

Hark! The Herald . . .

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

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NOVEMBER 2011

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY



Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward--to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back."
- *Philippians 3:13 (The Message)*

"We are confronted with insurmountable opportunities." - Pogo (Walt Kelly)

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. Meri and I are both deeply moved by the welcome we have received here at Gloria Dei. You have already made us feel truly at home in this family of faith and that has made our return to Long Beach a true homecoming in every sense of the word.

We do have a lot to do. We have some big tasks ahead of us and fulfilling our goals will mean that we will be walking down some new paths and trying some new things. That's not always easy, but as Pastor Helen noted in her parting article, you are a "teachable people." From what I've seen, you are not only teachable, you are also excellent teachers. This is just one of the reasons why I feel confident that this congregation is on the threshold of a new beginning. There is such a wonderful energy here; the Spirit of God is clearly moving, and it looks to me like we are raising our sails to catch this new wind and ride it where Christ will take us.

We have a lot to do, but much is already under way. We need to form a Strategic Planning Team but I'm already hearing the excitement of new ideas. People are already brainstorming and there is a current of creativity already flowing here. So as we form our strategies, let's be sure that we keep enough freedom and flexibility in plans so that we can move quickly and easily when inspiration strikes.

My first goal is to get to know all of you. We are setting up a series of home meetings (thank you Stephanie Siemer) so that I can meet you all in small groups which will enable us to get to know each other. If you have not yet signed up for one of these meetings, please do so. I want to know your story. I want to know what you're passionate about. I want to know what you cherish about this church. I want to know your fondest hopes and wildest dreams for this congregation. I want to hear your fears, worries and cautions. I want to know how you are hearing the Spirit's calling. I want to know what part of the bigger picture you are seeing most clearly.

With grace, peace and gratitude in Christ,

Pastor Steve






NOVEMBER CALENDAR

GLORIA DEI
WEBSITE:

www.gloriadeilongbeach.com



— SEND TO PBOCKMAN@FULLERTON.EDU —

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Learn how <u>YOU</u> can HELP...</p> <p>Contact Lutheran Social Services website: www.lsssc.org</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Mark Your Calendar: Tuesdays, Bible Study at 10 AM and 7 PM</p> 	2	3	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 6 PM 	<p>5</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Change</p> 
<p>6 Adult & Children's Sunday School at 9:15 AM All Saints Day Communion Worship @ 10:45 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Veteran's Day Service • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pm Garden Club • 7pm Council Meeting 	<p>8</p> <p>Mark Your Calendar: Tuesdays, Bible Study at 10 AM and 7 PM</p> 	9	10	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 6 PM 	12
<p>13</p> <p>Adult & Children's Sunday School at 9:15 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship @ 10:45 AM • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM 	14	<p>15</p> <p>Mark Your Calendar: Tuesdays, Bible Study at 10 AM and 7 PM</p> 	16	17	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 6 PM 	<p>19</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>
<p>20 Adult & Children's Sunday School at 9:15 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanksgiving Sunday Worship @ 10:45 Holy Communion by Intinction • E-Committee meeting after service • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM 	21	<p>22</p> <p>Mark Your Calendar: Tuesdays, Bible Study at 10 AM and 7 PM</p> 	23	<p>24</p> <p>THANKSGIVING</p> 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.A. Mtg. 1 PM • D.A. Mtg. 6 PM 	26
<p>27</p> <p>1st Sunday of Advent Sunday School at 9:15 AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship @ 10:45 AM • O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM 	28	<p>29</p> <p>Mark Your Calendar: Tuesdays, Bible Study at 10 AM and 7 PM</p> 	30	<p>LSS needs for Low - income Seniors: Slippers, Gloves, Sweaters, Canned food-low-sodium, low-fat, Unsweetened; Diabetic food & drink supplies</p>	<p>LSS needs for Emergency Assistance: Soups, pasta, beans, Cereals Can openers Baby food jars: Fruit, meat, veges</p>	<p>LSS URGENT needs: Grocery Bags—reusable and/or plastic (new or used)</p>

MANY GIFTS. ONE SPIRIT.

Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to Lutheran African Peace Activist



Leymah Gbowee

Leymah Roberta Gbowee, a Lutheran Liberian peace activist, has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The announcement came Oct. 7 from Oslo, Norway. Gbowee, a member of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, is responsible for organizing a non-violent women's movement that brought an end to a 14-year civil war in Liberia.

Gbowee was awarded a scholarship from the International Leadership Development Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 2006-2007 to support her study in peace building at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va.

The ELCA and the Lutheran Church in Liberia are members of The Lutheran World Federation -- a global communion of 140 member churches in 79 countries, representing more than 70 million Christians worldwide.

The Liberian women's movement led to the ousting of ex-President Charles Taylor and to the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as president of Liberia -- the first African nation with a female president. President Sirleaf also has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The war in Liberia began in 1989, but "the women's movement, our protest, didn't begin until 2003," Gbowee said in a Sept. 19 interview at the ELCA churchwide organization.

She decided it was time to stop the war and called together women of all faiths -- Christian, Muslim, indigenous and others -- from across Liberia to "step out," recognizing that Liberian women can play a critical role in peace building.

"You always see your savior in someone else other than yourself," Gbowee said. "So for us women, having never been socialized to believe that we have powers to interfere in the politics of our country, were waiting for the bold men. (But) every time the bold men rose up, they rose up with guns and other things," she said, realizing that women needed to bring the much-desired peace "for ourselves."

But Gbowee does not take full credit for initiating and organizing the women's peace movement. "There were other women who came before us, emboldening us to take a stand," she said. "And we didn't just start from nothing."

Using the experiences of the women before them, Gbowee used prayer, picketing and silence to further their mission. Despite insults and other behaviors that came their way, Gbowee said, "We kept quiet because we had a sense of purpose and sense of direction."

The women also put together statements of peace for African governments, engaged the media and initiated personal, one-to-one conversations with power brokers "to see how we could get the peace that Liberia was searching for," she said.

From the ELCA News Service



Anniversary

PASTOR TED & JANEENE CONTER

11/24 50 YEARS

Birthdays

BETTE POLLMAN	11/1
PASTOR JERRY SCHAAR	11/4
LAURA SUBKE	11/5
BETTY HALPENNY	11/8
ERIC BERG	11/13
JEAN BETZ	11/14
MARILYN BITTLE	11/16
MARGARET CHOMIN	11/18
NANCY KAHAAUWILA	11/20
FRIDA LAYTON	11/20
LISA MELLOW	11/20
MARION BECKMAN	11/21
HEATHER WOOD	11/21
RUTH ANN MONTAGUE	11/22
JUDY MELLOW	11/26
DENISE STUMP	11/28
SUMMER STILES	11/29



The LORD

Celebrates You !

You are the Lord's wonderful creation, fashioned first with His heart and then with His hands.

He rejoices over your talents, gifts, and abilities because He chose them just for you.

He delights in the details of who you are—the color of your eyes, the curve of your smile—because He is the designer of each one.

Remember, the Lord loves you, He celebrates you, and He's so glad you're His!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The ELCA is a church that is called to do God's work in the world. Together we can care for those around the world who live with hunger and poverty.

Explore ELCA Good Gifts at www.elca.org/goodgifts. Browse the catalog and select from more than 50 gifts to give in honor of a friend or loved one!

Your gift carries God's love to others, making a difference in their lives and in the world. All donations support long-term, sustainable solutions that ensure that these good gifts last for more than a couple of days or weeks. They keep on giving for years to come.

Looking Ahead...God's Global Barnyard

Gifts that make a difference

The soft fleece of an alpaca can be made into colorful clothing, bedding and rugs that are much warmer and softer than those made from sheep's wool. These products sell for high price at the market. And since alpacas have a long life span, a family can depend on this steady source of income for 20 years or more!



