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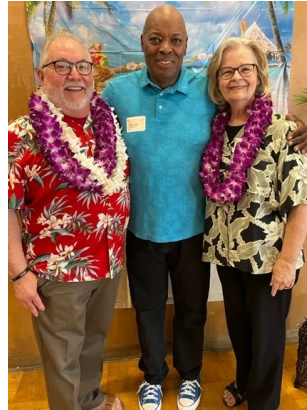
# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

JUNE 2023

GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# GLORIOUS DEI . . .



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31 May 2023

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



**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.

To my beloved family of faith at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

First and foremost, I want to thank you for the astonishingly generous retirement gift you gave us. Meri and I were overwhelmed and we are very, very grateful. I want to thank you all, too, for the very enjoyable retirement party and all you did to make my last day as pastor of Gloria Dei so memorable and joyful. More than anything, though, I want to thank you for all the years of love, ministry and friendship we have shared together at the Little Church with a Big Heart. You have truly lived up to that name, and I know you will continue to do so to the glory of God.

With much love and a little moisture in the eyes,  
 Pastor Steve (and Dr. Meri, too)

*Thank you* ❤️



# SPIRITUAL NOTEBOOK

God of love, You are love and to live in love is to live in You. I long to live in that fearless, joyous love. Fill me with Your Spirit, and carry me ever deeper into Your love, until fear dissolves and Your love flows freely through me.

## GROW A FORGIVING HEART

### 1. Decide to forgive.

As Fed Luskin, Ph.D., director of the Stanford Forgiveness Projects, says, "Forgiveness changes the present, not the past—it's a choice you make to heal yourself.

### 2. Be patient.

Sometimes a hurt you thought was healed might resurface. If that happens, look at the situation from where you are now. Recognize you have grown.

### 3. Surrender the idea that you are right.

Instead of rehashing an offense, try to be kind, compassionate & understanding.

### 4. Breathe out past hurts.

When you feel stuck in anger, take a deep breath and let yourself relax. As you exhale, say, "I'm ready to move forward. I forgive."

### 5. Write your own apology.

If the person is no longer in your life, you can still have closure by writing down the words you have longed to hear. Consider them a gift to help you forgive.

### 6. Cultivate a forgiveness plant.

Use a plan that you have, or buy a peace lily or purple hyacinth, which traditionally means "I'm sorry". Every time you water it, picture yourself releasing bitterness or regret and finding peace.

### 7. Walk away the hurt.

Go outside with the intention of working through whatever is weighing on your heart. Sometimes physically moving forward can help you move on emotionally.

### 8. Forgive yourself.

Dwelling on something you wish you hadn't done? Give yourself a hug and say, "I'm ready to let go of this guilt, and begin, anew."

### 9. Look to animals for inspiration.

Often they are harmed by humans, yet they open their hearts again and again to love.

### 10. Turn to Scripture for healing.

If you keep a mental list of who harmed you and how, replace it with Bible verses about forgiveness, such as 1 Corinthians 13:4-5.

### 11. Don't sweat the small stuff.

Did someone cut you off in traffic? Make a snarky comment on social media? Let it go.



## GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS



# CONGREGATION UPDATE

“We can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord.  
And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we  
become more and more like Him.”

~ 2 Corinthians 3:18

**Yesterday, Today and, Tomorrow** - what a difference a few days can make in our time together as a church family!

**Yesterday** we celebrated Pentecost and our last worship service with Pastor Steve and Meri. We were so fortunate to have Bishop Brenda Bos with us and to deliver the Conclusion of Call. Our sanctuary looked so beautiful, especially with the red steamers lovingly made by our dear friend Barbara White so many years ago. Thank you to our wonderful team — Marilyn Bittle, Gary Bockman, Margie Brown, Phil Como, Twyla Karkut and Jean O'Connell — for replacing our Easter adornments with those for Pentecost and changing the banners in the front of the church to the season of Pentecost.

Our **Farewell Aloha Retirement Party** was delightful! Pastor Steve and Meri were honored by the presence of family members and friends, many of whom travelled a great distance to be at the party in recognition of Pastor Steve's meaningful ministry in their lives. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and Pastor Scott Fritz and his team were so welcoming and we're so thankful they extended their beautiful Fellowship Hall to us. Thank you to the wonderful group who organized and decorated for this beautiful party—planning committee-Karen Como, Peggy Bockman, Margie Brown, Sandy Nelson and Stephanie Siemer. We are thankful for the nearly 12 years Pastor Steve served and blessed us with his ministry. He and Meri will be missed!

**Today** we have our **Call Committee** in place and ready to proceed with the spirit-filled task of calling our new pastor. The first meeting will be in June. I'm grateful to the

members of the committee — Marilyn Bittle, Margie Brown, Karen Como, Martie Engle, Vicki Gammer, Edie Graber, David Kahakauwila, Beverly Pandora and Bob Siemer — who are willing to serve and prayerfully consider who will be the next pastor to lead our congregation.



