

Hark! The Herald...

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
5872 Naples Plaza
Long Beach, CA 90803-5044

Rev. Helen Liesenberg, Interim Pastor
Website: www.gloriadeilongbeach.com
Telephone: 562.438.0929

JULY
2011



THE PASTOR'S PEN...

Dear Friends: Isn't summer a wonderful time? It's a time to kick back and relax. The warm weather beckons us to spend more time out-of-doors in a park, walking on the beach, picnicking in the mountains, or just sitting in the backyard in the shade of a tree. We're given the luxury of time for reflection and renewal. Summer, with its slower pace is the perfect time for each of us to ask ourselves, "What is the quality of my discipleship?" "Am I a serious disciple?" Jesus has given you an invitation to "Come, follow me!"

Let's also remember that no matter what time of year it is, Christians are called to honor the Sabbath, and the Sabbath happens weekly. If you're home, we look forward to worshiping with you each week. If you're away, why don't you try this: Have a picture taken of yourself in front of the church (es) you visit. When you return, we will either print them in the Herald or place them on a poster in the Fellowship Hall. Don't forget to let us know where they were taken. God doesn't give up caring about us during the summer... let's not give up caring about God either.

Worship is going to be truly celebrative...and fun. I know Richard is planning for "special" music while the choir is on hiatus. We'll also be singing some of those favorite hymns you submitted last month...and who knows what other surprises may lay in store.

Lest I forget, I want to say a sincere "thank you" to our wonderful choir for the excellent music they have provided throughout this past year; for Richard Hoover's music ministry; and for the precious gift of the "Festival of Music" on June 19th. You have truly blessed us. Also a huge "thank you" to all our Sunday School teachers who have worked hard and been so faithful throughout this year. You all deserve a time to kick back and relax and catch your breath.

However, don't get too comfortable...because exciting times are ahead of us as we prepare for this year's Vacation Bible School under the capable direction of Sandy Irvine. I love seeing the blank lines on the sign-up sheets being filled in from week to week as more and more volunteer to assist in making an impact on the lives of children in our neighborhood!

With the love of Christ, *Pastor Helen Liesenberg*

CHURCH CALENDAR

JULY 2011



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Funds are still needed for disaster relief in Haiti, New Orleans, Alabama & Missouri!				Minor Festivals in July ◇ 22nd St. Mary Magdalene ◇ 25th St. James the Apostle ◇ 28th J.S. Bach & G. F. Handel, Musicians	1 • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 7 PM	2 
3 • Worship @ 10:00 AM Holy Communion • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM	4 Holiday Independence Day	5 ← Pray for Peace this week → "God Bless America"	6	7	8 • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 7 PM	9 Planning a Wedding? See website for brochure: http://www.gloriadeilongbeach.com/facility_use
10 • Worship @ 10:00 AM Holy Communion • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM	11 • Church Council Meeting @ 7 PM	12 ← Pray for World Hunger this week →	13	14	15 • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 7 PM	16 • August Newsletter submissions due — Email Preferred: pbockman@fullerton.edu
17 • Worship @ 10:00 AM Holy Communion • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM	18	19 Last Things First Workshop 7 –9 PM	20	21	22 • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 7 PM	23 Heart to Heart: As Your Parents Age FREE Workshop 9 am St. Timothy's Parish Hall 4645 Woodruff Avenue Lakewood
24 • Worship @ 10:00 AM Holy Communion • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM	25	26 Thrivent Workshop 7 –9 PM	27	28	29 • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 7 PM	30 31—Sunday - Favorite Hymn Sunday - Shepherds' Meeting @ 11:15 am

SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN JULY

Happy Birthday

Don Beckman	7/1
Twyla Karkut	7/2
Martie Engle	7/6
Rebecca Bockman	7/7
Audrey Gilissen	7/8
Mel Curtis	7/12
George Liesenberg	7/15
Bernie Vaaler	7/17
Norma Grant	7/26
Sue Schaar	7/28
Mike Caldwell	7/29

* Please Note:

Errors and/or omissions and additions of anniversaries and birthdays should be reported to the church office (562.438.0929) or listed on back side of a Sunday worship card. Thank you for helping us keep our records up-to-date when there are addresses or phone number changes as well.



