

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

DEI-LY LIGHT



JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

New Year. There are so many great happenings in terms of events, ministries, and happenings already planned for 2024. I can't list them all here, but I do want to mention a few things related to music, praise, and worship. That seems a good way to start a New Year, giving thanks.

- New Member Sunday! We celebrate people who are joining our mission to share *"grace changes everything!"*
- Stephanie Trick & Paolo Alderighi Piano Concert (February 12) - Duo jazz piano, unlike anything I've seen. Invite a friend. There will be a "happy hour" beforehand on the patio.
- Soup Suppers and Worship for Lent begin on Ash Wednesday (February 14)
- Billy Steele leads morning music (February 25)
- Easter - lilies, trumpets...
- Daniela Y Su Mariachi - April 7
- Confirmation Sunday/Pentecost

All these and more (worship, fellowship, service, ...) are all about proclaiming - Grace changes everything.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Mattson".

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. My thanks to the many people who helped make our Christmas Eve services so welcoming and joyful. Our volunteers helped in countless ways and that makes all the difference.



MICHELLE LUM, Minister of Arts and Outreach

I love new things. Traditions are good, I love them too, but new things inherently bring a certain energy with them. It's invigorating, thrilling. It propels you forward and makes work feel like play. It's one of the reasons I love art, because you are always making something new. In my art practice, I use that energy to complete new pieces; it gets me through the monotonous tasks. If there is a month where people think about "newness," I think it would be January. New year, right?

It feels a little ironic to talk about loving new things when our services repeat so many elements each week. But I actually think that's the perfect place to find newness, looking into familiar or "old" spaces. New things don't have to be from a completely foreign place. Sometimes the new things you find from "old," or familiar places end up being the most revelatory 'newness' you encounter all year. I see that all the time in my work. Cellophane turns from gift wrap into light-catching "bursts." Fishing line turns from hanging hardware into the artwork itself. I love these "new from old" moments because they remind me that life is so much richer than I know; a simple change in perspective can bring fresh energy and life. As we return to our "regular" services post-Christmas, how might you find newness here at church? Where can you find newness in your daily life?

Happy New Year Gloria Dei! May your year be blessed with newness.

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! And you have helped the leadership council put together a budget for the new year. That's so important for a ministry which is vital and well run!

ANNUAL MEETING & ALOHA LUNCHEON (February 4) - A celebration of ministry, a recognition of council members who will be leaving leadership (Matt Dubow, Mark Schroeder, Katherine Dickinson), the installation of new council members, and report on the "state of the church", plus great Hawaiian food!

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, both new & transfer, 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

Happy New Year! Another one comes around. This new beginning gives us the opportunity of a calendar flip to leave some things behind, reflect on our lives, and add goals for ourselves in those New Year's Resolutions.

This year I am already counting down the days to my seminary graduation in May, a much-anticipated milestone in 2024. Yet, there's some months, weeks, and days in between... As I make my lists of resolutions and goals, I am conscious of the habits and practices I want to continue in the new year also. I am praying for endurance of the good things already alive in my world.

Events in the New Year:

- New Member Orientation Luncheon - January 21
- Women's One Day Retreat - March 16

PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING JULY 16 - 20, 2024 - New Orleans here we come! Open for all incoming 9th 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 youth@mygloriadei.org for details.

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

- January 7: Classroom time with staff.
- January 21: Kids will assemble hygiene kits for the homeless in Knudson Hall.
- February 4: Valentine card making for the shut-ins in Knudson Hall.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP - January 12, 6:00p - 8:00pm: We begin the year with bowling. Who doesn't love striking down some pins after the holidays? Meet at Saddleback lanes for some grub and games.

THANK YOU to Youth Director, Paige Gulck, Sunday School children & teachers, Confirmation students, & the High School Youth Group for presenting a spectacular Christmas Pageant this season!





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. Sunday School will resume from holiday break on January 7th, 2024.

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.

MEN'S SPRING TRAINING RETREAT registration/sign-ups begin in January. This is a very popular event and fills up fast. Men's Spring Training Retreat takes place in Tempe, AZ (March 1-3). Questions, speak with Pastor David.



