CHURCH Matters



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 11.23 Edition

Glory 50 Plus



Sunday, December 17, 2023, 12:30 pm Broadmoor Golf Couse Club House 2100 Oak Street

Full Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings- \$36 per person Minimum of 50 guests needed! (Cost includes dinner, GST, & tip)

Please sign up with your fee in advance at the table in the Narthex Questions? Contact Group Two
Marjorie Zelent 780-467-5363 or Eula Regehr 780-467-2227

A Message From Pastor Markus

November 2023

Last Sunday evening my wife Andrea and I attended a service of prayer for peace at an Anglican church in Edmonton. We were given a sheet with some music and told that we would begin with a half hour of silence. So we sat in the pews for 30 minutes in silence, no background music, only the occasional clearing of throat or noise from a car on the street. During this silence for peace, I first thought about the conflict in the Middle East, the hundreds murdered in Israel by Hamas assassins, particularly the children, those abducted and mistreated. I thought about the Palestinian families of Gaza who have endured many years of isolation and deprivation as well as military incursions, essentially imprisoned on a narrow strip of land for generations and who now are trying to flee but are not readily welcomed anywhere. I thought about the Ukrainian cities that have been bombed for nearly two years and the families that have fled for their lives. I thought about those who remain behind, those injured in body and traumatized in mind and spirit. I thought about the Hasan family waiting for permission to resettle in Canada.

Those thoughts occupied me for maybe the first 10 minutes of the half hour of silence. My thoughts then turned to conflicts closer to home. The disagreements I had that day, and conflicts I have experienced over time with my wife, daughter, parents, siblings, church members, neighbors. I spent about 10 minutes in silence dealing with whatever came up as I thought about these relationships. And finally, my thoughts began to focus on what was going on inside myself, my own conflicting thoughts and desires, the gap between my ideals and my realities, between God's will and my own, between what I say and what I do.

I realized during those 30 minutes of silence that there is conflict everywhere. Not just in the middle east, or in Ukraine, but all around and inside me. But unless I address the conflicts inside me, how I can even pray for the conflicts elsewhere?

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem", the Bible tells us in Psalm 122. Jerusalem is where God's temple stood when this psalm was prayed. In the temple is where the presence of God was felt most intimately, it's where the commandments where stored in the ark, the golden box that served as an image of God's throne, the mercy-seat on which the priest would sprinkle blood from a sacrificial animal to atone for the sins, the conflicts, among the people and between the people and their God.

That temple is gone. But our hearts and our bodies, and also our relationships and the church, are the temples, the places where God is most intimately experienced. It is where God's will and law is heard in our conscience and where Jesus, God's lamb that was slain and our high priest, is enthroned, fulfilling the peacemaking liturgy by his blood on the cross. Waiting in silence for 30 minutes brought some clarity to me about where peacemaking starts.

During the season of Advent we refocus as church on waiting. Although Advent has become a season of busy preparations for Christmas, the best preparation we can make for peace is to wait. That's the work of Advent. Why not try to keep a period of silence each day during the month of December? Maybe a 15 minute period to start. See what happens when you just wait.

My hope and prayer for you this Advent is that it be less preparation of what you think must happen and more waiting for what God wants to happen in you, for you, and through you for others. This is my prayer for you as you enter the silence of waiting. Rather than making Christmas "happen", wait and pray for the will of God to be done. Let it be done in your own heart first, then in your relationships, in your church, in the wider community, and, yes, finally also to the ends of the earth.

Pastor Markus

The sign said,



That's actually funny, if you think about it!



Ladies Bag Lunch (Book Club)

The Ladies Bag Lunch group meets at noon in the Narthex at church on the second and fourth Wednesdays of most months. Exact dates are posted on the online GLC calendar. Bring our own bagged lunch and spend time visiting, sharing laughs, and discussing books that the group has chosen to read. For more information please contact Susan Ronsko or Rita Spain.



November 2023

As we move closer to the end of the year, the focus of much of our discussions at council has been and will continue to be the planning and budgeting for projects that we hope to proceed with in 2024.

