

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

DEI-LY LIGHT



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

Here's saying goodbye to 2020 and a blessed 2021 to you!

We're still in the Christmas Season and so we continue that message of God's incarnation, which means **hope**. Of course, that's what we need for the New Year and hope has come. I'm not speaking of all the new vaccines coming (although that certainly brings us hope), but that God is near, that God understands, that God is with you. That's hope - hope for this life, the next life, and our very purpose, to reflect the hope of Jesus.

Silent Night. Holy Night.



Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in *The Cost of Discipleship*:

And in the Incarnation the whole human race recovers the dignity of the image of God. Henceforth, any attack even on the least of men is an attack on Christ, who took the form of man, and in his own Person restored the image of God in all that bears a human form. Through fellowship and communion with the incarnate Lord, we recover our true humanity, and at the same time we are delivered from that individualism which is the consequence of sin, and retrieve our solidarity with the whole human race...

That's my prayer for 2021 - solidarity with the *"least of these,"* renewed energy to reflect the hope of Jesus, and power to hold on by being held by the One who is near. Speaking of prayer, I'll be posting on our youtube channel a **Compline Service** (Prayer at the Close of the Day) to usher in the New Year.

Gratefully yours,

David R. Mattson

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. Thanks to all who helped with Christmas Eve services and helped us end financially in a better place!

THE BIG THING

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

NEW YEAR'S COMPLINE SERVICE

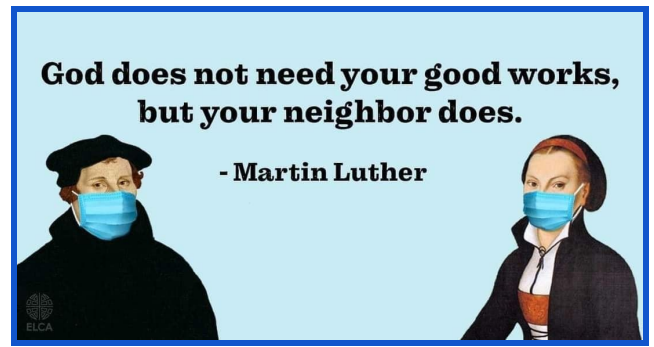
Prayer at the Close of the Day

Thursday, December 31, 2020

On Gloria Dei's Youtube Channel at 7pm:

(www.youtube.com/GloriaDeiLutheranChurchDanaPoint)

This is an ancient, brief service of prayer and scripture for the New Year. It will be available at 7pm and as a recording afterwards.



THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY (Jan/Feb): The word Epiphany means "*manifestation*" or "*revealing*" and the focus is on how God reveals grace to the Gentiles (the entire world) in Jesus. This Season begins with the story of the Wise Men and ends with the Transfiguration, leading us into Lent. Our theme this year: *For Those Who Dream*. The holy family was spoken to through dreams, the Wise Men were instructed through a dream, and in January, the famous "*I have a dream...*" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated. May God guide us through gracious dreams for our world, our country, and our lives.

TAKE DOWN THE TREE/DECORATIONS

Tuesday, January 5, noon

Please mark your calendars and join us for a few minutes as we put away things for the year. Thank you!

ANNUAL MEETING: (Tentative) All members are invited to attend the annual meeting on Sunday, July 31, 11:15am. Election of a new council (leadership)

- 2021 Budget presented
- Pastoral report on "the state of the church" and plans for the new year.

More details will be forthcoming, plus the annual report will be available beforehand.

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.

- At the time of writing, we are only online and not in person for worship. Please call the office for the latest changes.
- 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. But please keep an eye on the website for changes to this situation. Thanks for keeping everyone healthy!



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! It was a joy to plan and perform for Advent services with you all!

As of this writing our choral and instrumental groups are on an extended break. Although we have not been able to sing or play together, we have stayed in communication. Texts, calls, emails, cards, and the occasional virtual social hour have kept us all in touch. While this year has been very different, my friends in choir, handbell, and wind ensembles have continued to support each other. I am grateful!

As we travel from Advent to Christmas and into the season of Epiphany we celebrate the bright star of Bethlehem and the journey of the 3 Kings to bring offerings to Jesus, the Light of the World. During this season, we sing about shining stars and all things bright. Jesus is here with us! Jesus--our Guide, our Defender, our Mediator. I love to sing this great Southern Harmony hymn. Do you know it?

