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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

"...as you see the Day approaching." It's kind of open ended, this phrase. It could be Judgment Day when Christ returns in all his glory to end our chapter in Earth's long story. It could be the day of your own departure for realms eternal. It could be a Day of Decision or it could be just another day of all kinds of little decisions that, more subtly but no less inexorably change the direction of your life. It could be Sunday. The Day with a capital D is always approaching. All the more reason, then, for us to be faithful and regular in gathering together. Life, especially life as a disciple of Jesus, is a team sport.

Pastor Andy Taylor who has been serving at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in San Diego for many years, was elected last week to be the new bishop of Pacifica Synod, our sister synod to the south. In one of his speeches to their assembly he told about how he had recently encountered a very enthusiastic group of people seated near him while on a flight from hither to yon. They were clearly having a good time and in a great mood, so Andy, ever curious, struck up a conversation that went something like this:

Andy: Well you all are in a good mood. Are you on vacation?

Lady: No, we're on our way to the Amway Convention. We all sell Amway.

Andy: Oh, I see. So I guess it was a really good year then.

Lady: No, it was a terrible year.

Andy: Well then why are you all in such a good mood?

Lady: Three reasons. One, we all really enjoy each other's company. Two, we have something everybody needs. Three, we know we're going to be energized for what comes next.

"That", said Andy, "could be, should be, can be the story of the church. We all really enjoy each other's company. We have something everybody needs. We know we are going to be energized for what comes next."

There are so many good reasons for us to be enthusiastic about making time to be together. There are so many good opportunities here for us to "provoke one another to love and good deeds." Provoking the positive...such a provocative idea!

If it were up to me, if I could provoke it, if I had some magical mystical way to make everyone really want to do it, every adult member would be attending our Adult Ed classes. If you talk for a moment to those who have been attending regularly, they'll tell you that these classes are where the good discussions happen. These classes are where their faith is being both broadened and

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ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Help us save on printing costs! Let us know if you want to receive your

GLORIOUS DEI

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Thoughts Along the Way Continues....

deepened. These classes are where we dive into the Word of God and hear it speak in all its different voices and accents. This is where we try to hear how it sounded to the original audiences who heard it, what it looked like to those who saw it being enacted in front of them. This is where we listen to what it is saying to us today and look for how we are called to enact it today. These classes are where we look into our history and our heritage, where we have stepped right and where we have stepped wrong and where we were simply swept along in the currents of history. These classes are where we look at how we got here so we can think together about where we're going. And yes, isn't it ironic that I'm saying this to you just as our Adult Ed classes for this year are winding toward a close. So I'm planting a seed for next fall when we start up again. If it were up to me, we would have to move next fall's classes out of the Fellowship Hall and into the sanctuary.

If it were up to me there would be no empty seats on Sunday morning when we gather for worship. We would all come eagerly because we enjoy each other's company. We would come joyfully because we know we have something, some One, that everybody needs. We would all come faithfully, regularly, because we know we are being energized for what comes next. But mostly we would come because we love God and we want to show our love and gratitude in worship, because we simply bask in the presence of Christ, and because we want to breathe in, together, the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

If it were up to me, each and every one of you would invite someone to come with you. Invite them to come to an LSS work day. Invite them to come to a special music or fellowship event. Invite them to come to Adult Education (and don't call it Sunday School). Invite them to come to worship, especially if you think they might enjoy one of our non-traditional liturgies. Drop them a note, a postcard, an email, a text message. Keep it simple. "Hey, we're doing Reggae Church this Sunday—sort of a mash up of Pope Gregory meets Bob Marley. I'd love to have you go with me and I think you'd find it interesting." If it were up to me you would be sending out notes like that several times a year.

The Day is approaching. It may be a day of judgment or it may just be the Day We Ran Out of Time. It could be Sunday. One way or another the Day is on its way. So carpe diem. Seize this day to rekindle your enthusiasm for the Little Church with a Big Heart and for the faith we nurture here. Seize this day to remind yourself that we enjoy each other's company, we have something that everybody needs, and we are being reenergized for what comes next.

Pro Gloria Dei, Pastor Steve

FLOATING ON PRAYERS



For the past year plus, I have been floating on prayers of my friends, my family, church family, high school friends and many more. You have kept me going, even when Don was failing. I appreciate all of you so much. I know Don did too. When we were in Australia and I had to ride a metro to see him in hospital...I felt very safe. The hospital and hotel staff were very kind to us. When we got home, and he had to be hospitalized again, he fought tooth and nail to stay out but it was not to be. I heard of your prayers during church service; some of you told us you were praying for Don every day. Long time friends called to ask what they could do.

