

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

DEI-LY LIGHT



MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

The other day, I read a column online by a person I admire, basically on what we can learn after this pandemic, only to find out the next day, he never wrote it. **Ugh!**

St. Paul wrote, *"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things."*

But Saint Paul never had to deal with all the **conspiracy** theories and negativity on the internet and media!

Now, I don't want to sound like a curmudgeon. It is amazing how platforms let us communicate during this pandemic - there's much that is *"noble."* (After Gloria Dei's Easter service, I watched Andrea Bocelli sing from the cathedral in Milan - stunning!).

So, I'm taking my own advice - when you hear of a conspiracy or a rumor: Talk to Jesus, listen, remember Luther's admonition to *"explain your neighbor's actions in the kindest way,"* God's in control!

At Easter, Jesus led a **resurrection conspiracy** to turn the world upside down - to love even enemies, to sacrifice, to pray for others, to be generous, to take risks for His grace...

When we return to a **new normal**, let's conspire with Jesus. Some good will come out of this pause. Let's make it a conspiracy of God's grace.

Gratefully yours,

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. Join us for Sunday worship: youtube.com/channel/UCZqbMpylsIUqsgjW7NDObZw - live online at 10am.



Pastor Sabrina's Dei Light

When An Empty Church is Actually a Good Thing!

Under normal circumstances, walking into a nearly empty church on a Sunday is not a good sign. But these are not normal circumstances. Who knows what will happen, but right now, an empty building is a good thing. Here's why I think so:

1. **The church is not the building.** The church is the people. One of the things that I have learned from these experiences of following social distancing guidelines is that when the people who are the church cannot meet in a physical building, they will find other ways to worship. Yes, our building is almost empty on Sunday mornings, but I know that prayers and songs continue to be lifted to God in homes all over the world on Sundays. For Gloria Dei, virtual worship is happening. It's not the same, but it allows us to hear the Word of God, to sing songs, and to allow our children to hear a children's message. Worship continues!
2. The church building is empty right now, and that is a good thing because **church communities should help set the example for how to follow health guidelines.** I shudder when I hear pastors of some churches insist that their congregations will continue to meet because Jesus will protect them or because it is their God-given right to assemble. Yes, we have a right to gather, but why would we do so if it endangers not just us but those around us, our families, neighbors, and those who might be at risk? We are a better church when we protect those in our community.
3. Although the church building is empty, **the church can be the church because the one thing that hasn't changed in this time of great change is the message of the Gospel.** We are the church not because we meet together on Sunday mornings but because we worship God, create a supportive community, and reach out to the world in compassion. The confirmation kids came together – but not together at the same time – to pack health kits for FAM (Families Assistance Ministry). Every time that I call to check in on someone, they tell me that they have been checking in on others. So I know that ministry continues. I have talked to more people by phone in the past few weeks than probably ever before in a short period of time. And they have been good conversations. People continue to pray for one another, continue to be there for one another, continue to live out the gospel.

I can't wait to be together in person. Until that time, we will continue to be the church wherever we are.

THE BIG THING

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

FINANCES AND PLANNING: The Council is planning for various scenarios and approved applying for a PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) Loan. *"The loan proceeds are used to cover payroll costs... over the 8 week period after the loan is made; and Employee and compensation levels are maintained."* (Treasury) If used for salaries, they will be forgiven. Both our Bishop and the Mission Investment Fund encouraged Gloria Dei to take advantage of this opportunity. Thankfully, we have been approved!

ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES - More and more online opportunities, Bible studies, devotions are being offered at Gloria Dei. Keep checking the website, calling the office, and receiving "Dei-ly Updates" to learn more.

BLOOD DRIVE AT GLORIA DEI - May 15, 2020 in Bankson Hall from 9am-3pm. Please sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: Gloria Dei. Alternatively, you may contact the office at 949-493-3414 or email - gloriadei@mygloriadei.org to request a time. CDC recommended precautions will be taken. Please give blood if you are able, as it is definitely needed.

KATHY PERSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR



DEI-LY WORSHIP

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

Our music program continues, even while we are apart. Fred is ready for us every week with beautiful and uplifting keyboard music. Gloria Dei is blessed with wonderful instrumentalists who keep the beat going for our Sunday services. I am grateful to them, and to our awesome section leaders who lead us in our hymns.

Let's thank them! Send your words of thanks and encouragement in a short message. I will collect and forward to them. Contact Kathy at music@mygloriadei.org.

