

Reverend Ruth Sievert, Pastor
5872 Naples Plaza Long Beach, California 90803-5044
Website: www.gdlclb.org Telephone: 562.438.0929



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

the little church with a big heart!

ANSWERING THE CALL

Yehiel Curry is installed as ELCA presiding bishop



When Yehiel Curry was installed as presiding bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton, the former presiding bishop, led the assembly in welcoming Curry. "Yehiel, bishop in the church of God, we have looked forward to your coming with great joy," she exclaimed to a diverse, colorfully dressed and enthusiastic assembly at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

"With all my heart," Curry began before pausing emotionally. After Eaton went to his side and placed a hand on his arm, he continued. "I thank you for your welcome. I hope to serve among you in Christ's name. And in the joy of the Spirit, may the peace of God be upon this house and this assembly."

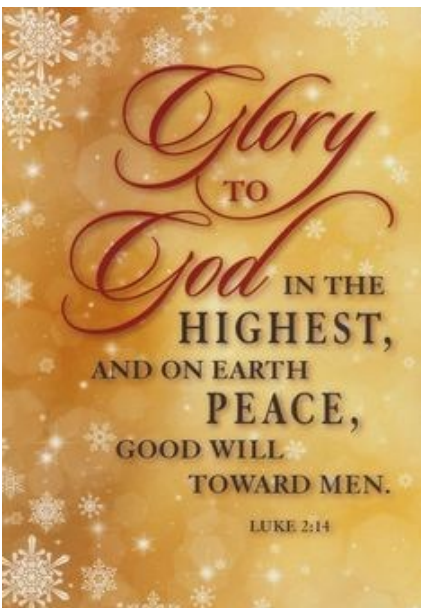
Throughout the service, a variety of hymns and songs were led by the National Lutheran Choir and musicians from the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod and St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. Members of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, members of the Church Council and ecumenical, interreligious and global guests participated in the processional.

CeCee Mills, secretary-elect of the ELCA, began the installation with an African tradition, the pouring of libations in honor of "the God that created us and in recognition that we are because of the ancestors who preceded us and in the hope of those who will come," she said. "This ritual recognizes and shows respect for those who have come before and who have paved the way, and those who are yet to come."

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Curry was introduced to the assembly by representatives of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, where he served as bishop prior to being elected to a six-year term as presiding bishop. "Grounded in mission, he gave us the charge to 'Go, therefore,' and invited us to smile, embracing the joy of God's calling and trusting that our labor in the Lord is not in vain," said one synod representative.

Pastor Vandiver of Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Washington, D.C., delivered the sermon, emphasizing that God calls everyone to serve in different and sometimes unlikely ways. "Whether we are clergy or lay, all of us have wrestled with this concept of call," he said. "The truth is that everybody gets a call. Even Jesus is not exempt." For Curry, that call to ministry took shape as he became first mission developer and then pastor of Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., and it continues now. "There came a call over the portals of heaven into the earth, round about the South Side of Chicago, at 61st and Woodlawn," Vandiver said.

"Who would've thought that that young boy growing up on the South Side of Chicago would grow also in wisdom and stature and somebody would put their hand on him and say, 'We want you to be a lay mission developer'?" Vandiver continued. "Who would've thought in that moment that we'd be sitting here today? Look what the Lord has done!" Sue Rothmeyer, current secretary of the ELCA, presented Curry for installation. Leaders from various church bodies lay hands on him, a sign of the church's unity, embodying its prayer for the Holy Spirit to guide and sustain him. "The office of presiding bishop is now committed to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," Eaton said to Curry. After a blessing and prayers, she removed from around her neck the pectoral cross, the common symbol of the office of bishop in the ELCA, and presented it to Curry, placing it around his neck.

Curry stood as Eaton presented him to the assembly for a standing ovation. Curry, Eaton and others then offered communion to the assembly. Following the service, a public reception was held for those hoping to greet Curry. At an evening banquet, Curry introduced his family.