What a treat for Don and I. My small group was so supportive as they listened to my dialogues every two weeks. Thank you to the group for that. We are indeed a church family. I was supported spiritually while caring for Don. I would ask for guidance from God, and I got it. I am not always a patient person, but when I needed to be, He blessed me with an abundance of patience.

Don's memorial service was a tribute to him and his reach. I could not believe it when Pastor Steve asked Jill, Kira and I to turn around and see how full the church was.

What a blessing this congregation has been to me and my family for the past 46 years. It is an honor to be a part of this living testimony to our Lord. ~ Margie E. Brown

Moment for Missions:

On July 18, 2016 I will be participating in a vision trip to experience Kenya with Tumaini International Ministries.

Each year teams of people serve in Kenya. My team is planning on building two homes, taking AIDS orphans on a Safari, buy livestock to donate to families taking care of AIDS orphans, and volunteering at the local schools. My team is currently raising money through donations from family and friends and a variety of other fund-raising efforts.

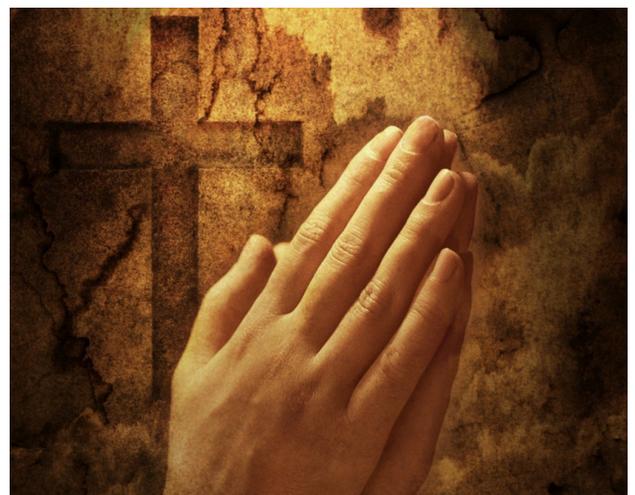
I am proud to be partnering with Tumaini International Ministries serving AIDS orphans in Kenya and would greatly appreciate any support you are able to offer. I have made a commitment to this team and a goal to raise \$3500 by June 30th. I sincerely appreciate any donation you are able to give, please remember ANY amount helps! All donations are tax deductible. Any checks need to include "Lanae Caldwell" in the memo section and should be made payable to:
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions regarding this mission opportunity. It would be my pleasure to discuss my excitement of being a part of this mission experience with you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Lanae Caldwell
lanaecaldwell@aol.com

PRAYER REQUEST



COUNCIL UPDATE

REMINDER JULY: NEWSLETTER HIATUS

Greetings Members! Council met last on May 2, 2016, with all members present. Prior to our business meeting, Lanae Caldwell gave us a presentation of her service trip to Kenya, hoping to gather some support from the congregation.

Our devotional consideration was given to the statement "The congregation is a positive force in the community". It was felt that our congregation does "very well" as a positive force in the community.

Pastor gave us an update on members with health concerns. The Tuesday Bible Study Classes have finished their studies of Genesis and will break for the summer. Sunday morning Class will continue with Paul's letters through Galatians and Philippians and then break for the summer. Margie Brown and Sandy will attend the upcoming Synod Assembly with Pastor. Attendees are asked to bring at least one bag of food for those in need. Fe E Esperanza has been selected as one of the recipients of this effort. Synod Conference business and programs are available to you via e-mail.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was discussed. Our parsonage tenants expressed their wish to extend the lease for two more years beginning July 1. Christie Berg will negotiate the terms of extension with them.

Danny Bach received another bid on the kitchen remodel, which was again more than we could consider. We will continue to seek other bids. The church sprinklers are in need of repair or replacement and will be discussed again at our June meeting.

Mike Lynch moved that Council support Lanae's service trip to Kenya, which was approved. She will be scheduled to be the subject of our next "Moments for Missions"

If you would like to help fill the food bags for the Synod Assembly, I will ask Sandy to prepare a list of items requested, which will be needed before June 2nd.



In closing, there will be a farewell gathering for Walter and Erika Eidam on June 12, following worship. This couple has been so gracious and generous in their support of Gloria Dei and its members for many years. They have done uncountable good deeds and enjoyed doing them. Let us bless them on their way.

