

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...

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*  
—1 Corinthians 12:17

AUGUST 2020

GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# GLORIOUS DEI . . .

We are going to church. Maybe we won't be back in our building for a while, but we are going to church. We might not sing in our sanctuary for some time yet, but we are going to church. Think of to church as a verb in its infinitive and infinite form. To sing, to dance, to praise, to pray, to help, to uplift, to listen, to learn. To church. To gather as the body of Christ in whatever way we can even if it has to be in the catacombs of ZOOM. To do whatever good we can even if it has to be organized through emails and texting. To support each other in love and extend that love to others even if it is through phone calls and Instagram and Facebook and Messenger. We are going to church. We are going to church. We are churching.

So what if, for reasons of responsibility and maintaining everyone's good health, we can't gather in our sacred space just yet. Our churching does not depend on our architecture. Maybe—dare I say it?—our architecture has sometimes hampered our churching. Maybe the sacred appearance of our doors, the religious statement of our whole building, has kept some people from crossing the threshold and stopped them from entering into the joy of churching with us. Maybe since the outside affirms their preconceived notions, they figure that what happens the inside will, too. Maybe even we who are so comfortable on the inside have let our churching be molded by our packaging. Thoughts?

In the Latinx communities of South Los Angeles and elsewhere in the Southwest they fandango. Fandango is a centuries-old type of dance and style of music that originated in Andalusia. In the Americas it has picked up some distinctive New World traits, blending old with new. Fandango has also become the name for a kind of pop-up party, a neighborhood celebration centered around the dance and the music. Someone will find a space then pass out flyers and at the appointed time people will come to dance and hear the band and sing the songs.

...Continues on Page 2

Inside this issue:

See YOU in Virtual Church on SUNDAY!	2
Congregation Update	3
Kudos & Thanks	3
Good Trouble, Necessary Trouble	4
Resources for Consideration	5
Living Lutheran	6
Celebrations	7

# THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY

Martha Gonzalez, an Associate Professor at Scripps College, is also the lead singer of Quetzal, a band that organizes and performs at many fandangos. In a recent article in the L.A. Times she said, "I think we always need spaces to gather, but it's also the cultural work that needs to be done, creating culture so that even if the space disappears we can migrate to another space and we pick up where we left off because we worked on the culture mechanisms. I think that's the most important thing we can learn from having these spaces and then losing them. The work and the culture we created continues to thrive."

Take out fandango and put in church. We need the spaces to gather but it's really the cultural work that holds us together, the culture of being the body of Christ, the culture of being the hands and feet and heart of Jesus in this world. We may love the building we have called church but we need to remember that it is only a facility. It facilitates churching. Even if the space disappears we can migrate to another space and pick up where we left off. ZOOM, for instance. The work, the worship, the bonding, the blessing, the loving, the welcoming, the praying, the generosity, the caring—the being the body of Christ—all continue to thrive. Maybe we can't gather in our building right now. But come what may, we are going to church.

Pro Gloria Dei, Pastor Steve



**GROWING IN  
FAITH,  
LIFTED BY HOPE,  
GUIDED BY LOVE**

**WWW.GDCLCB.ORG**

**JOIN US  
FOR SUMMER  
WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM**

**ONLINE**

## REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY



**RECENTLY REFRESHED...ADD A NAME OR TWO**

## COUNCIL UPDATE



Your Church Council continues to meet online. Thus we have just a few reports. Our treasurer Gary Bockman is working very hard for us during this chaotic time. Please give him a big thank you when you see him. Special recognition to all our committees and members who contribute their time and talent to 'the little church with a big heart' (see list below).

We have several people who are dealing with health issues. Please send them a note or card. Your shepherds should be sharing the information with you. They are always listed in our prayers of intercession during church service.

We are going to have some painting done. Due to watering, the lower 4 feet of the front surface of our building is damaged. That project is out for bids.

Please continue to keep our church family in your prayers. We continue to need our financial support and for Lutheran Social Services and our local partners, Fe y Esperanza.

Be safe, be well and **Go with God**, wherever you are.