- **Thank you** to Chris Try for his leadership! This month he shares song leading with fellow tenor section members Jim Bankson, Kyle Billiard, and Bill Jonas.
- **Sing** along with our song leaders for the hymns during our distance worship. Sing as loud as you want! Singing is good for you, spiritually and physically. Smile. Know that others, friends you've known for years, and friends you haven't yet met are singing with you. Our voices are lifted in praise not just in one location now, but potentially anywhere, everywhere. You are the choir. Sing!
- **Recorder Ensemble** began a remote learning assignment. We are practicing a 17th century tune. Each member of our small group will record their track using an app to complete 3-part harmony. I love that we are using technology to perform a song that was popular in Shakespeare's time.
- **Brass Ensemble** music is on the way! Look forward to arrangements of your favorite hymns played by members of our newest ensemble.
- Questions? Email Kathy music@mygloriadei.org



YOUTH NEWS JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

SR. HIGH: Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. during the quarantine. Wanna “hangout”? Send your email address to youth@mygloriadei.org and make sure you’re ready for fun!

SAVE THE DATE - Confirmation for our 8th graders will be postponed until later in the spring.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT - The confirmation youth and their families found a way to combine social distancing with helping those in need during the Corona virus emergency. They came to Knudson Hall at separate times during Holy week and packaged 54 hygiene kits for FAM (Families Assistance Ministry).



20-SOMETHING GROUP

VIRTUAL GAME NIGHT - Tuesday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m. Make yourself a margarita or any beverage of your choice, and join us for a virtual game night. Send your email address to youth@mygloriadei.org if you’d like to participate.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Age 4 - 5th grade) - Since Sunday morning Sunday school is on a break due to Covid-19, you can still check out Sunday school curriculum, coloring sheets, and video on our website:

mygloriadei.org/children-and-family-ministries

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS - While on your way to the grocery store, pick up each week's Sunday school lesson bags located just outside the church office.

Questions, speak with Barb (sundayschool@mygloriadei.org).

FIRST COMMUNION will take place as soon as in-person worship services resume. Congratulations to those four students who will receive their First Communion on this special day!

UPCOMING CHILDREN'S EVENTS -

- **Vacation Bible School** - Postponed: date tbd. This year's theme is "Wilderness Escape. Where God Guides & Provides!" Volunteers needed for group leaders, snack helpers, crafts and games-please contact Barb Collins at sundayschool@mygloriadei.org.
- **Summer Sundays** - The Sunday morning theme will be "Psalms of Ascent" - looking at those amazing songs about journey, mountains, going up, and walking. To connect this with children and adults each Sunday, we will also highlight a national park in California and kids will be invited to pick up a **"Passport to the Parks."** A different park will be highlighted each week to relate to a particular Psalm. They can doodle, draw on it during worship, but during the Children's Message they will be able to collect a park sticker/stamp. If you collect all six of them, there will be a prize. (June - July)

SHELLI PARAJECKAS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

The campus is quiet, however learning and growing continues remotely.

Our preschool teachers have been creative in staying connected with their students. They've live-streamed stories & shared photos from this school year. In return, parents have shared photos of what students have been doing during the quarantine time on their private Instagram pages. The teachers have been doing Zoom circle times, and music & movement several times a week. We are all

trying hard to stay connected with the hope of returning before a new school year begins.

Like everyone else, I lean on God and the hope I receive from prayer. Here is a quote that helps reinforce hope: "Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe tomorrow will be better, we can bear hardship today." (author unknown)

To contact Shelli Parajekas go to preschooldirector@mygloriadei.org.



DEI-LY FRIENDSHIP

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

ATTENTION ALL MASK MAKERS: Presley Boland has been making masks and will have some available in the church office for those in need. If you are also making masks and would be interested in donating for church members in need, please drop off to the church office. If the office is closed, please slide them through the drop slot in the office door.

GEN2GEN EVENT - Event postponed until further notice. We look forward to this important church wide event, when social distancing restrictions are lifted.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets the *third Monday of each month at 3pm*. **The group will NOT be meeting on May 18.** However, they will be reading *Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See if you have a little time on your hands & want to 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 May 26th 6:30pm meeting is canceled.** For information on the books they are reading go to their website: gloriabookclub.com or contact Bob Gillespie at gillespirm@gmail.com.

