

# Hark! The Herald...

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

Rev. Helen Liesenberg, Interim Pastor  
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## THE PASTOR'S PEN...

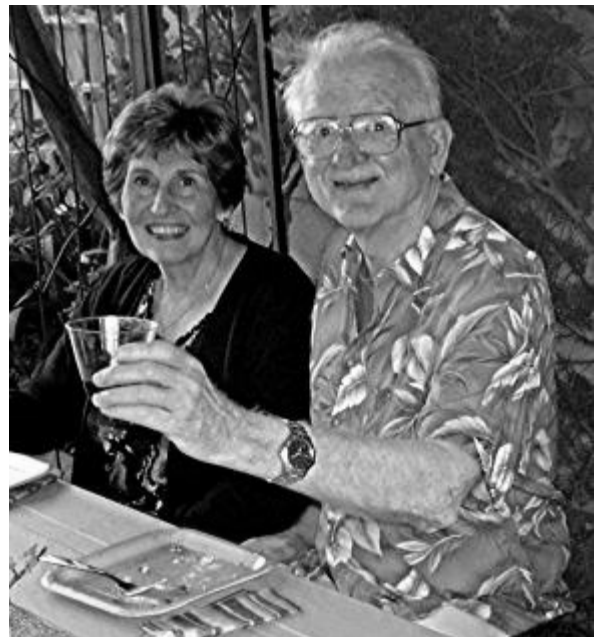


Dear Members and Friends of Gloria Dei:

I have been blessed by the time that I was able to be with you and serve as your Interim Pastor. It has been a joy to work in partnership with you through this transition period...and together we have set some good foundations to carry you into the future. I think we have been successful during this time because you are a "teachable" people, willing to try new things without sacrificing everything that is familiar; you have learned how to be flexible, and have learned how to become Christ's evangelists in this time and place. You have begun to see the bigger picture. Keep on asking yourselves with each new thing you do, "How is Christ wanting to use us to carry on the great commission of reaching and teaching and making disciples by this new idea, program, or event."

Most of all George and I want to thank each and every one of you who have been of such tremendous support during George's illness. Your caring words, cards and telephone calls were a great boost to our spirits in some very dire moments. As Paul wrote, "Whenever I think of you I give thanks to God." Please may you show that same caring, affection and support for your new pastor and I know that you will have a long and fruitful time in furthering God's kingdom.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Helen Liesenberg (and George)



# OCTOBER CALEN-


GLORIA DEI  
WEBSITE:

www.gloriadeilongbeach.com



— SEND TO PBOCKMAN@FULLERTON.EDU —

Adult Class -  
Chaplain Chim  
Mandalia and Ron Nelson  
presentation on Lutheran  
Maritime Ministries  
in Long Beach.

SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Class @ 9:15 AM</li> <li>• <b>Worship @ 10:45 AM Holy Communion</b></li> <li>• O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM</li> </ul>	<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>7pm Council Meeting</b></li> </ul>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.A. Mtg. 1 PM</li> <li>• D.A. Mtg. 6 PM</li> </ul>	<b>8</b> <b>"Heavenly forecast— God Reigns Forever."</b>	
<b>9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Worship @ 10:45 AM</b></li> <li>• O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.A. Mtg. 1 PM</li> <li>• D.A. Mtg. 6 PM</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> Submit an item to the Church Newsletter... Articles due on October 16!
<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Worship @ 10:45 AM Holy Communion by Intinction</b></li> <li>• O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM</li> </ul>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Global Mission Gathering in Long Beach, October 21-22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.A. Mtg. 1 PM</li> <li>• D.A. Mtg. 6 PM</li> </ul>	<b>22</b> Equip yourself for God's work in today's global and local realities. For more information and registration, visit <a href="http://www.elca.org/global">www.elca.org/global</a> .
<b>23</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Worship @ 10:45 AM</b></li> <li>• O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM</li> </ul>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A.A. Mtg. 1 PM</li> <li>• D.A. Mtg. 6 PM</li> </ul>	<b>29</b> <b>GATHER, GROW &amp; GO Synod Event Saturday, October 29 10—5 pm</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Pastor Installation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Worship @ 10:45 AM</b></li> <li>3:00 PM Pastor Installation </li> <li>• O.A. Mtg. @ 7PM</li> </ul>	<b>31</b>	<b>Learn how YOU can HELP...</b> <b>Contact Lutheran Social Services website: <a href="http://www.lsssc.org">www.lsssc.org</a></b>	LSS needs for low-income Seniors: Slippers, Gloves, Sweaters, Canned food-low-sodium, Low-fat, Unsweetened; Diabetic food & drink supplies	LSS needs for Emergency Assistance: Soups, pasta, beans, cereals Can openers Baby food jars— Fruit, meat, vegetables	LSS URGENT-needs: Grocery Bags— reusable and/or plastic (new or used)	

# MANY GIFTS. ONE SPIRIT.



Richard Bliese, President, Luther Seminary was musing about his summer reading. In particular, he made a point about thinking like a missionary that crystallized where the church and particularly Gloria Dei is today. Here is the pertinent excerpt:

“Another reading, however, left me with a powerful quote from church history. The author, John Flett, was comparing two prominent German Reformed theologians from the World War II era: Karl Barth and Emile Brunner. Within a 1949 article from *The Christian Century* titled "Toward a Missionary Theology," Flett discovers that Brunner makes the following remarkable statement distinguishing himself from Barth. He writes, "Barth thinks as a churchman for the church; I think rather as a missionary."

