

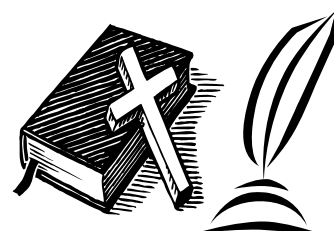
Hark! The Herald . . .

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

Rev. Gerald D. Schaar, Pastor
Website: www.gloriadeilongbeach.com
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June
2011

THE PASTOR'S PEN . . .



Catch the Fire

At the Feast of the Pentecost, just 50 days after the crucifixion in a crowd of 5,000 pilgrims from all over the Jewish diaspora, the disciples excitedly awaited word from God to keep His promise. They were not disappointed. The Holy Spirit came with immense power like a rushing wind and tongues of fire appeared over the disciples' heads. The Spirit filled them and moved them to witness and do great works in Christ's name. That first thrilling Pentecost was really the birth of the first Christian Church. In Book of Acts we watch the church grow, develop, perform great deeds, it also struggles with disputes, and experiments with "Communal Christianity." What role does the Holy Spirit play in our church and lives today?

I can think of no better words to express the joy in my heart at this moment. Every day here at Gloria Dei the Holy Spirit moves among God's people and touches lives. Through our *Shepherd's* program helping hearts and hands reach out to those who may be ill, with words of encouragement and support. This wonderful networking allows brothers and sisters in Christ to be intimately connected and to serve one another in Christ's name.

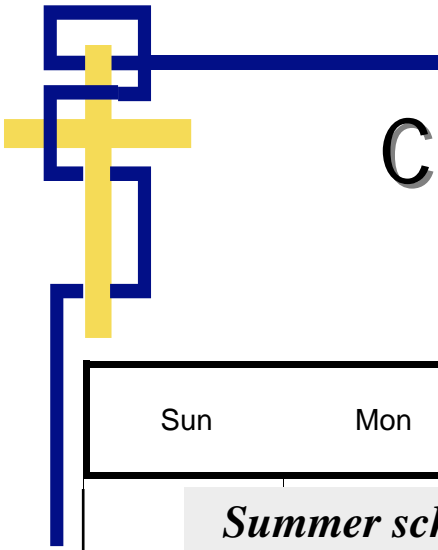
New faces at worship, and returning visitors, help me see the Holy Spirit moving among us. The great work our new *Evangelism Team* is doing, coupled with each member's outreach efforts is making a difference. I encourage you, keep engaging in conversations with our visitors, make new friends, listen to their stories and invite them to experience the love of Christ in this place among the family of God.

Observe with your own eyes the many who have taken the initiative to provide exciting fellowship experiences for all, those who faithfully teach, who lead worship, and those who have stepped up to take leadership roles on our Church Council. Their installation will be on Sunday, June 5th.

Experience the presence of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of our fantastic choir and musicians on Sunday, June 19th -- *Holy Trinity Festival of Music Sunday*. Together let us "Praise God! Praise God in his mercy."

May the Holy Spirit fill you!

Pastor Helen Liesenberg

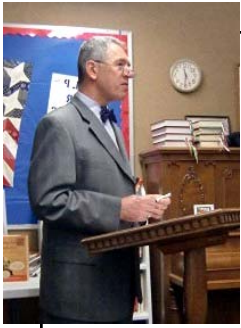


CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Summer schedule starts on June 19th</i></p> <p>Worship at 10:00 AM</p>			1 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2	3 S.W. Cal. Synod Assembly June 3-5 (Burbank, CA) A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:00 PM	4
5 Children's Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service/ Communion 10:45 AM O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	6 Church Council 7:00 PM	7	8 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9	10 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:00 PM	11
12 The Will of God: How Does it Impact Our Lives 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Prayer of Intercession O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	13	14	15 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 Lutheran Church Women 12:00 - lunch @ Mimi's	17 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:00 PM	18 ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER 5:30 pm
19 The Will of God: How Does it Impact Our Lives 9:15 AM Worship Service/ Communion 10:00 AM (Summer Schedule) O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	20 Holy Trinity Festival of Music Sunday	21	22	23	24 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:00 PM	25
26 Worship Service 10:00 AM O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	27	28	29	30		



Congregational Meeting May 15, 2011



The purpose of the meeting was to elect new Council members.

