

GLORIOUS DEI . . .



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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

BE OF GOOD COURAGE...

In her article Karen Como thanked lots of people for their part in making my installation such a wonderful day, and I want to echo every one of those "thanks". Everyone who was asked to help said "yes" and followed through on what you were asked to do. My motto has long been "many hands make light work", and while I know everyone worked hard, no one could have accomplished it all single-handedly, even given the number of work-hours put in. I am grateful to all of you and know that I am still writing thank you notes. They take me a long time because I don't want to miss a thing.

But there is one person who is obviously missing from Karen's list and that is, of course, Karen herself. I have never encountered anyone quite like Karen, with her breadth of knowledge of how to throw a party, her ability to work so graciously with others, and her unending attention to details. Everything is done well in advance and she always has a calm presence that says "don't worry, every thing is under control. Lets have fun!" You've heard the saying that "it takes a village" and over and over and over again in my life I have learned this. As disciples of Jesus, we are never meant to work alone, but rather with one another for the good of all. So many of your ideas, suggestions, and solutions came together to create a day that I will never forget as long as I live. There was no one idea or suggestion or vision of the day that predominated, but it was the whole village working together. And the use of the quilts was the most wonderful touch!

I got an email that knocked my socks off from a dear colleague of mine who was a year behind me in seminary. He said this:

"All throughout yesterday's service I kept thinking "it takes a village". As direct as I can be....I am the by-product of a village.

"During seminary YOU were part of the tribe that: helped shape my ability to think theologically, poked at my off centered opinions, encouraged me to just 'be better', by paying more attention, held me accountable for behaviors ill-suited for life in the church, unwavering in your inclusion, endlessly filled with an unrivaled sass and purposeful perspective.

"I could go on...but what I really want to say is this...you helped shape me, and it has mattered. You matter to me. Thanks for keeping me in your village people."

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**I give you a new
commandment:
Love one another as
I have loved you.**

John 13

A legacy of welcome is woven into our tradition and history as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Many of our Lutheran ancestors faced the pain of having to flee their homes and knew the joy of being welcomed into new communities across the United States. Because this church believes in sustaining a faithful presence in the world, it "holds power accountable, advocates justice, stands with those who are poor and vulnerable, provides sanctuary, and meets human need."

(ELCA: *For Peace in God's World*, 1995)



**"SHE IS CLOTHED IN Strength
AND Dignity, AND SHE Laughs
WITHOUT FEAR OF THE FUTURE."**

~ Proverbs 31:25

LITTLE CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART

Lord, Our Savior,

We ask that you renew our hearts, minds, and lives, for the days ahead. We pray for your refreshing over us. Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right. Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes.

May we reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

BLESSINGS IN ABUNDANCE

Be of Good Courage Continues...

In the 47 years I have known him, Scott has never said anything like this to me. We are always happy to see each other and greet one another with hugs of affection. We have talked, laughed (a LOT), asked difficult questions, grieved, worshipped, and rejoiced with one another but, had he not said it, I never would have known this. Never, ever underestimate your ability to touch another human being with the love and grace of God. And that is our job until the moment we take our last breath. Thank you for all the love you have given me! I am so excited about this new stage in our ministry of the little church with the big heart!

Now, for a little fun fact: I can tell you now what I never tell any congregation before I am installed: at my ordination, about 1/3 of the attendees got food poisoning! What I have learned is that cut hard boiled eggs, and vegetables like cut onions and celery, mixed with mayonnaise can go bad fairly quickly when they are not kept refrigerated. Apparently, there wasn't enough room in the church refrigerator for many bowls of macaroni salad and potato salad that the church ladies made and they assumed it would be OK for them to sit out. Obviously, this was not true. Luckily, I did not get sick, but my two brothers did, as did my beloved internship supervisor who preached at my installation the next day. And, ever since, I have been very, very cautious about eating such salads at potlucks. Well, that certainly did not happen at our party. We all ate well and enjoyed it tremendously, and I am quite confident that no one got sick. I ate all the leftovers I could for the next several days!

What's next???

YOUR pastor, Pastor Ruth

**"He has showered down upon
us the richness of His grace."**

~ Ephesians 1:8

GOD'S LOVE WEAVES US TOGETHER





CONGREGATIONAL & COUNCIL UPDATE



The installation of Pastor Ruth Sievert was quite the celebration! Our sanctuary was filled with our church family, friends, Pastor Ruth's family members and visiting clergy as our 'Little Church with the Big Heart' starts a new chapter, guided by the ministry of Pastor Ruth. One of the visiting clergy said 'he fell into a sponge of love' being at our church for this event.

