

CHURCH *Matters*



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 10.21 Edition



Mr. Bee's Kids Talk

Tim Kihn - Sept. 26



Message from Pastor Markus

September 2021

Thanksgiving in Times of Trouble

Dear family of God,

They say that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. But for Christians there is a better saying: When the going gets tough, God's people become thankful. There are many strong emotions that course through our society and our veins. **Fear** of the corona virus, new variants, long term effects... **Anger** at the government, at resisters and deniers. **Suspicion** of established medicine, science, government regulations. **Frustration** with masks and with the ways we are forced to adapt our work, our schools, our social and recreational activities. **Fatigue** from the effects of the virus, and from the effects of restrictions. Feelings come with thoughts, words and actions. They get expressed in news headlines and comment sections, on Twitter, Facebook and other social media. Sometimes in person.

Thanksgiving is both a feeling and an expression of feeling. Scripture commands it: "O give thanks to the LORD for he is good", Psalm 107:1. We may not always feel thankful, but we still are told to say thank you. And saying it also influences how we feel and think. We can cultivate feelings, for better or worse. The Bible commands us not to be angry, fearful, or suspicious, but thankful.

I read a news article about a man whose family had fallen victim to misinformation about COVID-19. He was the only one vaccinated and healthy, the rest of his extended family got sick, some of them were hospitalized. The man was angry, frustrated, sad, and tired. He was asked where the misinformation came from. He pointed squarely at a church and their pastor who told his congregation not to worry about COVID, not to wear masks, use hygiene or get vaccinated. The pastor said COVID was a test of people's faith in God. He encouraged people simply to pray.

With great frustration, the man in the interview said, "God has already answered our prayers and done everything needed for our prayers to be fulfilled. He gave us medicine and a brain."

God gave us medicine and a brain. And we ought to give God thanks. God also gave us Jesus. As the man in the interview pointed out: "Jesus was a healer. We ought to respect those in the healing profession. They are doing Jesus' work."

That sentence, "God has done everything needed for our prayers to be answered" stuck with me. How has God answered your prayers? Or where has God provided the means by which they can be answered? Our deepest need is restoring our relationships. With ourselves, with one another, with family and friends, with our enemies, indigenous people, with nature, with God. We often pray for these things. Sometimes it seems in vain. But has God not provided everything needed for these prayers to be answered? Jesus is our peace. Jesus is our healer. Jesus is God's great reconciler, restorer of right relationships. Our relationship with God is already healed. We don't have to worry about that any more. We are saved by grace through faith. We are free to pass on the gift, to love others the way God loves us. That gift of grace, of a reconciled relationship with God, is in a way the answer to all our prayers: it is what we need to reconcile and restore our other relationships. And it is all we need to be able to give thanks.

"O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." Ps. 107:1

~Pastor Markus



July 25, 2021 Outdoor Service



Two outdoor Sunday services were held at Glory this summer:
July 25 and August 8.
Photos by: Mark Becker - July 25.



Thank you

Thank you to **Brett Woodrow** and the rest of our amazing tech crew who, despite having no experience or training in live streaming, have made it happen! This group includes **Noah McKinnon, Dani Montoya, Sebastian Montoya, Cole Berg, Mark Becker, and Brett Woodrow**. Next steps will include practise and experience, and the gradual purchase of equipment to improve the quality of the live stream services.

The upload internet speed at Glory is generally fast enough for live streaming but is somewhat sporadic in nature so we thank all of you for your patience with what we can't control.

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

Thank you again **to our Glory family!**

The online worship service on Sunday, September 5 may have been 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.

A million thanks for remembering our anniversary! We are so happy and delighted with all the warm wishes and thoughtful messages we received when we celebrated our 50th anniversary in early September. We received cards, phone calls and e-mails from many in the congregation. Our celebration would have been incomplete without our Glory Family’s loving wishes! Thank you!

Donna and Gordon



**THANK
YOU!**

Thank you to the Club 50 for the personal birthday party of about 10 people they brought to our house in Fort Saskatchewan on September 14 to honour Diana and I for our 75th birthday. Thank you Marjorie for organizing this with Club members.

