

Hark! The Herald . . .

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Long Beach, CA 90803-5044

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February
2012

Thoughts Along The Way...

The Pattern of Epiphany

I've been noticing the way the story of Jesus moves through the gospel texts of Epiphany, and I see a pattern in Jesus' ministry that is instructive for us. The pattern begins with the day of Epiphany itself. The star comes to rest over the place where Jesus is staying, the Magi bow before him in homage and offer him gifts. Jesus is revealed as the long-awaited, long-promised sovereign who will change the world. He is not revealed by some proclamation or act of his own—he's still just a baby—but by the testimony of the star and the Magi. Nature itself points to him with the starlight of the cosmos. The wise see him for who he is and bow before him. They bear witness that Jesus is the Christ.

On the first Sunday after the Epiphany, we read about Jesus being baptized. His identity is once again proclaimed, this time by God's own voice thundering above the waters of the Jordan, and his ministry begins. On the second and third Sundays after Epiphany, we read about Jesus calling his disciples. On the fourth Sunday we read about Jesus teaching in the synagogue and rebuking an unclean spirit. On the fifth Sunday, we see Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law and everyone else who comes to him. Spent, he gets away from the crowd for a small retreat and time of prayer. On the sixth Sunday, Jesus cleanses a leper, an act that restores him to family and community. The season ends with the Transfiguration; Jesus is more fully revealed as God's son and given a place precedence over Moses and Elijah, the personification of the Law and the Prophets.

So here's the pattern for us: Jesus is revealed through testimony and at some point we acknowledge that he truly is the one we've been seeking. On the heels of that confession our own new ministry is initiated in baptism. We then discern God's call for us and help others to discover their own calling. We teach and learn and in the process dispel the "unclean spirits" of ignorance, arrogance and fear. We heal and are healed. We take time for rest, recovery and prayer. We get back to work. We are restored to community and restore others to community. Now, as disciples, workers with Jesus in his work of declaring and realizing the Dominion of God, Christ is revealed to us even more fully and his authority is affirmed. Now, inspired by our vision of Jesus and assured of his authority we testify to others through the way we live and, when necessary, with words. We proclaim who Jesus is and what Jesus has done. Others see and hear, and the pattern begins again.

As we move toward Lent, the season of contemplation, but while we're still standing in the bright light of Epiphany, this would be a good time to ask yourself where you are in this pattern of ministry. That, of course, will lead to a question: What's the next step?

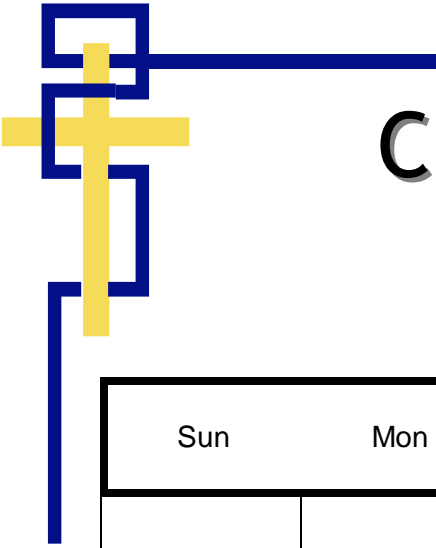
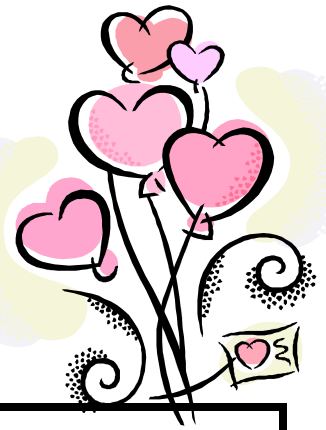
And isn't it wonderful to be part of a family of faith that can not only help you answer the question but take the step?


In Christ, Pro Gloria Dei,

Pastor Steve

CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Chancel Choir 7:15 P M	2	3 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:00 PM A.A./Deaf 7:30 PM	4
5 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service/ Communion 10:45 AM VBS Planning Mtg. O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	6 Garden Club 1:00 PM Council Mtg. 7:00 PM	7 Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM 7:00 PM	8 Chancel Choir 7:15 PM	9	10 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:00 PM A.A./Deaf 7:30 PM	11
12 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Healing Service O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	13 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM 7:00 PM	15 Chancel Choir 7:15 PM	16 Women of the Church Mtg. 10:00 AM	17 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:00 PM A.A./Deaf 7:30 PM	18
19 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service/ Communion 10:45 AM Evangelical Mtg. O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	20  <i>President's Day</i>	21 Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM 7:00 PM	22 <i>Washington's Birthday</i> Ash Wednesday Soup Supper 6:00 PM	23 Dinner Out Naples Rib Co. 6:00 PM	24 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:00 PM A.A./Deaf 7:30 PM	25
26 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	27	28 Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM 7:00 PM	<u>Looking Ahead:</u> <i>Ash Wednesday: February 22nd</i> <i>Sundays in Lent: Feb. 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25</i> <i>Palm Sunday: April 1</i> <i>Easter Sunday: April 8</i>			

