

JULY 2020

GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GLORIOUS DEI . . .



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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church the little church with a big heart!

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

*"Time is an illusion. Lunch time doubly so."
— Douglas Adams, Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

If I'm counting right, this will be our 18th Sunday in Lockdown. Eighteen weeks living in isolation for our own protection. Eighteen weeks since we last worshipped together in our sanctuary. That's more than 1/3 of the year that we've been physically apart. Sometimes it seems like it's been forever. Sometimes it seems to have just slipped by so quickly.

*"Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future."
—Steve Miller Band*

Thankfully, we've had good electronic tools that have enabled us to continue worshipping together and studying together. Thankfully, we have kept in communication with ZOOM and phone calls and emails. I know, though, that this is not everybody's cup of tea. Still, after 18 weeks, a third of a year, I think we've got the hang of it more or less.

"You never know beforehand what people are capable of, you have to wait, give it time. It's time that rules. Time is our gambling partner on the other side of the table and it holds all the cards of the deck in its hand. We have to guess the winning cards of life, our lives." —José Saramago, Blindness

In Greek there are two different words for time: *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* is chronological time, the ticking of the clock, the 60-minute hour, the 24-hour day. *Kairos* is the full moment, the instant the fruit is ripe for picking, the time when all the ducks are in a row. We don't know how much time (*chronos*) it will be before we can safely worship together again in person, but when that time (*kairos*) comes it will be a joyful day.

"The two most powerful warriors are patience and time."—Leo Tolstoy

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GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER, LIFTED BY HOPE TOGETHER, GUIDED BY LOVE TOGETHER



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Prayers for Unity

- Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. —Proverbs 16:24

Our holy God, when we speak on hard topics, soften our hearts and words with Your sweet Spirit.

God of creation, please help us to trust You more than our own eyes and hearts.

Prayers for Courage

- Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. —Ephesians 3:17

Jesus, we can't wait until the world is at peace under Your reign. Move us by Your Spirit to help see Your kingdom come in our communities.

Gracious Father, help me to give generously to others because You've been so generous to me.

Prayers for Hope

- For God...made his light shine in our hearts. —2 Corinthians 4:6

Faithful God, sometimes I get frustrated that my spiritual progress seems slow. Help me to remember that You're still at work in my life, shaping me and helping me to become more and more like You.

God, today I place You anew at the center of my living, working, joys, and disappointments, for without You nothing will satisfy or make sense.

Prayer for Joy

- God...has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. —Hebrews 1:9

Creator and Sustainer of all, thanks for inviting us to know You and trust You today and forever.

Dear Father, thank You for Jesus, Your gift of peace.

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY CONTINUES...

I freely admit that I want to err on the side of caution. Just before I sat down to write this, a Washington Post news alert in my email said, "New coronavirus cases in the U.S. soar to highest single-day total." Yesterday the Long Beach Post headlined that Long Beach just saw its highest weekly total of new infections. One person I knew is among those who have died. Some states are now requiring visitors from other states to quarantine themselves again because the number of infections and deaths have been rising again. Dr. Fauci and other health authorities have stated that reopening has been too soon and too fast and that the single greatest risk is congregating in groups. Sadly, our battle with the coronavirus is not over.

"Whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's the only time we've got."

—Art Buchwald

At our July meeting, the Congregation Council will again be considering when we should reopen for in-person worship. Please know we will be weighing this with safety uppermost in mind. After all, we wouldn't want to do anything that would endanger any of you. We wouldn't want to cut your time among us short. We're listening carefully to know when the time is right.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."

—Ecclesiastes 3

Pro Gloria Dei, Pastor Steve

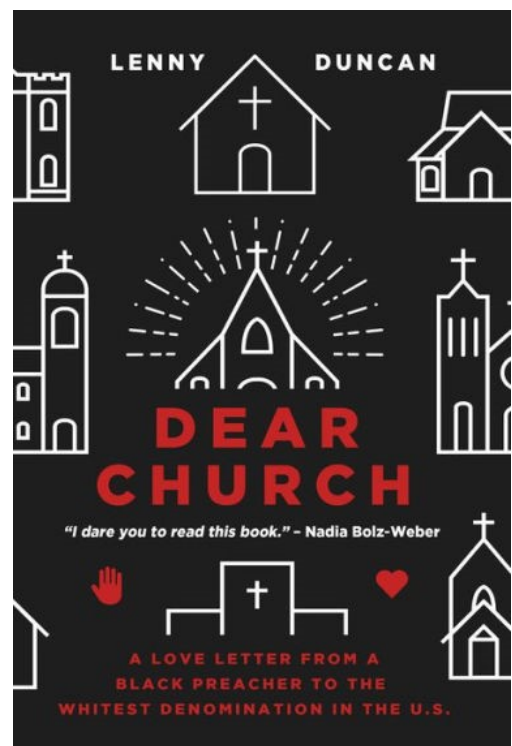
Work to dismantle racial injustice...

