

Hark! The Herald...

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

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AUGUST
2011

THE PASTOR'S PEN...

“**Carmaggedon**” is a word the media coined to get everyone’s attention and cooperation as Cal Trans closed a portion of the 405 Freeway to demolish the Mulholland Bridge. Jesus put it more simply when several times he said, **“Let anyone with ears listen!”** (Matthew 13). Jesus speaks of God as the “Sower” who casts His words lavishly and indiscriminately across the landscape allowing it to fall on all kinds of soil. I imagine it is this text that prompted lyricist and composer Handt Hanson in 1950 to write hymn #512 in our hymnal, *“Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.”* The question we each must ask is “What kind of soil is my heart?”



Is your heart like the hard path, impenetrable to God’s Word? Are you like a hard, concrete patch of freeway, impenetrable to the seed of God’s love to break through and transform your grey, exhaust-stained surface? Then let me encourage you, come to worship, hear God’s Word, and don’t underestimate its power. The Word can break open your life and change you forever. God is an indiscriminate sower, always there with an infinite supply of seed should the smallest crack appear in the surface of your heart.

Perhaps the Word of God took root in your life sometime in the past, but then hard times came along and the ground became hostile for your faith growth. Maybe you’ve come to a point in life where you’re angry at God, pointing a finger in blame. It’s easy to do. Most of us don’t navigate the freeway of life without hitting a major pothole or even coming across a bridge that has been washed out. But, if our hearts are open to the Word of God and it is nurtured in us in a worshipping community that proclaims a compassionate God of love, hard times become an even greater opening for God’s love to flourish and grow rather than a faith-destroying obstacle.

Is your heart surrounded by thorns? Perhaps the lure of all the secular world offers has diverted you from your spiritual journey. It’s much like coming across a “road closed” or “detour” sign on the freeway. You were on the right path, but earthly cares diverted you. Some diversions are obvious: wealth, power, addiction, and lust. But there are also the not-so-obvious ones as well, such as complacency or self-pity, or even a preoccupation with good things, like work and volunteer activities. One way to avoid diversion on our road of faith, is to make sure that we are connected to Jesus, the true vine, and that all we do grows out of the stalk of God’s Word growing in our hearts.

But, maybe you are among the blessed ones. You are a follower of Christ who has been open to the Word of God, understands, shares it, and yields a great crop. It’s kind of like being stuck on the freeway during a sig alert. You might have time to spot flowers struggling to grow in the hostile environment of a crack in the cement and compare their experience to that of the trees, flowers, lush grasses, and shrubs growing in an adjacent park. Those trees and shrubs never struggled; never felt the rush of a semi-truck over their surface. They were never choked by exhaust. For them, growth has been seamless. If your spiritual journey has been like that of a tree in the park, give thanks and praise to God. You are fortunate. Pray for the flowers trying to grow through the freeway below, be patient, and help to nourish those other flowers in whatever way you can.

Just remember: God continues to cast seed, regardless of the type of ground. And ultimately, against the odds, God’s seed bears fruit and yields. And that is the Good News Jesus brings. *“Let anyone with ears listen.”*

Your partner in Christ Jesus, *Pastor Helen Liesenberg*

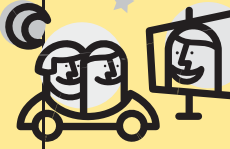


AUGUST
2011

CHURCH CALENDAR

NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSIONS
DUE
AUGUST 20



— SEND TO PBOCKMAN@FULLERTON.EDU —

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Reminder: No Church Council Meeting this month</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT 7:30 pm</p> <p>Join us outdoors for popcorn, treats & family fun!</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 6 PM 	<p>6</p> <p>VBS Set Up Session— 11 am – 2pm HELP NEEDED</p>
<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship @ <u>10:00 AM</u> Holy Communion • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 6 PM 	<p>13</p> <p>VBS Set Up Session— 11 am – 2pm HELP NEEDED</p>
<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship @ <u>10:00 AM</u> Prayer of Intercession follows worship service • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>RENEW: The Green VBS (Mon.-Friday)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 6 PM 	<p>20</p> <p>September Newsletter Articles Due</p>
<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship @ <u>10:00 AM</u> Holy Communion by Intinction — VBS Family Celebration • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 6 PM 	<p>27</p> <p>Learn how YOU can HELP... Contact Lutheran Social Services website: www.lsssc.org</p>
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship @ <u>10:00 AM</u> O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		<p>Pray for our nation as we prepare to celebrate another national holiday</p>	

CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIVITY

Most of the news items included below are summarized from the minutes of the Church Council meeting of July 11th. A reminder that all members of Gloria Dei are welcome to attend Council meetings which normally are held at 7PM on the first Monday of the month in the Fellowship Hall.