President Bob Siemer opened the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Forty members attended the meeting. Minutes of the January 23rd meeting were not available and will be approved at the next congregational meeting.

Karen Como, Call Committee Chair, brought the congregation up to date on where we are in the Call process. (See page 5.)

Jim Ferrero, Finance Committee Chair, advised that our finances are in good shape and asked for questions from the floor. There were no questions.

Bob told the congregation that the Synod Assembly will take place on May 21st and he and Marilyn Bittle will attend. There are seven resolutions that will be considered by the assembly. The resolutions and tentative position on those resolutions are printed below.

The next order of business was to elect council members.

Presently serving on the Council : Erika Eidam, Walt Eidam, Peggy Huggard, Nancy Kahakauwila, Craig McCarty, Robert Siemer, Stephanie Siemer, Candy Wood and Pastor Liesenberg.

There were five nominees: Candy Wood, Danny Bach, Jerry Gross, Marilyn Bittle and Peggy Huggard.

Bob asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations were made.

All nominees were elected by acclamation.

Bob addressed the issue of Wedding Guidelines for weddings at Gloria Dei. (See article on page 5.)

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Everyone enjoyed a Fellowship luncheon following the meeting.

Synod Assembly Resolutions as Approved

Resolution 11-01: Resolution on Banking: Encourages congregations and members to invest in a Lutheran Financial institution, a local community bank or a credit union. - **Yes**

Resolution 11-02: California Budget: Considering the impact of the CA budget upon the poor, urges clergy and members to consider advocating for revenue options to offset cuts to poverty programs and working with the Lutheran Office for Public Policy-CA as well as certain other faith communities to maintain public governance systems that serve the common good. - **Yes**

Resolution 11-03: Encourage greater involvement in the Mission and Ministry of the Southwest California Synod: Add each eligible, nominated candidate for Synod office to the ballot. - **Yes**

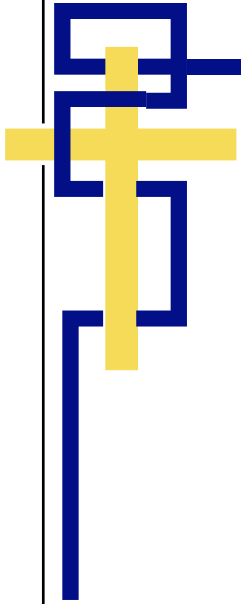
Resolution 11-04: Increase communication throughout the Synod between Synod Assemblies: Synod Council actions upon resolutions referred by the Synod Assembly be timely communicated to the resolution sponsors and published on the Synod website. - **Yes**

Resolution 11-05: Broaden the Base of Volunteers Serving the Mission and Ministry of the Southwest California Synod: All open positions on boards, committees, teams, tables and Synod Council are to be identified in writing at the Fall Conference Assemblies and subsequently via the Synod newsletter and other available means. - **Yes**

Resolution 11-06: To Close the School of the Americas: now renamed Western Hemisphere Institute

for Security Cooperation (SOA/WHINSEC). The Synod is to express to President Obama to close the School of the Americas and support legislation to close the School, investigate the use of torture manuals associated with the school. - **Yes**

Resolution 11-07: Resolution in Support Of the Disclose Act and Any Legislation Supporting Voluntary Public Campaign Finance Reforms: The Synod advocate support for the Disclose Act which is to cause CEO and other wealthy leaders to take responsibility for their political ads and inhibit a corporation's ability to sponsor a candidate.- **Yes**



Special Events In June

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE SPECIAL JUNE EVENTS:

June 5 at 9:15 a.m.

