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# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!



## THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. – The Prayer of St. Francis**

We are crossing the equinox once again. This is the time of year when we get busy again. The schedule shifts back into high gear. Meetings and classes resume. Choir starts up again. Certain dates loom large on the calendar. Reformation. Advent. Christmas. Election Day. We begin to cram more things into less time and, while there's a certain kind of comfort in all the momentum, there's also the increased anxiety that comes from a fuller calendar. "Anxiety is the garden in which sin grows," said St. Augustine, and it's easy to see why. This year, especially, with all the violence that has filled the news and with an acrimonious election cycle building to a climax, anxiety seems to be washing over our world, our nation, and our communities in waves. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," says Jesus (Luke 12:32). I don't know about you, but I find myself praying more fervently than ever, "Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven."

***Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.***

Much as I would like for God to hurry up and simply give us the kingdom, it seems to me as I look at the long sweeps of human history that God has been giving us the kingdom all along, making God's divine rule a reality on earth as it is in heaven in a very slow but inexorable process. It's slow—more than two thousand years in the making so far. And it's been precarious every step of the way. That's because God, in God's wisdom, knows that systems by which we operate—the systems that tend to create winners and losers, insiders and outsiders, the systems that encourage us to see life as competition rather than collaboration—the systems of the world won't be transformed into something that benefits everyone until the people of the world are transformed. God knows that if the divine values of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control were simply imposed on us they would be brittle and false; they would crumble and leave cynical bitterness behind. But when this fruit of the Spirit grows in each of us organically and naturally, when we cultivate it in our internal life it gives us a resilience and strength that enables us to meet the nastier currents of our time with deep-rooted grace. When an-

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Thoughts Along the Way Continues...

tagonism, depression, conflict, impatience, meanness, stinginess, faithlessness, violence, and self-indulgence are abroad in the land we, as followers of Jesus, must stand against them, but we must draw from the deep wells of grace, love and truth in doing so. When the voices of misogyny, bigotry, racism, separatism, and scapegoating are loud and strident in the land, we who are disciples of Jesus must, as gently as possible but as firmly as necessary say No. That is not the way forward. That is not who we are called to be. That way lies dystopia—that road leads to hell, not heaven. *“Beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)*

***O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.***

## EVERYTHING

**“GOD’S DIVINE POWER  
HAS GIVEN US  
EVERYTHING WE NEED  
FOR A GODLY LIFE.”  
~ 2 PETER 1:3**

## EVERYTHING



Christ tells us that we are the light of the world and that idea is affirmed throughout the Scriptures. *“For once you were darkness but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light.” (Ephesians 5:8)* The work we do together, the thinking we do together, the lives we live together are God’s antidote to forces that would divide us and set us at each other’s throats. As we cross this Autumnal Equinox, as the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer, it’s easy to feel sometimes as if the darkness is winning. But we are children of light; we have the light within us and as the nights grow colder the light and love of Christ can keep our hearts warm if we remain conscientious and faithful in gathering together. *“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)* This congregation has long known that the extraordinary work we do has its roots in our worship and fellowship. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to faithful participation not only in our worship and fellowship but in our broader, more practical mission beyond our doors. *“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing,”* advises St. Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

***“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lampstand and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16) Now is the time. Let your light shine.***

Pro Gloria Dei, Pastor Steve

# PRAYER

*changes things*



Prayer does change things but not so much for the bean bag toss competitors.

The competition was tough, indeed.

Nevertheless, all celebrated with a lunch of taco salad and roasted chicken.

Peggy Bochman headed up the event and created the popular photo booth. Does anybody know what happened to the mustache?



Thanks to those who helped set up and take down as well as contributions of food.



## ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

## President's Corner

Greetings and Blessings to all who worship at Gloria Dei. We are back to our winter schedule with service at 10:30. Bible Studies began on Sunday Sept. 25th at 9:00 a.m. with a study of the book of James. Tuesday studies are both morning and evening at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The study is "Gnosticism".

Your Council met on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> and had a special financial meeting on Sept 26.

At the Council meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>, it was voted to suspend all giving to Missions and our three property funds. This was a difficult and sobering decision, but we cannot spend money we do not have. Most of the budget is not flexible, such as salaries, utilities, and supplies. The three affected property funds are; the property reserve, parsonage repair and church repair funds. Missions included ELCA, Fe Y Esperanza, Lutheran Maritime Ministry, L.S.S. Long Beach, Pacific Lutheran Theology Seminary and South Coast Interfaith Council. Directed giving to these Missions is not affected. This action was taken because based on giving to date, we the congregation, will be behind \$11,631 to \$20,800 on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Both pledged and non-pledged giving have been effected. It is not unusual for us to be a little behind and make up the difference in the last quarter with increased giving and one-time gifts. This year however, we were behind much more than usual due to members who have left the area, members who are no longer attending and smaller individual contributions. If we can make up this financial gap, we will fund missions and the property accounts. It is my hope and prayer that each of us attending Gloria Dei will look into our hearts and pocketbooks and give a little more each month to close the gap. Traditionally, Gloria Dei has been a strong supporter of Missions. We are, after all "The Little Church with The Big Heart".

