

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Dana Point, California

DEI-LY LIGHT



MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

LENTEN DISCIPLINES

Dear Gloria Dei family,

"Receive the sign of the cross..." (Philippians 3:10) Those are the first words that begin our Lenten Journey with Jesus to the cross. We hear them on Ash Wednesday and they remind us of our baptism - "marked with the cross of Christ forever." Martin Luther encouraged us to make the sign of the cross in order to remember our baptism daily. As Bill Jonas recently reminded me, 'It's not I was baptized, but I am baptized.' So, why not make the sign of the cross each day during Lent, to remember that you are loved to death.

"Receive the sign of the cross that henceforth you may know the Lord..." One of the traditional disciplines in terms of knowing the Lord, that is as old as Christianity itself is through worshiping together. Worshiping alone is wonderful, but Jesus promises His presence in community - "where two or three are gathered." Lent is the time to journey together. I need you. You need me. God has created us for fellowship. Make both Wednesdays and Sunday worship part of your Lenten discipline.

"Receive the sign of the cross that henceforth you may know the Lord, the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering." We gaze intently upon the cross because that love leads to an empty tomb. All humans know suffering (As I write this, I'm thinking of our good friend Ken Anderson), but because of the cross and only because of the cross we know grace. And grace changes everything - even death to life.

Peace,

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

Pastor David R. Mattson



Pastor Sabrina's Dei Light

When I was younger my parents had a cleaning woman, who was also a sort-of babysitter for my sister and me. I loved her, but what I didn't love was the fact that my mom made us all clean the day before she would come to clean each week. I couldn't ever understand that. Of course, now I realize that sometimes it is necessary to tidy up before someone can come in and do a really deep cleaning.

In some ways, that is what Lent is all about. We observe the Lenten season because it gives us the chance to tidy up a little bit, to step outside of our routine and our daily existence and to look closely at our lives, at our choices, at our priorities. The season of Lent grants us the opportunity to reflect on whether we are making plenty of room for God in our lives or whether we are trying to squeeze God in when it's convenient and easy. It makes us think about the sacrifice that Jesus made – not in a negative, guilt-inducing kind of way; instead, Lent makes us think about the sacrifice that Jesus made in a grace-filled, life-giving, forgiveness is guaranteed, kind of way.

We go into the Lenten season knowing that it is a finite 40-day journey that will end with Easter morning. We may make changes or sacrifices, but we do so knowing that resurrection is coming. How good it is to know that God's light shines even in our darkest times.

This Lent, we are working through the Stations of the Cross. Maybe a good place to begin is this meditation by former Pope, Benedict the XVI, as he reflected on the cross:

"Brothers and sisters, our gaze is frequently distracted by scattered and passing earthly interests; let us direct our gaze today toward Christ. Let us pause to contemplate his Cross. The Cross is the source of immortal life, the school of justice and peace, the universal patrimony of pardon and mercy... His nailed arms are open to each human being and they invite us to draw near to him, certain that he accepts us and clasps us in an embrace of infinite tenderness: 'I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself'" (Jn 12: 32).

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!)

NEW COUNCIL: Our thanks to the people who are serving us in leadership!

Executive Committee: President Craig Collins, Vice President Liane Schuller, Treasurer Mark Desmond, Financial Secretary Lisa Ellis, Secretary Annette Fettis, Don Caskey, Dennis Pysz and Chuck Weinhardt.

New Church Council: Jim Bankson, Kristina Mayfield, Bill Ramsey and Kim Santore



UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION - As you can see by all the changes, it's amazing what a little dry weather will do! We're still scheduled to finish up by mid - late April. Very soon the roof and dry walling will be finished. The stained glass artist will be here the beginning of March to re-measure the two areas that will hold his new artwork. It will be wonderful. By the way, our old pews will be taken out of the existing sanctuary in April and given to a church in Riverside. We're thankful that they will be used for many years to come! Our new pews, which are curved, padded in the seat area, and the rest wood are scheduled to be installed on April 10.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE CHOIR from Moorhead, Minnesota will be with us to sing on Wednesday, March 8. We will feed them and help with housing. Then we will join our brothers and sisters at St. Edward's Catholic Church for the concert at 7pm. This Lutheran college choir is known around the world for their excellence and this will also be an ecumenical service for Lent. Watch the sign-up for ways that you can help or speak with Music Director Kathy Person.

Shelli Parajeckas, Preschool Director



PRESCHOOL

(All things related to the Gloria Dei Lutheran Preschool)

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

March is truly a long month for our preschoolers, however it is one of our favorite months because of the celebrations we recognize. We will talk about Lent Season with our students, how faithful Jesus was to prayer, and how much he truly loves us. We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss birthday with lots of reading and graphing our favorite stories. We will watch out for

leprechauns on March 17th, and end the month with a visit from the Lizard Wizard! Spring is approaching, our program is blooming every day, and we are truly blessed to be part of this ministry.