Margie Brown, Council President

## GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



**Property:** Galen Anderson, Barbara White

**Treasurer:** Gary Bockman

**Finance:** Beth Rotsel-chair, Marilyn Bittle, Gary Bockman, Twyla Karkut, Bob Siemer

**Counting Subcommittee:** Peggy Huggard, Marilyn Bittle, Karen Como, David Kahakauwila, Twyla Karkut

**Governmental Ministry:** Marilyn Bittle

**Mission Support:** Twyla Karkut

**Communications & Public Relations:**

Marilyn Bittle, Victoria Gammer, Robert Siemer (webmaster) and Peggy Bockman (newsletter editor)

**Online Worship:** Phil Como, Robert Siemer, Marilyn Bittle, Karen Como, Richard Hoover

**Hospitality:** Marilyn Bittle, Peggy Huggard, Twyla Karkut, Nancy Sansum, Candy Wood,

**Shepherds:** Marilyn Bittle, Margie Brown, Edie Graber, Karen Como, Sarah Fuller, Peggy Huggard, Nancy Kahakauwila, Diane Keil, Donna Malbon, Meryln Robbins, Nancy Sansum, Stephanie Siemer, Janet Sims, B. White

**Parsonage Support:** Christy Berg

**Ushers:** Danny Bach, Janet Sims, David Kahakauwila, Gary & Peggy Bockman, Beth Rotsel & Chuck Dean, Bob/Stephanie Siemer, Roger Powell, Nancy Sansum

**God's Extraordinary Servant:** Sandy Nelson



**2020-2021 Council**

**Margie Brown**

**Steve Beckham**

**Gary Bockman**

**Beth Rotsel**

**Barbara White**

**Lark Adams**

**Marilyn Bittle**

**Beverly Pandora**

**Karen Como**

**Stephanie Siemer**

**Twyla Karkut**

**Music Ministry:**

**Richard L. Hoover, Phil Como**

**Pastor Steve Beckham**

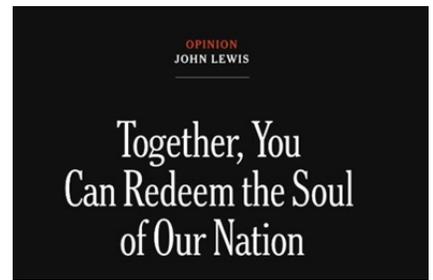


# IN MEMORY OF JOHN LEWIS

**"GOOD TROUBLE,  
NECESSARY TROUBLE."**



**"WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT  
IS NOT RIGHT, NOT FAIR, NOT JUST,  
YOU HAVE TO SPEAK UP. YOU  
HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING; YOU  
HAVE TO DO SOMETHING."  
—John Lewis**



Essay in New York Times, July 30

Though I am gone, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe.

**"DO NOT GET LOST IN A  
SEA OF DESPAIR. BE  
HOPEFUL, BE OPTIMISTIC.  
OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT THE  
STRUGGLE OF A DAY, A  
WEEK, A MONTH, OR A  
YEAR, IT IS THE STRUGGLE  
OF A LIFETIME. NEVER,  
EVER BE AFRAID TO MAKE  
SOME NOISE AND GET IN  
GOOD TROUBLE,  
NECESSARY TROUBLE."  
—JOHN LEWIS**

What better way to demonstrate where our country SHOULD be going than to have the State Troopers, whose organization once beat up John Lewis and hundreds of other civil rights workers in the '60s, salute his coffin as it crossed the bridge in Alabama? I have been crying all morning as I watched John Lewis' coffin travel across that bridge in Alabama and remembered those unforgettable and life changing scenes in the '60s where innocent people, trying to make a positive difference were attacked by police officers and police dogs.

The "Wall of Moms" and "Leaf Blowing Dads" protecting the BLM protesters in Portland, Oregon is only the beginning. It is our responsibility to stand up and do everything possible to protect our democracy. What better way to honor the thousands of military, suffragettes, and civil rights workers who gave their lives to make our country a model of freedom and democracy than to vote. The most important thing each of us can we can do right now is to not only commit to voting but to work hard to get out the vote on November 3rd.

