

DEI-LY LIGHT



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

Strange days indeed! Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14, Valentine's Day. If that's not strange enough, Easter this year is on April 1, April Fools Day. Strange days indeed!

Or, maybe not so strange, after all, Saint Valentine was a Christian martyr. It would certainly be wise of us to follow in his devotion to Jesus and observe Lent, the Christian preparation for Easter with love.

And speaking of Easter and April fools day, it's important to be able to laugh at oneself and God will have the last laugh. Or as the award winning author Fredrick Buechner wrote:

In terms of human wisdom, he (Jesus) was a perfect fool. And if you think you can follow him without making something like the same kind of a fool of yourself, you are laboring under not a cross, but a delusion. There are two kinds of fools in the world: damned fools and what Saint Paul calls "fools for Christ's sake" (1 Corinthians 4:10).

Lent 2018 will be focused on a traveling art exhibit and observed with an emphasis upon traditional disciplines - fasting, prayer, almsgiving - but we'll also laugh, smile, and give thanks to God for love and all those people placed in our lives that show us such grace.

Peace,

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. Ash Wednesday - three opportunities to receive the Ashes: Stop by for five minutes between **8am-9am**, I will be in the Sanctuary for a moment of confession and blessing; and then services at **noon** and **7pm**.

Pastor Sabrina's Dei Light



An Ashy Lent

After the recent and tragic wildfires and resulting mudslides in California, I have a different picture of Ash Wednesday in my mind this year. I have a picture of a family returning to their completely blackened and destroyed home, sifting through the burned out rubble for any surviving pieces of memento. I have a picture of large swaths of previously green and lush land flattened and dark from ashy remnants of plants and grass and trees.

It may seem that ash is a reminder of what is lost. But that's not all it is. Thinking about this year, in particular, I also have a picture of the firefighters taking brief snatches of sleep outside in the elements, still fully dressed in their gear, still covered in ash and soot, because they are going right back to their work. I have a picture in my mind of the generosity of Gloria Dei during our Thanksgiving worship in giving to Fire Assistance through Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa.

There is a great quote that I remember from a book I read a long time ago called *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson. It is the story of a 76-year-old Iowa pastor, reflecting on his life for the sake of his young son, born to him in his old age. At one point, he and the other men in the town help to take down a church that had been struck by lightning. He returns to his family covered in ash from head to feet. But he says to his son, "Never mind, there's nothing cleaner than ash."

Personally, I think that is a great way to think about Ash Wednesday. It is a reminder that because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we are cleaner now that we were before because not only do we have hope – the hope of forgiveness and eternal life – but we are also called to give hope to those in need around us. On this Ash Wednesday let us remember that we don't serve a God of loss but rather a God of abundance who is with us and continues to provide for us in times of plenty and also in times of need.

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!)

Thanks to all the people who volunteered this past year and gave so generously. And thanks to those that have pledged and volunteered for 2018. You are amazing!

VITAL SERVICES FOR SENIORS PANEL DISCUSSION - On Sunday, February 11, 2-4pm in Bankson Hall, there will be a discussion by experts in the community about issues relevant to seniors (or children of senior parents). Some of the topics will include planning for end of life care, benefits, assisted living or in-home services for seniors, and Medicare.

Mark your calendar now: Gen2Gen (Generation to Generation) Spring Celebration will take place, Saturday, April 28, 5pm with music, the Bishop speaking, a party, and plans for the next years!



YOUTH NEWS

JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH



CONFIRMATION RETREAT - February 9-11, San Diego. The youth will stay at St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church in La Jolla and will spend the weekend in fellowship, visiting local attractions, and participating in Bible studies. Any questions, please contact Paige Gulck: youth@mygloriadei.org.

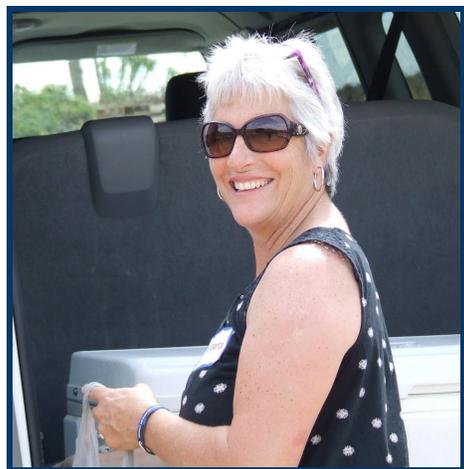
PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Sunday, March 25, 8:00 a.m. Senior High Servers will make their traditional pancake breakfast for the congregation with a few surprises mixed in. Come ready for some good food and lots of fun!

