

Reverend Steven Beckham, Pastor
5872 Naples Plaza Long Beach, California 90803-5044
Website: www.gdlclb.org Telephone: 562.438.0929



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

God has told you, O Mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" –Micah 6:8

In 1997, Fred Rogers—Mr. Rogers of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood—was given a lifetime achievement award at the Daytime Emmy Awards. In his speech that night he said, "So many people have helped me to come to this night. Some of you are here. Some are far away. Some are even in heaven. All of us have special ones who have loved us into being. Would you just take, along with me, 10 seconds to think of the people who have helped you become who you are? Those who have cared about you and wanted what was best for you in life? I'll watch the time." As he quietly looked down at his watch with his ever-present gentle smile, the audience, full of Hollywood glitterati, realized he was serious and, after a nervous shifting in their chairs, did what he asked because, well, he was Fred Rogers. When you see the video of this moment, you see all those familiar TV faces dressed in their red-carpet best lost in a moment of remembrance, some trying to hold back tears, others letting them fall. After 10 seconds, Mr. Rogers looked up from his watch, briefly expressed sincere thanks to PBS, his family and his coworkers, then ended by saying, "May God be with you all."

I doubt if it's news to anyone anymore that Fred Rogers, in addition to being a neighbor and friend to every kid in America as the host of Mr. Rogers Neighborhood on PBS, was also an ordained Presbyterian minister. In his life and work on his television program he surely did more to show the way of Jesus to more people than any of the flashy television preachers ever did with their opulent sets and bombastic preaching. He did it by quietly and gently living it, and by inviting us into a safe space with a disarming smile and a simple question: "Would you be my neighbor?"

Seven hundred years before Jesus, the prophet Micah reminded us that what God wants from us when all is said and done is fairly simple: To do justice. To love kindness. To walk humbly with God. We do tend to complicate it though, do we not? We tend to confuse justice with punishment and vengeance. We confuse humbleness with self-abasement or we just fake it. And then there's kindness. We're told not just to be kind, but to love kindness.

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*Thoughts Along the Way Continues....*

The word in Hebrew that we translate as kindness is *chesed*. It can also mean mercy. Love kindness. Love mercy. It's no accident that this is smack in the middle of doing justice and walking humbly with God. Mercy is the balance that keeps justice from becoming vengeance. Kindness is open heart that doesn't put on airs. Love kindness so it becomes part of your nature. Then you'll have a clearer vision of what real justice looks like—not retributive justice, but restorative justice. Love mercy and kindness and you'll almost automatically walk more humbly in God's world because you'll see your kinship with everyone and everything. You'll see the image of God more clearly in others around you—that you are of the same kind. Kindness.

With God all Things
are possible
Matthew 19:26



I think one reason we all love Mr. Rogers so easily, one reason he has become something of a modern-day saint to our secular society, is that he embodied kindness and walking humbly in the world, and in his own non-preachy way he showed us justice as he gently guided the imperious puppet King Friday XIII away from bad decisions with thoughtful questions, or performed the simple act of inviting Officer Clemmons, an African American, to soak his aching feet together with him in a kiddie pool. People could sense through their TV screens that he was honest and sincere and truly caring, that he wanted everyone to have what was best for them in life, to "love them into being." Without ever needing to say it in words, he embodied the Word. Without ever preaching Christianity, he proclaimed Christ.

God has told you, my mortal friends, what is good, what God requires of us. Requires. Do justice (hint: not a synonym for vengeance). Love kindness and mercy. Walk humbly with God. Like Mr. Rogers did.

May God be with you all,
Pastor Steve

With God all Things
are possible
Matthew 19:26

— COUNCIL UPDATE —



"The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong." ~ Isaiah 58:11



Long Beach LSS– 22nd Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 14 at 11:00 am
1611 Pine Ave., Long Beach

This is an event that is for our Long Beach program participants, their family and friends. They must be on our guest list to participate. Please contact LSS to learn how you can make a difference in your community: **Email: lbsinfo@lsssc.org, Phone: 562-599-1321**

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.



GREETINGS IN HIS NAME

We have had several activities at our church. First was the ice cream social. Several of our church neighbors attended. Galen and Sandi Anderson, Marilyn Bittle and Sandy Nelson organized a successful event.

Another big thanks goes to Marilyn, Sandy, the Andersons, and a cadre of helpers who made our church picnic memorable—good food, good fellowship and good weather ...a great combination. Thanks to everyone who attended, brought salads and desserts. What else do Lutherans do so well?

