

## GLORIOUS DEI . . .



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## Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

### THE POWER OF PRAYER

On Monday, as my friend dropped me off at Long Beach Memorial for a cardiac ablation, she told me not to worry. Oh, I'm not worried. I have my congregation and friends all praying for me, and that takes all the anxiety away. As you know, all went well, and my doctor told me that it couldn't have gone better.

I was reminded of a much more difficult surgery I had in 2003. It was a complex intestinal surgery that in and of itself went well, but then I had some complications including a wound infection, post-operative pneumonia, and a pulmonary embolism. I spent 33 out of 61 days in the hospital and, on one day, the nurses thought I was in a multi-system shutdown that would lead to my death. (I didn't find out about that until many, many months later when my sister finally told me.) When I was home, I had home health nurses coming in several days a week to care for my open wound, and I had a PIC line in that I had to hook up every night to get nutrition. I had a wound vac for over three months, and it took another three months for the wound to heal completely. I will skip all the details, but it was really scary stuff. However, I was never, even once, afraid during the whole ordeal. I was never afraid because I had so many people praying for me that I felt like I was resting in the arms of Jesus the whole time. I was blessed with family and friends who carried the burdens of talking with the nurses and doctor about the nitty-gritty details and the decisions that had to be made. It was the first time in my life that I ever had a serious health issue, and it was the first time that I deeply knew the power of prayer.

I hesitated to have my name put in the prayers of intercession on Sunday, because I hate to make folks worry about me. But I knew two things: I needed your prayers, and I needed to give you all the opportunity to pray for your pastor. Because prayer changes us, whether we are the ones being prayed for or the ones who are praying. I don't know if prayer changes God, but study after study has shown that patients who are prayed for have better outcomes than those who are not being prayed for.

Karen Como has mentioned to me several times about the power of all of our prayers for her as she went through pretty serious back surgery and is healing very well. She was so touched by being

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our Journey of Faith Together  
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

### BOLD HOPE



### SPIRIT LIFTING

Christ the Shepherd has established a recovery fund called **Hope After the Fire!** to support those affected, whether they've lost homes, are still displaced, or have hosted others and taken on significant expenses. This fund is available not only to church members but also to those in the wider community. Please see below for ways to donate:

PayPal Giving: [paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4917456](https://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4917456)

Venmo: @ctsaltadena

Checks or Money Orders made payable to:

**Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church**

Memo: Hope After the Fire Fund

**Send to:**

**Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church**

**185 W. Altadena Dr, Altadena, CA 91001**

The Power of Prayer *Continues...*

reminded through cards and phone calls and food deliveries. She knows, without a doubt, that she is doing so well because of our Gloria Dei family.

We are all praying for our beloved Marilyn Bittle as she battles to come back to another day among us and all who love her. We need to also pray for Mike Engle as he is dealing with some serious nose reconstruction after cancer surgery. And we need to pray for our friend Jeff Rodrie who is soon on his way to southeast Asia for five weeks. And for the people who remain on our prayer list long term.

I also encourage you to let us pray for you when you are having health or other difficulties in your life, because your beloved Gloria Dei family can help lessen your load with prayer.

God is good...All the time!