SENIOR HIGH SERVERS - Saturday, April 14, Mexico here we come! Get those passports ready to cross the border on a trip to Los Angelitos Orphanage. This is an all day trip with members of the congregation to help the orphanage.

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING HOUSTON 2018 - June 27 - July 1, 2018. If your child is in 8th to 12th grade this year, they are able to attend this amazing trip. Children will have the opportunity to earn money towards their registration fees by participating in service events throughout the year. Please let Paige know ASAP if your child is interested in attending.

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY - Lutheran Music Camp (July 1-29), Grades 8-12. www.lutheransummermusic.org

BARB COLLINS, CHILDREN AND FAMILY DIRECTOR



DEI-LY FRIENDSHIP

(Fellowship, Community, Get-Togethers, Support, etc.)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR & SUNDAY SCHOOL -

Save the date-VBS June 25th-29th. The LRCC crew will be back leading our VBS and we are also looking for volunteers. Details forthcoming.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets Monday, February 19th, 3pm, Knudson Hall. Please note the new time which enables the group to meet during daylight hours. The book for February is *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. RIOT meets on the third Monday of the month. If interested, speak with Diane Kelly (949-493-9632).

SOUP SUPPERS - every Wednesday during Lent (begins February 14), Gloria Dei has soup suppers in Bankson Hall. Can you provide a soup? Please sign-up at the Welcome Table. Thank you!

WOMEN'S ART AND PAINTING NIGHT - Friday, February 2, 6pm in Bankson Hall. Artist Tony Goodwin will lead the group with a spiritual focus, and at the end of the night, everyone will have a painting to bring home. No artistic experience necessary. All supplies provided. Please bring an appetizer to share. Cost: \$25

MEN'S RETREAT - Spring Training Baseball in Arizona, March 2-4. Save the date!

WOMEN'S RETREAT - The Women of the ELCA, in conjunction with Gloria Dei's women's ministry, will be holding a one-day retreat at Gloria Dei on Saturday, March 3. Please see the bulletin for more details.



PRESCHOOL

(All things related to the Gloria Dei Lutheran Preschool)

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

It's Registration Time at Gloria Dei. We have begun the registration process for our next school year which begins in August. I have done so many tours over the last few months, and my hope is we will begin our new school year in August with full enrollment. If you are interested in having your little one be part of our preschool ministry, give me a call.

The preschool is in constant movement. Our little ones are enjoying lots of sensory activities in their classrooms, science experiments, and plenty of outdoor play opportunities. Being back in our regular space, having a rich variety of play experiences, and loving the playground makes every day at Gloria Dei a fun place for preschoolers to play and learn.

KATHY PERSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR



DEI-LY WORSHIP

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

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR - (Adults/Teens) continues on Thursdays in February at 7:30pm. We have wonderful new music for 2018. Come join us on Thursday nights--there is so much to sing about! The Sanctuary Choir will also be singing on Ash Wednesday at the 7pm service.

HANDBELL CHOIR - continues in February at 6:30. We have a variety of new songs to learn, including some favorite praise tunes.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - Choir continues to practice during the Sunday School hour. We have begun using hand bells to accompany our songs. The children are doing a great job "ringing and singing" along to songs like "Come and See" and "Go Now in Peace." It's so much fun to see our group building strong musical skills.

GLORIA DEI CONCERT SERIES...

- Baroque Musical Performance: Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 7:00pm. Kangwon Kim - baroque violinist from Madison, WI. Currently, the concertmaster of Madison Bach Musicians and Harpsichordist, Jung Hae Kim. See the Gloria Dei website for more information: mygloriadei.org.

