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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

*How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!*

*My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.*

*Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young. ~Psalm 84:1-3*

I started to drive away but something moved me to pull over to the curb and stop. I sat there in my car looking across the street at the house we had called home for the last seven years. It didn't feel right to just drive away. After all, we had a relationship with this place, and you don't just drive away from a relationship without a good goodbye. After a long look at the house, the words finally came. "Thank you, house," I said. "You kept us warm and dry in the winter and cool in the summer. We had a few trials but much more joy within your walls and you held us together through all of it. You gave us a place to be family. You gave us a place to be home. I know you will do the same for your new owners. Hold them and protect them. I hope your walls will remember our love and laughter. We will remember you with much fondness." I took a long last look at the pale yellow house on the corner lot then drove away for the last time.

We are moving to live closer to our daughter and son-in-law and grandsons. The new house has a pool which is a huge attraction for our water-loving grandsons. We haven't even moved our furniture in yet and they've already taken a swim there.

It's exciting to move into a different house. It's fun to do all the things that make it ours—choosing paint colors, taking out old carpet and putting in new flooring, planning where the furniture will go. But there is also a kind of wistful sadness in leaving the old house behind. It was more than just a house. It was our home.

As I write this on All Saints Day, I am mindful of all the saints I've been at home with and all the places I've called home over the years. All Saints Day is for me a kind of marker in the calendar, signaling a time of introspection, ingathering and family. Thanksgiving lies just ahead. Then Christmas. These are times to be shared with family, whether the accidental family of your gene pool or your church family or the intentional family of like-minded friends that you've gathered around yourself. These are times to remember and to make new memories.

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Thoughts Along the Way Continues...

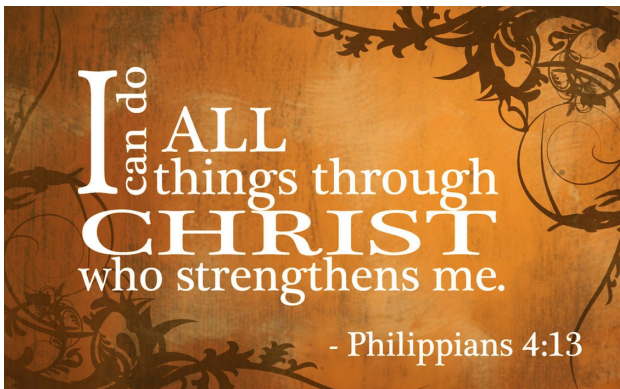
This is also a time—and this day in particular—to be mindful of the “great cloud of witnesses,” those beloved people who have gone before us and whose presence we still carry in our hearts. This is a day and a season to remember the faces that always warmed our hearts and reminded us that we are not alone in this world or the next. This is a day, even, to remember the houses that held us, the places where we were at home. This is also a day and a season to remember that someday we will move on.

Life is movement. Some of us move many times. Some put down roots in a place and stay there most of their lives. But eventually everyone moves on to the great mystery, the great What Comes Next. Eventually every one of us will move to the House with many dwelling places where a place for us has been prepared.

In my work I have been privileged and blessed to be with many as they make that final move. Some were mightily reluctant to go and approached it with anger or fear. Most though, had made peace with the idea and were ready for the move. Some even welcomed it joyfully. When you know you're going to move, it's always best to make peace with the idea. It's even better when you can anticipate your new residence with joy.

*I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger
Traveling through this world below
There's no sickness, no toil or danger
In that bright land to which I go
I'm going there to see my father
And all my loved ones, who've gone on
I'm just going over Jordan
I'm just going over home*

Peace and all good pro Gloria Dei,
Pastor Steve



GLORIA DEI COUNCIL UPDATE



As Thanksgiving approaches, let's "Talk Turkey"!

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and Fe Y Esperanza have asked our church family to help them with their annual Thanksgiving Holiday plans. LSS will be providing the families they serve with one week of groceries during Thanksgiving, including a certificate for a turkey. Last year Gloria Dei helped LSS provide groceries and turkeys for more than 60 families.

Fe Y Esperanza will be holding their annual Thanksgiving Feast for the farm workers in Guadalupe, California. Pastor Marta and her staff need turkeys to feed over 100 workers.

By making a donation to our Holiday Fund you will provide the funds needed by LSS and Fe Y Esperanza to feed these families. You can make your donation online at www.gdlclb.org or by check, payable to Gloria Dei, and writing "Turkey" on the memo line. The funds to purchase groceries and turkeys will be distributed by November 20th. Now let's talk "Ships Ahoy"!

Thank you to Twyla Karkut and Nancy Sansum for purchasing items to fill 20 boxes for the Maritime Ministries in Long Beach! Additional boxes have been prepared by individual members of our church family. The need is bigger than ever as we can see from

the huge number of ships in the Long Beach harbor. The boxes will be delivered to Maritime Ministries by the end of the month. There's still time to put together a box! See Twyla, Nancy or Sandy for a list of items to include in YOUR special box. Please remember to pray for the many seafarers aboard these ships. They have been away from home for as long as 18 months and with the backlog of unloading the containers, their time at sea and away from their families has been extended.

