

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Dana Point, California

DEI-LY LIGHT



April 2017 NEWSLETTER EASTER JOY

Dear Gloria Dei family,

The amazing author John Donne (1572–1631) wrote the poem: *Death Be Not Proud* (Holy Sonnet X):

*Death, be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty and dreadful, for thou are not so...
One short sleep past, we wake eternally, And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.*

On Resurrection Sunday (April 16), we celebrate that the Creator brought the power of life to bear on death and raised up the first One. That's what God does; brings life. There are no guarantees or proofs of this fact, but only the mysterious story of Jesus dying the most horrible death while at the same time forgiving those killing him. Only the Spirit creating a community of over 2000 years based on an unconditional love (grace) that flows from the cross and empty tomb. Only those few moments in life where you feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude and whisper, 'thank You and forgive me for not loving this life deeply enough.'

Please join me in celebrating that life beyond death that is offered as a gift, because of the work of God in Jesus. There's always more.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Mattson".

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. Easter Sunday worship (April 16) is 6:30am, 8:30am, and 10:30am.



Pastor Sabrina's Dei Light

Last year, on the day before Easter, the *Wall Street Journal* ran an article written by James Martin, SJ, the Roman Catholic New Testament scholar, as he thought out loud about Easter. Martin said that Christmas is a quaint and lovely story but one that can be easily dismissed, though he did not mean to diminish the importance of the incarnation of Christ. But his point was that the true meaning of Christmas is so easily overcome by all of the distractions of our society and all of the preparations for the consumer holiday that we feel we need to make.

Easter, however, is different. Martin wrote, "Easter is harder to tame. The Easter story is both appalling and astonishing. It is clearly an event beyond our understanding or control, precisely because the accounts in the New Testament are not of our own making. If you believe that Jesus rose from the dead, however, everything changes." The claims of Easter, that God raised the crucified Jesus from death to life, demand a response, demand a way of living life differently.

And of course, Easter was never meant to be a one-day celebration. Every Sunday is a celebration of the miracle of Easter Sunday. If the central claim of Easter changes the world forever, that is something we need to be reminded of every week. As James Martin wrote, "Easter means that nothing is impossible with God." Hopefully that is the mantra that guides our lives every day and sustains us when things are at their most difficult.

THE BIG HAPPENING... (This is it! The big happening, that you don't want to miss out on, that is huge, a big give thanks to God!)

UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION - We're getting closer! Currently, the schedule has May 4 as the day it will be finished! We are beginning to make tentative plans for May 12 - 13... That date might happen... Either way, it's getting exciting: This month, you'll see drywall finishing, glass walls going in, doors being put into place. The pews and chairs are scheduled to be placed at the end of the month, the elevator/bell tower is scheduled for completion by Otis Elevators, the AV system is being wired, the five ton boulder fountain will be placed on the new patio, the stain glass will go in, etc. It's becoming real!



If you have not made a special gift via "The Puzzle Piece" envelopes, now is the time. We would still like to pay off a few items ahead of time. See the table in the Fellowship Hall for an envelope!

GERMANY TRIP MEETING takes place on Sunday, April 2, 6pm. This trip is to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation! This once in a lifetime event is July 10-20, 2017. Pastor David will lead Gloria Dei's group to the famous sites in Germany. The final deposit for the trip is due April 1 to Nawas Travel. Questions, speak with Pastor or grab a brochure at the back of the sanctuary or at the Welcome Center.



PRESCHOOL

(All things related to the Gloria Dei Lutheran Preschool)

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

Luke 24:6 "He is not here, He is risen!" Our preschoolers are learning that Jesus died on a cross because He loves us so much. They are learning that His resurrection means He is with us, He hears us, and that we will all be reunited some day. Our students will listen to Bible stories like the "Parable of the Easter Lily", "He is Not Here", and more. In April, we will absorb the concept of new life by recognizing the changes God provides as a sign Spring is here through plant life, farm life, and zoo life cycles.

I hope the month of April is filled with God's blessings, and be bright with His goodness and grace.

BARB COLLINS, CHILDREN AND FAMILY DIRECTOR



DEI-LY FRIENDSHIP

(Fellowship, Congregational Life, Community, Get-Togethers, Fun, Support, etc.)

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT - Sunday, April 16th @ 9:45-10:00am. All ages through 5th grade. We will have the egg hunt in the preschool playground. Bring a basket and a friend to enjoy our Easter tradition.

