

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Dana Point, California

DEI-LY LIGHT



JANUARY NEWSLETTER - ANTICIPATION

Dear Gloria Dei family,

"To everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3).

Reflecting on 2017, I think of all the good that happened in the Mattson family. I'm thankful. And reflecting on all we accomplished at Gloria Dei - monumental and historic. *Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*

I'm looking forward to **2018**. Here are a few things coming up related to ministry:

- A Strategic Planning Team led by Dennis Chernenkoff will be reporting to the congregation. (See Pastor Sabrina's article.)
- 2018 Concert Series coordinated by Music Director Kathy Person with a significant musician/group performing: The first concert takes place on Saturday, January 6, 7pm with pianist David Clemensen.
- A Capital Team led by an ELCA Coach is helping us look at ways to pay off our debt and fund ministry.
- New summer camps for children and youth will be a wonderful ministry.
- The Ordination of Spencer Steele - Sunday, January 14, 5pm. Please join Spencer, his family, the Bishop, and other pastors as we pray for God's blessing.

Please pray for Gloria Dei that our focus would be **outward** - thankful to our heavenly Father and loving to our neighbors.

Gratefully yours,

David R. Mattson

Pastor David R. Mattson



Pastor Sabrina's Dei Light

Planning for the future

In coordination with the mission statement of Gloria Dei, which is to reflect God's hope, expressed through celebration, connection, and compassion, the Strategic Planning Committee met throughout the fall to discuss the purpose of Gloria Dei Lutheran church, internally, as a part of the community of Dana Point, and as a member of the Body of Christ in the world, and how to achieve this purpose.

In the course of the meetings, the Strategic Planning Committee discussed ways to reach out to the community and ways to bring more members into the church, while still retaining that intimate "small-church feeling." We discussed being a more active presence in the community through outreach to our homeless neighbors, to our local schools, and at community events. We also talked about the fact that our new space can help us to be a location for exciting church fellowship events that will be fun for our current members and may also attract new people from the community. We also hope to be a beacon for musical concerts, for summer camps (language and VBS) for children, for innovative worshipful experiences, scriptural studies, and other meaningful spiritual events that can help all participants grow closer to God.

More details will be forthcoming about the specific goals set by the Strategic Planning Committee. Everyone on the committee is very excited about the possibilities that are now open to us with the new sanctuary and our new meeting spaces. But even more exciting is the fact that so many of our members are ready and willing to lead new initiatives, both within the church and in outreach to the community. I believe that 2018 is going to be a truly special year in the life of Gloria Dei!

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!)

THE ORDINATION OF SPENCER STEELE: On Sunday, January 14, 5pm, Spencer Steele will make promises, the Bishop and other pastors will lay hands on him, and the Spirit will move! Join us for this celebration and a reception to follow. Please sign-up for potluck.

RENEWAL OF VOWS: Sunday, January 21, 5pm. During the 5pm worship service, those married, whether a short time or a long time, will be invited to renew their vows. And then a pastor will provide a prayer and blessing for the future. A champagne reception (sparkling cider too) will take place following the service. Plan to join us and invite other couples as well.



ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, January 28, 11:45am (following the 10:30am service) will take place in Bankson Hall. A light luncheon will be provided. All members are invited to join us for this important meeting!

YOUTH NEWS



JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

CONFIRMATION - Thursday night confirmation will resume on January 11 at 6pm and continue through February 8. Parents are requested to attend the meeting on February 1 with their child, to hear guest speaker April Diaz from the Fuller Youth Institute talk about faith and doubt. She'll offer suggestions on how to discuss issues of faith with your middle school child.

SENIOR HIGH SERVERS - Let's start the new year off right with a day at Serra's Pantry serving those less fortunate. Saturday, January 20 at 8:30 a.m. Hope to see you all there!

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.



DEI-LY FRIENDSHIP

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

CHILDREN'S CHOIR & SUNDAY SCHOOL - resumes Sunday, January 14th at 9:40am.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets Monday, January 15th, 3pm, Knudson Hall. Please note the new time which enables the group to meet during daylight hours. The book for January is *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. RIOT meets on the third Monday of the month. If interested, speak with Diane Kelly (949-493-9632).

RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS - Calling all couples, join us for a short renewal of vows service, Sunday, January 21, 5pm. Refreshments following the service. A great way to start the New Year!

WOMEN'S ART AND PAINTING NIGHT - Save the date! 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 will be provided. Please bring an appetizer to share. Cost: \$20

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



PRESCHOOL

(All things related to the Gloria Dei Lutheran Preschool)

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

Most people typically make big goals for themselves when entering a new year; I like to reflect on and think of what I can do better.

- I have been trying to be more present in my daily conversations.
- I am trying harder to gift myself personal time each day to be completely “unplugged”.
- I am reminding myself how blessed I am with a hard working family, whom I love to pieces.

When our “preschool family” returns in January, we will be ready with lots of fun winter themed activities like ice chipping, snow making, using the colors of the rainbow in art, measuring what wind can do from a fan, and so much more. What a joy it will be to return after Christmas break!

- I am grateful to be working with an amazing staff.
- I am thankful to be able to hug the most precious little people every day.

May your 2018 be filled with love and joy, family and friends, and the ability to make a difference!



DEI-LY WORSHIP

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

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR - (Adults/Teens) resumes Thursdays, January 11th at 7:30pm. We have wonderful new music for 2018. Come join us on Thursday nights--there is so much to sing about!

HANDBELL CHOIR - resumes Thursday, January 18th at 6:30. We have a variety of new songs to learn, including some favorite praise tunes.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - Choir will continue 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...

- David Clemensen, pianist, Saturday, January 6, 2018, 7:00pm. Price: free or donation. David Clemenson will play the Bosendorfer Grand Piano in the Sanctuary – *To Celebrate the Day of Epiphany*.
- 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.

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, and Vera Williams.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT - For all those struggling with hope due to fires, earthquakes, and flooding.

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 -

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

May the good things of life be yours in abundance throughout the coming year. Thank you for your donation. We love you.

- Los Angelitos

Dear Pastor Mattson & Pastor Vasta,

On behalf of the Orange County Alzheimer's Interfaith Outreach, the care facilities, their residents & caregivers, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to you for hosting the wonderful, special service. It is such a blessing for those with dementia to have the opportunity to attend a service particularly prepared especially for them. So many things and people contributed to this successful event:

- thoughtful seating presentation
- easily understood Christmas message
- darling & enthusiastic preschool singers, led in song by Matt Sears
- Women's Bible study graciously hostessing & preparing/serving lunch
- Last, but not least, a very special thanks to Diane Kelly for the event organization

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas filled with God's Blessings.

Sincerely,

Joan Walker, OC Alzheimer's Outreach

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? Visit the Welcome Table and pick up one per member/family. Here's a quote from that book:

"Stewardship is not just a way of life; it is a good way of life. In fact, for many, it is a way to a better life. Think of it this way: stewardship means belonging to God. It means allowing God to rule our lives, putting God in charge of everything, including our time and our money. I can understand why that might sound threatening--surrendering control does not come easily to any of us. But God is good at ruling people's lives. If we really do belong to God and if we really do put God in charge of everything, we will not be the worse for it."

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!



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, January 15th at 7:00pm. The schedule for 2018 is TBD. 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 Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30pm. The schedule for 2018 is TBD. Study: Discipleship, led by Jim and Neta Wenrick.

HEART-LIFTERS WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month. In January, they will meet on January 9th & 23rd at Donna Combe's home (45 Via Belleza, San Clemente, CA). 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 will resume on January 10th 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 January 13th 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, is taught on Thursdays, 6:30pm, during the school year (breaking for vacations). Following the Christmas holidays, we will reconvene on January 4th.

MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI: For non-Lutherans, Saturday, January 13, 9am is the Adult Inquiry taught by Pastor David. For those from a Lutheran background, you can transfer your membership. To everyone joining, there is an Orientation at Pastor David and Kimberly's home, Sunday, January 14, 12pm. New members are officially received on Sunday, January 21. See the sign-up at the Welcome Table.