**Pastor Ruth**

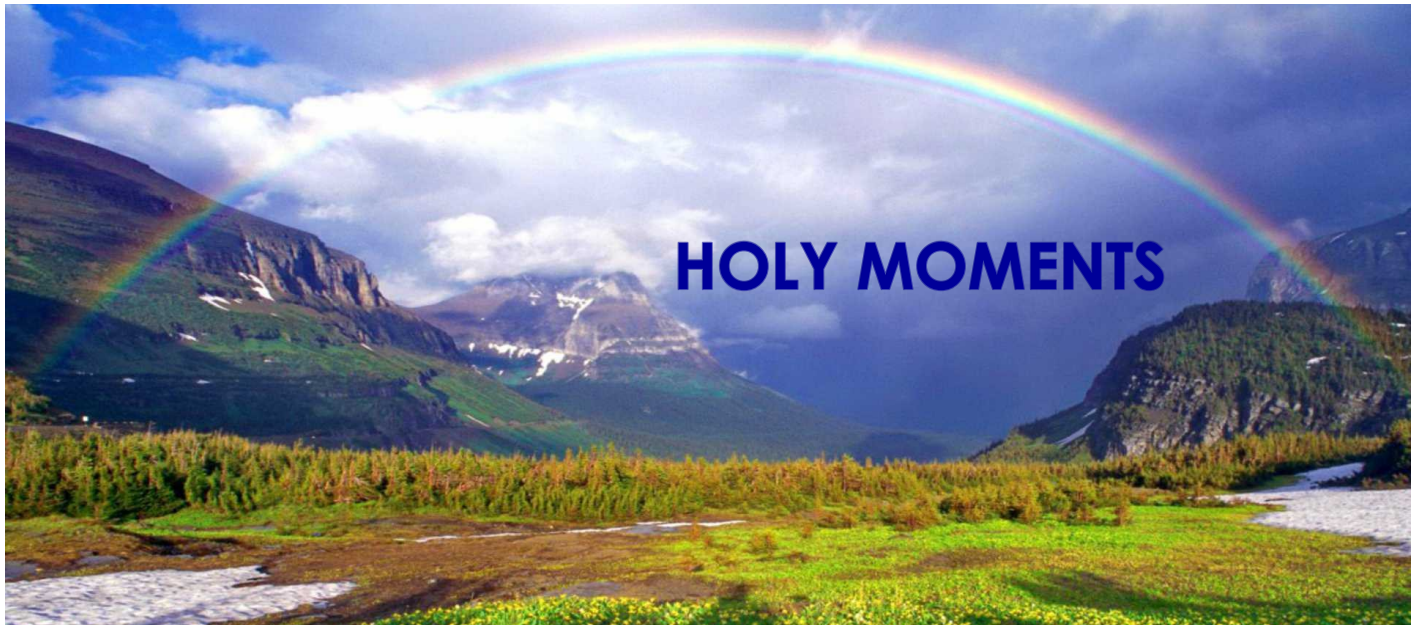
### Who We Are —

The Southwest California Synod is a **Reconciling In Christ Synod**, making a public commitment to welcome, include and celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people.

We are a **Lutheran Restoring Creation Synod**.

Lutherans Restoring Creation is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, cultivating a community of dedicated stewards of earth and neighbor who proclaim God's promise of hope and healing for all.

We are a **Jubilee USA Network Synod**. There are over 750 national and local faith groups that work with Jubilee USA to address the root causes of poverty and inequality. Congregations and faith communities are a critical moral champions on economic policies that impact our lives. Jubilee faith communities play a pivotal role in winning debt, tax, trade and transparency policies that protect vulnerable people and economies.



**I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. *Genesis 9:13***

Alicia roared through in the middle of the night, breaking windows and ripping off our roof when I was six. Even now, when someone mentions Hurricane Alicia, I can still hear the wind screaming and feel the wet carpet squishing between my toes.

I recently realized that I also name storms in my life. I've survived Hurricane Miscarriage, Tropical Storm Unemployment and many others.

But what if I stopped naming my storms and started naming my rainbows instead? The Bible says Jesus created the rainbow as a reminder of his covenant with us. It's a promise that he will never again send a flood to wash away humanity. The storms of life do not have the power to destroy us. They may cause damage, but they still leave room for Jesus to step in and provide, teach, comfort or save. If I stay focused on him, I will always find rainbows at the end of my storms.

*Lord, help me reflect on those times when Jesus calmed the storms of my life with a rainbow of provision, protection or peace. — Emily. E. Ryan, Guideposts 2025*

## **BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE PLANTED**

Loving God, keep me 'favor-minded' and thankful so I can secure a sanctuary to be Your servant. Fuel me with Your perfect truth and love. I sought Your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to Your word. Each day You strengthen me with Your grace. Thank You!

Perhaps you have heard that **Pastor Ruth** has to move because her duplex is being sold. Rents have skyrocketed every year since COVID, and she is having difficulty finding an affordable place to move. If you or someone you know has rental property that might be right for her, let her know. She is looking for a two-bedroom ground floor unit, with a fenced in yard or patio for her little dog, air conditioning and washer/dryer hook-ups. A garage would be great, but she at least needs off-street parking. She has her own refrigerator. Thanks in advance for any leads you may have.

# CONGREGATION UPDATE

## Message from Church Council President

School bells will be ringing and back to school is just around the corner! Please consider supporting the children at **Lutheran Social Services (LSS)** and at **Fe y Esperanza** with their school supply needs. Many stores are offering great sales on many items and the Dollar Tree shelves are fully stocked. The estimated cost to supply a child for school is approximately \$25. You can purchase school items and bring them to the Fellowship Hall and place them near the wonderful display Sandy Nelson designed, or, if you would like a personal shopper to shop for you, place cash or a check in a pew envelope and write '**School Supplies**' on the memo line.

## Lutheran Social Services (LSS):

**Back-to-School** supplies are distributed in early August. LSS appreciates all the support we have provided over the years! The need this year has grown as more families are reaching out to LSS for support. We continue to receive many donations of clothing and household items. Deliveries are made weekly. LSS is so appreciative of our generosity as this organization continues serving families and individuals in our LB community.

## Fe y Esperanza:

Pastor Marta has asked us for our support for their upcoming **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** scheduled for mid-July. They anticipate

hosting approximately 50 children and they provide lunch for these children every day throughout the week of VBS. Please consider a **financial contribution** for the VBS at Fe y Esperanza.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Marta's son Hector. He fractured his hip and has undergone yet another surgery. His health is compromised because of his severe diabetes. Pastor Marta needs our prayers too. Not only for Hector but for her church family during these difficult times.

## Long Beach Men's and Women's Shelter

**(Lydia House):** Sandy Nelson continues to make deliveries of clothing and toys to these shelters. Donations are welcomed, especially for children. Please place your donations for the Men's and Women's Shelter in one of the boxes under the mailboxes near the kitchen.