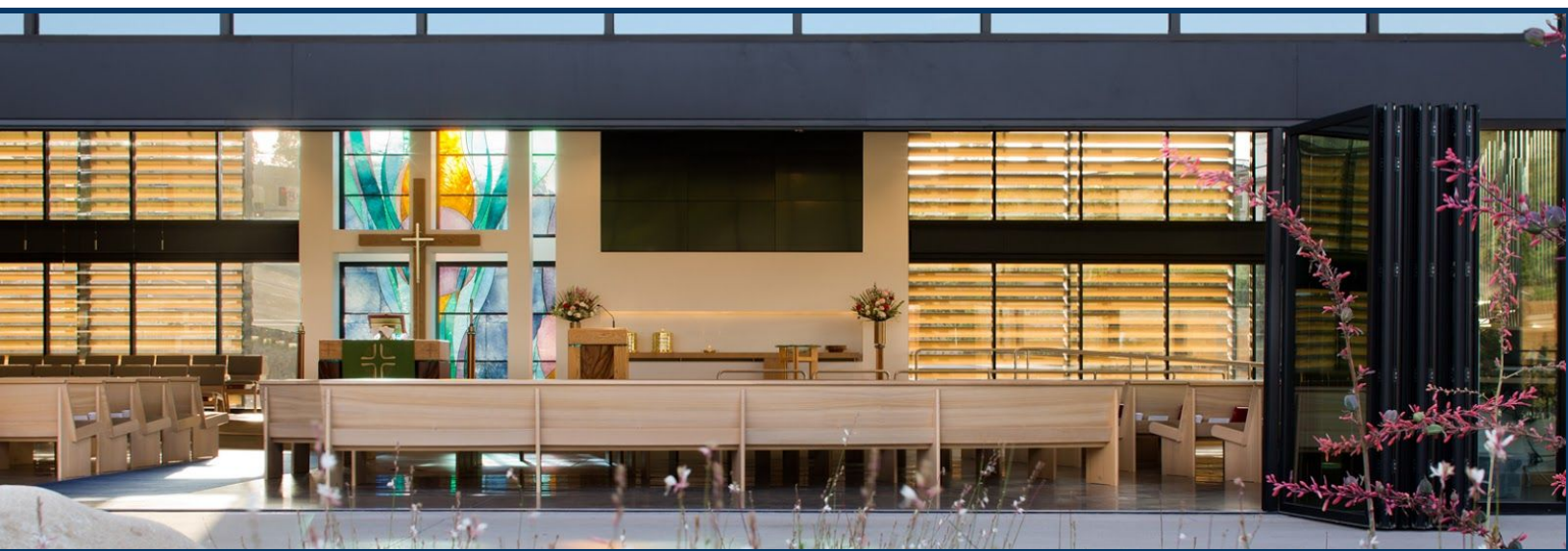
WOMEN'S TEA - The **women's spring tea has been canceled.** For now, enjoy a cup at home & call a friend to chat!

EMPTY NESTERS are **planning a virtual happy hour time.** If you would like to be included, please contact the church office. People will join in online with a favorite drink and appetizers from the safety, comfort of their own home.

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

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

- We look forward to the summer picnic, Angels' baseball game, church campout (Fall), and more. Please keep an eye on the website for more details.



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, scheduled for May 4, is NOT going to meet due to COVID-19.** They are studying the book of Philippians 4:1-4:7.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY meets the *second Saturday of every month at 8:00am in Knudson Hall* with Pastor David leading the study. **Their next meeting is May 9, 8am. It will be online.** Stay at home, make yourself some breakfast and join in. Last month, about ten guys emailed Pastor David saying they would like to be included and Matthew 28 was discussed. If you would like to participate in the next study, please email him at pastordavid@mygloriadei.org. All men are 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. 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). **They will meet via a Zoom on May 12th & 26th.** Study is open to all women.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY will meet virtually in May every Wednesday at 3:00pm. The study on Matthew's gospel is led by Pastor Sabrina. If you would like to join, call the church office to be sent a link or email to join in, contact Pastor Sabrina: pastorsabrina@mygloriadei.org.

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. **Because of all physical distancing, their next meeting will occur online.**

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - This group meets the third Sunday of each month in Knudson Hall at 11am. **During this period of "sheltering at home", this group will not be meeting.** Stay tuned for when they will reconvene. 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, May 2 and will be canceled due to COVID-19**. 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*. **May 16 is the next volunteer opportunity. To see the status of this event at www.missionparish.org/groups-ministries/serras-pantry.**

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. **Their next meeting, May 23 has been cancelled**. If interested in helping, please call Donna Combe at 949-338-5327.

