

# *Gloria Dei Lutheran Church*

## DEI-LY LIGHT



## SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

### **PHILIPPIANS - *Perseverance & Encouragement***

This fall, Sunday morning messages, weekly Bible studies, and more will all focus on St. Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. There are so many beautiful passages to be learned, taken in, pondered... and many of them have to do with getting through tough times (Paul was in prison) with a sense of purpose and joy.

On Sunday morning, we'll see a different member speak to perseverance via a video interview. My thanks to all the folks helping out with this theme.

Speaking of resilience, what will church, preschool, Sunday school, music/choirs, fellowship, ministries... look like this fall? God knows. And God will guide us as things change. My hope is that we will be more "open" to meet physically, but we will continue to offer online/virtual options too.

Speaking of perseverance, my thanks to those many people volunteering in a variety of ways. Today, I'm thinking of the Blanda's who clean fountains every week. I'm thinking of those who help out on Sunday mornings assisting, singing, giving children's messages, and more. Thank you.

Speaking of perseverance, that's what we need at this time, and in all times. The good news is we're never alone, never. *But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 3:13-14)

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Mattson".

Pastor David R. Mattson

# THE BIG THING

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

## FALL EMPHASIS

September 6, 2020

- Philippians 1:1-11 (Video-Lisa Ellis)

September 13, 2020

- Philippians 1:12-19 (Video-Bill Ramsey)

September 20, 2020

- Philippians 1:20-30 - Cade Gallal speaks

September 27, 2020

- Philippians 2:1-13 (Video-Dave Warneke)



## RALLY SUNDAY

September 13, 2020 - We kick off our fall series, Sunday school, and more. Refreshments following each service. Invite a friend to join you!

## STAFFING QUESTIONS

With the departure of Pastor Sabrina Vasta, many people are asking what is the leadership considering and doing for the future staffing at Gloria Dei? Because of the pandemic, there are many things which we cannot do right now or things have been scaled back for the time being, but we are doing at least the following:

- Praying;
- Filling out forms/paperwork for both a seminary intern or an associate pastor;
- Calling on Council members and other leaders to help fill in various roles;
- Renting the church's condo;
- Current staff are helping out in new areas (Pastor David - Confirmation/Eucharistic Visitors; Susie Boland - Women's Ministry)

**FINANCES AND PLANNING:** Not surprisingly, overall giving and income is slightly lower than budget. On the other hand, expenses are also down. The Council is planning for various scenarios for our parish, preschool, staffing, ministries, etc. Thanks to the many people who are continuing to support the ministry of Gloria Dei through your contributions. Online giving is so important and there are so many ways to give - [mygloriadei.org/donate](http://mygloriadei.org/donate).

**THE PRESCHOOL IS REOPENING:** By the time this newsletter is out, the plan is for the Preschool to be open and running safely and joyfully. Preschool Director Shelli Parajekas is following CDC guidelines and working so hard to make everything as safe as possible for our children, families, and teachers. Please keep them in your prayers during this time.



KATHY PERSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR



## DEI-LY WORSHIP

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

**Sanctuary Choir** will not meet this fall. We will return to rehearsals when it is safe to do so.

**Handbell Choir** will begin rehearsals Thursday, 9/17 from 6:30-7:15 pm. We will meet in reduced numbers and observe safety recommendations. More info to come!

**Recorder Ensemble** will continue creating digital collaborations. New music is on the way.

**Brass Ensemble** continues this Fall! Pastor David leads this group.

**Do you play an instrument?** There is an ensemble or solo opportunity for you! Email Kathy at [music@mygloriadei.org](mailto:music@mygloriadei.org)

Questions? Email Kathy [music@mygloriadei.org](mailto:music@mygloriadei.org)

PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



## YOUTH NEWS JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 6:00 PM:** While we think of new and fun things to do while being safe during COVID, let's do a game and movie night in Bankson Hall! Bring your favorite game, and a blanket to lay out on while we chat about the upcoming year, eat some food, play games and watch a movie!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 11:15 AM:** Parents and mentors of all confirmation students will be meeting to discuss the plan for Confirmation - which starts

October 4! If you'd like to enroll your 6th grader to the confirmation class, please email Pastor David at [pastordavid@mygloriadei.org](mailto:pastordavid@mygloriadei.org).

