# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church DEI-LY LIGHT



#### **DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Gloria Dei family,

**4 Prophets - 4 Christmas.** For the Season of Advent, the four-week preparation for the Savior's birth, we will be looking at the prophecies related to Christmas, all four from the prophet Isaiah.

There will also be the traditional preparations - Advent wreath and candles, carols sung, Christmas tree decorations with "Christmons," caroling, cookie exchanges, and more. Thanks to all the people helping make this Advent Season so hopeful, through your prayers, small kindnesses, volunteering, and singing. Your actions proclaim the words of the carol we will sing all four Sundays - *O Come*, *O Come*, *Emmanuel*:

O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, and ransom captive Is-ra-el, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O, come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

With the darkness, which at times seems to engulf our world - terrorism, antisemitism, prejudice, an epidemic of violence, my sin - the light has come. Hope was born in a manger thousands of years ago and the light of the Incarnation continues to bring courage, resolve, and love. The 4 prophetic messages will remind us of a God who never gives up and who will find a way out of the night. Rejoice!

Gratefully yours,

Pastor David R. Mattson



## MICHELLE LUM, Minister of Arts and Outreach

"It's the most, wonderful time...of the year!"

This time of the year I can't see that phrase without singing it in my head. It might be a common song during the Christmas season but I think it has a good point. Christmas lights make the night more magical, people put trees in their living rooms (and people think my projects are weird!), and this is the time where family and friends gather and celebrate with each other.

In many ways the holiday season helps us see things in a different light. People's houses are more interesting with lights on them, Christmas trees make us move

around our house a bit differently, and social gatherings remind us of the relationships we are blessed with. These things help us contemplate our lives; affirming what is good and perhaps giving us encouragement for areas we can improve. How is this season illuminating your life and what things might you see in a new light? I hope this time of year is magical for you, Merry Christmas!

#### **Gloria Dei Art Ministry**

- **December Gathering** Our next monthly gathering is December 8th at 6:30pm. For our Art 101 series we will be looking at Light and Space art. We will also be working on our Christmas artwork!
- **Preschool Sing-Along** December 14th from 3:00-5:00pm we are doing a Christmas sing-along for preschoolers. Sign up through the church office to attend.
- **Christmas Artwork** Our piece for this year is a bit of an interactive work. Come to any of our worship services December 17th to participate! Interested in helping out? Join the art ministry email newsletter or email <a href="mailto:michelle.lum@mygloriadei.org">michelle.lum@mygloriadei.org</a> for more information.

#### THE BIG NEWS

**THANKS** to all those who have already turned in their 2024 Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets (online too)! You make this ministry go! Through the work of God's Spirit and because of your willingness to step up

and be counted, we are able to do so much more for the world. Grace changes everything!

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP** will take place on Sunday, December 24 - 8:30am, 4pm, 5:30pm, and 10pm. Holy Community will be celebrated at the first and last service. Carols, special music, choirs, bells, gifts, poinsettias, candlelight, and more. Invite a friend to experience the Hope of the world.

**NEW YEARS EVE WORSHIP** - On Sunday, December 31, we will give thanks for 2023 and offer prayers for 2024. Join us for festive worship at 8:30am and 10:30am. (No 5pm)



#### **MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI** - There are two ways to join:

- 1) From a non-Lutheran background, attend the Adult Inquiry Class, January 20 at 9am OR
- 2) Transfer your membership from a Lutheran church.

To ALL joining, <u>both new & transfer</u>, there will be a New Member Orientation, Sunday, January 21, 11:15am. New members will be received in church on Sunday, January 28.

Questions, please call the office. Sign-up at the Welcome Table.



#### **ASSISTANT MINISTER DANA BECKER**

Tis the season... for all of the things. I am a big fan of Christmas and the holiday season, but it gets busy with stuff. This year I am looking forward to some slower time, to add rest to the busyness - going to the beach or watching a Hallmark Christmas movie. Minnesota would be white with snow, which I'll miss, but then I'll go to the beach and not miss the cold weather that much.

I hope this season of busyness finds some rest for you. I hope this season of waiting for Jesus to show up gives you some glimmers of love in his abundant

grace. As you stress about hosting loved ones and having enough food and decorating just perfectly and spending more extrovert tokens than you have in your bank, I hope you find joy in the things to laugh at and not take it all too seriously. I hope there's restoration in your broken relationships with loved ones.