CHURCH-WIDE BOOK: Several members have made purchased as a free gift, **"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 copy up? Visit the Welcome Table and pick up one per member/family.

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 January 6th, 9am. This ministry invites people of all ages to join & they meet the first Saturday of the month in Knudson Hall, formerly the Fellowship 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 January 27th 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. January 20th is the next volunteer opportunity at Serra's Pantry. Contact Paul Dubow at 949-248-8865, if interested.



LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY - January 13th, 2018 is our next trip to Los Angelitos.

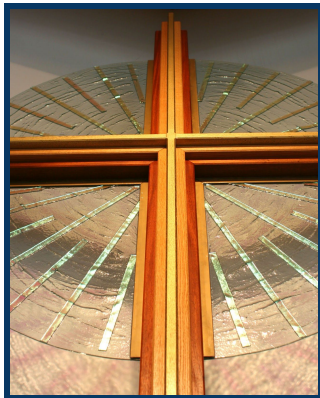


The last trip in 2017 was postponed due to surgery that Francisco (pictured to the left) underwent. Francisco is back home at the orphanage & is progressing very well. Thanks for all the prayers and financial support to help him with his recovery.

If you can't attend, but want to help, we have suggestions. To learn more please contact David & Susan Warneke 203-952-5657 or 510-967-3211.

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

DEI-LY DUTIES



JANUARY 2018 VOLUNTEERS

ACOLYTE (month)

COMMUNION ASST (month)

USHER (month)

LECTORS

1/7

1/14

1/21

1/28

C. Backhus

D. Caskey

B. Jonas

B. Keim

C. Backhus

D. & J. Ross

E. Hettmann

R. Grefsrud

F. Hettmann

L. Holmes-Hylton

B. Prock

L. Mers

D. & G. Powell

8:30am

N. Wenrick

G. LaBelle

A. Luhan

L. Ellis

10:00am

M. Boland

A. Hettmann

S. Schroeder

A. McElwaine-Leto

5:00pm

J. Moyer

C. Simpson

J. Contestabile

B. Ramsey

ALTAR GUILD

D. Dooly

B. Cummings

P. Johnson

G. Rightmire

REFRESHMENTS

1/7

1/14

1/21

1/28

B & B Gillespie

C. Jennings

K. Chernekoff

Manville & Sels

D. & S. Warneke

C. & K. Anderson

M. Cawein

D. & J. Combe

WELCOME CENTER

1/7

1/14

1/21

1/28

N. Ficken

K. Desmond

D. Kelly

H. Stutz

D. & S. Warneke

R. Hanson

D. Powell

FEBRUARY 2018 VOLUNTEERS (TBD based on 2018 Time & Talent)

ACOLYTE (month)

COMMUNION ASST

(month)

J. Chernekoff

D. Henry

USHER (month)

