe to God, things you take for granted – starting with your breath and your pulse. Think about all the times you have forgotten, been ungrateful, been blind to the presence of God in your life. Think about the many ways and times you have dishonored that presence, willfully turned from it, hurt yourself or others. God forgives you all this for the sake of Jesus. We are loved, forgiven, accepted – no strings attached - by the one who created the universe. God never abandons creation, nor any part of it, anyone of us, under any circumstances. This is our source of joy, our motivation for prayer, our reason for thanksgiving.

Paul's words are not escapist dreams. The apostle Paul knew about difficult circumstances. He was living in our world. Paul knew Jesus. Jesus faced the cross in anguish. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus did not give thanks for his suffering and death. He gave thanks for the bread and the wine, signs of God's presence in difficult circumstances. Jesus transformed these circumstances of suffering and death by being killed on the cross and being raised from the grave. We live on the other side of Easter, in Christ Jesus, risen from the dead. Therefore, we can even give thanks even in death.

In Christ we rejoice, pray, and give thanks, every Sunday when we celebrate the Eucharist (a word that means thanksgiving), equipping ourselves for all circumstances of the week ahead.

Wishing all of us a blessed Thanksgiving,

Pastor Markus

Big Thanks for Little Things

An extra hour of sleep
A cup of coffee
A ray of sunshine
A bird by the window
A piece of toast

A smile from a friend
A “Hello” from a stranger
A memory of a loved one
A smile at a thought
A tear of compassion

A pregnant belly
A stir in the womb
A hope for the future
A baby’s first word
A step of courage

An altar of praise
A display of bounty
A song of thanksgiving
A loaf of bread
A cup of wine

Hope, Truth and Action

At the ordination of every pastor the ordaining bishop gives the candidate what is called “the charge”. Our former intern pastor Seth Perry will make this promise at his ordination on October 8th. The charge includes the following line: “That you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope.” This means that every pastor is to proclaim the Christian hope of salvation without obscuring the truth and the need for action. Because hope without truth is not real hope. And truth without action is not an honest truth. Our world needs hope. Not illusory hope, but real hope, resulting in honest truth and bold action.

The truth is we live on an amazing, life-supporting planet. We have been exploring this truth throughout September at Glory as we reflected on the story of creation. The truth is that it is indeed a wonderful world. From the smallest worm to the greatest galaxy, the universe God made is one big miracle. That it exists at all is a wonder, that it works the way it does is a marvel. That we can live on this planet and can think about our lives is amazing.

There is another truth. We depend on fossil fuels. Many jobs and livelihoods are tied to fossil fuels. If we stopped using them immediately, many would suffer and die. On the other hand it is true that, if we continue to use them, the same thing happens. Many people will suffer and die. Some already do. It is also true that people are making huge profits from fossil fuels and some do not want things to change. The truth is that many of our investments, including pensions, are tied to fossil fuels. Another truth is that there are leaders, even in the oil industry, calling for change to different forms of energy. Sadly, they often are not being heard.

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The biblical, spiritual truth is that we can't save ourselves, with or without fossil fuels. The biblical truth is also that God does not leave us between a rock and a hard place. Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again. The mystery of faith saves us. This truth sets us free. Free from denial, free from fear, free from illusory hopes, free from bondage to unjust systems, free from sin. The truth is that God loves all and does not want his creation, including his human children, to suffer. The truth is that God provides a way out of our dilemma.

On September 22nd, a few of us from Glory joined several hundred people of faith for a climate vigil. We sang and prayed, observed silence, and listened to a Cree drummer and singer, along with Christians of other denominations and people of other faiths. A few days later, on September 27th, millions of students, children, youth, teachers, doctors, nurses, scientists, moms, dads, seniors, engineers, laborers, unemployed and others joined together around the world to declare their hope in truth and action. In Edmonton four thousand walked from Churchill Square to the Legislature down Jasper Avenue. These were not mentally ill people with anxiety issues. These were not violent people driven by blind anger. These were not pawns of a "foreign funded environmental lobby". These were not anti-Albertan people. These were concerned citizens with an enormous amount of hope, so much hope that they could not sit still in class, on their couches, or at their desks. They were driven to action by their hope and their love for the truth.