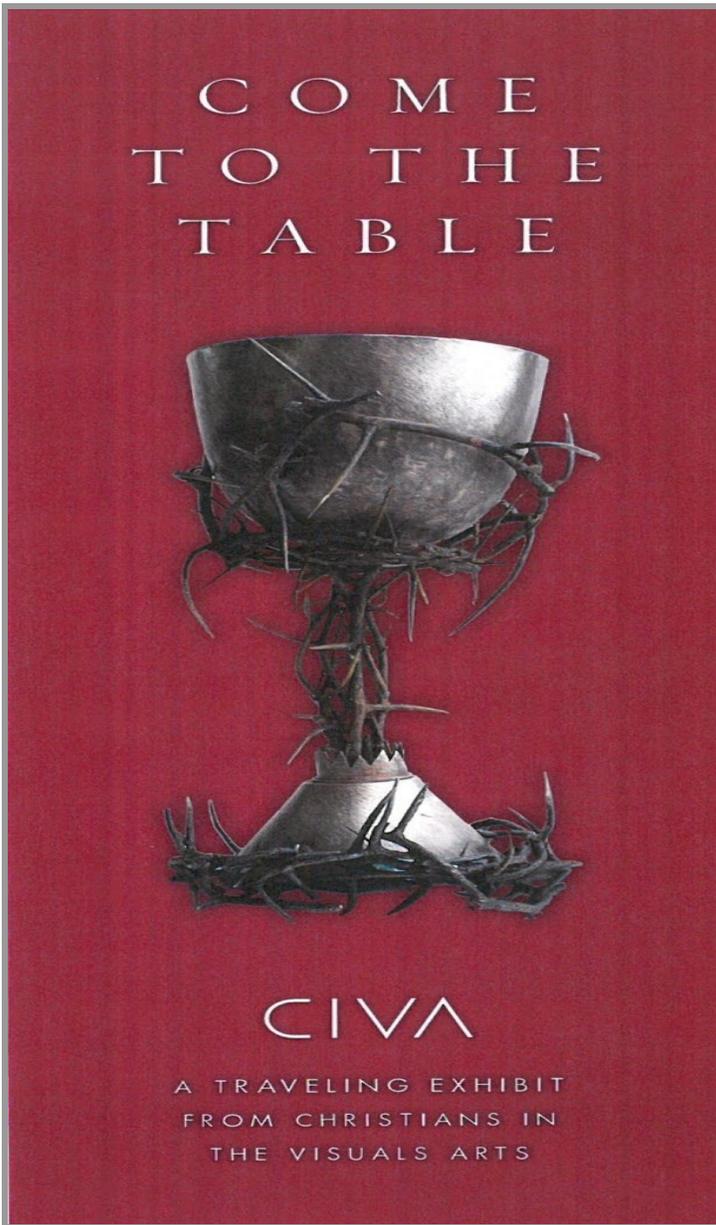
LIVING A GENEROUS LIFE

One of the major themes of 2018 at Gloria Dei will be about how do we live generously, especially related to our time and talents, inside and outside of our church. To that end, several members have made available as a free gift, **"Giving to God"** by Mark Allan Powell.

Have you picked your copy up? Have you read the book yet?

In the season of Easter, the Pastors will begin a sermon series on it. Also, please mark your calendar now for Saturday, April 28, 5pm. Bishop Taylor will be with us, dinner provided, and our giving plans will be introduced.

LENT - COME TO THE TABLE



GLORIA DEI will be hosting a national traveling art exhibit called "Come to the Table" ...

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. The exhibit is made available through CIVA|Christians in the Visual Arts, a non-profit founded in 1979 dedicated to exploring and nurturing the relationship between the visual arts and the Christian faith.

COME TO THE TABLE features thirty-five carefully selected works including historical pieces by Albrecht Durer, modernist work by Jasper Johns and Sadao Watanabe, fresh contemporary pieces created by CIVA-member artists. This work, executed in a variety of media, celebrates both the rich community gathered at the Table of Fellowship and the privilege of meeting with God at his Table of Communion. From Abraham entertaining angels, to Christ's Last Supper with his disciples, to the great Marriage Feast of the Lamb at the end of time, the table is a rich biblical metaphor. Indeed, the promise of Revelation 19 is that human history will culminate around a table where the people of God are all present. God's Table is a place of welcome, justice, abundance, and worship.

SOUP SUPPER

Each Wednesday during Lent there will be a soup supper and a worship service featuring the artwork and a video series entitled, "Feeding our Faith," which is an exploration of what it means to come to the table.

Please join us at 6:00 pm each Wednesday during Lent for a soup dinner and worship.

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, Debbie Campominosi, Ray Burke, Jack Doerr, Ray & Ingrid Schuller, Lorraine Cryer, Mary Lou Walters, Vera Williams and Emmy Quinn.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT - For all those struggling with hope due to fires, earthquakes, and flooding. Prayers also for Connie Masciorini and her family following her mother's passing.

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.



GROWING TOGETHER!

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

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

- **GIFT Group** - David & Susan Warneke's home (25262 Barque Way, Dana Point Phone:203-952-5657)
The next meeting will be Monday, February 12th at 7:00pm. Study: The Gospel of John.
- **GIFT Group** - Dennis and Daneen Pysz's home (33172 DeSoto Way, Dana Point, Phone: 949-290-0381)
The next meeting will be Monday, February 19th at 6:30pm. Study: Discipleship, led by Jim and Neta Wenrick.