Wow! I haven't stopped ruminating about this sentence since I first laid eyes on it. The comparison is fascinating: a churchman for the Church versus a missionary. This one phrase helps clarify the needed shift in our church culture today. In past generations, we could think and act like churchmen. That was sufficient for the church's needs. That was sufficient for doing good ministry within a "Christian culture." Today, our church and culture have changed. We now need to think and act like missionaries. Brunner got it right! Our thinking must change!"

I believe as Lutherans, we have a particular Christian message for our community. It is a message of fervent belief in Christ's saving grace but also the practicality and importance of dealing in faith with our daily life. I believe our community longs for this message and understanding.

We have concluded an intense call process. As a result, we have a better understanding of what Gloria Dei is and what it could be. Pastor Beckham will help us realize our mission – which I suggest will require us to think more like missionaries.

Looking forward, are you interested in working with Pastor Steve on the *Strategic Planning Committee*? Council will appoint the committee shortly, so please indicate your interest to Marilyn Bittle, Vice-President or me.

Regarding the call process, it is difficult to thank particular people when I believe each member of the Congregation has been touched and has labored to this result. We should be proud of our accomplishment but now let the work begin.

Thanks go to Pastor Helen for providing the Richard Bliese email.

Council President, Robert Seimer

***Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ~ Philippians 4:8***

**GLORIA DEI — GOD'S GRACIOUS SERVANTS**

You, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.  
— Psalm 92:4



## Anniversary

FRANK REMSKI & INA HAHN  
10/10 19 YEARS

## Birthdays

PAUL JENSEN	10/4
SOPHIA JENSEN	10/5
STEVEN JENSEN	10/14
ANDY SORENSEN	10/15
GARY BOCKMAN	10/27
PHIL COMO	10/28

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## Muchas Gracias...

### Call Committee:

Marilyn Bittle	Edie Graber
Margie Brown	Roger Powell
Karen Como	Stephanie Siemer
Martie Engle	Barbara White
Vicki Gammer	



## Grazie...Danke...Merci

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## THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ at Gloria Dei,

As I write this, I am sitting in a hotel room in Evansville, Indiana. I have borrowed my son's computer for the purpose. In a few hours we will be attending my niece's wedding. This milestone is, of course, both a new beginning for them and a natural waystation on the pathway of their relationship. From here on out, as everyone who ever got married knows, things will be very different for them. Much will stay the same in their lives--they are who they are, after all, but the covenant that binds them will slowly work its magic over the years and they will gradually become very different persons than the Katie and Nick who speak their vows today. Very different but much the same. There will still be a Katie and a Nick, but eventually, gradually, if all goes well and in keeping with their vows, Katie and Nick will become *KatieandNick*, a single, symbiotic entity composed of two individuals inextricably intertwined.

I can't help but see an analogy for us. Tomorrow morning you will vote on whether or not to call me as your pastor. Assuming that you vote in the affirmative, we will embark together on something like a marriage. We have been guided to this moment by the natural pathways of our lives and those, in turn, have been guided by the often-but-not-always-subtle nudges and shoves of the Holy Spirit. Eventually, gradually, our individualities will blend and merge. We will become *incorporated* in the oldest and best sense of that word; we will become one body.

There may, of course, be some rough spots along the way--every marriage has them. Healthy relationships are nourished by a steady stream of negotiations, and that is both their joy and their bane. I love and treasure my wonderful Meri as much for the fights and troubles we've endured as for the joys and delights we've shared. Our covenant has taken us through years of ups and downs and will, I trust and pray, continue to do so until death parts us.

When the day comes for my installation as your pastor (again, assuming that your vote carries us that way), we will make a covenant with each other. I want you to know that I will take that covenant seriously and seek to fulfill it with grace, love and good humor. I trust you to do the same. And I trust that one day, not too long from now, we will sit in the sanctuary some Sunday morning and it will dawn on us that there is no longer any you and me, but that we have become *youandme*, that we have become *us*.

With grace, peace and gratitude *pro gloria dei*, Pastor Steve

[Editor's note: On Sunday, September 25, the day after this article was written, the congregation voted to call Pastor Steve Beckham to serve as pastor.]

# CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIVITY

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Most of the information listed below are summarized from the approved Minutes of the Church Council meeting held on September 6, 2011. All members of Gloria Dei are welcome to attend Council meetings which are normally held at 7PM on the first Monday of the month in the Fellowship Hall.

**Next Council Meeting** scheduled for October 3.

**Call Committee Update:** Committee recommended Pastor Steven Beckham, Council approved.

**Evacuation *Ad Hoc* Committee** led by Walt Eidam notified Council that periodic updates and announcements will be placed in Sunday bulletins and the newsletter.