"I'm going to do something that is probably a little different, Curry said. I am going to cede most of my time so that you can meet my wife and children." LaShonda Hicks-Curry, and their daughters, Shekinah, Ashirah and Shemiah (the last of them a recent graduate of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago), each offered remarks. Curry also lifted up his mother and recognized his siblings. "I stand on her shoulders, and nine of my 10 siblings are here." He then invited various groups from across the church to stand in recognition. "May we leave this place and understand that we're more connected than we realize," Curry said. For those present, the moment may have brought to mind Vandiver's earlier message: "It is not just the call of Bishop Curry—it is our call too." In an uncertain age, when the church is on the precipice of change, Vandiver said, those across the ELCA must stand alongside Curry and "remember that we have something to say, we have something to offer." **"It is a call that you may have to say yes to every day, even when it seems like all heck is breaking loose. But—ring, ring—there is a call coming from the portals of heaven. It's for you."**

COUNCIL UPDATE

Generosity continues to flow from our 'little church with the big heart' to many in our community. We have much to be thankful for in being able to bless others.

We are especially thankful for **Marilyn Bittle**, who will receive a **Lifetime Achievement Award** from the South Coast Interfaith Council (SCIC) on December 6. The SCIC mission is to bring interfaith and intercultural communities together to serve humanity. Marilyn will be honored for her many years of dedication and service in promoting this mission. Please join us as she is celebrated!



Evangelical Lutheran Church Women (ELCW):

In November the ELCW women prepared 24 seafarer boxes. A special thank you to all those who made a donation to our 'personal shopper' for the necessary items. Thank you, also, to **Laura Subke**, our friend and former member, now residing in Florida, who made so many knitted hats to distribute to the seafarers!



On December 11th at 11:00 a.m. the women will decorate the Christmas tree with the traditional Chrismon ornaments lovingly made so many years ago. All women are welcome to join us and enjoy a delicious lunch. Invite a friend!

Adult Education: Enjoy the fellowship and insightful revelations about the bible (and good humor) at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings as we continue our reading of 'What is the Bible?', authored by Rob Bell. Each Sunday brings new revelations.

Advent and Christmas: We will be preparing our sanctuary for Advent and Christmas on Saturday, November 29th from 10:00 a.m.- 12 noon. The Worship committee, led by **Phil Como**, can use your help. Join the fun!

Coming Events:

November 29 –

Decorate church for Advent/Christmas - 10-12 noon

December 3 – Council Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

December 6 – South Coast Interfaith Council Dinner 'Kindling Unity' from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

December 21 – Birthday Cake Sunday and Noisy offering

December 22 – Handel's Messiah at 7:30 p.m. presented by the Camarata Singers (Pastor Ruth is a member of this talented group)

January 18 – Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

Long Beach Men's and Women's Shelter: As the cold weather approaches, the shelter is in need of gently used warm jackets, blankets and new socks. Children's jackets are also needed. Please place your donations in one of the boxes in the Fellowship Hall. These items will be distributed just prior to Christmas Eve.

As we begin Advent and Christmas, we are increasingly aware of the need of so many within our community. Our response to this need is always amazing! Please consider gifts to our individual mission partners or make a monetary gift to Gloria Dei and write 'Christmas' on the memo line of your check. I'm grateful to be part of such a wonderful church family!

Blessings to you and your families during Advent and Christmas. Thank you for your gift of friendship! Remember each other in prayer and invite your friends and family members who are missing the care and fellowship of our little church with a big heart!

Merry Christmas,

Karen Como, Council President

Council Update continues...



Lutheran Social Services

(LSS): The 14th annual 'canned-good' parade under the direction of **Kalani Caldwell** was held on November 20. This year's run included the men's and women's swim teams and the wrestling and cross-country teams from **Long Beach Poly High School**. Over 150 young people participated in this wonderful tradition and filled a grocery cart to overflowing.

Along with the support of Gloria Dei and others, many families were fed at the Thanksgiving Feast on November 24. Additional groceries were also provided to families in need to ensure that a Thanksgiving dinner could be celebrated.

LSS will celebrate its 28th annual Christmas event for families within the Long Beach area. **Donations are needed by Sunday, December 14.** LSS has requested unwrapped toys for children 0-11 years old and Target or Walmart gift cards for the older children.

They are also in need of canned goods for their food baskets as well as monetary gifts for the purchase of food and supplies for the party.

