

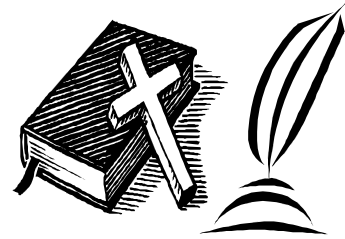
Hark! The Herald . . .

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

Rev. Gerald D. Schaar, Pastor
Website: www.gloriadeilongbeach.com
Telephone: (562) 438 0929

MARCH
2010

THE PASTOR'S PEN...



Dear Members and Friends of Gloria Dei Church,

Have you noticed anything different in our observance of the holy season of Lent this year? By now you should have. Although our goal is the same as always (“To prepare us for a worthy celebration of Easter”) our focus has been somewhat different. We have been sharing stories this year, faith stories.

All of us, regardless of age or background, have been on somewhat different “faith paths”. While some of us were born into a Christian home where prayers, Sunday worship, and active church membership were almost automatic, others of us faced a far different situation. While some of us were baptized as infants and were “confirmed” as an early teen, others of us came to know Christ as our Savior and Lord later in life. While some of us have had relatively “smooth sailing” in our faith life, others of us have struggled and perhaps still have serious doubts. All of these faith paths, and others as well, are equally welcome at Gloria Dei Church and in the Kingdom of God.

But not only are all welcome; all are needed. Our families, our neighborhoods, and our world need the faith witness of people from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. The stories of how God’s Spirit has impacted the lives of a widely diverse population need to be told, need to be shared. Your story, and Jesus’ story, need to be told. And no-one can tell those stories in exactly the same way that you and I can tell them individually.

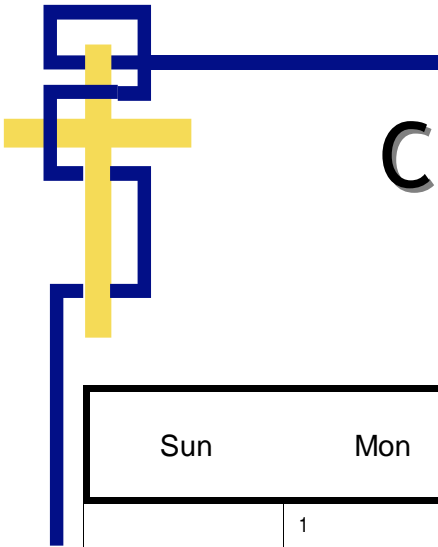
On a recent Sunday last month we heard three “unique” stories told in our scripture lessons. A “man of unclean lips” (Isaiah), a “former persecutor of the church” (Paul), and three fishermen who “couldn’t catch a thing” (Peter, James and John), were led by God to share their stories.

They also shared God’s plans for the people of God. Because they followed their Lord’s commands, today we continue to know and share in their stories.

“Go and make disciples of all nations and peoples,” Jesus told his disciples and us, “baptizing them... and teaching them all that I have commanded you.” Then Jesus reminded them that he would be with them as they shared their stories and his, “even unto the end of the world.” That promise includes being with us as well!

Join us on Sunday mornings throughout Lent as we hear, tell and share stories at 9:15 am during Bible class, as well as for the service at 10:45 as we worship the God who has entered our lives so that our stories can be filled with peace, joy and hope.


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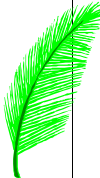


CHURCH CALENDAR

March 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Council 7:00 PM	2 Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	3 Chancel Choir 7:15P M	4	5 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:30 PM	6
7 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service/ Communion 10:45 AM O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	8 Garden Club of Naples 1:00 PM	9 Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	10 Chancel Choir 7:15 PM	11	12 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:30 PM	13 Daylight Sav- ings Time tomorrow! Set your clocks!!!
14 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Healing Service O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	15 DST ←	16 Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>  Chancel Choir 7:15 PM	18 Lutheran Church Women 10:30 AM	19 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:30 PM	20
21 Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service/ Communion 10:45 AM O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	22	23 Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	24 Chancel Choir 7:15 PM	25	26 A.A. Mtg. 1:00 PM D.A. Mtg. 6:30 PM	27
28 PALM SUNDAY Children and Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM O.A. Mtg. 7:00 PM	29	30 Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM	31	LOOKING AHEAD: April 1 Meal in the Upper Room April 2 Good Friday April 4 Easter Sunday		