Len Leippi



Thank you to **Doug Sime** for cleaning the 11 birdhouses on Glory property in preparation for our feathered friends next Spring. These are the birdhouses that Doug built and installed. All are still in great condition. There were nests in all the boxes.

We are hoping for bluebirds next spring.





Address Change

Glory is migrating the church office email account, to a new email account with our glorylutheran.ca domain.

Effective immediately, the new email address for the Glory Lutheran Church Office is:

glory.office@glorylutheran.ca

To ensure you continue to receive our enews and congregational announcements, kindly add the new email address to your address book and delete the old telus.net email address. If you haven't received the enews, please check your Spam and/or Junk folder(s) and if you find an email from Glory, **mark it as NOT SPAM or NOT JUNK.**

The old email account will not be monitored after December 31, 2021.



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

***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.

Ushers: Distribute service bulletins, assist with distanced seating, count attendance, secure offering, collect bulletins.

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.

Council Highlights

September 2021

RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

This upcoming Sunday will be the fourth one this year when we have worshipped together both in-person and online. It is wonderful to see you at church and comforting to know that many of you are joining the service online.

However, it is a reality that, as of this week, cases of Covid 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.

At this time, with respect to any in-person gatherings, for meetings and worship, Bishop Larry Kochendorfer 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. 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 service with the following exceptions:
 - “Masks are not required in places of worship when eating or drinking as part of a religious or spiritual ceremony (e.g. communion) or
 - When participating on platform and stage areas during worship services (e.g. officiating or performing), if a physical barrier exists or physical distance of two metres (six feet) is maintained from members of the congregation.”
4. We are being careful of the length of the service and the rate of air exchange in the sanctuary to further reduce risk of infection.

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5. Congregation members are asked to bring their own communion elements Sundays when communion is celebrated. (This will generally be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.)
6. We will plan to meet outside the church after services - bring coffee in an insulated “to-go” mug ☺
7. Kids Church and Worship Choir will not begin yet.
8. For those unable to attend, 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. The link will also be provided in the E-news each week. A recording of the service will also be posted if necessary. In case of livestreaming technical issues, please come back to the website to find the recording.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE

Google Workspace is an online hub where people can collaborate on documents, share ideas, store data, and communicate securely. Because churches are registered with the CRA as non-profit organizations, we were given access to this tool for free by Google. Glory has been fully integrated and we are now working to make the transition easier for everyone.

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.

PARKING LOT LIGHTS

You may have noticed that there aren’t any right now. A lift was rented to take down eight parking lot lights to convert to LED lighting. These will be in place soon. Thank you to Dave Hauf and Lynn Spain for implementing this energy saving feature at Glory.

Thank you for all the ways you find to stay connected with members of your Glory family – phone calls, email messages, meals made and shared, helping with all that still needs to be done at the church, contributions to online and in-person worship services, and especially your prayers!

Please don’t hesitate to call if you have any feedback, questions or concerns.

Blessings
Pat Council Chair

Our *Spiritual* Journey

A Message from Pastor Nickel

A GREAT TOOL for OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY -- THANKSGIVING

...for our relationship with God, ourselves, and each other.

With **THANKSGIVING** coming up, "**Hey, let's be careful out there!**", as the famous tv character regularly said.

No, not the focus on virus protection -- although that is very, very important.
No, not on people trying to get your computer password and take over your email or bank account details.
No, not the people who want things their own way. Period. End. Of. Discussion.

Rather, let's be careful to share our love which comes from God through Jesus Christ, with those out there, around us. No matter how bad things might be, there are still reasons to give thanks. If you have problems finding anything to give thanks for, talk with God about it, or a friend, or someone from the church.

Don't let things overwhelm you, discourage you. Do something different - go for a walk.

Take a relaxing nap/bath/sauna. Exercise. Do something you have put off.

Clean house - or get away from the house. Relax. Take a vacation, even for a few hours.

Talk to a friend. Change of pace -- you get the idea. Or, maybe seek help...

CONSIDER -- forgiving the person who really bothered you. Forgive yourself for that thing that nags you inside yourself. Let go of what's bottled -up inside you.

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ANY OR ALL of these things can be done WITH GOD'S HELP.
...Pray about it, ask the Holy Spirit to help you with it...