**SAVE THE DATE** - Confirmation for our graduated 8th graders will be Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020, 10am

## 20-SOMETHING GROUP

Calling all 20-somethings! Please email Paige at [youth@mygloriadei.org](mailto:youth@mygloriadei.org) with any activities you'd like to participate in during COVID times.







## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** (Age 4 - 5th grade) - We are considering several possibilities for our Sunday School format. I will be reaching out to each family to check in and gather thoughts for what will best meet the needs of our children and families.

You may also contact me at [sundayschool@mygloriadei.org](mailto:sundayschool@mygloriadei.org).

Continue to check our website for information at:  
[mygloriadei.org/children-and-family-ministries](http://mygloriadei.org/children-and-family-ministries)

**FIRST COMMUNION** has been postponed until October 4th. Stay tuned for more details via the church website & in the weekly bulletin announcements. Congratulations to those four students who will receive their First Communion on this special day!

**UPCOMING CHILDREN'S EVENTS** - Stay tuned for more details via the bulletin or website: [mygloriadei.org](http://mygloriadei.org).



## PRESCHOOL

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

We are back! Although reopening the preschool during COVID-19 proved to be challenging, it feels good to be back.

The preschool is operating with low classroom enrollment to meet safety guidelines relative to the current pandemic. Having my staff back is fuel for my soul; they inspire me each day with their creativity and perseverance in challenging times. Having children on campus is music for my soul; their squeals

and laughter are pure joy.

Although we will not be having any family style events or big celebrations, we will provide all the activities which foster growth and development in our students. I hope and pray all students in our community thrive in their learning journey this school year.

*"The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice." -Brian Herbert*

To contact Shelli Parajekas go to [preschooldirector@mygloriadei.org](mailto:preschooldirector@mygloriadei.org).



## 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.

Fall is upon us (although the weatherman may not have heard yet, it's HOT), and we are still not able to greet each other with a hug or handshake. This is so hard for me as I am sure it is, also, for many of you. Just a quick reminder to keep up with your relationships. If someone comes to mind, send out a text, email or make a call. I am so touched, personally, to receive communication from someone I know. A quick note or "Hi, how are you?" can make such a difference in another person's life, especially now. Grace changes everything!

**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 may meet virtually or in person on September 21.** Diane Kelly will send out an email with the details once decided. They will be reading *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty. 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 949-212-1890.

**MEN'S BOOK GROUP** - Meets the *last Tuesday of the month, 7pm* at different hosts' homes. **They meet again on September 29.** For information on the books they are reading go to their website: [gloriabookclub.com](http://gloriabookclub.com) or contact Bob Gillespie at [gillespiem@gmail.com](mailto:gillespiem@gmail.com).

**WOMEN'S EVENTS** - The Women's Ministry at Gloria Dei is planning events for the future, as we determine when and how meeting in small groups can take place. There will be a Wine and Paint night and we are planning to host this in October. Stay tuned for more details.

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

### UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

- TBD, based upon pandemic restrictions.

