

# *Gloria Dei Lutheran Church*

## DEI-LY LIGHT



## JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

C.S. Lewis wrote, *"Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see."*

Albert Einstein wrote, *"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."*

With those two quotes in mind, let me introduce our Epiphany Season 2020 theme: *"Blessed is the Ordinary"* - God's miraculous power is often seen in the ordinary and the overlooked. And so the challenge of the New Year is to take a second look, to reconsider the ways of God, and to pray for eyes wide open.

The word Epiphany means manifestation and so for January-February, we observe in scripture, the ways God reveals Himself to the world in Jesus. God comes to be with us in Jesus and we continue to see Him through ordinary means - bread, wine, water, and more. Blessed is the ordinary.

May the Holy Spirit cause us to pause and reflect on God's ways and empower us to serve in Jesus' name.

Gratefully yours,



Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. My thanks to Music Director Kathy Person, Organist Fred Johnson, and all the singers, instrumentalists who so enriched our Christmas Season through their offering of music.

P.P.S. Mark your calendars now for guitarist Mark Kroos with us, January 12 at morning services. He's talented, funny, and grace-full. Invite a friend.



## Pastor Sabrina's Dei Light New Year - It's Not About You

2 Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!"*

I don't like New Year's Eve. I never have. I don't like making resolutions. I don't like staying up till midnight. I don't like the "Year in Review" nostalgia pieces that play on TV and radio. I'm definitely more of a "plan for the future" person than a sentimental look back at the past person. So I usually just bah humbug my way through New Year's Eve (watching the ball drop at 9:00 and in bed by 9:10) and New Year's Day (taking down Christmas decorations and replacing them with Valentine's decorations). And generally staying out of the way of those who really get into this particular celebration.

But as I was thinking about New Year and resolutions and all of that hype this year, it occurred to me that there is a theological reason not to enjoy resolution-making – or at least the way it is done in our contemporary society. The resolutions we make tend to be all about us. The top three resolutions every year made by people in the United States are: 1. Eat healthier, 2. Lose weight, and 3. Spend less/save more. It seems like a lot of the time, we make resolutions based on what we think identifies us. We think we are identified by our weight, or our eating habits, our bank accounts.

What if we spent New Year's Eve and New Year's Day thinking about this verse from 2 Corinthians: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!"* Of course there is nothing wrong with wanting to be healthier and stronger and better, starting January 1 or any other time of the year, but what if we remembered everyday that we are new, that we are given another chance, that we can start again – not because of anything we do or promise to do, but simply because we are children of God? What a wonderful thought to keep in mind as we begin 2020.  
Happy New Year!

## THE BIG THING

(The focus, the main thing, put it on your calendar, a second/third/fourth reminder)

**MARK KROOS**, guitarist extraordinaire will share his musical and spiritual gifts with us on Sunday, January 12 at the morning services. He will take over the "Message" and share about God's grace through music and word. Afterwards, you have the opportunity to meet him at Lunch and Learn (L&L), 11am.

**ANNUAL MEETING** - All members are invited to this luncheon and meeting (Sunday, January 26, 11am) as the new council is elected, the budget is approved, and 2020 plans are discussed.

**MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI** - For those from a non-Lutheran background, Pastor David teaches a class, "Adult Inquiry" on Saturday, January 25, 9am. This is for all who want to learn more about the Lutheran understanding of the faith. There is no obligation, but this is to give you basic information. Later on that Saturday, January 25, at 11:30am, Pastor David and Kimberly host a New Member Orientation/Lunch at their home. This is mostly social, to hear about the ministries at Gloria Dei, and to meet the staff. Those who have attended the Adult Inquiry class earlier or who are transferring their membership are invited. New member Sunday will be January 26.

**THANKS** to all who support Gloria Dei with your time, talent, and treasure in 2019! And thanks to all who turned in their 2020 Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets. You make our ministry go!



## DEI-LY FRIENDSHIP

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DIRECTOR** - Susie Boland can be reached at [fellowship@mygloriadei.org](mailto:fellowship@mygloriadei.org) or at the office at 949-493-3414.

**THANK YOU!** I just wanted to start off the new year with a BIG THANK YOU to all those that donated food, their time and their help to make our Gloria Dei Fellowship events in 2019 so wonderful! Here's to a wonderful 2020!

**WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP** - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets the *third Monday of each month at 3pm*. The group will be meeting again on January 20. They will be reading *The Spy and the Traitor* by Ben Macintyre. If you are interested in joining the book club, please contact Diane Kelly at 949-493-9632.

**MEN'S BOOK GROUP** - Meets the *last Tuesday of the month, 7pm* at different hosts' homes. Their next meeting will be January 28 at 6:30pm. For more information go to the men's book club website: [gloriabookclub.com](http://gloriabookclub.com) or contact Bob Gillespie at [gillespierm@gmail.com](mailto:gillespierm@gmail.com).

**AMAZING GRACE THROUGH ART (AGTA)** - This group will meet triannually this year. Their next meeting is January 16, 5:30pm. All artists and anyone interested in art are welcome. A donation will be requested to cover the cost of canvas, paint & brushes. Limit: 15. Please contact Jane Zeiger at 949-235-4359 to sign up and get more details.

**ANOTHER SMALL GROUP?** If you would like to begin another small group, speak with one of the pastors.

### UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

- Art Show - Date TBD in February, 2020
- Men's Spring Retreat (Baseball in AZ) - March 6-8, 2020
- Women's Retreat to Carlsbad - March 27-29, 2020
- Gen2Gen Extravaganza - May 3, 2020
- Hayfever Hoedown Country Line Dancing - May 16, 2020

### THANKS TO ALL WHO JOINED US CHRISTMAS CAROLING THIS SEASON!







## YOUTH NEWS JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** - Confirmation class will continue Sunday, January 12 from 11am - 1pm in Knudson Hall. Lunch will be included.

**CONFIRMATION SPECIAL SPEAKER** - Confirmation students, parents, and mentors, save the date: Saturday, February 29, special guest speaker Christina Hergenrader, an author of several books, including *Family Trees and Olive Branches*, as well as confirmation materials, will be leading a discussion

specifically designed for our confirmation class and their families. It will be held at 12:30pm in Bankson Hall and will include lunch. There will be no confirmation class, Sunday, March 1, 2020.

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PIZZA PLANNING PARTY** - January 11, 6:00 p.m. It is time to plan for another great year, and what better way than over pizza! Meet at Pizza Port in San Clemente, for some food, fun and festivities planning!

## NEW GROUP

**20 SOMETHING GROUP** to begin. If you're in college, a recent college grad, a 20-something person, watch the bulletin and newsletter for information. If you are interested in this type of group for friendship/service, let Paige know - youth@mygloriadei.org.

BARB COLLINS, CHILDREN AND FAMILY DIRECTOR



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

(Sunday school, Young Children's Events and Ministry)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** (Age 4 - 5th grade) - Offered during Sunday worship at both morning services. Children are invited to leave with the Sunday School leader after the children's message and they will return for Communion. Questions, speak with Barb ([sundayschool@mygloriadei.org](mailto:sundayschool@mygloriadei.org)). Sunday school is in session.

**UPCOMING CHILDREN'S EVENTS: Sunday school resumes on January 5th.**





## DEI-LY WORSHIP

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

- Thank you to our many members who contributed music for our busy December services. We were blessed with voices, bells, strings, winds, and brass. In January the choir returns with the anthem "Eternal Light."

- Our music program is thriving! We have many things planned for 2020--many ways to participate. Come join us! Contact Kathy at [music@mygloriadei.org](mailto:music@mygloriadei.org).

- **Guitarist Mark Kroos** will be our special guest during morning services January 12th.
- **Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir** resume practice January 16th.
- **Recorder Ensemble** had a great time performing carols between services during Advent. We will return in February!
- Questions? Email Kathy [music@mygloriadei.org](mailto:music@mygloriadei.org)



## PRESCHOOL

*Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!*

Our students are returning from a long Christmas break with new-found energy. They come back rested and ready for a long stretch of learning days.

January seems to be the month when resolutions are made for personal health and growth; we use this month to do on-site services. We will offer speech, hearing, and vision screening. The teachers will be re-assessing students in all areas of growth so they can prepare lessons to meet and challenge our students.

