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## Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

### THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

*Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." - Psalms 126.2*

The heat has been oppressive. The news mostly so. The pandemic continues and working from the spare bedroom is losing some of its charm. Since Meri and I both read a good deal for our work, we watch TV to unwind, but since we have a penchant for whodunnits, especially the British variety, our TV viewing isn't always relaxing. So we decided that, for the sake of our mental health, we need to be intentional about laughing. To that end we have begun deliberately mixing comedies into the mysteries and jokes into the day. For the sake of our souls. I firmly believe that Jesus loved a good joke and even told a few, though they may have lost something in the translation. Did you hear the one about the camel trying to squeeze through the eye of the needle?

A boy asked his dad, "Where did people come from?" His dad replied, "Well, Adam and Eve had babies, then they grew up and had babies, and so on." The boy then asked his mom, "Where did people come from?" She replied, well, a very long time ago apes and humans broke off from a common ape-like ancestor. Apes went one way, people went the other." The boy ran back to his father and said, "You lied! Mom said humans come from apes!" The dad calmly replied, "She was talking about her side of the family."

"There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor." — Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

My friend thinks he's so smart. He said that an onion is the only food that can make you cry. So I hit him with a coconut.

"I know not all that may be coming, but be it what it will, I'll go to it laughing." — Herman Melville, Moby-Dick or, the Whale

Two cowboys own a ranch. One night someone steals their only bull. They need to buy another bull but they only have \$500. One cowboy says to his buddy, you stay here and mind the cows and I'll go to the market to see if I

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# GLORIOUS DEI

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*Thoughts Along the Way Continues....*

can find another bull for under \$500. Well, he finds one for \$499. He goes to the telegraph office to send a telegram to his pal so he'll bring the trailer to take the bull back to the ranch, but discovers that telegrams cost \$1 per word and he only has the one dollar left. After a lot of thought he tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable." "How's that gonna tell him to bring the trailer?" asks the operator. "It'll work," says the cowboy. "My partner reads real slow. He'll have to sound it out. Come for ta bull."

"Laughter and tears are both responses to frustration and exhaustion. I myself prefer to laugh, since there is less cleaning to do afterward." — Kurt Vonnegut

In a Catholic school cafeteria, a nun places a note in front of a pile of apples, "Only take one. God is watching." Further down the line is a pile of cookies. A little boy makes his own note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

"With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come."

— William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*

A husband and wife were driving through Louisiana. As they approached Natchitoches, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town. They argued back and forth, then they stopped for lunch. At the counter, the husband asked the blonde waitress, "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are very slowly?" She leaned over the counter and said, "Burr-gerr Kiiing."

"I don't trust anyone who doesn't laugh." — Maya Angelou

A boy with a monkey on his shoulder was walking down the road when he passed a policeman who said, "Now, now young lad, I think you had better take that monkey to the zoo." The next day, the boy was walking down the road with the monkey on his shoulder again, when he passed the same policeman. The policeman said, "Hey there, I thought I told you to take that monkey to the zoo!" The boy answered, "I did! Today I'm taking him to the movies."

"I love people who make me laugh. I honestly think it's the thing I like most, to laugh. It cures a multitude of ills. It's probably the most important thing in a person." — Audrey Hepburn

Robert Frost said that if we couldn't laugh we would all go insane. This year, 2020, I think that may be true. So hold on to your humor, beloved kindred in Christ. If that goes, you know we're in trouble.

### Pro Gloria Dei, Pastor Steve

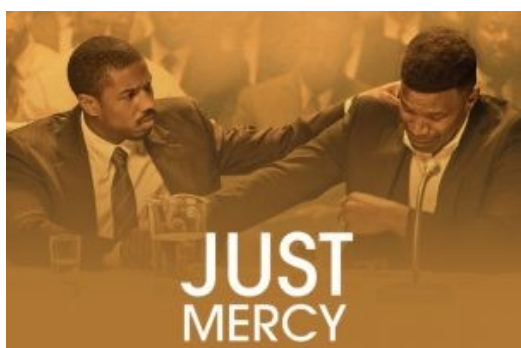
"Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but among those whom I love, I can; all of them make me laugh." — W. H. Auden



