Gloria Dei Lutheran Church DEI-LY LIGHT



JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

O Gracious Light - That's our theme for the beginning of 2023, the Season of **Epiphany**. Epiphany is all about light, revealing the power of Jesus. We'll also focus on preaching, teaching through the **Liturgy**, what we do on Sunday mornings in worship.

The word liturgy comes from the Greek "liturgia" meaning "work of the people". We do this together - we sing hymns, confess our sins and receive absolution, read scripture, hear a reflection or sermon on that scripture, gather offerings, celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar, and we're sent off with a blessing. This format has been around for thousands of years.

I love the liturgy, mainly because we're **memorizing scripture**. Can it get boring? Yes, if the Spirit is not working on me. But it connects me to the early church, and it's not all about how I'm feeling. **There's something grand about it.** But we have to work at it, together.

Here's a song (you might want to listen to it) by The Brilliance for the Season of Epiphany:

Oh Gracious Light So pure and bright Dispel the darkness of our hearts That by Your brightness we may know the light Incarnate word Grant that the light Deep and kindled in our hearts May shine forth and give us divine life

Your friend in Christ.

Pastor David R. Mattson



MICHELLE LUM, Minister of Arts and Outreach

I don't know about you, but I am very excited for our theme and for the season of Epiphany. Light is like water in that it is so ordinary and essential for life, and yet it can also be a source of wonder. This photo is of the fantastic reflections our communion trays give in the early morning light. I have been thinking a lot about

light these past few months as I have been displaying a lot of art at school. In school you are often responsible for

lighting your own artwork, and it quickly dawns on you how important lighting is to the work. Misplaced lighting can completely ruin your piece, either by being too dim that people can't see your work or by highlighting part of your work you do not want to emphasize. Good lighting, on the other hand, draws attention to the artwork and to the message the artist is trying to convey with it.



I think of my experiences with lighting and then I remember that Jesus is the light of the world. He is both that which is

being revealed and the one who is revealing. He draws our attention to what is truly important. He brings clarity and understanding to the world around us. Jesus brings light to the world on a public scale, showing all that He is the Son of God. He also brings light to individual people as well, as people decide to begin a personal relationship with Him. Whether you have been a Christian for a very long time, or no time at all, what is Jesus bringing light to in your life?

Gloria Dei Art Ministry — 2nd Fridays of the month at 6:30pm in the sanctuary and Bankson Hall.

We are taking a break from our monthly gatherings and will not be meeting in January. Our next meeting will be February 10th and we will have an artist talk from our very own, Jane Zeiger!



SEMINARY INTERN DANA BECKER

I started 2022 with Covid. Well, a false positive, but still 10 days of isolation...

Here's to hoping 2023 starts differently than that- and healthier. But it was a reminder of humility. I didn't need a big flashy new start of the new year to have a fresh start. We receive new mercies every day. My 2022 year was not ruined by the disappointment at the beginning. It turned around and I found myself ending the year in California!

This Epiphany season, we celebrate light! Our sermon series will address some of the liturgical traditions we do on Sundays. It is a time for curiosity and reflection on those.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

(Young Children's Ministry)

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Age 4 - 5th grade) is held at 8:30am & 10am services in Knudson Hall. Sunday school attendees will leave the church service after the children's message for Sunday school instruction and rejoin their families for Communion. Sunday School resumes on January 8th.



NURSERY - Available for babies to preschool age during both morning worship services. The nursery is located in the preschool classroom directly across from the elevator. Please pick up a pager when signing in your child.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - I wanted to send a "Great Job!" to all of the children that were able to participate in the pageant. And thanks to all parents for making this happen. You made us all know "the Reason for the Season!"









FELLOWSHIP/FRIENDSHIP

(Congregation-wide Social and Friendship Events)

PLANNING FOR 2023 - We are looking forward to planning events for 2023. All ideas and thoughts are welcome. Feel free to reach out to me at fellowship@mygloriadei.org. Happy New Year!

