

## GLORIOUS DEI . . .



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## Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

### THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

Jesus had just finished praying when one of his disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." It sounds like the disciple was maybe looking for the correct "formula." He wanted to do it "right." I sympathize. I have often felt like I'm doing it wrong. I wonder if we haven't all felt that way about our praying from time to time.

Jesus taught his disciples a simple prayer that we still repeat. In Luke 11 and Matthew 6 we get slightly different versions of that prayer. We call it The Lord's Prayer although it might be better called The Disciples' Prayer. It's an excellent prayer. It would be, of course, because...Jesus.

Martin Luther had a lot to say about this amazing prayer. He devotes an entire section to it in his catechisms. Luther never used five words when a hundred came to mind. I won't repeat or recap everything he says here. I'll be glad to lend you a copy of either the Small or Large Catechism if you want to read it.

Jesus was a little more to the point. "When you pray," he said, "say:

*Father, may your name be held in honor. May your reign begin.  
 Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins for we  
 ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us  
 to the time of trial."*

I know that's not exactly how you learned it. It's also a bit different from the way we say it in church. It is, however, a direct translation of the Greek in the Gospel of Luke.

The prayer starts with Jesus addressing God as Father. In the Small Catechism, Luther writes, "With these words God wants to attract us, so that we come to believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father." It's a nice idea. But I find it rather surprising coming from Luther whose relationship with his own father was notoriously strained and anything but warm and fuzzy.

Jesus took a risk when he instructed his disciples to address God as Father. The word father does not conjure up pleasant images for everyone. In Matthew's version the image is mitigated a bit by referring to God as "Father in heaven," but that also risks diluting the intimacy Jesus wanted to encourage his disciples to develop with God.

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## FOND FAREWELL TO LAURA SUBKE



"Don't say goodbye to me," said Laura Subke, 11-year-member of Gloria Dei. She is emphatic. She REALLY doesn't want anyone to say good-bye to her before she leaves California, bound for St. Augustine, Florida.

"The hardest thing about leaving Long Beach is leaving Gloria Dei so I did, kind of, avoid good-byes," she said. "Just too hard."

I think that was why it was hard to nail her down for this article. We compromised and spoke on the phone while she was enjoying time in Tahoe with her husband Stewart.

They've sold their home in Belmont Shore, and have set their departure date for August 12. In the meantime they have been staying with her daughter and grandchildren in San Diego with a few days, now and then, at the Hampton Inn in Long Beach.

If you didn't know Laura, you may have noticed her, crocheting in church, during Pastor Steve's sermons. Seldom seen without her woolen yarn, she is prolific in her creative projects, crocheting about 50 woolen hats a year for the Mariners. "Twyla (Karkut) told me that kids from poor countries sign up to work on ships and have no hats and warm clothes to wear at sea," so Laura and 4,000+ other knitters across the USA participate in the **Hats for Mariners** founded by the Seamens Church in San Pedro. In case you're interested their website is [seamenschurch.org/cas](http://seamenschurch.org/cas)

"When I was a pre-teen I learned how to crochet from my uncle!" she said adding, "I miss him." I'm sure he would have been proud to know how she has shared her creative gift to make people happy.

Until about 15 years ago Laura says she was always an east coast "big city girl." Born in New York, she lived in Washington DC, Annapolis, and Maryland before moving across country to Belmont Shore.

Although she majored in Art at the University of Maryland, she didn't work in that field after graduation. "What can you do with that!" she said, "and I needed to make a living so I worked in social work for Women Infants and Children (WIC), a federally funded program. She ended her career in social work in 1982 because she wanted to start her family.

She thought it ended there and was actually surprised when I commented that it seemed like she transitioned from getting paid to help others to becoming a volunteer to do the same thing. "Hmm, I never thought of that," she said, "and you connected that for me."

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She says she doesn't intentionally look for ways to share her volunteering talents but attributes her inspiration to God's guidance. "I was in the Wal-Mart parking lot one day when the Long Beach Police were making a bust and arresting shoplifters. I noticed that there were children there who were so frightened. I went over to a woman there and asked about the children. Fortunately she turned out to be Linda Penrod, the Community Outreach person, who explained to me that the children would go into emergency foster care.

"I asked if I could make quilts for the police department to give to the children so they could have something that was all their own to hang on to. The police department was thrilled with the idea," she said.

The ladies at Gloria Dei continue to provide quilts for the "Long Beach Kids in Crisis." We are the only ones who do this and the LB police are very aware of Gloria Dei—the little church with the big heart! Although it is "not set in cement" that they will move to Florida permanently, the chances are good because she wants to be closer to her son, Ryan, who lives in Virginia. Ryan runs the pawnshop that Stewart has owned for a long time in Culpeper, Virginia, considered a suburb of DC. "I plan to work there at the shop sometimes," she said. "Perhaps you'll see me on Pawn Stars someday," she quipped.