As baptized believers, we have each been ordained to serve God. At our baptism we have each received the charge to spread God's redeeming word and to work for peace and justice throughout the world. We are each called to live in hope, with truth and love in action. For the sake of God, our neighbor, and all of God's creation.

Pr. Markus

The great church father Saint Augustine once wrote: "Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage; anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are."

KIDS' CHURCH ☺

There will be no Kids' Church October 13th due to Thanksgiving long weekend ☺

Morning Glory

Cooking Day - September 11, 2019

Blessing of the Backpacks

14 children were present for the Blessing of the Backpacks and the first day of Kids Church on September 8.

What's Your "Roll?" Sunday Skit

Sherry Wegner presented a cute skit encouraging people to select their ideal roles while they offer their time and talents at the various committee tables present during What's your "Roll?" Sunday.

thank you

Thank you to all who take pictures of events at Glory. Please continue sending to the office as they could end up in the newsletter.

Is there someone in our church family you would like to thank? Please let Heidi in the office know by way of the church email or call and we can include your special "Thank You" in the next newsletter!!

Thank you to all our Glory members, and visitors, who helped make our second annual What's Your "Roll?" Sunday an excellent event. For council and members who brought cinnamon rolls, your help was greatly appreciated. Thank you for your participation. ~Sherry

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time and labour preparing for and serving the Inner City Lunch on September 22nd. Thank you to all those that lent their coolers as well!

Thank you to **Dave Hauf** for organizing and spearheading the potato pancake breakfast and to **everyone that volunteered** - there are too many people to name! Thank you to **Edith Sitler** for making the yummy applesauce. And thank you to **all those that dug up and prepared** the potatoes. It was a delicious success! More than $75 was raised for the garden pathways project - thank you **donors**!

GLORY MEMBERS in the Spotlight

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

Gordon and Donna Dawson

It would not be exaggerating to say Gordon and Donna have been connected for a very, very long time. Gordon snickers as he explains they can be seen together in their Grade two graduation picture. But the story gets even better when they were both in Grade XII. Donna's mother stood in the window watching. When Gordon passed on his way to school, Donna heard "Go!" from her Mom, so Donna would appear to be casually sauntering out the door just in time to walk to school with Gordon. And as they say – the rest is history.

Born and raised in Prince Albert, Gordon came to Edmonton to attend NAIT. He started his career in 1972 with Gulf Oil, then moved in'78 to Fort Saskatchewan with Dome Petroleum which later changed hands many times – AMACO, British Petroleum, and Plains – ending his career as Instrument Electrical Supervisor for Plains Midstream Canada. (The company processes and stores natural gas liquids.)

Now retired, he keeps busy with yard work in their spacious backyard which faces a wooded area. He helps his son (Gordon says "watches his son") with his wood work.

When Donna tells her story, she recalls how she graduated from Nursing one weekend, married Gordon the following weekend, and the next weekend, drove in a Volkswagen pulling a U-Haul to Edmonton to set up housekeeping (with her parents along to help). The following Monday she started nursing at the Aberhart TB Sanitarium/ pediatric department.

Gordon and Donna raised three sons – all involved in music – piano, guitar and bands. Today, their musical backgrounds have developed into professional careers, all working as guitar techs – two for Nickleback, one for TOOL (metal band).

When the children were young, Donna sold real estate for 11 years with Royal Le Page. For a millennium project Donna chose to take a nursing refresher course through Grant MacEwan which she accomplished by studying five days a week, taking her exams online, and completing the program in eight months. Two years later she completed her BSc degree in Nursing. She says, "I enjoyed studying." In 2005, she became a Research Nurse Coordinator for Women's Health (Perinatal Research) at the RAH (but employed and funded by the University of Alberta.) Today, Donna still fills this full-time position, interviewing patients and serving as their advocate.

Donna served on Glory's Council for six years, represented Congregational Life. She continues to serve on the Congregational Life Committee, Pastoral Care Committee, does phoning for worship volunteers, and manages the Prayer Chain.

