

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

DEI-LY LIGHT



DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

ADVENT 2020. The 4 week season of preparation for the Savior's birth begins November 29. We'll read the prophecies related to the coming of the Messiah, hear John the Baptist proclaiming "prepare the way," light the Advent candles, and sing, "O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel."

Speaking of Advent preparation, I love this quote by Henri Nouwen:

"At first sight, joy seems to be connected with being different. When you receive a compliment or win an award, you experience the joy of not being the same as others. You are faster, smarter, more beautiful, and it is that difference that brings you joy. But such joy is very temporary. True joy is hidden where we are the same as other people: fragile and mortal. It is the joy of belonging to the human race. It is the joy of being with others as a friend, a companion, a fellow traveler. This is the joy of Jesus, who is Emmanuel: God-with-us." (Bread for the Journey)

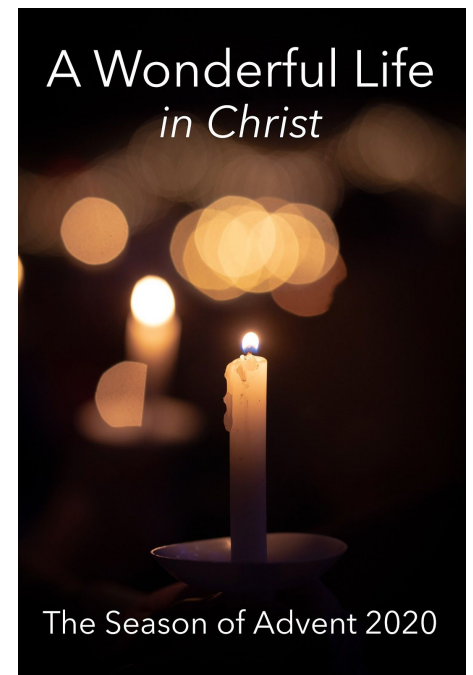
We thank God for being "friend, a companion, a fellow traveler," which means, no matter the difficulty of the journey, home awaits.

Gratefully yours,

David R. Mattson

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. My thanks to the many people who turned in their 2021 pledge cards and time and talent sheets. Well done! Extras are available at the Welcome Table.



THE BIG THING

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

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Thursday, December 24, 2020

3:00pm, 4:30pm, and 6:00pm

All three services will be candlelight, with special music, and an uplifting message.

Please make a reservation for your seat(s).

Contact the church office: 949-493-3414 or via email: gloriadei@mygloriadei.org

(Given state health orders, contingency plans are in the works.)

DECORATING for Advent/Christmas

Thursday, December 3, 10am.

The tree goes up and other decorations for Advent will be unboxed and put into place. Wear a mask and join in.

THANKS to all those who have given so generously of their time, talent, and treasure.

Thanks to those who have pledged for 2021!

If you still plan to pledge, turn in a Time and Talent Sheet, or need an extra one, please contact the church office. You can also pick one up on Sunday mornings at the Welcome Table.

CONTINUED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

Please stay home if you are at risk or not feeling well. Watch the livestream service.

Face masks are required at worship. Thank you for following the direction of the pastor and Council. We always have extra coverings at the Welcome Table, plus hand sanitizer.

Bible studies and other gatherings have now gone “virtual.” If you have not received an internet link to join, please contact the church office.

We will get through this, all of us, together!

CHANGE IS HAPPENING QUICKLY

Gloria Dei’s Sunday worship services and all groups are meeting either online or outside. But please keep an eye on the website for changes to this situation. Thanks for keeping everyone healthy!



KATHY PERSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR



DEI-LY WORSHIP

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

Thank you Fred Johnson, Chris Try, Michelle Lum and Micaela Lum for the great music every Sunday!

Viola Recital by Ashley Santore will take place December 12th at 3:00 p.m. Ashley will premier the new piece *Suite For Viola In 3 Movements* by pianist **Fred Johnson**.

The new work was written for and dedicated to Ashley. To view the Livestream event follow this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/GloriaDeiLutheranChurchDanaPoint>

Handbell Choir is ready for Advent. We have prepared some beautiful carols for the season!