Fe y Esperanza: Pastor Marta was so thankful for our monetary gift certificates in support of their Thanksgiving outreach to the homeless in the Compton area and for their annual Thanksgiving Feast that was held on November 25 in their Fellowship Hall. Pastor Marta and her members are also very grateful for the new printer Gloria Dei provided for them. The annual **Los Posadas** celebration will be held the week before Christmas. Small gifts of toys are given to the children in celebration of Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. Monetary gifts are appreciated so they can purchase the toys. Karen Como, Council President

FE Y ESPERANZA THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever" Psalm 107:1

November 25, 2025

Dear Esteemed Members and Friends of Fe y Esperanza Lutheran Church:

As the season of Thanksgiving approaches, I am compelled to express our profound and heartfelt appreciation for your steadfast dedication and invaluable partnership. Your unwavering commitment forms the very foundation upon which our vibrant community thrives, enabling us to fulfill our mission and extend our outreach.

The spirit of generosity, selfless service, and heartfelt care you consistently demonstrate is truly transformative. Whether through your tireless volunteer efforts, the sharing of your unique talents, or your significant financial contributions, these actions directly empower the vital programs and ministries that define Fe y Esperanza. Your collective engagement ensures that our church remains a welcoming beacon of faith and a thriving spiritual home for all.

We are particularly grateful for your active involvement and support as we collectively pursue a vision for the sustained growth and enhanced self-determination of our church. Your trust and contributions are instrumental in shaping a future where Fe y Esperanza can more fully focus its resources and energy on serving our local community and nurturing our congregational family with greater autonomy and impact.

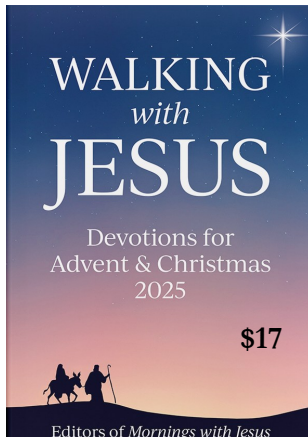
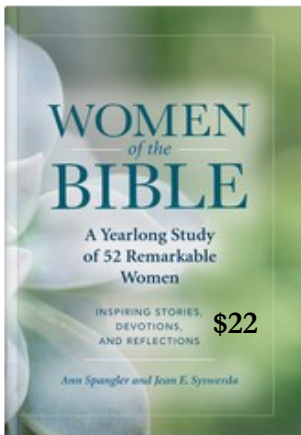
This period of reflection offers a poignant reminder of the indispensable role each of you plays within our church family. Your presence enriches us immeasurably, and your contributions create a tangible and lasting difference in the lives touched by our ministry. On behalf of the entire Fe y Esperanza community, I extend our warmest wishes for a truly joyous Thanksgiving and a blessed holiday season ahead.

With sincere gratitude, Pastor Marta Moscoso and Fe y Esperanza Members

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Oh God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with **good courage**, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship



Guidenposts is published bi-monthly or 6 issues annually.

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Take a much-needed break from all the "screentime," and relax with **Guidenposts** magazine. Escape into the beautiful pages and feel your spirits soar. You'll be amazed at how uplifting, true stories of positive people can help fill your own life with more hope and joy and see the remarkable ways God is at work in your life. Buy a few monthly subscriptions and help yourself and someone else take comfort in reassuring stories of how others leaned on faith and overcame struggles.

10 WAYS TO SPREAD LOVE...

LISTEN without interrupting. **SHARE** without pretending. **GIVE** without sparing.

SPEAK without accusing. **ENJOY** without complaint.

TRUST without wavering. **PRAY** without ceasing. **FORGIVE** without punishing.

ANSWER without arguing. **PROMISE** without forgetting.

NURTURE A MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS...



Advent Study Guide — We are thrilled to invite you and your community to learn together this Advent with our new, short video documentary "Intersections: Justice Ministry With ELCA Partners." The video is designed to introduce people concerned about poverty — people such as you — to some of its overlapping causes, through stories told by ELCA World Hunger companion ministries that are supported by your generosity. ~ ELCA Website: A Stable Lamp is Lighted



ELCA Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations

The ELCA is committed to visible unity among Christians as well as mutual understanding and cooperation for the common good between Christians and people of other religions and worldviews. The ELCA Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop is responsible for supporting, enriching and coordinating the ecumenical and inter-religious life of this church across its various expressions, and enhancing the public commitments of this church in Lutheran, ecumenical and inter-religious circles.