O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

— Isaiah 64:8

CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIVITY

The information listed below is summarized from the Minutes of the Church Council meeting held on October 3, 2011. Council meetings are normally held at 7PM on the first Monday of the month.

President's Message —It is an exciting time: a new pastor, the approach of a new year. There is energy and a desire to get on with it. The "it" is the issue. Approaching the new year, it is budget time and committee chairs need to evaluate their programs – are you proud of what you accomplished and should you have done more or perhaps something different. Now is the time, before the holidays overwhelm us, to pray over it and make decisions. If it involves money, be sure to tell the Finance Committee. For non-committee chairs, what did Gloria Dei do well and what should we be doing different? Now is the time to share your ideas with the committee chairs or a church council member. Finally each and all of us need to evaluate our stewardship of what God has provided us and consider next year. The budget process will remind us that we "cannot do it all" but what we will do will be our best try.

Financial Planning

The treasurer report was accepted as submitted. The Finance & Planning committee is led by Chair Jim Ferrero and consists of six members: Marilyn Bittle, Gary Bockman, Walter Eidam, Twyla Karkut, Curt Whallon and Barbara White.

Evangelism

An active group of volunteers are part of the 'E-Committee' and planning a host of interesting programs and projects. These include a Christmas program, Youth Development project and improvements to the church website. The committee meets the third Sunday of each month. They plan to meet after church service on November 20, December 18, and January 15.

Gloria Dei is now a member (annual dues are \$40) of the Naples Improvement Association. We will receive the monthly NIA newsletter and hope to improve our community presence and relationships in the Naples area.

Chair Stephanie Seimer shared details regarding the upcoming Veteran's Day Service and special event that is scheduled for November 6. A banner has been purchased and will be installed on the lawn in front of the church. Flyers will be distributed by church members and posted on the website. In addition, contact with CSULB Lutheran Ministry is planned, along with ads in the Seal Beach Sun, Grunion and the Press Telegram. As usual, luncheon menu, décor and a special music event promises to make this another memorable event for participants.

Property Committee

Refrigerator in church kitchen was replaced recently. The latches and strike plates on the first floor toilet room doors have been reworked and reinstalled to allow easy turning of the locking knobs. Several new projects are on the radar, these include parsonage termites, repairs to the parking lot, and the interior/exterior painting of the church.

Shepherds

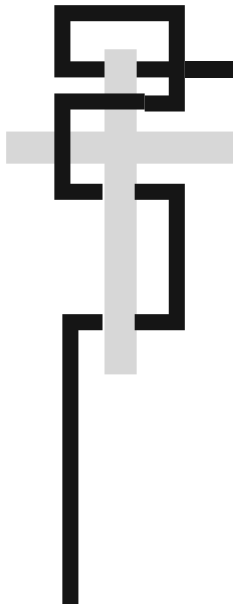
It was suggested to add non-members to the shepherd listing. Pastor Steve and Meri Beckham were assigned a shepherd.

Worship Support

Peggy Huggard, Walt Eidam, and Lanae Caldwell will serve as our Acolyte team. Council members will be asked to serve as part of the worship team on Sundays.

Mission Partner Update

Thanks to members for their continued support of Lutheran Social Services (www.lsssc.org) LSS Phonathon took place on October 2nd. Lutheran Maritime Ministry will host an upcoming presentation "When the Bush Stopped Burning."



There is hope...

You can turn back to God,
because He has not turned His back on you.
You can hold on to God,
because He has not released His hold on you.
You can love God again,
because He has never stopped loving you.

I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you. ~Isaiah 44:21-22

Roy Lessin, DaySpring co-founder and writer
Read more encouraging devotions from Roy on his blog:
<http://roy.dayspring.com/>



Welcome to LivingLutheran.com

Access the Internet...Grab a cup of coffee, pull up a chair and join us at the table for a conversation about what it means to “live Lutheran.”

LivingLutheran.com serves up a daily blend of culture, conversation and community for ELCA members and friends. Together, we’re looking for answers about what it all means and hope you’ll stop by to put in your two cents.