MEN'S RETREAT SIGN-UPS - January 8 sign-ups begin for the Men's Spring Training Baseball Retreat to Tempe, Arizona. Watch for more details in the bulletin & sign-up at the Welcome Table.

WOMEN'S BOARD - This group meets on the second Saturday of the month at 9:15am. We will meet on January 14. Questions, contact Dana Becker at danabecker@mygloriadei.org.



DEI-LY WORSHIP

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

• Thank you to our musicians for all the extra time and effort they put into our Advent and Christmas worship. We are beyond blessed to have



musicians like Fred Johnson, Christian Try, Michelle Lum, Patricia Agoncillo, Andrew Nobel, and Micaela Lum in our family.

- Sanctuary Choir meets on Thursday nights at 7:30pm. We are almost to our goal of filling every seat, but we still need more volunteers. Could it be you? Our time together in choir is filled with fellowship, laughter, and great music. All voices are needed for this ensemble. Join us!
- **Bell & Chime Choir** meets Thursdays at 6:30pm. We are working on a chime piece for the new year as well as preparing bell music for Lent and Easter. Starting this month we will have seats open for more ringers. We are growing!
- We'll have a special video message from our friend Mark Kruse this month. I'm looking forward to hearing from this talented and unique guitarist!
- Watch for something new in 2023: "Not Choir". Stay tuned for more information!

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

PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS

CONFIRMATION CLASSES - Confirmation class will be January 8 & January 22 at 11:15am. Lunch will be provided. For more information please reach out to Pastor David, Pastor Dana, or Paige.

SR. HIGH BOWLING - Bowling at Saddleback Lanes on January 13, 6pm. The group will meet at the bowling alley. Bring a friend! Contact Paige Gulck at

youthdirector@mygloriadei.org if you plan to attend.

SR. HIGH MINISTRY IN MOTION - Does your kid have a high school basketball game? Or a play? Or a volleyball game? Whatever your kids are doing, that's what we will be doing! If your kid has an event they would like a cheering section for, email Paige at youth@mygloriadei.org.





PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

It's hard to believe we are starting a new calendar year, yet the preschool just keeps on running like any other day.

Unlike some people, I love starting a new year. I don't do "resolutions", but rather I embrace a value(s) I feel I need

to work on. In 2022, my values were "hope, trust, and kindness". I put these values in my phone and set them as an alarm every day at 8am.

In 2023, my words will be "patience, compassion, and joy". Entering a new year can be invigorating; it's a fresh start, a clean slate. God does amazing things in and through us, so I am excited to see His plan for me and you in 2023!



ART MINISTRY "Caelestis"







WOMEN'S COOKIE EXCHANGE...













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**) **BIBLE STUDY** - Led by David & Susan Warneke is held in Bankson Hall, on the first Monday of the month, at 6:30pm. On January 9 we are meeting to discuss the Book of Acts, Lesson 7, *Prison Evangelism*. To join, contact the church office 949-493-3414 or gloriadei@mygloriadei.org, so we can add you to the group.

HEART LIFTERS WOMEN'S EVENING STUDY - Bible Study, for all interested ladies, on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month. It is a social and informative gathering to study *Meeting The Spirit*, by Douglas Connelly. They will be meeting on January 10th & 24th at Donna Combe's home. Carpool from Church. Contact: Ann St.Martin or Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (949-493-3414) for more details.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - This group meets every Wednesday at 10am - Gloria Dei women (and friends) meet in Knudson Hall. They will meet again starting January 11. This study is led by Pastor David or our Seminary Intern, Dana Becker. All women are invited to join in! Watch for an email/bulletin announcement regarding gathering. The study will be based on our Epiphany theme of light/liturgy.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY meets the *second Saturday of every month at 8:00am in Bankson Hall.* This group next meets on January 14. Please let Pastor David know if you plan to attend and there will be a place set for you. They are studying The Lord's Prayer this year. All men are welcome.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets the *third Monday of each month at 2pm.* The group meets in Knudson Hall and their next meeting is January 16. They are reading *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. If you are interested in joining the book club, please contact Diane Kelly or contact the office at 949-493-3414.

