

Three Facts About Spiritual Growth:

1. **It's not automatic.** It's a process that requires guidance, patience and discipline.
2. **It's not just about feelings.** The head informs the heart and the heart guides the head.
3. **It will change you.** The change may not be easy, but it will be positive.



Five Essential Habits for Developing Spiritual Maturity:

1. Regular Worship
2. Daily Study
3. Daily Prayer and Meditation.
4. Generous Giving
5. Service to Others

(From *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster)



hmm...sounds like a job for church....



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
The little church with a big heart.

Growing deeper in faith,
Lifted by hope,
Guided by love.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
5872 Naples Plaza
Long Beach, CA 90803

For more information, check our website:

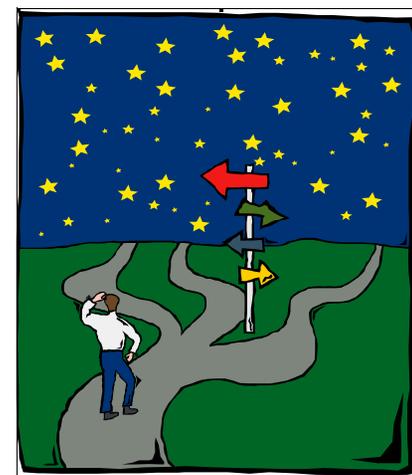
www.gloriadeilongbeach.com

or call Pastor Steve Beckham at
(562) 438-0929

Sunday Worship-- 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday Adult Education—10 am and
7vp.m.

What on Earth Are You Doing?



WHAT DO YOU REALLY HAVE IF YOU
GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD BUT LOSE
YOUR SOUL? – Jesus

Show me what you trust, what your heart clings to, and I will show you your god. – Martin Luther

Busy-ness is not *of* the devil,
it *is* the devil. – C.G. Jung

Life has no meaning except in terms
of responsibility. – Reinhold Niebuhr

**He who dies with the most toys
missed the point.**

Church- Why Bother?

- 1. Life is a team sport- we all need friends.** Community is where we learn courtesy and cooperation. Our lives are interconnected. In a community of faith, we make intentional connections around shared values. We also learn how to be there for each other in times of need.
- 2. Together we find meaning.** The only way to find meaning in your life is to live your life in a meaningful way. Church not only gives us context for that meaningful life, it gives us companions for the journey.
- 3. We were made for worship.** In worship we have a weekly rendezvous with God. Worship is also where we discover that God, Creator of the Universe, Giver of Life, is just nuts about us and wants us all to be happy, healthy and fulfilled! Worship is where that God-shaped hole in our hearts gets refilled each week.
- 4. Church is where we take spiritual growth seriously.** “Love one another” doesn’t just happen. It’s learned. “Peace that passes all understanding” is a bouquet that’s gathered one blossom at a time. Being “transformed by the renewal of your mind” happens when your mind is involved with other minds, all seeking deeper understanding.
- 5. Church is where we begin to experience the Kin-dom of God.** God knows the world needs some serious work and that work needs dedicated volunteers. That’s what the church is really supposed to be—apprentices of Jesus working to make

God’s vision of this world a reality “on earth as it is in heaven.” The Kingdom of God starts with a Kinship of faith. Church is where we learn to imitate God’s love, mercy, forgiveness and grace until it becomes our own natural way of life.

Church is where we learn to tear down the walls that separate us from each other and build new relationships by seeing the needs of others. Church is where we learn to live a new life characterized by “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

- 6. Church is where we learn generosity.** Think about it. The main question most of us ask is, “What can I get out of it? What’s in it for me?” But Jesus understood that real happiness and fulfillment start with the question, “What can I give?” You’ve probably heard Jesus quoted as saying, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” That could also be translated as, “It is happier to give than to receive.” Maybe a better way to say it, especially for our times is, “There is more joy in giving than in getting.”
- 7. Church gives us a place and a reason to be creative.** God is always up to something new. The fun part is that God wants us to join in that creative work. Our own creative instincts, desires, skills and gifts come from being created in the image of a forever-creative God!



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is a warm-hearted family of faith that has been an important part of Naples and Belmont shore for more than 60 years. We’re just getting started on the next 60.



Core Values

These Core Values serve as the foundation for our life together as we grow deeper in faith, lifted by hope, guided by love.

- 1. Jesus First!** *Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*—John 8:12
- 2. Everyone is Welcome!** *Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes were grumbling saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them!”*—Luke 15:1-2
- 3. Love Changes People!** *Love is patient. Love is kind. It is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice in wrong, but in truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*—1 Corinthians 13:4-8
- 4. Everyone Has Something to Offer!** *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.*—1 Corinthians 12:4
- 5. The World Needs What We Have!** *I came that you might have life and have it abundantly!*—John 10:10