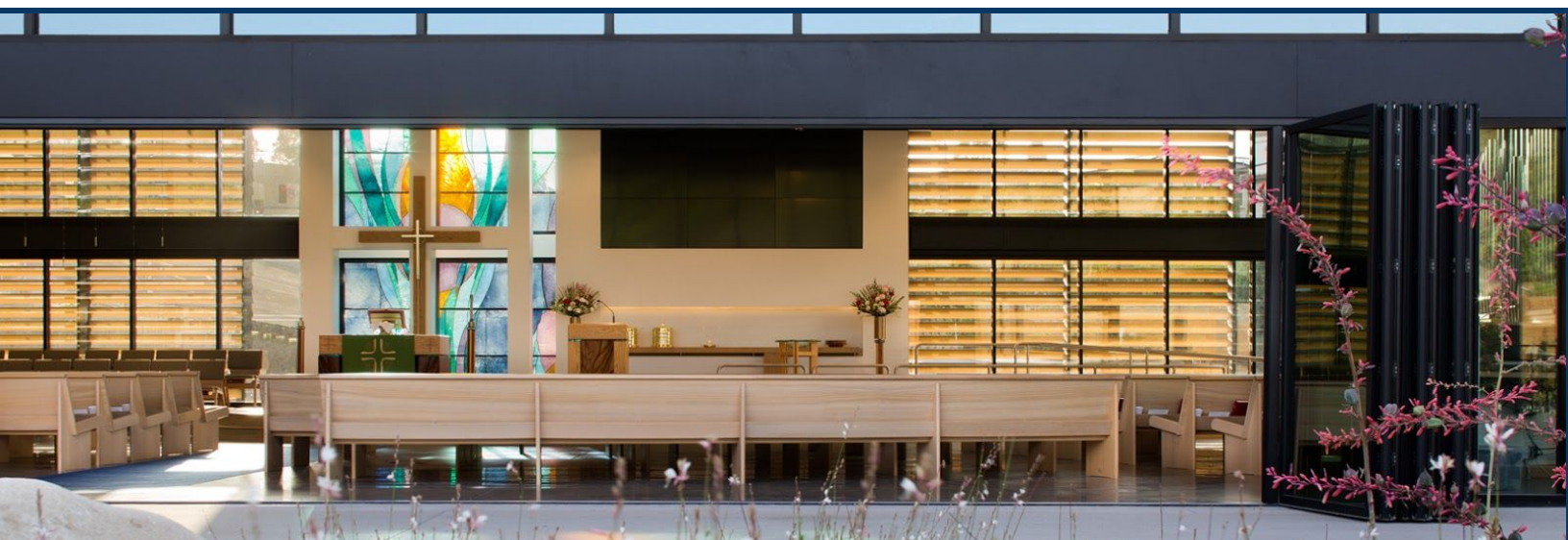
January marks a new calendar year, but in preschool, it brings new energy and excitement for what's to come!

*"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe." Anatole France*



# CHRISTMAS HOPE!





## GROWING TOGETHER!

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

**G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER)** - David & Susan Warneke's home (25262 Barque Way, Dana Point, Phone: 203-952-5657) They meet on varying Monday nights, once per month at 6:30pm and their next meeting is January 6. They are studying the book of Philippians 2:12 - 2:18.

**LUNCH AND LEARN:** continues on the first Sunday of every month at 11:00am in Bankson Hall with lunch included. Next meeting: January 12 - Guitarist Mark Kroos, who will be performing during the morning services, will be speaking about his ministry. Upcoming: February 2 - Dr. Dennis Chernekoff will be leading a discussion the biblical spiritual gifts that are available to believers, based on Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12. March 1 - Christina Hergenrader, an author of several books, including *Family Trees and Olive Branches*, which was inspired by Matthew 18:22. April 5 - Dr. Raymond Pickett, Rector of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PTLS) in Berkeley, CA will speak about the seminary's new location in the heart of the city.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** meets the *second Saturday of every month at 8:00am in Knudson Hall* with Pastor David leading the study. Paul Dubow cooks up a tasty breakfast. Their next meeting is January 11, 8am. All men welcome!

