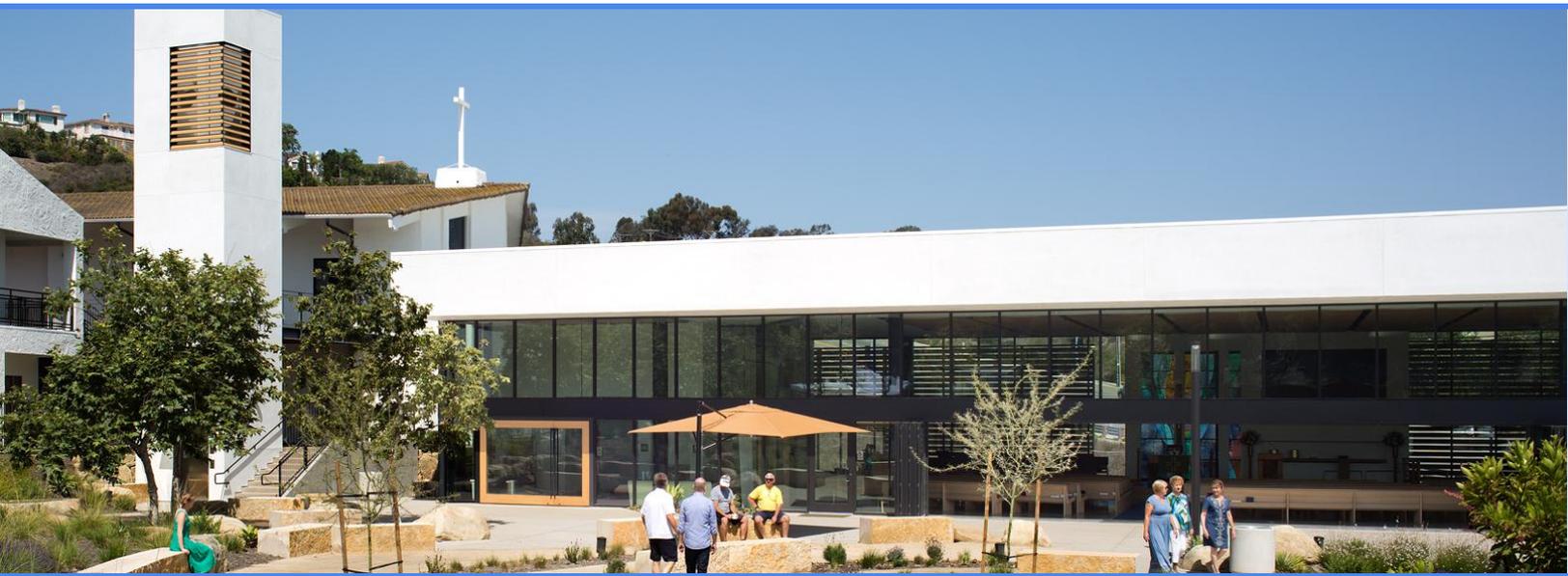


Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

DEI-LY LIGHT



DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

My son Anders has a great sense of humor. The other day he was joking about the *“War on Christmas.”* He said, *‘What war? Christmas has already destroyed Thanksgiving. Now, Christmas has flattened Halloween. Once Christmas gets to summertime, what holiday will survive?’* Of course, he was talking about the commercialization of Christmas and the appearance of Santa and buy, buy, buy - earlier and earlier.

To counter all the muzak, we have Advent - a four week preparation for the Savior’s birth. Advent calls us to slow down and pray. In other words, Advent calls us to catch our breath, the breath of the Spirit.

Our theme for Advent 2021 is *“The Days are Surely Coming”* (from ELCA World Hunger). Advent calendars will be given out with that theme. I invite you to light the Advent Candles in your home and to say the prayers.

There will also be a new happening, December 19, 5pm, we will observe a *“Longest Night Service.”* This contemplative service is focused on those who have lost someone recently and will certainly offer hope.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP, December 24 worship will take place 3:00pm, 4:30pm, and 6:00pm. All three services will be candlelight, with special music, and an uplifting message.