Pastor Steve, Bob Siemer and I attended a local conference of Long Beach and San Pedro churches. Bishop Guy reviewed some issues facing ALL organized churches these days...declining memberships, aging congregations and buildings, changing value systems. The Bishop reported that at his office, the word "churches" is not used, but is replaced by "congregations".

This is a reminder as always to remember those on our prayer wall and those in our church family.

Blessings to all, Margie Brown
President
Send texts: 562.882.7928
Email: Margieb918@verizon.net

"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

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

		<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenue				
	Contributions	142,500	137,884	(4,616)
	Hall Use	3,750	3,961	211
	Interest Income	300	493	193
	Rental Income	<u>31,050</u>	<u>30,900</u>	<u>(150)</u>
Total Revenue		177,600	173,238	(4,362)
Expenses				
	Missions*	20,880	21,268	(388)
	Properties	13,575	13,897	(322)
	Worship	95,993	92,863	3,130
	Administration	44,790	39,000	5,790
	Church Programs	<u>2,363</u>	<u>1,310</u>	<u>1,053</u>
Total Expenses		177,600	168,338	9,262
Revenue less Expenses			4,899	

* In addition to the budgeted gifts shown above, members of Gloria Dei have given another \$15,000 to our Mission Partners from the 2018 surplus and \$6,761 to LSS, World Hunger, ELCA Disaster Relief, Fe y Esperanza and other mission partners.

A gift has been
given in your honor.



Pig

Give a gift, send a card.

BLESSINGS & ABUNDANT GRACE



YOUR MISSION SUPPORT GIFTS AT WORK

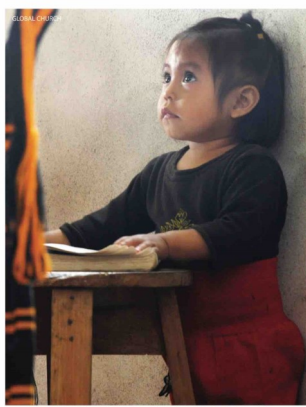
Stories of Faith in Action is an annual publication highlighting how God changes lives through the ministries funded by our congregation's unrestricted offering of Mission Support, which is shared with our synod and the ELCA churchwide organization. **Stories of Faith in Action** and the resources that go along with it are designed to share how important our congregation SUPPORT is in sustaining and growing God's mission. Stories, videos, bulletin inserts and an infographic explaining "Where does my offering go?" are available at ELCA.org/SOFIA.

To download a flip-book of this publication, visit the website...see sample stories on this page.



LEADERSHIP
Pastor and his wife, members of the congregation, are pictured in front of the altar. The church is a place of worship and community. The church is a place of worship and community. The church is a place of worship and community.

A Dynamic, Welcoming Duo



CHURCH ON A ROCK
A young girl is pictured in front of the altar. The church is a place of worship and community. The church is a place of worship and community. The church is a place of worship and community.

Church on a Rock

Share a Story, Pass the Faith

How do we communicate our faith? In this increasingly secular culture, we often struggle for the right words to share what it means to be Lutheran.

Maybe what we need to make Jesus known aren't the "perfect" words. Instead, when we're called to share our beliefs, let us fix our eyes on God's "Word became flesh." Freed by the love of God in Jesus, let us boldly proclaim our faith stories to all who wish to listen. ~ Grace & peace, Bishop Eaton



Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Breaking bread, eradicating hate



IFTAR
An iftar is the meal for which Muslims break their daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

Augustana Lutheran, Sioux Falls, S.D., and the mission congregation it shares building space with, Pueblo de Dios, hosted their first iftar. Almost 60 people attended, including members of Augustana Lutheran and Pueblo de Dios and Muslims from three mosques in town.

"There was a bit of discomfort on both sides — Christian and Muslim," said Amy Martinell, Augustana's pastor. But "when the food came out and we sat and ate together, the discomfort melted away and we became one community."

For two years the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) hosted regular iftars with a nearby Turkish community. Sara Trumm, interim director of A Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice at LSTC, reported that 60 to 100 people attended. Trumm said they've found that sharing a meal helps people feel comfortable meeting others from different backgrounds.

"Right now, with Islamophobia as strong as it is, it's important for people to be informed about what

uch can happen when we gather for a meal — new understandings, new commitments, new friendships.

Islam is so they don't fall prey to some of the negative stereotyping and falsities being shared, especially with one of the Ten Commandments telling us to not bear false witness against our neighbors," she said.

To promote the interfaith iftars, Neighbors in Faith, a joint ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA, the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia and Washington's Muslim community, worked with Shoulder-to-Shoulder, an interreligious campaign dedicated to ending anti-Muslim sentiment. The ELCA is a founding member of Shoulder-to-Shoulder, which receives Mission Support funding.