WOMEN'S BOARD - This group meets on the second Saturday of the month at 9am. *They meet on January 13 at 9am in the Conference Room.* Questions, contact Dana Becker at danabecker@mygloriadei.org.
Upcoming Events:

ANNUAL MEETING & ALOHA LUNCHEON (February 4) - A celebration of ministry, a recognition of council members who will be leaving leadership, the installation of new council members, and a report on the "state of the church", plus we will be serving great Hawaiian food!

LENT SOUP SUPPERS - We will begin our Lent Soup Suppers on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6pm. Thank you to the Women's Group for hosting our first one! Please watch for soup sign-ups at the Welcome Table in January.

WOMEN'S ONE DAY RETREAT - Join us March 16, 2024 for a day of spiritual enrichment and fellowship. We'll meet for a speaker, discussion, and lunch. All women are welcome. More details to come.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - Church Campout - June 7-9, 2024 - O'Neill Regional Park - come camp for the weekend or join us for the fun on Saturday. Watch for sign-ups and details this spring.



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 more sopranos. Thursdays 7:30pm - 8:30pm.

I love planning new music for our choirs and we have so much to sing about in the new year! Special musical events like Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderigghi mid February, Billy Steele coming to lead us Sunday morning February 25, Mariachi music, Trumpets for Easter, gorgeous new choral music, challenging handbell solos, instrumental and vocal solos from our amazing Gloria Dei musicians, Fred and Micaela, bringing it on keyboards. Can you tell I'm excited to get started?

Handbell Choir - 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. We have some larger scale pieces to perform for Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. This is a great time to join!

Special thanks to Liz Pederson for stepping up to host the musicians' holiday party. What a great evening!



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



SHELLI PARAJECKAS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

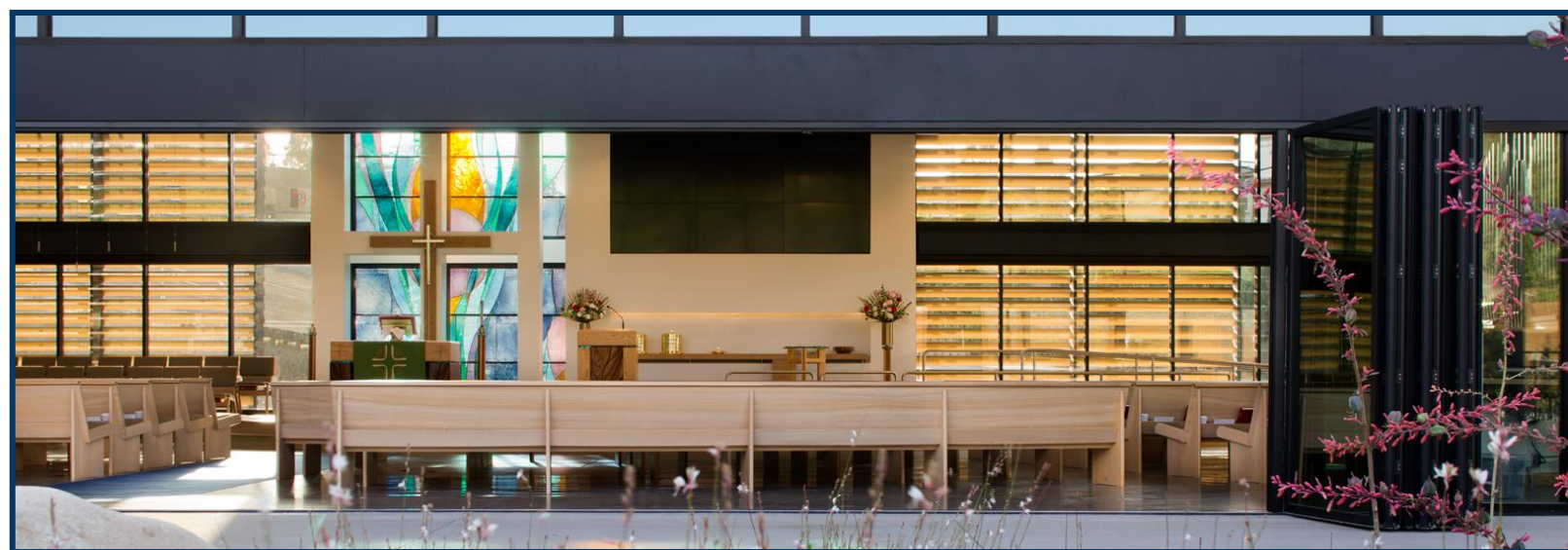
The long break for us was a necessity for preschool. We had so many viruses going around prior to the break affecting both teachers and students, but we are all returning rested and rejuvenated!