They frequently meet up with their sons by traveling to locations where their bands are performing – New Orleans, Chicago, and New York (to see Bon Jovi), and to the

O2 Stadium in London where Gordon has taken some special celebrity photos.

Jack and Marnee Karl

Jack, born in Lethbridge, the third or eight children, was raised on a farm north of Picture Butte where he attended a county school. He completed High School in Picture Butte, then was employed as an iron worker in AB & BC for the oil sands. While installing bolts on top of a 15 story building in -10º C, he decided on a different career.

Upon completion of a Bachelor of Commerce degree, Jack designed a project on houseboats. This interest culminated with the building of several houseboats in Nisku which he hauled to Salmon Arm to set up business on Shuswap Lake. Just one year later, Jack was seriously injured in a car accident. He lay in a coma for one month while Marnee, seven months pregnant, hovered at his bedside. While Jack learned to walk and talk again, Marnee waited in a Kelowna motel for the birth of their son. A friend Marnee met years earlier at a Youth Conference waited with her and served as her emotional and spiritual support. Baby Peter slept his first night in a motel dresser drawer.

Jack continued to recuperate in Grande Prairie while they lived with Marnee's Dad over the winter. In 1975 they moved to Edmonton where Jack returned to work with a steel company. Later, while selling real estate with Weber Brothers, Jack was made Manager of the division that sold acreages.

But health issues were to return to Jack's doorstep. In 2004 he had open heart surgery. Then, while holidaying in Vancouver in 2012, Jack had a stroke which resulted in another long period of rehabilitation where he learned to walk and talk once again.

Marnee was born in Dawson Creek where her father managed the Co-Op store and her mother nursed. At the age of two, Marnee and her family moved to Grande Prairie where she completed high school. Then on to the U of A, Edmonton, where she received her permanent teaching certificate. She taught Grades one and two and some music classes at Waverley Elementary. While checking out a new song prior to singing with the children, one student approached Marnee and said, "Mrs. Karl, you don't have to practise for us!"

While living in Salmon Arm, Marnee did supply teaching and worked with their houseboat business. Later, in Edmonton, while raising their baby son, Marnee worked part-time in Woodwards' Cosmetic department. In 1980 they adopted their baby daughter, Andrea. After volunteering to teach in the Strathcona County Adult literacy program, Marnee was hired to coordinate the program. She interviewed adults with reading challenges, matched them with volunteer teachers, trained volunteer tutors and developed programs tailored to the needs of each student. After repeated "accidental" encounters with the friend of a friend, who encouraged Marnee to apply to teach English as a Second Language (ESL), Marnee was hired without an interview. She was eventually offered the position of ESL Program Manager for EPSB Continuing Education. She retired in 2015.

Active in their church, Jack served as Council Chair at Mount Olivet and Chair of the Hastings Lake Board. Marnee chaired ELW, accompanied the choir, taught Sunday School, and played for the Junior Choir. At Glory, after being the choir accompanist, Marnee, due to health issues, now sings in the choir with Jack, and occasionally serves as choir accompanist. Marnee has served as accompanist for various choirs during the past 45 years.

~ written by Marjorie Zelent

Bishop's Message

Dear Beloved of God–

I give thanks to God for…

In January 2016 I stood with ELCIC and ELCA bishop colleagues at the border between Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Mexico. We were silenced by the high, seemingly impenetrable metal wall that separated not only countries, but cities, neighbourhoods, friends and families.

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES

And so I was fascinated this summer when news reported what seemed like an ordinary scene: children and adults playing on bright, hot-pink seesaws, laughing and chatting with each other. But this scene filmed at the end of July was a playground unlike any other, for these custom built seesaws had been placed through the slatted steel border fence that separates the United States and Mexico.

The idea for this "Teeter-Totter Wall" came from Ronald Rael, an architecture professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and Virginia San Fratello, a professor of design at San Jose State University – and it was a long time coming. In 2009, the two designed a concept for a binational seesaw at the border, and ten years later, their conceptual drawings became reality. The "Teeter-Totter Wall" featured three pink seesaws installed between the slats on the border fence, allowing people on both sides of the border to see and to play with each other.