Presentation by Milia Isam-Majeed, Executive Director of the South Coast Interfaith Council (SCIC). Learn how the South Coast Interfaith Council came into being, its vision and its work.

June 18

Annual Congregational Progressive Dinner. Begins at 5:30 PM. See church bulletins for updates and details or call Stephanie Siemer.

June 19

“Holy Trinity Festival of Music Sunday” at Gloria Dei. Summer worship schedule begins with a 10:00 AM service time. (It is also “Fathers Day”!) The service will be led by our Chancel Choir under the direction of Richard Hoover.

Peace starts with a smile

Adult Education in June

Milia Islam-Majeed, Executive Director
Sunday June 5th at 9:15 a.m.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how the **South Coast Interfaith Council** came into being, its vision and its work. Hopefully, Milia will share a bit about her background and her journey to becoming the Executive Director of SCIC. Milia has received national recognition for her outstanding work in this area.

Rev. Sandy Olewine, President of SCIC, recently wrote: “We know that we as a human family are bound together; we know that we are but a part of the whole and that our actions impact the rest of creation. We see in each other sisters and brothers, not strangers and enemies. We see in each other the beauty of creation in all its glorious diversity.

While we know these truths deeply, there are many in our community and world who are not yet convinced. Therefore, the journey towards mutual understanding, respect, appreciation and cooperation among people of faith is one which still requires our energy, commitment and passion.”

Sundays, June 12 and 19 at 9:15 a.m.
Pastor Helen Liesenberg

The Will of God: How Does it Impact Our Lives?

After completing the series *Making Sense of the Christian Faith*, I feel there were some questions raised which have not yet been fully answered. In an attempt to do so, we will be discussing God's “Intentional Will”, “God's Circumstantial Will”, “God's Ultimate Will”, “Discerning The Will of God”, and what it means when we say, “In God's will our peace.” The basis for the discussion is from a book written by Leslie D. Weatherhead entitled, “*The Will of God*”. This may also give us some new perspectives on “Evil”. Do come and join in the conversation.

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

Email preferred. Please send items to: Pbockman@Fullerton.edu



Equipping Leaders in Ministry Congratulations, Nancy



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Nancy Kahakauwila who, along with about 20 other congregational leaders in our area, graduated from the ELM (Equipping Leaders for Mission) program at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 15th at 3:00 p.m.

Equipping Leaders in Ministry is a two-year process of spiritual formation through theological and practical education. The first year covers The Law (Torah/ Pentateuch), The Prophets and Writings, The Gospels and Acts, and The Epistles and Revelation. The second year requires specialization into one of five areas: Mission, Discipleship, Evangelism, Catechism or Diaconate.

ELM provides training, spiritual growth and networking for members of Lutheran congregations to better serve in their ministry contexts.

Bishop Nelson preached at this Rite of Completion.

Weddings at Gloria Dei

Recently an inquiry was received from a member about the possibility of a friend having a wedding at Gloria Dei. The request was brought to the attention of the church Council.

The Council's concern is to avoid becoming a wedding chapel. The current concept is to: require that the Pastor of Gloria Dei preside at all weddings, require that the couple to be married complete six weeks of pre-marital counseling with the Pastor of Gloria Dei, require the Church organist to play, provide cost concessions for members of Gloria Dei.

Wedding arrangements would be required to be coordinated with the Church wedding coordinator. Marilyn Bittle has volunteered to be wedding coordinator.

Pastor Liesenberg will provide guidelines for wedding and funeral services for non-member requests.

A Special Day for Lanae

Lanae Caldwell completes elementary school in June and moves on to middle school this coming year. Good job Lanae, we are proud of you.

ELCA Women Military Care Packages

Gloria Dei's ELC Women's Military Care Package project has been very successful. Since March of this year, we have received over \$275.00 in book donations that we used to purchase food and hygiene supplies for our military units in Afghanistan.

