



Reverend Steven Beckham, Pastor  
5872 Naples Plaza Long Beach, California 90803-5044  
Website: [www.gdlclb.org](http://www.gdlclb.org) Telephone: 562.438.0929

## Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

### THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

***"Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is." -1 John 3:2***

In his book, *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*, Fr. Richard Rohr sees a pattern of developmental stages within the Bible that also applies to our human lives. He describes the pattern as Order, Disorder and Reorder. Rohr uses this pattern to describe the spiritual development of biblical characters within their own stories in the scriptures. He also notes that this pattern applies to us, too, in our spiritual development as we move from what he calls Simple Consciousness to Complex Consciousness to Non-Dual or Unitive Consciousness. This can all get rather complicated, and it's easy to get lost in the terminology as we try to take it in or to mistake vocabulary for knowledge. As with so many things when we think about our spiritual development, this language can either hinder or help, depending on where we are in our own development and understanding. Personally, though, I find the pattern of Order, Disorder, and Reorder useful on a number of levels.

Order, Disorder, Reorder is a pretty obvious pattern in human history. Humans recognize primary relationships and create Order as family units. Family units get blurred by intermarriage and there is Disorder. Inter-related families Reorder as tribes. Tribes establish Order with customs and boundaries. Tribal alliances and conflicts disrupt customs and boundaries with Disorder until the tribes Reorder as an ethnicity. The boundaries and customs that define Order for ethnicities but also separate them from each other get blurred by trade, intermarriage, alliances, and conflicts. Disorder ensues as the groups evaluate all this "otherness" until they Reorder as a nations. And so it goes. Nations become empires. Empires disintegrate then Reorder as alliances of various sorts. Lather, rinse, repeat.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead once observed that every distinct stage of human social, cultural and technological development still exists in the world today. Though they are fewer than when Mead noted it, there are still primitive peoples living in isolated places who are for all intents and purposes living in the stone age even while the nation that claims their territory is expanding cellular service and internet capacity. We don't have to look far to find cultures where tribe and clan are still the most important structures of order regardless of the geopolitical boundaries that encompass them or the technologies they use. A peaceful day in Afghanistan can turn violent because two tribal leaders exchange nasty remarks by email. Many groups still identify primarily by ethnicity even when surrounded entirely by other cultures or with their traditional territories cut through by borders imposed by politics. Ethnic Kurds, for instance, are playing a significant role in world politics because the borders between Iraq, Turkey and Iran cut through their traditional lands and their traditional religion

...Continued on page 2

## Inside this issue:

Order, Disorder, Reorder	2
Congregation Council Update	3
Financial Report—January	3
Peace Not Walls	4
Learn, Pray, ACT	5
Holy Week	6
Calendar of Events	7

## Thoughts Along the Way Continues....

is distinct from the dominant religion of their neighbors. Here in the US our cities are divided into ethnic sectors—Korea Town, China Town, the Latin Quarter, Little Italy, the Irish Enclave...and on it goes in Everytown, USA. We cling to this earlier and in many ways more primitive Order even as circumstances either invite or compel us to Disorder and Reorder.

The movement from Order to Disorder to Reorder is a natural cycle of human existence but it is one we resist. We have a natural tendency to want to stick with Order because it's what we know. Couple this with our species' natural *negativity bias*, a neurological and psychological factor that makes us naturally suspicious of anything new, and it's a wonder that we're not all still making arrowheads out of flint and subsisting on a *real* paleo diet as hunter-gatherers.

Order is very attractive to us, but we seem to know instinctively that it is a developmental stage and that we can't get stuck there. We have observed that organisms that fail to adapt to a changing environment become extinct. We have also noted that clinging to fiercely to Order creates conflict as we rub up against neighbors who are clinging to an Order with different parameters and means of expression.

This pattern of Order, Disorder and Reorder not only applies to our cultural and historical development as societies, but to our spiritual development as individuals. Just as a tribe can get stuck in an ancient stage of development because of isolation, we can get stuck in a stage of the developmental cycle because of comfort or preference. Order has its advantages. It's known territory. Disorder has its advantages. It disrupts stagnation with new ideas, new relationships, new approaches to old problems. It's easy to see Order and Disorder as being at odds with each other. But Reorder embraces a larger vision. It sees both Order and Disorder as two sides of the same coin, necessary parts of a unitive whole. Reorder reorganizes our perception. Reorder recognizes that even on an internal and individual level we need to move beyond the dualistic thinking that wants to pit Order and Disorder against each other so that the gifts of both stages can be fully realized.