Blessings to you and have a Glorious Dei,
Barbara White, President
Email: bjways@verizon.net

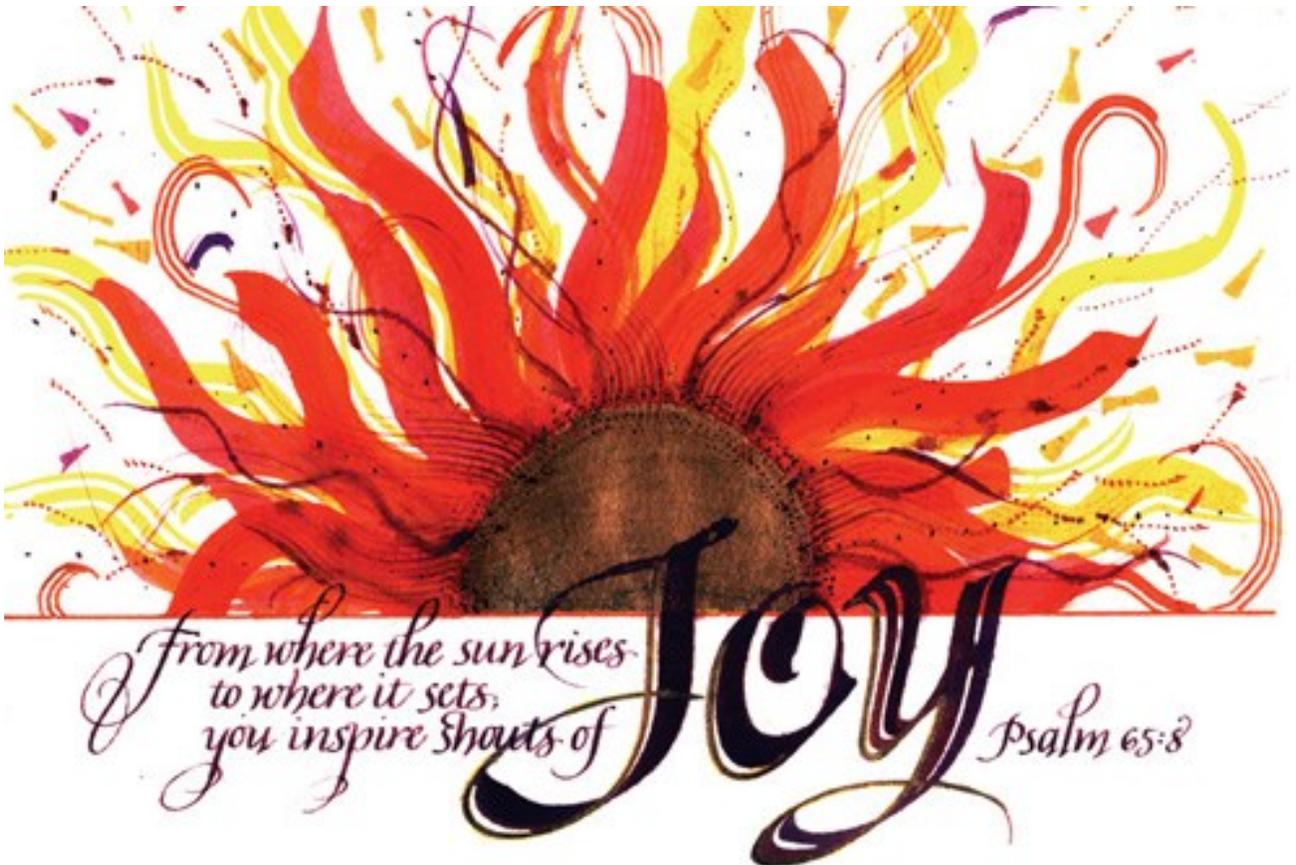
GROWING IN FAITH, LIFTED BY HOPE, GUIDED BY LOVE

GOD SPEED MARGARET CHOMIN



“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” ~ Ephesians 2:10

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS



MOMENT FOR MISSIONS: ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response

During our May 8 worship service, Gloria Dei member Nancy Kahakauwila presented an overview of ELCA life-changing and life-saving hunger and disaster response programs around the world.

ELCA World Hunger:

One billion of our neighbors, that is one in seven people in the world today, live in poverty. Gifts from ELCA churches are put to work in practical, locally organized projects that change lives; agriculture and nutrition projects, community gardens, food collection and distribution, and long-term crop management.

Clean water and sanitation keep people free of water borne diseases such as cholera. One solution, deep borehole wells, provide clean, safe drinking water, irrigation for crops and animals. They help insure agricultural sustainability.

Health care and prevention programs provide education and medical assistance for people living in poverty, working to halt epidemics like HIV and AIDS.

Income and savings projects utilize micro loans to enterprising individuals and

community groups. With funding for income-generating activities, families can pay for food, medical costs and school fees.

