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## Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

### THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.-- John 15.13*

We have reached a strange balancing point in our dance with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. As I write this we have passed 101,000 deaths in this country, and new hotspots are emerging, especially in rural areas, yet there is a push in some sectors to reopen and for life to get back to normal. One of the political flashpoints has been a call to reopen churches. Some are impatient to resume worshipping in their sanctuaries. Some even show disdain for mandated safety measures, claiming that God will protect them. Others, and I'm glad our denomination is in this group, are being much more cautious. We believe that God's protection comes to us in the form of good science and guidance from cautious health authorities.

We've had to "lay down our life" together for quite a while for our mutual protection and as an act of love for each other and the community around us. The majority of our congregation are persons who are at a higher risk of a bad outcome if they should contract the disease, so it's only common sense for us to do what we can to minimize the risk. For the love of our friends we lay aside our desire to resume our in-person fellowship. For a while longer.

The state has issued guidelines under which we can reoccupy our building for worship. The county health department has also issued guidelines and theirs are even more stringent. Let me paint a picture of what worship in our sanctuary at Gloria Dei would look like according to those guidelines if we were to return to our building now or any time soon.

From the moment you park your car, you have to be careful to maintain proper physical distancing from any other person of at least six feet. That includes while getting out of or getting into your vehicle. If you have a conversation car-to-car be sure your heads are six feet from each other and you're wearing your masks.

As required by the health department, you must be wearing mask while on the church property. As also required by the health department, there will be signs at the doors asking you to return home if you have a cough, are sneezing, have even a slight fever, or any other possible symptoms of the virus.

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*Thoughts Along the Way Continues....*

A sign will guide you to the designated entry door. A sign will guide you to the designated exit after the service. You will need to follow the designated traffic flow. There will be arrows to guide you. You will need to maintain appropriate physical distance from all other persons as you enter. This will probably cause a line to form. You will be admitted by the usher whose main job now is to ensure proper physical distance between persons. There will be a hand sanitizer next to the entrance door. Signs and ushers will ask you to use it. Another usher will guide you to your seat. Seats will be marked with staggered seating at premeasured safe distance. You may sit with close family members if you reside with them. You may not change seats. You will probably not have a bulletin—the virus can linger on paper surfaces.

There will be music, but no singing. Singing projects droplets. There will be no spoken responses. Again, droplets. You will be asked to avoid touching surfaces as much as possible since every surface in the church has to be sanitized after worship.

After worship IF there is a gathering in the Fellowship Hall there will not be coffee and snacks. Guidelines don't allow it. The water fountain will be turned off. No handshakes. No hugs. You must maintain six feet of distance between yourself and any other person. Use of the bathrooms is discouraged. So when you put all that together, there probably won't be any gathering after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

So that's what it would be like in our building, our sanctuary, if we resume worship there any time soon. That is what the state and county guidelines mandate.

Personally, when I consider what worship would be like under those guidelines, I'm not in any rush to reopen our facilities. But then, our church has never been closed. Our building has been, but our church has been alive and well. In fact, I think in some ways our sense of ministry and connectedness has never been stronger.

Remember that song we used to sing? "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together! All of God's people, all around the world, yes, we're the church together! The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place. The church is a people!" It's never been more true.

*Pro Gloria Dei,*

Pastor Steve

## GLORIA DEI—THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART

**We invite you to join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM in the summer...starting JUNE 14 !**

**Visit website for online viewing and participation.**

**Website: [www.gdlclb.org](http://www.gdlclb.org)**



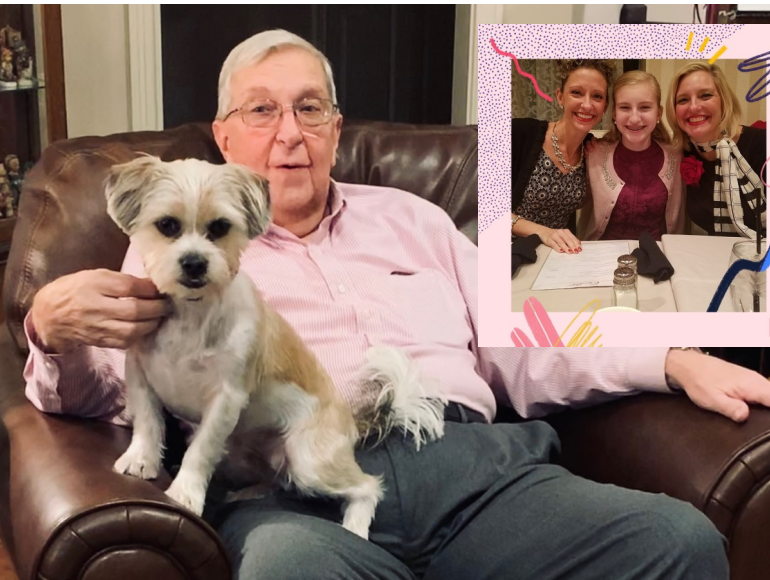


**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
Day!**

*"As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us."*

— TRIBUTE TO THE AMAZING IMPACT FATHERS HAVE ON FAMILY LIFE —

**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
Day!**





# CONGREGATION UPDATE

Your Church Council has been meeting via Zoom again. Most of you were in attendance at our Congregational meeting after worship via Zoom. Thank you all for using this technology. Lots of groups are using Zoom and it works.