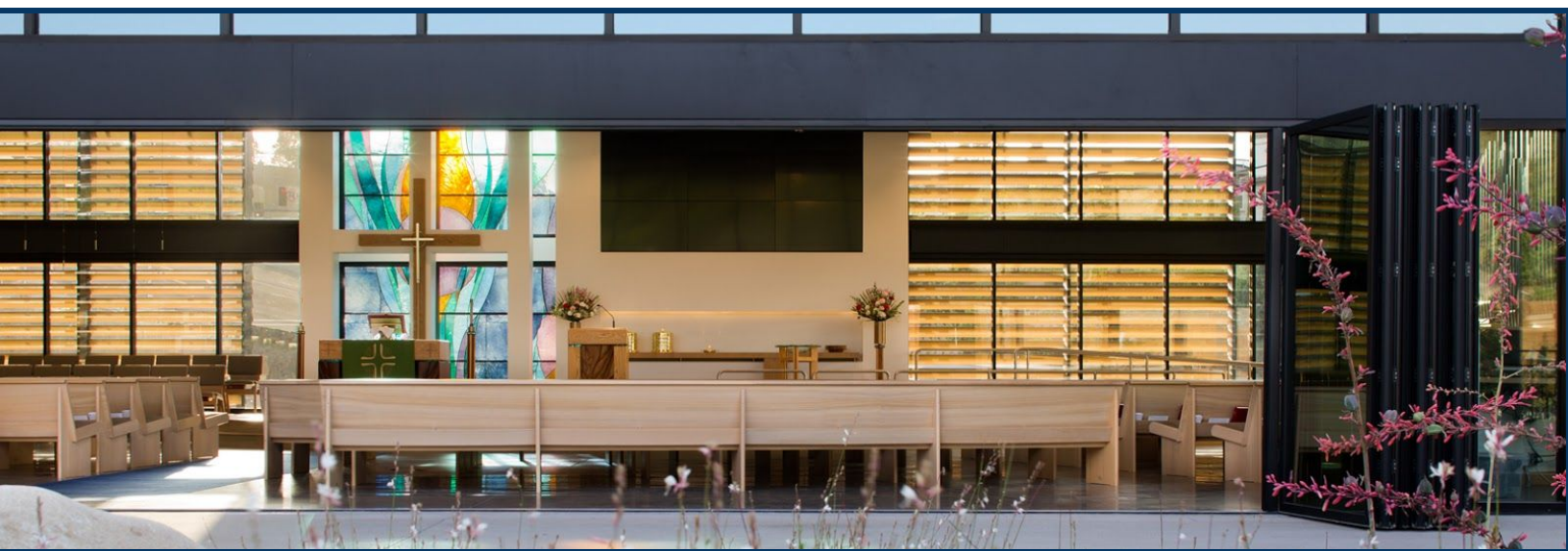
# CATALINA YOUTH DAY TRIP 2020 - Fresh Air & Young Fellowship



Thanks for letting us have some fun during quarantine! ~Taro  
Thank you for letting the youth go to Catalina ~Connor  
Thanks for everything you do for us ~Erik  
Thank you for everything ~Ava  
Thank You! ~Presley  
Gracias ~Gabby







## 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 September 14. David Warneke will send an email out to this group regarding the status of how they will conduct their study.** They are studying the book of Philippians 4:14 - 4:23.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** meets the *second Saturday of every month at 8:00am in Knudson Hall* with Pastor David leading the study. **This group will meet again September 12.** If you would like to participate in the next study, please email him at [pastordavid@mygloriadei.org](mailto: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 continue meeting via Zoom on September 8 and 22.** Study is open to all women.

**WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** will meet again starting **September 9**. This Bible study meets each Wednesday at 10am and is led by a pastor.

**THE BETHEL BIBLE SERIES** - Continues on Wednesdays 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. **This group resumes their meetings on Wednesday, September 23 in the Sanctuary and virtually.**

**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. They will meet September 5.* 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. September 19 is the next volunteer opportunity. Please join us to help with this important outreach.*

**THE QUILTING GROUP** is **preparing all the quilts from home** during the COVID-19 pandemic. The quilts made by this group are provided to our newly Baptized infants & children. If interested in helping, please call Donna Combe at 949-338-5327.

## LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY

Our mission trip is December 5, 2020. This trip is "Pending – based on circumstances in God's control".