This is Lent, the season of introspection and reflection. This is the season for asking yourself some serious questions about where you are in your spiritual development. Are you clinging to the Order of what you have always known, thought, believed or felt? Are you embracing the Disorder of reinterpreting your self-understanding and faith in an era of rapid change? Are you learning to Reorder your internal world...and what does that look like?

This is Lent, the season of difficult questions. Frederick Buechner wrote, "To hear yourself answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become." And there are two more not-so-easy questions: What are you becoming? What are you failing to become? Or maybe it's enough to ask yourself, "Am I moving? And if so, what am I moving toward?"

As for that question, maybe these words of Richard Rohr will help you. They've certainly helped me. "Love is the source and goal, faith is the slow process of getting there, and hope is the willingness to move forward without resolution and closure." And these are indeed, "the three things that last" (1 Corinthians 13:13). People who have these gifts--faith, hope, and love--are indestructible."

# CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATE

Council met on February 1<sup>st</sup>. It was an interesting and thought provoking meeting. One of our agenda items was to address questions on our annual **Congregational Report to Synod**. Part of the report addresses statistics of membership and financial stewardship, which Pastor and Gary Bockman complete. We were to discuss questions to describe our congregation and then answer on a scale that progressed from "poor" to "great" or "hardly at all" to "very well". After a prolonged discussion on; "Does worship nurture people's faith?", and "Is there a clear sense of mission here?", Pastor Steve suggested that this might be a good devotional study for us. So we will tackle one question per meeting beginning in March.

Everett Parker presented the Internal **Control Practice Policy**, which he prepared for Gloria Dei, taking into consideration how

our church size differs from requirements of the Synod's procedure model. It was moved and seconded that the policy be accepted with minor changes suggested.

Treasurer gave a financial report. There were some plumbing issues at the parsonage, which contributed to a small deficit.

Phil Como spoke concerning the "next steps" to be taken to implement RIC and his concern to include suggestions from interested members.

It has been brought to our attention, that some of our neighbors have complained about homeless persons sleeping behind our church. We discussed how best to handle this and decided to form a team to work toward resolving the matter.

Blessings to you and have a Glorious Dei.

**Barbara White, Council President**



## GRACE GATHERING

### GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BALANCE SHEET as of JANUARY 31, 2016

<b>Assets</b>		
Cash & Cash Equivalents		
City National Bank	56,633.74	
American Christian Credit Union	10,921.02	
Mission Investment Fund	43,099.97	
Prepaid Expense	10,907.99	
Property	0.00	
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>121,562.72</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	67.60	
Accrued Expense Payable	8,382.82	
Parsonage Rental Deposit	3,000.00	
Year End Suplus Payable	0.00	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>11,450.42</u>
<b>Dedicated Funds Payable</b>		
Altar Flowers	(149.08)	
Amoung Us	589.05	
ELCA Women	0.00	
LSS Food Pantry	605.00	
LSS Capital Improvement	2,310.67	
LSS Undesignated	0.00	
Memorials - Designated	30,000.00	
Memorials - Undesignated	296.62	
Music	587.77	
Property Reserve	41,803.43	
VBS	120.00	
Emergency Reserve	35,500.00	
25/35 Fund	517.28	
<b>Total Dedicated Funds Payable</b>		<u>112,180.74</u>
<b>Total Fund Balance/Equity</b>		<u>(2,068.44)</u>
<b>Total Liabilities, Dedicated Funds &amp; Equity</b>		<u>121,562.72</u>



# Many walls



Reuters/Haim Zach

# stand in the way



# of peace



## ELCA policy

In 2005 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adopted the "Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine" and urged members to participate in the campaign, "Peace Not Walls - Stand for Justice in the Holy Land." All in the ELCA are encouraged to express solidarity with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and concern for all the people of the Holy Land through education, worship, prayer, giving, and advocacy.

The ELCA is committed to work with ecumenical and inter-religious partners toward safety and security for both Israelis and Palestinians, reduction of poverty and unemployment, an end to the occupation, and a negotiated final status agreement that includes a shared Jerusalem with equal access and rights for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

## Churches and walls

Many walls block peace for Israel and Palestine: walls of violence; of occupation; of political corruption and lack of will; of ignorance, mistrust, and fear of the "other." Christians believe both that the gospel breaks down the dividing walls of hostility among people (Eph 2) and that God calls us to work actively for reconciliation in the world (2 Cor 5).

