

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

DEI-LY LIGHT



SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

Last month, I had a conversation with a brilliant person who was raised Lutheran and yet rarely attends church. He was not a “joiner.” I found him so interesting that I thought he would add a lot to a community.

Maybe church is not always about what we get, but about what we give. As such, it’s a model of what God hopes for the world. Church, *ekklesia* (Greek) means “*called out ones*.” We are called to come together, to love one another, and to work together, even with people who are different from us, which brings me to:

“Rally Sunday” is September 8. All sorts of and new ministries start up, and new message series: *Grace changes everything!* Join in the celebration. I hope you find a place to plug in. Here’s a few options to consider:

- If you love music, why not join a choir?
- If you’ve never studied the Bible with a group, why not join in? We have a lot of options.
- Want meaningful service? There’s food distribution, English tutoring, orphanage help, and more.
- Want to get to know people a bit more? Attend a fellowship event, go on a retreat.
- If you love art, Michelle Lum offers a lot of different opportunities to enjoy, to stretch, and to grow.
- If you would like to help plant seeds of faith, check on helping/teaching/assisting with Sunday school?

And there’s more coming... With the Planning Team in full swing, they will be surveying people to see what other ministries we should be involved with? Look for that survey (in written form and online) in October.

Gratefully yours,

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

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. Sunday school (preschool-5th grade) begins Rally Sunday at morning services. My thanks to our Sunday school Director Susie Boland and all the volunteers, helpers, and teachers!



MINISTER OF ART & MUSIC

Why care about the arts?

One of the things you often learn in creative fields is how to advocate for your work. The unfortunate reason for that is because the arts are often seen as superfluous. I am grateful to be at a church that doesn't think so. What a privilege it is to make art and music with so many of you here at Gloria Dei!

The arts enrich our lives in such beautiful ways. It gives us new perspectives. It helps us express ourselves when words are not enough. You can find camaraderie while working on art projects or making music together. Beauty helps us see how magnificent our God is.

As we kick off a new season, I invite you to join in on some of the arts at Gloria Dei! Whether it is for only a day or for the whole year, you are always welcome.

Here's some of the art and music activities starting up this month:

Art Gatherings - Our 2nd Friday monthly gatherings are restarting this month! Come September 13th at 6:30pm to Bankson Hall to see what we are doing this year. These events focus more on visual art and are meant for artists, art lovers, and anyone interested in learning more about art.

Sanctuary Choir - Open to both teens and adults, our Sanctuary Choir is starting up again on September 5th. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm and we sing at morning services. If you love to sing, this choir is for you!

Handbell Choir - Open to teens and adults as well, the Handbell Choir will also begin meeting on September 5th. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm and play at select worship services throughout the year. If you can read music and can count, this is a good option for you.

Interested in joining the art ministry email newsletter or a choir? Email michellelum@mygloriadei.org

THE BIG NEWS

- **MISSIONARY DORCAS** - Our missionary will be with us on Sunday, September 15, at morning services. (No 5pm service that day - we want everyone to come and hear her!) We will also have a L&L (Lunch and Learn) with her on that day, 11:15am, Bankson Hall. Please sign-up for that luncheon and invite a friend to hear her amazing work and stories.
- **GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING!** - For the month of September, Pastor David begins a sermon series on God's grace and mercy. Each Sunday, a different passage of scripture will be the focus. Come and find out "what's so amazing about grace."
- **NEW MEMBERS** will be received at Gloria Dei on Sunday, September 15. If interested in officially joining the Gloria Dei family, watch for details in the bulletin or call the church office.



GLORIA DEI SPIRITUAL CARE

What a great summer with so many things to experience and enjoy. The Prime Time Seniors enjoyed our first outing by seeing the play Miss Magnolia Senior Citizen Beauty Pageant. We met for dinner and the play. I was remiss at not taking any photos to share, but the fellowship and company was super enjoyable. I've heard some suggestions for future outings to museums, garden centers, theater, movies, day retreats. If you have any suggestions please let me know. Even though the group says Prime Time Seniors, everyone is invited to our fellowship get togethers.