January 2012

Council Activity

Old Business

In November, 2011, the council elected to establish a Strategic Planning Committee. In December, the committee was formed and Nancy Kahakauwila accepted Chairmanship of the committee. Bob Siemer is searching for guidance material for the committee's use.

New Business

President Bob Siemer made a motion to amend our Human Resources Manual to include our custodial position. The motion was seconded and carried. Employees will be notified of this change.

Bob presented an amendment to the Church bylaws to define membership inactivity. The amendment was accepted and will be brought before the congregation for approval.

Margaret Clarke's family made a donation to the church in Margaret's name. Bob will contact Margaret and ask for her preferences for its use.

Finance and Planning (Ferrero)

Jim reported that at year end our 2011 budget showed a surplus of \$21,121.00. The major portion of the surplus was reapportioned to Missions giving and the remainder placed in a Church Council capital expenditures fund (Church Annual Report page 20).

Gary made a motion to establish a church credit card for business purposes. Use of the credit card will be limited to the Pastor, Property Manager, and church secretary. The card will carry a very low credit limit. The motion was seconded and approved

Call Committee (Bittle)

The Call Committee has been cancelled.

Counting (White)

The Counting Committee needs one more counter.

Congregational Meeting January 29, 2012

Fifty one (51) members attended the Annual Congregational meeting to approve the past year's Minutes of meetings, the current year (2012) Spending Plan, and accept Annual Committee Reports.

Bob Siemer opened the meeting and handled the routine matters: Approval of Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Committee Reports, and Amendment to our Constitution in short order.

Jim Ferrero, Financial Planning Chair, gave an overview of last year's budget. Jim said a budget surplus allowed an increase in giving to our Mission Partners and budgeting for church improvements.

Jim reviewed the proposed 2012 Spending Plan which reflects an increase in Missions giving and funds for badly needed church improvements. There were no questions from the floor and the 2012 Spending Plan was approved.



Thank you, Fellowship Committee, for the excellent luncheon.





From Our President



Have you walked across the room?

Each of us has been there. The room is full of people and you know no one. You are an interesting person; why wouldn't someone want to meet you? That is the situation a church visitor finds him/herself in.

The difference for our church is we are called to community. (See Romans 15:1-7). We gather on Sundays to worship but also to encourage and yes even exhort each other. Among our little church family, it is comfortable to see how the week has gone; what is planned for this week. But what about the visitor?

He or she clearly sees our fellowship but we are called to share that fellowship – to welcome the stranger. Yes, the visitor may be different from us but remember Paul analogized the body of Christ to the human body. We are not all hands nor heads or

feet. But each has a role and is needed. The trick if it be one is to approach this not so much of an evangelical effort as a matter of curiosity. We must share the human connection first – where are you from? have you been here before? So this is not so much about new members or even return visitors, although both will follow, as it is about seeing if we can serve our visitor. As to speaking to our faith, if it is to be, the Holy Spirit will open the door.

Lest you read more into this message than is there, Gloria Dei is a welcoming church but looking ahead we will have more visitors. This message is about preparing. So if anybody wants to borrow the book Just Walk Across the Room, check the church library or see me.

Bob Siemer

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 22: Ash Wednesday – Soup Supper 6:00 P. M.

February 23: Evangelism Committee Dinner Out at 6:00 PM at Naples Rib Co. Invite a neighbor to get to know us better in a casual setting. The cost is \$23.00 per dinner and includes a non alcoholic beverage, corn bread, fruit, asparagus w/hollandaise and one of the following choices:

1. Salmon, Rice, Coleslaw
2. Ribs, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Beans
3. 1/2 Chicken, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Coleslaw

Sign up in the Fellowship hall or call Stephanie or Donna for reservations.

February 7, 14, 21, 28: Adult Bible Study at 10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.



M/V Christian 2011 Update (L.A.M.P. - U.S.)

Greetings from the **M/V Christian** to all our friends and ministry partners in 2012! Here's a short summary of our Fall/Winter 2011-12 'Doings'.