G.I.F.T. (**GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER**) **BIBLE STUDY VIRTUAL STUDY** - Led by Jim & Neta Wenrick on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 7pm. The group is studying *Meditative Prayers: Entering God's Presence.* Their next meeting is January 17. To join, contact the church office 949-493-3414 or gloriadei@mygloriadei.org, so we can add you to the group.

MEN'S BOOK GROUP - Meets the *last Tuesday of the month, 7pm*. They are meeting in person at members' homes. They will meet again on January 31. For information contact the church office.

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 on January 7. If you know of someone in need of a shawl or would like more information, call Peggy Johnson.

SERRA'S PANTRY - A 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, year round.* January 21 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 meet on Monday & Thursday mornings 10am - 12pm in Knudson Hall. Class resumes January 5. Interested in volunteering, contact gloriadei@mygloriadei or 949-493-3414. For more information, email Sharon Miller at estdanapoint@mygloriadei.org.

LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY -

Mildred turned 15 years old and as is the custom in Latin America, a quinceañera was held for her at Los Angelitos. A quinceañera is a celebration of a girl's fifteenth birthday and her transition from childhood to adulthood. There was a formal church service followed by a party with around 65 guests, including all the orphans. It was a day that she will never forget!





Remember, you DO NOT need to go to the orphanage to make a difference in the lives of these children. Contact David or Susan Warneke to see how you can help at 203-952-5657 or 510-967-3211.



EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY - Thanks to those who are involved in meeting with shut-ins, homebound, hospitalized and bringing the Lord's Supper. Thanks to Intern Dana and Daneen Pysz for leading this ministry. If you are interested in helping in this area, please call the office at 949-493-3414.



DEI-LY DETAILS

ATTENDANCE and LIVESTREAM VIEWS

"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.

SANDSTONE BENCHES have now been etched with the names (and scripture) of people who gave gifts during the Gen2Gen of over \$10,000. Thanks to these eight families. Three more will be etched this month. If you would like to be a part of this fund (which reduces our mortgage), please contact Pastor David about details.

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. Each niche holds two urns. Currently, 50 niches and 4 memorial plaques have been purchased. 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.)

Thanks for the carolers. We enjoyed the Christmas songs and so did our neighbors! Grady and Mary Vaughan

Gloria Dei,

Merry Christmas from the members of Surfside Quilters Guild! Thank you for sharing your facilities with us! Surfside Quilters Guild

Dear Pastor David.

Thank you so much for being there for my mother in her final months. Gloria Dei was a great blessing to her and to all of our family.

God bless you all,

Kari Nies

Thank you, Gloria Dei friends, for your time and help and for making us feel so welcome during our visit to shoot the video for the Mission Investment Fund. Also, the way you arranged for that double rainbow over the parking lot once the rain cleared out Monday afternoon was really impressive! (Who is in charge of your special effects?)

Our challenge now will be paring down all the thoughtful comments you made during the interviews and all the fabulous shots we got of the sanctuary and the classes and the property into just a couple minutes, but that is a very good problem to have.

That paring-down will take us several weeks, but we look forward to sharing the finished video with you and getting your reactions.

In the meantime, we hope you and your families have a merry Christmas and much happiness and health in the new year.

Thanks again.

Don Nelson / Creative Director

Tom, Dick & Harry Creative Company

Gloria Dei Lutheran Congregation,

May the *peace* of God surround you and your loved ones during this holy season, and may it move us forward - together - with *love* and *grace*.

Merry Christmas,

Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop

Dear Pastor Mattson,

On behalf of the Orange County Alzheimer's Interfaith Outreach committee, I want to express our sincere gratitude to you, Dana Becker, your staff & volunteers, especially Diane Kelly & her fantastic group of ladies from the Bible study! You collectively hosted the most wonderful, special worship service for residents & caretakers of the care facilities. Once again everyone was treated with such respect, dignity, love, and tenderness.