I mentioned in our last newsletter that we have experienced some property thefts at Glory over the past few years and that we're looking at a number of measures to enhance the security of our property. One proposal under discussion has been **the building of a garage** for more secure storage of lawn, snow removal, and other equipment. The garage would also provide an area for servicing of that equipment. Quotes are currently being obtained and we are looking at pricing that would have a contractor doing all of the work, as well as pricing for packages that would require some of the work to be done by members of our congregation. **If you have skills, expertise, or time that you can offer to this project**, please email or speak to one of the members of our property committee – Dave Hauf or Lynn Spain (property@glorylutheran.ca). If you are interested in helping with fundraising for this project if it goes forward, please contact our vice-chair and head of the stewardship committee – Kurtis Ashton (stewardship@glorylutheran.ca).

We have also been talking with an organization known as SPICE (Solar Power Investment Cooperative of Edmonton) about the **possibility of installing solar panels** here at Glory. Members from SPICE were on-site in August/September to look at the feasibility of such a project. They have also been reviewing our electrical consumption and costs. We anticipate that they will present their findings/proposal at the beginning of our next council meeting in December. If you are interested in learning more about this and would like to attend the presentation, please contact me at council.chair@glorylutheran.ca.

Another project getting underway is the **review of council and committees** here at Glory. We are hoping to streamline operations and get more people involved in committee work. You may have been (or soon will be?)

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approached by a member of our nominations committee – Rhonda Berg and Donna Dawson – and **asked to consider serving on** council (nominations@glorylutheran.ca).

If you feel that you don't have the time to commit to a position on council, we are also more than **happy to have you serve on one of our many committees**. As part of our Congregational Life ministry, for example, Pat Becker has organized a team of volunteers who take turns overseeing the weekly Sunday Coffee hours (glc.life@glorylutheran.ca). Each volunteer provides that oversight approximately once every two months. I enjoy being a part of this team, both for the camaraderie established with the other team members and for the opportunity to connect with members of our congregation on those Sundays when I'm behind the kitchen counter.

We're looking at possibly setting up another team of volunteers **to provide rides to individuals** who may have difficulty getting to church. Although our services are live streamed, we're aware that not everyone is connected to the technology required in order to attend worship from home. Even those who are able to do so may want to attend services in person on occasion. If you think you might occasionally be able to provide a lift to and from church for another parishioner, please let us know and provide the name of the area you live in (glory.office@glorylutheran.ca). Similarly, if you think you would make use of such a service, let us know your name and the area you live in. If we have enough volunteers, we may be able to match up drivers and riders.

Lastly, we have also had discussions at council recently about **perhaps taking on another intern**. There is a candidate for diaconal ministry who is available to start an internship in 2024. Discussions to date have centred around the roles this individual might take on during the internship and the possibility of part -time supervision being provided by Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken, as well as the funding requirements involved. If this initiative goes forward, we will likely also require volunteers to serve on an internship committee which would meet approximately once a month over the course of a year. Another great opportunity to get involved in service within our Glory community!

As always, please email me if you have questions or concerns that you would like to bring to the attention of Council.

Many blessings, Rose Schlegl council.chair@glorylutheran.ca

A Quick Physics Lesson on Mechanical Advantage from your Council Nominations Committee



In the 3rd century B.C. the Greek mathematician and physicist Archimedes is credited to have invented the idea of a "simple machine" and the principle of "mechanical advantage".

There are different types of simple machines: pulleys, wedges, levers, screws, wheel & axles. Utilizing simple machines reduces the effort required to accomplish a goal - this is "mechanical advantage".

Imagine the story in Mark 2 about the friends of a paralyzed man who lowered him through a roof to set him in front of Jesus. Imagine if one person had tried to lower the man through the roof; how well would that have worked out?

They didn't use a pulley system but they did use mechanical advantage with several bodies working together. While this story is about so much more than just teamwork, we are reminded that **working together** with others gives greater reward, more assistance, and in the end is just plain smart!

In the 4th chapter of Ecclesiastes we read about working together.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up. Again, if two lie together, they are warm; but how can one be warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

There are many committees, groups, many hands-on and prayerful ways that you can **work together** for the glory of God, including being on Church Council. It is a call from God. It is an opportunity for you to work together with other congregation council members to guide our church in its faith, financial and strategic planning direction. It is supporting the mission of Glory Lutheran Church.

