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## Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

### **BE OF GOOD COURAGE...**

Well, summer is truly over, even if we do get a few hot days in October. The kids have been back to school for a month, our classes on Wednesday and Sunday will soon resume, and as you read this, I am on a long-awaited vacation in Hawaii. Fall is my favorite season of the year. In part, I think it's because I spent 24 years going to school, and the new school year meant a new beginning, the opportunity to be challenged and learn new things beyond the previous year. So, even though things move towards death in winter, it is a season of new life for me. I do miss the subtlety of our autumn colors, but I can always drive to see them. As one who is not fond of the terrible heat we have that gets worse and worse every year, I love the crispness of the air. In the fall, communities come back together after being scattered for the summer. Classes, returning vacationers, and I so look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas with family and friends.

While it is the end of the church year, it will soon be Advent, my favorite season of the Church Year. The whole first half of the Church Year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter, brings all the amazing events of our faith. We are now in the empty-umpty Sunday after Pentecost, which is called "Ordinary Time" in the Roman Catholic Church. Ordinary time: the time during which we read and hear about the early days of the Church and struggle with our own understanding with what it means to be the Church in this time and place. The Proper Preface is the part of the communion liturgy that I sing after we sing "the Lord be with you, and also with you..." It is geared to reflect what is going on in the Church Year. Each Season has its own Proper Preface, named after the season. But the one for the Season after Pentecost is just called "Sundays", and it seems to go on forever. With Advent, we get into the events in the life of Jesus: the anticipation of his birth, celebration of his birth, his baptism, the very beginning of his ministry, the ending of his ministry, death, resurrection, and Pentecost. There is anticipation and hope and fulfillment in these seasons.

By the time we get into October, I start anticipating the anticipation of Jesus's birth! No, I'm not jumping ahead, but Richard Hoover and I plan worship pretty far ahead. I look forward to another season of learning, growing, worshipping, laughing, and yes, eating with you all! I will return to you relaxed and refreshed after the first real vacation in three years.

Pastor Ruth

PS: Don't forget to sign up for me to come visit you in your home.  
The notebook is in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays.

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**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.**



**SMILE MORE**

**LOVE MORE**

**SEEK TO  
UNDERSTAND**

**SEEK PEACE  
& HARMONY**

# Do you have 20 minutes?

Engaging with social justice is complicated and messy, and yet it's the invitation for all Christians.

**20 Minute Takes** breaks down the big and complicated and brings it into everyday life. Whether through interviews with people on the frontlines or breaking down the concepts in the headlines, **20 Minute Takes** helps Christians to stir the imagination for what faithfulness and living justly can look like. **20 Minute Takes** is hosted by Nikki Toyama-Szeto, executive director of Christians for Social Action.

## A Prayer for Peace of Mind

Almighty God, We bless you for our lives, we give you praise for your abundant mercy and grace we receive. We thank you for your faithfulness even though we are not that faithful to you. Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul, and spirit. We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives. Please guide our path through life and make our enemies be at peace with us. Let your peace reign in our family, at our place of work, businesses and everything we lay our hands on. Let your angels of peace go ahead of us when we go out and stay by our side when we return. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Lord, We Need Your Peace

Dear God, We're in need of your peace and truth to soothe our hearts and spirits right now. When we find ourselves awake in the middle of the night, our pressing needs and worries can feel overwhelming. We need to be reminded of your constant love, healing, and grace. We ask for your Mighty Power to surround us. Thank you that you have set us free and that you are bigger than anything we face in this life. We lay our burdens before you, every single one, for we know they're much safer in your hands than our own.

## A Short Prayer for Peace

Lord, I come before you ready to pour out my worries, anxieties, and fears at Your feet. I am claiming and declaring Your promises for blessings of peace and strength over my life. Bring peace into my soul that passes all worldly understanding and make me a light for others to see Your strength.

Source: CROSSWALK.COM ~ Debbie McDaniel; Rebecca Barlow Jordan



## CHRISTIANS for SOCIAL ACTION

**Christians for Social Action (CSA)** is a group of scholars and practitioners, stirring the imagination for a fuller expression of Christian faithfulness and a more just society.

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 a brave space for exploration, and a place where we can seek to be faithful followers of Jesus.

### '20 Minute Takes' is hosted by Nikki Toyama-Szeto

Nikki served as the producer for "The New Activist" podcast (with Eddie Kaufholz) and has directed the program of national and international conferences. One of her passions is curating conversations with fascinating people that stir the Christian imagination.