Long range planning will begin once a new Pastor is selected so the leader can participate in the process.

President Siemer reviewed the Constitution Amendments with the council which were then approved for submission to the congregation.

Call Committee Update: The process to call our new pastor is moving along and we pray for guidance and discernment to lead us to the one the Lord has chosen for Gloria Dei. Committee welcomes your questions and thoughts and especially your prayers for each of the committee members. The Call Committee met several times during the past month and have interviewed three pastor candidates; one face-to-face and two via SKYPE. Another pastor candidate interview was conducted the week of July 18th. A group of the committee members went to hear one of the pastor candidates at a nearby church. The other three candidates have sent us video recordings of their sermons for our prayerful review.

Evacuation Ad Hoc Committee met to finalize a plan of action. It was determined that evacuation drawing/directions should be posted in each room. This task will be completed in time for VBS in August. The congregation and groups that use the church will be informed of our emergency plan twice a year and evacuation maps will be reviewed.

Fellowship

Details regarding the upcoming Church Picnic at Mother's Beach (September 18 after the 10am service) will be included in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

Financial Planning

Treasurer report was accepted as submitted. Barbara White volunteered to handle Counting and will recruit another person to assist with this task.

Missions

Maritime Ministry is having an Open House on August 21 from 2-4 pm — everyone is welcome. They will also be hosting a benefit dinner on the Queen Mary.

Church Property

Exterior paint and stucco bids are done. Walter Eidam investigated issues at the parsonage. The Parsonage lease extension to May 31, 2012 has been signed.

Worship Support

Peggy Huggard reported that we continue to need volunteers to serve as greeters at our Sunday services. The Worship Support Committee met to identify resources for alternative summer music to be used during the 4th Sunday Service.

Evangelism

Summer Coffee at 9:30 is scheduled through July and will be evaluated for August. Movie night in the parking lot will be August 3rd at 7:30 p.m. Popcorn and treats will be in the fellowship hall. Community flyer for the Sept. 18th picnic was developed. Contacts for the Seal Beach Naval weapons station and Alamos Air base are being perused for participation in summer and fall events.

Christian Education

Children's Sunday school is set for the fall.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ALMOST HERE!

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!



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



— August 15-19 —
9 am — noon

**RE
NEW**

THE GREEN VBS™

**RE
NEW**

THE GREEN VBS™

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!

All family members of VBS participants are personally invited to attend our worship service the following **Sunday, August 21**, and hear the children sing the ReNew theme song. We invite all of you to join us in the decorated Fellowship Hall following the service for refreshments and see the excitement on the children's faces as they are given decorations to take home.

VBS SUPPLY LIST (To give or lend)

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PLEASE label all donations with the 'Site' where it is needed.
Bring to church ASAP.

NEEDS

Portable CD Players
Watering can, string
Plants, weeds w/roots (week of 8/8)
Grape stems (large clusters as "thorns")
Kid's pool (sm)
Seeds-sm/lg (leftover seed packets, seeds dropped by trees, flowers, etc.)
Variety of paint brushes (regular/sponge)
Parts/boards from old games
Trench coats, hats
Little notebooks (palm size)
Magnifying glasses

SITE

All
Gather
Gather
Gather
Gather
All
All
Self-upper
Self-upper
Self-upper
Community-lower,
Pre-School, Self
Community-lower
Community-lower
Community-lower
World
Pre-School
Pre-School
Pre-School
Pre-School
Pre-School

Books about seeds
Gardening stencils
Old cloth dinner napkins
Pine cones, rocks, sticks, pea pods
Large flat plastic bin
Birdseed, wheat kernels, sunflower seeds
Artificial plants, plastic shovels, plastic planter pots, gardening gloves
Artificial root vegetables (carrots, onions, garlic, leeks, beets, radishes)