Even in changing times God's faithfulness remains a constant source of help — ever loving, ever guiding, and ever giving.

Missions— Our Partnerships

Fe y Esperanza, mission partner of Gloria Dei, continues its service and outreach. Their children's choir sang at the ELM graduation and the Synod Assembly in May, and on June 4, Faith Lutheran (Fe y Esperanza) organized a Community Health Fair on the church grounds with over 200 people in attendance, including the mayor of South Gate where the church is located. Twenty civic groups had displays, including local police, fire, and county health departments as well as other health and safety organizations. Two families who were at the health fair have started worshiping and attending bible classes at Fe y Esperanza.

A celebration at the church was held to honor 3 of their teens who received high school diplomas. Book scholarships were given to encourage further study.

Vacation Bible School at Fe y Esperanza will be held July 5-12 with 60 children ages 4 to 16 signed up so far.

Fe y Esperanza Lutheran Church is very much alive with the Holy Spirit and grateful for any support.

Current needs are:

1. School supplies (paper, crayons, etc) and snacks for vacation bible school
2. Donations, incl. furniture or other household items, for yard sales to raise money for a church computer and to support youth ministry
3. Musical instruments and/or music lesson to youth group on Friday evenings

Donations may be placed on or next to bookcase across from rest rooms.

CSULB Campus Ministry

Thank you for your generosity and support of the end of semester luncheon. Over two days and in collaboration with another Interfaith Center member, we hosted 20 students for lunch! We look forward to partnering again with Gloria Dei in the new academic year. Blessings to you all as you have blessed us!

Grace and peace,

Sarah Lapenta-H MDiv, Chaplain

chaplain@beachprogressives.org

GLORIA DEI LEADERSHIP

The congregation nominated and approved new officers, council and committees/chairs for the coming year:

- **President** — Robert Siemer
- **Vice President** — Marilyn Bittle
- **Secretary** — Danny Bach
- **Financial Secretary** — Twyla Karkut
- **Treasurer** — Gary Bockman

Additional Church Council Members:

Jerry Gross, Peggy Hubbard, Walter Eidam, Candy Wood, Stephanie Siemer and Pastor Helen Liesenberg

- **Call** — Karen Como & Marti Engle
- **Counting** — Barbara White & Diane Keil
- **Education** — Candy Wood & Nancy Kahakauwila
- **Evangelism** — Stephanie Siemer
- **Fellowship** — Nancy Kahakauwila & Peggy Huggard
- **Finance & Planning** — Jim Ferrero
- **Governmental Ministries** — Marilyn Bittle
- **Missions** — Nancy Kahakauwila
- **Property** — Walter Eidam & Danny Bach
- **Shepherds** — Erika Eidam
- **Worship Support & Altar Guild** — Peggy Huggard
- **VBS** — Sandy Irvine

— MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT —

Dear members of Gloria Dei:

In spirit, I feel like saying “I love it when a plan comes together.” Just like the phrase was used by the A Team sitcom to extol another exploit, we are beginning to see the results of Gloria Dei’s efforts as to the call process. Although the Call Committee is on point at present (and I recommend its members for your prayers), it has been the effort of each member of the congregation family to deliver us here and sustain Gloria Dei in the effort. The Call Committee is currently in the process of evaluating candidates. Should a candidate be recommended, the focus will shift to you and I to determine if it is God’s will for this person to be ‘called’ to Gloria Dei. The future of Gloria Dei and how each of us will relate to change is hard to anticipate. Although change is likely to be slow, some of us fear change whatever the pace. Yet some embrace it. One of our church family’s great strengths is that when we reach that point in the process when we “just don’t know”, we can treat it as a mystery, set aside our pride in our earthly knowledge and finally trust in God.

As we go on summer schedule, Godspeed on your summer travels and activities.

