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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY...

"Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle." -James 1.17 (The Message)

Lent came early for me this year, its deep, contemplative shadow absorbing some of the shine of Christmas, Epiphany and Transfiguration, not dimming those shining feasts, exactly, but certainly making them stand out in starker contrast so that I could examine more of their details, looking past the sheer brightness of the revealed Christ to see the very human Jesus who is often overshadowed by all that incandescent divinity, obscured under the heaviness of all that light. You have to look through some pretty dark lenses and filters if you're going to see what's happening on the surface of the sun.

What happened was this: on the 5th day of Christmas I learned that in a deep and dark precinct of my body, a place where, literally, the sun don't shine, a gang of cells had become rebellious, mutating and multiplying according to their own whim instead of according to their ordained function. In other words, cancer. If it had its own way, this gang of cells would take over everything, never realizing that in doing so they would destroy themselves by contaminating and collapsing the little universe in which they live and move and have their being, namely me.

Ah, but even in the valley of the shadow there are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light; even the cross has to stand in the light to throw a shadow. I am blessed to live in a time when there is a potent tool to suppress the cellular rebellion inside me. And get this... that tool is—are you ready?—light! Light is quite literally saving my life. In the 2nd week of Epiphany I began my own little Lent. Every day for 40 days (really, 40 days!) I go to a clinic and lie down on a table under a linear accelerator which bombards me with a stream of photons. Photons. Particles of light! It works like this: the rebellious cells can't stand the

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Thoughts Along the Way Continues....

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photons, the light. They wither and die. But the healthy cells adapt. “And this is the judgment,” says John 3:19, “that the light has come into the world but some love darkness because they are up to no good.”

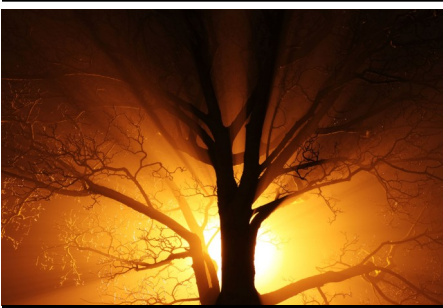
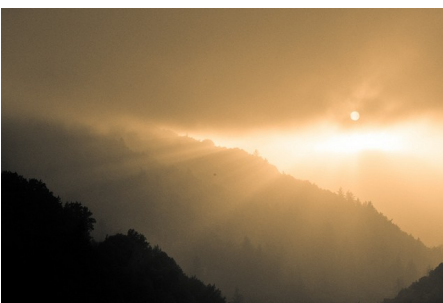
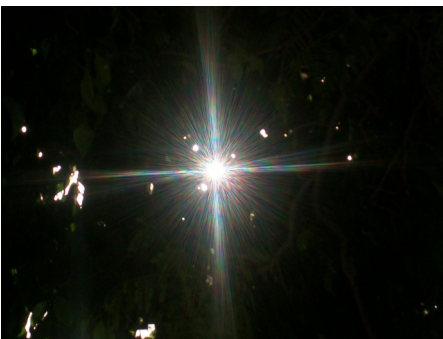
Oh, the metaphors! Oh, the analogies! One could riff on all the cancerous business of contemporary culture or personal failings for all 40 days of Lent and still barely scratch the surface. But let's not. Yes, there are devils and beasts in the dark hollows of our personal wildernesses, but there are also angels. See Mark 1:13 if you don't believe me.

So here is Lent--forty days to shine a little light on what ails you. Forty days to shine some light into the darkness of your duffle and see if anything slithers away. Forty days to lay out your laundry in the sunshine and maybe dispose of some of those old attitudes and ideas that never did fit quite right on a child of God. Here is Lent—a good gift of a season full of shadows, but shadows that testify to the presence and power of the Light.

Pro Gloria Dei, Pastor Steve

*Is anybody happier because you passed this way?
Does anyone remember that you spoke to them today?
The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through:
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word for you?
Can you say tonight in parting with the day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single person of the many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
Does the one whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?
Was it well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say:
“You have earned one more tomorrow by what you did today”?*

~ Don Melin



CONGREGATION COUNCIL UPDATE

February's meeting was fully attended and covered a varied agenda of current projects and subjects of concern, which is very typical of most meetings.