**HEART LIFTERS WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY** meets on the *2nd and 4th Tuesday each month*. Refreshments and social time: 6:30pm; Bible Study: 7pm - 8pm. In January, they meet on the 14th & 28th at Donna Combe's home. Location alternates monthly between the homes of Donna Combe (45 Belleza, San Clemente; 949-369-5382) and Ann St. Martin (29845 Hiddenwood, Laguna Niguel; 949-933-3906). Study is open to all women.

**WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** will meet on January 8th and continue every Wednesday in Knudson Hall at 10am. The study is led by a pastor.

**THE BETHEL BIBLE SERIES** - Continues on Thursdays at 6:30pm. It is a two year intensive overview of the entire Bible designed to learn "the big picture" of scripture. This group is now closed as it began the first week of October.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** - This group meets the third Sunday of each month in Knudson Hall at 11am. The next meeting is on January 19. For more info, contact the church office 949-493-3414.



# DEI-LY SERVICE

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

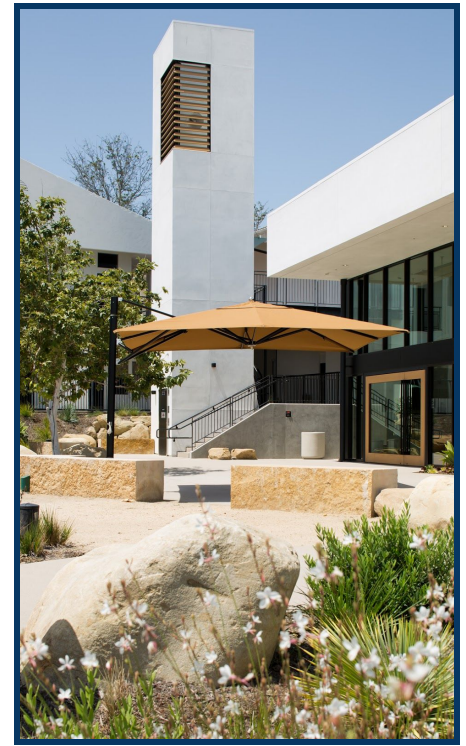
**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** - This ministry invites people of all ages to join their group. They meet the *first Saturday of the month at 9am in Knudson Hall*. However, their next meeting is January 11, the second Saturday. If you know of someone in need of a shawl or would like more information, call Peggy Johnson at 949-363-8714.

**SERRA'S PANTRY** - This local volunteer opportunity, in San Juan Capistrano, 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 18 is the next volunteer opportunity. Contact Paul Dubow at 949-248-8865, if interested.

**THE QUILTING GROUP** meets four times this year on the 4th Saturday of the month, during the months of January, March, May & September. They will meet in Knudson Hall. Quilts are provided to our newly Baptized infants & children. They will not be meeting in December & their next meeting is January 25. If interested in helping, please call Donna Combe at 949-338-5327.

## LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY

- In 2020, our mission trips will be February 22, May 23, August 22 and December 5.
- Get involved... Hope Un+Ending!
- To learn more, contact David (203-952-5657) or Susan Warneke (510-967-3211).



Gloria Dei Lutheran church

"Merry christmas"

Christmas is in the air!  
Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season  
and the happiest New Year.

With love from the children  
of Los Angelitos orphanage

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

James 1:27 "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..."







## DEI-LY DETAILS

### ATTENDANCE

12/1: 289    12/8: 471    12/15: 399    12/22: tbd    12/24: tbd    12/29: tbd

**GEN2GEN GIVING: \$329,207.12** (Program runs 2018-2020. Goal is \$600,000.)

**“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.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH VENMO** - download the app on your phone and make your donation to **@GloriaDei-DanaPoint**. Add where you want it applied in the Venmo required “memo” section.

**TEXT YOUR OFFERING** - It is simple and safe (“text to give”, through Vanco) - text \$ amount you want to give to 949-356-5326. You will receive instructions on how to complete registration via a return text.

**GLORIA DEI ENDOWMENT FUND** - “What legacy will you leave?” 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.

**COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE** - At the recent City Planning Commission public hearing, the Columbarium project received approval. Stay tuned for updates on the implementation of this project. Our church council will be working on this. Questions, speak with a pastor.

Eickhof Columbarium company was out to measure the area. A deposit was made to go with their services. Hopefully, they will be out to construct the Columbarium in the Outdoor Chapel by end of summer/early fall. We will be developing brochures and sign-ups in January.