Robert E. Siemer
63 64th Place
Long Beach, CA 90803
562.439.0505
rsiemer@verizon.net

As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. ~Galatians 6:10



CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIVITY

Gloria Dei Council News

Most of the news items included below are summarized from the meeting of June 6, 2011. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend Church Council meetings on the first Monday of most months. Due to the holiday weekend, the Council will meet this month on **July 11, at 7:00 PM.**

Council Elections

President Bob Siemer was re-elected and he welcomed newly-elected or re-elected members: Marilyn Bittle, Danny Bach and Twyla Karkut. Special thanks to those members leaving the council.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Bockman was also re-elected and continues to serve as the church treasurer. He is exploring a 'direct deposit' option for donations.

Financial & Planning

Jim Ferrero reported that "everything is fine" and we are on budget. **The Counting Committee needs additional volunteers**—please contact Barbara White.

Christian Education

Anyone able to help decorate for VBS is invited to participate on August 6 & 13 from 11am-2pm — call Sandy Irvine, VBS Director, at 562.438.0929.

Children's Sunday School will have new instructional materials for fall session.

Nancy Kahakauwila and Sandy Irvine will serve as substitute teachers in September while Donna Malbon is in Idaho.

Shepherds

Erika Eidam continues to provide leadership and direction for this active group. The Shepherds are meeting after church service on Sunday, July 31.

Evangelism

The budget for this new endeavor is set at \$2,000 for the year. Committee members provided lunch for the CSULB Ministry on May 17 — during finals week! Stephanie and Bob Siemer plan to update and print 50 church brochures for future activities.

Missions

Gloria Dei continues to support several "mission partners" through our benevolence giving via the Southwest California Synod.

Maritime Ministry is having an Open House on August 21 from 2-4 pm — everyone is welcome. In September there will be a fundraiser with the Port of Long Beach. Reservations for this event are required—contact Nancy Kahakauwila. Everyone is welcome, so let's form carpools and support this event.

OGM/SCIC continues to **need funds for the disasters in Haiti, New Orleans, Alabama and Missouri.**

Property

Recent bathroom upgrades included 4 new lever type faucets. Chair, Walter Eidam, is currently getting bids to paint the sanctuary and stucco the outside of the church. In addition, our fire system has been reviewed and the alarm system repaired. Committee members (Bob Siemer, Roger Powell, Candy Wood and Walter Eidam are preparing a report regarding church evacuation and training — all to help us during an emergency or disaster.

Worship Support

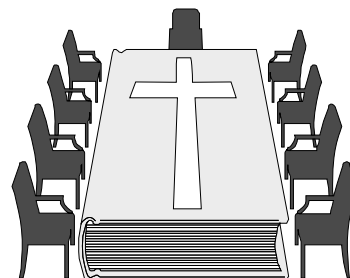
Peggy Huggard continues to work with worship support and the Altar Guild.

A special service of 'favorite hymns' is being planned for July 31.

Fellowship

The Progressive Dinner — Thanks to the volunteers for making our event in Seal Beach memorable.

Remember to take time to meet and greet others after church in our fellowship hall.



AMONG OURSELVES



Mel Curtis is at Country Villa Rehab, Room 82 Bed 2 hoping to return home shortly. Mel has expressed his profound thanks for all the wonderful notes and calls he has received. **Judi Mellow**, continues recovery from back surgery at home and is making good progress; **Don Brown, Tom Dahlgren, George Liesenberg, and Dolores Lovoy,** and **Walt Eidam** continue to undergo tests and treatment for health issues. Please pray for strength, endurance, and healing for all of them. Remember also in your prayers our homebound: **Janie Davis, Audrey Gilissen, Virginia Johnson.** We ask your continued prayers for the members of our Call Committee and the candidates they are interviewing. May God give them wisdom, guidance, discernment, trust and faith.



Congratulations and blessings on Lanae Caldwell. Lanae, after completing her preparations with Donna Malbon and Pastor Helen, was ready to come to the Lord's Table and receive her **First Communion** on Sunday, June 19th along with members of her family. Please keep her in your prayers as she continues her faith journey, that she may have an ever deepening relationship with Jesus Christ.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 PETER 4:10

UPDATE ON OUR EFFORT TO SEND CARE PACKAGES TO MILITARY IN AFGHANISTAN

Hello and many thanks for supporting the ELC Women's book table. We are so pleased with the results and hope to continue this effort. At this time we have collected over \$350.00 and have sent six boxes of food supplies and hygiene items, envelopes and writing paper to US Marines in Afghanistan. The first two boxes were sent to the Marine Parents collection center, to be forwarded on. We have received a letter of thanks from them, which is posted on the bulletin board above the book table. The second mailing of four boxes were sent directly to a commander of an 82 person unit deep in the country. They tell us that they may receive items every three months or so and we have not heard from them as yet, but hope to. We had so much fun packing those boxes as full as we could and enclosed a letter to the commander thanking his unit for their service on our behalf.