The Council Nominations Committee may be coming to speak with you to prayerfully consider bringing your "advantage" (your wisdom, skills, strength and talents) to the 2024 council and help us **work together** so that our efforts may glorify and honour God.

If you have any questions on how you can get involved please contact Donna Dawson (Congregational Representative), Rhonda Berg (Council) or Rose Schlegl (Council Chair).



Request From ICPM (Inner City Pastoral Ministry):

It is again the time of year that we are beginning to think of the Christmas season and how to shine some light on the cold and dark days in our Inner-City Community. The ICPM is filling bags for their annual Christmas gifts for the homeless and families in need that they reach out to on a daily basis.

Our congregation plans to support this meaningful outreach again this year. We would like to thank you for your generous participation in the past and ask if you would be able to help us out again this year.

Here are the ways you can participate:

- * Gift cards for Superstore or Walmart (these two stores are accessible by public transit and will stretch the dollar for our families) \$25.00 denomination preferred.
- Warm hats and gloves/mittens. These do not have to be new with tags. If you have items that are clean and in excellent used condition they would be appreciated as well. Darker colours are preferable.
- * New Socks
- * New men's and women's long underwear
- * Toiletries

A bin will be available in the narthex for the clothing and toiletry items. Please place your purchased gift cards in an envelope and place in Barb Andersons mail folder.

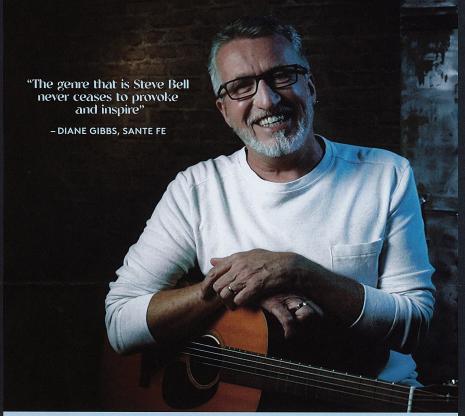
Collection of gift cards and clothing items will start November 26 and continue until December 10.

If you have questions, please call Barb Anderson at 780-467-8500 or Marjorie Zelent at 780-467-5363, who are working on this ministry on behalf of the Community Outreach Committee.

Christmas Gifts for Those in Need



STEVE BELL



SHERWOOD PARK ALLIANCE CHURCH 1011 CLOVER BAR ROAD

DATE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 7:00 PM DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM

TICKETS \$25

TICKETS

IN PERSON: SHERWOOD PARK ALLIANCE

ONLINE: STEVEBELL.COM

SIGNPOST MUSIC





NEW CD AND 150 PAGE BOOK

Art Auction for The Lutheran Theological Seminary Grace Fund

LTS is holding an online Art Auction of 15 paintings by John Dyck; the paintings are a welcome gift from alumnus Pastor Eric Dyck (LTS class of 1984).

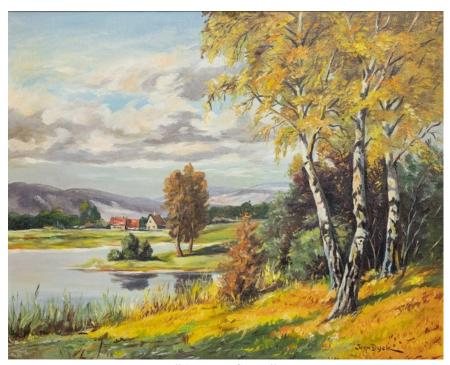
Proceeds will be directed towards LTS's Grace Fund for Faculty.

Pastor Eric is motivated to share this legacy of his father's paintings with the seminary, knowing the funds raised will aid future ministry.

These works will be offered in the 'Affordable Art Auction', an online art auction hosted by the Saskatchewan Network for Art Collecting (SKNAC) – with all opening bids under \$100.

The online bidding closes soon, on Sunday, December 3rd.

