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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

*The kingdom is drawing near.
Care for those who are suffering.
Wake up those who are unconscious.
Refresh those who have suffered.
Get rid of daimonic tendencies.*
– Matthew 10:7-8; *The Book of Matthew, A New Translation* by Thomas Moore

In 1981 I worked for nearly a year at JEL Recording in Huntington Beach as an engineer and editor on the first audio version of the NIV Bible from Zondervan. The NIV had been around since 1973, was selling like hot cakes, and was quickly becoming the preferred translation for many Baptist and Evangelical churches. Responding to the enormous success of Alexander Scourby's narration of the King James Bible on cassette, Zondervan was impatient to get the NIV on cassette, too—they knew it would be an instant best-seller. But they didn't want just narration of the text, they wanted a variety of actors' voices, sound effects and dramatic background music—they wanted the whole Bible to sound like an epic radio theater production from Genesis through Revelation. And they wanted it yesterday. So we worked quite literally around the clock.

The big take-away from all this for me was that I knew the Bible, at least that version of the Bible, backwards and forward, inside and out, and because of that knowledge, I entered seminary eleven years later with more than a little cocky confidence. It didn't take long, though, for seminary to burst my bubble. I very quickly began to learn how much I did *not* know about the Bible. My ignorance was encyclopedic. In many areas it still is. Frankly, I'm still learning, and most biblical scholars would tell you that they are, too.

When Robert Smith, our prof for Greek and Gospels gave us our first translation assignment in the Gospel of John, he told us to remember that "every translation is an interpretation." As I labored over my own translation efforts, I came to see just how profoundly true and important that bit of wisdom really was. Since then, because I now know a little something about what it takes to translate the ancient texts, I'm always fascinated to see new translations when they are made available. Each one sheds some new light or brings the words to life in new ways.

...Continued on page 2



Inside this issue:

Choose Your Words Carefully	2
Congregation Update	3
New Life Band Ministry	4
God's Work, Our Hands	5
Churchwide Assembly Report	6
Long Beach GIVES	6
Announcements & Celebrations	7

Thoughts Along the Way Continues....

When we resume our Sunday morning Adult Ed classes on September 18, we will begin a deep dive into the Gospel of Matthew using a new translation of that gospel from Thomas Moore entitled *Gospel—The Book of Matthew: A New Translation with Commentary—Jesus Spirituality for Everyone*. Moore is a former Catholic monk and current psychotherapist specializing in depth psychology. Although he long ago parted ways with conventional Christianity, he still maintains a fierce love for Jesus and the Gospels. His translation is faithful to the Greek but his word choices convey his intention. "My intention," he writes, "is to release the Gospels from their narrow confinements and show how valuable they are today to anyone at all looking for insight into how to live deeply and lovingly."

His translation is accompanied by his commentary. In some instances he explains why he has chosen the wording he uses. In other places he sheds light on the cultural assumptions at work in the people who would have been listening to Jesus. In still other comments he explains what he thinks the deeper meaning is in what Jesus is saying or doing and how that compares with traditional interpretations of the passage in question. There are some translation choices and commentary insights in Moore's translation that may challenge some of us. Some may want to dismiss him altogether. Presbyterian Outlook magazine conceded that Moore's translation is not for everybody, "Yet, for those who are not threatened by a fresh conversation with Matthew and Moore about what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our time, this is book worth pondering. We live in a time of sharp divisions and narrow interpretations. Moore, the psychotherapist, sees the dangers and wants the gospel to function again as a medium for deep healing of the human person and community. This is his vision of Jesus' own ministry. One does not have to agree with Moore at every point to gather the fruit of his new effort."

If you are participating in this class, it would probably be best to buy your own copy of the book. I am looking forward to reading through this new translation of a very familiar Gospel with you, and I hope that, together, we discover new insights into how to live deeply and lovingly in the Way of Jesus.

Pro Gloria Dei,
Pastor Steve

GLORIA DEI — CHRIST'S CHURCH

**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.**



"Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor."