We’re asking people to please make a reservation for your seat(s). Contact the church office or make your reservation online. We will be inside/outside/online: www.mygloriadei.org/adventchristmas-at-gloria-dei.

O, Come, O, Come Emmanuel - bring Your light, peace, and joy to our preparations and more, to the world. Use us as Your humble servants to announce “good news of great joy”; we pray in the Savior’s name. Amen.

Yours in Christ,


Pastor David R. Mattson



PASTOR VERONICA

One of my favorite places to visit is Top of the World. It's not far from the church, and it's a fun drive through winding roads and steep hills. I've enjoyed sharing the view with friends and family who have come to visit me, too! The best view is, of course, at sunset, when the hills and the water seem to glow with the last lights of the multicolored sky. When I first visited Top of the World, I left after our Sunday evening service, but now the sun is setting before five o'clock! The days are getting shorter and the

nights are getting longer. No matter how many years I have experienced the change of seasons, it always seems to sneak up on me.

This season can be difficult for many people. The long nights often bring the "winter blues". We may recall past holiday seasons and find ourselves missing loved ones we have lost, or longing to experience the angels' promise of peace and goodwill in the midst of a busy and broken world. As followers of Jesus, we are called to "bear one another's burdens" so the weight of grief becomes a little bit lighter.

In recognition of the grief we all carry, we will observe a "Longest Night Service" on December 19 at 5 pm. This is a contemplative service of healing and hope. All are welcome to attend this special service. Come, let us welcome the light of Christ into the darkness.

THE BIG THING (The main thing - put it on your calendar.)

THANKS! To all who turned in a pledge Card and Time and Talent form for 2022. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of Gloria Dei! You have enabled us to plan and grow. Well done!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will take place Friday, December 24, 3pm, 4:30pm, and 6pm. Candlelight, carols, special music, and more. Reservations are required. To reserve your spot: www.mygloriadei.org/adventchristmas-at-gloria-dei. There will be seating inside and outside. Of course, the service will also be live streamed. Invite a friend to experience the birth of hope!

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE - Sunday, December 19, 5pm. This contemplative service invites us to reflect on the grief we may feel at Christmastime and offer it all to our great sign of hope, the Holy Child of Bethlehem. We pray that all of us will find comfort in knowing that we are not alone.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT - Thanking all the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Preschool Staff with a Christmas gift - The gifts received will be divided up and given out prior to December 19. If interested in participating, please send it to the office or drop in an offering box. Please make sure you note this is for the staff gift. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI - Mark your calendars now if you are considering joining the Gloria Dei family. You can transfer your membership from another Lutheran church or attend the Adult Inquiry Class (Jan. 22). To everyone, there's a get-to-know-you-brunch, Sunday, January 23, 11:15am. New members will officially be welcomed during worship on Sunday, January 30.

SHELLI PARAJECKAS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



PRESCHOOL

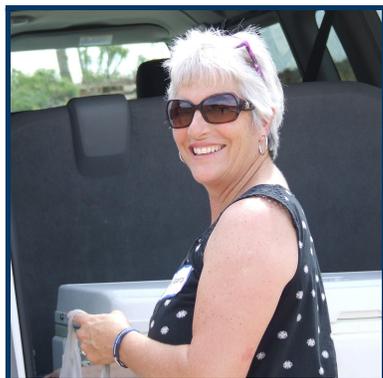
Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

December comes so quickly and will pass us before we know it. The holidays bring so much excitement for a child, yet can be one of the busiest, and even stressful, months for parents. The holiday isn't just for kids, it's for us too.

It's important for all of us to take time to simply breathe; we all can use more "self-care" during the holidays. Also, I tell my preschool parents not to sweat the small stuff and find joy in the midst of any storm. Nothing is perfect except for Jesus, so let go of stressful details and choose joy during this Christmas season. May your family be blessed this season with laughter, kindness, and peace.