In October, we attended and provided housing on-board for Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood delegates during their Grand Camp gathering in Klawock. This Christian organization gathers Native men and women from across the state and Pacific Northwest to advocate for Native rights and issues. Last year we were invited to join, and were excited to meet new friends. We were encouraged by their willingness to stop events and pray about concerns as they arose during the gathering. We hope to assist the leadership to rally membership in the villages in the coming spring by hosting the elders and leaders on board the M/V Christian and transporting them from village to village in Southeast Alaska.

We were happy to visit congregations and meet with supporters of the ministry in the Pacific Northwest in November. Later in the month, we were invited by friends in Hydaburg to spend Thanksgiving with them. The following weekend we helped carry and raise a

Centennial Totem Pole in celebration of the 100th year of their village. We celebrated the first Sunday of Advent with folks in Klawock with an evening prayer service.

December found us in the northern waters of the Southeast Alaskan Panhandle. The weather was poor but we found holes of calm weather between storms. We made it to Juneau, Hoonah, Angoon, and Kake to wish all our friends a Blessed Christmas. It is a privilege to share in the lives, struggles, and hopes of so many precious folk. We are honored to walk alongside them and worship and study together during this Advent time. Together, we look toward the New Year!

We do face some challenges and concerns: we need to replace the fresh water and salt water pressure tanks soon due to some leaking. The pumps are working over-time to maintain pressure and we have to turn them off at intervals. Also, the aft sleeping quarters furnace is kaput and will need to be repaired or fixed. We are thankful for the diesel cook stove, now one year old, which is also the main heat source for the boat. It is blissfully silent and keeps

the boat warm .

As the mission of Lutheran Indian Ministries lies in raising up Christian Native leaders to minister to their own and others, we know our job and calling is to work ourselves out of a job. In December, we were excited to introduce a Native couple to our executive director as possible new ministers on board the M/V Christian. We are hopeful and excited to explore this new way that the boat could be used to further the mission of Lutheran Indian Ministries and the Gospel. More and more we feel we are being called to step aside. We ask that you would join us in prayer to discern and be faithful in all that lies ahead. We envision a year of training, transition and celebration!

We are ever thankful for you all and for your partnership with us in prayer and support.

God's Peace and our love,

Pastor/Skipper Stan Berntson & Sharon Geldaker RN

Pastor Steve's Book Recommendation...

The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries by Rodney Stark; Harper Collins, 1996.

Rodney Stark is neither a theologian nor an historian. He is, however, an outstanding sociologist, a professor of sociology and comparative religion at the University of Washington, and it is as a sociologist that he approaches the question of how Christianity grew to become, as the subtitle says, the dominant religious force in the ancient Graeco-Roman world. Stark combines his extensive knowledge of why people join churches today with his analysis of the cultures and mores of the ancient world to make a common-sense case for how and why the outlawed Jesus movement grew and flourished.

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

Jerry Gross



I was born in Lansing, Michigan in January 1940. My grandmother gave her five children land around the family farm and I spent the first 12 years of my life in that environment. I was the second of seven children. We attended a one room country school heated by a coal-fired pot-

belly stove. Drinking water came from a well with a large handled pump. The well was situated outside near the school's coal shed. We had the same teacher as my mother and her brothers and sisters had. Her name was Lila Barnard; she was an institution in this rural community. When we moved to the local town of DeWitt (population 600), I attended a catholic middle school and then the DeWitt public high school (190 students).

After high school, I joined the Navy. I completed Boot Camp and Cryptographer training and then was stationed at Yokosuka, Japan. I enjoyed working as a Navy cryptographer and considered staying in the service, but the Base Chaplain said I had potential and encouraged me to apply to Michigan State University. I entered Michigan State Univ. and graduated in 1964. I came to California, lived in Manhattan Beach, and taught middle school in Torrance.

I received a federal scholarship and went on to the Univ. of Arizona and received a Masters degree in 1966. I then attended Southern Illinois University where I received a Ph.D. in research and statistics in 1969. I taught at Southern Univ. for three years while getting my doctorate.

For the next 24 years I served in educational administrative positions in Minneapolis, Chicago, New York City and Long Beach. I served as Superintendent of Schools for Thousand Oaks and Mission Viejo, CA from 1993 to 2005. I retired in 2005, but returned to work in 2008 as Superintendent of the Beverly Hills School District until 2010.

I currently work part time as an Education Liaison/Consultant for business development for a Construction Management firm and serve as a Director of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and Trust Company in Long Beach.

I have been married to Gwen for 31 years. We have a combined family of three children: Gerald, age 41, Elizabeth, age 35 and John, age 35. Lizzie and her husband, John Brenkus, have two children; Bryce, age 5 and Arabella, age 3.