Thanksgiving is a time to remember and count our blessings. One of the things I'm most thankful for is being a part of such a loving and giving church family! Your generosity is inspiring and continues to provide for so many of God's children!

Happy Thanksgiving
Karen Como, Church Council President



NEW MEMBERS

Debi Nahigyan, Karen Como, Jean O'Connell

**LORD, MAKE US GOOD GUESTS AND
HOSTS OF YOUR KINGDOM WHO
REFLECT THE HUMILITY AND GENEROSITY OF OUR
SAVIOR. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN.**

A cheerful heart is good medicine. ~ Proverbs 17:22

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

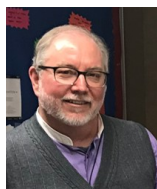
2021—2022 COUNCIL MEMBERS

KAREN COMO
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



LARK ADAMS

STEVEN BECKHAM



GARY BOCKMAN

PHIL COMO



TWYKA KARKUT

BEVERLY PANDORA



STEPHANIE SIEMER

ROBERT SIEMER



NURTURING A MEANINGFUL PRAYER LIFE

May you be a passionate believer that Jesus changes everything....

Not everything is in your hands. There are always circumstances that are out of our control, but what is in our control is our actions, our thoughts, our attitude, our habits.

Life gets stressful, messy, confusing. We forget who we are.

We forget who our God is. **You have a choice, to walk alone or to walk with God.** You can still be a Christian and not tap into the presence of God with you. Tapping into God's presence, actively engaging with God every day will transform your life. It will add depth, health, and renewal to you, because **God is our lifeblood.**

Do you believe that **every human** deserves to have **equal rights**, a **voice**, **respect**, and **dignity**. Now is the time we must stand in solidarity with one another and use proactive communication to **start and open dialogue** about change. Let us learn from the past and the present to make a beautiful and peaceful future for everyone.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The Women of Gloria Dei met this month on the 2nd Thursday in October. Our project was making fleece blankets for the LBPD. Two blankets were successfully finished and added to 17 quilts that were recently donated. All our fleece contributions were blessed during our Sunday worship service. These donations will be picked up soon by LB Police Department.

Our November project will be filling plastic shoe boxes for Maritime Ministries. Twyla Karkut and Nancy Sansum are our leaders on this activity. Some of you may have a copy of the suggestions if you wish to make a box of your own. We use the plastic shoe box size, and fill with items such as socks, writing paper, razors, snacks, etc. (NO SOAP). Please do not wrap the boxes as someone has to check them before going on board a ship. There are lots of ships in the harbor, so any contributions you can make are greatly appreciated.

Peace and blessings is His name...

Margie Brown, ELCW Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBER—DEBI NAHIGYAN

How did Debi, a Connecticut native, who's worked in every continent in the world (except Africa) wind up finding joy in our "Little Church With A Big Heart" in Naples? "I fell in love with the church," she said, adding, "Pastor Steve's Sunday messages struck a cord with me." When she first moved to Long Beach she visited different churches and after attending a service at Gloria Dei, decided it was a good fit.

Born, raised and educated in Connecticut, and one of four children, she had a double major in Biology and Education at the University of Connecticut. Following graduation, she took a job in Boston followed by another job in New York City. But this was just the beginning of a career that took her all over the world. Somewhere along the way she did postgraduate work and received her MBA. "I found that your chances of employment are more favorable if you are willing to relocate. Companies like that," she said. "I made a good living because I was willing to take international jobs." "The pharmaceutical industry was very good to me," she said and it was the venue where she met her future husband, Peter. She met him before she got a promotion to relocate to Dallas, Texas, and Peter decided he would move with her and proposed. Her job promotions led them to Irvine, California where she worked for Allergan and he worked for GlaxoSmithKline. Another promotion took them back to Boston in 1992.

They lived an idyllic life with their three children until tragedy struck when 34-year-old Peter was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive type of cancer that can occur in the brain or spinal cord. Peter died in less than a year after his diagnosis. She was devastated. "He wasn't just my husband, but also my best friend and fulfilled me in every way," she recalled. You can still hear the pain in her voice when she recalls that tragic time in her life. "I was 34 with three small children and didn't know how I was going to raise them alone," she said, adding "we had a very comfortable lifestyle and I wanted to maintain that for my family." The only way she could do that was to work a very demanding job that required her to be gone from home for periods of time in all parts of the world. Pharmaceuticals took her to Asia, Europe, South America, and Australia. She changed that scenario when she turned down another promotion that would entail her moving to London. "I decided to take my severance pay instead and I came to Long Beach to be near my children." Her two sons are married now and her daughter lives in Honolulu. Debi is a grandmother of three little girls and is proud of her children. "They all finished college and are really good people," she said.