To contact Shelli Parajekas email her at: preschool@mygloriadei.org.

BARB COLLINS, CHILDREN AND FAMILY DIRECTOR



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Age 4 - 5th grade) -
10am service only.

Sunday school attendees will leave the church service after the children's message for Sunday school instruction in Knudson Hall. Kids rejoin their families for Communion. Sunday school classes are divided with four year olds - 2nd grade children meeting in one classroom and 3rd-5th graders meeting in the other classroom. All students and teachers will be masked while indoors.



NURSERY - A nursery is now available for young children to preschool age during morning worship. Please pick up a pager after signing your child in.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - Sunday, December 12th. We will have a video presentation of our Sunday school students interviewing family and church members about Christmas traditions. Join us for this wonderful production!

GOD SQUAD (3rd - 5th Graders) - LaserLand - Wednesday, January 12th, 4pm.

We will meet at LaserLand (27741 Crown Valley #315A, Mission Viejo) and play for an hour followed by pizza at Sal's Pizzeria. The cost is \$25.00 per hour for LaserLand. Pizza will be provided by the church. Please contact the church office or email Barb Collins if you will be attending. As always, feel free to invite a friend! Any questions, please contact the church office or Barb Collins sundayschool@mygloriadei.org.

KATHY PERSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR



DEI-LY WORSHIP

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

- **Sanctuary Choir** We're looking forward to our Lessons and Carols service on December 19. The Men's Choir will sing, the Bells will play, we'll all sing Advent carols together--lots of fun celebrating that "the Days Are Surely Coming."
- **Bell Choir** practices Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. We have room for more musicians. Contact music@mygloriadei.org
- **Special Music** - Throughout the Advent and Christmas season be sure to listen to the wonderful music Fred Johnson prepares for services. Thank you, Fred! We'll also have strings, brass, and percussion joining us at worship.
- **Brass Group** meets Tuesdays at 5pm. All levels of ability are welcome!

Do you play an instrument? There is an ensemble/opportunity for you! Questions? Email Kathy music@mygloriadei.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! Concordia College Choir (Moorhead, MN) is one of the finest acapella choral groups in the world. They will be performing at Gloria Dei on Wednesday, March 2, 7:00pm.

PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



YOUTH NEWS JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: One class this month on December 5 at 11:15 a.m. Come ready with a Bible to learn all about the Old Testament. For more info on the program please follow the link:

<https://www.mygloriadei.org/confirmation-program/>

ACOLYTING AND ADVENT READING - For the Season of Advent, the Confirmation students will once again be lighting the candles and also reading the Advent reading. Thanks to them for helping out and assisting in worship!

COOKIE DECORATING - Sunday, December 12, 12:00 - 2:00pm: Come join in this Christmas tradition as we decorate cookies, have some lunch and hang out.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING Due to COVID restrictions and low attendance levels, Gloria Dei has decided to pass on attending the National Gathering this year. There will be another chance for these high schoolers to go in 3 years. We are planning for another more local summer trip for our Sr. High youth.



DEI-LY FRIENDSHIP

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

WOMEN'S EVENTS - ROGER'S GARDENS, December 5, 2pm. Meet at the Main entry of Roger's Gardens to join us for a beautiful walking tour! Sign-up at the Welcome Table.

We will also be looking forward to 2022 as we plan events for the future! We will update as we put events on the calendar!

GLORIA DEI WOMEN'S COOKBOOK - Thank you so much for all the submissions for the Gloria Dei cookbook, sponsored by the Women's Board. We hope to have it available at the Welcome Table in early December.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets the *third Monday of each month at 2pm*. The group meets in Knudson Hall. Their next meeting is December 20. They are reading *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. If you are interested in joining the book club, please contact Diane Kelly or contact the office at 949-493-3414.

MEN'S BOOK GROUP - Meets the *last Tuesday of the month, 7pm*. They are meeting in person at O'Neill's Bar & Grill (26772 Avery Parkway, Mission Viejo/Arroyo Trabuco Golf Course). They are reading *The Night Portrait* by Laura Morelli & will meet on January 25. For information contact Craig Backhus or the church office.

