

DEI-LY LIGHT



APRIL NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

Easter is April 1, "April Fools' Day." (The last time this happened was 1956.) Worship will happen at 6:30am (outside sanctuary by fountain), 8:30am, and 10:30am.

So, how about some Easter April Fools' jokes? Here's one: Super-gluing Easter Eggs together! Here's another: Veggie filled Easter eggs! On Easter, we have the "Eggstravaganza" for kids, 9:45am.

And here's the best joke: Death, the Devil, and our sinful selves thought to destroy God's love, but Jesus rose. Surprise! There's hope, laughter, and life, even in the midst of darkness. God will have the last laugh. Please join us for all of Holy Week, so that you can fully appreciate the enormity God's laughter.

Maundy Thursday, March 29th will be an individual prayer experience. On the floor of Bankson Hall, there will be a large map of the world. You will be invited to pray for ourselves, others, and the world. Directions will guide you through this experience. Come anytime between 9am and 1pm.

Good Friday, March 30th Services times are noon and 7pm. These are "*Tenebrae*" services - Latin meaning, darkness or shadows. As the Seven Last Words of Jesus are read, candles are extinguished and the sanctuary grows slowly to total darkness. "Were you there when they crucified my Lord" will be sung. Good Friday is the Christian preparation for Easter.

Do you have an Easter/April Fools' joke to share? I'd love to hear it. I may even use it! But remember, on this Easter/April Fools' Day, the joke is not "on" you, but "for" you. Jesus died and rose for you! Rejoice!

Peace,

Pastor David R. Mattson



Pastor Sabrina's Dei Light

Peace...and Go!

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the knowledge that death could not hold him. And because of that, death is not the end of any of us.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he appears to his disciples with a very specific message. That message is one of peace. Jesus says to them two times, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). But that is not the only message Jesus has for his friends and followers. Jesus then has a command for them, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (v. 21). Peace - rest in the joyful news

that Christ is not dead. Sometimes we need those times of thoughtful contemplation on that good news of the gospel and what it means for our lives.

But we can't just stay there, resting in peace. Because Jesus commands us, just like he commanded his disciples, "Go!" This good news is not just for contemplation. It is to be taken out and spread into the world. Starting this April at the Gen2Gen (Generation to Generation) spring gathering, and then continuing in the months to come, we, as a congregation, will consider how to live out the message of the gospel both collectively, as the church of God, and individually, as disciples of Christ, in Dana Point, in the larger community, and in the world.

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!)

Mark your calendar now:

Gen2Gen (Generation to Generation) Spring Party - Giving Celebration will take place, Saturday, April 28, 5pm. You will receive an invitation.

This is for all ages - with music, "bubbleology" and carnival games for kids, the Bishop inspiring, a party, food, and plans for the upcoming years!

The goal of Gen2Gen is to *embrace* Psalm 145:4 - "One generation will praise Your name to another..." Gen2Gen is the call to give our whole selves to God in response to His amazing grace, so that all generations would experience His mercy.

Every fall, we emphasize stewardship - giving of our time, talent, and treasure - for our regular budget and ministry. And now, in the spring, we ask people, if it is possible, to give sacrificially for the next generation, so that we can become debt free, begin new ministries (they will be highlighted on April 28), and finish off campus projects (including the columbarium).

"A righteous person is one who lives for the next generation." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Lutheran pastor and martyr)





DEI-LY FRIENDSHIP

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

EASTER CANDY DONATIONS - Needed wrapped candies in plastic eggs. Bring to office before 4/4/18.

EGGSTRAVAGANZA -Children's Easter Egg Hunt-April 1st at 9:45am-10:00am. All ages through 5th grade. Bring a basket! Our Easter tradition will take place in the courtyard-just outside the new sanctuary.

"FOOLS FOR CHRIST" - Celebration the Sunday after Easter (April 8) featuring music and intergenerational events at 9:40am, including face painting and a balloon artist.

AMAZING GRACE THROUGH ART - *New Art Group* lead by Jane Zeiger, held *every Thursday at 3pm in Bankson Hall*. Jane, a gifted artist, is passionate about sharing all mediums of art with others. All artistic levels welcomed. If you have supplies, please bring them. Explore your creativity and meet new friends! Details: Jane at 949-235-4359.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets Monday, April 16th, 3pm, Knudson Hall. The book for April is *Giving to God* by Mark Allan Powell. RIOT meets on the third Monday of the month. If interested, speak with Diane Kelly (949-493-9632).