Our curriculum will be focused on animals in winter and students will learn about hibernation and how animals prepare for their winter's sleep. Also this month, we are offering our students a free vision screening with the Elk's Project. We offer this service every year which I believe is important for parents to have a base-line for their children prior to entering Kindergarten.

I love January because it feels like a fresh start. I get excited to start a new calendar, feel relieved that the rush of the holidays are behind me, and am thankful the break allowed me to return with a clear head. Happy 2024! May your year be filled with hope for all things good.

DECEMBER FESTIVITIES!





GROWING TOGETHER!

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

"THE BIBLE YEAR" (2024 Bible reading challenge!) - This all church event meets on Thursdays at 6:30pm in Bankson Hall, for a Bible study on the readings. Bring your Bible and join in! The first meeting of the new year will take place on Thursday, January 11, 2024. 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 January 8 to study *Deliverance Remembered* (2 Samuel 21-24). 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. *They meet on January 9 & 23 at Donna Combe's home.* They are studying *A Life Beyond Amazing* by Dr. David Jeremiah. 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 January 13.* 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 January 15 & they are reading *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. 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. *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 January 6. 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 20 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 Knudson Hall. Interested in volunteering, contact gloriadei@mygloriadei.org or 949-493-3414. For more information, email Sharon Miller at esldanapoint@mygloriadei.org.

LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY - ¡Feliz Navidad!

From all of us at Los Angelitos Orphanage, **¡Feliz Navidad! y Próspero Año Nuevo** (Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.)

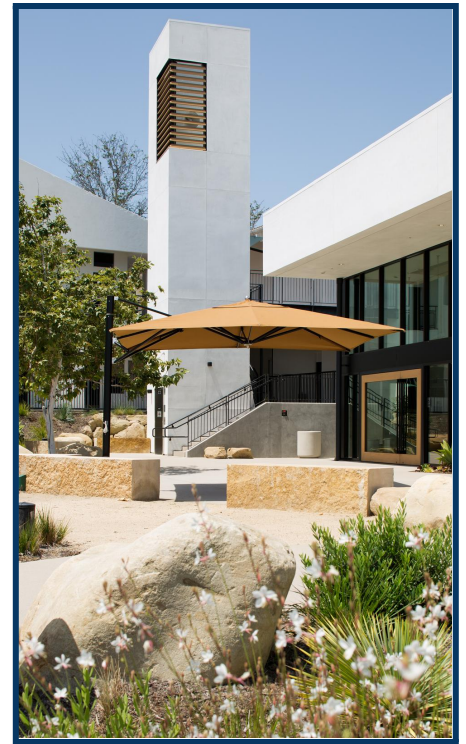
Thank you and God bless all our friends at Gloria Dei Church for everything you did for us this year and for your generosity and for your love and friendship.

We can't wait for your visit to Los Angelitos on January 27th.



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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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)

12/3: 318

12/10: 292

12/17: 283

12/24: TBD

12/31: TBD

"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 - gloriadei@mygloriadei.org. 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: 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, 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.) Thank you to all the women who shared their Nativity displays on Sunday. Nativity sets were made with different materials, and were from different cultures and countries. All were unique, beautiful and much appreciated by all who saw them.

Submitted by Denise Boyd



Thank you to all who donated for the F.A.M. (Family Assistance Ministry) food delivery. Thanks also to Bonny Gillespie for making the delivery to F.A.M. Our donation weighed 248 pounds which helped feed many in need through December!