As for adding things to your calendar, **SUNDAY DECEMBER 10** is a big day:

- The Women's Board invites you to share a **CHRISTMAS NATIVITY** set with the congregation (set up Saturday 1 am 2pm). Bankson Hall will be open on Sunday between services for members to view the displays and during the Christmas Cookie Exchange.
- **WOMEN'S COOKIE EXCHANGE** 3pm, Bankson Hall. Bring 3 dozen cookies (homemade or store bought). Containers provided to take cookies home. Extra cookies delivered later that evening during caroling. See the sign-up at the Welcome Table.
- **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** 5pm Meet at the church to go caroling for the Christmas holiday! Sign-up is on the Welcome Table. Directions will be given out when we meet up at the church.

PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



## **YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS**

**ELCA YOUTH GATHERING JULY 16 - 20, 2024** - New Orleans here we come! Open for all incoming 9ths graders (those leaving 8th grade in 2024) and graduating seniors (those leaving 12th grade in 2024), and everyone in between. Please reach out to Paige at <a href="mailto:youth@mygloriadei.org">youth@mygloriadei.org</a> for details.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** - Classes will take place following the 10am service in Bankson Hall. Lunch will be provided.

- December 3: Classroom time with staff. Children will learn their roles for the December 10 Christmas pageant!
- January 7: Classroom time with staff.
- January 21: Kids will assemble hygiene kits for the homeless.

**SENIOR HIGH SANTAS** - December 9 - 5:30 pm. Spread some cheer and candy canes at the Dana Point Boat Parade. Meet at Harpoon Henry's in the Harbor for a fun night of food, lights, and laughter.



SUSIE BOLAND, CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DIRECTOR

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

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

We will be on **Holiday Break** from December 17 - January 6th. Sunday School will resume on January 7th, 2024. Wishing you a restful and joyful Christmas season!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** - Sunday, December 17th. 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.

**FIRST COMMUNION** - FYI - For those children who are interested in First Communion Instruction. This is offered during the Season of Lent. Watch for the sign-up. Questions, speak with Pastor David. The first of three classes will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 5:15pm - 6:00pm (before soup suppers). More details coming in the New Year.

**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.

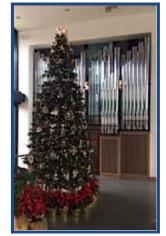
## **FELLOWSHIP/FRIENDSHIP**(Congregation-wide Social and Friendship Events) If you have questions or ideas for fellowship events, contact Susie Boland at fellowship@mygloriadei.org.

**SAY "PIE" TO FALL** - Thank you to the Smith and Chernekoff families for helping to host such a WONDERFUL Progressive dinner event!!

**CHRISTMAS TREE & SANCTUARY DECORATING** - Friday, December 8, 2pm to decorate the Christmas tree & Sanctuary for the Christmas season! We need both men & women to help with this holiday task. Come get in the spirit & join the fun! Who knows... A little Christmas cheer may follow.

**WOMEN'S BOARD** - This group meets on the second Saturday of the month at 9am. *They will meet on December 9 at 9am*. Questions, contact Dana Becker at danabecker@mygloriadei.org.

Women's Board upcoming events:



• WOMEN'S COOKIE EXCHANGE - Sunday, Dec. 10, 3pm, Bankson Hall. Bring 3 dozen cookies (homemade or store bought). Containers provided to take cookies home. Extra cookies delivered later that evening during caroling. You are also welcome to bring a Nativity set to share for the day. See the sign-up at the Welcome Table.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** - Dec. 10, 5pm - We will be meeting at the church to go caroling for the Christmas holiday! Sign-up is on the Welcome Table. Directions will be given out when we meet up at the church.



#### **DEI-LY WORSHIP**

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

**Sanctuary Choir** - **We welcome new singers** and are especially needing tenor and bass this year. Sing with us! Thursdays 7:30-8:30pm. 2 Great pieces for Advent: "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide" based on a choral from the 1600's, and "Advent Peace Canon" a marriage of *Dona Nobis Pacem* and *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*, set to Pachelbel's famous *Canon*.

**Handbell Choir** - We are working on a beautiful carol that uses both bells and chimes for Advent. It is a joy to hear this piece taking shape! 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 6:30-7:30pm.



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



SHELLI PARAJECKAS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

#### **PRESCHOOL**

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

Tis the season to not only be thankful for our blessings, but to spread joy and kindness. The best way to teach children the love God has for us is to be an example. We love our students and share our faith through our daily actions and conversations.