The seesaws were fabricated by a group of artists and the project was realized with help from Colectivo Chopeke, which focuses on bringing communities together through design. Rael and his crew transported the colourful seesaws to Sunland Park, New Mexico, which is separated by a steel fence from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Sunland Park is also where many migrants have been detained this year.

In an Instagram post (July 29, 2019) Rael wrote that the event was "filled with joy, excitement, and togetherness at the borderwall. The wall became a literal fulcrum for U.S.-Mexico relations and children and adults were connected in meaningful ways on both sides, with the recognition that the actions that take place on one side have a direct consequence on the other side."

Rael and San Fratello, speaking to Forbes Media, said: "The seesaw demonstrates how those immediate relationships between people can create an environment where happiness and play are also important aspects of life on the border and that our relationships with our neighbors can extend past political relationships but also humanistic relationships."

Word of the installation spread quickly across social media, but as quickly as the seesaws went up, they came down equally fast.

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"There is no playground along the U.S.-Mexico border wall in New Mexico," a customs and border patrol official is quoted by Forbes Media as saying. "On the evening of July 28, U.S. Border Patrol agents encountered a small group who identified themselves as local university faculty/staff at the border wall. They had placed boards through the wall and appeared to be playing with residents of Mexico while recording the engagement. The group removed the boards and left the area without incident after it was established that there was no advance coordination."

I remain fascinated by this report, this experience, this play. The wall, which I had seen only as an impenetrable metal barrier, had become a fulcrum to create meaningful connections on both sides as the hot-pink seesaws went up and down.

Though the wall still separates the two countries and their people, the alternate life given it by professors and artists is profound. This was an image of community and relationships, and a striking contrast to the heart-wrenching scenes that now fill the news.

Joy, excitement, togetherness.

I give thanks to God for artists, architects, poets, musicians, playwrights, actors, dancers and theologians who open our eyes to hope and possibility, and to a vision to see beyond the barriers that separate us, creating meaningful connections.

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)

(A brief video of the teeter-totter wall may be viewed at Ronald Rael's Instagram feed https://www.instagram.com/p/B0fY2R6hfKr/)

ADULT LEARNING
new member class

New Members Classes start November 3

The vision of Glory is to reach up, reach out, and reach in as we seek to live out our faith. Here at Glory Lutheran Church, we offer a 4 week class for those who would like to know more about who we are and what we believe.

After the class is complete, the participants are given the option to join our church and are formally welcomed into membership during a special Sunday morning service.

This class will be open to any and all individuals, while also serving as a New Member class for those attending Glory that are interested in officially joining our membership.

For more information regarding our New Member Class, or to register, please contact the office.

Learning to Go On

I think I've cried a thousand tears since I heard that you were gone.
Now I need to figure out how to pick myself up and eventually go on.
My grief seems like a river, flowing and changing with each day.
Some days I'm okay, some days I just cry and some days I pray and pray.

I hold tight to my family both through blood and in the church.
Sometimes being with people is a comfort and other times it just makes my heart lurch.
Support is so important. We don't need to go through this on our own.
The love of God and all my family is the greatest I have known.

"Be still and know that I am God" my eyes read in Your Word.
But my heart is broken, losing you, because this is not what we had pictured.
I pray for when the healing comes and lean on all my friends.
I sift through photos and smile at memories and with these my heart begins to mend.

I hear God whisper in my ear, "Let go for I am here."
I cry a little and look up...because I feel Him near.
My heart swells with love and hope again as thoughts of you push me on.
I'm finding my way slowly back as I begin to hear a new song.

I'm starting to laugh and smile again at things that once made me sad.
I remember your awesome smile and that grin you'd get when you were going to be 'bad'.
I still have difficult days, shaky moments, too.
But every day gets easier because of the time I shared with you.

