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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

BE OF GOOD COURAGE...

On Sunday, May 26, we entered into the "Season after Pentecost." Or as the Roman Catholic Church calls it "Ordinary Time", which I rather like. We started the Church Year with Advent, then Christmas, Season after Epiphany, Lent, and Easter: these are the seasons of Jesus: the anticipation of his coming, birth, life, death, Resurrection and Ascension. On Pentecost, we started the season of the Church. First, the coming of the Holy Spirit that enabled the beginning of the Christian Church. The Day of Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church. Then we had to affirm the Trinity. Maybe we just had to get some Church Doctrine in there to remind us of the mystery of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit but one God. Now comes the long green season, which lasts about the same time as the seasons of Jesus, about 6 months.

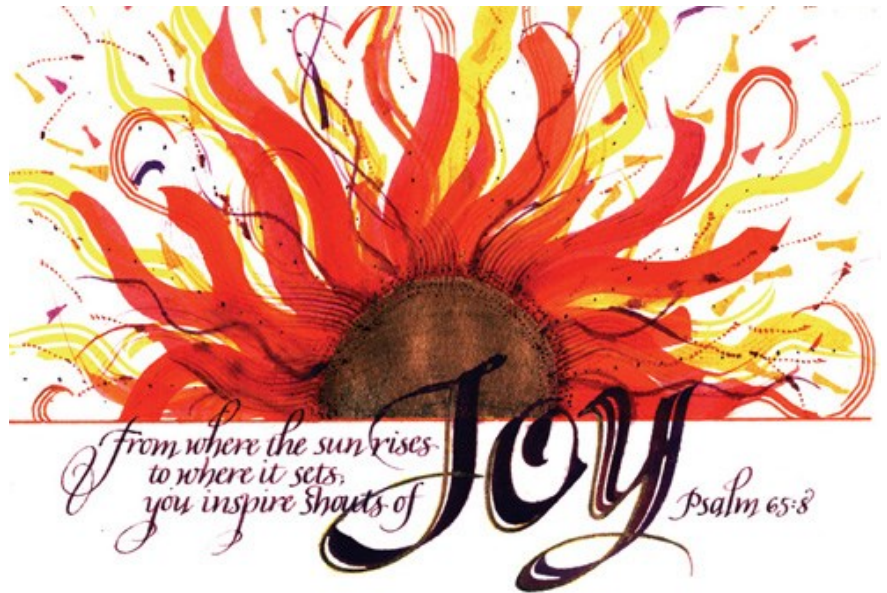
This time of year is about the work of Jesus throughout his ministry, and the beginning of the Church. It is about our work as the Church, living out the Gospel, building up and loving God's people. This is not a season of great festivals, but of the everyday work of being the Church. The green of the season is about new life. Gardens and fields planted to bear food and the beauty of flowers. Of course, in California, one growing season moves into the next growing season, year around. Isn't that one of the reasons we live here? I know it is for me. But only summer brings many of my most loved fruits and vegetables, and especially tomatoes! I can never get enough of fresh tomatoes.

Just as we indicate the change of our seasons of the Church Year with our paraments – the fabric pieces we put on the altar, pulpit, lectern as well as the banners, our worship changes to reflect the ebb and flow of the seasons. It makes sense to make our liturgy simpler in the summer. Summer is a simpler time of the year. A lot of activities take breaks for the summer, like our Sunday Adult class and our Wednesday morning Zoom Book Study. You probably have organizations you belong to that take breaks in the summer. While we are not going to take any breaks from Worshipping in the summer, our liturgy will be simpler. For example, we won't be singing a canticle of praise. I won't be chanting the psalm, but we will read it responsively. (Though I think we will sometimes have the treat of Phil singing the psalm!)

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— GLORIA DEI — THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART

**We invite you to join us for
worship every Sunday at 10:00 AM
in the summer!**

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 service.



Be of Good Courage....