It is not too late to sign up for the Prayer Labyrinth on Saturday, September 7th, 8am - 3pm. If you choose not to walk the labyrinth in our courtyard, you can still pick up a brochure with the prayers and walk in prayer at home or on your own. Psalms 141:2 says, "Let my prayer be counted as incense before you..."

Your Servant in Christ,
Deacon Daneen

EUCCHARIST 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 Deacon Daneen Pysz for leading this ministry. If you are interested in helping in this area, please call the office at 949-493-3414.

PRAYER - Another area Deacon Daneen will focus on is prayer ministries, such as prayer vigils, prayer hosts (people willing to pray with people following worship), and other areas. If you have suggestions, please speak with her. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more details.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BAPTISM OF LUCIUS!





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL - begins again on September 8, Rally Sunday at our 8:30am and 10am services! If you would like to teach, team teach, or assist with Sunday school this fall, please see the sign-up at the Welcome Table. We will have a training/informational meeting on Sunday, September 1st at 9:30am (between services, up in the Sunday School room).

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION - If your child is 4 years old up through 5th grade and will be attending Sunday School, please fill out a registration form. These can be found on the website (mygloriadei.org), under the Sunday School tab, or hard copies are at the Welcome Table.

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. The nursery will be open during summer months.

FELLOWSHIP/FRIENDSHIP (Congregation-wide Social and Friendship Events)

If you have questions or ideas for fellowship events, contact Susie Boland at fellowship@mygloriadei.org.

PRIMETIMERS (Seniors) - This is a group of seniors who meet for such things as fellowship, learning, service, and more. All seniors are welcome! Questions, contact (deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org.)

WOMEN'S BOARD - This group meets on the second Saturday of the month at 9am in the conference room. *The next board meeting is September 14.*

Women's September Events:

- Fall Bunco (September 6, 6pm) - Cost - \$5. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided. Sign-up at the Welcome Table.
- Fall Weekend Retreat at The Welk Resort (September 27-29). Join us for a weekend of fellowship, Bible study & lots of fun activities: pool, spa, pickleball, theatre, escape room & more! Varying room options with varied cost, ranging from \$225 - 375 per person/room. Sign-up at the Welcome Table.

Upcoming Women's Events:

- Fashion Show (December 7)
- Spring 1 Day Retreat: March 22, 2025

OTHER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS -

- Oktoberfest sponsored by MGD (October 5);
- Trick-or-Trunk - October 27, 4pm
- Alzheimer's Lunch and Learn - January, 19, 2025
- Men's Spring Training Retreat (March 7-9, 2025)

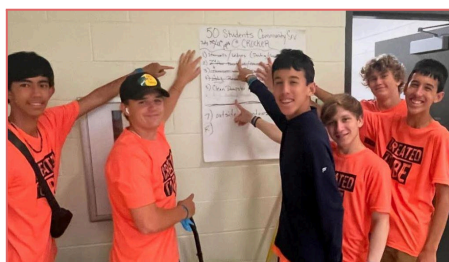
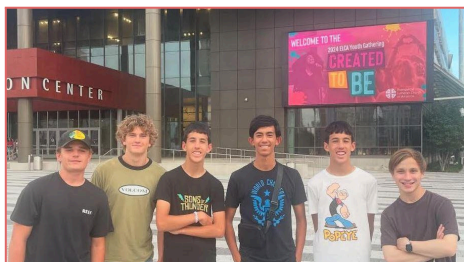


YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS

CONFIRMATION COMMENCES: Sunday, September 22 at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Parents, Confirmation kids (6th, 7th, and 8th graders) are all meeting to take a look at the upcoming year. Please reach out if you have any questions (youth@mygloriadei.org)

SENIOR HIGH SERVERS: Saturday, September 21 at 8:30 a.m. Join the congregation at Serra's Pantry to earn those community service hours for school. We'll grab a bite to eat after volunteering at a local restaurant.

SUMMER TRIP PICTURE TIME: The kids had a great time in NOLA - doing service projects, meeting new people and exploring the city. The next gathering will be 2027 in Minneapolis!



PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

It's such an exciting time in preschool. School started just a few weeks ago and the students are gradually adjusting to their new routine. We welcomed 33 new students this year! Some are siblings of past students but most are new to Gloria Dei. We are excited to build a community with all our families this year. In September, we will celebrate our Grandparents with a welcome event and Chapel with our students.

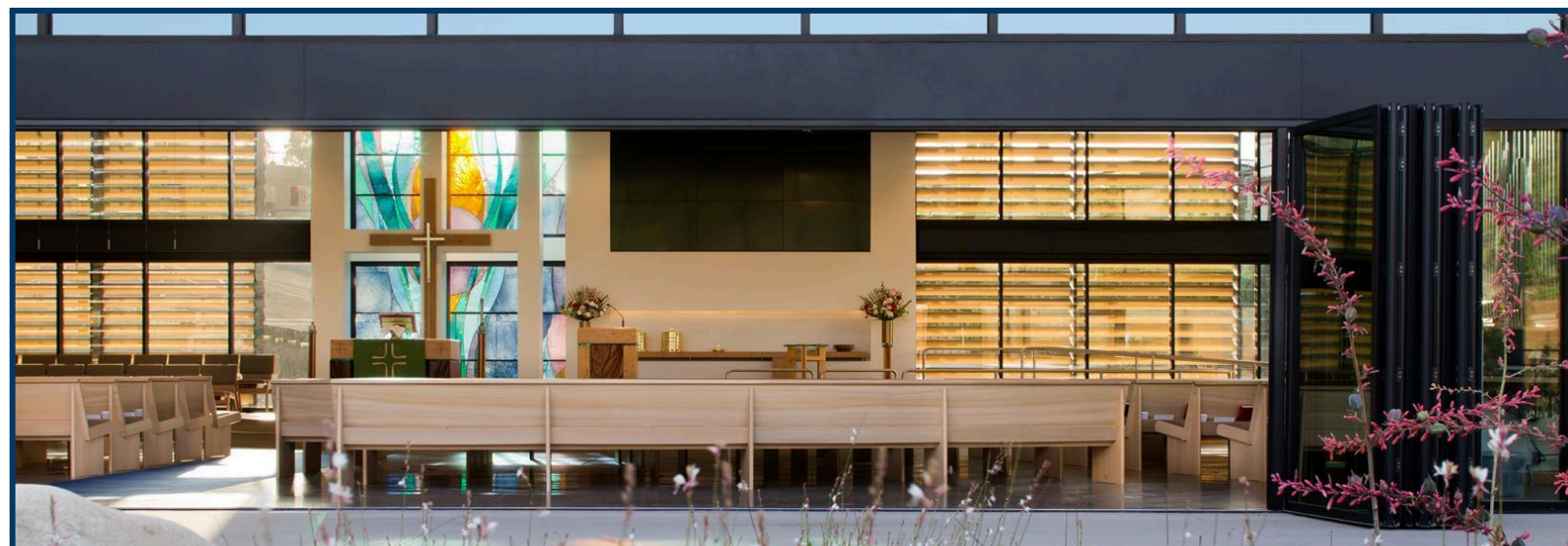


My prayer request this year is for our families to truly embrace the Gloria Dei experience and to see very little illness amongst our students. God has truly blessed this school over the years, and I look forward to seeing what's in store for us this year.



PICTURES OF SUMMER FUN IN JULY & AUGUST!





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!) - Finished up at the end of August! This all church event had many people reading through the entire Bible and had Pastor David, Deacon Daneen, Dana Becker leading the weekly study related to the readings. Watch for the next new Bible study offering.

G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER) BIBLE STUDY - Led by David & Susan Warneke & held in the conference room, typically on the first Monday of the month, at 6:30pm. We are studying *The Miracle of the Scarlet Thread* by Dr. Richard Booker & we meet on September 9 to review Chapter 6, *The High Priest*. 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 - For all interested ladies, this evening Bible Study is offered on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month at 6:30pm, social time & 7pm - 8pm, study time. Friendships, encouragement, prayer, growing your faith, & fun are always open to new friends! Social & Introduction, September 24 at the home of Ann St.Martin. The meeting location alternates, monthly, between the home of Donna Combe in San Clemente and Ann St. Martin in Laguna Niguel. Sign-up at Welcome Table - Rally Sunday, September 8.