WOMEN'S HIKE AND LUNCH - Saturday, April 21. Women of all ages are invited for a guided hike around the headlands in Dana Point, followed by picnic lunch at the Strands. Meet in the parking lot of the Strands Beach at 9:00am by the Memorial Plaza (flagpole). Ren Higgins will lead the guided hike. We will return to the Strands by 11:00 for a boxed lunch. Cost: \$10 for lunch. Sign up for the hike, lunch, or both!

WOMEN'S TEA - Save the date for the annual women's tea, Saturday, May 12, 12pm in Bankson Hall. The theme this year is: "Tea Around the World."

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -

Save the date-VBS *June 25th-29th, 9am - 3pm*. The LRCC crew will be back leading our VBS and we are also looking for volunteers. Details forthcoming.

PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



YOUTH NEWS JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - Sunday, May 13, the Senior High Servers will be at it once again, serving Mother's Day Parfaits between the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Hope to see you 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.

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 April at 7:30pm. We have wonderful music for 2018 including new arrangements of favorite hymns and newly composed music. Instrumental music of all kinds will be featured as well. Some of the anthems we have planned call for more voices--please join in the celebration. Robe included!

HANDBELL CHOIR - The choir is also preparing new music for church as well as a massed ring performance in April. From Southern Harmony to Calypso we cover it all!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - Children's Choir will sing on Mother's Day, May 13th at the 10:30am service. In addition to singing liturgical music, hymns and playing bells, our group is learning some basic sign language. We pack a lot of fun into our Sunday mornings--join us during the Sunday School hour.



PRESCHOOL

(All things related to the Gloria Dei Lutheran Preschool)

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Easter season brings a new energy to the preschool.

The sun is always shining, but it must be something in the air that makes the excitement around campus bigger, brighter, and better. The kids return from Spring break ready to dive into gardening and learning about life on the farm. Since our monthly value is *faithfulness*, our chapel stories will be focused on the promises Jesus left for us.

Our one and only big fundraiser will be held on Monday and Tuesday, April 23rd & 24th. Our students will have their annual *Bike-a-thon* to raise money for bikes and classroom furniture.

May April shower you with opportunities to be a kind and faithful friend to others.

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 and Peggy Johnson, Gina Grefsrud, Debbie Campominosi, Ray Burke, Jack Doerr, Ray & Ingrid Schuller, Lorraine Cryer, Mary Lou Walters, Vera Williams, Emmy Quinn, Margaret Vislocky, and Gwen Layritz.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT - For all those struggling with hope due to the shootings in Florida and for refugees around the world.

Also prayers of comfort for:

- Lisa Mers and her family as they mourn the passing of Jim Mers
- Pat Kramer and her family as they mourn the passing of Reine Kramer
- Hilma Patterson and her family as they mourn the passing of Bill Patterson. The memorial service for Bill Patterson will take place at Gloria Dei on Monday, April 9, 2pm.

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.

MISSIONARY PRAYERS AND THANKS

Dear Friend,

I hope that this email finds you and yours well. There are so many of God's people around the world praying for me. I have such a BIG TEAM! I am so grateful for God's grace and mercy and your faithful support in both prayer and finances! Tomorrow my Christian Education class will start at Yan Jing Seminary of BJ.

Please keep praying for me! Your support in both prayer and finances are greatly needed and appreciated! Blessings, Dorcas

MANY THANKS -

Many thanks to all the families who recently donated new Hymnals and Bibles in our Sanctuary! Donated Bibles and Hymnals have been placed in the back pews of the Sanctuary, alphabetically, left - right. We placed them this way to make it easier to find your donation. It is fine to move them within the Sanctuary.



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, April 16th 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 Wednesday, April 18th 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 April, they will meet on April 10th & 24th 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 April 14th at 8:00am in Knudson 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 April, Bethel will meet every Thursday, *except April 5th*.

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 Church Office 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 (2018)



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - The next meeting is April 7th, 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. They will meet on April 28th and would love additional help. *They are also looking for clean, old sheets with no stains*

or holes. If you have any sheets to donate, please drop them by the church office. 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. March 17th is the next volunteer opportunity. Contact Paul Dubow at 949-248-8865, if interested.



LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY - Three more trips to Los Angelitos are planned for 2018:

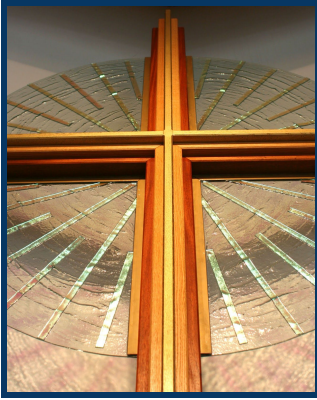
April 14, August 4 and November 3.

