# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church DEI-LY LIGHT



### **NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Gloria Dei family,

**All Saints' Sunday is November 5**. We will toll the bells in celebration of those who have finished their journey on earth. If you haven't submitted a name to be mentioned, it's not too late.

Who is a saint? For Lutheran Christians, following the example of the New Testament, saints are simply those who have been baptized. I think of family who have died and are with God. Maybe I'll light a candle at the church and thank God for them. That would be a very "All Saint" sort of thing to do. Speaking of family:

My Grandpa Mattson immigrated from Sweden, just prior to WWI. He felt if he joined the U.S. Army, it would be a quicker path to citizenship and so off he went to fight in the trenches of France. During his time there, he had a vision of Saint Birgitta, "the patron saint of Sweden" who said he would survive and preach the good news of Jesus. After recovering from the Spanish flu, he returned to the U.S. and became a pastor.

My recollection of him was of a serious man (trench warfare can do that), who loved to garden, travel, sing, and read. As kids, Grandpa and Grandma Mattson's home seemed very quiet. We were required not only to pray before the meal, but to sit and have a devotion after the meal. That was torture for a squirmy kid.

Today, I'm thankful for him, and so many others, including people at Gloria Dei who have encouraged me to *"run the race with perseverance..."* (Phil. 3:14) Who do you think of when you hear the word saint?

Gratefully yours,

Daniel R. Watt

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. **Pray for peace and justice in the Middle East**. To that end, our offering on Thanksgiving Eve worship will go to World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response. We will also have a food collection for F.A.M.



### MICHELLE LUM, Minister of Arts and Outreach

As we get closer to the end of the year, I was thinking about the word, *"fellowship."* You might not hear it spoken much in your day to day life, but you definitely will hear it at church. Why do we have fun events throughout the year? For fellowship! We value community and these events are where we get to fellowship: where we build relationships with each other and celebrate life together. Sometimes it's in the silliest of things too, like doing the chicken dance or scrunching cellophane together for an art project. Beautiful friendships can form in even the most mundane of tasks.

I don't know who you are fellowshipping with this season, maybe it's family or friends. If you don't have a community to fellowship with, I invite you to join us! We

have a lot of events coming up and we would love to celebrate this season with you.

#### Gloria Dei Art Ministry

- **November Gathering** Our next monthly gathering is November 10th at 6:30pm. We are in a new series: Art 101 and will be working on our upcoming Christmas artwork!
- **Christmas Artwork** This year we are working with paper, Christmas lights, and wood. Interested in helping out? Join the art ministry email newsletter for upcoming build dates or email <u>michelle.lum@mygloriadei.org</u> for more information.



## **ASSISTANT MINISTER DANA BECKER**

In September I had the opportunity to attend the Lutheran World Federation's Thirteenth Assembly in Krakow, Poland. It counted as a class credit for seminary, but was so much more than that! Then, I shared some about the experience with you in October. If you missed that sharing time, the bottom line is that it was INCREDIBLE. I came home with some inspiration and hope for ministry and perspective about the service of the Lutheran church in the world.

The LWF is an organization of 150 Lutheran churches around the world. They

gather for an assembly every 7 years to celebrate global ministry and set dreams about the future of the church for the next 7. We heard from great speakers and preachers on the theme "One Body, One Spirit, One Hope". We worshiped together in different languages and styles. And we shared communion with the church across the globe. Thank you to the council and congregation for supporting me on this adventure!

I have another big step in my ministry journey coming up this month. At the end of November, I will go before a panel for my "Approval" interview for ordination. In writing essays and preparing sermons and materials for the interview, I would greatly appreciate your prayers for this day. Gloria Dei has played an important role in my journey, and I am grateful for all your support in the last years!

## THE BIG NEWS

**THANKS** to all those who have already turned in their Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets (online too)! You make this ministry go!

**THANKSGIVING EVE** worship will take place on Wednesday, November 22, 7pm. Pie will be served afterwards. The Sanctuary Choir will sing and an offering for World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response will be taken. Non-perishable food items will also be collected for F.A.M. We pause to "Praise God from whom all blessings flow..."



SUSIE BOLAND, CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DIRECTOR

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (Young Children's Ministry)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL -** We offer Sunday School at the 8:30 and 10:00 services. We welcome all children age 4- thru 5th grade.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** - Sunday, December 10th. We will be presenting the video version of "The Story of Christmas." featuring our Sunday School kids at both services. The Sunday School Children will sing at the 10am service. We will

be practicing and videotaping the kids each Sunday, during Sunday School starting Sunday, November 19th.

**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 with your child.

**FELLOWSHIP/FRIENDSHIP**(Congregation-wide Social and Friendship Events) If you have questions or ideas for fellowship events, contact Susie Boland at <u>fellowship@mygloriadei.org</u>.