I know everyone truly enjoyed participating in singing the Christmas hymns led by you with your guitar. It really helped to have the words printed in the worship bulletin.

Of course we want to thank the darling preschool children & their teachers for the precious performance. Their animation & voices are absolutely priceless. They are God's little Angels...his gift to us. Sincerely,

Joan Walker, Volunteer Scheduling Coordinator for Orange County Alzheimer's Interfaith Outreach



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, Alice Anderson, Mary Lou & Denny Walters, Jean Meinholtz, Gwen Layritz, Gloria Roberts, Christina Simpson, Lars Talstad, Gerry Grady, and Joan Sorge.

PRAYERS AND COMFORT - For Lynn Heuer, including her family & friends, as they mourn the loss of Lynn's daughter, Jill Eller.

PEACE AND SAFETY for all our service men and women serving around the world. We pray for peace and help in the Ukraine.

FOR OUR MISSIONARY - Please keep Dorcas in your prayers for strength and peace.

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 2023), 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 2023 VOLUNTEERS

2022 Time & Talent assignments will extend through January 2023. During January we will be sending out the new schedule for Time & Talent, beginning February 2023.

THANK YOU to all who have completed their 2023 Time & Talent and Pledge!

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 <u>pastordavid@mygloriadei.org</u> Seminary Intern Dana Becker <u>danabecker@mygloriadei.org</u> Administrative Assistant Carol Weinhardt

gloriadei@mvgloriadei.org

Preschool Director Shelli Parajeckas

preschool@mygloriadei.org

Minister of Arts and Outreach Michelle Lum

michellelum@mygloriadei.org

Youth Director Paige Gulck vouth@mygloriadei.org

Congregational Life Director Susie Boland

fellowship@mvgloriadei.org

Music Director Kathy Person music@mygloriadei.org Organist/Planist Fred Johnson organist@mygloriadei.org

5pm Worship Leader Micaela Lum

JANUARY 2023

	JANUART 2023							
Sat	7 7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Prayer Shawl 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 7pm - NA Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 8am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Women's Board Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 7pm - NA Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Serra's Pantry 9am - Adult Inquiry Class 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 7pm - NA Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 11:30pm - Ukrainian School of 7pm - NA Meeting				
	6	flam - Preschool Choir	9am - Set Up in Bankson Hall for 10am - Preschool Choir 5pm - Megan Emami Rehearsal	10am - Preschool Choir				
Thu	7 am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Manon Coed 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir				
Daw	7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible Study 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	7am - AA Meeting Sam - Surfside Quilter's Guild 10am - Women's Bible Study 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	7am - AA Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilter's Guild 10am - Women's Bible Study 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	7am - AA Meeting 10am - Women's Bible Study 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group				
an .	7 Zam - AA Men Meeting 7 pm - Al Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 1pm - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 6:30pm - VFW Auxiliary 7pm - Al Anon Meeting 7pm - Church Council	7am - AA Men Meeting 1pm - Staff Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting 7pm - Meditative Prayers GIFT	7am - AA Men Meeting 1pm - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 7pm - AI Anon Meeting 1pm - Staff Meeting 1pm - Staff Meeting 1pm - Staff Meeting 7pm - AI Anon Meeting 7pm - AI Anon Meeting 7pm - Men's Book Club				
Won	5:30pm - Alanon Meeding 6:30pm - GIFT (Growing In Faith	10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting	16 10am - South Coast Literacy 2pm - RIOT Book Club @ 33501 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting	10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting 30 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting				
Sun	8.30am - Worship 10am - Worship 6.30pm - NA Meeting	8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 11:15am - Confirmation (8th-8th) 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 11:15am - Confirmation (6th - 11:30am - New Member 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting 8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 5pm - Worship/Sunday School 5pm - Worship				

(See Calendar on Website: http://www.mygloriadei.org/calendar-2/)