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. We have other helpful ideas too. Please contact David & Susan Warneke 203-952-5657 or 510-967-3211.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - Volunteers needed in our community to provide supportive services to terminally ill patients and their families. Qualifications: a caring heart, the ability to listen and and willingness to learn. Time needed: about 2 hours per week. To learn more about this opportunity through VITAS Healthcare, contact Judy Andoe, 714-734-2723 or email at Judy.Andoe@vitas.com

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - At Gloria Dei May 4th from 11am - 5pm. To donate, you must be at least 17 years old, 110 lbs. & in generally good health. You can also get involved by volunteering to assist at the the reception or refreshment area. Sign up will be posted at the Welcome Table in April to donate blood or volunteer. There will also be an online sign up for blood donations at: www.redcrossblood.org/. Type *Gloria Dei* in the "find a blood drive" blue box in the upper right corner and the blood drive will pop up.

NEW HOMELESS MINISTRY: Saturday Morning Engagement Center - Need volunteers to work at an interfaith center for the homeless every Saturday at San Felipe de Jesus in Capo Beach. Sign up at the Welcome Center to be contacted with a volunteer packet that has more information.



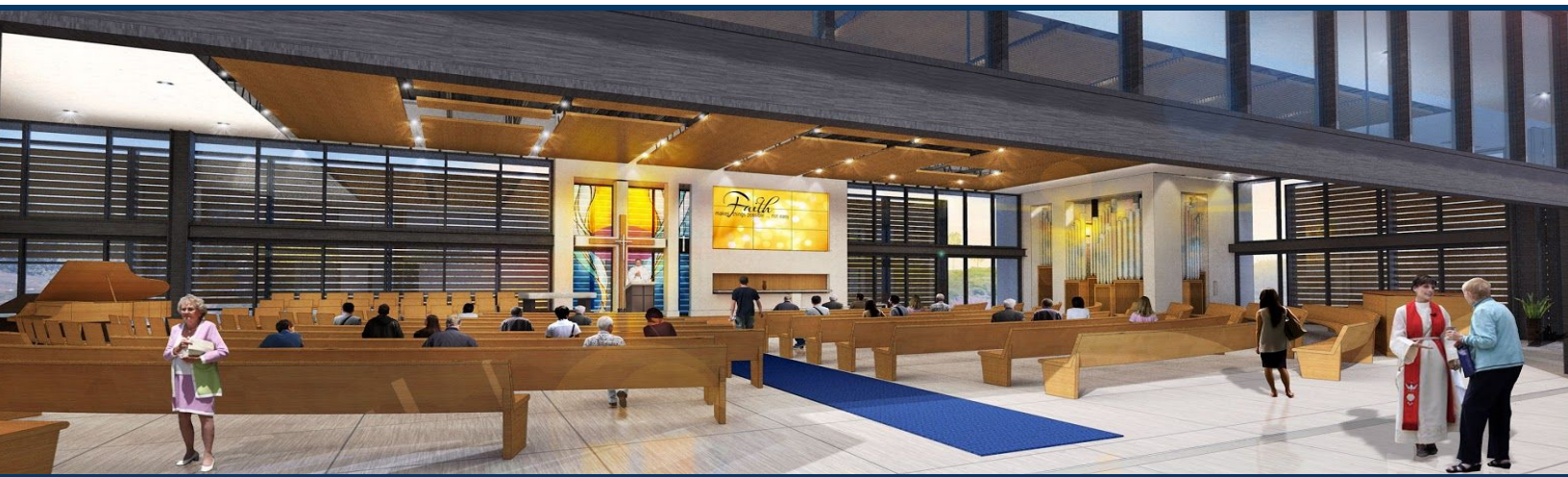
DEI-LY DUTIES

APRIL 2018 VOLUNTEERS

<u>ACOLYTE</u> (month)	<u>8:30am</u> E. Hollowell	<u>10:30am</u> L. Miertschin	
<u>COMMUNION ASST</u> (month)	P. Furlong S. Furlong S. Gulliams	L. Holme-Hylton H. Nurminem J. St. Martin	
<u>USHER</u> (month)	C. Backhus D. Holzkamp	W. Knottnerus L. Mers	
<u>LECTORS</u> 4/1	<u>8:30am</u> TBD	<u>10:30am</u> TBD	<u>5:00pm</u> 6:30AM instead
4/8	B. Jonas	J. St. Martin	C. Simpson
4/15	J. Adams	S. Warneke	M. Van Ness
4/22	C. Weinhardt	R. Higgins	E. Mills
4/29	M. Dubow	W. Johnson	A. Boicey
<u>REFRESHMENTS</u> 4/1	Sign-up	Sign-up	
4/8	M. & W. Wilson	D. & D. Pysz	Moyer & Simpson
4/15	S. Caskey	S. Lund	
4/22	J. Vlahos	A. & J. St. Martin	
4/29	J. Skraba	V. Anderson	
<u>WELCOME CENTER</u> 4/1	B. & B. Gillespie	A. & J. St. Martin	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> K. Gray
4/8	J. Olson	R. Hanson	M. Delgado
4/15	D. Kelly	D. Warneke	S. Miller
4/22	S. Manville & G. Sels	L. Schultz	B. Cummings
4/29	K. Desmond	B. Prock	G. Rightmire