Many congregations have red for the altar area as a symbol of the specialness of THANKSGIVING on Thanksgiving Sunday. Some congregations have a display of fruits and veggies for Thanksgiving Sunday and keep them up for a week or two more to express that Thanksgiving is not just for one day. While either is not required, it is an expression of the specialness of an occasion for -- GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS.

Give THANKS, not just once a year -- on OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.
Yours, Together in Christ,
Gary Nickel

PS - *Since you asked* about -- **God's Story** and "Witnessing".
When we get together with someone and we have first allowed the other person to speak and we are able to truly listen to them, then when we express what God means to us in word and/or deed, when we are really "communicating" together with others, that's when My Story, God's Story, and Your Story come together. Then together, God's Story becomes alive, and God becomes more real in our lives. That's when the mystery of telling about God or witnessing to others happens.

We don't have to have our story "down pat", or memorize lots of stuff in order to talk about God with others. True, we can do it that way, but what often works best is sharing our own story of God-with-us -- naturally. Be yourself.

Also remember that the Holy Spirit is at work in this process, leading, guiding, helping YOU.

Yours, Together in Christ,
Gary Nickel



Community Garden Potato Patch

Community gardeners, Pat and Jenny Litwin, planted, tended, and dug our community potato patch.

After consulting Glory's Community Garden Coordinator, Tim Kihn, they identified families in the community who were in need. Potatoes were given to refugee families and families who are struggling because of job loss and other circumstances. Jenny reports that those receiving the potatoes were very appreciative.

Pat and Jenny are members of Trinity Baptist Church where their Community Garden is now being developed.

Thank you for your time and gardening expertise.



READY, SET, GROW!

It's hard to believe summer is past and, if you are a gardener, you are now enjoying the fruits of your labours!

If you are fortunate to be able to gather in person for Thanksgiving, perhaps some of that bounty will be part of a meal of thanksgiving -- for the people who have enriched our lives, who we have loved, laughed with, shared life with, journeyed with, and whose living bodies have passed from this world.

As you gather in person or via Zoom, consider how you and your family can be part of bringing the beautiful Memorial Garden to life. The congregation enthusiastically

approved creating this place of solace, memory, reflection and spiritual connection to our loved ones and their memory. It is now up to us to make it a beautiful reality.

Pastor Markus' comments regarding the garden strike a chord, reminding us that the garden is more than just a beautiful place.



“One characteristic that makes us human is that we bury and remember the dead. It is a sign that our lives have greater significance or meaning than the years we spent as living bodies on earth. The computer age has taught us the power of machine memory. Our faith tradition teaches us the value of personal memory. A memorial garden is a way to make personal memory concrete, to give it space in our lives. It is a place in our community where we can deepen our connection to our ancestors, reflect upon our own lives and mortality, and anticipate the life of the world to come.”

There is now a Memorial Garden page on the church website. Please check it out regularly to follow our fundraising progress. (<https://www.glorylutheran.ca/memorial-garden.html>). There you will find the presentation that was mailed out, letters from Pastor Markus and from the Memorial Garden committee, as well as a donation form. You can also donate on-line using the following link: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/26525>. To ensure your donation is directed to the Memorial Garden initiative, please be sure to select that in the dropdown menu.

We look forward in excitement and anticipation for the work to start in the spring! Even though we are only now at the end of summer – spring is on its way!

If you have any questions regarding the garden or the fundraising initiative, please feel free to contact Rita Spain (780-953-9665) or Ellen Sitler (780-604-5970).

Diana and Len Leippi Celebrate 75th Birthdays



Diana and Len Leippi both celebrated their (75th) birthdays this year - July (Diana) and Sept. (Len). Representatives of Glory 50 Plus gathered outdoors to recognize this special occasion and enjoyed coffee, cookies and cupcakes too.



Above: Delores, Eula, Maureen and Mike get ready to sing.



Below: Gerry, Charlie, Val and Sirkka pose with birthday signs.

Len takes in all the action while Diana listens intently to someone's story.



Marjorie apologizes for the blurry photos!





We are sad to announce that Irmgard Lindquist passed away on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

A small, private, funeral was held at Glory Lutheran Church on Wednesday, September 29, 2021. Due to current covid restrictions, attendance was by invitation only. The funeral was livestreamed and Glory members participated in an Honour Guard Car Lineup to pay their respects.