"What actually changes for people who are rooted in fear is to meet a Muslim and realize they're just human too," said Terry Kylo, an ELCA pastor and the director of Neighbors in Faith. "The iftars are a beautiful way to begin to understand the basics of Islam and how many similarities we have. And they help our Muslim neighbors to see that they aren't alone, that we want to learn from them and are willing to stand in solidarity with them."



NEIGHBORS IN FAITH
Lutherans and Muslims broke bread together at interfaith iftars in May 2018. Your Mission Support dollars boost the ministry of Shoulder-to-Shoulder, an interreligious campaign to end anti-Muslim sentiment founded by the ELCA and other ministry partners.

IMPRISONING A GENERATION

Imprisoning a Generation is a documentary film following the stories of four young Palestinians who have been detained and imprisoned under the Israeli military and political systems. Their perspectives, along with the voices of their families, combine to form a lens into the entangled structures of oppression that expand well beyond the prison walls.

The film has won numerous awards and we are proud to bring it to Long Beach.

Come and Learn, Share, and Pray for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land.

To view a trailer of the film: www.anemoia.net

November 24, 2019 — 5:00 pm

Christ Lutheran Church

6500 Stearns Street Long Beach 90815

Film followed by discussion and refreshments

Brief Prayer Service for Middle East Peace at 7:00 pm

Sponsored by the Middle East Peace Task Force of the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA. The film's director and producer, Zelda Edmunds, was a 2009-2010 Young Adult in Global Mission through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She spent a year in Ramallah, extended her stay, and returned in 2016 to make this film. Zelda grew up in the ELCA and her parents work for the ELCA in Japan.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION PICNIC



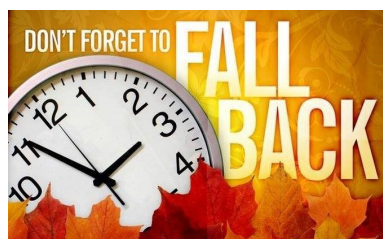
CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2019

1 — Friday

- MEN'S A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON 9-10:00 AM
- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

2 — Saturday

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



3

— SUNDAY

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

- AL-ANON 6-7:30 PM

4 — Monday

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MTG @ 7 PM



Happy Birthday Pastor Schaar

5 — Tuesday

- MEN'S A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM
- Happy Birthday Laura Subke**

6 — Wednesday

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

JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

Happy Birthday Carl Irwin

7 — Thursday

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

8 — Friday

- MEN'S A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON 9-10:00 AM
- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

9 — Saturday

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

10 — SUNDAY

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

- AL-ANON 6-7:30 PM

11 — Monday

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

VETERANS DAY
—CHURCH
OFFICE
IS CLOSED—



12 — Tuesday

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

13 — Wednesday

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

JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

14 — Thursday

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

Happy Birthday Jean Betz

15 — Friday

- MEN'S A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM
- AL-ANON 9-10:00 AM
- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

16 — Saturday

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

Happy Birthday Marilyn Bittle

17 — SUNDAY

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

- AL-ANON 6-7:30 PM
- Happy Birthday Liam Wacker**

18 — Monday

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

Happy Birthday Eva Meckna

19 — Tuesday

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

20 — Wednesday

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

JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

Happy Birthday: Nancy K.
Frida Layton & Lisa Mellow

21 — Thursday

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

Happy Birthday Marion Beckman
ELC WOMEN @ 11:00 AM

BRING A SANDWICH TO SHARE & A FRIEND

22 — Friday

Happy Birthday RuthAnn Montague

23 — Saturday

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

24 — SUNDAY

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

- AL-ANON 6-7:30 PM

25 — Monday

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

26 — Tuesday

- MEN'S A.A. @ 7-8:00 AM
- Happy Birthday Judy Mellow**

27 — Tuesday

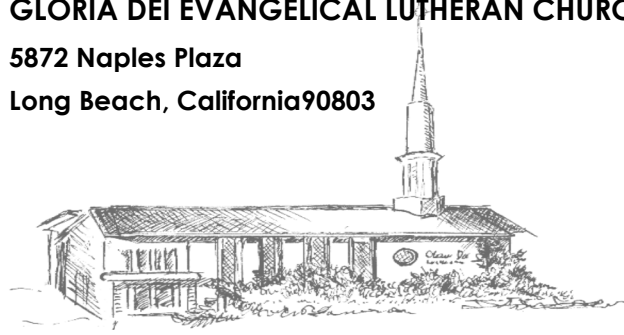
ADULT EDUCATION
@ 10AM & 7PM

28 — 30 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Happy Birthday Cecilia Gabrik



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)