## **Fellowship**

Peggy Huggard provided details regarding the upcoming Veteran's Day event.

## **Financial Planning**

The treasurer report was accepted as submitted. Jim Ferrero is reviewing the budget.

## **Property Committee**

Completed projects include replacement of ceiling fan and completion of pest control. Gardener fees have increased by \$35 and include an increase in service and responsibility.

## **Shepherds**

A new shepherd listing was developed and distributed recently to volunteers.

## **Office of Government Ministry/SCIC**

See Marilyn Bittle regarding upcoming walk-a-thons.

## **Worship Support**

Worship service *time change* will be made to the website and on the telephone message recording. The Worship Support Committee met to identify resources for alternative music to be used during the 4th Sunday Service—the plan is to wait for input from new pastor.

## **Christian Education**

Children's Sunday school is set for the fall.

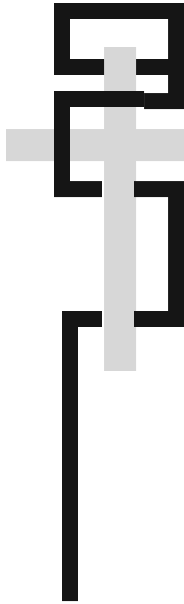
## **Mission Partner Update**

LSS Community Care Center offers the following:

- Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program
- Hispanic Outreach Project
- Preparation for Employment Program
- First Lutheran Saturday Outreach Program
- Norwalk Project
- Grief Ministry Project and Counseling Program
- Stevenson Program  
(Stevenson Elementary & the YMCA Long Beach parent ESL literacy training and tutoring for children)
- Elders and their Families: A Program of Care and Caregiving
- Healthy California Families: A Program Addressing Emerging & Vital Needs of Ethnic Minority Women, Children, and Family Members
- Cambodian Outreach Project
- Trinity Lutheran Saturday Outreach Program

Learn more by contacting Lutheran Social Services or visiting their website: [www.lsssc.org](http://www.lsssc.org)

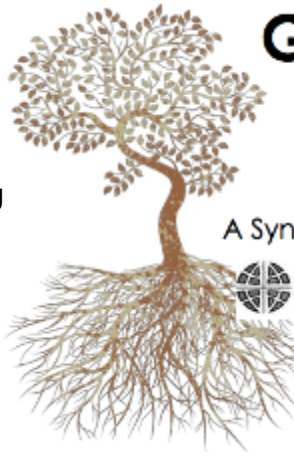
GLORIA DEI — GO AND WORK THE VINEYARD TODAY



Saturday, October 29, 10—5 pm

The Synod will **gather** for learning and fellowship as the followers of Jesus did. Focusing on the six marks of discipleship, (Prayer, Worship, Scripture, Service, Relationships and Giving) we'll **grow** through Bible study led by Rev. Rustin Comer of Bethel Encino, a keynote address by Rev. Jimmy Bartz of Thad's and multiple workshop sessions.

We'll **go** back to our congregations and into the world teaching & sharing what we've learned with others.



# Gather Grow Go

A Synod-wide day of learning

 Southwest California Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

For more information contact the Synod office. The event will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran, North Hollywood. The registration fee is \$35 person. Registration must be received by October 26. Child care is available at a cost of \$10 per child.

Register online and pay the registration fee: <http://www.socalsynod.org/3g/>



## SMILE MORE.

- A smile is a language that even a baby understands.
- A smile confuses an approaching frown.
- A smile is an inexpensive way to change your looks.
- Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been.
- To receive a smile, give one away.
- A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.
- If you're not using your smile, you're like a man with a million dollars in the bank and no checkbook.
- Keep a smile on your face and let your personality be your autograph.
- So many languages in the world, and a smile speaks them all.

### LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT — 2011

Over 20 years ago when we began our long range planning process in Long Beach, we were guided by two major principles and beliefs:

- 1) To always keep in our minds and hearts that what we do is a MINISTRY, the Lord's work.
- 2) To provide and develop quality and needed programs/services for people in our churches and communities.

Although we have a very small staff providing many quality programs, motivation is high among our workers as well as our over 820 volunteers. Staff are guided first and foremost by our Christian faith. We have been blessed as we approach our work as MINISTRY and go to God for all our resources and direction.

We as staff of the LSS/SC Long Beach and South Bay Area are very grateful to have the privilege of assisting those in need and serving our Lord Jesus through acts of service. Over 60 Lutheran Churches support the LSS/SC with generous donations of food supplies, financial contributions and volunteer assistance. We especially give thanks to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Pastor Helen, and Church Members for all your help, generous support, and prayers.

Many of our Literacy (ESL) and Healthy California Families Program participants have been talking about the Lutheran Church and how they feel it does so much for the community.  
*Thank you, Ruth Foelber*



# NOTES & NEWS

Annual picnic photos capture the festivities and fellowship at Mother's Beach on the Bay. Special thanks to our event planners and the many, delicious potluck contributions!



# *Gloria Dei Lutheran Church*

5872 Naples Plaza  
Long Beach, California 90803



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage paid  
Long Beach, California  
Permit No. 25



## **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.