In April we mailed 40 lbs of food supplies to the Marine collection center in Columbia, MO. A thank you letter from the Marine Parents Organization is posted on the bulletin board behind the book table. During our May meeting the women will be packing three large "flat rate" boxes of food and hygiene supplies directly to an eighty man Marine unit stationed in Afghanistan.

We have heard from the commanders of the units to which our donations go that while the men appreciate the food and hygiene supplies we send to them, they are even more grateful for the personal letters, cards, and notes that come to them. The letters, notes and cards relieve the sense of loneliness caused by their separation from family, home, and loved ones.

We thank all of you who have supported this effort on behalf of our U. S. Military. We plan to continue this effort as long as book and other donations continue. We ask all of you to please write a letter, note or card to one of our service men in Afghanistan. This month our donation will go to a Marine unit. You can address your letter, note or card to: Dear Marine.

Easter Cross Crew



Thank you Erika, Frank, Barbara, Ruth, Chris and Curt for decorating and hanging the cross.
Thank you Marilyn for placing flowers in the sanctuary.
Thank you Don and Marion for receiving the lilies.

ReNEW: A GREEN VBS - AUGUST 15 - 19

This year's theme is all about caring for God's creation, focusing on Jesus' Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-9). We all need to be responsible and do our part. What better way than to teach God's children about recycling – by disposing waste in the proper manner and reusing what we already have on hand. Where do you come in? We need you to look around your home and see what you can give away to VBS or let us borrow. Here are some examples of things that we can use:

Kid-size pants, t-shirts
Solid green t-shirts
Pillows (bed, décor.)
Brick-like paper or cardboard
Paint (colors), brushes
Wheels, springs, fan blades

Curtain Coat rack Boxes (med/tall)
Rake Globes Cinder blocks
Carpet squares, small rugs, World maps, people
Artificial fruits/veg., artificial birds, pumpkin seeds,
Uniforms (fireman's hat/coat, police
Potted plants, trees – live/artificial (sm/lg)

How else can you help out with VBS this year? Your talents! We need everyone's help with the decorating of our activity sites. We need to build five sites as shown:



Registration Space



Gather Space



Self Activity Site



Community Site



World Site

If you can sit, you can help! Paint, glue and other small work at the table. We need you! There will be two "work parties" -- a fun and exciting event held the two Saturdays before VBS begins: **Saturday, August 6** and **August 13**. More about this later, but **SAVE THE DATE!** Thank you.

Let us be co-creators in the renewing of the earth.

VBS - Let's Go!

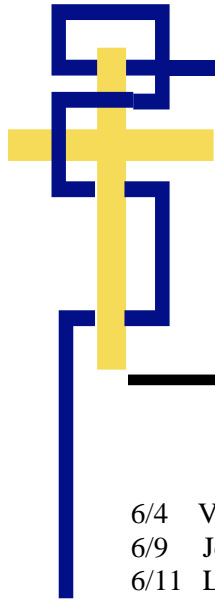
Sandy Irvine, VBS Director

Call Committee Update

Our Church Ministry Profile was submitted to the national synod the beginning of April. The national synod office sends candidates for consideration to our local synod where Bishop Dean Nelson and Agnes McClain review the profiles of the candidates. Agnes McClain forwards the appropriate candidate profiles to our Call Committee for our consideration. The week after Easter we received two (2) candidate profiles for consideration and we are expecting to receive additional candidates after Bishop Nelson and Agnes McClain meet this week. Our Call Committee members have received the two (2) candidate profiles and we will be meeting this Sunday to discuss any potential next steps. We prayerfully consider each potential candidate before moving forward to hear them preach and/or meet directly with them. It is too early in the process to determine the outcome and/or any next steps for the candidates we have received.

Our Call Committee also received two (2) referrals from our members of pastors they would like to be considered. Those names were sent to Agnes McClain and she contacted each of these referrals. Neither of the referred pastors was interested in leaving their current parish. We appreciate receiving these referrals and Agnes promptly reaches out to determine if there is potential interest in placing their name as a potential candidate. If any of our members have names of pastors they would like to be considered to serve at Gloria Dei, please let one of our Call Committee members know and we will ask Agnes to contact them.