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator
Down from the region of glory descend!
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger,
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and offerings divine,

Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

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

BARB COLLINS, CHILDREN AND FAMILY DIRECTOR



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

Thank you to all the Sunday school children and families who were able to participate in our Christmas Pageant *"fireside chat"*. The children were articulate in their responses to questions about the birth of Jesus and Christmas traditions. As one member said, *"The children were precious and each one had something important to say!"* If you missed it, you can go to Gloria Dei's youtube channel and watch December 13 at anytime:

<https://www.youtube.com/GloriaDeiLutheranChurchDanaPoint>

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Age 4 - 5th grade) - Sunday school age children will continue to 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. If you would like your child to be added to the mailing list please contact the church office or Barb Collins sundayschool@mygloriadei.org.

PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



YOUTH NEWS JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

SUNDAY JANUARY 17, 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, JANUARY 15, 6:00 PM,
JUMANJI!! - Are we out of the game yet? Our actual activity will depend on our COVID status, but Sr. High keep the day and time available for some sorta fun.

HARBOR LIGHTS WALK - Our youth group tradition was a merry & bright outing! We sipped hot cocoa & walked around the harbor checking out all the festive lights. Pictured to the right at the "tunnel of lights"!



SHELLI PARAJECKAS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

I've never really been big on embracing a New Year's resolution; I feel like it's a promise that is bound to be broken. What can't be broken is hope.

2020 certainly offered us challenges we never thought we'd see in our lifetime; so all we can do is rely on hope for 2021. Each preschooler is a symbol of hope. Hope for days filled with learning. Hope for life-long health and wellness. Hope they will become "difference makers" when they grow up.

I am filled with gratitude that God has gotten us this far into our school year without complications. I am filled with hope that 2021 will provide us with healing, resilience to overcome challenges, and the ability to love our neighbors as God calls us to do.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

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 2021! Although it, again, has become hard to get together in person, we need to remember that we are strong and we will get through this together! We are eagerly looking forward to the day that we can greet you all with coffee, pastries, hand shakes, hugs and conversation! Grace changes everything!

GLORIA DEI COOKING WITH.... Susie Boland, 5:30pm on Friday, January 15th, 2021. I will be sharing and making my "Not so Swedish Meatballs". Thank you Barb Collins for sharing your yummy cookie making talents last month! We will be continuing with a regular cooking LIVE monthly event over Google Hangout. We may even be offering some creative cocktail pairing ideas! If you are interested in getting on the schedule, please email Susie Boland at fellowship@mygloriadei.org.

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 January 18. They will be reading *The Splendid and the Vile* by Eric Larson. 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.

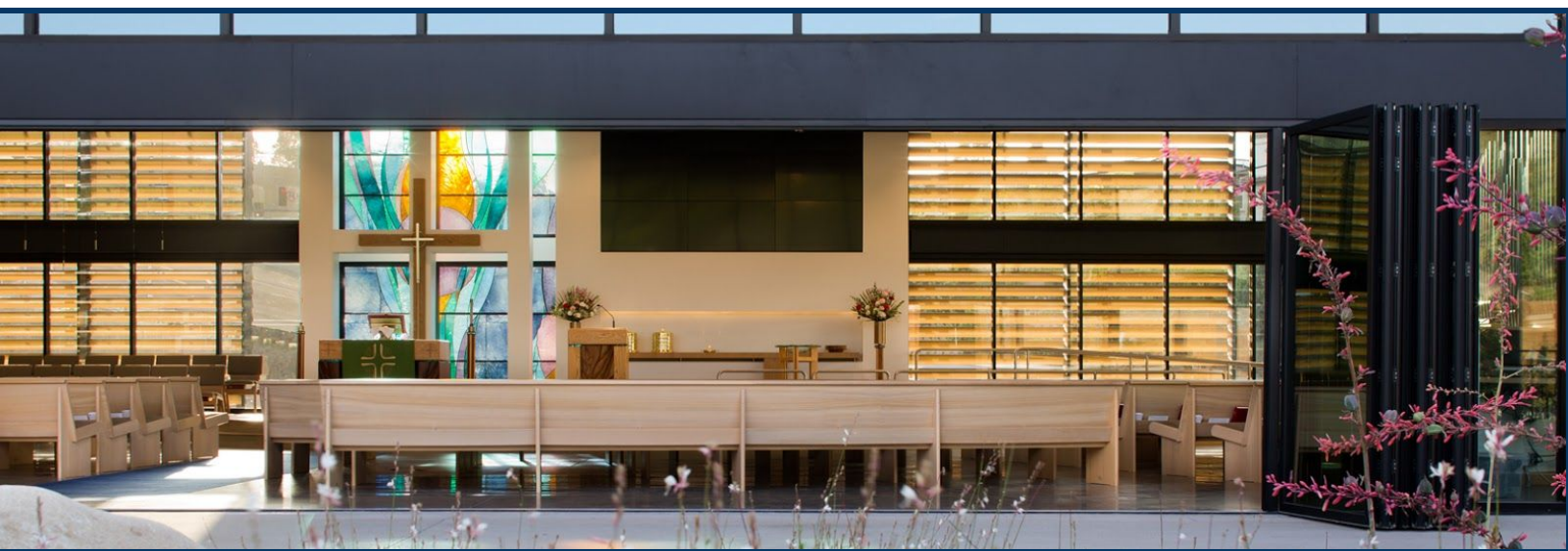
MEN'S BOOK GROUP - Meets the *last Tuesday of the month, 7pm* at different hosts' homes. They will meet again on January 26 in Knudson Hall, provided the "stay at home order" has been lifted. For information on the books they are reading, contact Paul Dubow at Pdubow@me.com.