Our ongoing study of "Everything Must Change" by Brian McLaren, challenged us to ponder the global problems and consider how the almost machine-like systems that drive our civilization, are connected. He illustrates three sub-systems; the "Prosperity", the "Security" and the "Equity" systems as gears of a societal machine. The machine, of course, is a metaphor meant to describe a complex mechanical creation to harness the energy to achieve a desired result. McLaren cautions, that when the social, political and economic machinery of a society gets out of control, or some flaw of design or operation exists, it begins to self destruct. This study is becoming more and more interesting.

It was decided to retain the 2014 Income Surplus until mid-year to give us some time to assess current year activity.

Walter Eidam gave a complete update on the kitchen remodel. He reported information learned from the city and concerning construction compliance of our building. He

submitted his estimates of the probable costs of both Phase I and II, taking all of the known factors into consideration. It appears that Phase I will cost approximately \$39,400. We currently have \$30,000 and will be seeking further donations. Carl Irwin has graciously offered to prepare the architectural design documentation, which saves a significant amount.

Walter estimates that the design phase will take 1 month. Permit processing could take two months. Another month to secure bids and six weeks for construction gives us a completion target date in August. During this time, the only three appliances that could be utilized would be the refrigerator, the coffee maker and the microwave assuming that a location could be provided for them.

Phase II consists of new appliances and sink to be purchased as funds permit. In the meantime, we would use the appliances that we have.

Sincere Lenten Blessings to all of you. Have a Glorious Dei.

Barbara White
Council President
www.bjways@verizon.net

ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

Gloria Dei wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering or to make a one-time donation. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

- Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.
- Credit & Debit Card Giving lets you make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.
- Go to www.gloriadei.com at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

CHALLENGE YOUR CHILDHOOD RECALL

—VICTORIA GAMMER

You know what it's like when some memory from long ago pops into your mind and you can't recall all the details? It can become obsessive until you find the missing pieces. That was me last Sunday when I was thinking of a childhood TV show and simply could not remember the name. I roped Mar-tie Engle into this and she researched and found the answer for me. It was *Winky Dink and You*.

All I remembered was a piece of see-through vinyl that employed static electricity to adhere to your TV screen. It was a "magic drawing screen" including a set of special crayons that came in a "purchased" kit. It worked this way—during the Winky Dink cartoon, Winky, the star-shaped headed character, would desperately need our help to solve a problem by connecting-the-dots on the screen and we would "draw" the solution for him such as a rope, ladder, bridge etc. He could also send secret messages to us. The message would appear on the screen like vertical lines or letters which we would quickly trace onto our magic screen and then the second screen would appear with only the horizontal lines which we would also trace. Like magic, we would see the full message. All of this required the magic screen to make sense so it was a mandatory purchase in our minds but not necessarily our parents'.

Of course now, as an adult, I read that the producers made a lot of money on these sales. Disappointed kids, whose parents didn't fall for the marketing ploy, became resourceful, using their own crayons to draw on their parents' unprotected TV screen. Ouch!

One of my all-time favorites was The Soupy Sales Show. Soupy's show aired from the 1950's through the 1970's. He combined pie throwing, puppets, comedy sketches, musical numbers and big-time major stars such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr, and the Supremes to name a few. Much of it was ad-libbed and, to me, was positively hilarious. Maybe you'll remember White Fang, "The Biggest and Meanest Dog in the USA." He only revealed a giant white shaggy paw at the edge of the TV screen making growls and grunts. Soupy would translate the meaning. White Fang would throw pies in his face at unannounced times. The other dog puppet was Black Tooth, "The Biggest and Sweetest Dog in the USA." Yup you guessed it—all you saw was a giant furry black paw. Soupy also had to translate his conversation. While he didn't throw pies he would drag Soupy off the screen and smother him with audible kisses. The only puppet that you saw was Pookie the Lion who sported a frown and greeted Soupy with, "Hey Bubby, want a kiss?" He was fast-talking, made faces and through out wisecracks instead of pies.

