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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

"People think that stories are shaped by people. In fact, it's the other way around."

— Terry Pratchett

Whether we know it or not, stories shape our lives. They shape our relationships. They shape our understanding of the world we live in. They shape our hopes and expectations. The stories we tell ourselves about ourselves help determine how we move through the world, how we deal with and interact with others, what kinds of things we stand for...and where we draw our boundaries.

"There's a story behind everything. How a picture got on a wall. How a scar got on your face. Sometimes the stories are simple, and sometimes they are hard and heartbreaking. But behind all your stories is always your mother's story, because hers is where yours begin." — Mitch Albom

Our stories link us together across generations, deep into the past and far into the future. The primal story of your genes contributes an enormous chapter to the Book of You, endowing you with talents and abilities to develop and challenges to overcome, ignore or endure. The migrant history of your forebears added linguistic, cultural and familial eccentricities that find some degree of expression in you—subtle things like the way certain words are pronounced or a distaste for certain flavors.



"Stories of imagination tend to upset those without one." — Terry Pratchett

How you respond to stories, even non-fiction every-day narratives can tell you a lot about yourself...and tell others a lot about you.

"Stories can conquer fear, you know. They can make the heart bigger." — Ben Okri

When captains are rallying the troops, when the coaches are pumping up their teams at half time, they tell a story. It may not sound anything like a story to them, but it is one. It's a story called You Can Do This which is reshaped with each telling to include the players' names and strengths and the opponents' weaknesses.

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THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH.

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.

FAITH.HOPE.LOVE

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all.

Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

GLORIA DEI

**NAPLES PLAZA
LONG BEACH**

FAITH.HOPE.LOVE

Thoughts Along the Way Continues....

"Stories, like people and butterflies and songbirds' eggs and human hearts and dreams, are also fragile things, made up of nothing stronger or more lasting than twenty-six letters and a handful of punctuation marks. Or they are words on the air, composed of sounds and ideas—abstract, invisible, gone once they've been spoken—and what could be more frail than that? But some stories, small, simple ones about setting out on adventures or people doing wonders, tales of miracles and monsters, have outlasted all the people who told them, and some of them have outlasted the lands in which they were created." — Neil Gaiman

Your life is a story. My life is a story. And by God's good grace, our stories have come together, interwoven for some few chapters in another story, the story of the little church with a big heart in the big city that thinks it's a little city, half way to anywhere. And that story, too, is part of an even larger story, a story called The Church. And that story is such a large saga that it forgets sometimes that it, too, is really only a chapter in a much deeper and more intriguing story, a story that begins, "In the beginning was the Word..."

Sometimes when things get tense, it's good to step back, take a deep breath, and remind ourselves that this moment, too, is part of the story.

Pro Gloria Dei,

Pastor Steve

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

www.ELCA.org/dayofservice — order a t-shirt today!





In its simplest form, becoming a **sanctuary denomination** means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith.

In baptism, we are brought into a covenantal relationship with Jesus Christ that commits us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Following the example of Martin Luther, we believe that advocacy is a crucial expression of baptismal identity. As a church, we have advocated for stopping the detention of children and families for decades. We have spoken out against family separation, sought a pathway to citizenship for community members who have lived in the U.S. for many years, and have taken steps to address the root causes of migration in a way that honors the humanity in people who must flee. Through the ELCA's AMMPARO strategy, we continue this work. [Talking points](#), articles, videos and resources are housed here so this church can have conversations about what sanctuary means with many of our members in their context to discern future action and direction. Becoming a sanctuary denomination was voted on and passed by the 2019 ELCA Church-wide Assembly in Milwaukee. Being a sanctuary denomination means that we, as church together, want to be public and vocal about this work. It will look different for everyone, but welcoming people is not a political issue for us –

PRAYER

changes things

Dwelling in the Word is a practice that may be used to help in communal discernment.

