Gloria Dei Lutheran Church DEI-LY LIGHT



FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

February is about love. Of course we think about Valentine's Day. It's also my anniversary. I'm sure there will be some valentines, gifts, roses, and flowers around. But what I'm really talking about is Lent. Maybe most people don't put the Season of Lent and love together. But we should. I'll explain below, but for your information: Lent begins with <u>Ash Wednesday</u>, February 28. There will be three opportunities to receive ashes and also a soup supper. By the way, we will also begin taking **reservations and deposits for the Columbarium** during Lent.

Our theme for Lent 2020 is "Were You There?" We will have first person portrayals of people who were at the cross and empty tomb. My thanks to all those who will be acting for us.

The other day, a Sunday morning guest asked me, why I'm a Christian. "Why do you believe in Jesus?"

And that's where love comes in. I answered, "The cross. The historicity of Jesus is clear. To paraphrase C.S. Lewis, 'as a person who teaches literature at Oxford, the New Testament is not fantasy writing, but reflections on actual history.' I agree, but more, it's the cross, the words from the cross, forgiveness from the cross, grace from the cross, the person on the cross who keeps me. When I'm tempted to give up, say enough is enough, it's the person on the cross who keeps me. When I'm sick of human sinfulness, both from others and myself, both inside and outside the church, it's the cross that keeps me. That's love and the power from time to time to get beyond myself and love someone else."

Lent is a 40 day reflection on the cross, on love. What keeps you in faith and love? That's Lent.

Gratefully yours,

Daniel R. Watt

Pastor David R. Mattson



Pastor Sabrina's Dei Light Darkness to Light

For the second year in a row, Lent begins fairly late (February 28). Which means, of course, that Easter is later – April 12. I love when Easter falls late into the spring. It seems so appropriate when the warmer weather and all of the new plants springing out of the ground echo the message of the resurrection. We proclaim the message of new life, while being surrounded by new life! According to the ancient church, Lent was meant to begin in the darkness and journey toward the light. We experience that in miniature at the sunrise service on Easter morning, which

begins in the predawn darkness and ends after the sun has started to rise.

I have never been one to emphasize giving up something for Lent. I tend to think it involves too much guilt and/or focus on self-improvement rather than making room or making time in our busy schedules for reading, contemplation, or acts of service that we believe God wants us to do. Of course, there's nothing wrong with giving up Facebook or Twitter, sweets, alcohol, phone games, like Candy Crush (in my case, I'd love to give up Candy Land for Lent since my kids have been insisting we play it every day since they received it for Christmas!).

Generally, I'm usually more interested in starting a new habit, picking up a new devotional, or spending more time in prayer than I am in giving anything up. But I was reminded this year that there is some value in occasionally denying ourselves a particular vise. It reminds us that there is very little we could live without. In fact, besides God, the basic necessities that God provides, and our loved ones, we can probably live without everything else in our lives. And that is good to remember every once in a while.

If you are looking for something to give up, I can make one suggestion. How about giving up an hour every Wednesday during Lent at 6:00pm to attend our soup supper and service? It will be around the theme **Were You There?** – focusing on the perspectives of people who were with Jesus near and around the cross. I hope you have a meaningful Lent!

THE BIG THING

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

FELLOWSHIP EVENT: During the Season of Lent, every Wednesday at 6pm there will be a soup/salad supper in Bankson Hall. This begins with a supper on Ash Wednesday, February 28, 6pm. If you are willing to provide a soup for a Wednesday, please see the sign-up at the Welcome Table. Everyone is invited for this time of great friendship and fellowship.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - New members will be received on January 26. Please join in welcoming them! Their photos and names will appear in next month's newsletter.

THE COLUMBARIUM - reservations and deposits will begin on Ash Wednesday and run through Lent, before opening it up to the general public. Pick up a brochure at the Welcome Table. The Columbarium will be located in the upper canyon area, the Memorial Garden. It will be a place to store the ashes of loved ones. Each niche (space) will hold two urns. For more information, please see our website: mygloriadei.org and go to the Columbarium tab.



DEI-LY FRIENDSHIP

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DIRECTOR - Susie Boland can be reached at <u>fellowship@mygloriadei.org</u> or at the office at 949-493-3414.

ART SHOW - February 1, 3pm - 5pm in Bankson Hall, featuring Michelle Lum's artwork! Not only is Michelle a wonderful singer in the Sanctuary Choir, she is a great artist:

Michelle Lum works primarily in sculpture, although her works often diverge into 2D and 4D mediums. Her work is often conceptual and has a clean, quiet, minimal aesthetic. She makes art around the themes of beauty, wonder, joy, and community. Michelle is interested in the intersection between art, music, and faith. She makes works that are often interactive or engaging of the community.