Here is the link to the SKNAC dedicated auction site:
 https://connect.invaluable.com/saskatchewannac
Search "Dyck" on the site to view the 15 paintings by John Dyck.
This is an opportunity to purchase a beautiful work of art
and to support LTS, simultaneously!



"Autumn Scene"



A Message from Pastor Nicke

"PEACE" IS a PART of OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, yours and mine.

Yeah, sounds good, and everyone's for "peace" – but then, what about today's headlines?! Last month, there were more than 40 countries who are involved with war and conflict. Now, add to that the Middle East.

Ava and I were in Israel and Palestine 3 years after their very big "1967 War". We entered a Palestinian-side coffee shop and it looked just like one here -- except, the big milk-machine's cover had a meter-long row of bullet holes all across it. We and another couple with us were the only "westerners" staying overnight on the "Arab side" of the former divide. Then, issues and concerns between the two groups were being talked about -- and now, over 50 years later, a lot of leaders and people are not willing to sit down together & try to resolve these same 50-year-old issues.

Add to this stew, over the years, mistakes on all sides complicated the issues, yet the issues remain. Add: some leaders promote their own agendas and stir up the waters for their own political purposes or to stay in power. Add: other power groups take sides and get involved, and proxy groups and nations mix-in their own problems. Add: unresolved issues can bring more radical attempts to be heard, and violence is advocated to try to finally change things. In this stew, where is peace in all this?

ADD: Some ask, who *is* right and who's wrong? Considering all historic and present issues, is any one side ALL right, or ALL wrong?] **Besides,** "Us versus Them" IS a much greater problem than a few years ago, and anger and fear is used to sell power, money, prestige, supporters, and for some a profit from war. **But,** no peace or justice here -- when there are many sides and many opinions & many issues & no talking together!

ADD: One faction of the many involved in this region decides to do enough bad things so that the other side will retaliate massively and hurt innocent and non-involved people nearby [and will also be condemned by others in the world]. No peace there.

BUT FOR CHRISTIANS, the Bible is our principal help for our spiritual journey of life, a very good place to go for help. It speaks of love and peace, including: Jesus speaking of and practicing "love", giving the example of God the Father's love for us through Jesus, and speaking of peace. In a recent Bible lesson, Amos calls us to work for PEACE and JUSTICE, now, not later -- through what we do and say or don't do and don't say, as well as through our prayers.

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Geographically, **justice** is hard to find there for all the people who live in the Middle East. All people of Israel are not and do not think or do the same -- nor do all the Palestinians. Hamas in Gaza is not like all the people in Gaza. Hamas is different than the West Bank government, and each is different than the half dozen other groups around Israel who have issues with Israel. Palestinian people in Gaza are not like all the West Bank Palestinians or the Arab people in Israel. All are not for or against all of the same things -- so, no easy answers here.

Israel also has differing politicians with differing perspectives, and not all people support or agree with the coalition party in power or what they do. We may hear about Israel's "Zionism" as a factor – but Zionism has many degrees of meanings with varying implications for who controls what and how. And we hear of anti-Semitism -- it properly relates to a religion [not a government or its practices which can be more easily criticized]. [And also, don't forget anti-Muslim/Islamic problems in the world.]

This stew of various peoples and interests includes those who take no side, so, no easy answers here, and sometimes historically, little justice.

Contrast that with what JESUS invites us to:

- + try to work for peace and justice in ways we can -- and speak out to those around us about injustices when we encounter them.
- + Pray for peace. Can we seek to understand peoples and help find understanding among peoples? One community I was in a person there prayed for peace and later was involved in the peace process in Ireland as a part of a group program that helped citizens there on all sides come together and understand each other more than they did before; it led to their "Good Friday Peace".
- + Try to avoid taking sides in conflicts, and keep especially in-mind and in-prayer the people caught in the middle of fighting everywhere.
- + Then, looking at PEACE, a look at our "Peacemakers" but that's for next time...

Together in Christ, Gary Nickel

PS ++ And then there's the Lutheran Bishop for the Lutheran Church in the Holy Land who visited here and told us of their work with others toward peace, providing help and health care for people of all religions in need there including via the Lutheran hospital in Jerusalem -- and we help them and their work through our giving to Canadian Lutheran World Relief.