~ Roman 12 :10



Pastor Steve's 25th
Ordination Anniversary
Celebration



CONGREGATION UPDATE

"The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength" from Nehemiah 8:10 is the theme for our grandchildren's school this year. The school selected this verse because joy is a central theme throughout the Bible and early Christians were known for their joy and love for each other. Our church family at Gloria Dei is certainly a joyful community of believers and this past month we have brought joy to so many of our mission partners. And in turn, they bring much joy to us in their appreciation for our donations so they can joyfully provide service to others within the community.

We have moved into a new state of "normal" while enjoying fellowship again after worship in the garden-inspired parking lot. It's so nice to spend time visiting, eating goodies and sharing a lot of laughter with each other while not having to wear masks. Soon we'll be able to discard our masks during worship while still maintaining social distancing. Thank God the COVID numbers continue to decline! Our church family has done a wonderful job of taking care of one another during these very difficult times.

At our next Council meeting we will discuss the need for wearing masks during worship. The Council's decision will be announced during worship service in early September. Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Everyone is welcome! Please consider joining us as a member on council. We have room for two (2) more and your input and opinions are so important as we make Gloria Dei decisions.

Lutheran Social Services: The "Ribbon cutting" ceremony to officially launch the much-improved LSS facility will take place on September 14th. The improvements are terrific. Watch for pictures next month of this event! Several deliveries were made this past month along with a check in the amount of \$570 from our church family. Food and clothing, especially back-to-school clothing for children is needed. As the colder weather approaches, LSS will be in need of warm jackets and clean blankets. Bring your donations to church or arrange for a pick-up time. Deliveries are made almost every Wednesday. Let me or Sandy Nelson know if you'd like to join us. LSS provides so many wonderful services to the community and greatly appreciates our support. We were excited and thrilled to hear that Maria recently became a United States citizen! Many of us have had the pleasure of working with Maria over the years. Twyla Karkut has known and worked with Maria since LSS opened on Pine Street in 1991. She is a beautiful woman inside and out and her smile lights up any room she enters. So proud of her and all she has accomplished. Congratulations to Maria!

Fe y Esperanza: We continue to make several deliveries each month of food, bags and gently used household items. In August we delivered \$500 in gift certificates to supplement their food distribution that occurs each week. Remember to save your grocery bags for their food distribution!

Maritime Ministries: It's time to be getting the shoeboxes ready. Twyla Karkut and Nancy Sansum have led this initiative and will be handing out a list of the items needed to fill the shoeboxes. The boxes will be assembled and delivered to Maritime Ministries in mid to late October. Most of the items can be obtained at the Dollar Tree. These boxes contain necessary hygiene items for the seafarers and mean so much to the men and women who are so far away from home for extended periods of time. The boxes represent another way in which we share the love of the Lord in caring for others.

ELCW: Our next meeting will be on September 8th at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall (or in the garden inspired parking lot if the weather permits). Our project in September will be bagging rice and beans for LSS and Fe y Esperanza. Join us for wonderful fellowship. Bring a sandwich to share.

Adult Education: Adult education continues on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 via Zoom. We are learning about Christian mysticism. You can still join us! These discussions are so insightful and it's also a wonderful way to stay connected during the week. On Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. beginning on September 18th we will begin a new study on the Gospel of Matthew.

AC/HVAC and Roof: So far so good! The AC has worked throughout the summer and the work on the roof and the new AC/HVAC will begin in about 45 days. We continue to receive generous donations to ensure we'll have the funds for this project. The gifts amount to approximately 80% of what is needed for this project and another \$6000 will bring us to 100% of our goal. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in making these gifts. The work will begin in mid-October so there is still time to make a gift to this fund. The "thermometer" in the Narthex continues to rise!