"As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."
Galatians 6:10

BARB COLLINS, CHILDREN AND FAMILY DIRECTOR



DEI-LY FRIENDSHIP

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

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) will meet on Monday, March 6th, at 7pm to discuss - *The Quality of Silence*, by Rosamund Lupton. Location: Gloria Dei Fellowship Hall. If interested in joining, speak with Diane Kelly (949-493-9632).

MEN'S BRIDGE - Will meet on Tuesday, March 7th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY - Wine tasting and appetizer night out at We Olive in San Juan Capistrano (31760 Camino Capistrano) on Sunday, March 12 at 5:30 pm. Cost: \$25. This event is open to everyone (men, women, couples, singles...). Sign up on the patio.

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 5 year olds 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)

PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



YOUTH NEWS

SENIOR HIGH

CONFIRMATION WINTER RETREAT: March 3-5. Let's head to (hopefully) sunny San Diego for a weekend to discover some of God's greatest creations! Details to follow.

LET'S TAKE A HIKE!: Sunday, March 26, 12 - 3pm: Calling all Hikers!! Let's enjoy an afternoon in the fresh air. We'll leave the church parking lot for hike at Top of the World.



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, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. Study: The Book of James.

GIFT Group at Dennis and Daneen Pysz's home (33172 DeSoto Way, Dana Point, Phone: 949-290-0381) meets on Monday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. 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. Through March 12, Bill Jonas will be leading a class called "We Plant the Church," about the history and formation of the Lutheran Church in the United States. After Join us at 9:40 a.m. in the sanctuary.

HEART-LIFTERS WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month, March 14th and 28th. They will meet at Ann St. Martin's home, 29845 Hiddenwood Laguna Niguel, CA. All women are welcome to join in. Refreshments and social time: 6:30; Bible Study: 7pm - 8pm. Carpooling is available. For information contact Ann at 949-933-3906.

KATHY PERSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR



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 6:30. We are having a great time learning new music and new techniques! We will play for both 8:30 and 10:30 services on April 2nd.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - This month we will learn music for the Lenten season. For warm-up time we'll get fired up with some Sunday School "sing along" favorites. Join us in the classroom this month during Sunday School.

Upcoming Special Event March 8th. Mark your calendars!

Concordia College Choir of Moorhead Minnesota will be giving a concert in Dana Point. Gloria Dei will be hosting. The 72 voice choir is led by the highly acclaimed choral director Rene Clausen. Concordia has made many outstanding recordings. You can learn about this **amazing** group and listen to samples at: <https://www.concordiacollege.edu/music/ensembles/choirs/the-concordia-choir/>

Host Families Needed: March 8 - Gloria Dei will be co hosting a special concert given by Concordia College of Moorhead, Minnesota. We will need overnight housing for approximately 70 students. Thanks to the many families who have already signed up to host students overnight.

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!

Gloria Dei Church Council



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: March 4th, 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.

QUILTING GROUP - This group will meet on March 25th at 9:30am (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. March 18th 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 first trip for 2017 is this month, March 25th! 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

THANKS FROM LUTHERAN BORDER CONCERNS MINISTRY -

Thank you for your gift!