Lutherans in the Holy Land carry out their ministries in the midst of such walls as economic deprivation, internal dissension, and Israeli occupation—walls that increasingly divide and dispossess the people. In Bethlehem Lutherans serve their community surrounded by a concrete wall 30 feet tall.

*"The Wall splinters our community into many pieces and makes it impossible to maintain normal family, economic and human relations. Families are separated and divided, and for many there is no legal hope of family reunification. Human rights violations and lack of freedom of movement, association and expression is the daily lot of the Palestinian Christian, indeed of all Palestinians."*

Church Leaders in the Holy Land,  
"A Call from Jerusalem to the World," Easter 2005

## About the separation barrier

Parts of this barrier may indeed protect against terrorist attacks and thus save lives. But at many points it is constructed deep inside the territory that Israel has occupied since 1967. It surrounds Palestinian property, both Israel's illegal settlements and West Bank cities such as Bethlehem, thus confiscating land and water resources.

The ELCA acknowledges the need of the Israeli government to create a safe environment for its citizens. But the separation barrier offers at best a short-term solution. Its continued construction within Palestinian lands will lead to more strained relations and to the increased possibility of violence.

*"We, believers from three religions, have been placed in this land, Jews, Christians and Muslims. It is our responsibility to find the right way to live together in peace rather than to fight and kill one other. Palestinians yearn for the end to occupation and for what they see as their inalienable rights. Israelis long for the day when they can live in personal and national security. Together we must find ways of reaching these goals."*

Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land,  
"The Voice of the Holy Land," November 2007



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

Living in God's amazing grace

[www.elca.org/peacenotwalls](http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls)





# Call to action

Together with our ecumenical and inter-faith partners we must advocate an end to the factors that undermine the "two-state" solution advocated by the United States government and many other nations in the quest for an independent, viable Palestinian state existing alongside a secure State of Israel at peace with its Arab neighbors. We need to speak out against continued violence and to call for a comprehensive ceasefire, as well as for an end to construction of the separation barrier and expansion of illegal outposts and settlements on Palestinian land.



## You can help

Here are some things you and your congregation can do to join the Peace Not Walls campaign.

## Learn

Visit the Holy Land and build relationships with Christian brothers and sisters, Israeli Jews, and Palestinian Muslims. Learn about the situation in Israel and Palestine and the ministries of the ELCJHL from others who have visited. Find travel information, including the travel guide "Visiting the Holy Land," at [www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/accompany/travel.html](http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/accompany/travel.html).

Provide learning opportunities in Sunday school, and for adult and youth groups. Plan to attend an ELCA Global Mission Event ([www.elca.org/gme](http://www.elca.org/gme)). Take part in the Churches for Middle East Peace Advocacy Conference ([www.cmep.org](http://www.cmep.org)).

### Resources and Information

Go to [www.elca.org/peacenotwalls](http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls) or call 800.638.3522 ext 6466. For advocacy assistance, call 202.783.7507.

### RESTRICTIONS SURROUNDING URBAN BETHLEHEM AND ITS ADJOINING COMMUNITIES

## Pray

Join others in the ELCA and around the world in prayer that peace with justice will flourish in the Holy Land. Sign up for the prayer vigil and pray in your congregation, circle, family, or community—that walls of fear and concrete will come down. Prayer vigil and other prayer and worship resources are found at [www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/](http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/)



## Act

Call or write the president and your congressional representatives.

To contact the White House

- [www.whitehouse.gov/contact/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/)

To contact your senators

- [www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm)

To contact your representatives

- [www.house.gov/writerep/](http://www.house.gov/writerep/)

• Ask that they call upon the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to take the steps necessary for peacemaking, including an end to violence from all sides, an end to settlement expansion, and removal of the portions of the separation barrier on Palestinian land.

• Express your concern about the impact of the barrier and checkpoints on Palestinian communities and churches, as well as on access to schools, work, and vital health care.

• Express your hopes for a two-state final agreement that will ensure a secure Israel and a viable, contiguous Palestinian state.

Sign up for Middle East Network (MENET) at [www.elca.org/peacenotwalls](http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls)—to receive messages about current efforts for peace in Israel and Palestine. Also check out e-Advocacy at [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy).

visit [www.elca.org/peacenotwalls](http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls)





What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us. What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal - Albert Pine



Author: Allen Graber

Dedicated to his wife Edie...