We are a joyful family of believers! Thank you for blessing my life and personally bringing me so much joy!...
Karen Como, Council President

GREETINGS FROM THE NEW LIFE BAND

Jambo friends, supporters and partners in the ministry. Thank you so very much for your continued prayers and financial support you have been giving to enable us to fulfill the needs for the ministry and our families. Without your support we wouldn't be able to accomplish all we are doing during this year. God bless you abundantly.

NLB FAMILIES — God has been so faithful to us all. Our families are thriving and healthy even during this time of coronavirus pandemic. Our kids and grandkids have been doing well even in their studies. God has also increased us through Goodluck and his wife Angel; they have been blessed by a baby girl earlier this year and they are all well.

NLB MINISTRY — In May of this past spring we launched our ministry with prayers and a youth ministry outreach when we had a gathering in Mbuguni village in Arusha. Other upcoming ministries to youth and students include August 1st to 8th with the national youth camp in Morogoro where we will have 1200 youth and students followed by August 28th to 4th September with an outreach in Arusha suburbs, and in September 19th to 26th with an outreach in Moshi. ~ Ondo Mabondo



Click on the web video to view Ondo Mabondo, Leader of the New Life Band, expressing love and gratitude to Will and Sharon Tissue for their support and advocacy through the many years!

Thank You for Your Prayers and Support in 2022

<http://www.newlifeband.org>

Donations to the New Life Band Ministries: Mission for Youth and Students are gratefully appreciated. Donations can be by check or online. Checks should be made out to Our Savior's Lutheran Church with "New Life Band" on the memo line and be mailed to: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Attn: NLB, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549.

Online donations should be sent to Elim Lutheran Church in Petaluma, California. Go to www.elimpetaluma.org/newlifeband and click on the donate button.



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



Dick and Nancy originally met the New Life Band when the members initially arrived in the San Francisco Bay Area of California in the 1997. Over the years, Dick and Nancy hosted the New Life Band members in their home many times and welcomed them with warm hospitality, comfort, and assistance. Dick and Nancy visited the NLB in Arusha in 2006 and, while there, purchased and donated 5 acres, the land upon which the New Life School building is now situated. They became an integral part of the California Coordinating Team by helping with logistics from 2003-2018 during NLB tours. For more than fifteen years, Dick was the newsletter editor for the NLB. Dick also regularly coordinated the transfer of donated funds to the New Life Band in Tanzania. In addition, Dick facilitated travel for the NLB by booking and paying for airlines tickets in advance and also by purchasing a van that was used by the NLB for many years during its west coast tours. Truly remarkable.

Nancy passed away into God's loving embrace on December 4, 2021 and Dick on May 30, 2022.



NEW LIFE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

After our last 13th form four (12th grade) finished in December 2021, we have been doing transition and formalities from secondary school education to vocational school. This included settlements with teachers and non-teaching staff so as to register the vocational school with authorities. We are planning to start short courses in tailoring and ICT (technology) and we hope by December 2022 everything will be in place and ready including sewing machines and desktop computers to start student enrollment in January 2023.
~ Ondo Mabondo



When the New Life Band first landed in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1997, there were no logistical plans in place. It was a journey of faith. In stepped Will and Sharon Tissue from Lafayette, CA, who took the NLB into their home and provided a place of comfort and support for the next two months including Thanksgiving and Christmas. Two years later the Tissues traveled to Arusha to see up close the ministry of the New Life Band and get to know family members. During the visit, they shared their commitment and support by giving financial assistance to make it possible for several band families to build their own homes. Over many years, they shared their home and hospitality on multiple occasions with the NLB during their California tours.

Sharon became the California Tour Coordinator for the New Life Band almost immediately. For twenty years, she built and nurtured relationships with churches in the state and created a foundation of ongoing support that is still vibrant today. She traveled back to Tanzania 5 years ago to visit NLB families and share in their ministry. Sharon continues to provide support and advocacy on an ongoing basis to the ministry.

Will Tissue passed away into the loving arms of God on July 28, 2020.