It is: An intentional practice...hopefully, a habit. It involves:

- Reflection
- Deep listening to one another AND to God's Word
- Patience

Faith...that God will be revealed and the The Holy Spirit will guide us.

Prayers for Unsaved Loved Ones

- Lord, please remove the blinders from _____'s eyes and open his/her eyes.
- I pray that as _____'s eyes are opened that you would bring about situations and circumstances that would lead them to the truth.
- I ask you to turn and soften _____'s heart. Put a new spirit in him/her. Take out _____'s stony, stubborn heart and give him/her a tender, responsive heart.
- Lord, please draw _____ to you and give him/her a hunger and desire for you.
- Please send laborers from variety of sources across _____'s path. Let him/her see you wherever he/she goes, so much so that he/she cannot escape you!
- Please put a hedge of protection around _____ so that any ungodly influences around him/her would lose interest and depart.
- Lord, please break any chains, stronghold or barriers that bind _____ and free him/her from Satan's influence over his/her mind, will and emotions.
- I pray that _____'s mind, heart and life would be transformed and renewed.
- I pray that _____ would be convicted by the Holy Spirit and that he/she would have your attitude toward sin.
- Lord, please let your kindness lead _____ to full repentance and help him/her to turn away from their sin.

CONGREGATION UPDATE



Dear Pastor Beckham & Gloria Dei Church Council,

Thank you so very much for blessing us with the funds for capital improvements for our LSS Long Beach Center.

We used the funds for much needed repairs to our roof and for some ac/heating electrical maintenance needs.

Below are some before and after photos of our roof. We are so ready for the rainy season! Last year we had leaks and we had to use buckets in different areas throughout the building.

Again, we thank you for the faithful support provided by Gloria Dei Lutheran throughout the years. We and those we serve can't thank you enough or too many times for your care and compassion.

Sincerely, Wendy Rubio
Emergency Services
Program Manager
Lutheran Social Services/SC
Long Beach & South Bay Area
1611 Pine Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90813
(562) 599-1321 Office

"It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us"- Jackie Mutcherson

Greetings Everyone -

Your church council met August 6. We received the usual reports. We held our first meeting under the new leadership—thank you again to members who stepped forward to serve our congregation.

During this time, an ice cream social was developed as an outreach effort to serve our neighbors. By the time you get this, it will be over and done. However, we may just do it again. The Church picnic is coming up on Sept. 15. Food, fellowship, fun.....that is the order of the day. Please join us.

Pastor Steve announced that the ELCA churchwide meeting was held recently. One of the resolutions put forth and passed is about the ELCA becoming a Sanctuary Church. This means that we have an opportunity to help immigrants come to America. The plan is not to break the law, just offer support in any way we can. Please read the document posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall and/or review the article in this issue on page 3. It clearly explains the meaning and purpose of the resolution.

Continue to keep our church family in your prayers, enjoy your summer time and be at peace with God.

Margie E. Brown, Council President



ANNUAL GLORIA DEI GATHERING

SEPTEMBER 15 @ NOON

MARINE STADIUM PARK



JOIN US FOR A SUNDAY PICNIC IN THE PARK !

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 8

(FREE WILL OFFERING)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Gary Bockman currently serves as treasurer for Gloria Dei. Learn more about his background, gifts and the experience that he brings to his work and ministry in our congregation.

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES For the Period January 1, 2019 to July 31, 2019			
	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Revenue			
Contributions	110,833	107,591	(3,242)
Hall Use	2,917	3,176	259
Interest Income	233	354	120
Rental Income	24,150	23,900	(250)
Total Revenue	138,133	135,021	(3,113)
Expenses			
Missions*	16,240	16,576	(336)
Properties	10,558	11,072	(514)
Worship	74,661	72,346	2,315
Administration	34,837	30,390	4,447
Church Programs	1,838	1,079	758
Total Expenses	138,133	131,463	6,670
Revenue less Expenses		3,558	
Respectfully submitted by Gary Bockman, Treasurer			

* In addition to the budgeted gifts shown above, members of Gloria Dei have given another \$15,000 to our Mission Partners from the 2018 surplus and \$5,697 to LSS, World Hunger ELCA Disaster Relief, Fe y Esperanza and other mission partners.