She writes on justice, leadership, gender issues and racial justice for various magazines and she serves as a "Leading Voice" for the Missio Alliance. Her work was profiled on NPR, Religion and Politics, Christianity Today, and Rejuvenate Magazine. She is a co-author of The God of Justice: IJM Institute's Global Church Curriculum (IVP, 2015).



She has a BS in mechanical engineering from Stanford University and an MA in organizational leadership from Eastern University, studying in South Africa. Nikki resides in the DC metro area with her family and has been the Executive Director of Christians for Social Action since 2017.

<https://christiansforsocialaction.org/>



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

#### 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)

#### WHAT LSS NEEDS

##### Anything Warm\*

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

##### 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



# CONGREGATION UPDATE



## Greetings to church family and friends:

Wishing Pastor Ruth much Aloha as she enjoys her long-anticipated vacation to various islands of Hawaii! She will be with us for worship on October 13<sup>th</sup> and will resume leading our Adult Education discussions that morning. We will be reading 'American Heresy' authored by John Fanestil.

On September 17<sup>th</sup> Pastor Ruth hosted a group of her colleagues for a luncheon, a tour of our church and a time for sharing on community outreach. Her colleagues were so impressed with our prayer wall and the many stations we have for our community outreach – Lutheran Social Services (LSS), Women and Men's Shelters, Fe y Esperanza, Barbara's Library supporting Wounded Warriors and the various opportunities listed on our bulletin boards thanks to Sandy. We supplied her colleagues with a copy of our September newsletter. It was received with rave reviews! Thank you to our talented Peggy Bockman!

**Lutheran Social Services:** On Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> our church family participated in 'God's Work. Our Hands' and completely filled Sandy's car with packaged food and canned goods. Jean O'Connell and Sandy delivered the carload during the following week; both experienced the joy of giving from the staff at LSS. Also, the ELCW prepared and delivered 29 women's hygiene kits. As we move into Fall and the colder months ahead, consider your donations of gently used jackets (especially for children and men). Blankets and sleeping bags are always needed.

**Fe y Esperanza:** Please continue to pray for Pastor Marta and her son Hector. Hector was scheduled to have heart surgery but, because of his fragile condition, the doctors were able to do only a partial repair. Pastor Marta continues to serve her church family in so many ways. Deliveries are made to **Fe y Esperanza** most Wednesdays. Let Sandy, Pastor Ruth or myself know if you'd like to join us when making deliveries. You'll be amazed at the outreach they provide to their community.

**ELCW:** We're back from our summer break! In September the few but mighty crew prepared 29 hygiene kits for women, which were delivered to LSS. Our next meeting will be on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be bagging rice and beans for LSS and Fe y Esperanza. Join us for a delicious lunch and dessert plus a wonderful time of fellowship. All women are welcome including friends and family.





### Coming Events:

- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Council Meeting via Zoom 7:00 p.m.
- October 6<sup>th</sup> – Bishop Emeritus Dean Nelson will lead us in Worship.
- October 10<sup>th</sup> – ELCW in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m.
- October 13<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Ruth returns from vacation; Adult Education resumes at 9:00 a.m.
- October 16<sup>th</sup> – Adult Ed via Zoom resumes at 10:00.
- October 20<sup>th</sup> - Noisy offering and Birthday Cake Sunday/Annual Crop Walk (see Marilyn Bittle for details).
- October 27<sup>th</sup> – Reformation Sunday – wear **RED**
- October 31<sup>st</sup> – All Hallows Eve or All Saints Eve (in Lutheran terms)
- November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints Day

In addition to the wonderful worship services and fellowship that follows every Sunday, our

church family hosts 15 different groups every week in our Fellowship Hall. We really are a 7-day-a-week church!

Fall is such a beautiful time of the year! We enjoy cooler temperatures (we can't really complain compared to other parts of the country) and we find some fall color in the trees within our neighboring communities. Fall is also 'countdown' time for the upcoming holidays. Watch for more information on our annual Maritime Ministry Boxes for the Seafarers, Turkey Time for Fe y Esperanza (when they feed the farm workers) and the LSS Thanksgiving celebration. Our "Little church with a Big Heart" continues to provide so much to the many in need within our community. Thank you for your generous hearts!