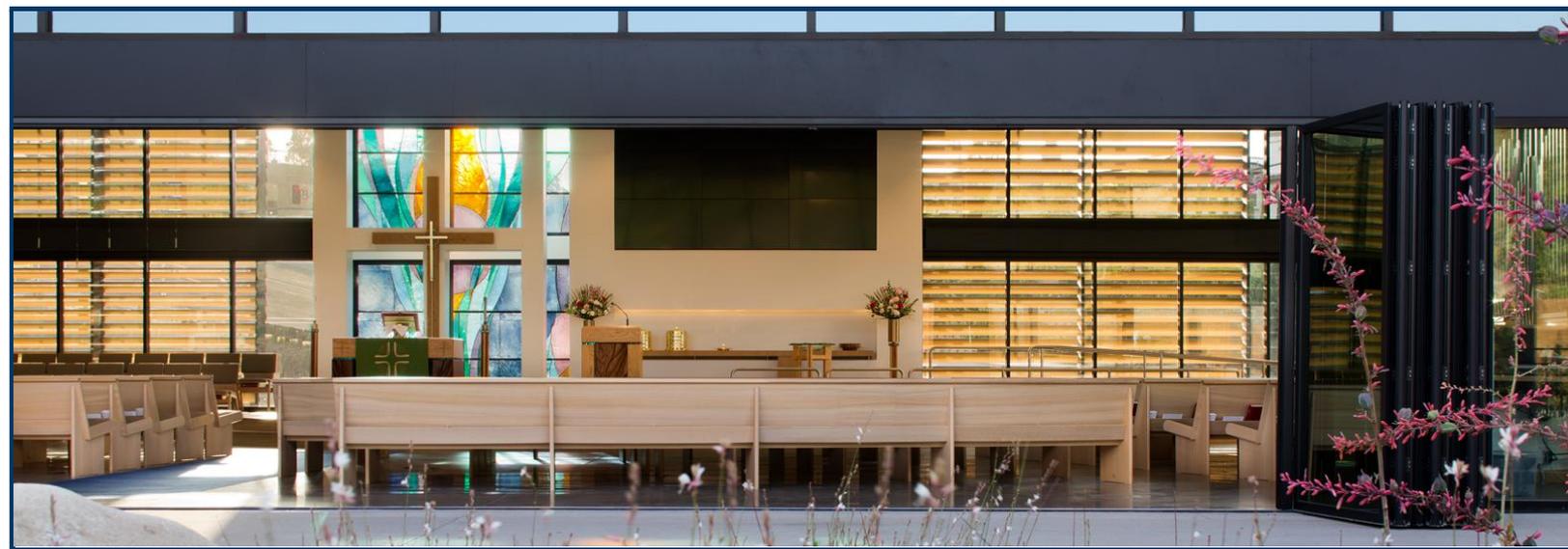
November in pictures...



Serra's Pantry Youth Outing



Thanksgiving Eve Altar



GROWING TOGETHER!

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

CONNECTING JESUS TO OUR JUSTICE - Led by Susan Warneke and offered via Zoom for the entire Pacifica Synod. For the zoom link, please email the office (gloriadei@mygloriadei.org).

Learn practical Biblical solutions for solving worldwide hunger and promoting economic justice through this study of Ronald J. Sider's [Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger](#).

This 5-week study is geared toward faithful Christians seeking to gain a deeper appreciation of the global challenges of helping the poor. Remaining zoom meeting dates: 12/13. The class will be at 6:30pm - 8pm. Purchase a book at the Welcome Table.

G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER) - Led by David & Susan Warneke is typically held in Knudson Hall, in the Sunday School room, on the first Monday of the month, at 6:30pm. On December 6 we are studying Ephesians 5:15 - 5:33, lesson 10. To join, contact 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 in Bankson Hall*. This group will meet on December 11. Please let Pastor David know that you plan to attend and there will be a place set for you. They are working through the Gospel of Mark. All men are welcome.