Learn more about the ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge

<https://www.elca.org/racialjusticepledge>

Our church, the ELCA, has traditionally been involved in justice issues. Many of our clergy, congregations, and members have been involved in the recent protests and the rising awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement. Sadly, however, our church as a whole has not always lived up to our stated ideals. For a powerful, insightful, and loving look into how we've failed and how we can do better, I highly recommend the book —

Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. by Lenny Duncan.



CONGREGATION UPDATE



A reminder that the ELCA's response to COVID-19 is updated as needed at elca.org/publichealth.

Access downloadable resources and documents via the web page of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. You may also order resources to be delivered to you at home by selecting the **"Items to Order"** tab on this site.

THE UPPER ROOM is available temporarily to individuals and churches while COVID-19 is front and center in the world. View resources at upperroom.org/covid-19:

Morning Prayer on Facebook Live
Each day at 11 AM Central Time
Everyone is welcome...join in at
<http://www.facebook.com/UpperRoomCenter/>

This brief daily communal prayer time is led by an Upper Room staff member.

At the last meeting we re-elected our church officers. Unfortunately, Bob Siemer is not eligible to serve again, as he has termed out of his council position. So at our July meeting we will be selecting a new secretary. Our outside groups have been invited back to meet at church, provided each follow our COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Sandy Nelson reports that unused periodicals are stacking up. It was suggested that we share them with Maritime Ministries. We will follow up on this recommendation. Other ideas...please let us know!

We do not have a definite date for return to our sanctuary. Until then, we will continue to meet via Zoom for church, bible study and social connections. We even discussed to possibility of a 'go/no go' for our annual church picnic that we host every September. Please contact Pastor Steve, Sandy Nelson or me if you have questions or concerns.

When I get frustrated and look for something to do, I remind myself that God is in charge. All that is happening in our city, county and country is known to Him. Trust Him.

Have a Glorious Dei. Margie. E. Brown, Council President

By resolution of the SWCA Synod Council, **synod assembly will not be held in 2020.**

The **2021** synod assembly is scheduled for June 4 - 5 at California Lutheran University. We regret the necessity of cancelling the SWCA/Pacifica Joint Assembly, and look forward to the fellowship and learning opportunities of a future shared event.

**SWCA Synod--
Office of the Bishop**



Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of the Lutheran faith. This gift, undeserved and freely given, changes lives and perspectives as people realize they are enough because of what Christ has done and are called into the world to serve their neighbor and share the good news.

~ Seeds for the Parish



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

— Bishop Guy Erwin —

A Video Message to the People of the Southwest CA Synod

—Juneteenth 2020—

Available on YouTube or the SocialSynod Website
<https://www.socialsynod.org/category/bishop-guy-erwin/>



Anti-Racism Resources

(Books/Videos/Podcasts/Articles, etc.)

75 Things for White People to do to be Anti-Racist Allies during the COVID-19 quarantine

Children's Resources:

31 Children's books to support conversations on race, racism and resistance

African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults

Amazon List of Children's Books

Your Kids Aren't Too Young To Talk About Race

How to Talk to Kids about Race and Racism

How White Parents Can Talk About Race

Talking About Race and Racism with Children

Talking With Our Children About Race

Racial & Social Justice Books for Kids

Youth Resources:

26 Mini-Films for Exploring Race, Bias and Identity With Students

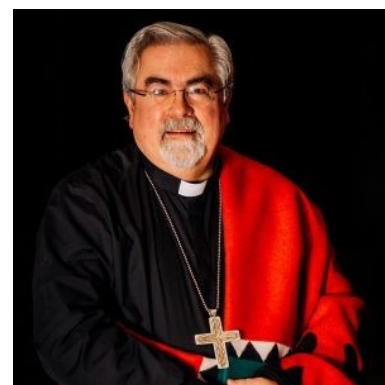
Systematic Injustice Resource

AntiRacist List of Resources for Youth & Families

RiseUp Youth Gathering Resource

ELCA Youth Ministry Resources (MinistryLinks)

Racism & Law Enforcement Discussion Guide for Youth



General Resources:

Dialogue on Race by Sparkhouse

Dr. Robin DiAngelo – YouTube Video on White Fragility

Dr. DiAngelo – Deconstructing White Privilege Study Guide

Seeing My Skin Book

Kaleidoscope Institute Resources

ELCA Racial Justice Resources

Civil Rights ToolKit

75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice

Little Fires Everywhere – Season 1 on Hulu

National Museum of African American History and Culture Releases "Talking About Race" Web Portal

Fuller Institute Multicultural Resources



Source: Photos/Resource Info SocialSynod Website

MICHAEL MECKNA—A SMILE FULL OF LIGHT...



