



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

*And now the days are short.
It is the autumn of the year,
And now I think of my life as vintage wine
From fine old kegs.
From the brim to the dregs,
It poured sweet and clear.
It was a very good year.*

– It Was A Very Good Year, written by Ervin Drake

We will change the paraments next Sunday. The green of ordinary time/Sundays after Pentecost will change to celebratory red for Reformation Sunday. The Sunday after that will be white for All Saints Day. After All Saints we'll have one more Sunday of green, as if we're reluctant to let go of "ordinary time," then we will switch back to white for Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday of the liturgical year. After that we plunge into the blue of Advent and begin the cycle all over again.

Advent technically begins on Thanksgiving Day, at least it does in our ELCA liturgical calendar. I confess I didn't know that until I looked it up just now, but it makes sense. It seems appropriate to begin the new church year on a day devoted to giving thanks.

As we work our way through the Church year, the world around us keeps its own calendar. While we deck the sanctuary with red to commemorate the Reformation, the rest of the world is festooned with orange and black for Halloween, a thoroughly secular festival that still carries hints of its church name, All Hallows Eve. All Hallows was an attempt by the church to coopt the Celtic festival of Samhain, a night when the ending of the old year and beginning of the new were celebrated with bonfires, drinking, and feasting. It was night when ancestors were honored, a time when the space between the worlds of the living and the dead was thought to be thin and permeable. Meals were prepared for the dead, and if they didn't show up to eat them, the food was given to the poor.

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About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with 3 million members in more than 8,700 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands.," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

Thoughts Along the Way Continues...

As the church decorates for Advent and prepares for Christmas, we will be surrounded by the symbols of the old Germanic winter festival of Yule. The Christmas greens, the boughs of holly, and Christmas tree were borrowed from this festival as were the Yule log and Yule feast. This was the time when it was wise to stay indoors at night because Odin and the other Norse deities rode across the land escorted by ghosts and other supernatural entities in the Wild Hunt. The word Yule is, itself, the English version of Jól or Jólnir, Old Norse names for Odin. The greens, the holly, and the Yule tree were meant to ward off some of the less desirable spirit entities that roamed the land during this time.

Epiphany, the great revealing or manifestation, is probably the oldest wholly Christian celebration in the church year. As early as the second century, Eastern Christian communities began observing a season of Epiphany with consecutive weeks focusing on the birth of Christ, the visit of the Magi, and the baptism of Jesus. It wasn't until the mid 4th century that the celebration of the birth of Jesus was moved to December 25 in order to replace or upstage the lingering pagan festival of Saturnalia which was wildly popular. In the Eastern Orthodox community, Christmas is still celebrated as the beginning of Epiphany.

All of these dates and seasons, all the changing of colors, even changing our clocks still lie ahead of us. The year keeps rolling on. And so do the years. The weather changes. The seasons change. The clocks change. And all kinds of things change in our personal lives. But Christ continues with us always, in, with, and under all things, carrying us through every change.

And now the days are short. It is the autumn of the year... there is a chill in the air as the sun sets. It's time to prepare for the evening, for the night, for tomorrow. It's time to prepare for what comes next.

Pro Gloria Dei, Pastor Steve

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come.
~Revelation 1:4

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.

GLORIA DEI COUNCIL UPDATE

We are blessed! The rain didn't come until our roof repair was completed, plus – we didn't have any hot or cold weather while we waited for our new HVAC to be installed. And there's more! Because of the generosity of our church family, we achieved our monetary goals for paying the contractors. Thank you for all the contributions and a special thank you to Sandy Nelson for working with the contractors and being available at church while the work was being done.



Being together again in the Fellowship Hall after worship has also been a blessing and it helps to make us feel like we're 'normal' again after so many months of COVID restrictions. We're aware that we still need to be cautious and wear a mask if we have the slightest sniffles. That's going to be our new normal in the months and years ahead for all of us much like they do in other countries like Japan.

At our next Council meeting we will discuss the timeline for repairing the plaster in the upstairs bathrooms now that our roof no longer leaks. Council meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Your input and opinions are so important as we make decisions about the future of Gloria Dei.

LSS: On November 11 our church family will be presented with the 2022 H.O.P.E. Award (Help Others Pursue Empowerment) at the Hope Gala sponsored by LSSSC (Lutheran Social Service Southern California). This award is designated to honor persons and entities from within the 8 local communities LSSSC serves. The nomination stated

"Gloria Dei Lutheran Church stood out as a leader exhibiting a long-term commitment to the most vulnerable in Southern California exemplifying our motto of - Embrace, Engage and Empower." Sandy Nelson and Twyla Karkut will be attending the Hope Gala and receiving this wonderful award. On October 8, LSS conducted a community outreach program. Items were given to children and their families to support their educational needs. Some of the items distributed were books from our Sunday school library. Funds from our Noisy Offering was used to buy bus passes for students needing transportation assistance to and from school.