We are certain the Lord has selected the very one to serve as our leader. Sometimes it is difficult to remember that we are not on our timeline but His. Please continue to pray for our Call Committee members and for each other as we "patiently" and prayerfully search for the Lord's answer.



Special Occasions

Anniversaries in June

- 6/4 Victoria and Steve Gammer 7 years
- 6/9 Jean and John Betz 60 years
- 6/11 Laura and Stuart Subke 9 years
- 6/17 Giselle and Richard Berg 51 years

Birthdays in June

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 6/1 John Satariano | 6/18 Chuck Iverson |
| 6/9 Ruth Whallon | 6/18 Tyler Phelps |
| 6/11 Don Johnson | 6/22 Candy Wood |
| 6/12 Richard Berg | 6/23 Dolores Lovoy |
| 6/14 Erika Eidam | 6/24 Curt Whallon |



Among Ourselves

Please notify the church office or Pastor Schaar whenever you or a family member enter the hospital, are scheduled for surgery, would like to be remembered in prayer, or wish to have a pastoral visit for any reason. In brief, prayers have been requested on behalf of:

Mel Curtis is recovering from broken ribs and wrenched shoulder; Tom Dahlgren is under going treatment for a sleep disorder and other medical problems; Walt Eidam continues in-home treatment for blood infection; Dolores Lovoy continues to strive for strength and mobility; Judi Mellow is at home recuperating from back surgery. We celebrate with Don Johnson on his successful move to Walnut Village, Unit 383, 891 S. Walnut St., Anaheim, CA 92802.

Please remember these people in your prayers. Notes and cards are greatly appreciated.

We celebrate with Laura and Stuart Subke the birth of their newest grandchild, Julia Gwen, who arrived at 7 lbs. 12 oz. The joyful parents are Valerie and Jason Lawson, and big brother, Jessie.



Book of Blessings

Erika Eidam

How have I been blessed by Gloria Dei? Where to begin?

There are many things I like, especially the choir, which has been dear to me as long as I can remember. When we joined the church in 1995, it was with anticipation of a new beginning as this was a big move to Long Beach from Columbus, OH.

I remember when Walt came home and told me about the church. He liked the mailboxes, the coziness of the church and the idea of knowing and being able to interact with everyone.

I remember church Easter weeks. The decoration of the cross with Calla Lilies, the Maundy Thursday meal in the Upper Room. Also, the decorated Christmas trees, and the feeling of caring for one another. I love the Sunday morning relationship with God in our service week after week, and the anthems we sing that have such great meaning.

Fellowship events which bring us all together are a blessing to me: The Progressive Dinners, the fellowship at the picnics with the annual balloon toss and providing entertainment for the Hawaiian Picnic where a few of us performed the Hula with the assistance of Sandy Irvine.

My life is enhanced by WELCA, the Women of the ELCA group. I am blessed as I serve through the many outreach programs we do. I remember when I delivered 35 hygiene kits to Lutheran Social Services and the comments from LSS personnel saying, "We were almost out of kits and wondering where we could get a supply, and here you are . . . we were completely out of them. Thank you so much." Delivering blankets that the women had just finished to the Long Beach Homeless Center gave me joy knowing that we were all doing our part, and providing for the needs of the less fortunate.

I'll always remember Don Melin taking the whole congregation to dinner at the Hawaiian Restaurant in Sunset Beach. Through Gloria Dei we have been blessed by so many wonderful and caring people.

On the 2nd Sunday of most months a brief Prayer of Intercession is held in the church following regular morning worship. The next Prayer of Intercession will be held on June 12th. These services include prayers, scripture and time for sharing concerns and encouragement. If you have specific people or situations for which you would like us to pray, you may place your requests in the box on the stand at the church entrance.

Gloria Dei Evangelical

Lutheran Church

5872 Naples Plaza
Long Beach, CA 90803



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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!