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 another staff person. All women are invited to join in! This group will start again on September 11, 2024.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - This group begins again on Saturday, September 14. Pastor David and others lead this study. Men volunteer to bring food (Let Pastor David know if you would like to help out.) 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 September 16. They are reading *My Dear Hamilton* by Stephanie Dray. 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 on September 26 at 6:30pm at John Cumming's home*. The book is *The Last Green Valley*, by Mark Sullivan. 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. *They meet the first Saturday of the month at 9am in Knudson Hall. They meet again on September 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.* September 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 in Knudson Hall on Mondays, 10am - 12pm.* Interested in volunteering, contact gloriadei@mygloriadei or 949-493-3414. *The Fall session begins September 16.* For more information, email Sharon Miller at esldanapoint@mygloriadei.org.

LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY -

Dear Father in Heaven,

Oh Lord, use us to help provide for the orphans and to be an example to them in Jesus' name. Motivate our hearts to provide financial resources to the Los Angelitos Orphanage home and to meet the needs of all these fatherless children in Jesus' name.

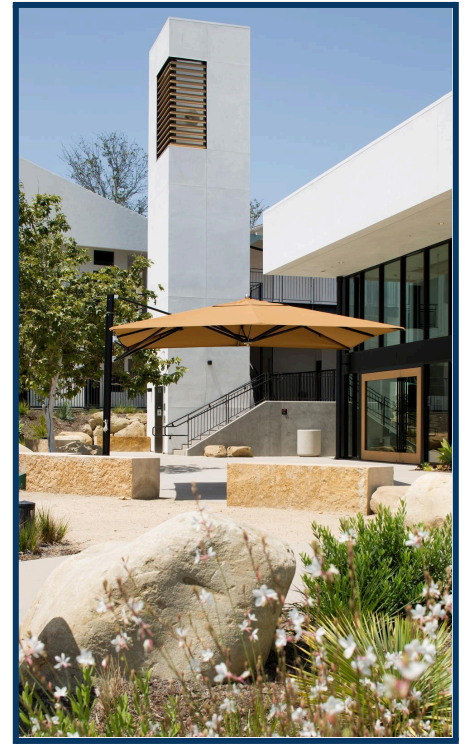
Dear Lord, lead these orphans to grow with a spirit of excellence and make them excel in the gifts you have bestowed upon them. In Jesus' name, protect these children that no weapon fashioned against the fatherless will prosper.

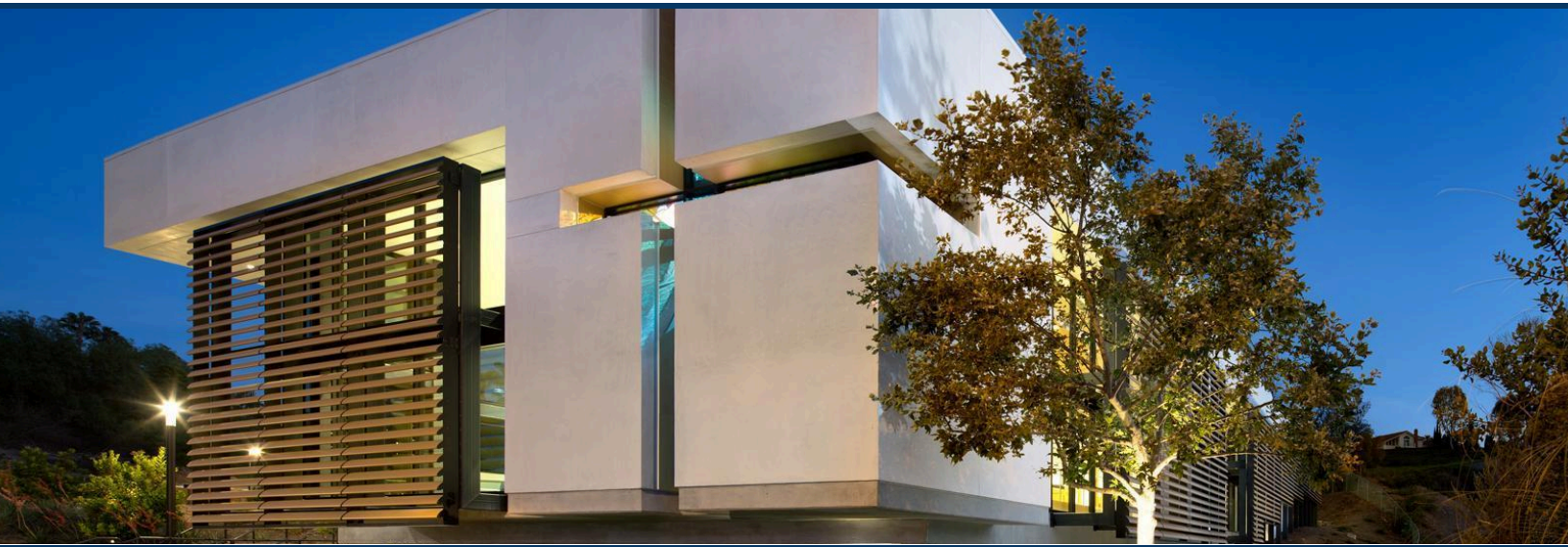
Holy Spirit, touch the hearts of your people to expand the glorious work in the orphanage home so that we may serve more children.

