

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

DEI-LY LIGHT



OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

I was hoping to **catch my breath** in October, but I think October is going to be full as well - The Women's Retreat, Blessing of the Animals, Oktoberfest, Reformation Sunday, Trick or Trunk (Fall Festival), and regular happenings...

One thing that will help us catch our breath is the gift of **music**. Martin Luther said, *"I would certainly like to praise music with all my heart as the excellent gift of God which it is and to commend it to everyone..."* (Luther's Works, vol. 53.)

What music are you listening to? What's your favorite song at church? What's your style of music? Besides scripture, prayer, "the music of the spheres" is a gift from God. When times are fearful, people *"whistle while you work..."*

So, **consider joining a choir**. Art & Music Director Michelle Lum leads a wonderful program. Sign-up at the Welcome Table. Besides hanging out with great people, providing a gift to your church... here are a few benefits from an Oxford study and others:

- Singing is particularly beneficial for improving breathing, posture and muscle tension
- Singing is shown to be effective in pain relief, probably due to the release of neurochemicals
- There's also some evidence to suggest that music can play a role in sustaining a healthy immune system
- Music is cognitively stimulating and it has been shown that singing can help those suffering from dementia
- Singing has also been shown to improve our sense of happiness and wellbeing
- Increasing social connections/choir can have more health benefits than giving up smoking

Those are a few benefits. See Michelle's article for details. *"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands..."* (Psalm 100:1)

Peace,

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

Pastor David R. Mattson



MINISTER OF ART & MUSIC

I have to say, we have a pretty fun year ahead of us. In our art ministry we are not only putting together our Christmas project for church (details TBA), but also doing a thing called “working artist discussions.” These discussions, which take place in our monthly art gatherings, are where we pick our own creative projects and discuss them in our meetings to get feedback and encouragement. It can be hard to make alone; this is a place where we get to create together! I’m excited to see what comes from all these projects. (PS if you’d like to join, pick a creative project and come to our next monthly gathering!)

In our music ministry as well, we are making new strides. Did you know we now have a music leadership team? Many thanks to Susan Warneke, Kathy Gray, and Melody Lieber for helping lead our choirs. Now that auditions are over, this month we start rehearsals for sanctuary choir, handbell choir, and Gloria Dei chorale. We have a lot of good music ahead of us, keep an eye out for their performances! If you are a musician (instrumentalist or vocalist) and would like to play at church please send me an email. With all of our creative pursuits we often plan pretty far out, but we would love to have you join us.

ART & MUSIC EVENTS:

October Art Gathering - Join us for our monthly art gathering on Wednesday October 8, 6:30pm in Bankson Hall. This month Maria Boyd will present on still life through the lens of a well-known artist, and we will continue with our Working Artist discussions.

Sculpture Workshop: Animals - In honor of the Festival of St. Francis, we are creating our own animal sculptures out of polymer clay. Join in for this 3-part workshop! October 9, 16, and 23 from 12:30-2:30pm in Bankson Hall. Cost is \$10 for members, \$20 for the public.

Handbell Choir - Rehearsals begin October 9 at 6:00pm. If you are interested in joining as a regular ringer or a sub, let me know! Our first performance will be in November.

Sanctuary Choir - Rehearsals begin October 9 at 7:15pm and they begin singing at Sunday services October 12. Auditions have already passed but it is not too late to join, send me an email!

Gloria Dei Chorale - Rehearsals begin October 9 within the Sanctuary Choir’s rehearsal time, this group first sings at a service in November.

Thanks to our musicians - Mallory Bacon plays the oboe during morning services on October 19. Nathan Wilson plays the trumpet during morning services on Reformation Sunday, October 26.

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



GLORIA DEI SPIRITUAL CARE

Prime Time Seniors attended a day of fun and relaxation at the South Coast Butterfly Botanica in Palos Verdes this past month. A photo of the group is located on the photo page. Future excursions will be The Moulton Museum Saturday, November 8, and Monday, December 29 to the Capistrano Lights at the San Juan Capistrano Mission. Watch for details in the bulletin and a signup sheet at the Welcome table. Even if you are not a senior, you are always welcome to join us.