WOMEN'S EVENTS - Thank you to all of you that popped by to pick up the Make-It-Yourself Christmas craft! They were so cute!! We will keep you posted as plans arise for the 2021 Women's Events schedule.

BAPTISM OF GRAYSON AND CRUZ

(Sara Gustavson's children)





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 most recent safety precautions.

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 January meeting is cancelled.** When we meet in February, 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 January 9.** Stay tuned & Pastor David will update whether this study will be online or meet outside, in person. If you would like to participate in the next study, please email him at pastordavid@mygloriadei.org. All men are welcome.

THE SHACK - Virtual Study Group begins January 19th, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This study meets every third Tuesday for 9 months. Interested? contact Jim (714 296 1048) or Neta (714 402 4665) Wenrick for information on which study guide to purchase and for the ZOOM link.

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 January 12 and 26.** Study is open to all women.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY resumes meeting **online each Wednesday** beginning again on **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

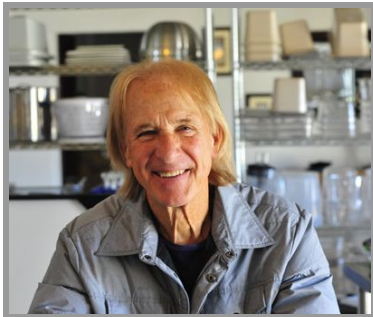
(All things related to service, ministry, helping others, compassion, caring, loving, serving "the least of these", etc.)

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 January.** If you know of someone in need of a shawl or would like more information, call Peggy Johnson at 949-363-8714.

SERRA'S PANTRY - This local volunteer opportunity, in San Juan Capistrano, provides food to those in need. Interested Gloria Dei members serve at Serra's Pantry *every third Saturday of the month at 8:30am*. **January 16** is the next volunteer opportunity. Please join us to help with this important outreach.

THE QUILTING GROUP continues 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