Lord, place in each child of the orphanage a love for learning and with anointed teachers who will inspire each child to utilize their gifts and talents. Draw all orphans to you so that they can know you personally as their Lord and Savior in Jesus' name. AMEN

Next visit to Los Angelitos is to be determined.

To learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan or David Warneke or the church office.





DEI-LY DETAILS

ATTENDANCE (In-Person/Livestream)

7/7 343 7/14: 351 7/21: 240 7/28: 348 8/4: 305 8/11: 312 8/18: 339 8/25: 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.

ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH ZELLE - gloriadei@mygloriadei.org. We have added ZELLE as a giving option at Gloria Dei.

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 of over \$10,000. Thanks to these eleven families. If you would like to be a part of this fund (which goes to reducing our mortgage), please contact Pastor David about details.

GLORIA DEI ENDOWMENT FUND - More people are requesting information about the Endowment Fund. Call the 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, 56 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



Dear Gloria Dei Church,

Thank you for your continued support and donations for the children of Los Angelitos! This helps keep the children continuing their sports and extra activities after school. We also need speech therapy for two children in Kindergarten, so the donations will be put to good use. We appreciate your love and support for the children. (Pictured: Valerie enjoying a donated jump rope.)

P.S.

We appreciated the beautiful April 7th Sunday service for the three children/teens and Vicky! Their weekend was spectacular thanks to the entire church community - the events planned, gifts, housing and beautiful service!

Much Love,

Socorro and Jeff

Dear Pastor David & Members of Gloria Dei,

Thank you so much for hosting the Pacifica Synod's Regional Gathering in May. Your hospitality went above and beyond. It was so good to be all together and especially good to be at Gloria Dei!

Thank you!

Rachel Line

Office of the Bishop

To the Women's Ministry,

What a lovely tea that you presented on Sunday. The tables were beautiful. I would have loved to know each hostess' story for her table. The food was wonderful and the fellowship was delightful.

Blessings,

Deacon Daneen

Dear Pastor David, Carol Weinhardt, Michelle Lum, Fred Johnson and all the kind ladies at the reception,

Thank you so much for all your help and work to make Andreas Bartha's memorial service such a beautiful and peaceful occasion. We will remember it forever.

Thank you,

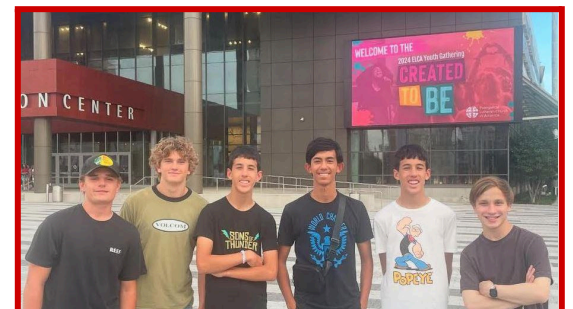
Christa Bartha and Bettnia, Berud and Viola Bartha

Dear Pastor David, Gloria Dei Staff and Members,

Thank you so much for everything you have done to help us attend the Youth Gathering in New Orleans this past July! It was quite a moving experience. Thank you for all you do for the Youth of Gloria Dei. We appreciate your support.

