

Hark! The Herald . . .

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

Rev. Helen Liesenberg Pastor
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February
2011

THE PASTOR'S PEN...



Dear Friends:

As you read this, we are approaching the final week of our “Just Walk Across the Room” messages and small group discussions. But this is not an “end”. In fact, it’s just “the beginning”.

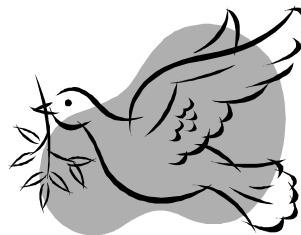
During these past weeks you have been encouraged to put to use what you have learned. Whatever gathering you find yourself in, stop and look around you. Who is standing alone? Say a brief prayer for guidance. Then walk across the room, introduce yourself, begin a conversation, get to know this person, develop a new friendship. As you begin to listen to their stories and discover who they are, arrange for future times to get together, perhaps over a cup of coffee or lunch. Listen and learn. Be patient. Be willing to hear about their history, their circumstances, their faith and beliefs. Then as time passes, pray for the Holy Spirit to help you discern the right time to share about how you came to faith in Jesus. Share how his presence in your life has made a significant difference during times of transition, a time of trial, suffering, or joy. Eventually, when the time is right, invite them to come with you to worship, to a discussion group, or a specific function at Gloria Dei. I know that as you are faithful and constant in your befriending of people, your listening, your eventual sharing, that Jesus Christ will be walking with you, and the Holy Spirit guide you...often providing the words, the encouragement, and the direction that you need.

While you are carrying out your baptismal mission, your leaders will be brainstorming how we can assist you by providing occasions, when you may feel comfortable introducing your new unchurched to this loving, grace-filled community of God’s children here at Gloria Dei.

I hope and pray that during this Epiphany Season you have experienced “the Light of the world”, Jesus Christ, filling your heart and mind and spirit with inspiration to go and do his will. He will provide all you need to accomplish the task.

Your partner in Christ,

Pastor Helen Liesenberg



CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Call Committee Congregational Workshop February 13th following worship services		1 JWAR Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM	2 Chancel Choir 7:15 P M	3	4 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:30 PM	5
6 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service/ Communion 10:45 AM O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	7 Garden Club 1:00 PM Council Mtg. 7:00 PM	8 JWAR Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM	9 Chancel Choir 7:15 PM	10	11 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:30 PM	12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>
13 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Healing Service Congregational Workshop O.A Mtg. 7:00 PM	14  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	16 Chancel Choir 7:15 PM	17 Lutheran Church Women 10:30 AM	18 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:30 PM	19
20 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service/ Communion 10:45 AM O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	21  <i>Presidents' Day</i>	22 <i>Washington's Birthday</i> Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	23 Chancel Choir 7:15 PM	24	25 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:30 PM	26
27 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM All Nations Day (Acts 17:26) O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	28 Call Committee Meeting 7:00 PM	<p><u>Looking Ahead:</u></p> <p><i>Ash Wednesday: March 9th.</i></p> <p><i>Sundays in Lent: March 13, 20, 27, April 3.</i></p> <p><i>Palm Sunday: April 17, Easter Sunday: April 24</i></p>				

January 2010

Council Activity

Old Business

Update of Usher procedures to address volunteer babysitters has been delayed.

2011 Budget

Council approval of Finance Committee recommendations:

- Remaining \$6,911 in 2010 General Fund will be added to the Property Reserve account
- Direct parsonage net rental money to the Property Reserve account
- Reduce Crossways to zero and Other Mission Support account to \$300. Add \$1,815 to Property Reserve Account
- Add \$142 to Other Mission Support account to purchase Chinese language Bibles for Maritime Ministry
- The council approved the 2011 Preliminary Budget for presentation to the congregation for approval

New Business

Council member, Tom Dahlgren has resigned.

The council approved expenses for Pastor Helen to attend the Bishop's Colloquy being held at the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach from January 23 - 25.

Pastor Report

"Just Walk Across the Room" began on January 16th.

Bishop Mark Nelson will preach at the worship service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Beach on January 24th.

Pastor Helen continues to contact new attendees at church. A new members class will be given in late March or early April.

Congregational Meeting January 23, 2011

Forty two members attended the meeting. President Bob Siemer opened the meeting with a call for approval of previous meeting minutes and committee annual reports. There were no questions and all reports were approved.