While we have been away from our facilities, some small issues have come up. Among those have been the watering system and someone sleeping our bench. Those have been addressed. Thankfully there have been no serious problems to address but Council is equipped to do so quickly if need be.

At the Congregational meeting, the minutes of the January meeting were tabled until January of 2021. We elected 2 new members to the Council: **Lark Adams** and **Barbara White**. We want to express our deep thanks to **Galen and Sandi Anderson** and to **Bob Siemer** who have completed their service on Council. Bob has termed out. We hope Bob will continue to be our Zoom guru—thanks!

Pastor Steve, Sandy Nelson and I will be the representatives to the Southwest California Synod Assembly whenever it is rescheduled, probably in the fall.

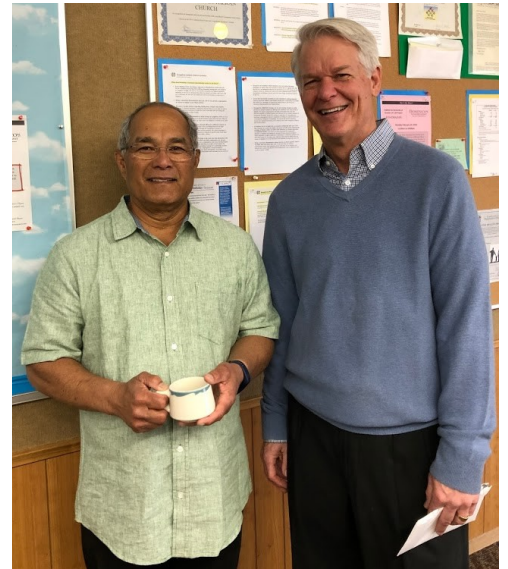
We have been generating a lot of email amongst all of us on Council. Most of our communication concerns Covid 19 quarantine and the timing and conditions under which we will be able to return to our sanctuary. We will discuss this thoroughly at our next **Council meeting on June 1**. Between Synod guidelines, State guidelines and County Health requirements, we have been given a large amount of reading material. Please let Bob Siemer know if you wish to be a part of this meeting. We will be electing officers for the coming year too.

Another problem we will be addressing is that our parking lot was recently used without our permission by some large trucks while work was done on the condos next door.

Remember to keep each other in prayer. We have some people who are dealing with health issues and really need our prayers. I hope your shepherds have kept you informed.

Blessings to you and have a Glorious Dei.

**Margie Brown, Council President**



## GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS



Meri Beckham & Ellen Rhoda  
mom's new address:

**Lyn Harris Hicks**  
**6177 Norstadt**  
**Buena Park, CA**  
**90620**



She'd love to get some mail  
and hear from you!

The New Life Band deeply appreciates  
your prayers, your fellowship, and your  
support at this unprecedented time.

<http://www.newlifeband.org>

Donations to the **New Life Band Ministries:**

**Mission for Youth and Students** are gratefully  
appreciated. **Donations can be by check**  
**or online.** Your support is needed now more than ever.

Checks should be made out to Our Savior's Lutheran Church with  
"New Life Band" on the memo line and be mailed to: Our Savior's  
Lutheran Church, **Attn: NLB, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549.**

Online donations should be sent to Elim Lutheran Church in  
Petaluma, California at <http://www.elimpetaluma.org>. Click on  
the Outreach tab, and then on New Life Band. Scroll down to the  
Donations Button and enter information.

To All Supporters: Please forward this urgent message to others who  
may be interested.



## A SMILE FULL OF LIGHT...

**Ay, ay, ay, ay,  
Canta y no llores,  
Porque cantando se alegran,  
Cielito lindo, los corazones.**

That's the song that was playing in **Mike and Eva's**  
apartment when Mike Meckna danced his way into  
the hereafter on **Saturday morning, May 23**. It was  
such an appropriate song for him. Mike loved  
mariachi music, but then Mike loved all music. He  
was, after all, a brilliant and highly respected  
musicologist, an author of 3 books on music and  
musicians, including an authoritative biography of  
Louis Armstrong. He always had a song ready to go  
with any discussion and a harmonica in his pocket,  
a smile full of light, a ready wit and an insightful  
question. He will be greatly missed. But he would  
want us to remember the lyrics of the song he left us  
with:

**Ay, ay, ay ay,  
Sing, don't cry,  
Because singing rejoices,  
Sweet little heaven, the hearts.**

### MIKE



### MECKNA







## Prayers for Hope

- For God...made his light shine in our hearts.  
—2 Corinthians 4:6

***Jesus, I praise You for Your light and love. Help me shine for You.***

***Jesus, as we read Revelation 21:23, thank You that You shine brighter than the sun and turn back the darkness.***

## Prayers for Courage

- Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.  
—Ephesians 3:17

***Jesus, thank You for the overwhelmingly good news that the strength needed to withstand life's challenges isn't our own. Help us to grow ever-deeper roots in Your love and our place in Your family.***

***Faithful God, sometimes I get frustrated that my spiritual progress seems slow. Help me to remember that You're still at work in my life, shaping me and helping me to become more and more like You.***

## Prayers for Unity

- Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.  
—Proverbs 16:24

***Our holy God, when we speak on hard topics, soften our hearts and words with Your sweet Spirit.***

***God of creation, please help us to trust You more than our own eyes and hearts.***

## Prayer for Joy

- God...has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. - Hebrews 1:9

***God, today I place You anew at the center of my living, working, joys and disappointments, for without You nothing will satisfy or make sense.***

As the world has grappled with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the ELCA has sought new ways to meet this unique cultural moment, engaging members in worship and faith formation through innovative means. The ELCA's response to COVID-19 will be updated as needed at [elca.org/publichealth](https://elca.org/publichealth).

You can also downloadable resources and documents via the web page of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. You may also order resources to be delivered to you at home by selecting the **"Items to Order"** tab on this site.

**THE UPPER ROOM** is making available temporarily to individuals and churches while COVID-19 is front and center in the world. The following [list](#) can be viewed at [upperroom.org/covid-19](https://upperroom.org/covid-19):

- **Seven Suggestions for Healing & Renewal in the Midst of Stress and Anxiety**
- **A Blessing for Those Who Wait**
- **The Work of Hope**

## Morning Prayer on Facebook Live —

Each day at 11 AM Central Time

Everyone is welcome...join at

[http://www.facebook.com/UpperRoomCenter/](https://www.facebook.com/UpperRoomCenter/)

Each session of this brief daily communal prayer time is led by an Upper Room staff member.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS — JUNE 2020

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

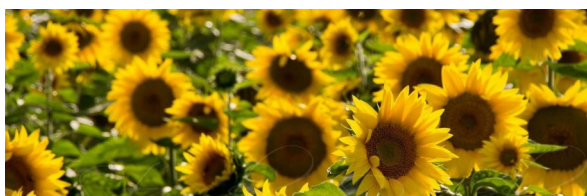
6 — Fernando Chavez  
 14—Erika Eidam  
 21—Dee Perretta  
 22—Lauren Mintie  
 22—Candy Wood

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

4—Vicky & Steve Gammer  
 9—John & Jean Betz  
 11—Stuart & Laura Subke  
 14—Carl & Carrol Irvin  
 22—Steve & Meri Beckham  
 23—Bob & Stephanie Siemer



**SUNDAY, JUNE 21**



Dear Friends,



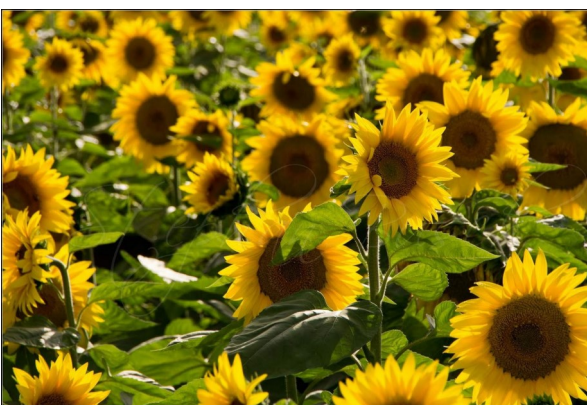
No matter where you are, I pray for His peace be with you in all the aspects of your life!

Though we are not seeing each other in person, yet we are connected through a super powerful line—PRAYER.

I am grateful for your faithful support for all these years in both prayer and finances. Especially time like this, your sacrificial giving and steadfast praying for my recent 60-day visa extension are greatly appreciated! With your wonderful partnership, I am able to be here to serve. I covet your prayer support for this more than before. May HIS Will be done for HIS glory!

Thanks so much! Take good care! Our life is in HIS hands!

With prayers for you all,  
 Your Missionary Servant



*Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Nancy & David—a new grandchild!

**Proud Parents**

**Tiana & Britton**

Our little Aila was born on May 9, just in time for Mother's Day! She was 8 lbs. 11 oz. and 21 inches long. Mom is recovering well while Dad is handling all the diapers! We're fortunate to have grandparents' help, too, and to be in Long Beach with them for these first few months.



**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)