We're grateful to Pastor Ruth Sievert who has agreed to be our interim pastor until our new pastor is called. Pastor Ruth has received training to be an interim pastor and has served many congregations in her years of ministry. Her first Sunday with us will be July 2.



## Welcome Pastor Ruth Sievert

During the month of June, we will have different supply pastors with us to lead us in worship, deliver the message, and serve communion. Come and hear the wonderful messages they will share with us.

Congregation Update Continues...

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, we will install our **Church Council Members for 2023/2024**. We added members to the Council and I'm so excited to have new people to serve our church family. Please join us as we install Lark Adams, Marilyn Bittle, Gary Bockman, Margie Brown, Karen Como, Phil Como, Vicki Gammer, David Kahakauwila, Twyla Karkut, Debi Nahigyan Bev Pandora, Beth Rotsel, Bob Siemer and Candy Wood.

We have also elected our 2 members for the Synod Assembly. Margie Brown and Bob Siemer will be attending and representing our congregation the first weekend in June.

**Tomorrow** is still a surprise, an unknown, a new beginning. We will proceed with confidence as a strong church family and the Lord will direct our future. As our former pastor Ted Conter used to say, 'If the Lord wants us here than this is where we'll be.' We are fulfilling our Mission Statement each and every month as we care for each other and reach out to those in need.

**LSS:** We continue to make nearly weekly deliveries because of the generous givers within our church family and friends. The need for clothing, especially for men and children, is always great. The carloads of men's clothing so generously given by Martie Engel from the Drama Department at Golden West College were completely distributed within 3 days of our delivery!



**Fe y Esperanza:** Deliveries are typically made on Wednesdays to Pastor Marta. If you have clothing and gently used household items to donate, please bring them to church. If you would like to schedule a pick up, contact Phil Como.

**PASTOR MARTA**



**LSS—WENDY RUBIO**

**Adult Education** is in recess until September.  
**Coming Events:**

- June 4** - Installation of Council members
- June 5** - Church Council meeting via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
- June 8** - ELCW Luncheon at Belmont Brewery
- June 11** - Noisy Offering and Birthday Cake Sunday
- July 2** - Pastor Sievert will begin as interim pastor

Pastor Steve identified our church as 'The Little Church with a Big Heart'. This sums up who we are and who we will continue to be. Pray for Pastor Steve and Meri as they start a new season in their lives. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide our decision in calling a new leader for our church family.

For our yesterdays, I am thankful. For today I am grateful, and for our tomorrows, together I am blessed and excited to be a part of this wonderful church family.

**Council President  
Karen Como**

# WHERE ALL MAY DWELL

JOIN US FOR SUMMER WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

WE ARE A CHURCH THAT VALUES AND ENCOURAGES DIVERSE VOICES AND LIVELY DIALOGUE IN OUR FAITH AND LIFE.

Our **God 's Work. Our Hands** approach will provide you with an avenue to serve others in our community. Friendly, grace-filled members are eager to welcome you into our fellowship with Christ. We look forward to getting to know you as we share coffee and conversation every Sunday after our in-person service.



**ELCW:** In May the women made blankets for the Long Beach Police Department. These blankets provide comfort for a child in a time of crisis. If you would like to donate new fleece blankets or small quilts, please talk to Margie Brown for more information. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the ELCA will go to lunch as we kick off summer. All women are welcome to join us!



# EVENTS & PROCLAMATIONS

**BASK IN THE BEAUTY OF  
SUMMER SOLSTICE !**



## GOD'S LOVE & LIGHT...



Number of times  
a day the  
average person  
craves a hug:  
**13**

Number of seconds the  
average hug lasts: **9**

Number of seconds a hug  
needs to last to have a positive,  
measurable therapeutic effect: **20**

### MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

- 14 — Flag Day
- 17 — Flip Flop Day
- 19 — Juneteenth
- 21 — Summer Solstice
- 22 — Kissing Day

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18**

“For we are what he has made us,  
created in Christ Jesus for good  
works, which God prepared  
beforehand to be our way of life.”

~Ephesians 2:10

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

22 — Candy Wood

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

4 — Vicky & Steve Gammer

9 — John & Jean Betz

11 — Stuart & Laura Subke

22 — Steve & Meri Beckham

23 — Bob & Stephanie Siemer

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He  
is good! His mercy endures forever.”

~1 Chronicles 16:34

**BASK IN THE BEAUTY OF  
GOD'S SUMMER DELIGHTS !**



## GOD'S LIGHT & LOVE...

With God's help, my single act of  
kindness can inspire many more....

Like a loving parent, God rejoices  
over me....

My burdens are easier to carry  
when I share them with my  
community in Christ...

When I clear my mind of negative  
thoughts, God's power flows more  
freely in me....

Small efforts offered with  
compassion can make a big  
difference....

Through my simple words of  
encouragement, God can  
change lives....



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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)**