Do you play an instrument? There is an ensemble or solo opportunity for you! Email Kathy at music@mygloriadei.org

Questions? Email Kathy music@mygloriadei.org

PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



YOUTH NEWS JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 11:15 AM - Confirmation classes continue in Bankson Hall, with lunch provided by the church. Don't forget your Bibles as Pastor David, Barb Collins, and Paige Gulck lead the sessions this year.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 6:00 PM, COCOA AND CONVERSATION - Let's take a walk in the harbor to see the bright and festive lights! Meet in front of Harpoon Henry's at 6:00 p.m. and we'll take a stroll together - it's our annual tradition!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

ADVENT - Sunday, November 29, 2020. Our Advent theme this year is "*A Wonderful Life in Christ*". You will receive Advent related activities in the mail!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - Sunday December 13, 2020 (8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.). Our plan for the pageant this year is to have a "fireside chat"

with each child about Christmas traditions and what the Christmas story means to them. We will record and edit these conversations for a final video presentation. Barb Collins will contact families to set up a time for each child to come to the church on **December 5th** for filming. Know that COVID-19 safety precautions will be in place!

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Age 4 - 5th grade) - Although we are not meeting in person for Sunday school, children will receive a monthly "family activity" via the mail. Online content will also be available on our website mygloriadei.org under the "Ministries" tab - Children/Sunday School. Please let us know if you have not received any mailings by contacting the church office or email sundayschool@mygloriadei.org.



PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

November was a very busy month for our preschoolers, and we were fortunate enough to end the month with our Thanksgiving Feast (minus the parents). See pictures on page 6 of this newsletter.

As we enter December, the preschoolers will continue to practice their songs in preparation for our Preschool Christmas Pageant. This year, we will record our students and post it on our website for everyone to enjoy.

The kids love all the activities December brings with crafts, rich sensory smells, and fun music. Experiencing Christmas with preschoolers is truly joyful; combining their belief in "Santa" and knowing Christmas is Jesus's birthday. These perfectly imperfect children melt my heart every day. As a staff and school, we wish everyone a healthy and safe holiday season.

"Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect
on the important things around us....love, hope, peace and joy." ~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.

Happy December! I hope I'm not the only one that started decorating for the season back in November. It has always brought my family such joy to see our nativity, festive lights and Christmas decorations out, and I decided we could all use the extra jump on joy! Although we are not able to sing and carol together in the way that we normally would have this time of year, remember, a wave and a thumbs up, even a wink, speak volumes. Grace changes everything!

ATTENTION ALL MASK MAKERS - Presley Boland & many of our quilters, directed by Donna Combe, have 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.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets the *third Monday of each month at 3pm*. The group will meet virtually on November 16. They will be reading *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo. 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 are taking a break during the December holidays and will meet again in January in Knudson Hall. For information on the books they are reading, contact Paul Dubow at Pdubow@me.com.

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" MOVIE NIGHT - Friday , December 4th at 6:00pm in the sanctuary, outside seating allowed as well (social distancing regulations will be in place). This event may be delayed depending upon California health mandates.

WOMEN'S EVENTS - Their next event is Coffee & Crafts on December 12 at 10am, to make two holiday ornaments. A boxed continental breakfast of pastry and fruit will be served while making your ornament. They will meet outside, so dress warm. Cost \$20. To sign up for this activity, email Susie Boland at fellowship@mygloriadei.org.



PRESCHOOL THANKSGIVING FEAST...

with some fun kids' Thanksgiving jokes, because what is a Thanksgiving Feast at Gloria Dei without jokes?!



Why did the turkey cross the road?