There will even be some time when we will not have the confession in worship! I know that this shocks you all! How can we possibly have worship without confession? If you remember, I have told you that before Martin Luther's new awakening to the Gospel, he was an obsessive confessor. He used to drive the Augustinian Monks to whom he confessed crazy. He would want to confess every day, and often several times in the day. They passed him among the other Monks because he very quickly got tiring to them. Once his confessor said "Martin, all God wants is for you to love him!" Love him? replied Martin. I hate him!" This was because Martin had turned God into the demanding tyrant that his father was. In his new understanding of the Gospel, he knew that 1, we can never confess all of our sins, and 2, God forgives us even when we do not enumerate our sins. Thus, in our liturgy, confession is a "may" rubric. We may or may not have confession or the Thanksgiving for Baptism we have had during the Easter Season. Worship is still fully worship without our corporate confession.

I enjoy the simpler liturgy of this time of the year, as much as I enjoy the fullest liturgy during other seasons of the year. It's nice to have a bit shorter, more casual worship of summer.

So, notice the changes in the rhythm of our worship as it reflects the rhythm of our lectionary (the four readings we read each week). Just come, and worship whenever you are in town. Because we all need to hear the Word and be nourished at the Table of God. We all need to be together, get some hugs, good conversation, a cup of coffee, and some goodies together.

Faithfully, Pastor Ruth Sievert

"As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — COUNCIL UPDATE

Thoughts of gratefulness keeps coming to mind as I prepared to write my newsletter article this month. Grateful to our members who are willing to serve on our **Church Council for 2024/2025**: Lark Adams, Marilyn Bittle, Gary Bockman (Treasurer), Margie Brown, Phil Como, Vicki Gammer, David Kahakauwila, Jean O'Connell, Roger Powell, Beth Rotsel, Bob Siemer, Candy Wood and Pastor Ruth.

Grateful for the many years of service from Bev Pandora who has termed out and needs to take a year off according to our Church constitution. Especially grateful for Twyla Karkut who has served on Council for as many years as I have known her. She has served as our Financial Secretary and on all or most of the committees on the Council. Twyla has been a strong supporter of Maritime Ministries and organized our annual 'Shoe Box' kits during Christmastime. We will miss her on Council!

Even though we had attended Gloria Dei for nearly 30 years, we are still so inspired and grateful for the beauty our season of Easter. Our sanctuary looked so beautiful for Pentecost, 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, David Kahakauwila 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.

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 and they are so grateful for every delivery.

Fe y Esperanza: Deliveries are typically made on Wednesdays. 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.

ELCW: In May the women made blankets for Lydia House Women's Shelter. If you would like

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Congregation Update Continues....

to donate new fleece blankets or small quilts, please talk to Margie Brown for more information. The funds donated by the members of the ELCW were distributed to Wounded Warriors and to LSS. On June 13, the ELCA will go to lunch as we kick off summer. All women are welcome to join us!

Coming Events:

May 30 — June 1

Synod Assembly (thank you to **Margie Brown and David Kahakauwila** for representing Gloria Dei along with Pastor Ruth)

June 2 — Installation of Church Council

June 3 — Church Council meeting via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

June 6 — Pastor Ruth's birthday

June 9 — Pastor Ruth's Birthday Celebration (join us for a luncheon and cake!)

June 13 — ELCW Luncheon

June 16 — Noisy offering and Birthday Cake Sunday

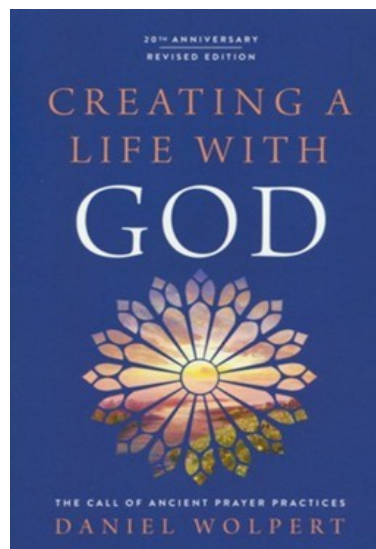
'**The Little Church with a Big Heart**' really sums up who we are. We are fulfilling our Mission Statement each and every month as we care for each other and reach out to those in need. I am so thankful and grateful for our service and outreach together. I am blessed and excited to be a part of this wonderful church family.