~Caitlin Havens (written for all those we've loved and lost and for all the people I love so dearly who are grieving)

ECUMENICAL MISSION OF STRATHCONA COUNTY

The 30th Annual
ECUMENICAL MISSION OF STRATHCONA COUNTY

October 7 - Evening Worship at Glory - 7:30pm

Babel: The Gift of Diversity (Genesis 11:1-9)

Look for the brochure in your mail folder and the posters in the church for more information and details, such as other service times and locations.

GLORY 50 PLUS

Games Afternoon

Friday, October 18, 2019
12:00 noon

Group III is hosting lunch and a games afternoon at the church.

Please come!

Fireside Wednesday Wrap-Up!

September 4, 2019

Mutual Ministry Committee

Pastor Markus has initiated a mutual ministry team made up of Faith Nostbakken, Lynn Spain and Marie Berg that would serve to offer support for him in his ministry. The synod office recommends that its ministers have this parish support team and provides guidelines for its role. This would also include functioning as a liaison for concerns between the pastor and the congregation when it may not be comfortable for an individual to go directly to the pastor. In general, however, direct contact with Pastor Markus is the preferred first option.

In our first communication with the congregation we would like to identify a way to support Pastor Markus with his worship responsibilities and preparation on Sunday morning. What best helps him to prepare is to have the half hour before worship as quiet, undisturbed prayer time in his office. Anything that needs attention and can be communicated in advance can be emailed or phoned ahead prior to Sunday. If that is not possible, then providing the information in written form would make it easier for Pastor Markus to remember the request and act on it on Sunday morning. Similarly, when worship is concluded, Pastor Markus would like the opportunity to spend as much time as possible in fellowship with the congregation at coffee hour. So, once again, if someone has information or concerns please consider contacting him during the week, or, if it's urgent, provide the details to him in written form. Pastor Markus takes all concerns and needs seriously, and it can be challenging to remember them all in the busyness of Sunday morning while trying to maintain a heart and mind focused on worship and fellowship.

Lynn, Faith and Marie look forward to serving the congregation in this way.

Welcome to all Newcomers!

Please call or email the office for a name tag; offering envelopes; and a mail folder for newsletters, notices, etc.

A New Member Course will begin **November 3rd**. All who are interested in learning what it means to be members of Glory please contact the office to register for the four-week course.

What's Happening

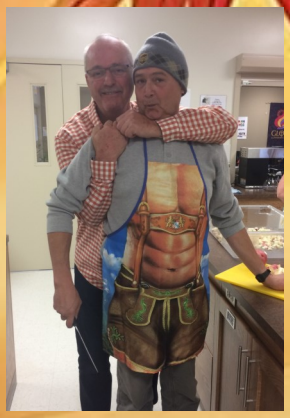
GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH

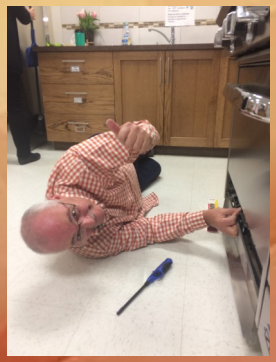
DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 6 & Oct 13	7 Weeks - 7 Days Sermon Series continues
October 6-10	30th Ecumenical Mission of Strathcona County (various venues)
October 7	Ecumenical Mission Evening Worship Service at Glory 7:30pm
October 8	Service of Ordination for Seth Perry 4:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30pm
October 9	Council Meeting 6:30 pm
October 10	Worship Choir 7:30pm
October 10 & 24	Confirmation Class 6:30pm
October 26	PrayerWORKS Breakfast at St. Faith's 7:00am
November 2	Festival Singers Fall Workshop
November 3	New Members Classes begin (4 weeks)

FACILITY BOOKING

Our church is a busy place with activities from within and without of our congregation. It is important to **book space and time** so there are no conflicts. Check the website (glorylutheran.ca) on the drop down menu under Contact Us. Click on Facility Rental and fill out the ONLINE APPLICATION to book your space and time. Or call the church office and speak with Heidi. If you want to confirm that a space is free, call the church office or check the *Calendar* on the website on the drop down menu.





Potato Pancake Breakfast - Sept 29

Tuesday - Friday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.
Mondays - CLOSED
Please note that the door to the church will usually be locked

OFFICE HOURS

GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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AED

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