The annual LSS Thanksgiving event will take place on November 19. Holiday food supplies and a turkey for families in need will be provided. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Canned goods are always welcome as well as money to purchase turkeys. As the colder weather approaches, LSS will be in need of warm jackets and clean blankets. Bring your donations to church or call Phil Como and arrange for a pick-up time. Deliveries are made every Wednesday.

South Coast Interfaith Council: Marilyn Bittle participated in the South Coast Interfaith Council Crop-Walk and raised \$495! The 71 walkers raised over \$11,000. The proceeds are shared amongst several organizations including LSS, the Food Bank and the Church World Services.

Adult Education: Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 via Zoom, we are enjoying the spiritual treat of the writings of Julian of Norwich. Every week is a unique discussion and you can jump in anytime to 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. we're studying a new translation by Thomas Moore on the Book of Matthew.

ELCW: Our October meeting focused on Maritime boxes. It was decided to donate \$100 to Fe y Esperanza in support of their "Truckload of Turkeys". Our next meeting will be on November 10 at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be working on assembling hygiene kits for LSS and getting our ELCW Good Gifts tree ready for the holidays.

Council Update Continues ...

Join us for wonderful fellowship. Bring a sandwich to share.

Special thank you—Margie Brown delivered 15 quilts to the LBPD.

Fe y Esperanza: It's time to talk 'Turkey'! Pastor Marta and her team will be delivering turkeys and preparing a Thanksgiving Feast on November 19th for the farm workers in the town Guadalupe (near San Luis Obispo). The feast is prepared for the many farmworkers and their families who ensure fruits and vegetables are picked and delivered for our holidays. It's a wonderful way to say thank you to these essential workers. Please consider making a donation to Fe y Esperanza for purchasing turkeys. They need 150 turkeys for this event. We continue to make several deliveries each month of food, bags and gently used household items. In October we delivered numerous items in support of their Sunday School. They are so grateful for our support! Remember to save your grocery bags for their food distribution!

We are a truly blessed family of believers! As our Mission Statement declares "We are a congregation of Christian servants dedicated to serve the needs of the local community and the mission of the church". We so joyfully share the love of the Lord to those we serve as we demonstrate 'God's Work Our Hands' throughout the year. Thank you for blessing my life and personally bringing me so much joy!

Karen Como
Council President

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.



Maritime Ministries: The focus of the ELCW meeting in October was assembling 24 boxes for the seafarers. Pastor Steve blessed these valuable boxes that 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. Thank you to Twyla Karkut and Nancy Sansum for providing the many items for these boxes and to the others in our church family that assembled and donated additional boxes for the seafarers.

NURTURING MEANINGFUL PRAYER

As Christians, we have much to be grateful for in life, as **Psalm 107:1** reminds us, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."

1 Peter 4:10, encourages us, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Scripture can be easily re-read over and over again and passed around from person to person to reach multiple people with the Gospel. Like **Isaiah 52:7** describes, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"

Take heart and flourish...as **Philippians 4:19** assures us, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." Author: Lynette Kittle

A cheerful heart is good medicine. ~ Proverbs 17:22

10 WAYS TO EXPRESS THANKFULNESS

Because sometimes actions do speak louder than words, out of a thankful heart, many of us want to extend this heartfelt gratefulness to God for all His blessings and benefits in our lives to others in spiritual and practical ways.

Prayer — Praying with thanksgiving and praising God for our family, friends, community, and nation not only keep our hearts softened and turned toward Him but all the hearts of those we pray for during this season.

Donating — If time and resources don't allow us to provide meals to those in need, we can participate by contributing groceries or giving financially to outreaches and events in our community and nation that are providing American families and individuals with Thanksgiving meals.

Sacrifice — Challenging times often leave us thinking we aren't up to it or have no reason to offer thanks to God. Yet, God calls us to honor Him through sacrificial thanksgiving, even if we don't feel like it, praising and recognizing His faithfulness, provision, and more.

Words — We have the opportunity to purposefully post thankful words, verses, and stories on social media accounts, helping to encourage ourselves, along with others, to turn towards God with a thankful heart.

Cards and Letters — Although texts and social media give us quick access to family and friends, there's something special about sending old-fashioned cards and letters sealed with love to those who may need encouragement.

Music — Music can touch our hearts in a deep way that words and pictures can't. By playing, listening, and singing songs of thankfulness throughout the season, we help to keep our hearts softened, along with touching the hearts of those around us.

Sharing Our Faith — Before social media, Christians often handed out old-school Gospel tracks. These little booklets can be tucked into purses, backpacks, and cars, ready to hand out and let others know of our thankfulness for our salvation in Jesus Christ, along with allowing them to know Him!

Service — Thanksgiving holiday offers the opportunity to serve at a local church or community event, whether helping to gather food, preparing dishes to serve, or delivering meals to shut-ins and families in need.

Valuing Others — We want to recognize the value of putting others before ourselves, even in the smallest of acts, whether opening the door, letting people go before us in checkout lanes and drive-thrus, or giving them a better parking space.

Going the Extra Mile — Each of us has the choice of going the extra mile to help a family member, neighbor, friend, or co-worker in time of need, such as giving them a ride to church, filling their tank up with gas, buying them new tires, replacing or repairing an appliance, or some other practical assistance.