GLORIA DEI BLOOD DRIVE - May 15, 2020 in Bankson Hall from 9am-3pm. This is an “essential” event. Please sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: Gloria Dei. Alternatively, you may contact the office at 949-493-3414 or email - gloriadei@mygloriadei.org to request a time. **CDC recommended precautions will be taken**. Please give blood if you are able, as it is definitely needed.

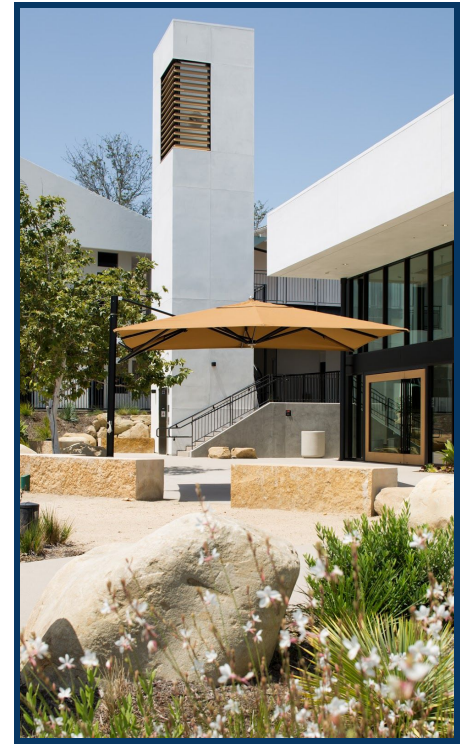
LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY

Our mission trips in 2020 will be August 22 and December 5. May 30th has been canceled. Stay tuned for COVID-19 updates regarding future trips.

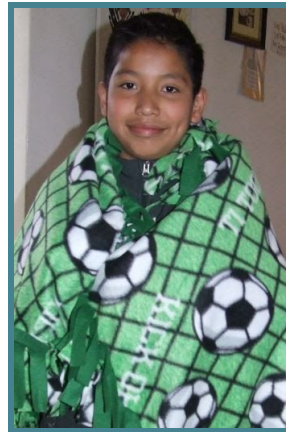
We had a near perfect day on our recent visit to the orphanage in Tijuana. The fact that it was cold and rainy was actually a great, well timed blessing. The weather was a real blessing for several reasons:

- The rain kept us all in-doors, so we had a lot of close, quality time with the children. We played games and made crafts and were interacting in a very comfortable and relaxed atmosphere.
- Phil Delgado brought a couple of dozen hand-made, custom ceramic bowls (each one unique). Others made a huge batch of warm chili-con-carne. The kids loved the chili on a cold day and they loved their custom made bowls. The kids kept the bowls and probably use them daily. Lunch was served with salad and fruit and chips, cookies and more.
- Stephanie Stoner sent a dozen of her beautiful hand-made, super warm and cute blankets. Each one a unique creation. The kids went nuts over the blankets. And since it was a cold day and the heater at the orphanage was broken (it was super cold inside) the kids were all wrapped up and cuddling with the missionaries on the couch, on the chairs, and on the floor.

CoronaVirus update @ Los Angelitos (March 25, 2020) Everyone is well. No one has contacted the virus. Schools are closed and everyone is hunkering down at home. It is hard for all those children to practice social distancing - they live too close to one another. Pray for them. If one gets sick – they all will. To learn more about our orphanage ministry, contact David (203-952-5657) or Susan Warneke (510-967-3211).



Los Angelitos...



Live Streaming Children's Message





DEI-LY DETAILS

ATTENDANCE

4/5: 637 views 4/10 (Good Friday): 342 views 4/12 Easter: 927 views 4/19: 289 views 4/26: tbd

GEN2GEN GIVING: \$372,922.00 (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: www.myloriadei.org/donate. 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.

THE COLUMBARIUM - Reservations and payments continue. So far, 35 niches and 1 memorial plaque have been purchased and locations reserved.

Eickhof Columbarium company was out to measure the area. They are now planning to construct the Columbarium in the Outdoor Chapel in May. They do beautiful work. To find out more about them and their projects around the country: <https://eickhofcolumbaria.com>.

Besides niches for cremation, there are also Memorial Plaques that can be purchased to honor a family member who's passed. They would be inscribed with the name of a loved one and are a less expensive option than a niche. The Columbarium will be located in the upper canyon area in the Memorial Garden. Each niche will hold two urns. For more information, please see our website: myloriadei.org/columbarium.

THANKS

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

On this Easter Sunday I just want to thank you for your messages of hope.