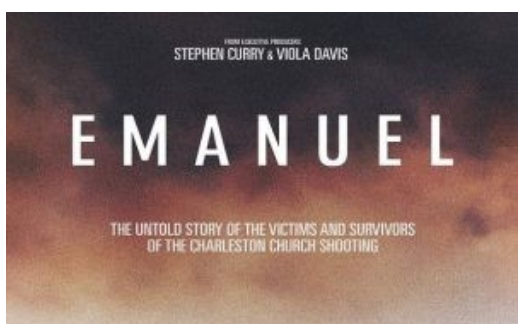
## FEEDBACK

Are you receiving this monthly newsletter? Tell us what you think...Send comments and suggestions to [pbockman@fullerton.edu](mailto:pbockman@fullerton.edu)

*God does not demand  
that we prove  
ourselves worthy of  
this love, but asks only  
that we receive  
it in faith. In so doing,  
we are truly  
"born of the Spirit."  
~ John 3:6*



**Movie streaming free on Amazon**  
+ Discussion Guide & Questions



### **Emanuel - The Untold Story of Victims and Survivors of the Church Shooting**

Marking the fourth anniversary of the event, the documentary weaves the history of race relations in Charleston, the significance and impact of Mother Emanuel Church, and the hope that somehow emerges in the aftermath. Featuring intimate interviews with survivors and family members, Emanuel tells a story of justice and faith, love and hate, examining the healing power of forgiveness.



**The Blood Is at the Doorstep**  
Find it on Youtube + Discussion Guide

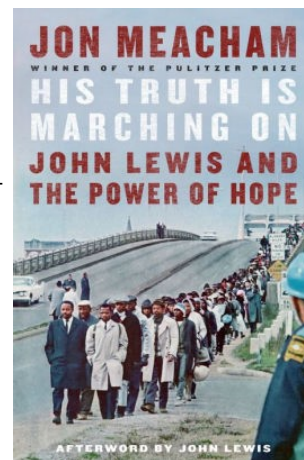
**Source; Photos/Resources/Links on SoCal Synod Website**

## **DEEPER UNDERSTANDINGS**

### **"Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation" John Lewis, July 2020**

While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society. Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and the world you set aside race, class, age, language and nationality to demand respect for human dignity.

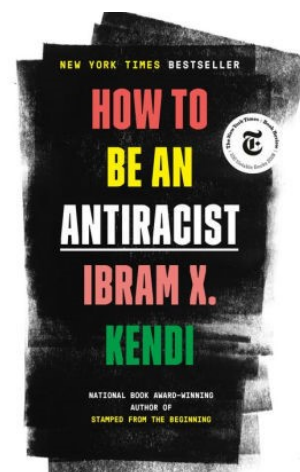
**\*\* Jon Meacham's new book is NOW AVAILABLE in bookstores or online!**



We envision a new generation of the church committed to a holistic expression of the Christian faith, motivated by a desire to fully live into the hope of reconciliation,

wholeness, and restoration promised by the whole gospel. We gather people who are seeking healing from the trauma of a violent world, ministering to others as they journey together in **a brave space for dialogue, questioning, creating, and exploration, and seeking to be faithful followers of Jesus.**

"Ibram X. Kendi's new book, **How to Be an Antiracist**, couldn't come at a better time. . . . Kendi has gifted us with a book that is not only an essential instruction manual but also a memoir of the author's own path from anti-black racism to anti-white racism and, finally, to antiracism. . . . How to Be an Antiracist gives us a clear and compelling way to approach, as Kendi puts it in his introduction, 'the basic struggle we're all in, the struggle to be fully human and to see that others are fully human.' "—NPR





# CONGREGATION UPDATE



## GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Greetings is His name to all members and friends of Gloria Dei.

We have a mixed bag of news: Barbara White is home and doing well. As is Marion Beckman. Candy Wood's granddaughter and new great-grandchild are doing well. Take a moment to send a card or note...see the church directory for contact information.

Our Don Melin went home to his Savior. Keep the family in your prayers. We celebrated his life and faith with an online service on August 26. Don was a beloved member of our family of faith for 60 years. A private service with family will be held on September 4.