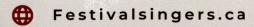
Music of the Season with Guest Performers

- Festival Place 100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park
- November 25, 2023
- 1 2:00 p.m.

ADULT \$25 CHILD \$15

Tickets available from choir members and Festival Place box office

Conductor: Esther Madsen Accompanist: Linda Steinbring



- Festival Singers
- Festival.singers08@gmail.com



Share God's love with the world and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others with **Gifts from the Heart!** Your gifts have the power to change lives this Christmas!

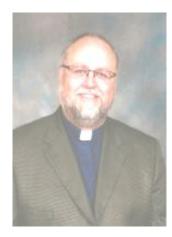
Visit clwr.org/GFTH or call 1.800.661.2597



Copies can be found on the table in the Narthex.

Glory Lutheran Church also now has a CLWR Fundraising Webpage where we can collect donations that go directly to CLWR to use where needed most. Clean water, emergency food, a new source of income, hope in crisis — what will your gift become?

https://www.clwr.org/fundraisers/glory-lutheran-churchs-fundraiser



Bishop's Message - November

Dear Beloved of God -

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling (Ephesians 4:4).

We will gather June 6-8, 2024, at the University of Alberta – Augustana Campus in Camrose for the 19 th Convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories under the theme: One Body, One Spirit, One Hope. This convention marks the end of my



current term as Bishop.

I am writing to let you know that following nearly one and one-half years of intentional prayer and conversation with Cathy, my spiritual director, my counselor, my Mutual Ministry Team, and trusted friends and colleagues, my discernment is complete. Dear friends, I have decided to conclude my service as Synod Bishop.

I cannot express the profound gratitude I feel for the sacred honour and privilege I have had in serving as your bishop. I began at the synod office as Assistant to the Bishop in the fall of 2010 and upon Bishop Mayan's retirement was elected Bishop in October 2012 and ordained on January 26, 2013. Subsequently I was elected in 2014 and 2018 to additional terms. Upon completion of this current six-year term I will have served in the synod office for nearly fourteen years.

God is again doing a new thing in my life and in the life of our Synod.

Although I am concluding my term as Bishop, I will not be retiring. I am open to the Spirit's leading and to the Spirit's call and am looking forward to new ministry opportunities and possibilities either within Canada or globally, following our Synod Convention and a time of transition with the bishop-elect.

Over the next months leading up to and including the Synod Convention, we will again listen deeply to the Holy Spirit, to each other, and to the world around us to discern together where God is leading and calling us, including through the role of the bishop.

Transitions in leadership can be challenging; however, they also hold rich potential for unlocking and liberating new gifts, opportunities, hopes, and dreams. Over the next few months as a Synod, we will be working to discern the

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gifts needed in our next bishop, and I anticipate that Synod Council will be sharing a discernment process for use within congregations, councils, and specialized ministries, very soon.

We do not know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us. The Spirit is guiding us. We have the Scriptures. We have water. We have bread and wine. We have each other. Jesus is with us.

Beloved of God, as people of faith, continue to be humble and gentle with one another. Honour each other. Make space for the lament that always accompanies change. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other to live into hope. Trust that God is with us in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

Thank you for continued prayers for Cathy and me, for our family, and for the synod staff and council.

By God's grace, we still have several months to walk together in this work. I look forward to journeying with you and trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead, sustain, and guide us all.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you many abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

In Christ Jesus -

Shalom,

+Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Bishop Larry's Discernment Letter, dated October 18, 2023, can be found online here:

https://albertasynod.ca/our-story/abt-synod-office/bishops-message/



Prayer Partners is starting up again!

On November 26th,

those interested will fill out an information slip (name, address, birthday and anniversary)

On December 3rd,

they will draw a name and that will be their prayer partner for the coming year.

Men and women as well as confirmationaged youth are all welcome to participate.

~Donna Dawson



Did you know we have a Prayer Chain at Glory?

The Prayer Chain at Glory is available to anyone wishing to send or receive prayer requests. It is private and confidential.

Congregation members with or without e-mail are welcome.

Please contact Donna Dawson at dawsondl@shaw.ca for details.