Gardening magazines and catalogs
Colorful pillows (to sit on)
Dough cutters, rolling pins
White food trays (used Styrofoam)
Potting soil
Old scarves, kids' costumes (free play)
Small fans
Buckets (various sizes)
Stopwatch, whistle
Cardboard (from cereal boxes)
Pictures of farmers from around the world; hats, tools based on pictures
5-Gallon buckets
Used food coloring, 2-liter soda bottle
Artificial flowers
Book of trees
4" houseplants (for kids to care for during the week), non-toxic plant food
Wrappers from canned goods, paper towels, plastic water bottles, plastic yogurt or margarine containers)
Bandannas
Socks-single light-colored (used ok)
Fleece fabric
Wooden matches

Pre-School
Pre-School
Pre-School
Pre-School
Pre-School, Gather
Pre-School
World, Pre-School
Games
Games
Games
World
World
World
All
Pre-School
Pre-School
Pre-School
Pre-School
Games
Self-lower
Community-Upper
World-Upper

MANY GIFTS. ONE SPIRIT.

The ministries listed below need our help to continue serving Christ, our Lord. Our other Mission Partners (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, the ELCA, South Coast Interfaith Council, and Southern California Synod) need our prayers and donations!

Lutheran Social Services – 1611 Pine Avenue, Long Beach (562) (562) 599-1321

Carmen Rodriguez, Program Coordinator

Ruth Foelber, Area Director, rfoelber@lsssc.org

Donate Food – canned, packaged, large size or individual: soups, beef stew, tuna, sardines, carrots, green beans mixed veges, corn or peas, dry items include rice, pasta, beans, cereal, oatmeal

New individual hygiene items: soap, toothpaste, shampoo, adult diapers. Also plastic grocery bags!

Collection box is in located in the narthex.

Lutheran Maritime Ministries – International Seafarers Center

120 So. Pico Avenue, Long Beach (562) 432-7560

Chaplain Chim Mandalia (562) 424-8798, cmandalia@msn.com

Donate men's all weather jackets and warm shirts & sweaters, books, magazines, games, puzzles, coffee mugs, ping pong supplies, movie dvd's. Please mark container and place in narthex.

Fe y Esperanza Lutheran Church – 13431 Paramount Blvd., South Gate (562) 634-1484

Accepting donations of anything sellable at their rummage sales. Proceeds go directly toward their weekly meals served to the public.

LAMP – U.S.

In need of financial donations to help bring the word of God to people in remote areas of Alaska.

Habitat for Humanity

Accepting donations of building materials and other sellable items for their stores such as furniture, appliances, etc.

Any of the above MISSIONS can use financial support. If you can help, make a check out to Gloria Dei and mark your offering envelop with the name of the mission partner on it. THANK YOU!

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

~ 1 Corinthians 12:7

The International Seafarers Center of Long Beach-Los Angeles provides a temporary refuge and a helping hand to working mariners a long way from home. This non-profit facility is struggling to stay open as donations from shipping firms and other sources dry up. Come and meet our LMM (Lutheran Maritime Ministry) Chaplain, Chim Mandalia, and learn about the Seafarers Center and how it helps seafarers who come in to our port.

LUTHERAN MARITIME MINISTRY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, August 21, 2011

2-4 pm

International Seafarers Center

120 S. Pico Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802

Presentation, Guest Speaker and FREE tours

Please RSVP by August 14 to Chim Mandalia via

email: cmandalis@msn.com or by phone:

562.424.8798



GLORIA DEI VOLUNTEERS — GOD'S GRACIOUS SERVANTS

USHER TEAMS

We appreciate the recent efforts to update guidelines — special thanks to Jim Ferrero who coordinates our church ushers.

- Danny Bach
- Gary Bockman
- Martie Engle
- Nancy Ferrero
- Chris Gilissen
- David Kahakauwila
- Chuck Iverson
- Virginia Lane
- Craig McCarty
- Roger Powell
- Andy Sorenson
- Laura Subke
- Curt Whallon



ALTAR FLOWER TEAM

Nancy Sansum coordinates the Altar Flowers each Sunday — Thank you!

- Marion Beckman
- Edie Graber
- Ruth Ann Montague
- Stephanie Siemer

COUNTING TEAM

Peggy Huggard
Marilyn Bittle
Kalani Caldwell
Twyla Karkut
Barbara White

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Thanks to Diane Keil for coordinating Sunday morning coffee and goodies! Kitchen set up and breakdown is the result of many: Ruth Montague, Erika Eidam, Stephanie Siemer, Gary & Peggy Bockman, Peggy Huggard, Nancy Sansum, Laura Subke, Donna Malbon, Twyla Karkut, & Barbara White.