**Council President,
Karen Como**

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.



**Nancy Sansum —
95th Happy Birthday!**



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**

BLESSINGS IN ABUNDANCE

May 2024 — UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MANOA
The Regents' Medal for Excellence in Teaching is awarded by the Board of Regents as tribute to faculty members who exhibit an extraordinary level of subject mastery and scholarship, teaching effectiveness and creativity and personal values that benefit students.



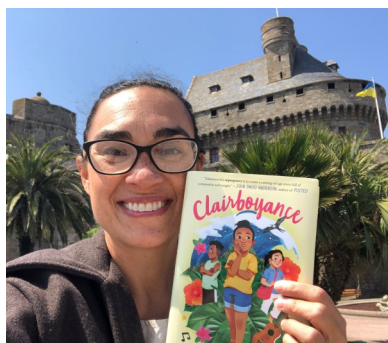
Board of Regents medals awarded for teaching excellence

Fondly known as **Tiana** to our congregation, daughter of **David and Nancy**, we revel in her continued accomplishments as an educator and a role model for students of color. Congratulations...may the world be inspired and filled with God's grace because of your genuine love for learning.

The award was the Board of Regents highest teaching award given in the University of Hawai'i system. My medal was presented by the **President of the UH system** and included a letter of commendation from the governor of Hawai'i. It was an especially poignant award for me, as so much of my pedagogy had been shaped by the great teachers in my life— **my mom first and foremost.**



Tiana promoting 'Clairvoyance' in France



Kristiana Kahakauwila is an **associate professor of English** in the UH Mānoa College of Arts, Languages & Letters. For Kahakauwila, a teaching philosophy rooted in choice is one rooted in kuleana—in responsibility, privilege and a sense of ownership. Her teaching leans into analysis of how a work is shaped, and from where it takes its inspiration in the **context of race, gender, sexuality, ability, indigeneity and other lived experiences.** Her students express an experience of being treated not “only as students but as writers and readers. She gives us a chance to grow and progress, first and foremost, as artists.” **Kahakauwila’s innovative pedagogical technique** includes asking students to take up the mantle of instructor at least once each term. A former graduate student describes Kahakauwila as a **“devoted, kind and brilliant teacher who challenged students in a way that was joyful and meaningful.”**



“To live in gratitude for both existence and awareness of existence is to live a life that is both holy and healed.” ~ Deepak Chopra, author



EVENING OF SONG — LONG BEACH CAMERATA SINGERS —

Oh what fun! Several Gloria Dei members attended the concert on May 19. As **Pastor Ruth fans**, we supported the annual fundraising event that featured the Camerata Singers —exceptional musicians in solos, duets, and small groups, and the wonderful choir. What's more fun than Hollywood tunes, right!



Chorus America's 2024 Awards Recognize Outstanding Choruses & Individuals CONGRATULATIONS CAMERATA SINGERS !

The **Education and Community Engagement Award** recognizes programs that expand a chorus's role in its community. Successful programs demonstrate mission-based program development, viable music education, effective management and fiscal integrity, a commitment to artistic achievement, and collaborations that are sustainable, beneficial, and meaningful for all partners.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AMAZING WORK THIS GROUP OFFERS OUR COMMUNITY
Long Beach Camerata Singers — <http://longbeachcameratasingers.org/lbcs/>

EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS — JUNE 2024

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.



MAY YOU OBSERVE YOUR WORLD WITH LOVING CONSIDERATION ...



Happy Flag Day! Thanks President Truman, <http://bit.ly/12HKc5> #USA 🇺🇸



- June**
- 4 Vicki & Steve Gammer Anniversary
 - 16 Father's Day
 - 20 Summer Solstice
 - 22 Happy Birthday Candy Wood
 - 23 Bob & Stephanie Siemer Anniversary



GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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)