### Council President

**Karen Como**



# COURSE CORRECTION — JEREMIAH 11:18

**It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.**

In the early sixteenth century Martin Luther was a devoted Catholic monk tasked with teaching theology at Wittenburg University in what is now Germany. His study gradually led him to see that some church practices were not in accord with the Bible. In 1517, he publicly posted his concerns, an incident credited with starting the Protestant Reformation. Leaders sought to silence Luther and in 1521 excommunicated him—threw him out of the church. Yet in the subsequent Counter-Reformation, the Catholic Church

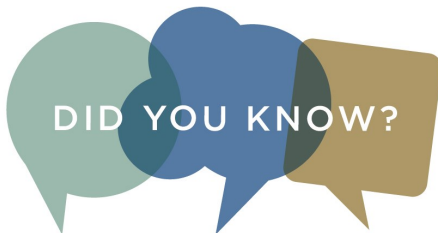
discontinued or amended many of its prior practices.

The Lutheran tradition—on its best days!—still welcomes questions, insights, and challenges that shape, correct, and strengthen our faith practices. God still works through prophets like Jeremiah and reformers like Luther to make known to us **the way of love, justice, and grace**. When our forebears' and our own 'evil deeds' are 'made known' to us, **may we be open to Spirit-guided course correction**.

**Prayer concern: Present-day church reformers**

**Read: Psalm 54; Judges 6:1-10; Corinthians 2: 1-5**

May your word, O Lord, illumine our knowing and guide our living, even if at first we resist your correction. Amen.



- ◆ **Six US presidents were born in October, more than any other month.**

**John Adams**

**Rutherford Hayes**

**Theodore Roosevelt**

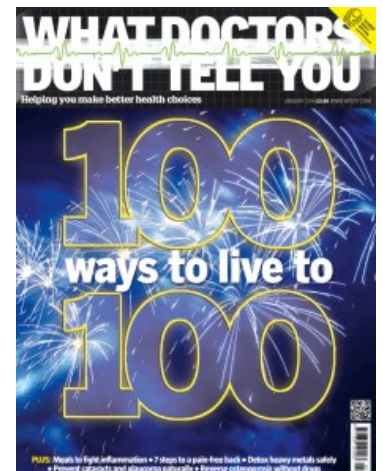
**Jimmy Carter**



**Chester Arthur**

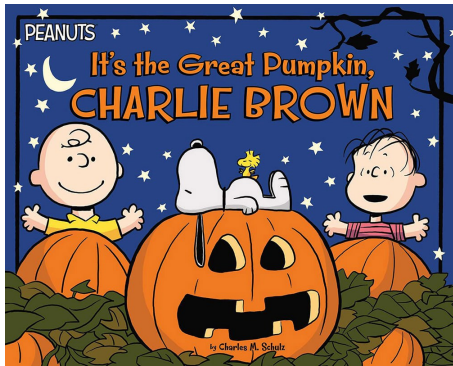
**Dwight Eisenhower**

- ◆ **Fall (including October) is a good time to be born if you want to live a long life. More centenarians are born in the fall months.**
- ◆ **The World Series of baseball begins in October.**





# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS — OCTOBER 2024



Never underestimate the importance of having a person in your life who can always make you smile!

## SOUL, ADORN YOURSELF WITH GLADNESS!



“You are a child of God, you are wonderfully made, dearly loved and precious



### GLORIOUS DEI NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

— OCTOBER 26 —

SUBMIT STORY IDEAS, RESOURCES & SUGGESTIONS to the editor...  
Email: PBOCKMAN@FULLERTON.EDU

## GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2  
COUNCIL MEETING @ 7PM  
VIA ZOOM!

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”

## CELEBRATIONS

- 5 Happy Birthday Nicole Hatley
- 10 Happy Birthday Jon Blitzer
- 24 Happy Birthday Ian Adams
- 27 Happy Birthday Gary Bockman
- 28 Happy Birthday Phil Como

“Wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving.”

~ Khalil Gibran, Lebanese American artist & poet



- OCTOBER 4 *World Smile Day*
- OCTOBER 5 *National Do Something Nice Day*
- OCTOBER 8 *National Hero Day*
- OCTOBER 11 *Nat’l Coming Out Day*
- OCTOBER 15 *Nat’l I LOVE LUCY Day*
- OCTOBER 22 *Int’l Stuttering Awareness Day*
- OCTOBER 24 *United Nations Day*
- OCTOBER 26 *National Pumpkin Day*
- OCTOBER 28 *Natal Immigrants Day*

## MORNING MANTRA

**CLOSE YOUR EYES & SAY...THANK YOU GOD!**

**ALL IS WELL,  
EVERYTHING IS WORKING OUT  
FROM THE HIGHEST GOOD,  
AND AS I GO THOUGH EVERY  
EXPERIENCE, ONLY GOOD WILL  
COME TO ME TODAY!**

**I AM SAFE  
I AM PROTECTED  
I AM LOVED**

**GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



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## **SEEK TO UNDERSTAND**

**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)**