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 February 17. They will each be reading a book about a First Lady & share a brief summary of what they read. 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 February 25 at 6:30pm. For more information go to the men's book club website: gloriabookclub.com or contact Bob Gillespie at <u>gillespierm@gmail.com</u>.

FEBRUARY/MARCH LENT SOUP SUPPERS - Every Wednesday, during Lent, 6pm in Bankson Hall. Join us for a wonderful meal and fellowship before the worship service. Sign-up to provide a soup at the Welcome Table.

WOMEN'S TRIP TO THE NIXON LIBRARY - The Women's Ministry of Gloria Dei is organizing a trip to the Nixon Library on Saturday, February 29. We will meet at the church at 9:30am and carpool to Yorba Linda to see the museum and grounds, as well as the special exhibit, *Apollo 11: One Giant Leap for Mankind*. Tickets are \$21 (\$17 for seniors) to be paid at the door. Please sign up.

WOMEN'S RETREAT - Save the date for the women's retreat to Carlsbad. The theme is *Steadfast Love*, focusing on Psalm 107. The cost for the retreat is \$225 and includes retreat materials, two nights at the Fairfield Inn in Carlsbad, breakfast, and dinner on Saturday. All fees are due by February 27. Please sign up at the Welcome Table.

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

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

- 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



YOUTH NEWS JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Confirmation class will continue Sunday, February 2 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 from 12:00 - 1:30pm in Bankson Hall and will include lunch. There will be no confirmation class, Sunday, March 1, 2020.

SR. HIGH A - Z SCAVENGER HUNT - February 22, 12 noon - 3pm at The Brig in Dana Point Harbor. We'll start our hunt after a quick lunch, then scavenge the harbor for all God's things from "A to Z". Join us for this fun filled afternoon.

NEW GROUP

20 SOMETHING GROUP has begun! 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 (<u>sundayschool@mygloriadei.org</u>). Sunday school is in session.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR sings Sunday, February 9th at the 10:00am service.

FIRST COMMUNION instruction for children (age 10 or younger) and a parent begins Wednesdays, March 4, 11 & 18 at 5:15pm. There will also be an opportunity for the kids to make their own chalice. The pastors lead this class. First Communion takes place on Palm Sunday - April 5, 2020, 10am. See the sign-up at the Welcome Table for all details.

UPCOMING CHILDREN'S EVENTS -

- Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt, April 19, between morning services.
- Vacation Bible School, Monday Friday, June 15-19 (9:00 -12:00) Mark your calendars. Volunteers needed-please see Barb Collins!



DEI-LY WORSHIP

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

• 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.

- **Children's Choir** will sing on February 9th at the 10:00am service. Thanks again to Neta Wenrick for working with the Sunday School classes.
- **Bell Choir** will ring at both services on February 23rd. Welcome new members Gabby Susag and Carter Niederheiser.
- **Sanctuary Choir** continues to meet on Thursdays for rehearsal and fellowship. Come sing with us. We have a place for you!
- **Recorder Ensemble** resumes rehearsals this month. We meet Thursdays at 6pm.
- Brass Ensemble begins soon! See Pastor David for details.
- Questions? Email Kathy music@mygloriadei.org

SHELLI PARAJECKAS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

We are still anticipating our accreditation visit, but we are ready. We have received quite a bit of coaching from our Orange County Department of Ed representative; she has been amazing with our staff in preparing them for this experience.

Our students will be learning about all the different professions that keep us safe, healthy, and aware. We will be receiving visits from a doctor, nurse,

fireman, policeman, a construction worker, and an artist. Our students love having visitors, especially ones that come with props!

We will have Preschool Registration for the 2020-2021 school year on February 19th. Gloria Dei members who are interested in enrolling should contact the preschool office immediately. Members will receive a discount on tuition, upon registering. We've got over 30 families on our waiting list. God continues to bless this school i so many amazing ways, and I am deeply grateful to witness it.

"There's always a blessing to thank God for; the ones you are aware of and the ones you are not. Be grateful to God everyday."

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH SANCTUARY CHOIR



PHIL & SANDY FURLONG'S 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FAMILY CELEBRATION





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 February 10. They are studying the book of Philippians 2:19 - 2:30.

LUNCH AND LEARN: The Lunch and Learn scheduled for February 2 will be postponed. Dennis Chernekoff will reschedule his discussion on biblical spiritual gifts in June. Upcoming: <u>March 1</u> - Christina Hergenrader, an author of several books, including *Family Trees and Olive Branches*, which was inspired by Matthew 18:22. <u>April 5</u> - 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 February 8, 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 February, they meet on the 11th & 25th at Ann St. Martin'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 continue every Wednesday in Knudson Hall at 10am. There will be no study on Ash Wednesday, February 28. The study is led by a pastor. You can always join in.