EASTER EGG DONATIONS NEEDED - We are seeking donations of plastic eggs and candy to fill the eggs. If you are able to help, please bring your donations to the Fellowship Hall and place in the large basket. Thank you.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) will meet on Monday, April 17th, at 7pm to discuss - *The Elephant Whisperer*, by Lawrence Anthony. Location: Gloria Dei Fellowship Hall. If interested in joining, speak with Diane Kelly (949-493-9632).

MEN'S BRIDGE - Will meet on Tuesday, April 4th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

SAVE THE DATE: Women's Tea. The annual women's tea will be held Saturday, May 13th at 2:00pm. The theme of the tea this year: "Tea in the Garden." There will be wonderful food, beautiful decorations, and special music, all held in the backyard garden of Donna Combe's home. Reservations: \$25.

SAVE THE DATE for Vacation Bible School (VBS) - June 26th-June 30th from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. VBS fee for week will be \$95.00 per camper for Pre-K to 5th graders (sibling discount available). VBS will be staffed by Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC) and will focus on the theme "This Little Light of Mine" Matthew 5:14-16. *Registration will begin in May. Volunteers also needed for this fun filled week.* Stay tuned for more information. Questions-contact Barb Collins (sundayschool@mygloriadei.org).

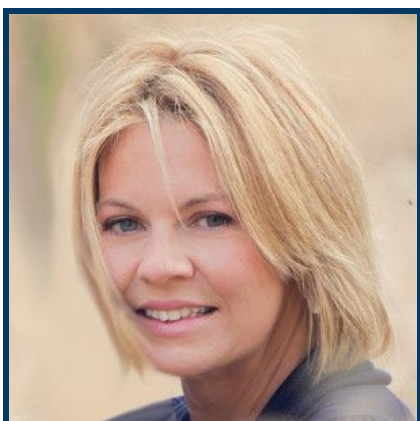


YOUTH NEWS

SENIOR HIGH

SENIOR HIGH WILL BE SERVING IT UP!: Palm Sunday, April 9, is the annual pancake breakfast!! Sr. Highers who would like to help serve food that morning are to report to the kitchen at 8:00am We'll be setting up, serving, and cleaning up, so plan to be around until about 11 a.m. Donations are gladly accepted and will be used towards the summer trip...white water rafting!

SAVE THE DATE: White Water Rafting, July 30 - August 2.



DEI-LY WORSHIP

(All things related to worship, music, altar guild, choirs, singing, praise, etc.)

CHOIRS - Sanctuary Choir (Teen - Adults) continues to rehearse on Thursdays at 7:30pm. For Lent and the Easter Season we will draw from many musical styles. Come sing with us!

HANDBELL CHOIR is meeting in the Sanctuary on Thursdays at 6:30pm. We are having a great time learning new music and new techniques! The next ring in church will be April 2nd when we play "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me." The arrangement has a great blues feel to it. Listen for the "walk downs" in the Bass bells. So cool!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - Join us during the Sunday School hour. We are the "musical opening" for the lesson. The children are learning several fun sing alongs as well as our performance piece for the Easter Season. Meet in the Sunday School Room at 9:40am and find out what "Amigos de Cristo" means.

SPECIAL MUSIC Mother's Day is coming-- Sunday May 14th. The Men's Choir is planning a special song for 8:30am & 10:30am services that day. Guys, all are welcome to join in the fun even if you are not in the Sanctuary Choir. For your convenience we'll offer two short rehearsals both at 8:20pm on Thursday, May 4th and Thursday, May 11th. Questions? Talk to choir director Kathy Person.

SUMMER MUSIC Even though the choir will be on break, the music will go on throughout the summer months. Our congregation is blessed with many talented people. If you would like to contribute a vocal or instrumental solo or ensemble, contact Kathy Person.

ORGANIST/PIANIST HANNA LEE not only leads us in worship, but accompanies the Sanctuary Choir and other groups on Sunday morning. She has her doctorate degree in Organ Performance and her Master's Degree in Piano Performance. Please welcome her to the Gloria Dei family!



GROWING TOGETHER!

(All things related to learning, Bible study, small groups, G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) groups, education, etc.)

G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER)

GIFT Group at David and Susan Warneke's home (25262 Barque Way, Dana Point Phone: 203-952-5657) meets on Monday, May 1st at 7:00pm Study: The Gospel of John. This GIFT group will not be meeting in April.

