

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...

A few weeks ago while I was working on a sermon, I remembered that I had written a paper on the subject years ago when I was in seminary. I kind of half-remembered some of the points I had made in the paper and what some of the authors I had read for the paper had to say, but I thought it would be good to call it up from my old backup hard drive to re-read it.

I went spelunking through my old backup hard drives until I found the paper in question. I double clicked on it and...nothing. Well, not exactly nothing. A notice popped up on my screen. "Unable to open. Please choose another application." This confused me. What application was I supposed to try? I was using MS Word. The document I was trying to open was created in Word. I've always used Word. I wrote that paper on an Apple Macintosh. I've always used Macs. So why wouldn't it open?

I tried other files, other documents from the same era. Same problem. Was there something wrong with my Mac? Had the file become corrupted?

It turns out that the problem is that the version of Word that I used so long ago is so vastly different from the versions we use today that it might as well have been written in a different application altogether. In point of fact, it was written in a different application altogether. That's how much the software has changed. And the hardware has changed in some pretty big ways, too.

After googling through several articles, I discovered that there is a way to retrieve those old files, but it's rather complicated. Essentially I need to find a way to translate the old "language" those files were written in into today's language for today's machine. And I had to ask myself if those old files are really worth all the time and trouble. They might be. Or they might not be anything like as good as I remember. In the end I decided to save that project for when I retire. If then.

"Time keeps on slipping, slipping, slipping into the future," sang the Steve Miller Band. That song came out in 1976. Forty-five years ago. And I still think of it as a fairly recent song because in my mind it's still fresh. Just

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FEEDBACK

Are you receiving our
monthly newsletter? Tell us
what you think...



**GLORIOUS DEI
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 27**

**SUBMIT COMMENTS,
STORY IDEAS,
RESOURCES & SUGGESTIONS**
to editor via email:
pbockman@fullerton.edu

**"Let us not become
weary in doing good,
for at the time we will
reap a harvest if we
do not give up."**

~ Galatians 6:9

Thoughts Along the Way Continues...

like that paper I wrote thirty years ago on a machine I no longer have using a software that for all intents and purposes no longer exists. Time keeps on slipping into the future. The world around us keeps changing. Ideas change. Tastes change. Our understanding of things changes. The software has been updated. The hardware is different, faster, and more complex.

We read in Hebrews that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Jesus is the same. The Good News of Christ as Emmanuel, God With Us, is the same. But sometimes the old language we use to tell the ever-new-and-renewing story simply doesn't connect to the language the world around us is speaking.

The story is still good. The greatest story ever told. We just need to translate it into the language the world can process now.

Pro Gloria Dei,

Pastor Steve

"Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." ~ Roman 12:10

Presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** wrote to the church, "With much sadness and shock I share with you the news of the sudden passing of Bill Horne.

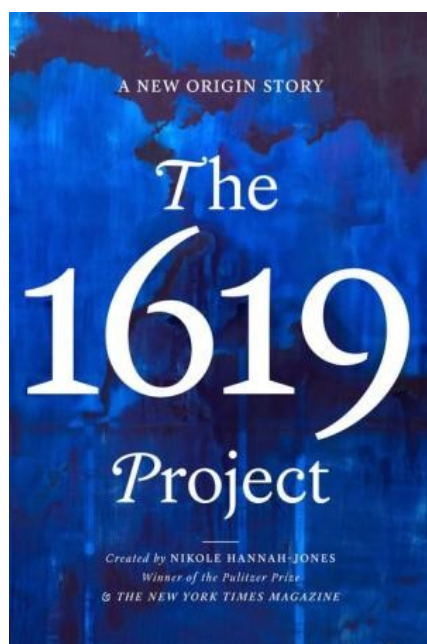
The Vice President of the SWCA Synod, Mr. Randy Foster wrote, "This morning brought our ELCA and its 65 synods the unspeakable news that Mr. William (Bill) Horne had died, a man of impeccable integrity and an unflappable character, only surpassed by his love for the church! Bill was the epitome of what it means to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before your God!



**Vice President of the ELCA
— William "Bill" Horne.**

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.



DEEPER UNDERSTANDINGS

A dramatic expansion of a groundbreaking work of journalism, ***The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*** offers a profoundly revealing vision of the American past and present.

The New York Times Magazine's award-winning "1619 Project" issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work, weaving together eighteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic, and citizenship to capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself.