We are beginning a new ministry called **"Gen to Gen Storytelling"**. No matter what age you are, please consider coming and reading a story of faith, kindness, and/or wonder to the children of our preschool. Together, we celebrate God's love as it is shared from generation to generation. If you would like to come read to a small group either at 9am, 10:30am or 11:30am, give Shelli Parajekas a call at (949) 493-3414, to set up a day and time. If you don't have a favorite book to share, the preschool has many books to choose from. Be blessed to be a blessing as you share the gift of story time with these little ones.

OTHER MINISTRIES:

- **Laundry Love:** at Sparklean Laundry, San Juan Capistrano is the first Friday of each month from 2 pm -5:30 pm. Gloria Dei provides a laundry card you can swipe, so folks in need can wash & dry their clothes for FREE. All are welcome! Questions: contact me at deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org.
- **C.A.R.E. (Comfort Appreciate Remember Empathize)** - sending birthday greetings and get well cards to members.
- **Flower Power:** Making bouquets from Sunday's altar flowers on Monday or Tuesday to give to shut-ins, etc. More volunteers are needed. Speak with Deacon Daneen if interested.
- **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. If interested in helping in this area, please call the office at 949-493-3414 or, reach out to Deacon Daneen.
- **Prayer Partners** - Need extra prayers? Join Deacon Daneen or other prayer partners before and after each service by the candle station.

THE BIG NEWS

BLESSING OF ANIMALS - Sunday, October 5 at the 5pm service. Bring your pet for a brief blessing and prayer. Pets of all kinds are welcome! This group gathers outside the Sanctuary.

OKTOBERFEST - Saturday, October 11 at 5pm. Come join us for a fun evening of brats, beer, polka, games and a cornhole tournament! All family event!

REFORMATION SUNDAY - Sunday, October 26 at the 8:30 and 10am services. Reformation celebrates the work of Martin Luther over 500 years ago - The Three "solos" - Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, and Faith Alone. There's also a Bible Presentation to all 3rd graders. If you have a 3rd grader and would like to be included, please call the church office.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL is back! We're so excited to welcome kids back to Sunday School during the 8:30am and 10:00am services. Children ages 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to join us for a fun and meaningful time of learning about God's love. It's never too late to join in. If you would like to help out with this important ministry, please contact Molly Healey.

TRICK-OR-TRUNK- come join us for a fun filled night on Sunday, October 26 at 4:00pm. Decorate your trunk and bring candy to pass out to all the Trick or Trunkers! In-n-Out will be here, an inflatable slide, games and a costume parade and contest! You may even win a prize for the best decorated trunk. We can't wait to see all the kiddos in their costumes!

NURSERY is available for babies to preschool age during 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.

BIBLE PRESENTATION - Gloria Dei presents Bibles to 3rd Graders (or older, if you missed out) on Reformation Sunday, October 26. Let the office know if your child would like to be part of this celebration.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW: There are many wonderful upcoming events. Please join us for:

- Tinsel, Trains, and Tunes (Tree Lighting Party) - December 5, 4pm
- Sunday School Christmas Program - December 14, 10am
- Vacation Bible School - July 6-10, 2026



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

OTHER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Chili Cook-off and Canned Food Drive (November 19)
- Christmas Caroling (December 14, 3pm)



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS

CONFIRMATION CLASSES COMMENCE - Classes are open to 6th - 8th grade students. We have a three year program here at GD but kids can join at any time. Please reach out to Pastor David or Youth Director Paige Gulck for more info. Mark your calendar for some important dates:

- October 5 - 11:15 am - Confirmation classes commence in Bankson Hall, lunch will be provided.
- October 19 - 11:15am - Class in Bankson Hall, lunch will be provided.
- November 1 - All day - Trip to CLU
- November 14-16 - Middle School Youth Gathering "Outside the Box" at Knott's Berry Farm. Registration needed.

SENIOR HIGH FUN TIME - Open to all 9th - 12th grade students. Friends are always welcome.

- October 24 - 6:00pm - Pasta & Pumpkins - Meet in the church kitchen for some food and fun.
- November 1 - All day - Join the fun on a trip to Cal Lutheran University for a tour of the campus and some fun activities afterwards. Friends and parents are welcome.
- November 22 - Time TBD - Come help make hygiene kits for those less fortunate. All kits go to FAM.