**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.**



LUTHERANS EMBRACE ITALIAN CULTURE

Word has it that a Lutheran congregation in Naples is embracing the romanticism of Italian culture. Members of Gloria Dei have been seen, after their Sunday service, drinking coffee and eating sweet things (and fellowshiping) in the Italian style – al fresco! In their parking lot, no less! What hath God wrought? Well... conversation, coffee, an array of delicious baked goods and an innovative way for all of us to spend time with one another after the service. Beginning August 14 the parking lot was transformed into an outdoor Fellowship Hall—thankful for beautiful weather. While wearing masks during our service remains a necessity because of COVID, in the open setting, masks are not necessary. And, on that first Sunday, we were visited by crews from Southern California Edison. Purportedly they were in the ally to make emergency repairs – we believe they came for the doughnut holes. Please join us after our Sunday services –al fresco style— time to gather and converse with your friends in our congregation.

TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Please support the annual **Long Beach Gives** event. A **24 hour online** giving day, **#LongBeachGives** was designed to inspire individuals and businesses in our community to make a difference in the exemplary work of the 230+ local, participating nonprofits.

G LONG BEACH GIVES

What is Long Beach Gives?

Long Beach Gives is an annual online giving day to provide awareness and funding for the critical services provided by nonprofits. It helps generous donors and innovative nonprofits come together to improve the quality of life and create positive change for Long Beach. The goal of Long Beach Gives is to inspire individuals and businesses in our community to support the exemplary work of nonprofits making a difference in our Long Beach community.

Never an experience I expected to have – A member of the Churchwide (CW) Assembly. Gloria Dei has historically supported our Southern California Synod but not been active in it. The next level up, CW, seemed far away. I did not have the imprimatur of being elected but was appointed by the Bishop to fill a vacant slot. It was four days of policy questions, parliamentary procedure, worship, the election of a vice-president (Imran Siddiqui was elected. Lawyer, investigator, US Dept. of Labor) and approval of an almost Sixty-nine million dollar budget, all in Columbus, Ohio. In 2022, Seventy-nine of One hundred two million dollars in operating expense went to programs e.g. Christian Community Leadership, Service and Justice.

It's a big meeting - 900 members. In light of decreasing congregations and the Sierra Pacific Synod issue, CW directed the Church Council to undertake an evaluation of the structure, think number of Synods and operating divisions as well as of the three main organizational divisions (Leadership, Justice and Innovation) for racism and conformity to purpose and report in 2025. One has to remember that in most situations CW cannot order the Synods to do anything. So Re: Land Backs, CW recommended that Synods and congregations evaluate whether to give land back to indigenous peoples. Apparently there is a significant gap between pay for women and men pastors. So there is to be a study made and changes to the information provided to the hiring organization. CW did exercise its authority to amend the Constitution, Bylaws of CW, Synod model and Congregation model. The changes will filter down to Gloria Dei in the next year. The good news is there is nothing remarkable, primarily CW deleted use of him/her.

There is generally an anxious feeling that change is needed to deal with organizational bloat and racism as well as a feeling of community in the goal to remain relevant in helping our neighbor and spreading God's word. Info @ <https://www.elca.org/CWA-2022> Videos @ <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNDmVwhz-M36cUMtUudwX5SCpoRYGA41> Author: Gloria Dei Member, Bob Siemer

ANNOUNCEMENTS — SEPTEMBER 2022

REJOICE !



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

CELEBRATIONS

9 —

Happy Birthday
Pastor Ted Conter



12—

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 & Cyndy Manley

SEPTEMBER 11 *Patriot's Day*

SEPTEMBER 13 *Grandparents Day*

SEPTEMBER 22 *Fall Begins*

SEPTEMBER 26 *Rosh Hashanah*

SEPTEMBER 27 *Peace Officers' Day*

PRAYER
changes things



LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

SEPTEMBER 5
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



the newsletter

GLORIOUS DEI

— OCTOBER HIATUS —

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
October 23 for November Issue

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

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 Corinthians. 5:17-19)