HEART-LIFTERS WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month. In February, they will meet on February 13th & 27th at Ann St. Martin's home (29845 Hiddenwood Laguna Niguel). Their book of study is *Becoming Heart Sisters* by Natalie Snapp. Refreshments and social time: 6:30pm; Bible Study: 7pm - 8pm. All women are welcome to join in.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY is in full swing! They meet on Wednesday at 10am in Knudson Hall. This bible study meets weekly, unless otherwise noted.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY meets the second Saturday of every month with Pastor David leading the study and Chef Paul Dubow providing the wonderful meal. They will meet on February 10th at 8:00am in Knudson Hall, formerly the Fellowship Hall.

THE BETHEL BIBLE SERIES - An in-depth overview course on the Bible. This two year course, which began October 5, 2017 is taught by Pastor David on Thursdays at 6:30pm, during the school year (breaking for vacations). In February, Bethel will meet every Thursday, *except* February 22.

CHURCH-WIDE BOOK: Several members have purchased "**Giving to God**" by Mark Allan Powell. They read it and were so excited about it, they wanted the pastors and every members to read it. Have you picked your *free* copy up? Visit the Welcome Table and pick up one per member/family.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Karen and Frank Cincotta



Dianne Scott and Bob Schultz



Tom and Julie Vlahos



David and Nancy Kath



Annie, Tyler, Cade and Dean Bochenek



Michele Miller



Christine Mitin

Not pictured: Tony Caruso and Troy Lerseth

DEI-LY SERVICE

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

Gloria Dei Church Council



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - The next meeting is February 3rd, 9am. This ministry invites people of all ages to join & they meet the first Saturday of the month in Knudson Hall. If you know of someone in need of a shawl or would like more information, call Peggy Johnson at 949-363-8714.

THE QUILTING GROUP meets the 4th Saturday of every month at 9:30am, in Knudson Hall, formerly the Fellowship Hall. They will meet on February 24th and would love additional help. Quilts are provided to

our newly Baptized infants & children. If interested in helping, please call Donna Combe at 949-338-5327.

SERRA'S PANTRY - This is a local volunteer opportunity (San Juan Capistrano), that provides food to those in need. Interested Gloria Dei members serve at Serra's Pantry every third Saturday of the month at 8:30am. February 17th is the next volunteer opportunity. Contact Paul Dubow at 949-248-8865, if interested.

LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY - We have *three more trips* to Los Angelitos in 2018:



April 14, August 4 and November 3.

We had another very successful trip to Los Angelitos!

Great group of missionaries (16 total), including several 1st timers

Terrific kids, including several new children

Safe travel and easy border crossing

Fun crafts, games, sports, music, dancing and playtime with the children

Special thanks to all of you that came, all that contributed and supported in other ways.

If you can't attend a trip to Los Angelitos, but want to help, we have suggestions. It is very helpful to have someone return the van upon our return to Gloria Dei. Please contact David & Susan Warneke 203-952-5657 or 510-967-3211.

GRIEFSHARE - This grief recovery class meets Saturdays at 9:30am in Knudson Hall. They will meet each Saturday in February. Please contact James Wenrick for more details or call the church office: 949-493-3414.



DEI-LY DUTIES

FEBRUARY 2018 VOLUNTEERS

<u>ACOLYTE</u> (month)	<u>8:30am</u> J. Chernenkoff	<u>10:30am</u> D. Henry	
<u>COMMUNION ASST</u> (month)	J. Adams C. Backhus G. Rightmire	R. Grefsrud F. Hettman J. St. Martin	
<u>USHER</u> (month)	G. Enright J. Gustavson	D. & J. Combe	
<u>LECTORS</u> 2/4 2/11 2/18 2/25	<u>8:30am</u> C. Backhus K. Hallowell G. LaBelle P. Weiss	<u>10:30am</u> T. Lund L. Holmes- Hylton R. Easton L. Schultz	<u>5:00pm</u> C. Simpson M. Van Ness E. Mills A. Boicey
<u>REFRESHMENTS</u> 2/4 2/11 2/18 2/25	S. Caskey K. Desmond K. Dickinson P. Weiss	V. Anderson L. Flippin J. & S. Grady K. Hallowell	
<u>WELCOME CENTER</u> 2/4 2/11 2/18 2/25	J. Olson B. & B. Gillespie D. Kelly S. Manville & G. Sels	R. Kramer G. Sherwood R. Hanson C. & K. Anderson	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> D. Combe B. Cummings S. Miller G. Rightmire