**July 26, 2020, By Carolyn Leighton**

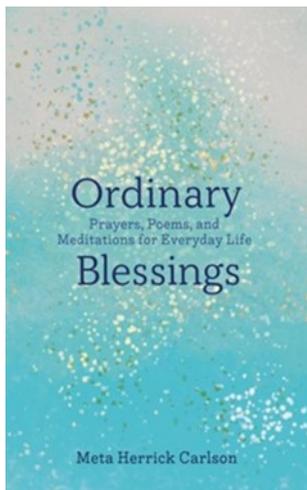
LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY  
*to the throne of grace,*  
THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY & FIND  
GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.

HEBREWS 4:16

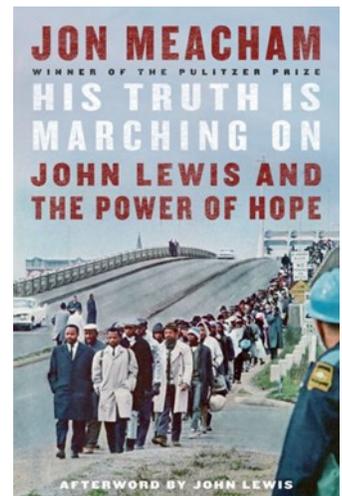
LET US THEREFORE COME BOLDLY  
*to the throne of grace,*  
THAT WE MAY OBTAIN MERCY & FIND  
GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.

HEBREWS 4:16

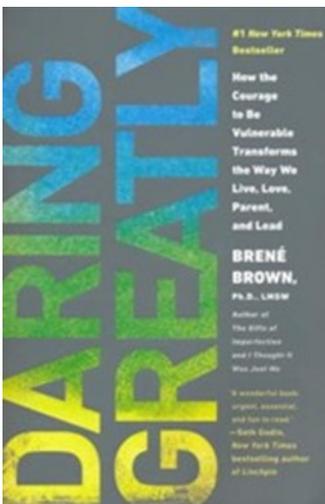
# A M A Z I N G grace



The ordinary moments of life can be sacred, if we simply take a moment to notice. This collection of prayers, poems, and meditations offers a brief respite from the hectic, harried pace of our days. Open it when the spirit moves you or when the spirit feels distant--the words will be here to inspire, calm, and encourage you either way. From gifted poet and empathetic **Pastor Meta Herrick Carlson, Ordinary Blessings** collects blessings for loving yourself, enduring hard things, authenticity, living with others, and the rhythms of each day. Pause, take a deep breath, and open these pages to find that you've been standing on holy ground all along.

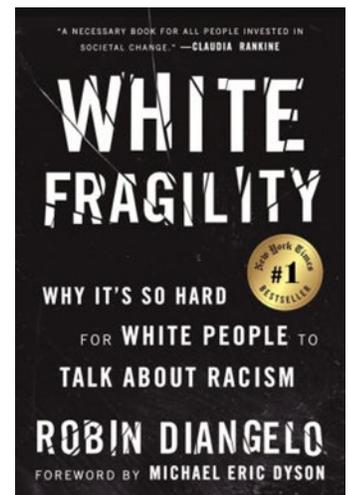


An intimate and revealing portrait of civil rights icon and longtime **U.S. congressman John Lewis**, linking his life to the painful quest for justice in America from the 1950s to the present—from the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *The Soul of America*



In **Daring Greatly**, Dr. Brown challenges everything we think we know about vulnerability. Based on twelve years of research, she argues that vulnerability is not weakness, but rather our clearest path to courage, engagement, and meaningful connection. This book will spark a new spirit of truth-and trust-in our organizations, families, schools, and communities.

In this “vital, necessary, and beautiful book”, antiracist **educator Robin DiAngelo** deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’”. Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.