February 2010

Council Activity

President's Report

Marilyn reported that a local lady, Jackie Heisman, has been hired as our Sunday baby sitter. She will be in the nursery on Sundays from 10:00 - 12:00 am.

Counting (R. Powell)

Roger reported that the we have gotten off schedule with the counting roster. The schedule will be updated.

The counters have a continuing problem with members not using their Pledge envelopes which requires looking up the member number so donations can be properly documented - a time consuming task.

Fellowship (S. Siemer)

Stephanie reported that 46 members attended the Congregational Meeting Luncheon and that offerings did not cover the expense for food by \$60.00.

Our next event will be the well be Ash Wednesday supper on February 17th. Serving will start at 6:00 pm to facilitate the choir rehearsal.

Property (W. Eidam)

Walt has been busy painting baseboards and door trim and polishing brass door plates. He has also offered to paint the nursery which really needs sprucing up.

The Council continues to marvel at Walt's diligent efforts. We are blessed to have him.

Missions (N. Kahakauwila)

Nancy received replies to our letters written to military personnel and has posted them on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

LSS has started a 2nd Saturday tutoring program. It is held at Trinity Lutheran and lunch is provided. The goal is to reduce the student drop-out rate in grades 1-8.

We also received an update on the M.V. Christian from LAMP US. They have been sailing during the winter. One of their staff members was ordained in Dec. and two others are to be "commissioned".

Shepherds (E. Eidam)

Erika plans to make telephone calls to those persons that have not been attending church.

Worship Support (Huggard)

We continue to need volunteers for ushers, greeters and kitchen support.

Pastor's Report

The holy season of Lent began on February 17th with Ash Wednesday and continues for 40 days (and six Sundays) through Holy Saturday (April 3rd). During Lent all of our Sunday worship services will focus on outreach to those outside of the faith. Our theme will be "Fishers of People." Sunday morning Bible study will under gird that theme as well.

During January and February I spent four weeks in a "Mini-Sabbatical," attended the Bishop's Colloquy in Montecito at a retreat center, served on a criminal trial jury in Westminster, attended our congregational voters' meeting, and prepared for our Lenten evangelism theme. Thank you to all who assisted in special ways during my absence, most especially Pastor Tom Cooper.

Nursery Update

A big thank you to Walt (and Erika) Eidam for update of the nursery. Over the years the nursery was showing the wear of hard service and badly needed repainting and decorating.

Walt took on the major tasks of removing soiled wall paper, scraping and cleaning the residual glue, washing all walls with TSP to remove old paint gloss, priming the walls, and painting the room in a robin's egg blue color (as specified by Erika). Only Walt can tell you how many hours he spent at this task but a "Kentucky windage" guesstimate would be at least fifty hours. Money saved if done by outside contractors - - a lot.



**Thank You,
Walt!**

What's the MV Christian UP To?



We are out and about! And we don't take it for granted! A milder winter has allowed us great winter travel to each of the villages we visit.

In **KAKE** . . . Stan preached and served communion at the Kake Memorial

Presbyterian Church. We invited all down to the boat for lunch and cheered kids from Hydaburg, Klawock and Kake on in basketball games throughout the week. We also visited and prepared dinner for an elder woman, helped her winterize, and spent time with her in prayer

throughout the week.