Pastor Helen greeted everyone and commented on her pleasure in being with Gloria Dei. She thanked Sandy, Richard, and all who have been so much help to her. She said she is looking forward to 2011.

Sharon Como, co-chair of the Call Committee, related where we are in the call process (see page 5). She explained that a Congregational Workshop is scheduled for February 13th to gather members opinions and input. Part 1 of the workshop was distributed to mem-

bers and a letter will follow.

Jim Ferrero reviewed the 2010 budget noting that we would have not met our 2010 spending plan by some \$9,700 if not using parsonage rental money and money from a reduced pastoral salary for the year.

The 2011 budget is a preliminary budget based on a number of variables that will not be known until completion of our pastoral call. The preliminary budget is balanced based on parsonage rental income, nine months of reduced pastoral salary, and Call Committee expenses not to exceed \$8,000.

The Preliminary Budget was approved.

A lasagna, fresh salad, and dessert luncheon followed the meeting.



Special Events in February

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE FEBRUARY EVENTS

February 14: Celebrate “Valentine’s Day” by phoning, visiting, or sending a card to one of our shut-in members.

February 21: “President’s Day”: Say a special prayer for world peace. God Bless America! God Bless All Nations . . . and grant us peace.

February 1, 8, 15, 22: Adult Bible Study at 7:00 PM on the 1st & 8th - at 10:00AM and 7:00 PM on the 15th & 22nd.



Book of Blessings

This past Fall Pastor Helen invited everyone to think about “How I have been blessed by Gloria Dei” and then to put those thoughts into a letter to be incorporated into a “Book of Blessings”. Each month we will share one of those letters with you. (If you have not written one as yet, and would like to do so, there is still time. Please give it to Pastor Helen or Sandy.)



DON MELIN

“God has blessed me by teaching me that Gloria Dei is made up of people of faith who are ready, willing and able to love and help people in their time of need. Each one of us can carry the title Christian because in 1 Corinthians 6:19 we read, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?” So it is that the people connected to Gloria Dei are a constant reminder of the truths found in the Book of Faith.

Here are a few reminders that come to mind as I write:

1. Arriving before the service starts each Sunday; I look at the cross behind the altar and am reminded of the suffering and pain Jesus endured so that I might live with him in heaven. I look at the foot of the cross and I can visualize all the sins that I have committed knowing that they have all been forgiven. I look at the cross and see that it is empty because Jesus has conquered death and lives in heaven where one day I will also live with him.

2. I am reminded of the many people Jesus put into my life to inspire me to follow his teachings. I find it amazing how the Lord brings people together at the right time, and at the right place, and friendships are formed. Sometimes I don’t recognize them as messengers of God...and what could have been a meaningful relationship ends, not having fulfilled God’s purpose. I am reminded on how easily friendships are broken.

Cont’d next column

3. As I sit in the sanctuary I am reminded that I have so much to thank God for I realize I can’t begin to list them all. So, instead, I group them together and continue to give thanks in my every prayer. (I was going to try to keep this to one page, but then I was reminded that I hadn’t mentioned prayer. I thought “How can I write this and not include prayer, the most important connection I have with my Savior?”)

4. Prayer, it’s the only way that we can truly be connected with the one who is able to forgive our sins, and guide us through the world of temptations. God does answer prayers; not always to our liking, but always according to what is best for us. We can ask in His name. And, if it’s according to His purposes, he will make it available to us. He tells us that all things are possible to those who love the Lord.

5. Then we have grace, which Jesus gives us in abundance. He tells us in Romans that hope is given to us through grace, and that His grace is sufficient for me in every situation I have to go through.

6. He has called me to be one of His servants. Yes, He has even called me by my name: *Don Melin*.

Call Progress Moving Forward

The Mission Exploration Team (MET) has been selected. The members are Danny Bach, Gary Bockman, Peggy Bockman, Phil Como, Peggy Huggard, Twyla Karkut and Candy Wood. The MET, through study and reflection on the congregation's community, identifies new mission opportunities for the congregation. The MET meets with an Assistant to the Bishop to review community data and explore mission alternatives. The MET presents its findings to the council and congregation for endorsement and shares them with the Call Committee.

The MET's findings will guide not only the Call Committee but also influence candidates for call.