GIFT Group at Dennis and Daneen Pysz's home (33172 DeSoto Way, Dana Point, Phone: 949-290-0381) meets on Wednesday, April 19 at 7:00pm Study: Discipleship, led by Jim and Neta Wenrick.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES (9:40am) - The overall theme for 2016 - 2017 adult education Sunday morning forum is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The series on the "Roots of the Reformation" will conclude April 2nd. There will be a guest speaker April 23rd. And then Dennis Chernenkoff will lead a two-week Bible study on the book of Ephesians April 30th and May 7th.

HEART-LIFTERS WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month, April 11th and 25th. They will meet at Donna Combe's home, 45 Via Belleza San Clemente, CA. All women are welcome to join in. Refreshments and social time: 6:30pm; Bible Study: 7pm - 8pm. Carpooling is available. For information contact Donna at 949-360-5382.



DEI-LY SERVICE

(All things related to service, ministry, helping others, compassion, caring, loving, serving “the least of these”, etc.)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - Meets the first Saturday of each month: April 1, 9am. This ministry invites people of all ages to join us. If you know of someone in need of a shawl or would like more information, call Peggy Johnson at 949-363-8714.

CHURCH CAMPUS CLEAN-UP - will be held on April 1st, (no fooling!), from 9am - noon. Please help with a little “spring cleaning”. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

THE QUILTING GROUP will not be meeting in April, but will reconvene May 27 (4th Saturday of every month) in the Fellowship Hall.

SERRA'S PANTRY - Providing food to those in need is a local volunteer opportunity, located in San Juan Capistrano. Interested Gloria Dei members serve at Serra's Pantry every third Saturday of the month at 8:30am. April 15th is the next volunteer opportunity at Serra's Pantry. Contact Paul Dubow at 949-248-8865, if interested.



LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY

Gloria Dei will have four missionary trips to Los Angelitos in 2017. The next trip is Saturday, June 10th! Please mark your calendars and contact David and Susan Warneke, 203-952-5657, if you are interested in attending any or all trips.

Look for more information in the Sunday bulletin and future monthly newsletters. Watch for sign-ups.

Los Angelitos Orphanage Trips in 2017

Saturday, March 25, Saturday, June 10

Saturday, August 26, Saturday, November 18



DEI-LY DETAILS

(Anything that has no other place, volunteer lists, prayer requests, special announcements, numbers, and figures, a veritable potluck of stuff, jokes...)

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

<u>3/5</u>	448	\$ 8,496.25
<u>3/12</u>	317	\$ 6,338.00
<u>3/19</u>	336	\$ 7,665.00
<u>3/26</u>	358	\$5,754.00

"SIMPLY GIVING" - Gloria Dei offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. Applications are available at the Visitor's Center or call the church office.

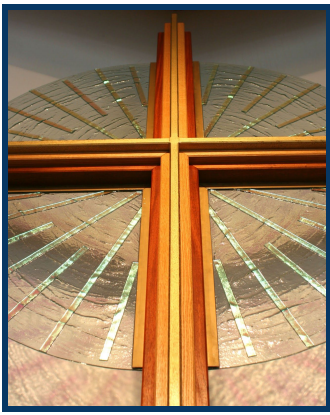
GLORIA DEI ENDOWMENT FUND - "What legacy will you leave?" Brochures are available in the pews and at the Welcome Center! Have you considered putting Gloria Dei in your will? If you would like to leave a lasting gift to your church, please consider doing so.

WEDDING BELLS - They will be ringing for Cameron Steele and Samantha Michinard on April 8th. Best wishes Cameron and Samantha on behalf of your Gloria Dei family!

HOLDEN VILLAGE - SUMMER VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Holden Village, a Lutheran ecumenical retreat center in the North Cascades mountains of Washington and home of Holden Evening Prayer, is seeking summer staff! Summer volunteer staff can serve for as little as two weeks and for as long as 3-4 months. As a staff person, you will have access to hiking trails in the neighboring Glacier Peak Wilderness; teaching sessions from faculty that include Nadia Bolz-Weber and Alan Storey; and opportunities to create pottery, weaving, and other arts and crafts. Room and board are provided to all volunteer staff. Positions are available for ages 18 and up, and options are also available for families with school-age children. Visit www.holdenvillage.org/volunteer and check out the Short Term Staff, Key Staffing Needs, and Family Volunteers pages for a full list of open positions. We hope to see you in the Village!