Gloria Dei Member Spotlight: **Mike Engle**
BLOCKED: Solo Exhibition August 30—October 29
Hair & Art 5346 E. 2nd Street, Belmont Shore
Reception for Artist: Saturday, Sept. 3 & Oct. 8 from 7-9pm



'LAYERS' Copper, Stainless Steel, Lead & Wood

Great Opportunity for the Laity!

A new round of classes will begin on **September 17, 2011**, to train lay persons to better serve their congregations and neighborhoods as members of the Body of Christ in Southern California. The training will be held at the Synod office in Glendale.

Equipping Leaders for Mission (ELM) Project began in September 2003 in our Synod and has 'graduated' over 200 lay members from over 85 of our 130 congregations. Our own **Nancy Kahakauwila** is a graduate of the program. I know she will be happy to share her very positive experiences with you.

For more information please see the brochure in the Fellowship Hall, or visit the website at www.socalsynod.org/elm. Or if you prefer a real, live person to speak with call Rev. Laurie Arroyo at (818) 507-9591 Ext. 102.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN AUGUST

Anniversaries

CHRIS AND AUDREY GILISSEN	8/1	58 YEARS
JERRY AND GWEN GROSS	8/7	30 YEARS
MIKE AND DONNA MALBON	8/8	30 YEARS
ERIC AND CHRISTY BERG	8/10	15 YEARS
DON AND MARION BECKMAN	8/19	61 YEARS
DAVID AND NANCY KAHAKAUWILA	8/21	34 YEARS
PASTOR AND SUE SCHAAR	8/21	40 YEARS
PHIL AND KAREN COMO	8/27	28 YEARS
DON AND MARGIE BROWN	8/30	52 YEARS

Birthdays

JUDY POWELL	8/5
JANET SIMS	8/5
JANEENE CONTER	8/10
KAY BERG	8/11
GWEN GROSS	8/11
EDIE GRABER	8/14
SANDY IRVINE	8/16
DANNY BACH	8/21
TOM DAHLGREN	8/21
PEGGY HUGGARD	8/31

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! — 1 John 3:1



NOTES & NEWS

Please remember in prayer the following people: **Our homebound:** Janie Davis, Audrey Gilissen, Bette Halpenny. **Healing and Strength:** Don Brown, Mel Curtis, Tom Dahlgren, Walt Eidam, Dianne Keil, Kean Keil, George Liesenberg, Dolores Lovoy, Judi Mellow, Michael Morton, Lou Phelps, & Katherine Stoner. **The Call Committee:** Marilyn Bittle, Margie Brown, Karen Como, Martie Engle, Vicki Gammer, Edie Graber, Roger Powell, Stephanie Siemer, & Barbara White.

Congratulations to **Cameron Chinn** who was named the Press-Telegram's **Dream Team Coach of the Year!** Correspondent Brian Baiotto wrote, "Chinn's program is as well known for its character as for playing fundamentally sound baseball." Thank you, Cameron, for living your Christian witness into the world. See the full newspaper article posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

This summer I took a trip to Omaha for the NCAA College Baseball World Series. The teams included in the double elimination tournament were Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Vanderbilt, California, Texas A&M and South Carolina. This year, the games were played at a brand new ballpark in downtown Omaha, TD Ameritrade Park which replaced the old venue Rosenblatt Field. The new field is beautiful and not too commercialized.

As the plane made the decent we saw how much the recent storms had flooded the area. Some houses were surrounded by water. We experienced a Midwest storm the first night. As we watched Florida play Vanderbilt, air horns rang out in the 6th inning—spectators began to leave but the game played on. Within a few minutes the players, coaches and umpires were rushed off the field. The announcer proclaimed that the game would be delayed due to a tornado warning! As we headed for the exit we could see the dark clouds steadily approaching. So after a few minutes of walking...we decided to run like everyone else...just like that we were drenched. We were able to hail a cab back to the hotel and discovered there was no electricity. It was quite a harrowing experience, especially for two guys from Southern California.

The next day we returned to the ballpark where they resumed the game from the previous day and played two more. We were able to see every team play once and watched some great baseball games. One of the other fun experiences about to the College World Series (this is my third time) is seeing different fans, traditions, fight songs and neat things that these colleges bring with them. The people of Omaha were great and outside of the minor inclement weather, we had a blast.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CAMERON CHINN



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