A growing number of local churches provide columbarium niches on their grounds. People increasingly choose a local columbarium because of a strong desire to be laid to rest on the grounds of the church they loved and served. Proximity makes it convenient for loved ones to visit and remain connected. The cost of columbarium interment is also considerably less than the cost of burial at a cemetery.

# THANKS

(Weddings, memorials, outreach, education, community service, etc.)



Juliana from Los Angelitos

Dear Pastor Mattson and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,  
Greetings from BJ, China!

I received reports from ELCA of Chicago for your donations totaling \$4,747.15. Thanks so very much for your faithful and generous support in both prayer and finances! Your partnership to this ministry is greatly needed and appreciated. I am very grateful to God for all you have done in Christ's love!

With gratitude,  
Your Missionary

Dear Kind Friends,  
Thanks you for caroling at the Fountains at Sea Bluffs. You make my heart sing!  
Lee Ann Kochenderfer

## 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, Bette Hopkins, Debbie Campominosi, Jack Doerr, Mary Lou and Denny Walters, Harry and Jean Meinholtz, Gene & Kay Hendrickson, Jeri Steck, Gwen Layritz, and Gunther Wittich.

**WELCOME** - Baby Taylor Stephen Mayfield was born 11/12/19! The Mayfield family is adjusting well. Baby Sophia Elizabeth Naranjo, born 11/23/19! Sophia and Lisa are doing well and are home with the family.

**PRAYERS OF COMFORT** - Please pray for those affected by wildfires & other natural & manmade disasters.

**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.



# DEI-LY DUTIES



## JANUARY 2020 VOLUNTEERS

<b><u>ACOLYTE</u></b> (month)	<b><u>8:30am</u></b> C. Neiderhiser	<b><u>10:00am</u></b> D. Henry	
<b><u>COMMUNION ASST</u></b> (month)	K. Chernekoff B. Keim G. Rightmire	R. Grefsrud P. Johnson W. Johnson	
<b><u>USHER</u></b> (month)	C. Asis K. Martino	J. Cummings P. Johnson	
<b><u>LECTORS</u></b>	<b><u>8:30am</u></b>	<b><u>10:00am</u></b>	<b><u>5:00pm</u></b>
1/5	K. Dickinson	L. Mers	M. Van Ness
1/12	G. Rightmire	S. Schroeder	G. Boicey
1/19	D. Caskey	J. Wenrick	J. Contestabile
1/26	H. Nurminen	S. Lund	B. Mesa
<b><u>REFRESHMENTS</u></b>			<b><u>ALTAR GUILD</u></b>
1/5	K. Dickinson	Gloria Dei	P. Weiss
1/12	M. & V. Frost	L. Mers & S. Miller	B. Cummings
1/19	K. Desmond	M. Bise	D. Combe
1/26	M. & W. Wilson	L. Flippin	B. Richards
<b><u>WELCOME CENTER</u></b>			
1/5	S. Manville & G. Sels	C. Clisby	
1/12	B. & B. Gillespie	S. Behnke	
1/19	D. & T. Boyd	D. Warneke	
1/26	D. Kelly	C. & K. Anderson	

## FEBRUARY 2020 VOLUNTEERS

(TBD FROM 2020 TIME & TALENT)

## GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

33501 Stonehill Drive, Dana Point, CA 92629 <u>Church Office:</u> (949) 493-3414; Fax: (949) 493-6479; <u>Preschool:</u> (949) 493-3414 x209 <u>Website:</u> mygloriadei.org; <u>Email:</u> <a href="mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org">gloriadei@mygloriadei.org</a> <u>Facebook Page:</u> Facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint	Pastor David R. Mattson <a href="mailto:pastordavid@mygloriadei.org">pastordavid@mygloriadei.org</a> Pastor Sabrina Vasta <a href="mailto:pastorsabrina@mygloriadei.org">pastorsabrina@mygloriadei.org</a> Carol Weinhardt <a href="mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org">gloriadei@mygloriadei.org</a> ; Shelli Parajekas <a href="mailto:preschool@mygloriadei.org">preschool@mygloriadei.org</a> ; Paige Gulck <a href="mailto:youth@mygloriadei.org">youth@mygloriadei.org</a> ; Barbara Collins <a href="mailto:sundayschool@mygloriadei.org">sundayschool@mygloriadei.org</a> Susie Boland <a href="mailto:fellowship@mygloriadei.org">fellowship@mygloriadei.org</a> ; Kathy Person <a href="mailto:music@mygloriadei.org">music@mygloriadei.org</a> ; Fred Johnson <a href="mailto:organist@mygloriadei.org">organist@mygloriadei.org</a>
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# JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			7 am - AA Men Meeting	7 am - AA Men Meeting 9:30 am - AA Women 7:30 pm - AA Meeting	Dog Training 10 am - AA Men 11:30 am - AA Women 8 pm - AA Men's	10 am - O/A Group 7 pm - NA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30 am - Worship/Sund 10 am - Worship/Sunday 5 pm - Worship 7 pm - AI Anon	6:30 pm - GIFT Group 7 pm - ACA 7 pm - AI Anon Meeting	7 am - AA Men Meeting 9:30 am - AA Women 2 pm - AA Seniors 6 pm - Sr. High Pizza 7 pm - AI Anon	7 am - AA Men Meeting 10 am - Women's Bible 7 pm - NAMI Meeting	7 am - AA Men Meeting 9:30 am - AA Women 10 am - Tree 4:45 pm - Scouts 6:30 pm - Bethel 7:30 pm - AA Meeting	10 am - AA Men 11:30 am - AA Women 8 pm - AA Men's	8 am - Men's Breakfast 9 am - Prayer Shawl 10 am - O/A Group 7 pm - NA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 am - Worship/Sund 10 am - Worship/Sunday 11 am - Lunch & Learn 1 pm - Scouts Meeting 5 pm - Worship 7 pm - AI Anon	7 pm - ACA 7 pm - AI Anon Meeting	7 am - AA Men Meeting 9:30 am - AA Women 2 pm - AA Seniors 6:30 pm - Heart Lifters 6:30 pm - VFW Auxiliary 7 pm - AI Anon 7 pm - Church Council	7 am - AA Men Meeting 10 am - Women's Bible 6 pm - Hampton Hills	7 am - AA Men Meeting 9:30 am - AA Women 5:30 pm - Amazing 6:30 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Bethel 7:30 pm - AA Meeting 7:30 pm - Sanctuary	10 am - AA Men 11:30 am - AA Women 8 pm - AA Men's	8:30 am - Serra's Pantry 9 am - Women's Board 10 am - O/A Group 11 am - Weiss Shower 7 pm - NA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30 am - Worship/Sund 10 am - Worship/Sunday 11 am - Grief Support 5 pm - Worship 7 pm - AI Anon	3 pm - RIOT Book Club 7 pm - ACA 7 pm - AI Anon Meeting	7 am - AA Men Meeting 9:30 am - AA Women 2 pm - AA Seniors 7 pm - AI Anon	7 am - AA Men Meeting 10 am - Women's Bible 7 pm - NAMI Meeting	7 am - AA Men Meeting 9:30 am - AA Women 6:30 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Bethel 7 pm - Scouts Meeting 7:30 pm - AA Meeting 7:30 pm - Sanctuary	10 am - AA Men 11:30 am - AA Women 8 pm - AA Men's	9 am - Adult Inquiry - 9:30 am - Quilting 10 am - O/A Group 11:30 am - New Member 4 pm - Wedding - 7 pm - NA
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
New Member Sunday 8:30 am - Worship/Sund 10 am - Worship/Sunday 11 am - Annual Meeting 1 pm - Scouts Meeting 5 pm - Worship 7 pm - AI Anon	7 pm - ACA 7 pm - AI Anon Meeting	7 am - AA Men Meeting 9:30 am - AA Women 2 pm - AA Seniors 6:30 pm - Heart Lifters 7 pm - AI Anon 7 pm - Men's Book Club	7 am - AA Men Meeting 10 am - Women's Bible	7 am - AA Men Meeting 9:30 am - AA Women 6:30 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Bethel 7:30 pm - AA Meeting 7:30 pm - Sanctuary	10 am - AA Men 11:30 am - AA Women 8 pm - AA Men's	

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