What are ELCA Good Gifts? How It Works?

As members of the ELCA, we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love. Check the ELCA website now!



The Southwest California Synod is a **Reconciling In Christ Synod**, making a public commitment to welcome, include and celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people.

Quick Facts

Five bishops have served the Southwest California Synod:

- The Rev. Paul Egertson
- The Rev. Roger Anderson
- The Rev. Dean W. Nelson
- The Rev. Guy Erwin, Ph.D
- The Rev. Murray Finck (Interim)
- **The Reverend Brenda Bos' term will begin September 1, 2021**

The Synod is divided into nine different conferences

More than 100 congregations and worshipping communities in nine conferences comprise the Southwest California Synod:

- Channel Islands
- Central Coast
- Foothill
- Greater Long Beach
- LA Metropolitan
- San Gabriel Valley
- South Bay
- Techachapi
- Twin Valleys



We are also a **Lutheran Restoring Creation Synod**. A grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, cultivating a community of dedicated stewards of earth and neighbor who proclaim God's promise of hope and healing for all.

Source; Photos/Resources/Links on SoCal Synod Website

CONGREGATION UPDATE



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Fall is in the air and the Christmas catalogs are beginning to arrive! It's already September and time to resume our **Adult Education classes**. On **Sunday, September 12 from 9:00-9:45 a.m.** we will continue our study of the Gospel of Mark.

In past years the **fall worship** time was 10:45 a.m. **By popular demand, we will continue to worship at 10:00 a.m. throughout the year.**

Beginning September 15th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom we will resume our midweek **Adult Education Sessions**. Our Wednesday Zoom sessions throughout the pandemic lockdown allowed us to have robust discussions as a group and allowed for additional people join us from as far as Italy! The Zoom link for these sessions as well as the link for Sunday worship can be found on the Gloria Dei website – www.gdlclb.org

Plan to join these enlightening classes that Pastor Steve so wonderfully prepares! As a personal note; throughout my years as a Christian, Pastor Steve delivers the most in-depth and thought-provoking studies I have ever attended. We have a scholarly treasure at Gloria Dei! Don't miss out on these Adult Education sessions and invite friends and neighbors.

The installation of Pastor Brenda Bos as the new **Bishop of the Southwest Synod** is on September 12th at 4:00 p.m. at Angelica Lutheran Church in Los Angeles. Remote locations will also be avail-

able for those that would like to "attend" the installation and are not able to travel to downtown Los Angeles. Her installation will be a multicultural event celebrating the diversity within the ELCA. For more information, please call me or Sandy Nelson (church secretary) if you'd like to attend. An R.S.V.P. is required.

An ELCA nationwide initiative, **"God's work. Our Hands" is also on September 12.** The ELCA newsletter stated, "As church, we are guided by our life in Christ to share the love of Jesus and serve our neighbors — even if such acts of service look different during a pandemic".

Our little church with a big heart has continued to serve our neighbors in so many ways during the pandemic! I'd like to encourage each of you to reach out to your neighbors, social groups and clubs and bring items for **hygiene kits** in support of the many homeless in our community in support of "God's work. Our hands." on Sunday, September 12. **Basic items such as: bottles of water, clean socks and protein bars are always appreciated.** As you invite participation from your friends, family, club members and associates, it's a really easy way of letting them know about the "Little Church with a Big Heart" to which you belong. God's work is demonstrated in so many ways through the love and kindness and generosity of our members!

See you in Bible Study - still wearing a mask until further notice!

Karen Como
Church Council President

SEPTEMBER 1

**COUNCIL MEETING
@ 7PM**

Edie Graber's Birthday
Celebration



Our name means *The Glory of God*, so we try to live accordingly.

Our life together as a family of faith is built on worship, service, education and friendship.

MAY YOU OBSERVE YOUR WORLD WITH LOVING CONSIDERATION...