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 2019.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - This group meets the third Sunday of each month in Knudson Hall at 11am. The next meeting is on February 15. 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.* Their next meeting is February 1. 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.* February 15 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 February & their next meeting is March 28. 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.



My name is Rosa Ramirez. I came to Los Angelitos Orphanage as a child. I am originally from Chiapas, the poorest part of Mexico, where few opportunities exist for someone born into poverty.

At the age of 14, I realized there was no way out of the severe poverty of my hometown. I dreamed to seek a better quality of life so I set out for the long journey to the big city of Tijuana. After arriving in Tijuana I began working in a factory for 12 hours a day, six days a week for very little pay. Still only 14 years old, I was confused, alone, sad, and didn't know what would become of my life.

Then things went wrong. Bad things happened to me and because I was a minor, I ended up under the jurisdiction of the court system and placed in a large government building for abandoned children. But after several months in the

holding facility, an incredible miracle happened; a room became available for me with my newborn child and we were warmly accepted with open arms into the home of Los Angelitos Orphanage.

I knew that this home was one of the greatest things that could happen to me. I finally had a loving family and a secure home that provided me with an opportunity to get an education, start a career, and, one day, to help others in need. Los Angelitos has given me strength and determination to move forward in my life without looking back at all the hardships and things that happened to me.

I am now a nurse having graduated from the University of UNIDEP. I am so thankful to give back to others as I have been so blessed.

I would like to thank all of you that have contributed so generously to make my dreams come true. Thank all of you for supporting the home of Los Angelitos Orphanage.

• To learn more about our orphanage ministry, contact David (203-952-5657) or Susan Warneke (510-967-3211).



DEI-LY DETAILS

ATTENDANCE 1/5: 343 1/12: 371 1/19: 298 1/26: tbd GEN2GEN GIVING: \$353,792.00 (This three year program runs 2018-2021. 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* (with a picture of our stained glass window overlooking the altar). 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 - More and more people are requesting information about the Endowment Fund. Call the church office and speak with Pastor David for details, or visit our website: <u>www.mygloriadei.org/donate</u>. There you will find the brochure. *"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 - As noted in other places in this newsletter, we will begin taking reservations for the Columbarium on Ash Wednesday and then throughout the Season of Lent.

Eickhof Columbarium company was out to measure the area. A deposit was made to go with their services. They will be out to construct the Columbarium in the Outdoor Chapel by end of summer/early fall. They do beautiful work. To find out more about them and their projects around the country: <u>https://eickhofcolumbaria.com</u>.

Both members and neighbors have expressed interest in this ministry. We will give members an opportunity to sign-up first and then the council will decide when to open it up to friends in the community. If you have questions, pick up a brochure. The Columbarium Committee will be able to answer questions at the Welcome Table when reservations are being taken.

THANKS

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

Dear Friends at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation!

Your generosity and commitment ensures Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary is able to better serve our students, faculty and community members. We are grateful for our gift, which is transforming lives and helping us fulfill our mission of equipping leaders for the church and world.

With appreciation, Ramond Pickett, Rector of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

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, Mary Lou and Denny Walters, Harry and Jean Meinholtz, Gene & Kay Hendrickson, Jeri Steck, Gwen Layritz, and Gunther Wittich.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT - Please pray for the family of Jack Doerr who mourn his passing and for the family of Jack Aplin as they grieve his passing. We pray for those affected by wildfires in Australia & 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



FEBRUARY 2020 VOLUNTEERS

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>10:00am</u>									
ACOLYTE (month)	C. Neiderhiser	B. Coveyou									
<u>COMMUNION ASST</u> (month)	J. Adams P. Dubow S. Weiss	K. Anderson J. St. Martin C. Jennings									
<u>USHER</u> (month)	P. Furlong S. Furlong	J. Cummings J. Moersbacher									
<u>LECTORS</u> 2/2 2/9 2/16 2/23	<u>8:30am</u> S. Furlong K. Desmond P. Dubow D. Macher	<u>10:00am</u> J. St. Martin K. Hallowell N. Wenrick S. Miller	<u>5:00pm</u> S. Anderson G. Boicey J. Contestabile B. Mesa								
<u>REFRESHMENTS</u> 2/2 2/9 2/16 2/23	Gloria Dei D. Boyd D. & G. Blanda K. Chernekoff	Gloria Dei V. Anderson M. & R. Bacon M. Boyd	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> B. Cummings S. Miller N. Smith L. McCarty								
WELCOME CENTER											