**READ MORE ONLINE... [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org) July 2020 issue**



**SERVING WITH FAITH**

Although the ELCA Church wide Assembly adopted this statement in 2019, the church has a history of gender justice work through [ELCA World Hunger](#), the [Lutheran World Federation](#) and other ministries. Notably, in 2015 it founded the [International Women Leaders \(IWL\)](#) program to accompany and elevate women leaders from its global companion churches. To date, 34 women have received such awards and 134 women have participated in leadership seminars through the program.



**STEWARDS OF OUR BODIES AT EVERY STAGE**

We are trying to steward the bodies God gave us in the best ways we know how. We are not obsessive; fitness and health aren't the only topics we talk about. But we don't want our healthy habits to be a secret either. Conveying an openness around physical, spiritual and mental health habits goes a long way toward equipping our children to care for their whole health.

I want my sons to have lots of tools in their toolboxes when it comes to tackling life in all its stages, because I know that our bodies change constantly. And one day they might, like me, fall into depression and not know where to turn.



**FAITH & FAMILY: GROWING TOGETHER**

Encouraging our kids to pray seems like one of our easier tasks as parents, yet often I feel as if I'm stumbling in my efforts to do so. Prayer has been a way for me to connect with God and others, and I desire this same connection for my children. I want my children to know the beauty and power found in lifting our bodies, words and songs to God, but many times the daily realities of our lives push prayer to the back burner. Over time I've learned that everything, from the rhythm of our days to the people we meet and the state of the world, are experiences we can use to offer prayers.



**VOICES OF FAITH—FIRE IN MY BONES**

We need the Spirit to blow through our nation as a mighty rushing wind, purging it of systemic racism and white supremacy. This is the work of the church. We are called to demand anti-racist policies and work toward reparations. Who could have known that we would have experienced the multilayered trauma that has visited us these past weeks and months? There is a fire in my bones, yet I struggle to hold on to hope. I find encouragement in Paul's words to the Romans, and I am convinced that nothing is more powerful than God's love. Not death, life, angels, rulers, not COVID-19, systemic racism or even a knee on our neck can separate us from the love of God, poured out for all humanity through Jesus Christ.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS — AUGUST 2020

## CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.

~ OPRAH WINFREY

## 10 WAYS TO LOVE THIS YEAR...

- LISTEN without interrupting.
- SHARE without pretending.
- SPEAK without accusing.
- ENJOY without complaint.
- GIVE without sparing.
- TRUST without wavering.
- PRAY without ceasing.
- FORGIVE without punishing.
- ANSWER without arguing.
- PROMISE without forgetting.



4 — Jonathan Blizer

5 — July Powell  
Janet Sims



11 — Kay Berg

14 — Edie Graber

15 — Happy Birthday  
Gus, Elijah & Casey White

16 — Sandy Irvine



21 — Danny Bach

26 — Judy Griggs

31 — Peggy Huggard



8 — Donna & Mike Malbon



10 — Eric & Christy Berg



21 — David & Nancy  
Kahakauwila



### 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6

For God...made his light shine in our hearts.

“KEEPERS OF THE LIGHT”



AUGUST 3 —

VIRTUAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING @ 7PM

## the newsletter

AUGUST 23 —

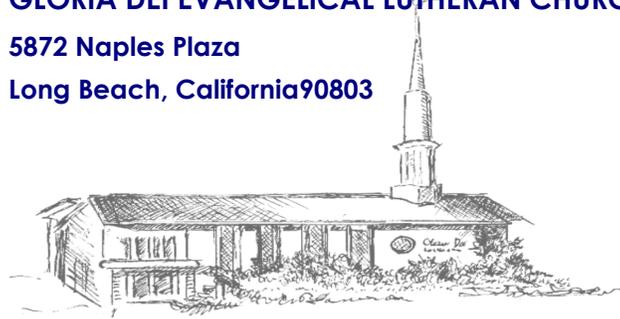
GLORIOUS DEI NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUBMIT STORY IDEAS, RESOURCES & SUGGESTIONS to editor via email: PBOCKMAN@FULLERTON.EDU

AS WE CELEBRATE THE LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS, THE PROMISED SAVIOR, MAY WE REJOICE IN GOD'S GIFT OF PEACE.

**GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



Return Service Requested

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



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)