Who knows, you might, if not on TV then maybe in Florida. She said that she and Stewart are keeping the same cell phone number and email so they will be easy to contact, besides, she added, "We love company and all are welcome to visit and stay in our guest room when we get settled."

~ By Victoria Gammer

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## THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY CONTINUES...

Intimacy. That was the whole point of calling God "Father." Jesus wanted his disciples, us, to understand that in prayer (and in life) we are entering into a deep and very personal conversation with God who loves us. And provides for us. And nurtures us. And, when necessary, disciplines us. And guides us. And listens to us. And grieves over us. And watches us. And lets us make mistakes. And sits quietly beside us while we figure things out.

"Let's not get bogged down on whom or what we pray to. Let's just say prayer is a communication from our hearts to the great mystery, or Goodness, or Howard; to the animating energy of love we are sometimes bold enough to believe in; to something unimaginably big, and not us. we could call this force Not Me, and Not Preachers Onstage with a Choir of 800. Or for convenience we could just say "God"."

— **Anne Lamott**, *Help Thanks Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*

The disciple who asked Jesus for a lesson in prayer may have wanted the secret formula. What he was given, whether he knew it or not, was a goldmine.

So when you pray, pray the prayer Jesus taught. Then maybe sit with God for a while. God knows your other concerns, your desires, your fears, your gratitude, your everything. Don't worry about finding the right words. Saint Teresa of Avila wrote, "Mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with God who we know loves us. The important thing is not to do much but to love much and so do that which best stirs you to love... Prayer is an act of love; words are not needed."

*Pro Gloria Dei*, Pastor Steve

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# CONGREGATION UPDATE

Greetings Everyone —

Glorious Day describes the trip I took this summer. A friend from the 8th grade and I traveled to Calgary, Alberta Canada for the Calgary Stampede. Some of you know that I grew up in Calgary until age 13. So this was a homecoming of sorts.

What I really want to share is the beauty of the land through which we traveled. We drove through Utah, Idaho's boot, Montana and Southern Alberta.

What Glorious scenery we saw. The rolling plains of Utah with hills in the background, the low mountains of Idaho and the hills of Montana, with the awesome Rockies — "what a firmament our Lord created." I do not understand how anyone can see the wonderful countryside and not believe in a supreme being, our Creator. We had some rain, mostly sunshine and easy drives. In Calgary, we heard many languages as we walked the Midway. We were unable to go to Banff and Lake Louise because I had neglected to make early reservations. My bad.

We did attend service at my former church home. We also stopped in front of my two homes and school to take photos. We visited the Danish farm community where my parents lived for 15 years—we stopped by that church too. My older but short-lived sister is buried there.

I hope your summer is as fulfilling as mine has been so far. Have a Glorious Dei.

In His Name —

Margie E. Brown, President Elect

- ◆ **Please note that our Council Meeting is scheduled for August 5—everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.**



Galloping grannies on our way to stamped.





# GROUNDING IN GRACE

		
#1 What smell are you grateful for today?	#2 What technology are you grateful for?	#3 What color are you grateful for?
#4 What food are you most grateful for?	#5 What sound are you grateful for today?	#6 What in nature are you grateful for?
#7 What memory are you grateful for?	#8 What book are you most grateful for?	#9 What place are you most grateful for?
#10 What taste are you grateful for today?	#11 What holiday are you grateful for?	#12 What texture are you grateful for?
#13 What abilities are you grateful for?	#14 What sight are you grateful for today?	#15 What season are you grateful for?
#16 What about your body are you grateful for?	#17 What knowledge are you grateful for?	#18 What piece of art are you grateful for?
#19 What touch are you grateful for today?	#20 Who in your life are you grateful for?	#21 What song are you most grateful for?
#22 What story are you grateful for?	#23 What tradition are you grateful for?	#24 What challenge are you grateful for?
#25 What moment this week are you most grateful for?	#26 What form of expression are you most grateful for?	#27 What small thing that you use daily are you grateful for?
#28 What small thing that happened today are you grateful for?	#29 What friend/family member are you grateful for today?	#30 What talent or skill do you have that you are grateful for?



Luke 4:22 in the NRSV reads

**"All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth."**

The literal translation of the Greek would be

**"Everyone affirmed him and they were amazed at the words of grace that walked out of his mouth."**

Words of grace that walk forth from the Living Word...as it were.

## What is grace?

- A. The divine life that comes from God alone.
- B. God's power
- C. God's strength
- D. Grace makes us holy.
- E. Grace help us follow God's will in every day life.
- F. The very life of God.





In her editor's note, Jennifer Younker notes 'a photo speaks a thousand words' when describing the impact words, photos, social media, podcasts or videos have and how photography plays an integral role in storytelling.