My friends and I were ardent Soupy Fans and joined the Soupy Fan club. I continued the Soupy pie-in-the-face philosophy with my kids by occasionally orchestrating spontaneous pie fights in the backyard dressed in our pajamas. Don't believe me? I have the pictures to prove it.

Occasionally recapturing childhood memories is a great way to make a good day even better especially when you share them with friends who are old enough to remember. See if any of these shows ring a bell: Looney Tunes, Rocky & Bullwinkle, Huckleberry Hound, Lone Ranger, Felix the Cat, Crusader Rabbit, Capt. Kangaroo, Bozo the Clown, Skip & Woof, Chucko the Clown, Sea Hunt, Tom & Jerry, Sky King, Howdy Doody, Many Loves of Dobie Gillis, Gilligan's Island, Casper the Friendly Ghost, Sheriff John, Engineer Bill, Gunsmoke, Leave it to Beaver, Have Gun Will Travel, Ozzie and Harriet, Father Knows Best, Lassie, Rin Tin Tin... I'm sure at least one of those will strike a memory cord that *most* of us will remember as well.

Here's the recent article from the Episcopal News Service about the emergence of our interfaith campus ministry at CSULB:

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2015/02/19/campus-ministries-changing-to-serve-new-students-2/>

Help the HOLY GROUND community grow! They're helping young people who don't have much faith left in church to discover and re-discover a transforming relationship with God. www.holygroundlb.org DONATE !

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MISSION PARTNER

Dear Holy Ground Support Network,

I'm writing to let you know about an exciting event that **HOLY GROUND** (a new Lutheran-Episcopal worshipping community here in Long Beach) is hosting on

Sunday, March 8 at 7:30 PM
370 Junipero Avenue, Long Beach

Doug Pagitt, who is one of the founding leaders of the emerging church movement (along with Brian McLaren, Tony Jones, and Phyllis Tickle) and pastor of Solomon's Porch in Minneapolis (www.solomonsporch.com) is coming to Long Beach to share his new book, *Flipped: The Provocative Truth that Changes Everything We Know about God*.

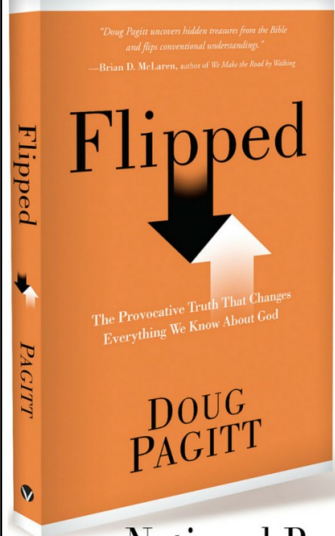


<http://www.amazon.com/Flipped-Provocative-Truth-Changes-Everything/dp/1601426372>

Doug is a progressive evangelical, and I believe it's vital that we get to know this demographic more deeply, since many folks from evangelical backgrounds are seeking the theological and spiritual riches that are at the root of our mainline traditions. Yet for us to connect with progressive evangelicals we must understand them and their theological struggles more deeply. And this is exactly what Doug offers – authentic progressive Gospel communicated in fresh language for a new generation. I hope you'll plan to come spend some time with him as he shares from his book, tells stories, and does Q&A. And all of this goodness will be interspersed with great music from Doug's friend Heatherlyn.

Invite your family, friends and share this to others, too, as Doug's book is an invitation into a liberating spirituality that so many of us are craving. Please be in touch if you have any questions.

Yours,

Rev. Sean Lanigan
Holy Ground Community
CSULB Interfaith Project

Flipped
 The Provocative Truth That Changes Everything We Know About God
 DOUG PAGITT

National Book Tour Event

Location: Holy Ground @ 370 Junipero Avenue in Long Beach (intersection of Junipero and 4th)

Date: Sunday, March 8, 2015

Time: 7:30 PM

I Flipped
 IFlipped.org

CONVERGENT BOOKS | Penguin Random House

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

SAVE A TREE

In order to save printing costs and a tree or two, would you like to receive your *Glorious Dei* newsletter via email instead of the U.S. Postal Service? If so, please respond by completing the information below and email to sirvine@gdlclb.org. Or drop it off at church, or mail to church, or place it in the offering plate. Thanks for helping your Gloria Dei newsletter team.