HEART LIFTERS WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY - 2nd & 4th Tuesday/month. Social 6:30 PM; Study 7pm - 8pm. However, in December we will only meet once, December 14 at Donna Combe's home and will study "*Praying with Power*" by Christa Kinde. Questions: contact Ann St. Martin, Donna Combe or the office at 949-493-3414.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Every Wednesday at 10am, Gloria Dei women (and friends) will meet in the Sanctuary. During December this study will meet December 1 & 8. Then they will be on break & reconvene on January 5. This study is led by a pastor. All women are invited to join in! Watch for an email/bulletin announcement regarding gathering.

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*. However, **they will meet on December 11 the 2nd Sat., instead**. If you know of someone in need of a shawl or would like more information, call Peggy Johnson.

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 18 is the next volunteer opportunity. Please join us to help with this important outreach.

THE QUILTING GROUP continues preparing all the quilts from home. The quilts made by this group are provided to our newly Baptized infants & children. If interested in helping, please call the office or Donna Combe.

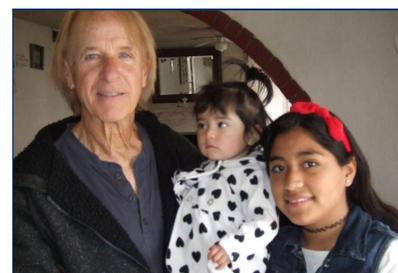
SOUTH COAST LITERACY COUNCIL - this is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, whose mission is to assist adults in south Orange County to acquire English language skills. They will meet on Monday and Thursday mornings 10am - 12pm. They will be on Christmas break December 21 - 30. If interested in volunteering, contact the office gloriadei@mygloriadei or 949-493-3414.

LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY Los Angelitos orphanage, Tijuana Mexico

We miss you.

We pray for you.

Remember us in your prayers.



Until we meet again...



The children at Los Angelitos send their love and gratitude to their Gloria Dei family. For more information regarding Los Angelitos, orphanage ministry, call the church office to contact David or Susan Warneke.





DEI-LY DETAILS

ATTENDANCE and LIVESTREAM VIEWS

11/7: 339

11/14: 347

11/21: 356

11/24: TBD

11/29: TBD

“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, 48 niches and 4 memorial plaques have been purchased and each niche holds 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 Gloria Dei:

Thank you for everything. We love you and we hope we can see you soon!

The children of Los Angelitos Orphanage



Dear friends & supporters at Gloria Dei,

I am okay. With the pandemic & current political situation here, we are more careful than ever before. We are still online for Sunday services and small group meetings have not been stopped. We meet regularly with caution. Personally I teach more online to different groups. It is time to train & equip believers to be strong and know who, what and why we believe. People are so hungry and thirsty, especially the young ones. I am grateful for their trust and sharing, so that I could lead and guide and counsel them after carefully listening. What a special blessing for me to keep busy each day to do the things I still can under such circumstances!

Peace,
Your missionary

Hi Carol,

Thank you so much for having us on November 10, 2021 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. We are so grateful for your life-saving partnership. I have attached the results that I encourage you to share with everyone along with a heartfelt THANK YOU from all of us at the American Red Cross on behalf of the patients in need. A fun fact to share with everyone is that for 2021 Gloria Dei has hosted 2 regular blood drives plus one memorial blood drive that resulted in collecting 109 pints of life-saving blood. Each pint can help to save up to 3 lives. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church has helped to save up to 327 patients in need. WOW!! WAY TO GO!! We are not able to continue to help keep the blood supply stable without amazing Blood Program Partners like you at Gloria Dei booking our blood drives for the year. We look forward to working with you on May 25, 2022 and November 3, 2022.

Wishing you and everyone at Gloria Dei a very Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season. I will be in touch in March for your May blood drive.

Best in health,
Jessie Salmon

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.