### MEETING JESUS AT THE TRUCK STOP

Before Matthew Best even set foot as pastor in St. Stephen Lutheran, New Kingstown, PA., he saw what would become an important mission for the congregation: homelessness. A core group has grown as congregants have seen lives changed in ways no one event imagined. Today about a dozen are involved in the 'ministry of presence' at the Flying J Truck Stop just outside town. One homeless woman described her experience: 'That's what an encounter with Jesus looks and sounds like.'

**READ MORE...** [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org) July 2019 issue



### MINISTRY WITHOUT LIMITS

July's lectionary texts include the classic story of the good Samaritan. The story invites us to consider *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote: 'From time immemorial men have lived by the principle that 'self-preservation is the first law of life.' But this assumption would say that 'other-preservation is the first law of life.'

...Yet if we incline our ears, we know many are lying on the side of the road of life, crying out in anguish.

**READ MORE...** [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org) July 2019 issue



### NATIONAL BISHOP OF THE ELC IN CANADA

Susan C. Johnson discusses her experience collaborating with ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as women leading churches. In her address to the ELCIC National Convention, she describes two major resolutions. One is called 'The Call to Faithfully Journey with Those Who Are Dying' and also related motions on spiritual care, palliative care and mental health. The second is 'Reimagining Our Church—Public Ministry in the ELCIC.'

**READ MORE...** [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org) July 2019 issue



### 100 YEARS OF INSPIRING FAITH

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, a professional organization for leaders for camps and retreat centers affiliated with the ELCA is celebrating 100 years of ministry. Camp stays help youth appreciate nature, build friendships with peers and grow in faith. The power of LOC to shape leaders is described by James Hazelwood who didn't grow up in the church when he experienced El Camino Pines, north of LA. He went on to serve 25 years of parish ministry and was elected bishop in New England.

**READ MORE...** [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org) July 2019 issue

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS — AUGUST 2019

## SAVE THE DATE

### ANNUAL PICNIC

**Sunday @ NOON**  
**September 15**

**MARINA VISTA PARK**

**Bring a neighbor or friend !**

#### 1 — Thursday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM
- SLAA MTG. @ 7:30 PM

#### 2 — Friday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON. MTG @ 9-10:00 AM
- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- DA MTG. @ 6:00 PM

#### 3 — Saturday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

#### 4 — SUNDAY

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

- AL-ANON. MTG @ 6-7:30 PM

#### 5 — Monday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

**CHURCH COUNCIL MTG @ 7 PM**

**Happy Birthday Janet Sims**



#### 6 — Tuesday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

#### 7 — Wednesday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

#### 8 — Thursday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM
- SLAA MTG. @ 7:30 PM

**Donna & Mike Malbon**  
**Anniversary**



#### 9 — Friday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON. MTG @ 9-10:00 AM
- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- DA MTG. @ 6:00 PM



#### 10 — Saturday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

#### 11 — SUNDAY

**WORSHIP @ 10:00 AM**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**HUNGER OFFERING**

- AL-ANON. MTG @ 6-7:30 PM

#### 12 — Monday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

#### 13 — Tuesday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

#### 14 — Wednesday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

**Happy Birthday Edie Graber**



#### 15 — Thursday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM
- SLAA MTG. @ 7:30 PM

**Happy Birthday Gus,**  
**Elijah & Casey White**



#### 16 — Friday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON. MTG @ 9-10:00 AM
- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- DA MTG. @ 6:00 PM

**Happy Birthday Sandy Irvine**



#### 17 — Saturday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

#### 18 — SUNDAY

**ADULT EDUCATION @ 9 AM**  
**WORSHIP @ 10:00 AM**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**NOISY OFFERING**

- AL-ANON. MTG @ 6-7:30 PM

#### 19 — Monday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

#### 20 — Tuesday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

#### 21 — Wednesday

- MEN's A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM

**Happy Birthday Danny Bach**



**David & Nancy**  
**Kahakauwila Anniversary**



#### 22 — Thursday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM
- SLAA MTG. @ 7:30 PM

#### 23 — Friday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON. MTG @ 9-10:00 AM
- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- DA MTG. @ 6:00 PM

#### 24 — Saturday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

#### 25 — SUNDAY

**WORSHIP @ 10:00 AM**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**COOKIE SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP**

- AL-ANON. MTG @ 6-7:30 PM

#### 26 — Monday

- A.A. MTG. @ 7-8:00 AM

**Happy Birthday Judy Griggs**



#### 27 — Tuesday

**Phil & Karen Como Anniversary**



**28 — 29 — 30 — Group Meetings**

#### 31 — Saturday

**Happy Birthday Peggy Huggard**



**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)