They really want most to hear from us. Letters with news in the U.S. are the items most wanted. Can you help us with that please? Just short notes of encouragement and thanks for their service is a very small thing to do. Blessings to all of you who have helped!

~ Barbara White, Project Leader



Annual Progressive Dinner held on Saturday, June 18

Special Thanks to our Gracious
Hosts Twyla Karkut and
Nancy Sansum !

Seal Beach...A Perfect Way to
Celebrate the Summer
Season...Enjoy Fellowship &
Cultivate Friendships !



BOOK OF BLESSINGS Sybil Green Gray



Although I am not currently a member of Gloria Dei, I was once upon a time almost sixty years ago. The lessons I learned and the "Blessings" I received because of that connection have remained with me throughout my life.

In the fall of 1951 there was a young minister by the name of Ralph Waldo Hansen who visited homes to encourage folks to come to a storefront on East 2nd Street to join in fellowship and worship. My Mom and I went and within a few weeks we were involved and soon committed to helping this mission become a reality. I was one of the three teens in the first Confirmation class, and was confirmed in June of 1952. My Mom taught Sunday school and was one of the sponsors of the Luther League. She also organized and helped with the church potluck dinners and took her turn cleaning the chapel - the store front. Within a year I was teaching in the pre-school program, singing in the choir and typing and running the bulletins. My two younger brothers were both confirmed at Gloria Dei; one in 1959, the other in 1966. When my Mom remarried in 1975, Pastor Conter performed the wedding. By then there was an actual church building. My Mom, Vera Sunderman, continued to be involved until the late 80's when she moved to Seal Beach.

As an adult with my own children, I lost count of the many preschoolers, elementary and high school students with whom I sang, danced, prayed, or for whom I created activities and lessons. I've also lost count of the many fundraising breakfasts/dinners I prepared or served...but there were a lot! Sometimes I started off knowing what I was doing, sometimes not. Yes, there are a lot of funny stories in my bag of memories. Eventually I learned what my strengths and weaknesses were and how I could best use them to serve the Lord. However, all of the above is just background to the question, "How have I been blessed by being a member of Gloria Dei?" "How have I been blessed living as a Christian?"

The lessons I learned from my involvement in a mission church where there were few bodies and fewer hands during my teen years have remained with me throughout my life. What I learned was that being a Christian, and a member of a church or parish, was not just about attending services, reading the Bible, praying, paying your tithe, and then going home. No. The "Blessings", the real "Blessings" come from being involved, from interfacing with others, from spreading the "Good News" through both your actions and your words. Those were the "lifelong Blessings" that I received as an early member of Gloria Dei.

RENEW: THE GREEN VBS

Let's work together to care for creation! It's time to register for ReNew: The Green VBS!

Place: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Dates: August 15-19, 2011

Time: 9 a.m. - noon

ReNew Vacation Bible School invites kids to learn about Jesus, help build our community, and grow as they become stewards of God's creation.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — AUGUST 15-19

At ReNew: The Green VBS kids will:

- Explore God's Word through Jesus' *Parable of the Sower*
- Learn about God's creation and what we can do to care for it
- Learn about members of our community who are stewards of the environment
- Make new friends and have a great time!

Calling all kids between ages 3 years through 6th grade who want to ReNew! Let's grow in faith, have fun, and change the world!

To Register:
To Register:

CONTACT: SANDY IRVINE
AT (562) 438-0929

SEE YOU AT RENEW: THE GREEN VBS!