In 2015, ELCA World Hunger served in 57 countries and 44 US States.

Lutheran Disaster Response:

When disaster strikes, here in the US or around the world, Lutheran Disaster Relief brings God's hope, healing and renewal to those most seriously affected. Relief is what helps with the immediate needs of emergency food, water, shelter, etc. But, LDR stays on scene to provide ongoing assistance through practical development projects.

In 2015, Lutheran Disaster Response mobilized action in 29 countries and 17 US States.

ELCA Malaria Campaign:

This five-year effort supported programs in 13 sub-Saharan countries in Africa. Over \$15 million went to medical services, prevention strategies and educational efforts to help eliminate, avoid and treat malaria. Malaria in Africa is a greater problem to health than HIV and AIDS.

Gloria Dei is a faithful and generous financial supporter to each of these ELCA efforts.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS — JUNE 2016

1 — Wednesday
JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

2 — Thursday

3 — Friday (ELCA Synod Assembly)
 • A.A. MTG.@ 1:00 PM
 • D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

4 — Saturday (ELCA Synod Assembly)
Vicky & Steve Gammer Anniversary

5 — SUNDAY

ADULT EDUCATION @ 9 AM
WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

- O.A. MTG @ 7:00 PM

6 — Monday

CHURCH COUNCIL MTG
@ 7 PM

7 — Tuesday

8 — Wednesday
JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

9 — Thursday

10 — Friday

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

11 — Saturday

ELCW BOOTH @ NAPLES FLEA MARKET — 5AM SET UP

Happy Birthday Don Johnson
Stuart & Laura Subke Anniversary

12 — SUNDAY

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

- O.A. MTG @ 7:00 PM

Happy Birthday Richard Berg

13 — Monday

Happy Birthday Erika Eidam
Carl & Carrol Irvin Anniversary

14 — Tuesday

15 — Wednesday
JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

16 — Thursday
ELCW LUNCH @ 11:30 AM
CLAIRE'S L.B. MUSEUM (RSVP)

17 — Friday

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

Dick & Giselle Berg Anniversary

18 — Saturday

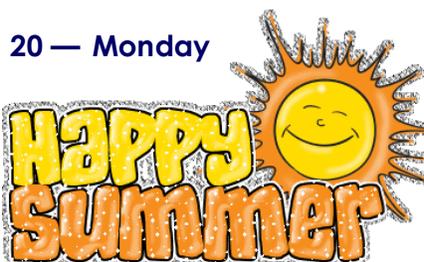
LSS WORK PARTY 10AM-NOON
Happy Birthday Chuck Iverson

19 — SUNDAY



SUMMER WORSHIP TIME
@ 10:00 AM ****
HOLY COMMUNION
NOISY OFFERING

- O.A. MTG @ 7:00 PM



21 — Tuesday

Happy Birthday Dee Perretta

22 — Wednesday

Happy Birthday Lauren Mintie
Happy Birthday Candy Wood
Steve & Meri Beckham Anniversary

23 — Thursday

Bob & Stephanie Siemer Anniversary

24 — Friday

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

25 — Saturday

26 — SUNDAY

SUMMER WORSHIP TIME
@ 10:00 AM ****
HOLY COMMUNION

- O.A. MTG @ 7:00 PM

27 — Monday

28 — Tuesday

29 — Wednesday

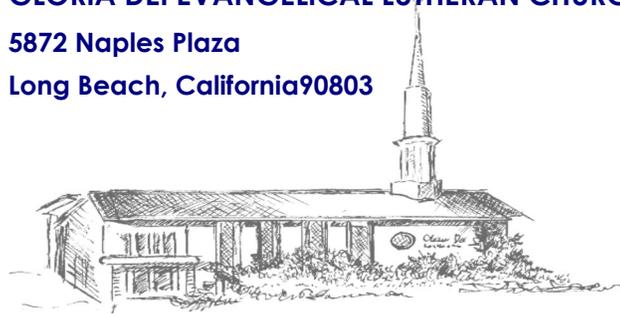
30 — Thursday



- July 1 Lynch Anniversary
- July 2 Twyla Karkut
- July 6 Martie Engle
- July 7 Rebecca Bockman Brook & Dave Manley
- July 10 Janeene Conter
- July 11 Kay Berg & Jerry Gross
- July 13 Mike Lynch
- July 14 Edie Graber
- July 17 Bernie Vaaler
- July 21 Nancy Brown
- July 22 Lark Adams & Gary Schneider
- July 27 Stuart Subke
- July 28 Sue Schaar
- July 29 Mike Caldwell

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 Cor. 5:17-19)