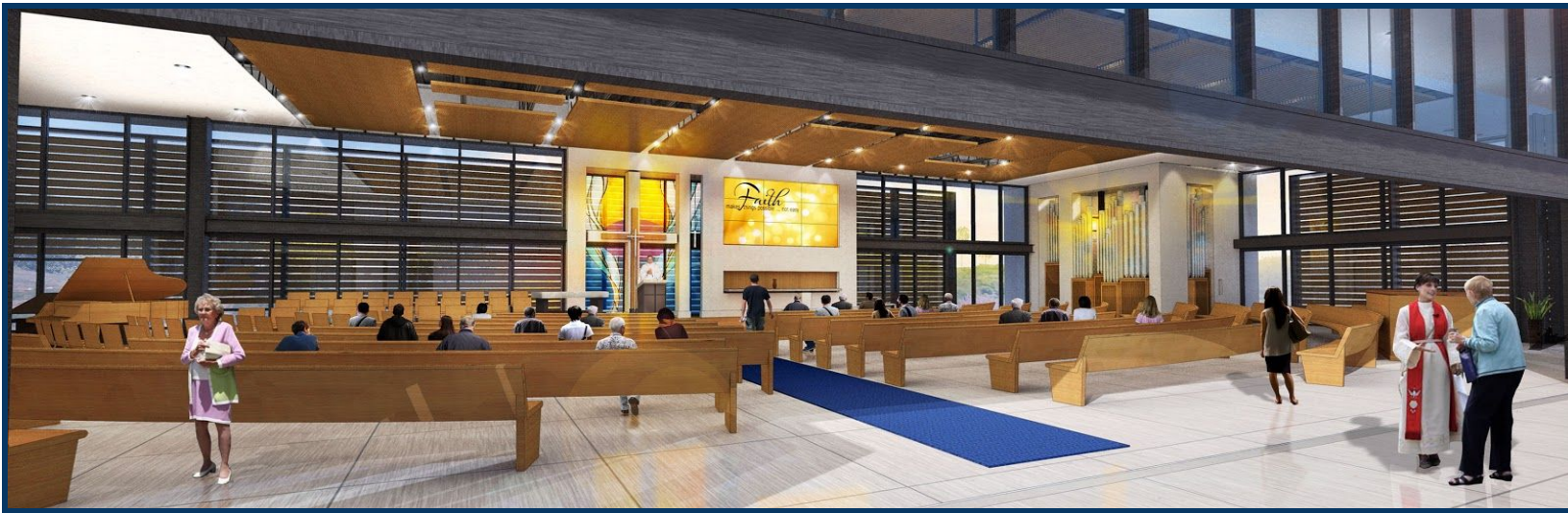
January was a busy month distributing gifts and socks for children and quilts and blankets to families in a region 196 miles from the west coast to the east and 30 miles south of the border. What a pleasure to see children, ladies and men, hugging their new quilts and blankets that will keep them warm over the winter; accepting socks that will keep their feet dry and healthy; and children receiving gifts that bring a lot of smiles to their faces. That's showing love: bringing many smiles after the long days of rainy weather, showing the love of Christ in different ways and forms.

The Breakfast Program has opened a new site to serve meals to children in San Luis Rio Colorado area. Please keep in your prayers Jordi and Lidia, as they are going to lead this important new effort to reach more children with food for their bellies and bodies and the Word of God and the Gospel for their hearts. In the middle of this month a new small multipurpose room will be built for this and other purposes.

Thank you for your continued prayers! We are so blessed that we have brothers and sisters in Christ remembering us in their prayers.

Again, thank you for your gift!

In His Service, Ramon Contreras -Ministry Coordinator



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

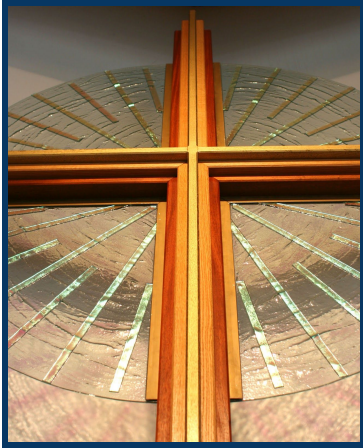
<u>2/5</u>	300	\$15,701.00
<u>2/12</u>	285	\$ 8,445.00
<u>2/19</u>	340	\$ 5,794.00
<u>2/26</u>		

“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.

CEMETERY PLOT - PACIFIC VIEW (Corona del Mar) AVAILABLE - The Annette Jones’s estate is selling a single cemetery plot at Pacific View in Corona del Mar. It is located high on the hill, next to actor John Wayne.

If interested, contact Jeanne Sleeper : 949 497 3673 x 1300; jsleeper@jbsmgmt.com



DEI-LY DUTIES

MARCH 2017 VOLUNTEERS

<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>
3/5	J. Luhan	S. Schroeder	A. Boicey	L. McCarty
3/12	P. Dubow	A. Hettmann	C. Simpson	G. Talstad
3/19	L. Ellis	M. Boland	J. Contestabile	D. Dooly
3/26	A. Luhan	A. McElwaine-Leto	B. Mesa	L. Mers

ACOLYTE (month) J. Chernenkoff A. Melschau

USHERS (month) L&W Morgan G&D Powell
T. Cawein

COMMUNION ASST (month) C. Backhus W. Johnson

REFRESHMENTS

3/5	K. Chernenkoff	L. Mers
3/12	S. Manville	P. Michalis
3/19	J. Olson	D&D Pysz
3/26	D&G Blanda	A&J St. Martin

WELCOME CENTER

3/5	D. Kelly	G. Sherwood
3/12	J. Skraba	T. Seibert
3/19	S. Manville	A&J St. Martin
	G. Sels	
3/26	J. Olson	S&D Warneke

APRIL 2017 VOLUNTEERS

<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>5:00pm</u>	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>
4/2	C. Weinhardt	R. Easton	E. Mills	K. Gray
4/9	C. Backhus	L. Schuller	J. Moyer	M. Delgado
4/16			D. Pysz	
4/23	J. Adams	J. Easton	A. Boicey	B. Cummings
4/30	K. Desmond	R. Grefsrud	C. Simpson	P. Johnson

ACOLYTE (month) C. Susag L. Miertschin

USHER (month) P. Dubow D. Combe
M. Dubow J. Combe

COMMUNION ASST (month) D. Caskey S. Manville

REFRESHMENTS

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

WELCOME CENTER

4/2	G. Rightmire	H. Stutz
4/9	J. Young	R. Hanson
4/16	N. Ficken	K&C Anderson
4/23		G. Sherwood



**Wednesday,
March 8
7 p.m.**

St. Edward the Confessor
Catholic Church
33926 Calle La Primavera
Dana Point, Calif.