Our church family knows how to throw a good party! The luncheon following the installation was wonderful. Thank you to all the people who added their creative talents in making this a day to remember. To Richard Hoover, a special thank you for his wonderfully inspiring music. Thank you to Bob Siemer for preparing all the slides for the installation service and making Zoom available for those unable to attend. Thank you to Phil

Como for preparing the installation bulletin and graphics for our church signage and parking. Thank you to the amazing luncheon creative and set-up team of: Marilyn Bittle, Peggy and Gary Bockman, Margie Brown, Phil Como, Vicki Gammer, Peggy Huggard, David Kahakauwila, Twyla Karkut, and Bob and Stephanie Siemer. Thank you to Sandy Nelson for taking and editing pictures and for taking care of so many details to make all of our guests feel welcome. Special thank you to Nicole Hadley (Jean O'Connell's daughter) for all of her help in serving desserts and helping with clean-up. Thank you to Kalani Caldwell for meeting the caterer and continuing with the set-up while we were at church for the installation. Pictures from the installation and luncheon are in the Fellowship Hall, be sure to check them out.

LSS: Our deliveries of food items and gently used clothing help to change the lives of the many people they serve. As you and your friends and family conduct their annual 'spring cleaning', please consider donating to LSS. Your donations are so important! Deliveries are made nearly every week and we'll be happy to arrange for a pick-up. A special thank you to Kalani and Lanae Caldwell and Teri Collins for their unique Lenten gifts to LSS. They each gave 1 item a day for 40 days to LSS and delivered them to a very grateful team at LSS.

Fe y Esperanza: The members of Fe y Esperanza appreciate the support we provide as they serve families in need through their food distribution program. They also support the needs of immigrant families with gently used household items and new medical supplies. Pastor Marta sends pictures and thank you notes to our church family every month. Our support is greatly appreciated. If you have items that need to be picked up, please call Sandy at church and we'll make arrangements. Thank you to Pastor Marta and to her church family for the beautiful bouquet they delivered for Pastor Ruth's installation.

Long Beach Men's and Women's Shelter (Lydia House): Clothing items for men, women and children are always needed. A special 'Thank you' to Sandy Nelson for sorting clothing delivered to church, selecting the items most needed by the shelters, and then making the essential deliveries.

ELCW: In April the women filled bags of rice and beans for the LSS and Fe y Esperanza food distribution programs. Join the ELCW women for their next meeting on May 9th for fellowship, lunch and to make blankets to comfort children. All women, including friends and neighbors, are invited to attend.

Adult Education: Join us for wonderful discussions on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Every week is a new topic that promotes thought-provoking discussion. Our Wednesday morning adult education and discussion is at 10:00 a.m. You can find the link to join the class on our website.

Coming Events:

May 6 – Church Council via zoom at 7 p.m.

May 9 – ELCW meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

May 17 – Take down the Easter Cross and prepare for Pentecost Sunday

May 19 – Pentecost Sunday – wear red!

May 19 – Annual Congregational Meeting and luncheon

May 19 – Birthday Cake Sunday/Noisy offering

May 19 – 'Hooray for Hollywood' join us as we hear great music sung by Pastor Ruth and the Camerata singers at 4:30 p.m. at the Wilson High School Auditorium. Join us for a fun evening of wonderful music

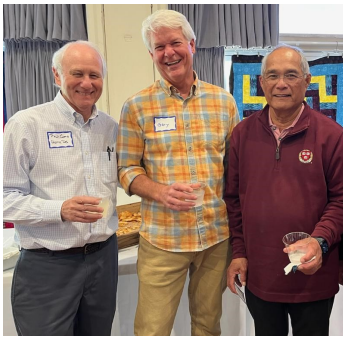
Take a look at our **newly refurbished Prayer Wall**. It looks like new and is constantly filled with requests for prayers. This Prayer Wall is a blessing to us and our neighbors on Naples Island. Thank you to Galen Anderson and Phil Como for completing this update prior to Pastor Ruth's installation.

Please plan to attend our **Annual Congregational meeting on May 19**. This is a very important meeting, when we review our spending plan and elect new church council members. Plus, we will have lunch and birthday cake! If you would like to serve on the church council, please let me or Sandy know so we can include you on the ballots. If you are asked to serve, prayerfully consider being on the council. Your contribution and service to our church family is so important. Have you considered memorializing banners or paraments to honor someone in your family? We would like to purchase some new banners for our sanctuary for the seasons of Christmas and Easter. Please let Sandy know if you have an interest in dedicating a banner for a loved one.

This past week received a prayer request for Pastor Jerry Schaar and his wife, Sue. Pastor Schaar suffered a very serious stroke at the end of April and is unable to walk or speak. Sue is just beginning her recovery from knee replacement surgery. Please keep them and their family in your prayers. Sue and Jerry would welcome your cards. Their address is: 3040 Granada Ct., Unit 26, Cameron Park, CA 95682.