THE 32nd ANNUAL ECUMENICAL MISSION OF STRATHCONA COUNTY

NO LONGER STRANGERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

October 22-25, 2023









October 23 7 pm Evening Worship Service @ Glory

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who generously supplied baked goods for the coffee and fellowship time after the Monday evening service of the Ecumenical Mission.

They were very much appreciated and enjoyed by all! The extra goodies were wrapped and frozen and will be served after Sunday worship services in the next few weeks.

Thank you, as well, to Pastor Markus, the worship choir, all other musicians, readers, ushers, the kitchen crew, and others who planned and/or participated in this service.



For the poor will never cease out of the land; therefore I command you, You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in the land. Deuteronomy 15:11 RSV

As we are on the doorstep of the Advent Season, you are invited to participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar Food Donation.

Throughout the months of November and early December please assemble, one item a day, non-perishable food and other goods into a box for our local Food Bank so others may experience this precious season with less stress and more joy.

The items can be brought to church on December 3 and 10. They will be delivered to the Strathcona County Food Bank the following week.

Ideas to consider including in your Food Bank gift box:

Food Items

Kraft Mac & Cheese Boxed milk Juice boxes Canned veggies pasta sauce Cooking Oil Ready to serve soup Spices salt and pepper coffee. Ready to serve chili jelly or jam Box of Cereal Tea bags Sugar crackers Tuna Rice Hamburger Helper peanut butter Instant hot porridge Stove Top Stuffing

No sugar added canned fruit

Non Food items

No sugar free fruit juice

Dishwashing detergent Feminine hygiene products Baby Wipes. Tin foil Reusable grocery bags **Toothpaste** plastic wrap Toothbrushes Bar soap can opener Gift Card

You are also welcome to consider a donation of a gift card to a grocer. A box will be available to deposit your chosen card into.

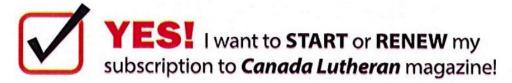


The Glory congregation is a part of the Canada Lutheran Congregational Subscription Plan.

Learn practical, no-nonsense strategies for personal spiritual growth. Find information and inspiration to live life In Mission for Others.

Through the CONGREGATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION PLAN, Canada Lutheran is available at a significantly reduced rate to the members of the ELCIC.

For only just over \$2 per issue—you can receive Canada Lutheran eight times a year as well as access to a full digital copy.



Our renewal package should be coming soon, but to prepare, I'm asking those who would like to subscribe or cancel rather than wait until near Christmas to try to gather this information. The deadline is usually mid December. To ensure we make the deadline, please let me know if you would like to renew your existing subscription or if you would like to start a new subscription. I will confirm the price and let you know how much to make the cheque out for as soon and I know.

Please confirm your current address, email and phone number and be prepared to provide a cheque payable to "Canada Lutheran"

> Thank you, Heidi Jones Glory Lutheran Church Office Coordinator



DATES TO REMEMBER

November 22 Women's Group Bagged Lunch - 12:00pm

November 27 YOUTH Skiing @ Sunridge - 5:00pm November 26 Prayer Ministry - Name Submission

December 3 Prayer Ministry - Name Draw

December 4-5 Private Rental

December 10 ICPM Gifts for those In Need - Collection deadline

December 13 Women's Group Bagged Lunch - 12:00pm

December 13 Council Meeting - 6:30pm

December 17 Glory 50 Plus Christmas Dinner @ Broadmoor - 12:30pm

Tuesdays Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm

Thursdays Confirmation 6:30pm

Choir 7:30pm

2nd Thursdays Worship at Strathcona Care - Monthly 10:15am4th Thursdays Worship at Hardisty Care Centre - Monthly 10:00am

Sundays Worship 10:30 am (Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays)

No Sunday School on long weekends.

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.





22577 Hwy 16, Sherwood Park, Alberta, T8A 4T7

z, Alberta,

Phone: 780.416.9594 E-mail: glory.office@glorylutheran.ca Pastor Markus Wilhelm E-mail: pastormarkus@glorylutheran.ca

Check out our Website: www.qlorylutheran.ca