The Call Committee (CallC) was selected on October 17, 2010. The members are Marilyn Bittle, Karen Como, Margie Brown, Martie Engle, Vickie Gammer, Edie Graber, Roger Powell, Stephanie Siemer and Barbara White. The Co-chairs are Karen Como and Martie Engle.

The CallC prepares the Congregational Profile which is provided to candidates, interviews candidates, and recommends a candidate to the Council and congrega-

tion. The committee meets two to three times to prepare the Congregational Profile and will meet an indeterminate number of times depending on the duration of the process and the number of candidates reviewed. Committee membership may require some local travel to interview candidates.

MET COMMITTEE PROGRESS

The Mission Exploratory Team (MET) first met on September 30, 2010. The meeting was attended by the committee members and Rev. George Tan from SW Synod (replaced by Rev. Maria Paira). Phil Como was asked to chair the committee and agreed to accept the position.

Since the meeting on September 20, the committee met twice in October, once in December and again in January.

At the January meeting a draft of the committee's report was presented to members and approved. The MET report was forwarded to the council for review at the February 7th council meeting.

When approved by both the council and the congregation it will be shared with the Call Committee and become a part of the Congregational Profile which is

shared with candidates.

CALL COMMITTEE PROGRESS

The CallC has had two meetings in preparation for receiving the MET report. The first meeting was with Synod representative, Agnes McClain. Pastor Helen and President Siemer attended this meeting. Karen Como and Martie Engle agreed to co-chair the committee.

The second meeting was on January 17th. The committee reviewed the Congregational Mission Profile previously submitted to Synod and discussed the strategy for conducting the Ministry Site Workshop concerning our current status and congregational goals for our future.

Part 1 of the workshop was distributed at the Jan. 23 Congregational Meeting to be followed by a letter to each member requesting opinions and input prior to the proposed Congregational Workshop on February 13th following worship services.

Input from each member is very important as we prepare our Congregational Mission Profile for Synod.

The next Call Committee meeting is scheduled for February 28th.



Farewell and Godspeed

Please join the Synod staff in wishing farewell and God speed to Dr. George Tan, Director For Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop. Dr. Tan resigned effective December 31, 2010 and wrote, "God has moved my spirit to begin a new journey beyond the ministries of the Southwest

California Synod. I have always wanted to start a new church and recently Chinese Life Lutheran Church, my former home church, has offered me an opportunity to use their facilities in Alhambra, CA to birth a new start ministry. I am totally excited about this new calling from the Lord."

Bishop Nelson accepted the resignation with thanks for Pastor Tan's ministry to synod congregations.

**Submit items for Gloria Dei's Newsletter.
Please submit items
by the 3rd Sunday of
the month.**

**Email preferred.
Please send items to:
CurtWhall@AOL.com**



Getting to Know You

Don and Marion Beckman



Don's Story

I was born in Stromsburg, Nebraska a town of 1500 people known as the Swedish Capital of Nebraska. My nickname was "Swede". The 1930s depression sent us to California where I enrolled as a sophomore in San Bernardino High School wearing a tie and carrying my French Horn. Soon we moved to El Monte where I graduated from El Monte High School.

After one semester at Pasadena City College I was drafted into the army and sent to the China, India, Burma theater with an ordnance company. We were there three years. In 1946 I was discharged at Fort McArthur.

My sister's family had just moved to Lakewood and knew Long Beach City College was close by. My brother-in-law, who was a dentist, convinced me that Dentistry could be a good major. In the fall of 1946 I enrolled.



Marion's Story

I was born in Long Beach and went to Grant, Lindberg and then to Jordan High School. World War II was very much a part of my High School years. We had black-outs, air-raids, gas and food rationing, barrage balloons over the harbor, and I spent many hours in an observation tower at the Y.M.C.A. identifying airplanes. I still have a small pair of wings as a memento of those years. I was in Jordan H.S. the first year we beat Long Beach Poly high. A really big deal! I graduated in June 1946 and enrolled in Long Beach City College thinking I was going to dream up scientific foods for Betty Crocker to package.