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO STOP MAIL DELIVERY OF THE GLORIOUS DEI NEWSLETTER

AND HAVE IT EMAILED TO:

(please print clearly)

Name _____

Email address: _____



ELCA WOMEN UPDATE

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant, such as our siblings, friends, children and even the love of your life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacate their seats. This train will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all the passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know a which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time come for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train.

I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, than God for the journey.

~ Submitted by Marion Beckman

██████████

ELCA Women donated \$100 to Wounded Warriors thanks to people who donated to our book table — keep them coming....

██████████

ELCA Women donated \$150 to LSS to be used for new carpeting!

██████████

ELCA Women plans to donate blankets for the LB Police Department. Drop off blankets & indicate LBPD !

CALENDAR OF EVENTS — MARCH 2015

1 — SUNDAY

ADULT EDUCATION @ 9 AM
WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

2 — Monday

CHURCH COUNCIL MTG
@ 7 PM

3 — Tuesday

ADULT EDUCATION @ 7 PM

4 — Wednesday

CONFIRMATION @ 4 PM
JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

Happy Birthday Walt Eidam

5 — Thursday

Happy Birthday Ranae Wright

6 — Friday

- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

7 — Saturday

8 — SUNDAY

ADULT EDUCATION @ 9 AM
WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
PRAYERS OF HEALING

O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

Day light savings..



9 — Monday

GARDEN CLUB @ 1 PM

10 — Tuesday

ADULT EDUCATION @ 7 PM

Happy Birthday Chris Foster

11 — Wednesday

CONFIRMATION @ 4 PM
JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

Happy Birthday Victoria Gammer

12 — Thursday

ELCW MEETING @ 10:30 AM
Happy Birthday Frank Stanley

13 — Friday

- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

14 — Saturday

15 — SUNDAY

ADULT EDUCATION @ 9 AM
WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
Noisy Offering

Walt & Erika Eidam Anniversary
Happy Birthday Chris Gilissen

O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

Newsletter Deadline

16 — Monday

17 — Tuesday

ADULT EDUCATION @ 7 PM

David & Kay Berg Anniversary
Happy Birthday Nancy Ferrero

18 — Wednesday

CONFIRMATION @ 4 PM
JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

19 — Thursday

ELCW MEETING @ 10:30 AM

20 — Friday [first day of spring]

- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

Happy Birthday Mark Engle

21 — Saturday



22 — SUNDAY

ADULT EDUCATION @ 9 AM
WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

O.A. MTG. @ 7:00 PM

23 — Monday

24 — Tuesday

ADULT EDUCATION @ 7 PM

25 — Wednesday

CONFIRMATION @ 4 PM
JOIN THE CHOIR... @ 7:15 PM

Happy Birthday Beth Rotsel

26 — Thursday

27 — Friday

- A.A. MTG. @ 1:00 PM
- D.A. MTG @ 6:00 PM

Happy Birthday Bret Engle

28 — Saturday

Happy Birthday Tea Satariano

29 — PALM SUNDAY

30 — Monday

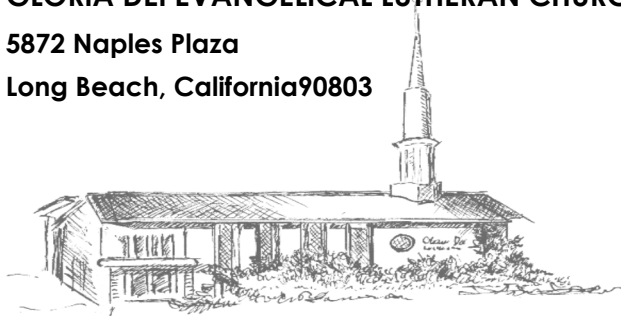
31 — Tuesday

ADULT EDUCATION @ 7 PM

Our name means *The Glory of God*,
 so we try to live accordingly.
 Our life together as a family of faith is
 built on worship, service,

GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



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