Our council is awaiting bids to repair/refinish the plaster from ground up to 4 feet in front of the sanctuary. Water damage has left its mark there. We have 3 bids and will discuss it at the Sept 14th Council meeting.

We have added sermon links and updates to our web page. Also please share our monthly newsletter. These are great resources for neighbors, family members and friends.

We have been asked about meeting in the parking lot for services. It was decided that there are too many logistic issues to make it possible.

Our financial situation is stable. Please keep up with your offerings as God and Gloria Dei go on whether we are in the building or not. Keep each other and our mission partners in prayer. Keep our church leaders, our country in prayer as well. Things are going to get heated in the next few months. Be true to our Lord and He will direct us.

Have a Glorious Dei.

Margie E. Brown, Council President

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

# PRAYER

*changes things*



If you are not doing so already, I ask that you, in your personal and in your congregational prayers, please begin praying often for your next Bishop, and for the process that will lead this Synod to the time when you elect that person to serve in the **Office of the Bishop of the Southwest California Synod**. Let us pray together that the Holy Spirit will lead all of you together to choose carefully and wisely as you elect the next **Child of God** to serve you well as the Bishop of the Southwest California Synod. I also ask again that in your prayers you would continue to pray for all of us who serve as Synod staff at this transitional time. We trust God to hear our prayers and respond with compassion, care, and love. **Bishop Murray D. Finck (Interim)**[bishopfinck@socalsynod.org](mailto:bishopfinck@socalsynod.org)

# VOICES OF HOPE



Welcome **New President and Chief Executive Officer—Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith** oversees the strategic direction and execution of the agency's core mission: ignited by faith, we live out God's love by embracing, equipping and empowering vulnerable people in Southern California. Establishing a vision for community impact that works across private, public and corporate sectors, Beckwith leads a diverse team of 150+ employees across 18 offices in eight counties, to improve conditions for underserved and marginalized communities.

Dr. Beckwith joins the organization from California Southern University where she most recently served as Provost and Chief Academic Officer. She offers a wealth of fiscal and executive management to the position following a 27- year career with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) retiring as the Vice President of Eastern Region, responsible for profit and loss for operations.

Supported by the work Dr. Beckwith's done through the Professional Christian Women in Service organization she established in 2005, and other leadership and empowerment programs she created over her professional career, it is clear her heart is truly aligned with the values of Lutheran Social Services.

The **COVID-19 pandemic** has created a significant surge in the number of vulnerable clients who need emergency services. As other agencies closed, our essential team members remained on the front lines, walking alongside both at-risk and marginalized clients, many for the first time. The highest demand is for warm meals, emergency shelter, hygiene products, diapers, wipes, formula, and rental assistance. The need may seem insurmountable, but we know generosity has the power to unite and heal communities. **Your gift can shift the narrative, go to the LSS website and donate today to make a difference.**



Equipping those we serve with self-empowering tools and solution-based resources, we patiently walk alongside our clients on the road to independence.

## WHAT LSS NEEDS

### Canned Goods

**\*\*Pop Tops please**  
Chili; Ravioli Spaghetti-O's  
Tuna; Soup  
Chef Boyardee pasta meals

### Hygienic Supplies

Wet Ones (travel or singles)  
Disinfectant Cleaner  
Deodorant (Men's/  
Women's)

### Anything Dry

Umbrellas  
Sleeping bags  
Blankets & Comforters  
Tarps, tents, and other  
shelter materials  
Paper Goods/Bowls/Napkins  
Paper towels/ Toilet paper  
Plastic forks /Plastic spoons

### Anything Warm\*

Coats / Jackets  
Gloves/Scarves  
Socks  
Rain boots  
\*Please only new or lightly  
used

## SAVE THE DATE

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Please support the second annual **Long Beach Gives** event. A **24 hour online** giving day, **#LongBeachGives** was designed to inspire individuals and businesses in or community to make a difference in the exemplary work of the 150+ local, participating nonprofits. **The LSS South Bay/Long Beach team** have been named as the recipients for this incredible gift. Save the date and join the movement Sunday, September 24!