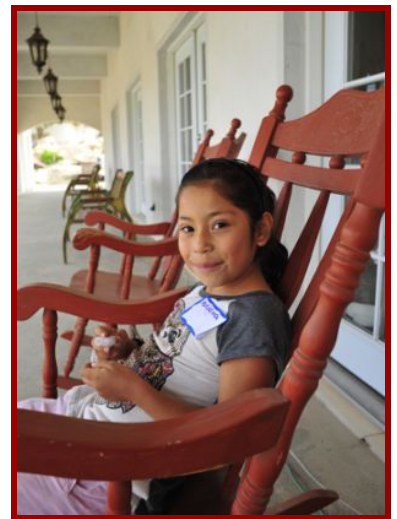
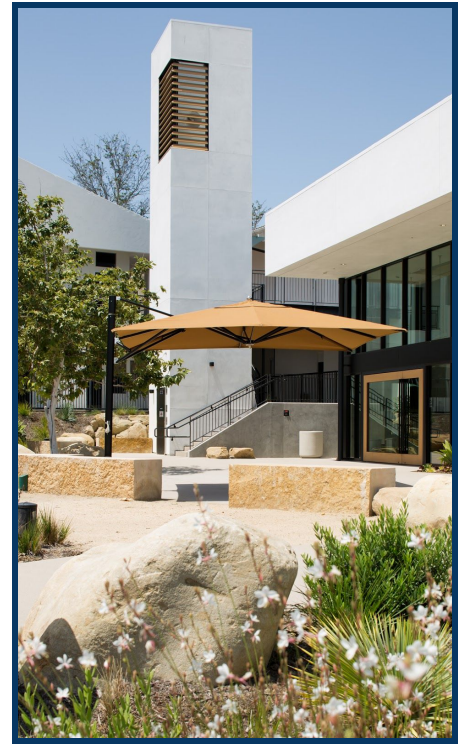
Seventeen years ago Ed Perry and Norma Angelica Contreras started the Los Angelitos Orphanage. Their dream was to create a living environment with a family-like atmosphere. A home where orphan children would be given an opportunity to grow and flourish, to receive an education and to gain self-confidence & self-respect. Also, to be given an opportunity to learn the Holy Bible and grow in the Gospel of Christ.

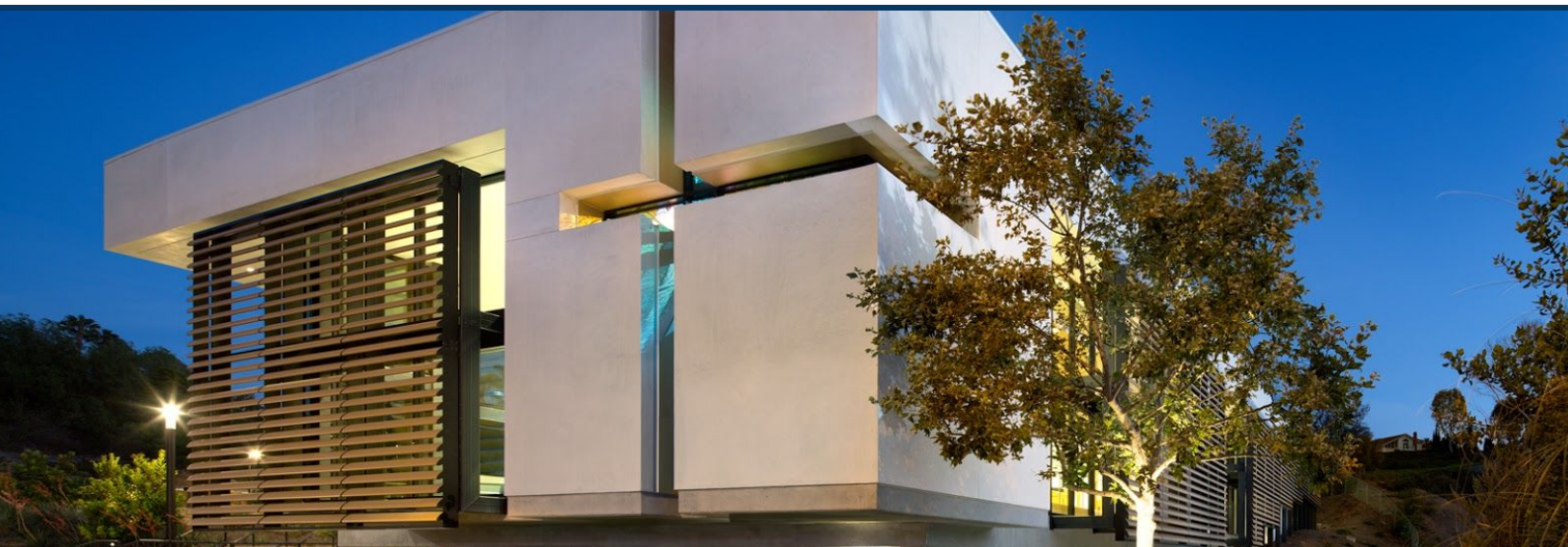
This week the children at Los Angelitos are excited for Christmas. They are well cared for; they are safe and loved by their caregivers and by the older children while Ed Perry is on his first vacation in over 17-years, visiting friends and family in southern Mexico.

The Little Angels wish all of you at Gloria Dei a Felice Navidad! (Merry Christmas).