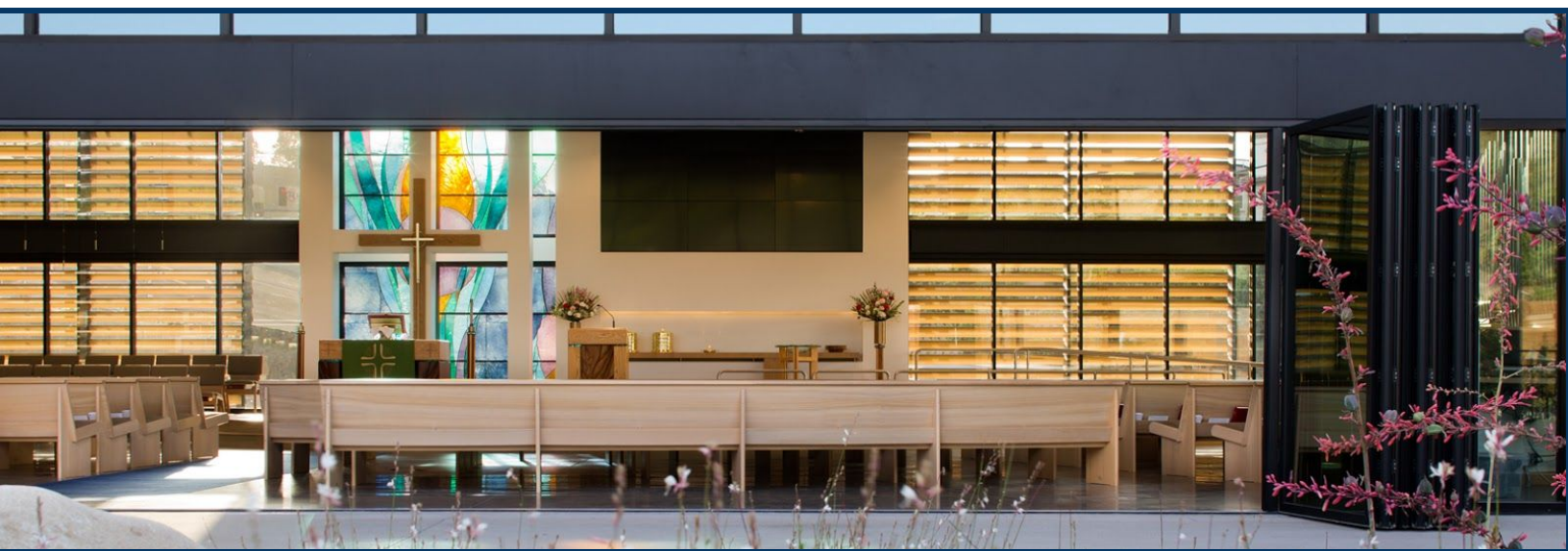
...It was Thanksgiving Day, and he wanted people to think he was a chicken!

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store for Thanksgiving Day, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

..."No ma'am, they're dead".

What's a turkey's favorite dessert?

...Peach Gobbler!



GROWING TOGETHER!

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

ALL STUDIES WILL BE VIRTUAL AT THIS TIME UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, in compliance with our Governor's most recent safety mandate.

NEW G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER) - Will be led by David & Susan Warneke and will be held virtually on the first Monday of the month, at 6:30pm. **The next meeting is December 7** and we are studying Ephesians. To join, contact David 203-952-5657, Susan 510-976-3211, or the church office 949-493-3414 or gloriadei@mygloriadei.org, so we can add you to the group.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY meets the *second Saturday of every month at 8:00am*. *This month will be a virtual study* with Pastor David leading the study. **This group will meet again December 12**. 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 Zoom for fellowship on December 8 and then will take a break until January**. Study is open to all women.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY continues meeting **online Wednesdays** in December through December 9. Then, we will take a break until January 13. Bible study meets each Wednesday at 10am and is typically led by the 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 continues their meetings every Wednesday in October in the Sanctuary.

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 prepare shawls from home in December.* 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.* **December 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 December 5, 2020 mission trip has been cancelled due to Covid-19.

Notes of thanks:

A special thanks to GIFT, our Gloria Dei women's book club, who decided to contribute to Los Angelitos Orphanage for their group Christmas gift this year! They have collected checks from book club members and will be sending their Christmas contribution to the kids at Los Angelitos the first week of December.

Dear Gloria Dei Church,

We hope that all of you are really well in your homes. We give thanks to God everyday for having such a big family like you by our side. Thank you for not leaving us, specifically in these times of Covid-19. God bless you today and always. We hope we can see you soon. We love you.

The children of Los Angelitos

Thanks once again for your contribution toward a van for the children at Los Angelitos. Once the van is secured, we will post a picture in the newsletter for all to see.

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)

11/1: 310 11/8: 384 11/15: 410 11/22: 287 11/25(Thanksgiving Eve): tbd 11/29: tbd

GEN2GEN GIVING: \$392,672.00 (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.

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. 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 the ceremonies 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.

THANKS

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

GLORIA DEI BLOOD DRIVE - Thanks to all who gave blood at our most recent blood drive. We collected 38 units of blood which will potentially help save 118 lives! Our next blood drive is May 14, 9am - 3pm. Save the date.