Gwen Gross



I was born Gwen Ellyn Gerland in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, a small town in northwest Wisconsin. Both sets of my grandparents were immigrants: on my father's side, from Germany and on my mother's side, from Norway. Rice Lake, to this day, celebrates this German and Scandinavian heritage and it

has been a big part of our life. I have three sisters and one brother, who live in Maryland, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri!

My grandfather, Gerland, bought a bankrupt dairy plant at the turn of the century. With his determination and mentoring of his five children, he built a big business manufacturing Gerland's butter, ice cream, and other dairy products. As a very young child I, along with my cousins and siblings, worked in the business during summers and school breaks.

My mom had a normal school degree and taught in a one room school until meeting my father at a local country dance. After we were out of the house, my mother returned to complete her B.A. as a 60 year old college student. My three sisters, brother, and I all went to the University of Wisconsin. My youngest sister, Lynette, and I were Badger cheerleaders and the Big Ten is part our family heritage.

I moved to Ohio after college and received my master's degree in special education at the University of Akron and my doctorate in educational administration at Kent State University while teaching special education in grades K-8. I then took a teaching position at the University of Colorado where I taught and became an elementary school principal.

I met Jerry in New York City in 1981. We headed west to Long Beach. I was a principal in Palos Verdes and in Laguna Beach for 12 years before becoming a superintendent in Hermosa Beach City Schools. We moved to Thousand Oaks in 1993 and I went to Ojai as superintendent of schools. We joined Ascension Lutheran Church and have fond memories of that congregation. Returning to Long Beach, I worked as superintendent in Beverly Hills, Manhattan Beach, and Irvine Unified. I retired in August, 2006.

I still work part time as a partner in a Superintendent Search Firm and as consultant to a company that designs intervention programs for academically challenged students. The part time work I love most is being a Grandma. I am also working on my golf game so I can keep up with Jerry, and now we have time to travel to see old friends and family members more frequently which has been wonderful.

Special Occasions

Anniversaries in February

David and Sarah Fuller	2/1	26 yrs.
Dolores and Peter Lovoy	2/14	15 yrs.

Birthdays in February

Bob Siemer	2/2	Frank Remski	2/21
David Thomas Fuller	2/5	Carrol Irwin	2/24
Deborah Fish	2/15	Sarah Fuller	2/25
Berlin Zook	2/17	David Berg	2/26
Roger Powell	2/18		



Among Ourselves

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Dolores Lovoy, a long-time member and, in the past, a member of our choir and our featured soprano soloist. Dolores has been battling a neurological condition that is affecting her mobility and speech. Care givers are assisting Dolores and the family during the day, with additional support from Diane Keil and her long-time friend, Julietta, who is living with her. Visitors are welcomed. Afternoon is best, please call in advance.

The family of Janie Davis.

Paige Collins and family, friends of Pastor Steve.

Dr. Venner Farley, friends of Pastor Steve and Meri Beckham and Margie and Don Brown.

Harry Robbins, recovering from Pneumonia.



Happy 95th

Katherine Stoner

January 25



We celebrated this special day with a special lady: school teacher (Masters degree), WWII Manhattan Project employee (cyclotrons), wife, mother (3 daughters, 2 sons), PTA member (Naples schools), musician, music teacher (piano/organ), world traveler, quilter, devoted Christian and serious Bible student.

Happy Birthday, Katherine.



Janie Davis

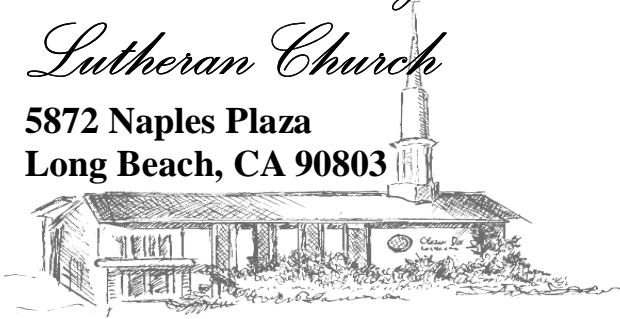
On January 28, 2012, a Celebration of life in Memory of Evelyn Jane Davis was held at Christ Lutheran Church Long Beach. For those unable to attend this service we have posted "A Loving Memory of Janie Davis" biography on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

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 12th.

Gloria Dei Evangelical

Lutheran Church

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



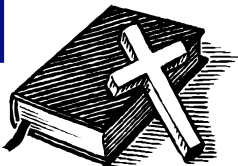
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MISSION STATEMENT

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!