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

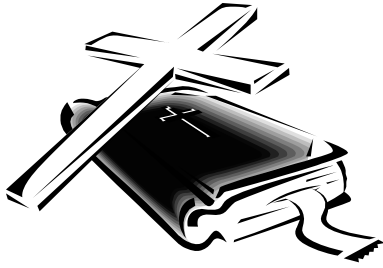
- ◆ SIGN UP to volunteer during the week of VBS, August 15-19
- ◆ SIGN UP to paint, cut, glue and build at our two upcoming workshops on August 6 & 13
- ◆ COME ON BOARD by donating supplies—See our "Wish List"
- ◆ COME ON BOARD by making a donation to cover costs!



**RE
NEW**

THE GREEN VBS™





UPCOMING EVENTS!

Tuesday, July 19th – “ LAST THINGS FIRST ” Workshop – 7-9 p.m.

To be prepared for death and related matters is one of the finest gifts which you can leave for your loved ones. While no one eagerly embraces these subjects, it is important to do some advanced planning. The Resource Guide I will provide has been developed to assist you in this planning.

- ◆ A notebook will be provided for **Personal Records** listing what documents and information will be helpful to your family.
- ◆ Notes about how to minister to the dying, how to help loved ones, stages of grief, and final stages of life will be included
- ◆ Suggestions on how to care for the Care-givers.
- ◆ What steps need to be taken when death occurs?
- ◆ Planning the Funeral/Memorial Service
- ◆ A Funeral Home Worksheet to be completed before your visit to the funeral home.
- ◆ Information on Living Wills

Please sign up by **Sunday, July 10th** so enough materials can be prepared.

Tuesday, July 26 – “ PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT & ESTATE STRATEGIES ” Workshop – 7-9 p.m.

You are never too young to begin planning for your future. Please join us for very informative and helpful workshop hosted by *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* and your local representative, **Geoff Delahanty**. Guest speaker **Jonathan Doering**, Thrivent Financial Consultant from San Diego, with 20 years of experience, will share strategies on:

- ◆ How to accumulate and distribute money for retirement.
- ◆ How to pass money onto heirs or charities in a tax wise manner.
- ◆ How to reduce IRS impact on your money.
- ◆ Successful investing in today 's market conditions.

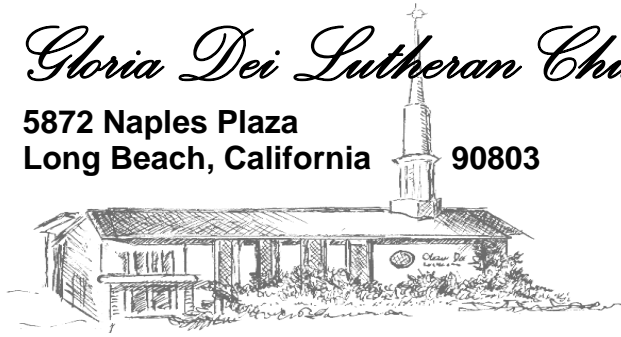
Refreshments & coffee will be served in the Friendship Hall. To reserve a seat for you and a guest (s) call **Monique Jouglet** at 877.593.1195 or email Monique.jouglet@thrivent.com. This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to our surrounding community. Please do come, and bring others with you.

Sunday, July 31st – A SERVICE OF FAVORITE HYMNS

We were very happy to receive the lists of your “Ten Top favorite hymns ”. We appreciate the time you spent in selecting them. A very special “ thank you ” to those who worked extra hard to limit their lists to their TOP TEN. During the next weeks Pastor Helen and Richard Hoover will work together to create a service built around some of the themes which we all can enjoy. Throughout the summer months we will make every effort to incorporate others into our Sunday morning worship. Your regular attendance throughout the summer means you may get to hear them all. Enjoy!

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

5872 Naples Plaza
Long Beach, California 90803



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage paid
Long Beach, California
Permit No. 25



MISSION STATEMENT

—Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is a family of people called by God, saved by grace through Jesus Christ, and nourished by the Holy Spirit. We are a congregation of Christian servants dedicated to serve the needs of the local community and the worldwide mission of the church. We seek to accomplish this through prayer, worship and music, Sacraments, Christian stewardship, Scripture-based youth and adult education, community outreach, and fellowship. We do this in Thanksgiving for God's blessings.



Gloria Dei is a 'Book of Faith' Congregation