FOSTER ALL - Thank you to all who took a tag from our Christmas giving tree & generously gave to a family/child in need. We appreciate your generosity!



Many Thanks to Karen Chernekoff for creating our "Altar of Abundance" and to Linda Friend for designing our Thanksgiving Altar flowers.

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 fulfilling our mission of equipping leaders for the church and world.
With appreciation,
Raymond Pickett
Rector Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Dear Gloria Dei Church,
We pray for your health everyday and that you are happy and have peace with Jesus. We are grateful for everything you do for us. We miss you guys and hope we can see you soon!
We love you mucho,
The children and staff of Los Angelitos Orphanage

Dear friends in Christ,
Thank you for your faithful support of ELCA global missionaries and ministries. We are a church that believes God is calling us into this world - together. Because of our generosity, in 2020 we have been able to support more than 100 missionaries and 40 countries who are serving alongside our companions in Christ.
In gratitude,
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

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, Don Bolick, Blaine Johnson, Bette Hopkins, Debby Campominosi, Mary Lou and Denny Walters, Harry and Jean Meinholtz, Anne Siminuk, Kay Hendrickson, Jeri Steck, Gwen Layritz, Joann Groon, Gerd & Lars Talstad, Jack and Judy Young, Tom Vlahos and Nancy Ficken.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT - Please pray for Liz Flippin and her family as they mourn the loss of her father, Wayne Ferdie.

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 those whose homes have been devastated and/or families who have been affected by the extensive hurricanes this year.

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"* (October - December, 2020), 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).

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS - These are available at the Welcome Table, as well as "A Wonderful Life in Christ" bookmarks.

DEI-LY DUTIES



DECEMBER 2020 VOLUNTEERS

We are requesting help each week for lectors, ushers & the welcome center. We are also requesting help two times 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. **To assist and to attend, you must practice Covid-19 guidelines** (wear a mask, stay physically distanced, be healthy, etc.).

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;
Email: gloriadei@mygloriadei.org
Facebook Page: Facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint

Pastor David R. Mattson pastordavid@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

DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>29</div> <p>8:30am - Livestream 10am - Baptisms 10am - Worship 5pm - Worship 6pm - Christmas Eve</p>	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div> <p>7am - AA Men 2pm - Staff Meeting</p>	<div>2</div> <p>7am - AA Meeting 9am - Preschool Pics 10am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Bethel Bible</p>	<div>3</div> <p>7am - AA Men 10am - Tree Set</p>	<div>4</div> <p>6pm - Movie Night</p>	<div>5</div> <p>9am - Christmas 9am - Prayer Shawl</p>
<div>6</div> <p>8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship 11:15am - Confirm. Ed. 11:15am - Henry Ahl 5pm - Worship</p>	<div>7</div> <p>4:30pm - Preschool 6:30pm - GIFT Group</p>	<div>8</div> <p>7am - AA Men 2pm - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Online Heart 7pm - Council Meeting</p>	<div>9</div> <p>7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Bethel Bible</p>	<div>10</div> <p>7am - AA Men</p>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div> <p>8am - Men's Bible 9:15am - Women's 10am - Women's 3pm - Ashley Santore</p>
<div>13</div> <p>8:30am - Livestream 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 12pm - Wayne Ferdie 5pm - Worship</p>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <p>7am - AA Men 2pm - Staff Meeting 7pm - Small Group (The</p>	<div>16</div> <p>7am - AA Meeting 9am - Preschool</p>	<div>17</div> <p>7am - AA Men</p>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> <p>Sanctuary Decorating 8:30am - Serra's</p>
<div>20</div> <p>8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship 5pm - Worship</p>	<div>21</div> <p>3pm - RIOT Book Club</p>	<div>22</div> <p>7am - AA Men 2pm - Staff Meeting</p>	<div>23</div> <p>7am - AA Meeting</p>	<div>24</div> <p>7am - AA Men 3pm - Christmas Eve 4:30pm - Christmas Eve 6pm - Christmas Eve</p>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>
<div>27</div> <p>8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship 5pm - Worship</p>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <p>7am - AA Men 2pm - Staff Meeting</p>	<div>30</div> <p>7am - AA Meeting</p>	<div>31</div> <p>7am - AA Men</p>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <p>9am - Prayer Shawl</p>

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