*Love is patient,  
Love is kind,  
Love affects the  
Heart and mind.*

*Love's not boastful  
Never proud,  
Never outrageous.  
Or overly loud.*

*Love's not evil,  
It rejoices in good,  
And motivates caring,  
As it should.*

*Love's a gift  
From God above,  
And Grace and Hope,  
Are God's special love.*

## ELCA WOMEN UPDATE

### HYGIENE BAGS FOR LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

The Women's Group is requesting toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo (unopened), combs, and deodorant for LSS hygiene bags. Also, any small travel items that you might wish to donate. Please place them in the designated box in the Narthex.



### EASTER BASKET PROJECT

The ELCA Ladies of Gloria Dei would like to provide Easter Bags of some candy, an age appropriate gift or two and possibly some school supplies.

As done in the past, they will prepare bags that say "boy" or "girl" and label the age range to consider and place them in the Narthex.

Easter is such a joyful time. Help us to make it a bit more joyful for the children and parents who cannot afford to buy candy and make Easter Baskets.

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.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS — MARCH 2016

- 1 — Tuesday  
ADULT EDUCATION @ 7 PM
- 2 — Wednesday  
JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM
- 3 — Thursday
- 4 — Friday  
• A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM  
• D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM  
Happy Birthday Walt Eidam
- 5 — Saturday  
Happy Birthday Ranae Wright
- 6 — SUNDAY  
ADULT EDUCATION @ 9 AM  
WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM  
HOLY COMMUNION  
PRAYERS OF HEALING  
O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM
- 7 — Monday  
CHURCH COUNCIL MTG @ 7 PM
- 8 — Tuesday  
ADULT EDUCATION @  
10AM & 7 PM
- 9 — Wednesday  
JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM  
Happy Birthday Paul Andre White
- 10 — Thursday  
Happy Birthday Chris Foster
- 11 — Friday  
• A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM  
• D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM  
Happy Birthday Victoria Gammer
- 12 — Saturday  
Day light savings...  
@ 2AM



## 13 — SUNDAY

ADULT EDUCATION @ 9 AM  
WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM  
HOLY COMMUNION  
PRAYERS OF HEALING



## 14 — Monday

GARDEN  
CLUB @ 1 PM

## 15 — Tuesday

ADULT EDUCATION @  
10AM & 7 PM

Walt & Erika Eidam Anniversary  
Happy Birthday Chris Gilissen

## 16 — Wednesday

JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

## 17 — Thursday

ELCW MEETING  
@ 10:30 AM



David & Kay Berg Anniversary  
Happy Birthday Nancy Ferrero

## 18 — Friday

- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

## 19 — Saturday

LSS WORK PARTY  
10-noon, 1611 Pine Avenue  
Downtown Long Beach  
9:30 Carpool Available

## Newsletter Deadline

Please submit articles  
and photos to editor  
pbockman@fullerton.edu



## 20 — PALM SUNDAY

WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM  
HOLY COMMUNION  
Noisy Offering

O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

Happy Birthday Mark Engle

## 21 — Monday

## 22 — Tuesday

## 23 — Wednesday

JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

## 24 — MAUNDY THURSDAY

SERVICE — 6:30 PM

MEAL IN THE UPPER ROOM

## 25 — GOOD FRIDAY

Happy Birthday Beth Rotsel

## 26 — Saturday

EASTER VIGIL, TBA

## 27 — EASTER SUNDAY

Happy Birthday Bret Engle

## 28 — Monday

Happy Birthday Tea Satariano

## 29 — Tuesday

ADULT EDUCATION @ 7 PM

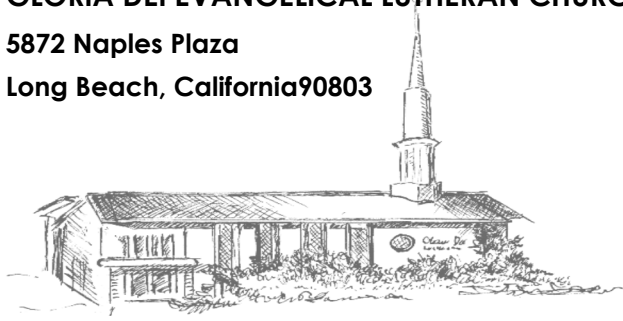
## 30 — Wednesday

JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

**GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**5872 Naples Plaza**

**Long Beach, California 90803**



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage paid

Long Beach, California

Permit No. 2190



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