She has been living down the street from the church for the last six months with her two Maine Coon cats, Charlie and Elliot. She said that while Charlie is an affectionate and considerate cat, Elliot is a problem child and chooses to wake her up at 2:30 or 3:00 a.m. This is a hardship because she has a very hectic daily schedule that starts at around 4:30 a.m. She is now working for the Long Beach Rescue Mission "Lydia House" for the past hour years. The 50-bed Lydia House provides solace and hope in the face of abuse, addiction, financial hardship and abandonment. "Many of the women and children there are victims of domestic abuse," she said. "After I left my job, I felt that I wanted to give back somehow," she said, so she started out as a volunteer in the kitchen at the rescue mission. In a very short period of time she was told that she was hired as the coordinator, teaching the residents useful life skills.

What could possibly be left on Debi's "bucket list?" "I would really love to be an apprentice to a chaplain and work with hospice patients, their parents and in-laws, before death" she replied quickly and without hesitation. "Family, faith and education is my mantra," she said.

Take the time to welcome Debi when you see her at church because we are, The Little Church with a Big Heart.

Author: Vicki Gammer

A MISSION PARTNER REQUEST

If you are considering a tax-free donation, as 2021 comes to an end, please consider making a donation to LSS, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, to help with these urgent needs:

- **Parking Lot** - The parking lot is in terrible condition; it has not been repaved in 36 years. The potholes and deep fissures in the parking lot make it dangerous for people coming for assistance, especially those in wheelchairs. LSS also uses the parking lot for many outreach activities and needs to make sure the area is safe. The cost to repave and repair the parking lot: \$11,000.
- **Mold** - The building they occupy is very old. The floors throughout the building have developed mold. An epoxy sealer on the floors is needed to contain the mold and keep it from spreading. The mold is also a health hazard for the workers, the volunteers, and the people they serve. The cost for the epoxy sealer: \$8,000.
- **Heating and Air Conditioning for the Food Pantry** – There is no heating or air conditioning in the food pantry area making conditions difficult for the volunteers and workers as they distribute food throughout the year. In order to add heating and/or air conditioning, the electrical panel needs to be upgraded. LSS is in the process of obtaining bids to make the necessary upgrades. The cost: TBD.

If you are considering helping LSS with any of these urgent needs, please let either myself or Pastor Steve know.
— Karen Como, Church Council President

FUN FACTOR – THOUGHTFUL GIFT GIVING

Imagine the look on their faces...**ELCA Good Gifts** is your opportunity to generate a smile and appreciation for this unique program that directly helps communities in need! Check the ELCA website now!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Stock Backpack with Food — \$10
School Fees & Uniform for a Girl —\$40
Microloan for a Woman — \$120
Simple Water Well — \$2,500
Piglet — \$30 Goat & Chicks — \$60



ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & RESOURCES

GIVE THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The 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 — 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.



Please join us on Wednesdays on **Zoom** as we read and discuss this book together. Details and links are on our website — **www.gdlclb.org**



THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 25



LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS
I HAVE LOVED YOU.

~ John 13



- 4 — **Pastor Schaar**
- 5 — **Laura Subke**
- 6 — **Carl Irwin**
- 16 — **Marilyn Bittle**
- 17 — **Liam Wacker**
- 20 — **Nancy Kahakauwila**
- Frida Layton**
- Lisa Mellow**
- 26 — **Judi Mellow**
- 28 — **Cecilia Gabrik**

**MAY GOD'S
ABUNDANCE
SURROUND YOU...**

**GLORIOUS DEI
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
NOVEMBER 28**

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

A SEASON OF REFLECTION

1 Timothy 6:6

Godliness with
contentment is
great gain.

**RICH TOWARD
GOD**

Rejoicing in Him daily
relieves us of coveting,
leaving us contented. May
Jesus redeem our heart's
desires, making us rich
toward God!



VETERANS DAY

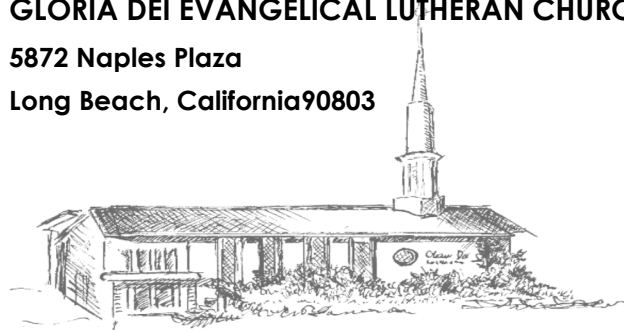
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11



**Pastor Steve & Dr. Meri
Beckham's new home...**
9140 Whitney Way
Cypress, CA 90630

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)

MAY YOU OBSERVE the WORLD with LOVING CONSIDERATION.....