The purpose of the financial meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> was to review the recent trend in giving

and develop a plan for 2017. Soon you will receive your pledge request envelope for 2017. Please complete and return your pledge so we can budget appropriately.

Watch your mailbox for a letter with more details regarding the Gloria Dei budget.

The kitchen remodel is moving forward. Why? The answer is the money for the remodel is committed and does not come from the budget. The remodel including any new appliances is being funded by individual directed donations. As the donations are made for the express purpose of the remodel, they cannot be used for other purposes.

Many thanks to Peggy and Gary Bockman for their efforts in making our Annual Picnic a wonderful event. They both have responsible full time work and yet find time to make our Annual Picnic special. If you missed the event, we had a fiesta with games, a photo booth and terrific food. The weather was obliging and everyone had a good time. Thank you to all those who; cooked, set up and cleaned up.

May your Blessings Abound and have a Glorious Dei.

Stephanie Siemer, Council President



<b>GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>			
<b>STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES</b>			
<b>For the Period January 1, 2016 to August 31, 2016</b>			
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	134,667	116,472	(18,195)
Hall Use	1,667	1,380	(287)
Interest Income	217	258	41
Rental Income	24,800	24,400	(400)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>161,350</u>	<u>142,510</u>	<u>(18,840)</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Missions*	20,333	18,250	2,083
Properties	14,957	6,751	8,206
Worship	82,387	81,829	558
Administration	40,607	38,536	2,071
Church Programs	3,067	2,372	694
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>161,350</u>	<u>147,738</u>	<u>13,612</u>
<b>Revenue less Expenses</b>		<b>(5,228)</b>	
Respectfully submitted by Gary Bockman, Treasurer			

\* In addition to the budgeted gifts shown above, members of Gloria Dei have given another \$9,729 to LSS, World Hunger, ELCA Disaster Relief and other mission partners.

## **RECONCILING IN CHRIST — GLORIA DEI**

**RIC Affirmation:** "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."

## **WE BASE THIS AFFIRMATION ON THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE:**

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." ~2 Corinthians 5:17-19.

## **WOMEN OF GLORIA DEI**

Please join us on the third Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM in the **Fellowship Hall** for our monthly gathering.

INVEST a few hours of SERVICE and CULTIVATE friendships with others at Gloria Dei.

## **ELCA QUESTIONS?**

ELCW (Women's Group) will be preparing LSS Hygiene Kits at their next meeting. You can help by donating small toiletry items such as toothbrush/paste washcloths, shampoo and conditioner, combs, lotions, etc. or shoe boxes. Please place them in the designated box in the fellowship hall.



**GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage paid  
Long Beach, California  
Permit No. 2190



Return Service Requested



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)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS — OCTOBER 2016

1 — Saturday

2 — Sunday

**ADULT EDUCATION — 9 AM**

**WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

3 — Monday

Church Council—7 PM

4 — Tuesday

**ADULT EDUCATION**

**@ 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

5 — Wednesday

**JOIN THE  
CHOIR... @  
7:15 PM**



6 — Thursday

7 — Friday

• A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM

• D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

8 — Saturday

9 — Sunday

**ADULT EDUCATION — 9 AM**

**WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

10 — Monday

11 — Tuesday

**ADULT EDUCATION**

**@ 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

12 — Wednesday

**JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM**

13 — Thursday

14 — Friday

• A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM

• D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

15 — Saturday

16 — Sunday

**ADULT EDUCATION — 9 AM**

**WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

17 — Monday

**LSS WORK PARTY 10AM — NOON**

18 — Tuesday

**ADULT EDUCATION**

**@ 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

19 — Wednesday

**JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM**

20 — Thursday

**ADULT EDUCATION**

**@ 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

**Lutheran Women 10:30 AM**

**Happy Birthday—Jackie Anderson**

21 — Friday

• A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM

• D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

22 — Saturday

23 — Sunday

**ADULT EDUCATION — 9 AM**

**WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

24 — Monday

**Happy Birthday—Ian Adams**

25 — Tuesday

**ADULT EDUCATION**

**@ 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

26 — Wednesday

**JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM**

27 — Thursday

28 — Friday

• A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM

• D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

29 — Saturday

30 — Sunday

**ADULT EDUCATION — 9 AM**

**WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

31 — Monday

## SMILE

## MORE... KEEP A SMILE

ON YOUR FACE AND LET YOUR  
PERSONALITY BE YOUR AUTOGRAPH !