As I am alone and sheltering in place, I miss the opportunity to worship each Sunday with my church family. Because I have time and lots of it, Sundays have allowed me to attend church three times each week: Northwest Covenant in Mt. Prospect, IL (my home church), First Covenant Church of Omaha (pastor is a son of very close friends) and Gloria Dei (your church). It is comforting that though in different locations and slight differences in style we worship and seek to serve a Lord who loves and cares for us even during the uncharted times we currently find ourselves in. It is not unusual for three separate sermons to contain common themes that together create a unified whole. (We can probably blame the lectionary for that.) I probably won't continue this practice once restrictions are relaxed and we can return to worshiping in a communal setting. But, for now I want to simply express my appreciation for your continued service to Christ and to his people, wherever they may be. Even to non-Lutherans in Illinois.

Dick Person (Greg's dad)

Our Friends at Gloria Dei,

We appreciate your contribution to Los Angelitos.
And thank you for staying with us. We send to
you a big hug & we hope to see you soon!

The Children of Los Angelitos Orphanage



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, Anne Siminuk, Kay Hendrickson, Jeri Steck, Gwen Layritz, and Gunther Wittich, Joann Groon.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT - Please pray for the family of Joy Horsch who mourn her passing. We also pray for Troy Lerseth and his family as they mourn the loss of his father. We pray for the family of Vivian Macher who mourn her passing. Additionally, we pray for the family of Emmy Quinn as they mourn her passing.

PEACE AND SAFETY for all our service men and women now serving around the world. Also peace and safety for our frontline emergency and healthcare workers treating those infected with the Coronavirus and other ailments.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUEST - To place a loved one on the Prayer Chain, call the church office at 949-493-3414.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL - *"Christ in our Home"* (April - June), is available for pick up just outside the church office or if you would like one mailed to you, please call or email the church office (949-493-3414 or gloriadei@mygloriadei.org).

DEI-LY DUTIES



MAY 2020 VOLUNTEERS (needed only once we resume gathering in the Sanctuary for worship. We will be in contact once the new "normal" schedule resumes).

8:30am

10:00am

ACOLYTE (month)

COMMUNION ASST
(month)

USHER

4/5

4/12

4/19

4/26

LECTORS

8:30am

10:00am

5:00pm

4/5

4/12

4/19

4/26

REFRESHMENTS

ALTAR GUILD

4/5

4/12

4/19

4/26

WELCOME CENTER

4/5

4/12

4/19

4/26

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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
 Susie Boland fellowship@mygloriadei.org;
 Kathy Person music@mygloriadei.org;
 Fred Johnson organist@mygloriadei.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES & ONLINE CHURCH GROUPS ARE LISTED ON THE CALENDAR. The calendar will be updated accordingly once "shelter at home" restrictions are lifted.						
						7pm - Online Youth
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES & ONLINE CHURCH GROUPS ARE LISTED ON THE CALENDAR. The calendar will be updated accordingly once "shelter at home" restrictions are lifted.						
10am - Livestream		2pm - Staff meeting 7pm - Online 20-	3pm - Online Women's	6:30pm - Online Bethel		8am - Online Men's 9am - Online Women's 7pm - Online Youth
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES & ONLINE CHURCH GROUPS ARE LISTED ON THE CALENDAR. The calendar will be updated accordingly once "shelter at home" restrictions are lifted.						
10am - Livestream		2pm - Staff meeting 6:30pm - Online Heart 7pm - Online Church	3pm - Online Women's	6:30pm - Online Bethel	Blood Drive is ON!	8:30am - Serra's Pantry 5pm - Gen2Gen Event 7pm - Online Youth
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES & ONLINE CHURCH GROUPS ARE LISTED ON THE CALENDAR. The calendar will be updated accordingly once "shelter at home" restrictions are lifted.						
10am - Livestream	3pm - RIOT Book Club	2pm - Staff meeting	3pm - Online Women's			9:30am - Quilting 7pm - Online Youth
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES & ONLINE CHURCH GROUPS ARE LISTED ON THE CALENDAR. The calendar will be updated accordingly once "shelter at home" restrictions are lifted.						
10am - Baptism of 10am - Livestream		2pm - Staff meeting 6:30pm - Online Heart	3pm - Online Women's 5pm - Online Preschool			9am - Adult Inquiry @ 7pm - Online Youth
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
LIVESTREAM WORSHIP Baccalaureate Sunday 10am - Livestream 12pm - New Member						

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