P.S. Interested in visiting Holden but not quite ready to volunteer? Check out www.holdenvillage.org/visit to learn more about visiting Holden as a guest.



DEI-LY DUTIES

APRIL 2017 VOLUNTEERS

<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>6:30am</u>	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>
4/2		L. Ellis	R. Easton	E. Mills	K. Gray
4/9		C. Backhus	L. Schuller	J. Moyer	M. Delgado
4/16	S. Steele	J. Knudson	J. Knudson	N/A	D. Pysz
		J. Bradshaw	S. Warneke		
4/23		J. Adams	J. Easton	A. Boicey	B. Cummings
4/30		K. Desmond	R. Grefsrud	C. Simpson	P. Johnson
<u>ACOLYTE</u> (month)		C. Susag	L. Miertschin	<u>GOOD FRIDAY LECTORS</u>	
<u>USHER</u> (month)		P. Dubow	D. Combe	Noon - P. Johnson	
		M. Dubow	J. Combe	7pm - D. Chernekoff	
				S. Boland	
<u>COMMUNION ASST</u> (month)		D. Caskey	S. Manville		
<u>REFRESHMENTS</u>					
4/2		J. Skraba	S&D Warneke		
4/9		C. Weinhardt	K&C Anderson		
4/16		Many families	Many families		
4/23		K. Desmond	M. Cawein		
4/30		D&G Blanda	D&J Combe		
<u>WELCOME CENTER</u>					
4/2		G. Rightmire	H. Stutz		
4/9		J. Young	R. Hanson		
4/16		N. Ficken	K&C Anderson		
4/23		G. Rightmire	G. Sherwood		
4/30		D. Kelly	S. Pyle		

MAY 2017 VOLUNTEERS

<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>
5/7	G. Enright	M. Boland	J. Contestabile	G. Rightmire
5/14	C. Asis	S. Pyle	B. Mesa	L. McCarty
5/21	K. Gray	S. Warneke	E. Mills	D. Combe
5/28	M. Dubow	Confirmation	J. Moyer	D. Dooly
<u>ACOLYTE</u> (month)		J. Chernekoff	P. Melschau	
<u>USHER</u> (month)		S & P Furlong	T. Cawein	
			W. Knottnerus	
<u>COMMUNION ASST</u> (month)		G. Enright	L. Mers	
<u>REFRESHMENTS</u>				
5/7	B&B Gillespie	M. Bise		
5/14	C. Jennings	L. Flippen		
5/21	K. Chernekoff	S. Grady		
5/28	S. Manville	J. Hettmann		
<u>WELCOME CENTER</u>				
5/7	K. Desmond	T. Seibert		
5/14	B&B Gillespie	D. Powell		
5/21	Manville & Sels	St. Martin's		
5/28	J. Olson	S&D Warneke		

DEI-LY PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

"Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs..."

HEALING - Tom Avery, Blaine Johnson, Gina Grefsrud, Len & Betty Michel, Debbie Campominosi, Ray Burke, Kristen Sears, Jack Doerr, Vera Stricker, Hilma and Bill Patterson.

ETERNAL HOPE - For Gloria Olson and her family.

PEACE AND SAFETY for all our service men and women now serving around the world.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUEST - To place a loved one on the Prayer Chain, call the church office at 949-493-3414.

THANKS!

Dear Pastor David and Gloria Dei Lutheran church,

How are you? Thanks so much for your generous support last year and this Jan. to this ministry through me. Deeply grateful and appreciated! Sorry for this belated thanks, for I just got the report from the Global Mission.

May God richly bless you and repay you for your love in Christ!
Dorcas
(Gloria Dei's Missionary)

CONTACT INFORMATION

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

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Facebook Page: [Facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint](https://www.facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint)

Staff Email Addresses:

Pastor David R. Mattson pastordavid@mygloriadei.org

Pastor Sabrina Vasta pastorsabrina@mygloriadei.org

Carol Weinhardt gloriadei@mygloriadei.org; Shelli Parajeckas preschool@mygloriadei.org;

Paige Gulck youth@mygloriadei.org; Barbara Collins sundayschool@mygloriadei.org

APRIL 2017

(See Calendar on Website: <http://www.mygloriadei.org/calendar-2/>)