In **ANGON**, we met and prayed with folks, working on village issues. We see the kids we know, from VBS schools in the summer, at the Basketball games of the winter. A fun time to get reacquainted and catch up on their lives. We invite them back to the boat for crafts and cookies. Coffee is always available on board for those who need a listening ear.

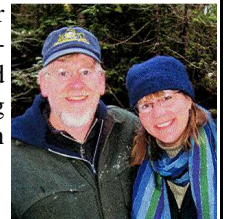
In **HOONAH**, we spent time with folks in their homes and on the boat. We met with members of the Hoonah Indian Association. In the wake of social trauma, we are collaborating to take elders and community kids on the boat, to strengthen cultural identity and relationship while visiting pre-glacial Tlingit sites. Stan preached at a crucial church meeting of the oldest church in

the village, and we witnessed a re-birth of this body, it's new charter Sunday! Afterwards we fed them and attended community basketball games.

Soon we'll be on our way to **KLA-WOCK** and **HYDABURG**, to meet with elders, and to coordinate our summer VBS schools and visits with each village's rhythm.

In March, Sharon will be attending a licensing school in Ketchikan and Stan will attend a cluster meeting in Juneau. Then we head out again along the coast of the Prince of Wales Island.

We thank God for the opportunity to encourage individuals and bodies, and walk alongside them in their faith journeys.



The Pastor's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

The world needs to hear the good news of Jesus, news that we often take for granted. At Gloria Dei Church we hope to become more intentional in telling both the "old, old story" of Jesus and his love, as well as the newer stories in which we have become a part of the drama ourselves.

In the words of an anthem sung by our Chancel Choir recently:

"Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

May our stories and witness to God's faithfulness be one way in which we bear God's love to others, one way in which we hold God's people in our hearts... so that the Easter resurrection story that we celebrate this year can truly become the good news story that it was intended to be!

Yours through our Crucified and Living Lord Jesus.

Pastor Schaar

A note from Don Melin

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you as you remembered me in your prayers and cards that so many of you sent. I especially want to thank our Lord and Savior for answering our prayers in accordance with His will. I have been truly blessed.

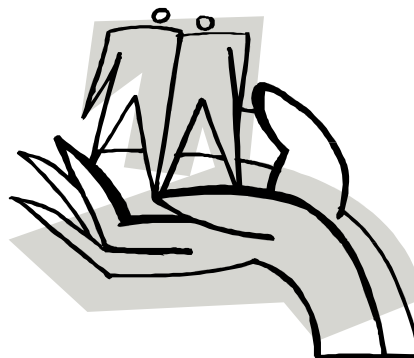
I was never as calm as I was as I entered the operating room, knowing that His will was going to be fulfilled. I knew that I could not lose because He was with me all the way.

Romans 14: 7, 8 is a reminder to me. "For none of us lives to himself and no one dies to himself. For if we live we live to the Lord and if we die we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or die we are the Lord's."

Jesus said, "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Thank you all.

Don Melin



THREE WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIBLE STUDY

Adults and teens are encouraged to attend Tuesday Bible study at either 10:00 am or 7:00 pm ("Revelation: The Victorious Disciple") or Sunday morning at 9:15 am ("Agents for God: Sharing God's Story").

WELCOME!



SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Anniversaries in March

John and Sandy Irvine	3/14	23 years
Walt and Erika Eidam	3/15	41 years
David and Kay Berg	3/17	49 years

Birthdays in March

Walter Eidam	3/4	Mark Engle	3/20
Nell Stephens	3/10	Michael Roedl	3/24
Vicki Gammer	3/11	Bret Engle	3/27
Frank Stanley	3/12	Těa Satariano	3/28
Chris Gilissen	3/15	Soren Vaaler	3/28

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:

Bette Pullman and her family upon the recent death of her husband, Dennis ; Jean Cooper, wife of Pastor Tom Cooper, as she continues her struggle with Alzheimers; Don Brown, recently released from St. Mary’s after extensive tests and rehabilitation; Don Melin, following outpatient hernia surgery; Chuck Iverson also released recently from the hospital following surgery; Tom Dahlgren as he anticipates the arrival of his wife from eastern Europe; continue to pray for the children of Gloria Dei’s Sunday school, our Church Council and congregational officers, our WELCA members, Richard Hoover and our Chancel Choir; those in positions of leadership in our Synod, state and nation . . . Lord, in your mercy: HEAR OUR PRAYERS.