WELCOME CENTER

2/2	N. Smith	D. Warneke
2/9	J. Skraba	A. & J. St. Martin
2/16	S. Manville/G. Sels	G. Sherwood
2/23	L. Schuller	L. Schultz

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

														F	E	BF	R	JA	R	Y	2	02	20														
Sat	-	9 a m - Columbarium	9 am - Prayer Shawl	10am - O/A Group	3 pm - Art show -	7 pm - NA	8	8 am - Men's Breakfast	9am - Women's Board	10am - O/A Group	7 pm - NA			15	8:30am - Serra's Pantry	10 am - O/A Group	1 pm - VFW Auxiliary	7 pm - NA					22	7 am - Los Angelitos	10am - O/A Group	12pm - Scavenger Hunt	7 pm - NA			29	9:30am - Women's trip	10 am - O/A Group	12pm - Confirmation	7 pm - NA			
Fri	31						2	10am - AA Men	11:30am - AA Women	8 pm - AA Men's				14	10am - AA Men	11:30am - AA Women	8 pm - AA Men's						21	10am - AA Men	11:30am - AA Women	8 pm - AA Men's				28	10am - AA Men	11:30am - AA Women	8 pm - AA Men's				
Thu	30						9	7 am - AA Men Meeting	9:30am - AA Women	6pm - Recorder Group	6:30pm - Bethel, Bell	7:30pm - AA Co-ed	7:30pm - Sanctuary	13	7 am - AA Men Meeting	9:30am - AA Women	6pm - Recorder Group	6:30pm - Bell Choir	6:30pm - Bethel	7 pm - Scouts Meeting	7:30pm - AA Co-ed	7:30pm - Sanctuary	20	7am - AA Men Meeting	9:30am - AA Women	6pm - Recorder Group	6:30pm - Bell Choir	7:30pm - AA Co-ed	7:30pm - Sanctuary	27	7 am - AA Men Meeting	9:30am - AA Women	6 pm - Recorder Group	6:30pm - Bell Choir	7 pm - Scouts Meeting	7:30pm - AA Co-ed	7:30pm - Sanctuary
Wed	29						2	7 am - AA Men Meeting	10am - Women's Bible	6pm - DHHS	7 pm - Scouts Meeting			12	7 am - AA Men Meeting	10 am - Women's Bible	7pm - NAMI Meeting	ŧ					19	7 am - AA Men Meeting	8 am - Preschool	10am - Women's Bible	4pm - Reclaimed Water			26	Ash Wednesday	7 am - AA Men Meeting	10 am - Women's Bible	12pm - Ash Wednesday	6pm - Lenten Soup	7 pm - Ash Wednesday	7 pm - NAMI Meeting
Tue	28						4	7 am - AA Men Meeting	9:30am - AA Women	2pm - AA Seniors	7 pm - Al Anon	7pm - SCCS Practice		11	7am - AA Men Meeting	9:30am - AA Women	2pm - AA Seniors	6:30pm - Heart Lifters	6:30pm - VFW Auxiliary	7 pm - Al Anon	7 pm - Church Council @	7pm - SCCS Practice	18	7 am - AA Men Meeting	9:30am - AA Women	2pm - AA Seniors	7 pm - Al Anon	7pm - SCCS Practice		25	7am - AA Men Meeting	9:30am - AA Women	2pm - AA Seniors	6pm - DHHS	6:30pm - Heart Lifters	7 pm - Al Anon	7pm - Men's Book Club
Mon	27						3	7 pm - ACA	7 pm - Al Anon Meeting				in the	10	6:30pm - GIFT Group	7 pm - ACA	7 pm - Al Anon Meeting	2					17	3 pm - RIOT Book Club	7 pm - ACA	7 pm - Al Anon Meeting				24	7 pm - ACA	7 pm - Al Anon Meeting					
Sun	26						2	8:30am - Worship/Sund	10am - Worship/Sunday	11am - Lunch & Learn	3 pm - Confirmation	5pm - Worship	7pm - Al Anon	8	8:30am - Worship/Sund	10am - Worship/Sunday	1pm - Scouts Meeting	5pm - Worship	7 pm - Al Anon				16	8:30am - Worship/Sund	10am - Baptism	10am - Worship/Sunday	11am - Grief Support	5pm - Worship	6pm - Fantasy Football 7pm - Al Anon	23	8:30am - Worship/Sund	10am - Baptism	10am - Worship/Sunday	1pm - Scouts Meeting	5pm - Worship	7pm - Al Anon	

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