Michael Meckna was born in Long Beach, California in 1945. His grandmother bought him a trumpet when he was about nine years old, and he played continuously, winning awards and guesting with the Long Beach Symphony several times in his youth. He hurt his lip (not uncommon among trumpeters) and eventually graduated from CSULB with a degree in Spanish in 1967, having spent his junior year living and studying in Mexico City. He loved words in any language (He also spoke fluent French and had studied Latin, ancient Greek, and German.), and conversed in Spanish with one of his dear Hospice nurses on his deathbed.

Michael studied theology and psychology at Boston College but could never quite commit to either one. He lived in Boston five glorious years and immersed himself in the culture there, haunting museums, and going to concerts and lectures. He read voraciously and lived the life of the mind.

It was when he returned to the West Coast in 1974 that he began his study of classical languages, and that was how he met his wife, Eva, who was his Greek and then also Latin tutor. He was not smitten with the languages as much as he was with his tutor. They married in 1976, he returned to the other great love of his life (music), and they moved to Santa Barbara in 1978, spending six years in married students' housing while he pursued his Ph.D. in musicology which he received in 1984. Fellow grad students called him, "The Swami," because he "knew all, saw all." You needed help, you saw Mike!

Right out of the gate (a phenomenon for musicologists!) Michael got a full-time tenure track job at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. After six years there, Texas Christian University in Fort Worth offered him his dream job in 1990 where he became full professor in record time and continued teaching the music he loved. And he loved his students whom he nurtured in many, many ways, from achieving musical/scholarly goals to helping those not really "called" to music to leave it. Michael was also famous for his avuncular personal advice about relationships, marriage, finding yourself, and basically just the meaning of life. He was first and foremost someone who listened to people.

Diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2009 and Alzheimer's in 2016, he led the most active retirement he could after the move back to Long Beach in 2011. Michael started the guitar program at Osher *Lifelong Learning Institute* at CSULB and taught for as long as he was able. He also sang tenor in the OLLI choir. He volunteered at the local public library and participated in a bookclub there. (All women! He loved it!) He played guitar, of course, and then came back to the instrument he had played as a kid: harmonica. All around his neighborhood on his walks with his wife, Michael would play his harmonica from his wheelchair, receiving applause and love, and inspiring high spirits and laughter. That was just Michael all over: making friends wherever he went.



...My deepest appreciation to the many members of the church who have sent cards, texted, and called to sympathize and to check on me. It has meant a great deal to me, especially the many kind words about Michael. I never tire of hearing about him. You did not have to know him well to see he was an amazing human, but if you did know him well, it was a life-changing experience. Not just for me either. What a guy! Gratefully, Eva

ANNOUNCEMENTS — JULY 2020

"I think age is just something that's a number, and it depends on whether the number is going to keep you down or keep you up."

~Irwin Winkler, 88
Producer of the movie ROCKY

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



- 2— Happy Birthday Twyla Karkut
- 6— Happy Birthday Martie Engle
- 7— Happy Birthday Rebecca Brook
Happy Birthday Dave Manley
- 15— Happy Birthday Paul Gannoe
- 21— Happy Birthday Nancy Brown
- 22— Happy Birthday Lark Adams
- 27— Happy Birthday Stuart Subke
- 28— Happy Birthday Sue Schaar

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

22— Sandy &
Jeffrey Nelson



**Live in love,
as Christ loved us.**

~ Ephesians 5:2



GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

New Life Band

from Tanzania, East Africa,
is an interdenominational
ministry that serves as an instrument to
transform the lives of youth and stu-
dents within Tanzania through the
gospel of Jesus Christ by giving them
hope and opportunity by knowing
that they are loved.

The New Life Band deeply
appreciates your prayers, your
fellowship, and your support at this
time. <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.

Your support is needed now more
than ever. 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.** Or Online donations should be
sent to Elim Lutheran Church in
Petaluma, CA

at <http://www.elimpetaluma.org>.
Click on the Outreach tab, and then
on New Life Band. Scroll down to the
Donations Button and enter your
information. Thanks be to God!

WWW.GDCLB.ORG

LSS Continues to Respond...

**oh
yeah!**

**YES, I will donate TODAY to
help someone in need!**

**LUTHERAN
SOCIAL SERVICES**
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

LONG BEACH AREA OFFICE
1611 Pine Avenue, LB, 90813

EMBRACE

Food pantry, daily meals, mail,
laundry and showers.

EQUIP

Grocery & gas vouchers, dental,
eye care, prescriptions, rent, gas
& utility assistance for qualified.

EMPOWER

Case management, counseling,
referrals and Rapid Rehousing.

**Questions? Contact
Info@LSSSC.org**



**Live in love,
as Christ loved us.**

~ Ephesians 5:2

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**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)