MARCH 2018 VOLUNTEERS

<u>ACOLYTE</u> (month)	<u>8:30am</u> J. Chernenkoff	<u>10:30am</u> D. Henry	
<u>COMMUNION ASST</u> (month)	D. Caskey C. Collins G. Enright	W. Johnson R. Kramer L. Mers	
<u>USHER</u> (month)			
<u>LECTORS</u> 3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25	<u>8:30am</u> S. Guilliams L. Fettis G. Enright C. Collins	<u>10:30am</u> N. Wenrick S. Miller L. Schuller S. Boland	<u>5:00pm</u> J. Contestabile B. Mesa J. Moyer B. Ramsey
<u>REFRESHMENTS</u> 3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25	D. & G. Blanda J. Cox J. Olson B. & B. Gillespie	D. & D. Pysz J. Hettmann M. Bise L. Mers & S. Miller	
<u>WELCOME CENTER</u> 3/4 3/11 3/18 3/25	K. Desmond P. & S. Weiss J. Skraba J. Vlahos	S. & T. Lund L. Schultz S. Pyle L. Schuller	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> L. McCarty M. Dubow P. Weiss L. Mers



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>1/7</u>	263	\$ 7,097.00
<u>1/14</u>	437	\$ 8,197.00
<u>1/21</u>	319	\$ 6,419.00
<u>1/28</u>		\$

"SIMPLY GIVING" - Gloria Dei offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. You can make "one time", special donations electronically as well. Choose to donate from your checking account or by using your credit card, so you can accrue miles, etc. Applications are available at the Welcome Table or church office.

GLORIA DEI ENDOWMENT FUND - "What legacy will you leave?" Brochures are available 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.

THANKS - To all the men who helped with adding sound dampening material to Bankson Hall. It's getting better and better!

MORE THANKS -

Dear Friend,

How are you and yours? I wish you and yours, "Faith makes all things possible. Hope makes all things work. Love makes everything beautiful. May you have an abundance of all three and more, everyday in 2018."

I just came back to BJ after a leadership training trip. The training trip was a blessing by HIM as usual. Each time when I come back from a training, I give thanks to HIM for using us to serve others who are in need. Of course, for my work in BJ as well. What a blessing and honor to be used by HIM in HIM work to serve HIM through serving others!

I will get back to the US this summer for home assignment, sometime between July to September. If your congregation would like me to visit and share, I would be happy to do so. Thanks so much for your generous support both in prayer and finances! I do need you! I do thank GOD for you, my dear partner in HIS work!

Blessings,
Dorcas

FEBRUARY 2018

Feb 2018 (Pacific Time)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Worship	7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's	10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting 6:30pm - Baja Planning	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 2pm - Art Club 6pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir	10am - AA Men's 11:30am - AA Women's 6pm - Women's Wine &	9am - Prayer Shawl 9:30am - Griefshare 11am - VFW Bunco
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Worship	7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's	10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting 6:30pm - Baja Planning	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 2pm - Art Club 6pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir	10am - AA Men's 11:30am - AA Women's	8am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Women's Board 9:30am - Griefshare
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship 2pm - Vital Senior 5pm - Worship 5:30pm - Fantasy	7pm - AI Anon Meeting 7pm - GIFT Group	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 6:30pm - VFW Auxiliary 7pm - Heart Lifters	Ash Wednesday 8am - Ash Imposition 12pm - Worship 4pm - TOPS Meeting 6pm - Lenten Soup 7pm - NAMI Meeting 7pm - Worship	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 2pm - Art Club 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir	10am - AA Men's 11:30am - AA Women's	8:30am - Serra's Pantry 9:30am - Griefshare
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Worship	3pm - RIOT Book Club 7pm - AI Anon Meeting 7pm - GIFT Group	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 7pm - Church Council	Lent 1 10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting 6pm - Lenten Soup 7pm - Lenten Service @	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 2pm - Art Club 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir	10am - AA Men's 11:30am - AA Women's	9:30am - Griefshare 9:30am - Quilting
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Worship	7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 6pm - Baja Planning 7pm - Heart Lifters	Lent 2 10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting 6pm - Lenten Soup 7pm - Lenten Service @	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 2pm - Art Club 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir		

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

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

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

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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

Kathy Person music@mygloriadei.org; Fred Johnson organist@mygloriadei.org

