

Reverend Ruth Sievert, 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!

## BE OF GOOD COURAGE...

Well, we've been together for nine Sundays in nearly two months and I can't remember when I have had so much fun with a congregation. My friends Mitch and Pam came on my first Sunday and have been back several more times because they like you all so much. They brought Pam's twin sister Penny last Sunday and she's coming back, also because of you. We also had a young man come last Sunday because he lives "just across the street" and as a Lutheran, he decided to check out Gloria Dei. He stayed for coffee and said he would be back. It's all because you folks are so hospitable and gracious, and you clearly enjoy being with each other. And it is a delight to come to fellowship and laugh, have good conversations, and watch you all interact with each other. "The Little Church with the Big Heart" is a perfect description of you.

I have had opportunities to have conversations with more of you over the last month, including a visit with Judy Mello, and I look forward to getting to know more of you. Now that we have settled in a bit and the summer is coming to a close, we will begin the process of working with the Synod towards calling your new pastor. You will be hearing more about that from Karen Como and the Call Committee as we get further into September.

As you've noticed, I have been making some changes in worship, in consultation with Phil and Richard. Richard and I have spent much of two Sunday afternoons planning worship all the way through November. Now, either one of us could do this more quickly on our own, but it's so much more fun to do it together, and I believe our worship service is better, because we are both creative people and we spur each other's ideas. (We laugh a lot!) One of my goals is to teach you all a new setting form our hymnal (ELW). After all, there ARE ten settings in there! It seems sad to only know two of them.

As I mentioned last Sunday, I was immediately captivated by the sung liturgy the first time I went to the University Lutheran Chapel at my college. As you might imagine, I dove deeply into the study of the liturgy when I got to seminary and over the years, I have had great pleasure in helping to plan worship for some pretty big events like Pastor's Retreats, Synod Assemblies, and the WELCA Triennial held in Anaheim in 1990. I have a deep and abiding love of liturgy and I would like to invite you all to come

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*Pastor Ruth's Message Continues....*

to a class on worship on Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 am. We will take a closer look at our hymnal and talk about the structure of our liturgy. I will talk about why we do what we do, and you will have the chance to ask questions. If that 45-minute class is not enough time, we can continue the next week.

And, speaking of education, I have two new classes to invite you all to. The first is a conversation that has a different subject every week, from the Christian Century. This is something that you can subscribe to for free. Each week, they offer two articles to choose from, with some questions that we can use to start the conversation. I think it will be a great opportunity to have a framework to discuss many issues in the church and how we relate to our world as Christians.

The second class will be a book study of Father Richard Rohr's Falling Upward: a Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life. I am very fond of Fr. Rohr's spirituality and writing and I'm looking forward to studying this with you. More details will follow.

In the meantime, I am looking forward to more conversations and laughter with you. But always remember that I am also here to share in your struggles and sorrows. Don't hesitate to call me (562-708-7357) or email me ([goodcourageruth@gmail.com](mailto:goodcourageruth@gmail.com)) if you want to talk or get a cup of coffee, I will never turn away an invitation to come to your home or go out for lunch or dinner. Whatever is comfortable for you, I am your pastor for now, and I want you to have any support you need from me.

Those of you who have received emails from me might have noticed that at the bottom of my page, there is a prayer. This prayer, found in our Service of Morning Prayer in the ELW and the old LBW (the green book), has been a guiding prayer for my life for decades, and the source of my email address.

***O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, but paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love is supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

Go out with Good Courage!



**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.**

# CONGREGATION UPDATE

**Zoom spelled backwards is 'Mooz'!** After so many months of having worship in person, we had to take a step backwards on August 20<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of Tropical Storm Hilary and we worshipped via Zoom. Thankfully our area didn't experience the damage that some had predicted and under the direction of Bob Siemer (aka 'OZ'), many of us still enjoyed worship and especially our social time after worship. Special thanks to Sandy Nelson and Phil Como for setting sandbags around each of the church entrances, taking down the banners and securing our church. Having another 'Zoom' Sunday reminded us of how thankful we are that we can worship in person again. It was a long 20 months, ending just a year ago, that Zoom was our only option.