Obituary:

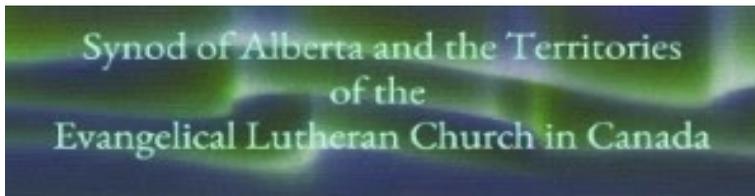
<https://www.pineboxfunerals.ca/all-obituaries/irmgardlindquist>

We mourn with Irmgard's family and friends. The Glory congregation gives thanks for her life, 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)



Enroute to the Bissell Centre to deliver food supplies to ICPM, Mike and Marjorie watched this hot air balloon descending toward an open field near Broadmoor and Baseline. A still, bright morning...



Synod Council Grants Bishop Larry a Sabbatical September 29, 2021

At this past weekend's meeting Synod Council, we met together for the first time (some of us newly elected, others with Synod Council experience), joined by Area Deans and our Synod's Representatives to National Church Council. Together we prayed, built relationships, and considered the "business" of the Synod, all via ZOOM.

One important decision was in response to a proposal from our Bishop regarding a sabbatical leave beginning October 25, 2021, and ending January 24, 2022. This leave will be preceded by 3 days of holiday and followed by 3 days of holiday directly after the leave.

In March 2020, Synod Council had encouraged Bishop Larry to consider a sabbatical leave November 2020 to January 2021. Due to the onset of the COVID pandemic, anticipated staff transitions, and preparation for the 2021 Synod Convention, Bishop Larry decided not to submit a sabbatical proposal for that time period.

This weekend Synod Council unanimously approved the sabbatical leave, knowing that Bishop Larry's request was made with careful consideration for the welfare of the Synod--congregations and rostered and lay leaders, Synod staff, and for Bishop Larry's family and his own wellbeing.

Bishop Larry will be naming Reverend Prema Samuel, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Life, as Commissary. As Commissary, Reverend Prema will have oversight of synod affairs and is entrusted with the same responsibilities and accountability as the Bishop in his absence.

Bishop Larry will not be receiving correspondence nor be in communication during these three months of sabbatical leave. Reverend Prema can be reached at psamuel@elcic.ca or through the Synod office.

Please uphold Reverend Prema, and Synod Office staff, along with Bishop Larry and his family during the coming months.

Peace,
Deacon Karen Wedman
Synod Council Chair
Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) Annual Lunch

Our congregation assembled lunches for homeless and working poor individuals again this fall. But Co-Vid 19 has changed our annual ritual. In previous years we gathered home baking from our members, received donated vegetables from Kuhlman's Greenhouse, and together we prepared 90 loaves of egg salad, tuna, and ham and cheese sandwiches. We surely miss the camaraderie of our group gathering to peel veggies, make sandwiches, and assemble baking.

Due to Co-Vid, for the last two years, we were requested to provide 200 lunch bags filled with pre-packaged items. This year each bag contained a three pack of crackers and cheese dip, cheese string, granola bar, juice box and a regular sized bag of potato chips. In addition to the above items we provided cases of bottled water, coffee, creamer, and 200 bananas and 200 oranges. This year there was a noticeable increase in the cost of these pre-packaged items.



Barb Anderson, Sandy Heinsen, and Val Voros pack lunch bags.
Missing from photo – Marjorie Zelent.

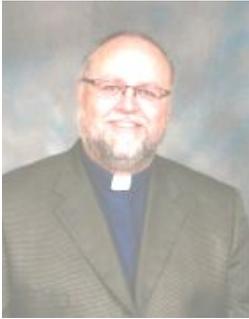


Pastor Quinn Strikwerda, ICPM Executive Director, and Linda Heywood, Food Coordinator, greet Glory's drivers and send their thanks to Glory's congregation.

Should you be interested in donating toward the cost of this project, please add your gift to your envelope, earmarking it for the ICPM lunch. While the Community Outreach Committee has funds in the annual budget for this project, the amount allocated is not adequate to cover this year's costs. Thank you for participating as you are able.