We are so thankful for the installation of Pastor Ruth and we look forward to this new chapter for our church family as we serve each other and our community.

Karen Como
Council President



CREATING A LIFE WITH GOD



SOMETHING NEW FOR THE COMMUNION VESSELS

On the altar you may have noticed a new veil covering the chalice and paten (dish containing the host). Beginning with the season of Easter and continuing through the church year we will begin seeing new veils for the communion vessels. Each of the veils will include an embroidered heart (The Little Church with the Big Heart) and a cross. These will be gifts from Pastor Ruth throughout the year. Many know that Pastor Ruth has created beautiful quilts, some of which were on display at the installation luncheon. She will be using her talents to create veils that will match the color of the various seasons of the church year as well as special Sundays, such as Pentecost, Reformation Sunday, and Transfiguration Sunday.

The paraments for the altar, pulpit, and lectern follow the prescribed color for each succeeding section of the church year, beginning with Advent (blue) followed by Christmas (white), Epiphany (green), Lent (purple), Easter (white), and Pentecost (green) then back to Advent. For the Sundays when we celebrate Pentecost and the Reformation, red is the prescribed color. As colors mark the changes in the church's season (and special Sunday), so will these new, beautifully designed veils.



CAMERATA ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Showcasing the talents and personalities of individual singers, you will leave tapping your toes and humming your favorite songs from classic Hollywood movies!

A Note From Pastor Ruth:

I hope many of you can come to the Camerata **"Evening of Song Hooray for Hollywood"** concert on Sunday, May 19, at 4:30 pm. It will be at Wilson High School on 7th Street, which is easier to get into and has free parking.

This is our annual fund raiser, but you need not feel pressured to give anything unless you want to. If we have 10 or more people coming, I can get tickets for \$30.00 each. (Not as cheap as we had for "Messiah", but this IS a fundraiser.) If you want to go, please give me your checks (made out to me) or cash on this Sunday May 5th.

This is always a really fun night, and highlights some of our extremely talented professional musicians in solos, duets, and small groups, as well as the whole choir. What could be more fun than Hollywood tunes? Afterwards, those who are available can go out to dinner. We can figure out something ahead of time and make reservations!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS — MAY 2024

- MAY 5 *Cinco de Mayo*
- MAY 6 *Holocaust Remembrance Day*
- MAY 9 *Ascension Day*
- MAY 12 *Mother's Day*
- MAY 15 *National Peace Officers' Day*
- MAY 18 *US Armed Forces Day*
- MAY 28 *World Hunger Day*
- MAY 22 *World Day of Cultural Diversity*



EMBRACE. EQUIP. EMPOWER.

- ◆ Emergency Services
- ◆ Social Services
- ◆ Transitional Services

Not everyone can volunteer...
But, with your gift, YOU can bring
hope & kindness to
neighbors in our
Long Beach community.

[https://www.lsssc.org/
location/
south-bay-long-beach/](https://www.lsssc.org/location/south-bay-long-beach/)

**"Christians live not in
themselves, but in Christ
and in their neighbor.
Otherwise they are not
Christians. They live in
Christ through faith,
in their neighbor through
love."**

~ Martin Luther,
"The Freedom of a Christian"

MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 12



For surely I know the plans I have
for you, says the LORD, plans for your
welfare and not for harm, to give you
a future with hope. Then when you call
upon me and come and pray to me, I
will hear you. When you search for
me, you will find me; if you seek me
with all your heart.

~ Jeremiah 29:11-13

BE A LIGHT IN THE WORLD

**Strive to live your best life as
you continue to spread hope,
joy, peace and love to those
around you. In your next trip
around the sun, prayerfully
seek to encounter
God in new and special ways!**

MAY 8

Peggy & Gary Bockman Anniversary
Happy Birthday Chuck Dean

MAY 9

Happy Birthday Dianne Keil

MAY 18

Happy Birthday Pastor
Steve Beckham

MAY 19

Marlie & Mike Engle Anniversary
P.A. & Brooke White Anniversary

MAY 23

Happy Birthday Nancy Sansum

MAY 28

Happy Birthday Richard Hoover



Lord, thank You
for Your greatness
to save me.
Thank You for
using Your
goodness as a way
to reach me rather
than a reason to
reject me. Keep
me from
believing that I
need something
more complex
than Your simple
truths. And keep
me from thinking
that I can find
anything more
satisfying than
Your selfless love.

~ Psalm 62:11 (The Power
belongs to you, God)



Oh God, you have called
your servants to
ventures of which we
cannot see the ending,
by 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 supporting
us. Through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.
- Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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)