Noisy offering and Birthday Cake Sunday, normally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month wasn't to be missed and we easily celebrated on August 27<sup>th</sup> the fourth Sunday of the month, instead. Happy Birthday to all of our August birthdays, including: Jonathan Blitzer, Janet Sims, Edie Graber, Sandy Nelson, Danny Bach, Judy Griggs and Peggy Huggard. Join us for our next Birthday Cake Sunday on September 17<sup>th</sup> when we'll celebrate Debi Nahigyan, David Kahakauwila, Margie Brown, Kalani Caldwell, Howard Davis and Harry Witt. Invite a friend with a September birthday and we'll celebrate them too!

**Lutheran Social Services:** The 'Back to School Supply Drive' was a huge success! Wendy Rubio and the staff at LSS were so thankful for the generosity of our church family and friends. LSS held an event to distribute supplies to approximately 300 children. These children will have what they need to succeed in school.

As cool weather approaches, LSS is always in need of gently used warm blankets and jackets and new socks. Men's clothing is always welcomed in support of their job finders' program. We continue to make nearly weekly deliveries because of the generous givers within our church family and friends.

Prayers for healing are needed for our good friend, Maria Hernandez who broke her ankle walking to LSS. Maria has volunteered her services for many years and directs the food distribution program. Her beautiful smile and presence will be missed while she's healing. Peggy Huggard, Sandy Nelson, Phil Como and I were so honored to receive a Certificate of Recognition for our volunteer services in support of LSS from Rex Richardson, Mayor of Long Beach.

A special 'thank you' to Nancy Brown who donated a full carload of clothing and supplies to LSS and a truckload of medical equipment from Nancy Brown and Meri Beckham for Fe Y Esperanza!



**GLORIA DEI — CHRIST'S CHURCH**  
**We are the church that shares a living,**  
**daring confidence in God's grace.**  
**Liberated by our faith, we embrace you s a**  
**whole person--questions, complexities and all.**

**Fe y Esperanza:** The truckload of medical equipment was received with so much joy! The truckload included wheelchairs and several walkers. If you have large or small items of gently used household or medical items, please call Phil Como ('It's good to have a friend with a truck!') to schedule a pickup. Grocery bags are always needed for their food distribution program. If you have grocery bags or clothing and gently used household items to donate, please bring them to church. The repairs on their sanctuary are slow but steady. They are still holding their worship services in the Fellowship Hall but they are hopeful they can re-enter their sanctuary before the season of Christmas.

**ELCW:** Meetings begin again on September 14 at 11:00 a.m. We'll be assembling hygiene kits. If you have extra hotel soap, shampoo and rinse items from your summer travels, we can put them to good use! All women are invited to attend. Invite your friends and neighbors for good fellowship and service to our community. Bring a sandwich to share. Salad and dessert will be provided.

**Maritime Ministry:** Supplies are beginning to be donated for the Maritime Ministry boxes that we traditionally prepare every year. These boxes provide the seafarers who work on ships that serve our community and the whole country with much needed items of comfort. Maritime Ministry serves seafarers of many backgrounds, faiths (or no faiths) with the love of Jesus. The seafarers are away from home for many months and the boxes of supplies that we and other churches provide reminds them that they are appreciated. Watch for more information about the Maritime Ministry boxes and start saving warm jackets, gloves and knitted hats which will be delivered in early November.

**Adult Education:** Adult education will begin in mid-September. Details and schedule to follow.

#### **Coming Events:**

September 14<sup>th</sup> – ELCW meets at 11:00 a.m.

September 17<sup>th</sup> – Noisy offering and Birthday Cake Sunday

October 7<sup>th</sup> – Color of Hope event for LSS, see Sandy Nelson for details

Pastor Ruth stated, in her recent sermon, that 'Love and Service' are a result of a community of friendship. We continue to demonstrate that we have a very big and generous heart in this little church. So many need to experience the love of our church family if they only knew about us. Who can you invite to share in the love of this community of friendship?