Barb, Marjorie and Mike deliver supplies



Bishop's Message - September 2021

Dear Beloved of God –

May grace and peace be yours in abundance (1 Peter 1:2a).

Each year as we mark the Day of Thanksgiving I have made it a regular practice to pause and to give thanks for someone who has touched my life with their own. Some years I have called them on the telephone and expressed

my thanks directly to them, other times I have written and mailed a card or letter, and some years I have simply given thanks in prayer.

As we move toward the annual Thanksgiving Day I invite you to take some time to note those whose lives have influenced, guided, and encouraged your own in faith. And then, to let them know how their life has touched your own and/or give thanks to God in prayer.

This year I am remembering with thanksgiving my maternal grandfather whom we called “Grandy”. For many years his vocation was as a businessman in Grande Prairie. He was esteemed by employees and colleagues. Years later we continue to hear from those who worked with him of their deep admiration and respect for him. As children, my twin brother, three younger sisters and I loved to travel from the farm to the ‘big city’ to spend time with Grandy at his business. He let us explore the back rooms and basement and showed us a little of his work (and all with incredible patience).

His yard was immaculate. Grass green as green could be and mowed to golf course precision. The hedge always trimmed to an exact measurement. The peonies and other flowers bloomed beautifully under Grandy’s care. Saturday night was always barbequed hamburger night with Grandy working the barbeque. I’ll never forget that he always had half of a bun (preferably the bottom) with homemade relish, hamburger and one slice of tomato – just how I prefer my barbequed hamburgers today. When we five grandchildren stayed overnight our morning routine was consistent: spelling contests followed by a large bowl of sugared cereal like Captain Crunch which we never ate at home.

As far as I know the only time my Grandfather erred was when he received a speeding ticket driving out to the farm. He had bought ice cream as a treat for his five grandchildren and drove wildly to arrive at the farm before it melted.

He was a man wise and solid and trustworthy.

The Sunday before his hospitalization and biopsy of a mass located between his esophagus and stomach which was discovered to be cancerous, he attended the little church in the community in British Columbia where he had moved following our grandmother’s death. I was told that he turned



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on the lights, put up the hymn numbers, distributed bulletins, welcomed visitors, lit the candles on the altar, gathered the offering and then put everything away after all had left the church. I picture in my mind Grandy doing this graciously, quietly and confidently.

The marks of his life have been imprinted on my own and on the lives of my siblings.

This Day of Thanksgiving I am remembering Grandy. Thank you, Grandy. Thank you Gracious and loving God.

In Christ Jesus – Shalom, +Larry

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

PRAY READ WORSHIP LOVE

You are invited to join in a four-year emphasis on **Living our Faith**, as together we **pray, read, worship and love**.

For the last two years, ELCIC has been sharing our National Bishop Susan Johnson's vision for a four-year emphasis on **Living our Faith** - as together we **pray, read, worship and love** (www.elcic.ca/LivingOurFaith).

As we enter into the third year, we begin our focus on worship with a goal to deepen our experience in worship when the community gathers (either together in person or online) and to deepen our individual practice of daily devotion.

Starting this September, ELCIC members are invited to join in a year of worship. As a whole church, we will learn about worship, grow in our experience of worship and deepen our regular daily devotional practice.

ELCIC will be sharing a weekly highlight from an ELCIC member on their suggestions and thoughts on becoming more engaged in a daily devotional practice and/or worship.

Following the conclusion of a year spent on worship, September 2022 will bring us into a year of focusing on love.

Be sure to check the Living Our Faith webpage often for updates and resources www.elcic.ca/LivingOurFaith). We will be posting weekly and monthly encouragements on our social media pages and through e-communicue. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/CanadianLutherans/> <https://elcic.ca/Communique/>

Do you have a special way that you engage in a daily devotion or worship practice? We want to hear from you! Email us at info@elcic.ca.

Finance Corner



Update for January 1 to September 30, 2021:

Actual Offering*: \$209,642

Budget Offering Goal*: \$224,525

Short by \$ 14,883

*(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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Pastor Markus Wilhelm E-mail: pastormarkus@glorylutheran.ca
Check out our Website: www.glorylutheran.ca