You won’t find breaking news here, although there’s plenty of commentary on what’s happening in the world and what ELCA members think about it. We have resources for congregations, videos to inspire and amuse and places to share what’s on your mind.

We’re probably being a bit presumptuous, but we like to think that *Martin Luther* would approve.

Who is the ELCA?

We want ELCA members to see themselves as “everyday evangelists” who bring the gospel message with them wherever we go. Sheds a whole new light on how you spend your day, doesn’t it?

Read more about the ELCA and the rich history of Lutherans in North America. We may not have come over on the Mayflower, but we’ve been here a long time.

Who are Lutherans?

The ELCA, along with other Lutheran churches, can trace its roots directly to the teachings of Martin Luther, a 16th century German friar. He was a bit of a rabble rouser who inadvertently caused a religious and cultural revolution with the public airing of his 95 theses.

Luther’s life and teachings make pretty good reading...again!

NOTES & NEWS



10th Annual Veterans Service & Lunch

Honoring Those
Who Have Served

Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Service: 10:45

Lunch & sing-along: NOON

Come share your Memories with us.

Invite a Friend.

5872 Naples Plaza, Long Beach

RSVP: 562-438-0929

Parking Lot: Plan-of-Action

In order to control access through the church parking lot a chain will be installed between existing concrete filled steel posts at the west side of the lot (parallel to the alley). The chain will be locked on the south post (near the apartment building) but the other end will be slipped over a receiver plate requiring no lock at this time. Prior to scheduled church member gatherings such as bible studies, choir rehearsals, ELCAW meetings, council meetings, Sunday services and special events —the chain will be released and replaced after the each activity. With the chain in place it will be possible to park 6 vehicles on the lot if no one releases the chain. If additional vehicles desire to park the best solution would be to continue on Naples Plaza and turn left on Syracuse and then left again after passing the apartment building which would place you on the alley which one would take to the west side of the church where 6 vehicles can park under the overhang. Other non-church users such as the Naples Garden Club, Over Eaters Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Debtors Anonymous will be instructed about how the chain can be released and replaced.

E-Committee

Join the evangelism efforts led by Chair Stephanie Seimer.

The next meeting is scheduled after worship service on November 20!

Kudos to the volunteers who are serving on the committee: Candy Wood, Karen Como, Donna Malbon, Edie Graber, Marilyn Bittle, Erika Eidam and Pastor Steve.



Evacuation Plan

Members of the congregation please take note that an evacuation plan for each room/area within Gloria Dei church has been posted typically on the wall adjacent to the door in each space. Due to size and configuration of the Sanctuary and fellowship hall, the plan has been posted on the west wall of each space. The Evacuation plan indicates the route in red that the occupant of that room should take in case of any emergency such as fire, earthquake, etc. Please familiarize yourself with the plan for the room(s) that you typically frequent.

Gloria Dei Missions

Donations of food or finances would be appreciated by our mission partner Faith Lutheran (Fe y Esperanza) for their annual community dinner. Please place donations next to the bookshelves across from the restrooms or in the refrigerator by Sunday, November 13.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Pastor Marta

Moscoso invites us to join them on November 24th as they anticipate serving again this year 300 low income people from their community. **VOLUNTEER TODAY!**



Prayer Request

Chaplain Chim of the Lutheran Maritime Ministry (Mission Partner).

Hector Moscoso, 26 yr. old son of Pastor Marta Moscoso (Faith Lutheran/Fe y Esperanza) whose kidneys are now at zero function. He is at year 6 on the wait list for a kidney transplant.

Raise him in prayer!

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

5872 Naples Plaza
Long Beach, California 90803

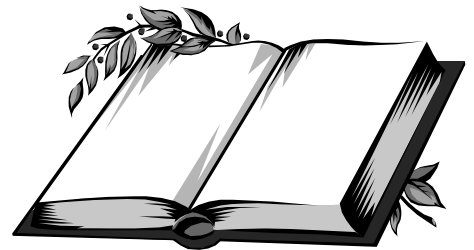


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MISSION STATEMENT

—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 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