Our students are quite excited for the holiday season. Their days are filled with stories, crafts, music, and learning activities which surround the true meaning of

Christmas. Our students will share one of their favorite songs with the congregation, and we will also present our Annual Christmas Pageant to our parents later this month.

As we get closer to Christmas, remember the reason for the season. I've seen so much negativity locally and globally and it can make us feel yucky. Let's be that Christ-filled example and spread Christian fruits wherever we go.

Preschool will be on a well-deserved Christmas break from December 22, 2023 through January 7, 2024. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

## THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER WAS A BIG HIT!













## **THANKSGIVING ALTAR**

Thanks to Kayla Carlson for putting the cornucopia together - wonderfully creative!









#### **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 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 December 4 to study *Rebellions* (2 Samuel 15-20). To join, contact the church office 949-493-3414 or <a href="mailto:slowers.">gloriadei@mygloriadei.org</a>, 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. *They're only meeting* once in *December on the 12th at Ann St. Martin'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 December 9.* 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 December 18 & they will bring books to exchange. 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 not be meeting in December*. Their next meeting is January 30. 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 December 2. 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.* December 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. 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 <a href="mailto:esldanapoint@mygloriadei.org">esldanapoint@mygloriadei.org</a>.

#### LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY



The orphanage has increased staff up to eight people, which includes full-time and part-time employees. More staff results in increased attention for the children, but less attention toward maintenance and facility improvements due to budgetary constraints.

The van that Gloria Dei donated to Los Angelitos is a God-send and it is used every day. It is well maintained and in excellent shape. When not in use, it is parked behind a locked gate on the orphanage property.

There are currently 22 children living in the orphanage, down slightly from 25. One child aged-out, another moved to another facility and Bianca graduated high school and has moved on to college!

We are planning another visit in early 2024 and will announce a date soon. We hope you join us, so you too can see how rewarding it is to help those in need at Los Angelitos. They are so appreciative & grateful.

If you are unable to join us on our next mission trip, you can help in other ways. Contact Susan or David Warneke or the church office for details.

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY** - Thanks to those who are involved in meeting with shut-ins, homebound, hospitalized and bringing the Lord's Supper and/or conversations and prayer. Thanks to Assistant Minister Dana Becker 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 (In-Person/Livestream)

**"SIMPLY GIVING"** - Gloria Dei offers electronic giving on our website (mygloriadei.org), which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. You can also make "one-time" special donations electronically. Choose to donate from your checking account or by using your credit card, 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.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH ZELLE** - <u>gloriadei@mygloriadei.org</u>. We have just added ZELLE as a giving option at Gloria Dei.

**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: <a href="https://www.mygloriadei.org/donate">www.mygloriadei.org/donate</a>. 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, 58 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.)

Thanks to our Susie Boland, church members, church & preschool staff for putting together an amazing Trick or Trunk this year. We appreciate all the preparation that went into this fun community outreach

event!











**SAY "PIE" TO FALL -** Thank you to Susie Boland, Doug & Linda Smith, and Dennis & Karen Chernekoff for hosting our Annual Gloria Dei Progressive Dinner! It was a wonderful time of fellowship.

Thank you to all who donated to the Gloria Dei Blood Drive last month! We collected enough blood to save over 130 lives! Our next blood drive will be in May 2024 (date tbd).

Dear Friends at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation! Your generosity and commitment ensure Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary is able to better serve our students, faculty and community members. We are grateful for your gift, which is transforming lives and fulfilling our mission of equipping leaders for the church and world. With appreciation,

Raymond Pickett

Rector Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

#### **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, 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.

**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 <a href="mailto:gloridadei.org">gloridadei.org</a>).

#### **DEI-LY DUTIES**



#### **DECEMBER 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

Church Office: (949) 493-3414; Fax: (949) 493-6479;

Preschool: (949) 493-3414 x209

Website: mygloriadei.org;

Email: gloriadei@mygloriadei.org

<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

gloriadei@mygloriadei.org

Preschool Director Shelli Parajeckas

preschool@mygloriadei.org

Minister of Arts and Outreach Michelle Lum

michellelum@mygloriadei.org

Youth Director Paige Gulck youth@mygloriadei.org

Congregational Life Director Susie Boland

fellowship@mygloriadei.org

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

5pm Worship Leader Micaela Lum

#### **DECEMBER 2023**

(See Calendar on Website: <a href="http://www.mygloriadei.org/calendar-2/">http://www.mygloriadei.org/calendar-2/</a>)