Author: Lynette Kittle

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Check the ELCA website now!

MAKE THE HOLIDAY SEASON MEMORABLE FOR YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

Stock Backpack with Food — \$10

School Fees & Uniform for a Girl — \$40

Microloan for a Woman — \$120

Simple Water Well — \$2,500

Piglet — \$30 Goat & Chicks — \$60



Your gift is tax-deductible. You'll receive a receipt of your gift for your records. Questions? Read answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or give us a call at 800-638-3522, or email at info@elca.org.



MISSION PARTNERS—SUPPORT PASTOR MARTA

Pastor Marta and her team will be delivering turkeys and preparing a **Thanksgiving Feast** on November 19th for the farm workers in the town of Guadalupe, near San Luis Obispo. The feast is prepared for the many farmworkers and their families who ensure fruits and vegetables are picked and delivered for our holiday meals. It's a wonderful way to say thank you to these essential workers. Please consider making a donation to **Fe y Esperanza** for purchasing turkeys. They need 150 turkeys for this event...call us today to donate!



GROWING IN FAITH

LIFTED BY HOPE

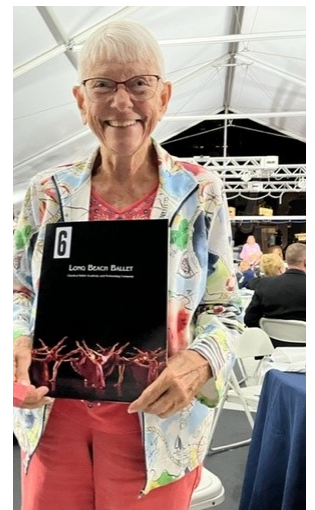
GUIDED BY LOVE

Twyla Karkut and Karen Como enjoyed a wonderful dinner event on the **U.S.S. Iowa** celebrating the many things the Maritime Ministry staff accomplished throughout the year. One of the highlights was that through the efforts of Maritime Ministries, over 13,000 seafarers were vaccinated for COVID. This allowed the seafarers to return to their home countries after being at sea for an extended time.

LUTHERAN MARITIME MINISTRY

120 South Pico Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802, Email: LMMSOCAL@GMAIL.COM

THOSE WHO GO DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS...HAVE SEEN THE WORKS OF THE LORD,
AND HIS WONDERS IN THE DEEP. ~ PSALM 107:23



CELEBRATIONS, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SEASON OF REFLECTION

May you be a passionate believer that Jesus changes everything....

Not everything is in your hands. There are always circumstances that are out of our control, but what is in our control is our actions, our thoughts, our attitude, our habits.

ELECTION DAY

NOVEMBER 8



As **Psalm 19:14** reminds us, "May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

MAY MY INTEGRITY AND UPRIGHTNESS PROTECT ME, BECAUSE MY HOPE, LORD, IS IN YOU. ~ PSALM 25:21

VETERANS DAY

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 24

**I praise YOU because
I am fearfully
and wonderfully made...**



- 4 — Pastor Schaar**
- 5 — Laura Subke**
- 6 — Carl Irwin**
- 16 — Marilyn Bittle**
- 17 — Liam Wacker**
- 18 — Kathy Kildebeck**
- Eva Mechna**
- 20 — Nancy Kahakauwila**
- Lisa Mellow**
- 26 — Judi Mellow**
- 28 — Cecilia Gabrik**

**MAY GOD'S
ABUNDANCE
SURROUND YOU...**

**GLORIOUS DEI
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
NOVEMBER 25**

**SUBMIT COMMENTS,
STORY IDEAS,
RESOURCES & SUGGESTIONS**
to editor via email:
pbockman@fullerton.edu

ALL SAINTS DAY



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

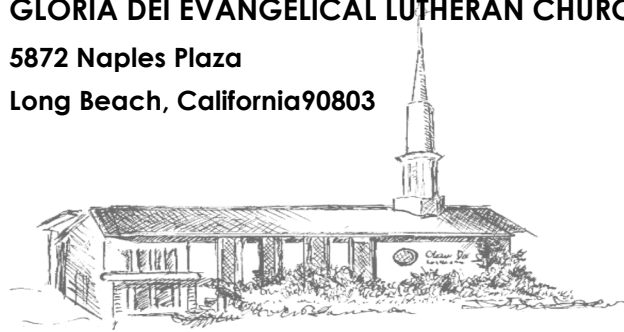
The **Day of the Dead** is a holiday traditionally celebrated on November 1 and 2, though other days, such as October 31 or November 6, may be included depending on the locality. It largely originated in **Mexico**, where it is mostly observed, but also in other places, especially by people of Mexican heritage elsewhere.

Although associated with the Western Christian Allhallowtide observances of All Hallows' Eve, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, it has a much less solemn tone and is portrayed as a holiday of joyful celebration rather than mourning. The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to pay respects and to remember friends and family members who have died. These celebrations can take a humorous tone, as celebrants remember funny events and anecdotes about the departed.



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)

MAY YOU OBSERVE the WORLD with LOVING CONSIDERATION.....