## SPREADING JOY & CHANGING LIVES



As you know this ongoing effort is designed to support the Long Beach Police Department. These handmade quilts/blankets are made by our women's group.



Interested in helping Gloria Dei's project to comfort kids in distress? Contact member **Margie Brown** ([mebrown918@gmail.com](mailto:mebrown918@gmail.com)) to find out how you can join in and lend a hand for this great cause.



**John Betz**, husband of long-time member **Jean Betz**, died on July 4, 2020. He was 94 years old and suffered from dementia. He was receiving care in a residential home in Huntington Beach when he died in his sleep. John had stated at an earlier time that he "was ready to go". John has been cremated and will be buried at Riverside National Cemetery.

Jean remains in her home in Seal Beach. Jean needs lots of help these days having had cancer. Her daughter, Cindy, has moved in with her, and a nurse comes every 2 weeks to give her shots. \*\*Send cards to Mrs. Ollie (Jean) Betz, 644 Taper Drive, Seal Beach, CA 90740 or contact her at [jeansbca@gmail.com](mailto:jeansbca@gmail.com) or 562-431-7759.

### This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

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.



Our name means *The Glory of God*, so we try to live accordingly.

Our life together as a family of faith is built on worship, service, education and friendship.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS — SEPTEMBER 2020



SEPTEMBER 14 —  
**VIRTUAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING @ 7PM**

*the newsletter*

SEPTEMBER 25 —  
**GLORIOUS DEI  
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

SUBMIT STORY IDEAS,  
RESOURCES & SUGGESTIONS  
to editor via email:  
PBOCKMAN@FULLERTON.EDU

**LABOR DAY  
HOLIDAY**

SEPTEMBER 7  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



## CELEBRATIONS

9 — Happy Birthday  
Pastor Ted Conter



12 —  
Happy Birthday  
Barbara White  
Happy Birthday  
David Kahakauwila

18 —  
Happy Birthday  
Margie Brown  
Happy Birthday  
Kalani Caldwell



20 —  
Happy Birthday Meri Beckman

21 —  
Happy Birthday Howard Davis

22 —  
Happy Birthday  
Tiana Kahakauwila



24 —  
Happy Anniversary  
Jim & Lauren Mintie

28 —  
Happy Birthday Craig McCarty

30 — Happy Anniversary  
Dave & Cindy Manley

SEPTEMBER 11 *Patriot's Day*

SEPTEMBER 13 *Grandparents Day*

SEPTEMBER 19 *Rosh Hashanah*

SEPTEMBER 22 *Fall Begins*

SEPTEMBER 27 *Peace Officers' Day*

SEPTEMBER 28 *Yom Kippur*

**"Let us not become weary  
in doing good, for at the  
time we will reap a harvest  
if we do not give up."  
~ Galatians 6:9**

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

**SMILE MORE**

**LOVE MORE**

**SEEK TO  
UNDERSTAND**

**SEEK PEACE  
& HARMONY**



**A SHORT COURSE IN  
HUMAN RELATIONS**

The SIX most important words:  
**"I ADMIT I MADE A MISTAKE"**

The FIVE most important words:  
**"YOU DID A GOOD JOB"**

The FOUR most important words:  
**"WHAT IS YOUR OPINION"**

The THREE most important words:  
**"WOULD YOU PLEASE"**

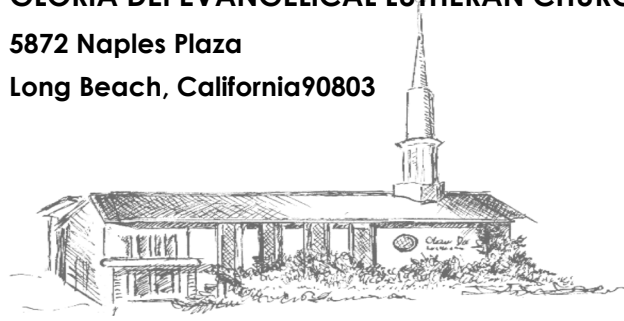
The TWO most important words:  
**"THANK YOU"**

The ONE most important word:  
**"WE"**

The LEAST important word:  
**"I"**

**GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



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**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)**