Submit items for Gloria Dei’s Newsletter. Please submit items prior to the 19th of the month.

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



The Church Mouse Heard That...



Yes, the Church Mouse heard (and smelled) the workings of Walt Eidam as sections of the main floor of the building were freshly painted. Most recently the upstairs Nursery Room was also given a fresh coat of paint . . . Congratulations go out to the other half of the Eidam duo as Erika was elected as the new president of our Lutheran Church Women’s Organization. Thanks goes out to Stephanie Siemer who served the same role this past year . . . Katherine Stoner is assisting Pastor Schaar with the Tuesday classes of the Book of Revelations (“The Victorious Disciple”) . . . Finally, the Church Mouse reminds all of you to continue to support the work of Lutheran Social Services and their Food Pantry, as well as LAMP-US, World Hunger, Fe Y Esperanza, Maritime Ministry . . . See you in Church!



Special Events in March and April

“FISHERS OF PEOPLE, TOGETHER WITH JESUS!”

The holy season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday (Feb 17th) and continues for forty days plus six Sundays. Join us as we worship our Lord throughout Lent each Sunday and during Holy Week.

SUNDAYS IN LENT: 10:45 am
Feb. 21 and 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28 (Palm Sunday)

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP: MARCH 28 - APRIL 4

- 3/28 - “Palm Sunday”: Worship with Palm Procession
- 4/1 - “Maundy Thursday” (Meal in Upper Room) 6:30 pm. We re-live the Passover Story and meal Jesus shared with his disciples on the night he instituted the Lord’s Supper
- 4/2 - “Good Friday” (Tenebrae Service) 7:30 pm
- 4/3 - “Holy Saturday” Join with area Lutheran Christians of the LGB Conference as we observe an “Easter Vigil”. Time: TBA
- 4/4 - “EASTER SUNDAY” The Resurrection our Lord! This service will include Holy Communion (by Intinction) - 10:45 am.

Gloria Dei Evangelical

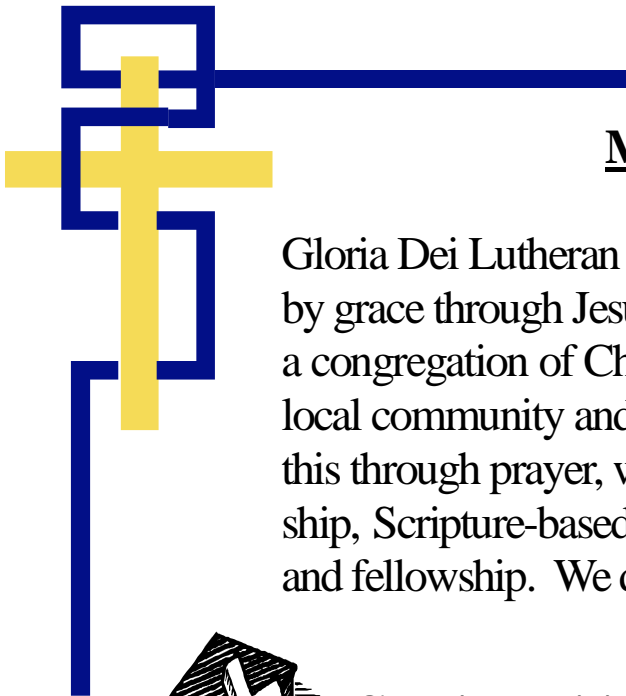
Lutheran Church

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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!