Dear Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,



In recognition of your most gentle and kind generosity. Today we give to you thanks for staying with us, especially in times as difficult as the current pandemic in which we are living.  
We miss and love you!  
Yuliana

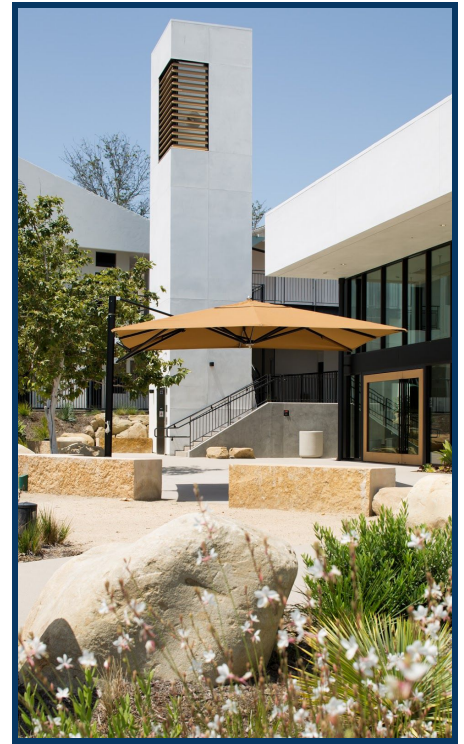


Thank you very much for all your support in these difficult times. It gives us happiness and peace knowing that we have someone like you in our family. Thank you very much for making our dreams come true. God Bless you today and always. We love you mucho!  
The children and staff of Los Angelitos

**CoronaVirus update @ Los Angelitos (June 25, 2020)** Donations to the orphanage have nearly disappeared since the pandemic. They are in dire straits for income. People are not giving and people are not visiting - all the while the children are isolated in cramped conditions. The schools are closed and the kids are locked down inside the crowded orphanage. To make matters worse, Ed is quite ill and struggling to keep things together. They need prayers. They need money. They need your help now.

If you want to send money, you can write a check made payable to "Little Angels Orphanage Foundation" & mail it to: Los Angelitos Orphanage, P.O. Box 433263 San Ysidro, CA 92143.

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







## DEI-LY DETAILS

### ATTENDANCE and LIVESTREAM VIEWS (Collective)

7/5: 307

7/12: 369

7/19: 297

7/26: 311

8/2: 309

8/9: 314

8/16: 296

8/23: tbd

8/30: tbd

**GEN2GEN GIVING: \$378,677.00** (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 contact the church office at 949-493-3414 or [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org).

**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.mygloriadei.org/donate](http://www.mygloriadei.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** - The Columbarium is located in the upper canyon area in the Memorial Garden. Please stop by to see it at your convenience. Several of our members are now interred in the Columbarium and they were beautiful family gatherings. Currently, 43 niches and 1 memorial plaque have been purchased and each niche will hold two urns. To reserve a niche for yourself or a loved one, please contact the church office, 949-493-3414.

For more information, please see our website: [mygloriadei.org/columbarium](http://mygloriadei.org/columbarium).

# THANKS

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

**Thank you to those who helped make our August blood drive a big success!** Thanks to those in the church who signed up to give blood and to Susan Behnke for her full day of volunteering to check folks in at the blood drive. We were able to collect enough blood to help save the lives of over 115 people.



**Save the date... for our next blood drive on Wednesday, November 11 from 9am - 3pm.** To plan ahead, sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: Gloria Dei. Alternatively, you may contact the office at 949-493-3414 or email - [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org) to request a time. CDC recommended precautions will be taken.

My name is Laura (Johnson) Gates. I grew up going to Pastor David's church in Flagstaff. My husband is a Marine, and we currently live in Japan. We have always kept up with David, and Gloria Dei, and love listening to the sermons online. With the COVID pandemic lockdowns, we started watching your services on Youtube every Sunday morning. Our sons are really excited about the stickers and passport book through the summer of Psalms. I was wondering if we would be able to have you mail us a booklet so that they can participate on the other side of the world. We are still locked down, and little things from back in America are always encouraging for them!