Our Story (As told by Marion)

It pretty much all started in a chemistry class when Don walked into our lab and asked me, "Since I wasn't using my Bunsen Burner, could he?" On our first date he won my mother over by greeting her with "Hur mar du?", which in Swedish is "How are you?" We dated and worked together for the next two years. Getting into Dental School at the time was very competitive and we were excited when Don received his acceptance to the USC School of Dentistry. By now I had decided that a much more practical major for me would be elementary education and so when Don left for USC I headed to UC Santa Barbara. We commuted for the next two years, but never missed an S.C. football game.

In 1950 I graduated, had a job teaching in Compton, and we were married. Kristin was born the first day of finals in Don's Junior year. He graduated in 1952 and started a practice with his brother-in-law in Bellflower where he practiced for the next 40 years.

We had lived in Naples and when the opportunity to buy our lot came up we jumped at it. Two years later we moved into the home which we have lived in for the last 55 years. By then we had a three year old son, Tom, and we were expecting another, John. I took our two children to Sunday School on Sundays and then picked them up afterward. Pastor Foreid would come out and talk to me in the parking lot and soon had me convinced that Gloria Dei was more than just a Sunday School. We became members. John was baptized here, all three were confirmed here, Kristin was married here, and we've had more memorial services than I want to recall. Gloria Dei continues to be a very important part of our lives.

Because I was a stay at home Mom and we lived very close to Naples School our house became a meeting place for many of our children's friends who, to this day, continue to enrich our lives.

Travel has been and still is an important part of our lives. Earlier we did many bare boating and golfing vacations. Now we spend time visiting Napa, Portland and Virginia where our children live; and if we are not in our pew this February, we will be in Israel

Special Occasions

Anniversaries in February

David and Sarah Fuller	2/1	25 yrs.
Dolores and Peter Lovoy	2/14	14 yrs.
Andy and Mary Sorenson	2/23	65 yrs.
Curt and Ruth Whallon	2/28	58 yrs.

Birthdays in February

Bob Siemer	2/2	Frank Remski	2/21
David Thomas Fuller	2/5	Sarah Fuller	2/25
Roger Powell	2/18	David Berg	2/26



Among Ourselves

Gloria Dei is concerned about each one of its members and their family members as well. Please notify Sandy in the church office if we can be of assistance or service to you or your family members.

Please pray for healing the following people:

Linda Wolf, sister-in-law of Beverly Pandora, under going leg amputation; Ferdi Kuss, Barbara White's brother, receiving medical care for a blood clot in his good eye; Dolores Lovoy waiting authorization for further research; Keane Keil who continues to suffer from a myriad of ailments perhaps due to his previous high doses of antibiotics; Dianne Keil for endurance and strength. All those suffering from flu and the pain of arthritis due to changes in our weather.

We give thanks for answered prayers for: Ginnie Johnson who has recovered from pneumonia; Joanne Como, Phil's Mom, home from a hospital stay for lung issues; Margaret Clarke who found new residence at Villa Redondo. We pray God will be with her in this transition.

We ask prayers of comfort for John Irvine and his family on the death of his uncle; and pray for a smooth transition as he helps his Mom transition to a new assisted living facility.

In Memoriam The Rev. Paul Egerston 1935 - 2011



The Rev. Dr. Paul W. Egerston entered the church triumphant on January 5, 2010 at the age of 75. Dr. Egerston was Bishop Emeritus of the Southwest California Synod, ELCA.

The full text of his Memoriam is posted in the Fellowship Hall.



Touch Lives Warm Hearts Your Way

Help Lutheran organizations that are near and dear to you — even Gloria Dei.

Eligible benefit members of Thrivent for Lutherans can help choose where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funds through Choice Dollars, part of the new Thrivent Choice charitable grant program.

Here's how Choice Dollar's works:

- Eligible benefit members receive a letter about their designated Choice Dollar's for 2010
- Choice Dollars are based on qualifying insurance premiums, qualifying contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership
- Choice Dollars can be directed to thousands of Lutheran organizations by visiting: Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling (800) 847- 4836 and saying, "Thrivent Choice."

Potential amounts range from \$25 to \$500 for each eligible member.

Help support what matters most to you by directing Choice Dollars

Learn more: Contact your local Thrivent representative, Robert Burns or Jay Huckabone at (714) 525-4360

On the 2nd Sunday of most months a brief "Service of Healing" is held in the church following regular morning worship. The next Healing Service will be held on February 13th.

*Gloria Dei Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

**5872 Naples Plaza
Long Beach, CA 90803**



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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 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!