What does this mean?

- **We convene** bilateral dialogues with other church partners, such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- **We cooperate** with partners, such as The Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.
- **We facilitate** the ecumenical and inter-religious work of congregations, synods and churchwide ministries by offering resources, convening the Lutheran Ecumenical & Inter-religious Representatives Network, supporting the reception of our full-communion agreements through the work of the coordinating committees and serving as liaison with full-communion churches and dialogue partners.
- **We accompany** others, including our inter-religious partners, through initiatives such as the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign (“Standing With American Muslims. Upholding American Ideals”).
- **We provide** resources and information about opportunities for ecumenical and inter-religious formation throughout the ELCA.

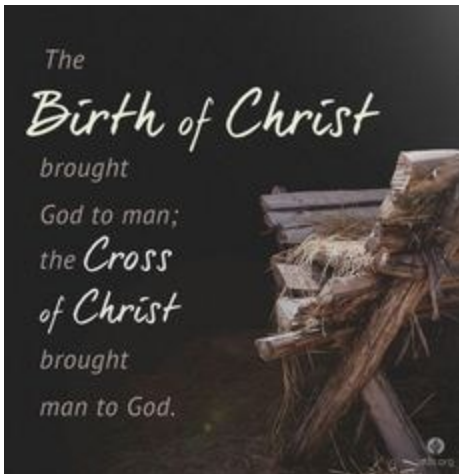
As a church, we must consider anew our calling and commitments as we live into a world that is both ecumenically diverse and multireligious. Four key ELCA documents, or declarations, currently serve to guide this critical work: **“A Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment” (1991)**, **“A Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community” (1994)**, **“A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment” (2019)**, and **“A Declaration to the Muslim Community” (2022)**.

“...that they may all be one.” ~ John 17:21

PROCLAMATIONS AND EVENTS

LORD, MAKE US GOOD GUESTS AND HOSTS OF YOUR KINGDOM WHO REFLECT THE HUMANITY AND GENEROSITY OF OUR SAVIOR. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!



Give something **unexpected** this Christmas.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH MUTUAL AFFECTION; OUTDO ONE ANOTHER IN SHOWING HONOR!

~ PSALM 12:10

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN *love*
- 1 COR 16:14

FOR TO US
a child is born,
TO US A SON IS GIVEN
AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED
Wonderful Counselor,
MIGHTY GOD
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
brush & arrow
ISAIAH 9:6

MERRY CHRISTMAS

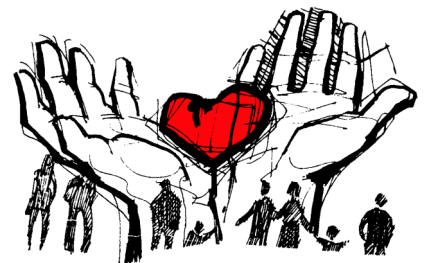


CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE @ 5:00 PM !

HE GIVES US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:57



JESUS... BEST. GIFT. EVER.



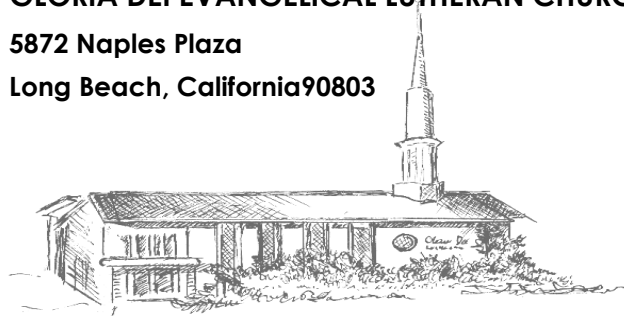
GROWING IN FAITH LIFTED BY HOPE GUIDED BY LOVE

GLORIA DEI — 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, education and friendship.

GLORIOUS DEI NEWSLETTER HIATUS SLATED FOR JANUARY

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THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM. ~ PSALM 28:7

May God grant us a hunger for him, which will cause us to pursue him in worship, as a way of life, a hunger, which will drive us to a closer fellowship with his people. This will result in a rich worship experience, characterized by unity, sensitivity, and understanding in loving God with our whole being.

We will love what he loves, hate what he hates, and long to see his purposes carried out through us.
Let Us Celebrate God !