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

SPECIAL THANKS to our Women's RIOT Book Club who collected \$605 which they sent to our little Christmas angels at Los Angelitos! ¡Feliz Navidad, indeed!





DEI-LY DETAILS

ATTENDANCE and LIVESTREAM VIEWS

12/6: 304

12/13: 446

12/20: 261

12/24: 332

12/27: 182

GEN2GEN GIVING: \$399,032.00 (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.)

Dear Pastor David,

Thank you for the masterful job of steering our church during these COVID, masked and social distancing times. Keep up the great work. Deepanie and I have been self quarantining and not attending church in person since we are in a "high risk" group. We are looking forward to attending in person soon. Best wishes for Thanksgiving & Christmas to you and your family.

Howard and Deepanie Eng

Dear Pastor David and Friends,

Hoping that 2021 affords me the chance to get over to see you again. Until then, have a blessed holiday season!

Joel (Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)

Dear Carol & Staff,

Thank you all for your kindness to me and our Al-Anon group. We are praying for our return to the church in 2021. Only when you give us the ok. God Bless you all with good health and much peace.

Andree

THANKS to all who helped set up & trim the tree! Here are a few photos from the festivities.



PLEASE JOIN US

JANUARY 5 AT NOON

TO **TAKE DOWN THE**

CHRISTMAS TREE!

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, Debby Campominosi, Mary Lou and Denny Walters, Harry and Jean Meinholtz, Anne Siminuk, Kay Hendrickson, Jeri Steck, Gwen Layritz, Joann Groon, Gerd & Lars Talstad, Tom Vlahos and Nancy Ficken.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT - Please pray for Judy Young and family as they mourn the loss of Jack Young.

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 a smooth and successful distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine.

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"* (January - March 2021), 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).

DEI-LY DUTIES



JANUARY 2021 VOLUNTEERS

We are requesting help each week for lectors, ushers & the welcome center. We are also requesting help twice monthly for Altar Guild & communion assistant. We are using the original volunteer schedule through January 2021 to help fill each of these volunteer opportunities.

To assist and to attend, you must practice Covid-19 guidelines (wear a mask, stay physically distanced, be healthy, etc.). Many of these volunteer responsibilities have changed to promote safe social distance ie. no passing offering plates or physically handing out bulletins, etc.

Until we resume a more consistent church schedule, the 2021 'back to basics' volunteer schedule will be formulated & distributed on a quarterly basis, beginning in February,

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

33501 Stonehill Drive, Dana Point, CA 92629 <u>Church Office:</u> (949) 493-3414; Fax: (949) 493-6479; <u>Preschool:</u> (949) 493-3414 x209 <u>Website:</u> mygloriadei.org ; <u>Email:</u> gloriadei@mygloriadei.org <u>Facebook Page:</u> 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
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JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:30am - Livestream	28	29 7am - AA Men 2pm - Staff Meeting	30 7am - AA Meeting	31 7am - AA Men 7pm - Compline Service	1	2 9am - Prayer Shawl
3 8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship	4	5 7am - AA Men 12pm - Decorations 2pm - Staff Meeting	6 7am - AA Meeting 6:30pm - Bethel Bible	7 7am - AA Men	8	9 8am - Men's Bible 9:15am - Women's
10 8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship	11 6:30pm - GIFT Group	12 7am - AA Men 2pm - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Online Heart 7pm - Council Meeting	13 7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Bethel Bible	14 7am - AA Men	15	16 8:30am - Serra's
17 8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship 11:15am -	18 3pm - RIOT Book Club	19 7am - AA Men 2pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Brass Practice 7pm - Small Group - The	20 7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 12pm - Peo Group 6:30pm - Bethel Bible	21 7am - AA Men	22	23 9:30am - Quilting
24 8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship	25	26 7am - AA Men 2pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Brass Practice 6:30pm - Online Heart 7pm - Small Group - The	27 7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Bethel Bible	28 7am - AA Men	29	30
31 8:30am - Livestream 10am - Worship 11:15am - Annual	1 6:30pm - GIFT Group	2 7am - AA Men 2pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Brass Practice 7pm - Small Group - The	3 7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 6pm - DHHS Baja 6:30pm - Bethel Bible	4 7am - AA Men	5	6 9am - Prayer Shawl

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