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Dana Point, California

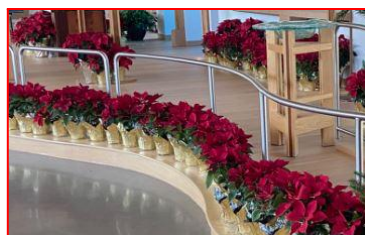
As the thriving Orange County congregation grew, so did the need to move beyond a much-loved but much-too-small sanctuary. An MIF loan enabled Gloria Dei to build a new sanctuary as well as an outdoor chapel and playground for the church-run preschool. The former sanctuary? That space now hosts a variety of community groups, including the South Coast Literacy Council, a precious resource to the area's non-English-speaking adults.



"MIF was happy to work with us, and we wanted to support MIF as a ministry of the church. The rates were great and so was the communication."

The Rev. David Mattson, pastor

THANK YOU to the wonderful volunteers who helped decorate our Christmas tree this year. Thanks also to our amazing Altar Guild group, led by Donna Combe, who tended to the poinsettias & faithfully helped beautify the Sanctuary this Christmas season!



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, Carol Clisby. Paul Dubow, Frances McFarland, Don Scroggin, Corrine Fredrick, and Matt Boland

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"* (January - March 2024), 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 2024 VOLUNTEERS

New Time & Talent assignments for (February - July, 2024) will be sent out primarily via email & also by mail, to those without an email. Please keep an eye out for new assignments toward the end of January. Call Carol Weinhardt at the office: 949-493-3414, if you have questions.

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:</u> gloriadei@mygloriadei.org <u>Facebook Page:</u> Facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint	Pastor David R. Mattson pastordavid@mygloriadei.org Seminary Intern Dana Becker danabecker@mygloriadei.org Administrative Assistant Carol Weinhardt gloriadei@mygloriadei.org Preschool Director Shelli Parajekas 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 music@mygloriadei.org Organist/Planist Fred Johnson organist@mygloriadei.org 5pm Worship Leader Micaela Lum
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JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Preschool Christmas Break	1 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting	2 7am - AA Men Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	3 7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible Study 12:30pm - No Staff Meeting 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	4 7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 7pm - AA Men Meeting	5	6 7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Prayer Shawl Meeting 10:30am - ACA 10:30am - Memorial Alice Jane 11:30am - ACA Meeting 7pm - NA Meeting
7 8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 11:15am - Confirmation 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	8 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting 6:30pm - ELCA Foundation Lisa 6:30pm - GIFT (Growing in Faith)	9 7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilters Guild 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 7pm - Al Anon Meeting 7pm - Church Council @	10 7am - AA Men's Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilters Guild 10am - Women's Bible Study 12:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	11 7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 1pm - SCLC (South Coast Literacy) 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Bible Year Study 6:30pm - Lindsay Engel and Brian 7pm - AA Men Meeting	12 6:30pm - Art Ministry Gathering @	13 7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Women's Board Meeting 10:30am - ACA 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 7pm - NA Meeting
14 8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	15 10am - South Coast Literacy 2pm - RIOT Book Club @ 33501 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting	16 7am - AA Men Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	17 7am - AA Men's Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilters Guild 10am - Women's Bible Study 12:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	18 7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 1pm - SCLC (South Coast Literacy) 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Bible Year Study 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir	19	20 7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Serra's Pantry 9am - Adult Inquiry for New 10:30am - ACA 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 2pm - Ukrainian Worship 7pm - NA Meeting
21 8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 11:15am - Confirmation 11:30am - New Member 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	22 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting	23 7am - AA Men Meeting 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 6:30pm - Men's Book Club 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	24 7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible Study 12:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	25 7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 1pm - SCLC (South Coast Literacy) 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Bible Year Study 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir	26	27 7am - AA Men Meeting 7am - Los Angeles Orphanage 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 7pm - NA Meeting
28 New Member Sunday 8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	29 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting	30 7am - AA Men Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	31 7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible Study 12:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - DHHB Baja Meeting (Both) 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	1	2	3

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