MAY YOU OBSERVE YOUR WORLD WITH LOVING CONSIDERATION.....

PALESTINE: UNLIMITED

Photo Exhibit hosted by Gloria Dei — Sunday, June 23, June 30 & July 7

A collection of photographs taken by students from Dar Al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture in Bethlehem was on display at Gloria Dei as part of a national tour. Bishop Emeritus Dean Nelson introduced the exhibit and answered questions. Copies of photos were for sale. The President of Dar al-Kalima is Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and The Holy Land and former longtime pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church of Bethlehem.

Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture seeks to equip its students with vital skills for the 21st century job market through a comprehensive system of human resource development that reflects Palestine's emerging needs. Dar al-Kalima is committed to building a culture of democracy, critical thinking and free expression, thus contributing to the strengthening of the civil society in Palestine.



“The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process is its own reward.”—Amelia Earhart

**“Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident.”
—A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS — SEPTEMBER 2019

1 — SUNDAY

WORSHIP @ 10:00 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
PRAYERS OF HEALING

- O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

2 — Monday

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

3 — Tuesday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

4 — Wednesday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

5 — Thursday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

6 — Friday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON MTG @ 6:00 PM
- A.A. MTG.@ 6:00 PM

7 — Saturday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

8 — SUNDAY

WORSHIP @ 10:00 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
PRAYERS OF HEALING

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS."
DAY OF SERVICE SUNDAY

... an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

- O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

9 — Monday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING @ 7:00PM

Happy Birthday Pastor Ted Conter

10 — Tuesday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

11 — Wednesday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

12 — Thursday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

Happy Birthday
Barbara White
David Kahakauwila



13 — Friday

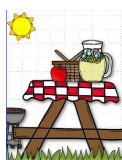
- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON MTG @ 6:00 PM
- A.A. MTG.@ 6:00 PM

14 — Saturday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

15 — SUNDAY

WORSHIP @ 10:00 AM
HOLY COMMUNION/NOISY OFFERING



ANNUAL PICNIC @
MARINE STADIUM PARK
[after service]

- AL-ANON MTG. @ 6-7:30 PM

16 — Monday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

17 — Tuesday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

18 — Wednesday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

Happy Birthday
Margie Brown
Kalani Caldwell



19 — Thursday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

ELC WOMEN'S GROUP @ 11AM

20 — Friday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON MTG @ 6:00 PM
- A.A. MTG.@ 6:00 PM

Happy Birthday Meri Beckman

21 — Saturday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

Happy Birthday
Howard Davis



22 — SUNDAY

ADULT EDUCATION — 9AM
WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

- AL-ANON MTG. @ 6-7:30 PM

23 — Monday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

24 — Tuesday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

ADULT EDUCATION @ 9 AM

Happy Anniversary
Jim & Lauren Mintie



25 — Wednesday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

26 — Thursday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

27 — Friday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON MTG @ 6:00 PM
- A.A. MTG.@ 6:00 PM

28 — Saturday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

Happy Birthday Craig McCarty



29 — Saturday

30 — SUNDAY

ADULT EDUCATION — 9AM
WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

- AL-ANON MTG. @ 6-7:30 PM

Happy Anniversary
Dave & Cyndy Manley



"Love one another
with mutual affection;
outdo one another
in showing honor."
 ~ Roman 12:10

GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**5872 Naples Plaza
Long Beach, California 90803**



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage paid
Long Beach, California
Permit No. 2190



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. At Gloria Dei Lutheran Church we welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to the social, cultural or economic circumstances that too often divide us. Our unity is in Christ in whom we are all made new.

(2 Cor. 5:17-19)