SENIOR HIGH SERVERS - Some dates for your kids to help out and get their community service hours:

- October 26 - Set up, games, and take down for Trick or Trunk

SHELLI PARAJECKAS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

We recently celebrated Grandparents Day as a way to recognize the many grandparents who are actively involved in our preschoolers' lives. We had an amazing turnout and everyone seemed to have a great time. This month we will be doing Parent-Teacher Conferences where the teachers will meet with each set of parents to discuss observations and set learning goals for the school year.

Lastly, our students will dive deep into pumpkins, fall, seeds, and of course, Halloween themed songs, stories, and activities. What fun it is to be a kid at Gloria Dei!



THANKS

Thanks to Kathy Martino & Diane Kelly (coordinators), Lucille's BBQ, The Pollen Collective, Tyler Bochenek and Fun Photos for the cool photo booth and Coast to Coast Bubbles for the great show for the kids! Thanks, also, to all of those that prepped, planned, coordinated and cleaned up after the wonderful "DENIM & DIAMONDS - 60th Anniversary Party." And lastly, we thank those of you that were able to join us for that amazing night!



GROWING TOGETHER!

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

HEART LIFTERS WOMEN'S STUDY - Evening study offered on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday/month, 6:30pm, social time & 7pm - 8pm, study time. Contact the office 949-493-3414 or gloriadei@mygloriadei.org.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Every Wednesday, 10am (September - May) - Gloria Dei women (and friends), Knudson Hall. Led by Pastor David or another staff person. All women are invited to join in!

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets the *third Monday/month, year round, 2pm*. Group meets in Knudson Hall & **next meeting is October 20**. They are reading Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage. If interested in the book club, contact Diane Kelly or the office at 949-493-3414.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - Pastor David and others lead this study, held on the 2nd Saturday, September - May. Men volunteer to bring food (Let Pastor David know if you would like to help out.) All men are welcome. This group will meet again on October 11.

MEN'S BOOK GROUP - Meets *last Tuesday/month, 6pm* at member's homes. Next meeting - October 28 & the book is *James* by Percival Everatt. Next meeting - Tim Boyd's. For details, contact the office.

G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER) BIBLE STUDY led by David & Susan Warneke, typically on the first Monday each month, 6:30pm, conference room. On October 6, G.I.F.T. will be studying 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus from the New Testament. To join, contact the office.

G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER) BIBLE STUDY led by Deacon Daneen & Dennis Pysz is held on the first & third Tuesday/month, 10am, Knudson Hall. Next meeting - Tuesday, October 7. The Gospel of John with the supplement, "John: Jesus-the-Word, The Messiah, The Son of God." All are welcome!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Catherine Adams



Barbara Bates



Brenda Finley

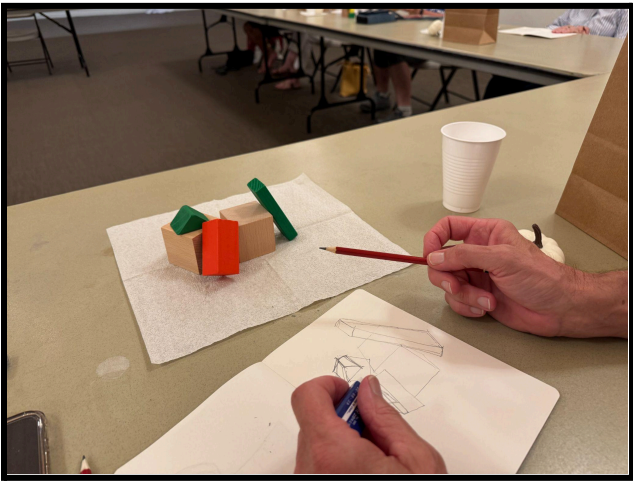


Kyrsten Gallo



Michael Moran

SEPTEMBER IN PICTURES



DEI-LY SERVICE

(All things related to service, ministry, helping others, compassion, caring, loving, serving "the least of these", etc.)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - People of all ages are invited to join in - *The first Saturday of the month, 9am, Knudson Hall. Next meeting - October 4.* They are in need of experienced knitters to help with this wonderful ministry. If you know of someone in need of a shawl or would like more information, call Peggy Johnson.