**Adult Education:** We are on our summer break until September.

## Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

**(ELCW):** Last month we celebrated another successful year of meeting together for fellowship, outreach projects and lunch together. Meetings will resume in September. Thank you to **Margie Brown** who has led this group as President for many years. In September, **Jean O'Connell** has agreed to lead the group as President.

...Continues on page 5

**Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of the Lutheran faith. This gift, undeserved and freely given, changes lives and perspectives as people realize they are enough because of what Christ has done and are called into the world to serve their neighbor and share the good news.**

~ Seeds for the Parish, Summer 2018 publication



### Congregation Update Continues...

The extra funds collected throughout the year were given to Fe y Esperanza in support of their VBS. A donation was also made to **Wounded Warriors** from the money collected from the Barbara White Library book sales. All women are welcome! Consider inviting a friend or neighbor.

### Coming Events:

**July 3** – NO Church Council meeting; this is our summer break

**July 19** – South Coast Interfaith Council Gala

**July 20** – Birthday Cake Sunday and Noisy Offering

**August 6** – Council Meeting via Zoom; everyone is welcome!

**During our Church Council meeting in June, we elected our council officers.** They are as follows;

**President – Karen Como**

**Vice President- Margie Brown**

**Secretary – Bob Siemer**

**Treasurer – Gary Bockman**



Thank you to all who serve on the Council and thank you to our church family for all

their support in our community outreach efforts. We provide for so many people. The need continues to grow and the generosity of our members is greatly appreciated!

**Karen Como,  
Council President**



**God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. Acts 4:33-34**



*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." ~ Philippians 4:6-7*

## FAITH & JUSTICE

- For people of Los Angeles and other areas under National Guard watch and ICE activity.
- For pastors, deacons and lay leaders serving faithfully during difficult times.
- For those who live in fear.
- For the people of Ukraine, Iran, Palestine, Israel, Sudan, and all those touched by war.



Visit website to learn how to continue to serve our Long Beach residents in need!

**IT'S TIME FOR DODGER BASEBALL**

Make checks payable to:  
ELCA - ADLA  
Memo Section: Dodgers Tickets

Mail to:  
552 E. Carson Street  
Suite 204, PMB#116,  
Carson, CA 90745

*Lutheran & Episcopal Night  
at  
Dodger Stadium*

*August 29, 2025 Friday - 7 PM*

Tickets are \$45 each. Sold on  
a 'First Come' basis. Only 350!

**Deadline: August 20, 2025**  
QUESTIONS: [adla.losangeles@gmail.com](mailto:adla.losangeles@gmail.com)

Your Name	
Number of Tickets	
Amount you enclosed	
Your phone number	
Your email address	
Name of your congregation	

## SUMMERTIME FUN...

Gather friends & family and  
**BUY your tickets ASAP !**

**Make check payable:**  
**ELCA-ADLA**  
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**Note DODGER TICKETS in the memo section**

**Mail to:**  
**552 E. Carson St.**  
**Suite 204**  
**PMB#116**  
**Carson, CA 90745**

## "God's Work. Our Hands." **Sunday, September 7 2025**

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans:

that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**JULY 3 Big Bang on the Bay**

**JULY 4 Independence Day**

**JULY 14 Mac & Cheese Day**

**JULY 19 SC Interfaith Gala**

**JULY 24 Amelia Earhart Day**

**JULY 25 Wine & Cheese Day**

**JULY 27 'Love is Kind' Day**

Thank you God, for all You've  
given me, including Your grace.

Help me to extend  
Your grace to others.

And, may I see bursts of Your  
glory and experience  
the fullness of Christ  
every day!

**Live in love,  
as Christ loved us.**

~ Ephesians 5:2

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

July 2 Twyla Karkut

July 6 Martie Engle

July 7 Rebecca Brook

July 22 Lark Adams

July 27 Stuart Subke

**Happy Anniversary — July 22**  
Sandy & Jeffrey Nelson



**Make me ever so grateful for  
the richness and depth of my  
life experiences.**

**Thank you Lord for guiding  
me to live my best life through  
Your gifts and blessings.**



**July 3 Fireworks @ 9pm**

### **BIG BANG ON THE BAY**

Soak up the festive, fabulous  
fireworks over Alamitos Bay  
with vintage aircraft flyovers,  
powered paragliders,  
& sailing regatta.

"My purpose in life is to  
get people to see that we  
are all one—we all sing the  
same song."

**SAUL DREIER, 100**, who survived  
years in concentration camps during  
World War II and, at age 89, founded  
the Holocaust Survivor Band, made  
up of fellow survivors.

**Your  
beauty  
and love  
chase  
after me  
every day  
of my life.**

~ Psalm 23:6



**Everything  
is  
possible  
for him  
who  
believes.**

~ Mark 9:23

He did this that He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come, the immeasurable riches of His free grace in His kindness and goodness of heart toward us in Christ Jesus. ~ Ephesians 2:7

**GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



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Long Beach, California  
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**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. At Gloria Dei Lutheran Church we welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to the social, cultural or economic circumstances that too often divide us. Our unity is in Christ in whom we are all made new. (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)**