*Tickets available at
ConcordiaTickets.com,
800-838-3006 or at the door*

*Presented by Gloria Dei
Lutheran Church and
St. Edward the Confessor
Catholic Church*



STAGERIGHT

The Concordia Choir performs
on StageRight Choral Risers.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE
Moorhead, Minnesota
TheConcordiaChoir.org



“exceptional”
-Garrison Keillor

“so talented”
-The King’s Singers

“you MUST see them”
-Eric Whitacre

The Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minn., continues to affirm its reputation as one of America’s finest a cappella choirs. Since 1920, the 72-voice choir has performed in nearly every major hall including Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center as well as numerous international tours.

A February 2010 performance and recording session with the Grammy Award-winning King’s Singers and multiple performances on Garrison Keillor’s “Prairie Home Companion” radio show highlight the Choir’s world-class quality. In May 2011 the choir toured South Korea and performed with Dr. Hak Won Yoon’s Incheon City Chorale.

The Concordia Choir is featured in the Emmy-winning Concordia Christmas Concerts, which are nationally broadcast on public

television. The choir’s recordings are distributed internationally and through iTunes, making it one of the top-selling choirs in the country.

Dr. René Clausen is the third conductor in the choir’s illustrious history, assuming the role in 1986. As a composer he has written more than 120 commissioned works. The Kansas City Chorale recording “Life and Breath: Choral Works by René Clausen” won two Grammy awards in 2013.

This year’s 2017 national tour of the Southwest spans 15 days and includes locations between Minneapolis and Los Angeles.

Learn more at TheConcordiaChoir.org

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, and Gloria Olson.

ETERNAL HOPE - For Virginia Anderson 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.

Letter from Child Share

Dear Pastor David, Pastor Sabrina, and the people of Gloria Dei, thank you once again for the gift cards. Your support and partnership is greatly appreciated. Many blessings to you this new year. Your generosity brought smiles and happiness to hundreds of children.

With much gratitude,

Kathy Hernandez, Child Share

(Child Share - "Finding Homes and Supporting Foster Families)

CONTACT INFORMATION

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

33501 Stonehill Drive, Dana Point, CA 92629

Church Office: (949) 493-3414; Fax: (949) 493-6479; Preschool: (949) 493-3414 x209

Website: mygloriadei.org; Email: gloriadei@mygloriadei.org

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 Parajekas preschool@mygloriadei.org;

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

MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ash Wednesday 8am-9am Prayer & Ash Imposition Noon - Ash Wed. Worship 4pm TOPS 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Ash Wed. Worship	2 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sanc. Choir	3 Men's Retreat (Fri. - Sun.) Confirmation Youth Trip (Fri. - Sun.)	4 9am Prayer Shawl Ministry
5 8:30am Worship 9:40am Education 10:30am Worship 5pm Worship	6 7pm RIOT Book Club - Fellowship Hall	7 7am Breakfast Study (RJ's) 6:30pm Men's Bridge	8 10am Women's Bible Study 4pm TOPS 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Concordia Concert at St. Edwards	9 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sanc. Choir	10	11 8am Men's Breakfast
12 8:30am Worship 9:40am Education 10:30am Worship 5pm Worship 5:30pm We Olive Outing (Women's Ministry Event)	13	14 6pm Baja Mtg. - DHHS (Sanc.) 6:30pm Heart Lifters - A. St. Martin	15 10am Women's Bible Study 4pm TOPS 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lent Service	16 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sanc. Choir	17	18 8:30am Serra's Pantry (SJC)
19 8:30am Worship 9:40am Education 10:30am Worship 5pm Worship	20 7pm GIFT (Pysz) 7pm GIFT (Warneke)	21 7am Breakfast Study (RJ's) 7pm Council Meeting	22 10am Women's Bible Study 4pm TOPS 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lent Service	23 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sanc. Choir	24 6pm Fat Friday Fellowship- location TBD	25 7am Los Angelitos Trip 9:30am Quilting Group
26 8:30am Worship 9:40am Education 10:30am Worship 5pm Worship	27	28 6:30pm Heart Lifters - A. St. Martin	29 10am Women's Bible Study 4pm TOPS 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Lent Service	30 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sanc. Choir	31	