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 and Frieda Avery, Blaine Johnson, Alice Anderson, Debby Campominosi, Mary Lou and Denny Walters, Jean Meinholtz, Kay Hendrickson, Jeri Steck, Gwen Layritz, Joann Groon, Gerd & Lars Talstad, Virginia Moore, Ingrid Schuller, Marty Ficken, Marj Knudson and Sue Swenson.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT for the family of Betsy Dubow as they mourn her passing on October 9, 2021; for the family of Gretchen Enright on the passing of her father; also for the Sharon Miller and her family, as they mourn the passing of her husband, Marv.

PEACE AND SAFETY for all our service men and women now serving around the world. We also pray for peace and help in so many parts of the world with political unrest, posing safety issues on a daily basis. 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"* (October - December 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 2022 VOLUNTEERS

We will work from our 2021 time & talent schedule through January 31, 2022.

Please pray on it & complete your 2022 time and talent, which was part of the stewardship packet. Sign up to help out...there are so many ways to lend a hand! The new time & talent assignments will be sent out in January & will begin in February 2022. Please contact Carol Weinhardt if you have any questions.

To assist and attend, you must practice Covid-19 guidelines (wear a mask indoors).

Many of these volunteer responsibilities have changed to promote safe social distance ie. no passing through 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](https://www.facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint)

Pastor David R. Mattson pastordavid@mygloriadei.org
Pastor Intern Veronica Gould pastorveronica@mygloriadei.org
Carol Weinhardt gloriadei@mygloriadei.org;
Shelli Parajeckas 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 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
8:30am - Worship 10am - Worship 10:15am - Sun. School 11:15am - 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting			7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 12:30pm - Pacifica Synod 7pm - 12 Step Couples 7pm - Covid Long Haul	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women 10am - Literacy Group 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanc. Choir	12pm - Decorate	7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Prayer Shawl 11am - Memorial for 2pm - ACA Meeting 7pm - NA Meeting
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	10am - Literacy Group 5:30pm - Alanon 6:30pm - OIFT Group	7am - AA Men Meeting 1pm - Staff Meeting 5pm - Brass Practice 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 7pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women 10am - Literacy Group 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanc. Choir		7am - AA Men Meeting 8am - Men's Breakfast 9:15am - Women's 2pm - ACA Meeting 3pm - Person 7pm - NA Meeting
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30am - Worship 10am - Baptism of Nico 10am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 10:15am - Sun. School 12pm - Sr. High Cookie 5pm - Worship	10am - Literacy Group 5:30pm - Alanon 6:30pm - Pacifica	7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Preschool 1pm - Staff Meeting 5pm - Brass Practice 6:30pm - VFW Auxiliary 7pm - Al Anon Meeting 7pm - Church Council	7am - AA Meeting 7pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women 10am - Literacy Group 5:30pm - Internship 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanc. Choir	Pastor gone to funeral 12:15pm - Preschool	7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Serra's 2pm - ACA Meeting 7pm - NA Meeting
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Preschool Vacation						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:15am - Baby Tan 8:30am - Lessons in 8:30am - Worship 10am - Lessons in 10am - Worship 10:15am - Sun. School	2pm - RICT Book Club 5:30pm - Alanon	7am - AA Men Meeting 1pm - Staff Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting 7pm - The Shack Group	7am - AA Meeting 7pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanc. Choir	4:30pm - Christmas Eve	7am - AA Men Meeting 2pm - ACA Meeting 7pm - NA Meeting
Preschool Vacation						
8:30am - Worship 10am - Deeman 10am - Worship 10:15am - Sun. School 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	5:30pm - Alanon	7am - AA Men Meeting 1pm - Staff Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting 7pm - Men's Book Club	7am - AA Meeting 7pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanc. Choir		

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

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will take place Friday, December 24, 3pm, 4:30pm, and 6pm. Candlelight, carols, special music, and more. Reservations are required. To reserve your spot: www.mygloriadei.org/adventchristmas-at-gloria-dei. There will be seating inside and outside. Of course, the service will also be live streamed. Invite a friend to experience the birth of hope!