SERRA'S PANTRY - Volunteer opportunity in San Juan Capistrano provides food to those in need. Gloria Dei members serve at Serra's Pantry *every third Saturday of the month at 8:30am, year round.* October 18 is the next volunteer opportunity. Please join in 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.

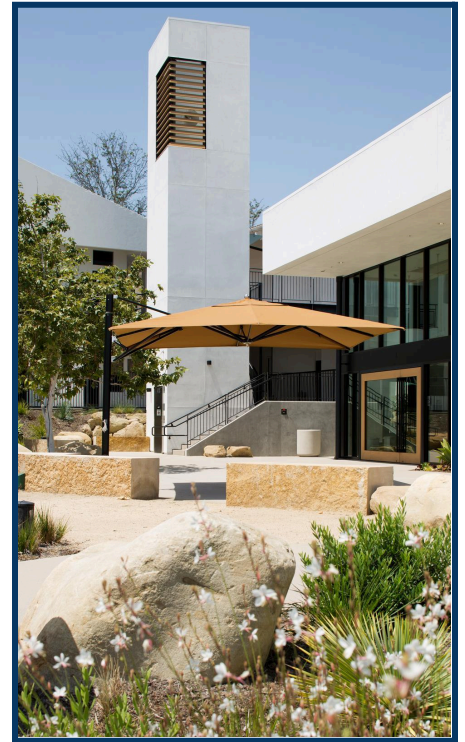
SOUTH COAST LITERACY COUNCIL - All-volunteer, nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist adults to acquire English language skills. *Knudson Hall on Mondays, 10am - 12pm.* Interested in volunteering, contact Sharon Miller at esldanapoint@mygloriadei.org.

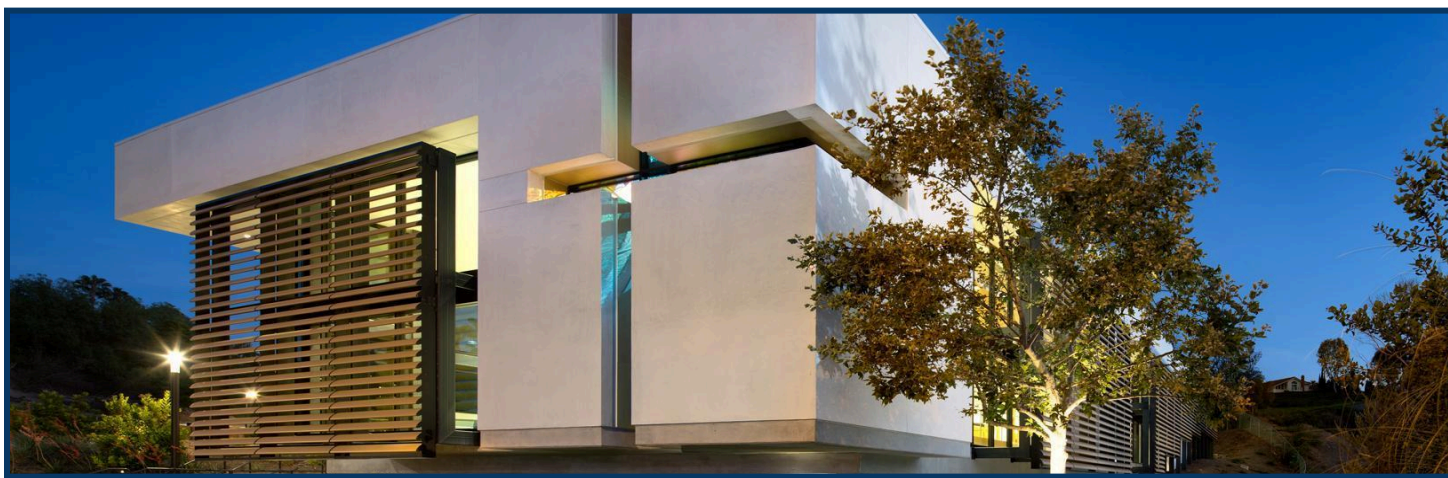
LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY -

Remaining 2025 visitation date at the Orphanage is:

- December 6, 2025

Gloria Dei's Team Los Angelitos is prepped and ready for their mission trip on September 27, 2025, to the Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. We have rented two large vans which will be filled with Team members and overflowing with staples items, food, toys, games, and clothes for the children at the Orphanage. Thank you to everyone at Gloria Dei and those individuals who have given to our mission. We will be sure to take lots of pictures to share with the congregation. The love and warmth from the kids and the staff at Los Angelitos is always touching. They are so grateful and show their appreciation. If you are interested in learning more about Los Angelitos and/or donating to the Orphanage, please feel free to contact Eric Houser. Please keep the kids and the staff at Los Angelitos in your prayers. Thanks! - Eric





DEI-LY DETAILS

ATTENDANCE (In-Person/Livestream)

9/7: 296

9/14: 258

9/21: 350

9/28: TBA

“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 another secure 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, 60 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.

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, Brenda Finley, Mary Lou Walters, Jean Meinholtz, Gwen Layritz, Christina Simpson, Sue Swenson, John Knudson, Erika Mills, John Engel, Mark Lopez, Bill Jonas, Betty Prock, Linda Friend, Nancy Marcello, Dave Pozzi & Paul Dubow.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT - For Dianne Blanda and family as they mourn the loss of Frances McFarland.

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. We also pray for courage, patience, safety & peace for those affected by the California wildfires.

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"* (July - September 2025), 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



OCTOBER 2025 VOLUNTEERS

Time & Talent assignments for August 2025- January 2026 were distributed on July 14th, based on the form you filled out in Fall 2024. They were distributed via email for most & traditional mail for those without email access. If you have questions, call Susie Boland 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
Facebook Page: [Facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint](https://www.facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint)

Pastor David R. Mattson pastordavid@mygloriadei.org
Minister of Art and Music Michelle Lum
michellelum@mygloriadei.org
Preschool Director Shelli Parajeckas preschool@mygloriadei.org
Administrative Assistant Susie Boland gloriadei@mygloriadei.org
Youth Director Paige Gulck youth@mygloriadei.org
Children's Ministry Director Molly Healey
childrensministry@mygloriadei.org
Deacon Daneen Pysz deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org
Pianist/Organist Micaela Lum pianist@mygloriadei.org

OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 2pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:30pm - Music	12am - Women's retreat 10am - AI Anon Meeting 2pm - Laundry Love San Juan 6pm - Kenny's Music	Installation of Bishop Curry 7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Prayer Shawl Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Women's retreat 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 11:15am - Confirmation class 5pm - Blessing of Animals 5pm - Worship	10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 6:30pm - GIFT (Growing In 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 10am - G.I.F.T. Knudson Hall- 11am - Staff Meeting 12:30pm - Dean's meeting 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilters Guild 10am - Women's Bible 6pm - Mission Hospital 6:30pm - Art Gathering @ 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 2pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 6pm - Handbell Choir @ 7pm - AA Men Meeting	10am - AI Anon Meeting 10:30am - Michael Lawson 6pm - Kenny's Music	7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Women's Board 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 5pm - Oktoberfest
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 5pm - Worship	10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilters Guild 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Ministry Site Meeting 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 6:30pm - VFW Auxiliary 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 12:30pm - Sculpture 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 2pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 6pm - Handbell Choir @ 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:15pm - Sanctuary Choir @	Inauguration of John Nunes 10am - AI Anon Meeting 6pm - Kenny's Music	Confirmation Trip to CLU 7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Serra's Pantry 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1pm - Ukrainian Worship 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 5pm - Worship	8am - Parent Teacher 10am - South Coast Literacy 2pm - RIOT Book Club @ 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 8am - Parent Teacher 10am - G.I.F.T. Knudson Hall- 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 12:30pm - Sculpture 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 2pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 6pm - Handbell Choir @ 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:15pm - Sanctuary Choir @	10am - AI Anon Meeting 6pm - Kenny's Music	7am - AA Men Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Reformation Sunday 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 4pm - Trick or Trunk 5pm - Worship	10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Men's Book Club 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 12:30pm - Sculpture 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 2pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 6pm - Handbell Choir @ 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:15pm - Sanctuary Choir @	9am - Preschool Halloween 10am - AI Anon Meeting 6pm - Kenny's Music	