What a wonderful Trick or Trunk event we had! Thank you to all the volunteers that came out to help!



**SAY "PIE" TO FALL** - Saturday, November 11th, 5pm is a progressive dinner starting at Bankson Hall with drinks and appetizers. We will then travel to Doug and Linda Smith's house for dinner and follow up with dessert at Dennis & Karen Chernekoff's house. Cost: \$10/person. Sign-up at the Welcome Table.

**WOMEN'S BOARD** - This group meets on the second Saturday of the month at 9am. *They will meet on November 11 at 9am*. Questions, contact Dana Becker at <u>danabecker@mygloriadei.org</u>. Women's Board upcoming events:

• Women's Cookie Exchange (December 10, 3pm)

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22** - Pie and coffee on the patio following the service.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

All Saints Sunday (Nov. 5); Blood Drive (Nov. 10, 9am - 3pm); Christmas Caroling (Dec. 10, 5:00pm).



## **DEI-LY WORSHIP**

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

**November** might be my favorite month. I love Thanksgiving. It's a casual, cozy time to celebrate with friends, family, and community before the whirlwind of Advent and Christmas. I look forward to the cornucopia on the altar every year. I usually take a photo–although I have no idea what I'll do with it–I guess I'm just trying to preserve that moment, that warm fuzzy feeling! Part of being "Easter People" is

being "Thanksgiving People". This month, join the music ministry in giving thanks and praise. Sing it loud!

**Sanctuary Choir** - For the month of November, Psalm 100 will be our focus. Giving thanks, celebrating, praising His holy name:

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness;

come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100 (NRSV)

**We welcome new singers** and are especially needing tenor and bass this year. Sing with us! Thursdays 7:30-8:30pm.

**Handbell Choir** - our group is preparing special music for November 12th services. We have also begun preparing carols using both bells and chimes for Advent. Lots of fun effects to play, and lots of fun social time in rehearsals. **We have room for a few more ringers.** Note reading skills are helpful for jumping into this ensemble. Contact Kathy for more info! Thursdays 6:30-7:30.

Questions? Email Kathy Person: music@mygloriadei.org.

PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS

**ELCA YOUTH GATHERING JULY 16 - 20, 2024** - New Orleans here we come! Early registration (\$375) has opened for all incoming 9ths graders (those leaving 8th grade in 2024) and graduating seniors (those leaving 12th grade in 2024), and everyone in between. **\$150 non- refundable deposit is due by November 1.** Please reach out to Paige at <u>youth@mygloriadei.org</u> for details.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING NOVEMBER 3 - 5** - This trip has been canceled. We will hold a confirmation class on Sunday, November 5 11:15am - 12:15pm in Bankson Hall for all those able to attend. Don't forget to bring your bibles!

**SR. HIGH HELPERS SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18** - Come help out at Serra's Pantry. Friends and family are welcome. Earn community service hours for school at this event. Reach out to Paige if you'd like to help.



## PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

Our school year seems to be flying by. With Thanksgiving on our heels:

- The preschoolers are learning about the parts of pumpkins and the many things you can do with each part.
- They are watching our season turn slowly from summer to Fall with all the leaves changing and falling onto the playground.
- They are learning by teacher examples, of being thankful and doing acts of kindness.
- They will work together to prepare parts of their meal at our Annual Thanksgiving Feast later this month.
- They will also experience the "giving" in Thanksgiving by providing gifts for those who are in need.

I truly love this season and I strive to be a better example to my students that every day is Thanksgiving and "Thanksliving". May you find it in yourself to live each day with love and gratitude.







## **OKTOBERFEST...**













## **CONFIRMATION BEACH DAY...**













### **GROWING TOGETHER!**

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

"**THE BIBLE YEAR**" (2023-2024 Bible reading challenge!) - This all church event meets on <u>Thursdays at</u> <u>6:30pm</u> in Bankson Hall, for a Bible study on the readings. Bring your Bible and join in! This is led by Pastor David.

**G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER) BIBLE STUDY** - Led by David & Susan Warneke & held in the conference room, on the first Monday of the month, at 6:30pm. We are studying *1st & 2nd Samuel*. We meet on November 6 to study *A Turning Point of Sin* (2 Samuel 10-14). 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 STUDY** - Bible Study for all interested ladies, on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday/month at 6:30pm. It is a social and informative gathering. *Their next meetings* are *November 14 & 28 at Donna Combe's home.* They are studying *A Life Beyond Amazing* by Dr. David Jeremiah. The study guide can be purchased at christianbook.com or Amazon for \$10. Carpool from Church. Contact: Ann St. Martin or Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (949-493-3414) for details.

**WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** - Every Wednesday (mid-September - May), 10am - Gloria Dei women (and friends) meet in Knudson Hall. Study led by Pastor David or Associate Pastor Dana Becker. All women are invited to join in!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** meets the *second Saturday of every month at 8:30am in Bankson Hall. Their next meeting is November 11.* Please let Pastor David know if you plan to attend and there will be a place set for you. 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. The next meeting is November 20. They are reading *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purcell. If interested in the book club, contact Diane Kelly or contact the office at 949-493-3414.

**MEN'S BOOK GROUP** - Meets the *last Tuesday of the month, 7pm* at members' homes. *They will be meeting on November 28.* 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.* Their next meeting is November 4. 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.* November 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 meet on Mondays, 10am - 12pm for formal study. On Thursdays, 1pm - 3pm, they will meet for informal game fun.* Both meetings are in Bankson Hall. Interested in volunteering, contact gloriadei@mygloriadei or 949-493-3414. For more information, email Sharon Miller at <u>esldanapoint@mygloriadei.org</u>.

#### LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY -Los Angelitos Orphanage



**Time & Talent** - 'Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.' Psalms 84:3

- 1. **Pray** "Father, what do you want me to do to help the children of Los Angelitos?"
- 2. **Support** Time, talent and/or treasure. Not once, but regularly. Sponsor / Adopt an orphan by giving a regular monthly donation. Volunteer. Faith without works is dead.
- 3. **Leadership** Consider taking a leadership role in this vital ministry.
- 4. **Visit** Join a Gloria Dei trip to Los Angelitos.
- 5. **Fight trafficking –** Street kids are abused and trafficked. We can save more kids off the street with your help.

Join us on our next trip (tbd) or help in other ways to get involved. Contact Susan or David Warneke.

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY** - Thanks to those who are involved in meeting with shut-ins, homebound, hospitalized and bringing the Lord's Supper. Thanks to Student Pastor 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** 

**"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 eleven families. 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: <u>www.mygloriadei.org/donate</u>. 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, 56 niches and 5 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.)

Thank you to all the Gloria Dei staff & friends who helped me with Cliff's memorial. You all made his celebration of life so special & I truly appreciate your love & support. Cliff & I were so lucky to have such wonderful friends in Christ!

Blessings to all, Kathy Anderson

Our Friends at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group, we thank you for your support for our 2023 Combat Golf Tournament. This tournament allows us to continue our mission of supporting the 5th Marine Regiment. Through your generosity, we had another successful tournament.

Again, our sincere thanks and appreciation.

Yours truly, Combat Golf Committee Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group

Dear Friends at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation! Your generosity & commitment ensure Pacific Lutheran Seminary can better serve our students & assist them as they transform lives and help equip leaders for the church & world.

With appreciation - Raymond Pickett, Rector

#### Thanks to MGD (the Men of Gloria Dei) & all others who helped with Oktoberfest!

Thank you for your faithful mission support. We are grateful for you and for our partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ, Pacifica Synod Council

## **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** - Blaine Johnson, Alice Anderson, Mary Lou & Denny Walters, Jean Meinholtz, Gwen Layritz, Gloria Roberts, Christina Simpson, Gerry and Sharon Grady, Joan Sorge, John Burns and Carol Clisby.

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

**PRAYERS OF COMFORT** - Please keep Susan Behnke & her family in your prayers as she mourns the loss of Fred Voss. Also pray for Marty Ficken's family as they mourn his passing.

**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" (October - December 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 <u>gloriadei@mygloriadei.org</u>).

## **DEI-LY DUTIES**



### **NOVEMBER 2023 VOLUNTEERS**

The second half of the time & talent schedule was sent out on August 4, 2023, primarily via email & mail, to those without an email. If you haven't received your assignments, please call Carol Weinhardt at the office: 949-493-3414

For other time & talent opportunities that don't happen weekly, we will reach out to you as needed. In addition, please watch for happenings in the bulletin or opportunities listed at the Welcome Table.

### **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: gloriadei@mygloriadei.org</u> <u>Facebook Page:</u> 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 <u>gloriadei@mygloriadei.org</u> Preschool Director Shelli Parajeckas <u>preschool@mygloriadei.org</u> Minister of Arts and Outreach Michelle Lum <u>michellelum@mygloriadei.org</u> Youth Director Paige Gulck <u>youth@mygloriadei.org</u> Congregational Life Director Susie Boland <u>fellowship@mygloriadei.org</u> Music Director Kathy Person <u>music@mygloriadei.org</u> Organist/Planist Fred Johnson <u>organist@mygloriadei.org</u> 5pm Worship Leader Micaela Lum

### **NOVEMBER 2023**

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7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group

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