Thank you,

Carter, Elijah, Elliot, Erik, Justin and Youth Director Paige Gulck



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, Jerry and Sharon Grady, John Burns, Sue Swenson, and Frances McFarland.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT for Connie & Mike Masciorini and family as they mourn the loss of Mike's mother.

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. (Dorcas will be on home leave this fall and will be visiting Gloria Dei on Sunday, September 15. She will bring a greeting at both morning services and a luncheon, 11:30am will take place that same day.)

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 2024), is available for pick up at the Welcome Table on Sunday or at the church office. We also have copies in large print. Please call or email the church office 949-493-3414 or gloriadei@mygloriadei.org if you would like to receive it another way.

DEI-LY DUTIES



SEPTEMBER 2024 VOLUNTEERS

Time & Talent assignments for (August 2024 - January 2025) were distributed in July 2024, based on the form you filled out in Fall 2023. They were distributed via email for most & traditional mail for those without email access. If you have questions, 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:</u> gloriadei@mygloriadei.org <u>Facebook Page:</u> Facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint	Pastor David R. Mattson pastordavid@mygloriadei.org Minister of Art and Music Michelle Lum michellelum@mygloriadei.org Preschool Director Shelli Parajekas preschool@mygloriadei.org Administrative Assistant Carol Weinhardt gloriadei@mygloriadei.org Youth Director Paige Gulck youth@mygloriadei.org Congregational Life Director Susie Boland fellowship@mygloriadei.org Deacon Daneen Pysz deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org 5pm Worship Leader Micaela Lum
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SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am - Worship 9:30am - Sunday School Teacher 10am - Worship 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	2 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 6:30pm - GIFT (Growing In Faith) 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	3 7am - AA Men Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	4 7am - AA Men's Meeting 12:30pm - Staff Meeting 1pm - Piano Tuning - both 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	5 7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - South Coast Literacy 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir	6 6pm - Women's Bunco Event	7 7am - AA Men Meeting 8am - Prayer Labyrinth 9am - Adult Inquiry 9am - Prayer Shawl Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 7pm - NA Meeting
8 Rally Sunday 8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 11:30am - New Member Lunch 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	9 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	10 7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Preschool Grandparents 9am - Surfside Quilters Guild 6:30pm - VFW Auxiliary 7pm - Al Anon Meeting 7pm - Church Council Meeting	11 7am - AA Men's Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilter's Guild 10am - Women's Bible Study 12:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	12 7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Preschool Grandparents 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir	13	14 7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Women's Board Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 5pm - Melody King wedding 7pm - NA Meeting
15 New Members received in worship 8:30am - Dorcas Visit 8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 11:30am - Luncheon with Dorcas 6:30pm - NA Meeting	16 10am - South Coast Literacy 2pm - RIOT Book Club @ 33561 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	17 7am - AA Men Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	18 7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible Study 12:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Mission Hospital Alumni AA 6:30pm - Planning Team 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples Group	19 7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Sanctuary Choir	20 5:30pm - Council Dinner	21 7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Senior High Kids - 8:30am - Seniors' Pantry 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 2pm - Ukrainian Worship 7pm - NA Meeting
22 8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 9:30am - Confirmation Orientation 10am - Worship/Sunday School 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	23 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	24 7am - AA Men Meeting 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 6:30pm - Men's Book Club 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	25 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	26 7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 5:30pm - Alanon Coed 7pm - AA Men Meeting	27 Women's Retreat	28 7am - AA Men Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 7pm - NA Meeting
29 Women's Retreat 8:30am - Worship/Sunday School 10am - Worship/Sunday School 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - NA Meeting	30 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - Alanon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	1	2	3	4	5