We are so blessed! Council President, Karen Como



# GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

A hymn titled “God’s Work, Our Hands,” written by Wayne Wold, was selected as the winning entry in the ELCA’s “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday hymn contest in 2019. More than 120 entries were submitted to be considered as a hymn for the ELCA’s annual dedicated day of service. The selected hymn represents the official tagline of the ELCA and expresses how the people of this church live in service for the life of the world. We offer our thanks to all who submitted original compositions — the large number of entries gives witness to the enthusiasm that “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday has inspired throughout this church and in our communities. The **selected hymn** includes music to a familiar tune as well as music to an original composition. The hymn is available as a year-round worship resource.

Wold is a professor and chair of the music department at Hood College in Frederick, Md., where he also serves as concert manager and college organizer. He is also the director of music ministry at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, Md.



**WE MADE A DIFFERENCE!**  
**\$1.96 MILLION**  
 TO LONG BEACH  
 NONPROFITS

## FIND YOUR CAUSE

**1 CITY**  
**16 CAUSES**  
**240+ NONPROFITS**

**What is Long Beach Gives?**  
 Long Beach Gives is an annual online giving day to provide awareness and funding for the critical services provided by nonprofits. It helps generous donors and innovative nonprofits come together to improve the quality of life and create positive change for Long Beach. The goal of Long Beach Gives is to inspire individuals and businesses in our community to support the exemplary work of 240+ nonprofits making a difference in our Long Beach community.

### SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

Mayor Rex Richardson said it perfectly: **“Over the past four years, ‘Long Beach Gives’ has allowed the people of Long Beach to make a collective impact across the city. This September, in our fifth year, we can make a meaningful difference by working together and uplifting people in every community.”**

**THURSDAY,**  
**SEPTEMBER 21**

**24 hour Online Day of Giving!**  
**#LongBeachGives**



AUGUST 27TH 2023

# THANK YOU SO MUCH

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

On behalf of all of us at The Long Beach Center of Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, we would like to thank all of our friends at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Long Beach for their support of our 8th Annual Back-To-School Event.

Activities included a lunch for those in attendance, a resource fair with community partners providing information about their programs & services and how to access them. Groceries & hygiene items were distributed. Free hair cuts for the families, games for the children, backpack & school supply giveaway & kettle corn vender providing popcorn to the families. Our impact: 82 familie were supported at our event. 219 backpacks & school supplies were distributed & 800 bus passes were given out to the families.

This was a very peaceful event that cultivated community, generated many smiles and We couldn't do it without you!

Again, many Thanks for all your help and support!

SINCERELY,  
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES  
STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



# ANNOUNCEMENTS — SEPTEMBER 2023

## SERVANTHOOD !



## LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

SEPTEMBER 4  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



the newsletter

### GLORIOUS DEI

— OCTOBER HIATUS —

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

October 23 for November Issue

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

# PRAYER

*changes things*

“Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.”



## WHAT LSS 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

## CELEBRATIONS

9 —

Happy Birthday  
Pastor Ted Conter  
Debi Nahigyan

12—

Happy Birthday  
David Kahakauwila

18 —

Happy Birthday  
Margie Brown  
Happy Birthday  
Kalani Caldwell

20 —

Happy Birthday Meri Beckman

21 —

Happy Birthday  
Howard Davis

22 —

Happy Birthday  
Tiana Kahakauwila

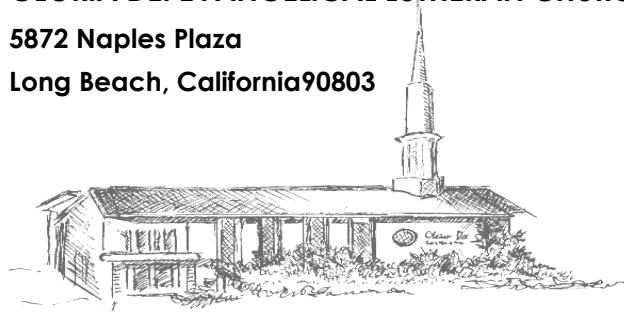


- SEPTEMBER 11 *Patriot's Day*
- SEPTEMBER 13 *Grandparents Day*
- SEPTEMBER 16 *Rosh Hashanah*
- SEPTEMBER 23 *Fall Begins*
- SEPTEMBER 24 *Peace Officers' Day*

Hello,  
September!

**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)**