LECTORS

2/4

2/11

2/18

2/25

8:30am

10:00am

5:00pm

ALTAR GUILD

REFRESHMENTS

2/4

2/11

2/18

2/25

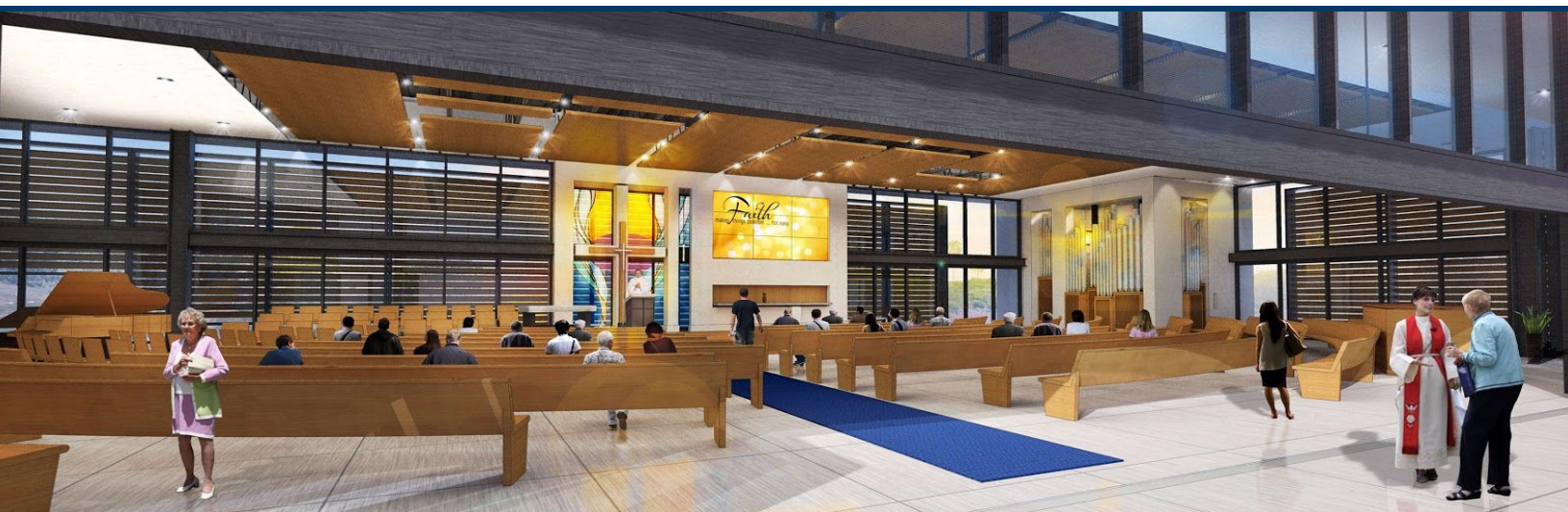
WELCOME CENTER

2/4

2/11

2/18

2/25



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>12/3</u>	310	\$10,132.00
<u>12/10</u>	586	\$ 6,801.00
<u>12/17</u>	340	\$ 7,661.00
<u>12/24</u>		\$
<u>12/31</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.

VITAL SERVICES FOR SENIORS PANEL DISCUSSION - Save the date! On Sunday, February 11, 2-4pm in Bankson Hall, there will be a panel 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.

JANUARY 2018

Jan 2018 (Pacific Time)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	2 7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's	3 4pm - TOPS Meeting @	4 7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 6:30pm - Bethel Bible	5 11:30am - AA Women's 2pm - Art Club @	6 9am - Prayer Shawl @ 9:30am - Griefshare 7pm - Piano Concert -
7 8:30am - Worship @ 10:30am - Worship - 5pm - Worship @ Gloria	8 Preschool Re-Opens @ 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	9 7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 6:30pm - VFW Auxiliary 7pm - Heart Lifters	10 10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting @ 7pm - NAMI Meeting @	11 7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir	12 11:30am - AA Women's 5:30pm - Wedding/Reh	13 7am - Los Angelitos 8am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Adult Inquiry @ 9:30am - Griefshare 3pm - Wedding @
14 8:30am - Worship @ 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship @ 12pm - New Member's 5pm - Worship/Ordinati	15 3pm - RIOT Book Club 7pm - AI Anon Meeting 7pm - GIFT Group	16 7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 7pm - Church Council	17 10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting @ 7pm - GIFT Group	18 7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir	19 11:30am - AA Women's	20 8:30am - Serra's Pantry 9am - Women's Board 9:30am - Griefshare
21 New Member Sunday @ 8:30am - Worship @ 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship @ 5pm - Worship/Renewal	22 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	23 7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 7pm - Heart Lifters	24 10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting @ 5pm - Dana Point 7pm - NAMI Meeting @	25 7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 6:30pm - Bell Choir @ 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir	26 11:30am - AA Women's	27 9:30am - Griefshare 9:30am - Quilting
28 8:30am - Worship @ 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship @ 11:45am - Annual 5pm - Worship @ Gloria	29 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	30 7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's	31 10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting @	1	2	3

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

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

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