Thank you for all you do. Gloria Dei sure means a lot to our family in Japan!

With love and warmest regards,

Laura

I am deeply grateful for your faithful and generous support in both prayer and finances! Especially during a time like this, the whole world has been affected by the COVID-19. Your sacrificial giving has moved me greatly... 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 to this ministry and myself!

May our God continue to bless and repay you for all of your kindness and protect you at this difficult time.

Pray for and with you,

Your Missionary

Dear Friends at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation!

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

With appreciation,

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, Anne Siminuk, Kay Hendrickson, Jeri Steck, Gwen Layritz, Joann Groon, Glenn Sels, Jane Wittich, Joyce Jensen and Jimmye Burke.

**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. We also pray for race relations between people in the world to flourish in loving & compassionate ways.

**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" (July - September), is available for pick up at the Welcome Table on Sunday or at the church office. If you would like to pick one up or have one mailed to you, please call or email the church office (949-493-3414 or [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org)).

## DEI-LY DUTIES



### SEPTEMBER 2020 VOLUNTEERS

We are requesting help each week for lectors, ushers & the welcome center. We are also requesting help once monthly for Altar Guild & communion assistant. We are using the original volunteer schedule as a rough guideline to help fill each of these volunteer opportunities at the varying services, but are making plenty of changes to the schedule as needed, so we will not be printing it at this time.

Due to the pandemic, many of the guidelines for each of these volunteer opportunities have changed to promote safe social distance ie. no passing offering plates or physically handing out bulletins, etc.

## 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](http://mygloriadei.org);  
Email: [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org)  
Facebook Page: Facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint

Pastor David R. Mattson [pastordavid@mygloriadei.org](mailto:pastordavid@mygloriadei.org)  
Carol Weinhardt [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org);  
Shelli Parajekas [preschool@mygloriadei.org](mailto:preschool@mygloriadei.org);  
Paige Gulck [youth@mygloriadei.org](mailto:youth@mygloriadei.org);  
Barbara Collins [sundayschool@mygloriadei.org](mailto:sundayschool@mygloriadei.org);  
Susie Boland [fellowship@mygloriadei.org](mailto:fellowship@mygloriadei.org);  
Kathy Person [music@mygloriadei.org](mailto:music@mygloriadei.org);  
Fred Johnson [organist@mygloriadei.org](mailto:organist@mygloriadei.org)



# SEPTEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		7am - AA Meeting 2pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Brass rehearsal 7pm - Alanon	7am - AA Meeting	7am - AA Meeting	10am - AA Meeting 8pm - AA Men's	9am - Prayer Shawl 7pm - NA Meeting
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship 11am - Lunch & Learn 5pm - Worship		7am - AA Meeting 2pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Brass rehearsal 6:30pm - Online Heart 7pm - Alanon 7pm - Council @	7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible	7am - AA Meeting	10am - AA Meeting 8pm - AA Men's	8am - Men's Bible 8am - Online Men's 9am - Prayer Vigil @ 9am - Women's Board 7pm - NA Meeting
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Rally Sunday 8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship 5pm - Worship		7am - AA Meeting 4pm - Brass rehearsal 7pm - Alanon	7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible	7am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Bell Choir	10am - AA Meeting 6pm - Youth Group @ 8pm - AA Men's	8:30am - Serra's 7pm - NA Meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship 11:15am - 5pm - Worship	3pm - RIOT Book Club	7am - AA Meeting 4pm - Brass rehearsal 6:30pm - Online Heart 7pm - Alanon	7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Bethel Bible	7am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Bell Choir	10am - AA Meeting 8pm - AA Men's	9:30am - Quilting 7pm - NA Meeting
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship 5pm - Worship		7am - AA Meeting 4pm - Brass rehearsal 7pm - Alanon 7pm - Men's Book Club	7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Bethel Bible			

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