WHAT LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDS

Canned Goods

**Pop Tops please
Chili; Ravioli Spaghetti-O's
Tuna; Soup
Chef Boyardee pasta meals

Hygienic Supplies

Wet Ones (travel or singles)
Disinfectant Cleaner
Deodorant (Men's/
Women's)

Anything Dry

Umbrellas
Sleeping bags
Blankets & Comforters
Tarps, tents, and other
shelter materials
Paper Goods/Bowls/Napkins
Paper towels/ Toilet paper
Plastic forks /Plastic spoons

Anything Warm*

Coats / Jackets
Gloves/Scarves
Socks
Rain boots
*Please only new or lightly
used

**Drop off donations at
church or visit the LSS
website for details!**

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



**Sept. 12
2021**



NEW ELCA Resource—FLIPBOOKS

What a delight... a brand-new digital
platform for 'Stories of Faith in Action'
housed at LivingLutheran.org.

The new website features content from this annual
publication in a modern, dynamic format, mixing
video and visual elements with stories to take you
further into the work of Mission Support.



Racial Justice



SEEK TO UNDERSTAND — SEEK PEACE & HARMONY

**GOD DOES NOT DEMAND THAT WE PROVE OURSELVES WORTHY OF THIS LOVE, BUT ASKS ONLY
THAT WE RECEIVE IT IN FAITH. IN SO DOING, WE ARE TRULY "BORN OF THE SPIRIT." ~ JOHN 3:6**

THE POWER OF ADDING ONE WORD

A friend of mine is a retired schoolteacher. She once told me that one of her grade school students would come to school every day with glasses so dirty she wondered how he could see anything. So, one day, she asked for his glasses and cleaned them. When he put them back on, his eyes widened, and he exclaimed, "Wow!"

Something similar happened to me when I discovered if I added just one word to my prayers, it clarified my vision and expanded the reach of my prayers to places and people around the world.

It's a short word, only three letters: **"And."**

Let me show you how it works, at least for me. Among my daily prayers are petitions for two of my grandchildren, ages 9 and 11, who cope with the effects of cystic fibrosis. I pray fervently for their healing, soon and completely, from CF. Some time ago, however, I added that short word, **"and."** So now I pray every day for their healing **"and for all those who suffer from cystic fibrosis."**

Since I began praying that way, that powerful little word has infiltrated all of my prayers. I pray for a friend who recently lost a loved one **and for everyone whose heart is weighed down by grief.**

I pray for my children and grandchildren, who live some distance from me, **and also for all those who are separated from and missing their loved ones.** I sit down to eat and give thanks for my food **and ask God to provide for those who don't have such daily nourishment as I enjoy.**

I pray before I write, asking God to inspire and energize my words, **and for Him to work through all of those who serve Him through the written word.** I know I'm far from the first person to discover the power of that one word in prayer. I've heard it often in liturgies and pastoral prayers, but for some reason—maybe my inattentiveness or density in such moments—I only recently began applying it in my personal prayers. There's virtually no petition it doesn't apply to:

"Lord, please heal Jeff and give him a clean scan—**and heal all who cry out to you for healing.**"

"Father, please help Gene find the job that will meet his family's needs—**and do the same for all who are sincerely searching for work.**"

"God, please comfort Peggy in her loneliness and help all those who are lonely tonight." It's a blessing to know that, as I pray for my needs and the needs of my family, friends and neighbors, that my prayers extend and expand to reach many others simply by using that one short word: **"and."**

~ Author: Bob Hostetler, July 2021, Guideposts Magazine

ANNOUNCEMENTS — SEPTEMBER 2021



CELEBRATIONS

- 9 — Happy Birthday
Pastor Ted Conter
- 12 — Happy Birthday
David Kahakauwila
- 18 — Happy Birthday
Margie Brown
Kalani Caldwell
- 20 —
Happy Birthday Meri Beckman
- 21 —
Happy Birthday Howard Davis
- 22 — Happy Birthday
Tiana Kahakauwila
- 24 — Happy Anniversary
Jim & Lauren Mintie
- 30 — Happy Anniversary
Dave & Cyndy Manley



**FIRST DAY
OF AUTUMN**
SEPTEMBER 22

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process is its own reward."

— Amelia Earhart



PRAYER

changes things

Response, Renewal, Resilience

The power of prayer is undeniable to those who pray regularly. True stories of prayer making a difference in a moment, a life, or the world inspire each of us to examine and strengthen our faith life regularly. Reach deep inside to access the power of praying to change our lives and change our hearts.



SEPTEMBER 6
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



"Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident."

— A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



**EXPLORE THE
HIDDEN BRAIN...**

THE 4 R'S:
RECOGNIZE...REFLECT
REMOVE...RETRAIN

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 Corinthians. 5:17-19)