May 2018 VOLUNTEERS

<u>ACOLYTE</u> (month)	<u>8:30am</u> L. Chernenkoff	<u>10:30am</u> C. Flippin	
<u>COMMUNION ASST</u> (month)	B. Jonas B. Keim C. Weinhardt	R. Grefsrud F. Hettman L. Mers	
<u>USHER</u> (month)	M. Dubow P. Dubow	J. Cummings	
<u>LECTORS</u> 5/6	<u>8:30am</u> D. Holzkamp	<u>10:30am</u> B. Prock	<u>5:00pm</u> J. Contestabile
5/13	C. Asis	R. Grefsrud	B. Mesa
5/20	K. Dickinson	G. Powell	J. Moyer
5/27	G. Rightmire	Confirmands	B. Ramsey
<u>REFRESHMENTS</u> 5/6	P. Weiss	D. & J. Combe	
5/13	M. & W. Wilson	J. & S. Grady	
5/20	J. Olson	K. Hollowell	
5/27	G. Rightmire	L. Mers & S. Miller	
<u>WELCOME CENTER</u> 5/6	J. Skraba	S. & T. Lund	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> D. Combe
5/13	P. & S. Weiss	S. Pyle	L. McCarty
5/20	C. Weinhardt	R. Hanson	M. Dubow
5/27	B. & B. Gillespie	T. Seibert	P. Weiss



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

3/4	346	\$11,590.93
3/11	293	\$ 6,720.00
3/18	391	\$ 6,346.82
3/25	401	\$ 7,710.00

"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 -

Words alone do not begin to express our thanks and gratitude to this Gloria Dei Family for your unbelievable support, love and prayers and cards during our loss of Jim. We are all humbled by the way God shone through each of you and lifted us up through this difficult time.

Love, Lisa, Josh & Alex Mers

MANY THANKS -

A huge thank you for all you did for me in the heartwarming celebration of life for Reinie. It was touching and unforgettable. I know Jesus will watch over me. God bless us all at Gloria Dei.

Pat Kramer

MORE GRATITUDE -

Dear Gloria Dei Family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, calls, meals and acts of kindness. You have been a blessing to us. Blaine and I appreciate it so much. My new knee is healing well and I will be back soon.

Many thanks,
Peggy Johnson

APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Easter 6:30am - Worship 8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Egg Hunt @ 10:30am - Worship 7pm - AI Anon	7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's	10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 3pm - Art Club	10am - AA Men's 11:30am - AA Women's	9am - Prayer Shawl
8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Ed - 9:45am - Baja Planning 10:30am - Worship 3pm - Primatimers 5pm - Worship 7pm - AI Anon	2pm - Memorial for Bill 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 6:30pm - VFW Auxiliary 7pm - Heart Lifters	10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting 7pm - GIFT Group 7pm - NAMI Meeting	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 3pm - Art Club 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir	10am - AA Men's 11:30am - AA Women's	7am - Los Angeles 8am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Women's Board
8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Worship 7pm - AI Anon	3pm - RIOT Book Club 7pm - AI Anon Meeting 7pm - GIFT Group	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 7pm - Church Council	10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 3pm - Art Club 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir	9am - CA PREP Testing 10am - AA Men's 11:30am - AA Women's	8:30am - Serra's Pantry 9am - CA Prep Testing
Bike/Walk to Church 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Sheep Petting 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship 5pm - Worship 7pm - AI Anon	7am - Preschool Bike-a- 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's 7am - Preschool Bike-a- 9:30am - AA Women's 7pm - Heart Lifters	10am - Women's Bible 4pm - TOPS Meeting 5:45pm - Dress 7pm - NAMI Meeting	7am - AA Men's 9:30am - AA Women's 3pm - Art Club 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Bethel Bible 7:30pm - Sanct. Choir	10am - AA Men's 11:30am - AA Women's	9:30am - Quilting 5pm - GenGen Dinner
8:30am - Worship 9:40am - Ed - All Ages 10:30am - Worship 3pm - So CA Handball 5pm - Worship Healing 7pm - AI Anon	7pm - AI Anon Meeting					

(See Calendar on Website: <http://www.myloriadei.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)

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

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